



For Better Understanding on
China-Pakistan and
CPEC
Gleanings from the
National Press

May 16-31, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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May 16, 2021

Business Recorder

Country to get another batch of China's vaccines today

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will receive another batch of Covid vaccine from China on May 16 comprising 1.2 million doses.

According to sources privy to details regarding vaccine arrival, 1.2 million doses of the Chinese vaccine will reach Islamabad on May 16. "The doses included a million jabs of China's Sinovac vaccine and 200,000 jabs of single-dose CanSino," they said. The sources further shared that another batch of two million Covid vaccine-Sinovac- will reach Islamabad on May 21.

Pakistan is already vaccinating its population over 40-year old besides the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Wednesday allowing citizens aged 30 and above to sign up for Covid-19 vaccination from Sunday (May 16).

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40092445>

Daily Times

Pakistan seeks China's role to stop Israeli attacks on Palestine

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Saturday had a telephone conversation with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and shared Pakistan's profound concern over deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

During the conversation, both the foreign ministers discussed the Palestinian issue, peace process in Afghanistan, and Pakistan-China relations, a Foreign Office statement said. Foreign Minister Qureshi said the humanitarian situation in Palestine was becoming a major threat to peace and security of Middle East. He added that the violent attacks perpetrated by Israeli forces against the innocent worshipers in Al-Aqsa Mosque and unarmed civilians and the children in the occupied territories, were against humanitarian norms as well as the international law.

Qureshi underlined the importance of urgent steps by the international community to stop the Israeli attacks, protect the civilian population, facilitate engagement of the parties, and ensure just and lasting solution based on relevant UNSC resolutions and the two-state vision. He also briefed Wang Yi about Prime Minister Imran Khan's outreach to world leaders in addressing the current serious situation.

Qureshi congratulated Chinese leadership and its people for successful landing of Chinese spacecraft at Mars and underlined that it was a historic milestone for China in the technological realm. He underscored that the year 2021 had a special significance as it marked 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. "Over the years, our bilateral relationship has turned into an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership," he added.

Foreign Minister Qureshi stressed that Pakistan supported an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. He highlighted Pakistan's contribution to the Afghan peace process and its support for a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. Underscoring the importance of a responsible withdrawal, reduction in violence, and earliest possible ceasefire, the foreign minister stressed the need for the Afghan parties to seize the opportunity to work together and secure a negotiated inclusive political solution.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/756300/pakistan-seeks-chinas-role-to-stop-israeli-attacks-on-palestine/>

CGGC integrates itself into Pakistan-China cooperation mechanism

China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) will integrate itself into China and Pakistan's overall cooperation and contribute more to Pakistan's economic and social development, said Chen Xiaohua, President of CGGC.

Chen made the remarks when meeting with Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque in Wuhan, according to report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

Haque noted that a number of key projects invested and constructed by CGGC have played an important role in boosting Pakistan's economic growth and creating jobs. He expected CGGC to continue engaging in the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and write a new chapter for Pak-China friendship.

CGGC first entered Pakistan in 2003 and started Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project, its first hydropower project in 2008, according to Lyu Xiufeng, General Manager of Pakistan Branch of CGGC.

Neelum Jhelum Hydropower Project is called as Pakistan's Three Gorges project (China's massive multi-functional water control facility on the Yangtze River, also the world's largest hydroelectric power project). It took one decade for CGGC to complete this mega project because of its a high difficulty level of construction with 90 percent of the construction lying underground in high mountainous areas.

During 2008-2018, workers of CGGC had overcome one obstacle after another, by world-class technology, excellent capability and unremitting efforts. To ensure Neelum-Jhelum project's security, CGGC chose the scheme of low dam and long diversion tunnel when designing the dam type. The length of its diversion tunnel is 68 kilometers, rare in the world. The hardest part, about 17 km, to construct, is beneath a mountain. By the conventional drilling and blasting method, it would face huge challenges and its construction process would also prolong.

To solve the world-class technological problem of constructing this super long diversion tunnel, CGGC decided to use the state-of-the-art tunnel boring machine (TBM) in Pakistan for the first time. Many famous experts in rock and soil mechanics and geologists once said that there had been no successful precedent of TBM tunneling in the Himalayas range, the youngest and most geologically active region in the world. Anyone who could successfully use TBM in the Himalayas would make history in tunnel construction.

In 2012, Pakistan's first TBM came to the site of the Neelum-Jhelum hydroelectric project. Besides the technological problems, the Neelum-Jhelum project had been hit by four major natural disasters during the decade, each of which had pushed the project to the brink of failure, according to Feng Xinglong, vice general manager of CGGC, in charge of this project during March 2009 to December 2013.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/756402/cggc-integrates-itself-into-pakistan-china-cooperation-mechanism/>

Dawn News

Mechanism urged for Pak-China cultural promotion

ISLAMABAD: Speaking at the re-launching of social and cultural network 'Friends of China' on Saturday, the experts urged the governments of Pakistan and China to work on the establishment of mechanisms for cultural promotion and social integration.

The cultural experts and practitioners shall lead the collaboration backed and facilitated by the governments.

They said both the countries are 'iron friends' for the last seven decades but the culture of both countries is less known to the people on both sides.

Cultural performances and arts showcasing shall replace fusion of recreation of culture, learning and understanding each other based on the cultural heritage, they said.

They maintained that the pandemic time shall be used for planning and development of the mechanisms to boost cultural ties and social integration based on the learning.

The Friends of China is an initiative of Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) initially launched in 2011 under the chairmanship of former senator and ambassador late Muhammad Akram Zaki. Guest speakers on the virtual re-launching of Friends of China included founder Ajoka Theatre and former managing director PTV Shahid Mahmood Nadeem (Lahore), cultural activist and founder Tahreek-i- Niswan Cultural Group Sheema Kermani (Karachi), CEO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KPBIOT) Hassan Daud Butt (Peshawar), geopolitical commentator and filmmaker Reham Khan (London), journalist and broadcaster Zoon Ahmad Khan (Beijing) and others.

Shahid Mahmood Nadeem said very little is done to explore the cultural ties based on in-depth learning of civilizations and heritage of both countries.

Only cultural performances won't work in the contemporary work where market mechanisms have made the culture backbone of bilateral political and economic collaborations.

He suggested a hierarchy under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) comprising experts from the private sector with sector-wise sub-committees for each discipline of arts and culture.

He suggested that Friends of China can play a networking role in the establishment of mechanisms required to boost bilateral cultural collaborations.

Sheema Kermani said culture brings people together, so it is necessary to have elaborate mechanisms for cultural collaboration backed and supported by both governments. It should be based on equal terms.

“Our culture should not be compromised against the rich Chinese culture. Joint cultural products should be the focus instead of only cultural performance.

“There are many fields of arts and culture where Pakistani youth and practicing artists can learn from. They include puppetry, animation films, cinematography, theatre and film, dance and musical production,” she said.

She also questioned the cultural priorities within the Pakistan government that talks a lot about tourism, culture and heritage. Cultural and tourism policies are dusting the shelves.

Hassan Daud Butt highlighted the friendship between the two countries that has a history of understanding each other at equal level.

Leadership at all levels and from both countries have contributed towards fostering Pak-China relationship considering it a responsibility. The strategic relationship is transforming into economic partnership at the moment where people-to-people contact and cultural interaction are key pillars of belt road initiative (BRI) and CPEC.

He said tourism and culture were discussed time and again at the BRI forums and Pakistan has many features to showcase.

Reham Khan said Pakistan and China share a rich heritage and history along the Silk Road. “I grew up fascinated by this scenic and exotic route. With my family roots on this historic route, I found an overlap of culture and tradition.

“The CPEC provides a golden opportunity to filmmakers like myself to explore a treasure trove of cultural experiences but also to promote the soft power of both China and Pakistan.

“China can invest in Pakistani youth who have creative talent but lack basic infrastructure and financial support in film-making, dance and music production or Art,” she said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1623818/mechanism-urged-for-pak-china-cultural-promotion>

The Nation

CPEC boosts prospects of higher education for Pakistani students

ISLAMABAD - After work initiated on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as cornerstone of economic growth for the partner countries under the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has opened up new avenue of ‘Pak-China Knowledge Corridor’ in the field of higher education for Pakistani students in leading Chinese universities.

The exemplary Pak-China bilateral relations spanning over seven decades have further strengthened after the CPEC project was launched. The smooth construction of the project has connected the two friendly countries more than even before. With mutual understanding, the large scale connectivity through the corridor is not only shaping shared destiny of the two countries but it is also creating “win win situation” to reap the yield of the project. Therefore, this year, both the countries have decided to celebrate the establishment of the deep-rooted historic ties throughout the year through more than 100 events consisted of cultural activities, photography exhibitions, fashion shows, publication of books and people-to-people exchange programs.

In the field of higher education, the friendly neighbouring country has been producing a large of number of research scholars and professionals in almost all disciplines from medical to engineering, social sciences to humanities, management sciences to applied sciences and technology to Chinese language courses. Sharing their experiences, a large number of Pakistani students have said that the world ranking universities of China facilitate students to harness their skills and learning.

According to Director Pakistan Institute of China Studies, University of Sargodha, Dr Fazlur Rahman, after initiating work on CPEC, the two countries have expanded the canvas of bilateral relations from economic to political, strategic to cultural and trade to education that urged the two sides to strengthen people-to-people connectivity through cultural exchange programs and education corridor. He said that Pakistani students under special arrangement of the Chinese government had been regularly getting scholarships. “The Chinese government has proposed to establish Pak-China institute of higher education in China for scholarship programmes while linking it with Higher Education Commission of Pakistan to attract best students from Pakistan,” he added.

Dr Sahib Khan, who recently completed his PhD in digital media studies from Ocean University of China, said, “I had a wonderful experience of research as I found the faculty very cooperative throughout my stay in the university.” He said that there were a lot of scholarship opportunities for young Pakistani students in leading Chinese universities. He said that the Chinese people were disciplined, hardworking, sincere and committed to develop their country, adding that they were role model for international students.

Dr Furqan Rao, another PhD who recently completed his doctorate degree in journalism and communication studies from Tsinghua University China, has said that China has increased the number the scholarships for Pakistani students after initiating work on CEPC. He said that more than 30,000 Pakistani students were enrolled in different education programmes. China had six out of 100 global top ranking universities which they had planned to increase it 20 by 2030, he added.

Intihab Alam, another research scholar who is currently enrolled in PhD English programme at North-East Normal University (NENU) China, has said that the country was an ideal destination for higher education, particularly in the field of applied sciences as they had advance labs

equipped with cutting-edge instruments and machineries for the research experiments. He said, “I recommend Pakistani students to study in leading Chinese universities in the science disciplines.” He said the Chinese people had accommodative social behaviour for international students, adding that they had strong monitoring system with law abiding citizens who strictly adhered to the rules and regulations.

Dr Rao said, “China has become the second largest destination for higher education worldwide after the US as it has now more than five hundred thousand international students.” He said due to rise of China’s economy, the trend to learn Chinese language had also increased manifold during the last decade. The BRI had a vital role to connect and open up China to the whole world, he added.

Dr Manzoor Afridi, who has done his PhD in IR from Jilan University China, has said that the country has a modern education system and it has students from all over the world in research degree programmes. He said a large number of Pakistani students were enrolled in different programmes of Chinese universities whose numbers have been increased. “After completion of CPEC, the prospects of higher education would further increase for Pakistani students in China alongside people-to-people contacts, familiarity with the Chinese language and culture,” he added.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-16/page-4/detail-5>

Pakistan, China agree to deepen strategic cooperation

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China have agreed to deepen Pakistan-China strategic cooperation and coordination to deal with the emerging challenges in the region.

This understanding reached during a telephonic conversation between Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Chinese Counterpart Wang Yi on Saturday. Discussing Palestinian issue, peace process in Afghanistan, and Pakistan-China bilateral relations, they reaffirmed their commitment to intensify their collective efforts to promote peace, stability and imperatives of justice.

Foreign Minister Qureshi shared Pakistan’s profound concern over deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Foreign Minister Qureshi said the humanitarian situation in Palestine was becoming a major threat to peace and security of Middle East.

Qureshi says humanitarian situation in Palestine becoming a major threat to peace of Middle East. He added that the violent attacks perpetrated by Israeli forces against the innocent worshipers in Al-Aqsa Mosque and unarmed civilians and the children in the occupied territories, were against humanitarian norms as well as the international law.

Qureshi underlined the importance of urgent steps by the international community to stop the Israeli attacks, protect the civilian population, facilitate engagement of the parties, and ensure

just and lasting solution based on relevant UNSC resolutions and the two-state vision. The foreign minister also briefed Wang Yi about Prime Minister Imran Khan's outreach to world leaders in addressing the current serious situation.

Qureshi congratulated Chinese leadership and its people for successful landing of Chinese spacecraft at Mars and underlined that it was a historic milestone for China in the technological realm.

The foreign minister underscored that the year 2021 had a special significance as it marked 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Over the years, our bilateral relationship had become an All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, he added. He underscored that Pakistan and China should continue to deepen their cooperation in fighting COVID-19.

He thanked China for the support it had extended to Pakistan in containing the spread of the pandemic, including through provision of vaccines. Foreign Minister Qureshi stressed that Pakistan supported an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-16/page-12/detail-2>

The News

Pakistan for JVs with China in livestock sector, SEZs

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is looking for joint ventures with China to upgrade livestock and fisheries industries and explore opportunities in special economic zones (SEZs), minister said.

In a meeting with Chinese officials, Minister for National Food Security and Research Fakhar Imam said Pakistan needs to modernise livestock and fishery industries by upgrading infrastructure and building a substantial supply chain through joint enterprises with China, technology transfer and talent cultivation, according to an official statement on Saturday.

Imam pointed out a number of challenges facing these sectors, while also highlighting potential of expansion in Chinese markets.

China Animal Agriculture Association Deputy Secretary General Li Jinhui said China is the largest importer of beef and a major importer of mutton and chicken. This presents enormous opportunities to Pakistan to enhance its beef and mutton exports, he said.

China Overseas Ports Holding Company Chairman Zhang Baozhong highlighted a number of viruses and diseases found in Pakistan's livestock.

China had agreed to help Pakistan establish foot and mouth disease-free zones in Punjab and Balochistan to ensure the health of the food animals under an agreement signed in 2019.

China and Pakistan are moving forward to strengthen cooperation in animal husbandry and fishery sectors. Experts and prominent companies from both sectors continue to hold bilateral

dialogue to discuss educational and industrial program and possible measures to enact such cooperation.

China has recently granted a licence to a Pakistani meat exporter after lifting quarantine restrictions.

Chinese authorities had imposed quarantine restrictions on Pakistan's meat. Currently, Pakistan exports beef to Vietnam and from there it enters into China without any restrictions. Its meat is also exported to Gulf countries and Malaysia.

Pakistan's exports of meat and meat preparations amounted to \$248.2 million in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, up seven percent year-on-year. The exports accounted for merely 1.3 percent of the country's total exports of \$18.7 billion during the period. Pakistan is self-sufficient in meat production.

Pakistan exports around four percent of beef and veal produced in a year. This was despite the fact that the country was among the top 10 beef and veal producers in the world, producing approximately 1.8 million tons. Local consumption is estimated at 15 kilograms per capita.

Talking to Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong on Friday, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar emphasised the need for joint ventures between the investors of Pakistan and China in the special economic zones (SEZs) being established in Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Umar said that the SEZs under CPEC would provide maximum facilities to foreign investors. He also updated Ambassador Nong on the progress of SEZs, Allama Iqbal SEZ in Faisalabad and Rashakai SEZ near Nowshera which he said is progressing smoothly and has attracted a large number of investors already. Ambassador Nong pledged continuous support to the construction of SEZs, and other infrastructure projects under CPEC.

While discussing the progress of CPEC projects it was noted that work on Allama Iqbal SEZ in Faisalabad and Rashakai SEZ was progressing smoothly and a large number of investors had shown interest in investments in the economic zones.

The ambassador said the Chinese side would continue to actively encourage investors to benefit from investment opportunities in these zones. Progress of various other infrastructure projects was also discussed. Matters related to bilateral relations and projects under CPEC and the upcoming joint coordination committee came under discussion.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/835045-pakistan-for-jvs-with-china-in-livestock-sector-sezs>

Pakistan gets abundant opportunities to enhance its rice export

BEIJING: A detailed report on Pakistani rice was released by China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Information Platform (CPAIC) which offers a comprehensive overview of the varieties, production, trade, and prospects of Pakistani rice.

According to Gwadar Pro, the report stated that while Pakistan has already become one of the top rice producers and exporters in the world, there are still abundant opportunities to be exploited in the international market.

Pakistan is among the top rice producers and exporters in the world. According to data of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Pakistan provided over 10% of the world's rice output and was ranked at the ninth position in 2019.

Rice is the sixth largest export commodity and the largest non-textile export commodity in Pakistan. According to data of the International Trading Center (ITC), Pakistan exported 4.59 million tons of rice in 2019, equivalent to USD 2.3 billion value-wise, both of which accounted for 10% of the world's total exports, making Pakistan the third largest rice exporter in terms of both volume and value.

The rice grown in Pakistan is mainly divided into Basmati rice and non-Basmati rice. Basmati rice, with slender and elongated grains, aromatic taste, and soft and fluffy texture when cooked, is one of the most favored high-end rice varieties in the international market. Pakistan is the most important growing area of Basmati rice besides India and Bangladesh.

The average cost per acre of both Pakistan's Basmati rice and IRRI rice was below PKR 50,000 in 2019 in accordance with calculations by the Agriculture Marketing Information Service (AMIS), Directorate of Agriculture Punjab, as listed in the 2020 Q1 report of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

This was even lower than other major seasonal crops such as corn, cotton or sugarcane (around PKR 60,000 to 100,000 per acre).

Therefore, rice cultivation boasts competitive edges in Pakistan, and its scale may be further expanded.

Hybrid rice breeding assisted by China is elevating Pakistani rice yield to a new height. Honglian hybrid rice developed by Wuhan University and harvested in 8 demonstrative plots in Pakistan has demonstrated ability to raise production by two times.

A rice variety bred by China's Yuan Longping High-tech Agriculture Co., Ltd. in collaboration with Guard Agriculture Research and Services are anticipated to double the rice production in Pakistan from 2 tons per acre to 4 tons per acre.

Last year, a total of 500 tonnes of hybrid rice seeds from a seed company in east China's Jiangsu Province landed in Pakistan to help ensure the country's grain yield.

Global demand for rice is still growing. Wherein, demand for ordinary rice in Africa and poorer regions of Asia is forecast up with population growth, while the more developed regions in Asia are anticipated to show interest in higher-end fragrant rice. Therefore, market is expected to further expand for both ordinary rice and Basmati rice exported by Pakistan.

As impacted by the Covid-19 epidemic, drought and other factors, the world's major rice producers – China and Thailand – are expected to see production drop, which will drive up global rice prices.

As a result, Pakistan is anticipated to both expand export volume and increase export price, thereby fetching higher export earnings.

In addition, as India adopted the lockdown policy under the influence of the Covid-19 pandemic, Pakistan may seize export markets occupied by Indian rice.

Prior to that, when EU revised its regulations on the acceptable pesticide residue level in foods in 2018, the Background section of the report pointed out that Basmati rice produced in India contained high levels of tricyclazole (insecticide). This resulted in a decline in the market share of India's Basmati rice.

China permitted imports of Pakistani rice in January 1, 2006. In February of the same year, the first batch of rice shipped from Pakistan.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/835368-pakistan-gets-abundant-opportunities-to-enhance-its-rice-export>

May 17, 2021

Business Recorder

Sino-Pak FTA Phase-II gives positive impact on exports: Dawood

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister for Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood on Sunday said the Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA-II) have had a very positive impact on Pakistan's exports in all potential sectors.

The second Phase of Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA-II) became operational on January 1st 2020; the Adviser said this on his official twitter account here.

The Ministry of Commerce is glad to share that during July-April 2021 our exports to China have increased by 31 percent to \$1.951 billion from \$ 1.491 billion in corresponding period last year, he said.

Razak Dawood said the exports increased by USD 459 million during this period.

The Adviser said this shows that our FTA-II is working for which the credit goes to our exporters.

“I encourage the exporters to aggressively utilise the tariff preferences in FTA-II, he said.

“I also commend the efforts of MOC's Trade and Investment Officers in China and urge them to provide even greater facilitation to our exporters and Investors” he said.

It is pertinent to mention that the new phase will allow Pakistani manufacturers and traders to export around 313 new products to the Chinese market with zero duties.

The new facility particularly benefited the agriculture, leather, confectionery items and biscuits product sectors.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/17/11-page/886270-news.html>

The Nation

Nine out of 22 energy projects completed under CPEC

ISLAMABAD - The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is gaining momentum with every passing day of Pak-China relationship, because of which the project would continue with more strength in days ahead.

With the smooth sailing of CPEC project, Pakistan is foreseeing massive economic activity during days ahead. An appreciable outcome of a novel Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of the Chinese government, Pakistan becomes the key player in the regional economic activity.

Commenting with respect to the 70th celebrations of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations, an official in CPEC Authority requesting not to be named, exclusively told APP that the mega project would further strengthen the bilateral relations with China.

Their strategic relationship, which was being strengthened with every passing day, was of great importance both on regional as well as international fronts, the official said.

This project would not only earn billions of dollars revenue through trade but also generate thousands of jobs for the local people besides infrastructure development, power generation and projects in transportation, railways, agriculture, science and technology and tourism sectors.

One key outcome of the CPEC is the construction of Special Economic Zones under construction across the country through Pak-China joint venture. Keeping in view the importance of the project, number of other countries had also been showing interest off and on, to invest in the project.

The economic activity in the country is gaining momentum after the commencement of second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that largely consists of industrial cooperation.

Although the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) planned under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are basically meant to relocate Chinese industry and investment but both the countries have already offered third party participation in the mega project.

He said in the next phase, four important sectors, including industry, agriculture, socio-economic development and Gwadar New City would progress at fast pace.

The official said nine out of 22 energy projects had been completed, while five mega electricity projects in Thar, Kohala, Azad Pattan and others were in the pipeline. After completion of all the projects, Pakistan would not only become self-sufficient in the energy with addition of 17,000 MW electricity to the national grid, but would also be able to export it.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, in a recent statement, had also expressed satisfaction over the progress of CPEC projects, the official said.

He said at present, work on four Special Economic Zones (SEZs) was underway. Some 2,000 local and foreign investors had expressed intent to invest in the Rashakai SEZ.

The Rashakai Zone, the official said, would spread over 1,000 acres of land. The Federal Government had decided to develop it into three phases. About 247 acres of land would be developed in the first phase, 355 acres in the second phase and 399 acres in the last phase.

Similarly, 210 MW electricity would be provided to the zone in three phases whereas the government had also allocated Rs 1.203 billion for provision of gas, the official said.

He said over 400 industrial units, including garments and textile, domestic goods, electronics, electricity accessories, pharmaceuticals and others would be set up in the zone.

Similarly, the official said the Allama Iqbal Zone Faisalabad was being completed on priority, which would create around 250,000 jobs for the locals.

He said the Gwadar Port had now become operational. The Eastbay Expressway, linking Gwadar to Makran Coastal Highway, had been completed.

The official said under the CPEC, some 1,100 kilometer roads had been completed while 850 kilometres were under construction.

On the Western route, he said Hakla-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway was in the final stages. Its total length was 285 kms, which had been divided in five packages. The first 55 kms package would be completed on priority, which started from Yarik near D I Khan and ended at Rehmani Khel, he added.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-17/page-9/detail-5>

The News

‘Friends of China’ to facilitate bilateral mechanisms for cultural collaboration

Islamabad: Speaking at the re-launching of social and cultural network ‘Friends of China’ the experts urged the governments of Pakistan and China to work on the establishment of mechanisms for cultural promotion and social integration.

The cultural experts and practitioners shall lead the collaboration backed and facilitated by the governments. They said both countries are ‘iron friends’ for the last seven decades but the culture of both countries is less known to the people on both sides.

Cultural performances and arts showcasing shall replace fusion of recreation of culture, learning and understanding each other based on the cultural heritage. The pandemic time shall be used for planning and development of the mechanisms to boost cultural ties and social integration based on the learning.

The Friends of China is an initiative of Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) initially launched in 2011 on the national of China under the chairmanship of former senator and ambassador late Muhammad Akram Zaki.

Shahid Mahmood Nadeem said very little is done to explore the cultural ties based on in-depth learning of civilizations and heritage of both countries. “Only cultural performances won’t work in the contemporary work where market mechanisms have made the culture backbone of bilateral political and economic collaborations,” he added.

He suggested a hierarchy under the CPEC comprising experts from the private sector with sector-wise sub-committees for each discipline of arts and culture. He suggested that Devcom and Friends of China can play a networking role in the establishment of mechanisms required to boost bilateral cultural collaborations.

Sheema Kermani said culture brings people together, so it is necessary to have elaborate mechanisms for cultural collaboration backed and supported by both governments. “It should be based on equal terms. Our culture should not be compromised against the rich Chinese culture. Joint cultural products should be the focus instead of only cultural performance. There are many fields of arts and culture where Pakistani youth and practicing artists can learn from. They include puppetry, animation films, cinematography, theatre and film, dance and musical production,” she added.

Hassan Daud Butt highlighted the friendship between the two countries that has a history of understanding each other at equal level. “Leadership at all levels and from both countries have contributed towards fostering Pak-China relationship considering it a responsibility. The strategic relationship is transforming into economic partnership at the moment where people-to-people contact and cultural interaction are key pillars of BRI and CPEC,” he added.

He said tourism and culture were discussed time again at the BRI forums and Pakistan has many features to showcase. “The officials in embassies are willing to contribute however cultural troupe and theatre shows need to be developed around silk route history and importance of the region with central focus on Pakistan. The language is an important aspect and Pakistan Study Centres in China that need to be strengthened to support interaction,” he added.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/835683-friends-of-china-to-facilitate-bilateral-mechanisms-for-cultural-collaboration>

Express News

چین کی پانچ برس کے دوران پاکستان میں 5.4 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری

سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کا کہنا ہے کہ 10 سال کے دوران چین نے پاکستان میں 5 ارب 39 کروڑ 90 لاکھ ڈالر کی براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری (ایف ڈی آئی) کی، رواں: اسلام آباد مالی سال کے 9 ماہ میں (جولائی تا مارچ) کے دوران پاکستان میں 65 کروڑ آٹھ لاکھ ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کے ساتھ چین سرفہرست رہا۔

سرمایہ کاری بورڈ (بی او آئی) کے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق چین کی جانب سے مالی سال 2017-18 کے دوران سرمایہ کاری کا حجم ایک ارب 31 کروڑ 19 لاکھ ڈالر رہا جبکہ مالی سال 2015-16 کے دوران چین کے سرمایہ کاروں کی طرف سے پاکستان میں ایک ارب 4 کروڑ 83 لاکھ ڈالر کی ایف ڈی آئی کی گئی تھی۔

رپورٹ کے مطابق مالی سال 2010-11 میں چینی سرمایہ کاروں نے پاکستان میں 4 کروڑ 74 لاکھ ڈالر کی براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کی تھی، مالی سال 2011-12 میں چین کی پاکستان میں ایف ڈی آئی کا حجم 126.1 ملین ڈالر رہا۔

مالی سال 2012-13ء میں چین کی ایف ڈی آئی 90.6 ملین ڈالر رہی تھی جو آئندہ مالی سال 2013-14 کے دوران 685.8 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچ گئی اور مالی سال 2014-15 میں پاکستان میں چین کی براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کا حجم 340.8 ملین ڈالر رہا تھا۔

اعداد و شمار کے مطابق مالی سال 2015-16ء میں چین کی ایف ڈی آئی کا حجم 1048.3 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچ گیا۔ مالی سال 2016-17ء کے دوران چین کے سرمایہ کاروں نے پاکستان میں 763.2 ملین ڈالر براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کی جو مالی سال 2017-18 کے لیے 1311.9 ملین ڈالر کی سطح تک بڑھ گئی۔

رپورٹ کے مطابق مالی سال 2018-19ء میں چین کی ایف ڈی آئی کا حجم 130.8 ملین ڈالر رہا تھا جو گزشتہ مالی سال 2019-20ء کے دوران 844.1 ملین ڈالر تک بڑھ گیا اور جاری مالی سال 2020-21ء کے پہلے 9 ماہ کے دوران پاکستان میں 650.8 ملین ڈالر کی براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کے ساتھ چین پہلے نمبر پر رہا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2178999/6/>

May 18, 2021

Business Recorder

Four SEZs to create 1.47m jobs, boost industrial growth

ISLAMABAD: The four Special Economic Zones (SEZs), work on which is continuing at full swing, would create as many as 1.47 million jobs besides playing an important role in promoting local industry to lead the country towards sustainable economic growth.

“The four SEZs including Rashakai M-1 Nowshera; Dhabeji Thatta; Allama Iqbal Industrial City Faisalabad and Bostan Balochistan would create around 475,000 direct and 1,000,000 indirect jobs all across the country,” senior official of Board of Investment (BoI) told APP here Monday. Talking to APP, the official said these SEZ, which are part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would promote overall industrial growth in the country, adding that development of these four zones was top priority of the government.

He was of the view that Pak-China industrial cooperation would make Pakistan a manufacturing hub in the region while the establishment of industrial zones would create vast investment opportunities for local industrialists.

The 1000 acre Rashakai Economic Zone has attracted at more than 2,000 domestic and foreign investments in different sectors of economy, hence promote rapid industrialization.

He said that the zone would be developed in three phases and as per the plan 247 acres of land would be developed in the first phase, 355 acres in the second phase and 399 acres in the third

phase.

Likewise, the federal government would provide 210 MW electricity to the zone in three phases while it had also earmarked Rs 1203 million for gas for this zone.

The zone will provide employment to 80% locals, he said adding that Rashakai has the potential to become a hub of economic activity.

He said Rashakai Special Economic Zone is connected to all the provinces of Pakistan through airports, dry ports, railway stations, motorways and highways. The zone is located at the confluence of the five major districts of KPK, Nowshera, Mardan and Swabi, Charsadda and Peshawar.

He said that there is fertile land in the adjoining districts, which is suitable for growing a variety of cash crops and vegetables. The SEZ would cover more than 400 industries, including garments and textile products, home appliances, general commercial goods, electronics and electrical appliances, automobiles and mechanical equipment.

Meanwhile, talking to APP the Adviser to Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood said the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) was a milestone for economic and industrial development in Pakistan.

The Special Economic Zone would pave the way for foreign investment, setting a milestone in industrial modernization and diversification in the country, the Adviser said.

He said that the Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) would set a new direction for modern industrialization in Pakistan and bring huge Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country. Replying to a question on shift of industries from China to Pakistan, he said that “We are looking to welcome the Chinese industries in our SEZs to Joint Venture (JVs) with local investors and also share the mutual experience for benefiting the local industries.

He said the government was prioritising development of special economic zones (SEZs) for attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and transfer of technology into the country. “The SEZs are primarily focused on industrialization that result in export promotion, import substitution, transfer of technologies and employment generation, which are the primary targets of our government as well,” he said.

The advisor said the establishment of SEZs was critical to resolving balance of payment issues as “we tend to give priority to enterprises which are involved in export generation or import substitution” he said.

He said that Rashakai SEZ is the flagship project of CPEC and its success will further strengthen Industrial Cooperation between Pakistan and China.

He said the development of Rashakai SEZ had a huge strategic implication, because it is closer to resource rich Central Asian Republics (CARs) and also plays a role for economic integration of the region.

He said that all of these SEZs would have far-reaching socio-economic impact in the region by attracting more investment, spurring industrialization, creating employment in the industry and ensuring export led-growth.

He said that Pakistan's proximity with China would allow these SEZs to foster economic interdependence for mutual economic advantage.

Replying to another question, he said that Rashakai SEZ held a unique competitive advantage due to its proximity to the first juncture of CPEC route, and significant resource and manufacturing base in the region.

Replying to another question about the most priority sector for future investment in Pakistan, he said that textiles value addition, Information Technology, Logistic, Tourism and housing are the major sectors for the government to bring foreign investment in these areas.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/18/3-page/886339-news.html>

Dawn News

Work on Allama Iqbal SEZ in full swing: Asim

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority chairman retired Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa on Monday said that development work on the Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone, Faisalabad, was in full swing as 33 per cent of its land had so far been purchased by 69 investors.

In a tweet, Mr Bajwa said that the total saleable land in the zone was 2,276 acres, and 182 acres had been purchased by seven foreign investors.

Several Pakistani and foreign industrial organisations have already started construction work, he added.

Apart from the economic zone in Faisalabad, three more such zones are being set up in different parts of the country.

These Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are expected to create as many as 1.47 million jobs, besides playing an important role in promoting local industry to lead the country towards sustainable economic growth.

The other SEZs are Rashakai M-1 Nowshera, Dhabeji Thatta, and Bostan, Balochistan. They would create around 475,000 direct and one million indirect jobs across the country, a senior official of the Board of Investment said.

He said these SEZs, which are part of the CPEC, would promote industrial growth in the country, adding that development of these four zones was top priority of the government.

The 1,000-acre Rashakai Economic Zone has already attracted more than 2,000 domestic and foreign investments in different sectors.

He said the zone would be developed in three phases.

Meanwhile, Adviser to the PM on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood said the Rashakai SEZ would set a new direction for industrialisation in Pakistan and bring huge Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country.

In reply to a question on shift of industries from China to Pakistan, he said: “We are looking to welcome Chinese industries in our SEZs to Joint Venture (JVs) with local investors and also share mutual experience for benefiting the local industries.”

He said the government was prioritising development of SEZs for attracting FDI and transfer of technology into the country.

The SEZs are focused on industrialisation that result in export promotion, import substitution, transfer of technologies and employment generation, he said.

The adviser said the establishment of SEZs was critical to resolving balance of payments issues as the government wanted to accord priority to enterprises which are involved in export generation or import substitution.

He said Rashakai SEZ is the flagship project of CPEC and its success will strengthen industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China.

He said that development of Rashakai SEZ had a huge strategic implication, because it is closer to resource-rich Central Asian Republics and also plays a role for economic integration of the region.

Mr Dawood said all of these SEZs would have far-reaching socioeconomic impact in the region by attracting more investment, spurring industrialisation, creating employment and ensuring export led-growth.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1624184>

The News

Exports to China increase 31 percent in July-April

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s exports to China increased 31 percent to \$1.9 billion during the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, according to the ministry of commerce.

Commerce Adviser Razak Dawood attributed this growth to the implementation of second phase of the free trade agreement between China and Pakistan. On his Twitter handle, Dawood said the second phase of Pakistan-China FTA became operational on 1st January, 2020.

“MOC [ministry of commerce] is glad to share that during July-April 2021 our exports to China have increased by 31 percent to \$1.951 billion from \$1.491 billion in the corresponding period last year,” the adviser said. “The exports increased by \$459 million during this period. This shows that our FTA-II is working for which the credit goes to our exporters.”

Pakistan Business Council CEO Ehsan Malik said the base effect of a COVID affected April 2020 also contributed to the spike. “Indeed, the overall 10-month data to April for reasons of base effect is better than the 9 month data,” Malik added.

The second phase of the CPFTA spanning 2019-2024 was finalised between the two countries in early 2019 and entered its implementation phase from January 1, 2020. In 2007, China and Pakistan implemented the first phase of the China-Pakistan free trade agreement

The CPFTA received widespread criticism amongst business groups in Pakistan, who believed that Pakistan had negotiated poorly, both in terms of getting access for the products for which it was better placed to export to China, and also in terms of granting access to Chinese goods that were perceived to have inundated the Pakistani market, contributing to premature de-industrialisation.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan, the United States was the biggest export market for Pakistani companies that earned \$3.56 billion in proceeds during the nine months of this fiscal year, compared with \$3.1 billion in the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 15 percent.

Pakistan exports to the US rose to \$484.4 million in March from \$402.1 million in February and \$342.5 million a year ago. The UK was the second biggest buyer of Pakistani goods at \$1.5 billion in July-March FY2021, up 18 percent over \$1.28 billion in the same period last year.

The SBP’s data showed that the country’s total exports in July-March FY2021 stood at \$18.6 billion up 2 percent in value. Exports to China increased eight percent to \$1.4 billion. Pakistan merchandise exports to Germany rose nine percent to \$1.13 billion. Exports to the Netherlands increased seven percent to \$830.4 million.

Exports, however, to Spain and Italy declined by 13 percent and six percent, respectively. Outside Western Europe, the greatest declines were in exports to Bangladesh 24 percent and the United Arab Emirates 16 percent.

Malik said the common reason for Pakistan’s overall export performance and country wise growth dispersion is COVID-19. “Pakistan came out of its first lockdown earlier than its regional competitors and was able to respond quicker to rising demand in the UK and US, the two countries that are more advanced on vaccinations and where retail business is opening at a faster rate than elsewhere in Europe,” Malik said.

Pakistan’s textile exports remain largely cotton-based whilst the fastest growing segments of global demand are of apparel made from man-made fibres. This is also a reason why Pakistan has not fully benefited from EU GSP+ tariff free access.

Saad Hashemy, an executive director at BMA Capital said the country's exports are expected to improve going forward due to recovery post Covid both in Pakistan and the rest of the world.

“It is encouraging to see countries like the US and UK that have started to lift Covid related restrictions and this should translate to improved economic activity in these countries, which should result in better exports for Pakistan,” Hashemy said.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/836029-exports-to-china-increase-31-percent-in-july-april>

Chinese slope technology to boost Pakistan tea plantation

ISLAMABAD: Slope planting technology in China to help Pakistan enhancing its tea production, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

“The biggest challenges that Pakistan tea industry faces is that the price of fresh tea leaves is too low compared with other countries,” said Dr. Abdul Waheed, Director of National Tea and High-Value Crops Research Institute (NTHRI). “It takes around 6 to 7 years for tea trees to grow and start its yield. The farmers cannot wait for that long, they need earnings for their daily living.

Secondly, our farmers have less amount of landholding. They just have 3 to 4 kanals of land. We should increase the price so that the farmers can happily process tea and supply it to our factories.”

Abdul thinks that Pakistan should make a special area for tea planting. “All the countries that have grown tea like Kenya, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Brondi or other countries have fixed a special area for tea. In Kenya, they called the army to protect that land.

They did not let anyone cultivate other crops there other than tea. We have had a meeting on this with the government but haven’t got the final approval is still left. This time, we are introducing a cluster-based system, in which we have 121 clusters.”

“Right now, the tea produced in our country is not enough for the domestic requirement. If we establish a Tea Board, we can use the forest and hilly areas for growing tea.” Naeem Ahmed, Assistant Technical Officer suggested. “Government should get involved in the process of commercialization and makes policies.

Like in Turkey, they have a state reserved for only growing tea. Due to a large number of cultivation fields, they also get lots of revenue. We also need machinery for tea cultivation.” “China is a huge country that exports tea and it has more experience. If there can be a collaboration at the government level or some Ministry like Ministry of Agriculture and Food, we can get machinery and experience from them.”

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/836395-chinese-slope-technology-to-boost-pakistan-tea-plantation>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک پاک چین خوشحالی میں فعال کردار ادا کرے گی: حکام

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری علاقائی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں مزید فعال کردار ادا کرے گی، چین علاقائی تعاون کے مزید فروغ میں مصنوعات کی تجارت کے حوالے سے گوادر بندرگاہ کی حمایت کرتا ہے۔ سی پیک اتھارٹی حکام کے مطابق چین علاقائی تعاون کے مزید فروغ میں مصنوعات کی تجارت کے حوالے سے گوادر بندرگاہ کی حمایت کرتا ہے۔ حقائق ثابت کرتے ہیں کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری نہ صرف چین اور پاکستان کے عوام کے مفاد میں ہے، تمام فریقوں کی مشترکہ کوششوں سے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری علاقائی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں مزید فعال کردار ادا کرے گی۔ تجارت اور سامان سے متعلق علاقائی تعاون میں گوادر پورٹ کے زیادہ کردار کی حمایت کرتے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-05-18/page-6/detail-7>

May 19, 2021

Business Recorder

SEZs: BoI seeks minimum turnover tax exemption

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Investment (BoI) has sought exemption from minimum turnover tax in SEZs as Chinese and other investors have shown reservations saying that when SEZs are exempted from all taxes then why is this tax still applicable, sources close to BoI chairman told Business Recorder.

The Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act, 2012 was made for establishment, development and efficient operation of SEZs providing a legal and regulatory framework to encourage domestic and international investors for promotion and establishment of industrial infrastructure and for other related matters.

To incentivize such investment, the said Act provides certain fiscal and allied benefits to the SEZ investors, i.e. Zone Enterprises and Zone Developers. One such fiscal incentive, is "Exemption from all taxes on income", given to both Zone Developer and Zone Enterprises under sections 36 & 37 of the said Act.

In the 6th meeting of the Board of Approvals held on October 7, 2020 under the chair of prime minister, it was highlighted that despite explicit exemption provided under sections 36 and 37 of the Special Economic Zones Act of 2012 and section 126E of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001, in reality, all SEZ enterprises are being subjected to pay up to 1.5% turnover tax under section 113 of the said Ordinance.

In the meeting, attention was invited to section 113(3)(a) of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001, under which Turnover Taxes are being charged. The zone enterprises and developers are required to incur heavy depreciation costs in the first few years of their coming into operation. Imposition of turnover taxes diminishes any sale proceeds that they may be making in these

nascent years. These taxes along with depreciation costs diminish the profitability of the enterprises and set them up for failure right at the onset of their operations.

According to sources, with regards to CPEC SEZs, several Chinese investors have shown reservations, since local as well as foreign investors do not understand imposition of turnover taxes when the benefits stated in the SEZ Law provide exemption from all taxes on income.

After deliberating upon the issue at length in the aforementioned meeting under the Chair of the Prime Minister, in the presence of Advisor to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue and Chairman FBR, it was unanimously decided that the issue requires interpretation of the law, therefore, it may be referred to Ministry of Law. Accordingly, the case was referred to the Ministry of Law for opinion on October 21, 2020.

Resultantly, in the light of provisions of SEZ Act 2012 and Income Tax Ordinance 2001, Ministry of Law clarified that the “exemption from all taxes on income available to the zone developers and zone enterprise includes exemption from minimum turnover tax.

Consequently, the clarification thus received was communicated to the FBR for needful action. However, despite clarification from the Ministry of Law and Justice, the minimum turnover tax is still being charged from the SEZ enterprises, as highlighted by various investors.

Regardless of the clarification provided by the Ministry of Law, the FBR has proposed that if the federal government intends to extend exemption from minimum turnover tax to the entities in the SEZs, it may be granted by making appropriate amendments in clause 11A of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001 through the forthcoming Finance Bill.

However, BoI is of the considered view that the ‘exemption from income tax’ is already inclusive of ‘exemption from minimum turnover tax’, whereas grant of exemption from minimum turnover tax in the manner as proposed by FBR, will make it a new incentive to the SEZs, which might have unwarranted repercussions.

Whereas, a similar proposal suggested by FBR for exemption from minimum turnover tax, was earlier taken up with the FBR to give effect in the Finance Bill 2020. However, the proposal was not agreed by the FBR.

BoI, being the SEZ Secretariat, argues that investment, whether foreign or local, must be encouraged by provision of fiscal incentives in letter and spirit. Therefore, it has proposed that if the SEZ Act 2012, provides for an exemption from all taxes on income including minimum turnover tax, then it should be provided to the investors, by issuance of a simple clarification by FBR to all its field formations, rather than treating it as a new incentive.

In view of the foregoing, BoI has proposed that the Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet may direct the FBR to implement the exemption from minimum turnover tax being a tax on income, exemption from which is available to both SEZ developers and its enterprises.—

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/19/1-page/886469-news.html>

K-2 nuclear plant successfully synchronized with National Grid

Back in December, the CNNC started fuel-loading at the Karachi 2 reactor as part of the process to connect it to the grid.

“By the Grace of Almighty Allah, nuclear power plant K-2 1145 MW synchronized successfully with the national grid,” said Federal Minister for Power, Petroleum and Natural Resources Omar Ayub Khan in a tweet post. The minister informed that the current gross generation of the plant is 105 MW.

The K-2 unit is the first overseas unit using China’s homegrown Hualong One technology and successfully completed Hot Functional Tests (HFT). The Government of Pakistan assigned the contract of K-2 and K-3 units to China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) for safe and efficient power generation through nuclear reactors.

Back in December, the CNNC started fuel-loading at the Karachi 2 reactor as part of the process to connect it to the grid. The CNNC built the K-2 and K-3 reactors, each with a capacity of 1.1 million kilowatts.

K-2 is a pressurized water reactor based on the Chinese HPR-1000 technology and a third-generation plant equipped with advanced safety features. The construction of the K-2 plant started on August 31, 2015, and its commercial operation will begin in April 2021 after undergoing several operational and safety tests.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40075555/k-2-nuclear-plant-successfully-synchronized-with-national-grid>

Daily Times

Sino-Pak economic cooperation to promote regional, global trade integration

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood said Tuesday that bilateral economic cooperation between China and Pakistan would go a long way in promoting regional and global trade integration.

Talking to APP here, the advisor said that both the countries had already strengthened cooperation in various fields of economy, particularly in trade and investment for mutual benefit and advantage of the whole region.

The advisor said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pak-China Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA- II) were the two important milestones in this direction, which strengthened trade and investment.

It is pertinent to mention that both the countries had signed the 2nd Phase of China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) during the Prime Minister’s visit in April 2019, which became operational from 1st January 2020.

Dawood said that during the last 10 months (July-April 2020-21), Pakistan's exports to China increased by 31 percent to \$1.951 billion from \$1.491 billion in corresponding period last year.

“The CPFTA-II has a very positive impact on Pakistan's exports in all potential sectors, which indicates that it is going in the right direction, for which the credit goes to exporters,” the advisor added.

He said that CPFTA-II had brought down tariffs to zero for Pakistan on 313 high-priority tariff lines, which benefited the country as almost half of Pakistani exports to China were covered within these lines.

However, he was of the view that the list of Pakistani products exported to China is long in length but short on value.

These include frozen meat, poultry; dairy products in solid form, human hair, and stomach of animals, cut flowers, flower buds, tea, saffron, turmeric, maize, rice, starches, sausages, tobacco and tobacco refuse amongst others.

In recent years, the bilateral trade volume between China and Pakistan has increased rapidly with stable commodity structure, though the balance was much in favour of China.

According to latest data of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), during the first three quarters of the current fiscal year, Pakistan overall exports to China were recorded at \$1407.743 million against exports of \$1298.531 million during the same period of last year, showing growth of 8.41 percent, SBP data revealed.

On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during the period under review were recorded at \$9074.105 million against \$6967.724 million last year, showing an increase of 30.23 percent in the first three quarters of this year.

China also topped the list of countries from which Pakistan imported different products during the first three quarters of the financial year (2020-21), followed by United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore, according to SBP data.

China is currently Pakistan's largest single trading partner; while Pakistan is China's second largest trading partner in South Asia. Major imports from China are electrical and electronic equipment, machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers, consumer goods, organic chemicals, iron and steel, articles of iron or steel, manmade filaments, plastics, fertilisers and manmade staple fibers.

On the other hand, the Chinese investment into the country had grown over the period of time in different sectors of the country's economy.

“Over the last decade we have seen Chinese investment in Pakistan grow as large Chinese state owned companies and private sector enterprises have invested in

Pakistan in areas such as oil exploration and development, power generation, textiles etc.,” President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI S) M Naveed told APP.

There is great potential to be tapped in China-Pakistan economic cooperation, particularly in view of the concept of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, he added

According to Board of Investment data China also topped the countries on investment side by bringing into Pakistan US\$944.54 million Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the first three quarters of the current fiscal year (2020-21).

The FDI during the last year (2019-20) were recorded at \$973.53 million and \$701.61 million in 2018-19, official sources said. With the initiation of CPEC, there has been an upsurge in investment flows into Pakistan especially in infrastructure and energy sectors.

Naveed said that Chinese government had been encouraging Chinese companies to invest and do business in Pakistan and PCJCCI was playing an important role mainly in the accomplishment of CPEC coupled with facilitating joint ventures in the private sector, arranging delegations to and from China, conducting exhibitions both physically and digitally.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/757819/sino-pak-economic-cooperation-to-promote-regional-global-trade-integration/>

Dawn News

Industrial cooperation under CPEC discussed

PESHAWAR: A two-day CPEC industrial cooperation virtual conference was organised by the Centre for Pakistan Studies, Peking University, Beijing, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade as part of the 70-year celebrations of Pak-China friendship.

Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moinul Haq, CPEC Parliamentary Committee chairman Sher Ali Arbab, CPEC Authority chairman Asim Saleem Bajwa, KP-Board of Investment and Trade CEO Hassan Daud Butt, Member PM's Task Force on Economic Diplomacy Haroon Shareef, Karachi Stock Exchange former chairman Muneer Kamal, and former ambassadors of Pakistan to China Masood Khalid and Naghmana Hashmi highlighted the industrial cooperation under CPEC.

The conference, which concluded on Tuesday, was attended by a number of participants from China and Pakistan, including public and private sector stakeholders, according to a press release.

Hassan Daud said that agriculture and light engineering were the key sectors in which cooperation needed to be enhanced, which could impact economic development of both the countries. He also called for strengthening people-to-people exchange linkages.

He said the CPEC projects were bringing economic prosperity and the Rashakai project would be a game changer towards sustainable economic growth of the province.

MNA Sher Ali Arbab emphasised interdepartmental cooperation and intergovernmental coordination for smooth implementation of the CPEC projects.

He also highlighted that agriculture had not been given proper attention thus far. He said the government of Pakistan was taking measures to ensure timely completion of projects.

In his closing remarks, Mr Bajwa said the CPEC was progressing according to the timelines and there were no delays.

He said they had made good progress on Faisalabad SEZ and for Rashakai they were close to groundbreaking. He said that 25 big Pakistani companies were ready to invest and a Chinese steel manufacturing company had started establishing a set-up.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1624437>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC: Beyond conspiracy theories

By Professor Dr Muhammad Khan

THE idea for the development of Gwadar Deep Sea Port remained under debate and discussion for decades before it was formally launched in 2002. While the developmental work was going on for the completion of Gwadar Port, many ideas were offered from various stakeholders about the connectivity issues of the port with the rest of the country and other states. In the first half of the 21st century, there was a dominant proposal for the construction of a trade and energy corridor between Pakistan and China which will be linked with Arabian Sea through Gwadar port. Nevertheless, despite completion of the first phase of the Gwadar Port, there remained ambiguity at Islamabad and Beijing as to what should be the next step which will connect the port with the rest of Pakistani landmass and China. The debate finally gave way to initiate the gigantic project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). CPEC was chosen as the flagship project of Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). There were many reservations and misgivings about the completion of the CPEC right from its beginning. Among many others security was the chief concern, since Pakistan was combating the menace of terrorism and militancy at the time of conception of the idea of CPEC. This primary issue was immediately resolved once the Pakistan Army took over the responsibility of security of the CPEC by raising two security divisions. With this guaranteed security arrangement there has been no mishap from the security point of view all along the CPEC. Recently, there have been many rumours that under pressure or otherwise, Pakistan has slowed-down progress on the CPEC. This is also factually incorrect, since developmental work on CPEC is going on as before. In order to dispel all the misperceptions and stories, the Chairman of CPEC Authority, General Asim Saleem Bajwa has categorically stated, “No power on earth could sabotage the CPEC as it is the country’s national project.” In the first phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) the major focus remained on the development of projects related to energy and communication infrastructure (road network). Indeed, energy is the most needed component for the development of all other projects of CPEC and the road network is essential for the passage of all stuff needed for the initiation, development and completion of a comprehensive corridor. As an estimate, 88% work on the first phase of CPEC hydropower projects has been completed. As explained by Chairman

CPEC Authority a few days ago; the CPEC has substantially improved the road connectivity between China and Pakistan, dismissing all confusions. About the two major alignments of CPEC, the Chairman said that; along the Eastern Route (alignment) of CPEC, the last section Sukkur-Hyderabad has already been launched, leaving no left-over road project. It is being completed under public-private partnership, reducing the financial burden on the Government. The next focus of the road network is on Western Route (alignment). As per Chairman, Islamabad-Dera Ismail Khan (DI Khan) Motorway is in the completion phase and DI Khan to Zhob motorway project has also been approved by China.

Along the Western Route, “ground work on road from Zhob to Quetta had also been started whereas Quetta to Khuzdar, Khuzdar to Awaran and Hoshab, and Khuzdar-Basima roads were also under construction and all of them would be connected with different areas of Balochistan and Sindh with Gwadar.” The timeline for the completion and connection with Gwadar Port of these roads is a maximum of three years. The salient feature of the Western alignment is that it passes through poverty-ridden remote areas, promising to provide job opportunities for the poor masses and economic prosperity for the entire region. While the essential aspects of the road infrastructure and energy projects are well on their way to completion, the second phase of the CPEC is all about the establishment and development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), science and technology and related aspects of economic development all along the corridor. As stated by Chairman CPEC Authority, “We are now moving beyond energy and road infrastructure to agriculture, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), tourism, science technology and information technology”. These are the major projects of the CPEC which would boost the national economy of Pakistan, enable local masses to develop their own business, agriculture and job markets. In a way, Phase-II of the CPEC is all aimed at reducing the poverty and economic prosperity of the masses at regional level. With the introduction of modern agriculture technology, the trends of corporate farming and community farming will take route in various parts of Pakistan which will substantially boost the agricultural sector of Pakistan.

As part of SEZs, the industrial sector is boosted with work on Rashakai and Faisalabad industrial zones are in full swing. In Rashakai SEZ, more land is being procured for the expansion of this industrial zone, covering an area of 3,600 acres. Similarly, for the development of Allama Iqbal SEZ Faisalabad, German and Canadian firms have applied for a joint venture. Besides, SEZs of Dhabeji is considered for the development on priority since it has close proximity with Karachi port. A team of Pakistani-American doctors is interested for the manufacturing of electro medical equipment. The Gwadar Free Zone is being expanded in the second phase to an area of 2,200 acres. In the first phase it was expanded to 60 acres of land only which is mostly populated and developed now. There are growing interests of foreign investors for their investments in various sectors. Pakistan and China are working on a bilateral framework agreement on industrial cooperation which will be signed as part of CPEC. It will be a government-to-government (G2G) deal, earlier launched in 2015 but shut down to be restarted later. In summary, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is moving ahead as per the laid-down master plan. Owing to its significance, neither Beijing nor Islamabad can afford to relegate or abandon it all together. Rather, CPEC has

now moved to its second phase which is more crucial, challenging, conclusive and rewarding. After major achievements of the first phase, the second phase would be mutually rewarding and beneficial for the masses as well as towards national economic uplift. For an optimistic move forward on the project, let's not politicize CPEC through various conspiracy theories and pessimistic narratives. Rather, follow the quote; 'Work More and Talk Less'.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-beyond-conspiracy-theories-by-professor-dr-muhammad-khan/>

The Express Tribune

China, Pakistan to hold activities marking 70 years of diplomatic ties

SHANGHAI: China and Pakistan will hold a series of activities later this year to celebrate the 70th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic ties, officials and experts said at an academic seminar held in Shanghai Wednesday.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, both sides are confident in hosting about 100 celebratory activities to attract young people of both countries to participate in bilateral cooperation and exchanges, seminar attendees said. The seminar has the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan as its theme.

At the seminar, the Pakistani Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, said that the two countries set a model of bilateral relations. This model is based on mutual understanding, respect, trust, support, and cooperation.

Sha Hailin, president of the Shanghai People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, told the seminar that China and Pakistan aided each other in terms of anti-pandemic supplies since the outbreak of the pandemic, demonstrating the partnership between the two countries.

China and Pakistan established diplomatic relations on May 21, 1951.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2300645/china-pakistan-to-hold-activities-marking-70-years-of-diplomatic-ties>

The Nation

KP govt marking 70th anniversary of Pak-China ties: Kazim

ISLAMABAD - Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Dr Kazim Niaz on Tuesday said the provincial government was marking 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Islamic Republic of Pakistan and People's Republic of China in a simple and dignified manner with strict implementation of COVID-19 protocols.

Presiding over a meeting at Civil Secretariat to mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and the People's Republic of China here, Dr Kazim directed that all celebrations be organised with strict compliance to COVID-19 precautionary SOPs.

“Pak-China diplomatic relations are very deep and getting stronger with the passage of time,” he remarked. He directed the concerned administrative secretaries of elementary and secondary education, and higher education departments to arrange online debate and speech competitions in the context of Pak-China friendship.

He directed Information Department to appropriately highlight the everlasting friendship and diplomatic relations between Pak-China in print media, radio, electronic media and social media. Dr Kazim instructed Local Government and Rural Development Department to display billboards and banners to mark 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that the two countries had historical friendly relations which culminated with inception of CPEC. People of both countries, he added, had come closer to each other and economic development accelerated in the region.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-19/page-10/detail-2>

The News

Virtual conference: Speakers highlight industrial cooperation under CPEC

PESHAWAR: A two-day CPEC Industrial cooperation virtual conference organized by the Centre for Pakistan Studies, Peking University, Beijing, China and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment & Trade as part of the 70 Years Celebration of Pak-China friendship started here on Tuesday.

The panelists from both sides highlighted the industrial cooperation under CPEC.

Among the participants were Moinul Haq, Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Sher Ali Arbab, Chairman, CPEC Parliamentary Committee, Lt-general (r) Asim Saleem Bajwa, Chairman CPEC Authority, Hassan Daud Butt, CEO KP-Board of Investment & Trade, Haroon Shareef, member, Prime Minister’s Task Force on Economic Diplomacy, Muneer Kamal, Masood Khalid, Naghmana Hashmi and CEOs of Punjab, Balochistan and Sindh Board of Investment and panelists from China.

The conference was attended by a number of participants from China and Pakistan including public and private sector stakeholders.

Hassan Daud said the agriculture and light engineering sectors were the key sectors in which cooperation needed to be enhanced which could impact the economic development of both countries. People-to-people exchange linkages strengthening was stressed as well. He said the CPEC projects were bringing economic prosperity and Rashakai Special Economic Zone would be a game-changer towards sustainable economic growth of the province.

Sher Ali Arbab called for interdepartmental cooperation and intergovernmental coordination for smooth implementation of CPEC projects.

He pointed out that Agriculture had not been given the significant attention thus far, adding China has huge potential for Pakistani agriculture products for which innovation and out-of-box

solutions were required. The legislator called for connecting Pakistani SEZs, especially from KP and Gilgit Baltistan to the Chinese SEZs.

Retired Lt-General Asim Saleem Bajwa, Chairman, CPEC Authority, said out of 37 SEZs, good progress had been made on Faisalabad SEZ and for Rashakai groundbreaking was drawing near.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/836823-virtual-conference-speakers-highlight-industrial-cooperation-under-cpec>

May 20, 2021

Business Recorder

Pakistan, China to have better road connectivity soon

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China will soon have a new and alternative short road connectivity as an alternative to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which would be constructed by Pakistan at the cost of Rs 50 billion.

The new route funded by the Pakistani government, will be in addition to the Shandur route connecting to China under the CPEC and will help expedite the pace of economic development between the two countries. The route would be around 350 kilometers shorter than the existing via Khunjerab Pass.

In an official letter written to Gilgit Baltistan's Works Department (GBWD), it has been asked to prepare a concept clearance proposal for new route which would pass through Shigar, Skardu and Astor districts and connect to Muzaffarabad district of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). Moreover, the concerned departments in these districts have also been asked to submit the concept clearance proposals for construction of a 33 feet wide truck friendly road from Yarkand at China border to Gorikot in Astor via Shagarthang.

This has come after Prime Minister Imran Khan's announcement of a historic development package for Gilgit Baltistan. The federal government has also included 216-kilometre Shandur-Gilgit road into the Rs 370 billion package.

The Planning Development and Special Initiatives Department said the Rs 50 billion road is being considered as an alternative route to CPEC and would be completed under the umbrella of the Integrated GB Development Plan 2021-26. The original cost of the road was estimated to be Rs 45 billion which has not been enhanced to Rs 50 billion.

The project's PC-1 has been submitted to the Planning Commission for subsequent approval from Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC).

The Ministry of Communication had already submitted PC-1 of the project to Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives for consideration in upcoming Central

Development Working Party (CDWP) and Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) meeting.

The new road would be an all-weather road, providing an alternative route to CPEC during winter when the Silk Route is closed due to snowfall. After Lowari Tunnel, the project will be another top notch and time saving route for traveling to the region. The total length of the road is 363km, of which 216 km are in GB's territory.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/20/1-page/886607-news.html>

Daily Times

China's experience of poverty alleviation worth learning for Pakistan: diplomat

China's experience of poverty alleviation worth learning for Pakistan, said Masood Khalid, former Pakistani Ambassador to China.

"I personally think if Pakistan has to learn from China, it is the Chinese miracle of elimination of absolute poverty, which is unprecedented in human history, he said in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

China has succeeded in addressing the problem of poverty that 800 million people literally have been out of poverty trap," Masood Khalid appraised China's extraordinary achievements in anti-poverty. Besides, as he observed, China has been becoming a knowledge economy. "For knowledge economy, China is investing a lot in research and development, education, science, and technology.

They have selected ten key industries, which will be value added to make China formidable in technology. I think Pakistan can learn a lot, and China is willing to help. About Sino-Pak growing relationship, he said, CPEC itself provides that platform or umbrella to further our cooperation." As Masood Khalid sees it, achievements which China has made under the leadership of Communist Party of China (CPC) are all-round and impressive. "I visited China for the first time in 1981. From then on, whenever I travelled in China, I saw China's development at full speed and positive changes of people's lives," he said.

"It remains a mystery, particularly for western scholars, to understand as to how China has been able to achieve. They forget that China has a very rich history of 5,000 years old, and there has been continuity in terms of Chinese value system and culture and traditions. They don't fully appreciate how resilient, how hard-working, how diligent, how serious-minded, and how scientifically oriented Chinese people are. There have been ups and downs in China's last decades, but CPC decided that we have to change course at the critical moment and they have achieved targets at different stages. Chinese people and CPC should be proud of their achievements," said Masood Khalid. "Pakistan, as a friend of China, we not only admire their achievements, we feel very happy over their achievements."

In Masood Khalid's eyes, China-Pakistan relationship is an "anchor for peace and stability in South Asia". Seeing so many developments taking place in the region, he greeted people of both countries over their achievements. About the secret of unfading China-Pakistan friendship, he said "China was the first country to send Covid-19 vaccines to a foreign country, and that was Pakistan. Back in 2008 when Sichuan was hit by a devastating earthquake, Pakistan sent all its tents to China. These show how we feel for each other, and what kind of sentiment we have for each other," Masood Khalid spoke of many precious moments in the history of China-Pakistan friendship.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/758244/chinas-experience-of-poverty-alleviation-worth-learning-for-pakistan-diplomat/>

ML-1 project a glaring example of Pak-China cooperation under CPEC

Under CPEC already several projects of power generation and road up gradation have been completed but ML-1 is one of the main components of CPEC, an official said.

According to details, the Chinese government is also investing US\$ 6.8 billion ML-1 project which features up-gradation and dualization of railway track under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This 1872-kilometer long track from Peshawar to Karachi is expected to create 24,000 jobs and would jump up train speed to 160 kilometers per hour.

Railway line would be upgraded from Karachi to Peshawar and Taxila to Havelian while new track would be laid with improved sub grade for 160km per hour. Bridges would also be rehabilitated and constructed. This mega project is a glaring example of Pak-China friendship.

Moreover, the provision of modern signalling and telecom systems, conversion of level -crossing into underpasses or flyovers, fencing of track, establishment of dry port near Havelian and up-gradation of Walton Training Academy (Lahore) are also the components of this gigantic project. The completion of this project would not only create direct (20,000 local labour/technical experts and 4,000 Chinese experts) jobs but also reduce travel time between Karachi to Lahore from 18 to 10 hours.

As per official information, the capacity of the line will also be increased from 34 trains per day to 170 trains per day and speed of the freight trains be increased at 120 km/h. Pakistan Railways is a state enterprise and it has not been a profit making entity since private transport provided better services beginning of the year 2000. However, the ML-1 project is promising uplift of railways in Pakistan.

Keeping in view its importance, the government approved the projects through Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) which is worth \$ 6.8 billion on cost sharing basis as Beijing is the main financier. The projects consists of packages with first one comprising construction of 527-km long rail-track connecting Peshawar, Rawalpindi and Lahore to be completed by 2024, second and third ones are most significant to upgrade 251-km long

track between Lahore and Hyderabad and 740-km between Rawalpindi-Peshawar and Hyderabad-Multan respectively, he added.

After its completion, he said the project will generate economic opportunities for daily wagers in main train stations of major cities. After completion, it will also attract the foreign investment. Moreover, the official said the project would also prove a catalyst to boost tourism sector by easing people's mobility as the present government aims to rejuvenate Pakistan's tourism industry.

Pakistan will be connecting China with West Asia and Africa through its Gwadar Port. All shipped goods to and from China will be transported along with Pakistan's own goods. Timely completion of ML-I is in the best economic interest of Pakistan as well as China, he added.

He said the railway will provide direct access for Chinese and East Asian goods to Pakistani seaports at Karachi and Gwadar by 2030.

Pakistani Railways currently account for four (4) percent of freight traffic in the country but upon completion of CPEC, Pakistani Railways are expected to transport over 20% of the country's freight traffic, the official said.

In addition to upgrading the ML-I, the CPEC project also calls for similar major upgrade on 1,254 kilometre long Main Line-II (ML-II) railway between Kotri in Sindh province, and Attock in Northern Punjab province via cities of Larkana and Dera Ghazi Khan.

The route towards northern Pakistan roughly parallels the Indus River, as compared to the ML-1 which takes a more eastward course towards Lahore. The project also includes a plan to connect Gwadar, to the town of Jacobabad, Sindh which lies at intersection of the ML-II and ML-III railways.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/758409/ml-1-project-a-glaring-example-of-pak-china-cooperation-under-cpec/>

Pakistan participates in China Graduate Fashion Week

Pakistani fashion graduates from Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture participated in China Graduate Fashion Week 2021.

They were especially invited to participate in this edition as part of the celebrations of 70th anniversary of establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic ties being commemorated this year, according to a press release issued by Pakistan Embassy Beijing.

China Graduate Fashion Week is a regular annual feature of the China Fashion Association for last 16 years.

It provides a platform for promoting domestic and foreign fashion colleges and showcasing their creativity through fashion shows, design contests, exhibitions and thematic forums. Opening ceremony of 17th edition of China Graduate Fashion Week was held yesterday in 798 Art Zone, Beijing.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/758132/pakistan-participates-in-china-graduate-fashion-week/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC: understanding the behemoth — facts and myth

By Inam Ul Haque

A lot has been said about the One-Belt One-Road initiative (OBOR), or as the Chinese call it the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It attracts unwanted attention, as no superpower in human history has been able to undertake a project so enormous, that it covers most continents and two-thirds of the world, is inclusive of all major areas of modern economy, and is undertaken by a non-white, non-European power — the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC). With BRI, an ambitious signature foreign policy initiative by President Xi Jinping announced in 2013, China expects regional and global connectivity with and among some 126 countries and 29 international organisations (already on board), through a network of roads, highways, railways, pipelines, power plants, grids, fiber-optic and social welfare and poverty-alleviation projects. The overall investment is a staggering over \$1.3 trillion to establish six international corridors. The Initiative would ultimately cover over 65 countries, 60% of the world-population and 40% of the global GDP. The trade volume among China and the participating countries is already over \$6 trillion, with the potential of adding \$117 billion this year. Infrastructure improvement is likely to reduce the global trade costs and transportation time by an average of 2.2% and 2.5%, respectively. Once fully operationalised, BRI would provide a viable alternative to the present predatory economic system. Therefore, BRI especially the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) — as its pilot programme — is subjected to intense criticism by the United States/West. This series of articles would dispassionately analyse the diverse aspects of the CPEC. The MoU for the Long-Term Plan (LTP) under CPEC was signed in Islamabad by the then federal minister, planning development and reform, Professor Ahsan Iqbal (PML-N) and Mr Wang Xiaotao, vice chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), on November 21, 2017, although CPEC deliberations were underway since 2013-14. As per official definition, CPEC is a “growth axis and a development belt” featuring a comprehensive transportation corridor and industrial cooperation. China-Pakistan is the ‘growth axis’, containing major collaborative projects of infrastructure construction, industrial development, economic and trade cooperation, social uplift and socio-economic development including people-to-people exchanges and cultural communications. CPEC officially covers the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in western China, and the whole territory of Pakistan in a format comprising a ‘core zone’ and ‘radiation zone’. The corridor passes through key node cities including Kashghar (Kashi in Chinese), Atushi, Tumshuq, Shule, Shufu, Akto, Tashkurgan Tajik in China; and Gilgit, Peshawar, DI Khan, Islamabad, Lahore, Multan, Quetta, Sukkur, Hyderabad, Karachi and Gwadar in Pakistan. Development of western China is pursuant to China's longstanding policy, “Go West”, aimed at removing developmental disparities between coastal China in the east, and the under-developed mountainous China in the west. Both China and Pakistan have agreed to the “1+4 cooperation mode” for CPEC with the corridor as the core,

and Gwadar, energy, transport infrastructure and industrial cooperation as its four priorities. CPEC follows the 'National Plans' of both countries as per their respective Vision 2025. For China, CPEC is a POC (proof of concept) for BRI. In its spatial layout, CPEC further devolves into "one belt, three axes and several passages". The "one belt" contains the core zone composed of Kashgar, Tumshuq city, and Atushi city and Akto county in Kizilsu Kirghiz autonomous prefecture of Xinjiang, China and Islamabad, parts of Punjab, Sindh, K-P, Balochistan, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B). Its "three axes" horizontally run connecting Lahore and Peshawar, Sukkur and Quetta, and Karachi and Gwadar. The "several passages" refer to railways and highways connecting Islamabad to Karachi and Gwadar. The five 'key functional zones' of CPEC, from north to south include the Xinjiang foreign economic zone; the northern border trade logistics and business corridor and ecological reserve; the eastern and central plain economic zone; the western logistics corridor and business zone; and the southern coastal logistics business zone. CPEC is intended to greatly speed up "industrialisation and urbanization", making Pakistan globally competitive and domestically prosperous. LTP matches up locational advantage of Pakistan with China's economic and industrial potential. LTP identifies some impediments to CPEC such as; global power adjustment to a rising China; weak industrial base/economy of southern Xinjiang; hard geography of Sino-Pakistan border areas (escalating costs); and demographic and economic disparities in Pakistan. The Indus River valley, though relatively developed, has "high population density and limited resource-carrying capacity"; whereas, western Pakistan is poorly developed and has harsh natural conditions. The corona pandemic is also another unforeseen impediment. China's vision, as alluded to, is to "further advance its western development strategy". And to promote economic and social development, accelerating BRI construction, utilising China's advantages in capital, technology, production capacity and engineering operations. China aims at the formation of a "new open economic system". From Pakistan's standpoint, CPEC is to fully "harness the demographic and natural endowment of the country", enhancing its industrial capacity through new industrial clusters in order to balance the "regional socio-economic development, enhancing people's wellbeing, and promote domestic peace and stability". CPEC also has an international/regional vision, entailing the creation of a new "international logistics network and industrial layout, based on major transportation infrastructure". It aims at elevating the "status of South Asian and Central Asian countries" through economic integration, trade growth, technological/economic cooperation and people-to-people exchanges. This vision welcomes inclusion of all left out countries like India in the CPEC. In its initial formulation, CPEC's declared timeline runs until 2030 with phasing of projects in short, medium and long-term with scope for later adjustments. In the short-term (2014-2020), CPEC was aimed at resource mobilisation, removing major bottlenecks to Pakistan's economic (not identified in the MoU), social development and boosting economic growth in both countries. In the mid-term (upto 2025), CPEC envisages completion of major construction and associated industrial systems, optimal utilisation of expected economic functions (improving peoples' livelihood along CPEC) and removing economic/developmental disparities regionally, as per Vision 2025. In the long-term (upto 2030), CPEC's goal is for South

Asia growing into an international economic zone with global influence, having CPEC effectively integrated for economic growth in South/Central Asia. Subsequent implementation and recalibration have sequenced projects into 'Early Harvest' projects (2015-2019) in the energy sector, adding up approximately 7,000 MW to the national grid by 2019, easing energy shortages and load shedding. By 2022, energy projects would add another 13,180 MW, lifting production and exports. Similarly, short-term (upto 2022), projects include mainly infrastructure (roads), Gwadar development, fiber-optic network, hydel, coal-mining and power projects. Whereas, medium-term (upto 2025) include railways and the creation of industrial zones. The long-term projects (upto 2030) include completion of industrial zones, agriculture and tourism. If one looks at the above agreed phasing, it is heartening to know that concurrent projects undertaken are generally ahead of timelines and phasing, despite the corona-induced complexities. Next, we shall discuss the remaining aspects of CPEC, including the ill-founded and maleficent criticisms, to which this very vital project is subjected

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2300657/cpec-understanding-the-behemoth-facts-and-myth>

Early completion of CPEC projects sought

LAHORE: Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President SM Naveed has urged early completion of CPEC projects, which will open plenty of new opportunities for young entrepreneurs in Pakistan. During an online meeting, Naveed observed that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had entered into the most important phase, where projects were not merely limited to infrastructure. The new projects, he said, would bring modern technology to the industrial sector in Pakistan. The PCJCCI chief appreciated the government for paying equal attention to CPEC despite a health emergency in the wake of Covid-19. Speaking on the occasion, PCJCCI Senior Vice President Daud Ahmed told meeting participants that Century Steel - a Chinese firm with investment of \$240 million - was about to set up a steel mill in the Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), which would produce around 1.5 million tons of steel per annum. The firm will provide employment to over 600 Pakistanis during the construction phase while in the second phase over 1,000 jobs will be provided.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2300716/early-completion-of-cpec-projects-sought>

PM Imran, Chinese premier reaffirm resolve to strengthen Pak-China ties

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Thursday reaffirmed their resolve to further solidify Pakistan-China bilateral relations.

The commitment was reiterated during a telephonic conversation between the two leaders as part of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic ties.

During the call, the prime minister congratulated the Chinese premier on the special occasion, that would be celebrated by both the sides in a befitting manner.

According to reports, both the leaders stressed the need to continue with the momentum of high-level exchanges to further diversify and deepen strategic cooperation between the two countries.

PM Imran further emphasised that with the collective and tireless efforts over the years Pakistan and China had transformed their relationship into an “All-Weather Strategic Co-operative Partnership”. "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative and has generated economic activity, employment and will further enhance bilateral and regional trade," the premier said.

The year 2021 is a special occasion as it marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, he added.

PM Imran also highlighted Pakistan-China cooperation in fighting Covid-19 and deeply appreciated China’s continued support to Pakistan in the supply of the Covid-19 vaccine.

He thanked China for providing assistance to the National Institute of Health (NIH) for establishing a vaccine manufacturing facility in Pakistan that would further solidify the country's efforts to combat Covid-19.

Prime Minister Imran also congratulated Premier Keqiang and the Chinese leadership for the successful landing of the Chinese spacecraft on Mars, which showed the rising technological prowess of China.

‘China committed to Pakistan's development’

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said that Pakistan and China were tied in deep-rooted relations and these relations will further fortify with the passage of time.

The Chinese ambassador’s remarks came while addressing the book launching ceremony titled "Higher than Karakoram: Seven Decades of Pakistan-China partnership" in Islamabad today.

“China is fully committed to the development of Pakistan. We should be fully prepared to defeat those who are not happy with Pak-China close friendship and success of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project,” added Ambassador Rong.

He further said that people-to-people exchanges played an important role in developing the bilateral relations. People of both the countries need to know each other for a better understanding, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood said Pak-China relationship is and will remain the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. He said China always supported the issue of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

“The CPEC project will promote regional connectivity and contribute to the national development as well. The CPEC has entered into the second phase, with focus on industrialisation and agriculture sector to ensure socio-economic development,” he added.

Foreign Secretary Mahmood further expressed gratitude to China over the provision of anti Covid-19 vaccine that helped saving precious lives.

“High-level exchanges are the hallmark of our relations to further solidify the mutual cooperation between the two countries,” he added.

Expressing his views, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin-ul-Haque said Pakistan and China enjoy strong relations as both the countries always supported each other in the hour of trial and played an important role in ensuring regional peace and stability.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2300822/pm-imran-chinese-premier-reaffirm-resolve-to-strengthen-pak-china-ties>

CPEC bears fruit amid 70th anniversary of Pak-China ties

ISLAMABAD: Since the establishment of their diplomatic relations on May 21, 1951, China and Pakistan have forged an all-weather friendship and conducted all-round cooperation. As an important pilot project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and one of the main platforms for deepening bilateral cooperation, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been bearing fruit. For 32-year-old Zulqarnian Khan, working as a geological engineer in the Suki Kinari hydropower station, only about 10km away from his home, is what makes him and his family elated. "My parents are happy. They know I will have a bright future as I can learn lots of advanced techniques from my Chinese colleagues with a handsome income here," he said. Located in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, the 884-megawatt hydropower station is a major CPEC energy project, with construction in full swing. "Our project currently has around 5,000 Pakistani employees, and over 60 per cent of them are from nearby areas of the station," Deng Siwen, general manager of the project, said. "Since the start of construction four years ago, I have seen shops and hotels mushroom near our construction site, and many of our Pakistani colleagues began to afford a motorbike for commuting." Having been working on the project for three years, Zulqarnian is joining hands with his Chinese and Pakistani colleagues to smoothly reach each milestone in the construction, including the second-stage river closure achieved in late April. When starting commercial operation, the project is expected to generate some 3.21 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually to provide sufficient power supply and further improve Pakistan's energy structure while a number of CPEC power plants under operation have already made great contributions to solving the electricity shortage in the country. "The CPEC energy projects have added thousands of megawatts of installed capacity to the grid of the country, and the electricity shortage which was there for the last 20-25 years is no more," Mushahid Hussain Syed, chairman of the Pakistani Senate's standing committee on foreign affairs, said. The sufficient energy supply has paved the way for the boom of Pakistan's economic and social activities, enabling the country to embark on a path of clean and green development. In Lahore, the launch of the South Asian country's first-ever metro train service last October has provided a modern, comfortable and eco-friendly way of travelling for over 11 million residents in the city. Adopting the Chinese standard, technology and equipment, the electricity-driven Orange Line metro train under CPEC has become a popular choice among local commuters and is expected to facilitate traffic and reduce air pollution in the city. "Earlier, it used to take me an hour via three different kinds of transport to reach my destination and I had to suffer dust since the rickshaw I used to take was open," Lahore resident Tariq Siddiqui said. "Now I am just using this one which takes me only 20 minutes. It's a very good facility for the

public." Meanwhile, the CPEC's other transport infrastructure projects including the Karakoram Highway Phase Two and the Sukkur-Multan Motorway "have connected different provinces of Pakistan in a modern and better way, facilitating transportation, trade and people's travel," Syed said. Facing the Arabian Sea, Gwadar port, one of the pillars of the CPEC, in Balochistan province, has made a series of achievements including the inauguration of liner services, Afghan transit trade and liquefied petroleum gas business, and is sailing towards the dream of becoming a "New Dubai" in Pakistan. Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Gwadar port with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport and industrial cooperation. According to the data recently released by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, a total of 46 CPEC projects are under construction or have been completed, and the corridor has brought \$25.4 billion in foreign direct investment to Pakistan and created 75,000 jobs for the locals, serving as a focal point for China and Pakistan to drive practical cooperation. In late April, Prime Minister Imran Khan said in a meeting with the country's high-level officials reviewing progress on the CPEC that the corridor is a testimony to the time-tested and deep-rooted Pakistan-China friendship. "After 70 years of development, this iron-clad friendship exists not only between the two governments but has also become a broad consensus among the two peoples, which is what I feel after working in Pakistan for 13 years," Deng said. Last year when the Covid-19 epidemic was raging across Pakistan, batches of Chinese engineers and workers took chartered flights back to Pakistan to join their Pakistani counterparts in the CPEC construction, for the common goal of completing the construction on time. With fruitful achievements, the CPEC has entered a new stage of high-quality development, focusing more on industrial, agricultural and socio-economic cooperation. The Pakistani government plans to develop nine special economic zones across the country under the CPEC to promote its industrialisation. As the first one of its kind being implemented, the Rashakai special economic zone in K-P is pushing forward its construction and inviting investors, along with the building of the first factory invested by a Chinese company in the zone. "We are inviting investors from all over the world to come and put up industry in those special economic zones. This will help increase our exports, help our economy and give more jobs to our youth," Chairman CPEC Authority Lt General (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa said. Pakistan also pins high hope on the CPEC and Gwadar port, in particular, to transform itself into a regional trade hub. The improvement the CPEC has brought to Pakistan's transport infrastructure and Gwadar port can facilitate trade with Afghanistan and Central Asian countries, which will, in turn, tap the full potential of the corridor, Badiea Shaukat, an economic consultant, said. Hailing the CPEC as a far-sighted project, President Arif Alvi said that the Gwadar port can provide Central Asian countries with ideal access to the sea, which will further strengthen interconnectivity and cooperation for the common development of the whole region.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2300861/cpec-bears-fruit-amid-70th-anniversary-of-pak-china-ties>

The Nation

Rs83 billion projects identified under CPEC to modernise agriculture sector

ISLAMABAD - As many as 18 projects worth around Rs83 billion have been identified in agriculture sector under the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, with an aim to exploit its true potential and modernise it for the sustainable economic growth.

“Agriculture development is the main component of the second-phase of CPEC and both China and Pakistan are determined to exploit this sector for mutual benefit,” said Senior Joint Secretary and Spokesman of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research Javed Hammayun while talking to APP here Wednesday.

About twelve short, medium and long-term projects identified by the China-Pakistan Joint Working Groups (JWG) are related to Livestock Wing, Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R) and Livestock and Dairy Development Department, six projects are related to research and development to be executed by Pakistan Agricultural Research Council while one project has been identified for the establishment of Aquaculture Park in Coastal Areas of Pakistan.

Giving break up details, Javed said, through these projects both the countries would cooperate in the areas of capacity building, germplasm resources, agriculture product processing and technology extension, he added.

The other identified projects included uplifting of local agriculture sector including fisheries, establishment of foot and mouth disease free zones, and market information as well as agricultural trade, he added.

Javed said that the short term projects would be completed in two years time whereas the and medium as well as long term projects would be completed in four to five years timeframe.

Besides, the two sides have also signed various agreements and protocols to facilitate cooperation in the areas of trade and research; he said adding that an MoU on Strengthening of Cooperation on Plant Pest and Disease Control was signed during the visit of the President to China in March, 2020.

During the said high level visit, Ministry of Planning and Development had also signed an MOU with its Chinese counterpart to bring the two Joint Working Groups (JWGs) including Agricultural Cooperation and Science Technology under CPEC, he added.

Javed Hammayun further informed that so far two meetings of JWG had taken place, adding that second Joint working Group (JWG) on Agricultural Cooperation was held via video.

Both sides agreed to establish the center for sustainable control of plants pest diseases in Pakistan (Karachi) for which Department of Plant Protection will be the lead Executing Agency.

He said that Pakistan and China had also agreed to conduct third meeting of JWG in 2021 in Beijing.

Apprising the progress made on different projects finalized by JWG, he said that Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) free zone in Bahawalpur Division was established by Punjab, adding that in this regard an updated technical matrix on establishment of FMD Free Zones proposed by Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Punjab had been shared with Chinese side along with invitation to Chinese experts for inspection.

Livestock Wing of Ministry of National Food Security and Research has provided requisite information on prescribed questionnaire for export of poultry products to China and invited Chinese technical team to visit Pakistan for inspection of poultry establishments, he added.

In order to promote bilateral collaboration in research and transfer of technology, Chinese side had also expressed its consent for providing financial assistance for the establishment of Center of Excellence at National Agriculture Research Centre on agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

Javed Hammayun further informed that Pakistan was keen to develop its research collaboration with Chinese institutions in order to enhance per-acre crop output of all major crop including wheat, rice, cotton and in this regard the other side has also agreed for providing technical and financial assistance for the establishment of center of excellence on Central Cotton Research Institute Multan, besides the establishment of intelligent green house farming in Pakistan.

The seven projects to be executed by PARC included promotion of cherry cultivation on commercial Scale in Gilgit-Baltistan for tapping the export potential to China, adding that this project would be completed within five years with an estimated cost of Rs, 1,200 million, he added.

The Northern Areas of the country have enamors potential to produce dry fruits and recognizing the importance the JWG had also identified the project promotion and development of Pistachio in potential ecologies of Pakistan under CPEC initiatives and the estimated cost of initiative was calculated at Rs1, 300 million and it would be completed within five years time period, he remarked.

Meanwhile, commenting on Pak-China collaboration in research and technology transfer, Member Plant Sciences in PARC Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali said that the council had established National Institute for Geo-economics and Advanced Bio-technology (NIGAB).

The NIGAB in collaboration with Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences had developed four high-yielding virus free banana varieties, he said adding that new varieties of potatoes were also developed which would have significant impact on local output of crop.

Pakistan can cut poverty with China's model: Ex-envoy

ISLAMABAD - China's experience of poverty alleviation worth learning for Pakistan and it can alleviate poverty by the approach adopted by the Chinese leadership, said Masood Khalid, former Pakistani Ambassador to China yesterday.

“If Pakistan has to learn from China, it is the Chinese miracle of elimination of absolute poverty, which is unprecedented in human history,” Masood Khalid told CEN.

He said that China has succeeded in addressing the problem of poverty that 800 million people literally have been out of poverty trap.

Besides, as he observed, China has been becoming a knowledge economy. “For knowledge economy, China is investing a lot in research and development, education, science, and technology.”

About the growing Sino-Pak relationship, he said, CPEC itself provides that platform or umbrella to further our cooperation.

“I visited China for the first time in 1981. From then on, whenever I travelled in China, I saw China’s development at full speed and positive changes of people’s lives,” he said. “It remains a mystery, particularly for western scholars, to understand as to how China has been able to achieve. They forget that China has a very rich history of 5,000 years old, and there has been continuity in terms of Chinese value system and culture and traditions.

They don’t fully appreciate how resilient, how hard-working, how diligent, how serious-minded, and how scientifically oriented Chinese people are.

There have been ups and downs in China’s last decades, but CPC decided that we have to change course at the critical moment and they have achieved targets at different stages.

Chinese people and CPC should be proud of their achievements,” said Masood Khalid. “Pakistan, as a friend of China, we not only admire their achievements, we feel very happy over their achievements.”

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-20/page-10/detail-3>

Express News

پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ پر خصوصی ویڈیو

پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر چائنا میڈیا گروپ کے اہم پلیٹ فارم ”ایف ایم 98“ کی جانب سے خصوصی ویڈیو کا اہتمام کیا گیا۔ ویڈیو میں اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے سابق وزیر دفاع اور معروف دفاعی تجزیہ کار لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) نعیم خالد لودھی نے کہا کہ گزشتہ ستر سال کے دوران پاکستان اور چین کے دو طرفہ تعلقات وقت گزرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ مضبوط ہوئے ہیں جبکہ اسی عرصے میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان کوئی ابھام پیدا نہیں ہوا۔ جنرل (ر) لودھی نے کہا کہ چین عسکری شعبے میں پاکستان کی بھرپور مدد کر رہا ہے اور جے ایف 17 تھنڈر طیارے دونوں ممالک کے مابین دوستی کی اعلیٰ مثال ہیں، جبکہ چین پاکستان کے لیے جنگی بحری جہازوں اور دیگر عسکری سازوسامان کی تیاری میں مدد فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ چیئر پختونخوا کے چیف ایگزیکٹو افسر حسن داؤد بٹ نے ویڈیو کے دوران اپنے خیالات کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وقت گزرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ سی پیک کے ثمرات سامنے آئیں گے، کیونکہ سی پیک کا مقصد یہی ہے کہ دونوں ممالک معاشی طور پر مضبوط ہوں اور علاقائی سطح پر ایک دوسرے سے منسلک ہوں۔

انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کی قیادت یعنی وزیر اعظم عمران خان اور چینی صدر شی جن پھنگ غربت کا خاتمہ چاہتے ہیں۔ حسن داؤد بٹ نے کہا کہ سی پیک کا منصوبہ 2030 تک مکمل ہو گا جس کے پہلے مرحلے میں بنیادی ڈھانچے کی تعمیر اور توانائی کے منصوبوں پر کام کیا گیا، جبکہ دوسرے مرحلے میں زراعت اور سماجی بہبود کے علاوہ مختلف اقتصادی زونز کی تعمیر پر خصوصی توجہ دی جا رہی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک کے تحت ملک بھر میں اقتصادی زونز کی تعمیر 2025 تک مکمل کر لی جائے گی۔

انسٹیٹیوٹ آف اسپیس ٹیکنالوجی میں جی این ایس ایس پروگرام کے سربراہ ڈاکٹر نجم عباس نقوی نے چین کی خلائی ٹیکنالوجی پر اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین کی جانب سے مریخ اور چاند کی جانب بھیجے گئے مشن کے علاوہ چینی خلائی اسٹیشن کا قیام چین کی خلائی شعبے میں ترقی کی بھرپور عکاسی کرتا ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کا خلائی شعبے میں تعاون جاری ہے، جس کے تحت پاکستان جلد ہی چین کی مدد سے چاند پر پہنچ جائے گا۔ ڈاکٹر نجم عباس نقوی نے کہا کہ چین نے پاکستان کے دو مصنوعی سیارے، جن میں موصلاتی مصنوعی سیارہ اور ریوٹ سینسنگ سیارہ شامل ہیں، خلا کی جانب روانہ کرنے میں مدد فراہم کی ہے۔

زرعی یونیورسٹی فیصل آباد کے سابق وائس چانسلر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر محمد اشرف نے ویسینار میں اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے مابین زراعت اور بائیو ٹیکنالوجی میں دو طرفہ تعاون جاری ہے۔ ڈاکٹر محمد اشرف کے مطابق، جی ڈی پی میں زراعت کا حصہ 7.7 فیصد ہے، جبکہ پاکستان میں 18 فیصد ہے۔

انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین بائیو ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبے میں متعدد معاہدوں کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کیے جا چکے ہیں، جن کے بعد پاکستان کے زرعی شعبے میں ترقی ہوئی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پنجاب میں ملکی ضروریات کی 80 فیصد فصلیں پیدا ہوتی ہیں اور ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ زرعی شعبے میں چین کے تجربات سے استفادہ کرتے ہوئے پاکستان کی زرعی پیداوار میں اضافہ کیا جائے۔

اس موقع پر سینئر تجزیہ کار برائے بین الاقوامی امور ڈاکٹر شفقت منیر نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کی دوستی اعتماد سازی اور پر امن بقائے باہمی کے اصول پر استوار ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے جوہری توانائی اور سی پیک سمیت مختلف منصوبوں میں پاکستان کے ساتھ بھرپور تعاون کیا، جس سے خطے میں ترقی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہو چکا ہے۔

ویسینار میں گفتگو کے دوران روزنامہ اتحاد کے چیف ایڈیٹر طاہر فاروق نے کہا کہ چینی صدر شی جن پھنگ کا ”ون بیلٹ ون روڈ“ منصوبہ انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل ہے جس سے نہ صرف چین کو فائدہ پہنچے گا بلکہ خطے کے دیگر ممالک بھی اس سے مستفید ہو سکیں گے۔

پی ایف یو جے کی پہلی خاتون جنرل سیکریٹری فوزیہ شاہد نے ویسینار میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین دو طرفہ تعلقات اعتماد سازی کی بنیاد پر قائم ہیں اور آج دنیا کے شاید ہی کوئی دو ممالک ہوں گے جن کے مابین گزشتہ 70 سال کے دوران دو طرفہ تعلقات تمام شعبوں پر محیط ہوں۔

اس موقع پر ڈیلی میل کے چیف ایڈیٹر مندوم باہر نے کہا کہ چینی ذرائع ابلاغ آج متحرک ہو چکے ہیں، جہاں سے چین کے خلاف بات کرنے والوں کو بھرپور جواب دیا جاتا ہے۔ ویسینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے دی نیوز لاہور کے سینئر صحافی سیف الرحمن نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین لازوال دوستی قائم ہے۔ سیف الرحمن نے کہا کہ انہوں نے چین کے متعدد دورے کیے ہیں جن میں انہوں نے چین کو ہر بار ایک مختلف ملک پایا، جو اس بات کا ثبوت ہے کہ چین مسلسل ترقی کر رہا ہے۔

اس موقع پر ہفت روزہ ٹیکنالوجی ٹائمز کے چیف ایڈیٹر سید پارس علی نے اپنی رائے کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ گزشتہ 45 سال سے پاکستان اور چین کے مابین سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کے کم سے کم 500 منصوبوں پر تعاون جاری رہا، جن میں سے بیشتر منصوبے مکمل ہو چکے ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ چین تقریباً سات ہزار اسکالرشپ پروگرام پاکستانی طلباء و طالبات کو فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ اس وقت مجموعی طور پر تقریباً اٹھائیس ہزار پاکستانی طلباء چین میں سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کی تعلیم حاصل کر رہے ہیں۔

روزنامہ الاخبار کے گروپ ایڈیٹر ریاض احمد نے اپنے خیالات کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین کی حیرت انگیز ترقی میں چینی صدر شی جن پھنگ سمیت کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائنا کا نمایاں کردار ہے۔

اسکواش کے صدر رتی ایوارڈ یافتہ کھلاڑی فرحان محبوب نے کہا کہ کھیلوں کے مقابلوں میں شرکت کے لیے چین جانے والے پاکستانی کھلاڑیوں کو ہمیشہ چین میں خوش آمدید کہا جاتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان نے چین کی قومی اسکواش ٹیم کو تربیت بھی فراہم کی ہے۔

معروف موسیقار و گلوکار زیک آفریدی نے ویسینار میں اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان موسیقی کے شعبے میں مزید دو طرفہ تعاون کی ضرورت ہے تاکہ عوامی سطح پر روابط مزید مضبوط ہوں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2180108/1/>

May 21, 2021

Business Recorder

‘There’s complete national consensus on CPEC indispensability’

ALI HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood Thursday said there is complete national consensus across the political spectrum in Pakistan on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) indispensability for Pakistan’s national development.

Speaking as the chief guest at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISSI), in an event in connection with launching of the China-Pakistan Study Centre’s second edited book titled, “Higher than Karakoram: Seven Decades of Pakistan-China Partnership,” the foreign secretary said that launching of CPEC in 2015 brought the relationship between Pakistan and China to new heights.

Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong also addressed the event as guest of honour. As the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative, Mahmood stated that the CPEC is set to become a “High-Quality Demonstration Project” of BRI and accelerate economic integration and regional connectivity.

“There is complete national consensus across the political spectrum in Pakistan on CPEC’s indispensability for our national development,” the foreign secretary asserted.

After successful conclusion of its first phase, he added that the transformational CPEC project has entered the second phase, with vigorous focus on industrialisation, agriculture and socio-economic development.

“We hope that the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), being developed under CPEC, will rejuvenate Pakistan’s process of industrialization and further spur economic development,” he expressed optimism.

“Indeed, CPEC will serve as a key driver of our flourishing partnership in the 21st Century. Strategic vision on both sides will continue to nurture the relationship in the decades to come,” he added

Over the past seven decades, he said that Pakistan-China relations have grown from strength to strength, unaffected by the vicissitudes of time and changes in the regional and global environment.

“The relationship has matured into a time-tested “All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.” We are indeed “Iron brothers”,” he added.

“China-Pakistan bilateral relations are rightly hailed as “taller than mountains, deeper than oceans, and sweeter than honey.” Pakistan-China relationship is, and will remain, the cornerstone of Pakistan’s foreign policy,” he asserted.

He said that Pakistan and China steadfastly support each other on the issues of their core interest. Pakistan adheres to “One-China policy” and supports China on issues such as Xinjiang, Hong Kong, South China Sea, Taiwan and Tibet, he said, adding that China has stood by Pakistan in supporting our key strategic, economic and developmental priorities as well as maintaining a principled position, China supports Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. In wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, he referred to the cooperation between the two countries, adding that cooperation between the two countries on vaccine is progressing “very well”. “We are deeply grateful to China for providing us COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccines provided by China are playing an important role in saving precious lives and controlling the pandemic,” he said, adding that the National Institute of Health (NIH) is building a local vaccine manufacturing facility with China’s help.

He further stated that the two countries have established seven sister-province and 14 sister-city relationships, adding that a dozen more such arrangements are in the process and expected to be finalised as part of 70 years celebrations this year.

He added that seven Pakistan study centers, 11 Urdu language departments in various Chinese universities, and five Confucius Institutes in Pakistan are promoting cultural understanding between the two peoples.

In his remarks, Ambassador Rong stated that the relationship between China and Pakistan has set a model for other countries.

He underscored the importance of research in propagating the right narrative and also suggested to focus on more areas of common interests.

The Chinese envoy also congratulated the ISSI and the CPSC for launching the book at the important occasion, when China and Pakistan are celebrating the seven decades of diplomatic relations.

Ambassador (retd) Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, said that what makes the

book unique is that it marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.

With their expertise over their respective areas, he added that the authors have provided the readers with valuable information on the past, present and future trends in the multiple dimensions of bilateral ties between China and Pakistan.

While introducing the book, Dr Talat Shabbir, Director CPSC said that through the book, CPSC has brought to light the fact as to why our relationship is considered to be “Higher than Karakoram.”

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/21/8-page/886812-news.html>

Chinese firm to build electric vehicles: Hammad

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar said on Thursday that Pakistan was moving towards electrification of mass transit as a consequence of Electric Vehicle Policy approved by the federal government last year in December.

On Twitter, Federal Minister Hammad Azhar said that BYD, the largest global electric bus manufacturer along with a Pakistani company would manufacture electric vehicles in Pakistan under the new agreement.

“BYD, the largest global electric bus manufacturer along with Sapphire group have joined hands to develop market development & manufacturing of electric vehicles in Pak,” Hammad Azhar wrote in a Tweet.

The federal cabinet on December 22 had approved Pakistan’s first Electric Vehicle Policy. The motorcycles and vehicles would be shifted on electric power, while Electric Vehicle Manufacturing Units would also be established in the country.

Under the new EV policy, the Sindh Transport Minister Syed Owais Shah back in March 2021 had launched Pakistan’s first electric bus in Karachi.—NNI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/21/12-page/886850-news.html>

Daily Times

May 21: a day of special significance for China and Pakistan

Nong Rong

May 21, 2021 is a day of special significance for the People’s Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. As the Chinese old saying goes, “Even mountains and seas cannot distance people with common aspirations.” 70 years ago, China and Pakistan joined hands overpass the Karakoram Mountains to formally establish diplomatic relations. The past 70 years have witnessed the two countries sharing weal and woe. The time-tested China-Pakistan friendship now sets exemplary for state-to-state relations, and is strategic asset for both countries, most dearly cherished by the two peoples.

Similar histories brought us close to each other. Both China and Pakistan are developing countries and have similar experiences in getting rid of foreign aggression and seeking independence. At such critical times, be it when New China endeavored to break the external blockade and open up a new prospect for diplomacy, or when Pakistan stood up to crises to defend national dignity, we have always been there for each other.

Similar ideas guide us stand shoulder to shoulder. China and Pakistan are the backbones in maintaining regional peace and stability. The two countries firmly defend multilateralism, free trade and win-win cooperation, commit to improving the global governance system, and support increasing the representation and voice of developing countries in international affairs. China and Pakistan always respect the diversity of civilizations, and advocate the vision of exchanges rather than estrangement, mutual learning rather than conflict, and coexistence rather than seeking superiority.

Common interests deepen our cooperation. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative. 46 projects have been completed or under construction, with a total investment of US\$25.4 billion. The CPEC successfully helped Pakistan solve the power shortage that has plagued it for decades, established the main traffic line from north to south, and revitalized Gwadar Port to become a regional trade hub. China has been Pakistan's largest trading partner for six consecutive years and largest source of FDI for seven consecutive years.

The tests of crisis reconfirms our common choice. The two peoples are always the first to lend a helping hand to each other when the other side is in trouble. When Wenchuan earthquake hit China in 2008, and when flood plagued Pakistan in 2010, both sides supported each other with full efforts. After the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the governments, armies and all walks of life of the two countries have rendered mutual assistance, and carried out close cooperation in fields of emergency supplies, Covid-19 prevention experiences-sharing, vaccine research and development, thus setting a model for international cooperation against the pandemic.

2021 is a year of great significance for both China and Pakistan. China celebrates the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China and is implementing the 14th Five-Year Plan to embark on a new journey of modernization. Pakistan is making every effort to develop its economy and realize the Naya Pakistan vision proposed by Prime Minister Imran Khan, providing us with new opportunities for China-Pakistan cooperation. Standing at a new historic starting point, the two countries should further implement the important consensus reached by our leaders, continue to deepen the iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan, and jointly build a closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era.

China will continue to put Pakistan on the top agenda of its diplomacy, and firmly support Pakistan to maintain sovereign independence and territorial integrity, and exert a greater constructive role in international and regional affairs. We will continue to provide Pakistan support of medical supplies and vaccines within our capacity until Pakistan completely defeats the pandemic. Following the principle of mutual benefit, win-win cooperation, opening-up and

inclusiveness, China will work with Pakistan to boost high-quality development of the CPEC, focus more on industry, agriculture, science and technology and people's livelihood, so as to develop Pakistan's manufacturing industry and increase employment and income of its people. China will continue to work closely with Pakistan to deepen the friendship between the two peoples, especially the young generation. We will endeavor to carry forward the China-Pakistan iron-clad friendship for another 70 years, enhancing the all-weather friendship and all-dimensional cooperation, and work together to uplift China-Pakistan bilateral relations to a new level with a brighter future.

Last but not the least, on behalf of the Embassy of China in Pakistan, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and great respect to Pakistani friends from all circles who care about and support the development of our bilateral relations.

Chin-Pak Dosti Zindabad!

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/758734/may-21-a-day-of-special-significance-for-china-and-pakistan/>

Pakistan to prepare new tea varieties from seeds provided by China

Pakistan to prepare new tea varieties from seeds provided by China, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

“Pakistan is one of the three largest importers of tea in the world, from which you can get an idea about our consumption of tea,” said Dr. Abdul Waheed, director of National Tea and High Value Crops Research Institute (NTHRI). As per the statistics from UN-Comtrade, Pakistan's total tea import in 2020 is USD 589 million, with an increase of 18.8% compared with last year. “To promote our tea industry and save foreign exchange expenses on tea imports, Pakistan needs to get independent in tea production and the tea consumption habits need to change.”

“In Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Vietnam and many other countries, people mostly use tea produced in their own country regardless of its quality and flavor, whereas we have stuck ourselves to the Kenya tea. If we get some other tea, we will not like it.”

Abdul said. Kenya black tea accounts for approximately 60% of the Pakistani tea market. “We spend too much foreign exchange each year on tea import. If we spend even 1 to 2 percent on buying land and cultivating tea, increasing the domestic tea production will not be hard.” Ihsan ul Haq, scientific assistant of NTHRI suggested.

“Chinese team conducted their survey in the areas of Manshera, Uggi, Balakot and Swat, they selected few thousand acres that were perfect for growing tea.” “Although we have experimented, tested, and adopted the raw material in Pakistan, there is still a need to bring in good foreign tea varieties. However, no country in the world wants to lose its market, so whenever we have tried to cooperate with any tea-producing country in this field, they refuse to do so. China was the only country who shared the seed of tea with us.”

Abdul said, noting that tea varieties Chui, Rupi, Kewin, Ung Shung in Pakistan are all Chinese varieties. “I have seen these varieties growing in China and they have performed as well in Pakistan.” “We are further investigating it and conducting tests to find out the variety which is good in production, which can be cultivated in the hilly cold regions, in the semi-hot regions or subtropical regions,” Abdul added that NTHRI is now able to prepare around 12 new varieties of tea. “We are exporting our green tea to Japan in the last 4 years. Our tea is just like their tea, it is even better in quality. It is very famous and liked by them a lot. Based on this, we are now working on the new project of tea and we wish to get success.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/758677/pakistan-to-prepare-new-tea-varieties-from-seeds-provided-by-china/>

China ready to boost aerospace cooperation with Pakistan

“We are willing to provide the best products and technologies to Pakistan to lay a foundation for further space cooperation between China and Pakistan,” said Wei Qiang, the Chief Designer of CAST, winner of Space Merit Award, who led the launch of Pakistan Satellite 1R (PakSat-1R), according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

“BRI cannot be built without the support of Pakistan, so supporting our iron brother in space construction is also supporting ourselves,” Wei added. At present, CAST is working on PakSat-MM, a new communication satellite jointly developed by China and Pakistan, which was signed in Nov 2020.

Despite the cancellation of the visit of Pakistani personnel due to the epidemic, CAST is still conducting research and development in an orderly manner.

Wei said: “Thanks to the tacit understanding and trust built up from previous collaborations, PakSat-MM project is going well this time.” The report added, as a Chinese spacecraft developed by China Academy of Space Technology (CAST) successfully landed on the surface of Mars on May 15th morning, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced: “Thanks to your courage in the face of challenges and pursuit of excellence, China is now among the leading countries in planetary exploration”.

Actually, CAST, the trusted partner of the Pakistani space industry, has been cooperating with Pakistan for 31 years. On the eve of the 70th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations, China Economic Net interviewed Wei Qiang. Wei said: “It is well known that China and Pakistan have a deep friendship with a long-history, so CAST has been very supportive of Pakistan’s space development, and working hard to complete the satellite project for Pakistan.”

On July 17, 1990, China’s Long March ZE rocket was successfully launched for the first time, putting Pakistan’s first satellite BADR-A into its orbit. The purpose of development of the satellite was to gain experience in communications satellites, to test voice and data communications between two ground stations, to test data storage and transmission and to gain experience in tracking satellites.

On August 12, 2011, CAST launched the Long March 3B carrier rocket and successfully put PakSat-1R into its orbit at the Xichang Satellite Launch Center. “The satellite beam covers South Asia, the Middle East, East Africa and some cities and regions in Europe to meet Pakistan’s communication needs in telecommunications, broadcasting, broadband multimedia and other fields,” Wei introduced. “The schedule of developing PakSat-1R with high technical difficulty was very tight. We have to work nearly 20 hours a day to ensure the launch coincides with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan,” he recalled, “However, nobody of us complained or flinched.”

“At the time, the Pakistani side worried that overworked cast would affect the quality of PakSat-1R. But in the end, it turned out that their worries were unnecessary. PakSat-1R has been online for a decade with remarkable stability,” he said. “With the efforts of all space workers, China’s aerospace industry has been the forefront of the world.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/758675/china-ready-to-boost-aerospace-cooperation-with-pakistan/>

Pakistan committed to expeditious completion of CPEC projects: PM

May 21, 2021, marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. On the occasion Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang have written letters to each other.

In his letter to the Chinese counterpart, Prime Minister Imran Khan said, “On behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan, as well as on my own behalf, I wish to extend my heartiest felicitations to Your Excellency on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.”

“21st May 1951, the day when our relations were formally established, has been a watershed moment in our history. Our two people and successive leaderships and Governments have made indefatigable efforts to foster, cement, and strengthen our ties. Our time-tested relationship is built around lasting values of mutual respect, mutual trust, and mutual understanding,” the prime minister said. “Our two governments are closely coordinating to celebrate this year in a befitting manner enabling our people to truly understand the depth, the breadth and the vitality of Pakistan-China ties,” he further said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/758735/pakistan-committed-to-expeditious-completion-of-cpec-projects-pm/>

Pakistan Observer

RNL technologies to produce EV chargers in Pakistan

Chinese Company RNL Technologies plans to start manufacturing electric vehicle (EV) chargers in Pakistan, said Owais Mir, CEO of Dynamic Engineering and Automation. Mir told China Economic Net that Dynamic Engineering and Automation has signed MOU on Tuesday with one of the largest EV charger manufacturers and supplier in China RNL Technologies and has sole

representation of them in Pakistan. “RNL is willing to help DEA in every way possible to establish and grow this sector in a sustainable manner in Pakistan. DEA has already had a vast experience in fulfilling the energy demand of the country by its LPG Air mix & LNG solutions and now DEA wants to do the same for the EV sector based on our previous knowledge and experience,” Owais mentioned. China, which offers substantial subsidies for EVs as it pursues to cut down on pollution from petrol, diesel cars have been increasing its domestic network of charging points and encouraging the adoption of EVs.

[RNL technologies to produce EV chargers in Pakistan - Pakistan Observer \(pakobserver.net\)](https://www.pakobserver.net/news/2021/07/20/rnl-technologies-to-produce-ev-chargers-in-pakistan)

Pakistan, China jointly celebrate 2021 World Bee Day

Pakistan and China jointly celebrated 2021 World Bee Day, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. To mark the 4th “World Bee Day” led by the United Nations, China Bee Products Association (CBPA) had held a themed exhibition in the China’s city of Hangzhou.

Regarding the 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties, Pakistan was invited as a special partner to participate in the activities. The Pakistani ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, addressed a video speech at the event. Haque congratulated CBPA for launching the exhibition. He said bees are a very important part of our nature. Pakistan is promoting their farming and products related to the bee industry these years. He added: “Pakistan and China are celebrating 70 years of diplomatic ties. I hope our relevant institutions can further collaborate together. This important activity of bee friendship delivers a very unique and smart concept.”

[Pakistan, China jointly celebrate 2021 World Bee Day - Pakistan Observer \(pakobserver.net\)](https://www.pakobserver.net/news/2021/07/20/pakistan-china-jointly-celebrate-2021-world-bee-day)

The Express Tribune

Pakistan, China promise high quality development of CPEC

The top leadership of China and Pakistan have pledged to achieve high quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in letters exchanged by the presidents and prime ministers of the two countries to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties. In response to letter from President Arif Alvi, President Xi Jinping said China and Pakistan stood firmly by each other on issues of core interests and major concerns. Prime Minister Imran Khan and Premier Li Keqiang in their congratulatory letters expressed strong commitment to further strengthen the bilateral strategic cooperative partnership. President Xi said that the construction of CPEC had achieved remarkable results, bringing tangible benefits to the peoples of both countries besides providing strong impetus to the regional prosperity. In his letter, President Alvi reaffirmed commitment to build closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era. Premier Li said in his letter that his country had been consistent to prioritise Pakistan in its foreign policy, and was willing to make joint efforts to develop the “all-weather strategic cooperative partnership” to a higher level in the next 70 years. He added that both the countries helped each other in the face of Covid-19, adding: “We have achieved new progress for the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.” He said there were

broad prospects to build an even closer community with a shared future in the new era. In his letter addressed to the Chinese Premier, Imran Khan commended China for their invaluable support to Pakistan in the fight against Covid-19. He reaffirmed his government's firm commitment to the expeditious completion of CPEC projects. In a similar exchange of letters between the foreign ministers of the two countries, both sides expressed the desire to fully implement the vision of their leadership to initiate "more extensive" and "deeper strategic cooperation". "Under the new circumstances, I am willing to work with Your Excellency to fully implement the consensus reached by the leaders of both countries, and to initiate higher quality, more extensive, and deeper strategic cooperation," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said.

Virtual reception

Addressing as the chief guest at a Virtual Reception on 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations, President Alvi said both China and Pakistan stood for peace, and they had the great opportunity to lead the world towards multilateralism and ensure the establishment of morality-based institutions in the future. "China and Pakistan have great opportunity to lead the world, in the matter of trade towards multilateralism, towards not creating or raising walls for each other's products as well as to establish institutions and ensure that the institutions in future are morality-based, which is the foundation of our relationship. The more we move forward in that direction, the more peace we will have," he said. He said that the vested interests, instead of the morality, were dominating in international affairs at different forums in the world that was why the oppressed people of Kashmir and Palestine did not get any hearing. "Even, the promises made to the Kashmiri and Palestinian people were not fulfilled just because of the vested interests," he added. The virtual reception was jointly organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese Embassy in Islamabad. It was attended by Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza, federal ministers, politicians and Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong. Started with the national anthems of China and Pakistan, the ceremony also featured a documentary showing the 70-year journey of bilateral ties and a special song with a mix of Chinese and Urdu lyrics sung by Singer Sahir Ali Bagga. In his address, Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani referred to the bilateral cooperation, including the parliaments. He said the construction of the Karakorum Highway, Heavy Industries Complex, JF-17 Thunder, multiple hydropower projects and CPEC were the fruits of the seven-decade old friendship. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza said the China-Pakistan ties withstood pressure of geopolitics. He said starting from the construction of Karakorum Highway, the bilateral cooperation had entered into many further avenues. Reiterating Pakistan's support for One-China Policy, the JCSC chairman said the defence and security cooperation also played key role during last seven decades. Ambassador Nong Rong said that the China-Pakistan friendship remained rock solid and also became role model of state-to-state ties.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2300977/pakistan-china-promise-high-quality-development-of-cpec>

The Nation

Pak, China PMs pledge to further solidify bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Thursday reaffirmed their resolve to further solidify bilateral relations between Pakistan and China.

In their telephonic conversation on the eve of 70th anniversary of establishment of Pak-China diplomatic ties, the two leaders discussed bilateral relations and COVID-19 vaccine cooperation. Prime Minister Imran Khan emphasized that Pakistan and China have transformed their relationship into an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership through their collective and tireless efforts over the years. He said the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative and has generated economic activity, employment and will further enhance bilateral and regional trade.

Imran Khan highlighted the Pakistan-China cooperation in fighting COVID-19 and deeply appreciated China's continued support to Pakistan in supply of vaccine.

He thanked China for providing assistance to National Institute of Health for establishing vaccine manufacturing facility in Pakistan saying this will further solidify Pakistan's efforts to combat COVID-19.

The Prime Minister stressed the need to continue with the momentum of high level exchanges to further diversify and deepen strategic cooperation between the two countries.

Imran Khan congratulated the Chinese Premier on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

He also felicitated the Chinese leadership for successful landing of Chinese spacecraft on Mars saying this showed rising technological prowess of China.

Pakistan and China will hold a series of activities later this year to celebrate the 70th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic ties. China and Pakistan had established diplomatic relations on May 21, 1951.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-21/page-1/detail-3>

Ministry seeks \$11m to pay for Chinese vaccines

Rahul Basharat

ISLAMABAD - Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) has sought release of foreign exchange budget of above 11 million US dollar for payment of two China-based novel coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines procured during the financial year 2020-21.

The ministry in its letter said that release of funds had been sought for the payment of Sinovac and Cansino COVID-19 vaccines.

The letter's copy available with The Nation said that finance division had allocated budget amounting to US dollars 150,00 million equivalent of Rs24,900 million (approximately) under Demand No. 123-Current Expenditure of NHSR&C against fund centre ID-6261.

According to the letter for the suppliers of Sinovac vaccine the quantity procured was two million at the rate of 12USD per dose which cost 25 million USD and total payable amount is six million USD.

The letter said that this was 4th purchase order, full payment of one million doses out of 02 million had been already paid on 20th and 28th April 2021. Now ministry has to pay only 50 percent of remaining one million doses out of instant purchase order of 02 million doses. Shipment of 02 million doses is expected on May 21.

About the CanSino vaccine, the letter said that 0.677 million doses were procured at the rate of 13 USD per dose which cost 8.81 million USD while payable amount was 5.2806 million USD.

The letter said that 15% as reservation fee plus 45% first payment of purchase order to the supply agreement of finished product for emergency use was signed between the ministry and CanSino Biologics on 5th May, 2021 for 932,000 doses.

It said that out of total doses 255,000 had already been purchased and payment was made on 16th and 19th March, 2021, in pursuance of first agreement signed on 11th March, 2021 for minimum 60K doses. Shipment of 677 k doses is expected in last week of May 2021.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-21/page-4/detail-1>

70 years of standing together

Peng Zhengwu

On May 21, 1951, the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan formally established diplomatic relations. Over the past 70 years, no matter how the international landscape changed, China and Pakistan have always joined hands to forge ahead. Both countries established a unique all-weather friendship and carried out all-round cooperation. The warm and sincere relations are regarded as a valuable asset being cherished generation to generation.

As early as more than two thousand years ago, the ancient Silk Road closely connected China and Pakistan. The people of both countries began friendly exchanges amid echoes of camel bells. The friendship steadily grew stronger and deeper in the extended course of history. Over the years, we have firmly supported each other and taken good care of each other's core interests and major concerns. Even at critical times, be it when New China endeavoured to break external blockade and made diplomatic openings, or when Pakistan stood up to crises to defend its sovereignty and national dignity; we have always been there for each other and become true friends in need.

In times of hardship, the people of China and Pakistan always extend a helping hand to each other as early as possible. Such mutual support and assistance with no strings attached, are pure

acts of sincerity and love. Whether the worst earthquake hit Wenchuan of China in 2008, or Pakistan suffered devastating floods in 2010, the two countries promptly gave support and help to each other. Such touching stories have been widely spread among the people of China and Pakistan, and the friendship has long been deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, our relationship has grown even stronger, and cooperation has been upgraded across the board. In April 2015, President Xi Jinping paid a historic state visit to Pakistan. The leaders of the two countries announced to elevate the relationships to an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. This has opened up a new chapter of friendly interactions between China and Pakistan.

The political exchanges are frequent. The heads of state and government of our two countries maintain communication through bilateral and multilateral channels. The governor and the chief minister of the Punjab province keep interacting with Chinese counterparts to promote bilateral exchange and cooperation.

China-Pakistan cooperation has yielded fruitful results. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has entered into the second phase focusing on agricultural and industrial cooperation. The Punjab province is a major agricultural and economic province of Pakistan and holds major CPEC projects. Under the staunch support of the Punjab government and with close cooperation by both countries, CPEC projects in Punjab are progressing well with remarkable fruits achieved, dubbed as an important breakthrough of Punjab economic and social development as well as a successful example of friendly exchanges and cooperation between local governments and people of both countries.

People-to-people exchanges are further booming. The ever-growing force for China-Pakistan friendship has been the solid basis for our bilateral relations. In recent years, the Chinese Consulate General in Lahore has made great efforts to promote exchanges and cooperation between provinces and cities of China and Punjab, and organised mutual visits between China's local delegations and their counterparts in Punjab in such fields as media, think tanks, scholars, education culture, etc. This has further facilitated the mutual exchanges and iron friendship.

The anti-epidemic cooperation brims with notable achievements. Our friendship has withstood the test of the sudden strike of Covid-19, and has emerged even stronger. During China's fight against the Covid-19 at the start of 2020, Pakistan did all to provide China with donations. People from all walks of life in Pakistan, including the media, voiced their support for China and opposed politicising the pandemic and stigmatising China. When the Covid-19 cases surged in Pakistan, Chinese central and local governments, military, businesses and social organisations all pitched in to extend a helping hand. China provided successive batches of medical supplies, sent medical teams, and intensified experience sharing and technological exchanges. The Chinese Consulate General in Lahore has donated epidemic prevention materials worth 700,000 RMB to the Punjab government, police bureaus and friendly organisations and groups, and also promoted friendly provinces like Shandong, Jiangsu, Ningxia, sister cities such as Xi'an and Chengdu, as well as Hubei Province, to provide 100 million Rupees worth of medical supplies to Punjab.

Both countries have established a joint epidemic prevention and control mechanism aiming at no jobs cut and no staff withdrawn with uninterrupted work in CPEC projects, which has set an example for global anti-epidemic cooperation and economic recovery. Khalid Abbas, a famous poet of Pakistan, once wrote such classic lines of verse: “China is like a bright light during a dark journey. Whenever our sailboat falls into a whirlpool, China always comes in time and brings us hope and future.”

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China. China will embark on a new journey toward a modernised socialist country and is doing its efforts for realising its second centenary goal. Meanwhile, Pakistan is advancing economic and social development at full speed and improving people’s livelihood to turn the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan for “Naya Pakistan” into reality. As an all-weather strategic cooperative partner, China is willing to make joint efforts with Pakistan to forge ahead. The Chinese Consulate General in Lahore will continue to enhance communication and coordination with Punjab, promote exchanges and cooperation between local governments, advance steadily construction of CPEC projects, and push forward our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership for bringing constant benefits to our two countries and people.

China and Pakistan friendship zindabad!

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-21/page-6/detail-5>

The News

70th anniversary of diplomatic ties: Pak, China presidents, PMs exchange greetings

ISLAMABAD: The prime ministers and presidents of Pakistan and China have congratulated the two nations on the occasion of 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Prime Minister Imran Khan had a telephonic conversation with the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and stressed the need to continue with the momentum of high-level exchanges to further diversify and deepen strategic cooperation between the two countries. Both leaders reaffirmed their resolve to further solidify Pakistan-China bilateral relations. During the call, 70th anniversary of establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic ties, bilateral relations and vaccine cooperation were discussed.

The prime minister congratulated Premier Le Keqiang and the Chinese leadership for successful landing of Chinese spacecraft on Mars, which showed rising technological prowess of China.

Imran Khan emphasised that with collective and tireless efforts over the years, Pakistan and China had transformed their relationship into an “All-Weather Strategic Co-operative Partnership”.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he noted, was a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative and has generated economic activity, employment and will further enhance bilateral and regional trade.

It is pertinent that the year 2021 is a special occasion as it marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. The prime minister congratulated the Chinese premier at the special occasion, which will be celebrated by both sides in a befitting manner.

The prime minister highlighted Pakistan-China cooperation in fighting COVID-19 and deeply appreciated China's continued support to Pakistan in supply of corona vaccine.

He thanked China for providing assistance to National Institute of Health (NIH) for establishing vaccine manufacturing facility in Pakistan which will further solidify Pakistan's efforts to combat COVID-19.

Meanwhile, Imran Khan in a letter to his Chinese counterpart stated that on behalf of the government and people of Pakistan, as well as on his own behalf, he wishes to extend heartiest felicitations on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.

"21st May 1951, the day when our relations were formally established, has been a watershed moment in our history. Our two people and successive leaderships and governments have made indefatigable efforts to foster, cement, and strengthen our ties. Our time-tested relationship is built around lasting values of mutual respect, mutual trust, and mutual understanding," he wrote.

"We are immensely grateful to China for the invaluable support it extended to us to fight COVID-19 since its outbreak in December 2019. The vaccine and the equipment provided by China to contain the pandemic played a crucial role in saving precious human lives in Pakistan. We will continue to support China's efforts to combat the pandemic both at regional and global level," he said.

Meanwhile, President Dr Arif Alvi and Chinese President Xi Jinping vowed to deepen bilateral cooperation and achieve high quality development of CPEC. Both the leaders exchanged congratulatory letters to each other wherein they extended greetings to each other on behalf of their respective governments and people.

"On this historic occasion, we reaffirm our commitment to further elevate Pakistan-China friendship to new heights and build closer China-Pakistan Community of shared future in the new era," President Alvi said in his letter to President Xi Jinping.

In his letter, Xi Jinping said China and Pakistan were all-weather strategic cooperative partners that stood firmly by each other on issues of core interests and major concerns.

"The mutual trust and friendship between the two countries have gone through the test of 70 years of international changes and remain rock-solid, and have become the most valuable strategic asset of the two peoples," he stated.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/837858-70th-anniversary-of-diplomatic-ties-pak-china-presidents-pms-exchange-greetings>

Pakistan and China at 70

Pakistan and China will today – May 21 – celebrate 70 years of what has been a model bilateral relationship. The Pakistan-China relationship has been re-enforced by a consistent policy of Pakistan towards China, regardless of who is in power, supporting China on its key international issues and core interests such as Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang, Hong Kong and South China Sea.

Similarly, China has been Pakistan's voice in the Security Council, supporting Pakistan's position on Indian Occupied Kashmir, as well as on Pakistan's fight against terrorism, core interests in Afghanistan, and more recently in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

By making CPEC the flagship project of the BRI, China gave a vote of confidence in Pakistan's economy by investing a mammoth \$62 billion. While there is much to celebrate in the 'all-weather friendship' between the two countries, it is also an opportune moment to pause and reflect on how this relationship can be optimized, and how the next decades should (or could) look like for Pakistan.

Since the start of CPEC in 2013, Pakistan has received investments in roads, energy, the Gwadar Port – as well as grants in the socio-economic sphere that involve clean water, vocational training institutes and hospitals. Moving forward, Pakistan should use CPEC as an opportunity to: i) undertake 'targeted' poverty alleviation using China's experience and expertise; ii) make the CPEC's Rashakai and Allama Iqbal SEZs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Faisalabad, respectively, a resounding success by courting top Chinese manufacturers looking to relocate their industry to consider both; and iii) negotiate and prepare for better market access to China whose economy is now 18.34 percent of Global Gross Domestic Product.

Pakistan's youth bulge is ballooning, with 65 percent of our approximately 220 million population under the age of 35. As per some estimates, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought 87 million into poverty. 'Targeted' Poverty Alleviation, popularly known in China as Jin Zhun Fu Pin, identifies poverty-stricken villages, conceives appropriate projects mostly related to housing and infrastructure, and proceeds with efficient implementation of the same. The strategy also involves identifying, more specifically, what are called "poverty households", which are essentially poor households without any special policies or subsidies being catered to them. Pakistan's Ehsaas Programme should engage and work with China's State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development to create a five-year plan for Pakistan's 'Targeted' Poverty Alleviation Strategy.

The Rashakai SEZ has received 1,998 applications for industrial plots, while companies such as Century Steel of China are in the process of relocating to Rashakai; the company had requested the State Bank of Pakistan to provide approval for import of machinery from its parent company in China, which was later given. The issue of exemption of custom duty for import machinery has still not been finalized, which would be a crucial incentive for investors. As of now, this

policy will be applied on a case-to-case basis, not as a uniform policy for all investors wishing to invest in these SEZs.

When China created SEZs, some of them took off, and some of them did not. For example, in 1979-80, the SEZ established in Xiamen's Fujian province was more successful than that established in 1985 in Hainan. It is important for Pakistan to understand that the governance of SEZs is a nuanced exercise, and cannot be done by a government official or a locally recruited management professional; the entity or individual that governs the SEZ must have prior experience in SEZ governance.

While the Board of Investment and its affiliated agencies have given incentives for foreign investors, we still do not have an actual one-window where investors can receive a one-stop shop solution. We also must understand that Pakistan is one of many countries competing for investment from top Chinese companies that are looking to relocate manufacturing bases to countries with lower costs of production. Apart from being an 'all weather friend' of China, what commercial competitive advantages do we offer that, for example, Bangladesh or Cambodia cannot match? We must make sure that these SEZs, like any lucrative land, do not become trading/speculative grounds of prime real estate, which may make money for local companies, but would make the concept of an SEZ futile.

After the signing of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement II, Pakistani exporters have more access to the \$2 trillion Chinese market. Nearly 40 percent of the CPFA II products that China imports have seen lowering of tariff barriers, 401 Pakistani products for which there is a market in China can now be exported to China. In total, 724 Pakistani products have zero import duties in China. However, Pakistan's export volume to China in 2020's fiscal year was all of \$1.87 billion. China has lowered its tariff barriers for 603 out of the 1,436 products listed in Priority Products II of the CPFTA II, which are lower than that extended to the likes of Japan, South Korea, US, Australia and Germany for the same products.

The government's pivot to 'economic diplomacy' should begin with China, which is the world's biggest market and, fortunately for Pakistan, a neighbor and close partner. The opportunity that China presents to Pakistan has to be addressed through a collective and coordinated effort and action of business groups like the Pakistan Business Council, relevant government agencies such as the Ministry of Commerce and CPEC Authority, and think-tanks. This is a good opportunity to prove wrong the idea that: 'Pakistan never misses an opportunity to miss an opportunity'.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/837808-pakistan-and-china-at-70>

Express News

چین اور پاکستان کی 70 سالہ لازوال دوستی کو اجاگر کرتا خوبصورت گیت ریلیز

چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کی مناسبت سے چائنا میڈیا گروپ کی اردو سروس نے پاکستان میں چینی سفارت خانے کے اشتراک سے ایک گیت "تیری میری سدا دوستی" ریلیز کیا ہے۔

اس گیت کی موسیقی پاکستان کے نامور موسیقار ساحر علی بگہ نے ترتیب دی ہے جب کہ گلوکاروں میں ساحر علی بگہ کے ہمراہ چائنا میڈیا گروپ کی اردو سروس سے وابستہ 4 خواتین صحافی بھی شامل ہیں۔

اس گیت کی دلکش موسیقی کے ساتھ ساتھ خوبصورت مناظر کی فلم بندی نے ناظرین اور سامعین کو بے حد متاثر کیا ہے۔ گیت کی شاعری میں چین اور پاکستان کے عظیم دوستانہ تعلقات کو انتہائی خوبصورت انداز سے اجاگر کیا گیا ہے۔

گانے کے بول میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان محبت، خلوص، اپنائیت، قربانی اور ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ ہمیشہ چلنے کے عزم کو شاندار طریقے سے بیان کیا گیا ہے۔

گیت کی ویڈیو میں ایک جانب جہاں پاکستان میں مقبول ترین کھیل کرکٹ کو نمایاں کیا گیا ہے وہیں دوسری جانب جدید ترین ٹیکنالوجی بالخصوص اسپٹ اسکرین ایڈیٹنگ ٹیکنیک کے استعمال سے پاک-چین دوستی کی بلندی، عظمت اور وسعت کو دکھایا گیا ہے۔

پاک چین دوستی کی چاشنی سے لبریز گیت دیکھتے ہی دیکھتے سوشل میڈیا پر وائرل ہو گیا جہاں بڑی تعداد میں اس گیت کو پسند کیا جا رہا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2180729/1/>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان چین دوستی اور سفارتی تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ

خاور عباس سندھو

عوامی جمہوریہ چین کا دنیا کی دوسری بڑی طاقت بننے تک کا سفر انتہائی کٹھن، محنت اور جدوجہد سے مزین ہے۔ قیام پاکستان کی تاریخ بھی بیگانہ بچوں، عورتوں، بزرگوں اور نوجوانوں کے خون سے بھری پڑی ہے۔

اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان اور عوامی جمہوریہ چین نے اپنے قیام کے ابتدائی سالوں میں ہی سفارتی تعلقات قائم کر لئے تھے۔ دونوں ممالک کے سفارتی تعلقات باقاعدہ طور پر 21 مئی 1951 کو قائم کیے۔ پاکستان کی طرف سے پہلے اعلیٰ سطح کے سرکاری وفد نے آزادی کے صرف تین ماہ بعد ہی 4 جنوری 1950 کو چین کا دورہ کیا۔

سفارتی تعلقات کا آغاز اگرچہ 70 سال پہلے شروع ہوا لیکن دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات کی تاریخ ہزاروں سال پرانی ہے اور صدیوں پہلے دوستی پر مبنی ان تعلقات کا محور تجارت ہے، جب چینی تاجر مشرق وسطیٰ، یورپ اور دنیا کے دیگر خطوں میں کاروباری دوروں کے لئے براستہ قدیمی شاہراہ ریشم پاکستان کے ذریعے جاتے۔ 2000 سال پہلے کی مشہور شخصیات جیسے راہبوں ”فاشیان“ اور ”شوان زانگ“ نے ان علاقوں میں سفر کیا تھا جو آج کل پاکستان کے نام سے مشہور ہیں۔

اس انوکھے رشتے کی گہرائی کو سمجھنے کے لئے، یہاں برسوں کے دوران طے شدہ سنگ میل کی ایک جھلک ہے۔

1950

میں پاکستان اور 1949 میں چین کے قیام کے ٹھیک ایک سال بعد 1950 میں اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان، عوامی جمہوریہ چین کو تسلیم کرنے والا تیسرا غیر کمیونسٹ اور پہلا 1947 مسلمان ملک تھا۔ پاکستان نے 4 جنوری 1950 کو چین کے لئے ایک اعلیٰ سطح کا وفد بھی بھیجا۔

1951

دونوں ممالک نے اسی سال 21 مئی کو باضابطہ سفارتی تعلقات قائم کیے۔ جس کے مطابق آج دونوں ممالک کی لازوال دوستی کے 70 سال مکمل ہو گئے۔

1955

اس سال چین کی طرف سے نائب صدر محترمہ سوگنگ چنگ لنگ نے پاکستان کا پہلا اعلیٰ سطح کا دورہ کیا۔

1956

پاکستان کے وزیر اعظم حسین شہید سہروردی نے چین کا پہلا اعلیٰ سطح کا دورہ کیا۔

1963

پاکستانی وزیر خارجہ ذوالفقار علی بھٹو نے چین کا تاریخی دورہ کیا۔ (1)

اسی سال ہی پاکستان اور چین نے پرامن مذاکرات کے ذریعے سرحدی معاہدہ کیا۔ چین اس بات کا اعتراف کرتا ہے کہ اس کے پڑوس میں پاکستان واحد اور سب سے زیادہ (2) دوست ملک ہے جس کا چین کے ساتھ کبھی بھی اختلاف رائے یا سرحدی تنازع نہیں رہا۔

1964

پاکستان انٹرنیشنل ایئرلائن (پی آئی اے) نے بیجنگ کے لئے اپنی پروازیں شروع کیں، وہ بیجنگ سے اٹنے والی پہلی غیر کمیونسٹ ملک ایئرلائن بن گئی اور یوں دونوں ممالک روابط کے ایک نئے دور میں داخل ہوئے۔ پاکستان چین کے لئے باقی دنیا کے ساتھ بات چیت کرنے کے لئے کھڑکی کی حیثیت رکھتا تھا۔

1965

افہام و تفہیم اور ہم آہنگی کو فروغ دینے کے لئے ثقافتی تعاون سے متعلق معاہدے پر دستخط ہوئے۔

1970

پاکستان نے امریکی صدر نکسن کے پہلے دورہ چین کے لئے سہولت فراہم کی، جو امریکہ اور چین کے پہلے سرکاری رابطے کی راہ ہموار ہونے کی وجہ بنا۔

1976

سائنسی اور ثقافتی تعاون سے متعلق دونوں ممالک کے مابین معاہدے پر دستخط ہوئے جس سے پاکستانی سائنس دانوں اور طلباء کے لئے بڑے مواقع میسر آئے۔

1978

شاہراہ قراقرم کی تعمیر کارنامہ سرانجام پایا، جس کے سرکاری طور پر افتتاح سے پاکستان کا شمالی پہاڑی سلسلہ کو مغربی چین کے ساتھ منسلک ہو گیا، جس نے چین کو بحر ہند کے ساتھ بھی منسلک کر دیا۔

1983

پاکستان اور چین نے تعلیمی تبادلوں پر ایک مفاہمت نامے پر دستخط کیے، جس کی وجہ سے آج چین میں کم و بیش 30 ہزار پاکستانی طلبہ تعلیم حاصل کر رہے ہیں۔

1989

دونوں ممالک نے باہمی تعاون کی حوصلہ افزائی اور سرمایہ کاری کے تحفظ سے متعلق ایک معاہدے پر دستخط کئے۔ جس کے بعد چین پاکستان میں سب سے بڑا سرمایہ کار بنا۔

1995

پاکستان، چین، تازقستان اور کرغزستان کی حکومتوں کے درمیان نقل و حمل میں ٹریفک کے معاہدے پر دستخط ہوئے، جس سے دیگر وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں اور پورے (1) یوریشیا کے ساتھ ٹرانزٹ تجارت کے راستے کھلے۔

اسی سال میں ہی وزیر اعظم بے نظیر بھٹو نے بیجنگ میں چوتھی خواتین کانفرنس میں شرکت کے لئے بطور مہمان خصوصی چین کا دورہ کیا اور دونوں دوست ممالک کی خواتین (2) کو ایک دوسرے کے قریب لانے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا۔

1999

مشترکہ طور پر جے ایف 17 تیار کرنے کے معاہدے پر دستخط ہوئے، یہ پاکستان کی دفاعی صنعت کے لئے ایک اہم سنگ میل ہے۔

2001

چین کے وزیر اعظم زہورونگی نے دونوں ممالک کے سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کے 50 سال مکمل ہونے پر پاکستان کا دورہ کیا۔ (1)
اسی سال چین اور پاکستان نے سیاحتی تعاون سے متعلق معاہدے پر دستخط کیے اور سیاحت کی صنعت کی ترقی میں لامحدود مواقع کھولے۔ (2)

2003

دونوں ممالک کے مابین ترجیحی تجارت کے معاہدے پر دستخط ہوئے، جس سے پاکستانی برآمدات کو مارکیٹ تک رسائی حاصل ہوئی۔

2005

انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی میں تعاون سے متعلق دو طرفہ مفاہمت کا معاہدہ ختم ہوا، جس میں چین نے پاکستان کی رہنمائی کی اور چینی کامیابیوں سے سبق سیکھنے کا ایک بہت بڑا (1) موقع فراہم کیا۔

اسی سال چینی وزیر اعظم وین جیا باؤ نے پاکستان کا دورہ کیا۔ (2)

دونوں ممالک کے مابین ”دوستی، تعاون اور اچھے ہمسایہ تعلقات“ کا معاہدہ ہوا جس سے دوستی کے تعلقات کو مزید تقویت ملی۔ (3)

2006

چین کے صدر ہو جٹاؤ نے پاکستان کا سرکاری دورہ کیا۔ (1)

چین اور پاکستان نے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے پر دستخط کیے، جس سے چین کو برآمدات میں اضافہ ہوا۔ (2)

2008

پاکستان نے اسلام آباد میں چینی اولمپک مشعل کا خیر مقدم کیا۔

2010

چینی وزیر اعظم وین جیا باؤ نے پاکستان کا دورہ کیا۔ (1)

اسی سال جے ایف 17 پاک فضائیہ کی ریڑھ کی ہڈی کی حیثیت سے پاک فضائیہ میں شامل ہوا جو پاکستان دوسرے ممالک کو بھی برآمد کر رہا ہے۔ (2)

2013

وزیر اعظم لی کی چیانگ نے مئی میں پاکستان کا دورہ کیا اور دونوں فریقین نے جامع سٹریٹجک تعاون کو گہرا کرنے کے بارے میں مشترکہ بیان جاری کیا جو چین پاکستان (1) اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کی بنیاد بن گیا۔

پاکستان اور چین کے مابین سی پیک کے بارے میں طویل المیعاد منصوبے کے لئے تعاون سے متعلق مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط ہوئے، جو بی آر آئی میں چینی میگا انیشی ایٹو (2) کا ایک اہم منصوبہ ہے۔

پاکستان نے گوادر پورٹ کی تعمیر کو عمل میں لانے کے لئے چین سے معاہدہ کیا۔ گوادر بندر گاہ 2030 میں مکمل ہونے کے بعد عالمی تجارت اور اقتصادی سرگرمیوں کا عالمی (3) معاشی مرکز بن جائے گا۔

وزیر اعظم نواز شریف نے چین کا دورہ کیا اور دونوں فریقین نے چین پاکستان سٹریٹیجک تعاون پر مبنی شراکت داری کو نئے دور میں آگے بڑھانے کے لئے مشترکہ ویژن پر (4) اتفاق کیا۔

اسی سال دونوں ممالک نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے طویل المدت منصوبے اور اقدامات کے فروغ کے لئے تعاون کے بارے میں مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر (5) دستخط کئے۔ جس سے پاکستان میں چینی فارن ڈویلپمنٹ انویسٹمنٹ اور سرمایہ کاری کا بہاؤ کھلا۔

2014

پاکستان اور چین کی حکومتیں پنجاب میں 27 کلو میٹر اور نچ لائن میٹروٹرین منصوبے کی تعمیر پر متفق ہوئیں۔

2015

دونوں ممالک نے 2015 کو ”فرینڈلی ایکٹیو“ کے سال کے طور پر منایا۔ اسی سال دونوں ممالک کے مابین تجارت 16 ارب امریکی ڈالر تک پہنچ گئی۔ (1)
اسی سال ہی چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے پاکستان کا تاریخی دورہ کیا، دونوں ممالک نے سی بی کے متعلق 46 ارب ڈالر مالیت کے منصوبوں سے متعلق 50 سے (2) زائد دستاویزات پر دستخط کیے۔ اور یہ سرمایہ کاری اب 62 ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ گئی ہے۔

2016

دونوں ممالک نے سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کی 65 ویں سالگرہ منائی۔ (1)

چین اور پاکستان نے سی بی کے طویل مدتی منصوبے کی نقاب کشائی کی، جس سے مزید تعاون اور تعاون کی راہیں ہموار ہوئیں۔ (2)

2017

وزیر اعظم نواز شریف بیجنگ میں بین الاقوامی تعاون کے لئے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم میں شریک ہوئے۔

2018

وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے چین کا تاریخی دورہ کیا اور دونوں فریقین ”ہر موسم سٹریٹیجک تعاون شراکت داری“ کو مزید تقویت دینے اور نئے دور میں مشترکہ طور پر چین (1) پاکستان کمیونٹی کو مشترکہ مستقبل کی تعمیر پر متفق ہوئے۔

اسی سال سی بی کے دوسرے فیڑ میں داخل ہوا، جس سے پاکستان کی معاشرتی اور معاشی ترقی کی رفتار میں تیزی آئی۔ (2)

چین پاکستان آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کے فیڑ پر دستخط ہوئے، جس سے پاکستانی برآمدات کو سہولیات میسر آئیں۔ (3)

وزیر اعظم عمران خان شنگھائی میں پہلی ”چائنا انٹرنیشنل امپورٹ ایکسپو“ میں شریک ہوئے۔ چین کی مارکیٹوں کو پاکستانی مصنوعات کے لئے کھولنے کا ایک اہم اقدام اٹھایا (4) گیا۔

اسی سال راشا کئی خصوصی اقتصادی زون کی تعمیر کے لئے تقریب کا اہتمام کیا گیا۔ (5)

کا آغاز کیا، جس سے پاکستان ”خلائی کلب“ کی (PRSS-1) اس سال ایک اور اہم ڈویلپمنٹ ہوئی جب پاکستان نے چین کے تعاون سے ریہوٹ سینسنگ سیٹلائٹ 1 (6) رکنیت حاصل کرنے کے قابل ہوا۔

2019

- علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل سٹی (ایم 3)، فیصل آباد خصوصی اقتصادی زون کی تعمیر کے لئے افتتاحی تقریب ہوئی۔ (1)
- وزیر اعظم عمران خان بین الاقوامی تعاون کے لئے دوسرے ہیٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم میں شرکت کے لئے چین پہنچے۔ (2)
- بین الاقوامی رابطہ اور تعاون کے لئے مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ کا اجرا ہوا۔ (3)
- چین کے نائب صدر وانگ کشان نے مئی میں پاکستان کا دورہ کیا۔ (4)
- دونوں فریقین نے 2019 کو ”سسٹریٹس / صوبہ“ کے سال کے طور پر منایا۔ دونوں ممالک نے سسٹریٹس یا صوبوں کی حیثیت سے متعدد معاہدوں پر تبادلہ خیال و دستخط (5) کئے۔
- پاکستان نے اسلام آباد میں تیسرے ”چین-افغانستان-پاکستان“ فریقی وزراء خارجہ ڈائلاگ کی میزبانی کی، جو افغان بحران کے حل کے لئے سفارت کاری میں ایک (6) اہم پیشرفت ہے۔
- وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے اکتوبر میں چین کا دورہ کیا۔ (7)
- سی پیک پراجیکٹس میں پیشرفت کو مربوط اور نگرانی کے لئے ”سی پیک اتھارٹی“ تشکیل دی گئی۔ (8)
- وزیر اعظم آفس میں ”سی پیک سیل“ قائم کیا گیا۔ (9)
- اسی سال نومبر کے دوران نویں ”جے سی سی“ (جو اینٹ کو آپریشن کمیٹی) اسلام آباد میں ہوئی۔ (10)

2020

- کیم جنوری سے آپریشنل ہو گیا جبکہ پاکستان چینی مارکیٹ تک بہتر رسائی سے لطف اندوز ہو سکتا ہے۔ (CPFTA-II) ”سی پی ایف ٹی اے-ٹو“ (1)
- کورونائرس وبائی مرض کے تناظر میں وسیع تر دوطرفہ ہم آہنگی ہوئی۔ چین پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا معاون بن کر سامنے آیا جس نے اس وبا سے لڑنے میں پاکستان کو سب (2) سے زیادہ مدد کی۔
- کیم مارچ کو صدر عارف علوی نے چین کا دورہ کیا۔ سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی اور زرعی تعاون پر جے ڈبلیو جی قائم کرنے کے لئے مفاہمت نامے پر دستخط کئے گئے۔ (3)

2021

عوامی جمہوریہ چین نے کووڈ-19 سے نمٹنے کے لئے لاکھوں خوراکوں پر مشتمل ”کورونائیکسین“ کا تحفہ دیا۔

پاکستان اور چین 21 مئی 1951 سے سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کے بعد سے قریبی اور دوستانہ تعلقات کا لطف اٹھا رہے ہیں۔-----

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-05-21/page-12/detail-1>

پاک چین دوستی کے 70 سال مکمل، سٹیٹ بینک آج 70 روپے کا یادگاری سکہ جاری کریگا

سرگودھا (صبح نیوز) پاک چین دوستی کے ستر سال مکمل ہونے پر آج سٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان 70 روپے کا یادگاری سکہ جاری کریگا جو پاک چین دوستی کی لازوال داستان کی عکاسی کریگا پاکستان مختلف مواقع پر یادگاری ٹکٹ سکے جاری کر چکا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-05-21/page-8/detail-15>

پاک چین دوستی سٹرٹیجک اثاثہ، قائم مقام توصل جزل

لاہور (خاور عباس سندھو) اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان اور عوامی جمہوریہ چین آج اپنے سفارتی تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ منا رہے ہیں۔ اس پر مسرت موقع پر چینی توصلیٹ لاہور کے قائم مقام توصل جزل مسٹر پنگ زینگو نے پنجاب کے وزیر اعلیٰ سردار عثمان بزدار کو مبارکباد دی ہے جس پر وزیر اعلیٰ نے ان کا شکریہ ادا کیا اور پنجاب کی ترقی و خوشحالی کے لئے سی بیک کے تحت صوبہ میں ترقیاتی کام کرانے پر چینی قیادت کی تعریف کی۔ اپنے پیغام میں چینی توصلیٹ لاہور کے قائم مقام توصل جزل مسٹر پنگ زینگو نے کہا چین اور پاکستان کی ہر موسم کی دوستی ہے۔ دن ہو یا رات، بارش ہو یا دھوپ دونوں ممالک ہمیشہ اکٹھے کھڑے رہے اور کھڑے رہیں گے۔ دونوں اطراف سے یہ دوستی اب ایک قیمتی، گر ان قدر اور سٹرٹیجک اثاثہ بن گئی ہے۔ چین اور پنجاب کے مابین مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون اور تبادلوں، خاص طور پر وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار کی زیر نگرانی سی بیک منصوبوں کی بدولت یہ دوستی کار شتہ مزید مضبوط اور توانا ہوا ہے۔ قائم مقام توصل جزل مسٹر پنگ زینگو نے مزید کہا کہ کووڈ-19 کے پیش نظر تعاون اور ہماری دوستی نے اس تعلق کو مضبوط تر بنا دیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-05-21/page-1/detail-32>

چینی ہم منصب کو فون: 70 سالہ تعلقات سٹرٹیجک شراکت داری میں تبدیل ہو چکے: وزیر اعظم

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ + ایجنسیاں) وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین تعلقات کو آل ویدر سٹرٹیجک کو آپریٹو پارٹنرشپ میں تبدیل کر دیا گیا ہے۔ سی بیک نے معاشی سرگرمی، روزگار پیدا کیا۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے چینی ہم منصب سے ٹیلی فونک رابطہ کر کے پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کی 70 ویں سالگرہ پر مبارکباد دی۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے کرونا ویکسین کیلئے تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے چینی ہم منصب اور چینی قیادت کو مرٹخ کے کامیاب مشن پر مبارکباد دی اور کہا کہ مرٹخ پر چینی سیارے کی کامیاب لینڈنگ چین کی ٹیکنالوجی پاور کا ثبوت ہے۔ پاک چین تعلقات سد اہبار سٹرٹیجک تعاون پر مبنی شراکت داری میں بدل چکے ہیں۔ عمران خان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری ہیٹ اینڈ روڈ کا فلیگ شپ منصوبہ ہے، یہ منصوبہ اقتصادی سرگرمی، ملازمتوں کے مواقع، دو طرفہ تعلقات بڑھانے کا باعث بنا، سال 2021 پاک چین تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کا خصوصی موقع ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کرونا سے نمٹنے کے لیے پاک چین تعاون پر روشنی ڈالی۔ عمران خان نے اسناد کرونا ویکسین کی مسلسل فراہمی پر چین کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے پاکستان میں قومی ادارہ صحت میں ویکسین کی تیاری کیلئے چین کے تعاون کو سراہا۔ عمران خان نے اعلیٰ سطح کے روابط کا تسلسل جاری رکھنے پر زور دیا۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے پاک چین دو طرفہ تعلقات کو مزید فروغ دینے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-05-21/page-1/detail-21>

May 22, 2021

Business Recorder

‘China, Pakistan have a chance to lead world towards multilateralism’: Alvi

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Friday said that as both China and Pakistan stood for peace, they had a great opportunity to lead the world towards multilateralism and ensure the establishment of morality-based institutions in the future.

The president, in his address as the chief guest at the virtual reception on 70th Anniversary of China-Pakistan Diplomatic Relations, said the vested interests instead of the morality were

dominating in international affairs at diffident forums in the world and that was why the oppressed people of Kashmir and Palestine did not get any hearing.

Even, the promises made to the Kashmiri and Palestinian people were not fulfilled just because of the vested interests, he told the event which was also attended by Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza, federal ministers, politicians and Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Nong Rong.

The virtual reception was jointly organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese Embassy in Islamabad to mark the 70th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations established on May 21, 1951.

The president said the goals of China and Pakistan was friendship, which had been cemented further for humanity.

He said at a time when environment and global warming were the issues, peace was also essential and both China and Pakistan also believed in that endeavour.

“China and Pakistan have a great opportunity to lead the world, in the matter of trade towards multilateralism, towards not creating or raising walls for each other’s products as well as to establish institutions and ensure that the institutions in the future are morality based which is the foundation of our relationship. The more we move forward in that direction, the more peace we will have,” the president remarked.

He thanked President Xi Jinping for the congratulatory letter to him and felicitated China on successful landing on Mars, which, he said, proved that the country was second to none in the field of science and technology.

Referring to China’s journey towards a developed country by uplifting around 800 million people out of poverty, the president said Pakistan should also strive for that and learn from it. He said during the seven decades, the bilateral friendship stood firm and even got stronger into strategic partnership and people-to-people contacts.

Calling both the countries “Iron brothers”, the president said Pakistan and China believed in a future, which bound the people together, and lead them to prosperity and peace.

President Alvi said China was the largest trading and investment partner of Pakistan, with their collaboration in the fields of agriculture, trade, finance, education and, science and technology was strengthening, along with the cooperation between the people.

He said Pakistan fully supported President Xi Jinping’s Belt and Road Initiative of which the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was an important part. From the beginning, when Pakistan needed to improve its energy supplies and establish industry not only along the route but across the country, special economic zones, CPEC was going to be a harbinger.

He highly appreciated China for “exemplary handling” of the Covid-19 pandemic and recalled his China visit in March last year. He also thanked China for sending medical teams and now

vaccine to Pakistan and added that the Chinese assistance and advance learning helped the country a lot.

He said currently, around 30,000 Pakistani students were studying in China, benefiting from its advanced educational system. "We have established seven sister-province and 14 sister-city relationship with China. Seven Pakistan study centres, 11 Urdu language departments in various Chinese universities, and four Confucius Institutes in Pakistan are promoting cultural understanding and further reinforcing the everlasting friendship between the two countries," he added.

The president said Pakistan had done reasonably well to handle the pandemic comparing the regional countries, but the country still needed to be careful during the third wave. He said both the countries stood for humanity and Pakistan was learning from China as how it focused on health, education and investment to encourage people to rise on their own. He said both the countries had a vision for peace and improvement in the health and education standards and ensure food security.

He reaffirmed the commitment to build a closer Pakistan-China community of shared future in the new era where their people stood together in friendship leading the world towards peace and prosperity.

"It is important that this message goes out and this camaraderie spreads throughout the world," the president concluded.

Started with the national anthems of China and Pakistan, the ceremony also featured a documentary showing the 70-year journey of bilateral ties and a special song with mix of Chinese and Urdu lyrics sung by Sahir Ali Bagga.

Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, in his address, said Pakistan was the first Muslim nation to recognise China and establish diplomatic ties, and since then, both the countries maintained a close cooperation.

Referring to the institutional cooperation, including the parliaments, the Senate chairman said construction of the Karakoram Highway (KKH), Heavy Industries Complex, JF-17 Thunder, multiple hydropower projects and CPEC were the fruits of seven-decade old friendship. He hoped that CPEC would prove to be an example of bilateral cooperation for the world. The bilateral cooperation, he added, also got strengthened by the cultural exchanges and establishment of sister cities.

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza said the China-Pakistan ties withstood pressure of geopolitics.

He said starting from the construction of Karakoram Highway, the bilateral cooperation had entered into many more avenues.

Reiterating Pakistan's support for One-China Policy, the JCSC chairman said the defence and security cooperation also played a key role during the last seven decades.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong said since establishment of the bilateral ties, the China-Pakistan friendship remained rock solid and also became a role model state to state relation. He recalled that President Alvi's visit to China last year amidst Covid-19 pandemic was manifestation of the bilateral friendship, adding that the friendly and pragmatic cooperation remained fruitful during the seven decades.

Moreover, the ambassador said CPEC had become an important platform for cooperation between the two nations, which had been extended to multiple areas like energy, agriculture and livelihood covering all aspects of Pakistan's development.

The ambassador also thanked Pakistan for allowing clinical trial of Chinese vaccine in the country.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/22/1-page/886911-news.html>

Daily Times

Sino-Pak relations a model for building a community with shared future:

envoy

China-Pakistan friendship is based on good faith, morality and compassion and this cooperation between the two countries will set a new example for building a community with a shared future for mankind, said Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong in an interview with China Economic Net on Friday.

Giving an overview of the history of China-Pakistan friendship and the expectations for the future of relations, Ambassador Nong said, "China and Pakistan treat each other with all sincerity and share weal and woe. Over the past 70 years, no matter how the international situation changes, the two countries have always showed mutual understanding and supported each other, providing a model of state-to-state relations. Friendly exchanges between the two countries have been passed on from generation to generation." "We will never forget that Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China and the first Islamic country to establish diplomatic relations with China," he further said.

"At the crucial moments when China made great efforts to break an external blockade, restore its legal seat in the United Nations and pursue reform and opening-up, and when it suffered natural disasters such as the devastating earthquake in Wenchuan in 2008, Pakistan always steps up and provides us with selfless and valuable support," he said. "Likewise, China also gives staunch support and generous assistance to Pakistan when it comes to its sovereignty, security and development," he added.

He said as the world is undergoing substantial changes unseen in a century, China-Pakistan relations are of growing significance and cooperation between the two countries has intensified. "I believe that China-Pakistan cooperation will keep widening, and China-Pakistan relations will set a new example for building a community with a shared future for mankind," he added.

The ambassador said the first phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has produced fruitful results, most notably in energy, infrastructure and other fields. He said CPEC is a calling card of Belt and Road cooperation and China-Pakistan cooperation. “It has brought USD25.4 billion in investment to Pakistan, and 46 projects have been completed or under construction, helping Pakistan add 5.2 million kilowatts of electricity, 880,000 meters of power transmission lines and 510 kilometers of highways. CPEC has achieved key preliminary objectives,” he added.

The envoy said the areas of cooperation between the two countries have also expanded from the Gwadar Port, energy, transportation infrastructure and industry to the likes of public services, agriculture, science and technology, and international cooperation. “Despite the COVID-19 pandemic since the beginning of last year, the CPEC has maintained normal operation with no layoffs under the premise of strict pandemic prevention and control measures, demonstrated great resilience and vitality and achieved substantial results, fully reflecting the vision of the Belt and Road as a road of cooperation, health, recovery and growth,” he added.

He said in the second stage of CPEC, the key areas of cooperation include agriculture, industry and construction of industrial parks. Agriculture and industry are important areas Pakistan is most concerned about and also the most promising areas for China-Pakistan cooperation, he said. “Cooperation in agriculture has seen rapid progress, which mainly includes three aspects. The first is to put in place mechanisms,” he added.

He said China-Pakistan industrial cooperation is moving towards more diversified and high value-added fields and those empowered by smart technology. He said China welcomes the expansion of exports from Pakistan and has never sought after a trade surplus with Pakistan. The current trade deficit is largely attributed to deep-seated reasons such as the different stages of economic development and the differences in industrial structure, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/759394/sino-pak-relations-a-model-for-building-a-community-with-shared-future-envoy/>

Dawn News

PM keen to learn Chinese way of curbing graft

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday pledged to learn from the Chinese experience of overcoming poverty and corruption and said the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has failed to eradicate corruption as it lays its hands only on petty accused and not the bigwigs.

Speaking after formally inaugurating the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant Unit-2 (K-2) set up in collaboration with China, he said generation of clean energy was important owing to Pakistan’s vulnerability to climate change.

The inaugural ceremony was simultaneously held via video link at K-2, Karachi, and in Beijing and also marked the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

“We are fortunate to have China as our neighbour, a rising global power, from which we can learn a lot in multiple fields and its expertise in eradicating extreme poverty, fight against corruption and capacity to produce high-yielding crops are the examples to follow,” the prime minister said.

Inaugurates 1,100MW Karachi nuclear power plant

He said China had managed to eliminate corruption in 35 years as it initially controlled it at higher level and awarded punishment to over 425 people at ministerial level.

“Our NAB was established 22 years ago but the bureau could not tackle corruption because it always goes after petty accused and not the big ones. There is a need to lay hands on higher level corruption, [only] then it will be eradicated,” Mr Khan said.

He said Pakistan was among the 10 countries most vulnerable to climate change and reversal of its fallout was vital to save coming generations. The K-2 nuclear power plant would contribute to production of clean and cost-effective energy for the benefit of people and environment, he said.

He expressed satisfaction that with strenuous efforts of the Chinese and Pakistani engineers, the K-2 plant would produce 1,100MW electricity for national grid.

The prime minister said Pakistan and China’s 30-year-long nuclear cooperation had resulted in materializing several projects, besides transfer of technology and technical expertise to Pakistani scientists and manpower.

The prime minister lauded the efforts of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) in operationalization of nuclear power plants in the country.

The event was addressed by the Chinese and other foreign officials through video link.

China Atomic Authority Chairman Zhang KeJian said launch of the K-2 nuclear plant on the 70th anniversary of establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic ties depicted that both countries were committed to peaceful use of nuclear energy for socio-economic benefit of people.

China National Nuclear Corporation Chairman Yu Jian Feng said technology transfer and nuclear cooperation between China and Pakistan would further achieve new heights.

The director general of the IAEA in a video message said nuclear power plants are important for Pakistan to meet its rising energy needs.

The K-2 nuclear power plant has a 60-year life expectancy, extendable to a further 20 years. It is designed with higher plant availability and capacity factors and an extended refuelling cycle.

PM address Nikkei Conference

In his virtual address at Nikkei's 26th International Conference on 'Future of Asia — Shaping the Post-Covid Era: Asia's Role in Global Recovery', Prime Minister Khan said Pakistan desired peaceful and cooperative relations with all its neighbours, including India. But, he added, India must stop human rights violations in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and revisit the unilateral measures it took on Aug 5, 2019.

He highlighted that it was essential that an enabling environment was created for dialogue to peacefully resolve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the people of Kashmir.

Mr Khan said the situation in Palestine was a matter of deep concern for everyone and urged the international community to take urgent actions to stop Israeli attacks against Palestinians, prevent the desecration of holy places, especially Al Aqsa mosque, and facilitate a just and lasting solution in line with the relevant UN resolutions.

He said it was vital to avoid great-power rivalry and tensions in the Asia-Pacific as there was ample room in Asia for economic, trade and investment participation for all states.

The prime minister stressed the need for a collective action by Asian countries to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic and its impacts, including expanding vaccine's supply, keeping economies open and gaining recovery from post-pandemic health and economic crises.

The conference was organised by Nikkei Incorporation, Japan's largest business media group and the publisher of The Nikkei and Nikkei Asia.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1625005>

Sino-Pak friendship marked in Rashakai

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zone Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) and China Road and Bridges Corporation (CRBC) jointly held a function in the Rashakai Economic Zone on Friday to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Pakistan-China friendship.

The event was attended by special assistant to the chief minister on industries Abdul Karim, industries secretary Humayun Khan, Economic Zone Development and Management Company CEO Javaid Khattak, the managing director, and other officials of China Century Steel.

National anthems of both China and Pakistan were played at start of the event followed by a cake-cutting ceremony. The event was also addressed by the general manager of the China Century Steel.

Aide to the CM Abdul Karim said the ceremony was held to renew the pledge to further strengthen diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China that were tied to each other through a time-tested bond based on decades old mutual trust and confidence.

He said the Pakistan-China friendship that was higher than mountains and deeper than oceans was growing stronger with each passing day.

“The government will fulfil its promises and will provide Chinese people working in the province with full cooperation and help,” he said.

Mr Karim said the people of the province were highly skilled and fully capable to meet the challenges of the contemporary world.

He said the development of new economic zones in the province would not only bring in investment but also help develop skilled workforce.

The chief minister’s aide suggested that 80 per cent of the residents be employed in the projects of Rashakai Economic Zones and priority be given for job to the people of surrounding areas, who sacrificed their lands for the development of the province.

He said plots would be allotted in economic zones following a policy of merit with priority to investors wanting to set up export-oriented industries.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1624956/sino-pak-friendship-marked-in-rashakai>

Pakistan Observer

Xinjiang’s syndrome

By Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan

ON the eve of “Eid-Ul Fitr 2021” mass festivity, passionate dancing and singing courses of various ethnic groups and especially Muslim communities living in Xinjiang has “disproved”, de-shaped and dismantled Western’s dissemination of “falsified propaganda”. People of various ethnic groups are living together and have a “harmonious” life. France, UK and Canada made “lies of the century” on China’s Xinjiang. Realistically, they do not have moral courage and qualification to lecture China when so many lives are lost in the war against COVID-19. The “anti-Muslim” laws of French and the UK governments have spoiled life of innocent common people and still they label themselves as “Angles of God”. They are not living in a so called “living or open air prison” as showcased by the US and EU propagandists but live in “peace”, “prosperity” and “harmony”. Despite continued Western propaganda, China, under the leadership of the Xi and Communist Party of China, the Chinese government has successfully integrated public opinion with policy making and promoted people’s livelihood through economic development. Thus, there is no incident of dissident, disharmony and disability among the different ethnic groups living in far-flung areas of China especially Xinjiang. With the rise of China’s economic dominance in the region and beyond in terms of One Belt & One Road Initiative (BRI) and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) the mass media groups and lobbyists of the West have been portraying China as violator of basic human rights. On the contrary, China has been a staunch supporter of human rights of its people and specifically its minorities. The BBC, CNN, Euro News, CBC, TRT many others have been purposefully distorting soft image of China through fake images, interviews, media campaigns, documentaries and passionate appeals with the help of virtual realities apparatus. So-called Chinese violence against various ethnic groups especially Muslim communities living in Xinjiang have become a

popular trend in the US and the West. Unfortunately, the US and the West do not analyse their own torture-based policies in their societies. The famous “Black Lives Matter” in the US during 2020 all speaks about an “apartheid policy” of “White Supremacy” against the local Blacks. Moreover, in 2020 more than 41500 people died of gunshots in the US an average of more than 110 lives per day, which shows importance of common people lives and strength of so called public security system. They have been wasting their time and money on making castles of their whims and wishes in the air. Ground reality is totally different which shows that “Western Spy” masters are “biased” and “prejudiced” in their approach and understanding. In this context, the Chinese Ministry of Public Safety (MPS) upheld and rightly showcased China as one of the safest countries in the world with people’s sense of security reaching as high as 94.8 percent of the population satisfied with the current public security situation. The deteriorating law and order situation in most of the so-called civilized Western societies and countries have negated their so called allegations against Chinese government. Actually they are living in the “fool’s paradise”. Western media have been mocking China anti-faith and religion policy especially against Kashgar places/province which is absolutely false and untrue. Rather government of China has been supporting Muslim communities to perform a safe pilgrimage on a regular basis which has actually negated Western governments and media houses propaganda campaigns against the Chinese State. Moreover, the Western media raised serious allegations against the massive demolition of holy gatherings and places which is again totally false and does not have any substance. Conversely, China has more mosques as per percentage of population as comparison to others Western countries and the US. Western media has been making castles in the airs by projecting human rights violations of labour force in Xinjiang but according to BCI’s China Office (2020-2021) confirmed by conducting a series of financial audits and investigations through second and third party credibility audits and found no incidents of so-called forced labour in the Cotton fields of these areas. It is again out and out lie aimed at restricting and suppressing the development of relevant Chinese parties and enterprises. Unfortunately, Western and the US media have been projecting socio-economic exploitation of Chinese government against various ethnic groups especially Muslim communities living in Xinjiang due to which poverty ratio has been further increased. It is again a lie of the century. Many published reports of the World Bank, IMF, ADB and many others creditable organizations have confirmed substantial reduction in acute poverty in China and more than 800 million people have been rescued more the deep seas of economic depression and poverty including Muslim communities living in Xinjiang. The overall economic performance, conditions and prospects in terms of GNP, supplies of social services, medical, housing, education and other basic necessities of life have further enhanced and consolidated. Most recent report of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) blamed the so-called coercive policies of China’s far western region of Xinjiang have led to a sharp decline in birth rates for Uyghurs and other minorities, which could add to evidence of genocide. It claimed that there has been an “unprecedented and precipitous drop in official birth-rates in Xinjiang since 2017,” when China began a campaign to control birth rates in the region. China rightly maintains that changes in birth rates are linked to improved health

and economic policy and it strongly rejects accusations of genocide. Furthermore the ASPI “fabricates data and distorts facts,” Hua Chunying, China’s Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, told during the daily news briefing in Beijing. Xinjiang’s Uyghur population grew faster than that of the Han between 2010 and 2018, and Xinjiang’s birth control policies do not target any single ethnic minority group, she said. Most recently, the USA, Germany, the United Kingdom and several international organizations held a videoconference in which they criticized the “human rights” situation in the Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry upheld that their pick of such emotionally charged words offer some clues about their own shameful deeds in the past. They use these words because they have committed these crimes in their own history. It further elaborated that the US has been seriously indulged crimes against the Native Americans which subsequently marginalized the Native Americans from 30 million to just 380,000. Even the UK committed serious crimes against helpless humanities in Africa during the peak of slave trade, which is true of almost all the other major Western powers. A commonly reached consensus is that Africa lost a population of about 100 million due to the slave trade. Critical analysis of the human civilization reveals that concentration camps are of course associated with Nazi Germany and the Holocaust. A total of 6 million Jews died during World War II, the majority of whom died in the concentration camps and death camps. In this connection all the colonial powers have been indulged in massive massacres from Namibia to India, from Africa to Asia, wherever their colonial armies arrived they killed the locals. They are veterans at killing as well as lying and blaming. China has long been committed to improving the livelihood of its people and defending their human rights. Pulling out of 800 million people from poverty is a living miracle which shows China’s people’s friendly policies. —The writer is Director, Geopolitics/Economics Member Board of Experts, CGSS.

<https://pakobserver.net/xinjiangs-syndrome-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan/>

Ever blossoming Sino-Pak friendship

AS Pakistan and China are celebrating the 70th anniversary of their diplomatic ties, the leadership of the two countries has once again expressed their firm resolve to further solidify bilateral relations and strategic cooperation. In a telephonic conversation with the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Prime Minister Imran Khan emphasized that with collective and tireless efforts over the years, Pakistan and China had transformed their relationship into an “All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership”. President Dr Arif Alvi and Chinese President Xi Jinping also vowed to deepen bilateral cooperation and achieve high quality development of CPEC. It is a routine for different countries of the world to celebrate anniversaries of their diplomatic relations as these highlight warmth of ties and prospects for the future but the occasion assumes special significance as far as China-Pak relations are concerned as the two countries have unique friction-free cooperative relationship that continued blossoming during the last seventy years. It was not a co-incident that the celebrations also marked completion of the historic Karachi Nuclear Power Plant Unit 2 (K-2) with 1,100 megawatt capacity, a state-of-the-

art generation III nuclear power plant equipped with foolproof safety and security arrangements. This and dozens of other monumental projects, either already completed or in different stages of completion under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), have started contributing to socio-economic development of Pakistan and ameliorating the lot of its people in different ways. That is why for people of Pakistan, China has become a true version of the idiom – a friend in need is a friend indeed. China-Pak friendship has become time-tested as it is built around lasting values of mutual respect, mutual trust and mutual understanding. Appreciably, despite challenges and conspiracies, the leadership of the two countries has renewed their resolve to steadfastly pursue all projects under the umbrella of CPEC and initiate new ones that will generate economic activity, employment and further enhance bilateral and regional trade. As Pakistan, like other countries of the world, is facing a grave situation due to Coronavirus, China is providing valuable assistance to the National Institute of Health (NIH) for establishing a vaccine manufacturing facility in Pakistan, which will go a long way in solidifying Pakistan's efforts to combat Covid-19.

<https://pakobserver.net/ever-blossoming-sino-pak-friendship/>

Pakistan, China vow to deepen bilateral ties

President Dr Arif Alvi and Chinese President Xi Jinping have vowed to deepen bilateral cooperation and achieve high quality development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The resolve was expressed in the congratulatory letters exchanged by the two leaders on the occasion of 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. In his letter, President Xi Jinping said China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners that stood firmly by each other on issues of core interests and major concerns said the mutual trust and friendship between the two countries have gone through the test of 70 years of international changes and remain rock-solid, and have become the most valuable strategic asset of the two peoples. He said the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has achieved remarkable results, bringing tangible benefits to the people of both countries besides providing strong impetus to the regional prosperity. In his letter, President Arif Alvi reaffirmed the commitment to further elevate Pakistan-China friendship to new heights and build closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the new era. Arif Alvi said both the countries have remained friends in good and bad times. He said despite difficulties, both the countries have rendered immense sacrifices to achieve their objectives. He said Pakistan-China friendship is guarantor of peace in the region. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in their congratulatory letters to each other on the occasion of 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations expressed strong commitment to further strengthen their All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership to create a brighter and promising future for the peoples of two countries. In his letter addressed to the Chinese Premier, Imran Khan said both the countries are closely coordinating to celebrate this year in a befitting manner enabling the peoples of two countries to truly understand the depth, the breadth and the vitality of this relationship. Imran Khan said the two countries have made indefatigable efforts to

foster, cement, and strengthen their ties. Our time-tested relationship is built around lasting values of mutual respect, mutual trust, and mutual understanding. Prime Minister Imran Khan reaffirmed his government's firm commitment to the expeditious completion of CPEC projects saying this will open up tremendous opportunities for growth and development in the region. Imran Khan thanked China for their invaluable support to Pakistan in the fight against Covid-19. The Chinese Premier said his country has been consistent to prioritize Pakistan in its foreign policy, and is willing to make joint efforts with it to develop the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to a higher level in the next 70 years.

[Pakistan, China vow to deepen bilateral ties - Pakistan Observer \(pakobserver.net\)](http://pakobserver.net)

Balakot Hydropower Project a milestone towards clean, affordable energy:

Omar

Minister for Economic Affairs Omar Ayub Khan, Friday said that Balakot Hydropower project a milestone towards clean & affordable energy from the government of Pakistan Tehrik e Insaf (PTI). While speaking at a signing of financing agreement of Balakot Hydropower Development Project amounting to \$ 300 million, he said that Balakot Hydropower Project will not only help unleash hydropower potential of the country but also improve energy security by increasing clean and affordable energy share in the country's energy mix. The loan agreement was signed by Noor Ahmed, Secretary, Economic Affairs Division (EAD) and Cleo Kawawaki, Acting Country Director, ADB.

Total cost of this project is US\$ 755 million out of which ADB has committed to provide US\$ 300 million while AIIB will provide US\$ 280 million. For this project, ADB is providing financing at highly concessional rates i.e. LIBOR (6-Month) + 0.5% per annum (currently 0.7% per annum) for a period of 27-years including a grace period of 7-years. Omar Ayub Khan expressed that this run-of-river hydropower project will be constructed on Kunhar River in District Manshara and generate 300 Megawatt electricity. "The government is working on renewable energy policy to harness immense potential in solar, wind and hydel resources and have good opportunities for investments", he added. The Minister appreciated the ADB's valuable support for financing this highly important project. Mahmood Khan, Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reiterated that the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is working on development of hydropower potential of the Province on fast track basis. He mentioned that PTI Government was already making huge investments in development of various hydro sites in the province. Balakot Hydropower project will provide livelihood by providing more than 1,200 jobs during the construction of the project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. Once completed, this hydropower project will provide reliable and cheap energy to national grid.

[Balakot Hydropower Project a milestone towards clean, affordable energy: Omar - Pakistan Observer \(pakobserver.net\)](http://pakobserver.net)

Pakistan establishes meat export zone for China

Pakistan has established a meat export zone in Bahawalpur Division to produce world standard quality meat for supply to world markets, with special focus on China. "In order to exploit the huge potential of meat exports to Chinese market, the Livestock and Dairy Development Department of Punjab has established a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) free zone in Bahawalpur Division," a senior official in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research said. The zone would help the country to fulfill the international requirements for penetrating global markets, besides taking maximum advantages of agriculture cooperation under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. Talking to APP here on Friday, he said that in this regard an updated technical matrix on establishment of FMD free zones proposed by Livestock and Dairy Development Department, Punjab had also been shared with the Chinese side. The team of Chinese experts was also invited to visit the facility, he said adding that it was expected that Chinese experts would soon visit for inspection to start meat export to that country.—APP

[Pakistan establishes meat export zone for China - Pakistan Observer \(pakobserver.net\)](http://pakobserver.net)

The Express Tribune

Pakistanis cherish deep-rooted friendship with China

The Pakistan-China diplomatic relations were established 70 years ago and with the passage of time, the friendship between the two countries has flourished in the hearts of the peoples of both countries. Friday marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the bilateral relations and Pakistani officials, experts and the general public believe that the deep-rooted friendship is growing day by day and every coming generation cherishes the friendship even more than the previous one. Now, many Pakistanis celebrate Chinese festivals like the Chinese New Year in their homes and schools every year, and many others get economic benefits from the growing economic cooperation between the two countries, which bear witness to the strengthening of relations. Addressing a ceremony on Friday, Prime Minister Imran Khan termed the friendship between the two countries a unique example in the world, which is more than just diplomatic ties and rests in the hearts of the Pakistani people despite cultural and language differences. "Pakistanis believe that China is a friend which will always stand by them in their hard times, which developed an emotional association in their hearts with China," PM Imran said. Pakistani officials who witnessed Pakistan-China relationship from the early 1950s believe that the strong partnership of both multi-dimensional and geostrategic character has evolved over the years because the relationship was based on the strong love and affection of the people of the two countries for each other. Sartaj Aziz, a retired diplomat and former de-facto foreign minister of Pakistan, has been to China for various official visits since the 1960s, and over the years he has seen development of strong diplomatic relations which paved the way for an even stronger people-to-people contact and business relations. "The people-to-people relationship started flourishing in the 1960s and 1970s when a large number of delegations from both countries started visiting each other every year. Later, Chinese scholarships, Pakistani students, as well as

sports and cultural activities also enhanced the relations," Aziz told Xinhua. After initiation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2013, the investment level of Chinese companies and banks increased in Pakistan, and Chinese people started coming to Pakistan for infrastructural development which also gave a lot of employment and business opportunities to local people, Aziz said. "CPEC has become a household name in Pakistan after CPEC projects addressed the electricity crisis of Pakistan," he added. For Pakistani students who are studying in China, they are acting as ambassadors of both countries as during their stay in China they represent Pakistan and after coming back they represent China. Badiea Shaukat, 38, an Islamabad-based economic consultant, is an alumnus of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University and during his stay in China from 2013 to 2019, he witnessed that the love and friendship of the Pakistani people for their Chinese brothers are reciprocal. "I saw Pakistani people including myself and my family cherishing Pakistan-China friendship since my childhood, and when I went to study in China on a fully-funded scholarship, I realised that the affection and respect between the peoples of the countries are mutual," he said. He said that when he joined his alma mater in 2013 after switching off from an academic course from Germany due to better ranking of the Chinese university, there were only 60-70 Pakistani students in the whole campus and when he left, there were more than 600, indicating the more people-to-people contacts and opportunities provided by the Chinese universities to Pakistani students. "I believe the scholarship opportunity and the good education I got from China is only because I am a Pakistani and my country is a close friend of China, so like many other Pakistanis, I got benefit due to the friendship of the both countries," he added. Some Pakistani schools are passing Pakistan-China friendship to the younger generations by introducing Chinese language in their curriculum to give young kids a better understanding of the Chinese language and culture. Sabina Zakir, director for language, outreach and communication in the Millennium Education of Pakistan, told Xinhua that over 8,500 students from grade three to seven are currently studying Chinese language at their schools to have a better understanding of China whereas over 30,000 already graduated from the school after studying the language. "We always knew that China and Pakistan relationship is higher than the Himalayas and sweeter than honey and deeper than oceans, and we realized that language is a great barrier between the people of our two countries so we decided to remove it by starting mandatory Chinese language classes for our students, and it really made an impact." She said that Pakistanis including small kids know that China always supports Pakistan in thick and thin. "We know that China has always been there for us so we want to give respect to our Chinese brothers by giving a chance to our future generation to have a better understanding of the Chinese culture and language." Chinese embassy holds online reception On Friday, the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan held an online reception to celebrate the anniversary.

President Arif Alvi, Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Nadeem Raza and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong attended the virtually held reception. On the occasion, Alvi said that the establishment of diplomatic ties seven decades ago was a "watershed moment" for both of the countries, adding that the ironclad friendship

between Pakistan and China has been time-tested and growing stronger. The two countries have conducted all-round cooperation, the president said. "Our cooperation in the fields of agriculture, trade, finance, education, science and technology, and people-to-people or cultural exchanges is strengthening and growing day by day." The CPEC, a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, has solved the electricity shortage problem in Pakistan and will further promote the country's industrialisation to create more jobs, Alvi noted. Looking into the future, the president said the solid foundations of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership ensure that the bilateral relations will be stronger and the special friendship will be passed on to the next generations. Pakistan firmly supports forging a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, the president said, adding that the two countries will jointly lead the world towards peace and prosperity. Addressing the reception, Nong said the China-Pakistan relations have been progressing no matter how the regional and international landscapes have evolved, and the friendly and pragmatic cooperation between the two countries have made fruitful achievements. "The past seven decades have also been the journey of mutual assistance in addressing various challenges," the Chinese envoy said, adding that collaboration and mutual support between the two countries in the face of the pandemic have set an example of international cooperation in addressing the pandemic. "It has been proved that China-Pakistan friendship and cooperation are not only in the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples, but are also conducive to regional and global peace, stability and development," Nong said. On May 21, 1951, China and Pakistan established diplomatic ties. Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognise new China and the first Islamic country to enter into diplomatic relations with China.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2301094/pakistanis-cherish-deep-rooted-friendship-with-china>

The Nation

Pakistan, China to strengthen strategic partnership

ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi and Chinese President Xi Jinping vowed to deepen bilateral cooperation and achieve high quality development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The resolve was expressed in the congratulatory letters exchanged by the two leaders on the occasion of 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. In his letter, President Xi Jinping said China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners that stood firmly by each other on issues of core interests and major concerns.

He said the mutual trust and friendship between the two countries have gone through the test of 70 years of international changes and remain rock-solid, and have become the most valuable strategic asset of the two peoples.

He said the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has achieved remarkable results, bringing tangible benefits to the people of both countries besides providing strong impetus to the regional prosperity.

In his letter, President Arif Alvi reaffirmed the commitment to further elevate Pakistan-China friendship to new heights and build closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the new era.

Arif Alvi said both the countries have remained friends in good and bad times. He said despite difficulties, both the countries have rendered immense sacrifices to achieve their objectives. He said Pakistan-China friendship is guarantor of peace in the region

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in their congratulatory letters to each other on the occasion of 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations expressed strong commitment to further strengthen their All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership to create a brighter and promising future for the peoples of two countries.

In his letter addressed to the Chinese Premier, Imran Khan said both the countries are closely coordinating to celebrate this year in a befitting manner enabling the peoples of two countries to truly understand the depth, the breadth and the vitality of this relationship.

Imran Khan said the two countries have made indefatigable efforts to foster, cement, and strengthen their ties. Our time-tested relationship is built around lasting values of mutual respect, mutual trust, and mutual understanding.

Prime Minister Imran Khan reaffirmed his government's firm commitment to the expeditious completion of CPEC projects saying this will open up tremendous opportunities for growth and development in the region.

Imran Khan thanked China for their invaluable support to Pakistan in the fight against Covid-19.

The Chinese Premier said his country has been consistent to prioritize Pakistan in its foreign policy, and is willing to make joint efforts with it to develop the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to a higher level in the next 70 years.

Le Keqiang said China and Pakistan are friendly neighbours linked by mountains and waters. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, both countries have enjoyed firm political mutual trust, close economic cooperation, and ever-increasing people-to-people friendship.

The Chinese Premier said both the countries helped each other in the face of Covid-19. He said we have achieved new progress for the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He said there are broad prospects for China and Pakistan to build an even closer community with a shared future in the new era.

Pakistan and China Friday marked the 70 friendly years of diplomatic ties and pledged to cement the ties further.

The foreign ministry and the Chinese embassy in Islamabad hosted a virtual reception participated among others by President Dr Arif Alvi to celebrate the important day. Pakistan-China diplomatic relations were established on May 21, 1951.

The event was also attended by Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza, federal ministers, politicians and Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Nong Rong.

Addressing the event, President Alvi said as both China and Pakistan stood for peace, they had the great opportunity to lead the world towards multilateralism and ensure the establishment of morality-based institutions in the future.

President Alvi said as both China and Pakistan stood for peace, they had the great opportunity to lead the world towards multilateralism and ensure the establishment of morality-based institutions in the future.

The president said the vested interests instead of the morality were dominating in international affairs at different forums in the world that was why the oppressed people of Kashmir and Palestine did not get any hearing. He said the goals of China and Pakistan was friendship but both the countries cemented their goals for humanity.

He said at a time when environment and global warming were the issues, peace was also essential and both China and Pakistan also believed in that endeavor.

“China and Pakistan have great opportunity to lead the world, in the matter of trade towards multilateralism, towards not creating or raising walls for each other’s products as well as to establish institutions and ensure that the institutions in future are morality based which is the foundation of our relationship. The more we move forward in that direction, the more peace we will have,” the president remarked.

Alvi thanked President Xi Jinping for the congratulatory letter to him and congratulated China on successful landing on Mars which he said proved that the country was second to none in the field of science and technology.

Referring to China’s journey towards a developed country by uplifting around 800 million people out of poverty, the president said Pakistan should also strive for and learn from it.

He said the during the seven decades, the bilateral friendship stood firm and even got stronger into strategic partnership and people to people contacts.

Calling both the countries “Iron brothers”, the president said Pakistan and China believed in a future which bound the people together and lead them to prosperity and peace.

President Alvi said China was the largest trading and investment partner of Pakistan having collaboration in the fields of agriculture, trade, finance, education, science and technology was strengthening, beside the cooperation between the two people.

He said Pakistan fully supported President Xi Jinping’s Belt and Road Initiative of which the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was important part. From the beginning, when Pakistan needed to improve its energy supplies, establish industry not only along the route but across the country, special economic zones, CPEC was going to be a harbinger.

He highly appreciated China for “exemplary handling” of COVID-19 pandemic and recalled his China visit in March, last year. He also thanked China for sending medical team and now vaccine to Pakistan and added that the Chinese assistance and advance learning helped Pakistan a lot.

He said currently, around 30,000 Pakistani students are studying in China, benefiting from China’s advanced educational system. “We have established seven sister-province and fourteen sister-city relationship with China. Seven Pakistan study centers, eleven Urdu language departments in various Chinese universities, and four Confucius Institutes in Pakistan are promoting cultural understanding and further reinforcing the everlasting friendship between the two countries,” he added.

The President said that Pakistan had done reasonably well to handle the pandemic comparing the regional countries but the country still needed to be careful during the third wave.

He said both the countries stood for humanity and Pakistan was learning from China as how it focused on health, education and investment to encourage people to rise on their own.

He said both countries had a vision for peace and improvement in the health and education standards and ensure food security.

He reaffirmed the commitment to build a closer Pakistan-China community of shared future in the new era where the people of China and Pakistan stood together in friendship leading the world towards peace and prosperity. “It is important that this message goes out and this camaraderie spreads throughout the world,” the president said.

In his address, Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani said Pakistan was the first Muslim nation to recognize China and establish diplomatic ties and since then, both the countries maintained a close cooperation.

Referring to the institutional cooperation including the parliaments, the Senate chairman said construction of Karakoram Highway, Heavy Industries Complex, JF-17 Thunder, multiple hydropower projects and CPEC were the fruits of the seven-decade old friendship.

He hoped that the CPEC would prove to be an example of bilateral cooperation for the world and added that the bilateral cooperation also got strengthened by the cultural exchanges and establishment of sister cities.

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC) General Nadeem Raza said the China-Pakistan ties withstood pressure of geopolitics. He said starting from the construction of Karakorum Highway, the bilateral cooperation had entered into many further avenues.

Reiterating Pakistan’s support for One-China Policy, the Chairman JCSC said the defence and security cooperation also played key role during last seven decades.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong said since establishment of bilateral ties, the China-Pakistan friendship remained rock solid and also became role model of state to state relations.

He recalled that President Alvi's visit to China last year amidst COVID-19 pandemic was manifestation of the bilateral friendship, adding that the friendly and pragmatic cooperation remained fruitful during the seven decades.

The envoy said CPEC had become an important platform for cooperation between the two nations which had been extended to multiple areas like energy, agriculture, Science and Technology and livelihood covering all aspects of Pakistan's development. The ambassador also thanked Pakistan for allowing clinical trial of Chinese vaccine in the country. He said the relationship and cooperation will be promoted further in the coming years.

The event started with the national anthems of Pakistan and China. The ceremony also featured a documentary showing the 70-year journey of bilateral ties and a special song with a mix of Chinese and Urdu lyrics sung by Singer Sahir Ali Bagga.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-22/page-1/detail-4>

The News

Zardari, Bilawal, Fawad hail 70 years of Pak-China friendship

ISLAMABAD: Former President and PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari felicitated Pakistan and China on completing 70 years of friendship and reiterated the commitment of deep and everlasting ties with the people of China.

Bilawal tweeted with hashtag #70yearsofPakChina friendship and stated that we celebrate 70 years of Pakistan-China friendship with commitment to take the deep and everlasting friendship between two countries to new heights.

Bilawal said he look forward to building on the strong foundations laid by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto and former President Asif Ali Zardari, who all took relationship to new heights. "We remain committed to our deep and everlasting ties with the people of China," he said.

While facilitating on completion of 70 years of friendship between Pakistan and China, Asif Ali Zardari said the foundation of this friendship was laid by Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as the foreign minister of Pakistan and the longevity of this bond is testament of the well-wishing nature and mutual respect between both countries. Zardari said this friendship is regarded as deeper than the oceans and taller than the Himalayas, which has stood the test of time for several decades.

He said the PPP is proud to have initiated the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is a practical manifestation of the friendship between both countries.

Meanwhile, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said Pakistan and China are not only close to each other diplomatically but "our relations are far beyond political and economic dimensions".

“Our relationship started with defence cooperation, which turned into a strategic relationship in 1966 and an economic one in 1972. Now there is a very comprehensive framework for relations between Pakistan and China,” he maintained.

“We are proud of the relationship based on love and mutual respect which is rooted in the people, the people of Pakistan understand that China stood by us in every difficult hour. Similarly, Pakistan also helped China in every challenge,” he said.

To celebrate the anniversary, China Post and Pakistan Post jointly designed and issued a special set of stamps.

The two stamps feature the sister ports of Gwadar in Pakistan’s Balochistan Province and Zhuhai in South China’s Guangdong Province.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/838457-zardari-bilawal-fawad-hail-70-years-of-pak-china-friendship>

Nawaiwaqt News

تعلقات مزید مضبوط بنانے کیلئے پر عزم، پاکستان اور چینی صدر کے خطوط

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نامہ نگار) پاکستانی صدر ڈاکٹر عارف علوی اور چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے اس عزم کا اظہار کیا ہے کہ دو طرفہ تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط بنایا جائے گا اور چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے ذریعے اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی حاصل کی جائے گی۔ اس عزم کا اظہار دونوں رہنماؤں نے دونوں ممالک کے سفارتی تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر مبارکباد کے خطوط کے تبادلے کے دوران کیا۔ اپنے خط میں چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان سد ابہار تہذیبی شراکت دار ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ دونوں بنیادی مفادات اور سنجیدہ نوعیت کے مسائل پر ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ مضبوط سے کھڑے رہے ہیں۔ صدر عارف علوی نے کہا کہ دونوں ملک اچھے اور برے وقت کے دوست ہیں۔ مشکلات کے باوجود دونوں ممالک نے اپنے مقاصد کے حصول کے لئے بھاری قربانیاں دی ہیں۔ پاک چین دوستی علاقے کے امن کی ضمانت ہے۔ دریں اثناء صدر مملکت نے پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ پر ورچوئل تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ چین کی سائنسی ترقی اور غربت کا خاتمہ پاکستان کیلئے قابل تقلید ہے۔ وقت کے ساتھ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تعلقات کو نئی جہت ملی۔ دریں اثناء ایک انٹرویو میں سالگرہ کے حوالے سے پاکستان میں تعینات چین کے سفیر نوگ روگ نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان دوستی نیک، اخلاقیات اور شفقت پر مبنی ہے۔ پاک چین دوستی کو پاکستان میں تمام لوگوں کی پاسداری اور وسیع حمایت حاصل ہے۔ پاکستان چین کا واحد اور صرف سد ابہار باہمی اہم شراکت دار ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ پورے خلوص کے ساتھ کام کر رہے ہیں۔ دونوں ممالک کے مابین دوستانہ تبادلے نسل در نسل چلتے آ رہے ہیں۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو چین پاکستان تعاون کے لیے تاریخی مواقع لایا ہے۔ چینی سفیر نوگ روگ نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے مابین تعاون کے وسیع امکانات ہیں اور ہمارے تعلقات انسانیت کے مشترکہ مستقبل کے ساتھ ایک معاشرے کی تعمیر کے لئے ایک نئی مثال قائم کریں گے۔ سفیر نوگ روگ نے ایک نظم کے ذریعے اپنے جذبات کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ کسی اچھے دوست سے پہلی بار ملاقات کرنا ایسے ہی ہے جیسے کسی پرانے دوست سے دوبارہ ملاقات ہو۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان کے دارالحکومت اسلام آباد کی آب و ہوا میرے آبائی صوبے گوانگسی کی طرح مرطوب ہے جس سے میں لطف اٹھا رہا ہوں۔

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پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات معاشی، سیاسی جہتوں سے بہت آگے: فواد چودھری

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نامہ نگار) وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات چوہدری فواد حسین نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات سیاسی اور معاشی جہتوں سے کہیں آگے ہیں، پاکستان اور چین نہ صرف سفارتی طور پر ایک دوسرے کے قریب ہیں بلکہ ہمارے تعلقات سیاسی اور معاشی جہتوں سے کہیں آگے ہیں، 1950ء میں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دفاعی تعاون سے ہمارے تعلقات کا آغاز ہوا تھا، 1966ء میں یہ اسٹریٹجک تعلقات میں تبدیل ہوئے جبکہ 1972ء میں معاشی تعلقات میں بدلے، اب پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تعلقات کا انتہائی جامع فریم ورک موجود ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے جمعہ کو پاکستان اور چین کے سفارتی تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ پر اپنے ایک بیان میں کیا۔ وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات نے کہا کہ ہمیں ایک دوسرے سے محبت اور باہمی احترام پر مبنی تعلقات پر فخر ہے پاکستان کے عوام سمجھتے ہیں کہ چین نے ہر مشکل گھڑی میں ہمارا ساتھ دیا۔ سی پیک کا شاندار منصوبہ ایک دوسرے کے معاشی استحکام کی بنیاد اور اس علاقے کے لئے ایک گیم چینجر ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کے ون بیلٹ ون روڈ اپنی شیٹو وڈن نے پاکستان کو بہت فائدہ دیا ہے۔ دریں اثناء فواد چودھری نے غیر ملکی میڈیا سے گفتگو میں کہا ہے کہ پاکستان نے فلسطینیوں پر مظالم کے تدارک میں اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ اقوام متحدہ اور جنرل اسمبلی اجلاس میں پاکستان نے مضبوط موقف اختیار کیا۔ پاکستان نے فلسطین کے معاملے پر دوست ممالک کی حمایت حاصل کی اور فلسطینیوں کی حالت زار پر مسلم امہ کے حقیقی جذبات کا اظہار کیا۔

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پاکستان چین پائیدار سفارتی تعلقات کے 70 سال

وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان چین تعلقات کو ”آل ویڈر سٹریٹجک اپر پریویریٹری ٹرسٹپ“ میں تبدیل کر دیا گیا ہے۔ سی پیک نے معاشی سرگرمی اور روزگار پیدا کیا۔ گزشتہ روز پاکستان چین سفارتی تعلقات کے 70 سال پورے ہونے پر وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے اپنے ہم منصب چینی وزیر اعظم سے ٹیلی فونک رابطہ کیا اور انہیں پاک چین تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ پر مبارکباد پیش کی۔ اس موقع پر دونوں رہنماؤں نے کورونا ویکسین کے لیے تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے اپنے چینی ہم منصب اور چینی قیادت کو مرچ کے کامیاب مشن کی بھی مبارکباد دی اور کہا کہ مرچ پر چینی سیارے کی کامیاب لینڈنگ چین کی ٹیکنالوجی پاور کا ثبوت ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کا فلگ شپ منصوبہ ہے جو اقتصادی سرگرمی، ملازمتوں کے مواقع پیدا کرنے اور دوطرفہ تعلقات بڑھانے کا باعث بنا۔ انہوں نے دونوں ملکوں کے مابین اعلیٰ سطح کے روابط کا تسلسل جاری رکھنے پر زور دیا اور پاک چین دوطرفہ تعلقات مزید فروغ دینے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔ انہوں نے انسداد کورونا ویکسین کی مسلسل فراہمی پر بھی چین کا شکر یہ ادا کیا۔

یہ امر واقع ہے کہ اس خطے میں پاکستان چین اٹوٹ دوستی ایک ضرب المثل دوستی میں ڈھل چکی ہے اور شہد سے میٹھی، سمندروں سے گہری اور ہمالیہ سے بلند اس دوستی میں کبھی کوئی فرق نہیں آیا بلکہ یہ دوستی خطے کے سٹریٹجکل مفادات کے تناظر میں مضبوط سے مضبوط تر ہوتی رہی ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کے مابین اقتصادی اور تجارتی مراسم ہی استوار نہیں ہوئے بلکہ یہ ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ دفاعی تعاون کے بندھن میں بھی بندھے ہوئے ہیں۔ اس طرح یہ اس خطے میں بھارت اور امریکہ کے توسیع پسندانہ عزائم اور جارحانہ اقدامات کے خلاف نہ صرف ایک دوسرے کی ڈھال بن چکے ہیں بلکہ پورے خطے کے امن و سلامتی اور استحکام کی ضمانت فراہم کر رہے ہیں۔ اب پاکستان چین اقتصادی راہداری نے جہاں دونوں ممالک کی دوستی مستحکم کی ہے وہیں اس کے ذریعے پورے خطے کا مقدر سنوارنے کے راستے بھی ہموار ہو رہے ہیں جبکہ سی پیک کے ذریعے پاکستان اور چین ہی نہیں، خطے کے دوسرے ممالک کو بھی عالمی منڈیوں تک رسائی حاصل ہوگی جس سے خطے میں معاشی انقلاب برپا ہونے کے امکانات بھی روشن ہیں۔

پاکستان چین دوستی کا 1949ء میں چین کے قیام کے ساتھ ہی آغاز ہو گیا تھا اور 1950ء میں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کو تسلیم کرنے والا پاکستان تیسرا غیر کمیونسٹ اور پہلا مسلمان ملک تھا۔ پاکستان نے 4 جنوری 1950ء کو ایک اعلیٰ سطح کا وفد چین بھجوا کر دونوں ممالک کی دوستی کا شاندار آغاز کیا جبکہ 21 مئی 1951ء کو آج سے 70 برس قبل پاکستان اور چین کے مابین باقاعدہ سفارتی تعلقات استوار ہوئے۔ اس کے بعد سے اب تک دونوں ممالک نے پیچھے مڑ کر نہیں دیکھا اور انہوں نے ہر سطح کے باہمی تعلقات کی گرہیں مضبوط سے مضبوط تر بنانے میں کوئی کسر نہیں چھوڑی۔

اگست 1947ء کو پاکستان کے قیام کے ساتھ ہی بھارت کی ہندو قیادت نے اپنے اگھنڈ بھارت کے ایجنڈے کے تحت جہاں پاکستان کو کمزور کرنے کی سازشوں کا آغاز کیا 14- وہیں انہوں نے چین کے علاقے اروناچل پردیش پر بھی اپنے توسیع پسندانہ عزائم کے تحت نظر جمالیں۔ اسی تناظر میں بھارت نے خود مختار ریاست جموں کشمیر پر جس کا تقسیم ہند کے فارمولے کے تحت پاکستان کے ساتھ الحاق ہونا تھا، شب خون مارنے اور اس کے غالب حصے پر اپنا فوجی تسلط جمانے کے بعد 60ء کی دہائی کے آغاز ہی میں اروناچل پردیش میں بھی اپنی فوجیں داخل کرنے کی کوشش کی مگر اسے چین کی پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کے ہاتھوں منہ کی کھانا اور سخت ہزیمت اٹھانا پڑی۔

اس کے بعد بھارت کو اروناچل پردیش کی جانب رخ کرنے کی ہمت تو نہ ہوئی البتہ اس نے اپنے توسیع پسندانہ عزائم کا سلسلہ دراز کئے رکھا اور پاکستان کے ساتھ دشمنی مول لینا اس نے اپنا شعار بنا لیا جس نے جموں کشمیر پر اپنے ناجائز قبضہ کے بعد پاکستان پر دو جنگیں مسلط کیں۔ 1971ء کی جنگ میں ملتی باہنی کی سازش کے تحت پاکستان کو دولت کی اور پھر باقی ماندہ پاکستان کی سلامتی کے بھی درپے ہوئی جس کے لیے اس نے خود کو اسٹی قوت بنا یا اور پاکستان کے خلاف آبی دہشت گردی کی سازشوں کا بھی آغاز کر دیا۔

بھارت کے ان توسیع پسندانہ عزائم نے ہی دفاعی حکمت عملی کی بنیاد پر چین اور پاکستان کو ایک دوسرے کے مزید قریب کر دیا اور وہ ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ دفاعی معاہدوں کے بندھن میں بھی بندھ گئے چنانچہ چین بھارتی جارحیت اور اس کے جارحانہ عزائم و اقدامات پر بھی پاکستان کے ساتھ بے لوث دوستی نبھاتا اور اس کے دفاع کے لوازمات پورے کرتا رہا جبکہ عالمی فورموں پر اس نے پاکستان کے کشمیر کا بھی بھرپور ساتھ دیا اور کشمیریوں کے حق خود ارادیت کی وکالت میں کبھی پیچھے نہیں ہٹا۔ جب امریکہ اور بھارت کے مابین اس خطے میں توسیع پسندانہ عزائم کی بنیاد پر گٹھ جوڑ ہوا تو پاکستان اور چین کے مابین سٹریٹجیکل تعاون مزید مضبوط ہو گیا۔ پاکستان کو توانائی کے بحران کا سامنا کرنا پڑا تو چین نے اپنے ایٹمی ری ایکٹرز کے ذریعے پاکستان کو معاونت فراہم کی اور پاکستان کے مختلف شہروں میں چھ ایٹمی بجلی گھر نصب کئے۔ اسی طرح زراعت کے شعبہ میں بھی چین نے پاکستان کو اپنی ٹیکنالوجی فراہم کی۔ اب پاکستان چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ (سی پیک) ان دونوں ممالک کے لیے ہی نہیں، پورے خطے کی اقتصادی ترقی کے حوالے سے گیم چینجر بن چکا ہے جس نے پاکستان چین تعلقات کو مزید وسعت اور گہرائی سے سرفراز کر دیا ہے۔ اسی تناظر میں پاکستان چین دوستی امریکہ اور بھارت کو کانٹے کی طرح چھ رہی ہے اور وہ اس دوستی میں دراڑیں ڈالنے کی سازشوں میں ہمہ وقت مصروف ہیں مگر اس اٹوٹ دوستی کے آگے کسی غلط فہمی کی کوئی دیوار کھڑی نہیں کی جاسکتی۔ یہ دوستی دن بدن مستحکم ہو رہی ہے اور پاکستان چین سفارتی تعلقات کے 70 ویں برس گزشتہ روز وزیر اعظم عمران خاں نے چین کے تعاون سے گیارہ سو میگا واٹ بجلی فراہم کرنے کی صلاحیتوں کے حامل نیوکلیئر پاور پلانٹ ”کے ٹو“ کا پیراڈائز پوائنٹ کراچی میں افتتاح کیا۔ اس افتتاح کی مشترکہ تقریب اسلام آباد اور بیجنگ میں بیک وقت منعقد ہوئی۔ اس پاور پلانٹ کے باعث پاکستان 36 سو میگا واٹ بجلی بنانے والا اسلامی امہ کا پہلا ملک بن جائے گا جس سے ہمیں توانائی کے سنگین بحران سے بھی نجات ملے گی۔ پاکستان چین دوستی عالمی برادری میں بے مثال دوستی ہے جسے دلوں میں تروتازہ رکھنے کے لیے سیٹ بنک کی طرف سے 70 روپے کا یادگاری سکہ جاری کیا گیا ہے۔

بے شک اقتصادی ترقی اور علاقائی و عالمی امن و استحکام کے خواہش مند ممالک کی پاکستان چین اٹوٹ دوستی پر نگاہیں جمی ہوئی ہیں جو اسے مزید مستحکم ہوتا دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں۔ خدا اس بے لوث دوستی کو ہمیشہ کے لیے قائم دائم رکھے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-22/page-4/detail-0>

چین پاکستان سفارتی تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کی مناسبت سے مختصر فلم اور گیت جاری

بیجنگ (نیٹ نیوز) چین پاکستان سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کی مناسبت سے چائنا میڈیا گروپ کی اردو سروس نے مختصر دورانیے کی فلم "ہم ایک خاندان ہیں" سمیت دستاویزی فلم "پاکستان سے محبت کے جذبات" اور پاکستان میں چینی سفارتخانے کے اشتراک سے ایک گیت "تیری میری سدا دوستی" جاری کیے ہیں۔ 21 مئی کو پاکستان میں چینی سفارتخانے کے زیر اہتمام ایک استقبالیہ تقریب منعقد ہوئی۔ "تیری میری سدا دوستی" گیت باقاعدہ ریلیز کیا گیا۔ اس گیت کی موسیقی پاکستان کے نامور موسیقار ساحر علی بگہ نے ترتیب دی ہے۔ گلوکاروں میں ساحر علی بگہ کے ساتھ چائنا میڈیا گروپ کی اردو سروس کی چار خواتین صحافی شامل ہیں۔ گیت کی شاعری میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان محبت، خلوص، اپنائیت، قربانی اور ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ ہمیشہ چلنے کے عزم کو شاندار طریقے سے بیان کیا گیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-22/page-10/detail-37>

سمندر سے گہری پاک چین دوستی

چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان 21 مئی 1951 کو باضابطہ سفارتی تعلقات قائم ہوئے مگر یہ دوستی کی تاریخ بہت طویل ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کے عوام کے دوستانہ تبادلوں کی شروعات کا مشاہدہ تاریخی ادوار سے ہی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ قدیم شاہراہ ریشم نے دو ہزار سال قبل ہی چین اور پاکستان کو مربوط کر دیا تھا۔ چین اور پاکستان کے مابین تعلقات قدرتی طور پر انفرادیت رکھتے ہیں، چائینیز پاک چین تعلقات کو بیان کرنے کے لئے مخصوص اصطلاحات استعمال کرتے ہیں۔ چینی زبان میں، یہ "نائی جی مین ایر" ہے یا صرف "نائی" ہے، جسے انگریزی میں "آئرن برادرز" کے طور پر ترجمہ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ پاک چین تعلقات خالص اور مادیت پسندانہ مفادات سے بالاتر ہیں، جبکہ یہ مشترکہ مفادات ہی بین الاقوامی تعلقات میں دوستی یا دشمن بناتے ہیں۔ پاک چین تعلقات کی بنیاد اخلاقی اقدار، روایات، مادہ پرستی کے فوائد یا مفادات نہیں ہے۔ اس قسم کے خالص رشتے میں، فوائد یا نقصانات عدم استحکام کا شکار ہیں۔ 21 مئی 1951 کو رسمی سفارتی تعلقات قائم ہوئے، پہلے اعلیٰ سطحی سرکاری وفد نے 4 جنوری 1950 کو آزادی کے صرف تین ماہ بعد چین کا دورہ کیا۔ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان باہمی تعلقات باہمی اعتماد، احترام اور ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ خیر سگالی کے جذبات پر مبنی ہیں۔ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان اعلیٰ سطح پر باقاعدگی سے دوروں کا تبادلہ ہوتا ہے۔ چین پاکستان دوستی کا حوالہ دیا جاتا ہے کہ، "دوستی ہماری سے اونچی اور سمندروں سے گہری، شہد سے میٹھی اور لوہے سے مضبوط ہے۔" پاکستان اور چین کے مابین دوستی وقت کے مشکل حصے میں قائم ہوئی اور دو طرفہ تعلقات کے روایتی پیرامیٹرز سے آگے چلی گئی ہے۔ اب وہ ایک "اسٹریٹجک کوآپریٹو پارٹنرشپ" میں تبدیل ہو چکا ہے، جس سے عالمی سیاست میں بین ریاستی تعلقات کے لئے ایک نیا نمونہ قائم ہوا ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کے رہنماؤں اور عوام کی متواتر نسلوں نے باہمی احترام، اعتماد اور افہام و تفہیم کے اس لازوال رشتہ کو مستحکم کرنے میں گران قدر شراکتیں کیں۔ سی پیک بطور بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کا فلیگ شپ پروجیکٹ اس پائیدار دوستی کی اہم علامت ہے اور پاکستان کے ترقیاتی ایجنڈے میں ایک اہم مقام پر فائز ہے۔ سی پیک نے پاکستان کے لئے بیحد اسٹریٹجک اہمیت حاصل کی ہے اور اس سے پہلے ہی صنعت، زراعت اور انسانی وسائل کی ترقی کے لئے پاکستان کو ایک مضبوط توانائی اور سڑک کے بنیادی ڈھانچے کی تشکیل میں مدد ملی ہے۔ پچھلے 70 سال میں چین پاکستان تعلقات کی تاریخی ترقی کو گہری سیاسی اعتماد، باہمی احترام، برادرانہ روابط نسل در نسل منتقل، ہم آہنگی اور پر امن بقائے کے لیے اچھے پڑوسی کی روایت کا نشان ہے مگر ہمیں ابھی بھی بہت کچھ سیکھنا ہے اور مزید مل کر ترقی کرنی ہے۔ چین ہم سے دو سال بعد آزاد ہوا تھا مگر آج ترقی کے میدان میں دیکھا جائے تو چین نے دنیا کو پیچھے چھوڑ دیا ہے اور اس وقت پوری دنیا میں ستر فی صد مصنوعات چین کی فروخت ہوتی ہیں اور چین نے پوری دنیا کی مارکیٹ میں اپنا قبضہ جمایا ہوا ہے۔ 20 نومبر 1950 کو یہ نوجوان کوریا کے خلاف جنگ لڑتے ہوئے مارا گیا۔ بیٹے کی لاش واپس آئی تو یہ کہہ کر رونے سے انکار کیا کہ میں اس غم میں اکیلا نہیں ہوں میرے جیسے ہزاروں والدین کے بچے اس جنگ میں مارے گئے۔ میں پہلے ان کے آنسو پونچھوں گا۔ ہمیں چاہئے سے، بہت کچھ سیکھنے کو مل سکتا ہے کیونکہ دنیا میں وہ اپنی کامیابی کے جھنڈے گاڑ رہا ہے۔ داخلی اور خارجی سیاسی پیش رفتوں سے قطع نظر ہر ایک متواتر

حکومت پاکستان چین دوستی کے سیاسی اور مقبول جذبات کو غیر متزلزل قرار دے رہی ہے۔ پاک چین دوستی گذشتہ سات دہائیوں کے دوران اچھے ہمسایہ ممالک اور دوستوں سے عملی تعاون پر مبنی اسٹریٹیجک شراکت دار کی حیثیت سے تیار ہوئی ہے۔ ہم نے باہمی اعتماد اور احترام پر مبنی ایک متفقہ تعلقات استوار کیے ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین نے 1963 میں ایک سرحدی معاہدہ کیا، اور پاکستان چین کو ایئر کوریڈور فراہم کرنے والا پہلا غیر کمیونسٹ ملک بن گیا جب پاکستان کا انٹرنیشنل ایئر لائن (پی آئی اے) نے 1964 میں شنگھائی پہنچا۔ پی آئی اے کا استعمال چینی اہکاروں اور چینی میل کو بیرون ممالک لے جانے کے لئے کیا جاتا تھا۔ مارچ 1965 میں جب صدر ایوب خان چین کے دورے پر آئے تھے تو پاکستان نے امریکہ کی "دو چائے پالیسی" کی بھی مذمت کی تھی۔ کامر میں پاکستان ایرو نائٹیکل کمپلیکس، ہیوی میکینیکل کمپلیکس، ٹیکسلا میں ہیوی ریل بلڈ فیکٹری، اور چشمہ نیوکلیئر پاور پلانٹس چائے کی مدد سے مکمل کیے گئے۔ اب، اس معاشی شراکت داری نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو (بی آر آئی) کے دستخطی پروجیکٹ، سی پیک کی شکل میں کوانٹم لیپ لیا ہے۔ چائے کی مجوزہ پٹی اور راہداری کا تعین کا فیصلہ پاکستان کے لیے بطور پائلٹ اسائنمنٹ اور دوطرفہ تعاون کو مزید گہرا کرنے کے ایک اہم پلیٹ فارم میں، چائے پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) نیاس کا معاوضہ دے دیا ہے۔ چائے پاکستان آکٹا کور ایڈور (سی پیک) وقت کی آزمائش اور گہری جڑوں والی پاک چین دوستی کا منہ بولتا ثبوت ہے اور اس ملک کی ترقیاتی حکمت عملی میں اولین کردار جاری رکھے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-22/page-5>

May 23, 2021

Business Recorder

Pakistan for inclusion of some Chinese vaccines on list approved by S. Arabia

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has proposed inclusion of some of the Chinese vaccines used in the country in the list of vaccines approved by Saudi Arabia as mandatory vaccines for travel to the Kingdom for visit, Hajj, and Umrah.

Responding to media queries about the mandatory vaccines for travel to Saudi Arabia for visit, Hajj and Umrah, Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri said that Pakistan has taken up with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the issue of vaccines which are mandatory for travel to Saudi Arabia for visit, Umrah, and Hajj.

“We have proposed inclusion of some of the Chinese vaccines used in Pakistan in the list of vaccines approved by the Saudi authorities,” he said.

He added that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is actively pursuing this matter with the Saudi side.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40094544>

Daily Times

CPEC is here to stay

There is much to celebrate as the Sino-Pak ‘special friendship’ celebrates 70 years. Of course, ties date back to the times of the Old Silk route when Chinese merchants would pass through Pakistan to sell their wares in the Middle East and then Europe. However, both sides have all eyes now firmly on the future.

CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) has become the showstopper in this bilateral relationship. And with good reason. This cool \$62 billion-investment in infrastructure projects aims to boost productivity and connectivity here in this country. The official deadline for final completion is 2030. Tick tock on the clock.

Naturally, Pakistan has much to be grateful for. China has time and again proved an all-weather friend as opposed to that other, fair-weather American buddy. It is always ready to splash the cash when needed and support Pakistan internationally. But as with all friendships, mixing business with pleasure can be a little tricky. Recent reports suggest that Beijing is rather reluctant to clear the \$6 billion needed for the single largest CPEC project: the Mainline-I (M-L I) railway project, linking Karachi to Peshawar. The primary concern centering on Islamabad's debt servicing record; bartering down the original \$9 billion. Indeed, Pakistan has already sought debt restructuring of \$3 billion against CPEC energy projects in a bid to keep energy tariffs down. This is understandable given that Pakistan is gearing up for yet another IMF review. And China is well aware of this. In fact, there is talk of completing all projects early.

Where Pakistan has to tread carefully is on the Uighur question. CPEC runs right through the autonomous Xinjiang region. This is not to suggest that the matter is brought up publicly but the message must be repeated that a discussion is taking place behind closed doors. Prime Minister Imran Khan has done this before and must do so again. Or else he risks losing recent plaudits for taking the Palestine cause all the way to the UN. Similarly, he must remain mindful of Indian manoeuvres. Washington and New Delhi already claim that CPEC runs through disputed territory. Though the real concern is the economic benefits that this project is yielding. For instead of taking seriously China's offer of getting on board – Prime Minister Narendra Modi, instead, unilaterally annexed Jammu and Kashmir back in 2019 with an eye on a rival trade route to Central Asia and beyond.

Be all that as it may. CPEC is here to stay. And everyone and their cat had better get used to it. *

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/759898/cpec-is-here-to-stay/>

Pakistan Observer

Macroeconomic indicators showing positive trend: Asim

The Chairman of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority Lt Gen (Retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa Saturday said all the major macroeconomic indicators were moving towards positive trajectory due to immense hard work by the government. Not without an immense hard work, Pakistan's economy performed beyond expectations with all major macroeconomic indicators showing positive trend amid Covid-19 pandemic," he said in a tweet. Asim Bajwa said the hard work resulted in 3.94 per cent economic growth during the outgoing fiscal year. It is pertinent to mention here that the National Accounts Committee (NAC) on Friday had estimated that the provisional growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the current fiscal year (2020-2021) was 3.94 percent. Due to a combination of GDP growth and strengthening of Pak

rupee against the US dollar, per capita income of Pakistan jumped by 13.4 percent during the current fiscal year (2020-21) from \$1361 to \$1543. The GDP increase from \$263 billion to \$296 billion, an increase of \$33 billion during the current fiscal year, was the highest ever in any year.

<https://pakobserver.net/macroeconomic-indicators-showing-positive-trend-asim/>

Pakistani products wow Chinese customers at 5th Silk Road Int'l Expo

Two Pakistani booths and their products have found favour with Chinese customers at the fifth Silk Road International Expo held in China's northwestern city of Xi'an in recent days. According to Gwadar Pro, a Chinese woman strolls through the Pakistani booth featuring Pakistani cashmere shawls and carpets and takes a piece of shawl, asking the owner for a lower price. With fluent Chinese, the booth owner, a Pakistani young man, negotiates with the customer by sharing the unique features of Pakistani cashmere shawls. The owner told Gwadar Pro that the cashmere shawls, neatly decorated with embroidery and jewelries, are especially popular among Chinese customers. The fervour of Chinese customers can also be found in the Pakistani booth highlighting marble-made handicrafts and wooden furniture. "Chinese customers like our marble handicrafts the most because they carry exotic Pakistani culture and features." said Faisal Rasheed, CEO of Mega International, who participated in the 2021 SCO Expo last month. He added, the exhibitions such as the SCO Expo and the Silk Road International Expo are great platforms to promote the products to the global customers. The Pakistani booths also offer an opportunity for Pakistani students to tackle their homesickness.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-products-wow-chinese-customers-at-5th-silk-road-intl-expo/>

The Express Tribune

New CPEC road network to improve access to Iran: Asim Bajwa

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority Chairman Lt-Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa on Sunday said that work on the 103-kilometre Nokundi-Mashkhel road had started that would improve access to Iran on completion.

Bajwa, taking to his official Twitter handle, shared that the detailed design of Mashkhel-Panjgur Road (200 km) was also in process.

He said the entire remote region of Balochistan would be opened by connecting N-40 with N-85 and M-8 (western route of CPEC) by linking Chagai-Nokundi Sector with Gwadar.

The chairman said that Gwadar port was becoming hub of economic activities under the mega project of CPEC.

Meanwhile, an official of the CPEC Authority said that the development of roads in South Balochistan was a key priority of the government to improve the connectivity of Gwadar with the north.

He said that about 60 per cent construction work on Basima-Khuzdar road had been completed while construction of Hoshab Awaran road has also begun.

“Prime minister’s vision of uplifting remote areas especially South Balochistan is being realised,” he remarked.

The 146 kilometre Hoshab-Awaran project is an integral part of the CPEC Central Alignment that connects Gwader Port with the Sindh province.

The project is expected to be completed in three years at an estimated cost of Rs20 billion.

Similarly, the Basima-Khuzdar road (N-30) is 106 km long, having a cost of Rs11.749 billion. This project is expected to be completed by year-end.

With respect to the completed road projects under CPEC, the official told APP that both 449 KM Quetta to Hoshab road (N-85) and 235 KM long Surab-Quetta (N-25) road had been completed and were operational.

Similarly, the official added that the 193 KM Gwadar-Hoshab (M-8) road and 250 KM Ratodero–Khuzdar (M-8) roads were also operational.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2301194/new-cpec-road-network-to-improve-access-to-iran-asim-bajwa>

The Nation

Made-in-Pakistan showpieces fascinate Chinese visitors in Shanghai

BEIJING - The made-in-Pakistan showpieces featuring Pakistani textiles, costumes, carpets, jewelry, gemstones, handicrafts have fascinated the Chinese visitors at an exhibition held in Shanghai.

The exhibition titled “Threads of Pakistan - Pakistan National Costume Culture Exhibition” was kicked off to celebrate the 70th anniversary of establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China.

The exhibition - featuring Pakistani textiles, costumes, carpets, jewelry, gemstones, handicrafts - witnessed the participation of many Chinese visitors who had heaped praise on the gorgeous Pakistani showpieces.

“We had three types of main gemstones, which represent the highest quality of Pakistani gemstones,” noted a Pakistani exhibitor.

At the opening ceremony, commemorative coins made of pure gold were also released by co-organizer Atlantis Co Ltd.

As a Pakistani jeweller, it’s amazing to promote these tremendous and beautiful Pakistani products to a foreign country like China, said Aqeel Ahmed Chaudhry, founder of WINZA Jewelry and CEO of Atlantis Co Ltd. while participating in an exhibition held in Shanghai,

China lately to showcase the beauty of Made-in-Pakistan products and Pakistani culture, according to CEN.

“2021 marks the 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties which started on May 21, 1951. So on this special occasion, we designed memorial gold coins written 70th anniversary of partnership in Chinese, English and Urdu,” said Aqeel, adding that the two countries always move ahead together rain or shine.

Scheduled from May 18 to June 17, the exhibition is organised by Ita National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage - Lok Virsa, Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai, Shanghai Textile Museum, co-organised by Atlantis Co Ltd and Pak-Persian Carpets Shanghai Co Ltd.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-23/page-8/detail-3>

The News

President wants China, Pakistan to lead world towards trade, multilateralism

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi said as both China and Pakistan stood for peace, they had the great opportunity to lead the world towards multilateralism and ensure the establishment of morality-based institutions in the future.

The president, in his address as chief guest at the Virtual Reception on 70th Anniversary of China-Pakistan Diplomatic Relations, said the vested interests, instead of the morality, were dominating in international affairs at different forums in the world that was why the oppressed people of Kashmir and Palestine did not get any hearing.

"Even, the promises made to the Kashmiri and Palestinian people were not fulfilled just because of the vested interests", he added. He reaffirmed the commitment to build a closer Pakistan-China community of shared future in the new era where 1.3 billion people of China and 207 million Pakistanis stood together in friendship leading the world towards peace and prosperity. "It is important that this message goes out and this camaraderie spreads throughout the world," the president told the event which was also attended by Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza, federal ministers, politicians and Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Nong Rong.

The president said the goals of China and Pakistan was friendship but both the countries cemented their goals for humanity. He said at a time when environment and global warming were the issues, peace was also essential and both China and Pakistan also believed in that endeavor. "China and Pakistan have great opportunity to lead the world, in the matter of trade towards multilateralism, towards not creating or raising walls for each other's products as well as to establish institutions and ensure that the institutions in future are morality based which is the foundation of our relationship. The more we move forward in that direction, the more peace we will have," the president remarked.

He thanked President Xi Jinping for the congratulatory letter to him and congratulated China on successful landing on Mars which he said proved that the country was second to none in the field of science and technology.

Referring to China's journey towards a developed country by uplifting around 800 million people out of poverty, the president said Pakistan should also strive for and learn from it. He said during the seven decades, the bilateral friendship stood firm and even got stronger into strategic partnership and people to people contacts.

Calling both the countries "Iron brothers", the president said Pakistan and China believed in a future which bound the people together and lead them to prosperity and peace.

President Alvi said China was the largest trading and investment partner of Pakistan having collaboration in the fields of agriculture, trade, finance, education, science and technology was strengthening, besides the cooperation between the two people.

He said Pakistan fully supported President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative of which CPEC was important part. From the beginning, when Pakistan needed to improve its energy supplies, establish industry not only along the route but across the country, special economic zones, CPEC was going to be a harbinger.

He highly appreciated China for "exemplary handling" of COVID-19 pandemic and recalled his China visit in March last year. He also thanked China for sending medical team and now vaccine to Pakistan and added that the Chinese assistance and advance learning helped Pakistan a lot. The president said that Pakistan had done reasonably well to handle the pandemic comparing the regional countries but the country still needed to be careful during the third wave.

He said both the countries stood for humanity and Pakistan was learning from China as how it focused on health, education and investment to encourage people to rise on their own. He said both countries had a vision for peace and improvement in the health and education standards and ensure food security. The virtual reception was jointly organised by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese Embassy in Islamabad to mark the 70th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations established on May 21, 1951.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/838906-president-wants-china-pakistan-to-lead-world-towards-trade-multilateralism>

K-2 a step towards sustainable energy supply; more nuclear reactors needed: CISS

Islamabad: The Center for International Strategic Studies (CISS) Saturday hailed the inauguration of Karachi Nuclear Power Plant Unit 2 (K-2) as a major step towards achieving sustainable energy goals and enhancing energy security.

CISS, the think tank specializing in nuclear issues, underscored the need for constructing additional nuclear reactors to help meet its rising energy demands as they curb greenhouse gas emissions and climate change through low-carbon electricity generation.

Pakistan is one of the countries in the region that is most vulnerable to climate change. Climate change, it is feared, could heavily impact Pakistan's water supply and consequently the country's energy supply as 34 percent of power generation is based on hydropower.

Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi, the think tank recalled, in his message on the occasion of K-2 inauguration, had appreciated Pakistan's steady progress towards global climate change and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. He had also emphasized that nuclear option is a clean source of energy and the leading one in reducing climate change.

The Chairman of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) Muhammad Naeem, while echoing that sentiment at the CISS webinar titled 'Sustainable Development through Nuclear and Space Technologies in Pakistan', said that nuclear power is safe to operate and the inauguration K-2 is a milestone in the Pakistan's quest to increase the share of clean nuclear energy in national and global mix. He announced that another plant of 1100 MW output will become functional in the next 8-10 months. Both K-2 and K-3 power plants will provide 2200 MWs of uninterrupted and clean electricity to the national grid for the next 80 years.

Minister Mir Shabbir Ali Bijarani acknowledged the contribution of nuclear energy in the socio-economic development of Sindh and Karachi as a metropolitan city and economic hub. Bijrani said, KANUPP's inauguration was a milestone in the energy security of country.

The Chairman of SUPARCO Major General Amer Nadeem emphasized the positive and beneficial impact of space activities on the everyday life and wellbeing of people. To contribute to global sustainable development goals, SUPARCO is utilizing space technology and its applications with full commitment.

Wang Yong Fu, Head of China Zhongyuan Engineering Corporation (CZEC), assured China's technical support to Pakistan for projects related to nuclear energy and related peaceful applications sectors.

The Executive Director of CISS Ambassador Naqvi emphasized the increasing role of peaceful use of nuclear and space capabilities in pursuit of socio-economic development.

Dr. Ansar Parvez, former Chairman of PAEC, argued that the peaceful application of nuclear technology in Pakistan is helping to pursue UN SDGs. The benefits of nuclear technology expand to different fields including medicine, health, agriculture, industry, water resource management and electricity production.

Other speakers reiterated that to keep pace with technological advancements across the globe, effective utilization of nuclear and space technologies is crucial for national development.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/838795-k-2-a-step-towards-sustainable-energy-supply-more-nuclear-reactors-needed-ciss>

Express News

کراچی میں سی پیک اسپیشل اکنامک زون قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ

وزیراعظم نے کراچی میں سی پیک اسپیشل اکنامک زون قائم کرنے اور سی پیک منصوبوں سے وابستہ افراد کے لیے الگ ویزا کیٹیگری قائم کرنے کی ہدایت کر دی۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان کے زیر صدارت سی پیک منصوبوں پر پیش رفت کا جائزہ اجلاس منعقد ہوا جس میں سرمایہ کاروں کو درپیش مسائل اور ان کے فوری حل اور سی پیک منصوبے سے وابستہ افراد کے لیے علیحدہ کیٹیگری متعارف کرانے پر غور کیا گیا۔ وزیراعظم نے وزارت داخلہ کو اس حوالے سے کابینہ میں سمری پیش کرنے کی ہدایت کی ہے۔ دوران اجلاس سرمایہ کاروں کی سہولت کے لیے گرین چینل قائم کرنے اور چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو دی جانے والے مراعات کے بارے تفصیلی طور پر آگاہ کیا۔ وزیراعظم نے اس موقع پر کہا کہ سرمایہ کاری کی راہ میں حائل رکاوٹوں کو ترجیحی بنیادوں پر دور کیا جائے، سرمایہ کاروں کو تمام ممکنہ مراعات دی جائیں، غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ کے لیے ایک مفصل پلان مرتب کر کے پیش کیا جائے، سرمایہ کاروں کو تمام ممکنہ مراعات فراہم کی جائیں۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کی اسٹریٹیجک پارٹنرشپ کی دنیا میں مثال نہیں ملتی ان تعلقات کو مضبوط اقتصادی تعلقات میں بدلنے کے لیے ضروری ہے باہمی مفاد کے شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ دیا جائے، سی پیک پاکستان کے لیے اقتصادی ترقی کی نوید ہے، پورے خطے کی ترقی کا راستہ سی پیک سے ہو کر گزرتا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2181402/1/>

Jang News

سی پیک پاکستان کے لیے اقتصادی ترقی کی نوید ہے، وزیراعظم

وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ پورے خطے کی ترقی کا راستہ 'سی پیک' سے ہو کر گزرتا ہے۔ اسلام آباد میں وزیراعظم کی زیر صدارت اہم اجلاس ہوا، جس میں سی پیک منصوبوں پر پیشرفت اور سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ سے متعلق امور کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ اس دوران سی پیک کے تحت سرمایہ کاری اور چینی سرمایہ کاروں کے لیے سہولیات جیسے امور پر بھی گفتگو کی گئی۔ اعلامیے کے مطابق بعض معاملات میں سرمایہ کاروں کو درپیش مسائل اور ان کے فوری حل پر تفصیلی گفتگو ہوئی۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان نے اس موقع پر غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں بالخصوص چینی سرمایہ کاروں کے ویزہ اجراء میں رکاوٹیں دور کرنے کی ہدایت کی۔ اعلامیے کے مطابق اجلاس میں سی پیک سے وابستہ افراد کے لیے علیحدہ کیٹیگری متعارف کروانے پر بھی غور کیا گیا۔ وزیراعظم نے اس معاملے پر وزارت داخلہ کو کابینہ میں سمری پیش کرنے کی ہدایت بھی کی۔ اعلامیے کے مطابق اجلاس میں سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کی چینی سرمایہ کاروں کی دی گئی مراعات پر تفصیلی بریفنگ دی، اس دوران سرمایہ کاروں کی سہولت کے لیے گرین چینل قائم کرنے پر بھی غور کیا گیا۔

وزیر اعظم نے ہدایت کی کہ سرمایہ کاری کی راہ میں حائل رکاوٹوں کو ترجیحی بنیادوں پر دور کیا جائے۔

اعلامیے کے مطابق وزیر اعظم نے اسپیشل اکنامک زونز پر پیشرفت کو تسلی بخش قرار دیا جبکہ اجلاس میں کراچی میں سی پیک اسپیشل اکنامک زون کے قیام کا بھی فیصلہ کیا گیا۔

عمران خان نے اجلاس سے خطاب میں کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کی اسٹریٹیجک پارٹنرشپ کی دنیا میں مثال نہیں ملتی۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک پاکستان کے لیے اقتصادی ترقی کی نوید ہے، پورے خطے کی ترقی کا راستہ بھی سی پیک سے ہو کر گزرتا ہے۔

وزیر اعظم نے ہدایت کی کہ سرمایہ کاروں کو تمام ممکنہ مراعات فراہم کی جائیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/930893>

May 24, 2021

Business Recorder

PIA airlifts more 2m doses of Sinovac vaccine from China

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA)'s special flight PK6853 airlifted another batch of two millions doses of Sinovac vaccine from the Beijing Capital International Airport to Islamabad on Sunday.

Last Sunday, a special flight PK 6852 had also transported a consignment of one million doses of Sinovac vaccine procured from China to fight the ongoing wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in Pakistan, Qadir Bux Sangi, PIA Country Manager for China told APP.

The relevant Chinese authorities have pledged to continue uninterrupted supply of vaccine to help Pakistan defeat the deadly virus.

According to sources, Pakistan has so far received over 13 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines comprising of Sinopharm, Sinovac and CanSino procured from China including others through COVAX programme.

Currently, Pakistan is facing a third wave of COVID-19 pandemic while the relevant authorities continue to tightening the anti-pandemic measures and facilitating the vaccination drive. According to an official, the vaccination for the 30-39 age group started on Saturday and would continue for an indefinite period.

Pakistan has already been vaccinating people aged 40 and above across the country. According to the NCOC, the country has administered 4,956,853 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine till date, with 1,193,441 people fully inoculated.

It may be mentioned that Pakistan began a vaccination drive in March with over a million doses of Sinopharm vaccines donated by China.

Islamabad received first COVID-19 vaccine consignment after a military aircraft transported it from Beijing on February 1, this year.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/24/2-page/887117-news.html>

Power Infrastructure Development

KUNMING: China Southern Power Grid Yunnan International is willing to cooperate in power grid and power infrastructure development in Pakistan in wake of investment opportunities offered under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, said Chief Engineer, Zhang Yunhu.

There are good examples for the cooperation in power sector mostly in power plants under CPEC flagship project.

“For us, if we have opportunity to participate in the cooperation in power grid and power infrastructure development in Pakistan, we will be very pleased and we will do our best to cooperate if there is any opportunity in the future,” he said while talking to APP. He said, some other Chinese companies have done well for the power plant and power sources development and cooperation in foreign countries and his company is focusing on power grid development in South China and has also cooperation in neighbouring countries. Zhang Yunhu informed that his company is the subsidiary of China Southern Power Grid Co., Ltd. (CSG) and serves as its platform to carry out international power cooperation in South Asia and Southeast Asia.

It has established international power cooperation in grid interconnection, cross-border power trade, overseas investment, overseas project contracting, management and technical consulting and cultural and people to people exchanges with neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia for 10 years, he said.

He said, since the beginning of grid interconnection and international power trade in 2004, the electricity volume traded by CSG and its cross-border counterparts has exceeded 66TWh. In the power trade with neighbouring countries, the proportion of clean energy exceeds 90 percent, which promotes optimal allocation of clean energy across regions and injects green power into regional economic and social development.

About technological innovation and world leading technologies, he said, the company put into operation the world’s first UHVDC project, first multi-terminal VSC-HVDC project and first VSC-UHVDC asynchronous interconnection project of the highest voltage level.

The company has built an integrated and intelligent power grid operating system, an operation control compartment, a world-leading technology research and development lab for smart analysis, stability control and simulation test, an ultra-high voltage engineering lab and a DC transmission technology lab.

The chief engineer said the CSG has established the world’s first Digital Grid Research Institute, launched Cloud and the entrepreneurship and innovation platform, and robustly push forward digital transformation toward all-in-one services.

Besides the win-win international cooperation, CSG has carried out extensive cultural exchanges to promote people to people bond. As for technical support for Mekong countries, it has conducted technical training for local staff, co-held power technology seminars and offered scholarships for students to study in China.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, it launched a series of measures to ensure safe and reliable power supply and orderly work resumption, managing to maintain its major production and services during the pandemic.

To further fulfil its social responsibilities, CSG donated RMB 30 million to Hubei province, the epicentre and frontline.

The company also donated to the medical institutions in Wuhan 125,000 pieces of medical materials, which were purchased from domestic and overseas supplies with a total worth of RMB 6.73 million.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/24/6-page/887151-news.html>

Daily Times

Pak-China collaborations in science and technology sector during last decade termed exemplary

The close relations between Pakistan and China on the fronts of science and technology, higher education and Information Technology are fostering with each passing day and offering more opportunities for the people of both the countries to come closer and further strengthen this ever-green bond of friendship.

“The collaborations made between Pakistan and China in these sectors during the last decade were exemplary, however there is still a great potential to expand this cooperation especially in the science and technology sector”, Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, prominent scientist said.

Talking to APP in an interview, he said, “China is keen to transfer modern technologies related to Aerospace Engineering and Artificial Intelligence to Pakistan which could revolutionize the science and technology sector of the country, therefore, we need to maximize our cooperation with China”.

Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman said that the western countries were not very keen to transfer emerging technologies to Pakistan but China is very receptive to the needs of Pakistan and Chinese people want to work with Pakistan.

Mentioning the recent projects being implemented in Pakistan with the support of China, Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman said Pak Austrian University of Applied Science and Engineering was established in Haripur, Hazara with the partnership of five Chinese universities.

Another project, he highlighted, is the Pakistan China Center of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence being established in Karachi University with the support of China. Another Center for Hybrid Rice and Vegetable Seeds was established in Karachi University.

National Center for Virology has been established within the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) with the collaboration of Wuhan Institute of Virology, China, he said.

Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman who is also a Chairman of Prime Minister Task Force on Science and Technology and Vice Chairman of Knowledge Economy Taskforce is spearheading all these programmes and in recognition of his services received a highest award from China on January 10, 2020 from Chinese government.

Such collaborations have enabled several thousand students to have the opportunity to study in China as a result of scholarships and other initiatives. There were huge programmes and collaborations underway with China, he mentioned.

Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman said that a new university is going to be established with the support of China in Sialkot which was inaugurated by Prime Minister, Imran Khan few months ago.

This project is being implemented with the involvement of five to six Chinese universities.

Regarding the all-weather friendship of Pakistan and China, Dr. Atta ur Rahman said that at this time when Pakistan has marked the 70th anniversary of its diplomatic ties with China, we must acknowledge that China always stood by Pakistan in every challenging time whether it is Kashmir issue or any other crisis.

China has extended every possible support to Pakistan during the prevailing health crisis of COVID-19 which is acknowledged by all sections of the society, he said.

It is pertinent to mention here that Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman won the “Friendship Award of China” (2014) and was conferred the highest scientific award of China, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Award, by President Xi Jinping (2020).

He was bestowed with the International Scientific Corporation Award (2014) and the “Einstein Professorship” by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) (2013). He was also elected as Foreign Member of the Korean Academy of Science and Technology. Research Institutes have been established in his name in China, Malaysia and Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/760259/pak-china-collaborations-in-science-and-technology-sector-during-last-decade-termed-exemplary/>

Students overwhelmed on receiving the letter from President Xi

Fifty two Pakistani students studying at the University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB) last May 17 received a letter from Chinese President Xi Jinping.

One year later, to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan, a team of China Economic Net (CEN) visited USTB and recorded the expressions of these students on President Xi’s letter.

According to CEN, In April 2020, the students who were deeply touched by the brotherhood of Pak-China cooperation in fighting COVID-19, wrote a letter to President Xi. In the letter, they recalled their experiences and feelings of studying in China, meanwhile expressed their gratitude to the university for providing care and help for them after the COVID-19 outbreak.

On May 17th 2020, they received a reply. In the letter, President Xi extended a welcome to excellent youth from all countries in the world to study in China. He also encouraged the students to communicate more with their Chinese peers and join hands with youth from all countries to contribute to promoting people-to-people connectivity and building a community with a shared future for humanity.

The letter evoked a warm response among Pakistani students in China. Besides USTB, nearly 20 universities launched campaigns and forums, and nearly 100 Pakistani students from different universities have voiced their opinions.

In the interview with CEC, these students expressed fresh memories of President Xi's reply. The letter has sublimated their views on China and the relationship between the two countries, and continued to motivate them to study hard and prepare to contribute to CPEC.

The students said they would devote themselves to the construction of CPEC in the future. Ullah Midrar, a management science and engineering student, told reporters: "President Xi's words confirmed my confidence in the friendship between Pakistan and China.

Over the past year, I have often discussed CPEC with my teachers and classmates and combined the CPEC projects with my research. I also have a plan for my career after graduation — I will use my professional knowledge of project management in the cooperation projects under CPEC, so as to build a bridge connecting Pakistan and China within my capacity.

We Pakistani students studying in China will inject fresh blood into the Corridor. We can further open the economic door between our two countries and take our cooperation and connectivity to a new stage."

Zada Shah, a chemical and biological engineering student, agreed with Midrar: "President Xi extended a friendly hand to Pakistan and opened the door of communication. The Chinese government offered us scholarships and a lot of opportunities, meanwhile the Chinese people are warm and friendly to us. We are also working hard to learn and become talents who can better contribute to CPEC."

Apart from the encouragement of personal development, President Xi's reply also convinced the Pakistani student community to recognize Pak-China friendship better. Hussain Muhammad Irfan said the letter, which "sparkled with humanitarian warmth", was not only an encouragement to the 52 students, but also shown China's positive attitude to building a community with a shared future for mankind, the great importance to Pakistan and bilateral relations, and the humanistic care to the people of Pakistan under the epidemic. When asked which sentence in the letter impressed him the most, Irfan said, "Actually, every word of the

letter is engraved in my mind, but the words — ‘lives first’, have moved me the most. He said: ‘The Chinese government and people put people’s lives first and treat foreigners in the country the same as Chinese nationals, making no exception in offering them care.’ I can feel it very well. We have received great care and protection from the government, the university and the Chinese people.”

Students mentioned China aided Pakistan over the past year. Including the initial support of masks, disinfectant, protective clothing and other medical supplies, the medical expert team, and donating COVID-19 vaccine, China has been putting “life first”, and has taken bilateral friendship to a new high.

At the interview a year ago, Sattar Abdul told reporters that they had never imagined that president Xi would reply to the letter, but he did. It strengthened his determination to contribute to CPEC. Sattar plans to return to Pakistan after graduation, putting his knowledge to use.

Today, he is still working on his PhD and is ready to contribute to the corridor projects. In the interview, he said: “We sincerely congratulate China on the achievements it has made in the battle against the epidemic and poverty.

There is no doubt that, in our eyes, President Xi is a real hero who has won the hearts of the Pakistani people. As Pakistanis studying in China, we also congratulate the two countries on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/760247/students-overwhelmed-on-receiving-the-letter-from-president-xi/>

Pakistani universities join SCO Agricultural Universities Alliance

Three Pakistani universities, including PMAS-Arid Agriculture University and Bahauddin Zakariya University, joined the SCO Agricultural Universities Alliance (SCO-AUA) at the Inaugural Ceremony of SCO-AUA held in China’s northwestern city of Yangling.

According to Gwadar Pro, the alliance, first initiated by the Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University (NWAUFU) in China, is designed to unite SCO member countries around the cause of joint talent cultivation and technological cooperation.

They will also promote the research achievements to the industry by strengthening cooperation with the government and the industry.

“SCO member states enjoy broad prospects for cooperation. With similar climate, ecological environment and animal and plant adaptations, we share the common goals of ensuring food security and deepening cooperation in modern agriculture in arid and semi-arid areas.” said Mr Wu Pute, president of the Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University.

Vice-Chancellor Qamar uz Zaman of the PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, and Director Saeed Akhtar of the Institute of Food Science and Nutrition Faculty, Bahauddin Zakariya University, also delivered speeches on the potential cooperation among SCO member countries.

More than 60 representatives from 19 universities and organisations from 8 countries, including Pakistan, China, Russia and India, have participated in the event, jointly initiating the establishment of SCO-AUA.

Agricultural cooperation among SCO member states kicked off after the SCO Demonstration Base for Agricultural Technology Exchange and Training was inaugurated in Yangling Demonstration Area in October 2020.

Meanwhile, according to another Gwadar Pro's report, Pakistan Pavilion was launched at the Fourth 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Exposition & Cross-Straits Fair for Economy and Trade held in Fujian province, China.

Pakistan was invited to attend the Expo as guest of honor before the upcoming 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties.

About ten Pakistani enterprises participated in the Expo and they showcased their products, including rice, cotton yarn, textile, traditional handicrafts and marble.

Ahmed Farooq, Deputy Chief of the Pakistani Embassy in China, said that the Expo helped promote Pakistani products effectively and strengthen the communication and connection. "We will strengthen economic and trade exchanges and cooperation with China," he added.

Later, the Pakistan Trade and Investment Promotion Conference was held at the Expo by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou.

Addressing the conference, the Consul General Dr. Diyar Khan said, Pakistan will enhance cooperation with Fuzhou city and Fujian Province via this Expo in textile, Food processing, mechanical engineering, energy and petrochemicals.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/760244/pakistani-universities-join-sco-agricultural-universities-alliance/>

Pakistan becoming regional manufacturing hub under CPEC industrial cooperation

Pakistan-China industrial cooperation is destined to make Pakistan a manufacturing hub in the region while the establishment of industrial zones would create vast investment opportunities for local industrialists and absorb huge manpower.

The shifting of industries from China to Pakistan would result in export promotion, import substitution, transfer of technologies and employment generation, which are the primary targets of our government as well.

Both the countries have been working to build industry in the country as work on Special Economic Zone (SEZ)'s including Rashakai, Allama Iqbal Industrial City Faisalabad and Bostan Balochistan was under process and large number of foreign investors have been showing interest

in these SEZ's for investments and government provide facilities to foreign investors, said Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Asad Umer.

The Chairman China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Asim Saleem Bajwa said that in the second phase of CPEC industry, Agriculture and infrastructure was promoted and it also had a positive impact on poverty and GDP growth.

He said that due to the government policies, all facilities to the investors were being provided, adding that 'one region one route' would change a century's scenario in which CPEC is the main project.

Meanwhile, Chairman Board of Investment Atif . R. Bukhari said that in the second phase of CPEC, the private sector and industrialists would have to play a pivotal role and the government's role is to facilitate them by providing favorable conditions.

He said that the draft framework agreement of CPEC Industrial Cooperation was in line with the long term plan, this agreement will provide many opportunities for Pakistan to develop industries.

Bukhari said that CPEC's four economic zones Rashkai, Allama Iqbal, Dhabeji and Bostan have entered the next phase of development.

Adviser to Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood said the Special Economic Zone (SEZ)'s was a milestone for the economic and industrial development in the country.

The SEZ's would pave the way for foreign investments, setting a milestone in industrial modernization and diversification, advisers said.

He said the government was prioritizing development of special economic zones for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and transfer of technology into the country.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said that this was the 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations and on this occasion, China would accelerate the pace of work on CPEC.

He said that both countries are working on the 10th joint action committee meeting of CPEC. The next phase, both the countries would focus on measures for development of Gwadar Port, Industrial Parks, Agriculture, Science and Technology, etc, he added.

He said that China will assist Pakistan in industrialization, urbanization, digitization and modernization of the agriculture sector.

He said that the long-term plan of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project states that China could supply cheap raw materials to most of Pakistan's markets for the development of Pakistan's textile industry, which will also help in harnessing additional manpower in Kashghar.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/760431/pakistan-becoming-regional-manufacturing-hub-under-cpec-industrial-cooperation/>

Pakistan Observer

Special economic zone in Karachi

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday expressed his satisfaction over the progress on special economic zones and approved the setting up of SEZ in Karachi.

He was chairing a meeting to review the progress of CPEC projects and the promotion of investment.

<https://pakobserver.net/special-economic-zone-in-karachi/>

The Nation

KP govt to hold online speech contests on ‘Pak-China Friendships’

ISLAMABAD - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has announced to hold online speech contests titled ‘Pak-China Friendship.’ The event would be organised by Performance Management and Reforms Unit and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, KP.

According to the announcement issued on social media pages of all Districts Administrations of KP, youngsters up to the age of 18 years are eligible to participate in the competition. They will upload online speeches and articles on “Pak-China Friendship”. The videos must be between 90 seconds. The first, second and third will be given cash prizes. Only citizens of KP are eligible to participate in the competition.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-24/page-4/detail-2>

Chinese company keen to cooperate in power infrastructure development under CPEC

KUNMING - China Southern Power Grid Yunnan International is willing to cooperate in power grid and power infrastructure development in Pakistan in wake of investment opportunities offered under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, said Chief Engineer, Zhang Yunhu.

There are good examples for the cooperation in power sector mostly in power plants under CPEC flagship project.

“For us, if we have opportunity to participate in the cooperation in power grid and power infrastructure development in Pakistan, we will be very pleased and we will do our best to cooperate if there is any opportunity in the future,” he said while talking to APP.

He said, some other Chinese companies have done well for the power plant and power sources development and cooperation in foreign countries and his company is focusing on power grid development in South China and has also cooperation in neighbouring countries.

Zhang Yunhu informed that his company is the subsidiary of China Southern Power Grid Co., Ltd. (CSG) and serves as its platform to carry out international power cooperation in South Asia and Southeast Asia.

It has established international power cooperation in grid interconnection, cross-border power trade, overseas investment, overseas project contracting, management and technical consulting and cultural and people to people exchanges with neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia for 10 years, he said.

He said, since the beginning of grid interconnection and international power trade in 2004, the electricity volume traded by CSG and its cross-border counterparts has exceeded 66TWh. In the power trade with neighbouring countries, the proportion of clean energy exceeds 90 per cent, which promotes optimal allocation of clean energy across regions and injects green power into regional economic and social development. About technological innovation and world leading technologies, he said, the company put into operation the world's first UHVDC project, first multi-terminal VSC-HVDC project and first VSC-UHVDC asynchronous interconnection project of the highest voltage level.

The company has built an integrated and intelligent power grid operating system, an operation control compartment, a world-leading technology research and development lab for smart analysis, stability control and simulation test, an ultra-high voltage engineering lab and a DC transmission technology lab.

The chief engineer said the CSG has established the world's first Digital Grid Research Institute, launched Cloud and the entrepreneurship and innovation platform, and robustly pushes forward digital transformation toward all-in-one services.

Besides the win-win international cooperation, CSG has carried out extensive cultural exchanges to promote people to people bond. As for technical support for Mekong countries, it has conducted technical training for local staff, co-held power technology seminars and offered scholarships for students to study in China.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, it launched a series of measures to ensure safe and reliable power supply and orderly work resumption, managing to maintain its major production and services during the pandemic.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-24/page-9/detail-4>

The News

‘Benefits of Chinese cooperation to be extended to other Muslim countries’

Islamabad: Coordinator General, COMSTECH, Dr. Iqbal Muhammad Choudhary vowed to extend the benefits of Chinese cooperation in various sectors in Pakistan to the other Muslim countries through the platform of COMSTECH.

“China has been cooperating with Pakistan in different fields of life whether it is virology or vaccine development or biomedical devices. There were so many fields in which COMSTECH can benefit from Chinese expertise and help Muslim countries to develop their capacity in these futuristic endeavours. From the platform of COMSTECH, we would like these benefits of Chinese cooperation spread to the other Muslim countries,” he said in an interview with this agency.

He said the 70th Anniversary of Pak-China cooperation and diplomatic ties is a historical moment in the history of Pakistan and China as they have been extremely close and worked together to the benefit of people of both the countries for since long.

Dr. Choudhary said China has been a great friend of Pakistan and right from the beginning both countries have cooperated in every front of development from economic to trade, from technology to education and tourism.

‘Every kind of aspect of development has been covered under Pak-China cooperation’, he said.

He mentioned that in the field of education, International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi which is also a UNESCO Centre has a history of working together with the Chinese institutions since 1970s.

Initially, our collaboration was with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai Institute of America and we have developed cooperation with many institutions including the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing, Xingjian and Wuhan as a result of which we have been able to establish Sino-Pakistan Centres in Pakistan. Therefore; this cooperation has been extremely productive both in terms of capacity building and also working on projects of mutual interest, he said.

Dr. Choudhary mentioned ‘We have worked in the field of virology, traditional Chinese medicines, medicinal plants and hybrid rice.

One example of very successful cooperation in the field of traditional Chinese medicine is when one of our institutes in Pakistan was able to conduct many clinical trials on traditional Chinese medicines especially in the context of COVID-19’.

“We have also conducted vaccine clinical trials for Sinopharm and are in process to establish contacts with industries in China with more emphasis on high technology and on technologies which can benefit and value add our natural resources,” he said.

“We greatly value the Chinese cooperation in every sector which has developed a lot of professional and personal contacts. We consider China as one of the greatest friends of Pakistan and feel that Pak-China cooperation will continue in the future and benefit not only the people of two countries but also to the people of the world at large,” he observed.

He said that cooperation with China has also been very productive when it comes to COMSTECH which is a standing committee for Science and Technology of the Ministers of 57

Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) member states and we have a large portfolio of various projects.

“We are in a process of establishing contacts with the Chinese institutions as China offers both bilateral and multilateral cooperation,” he said.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/839090-benefits-of-chinese-cooperation-to-be-extended-to-other-muslim-countries>

May 25, 2021

Business Recorder

Chinese envoy meets PM

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China in Pakistan Nong Rong called on Prime Minister Imran Khan, Monday, said a press release issued on Monday.

The subjects covered during the meeting included the Pakistan-China bilateral relations, including the CPEC; 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties; vaccine cooperation; and high-level bilateral exchanges.

The PM deeply appreciated Chinese leadership and conveyed his warm greetings for President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. Emphasising the time-tested “All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership”, the PM reaffirmed Pakistan’s deep commitment to further enhance and broaden Pakistan-China ties.

The PM recalled his earlier telephone conversation with Premier Li Keqiang, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties, which is the reflection of excellent cooperation between Pakistan and China. The PM reaffirmed the highest priority accorded by the government to the CPEC and the firm commitment to expeditiously complete CPEC projects, which will open up tremendous opportunities for increased economic growth and development in the region and beyond.

The Chinese ambassador extended President Xi Jinping’s invitation to the prime minister to participate in the “CPC and World Political Parties Summit”, to be held in July 2021.

The prime minister graciously accepted the invitation to attend the virtual event.

Ambassador Nong Rong reassured that China will continue to firmly support Pakistan in its fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and accords high priority to help address Pakistan’s requirements. It was agreed to continue with the momentum of high-level bilateral exchanges to further solidify strategic cooperative gains between the two countries.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/25/1-page/887212-news.html>

Chinese envoy meets Azhar

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China Nong Rong called on Federal Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar on Monday. Matters relating to cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy were discussed during the meeting.

Hammad Azhar reiterated Government of Pakistan firm commitment to further strengthen the existing close bilateral relations between the two countries. He expressed satisfaction over the cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector.

Ambassador Nong Rong congratulated Hammad Azhar on taking charge of Ministry of Energy. He said that China look forward to further enhance existing cooperation with Pakistan in the Energy Sector.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/25/18-page/887353-news.html>

Daily Times

Omar for timely completion of Gwadar expressway, Indus highway

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Omar Ayub Khan has directed the authorities concerned to timely complete the ongoing Gwadar Expressway and Indus Highway projects.

The minister issued these directions while chairing a meeting of the National Coordination Committee on Foreign-Funded Projects on Monday.

The NCC reviewed the progress of 15 roads and transport projects and five ongoing projects of finance and revenue. The five projects of the finance and revenue sector would be completed at a cost of Rs1.3 billion in partnership with World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), the meeting was told.

The minister directed all the stakeholders to resolve bottlenecks and expedite implementation.

The meeting was attended by Parliamentary Secretary Muhammad Yaqoob Sheikh, secretary EAD and representatives of relevant stakeholders including officials of communications, NHA, finance division, FBR, SBP, NAPHDA and provincial governments.

Gwadar East Bay Expressway is a municipal expressway currently under construction in Gwadar. The six-lane expressway was initially planned to be complete by 2018 but has been delayed to Oct 2020. It will connect Gwadar Port to the Makran Coastal Highway.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/760870/omar-for-timely-completion-of-gwadar-expressway-indus-highway/>

Dawn News

Sino-Pak friendship marked in Battagram

BATTAGRAM: The Battagram tehsil municipal administration has installed panaflexes and banners at prominent places, highlighting the 70-year-long diplomatic relations and friendship between Pakistan and China.

On the directives of the secretary local council board, the TMA staff has installed banners and panaflexes at prominent places along the CPEC route from Thakot to Kakti tunnel area, inscribed with different friendship messages and highlighting the two countries' services for each other.

A TMA official told Dawn that China was a time-tested friend of Pakistan as it always stood by it at every critical time.

He added that all mega projects, including the Karakoram Highway and now the CPEC project, had gone a long way in development of the country thanks to the Chinese help.

He said a Chinese couple had got married in the Kuzabanda camp here according to the Pakistani tradition to show solidarity, love and respect for the local culture.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1625561/sino-pak-friendship-marked-in-battagram>

Pakistan Observer

Focus back on CPEC

DESCRIBING the strategic partnership between Pakistan and China as 'exemplary' for the world, Prime Minister Imran Khan, on Sunday, emphasized that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was not only a harbinger of economic growth for Pakistan but also a path to development for the entire region. Chairing a meeting to review the progress of projects under the CPEC, he said in order to transform these relations into strong economic ties, it is necessary to promote investment in areas of mutual interest and provide all possible incentives to investors. The Prime Minister has all along been emphasizing the need for industrialization and wealth creation as part of his approach to put the country on the path of fast-paced development. However, these objectives cannot be achieved without improvement in the infrastructure, provision of necessary incentives to investors and ensuring ease of doing business. The projects already included in the framework of the CPEC or planned to be included are aimed at creating world class infrastructure that would brighten the prospects of investment in the country. Apart from this, a number of special economic zones have also been planned to be set up in different parts of the country where Chinese have committed to invest. Similarly, modernization of Gwadar port and creation of necessary infrastructure and a network of rail and road network to link it with the rest of the country and the region would also help realize the cherished objective of making Pakistan a hub of regional trade and investment. Chinese are also extending

cooperation for modernizing of the railway network and agriculture that would go a long way in stimulating socio-economic growth. In this backdrop, there is every reason for Pakistan to remove hurdles in the way of smooth implementation of different projects under the umbrella of CPEC. The Prime Minister deserves credit for personally chairing meetings on a regular basis to review progress of various projects under CPEC and it was because of his personal interventions that provinces are now showing greater interest in facilitating setting up of special economic zones. The authorities concerned should also go deeper into causes that have caused delay in completion of some of the significant CPEC projects.

<https://pakobserver.net/focus-back-on-cpec/>

Chinese father, daughter honoured for promoting Sino-Pak friendship

A Chinese father and his daughter, who are famous in China and have contributed to Pak-China friendship for 65 years, were respectively awarded the Hilal-I-Pakistan and Sitara-I-Pakistan across 33 years, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN). To mark the 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties, CEN had an interview with the daughter, Geng Ying. She recalled how she and her father, Geng Biao, has fought for Pak-Chin friendship. Geng Biao (1909-2000), the former vice-premier of China during 1978-1983, is rarely mentioned as another position — China’s former ambassador to Pakistan. However, during his lifetime, he opened the epoch and extended the roots for the “Iron brotherhood” between Pakistan and China. His eldest daughter, Geng Ying, also follows her father’s footsteps and continues to work for their lofty aspiration. She said, “I hope I can step on all the places where my father works and do more for the people of Pakistan in my lifetime.” Because there was no professional diplomatic team in the early days of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, Geng Biao was transformed from a general into an ambassador. —INP

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-father-daughter-honoured-for-promoting-sino-pak-friendship/>

The Nation

China to help address Pakistan’s requirements

LAHORE - Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday reaffirmed the highest priority accorded by his government to CPEC and the firm commitment to expeditiously complete CPEC projects.

He was talking to the Ambassador of China in Pakistan Nong Rong, who called on him in Islamabad here on Monday. They discussed bilateral relations, including CPEC, 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties, vaccine cooperation, and high-level bilateral exchanges.

The Prime Minister deeply appreciated Chinese leadership and conveyed his warm greetings for President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. Emphasizing the time-tested “All-Weather Strategic Co-operative Partnership”, the Prime Minister reaffirmed Pakistan’s deep commitment to further enhance and broaden Pakistan-China ties.

The Prime Minister recalled his earlier telephone conversation with Premier Li Keqiang, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties, which is the reflection of excellent cooperation between Pakistan and China.

The Chinese Ambassador extended President Xi Jinping's invitation to the Prime Minister to participate in the 'Communist Party of China and World Political Parties Summit', to be held in July this year. The Prime Minister graciously accepted the invitation to attend the virtual event.

Ambassador Nong Rong reassured that China will continue to firmly support Pakistan in its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and accords high priority to help address Pakistan's requirements. It was agreed to continue with the momentum of high-level bilateral exchanges to further solidify strategic cooperative gains between the two countries.

CII delegation calls on Imran Khan

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan stressed the need of following guiding principles of Islam to establish justice and get rid of corruption. He was talking to the Chairman Council of Islamic Ideology Dr Qibla Ayaz and Council members who called on him in Islamabad on Monday.

The Prime Minister said the journey to the system of the state of Medina is a constant struggle in which the role of all sections of society, including religious leaders, is important. Prime Minister Imran Khan said core aim of his political struggle is to serve the poor by applying the principles of the state of Medina.

The Prime Minister said after observing the West very closely, he has come to the conclusion that only by following the guiding principles of Islam and the Sunnah of the Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihe Wa Sallam Khatim-un-Nabiyeen Pakistan can become a prosperous and developed country.

The Chairman and members of Council of Islamic Ideology paid rich tributes to Prime Minister Imran Khan for his defense of the Holy Prophet, his statement on Islamophobia, and his fight for the rights of Kashmir and the Palestinians.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-25/page-1/detail-2>

The News

PM reaffirms govt highest priority to CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday reaffirmed the highest priority accorded by the government to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the firm commitment to expeditiously complete CPEC projects, which will open up tremendous opportunities for increased economic growth and development in the region and beyond.

In this connection, Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong called on Imran Khan. The subjects covered during the meeting included Pakistan-China bilateral relations, including CPEC; 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties; vaccine cooperation; and high-level bilateral exchanges.

The prime minister appreciated Chinese leadership and conveyed his warm greetings for President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. Emphasising the time-tested all-weather strategic co-operative partnership, the prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's deep commitment to further enhance and broaden Pakistan-China ties. The prime minister recalled his earlier telephone conversation with Premier Li Keqiang on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties, which is the reflection of excellent cooperation between Pakistan and China.

The Chinese ambassador extended President Xi Jinping's invitation to the Imran Khan to participate in the 'CPC and World Political Parties Summit', to be held in July 2021. The prime minister accepted the invitation to attend the virtual event.

Ambassador Nong Rong reassured that China will continue to firmly support Pakistan in its fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and accords high priority to help address Pakistan's requirements. It was agreed to continue with the momentum of high-level bilateral exchanges to further solidify strategic cooperative gains between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday said that the role of the Council Islamic Ideology (CII) was important in establishing Pakistan on the lines of the state of Madina. "The two golden principles of the state of Madina, which include justice and public welfare, can guarantee our progress," the prime minister observed during a meeting with Chairman of the Council Dr Qibla Ayaz and members who met him here.

Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Noorul Haq Qadri, Minister of State Farrukh Habib, Special Assistant Dr Shahbaz Gill and Special Representative Maulana Tahir Ashrafi were present in the meeting. "Unfortunately, no leader has ever thought of making Pakistan a true Islamic welfare state. I started politics only to serve the poor by applying the principles of the state of Madina. I have looked closely at the West and have come to the conclusion that only by following the guiding principles of Islam and the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), can Pakistan become a prosperous and developed country," he noted. He emphasised, "The Western values are different from ours and our young generation needs guidance in this regard."

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/839779-pm-reaffirms-govt-highest-priority-to-cpec>

'CPEC is Chinese vote of confidence on Pakistan'

Islamabad: Initiation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at an economically challenging time for Pakistan is a Chinese vote of confidence to Pakistan, said Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, chairperson, Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Senator Syed was speaking at a webinar commemorating 70 years of Pak-China friendship organised here by Institute of Regional Studies (IRS). The senator opined that CPEC had already proven to be a success story. He said that Pak-China relations were built on a strong foundation of trust and complementarity of interests.

Commenting on the Sino-US relations, he said that US policy towards China had become more strident despite the change of government in Washington. He specifically referred to the

proposed Strategic Competition Bill, which, if passed by the US Congress, would appropriate \$300 million annually to counter Chinese global influence. He termed it as “a recipe for a new cold war.”

Masood Khalid, Pakistan’s longest-serving former ambassador to China, gave a comprehensive account of the consistent upward trajectory of the relationship between Pakistan and China. He maintained that the 1960s and 1970s were crucial for cementing the existing level of trust between the two countries.

Mr Khalid argued that Pak-China relationship had acquired even more importance because of the evolving global strategic competition. “The US is trying to prevent its own decline rather than preventing the rise of China because it has already happened,” he added. He further stated that Chinese influence in the region would grow notwithstanding the attempts of the India-US combine to subvert it. He appreciated Beijing for its all-out support to Pakistan in various sectors of its economy. Chinese footprint is there in all the different sectors of Pakistan’s economic development, he said.

Hassan Daud Butt, the CEO of the KP Board of Investment and Trade, stated that Asia had already become the epicentre of global transformation and China was proving to be its leader. He shared that the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative had 56 economic zones in 20 countries, 9 of which were in Pakistan.

Naghmana Hashmi, Pakistan’s former Ambassador to China, shed light on the long history of relations between the two countries since the establishment of the People’s Republic of China.

She shared that Pakistan was not only the first Muslim country to recognise the PRC but also the first non-communist country that Beijing allowed its national carrier, Pakistan International Airline, to establish an air link with the PRC. She termed the Pak-China relationship as a model for inter-state relations. Ms Hashmi underscored the high level of cooperation between Pakistan and China during the Covid-19 pandemic. Pakistan did not lose any soul to Covid in China, she remarked.

Columnist Hassaan Khawar, who was moderating the discussion, said that seven decades of friendship between the two countries had stood the test of time. Earlier, Nadeem Riyaz, President IRS, presented address of welcome.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/839584-cpec-is-chinese-vote-of-confidence-on-pakistan>

Express News

پاک چین تعاون کے فروغ میں 14 واں پنج سالہ منصوبہ، غیر معمولی ہے، چینی سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ

اکستان میں چینی سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے حال ہی میں چائنا میڈیا گروپ کو انٹرویو دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کو 14 ویں پنج سالہ منصوبے سے فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے اپنی اپنی خوبیوں کو بروئے کار لاتے ہوئے مشترکہ مفادات پر مبنی تعاون کو فروغ دینا چاہیے اور مل کر علاقائی انٹر کنیکشن اور امن و ترقی کو فروغ دینا چاہیے۔

نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان اپنی اپنی خوبیاں رکھتے ہیں اور دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان بنیادی تنصیبات، تجارت، صنعت اور زراعت سمیت دیگر شعبوں میں قریبی تعاون برقرار ہے۔

وہیں پانچ سالہ منصوبے پر عمل کے دوران دونوں ممالک کو نئے ترقیاتی ڈھانچے کی تشکیل کرنی چاہیے جس سے نہ صرف چین کی اقتصادی ترقی کو فروغ ملے گا بلکہ پاکستان کو 14 مزید گنجائش، مزید کھلا تجارتی ماحول اور مزید مواقع میسر آئیں گے۔

گزشتہ چھ سال سے چین مسلسل پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا تجارتی شراکت دار رہا ہے اور سات سال سے پاکستان میں سب سے زیادہ سرمایہ کاری کر رہا ہے۔ رواں سال چین پاکستان کے سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کی 70 ویں سالگرہ منائی جا رہی ہے۔ چینی سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں چینی سفارتخانہ اس موقع سے فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے پاک چین تعاون کو مزید فروغ دینے کی کوشش کرے گا۔

انہوں نے امید ظاہر کی کہ چین اور پاکستان میں انسداد و باکے حوالے سے تعاون، اس نوع کے عالمی تعاون کے لیے قابل تقلید مثال بنے گا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک نے جنوبی ایشیا، وسطی ایشیا اور مغربی ایشیا میں انٹر کنیکشن کو مضبوط بنایا ہے اور مشترکہ ترقی کو فروغ دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے تعاون میں تیسرے فریق کی شرکت کا خیر مقدم کیا جاتا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2181953/1/>

Jang News

سی پیک کے تحت 13 بلین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری آچکی، عاصم سلیم باجوہ

چیمبرمین چائنا پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور (سی پیک) اتھارٹی عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک کے تحت ملک میں 13 بلین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری آچکی ہے۔

عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے لاہور کے ملتان روڈ پر چینی ٹیکسٹائل کمپنی کا دورہ کیا، انہیں کمپنی کے مختلف شعبہ جات کا دورہ کروایا گیا۔

اس موقع پر چیونیز سے گفتگو عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے تحت پاکستان آنے والے سرمایہ کاروں کے لیے ویزے کی مدت بڑھائی جا رہی ہے، سی پیک کے ثمرات نظر آنا شروع ہو گئے ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/931962>

May 26, 2021

Business Recorder

‘Special’ CPEC business visa approved

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhary said Tuesday that the federal cabinet has granted approval of special procedure of visa to facilitate the Chinese working on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and those who want to bring investment into Pakistan.

Addressing a press briefing along with Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar after a cabinet meeting, Fawad Chaudhary said that two years’ work visa would be granted to Chinese

working on the CPEC projects within 48 hours, while their security clearance would be done in 30 days.

APP adds: Fawad said the Federal Cabinet approved a special CPEC Business visa, as a separate category in work business visa, to facilitate the Chinese investment in the country. The Chinese investors would get the visas within 48 hours and get the security clearance within 30 days.

“The arrival of Chinese national businessmen in Pakistan will be easier, who will get two years visa under the new regime,” he added.

The minister said like the “Green Channel”, a separate immigration counter would be established at the airports for the Chinese nationals.

Separate desks in the Ministry of Interior and Pakistan's mission in China would be set up to look into the applications for visas under CPEC, he added.

The cabinet, he said, had also approved extension of six months in the Afghan Transit Trade Agreement with the landlocked Afghanistan.

The Federal Cabinet also decided to hold local government elections in cantonment areas across the country.

The Ministry of Defence was directed to finalize the arrangements in that regard, so a date for the Cantonment Board elections could be announced, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said.

The minister said for the first time in the country's history, it was a paperless cabinet meeting. The cabinet met for record times during the three years of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government.

He said since 2008, the cabinet had met for 226 times. Some 67 meetings were held during the entire tenure of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) government, while the cabinet met for only 23 times from May 5, 2013 to June 30, 2016 during the regime of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), “which ironically claimed of honouring the sanctity of vote [Vote Ko Izzat Do]”.

Similarly, he said, only six meetings of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) were held on privatization during the PPP's tenure, 21 during the PML-N regime, and 16 in less than three years of PTI government.

“Not even a single meeting of cabinet committees on institutional reforms, state-owned enterprises, China Pakistan Economic Corridor and national economic reforms was held during the PPP and PML-N governments,” he claimed.

Fawad said one could witness the difference that out of total 720 meetings of cabinet committees since 2008, 382 were held during the government of PTI, 193 during the PML-N's and 145 during PPP's.

The minister said Advisor to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Dr Babar Awan briefed the cabinet about electoral reforms and the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) was important component of the PTI's agenda.

The cabinet has expressed its reservation over a tweet posted and subsequently deleted from the website of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The chief election commissioner (CEC) should clarify as to why the ECP's page was misused and take action against those responsible for it.

“We are waiting for action by the CEC against the person involved in the issue” he added.

The minister said the journalists associations, including Parliamentary Journalists Association, different press clubs and bar associations had expressed their willingness to hold their respective elections by using the EVMs. The government would provide them all assistance on their request, he added.

He said ensuring vote right to the overseas Pakistanis was an important agenda of the PTI government. The ECP should take measures for granting the right of franchise to 8.5 million NICOP (National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistanis) holders.

Fawad said Prime Minister Imran Khan had appreciated the performance of his economic team. The PTI government inherited a “ruined” economy, but due to its prudent policies the country was moving towards economic stability.

He said the prime minister also appreciated the Foreign Office and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi for playing a leading role on Palestine, and on the recent development on the Kashmir issue.

The minister said the cabinet also welcomed reports regarding improvement in ties between Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Pakistan believes that improved relations among Muslim countries would be beneficial for the entire Ummah, he added.

He said the cabinet also approved the formation of a committee by the Interior Ministry as per the procedure laid down in the Anti-Terrorist Act, to review the application of Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan seeking removal of ban. The committee would present its recommendations to the cabinet.

The three-member review committee comprising additional secretary interior and two other secretaries would review the TLP's application, he told a questioner.

Fawad said the cabinet accorded its consent to the constitution of Pakistan Television's Board of Directors with Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid as its chairman. Director General Radio Pakistan and PIO (Principal Information Officer) had also been included among its members.

The cabinet also okayed sending of Covid-19-related medicines to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It also approved appointment of Rehan Hamid as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hyderabad Electricity Supply Company (HESCO), and assigned the responsibility of National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC) Managing Director to Muhammad Ayub as an interim arrangement till taking over of charge of office by Aizaz Ahmed in August.

To a question, Fawad said the name of Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif had been placed on the Exit Control List (ECL) by the cabinet.

About the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), the minister said its leaders had no ideology or common agenda.—ZAHEER ABBASI & NUZHAT NAZAR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/26/1-page/887372-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan, China agree to enhance exchanges between intellectuals, writers

Pakistan and China on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance bilateral exchanges and cooperation between intellectuals and writers of the two countries.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Yousuf Khushk, Chairman of Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) and Ms. Tie Ning, President of China Writers Association at

Pakistan-China Literary Forum held here at National Museum of Modern Chinese Literature.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahmed Farooq, Deputy Chief of Mission, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, said seven decades ago, the visionary leadership of Pakistan and China laid the foundation of great friendship between the two countries on the simple yet profound principles of mutual respect and mutual benefit.

“Seven decades later, this friendship has grown from strength to strength to become the all weather iron brotherhood and a model of relationship for the rest of the world. It was an opportune moment for both the countries to celebrate joint achievements over the last seven decades and also to reaffirm our resolve and explore new avenues to expand our bilateral cooperation”, he added.

Ahmed Farooq said signing of the MoU between the literary organizations would provide a solid institutional basis of cooperation between the intellectuals of the two countries and hoped that it could go a long way in adding another glorious chapter in Pakistan, China.

He expressed the confidence that it would be a strong foundation for further promoting people to people contact between the two nations. He informed that the two governments were intensifying their efforts to expand bilateral cultural exchanges and bring people of the two countries together.

The deputy chief of mission said the two countries were working to translate and publish literary works in each other’s languages, adding, “We need to maintain this healthy momentum and encourage more exchanges between our students, artists, intellectuals, and academicians.”?

In her opening remarks, Ms. Tie Ning, President of China Writers Association welcomed the distinguished audience from both Pakistan and China who participated in the forum online and offline respectively. The theme of the forum was “Literature Brings Peoples Together”. She said the forum was held to commemorate 70 years of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

Renowned literary figures, Mustansar Hussain Tarar, D. Mr. Jami Chandio, Dr. M. S. Abaseen Yousafzai, Munir Ahmed Badini, and Maqsood Jaffri participated online and emphasized exchanges between the scholars and writers of the two countries.

Ms. Zhou Xuanpu, novelist, Yuan Kang, novelist, Wu Xin, novelist, Huo Junming, poet and critic and Ms. Zhou Yuan, Assistant professor of Urdu Department, Beijing Foreign Studies University attended the forum from Chinese side.

Zhang Heqing, Cultural Consular, Embassy of China to Pakistan also delivered a speech and stressed a need to strengthen cultural exchanges.

A book comprising Urdu translation of well-known Chinese poet Qu Yuan’s Masterpiece ‘Li Sao’ long lyric poem, published by PAL was also launched.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/761491/pakistan-china-agree-to-enhance-exchanges-between-intellectuals-writers/>

Chinese wetlands and Pakistan’s climate crisis

Yasir Habib Khan

Notwithstanding the fact that China and Pakistan are deepening and diversifying numerous forms of collaborations to take their bilateral relationships to the next level — one crucial area remains untapped. China’s “network of wetlands” has been dubbed one of ultimate cures to climatic imbalances and environmental hazardousness. All of which have been taking a heavy toll on Pakistan in the form of rampant flash floods, ecosystem degradation, aquifer pollution, biodiversity damages, water depletion as well as flora and fauna decline.

In the absence of a proper system of wetlands, known as the earth’s kidneys — since it naturally detoxifies underground water by making it fit for human consumption and watering of crops — Pakistan suffers water scarcity and contamination. Wetlands are also known to act as coolants to moderate temperatures. Owing to their dearth and dysfunction, “Pakistan observes rises in average temperatures significantly above the global average with a potential rise of 1.3°C-4.9°C by the 2090s over the 1986-2005 baseline.” As notes a recent study conducted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank (WB). The report also finds that Pakistan is facing losses of up to \$3.8 billion annually, due to climate change. Heavy floods are other natural disasters impact the agriculture sector, with damages to crops, livestock, fisheries and poultry.

Since Pakistan is not home to an effective wetland system — it cannot effectively store tonnes of rainwater and this is then flushed out into the ocean. Thus, land that is already suffering water

stress fails to get recharged and this leads to a gradual dip in the underground water table. Since wetlands are the best modus operandi to ecological conservations, Pakistan is fast losing its treasure trove of biodiversity, including species of birds, animal and others.

It is fortunate that Pakistan has China as an all-weather friend, which ranks first in Asia and fourth in the world in terms of wetland area, with a total of more than 800 million mu (53.3 million hectares). Such ecological conservations that gave a new lease of life to China's ecosystem have not come about with a mere click of the fingers. The vision, political will and execution plan that China put into play with arduousness may become stepping stones for Pakistan.

In the absence of a proper system of wetlands, known as the earth's kidneys — since it naturally detoxifies underground water by making it fit for human consumption and watering of crops — Pakistan suffers water scarcity and contamination

As every cloud has a silver-lining, Pakistan has a glimmer of hope in coming up with solutions to fix the climatic rot. Last year, China hosted an international conference on World Environment Day. On June 04, 2021, with the help of China, Pakistan is all set to host the World Environment Conference for the first time; and Prime Minister Imran Khan will give an address. It is expected that among other solutions to be showcased will be the water recharge initiative; which is directly linked to establishing a network of wetlands like China.

A tangible advancement in laying down wetland systems has already been made. On December 11, 2020, the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), Federal Flood Commission (FFC) under the Ministry of Water Resources, and WWF-Pakistan jointly launched a programme titled: 'Recharge Pakistan: Building Pakistan's Resilience to Climate Change through Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Integrated Flood Risk Management' with a 30-year vision.

It aims to increase water storage and recharging through wetlands, floodplains and hill-torrents management; build resilience of vulnerable communities through climate-adapted, community-based natural resource management, livelihoods and forge a paradigm shift in Pakistan's climate change adaptation and flood risk management approaches. More than 10 million people, the equivalent to around five percent of Pakistan's population, will directly benefit from this programme, while 20 million people across 50 vulnerable districts in the country will be indirect beneficiaries.

With Chinese experience, tech-savvy expertise and hands-on research, Pakistan can turn things around. The concerned authorities will have to comprehend the extent of the strenuous efforts that China made as well as the new rules and regulations it enacted. Over the past five years, during 13th 5 years plan (2016-2020), China's wetland area increased by more than 200,000 hectares, and the protection rate has now risen above 50 percent.

In January 2021, a draft law on wetland protection was submitted to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, for first review. The legislation

on wetland protection will help with the establishment of a complete legal system to guarantee wetland protection.

Since Pakistan is struggling to promote tourism, Chinese-styled wetlands are new source of splendour as they have emerged as awesome tourist points. In addition, this opened up new job avenues for local communities which helps to uplift them out of poverty.

This is another area where Pakistan can fully follow in China's footsteps. For while protecting wetland ecology, China has also developed tourism through the appropriate use of wetlands, creating job opportunities and bringing prosperity to local residents. Nearly 10,000 villagers living near the Longji terraced fields national wetland park in Longsheng county, South China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, were lifted out of poverty thanks to revenues from the park and subsidies from the local government. Elsewhere, China's wetland parks contributed 53.6 billion yuan (\$8.21 billion) to regional economic growth and directly created 47,000 new jobs, according to the National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA). In 2019, China's national wetland parks received 385 million visitors.

It seems, therefore, that Pakistan has much to learn and look forward to.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/761423/chinese-wetlands-and-pakistans-climate-crisis/>

Sino-Pak relations harbinger of peace and stability in South Asia: diplomat

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan, former Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Zhou Gang said that the bilateral cooperation has transformed into partnership in the past 70 years.

He told China Economic Net (CEN) that he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in 1962 and successively served as Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia, Pakistan, Indonesia, and India from 1988 to 2001. Recalling his working experience in Pakistan from 1991 to 1995, Zhou was particularly excited, saying that he will never forget the profound friendship between China and Pakistan.

The Sino-Pak friendship, which derives from close contact between the people, holds the key to sound state-to-state relations. The friendship between local people and the Chinese still moved Zhou to date.

During his tenure as ambassador, Zhou Gang experienced three incidents of kidnapping Chinese citizens, among which one happened in October 1992, leaving him a deep impression.

On October 19 six Chinese experts working in Shandak Gold-Copper Mine in Baluchistan were on their way to Karachi to purchase living supplies. However, they were unexpectedly hijacked by a group of long-waiting armed personnel in a corner. After being taken into a car, they were sent to Afghanistan. Upon learning of the incident, Zhou promptly reported it to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, who directed that every possible means be made to rescue the Chinese

compatriots as soon as possible. Zhou made an urgent appointment with important Pakistani officials.

When Zhou met with then Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the PM expressed his unease and regret over the abduction of Chinese experts, saying that he fully understood the feelings of his Chinese friends, and would do everything possible to rescue Chinese friends!

Fortunately, the six Chinese experts were unharmed. These Afghan people told the experts that they knew China was a friend of Afghanistan and that they had no choice but to do so. They treated these Chinese experts very well, and sometimes even slaughtered chickens and sheep and bought fruits for them. People from all walks of life in Pakistan were very concerned about the incident. The central and local governments of Pakistan had made every effort to contact the Afghan government and received its active cooperation. Thanks to the efforts of all parties, the six Chinese experts were released safely and returned to Pakistan after 11 days.

At noon on March 22, 1995 when Ambassador Zhou Gang was about to leave his post and return to China, a grand ceremony was held in the hall of the Presidential Palace, where Pakistani President Farooq Leghari met with Zhou Gang and awarded him the Hilal-i-Pakistan Medal for his contributions to Pakistan-China relations and the economic and social development of Pakistan.

At the subsequent luncheon attended by the ambassadors of many countries to Pakistan, President Leghari said to Ambassador Zhou's wife Deng Junbing, "Professor Deng, you have done a lot in Pakistan for the friendship between Pakistan and China. Ambassador Zhou's medal half belongs to you!"

As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan, Zhou Gang believes that China-Pakistan friendship is deepening and bilateral cooperation has been greatly expanded, adding that this friendly cooperation is not only beneficial to the two peoples but also conducive to peace and stability in South Asia.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/761444/sino-pak-relations-harbinger-of-peace-and-stability-in-south-asia-diplomat/>

Pakistan Observer

Sichuan Liaison Office unveiled to boost Pak-China economic, trade cooperation

The Sichuan Liaison Office of the China-Pakistan Business Council was unveiled in Chengdu, Sichuan province, aiming to promote China-Pakistan economic and trade cooperation. As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties, Sichuan Liaison Office plans to prepare a series of meeting and summits, including the 11th China (Sichuan)-South and Southeast Asia Business Leaders Summit, according to China Economic Net. Sichuan Liaison Office has also been committed to the China-Pakistan friendship since its establishment in 2020. In April 2020, the Office donated a batch of anti-pandemic supplies worth

of RMB 2 million (\$306,400) to the Consulate General of Pakistan in Chengdu. In July 2020, the Office also donated 25,000 face masks to the government of Islamabad. The China-Pakistan Business Council, a bilateral economic and trade exchange mechanism, was jointly founded by China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). It is designed to strengthen the two nations' economic and trade cooperation and investment. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/sichuan-liaison-office-unveiled-to-boost-pak-china-economic-trade-cooperation/>

The Nation

Pakistan to benefit from China's experience to alleviate poverty: Waseem

ISLAMABAD - The leader of the House in the Senate Dr Shahzad Waseem on Tuesday said that Pakistan would benefit from China's experience to alleviate poverty in the country.

In a meeting with Chinese ambassador Nong Rong here, Senator Dr Waseem said the strategy and tactics of the brotherly country China in overcoming poverty were very commendable.

He said that economic cooperation between the two countries could be further enhanced and improved. He said, "China's investment in Pakistan will lead to development and prosperity."

The Leader of the House congratulated the Chinese leadership, government and people on 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations. "People of Pakistan are proud of Pak-China time-tested friendship which has proven its worth in worst of times," he added.

Dr Shahzad Waseem said that both the countries supported each other on core issues at different international forums. "Pakistan has always maintained a relationship of love and friendship with China," he said adding that Pak-China relations were perfect example of successful strategic partnership for mutual benefit.

The Chinese ambassador said that together with Pakistan, they would bring development and prosperity in both countries. "CPEC will turn out to be the real engine of growth for Pakistani economy and will be a driving force behind development of the country."

Dr Shahzad Waseem thanked China for its help to Pakistan during COVID-19 pandemic. Timely supply of corona vaccines by China had saved thousands of precious lives, he said

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-26/page-4/detail-8>

Pakistan gets \$13 billion investment under CPEC, \$12 billion in pipeline, says

Asim Bajwa

Iqtidar Gilani

LAHORE - China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa said on Tuesday that \$13 billion had been invested in Pakistan under CPEC while another \$12 billion investment was in the pipeline, which would revolutionise the country. He

was talking to media persons on the occasion of a visit to Challenge Textile Factory on Lahore-Multan Road with Chinese investment of \$150 million. Asim Saleem Bajwa said that more economic zones were being established under the CPEC which would bring more Chinese investment in Pakistan and provide all possible facilities to foreign investors. He said that Challenge Group of China had set up an international standard industrial unit which he was happy to see and Challenge Group would also be setting up Challenge Fashion Export Park in Pakistan in future which would provide employment to thousands of people in Pakistan. “My purpose of coming here was just to provide all the infrastructure for Chinese investment and to address the lack of facilities,” he said. Asim Saleem Bajwa said that China was not only a neighbour of Pakistan but also a longtime friend and at all times China had always played the role of big brother. He said that the visa period of Chinese investors coming here under CPEC was being extended. The visa period of Chinese investors would be extended from three months to two years which would be announced soon by Prime Minister Imran Khan, he mentioned. He said that economic revolution was coming in Pakistan under CPEC, adding that one should go to Gwadar and he would see the fruits of CPEC, where all the infrastructure had been set up so that there were no difficulties in delivery of goods. He said that he would also visit Faisalabad Economic Zone soon. Chinese companies of international standard were looking to invest in CPEC and would be provided all possible facilities, he added. A Pakistani businessman Qamar Bobby, who brought Chinese investment to Pakistan, said that Chinese investment in Pakistan was increasing under the CPEC, which also help stabilising Pak rupee against dollar.

<https://nation.com.pk/26-May-2021/pakistan-gets-dollar-13-billion-investment-under-cpec-dollar-12-billion-in-pipeline-says-asim-bajwa>

Express News

سی پیک سے پاکستان میں 75,000 ملازمتیں فراہم کی گئیں، چینی وزارتِ خارجہ

پاک چین تعلقات کے بارے میں عدم کا اعادہ کرتے ہوئے چینی وزارتِ خارجہ کے ترجمان نے سی پیک کی اہمیت اجاگر کی ہے۔

آج ایک پریس کانفرنس میں چینی وزارتِ خارجہ کے ترجمان چاؤ لی جیان نے بتایا کہ ”دی ہیلت اینڈ روڈ“ کے ایک اہم اور پائلٹ پروجیکٹ کی حیثیت سے ”چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری“ (سی پیک) نے اپنے قیام کے بعد سے ہی نقل و حمل کی بنیادی تنصیبات، توانائی، بندرگاہوں اور صنعتی پارکس کی تعمیر میں نمایاں پیش رفت کی ہے۔

یہ منصوبہ نہ صرف پاکستان میں معاشی اور اقتصادی ترقی کو تیز تر بنانے کے لیے موزوں ہے بلکہ علاقائی روابط کو فروغ دینے میں بھی فعال کردار ادا کر رہا ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ اعداد و شمار کے مطابق، سی پیک کے آغاز سے اب تک اس منصوبے سے پاکستان کے لیے مجموعی طور پر 75,000 ملازمتیں پیدا ہو گئی ہیں۔

سی پیک کی اعلیٰ معیار کی تعمیر کو فروغ دینے کے لیے چین، پاکستان کے ساتھ کام کرنے پر راضی ہے اور لوگوں کے معیار زندگی کو بہتر بنانے، علاقائی روابط و معاشی یکجہتی کو فروغ دینے میں زیادہ سے زیادہ کردار ادا کرے گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2182490/10/>

Nawaiwaqt News

ہر سال مئی میں پاک چین دوستی کے حوالے سے تقاریب منعقد ہوگی: ایس ایم نوید

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاک چین جوائنٹ چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر ایس ایم نوید نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین چیمبر آف کامرس آئندہ ہر سال مئی کے پورے مہینے پاک چین دوستی کے حوالے سے تقاریب کیلئے مختص رکھے گا۔ گزشتہ روز ”یوم پاک چین تعلقات“ کے سلسلے میں تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ مئی 1951 کو منگل کے روز پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سفارتی تعلقات کی بنیاد رکھی گئی لہذا ہر سال ماہ مئی کا مہینہ پاک چین دوستی کے مہینے کے طور پر منایا جانا چاہیے اور اس دوران ملک بھر میں پاک چین دوستی کے سیمینار اور ویبنار منعقد کئے جانے چاہیں تاکہ باہمی دوستی کے تناور درخت کو دائمی زندگی بخشی جاسکے۔ پاک چین چیمبر کی تقریب میں سینئر نائب صدر داؤد احمد، نائب صدر خالد رفیق چوہدری اور سیکرٹری جنرل صلاح الدین حنیف کے علاوہ اراکین مجلس عاملہ نے بھی شرکت کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس برس کرونا کی وجہ سے پاک چین دوستی کا دن بھر پور انداز سے نہیں منایا گیا۔ مگر آئندہ برس سے یہ دن پاک چین چیمبر کے زیر اہتمام ملک بھر میں مئی کے پورے مہینے کے دوران منایا جاسکے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-05-26/page-9/detail-5>

May 27, 2021

Business Recorder

CPEC is ‘number one’ priority of PTI govt: Qureshi

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Wednesday, said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the “number one” priority of the PTI government and it is committed to complete ongoing projects and make it a high quality demonstration project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Qureshi, who is also vice chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), was speaking “ruling parties’ dialogue” between the Chinese Communist Party (CPC) and the PTI. Chinese side was led by Minister of the International Department Central Committee of CPC (IDCPC).

In his remarks, Qureshi said that the CPEC is a transformational project and it is the number one priority for the PTI government.

“We are fully committed to complete ongoing CPEC projects and make CPEC a High Quality Demonstration Project of BRI. We also look forward to further enhance development and construction of CPEC in its Second Phase with more focus on industrialization, poverty alleviation, job creation and socio-economic development,” he added.

With joint efforts of successive generations and leaderships of two countries, he said that China-Pakistan friendship has gone from strength-to-strength with each passing day.

“Our relationship is based on mutual trust, understanding and commonality of interests. This relationship is deeply rooted in the hearts of peoples of two countries and has withstood tests of time,” he added.

“After seven decades, our relationship has transformed into an “All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership”. We should forge our energies and visions to jointly build “Closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era”,” he asserted.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, he added that the two-sided cooperation remained exemplary.

“We supported each other, within our capacities, to effectively control the pandemic,” he said, congratulating the Chinese leadership and whole Chinese nation for a successful “People’s War” against the pandemic and a remarkable economic recovery.

He also thanked the Chinese leadership for consistent support to Pakistan in its fight against the pandemic.

Qureshi added that party-to-party relations are an important facet of our bilateral cooperation, adding that the two parties enjoyed cordial relationship.

In the past few years, we have learnt from each other’s experiences through enhanced interaction and mutual exchanges, he added.

“We look forward to further deepen Party-to-Party cooperation between PTI and CPC, learn from each other, and share vital experiences on governance, party building and party organisation,” he added.

The two parties also signed an MoU aimed at further strengthening the cooperation. “CPC’s vision of realizing “Great Rejuvenation of the Chinese Nation” and PTI’s vision of building “Naya Pakistan” are the common aspirations of the people of two countries... We stand ready to enhance cooperation between our two countries and two political parties for realisation of our respective dreams,” Qureshi further stated.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/27/3-page/887509-news.html>

Importance of second CPEC phase highlighted

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) expressed its serious concern and dissatisfaction over what it said dilly-dallying in the process of completion of socio-economic projects under the Chinese grant of \$1 billion.

An in-camera meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on CPEC met with MNA Sher Ali Arbab in the chair at the Parliament House, on Wednesday.

The Committee urged the provinces to effectively and timely utilise the \$1 billion Chinese grant by undertaking those socio-economic projects, which could bring value addition and sustainable impacts for improving the lives of the common people.

The Committee was briefed by the additional secretary, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, the secretary, Board of Investment, the secretary, Ministry of Communications, member (IR) FBR, senior joint secretary Ministry of Commerce, regarding

waiver of taxes on industries as per model extended to the construction sector and updated progress on Axle Load Policy.

The Committee recommended to the Federal Board of Revenue a joint meeting that is convened along with the Board of Investment, the Ministry of Commerce, and the Ministry of Industries and Production to come up with comprehensive proposals, so that the industrial sector could be incentivised well in time.

The Committee, while highlighting the importance of the second phase of the CPEC, observed that utmost efforts were exerted to expeditiously complete the first phase of the CPEC.

Now Pakistan has entered into the most promising second phase of the CPEC.

The focus of the CPEC's second phase is to effectively operationalise Gwadar and Special Economic Zones and set up important industries there.

Therefore, the purpose of waiver of taxes on industries as per model extended to the construction sector is to incentivise industries, enhance local and foreign direct investment, generate revenue, create massive employment opportunities for local people, and ultimately lead Pakistan towards the path of sustainable economic development.

The Secretary Ministry of Communications said that they have requested the Prime Minister's Office to reconstitute the Committee for further deliberations.

The Committee observed that the lack of implementation of axle load policy was causing a huge damage to the road infrastructure and burden on national exchequer in the form of road repair.

The Committee decided to take up the issue at the highest forum, so as to ensure the implementation of the law in letter and spirit.

The meeting was attended by MNAs Noor Alam Khan, Sadaqat Ali Khan Abbasi, Umer Aslam Khan, Nafeesa Inayatullah Khattak, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Mehnaz Akber Aziz, Zahid Akram Durrani, and Muhammad Aslam Bhootani. —NAVEED BUTT

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/27/3-page/887511-news.html>

Chinese company to create 20,000 jobs: Asim Bajwa

ISLAMABAD: The Challenge Fashion Group, a Chinese company has vowed to expand its business under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan which would create over 20,000 jobs for locals, Chairman CPEC Authority Lt-General Asim Saleem Bajwa (retd) said on Wednesday.

He said the Chinese investor had already established a textile factory in Lahore which was a huge export oriented unit. In his tweet, the chairman said the textile factory being run by the Chinese Challenge Fashion Group had produced over 5000 jobs for local people. During his visit to the factory in Lahore the other day, Asim Bajwa expressed satisfaction over the establishment of the unit of international standard, adding that the owner of the company was

now keen to establish a separate Special Economic Zone in Pakistan that would be exclusively an export oriented zone and all the goods produced by that SEZ would be exported to other countries. –APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/27/3-page/887510-news.html>

Daily Times

‘PTI, China’s Communist Party share same goals of uplifting their nations

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)’s vision of building Naya Pakistan and the ideology of Communist Party of China (CPC) of realizing ‘Great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation’ carry similar goals as per the aspirations of their people.

This was stated by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in his virtual address to the Ruling Parties Dialogue between PTI and CPC, held at Islamabad and Beijing. The PTI and CPC inked a Memorandum of Understanding on further strengthening their cooperation.

The foreign minister said PTI was willing to further deepen party-to-party cooperation with CPC, learn from each other, and share vital experiences on governance, party building and party organization.

“We stand ready to enhance cooperation between our two countries and two political parties for realization of our respective dreams,” he said.

Qureshi said party-to-party relations were an important facet of the bilateral cooperation, adding that Communist Party of China and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf enjoyed cordial relations.

In the past few years, we have learnt from each other’s experiences through enhanced interaction and mutual exchanges, he added.

He said Chairman PTI and Prime Minister Imran Khan also acknowledged that China’s remarkable achievements in all around national development were a role model for all developing countries.

Qureshi recalled the inaugural interaction for this forum in Beijing in March 2019, which said had been able to carry forward the momentum of the last discussions and further solidify good cooperation between PTI and CPC.

He said Pakistan and China had completed seventy years of ‘ironclad’ friendship on May 21, 2021 and mentioned that CPC would celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year in July.

He congratulated the people of two countries, the Communist Party of China and General Secretary Xi Jinping for these momentous accomplishments.

With joint efforts of successive generations and leadership of two countries, he said, China-Pakistan friendship had gone from strength-to-strength with each passing day.

“Our relationship is based on mutual trust, understanding and commonality of interests. This relationship is deeply rooted in the hearts of peoples of two countries and has withstood tests of time,” he added.

Qureshi termed China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a transformational project and the top priority of the PTI government.

“We are fully committed to complete ongoing CPEC projects and make CPEC a high-quality demonstration project of BRI,” he added.

He said Pakistan looked forward to further enhancing development and construction of CPEC in its second phase with more focus on industrialization, poverty alleviation, job creation and socio-economic development.

During COVID-19 pandemic, he mentioned the exemplary cooperation where the two countries supported each other to effectively control the pandemic.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/762052/pti-chinas-communist-party-share-same-goals-of-uplifting-their-nations/>

CPEC’s wind power project another symbol of Pak-China friendship

Wind power project under CPEC is another symbol of Pak-China friendship, reports China Economic Net (CEN).

“Through the construction of projects under CPEC, I hope we can bring Chinese experience, equipment, and standards to Pakistan, making our contribution to Pakistan’s economic growth and contributing to the lasting Pak-China friendship,” said Sun Qiang, general manager of Three Gorges Wind Farm Pakistan Limited.

Three Gorges Second Wind Power Project, located at Jhimpir, Thatta, Sindh, was listed as an actively promoted project in CPEC in August 2014. Building a large-scale wind power plant in a foreign country is by no means easy. When the construction of the Three Gorges First Wind Power Project started, there’s no equipment to meet the requirements, no reliable suppliers of infrastructure materials, and even no experienced local labor force in the Pakistani market.

In this case, they had to transport a large number of materials, advanced equipment and tools from China. “Later we talked with local suppliers step by step, to help them enhance productivity, raise the standard, and produce the building materials that can meet our requirements,” Sun said, adding that “meanwhile, we Chinese experts also trained a group of capable local workers for the project.”

By the time of constructing the second wind power project, with a relatively mature market established, China-Pakistan energy cooperation in all aspects has been continuously upgraded, further promoting the sound development of the local power market.

Sun said that now the total installation capacity is 150,000 kilowatts, with an annual electricity output of 430 million kilowatts, which can meet the needs of 1.5 million local households for

about a year. “The project created around 800 jobs at the peak of construction. During the operational period, it still provided approximately 150 jobs, including around 40 technical positions like engineers and about 110 service positions for day-to-day operations,” Sun added.

As Pakistan and China are different in culture and habits, it’s somewhat inconvenient for Chinese staff to work in Pakistan. However, the friendliness of Pakistani employees makes them get along very well. In addition to the weekly Urdu and Chinese language courses offered by the company, Chinese and Pakistani employees would get together and hold some celebration activities on local holidays. “The most exciting moment is that when we hear our national anthem at the construction site on our National Day. You can imagine how moved I was at that minute on a foreign soil!” Sun said.

According to Sun, now more than 80% of employees in their company are Pakistanis, with core departments headed by Pakistani staff. Besides, many of these Pakistan employees have once studied in China, and they are very supportive of the “Belt and Road” Initiative, especially CPEC.

As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan, Sun Qiang said his expectation. “By building wind power project in Pakistan, we hope to help mitigate the power supply problem and contribute to the development of clean energy in Pakistan!”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/762028/cpecs-wind-power-project-another-symbol-of-pak-china-friendship/>

High level Women’s Forum marking 70 years of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations: Dr Shireen Mazari

Human Rights Minister Dr Shireen Mazari highlighted the achievements of women and girls in China and Pakistan in an online high level Women’s Forum marking 70 years of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations.

The forum was organized by the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing in collaboration with the All China Women Association and All Pakistan Women Association, with a special emphasis on women’s rights, poverty alleviation and the role of women in post-COVID recovery.

The Minister stressed the importance of China and Pakistan’s strategic partnership, and the opportunities which CPEC will continue to create in Pakistan.

She said “we hope to see women being included in the vocational and technical training being conducted under this vital strategic partnership”, adding that “CPEC will be a game changer for the ordinary citizens in both countries”.

In the context of COVID-19, she highlighted the measures taken by the present government to ensure the protection of women and girls during lockdown, especially since “pandemics exacerbate existing gender inequalities”.

In order to register human rights violations and complaints during the ongoing pandemic, the Ministry utilized its national Helpline 1099 as well as the Helpline 1099 App. A secret code has been embedded in MOHR 1099 helpline for female victims of domestic violence who are unable to speak in the presence of their abusers.

The Minister also emphasized that the Government of Pakistan has taken critical steps towards strengthening legislation regarding violence against women, harassment, rape, and discrimination.

Recently, the Ministry of Human Rights reached an important milestone by getting the Domestic Violence Bill 2020 passed by the National Assembly of the Parliament in order to establish an effective system of protection, relief and rehabilitation of women, elders and any vulnerable person against domestic violence. During the pandemic, the Ministry of Human Rights also published a report on the impact of COVID-19 and disaster vulnerability in Pakistan.

The research was carried out with the objective to improve understanding of the multifaceted impacts of Covid-19 on the lives and livelihoods of Pakistanis, and facilitating a people-centred approach to the pandemic.

The Minister said that this “analysis can serve to guide the State’s strategic, operational and policy endeavours to combat the COVID 19 crisis in a more holistic manner.”

In the end, the Minister hoped to strengthen our relationship with China, in order to create opportunities for ordinary citizens, and share our common experiences so that we may “forge further ahead to empower women”.

The aim of the forum was to foster institutional linkages between leading representative organisations for women of the two countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/762035/high-level-womens-forum-marking-70-years-of-china-pakistan-diplomatic-relations-dr-shireen-mazari/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan carries huge potential of its citrus export: CPAIC

Pakistani kinnow industry has witnessed a breakthrough last week as Iran has lifted restrictions on the import of Pakistani kinnow, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Pakistan is one of the top citrus producers in the world. Citrus contributes about 30% to the country’s total fruit output. Last year, Pakistan earned its highest export revenue from kinnow of \$222 million amounting to 370,000 tonnes, according to a report on Pakistani citrus industry released by the China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information Platform (CPAIC). The report also points out that most of the citrus fruits produced by Pakistan are consumed in foreign markets. Among the exported varieties, kinnow is the most important one. However, as old varieties are wearing out, kinnow quality is worsening.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-carries-huge-potential-of-its-citrus-export-cpaic/>

China rolls out 28 policies liberalizing trade in Hainan

Chinese authorities have released a circular of 28 policies and measures to liberalize and facilitate trade in goods and services at the Hainan free trade port. The circular was jointly issued by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) and 19 other government bodies. In terms of the trade in goods, the country will implement 13 policies, such as allowing certain regions to pilot the easing of controls on the import and export of commodities like crude oil and refined oil. The import of sugar at the Hainan free trade port will also be excluded from tariff rate quota management. Regarding trade in services, the country will adopt 15 measures, including supporting the establishment of national cultural export bases. The MOC, together with relevant government bodies, will put all the policies and tasks into practice, and will advance trade liberalization and facilitation at the Hainan free trade port, said Tang Wenhong, an official with the MOC—Xinhua

<https://pakobserver.net/china-rolls-out-28-policies-liberalizing-trade-in-hainan/>

Omar lauds China for supporting infrastructure, energy projects in Pakistan

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Mr. Omar Ayub Khan witnessed the signing ceremony of a Handing over Certificate (HOC) for ‘Third Batch of Covid-19 Vaccine Aid’ along with Nong Rong, Ambassador of Republic of China in Pakistan. Under this batch, Government of China provided 500,000 vials of Covid-19 vaccine under grant assistance. Under the first and second batch of Covid-19 vaccine donation, 1 Million doses of Sinopharm vaccine were donated by the Chinese Government. This will help to vaccinate the priority population and control the spread of the disease. Moreover, the Minister discussed the bilateral economic relations between the two countries with the Ambassador in his office. During the meeting Pakistan-China economic relations, implementation of CPEC projects and other matters of mutual interest were also discussed. The Minister for Economic Affairs at the outset re-iterated the firm commitment of the Government of Pakistan to the security of all Chinese persons working on different projects in Pakistan. The Minister lauded the Government of China for supporting infrastructure and energy projects in Pakistan. The Minister emphasized that after development of necessary infrastructure the focus should be towards industrialization and poverty alleviation. He highlighted that the socio-economic projects agreed therein are in line with the vision of the incumbent government for socio-economic uplift of the common people and enhanced economic activities in the country. The progress of the ongoing projects was also discussed which is satisfactory despite the pandemic situation. The Minister for Economic Affairs also appreciated the Chinese assistance for combating Covid-19 pandemic and locust attack. Chinese Ambassador Mr. Nong Rong conveyed his best wishes to the Minister for Economic Affairs for assuming new portfolio. Ambassador Nong Rong also reaffirmed Chinese support to Pakistan on issues of mutual interest. He reiterated that the Government of China will continue supporting the Government of Pakistan to tackle the Covid-19. Both sides reiterated strong commitment towards further expanding bilateral economic cooperation.

<https://pakobserver.net/omar-lauds-china-for-supporting-infrastructure-energy-projects-in-pakistan/>

The Nation

PTI, Communist Party of China share same goals: Qureshi

ISLAMABAD - Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Wednesday said that Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf's vision of building Naya (new) Pakistan and the ideology of Communist Party of China of realising 'Great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation' carry similarity of goals as per the aspirations of their people.

In his virtual address to the Ruling Parties Dialogue between PTI and CPC, held at Islamabad and Beijing, FM Qureshi said the PTI was willing to further deepen party-to-party cooperation with CPC, learn from each other, and share vital experiences on governance, party building and party organisation.

"We stand ready to enhance cooperation between our two countries and two political parties for realisation of our respective dreams," he said.

The PTI and CPC also inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on further strengthening their cooperation.

Qureshi said party-to-party relations were an important facet of the bilateral cooperation. The Communist Party of China and PTI, he said, enjoyed cordial relationship.

Foreign minister says Pak-China cooperation to be enhanced

In past few years, he said, "we have learnt from each other's experiences through enhanced interaction and mutual exchanges."

He said Prime Minister Imran Khan, the PTI chairman, acknowledged that China's remarkable achievements in all around national development were a role model for all developing countries.

He said Pakistan and China had completed seventy years of 'iron clad' friendship on May 21, 2021 and mentioned that CPC would celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year in July.

He congratulated the people of two countries, the Communist Party of China and General Secretary Xi Jinping for these momentous accomplishments.

With joint efforts of successive generations and leaderships of two countries, he said, China-Pakistan friendship had gone from strength-to-strength with each passing day.

"Our relationship is based on mutual trust, understanding and commonality of interests. This relationship is deeply rooted in the hearts of peoples of two countries and has withstood tests of time," he added.

Qureshi termed China Pakistan Economic Corridor a transformational project and the top priority of the PTI government. “We are fully committed to complete ongoing CPEC projects and make CPEC a high-quality demonstration project of the Belt and Road Initiative,” he added.

He said Pakistan looked forward to further enhance development and construction of CPEC in its second phase with more focus on industrialization, poverty alleviation, job creation and socio-economic development.

During COVID-19 pandemic, he mentioned the exemplary cooperation where the two countries supported each other to effectively control the pandemic.

Qureshi congratulated the Chinese leadership and the nation for a successful ‘People’s War’ against the pandemic and remarkable economic recovery, and thanked Chinese leadership for consistent support to Pakistan in its fight against the pandemic.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-27/page-3/detail-6>

Visa Facilitation

The cabinet’s approval of issuing separate visas to Chinese nationals who want to visit Pakistan for business purposes is the first step towards opening up the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by streamlining the procedure for its users.

Visa policies are among the most significant governmental policies influencing bilateral and international trade. The development of policies and procedures for visas and other essential travel documents such as passports affect the volume of trade activities massively as a result. The economic development of developed countries informs us that a free and open international investment regime is vital for a stable and growing economy.

Foreign investors view the ease with which they can travel to a country as a key indicator of how easy it will be to make or administer an investment. It is great seeing that the government realises that visa restrictions hinder cross-border travel deterring potential visitors and producing an inimical effect on trade and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). On the other hand, liberal visa policies facilitate business travels and encourage companies to engage in international trade. Since much of international trade requires personal contact with trading partners, visa facilitation for Chinese investors will render such physical contact easier for them with their trading partners in Pakistan.

Given that the ultimate aim behind the creation of CPEC is the free flow of goods and services, the government’s initiative regarding the facilitation of Chinese nationals in getting visas easily and swiftly is a big and vital step to gain economic dividends from the corridor.

The visa facilitation policy for the citizens of China can work as a trial test in determining the efficacy of a liberal visa regime. As the goals of the economic corridor and China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are to expand commercial and economic activities, China and Pakistan

would have to expand such facilitation to the nationals of other states as well once CPEC develops even further and BRI becomes fully functional.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-27/page-6/detail-4>

Dilly-dallying on development projects irks CPEC Parliamentary Committee

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has expressed dissatisfaction over dilly-dallying in the process of completion of socio-economic projects under Chinese grant of \$1 billion and recommended to provinces to effectively and timely utilise the grant.

The 6th (in-camera) meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was held under the Chairmanship of Sher Ali Arbab, MNA. The Committee was briefed by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Secretary, Board of Investment, Secretary, M/o Communications, Member (IR), FBR, Senior Joint Secretary, and M/o Commerce regarding waiver of taxes on industries as per model extended to construction sector and updated progress on Axle Load Policy.

The Committee, while highlighting the importance of the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, observed that utmost efforts were exerted to expeditiously complete the first phase of CPEC. Now Pakistan has entered into the most promising second phase of CPEC. The focus of the CPEC's second phase is to effectively operationalize Gwadar and Special Economic Zones and set up important industries there. Given Pakistan's weak economy we will be doomed, if these goals are not achieved. Therefore the purpose of waiver of taxes on industries as per model extended to construction sector is to incentivise industries, enhance local and foreign direct investment, generate revenue, create massive employment opportunities for local people and ultimately lead Pakistan towards the path of sustainable economic development. The Committee recommended to Federal Board of Revenue to convene a joint meeting along-with Board of Investment, Ministry of Commerce, and Ministry of Industries & Production and come up with comprehensive proposals so that industrial sector could be incentivised well in time.

Secretary, Ministry of Communications informed that they have requested Prime Minister Office to reconstitute the Committee for further deliberation and taking decision on the implementation of axle load policy. The Committee observed that the lack of implementation of axle load policy is causing huge damage to the road infrastructure and burden on national exchequer in form of road repair. The Committee decided to take up the issue at the highest forum so as to ensure the implementation of the law in letter and spirit.

The Committee expressed dissatisfaction over dilly-dallying in the process of completion of socio-economic projects under Chinese grant of \$1 billion. The Committee recommended to provinces to effectively and timely utilize the \$1 billion Chinese grant by undertaking those

socio-economic projects which could bring value addition and sustainable impacts for improving the lives of common people.

The meeting was attended by Noor Alam Khan, Sadaqat Ali Khan Abbasi, Umer Aslam Khan, Nafeesa Inayatullah Khattak, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhry, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Mehnaz Akber Aziz, Zahid Akram Durrani, and Muhammad Aslam Bhootani.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-27/page-9/detail-0>

Chinese vaccine PakVac qualifies quality assurance test

Rahul Basharat

ISLAMABAD - The single dose locally finished and packed corona vaccine 'PakVac' has qualified the painstaking quality assurance (QA) test at the National Institute of Health (NIH) and reflected its effectiveness.

The scientists at NIH observing the research on local anti-COVID-19 vaccine informed The Nation that the China based CanSino bio vaccine was brought at NIH in concentrates in powder form.

The researchers said that the vaccine in powder form was further diluted at NIH and then its quality control testing was done.

According to the NIH scientists, in the next step its quality assurance was done covering the target gene, vector testing and examination of protein excretion. "The target gene injected in the body gives a call to the immunity system to develop antibodies," said a senior scientist at NIH. He said that this target gene is carried in a vector which works like an envelope and protein excretion takes place in it.

He said that the PakVac has qualified that the QA test and after that its report is sent to the Drugs Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to test the sterility that the vaccination does not carry any contamination.

The NIH official said that like CanSino Bio, the PakVac is also a single shot COVID-19 vaccine and the government will likely give its final approval which is expected in a week. Executive Director (ED) NIH Maj. Gen Aamer Ikram when contacted for comments said that all details regarding the vaccine will be released next week.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-27/page-12/detail-4>

The News

Chinese investors set up export-oriented textile unit: Asim

ISLAMABAD: The Challenge Fashion Group, a Chinese company on Wednesday vowed to expand its business under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Pakistan which would create over 20,000 jobs for locals, CPEC Authority Chairman Lt General (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa said.

He said the Chinese investor had already established a textile factory in Lahore which was a huge export-oriented unit. In his tweet, Bajwa said the textile factory being run by the Chinese Challenge Fashion Group had produced over 5,000 jobs for locals. During his visit to the factory in Lahore, Asim Bajwa expressed satisfaction over the establishment of the unit of international standard, saying that the owner of the company was now keen to establish a separate Special Economic Zone in Pakistan that would be exclusively an export-oriented zone.

He said a number of Chinese investors were lined up for investment in Pakistan's industrial sector and soon all would be accommodated.

He said this was the model for new SEZs which would boost the industrial output and exports.

Earlier this week, Prime Minister Imran Khan had lauded the strategic and bilateral partnership between Pakistan and China and directed the relevant authorities to introduce a new visa category for foreign investors. "In order to transform these relations into strong economic ties, it is necessary to promote investment in areas of mutual interest and provide all possible incentives to investors," he had said. In the meeting, different investment projects under the CPEC were discussed.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/840664-chinese-investors-set-up-export-oriented-textile-unit-asim>

May 28, 2021

Business Recorder

CPEC to generate massive job opportunities: Umar

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has said that investment under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is expected to be of around \$50.7 billion, which would generate massive economic activities and employment opportunities. In a written reply to a question of a member of the National Assembly, the minister said this investment is focusing on energy, infrastructure and Gwadar projects, nine Special Economic Zones would be established under the CPEC portfolio, which would create tremendous job opportunities and technological transformation.

He said the ML-1 Railway Project to upgrade and dualise the rail track from Peshawar to Karachi (1,872 km) has a potential to create 174,000 direct jobs.

He said in the second phase (2021-25) of the CPEC, investments would also focus on industrialization, agriculture modernization, socio-economic development and cooperation in science and technology.

He said that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) at Rashakai, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Allama Iqbal Industrial Zone in Faisalabad and Dhabeji, Thatta, are in different stages of development.

He said the textile of Pakistan has been at almost full-capacity production, taking advantage of the government's withdrawal of duties and taxes on import of raw cotton.

He said that statistics have shown that the government has recreated half a million jobs by strengthening the textile industry.

The minister said the government hopes that the Ravi City Project costing Rs5 trillion (USD 30 billion) would create millions of jobs as at least 40 industries are connected to the construction sector.

In a written reply to the question of a member of National Assembly, Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan under Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Pakistan 2019-22 is of around \$ 6 billion.

Of this amount, the government has received approximately \$1.9 billion till date, he said. He said the programme supports the government's economic reform agenda, which aims to address structural imbalances in the economy for sustainable and inclusive growth in future.

He said the reform measures aim to improve (i) fiscal discipline; (ii) debt sustainability; (iii) tax base and revenue generation; (iv) cost recovery in the energy sector; (v) performance of state-owned enterprises (SOEs); and (vi) the effectiveness of AML/CFT regime.

The minister said that Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) amounting to approximately \$1.38 billion was availed in April 2020.

It provided the necessary fiscal space to the government to mitigate the negative human and economic impact of the pandemic, he said.

He said the interest on IMF loans varies according to the SDR interest rates, and the level of utilisation of quota by a member country.

He said that presently, average interest rate is in the range of 1.82-2.0 percent.

With regards to the World Bank, the minister said the government has secured disbursement of \$1.455 billion as loan under 29 projects having total committed value of \$7.387 billion since August 2018.

The minister said that financing terms of World Bank loans are as under: IDA Financing Interest Rate = 1.25% p.a Service Charge = 0.75% p.a Commitment Charge = 0 to 0.5% p.a (currently zero) Repayment Period = 25 years including 5-year grace period.

During a question-hour session of the National Assembly, it was informed that the government has decided to import wheat and sugar to avoid shortages of these essential items and hikes in their prices.

Responding to a question, Parliamentary Secretary for Finance Zain Hussain Qureshi said four million metric tons of wheat and a "sufficient" quantity of sugar would be imported to maintain strategic reserves of these commodities.

Answering another question, Zain Qureshi said the government is taking steps to transform the banking system into Sharia-compliant banking.

He said 3,456 branches and over 1,000 windows are offering Islamic banking across Pakistan.

He said the State Bank of Pakistan has made it mandatory for commercial banks to reserve 10 percent loans for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and eight percent for the agricultural sector interest free.

Answering supplementary questions of the members, Parliamentary Secretary for Commerce Aliya Hamza Malik said Pakistan's exports are increasing by 13.4 percent and have reached 21 billion dollars during the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, "which is unprecedented in the history of Pakistan."

She expressed the hope that the exports will touch the mark of 25 billion dollars in coming days.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/28/3-page/887620-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC road network: 1100 km completed, 850 km under construction

Since the beginning of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), around 1100km long road network has been completed while 850 km is under construction.

According to Gwadar Pro, the new motorways and highways are now built on Public-Private Partnership Policy.

The World Economic forum has reported earlier that Pakistan has been ranked with a better road network than Iran, Russia, Bangladesh, Vietnam and many others.

The country is likely to further improve its ranking and quality significantly with the construction of new mega projects under CPEC.

The development of road projects under CPEC and National Highway Authority (NHA) will not only improve the ranking of the country, but it will also enhance the quality of the road network, transportation and logistics as well.

In the next two weeks, the construction of the 69km long Sialkot- Kharian Motorway & 62km long Multan -Lodhran Highway is also expected to start. Whereas the construction of Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway will start in August 2021.

Apart from Sindh and Punjab, work on the CPEC western route, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan province has been in full swing. The new road network under CPEC will improve Pakistan 's transportation to Iran.

The work on the CPEC western route will benefit the most underdeveloped areas of Balochistan and KPK province. The CPEC road network would help promote economic activities in those areas.

The road infrastructure projects are being launched in the less developed areas of the country to bring them at par with other developed areas.

Recently, a ground breaking of the 103 kilometer-long Naukundi-Mashkhel road was done by Prime Minister Imran Khan. After connecting N-40 with N-85 and M-8, (Western Route CPEC) linking Chagai-Nokundi Sector with Gwadar will open the entire remote region.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/762669/cpec-road-network-1100-km-completed-850-km-under-construction/>

Hakla-DI Khan motorway project to complete by Sept, Senate told

Minister for Communications Murad Saeed has told the upper house of the Parliament that Hakla to Dera Ismail Khan motorway project will be completed by September this year.

Taking the floor in the question hour in the Senate, which resumed its session at the parliament house on Thursday with Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani in the chair, Murad Saeed said that 89 percent work on the project has been completed, adding only bridges are being constructed and it will soon be open for traffic.

The minister said that only 1100 kilometres of roads were approved in the last 15 years but the PTI government has approved 3,300 kilometres only in two-and-a-half years.

Responding to a question regarding improvement of Pakistan Post, the revenue of Pakistan Post has witnessed an increase of 7.86 billion rupees a year.

He said that Pakistan Post has recently initiated a number of new financial services including same-day delivery, electronic money order, pick-up service for bulk mail, EMS plus delivery of parcels and packets at major overseas destinations in 72 hours and foreign remittance initiative in collaboration with National Bank of Pakistan at 500 locations. He said the international ranking of Pakistan Post has improved from 94th to 60s.

Responding to a question, Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Dr Fehmida Mirza said that the suspension of the Pakistan Football Federation by the FIFA Bureau is unfortunate for Pakistan.

She said the president of PFF was elected in 2018 as a result of elections held under the Supreme Court but FIFA did not accept it. Answering a question about vaccination process, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan said 1.5 million people have been vaccinated so far. He said the daily vaccination rate has reached one hundred thousand. He said there is no shortage of ventilators or oxygenated beds. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan says Mohmand Dam will help cater water scarcity, electricity shortage and flood threats in the area.

Responding to a calling attention notice in the House, he said the dam will generate eight hundred megawatts of electricity and provide three hundred gallons of water to Peshawar.

The minister said despite Covid-19 the work on the dam is in full swing.

Responding to another calling attention notice on exclusion of anti-Covid Chinese vaccines from the list of anti-contagion vaccines approved by the Saudi authorities for pilgrims, he said the government is continuously in touch with Saudi authorities on the issue and soon it will be resolved.

The House unanimously passed “The China Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority Bill, 2020”. The bill was presented by Minister for Science and Technology Syed Shibli Faraz.

The house will now meet again on Friday (today) at 11:00am.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/762709/hakla-di-khan-motorway-project-to-complete-by-sept-senate-told/>

Pakistan Observer

Oilseeds extraction plant being established near CPEC’s Rashaki SEZ

An oilseeds extraction plant near CPEC’s flagship Rashakai SEZ is being established with a hefty amount of Rs. 600 million. This will be on the background of rising demand for vegetable oils in China and concessions granted by Iron Brother to Pakistani exporters under the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement-II. A report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday says, China has eliminated tariffs on 313 major export items from Pakistan under the upgraded FTA, which also includes various seed oils. The plant is being set up by Engineer Syed Mehmood. The first-of-its-kind facility in KP shows how big opportunities have been brought about by the China-driven investment to Pakistan’s smallest and second-most deprived province. The plant will be the second one of its nature in Pakistan, an official said. Syed Mehmood told Gwadar Pro that the \$4 million plant will have a capacity to extract 300 tones of oil per day from oilseeds including soybean, palm, canola, olive, or sunflower. “At this stage, we have Afghanistan and Central Asian republics as our export targets. However, in the long run, we are eyeing the enormous Chinese market for our products,” the investor said. “We also have a plan to invest in Rashakai SEZ to further expand our production capacity after a sustainable export channel is established with China,” he said. Syed Mehmood said that initially, they will rely on imported raw soybean and other oilseeds as the domestic production will not be sufficient to withstand their demand. “However, the locally-grown soybean and olives will greatly benefit us in terms of competitiveness,” he said. The Pakistani government is robustly promoting olives plantation in the country, especially in KP province. Nowshera, where the plant is being established, has been declared as the most suitable region for olives, where Prime Minister Imran Khan launched a campaign for olive cultivation in March. According to the data of the General Administration of Customs, China’s olive oil imports in 2019 were 53,699 tons, up 35.64% year on year, China Economic Net (CEN) earlier reported. In an article published in CEN, Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law, stressed that technical assistance in olive cultivation and olive oil production should be the focus of China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation under the second phase of CPEC given the enormous potential of Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/oilseeds-extraction-plant-being-established-near-cpecs-rashaki-sez/>

China, Pak discuss ways to enhance B2B matchmaking in textile industry

Chinese and Pakistani officials and businessmen on Tuesday discussed ways to advance business-to-business (B2B) matchmaking in textile industry under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Khashih ur Rehman, executive director general of Pakistan's Board of Investment (BOI), said during a webinar that the event will help in advancing B2B ties under CPEC industrial cooperation. The CPEC industrial cooperation textile B2B webinar was co-organized by BOI, China Council for International Investment Promotion (CCIIP) and China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC). It was attended by senior officials and textile entrepreneurs from Pakistan and China. "To facilitate B2B matchmaking, the BOI is working on the development of an online B2B portal which will assist potential domestic and foreign investors and serve as a one-stop database of available public and private sector investment projects," Rehman said. While appreciating the overwhelming support from the CNTAC and China's Ministry of Commerce, Secretary of BOI Fareena Mazhar called for enhanced B2B matchmaking between the Pakistani and Chinese textile enterprises. "Owing to the sector's financial gains, many international companies including Chinese enterprises are already operational in the country," she said. Project Director of the Project Management Unit of the BOI Asim Ayub said that B2B joint ventures are intrinsic to the success of CPEC and the special economic zones, and the BOI will extend full support to Chinese investors for successful materialization of their projects in Pakistan. On the occasion, CNTAC deputy director Xu Yingxin called for enhancing industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan under CPEC, especially in the textile sector. In addition to analyzing the textile sector of both countries and discussing the investment opportunities, notable textile companies from both sides also presented their projects requiring cooperation and held discussions for potential matchmaking.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pak-discuss-ways-to-enhance-b2b-matchmaking-in-textile-industry/>

Pak-China signs MoUs at SCO Expo opening ceremony

Five China-Pak MOUs were signed at 2021 SCO International Investment and Trade Expo's Forum held at Qingdao for promoting Special Economic Zone (SEZ) ties. According to China Economic Net, the forum on Local Economic and Trade Cooperation opened on Monday. At the opening ceremony, the five MOUs were signed that included sister cities' interaction and bank cooperation. "At the crossroads of the Middle East, Central and South Asia regions, Pakistan's geo-economic location puts us as the economic hub for global developmental projects. The Government has incentivized industries and investment. The rate of return in business is much higher than the global average with leading Multinational Corporations (MNCs) making higher profits than elsewhere," said Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin-ul-Haque while addressing the ceremony.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-signs-mous-at-sco-expo-opening-ceremony/>

The Nation

Senate passes ‘The China Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority Bill’

Tahir Niaz

ISLAMABAD - The Senate on Thursday passed “The China Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority Bill, 2021” after the Opposition parties staged a walk-out from the House on the subject.

The Opposition wanted the Bill to be referred to the concerned Standing Committee while the government insisted on passage of the Bill. As the Opposition staged a walkout from the House, the Treasury members voted in favour of the Bill.

The Bill seeks to establish China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority to further accelerate the pace of CPEC-related activities.

It aims to find new drivers of economic growth, unlock the potential of interlinked production network and global value chains through regional and global connectivity.

The Authority would be responsible for planning, facilitating, coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating to ensure implementation of all activities related the CPEC.

It will ensure inter-provincial and inter-Ministerial coordination, organize and coordinate meetings of Joint Cooperation Committee and Joint Working Groups and formulation of long-term policy planning.

The National Assembly had already passed the Bill.

The government grabbed the opportunity otherwise, it may not have passed the Bill.

Earlier, the government faced defeat on a Bill presented by Dr. Shireen M. Mazari, Minister for Human Rights.

As the Minister moved that “The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Bill, 2021” to establish an effective system of protection, relief and rehabilitation of women, children, elders and any vulnerable person against domestic violence, be passed, the Opposition members opposed it and asked the Chair to refer it to the concerned Standing Committee. The government wanted it passed at once.

However, the Chair sought opinion of the House on the issue and later directed for a count.

As many as 34 Senators favoured the motion to pass the Bill while 35 opposed it and subsequently the Chair referred the Bill to the concerned Standing Committee.

The Opposition also staged a token walkout on the attitude of IRSA as the Opposition Senators demanded committee of the whole of the House to discuss the issue.

At the outset of the proceedings, Minister for Communications Murad Saeed told the House that the Hakla to Dera Ismail Khan motorway project will be completed by September this year.

Taking the floor in question hour in the House, he said 89 per cent work on the project has been completed; bridges are being constructed and it will soon be open for traffic.

The Minister said only 1100 kilometres of roads were approved in the last 15 years but the government has approved 3300 kilometres only in two and half years.

Responding to a question regarding improvement of Pakistan Post, he said the revenue of Pakistan Post has witnessed an increase of 7.86 billion rupees in a year.

He said Pakistan Post has recently initiated a number of new financial services including same-day delivery, electronic money order, pick-up service for bulk mail, EMS plus delivery of parcels and packets at major overseas destinations in 72 hours and foreign remittance initiative in collaboration with National Bank of Pakistan at 500 locations.

He said the international ranking of Pakistan Post has improved from 94th to 60.

Responding to a question, Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Dr Fehmida Mirza said that the suspension of the Pakistan Football Federation by the FIFA Bureau is unfortunate for Pakistan.

She said the President of PFF was elected in 2018 as a result of elections held under the Supreme Court but FIFA did not accept it. Answering a question about vaccination process, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan said 1.5 million people have been vaccinated so far.

He said the daily vaccination rate has reached 100,000.

He said there is no shortage of ventilators or oxygenated beds.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-28/page-1/detail-7>

China remains top importer among other countries: SBP

ISLAMABAD - China topped the list of countries from where Pakistan imported different products during the first ten months of financial year (2020-21), followed by United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore. The total imports from China during July-April (2020-21) were recorded at \$10312.089 million against the \$7638.065 million during July-April (2019-20), showing an increase of 35.02 per cent during the period, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said. This was followed by UAE, where Pakistan imported goods worth \$5603.959 million against the imports of \$5663.278 million last year, showing a decline of 1.04 per cent. Singapore was the at third top country from where Pakistan imported goods worth \$2492.214 million against the imports of \$1991.132 million last year, showing growth of 25.16 per cent, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani imports from United State of America (USA) stood at \$1991.027 million against \$1878.420 million during last year, showing growth of 5.94 per cent while the imports from Saudi Arabia were recorded at \$1923.886 million against \$1178.759 million last year, showing increase of 61.97 per cent, the data revealed. The imports from

Malaysia were recorded at \$977.002 million against \$821.831 million whereas the imports from Kuwait were recorded at \$1075.926 million against \$910.494 million last year.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-28/page-8/detail-5>

‘Around 5,000 jobs being created for Chinese language learners in Pakistan’

ISLAMABAD - Cultural Counsellor and Director China Cultural Centre in Pakistan, Mr Zhang Heqing on Thursday said that as many as 5,000 jobs are being created for Chinese language learners all over the Pakistan.

Chairing the webinar titled “CPEC & New Direction of Chinese Teaching in Pakistan” the other day, he said that Chinese language learning is very important in future for acquiring jobs in Pakistan.

The webinar was organised by the Department of Chinese Language, Faculty of Languages, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), under the supervision of Dr. Aftab Azeem Head of Chinese department, Ms. Sadaf Jabbar and the whole team.

Dr. Zhang Daojian, Vice President Confucius Institute Islamabad, Dr. Zhang Jiamei, Associate Professor School of Foreign Languages, Peking University China, Dr. Liu Yao, Associate Professor, Huanggang Normal University, Professor Dr. Muhammad Safeer Awan, Pro-Rector (Acads) and Dr. Shahid Siddiqui, Dean Faculty of Languages NUML were among the key speakers of the webinar.

Mr Zhang Heqing said that CPEC is a game changer for Pakistan. He also emphasised upon the need for Chinese language learning.

He briefly summed up the number of on-going and upcoming opportunities in Pakistan related to Chinese language.

In the opening remarks, Professor Dr. Safeer Awan, on behalf of the Rector welcomed all the distinguished guest speakers and the webinar participants on virtual link from China and Pakistan, extended warm welcome and appreciated the efforts made by HoD and his team.

In his speech, he shed light on the strategic importance of CPEC and its emerging social, economic and bilateral importance. In this context, he urged upon learning Chinese language to get optimum benefits of the project.

Moreover, he appreciated the inclusion of TCL (teaching of Chinese language) course in the university syllabi/curriculum and expressed to start this course for diploma, BS programme and at higher level academia.

He also assigned Dean (FoL), the task of successful completion and inclusion of the course on priority bases. In the end, he wished and foresees that Chinese department will flourish more under the proactive efforts of HoD and his team.

Dr. Zhang Daojian in his remarks suggested establishing a department of area studies in Chinese and Pakistani universities. He said that we are in the era of language learning where there is a rapid growth of artificial intelligence and machine translation mechanism.

The need for speakers and users of foreign language is increasing which cannot be fulfilled by computers and machine translating innovative tools. Face-to-face communication through language learning is an important trend for future education in Pakistan.

He also urged the importance of vocational and skilled-based learning education under Chinese language learning environment.

Dr. Zhang Jiamei from Peking University also addressed to the seminar. In her remarks, she emphasised the importance of cultivating talent for the country, region and whole world. She elaborated the need of cultivating research-oriented and application-oriented talent.

First type of talent will help in promoting and understanding history, culture and social development of the target country, they will work in fields of research, think tank, diplomacy and cultural exchanges in future. While the second type of talent will be engaged in translation, cultural exchanges, economic and trade communication, foreign liaison etc.

In her closing remarks, she said that whether in economic cooperation or in international exchanges, we should play the role of “ambassadors” in communications, upgrade the tool capacity of “translation” and actively promote the mutual understanding between the two people in the practice of culture and people-to-people exchanges.

In the field of research, we should take language learning as the starting point to understand development process of the target country, train scientific research and think tank talents for the study of bilateral relations, in deep regional development and future strategic cooperation. Cultivate successors for the inheritance of bilateral friendship, and make Chinese language a compulsory course for the study of china related topics in the curriculum.

Dr. Shahid Siddique, Dean Faculty of Language NUML, in his closing remarks, highlighted that language is a kind of power. It is not only a tool for communication; it is an identity market, linked with socio cultural values of a country. Linguistic imperialism of English is gone now, and for Pakistan, the future of Chinese language learning is inevitable now.

He said that there is rising demand for Chinese language learning in Pakistan, as Chinese language is becoming a part of curriculum of many schools in Pakistan. In this regard, we do need qualified teachers equipped with professional teaching techniques.

He urged the need for inter departmental meeting and dialogues to share the ideas and expertise to promote teachers education diploma in the field of language teaching in Pakistan.

Zhang Heqing, Cultural Counsellor, in his concluding remarks, ensured to extend full support of Chinese Embassy and China Cultural Centre in promoting Chinese Language Learning in Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-28/page-14/detail-3>

May 29, 2021

Daily Times

Pak-China trade, investment ties grown rapidly with advent of CPEC: Cai Xiliang

President and Vice Chairman of China Export and Credit Insurance Corp (SINOSRE), Cai Xiliang said on Friday that trade and investment ties between Pakistan and China had grown rapidly with the advent of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which had ushered a new era of development, prosperity and regional connectivity as the flagship of President Xi Jinping visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

In a meeting with Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque here, he highlighted that the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations was an important milestone for the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

As a policy-oriented insurer, SINOSURE would continue its longstanding support for the wide-ranging bilateral economic partnership, he added.

Thanking Cai Xiliang, Ambassador Moin noted that friendship with China was the cornerstone of Pakistan foreign policy and as well as enjoyed strong support of the leadership of the two countries. He thanked SINOSURE for its continued support in realizing the shared vision of the leaders of both countries through CPEC expeditious implementation and effective operation. He assured him of Pakistan government's full commitment to CPEC projects. The CPEC has brought tangible benefits to the people of Pakistan and aided in Pakistan development and economic modernization.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/763403/pak-china-trade-investment-ties-grown-rapidly-with-advent-of-cpec-cai-xiliang/>

Pakistan Observer

PM: CPEC western route to usher in new chapter of Balochistan uplift

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said China Pakistan Economic Corridor's Western Route will usher in a new chapter of development in the Balochistan province. He said this while performing the groundbreaking of various uplift projects in Quetta. The projects included 22-kilometre dualisation of the Quetta Western Bypass (N-25) and construction of 11-kilometer Dera Murad Jamali Bypass (N-65). Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony, Imran Khan said he was happy to lay the foundation of uplift schemes in Balochistan. "We got a two-third majority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the 2018 elections. The main reason behind it was explained in a UNDP report that said KP was the most successful province in alleviating poverty. Secondly, the province where the gap between the have and have-nots shrank and human development improved was also KP," the premier said. Separately, he distributed cheques among

the deserving under Kamyab Jawan Programme. Addressing the event, he said the incumbent government has earmarked Rs10 billion funds for Balochistan's youth. He said the Kamyab Jawan programme will also benefit fishermen, who are facing various hardships. Imran Khan assured that the government would do very thing to redress the grievances of the people of Balochistan and said his focus was to bring a revolution in the province. The government, Imran said, is focusing on projects of infrastructure and human development. The premier, saying the government would take measures to rectify the issue, assured the government was committed to diverting funds to Balochistan for its uplift. The prime minister pledged to develop the entire area along the western route of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. "Caring for humanity is the main driving force that places the nation at high pedestal of morality," he remarked.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-cpec-western-route-to-usher-in-new-chapter-of-balochistan-uplift/>

Murad: Western Route of CPEC will be completed during present govt era

Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed has said that the Western Route of China Pakistan Economic Corridor was undertaken from Balochistan by the present government and this dream of prosperity has been turned into reality. The Western Route of the CPEC will also be completed during the present regime. He was expressing views on occasion of Ground Breaking of dualization of Quetta Western Bypass, Construction of Dera Murad Jamali Bypass and Ziarat Mor-Kach-Harnai-Sanjavi road projects of National Highway Authority, Ministry of Communications, today. Mr. Murad Saeed said, during the previous fifteen years, 1100 km long highways were planned. While during the last two and half years, 3300 Km long national highways projects were planned and work started on them. He said, the present government has turned the dream of western route of the CPEC into reality and this route will be completed during the present government. He said work on Zhob-Khuzdar project has been started while D.I.Khan-Zhob project has been approved and work will be started soon. The Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed recalled that Basima-Khuzdar and Hoshab-Awaran projects have also been started. Work on 796 km long dualization of Chaman-Quetta-Karachi-Highway will be started this year. Construction and extension of national highways and motorways in Balochistan will not only pave the way for socio-economic uplift of far long areas of Balochistan but it will also cast far reaching positive effects on the economy of the entire region, the Federal Minister added. Giving details of the projects, Chairman National Highway Authority Capt ® Muhammad Khurram Agha said, 22.7 Km long dualization of Quetta Western ByPass project will be completed at contract cost of Rs. 3938.78 million. This two lane additional carriageway will be completed in 24 months. 15 bridges and 34 culverts will also be constructed. More than 1715 jobs will be created due to this project.

Completion of this project will ease out traffic congestion and reduce travel time by 30-45 minutes which will result in vehicles operating cost savings. He said, 11Km long Dera Murad Jamali ByPass will be completed at contract cost of Rs. 1456.3 million. Consisting of 2 lanes, the bypass will be completed in 18 months time period. One bridge and 31 culverts will be built in this project.

<https://pakobserver.net/murad-western-route-of-cpec-will-be-completed-during-present-govt-era/>

Gwadar's connectivity

THE strategically located Gwadar port is all set to become regional hub of trade and tourism. To achieve this objective, it is heartening to see that government is giving special emphasis to improve connectivity with the port city. Chairman CPEC Authority Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa (Retd) in a tweet on Tuesday said about 60 percent construction work of Basima-Khuzdar road had been completed while construction of Hoshab Awaran road has also started. The 146kms Hoshab-Awaran Project is an integral part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) central alignment that connects Gwadar Port with Sindh. The project is expected to be completed in three years at an estimated cost of Rs20 billion. Other road infrastructure projects that have improved connectivity in the area include Quetta-Hoshab, Surab-Quetta, Gwadar Hoshab and Ratodero-Khuzdar roads. Chairman CPEC Authority deserves appreciation for accelerating pace of work on CPEC related projects. He also keeps updating about progress on the CPEC projects and that indicates how much importance the country gives to these corridor project. Indeed future of Pakistan is linked with this mega project that will ultimately take the country towards rapid industrialisation. There should be no compromise on implementation of Gwadar master plan, which envisages holistic development of the port city. Provision of all facilities there will really attract investments in high tech industries and take their products to the Middle East and other destinations. We understand both Pakistan and China have ambitious plans for Gwadar, which will definitely be turned into reality to achieve the cherished dream of making this deep-sea port into a centre of trade. Similarly Gwadar is an ideal place to emerge as an attractive tourist destination due to its beautiful beaches, sea life, large open spaces and its proximity to the Gulf. The beaches in Gwadar are finest in the world, offering sunshine round the year. These beaches can be developed and exploited by hotel, recreational and tourist industry to their high prospects.

<https://pakobserver.net/top-news/>

The Nation

China poised to become leading foreign investor in Pakistan

Islamabad - China is poised to become leading foreign investor in Pakistan after the government recently decided to grant special incentives to the Chinese investors to expedite industrialisation in the country.

Background discussions with industry sources revealed that China would be leading in making investment in Pakistan, which has unveiled special concessions for the Chinese investors.

These concessions largely include two years business visas and priority to the Chinese investment companies through one window operation.

Pakistan on Friday launched commercialisation of ‘Rashakai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ)’ project under CPEC where China’s enterprise Century Steel Private Limited would make 366 million dollars investment.

Chinese private companies would also be encouraged to make investment in other Special Economic Zones being developed under the CPEC across Pakistan.

Interestingly, Rashakai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ) because of its strategic location would ultimately link CPEC to Afghanistan. “Negotiations with Afghan authorities are underway in this connection”, a senior government official confided to The Nation.

He pointed out that trade and investment ties between Pakistan and China would usher a new era development, prosperity and regional connectivity as the flagship of President Xi Jinping’s visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The official further said that China Export and Credit Insurance Corp (SINOSURE) would also play key role in industrialization of Pakistan.

When asked about the mode of investment by the Chinese companies, the official said that joint ventures between the private sectors of the two countries would be encouraged for the transfer of latest technology to Pakistan.

With private sector investment, process of industrialization in Pakistan would be bolstered in addition to creation of jobs and boost in Pakistan’s exports.

A Chinese company has also unveiled plan to set up a “Pakistan-China Chilli Industrial Park” in Lahore or Karachi, and the project is under planning stage.

Pakistan has also signed a number of agreements with Chinese government to benefit from its expertise in agriculture and number projects under the planning stage.

Experts believed this bilateral cooperation would also give tremendous boost to Pakistan’s agriculture sector, which despite being in shambles encompasses 25 per cent of country’s GDP.

Under the flagship China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, China has so far invested 13 billion dollars and would be investing 12 billion dollars more over the next few years.

Chinese investment under the CPEC has largely been on infrastructural in energy and road connectivity.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-29/page-1/detail-10>

Rashakai Economic Zone to trigger economy: KP CM

Peshawar - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has termed the Rashakai Special Economic Zone as a real game-changer and a historic project of the incumbent government and said that it would boost trade and industrial activities not only in the province but also in the entire country.

The chief minister said this while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Rashakai Special Economic Zone on Friday.

He said that progress has been made on other important projects including Swat Motorway Phase-II, Peshawar D.I. Khan Motorway, Khyber Pass Economic Corridor, Dir Expressway to ensure connectivity of the Rashakai Economic Zone with all parts of the province.

The Chief Minister said that various projects in the fields of energy, communications and industry had also matured in the province which would be inaugurated soon. He added that the provincial government is providing an industry-friendly environment to investors in the province, which would lead to a large-scale investment in the near future and revolutionize industrial activities.

Prime Minister Imran Khan had formally inaugurated the Rashakai Special Economic Zone. Federal Minister Pervez Khattak, provincial cabinet members, parliamentarians and Chinese high ups also attended the ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, the chief minister said that the Rashakai Special Economic Zone was a dream which has been turned into reality under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He further said that the process of providing affordable housing facilities to the low-income segments had start which would benefit the low-income people.

The chief minister said that the provincial government had been paying special attention to the development of the industrial sector and for this purpose a workable industrial roadmap had been formulated which included the establishment of new economic zones.

Hattar, Jalozei, Nowshera and DI Khan Economic Zones had been inaugurated while progress was being made on the establishment of Ghazi, Chitral, Daraban economic zones, Mohmand Marble City, Buner Marble City and other important projects. The Rashakai Special Economic Zone is a flagship project of the present government which is being set up under the CPEC portfolio.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-29/page-3/detail-2>

Medal issued to mark Pak-China 70-year ties

ISLAMABAD - A special medal has been issued by the Beijing International Coin Exposition (BICE) to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties, says a report by Gwadar Pro.

According to BICE, the medal commemorating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties with high collection value is very special and rare.

The circumference of the badge is 60mm in diameter, and it will be issued in a limited edition of 7,000.

It is difficult to make sophisticated medals with high-hardness material. BICE said: “However, in order to indicate the depth of our iron friendship, we still chose steel as the raw material for the medal. Thanks to its steel material, the medal is durable and does not fade or darn easily.”

The Himalayas on the back of the badge symbolizes the friendship between the two countries as high as the mountain.

It also reflects a vision for further deepening the friendly cooperation between the two countries and is our gift to the establishment of Pak-Chin diplomatic ties.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-29/page-3/detail-3>

May 30, 2021

Business Recorder

Legal cover for CPEC Authority

Everything that has anything to do with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is given very high importance for very obvious reasons. All things considered, the Chinese government’s plan to reconstruct the ancient silk route for enhanced trade and commerce in the present setting has turned out to be a real godsend for Pakistan. That is because CPEC is a small but integral part of the bigger design and provides all sorts of benefits to Pakistan - from Chinese-aided and funded infrastructure upgradation to transit fees for using our ports and roads - just when there was a very real danger that the country’s growth trajectory and debt burden would not let it grow at par with the rest of the region. Therefore, everybody is expected to play along whenever anything concerning CPEC shows up in parliament. Yet the way in which the CPEC Authority Bill was passed through Senate left a little to be desired.

There was really no need for a treasury-opposition showdown over the matter, leading to yet another walkout by the latter. So even though the headlines spoke of the bill sailing through the Upper House, the reality is that even something over which there is no disagreement whatsoever can so easily become a bone of contention. All the opposition asked for, while appreciating the importance of the bill, was routing it through the relevant standing committee before passing it. But that didn’t seem to fit the government’s timeline because they wanted it done in time to make ‘budgetary considerations’, and that was pretty much the end of the argument as the government went on to pass the bill unanimously while opposition members left the House.

There’s also something to be said about the mild opposition lament that something as important as this, which certainly merits very serious debate and discussion, was brought to the Senate through supplementary agenda at the end of the day; naturally raising the question, “Why can’t it be taken up tomorrow?” Granted, there is nothing wrong with it technically or legally, and it is the government’s prerogative to bring supplementary agenda at a time of its own choosing, but in the absence of a better, more plausible explanation it will be widely believed that the government decided to delay the bill precisely so the opposition wouldn’t have much time to make a fuss about it.

Now the government has what it wanted and the CPEC Authority has been given legal cover, one way or the other, one can only hope that it would function to the best of its ability and make the Corridor an outstanding success. Yet the way the widening government-opposition cleavage is deepening the deadlock in parliament is quite worrisome. The present administration is past the halfway mark and there's still not been any legislation to speak of precisely because both the government and opposition haven't learnt to stand the sight of the other across the aisle. The government accuses almost everybody in opposition of being corrupt and rules out so much as discussing the country's future with them though they have the legitimacy of an election victory behind them and have earned their places in the House. And the opposition accuses Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) of stealing the last general election to come to power so they too would rather not waste time talking to a 'selected' government.

It is unfortunate that the only workable solution that both sides have been able to come up with so far is to stay away from each other by staying well away from parliament. That of course compromises the basic job of government and it is more the duty of the ruling party, at the end of the day, to make an effort to create a conducive environment for parliament to function properly. And the way it is approaching this matter hardly deserves much praise. Surely, issues like the CPEC Authority Bill are better handled by presenting them in time to hold a constructive debate, especially since all parties are for them, instead of trying to provoke the opposition into yet another completely needless fight. That way the government would have got its bill passed and the opposition could be counted on to lend an ear when similar things come to the House.

Now, though, you can expect everybody to disagree on everything simply based on which party presents which bill and any hopes of purposeful legislation in the interest of the people have already been pretty much dashed. That is not just counter-productive, but also against the very spirit of democracy.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/30/6-page/887874-news.html>

Chinese investment under CPEC to bring revolution

LAHORE: Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid has said that billions of dollars of Chinese investment under CPEC will bring economic revolution in Pakistan which will also benefit Gilgit-Baltistan.

Talking to media on the occasion of a visit to Challenge Textile Factory on Lahore-Multan Road with Chinese investment, Khalid Khurshid said that China's Challenge Group has signed an accord with the Gilgit-Baltistan government under which our 150 people will be immediately employed here and later this number will be increased to 2000 for which we are grateful to the group.

Pakistani Businessman Qamar Khan Bobby while briefing Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid about Chinese investment said that the Challenge Fashion Export Park is being set up on Kasur Road which will revolutionize the textile industry of Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/30/9-page/887899-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese company eyes cooperation with Pakistan to develop chilli industry

China's agriculture company eyes industrial cooperation with Pakistan in development of chilli industry, according to China Economic Net (CEN)

“Pakistan is a resource-rich country, while we have resources and experience in manufacturing and industry management. It would be a good complement.

That's why we're gonna invest in the chilli industry in Pakistan,” said Li Zhimin, chairman of Qingdao Lulu Agricultural Equipment Co., Ltd., China.

According to CEN, Mr. Li as business representative from Jiaozhou, Qingdao met with a delegation led by Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin-ul-Haque in April when 2021 SCO International Investment and Trade Expo & SCO Qingdao Forum on Local Economic and Trade Cooperation was held. Both sides carried on discussions on chilli cooperation and bilateral investment and finalized the details of the company's future investment in Pakistan and reached a strategic cooperation agreement.

According to Qingdao Lulu Agricultural Equipment Co., relevant departments of Pakistan and it will jointly construct a “Pakistan China chilli Industrial Park”, with a proposed location to be Lahore or Karachi.

Li signalled their intention to invest up to \$10 million in “Pakistan-China Pepper Industrial Park”, which will cover an area of 6.67 hectares. “It will be completed in two phases. Pakistani chillies will be processed into chilli powder, chilli paste and other products and sold in China, Middle East, Europe and the United States and other markets,” Li told China Economic Net.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/763838/chinese-company-eyes-cooperation-with-pakistan-to-develop-chilli-industry/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC to help increase cultivation of dates

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will help increase Pakistan's dates cultivation, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. The CPEC is poised to usher in a new era of trade and growth, Pakistani date growers pin their hopes on its different projects to help bring revolution in date farming. The newly built motorways under CPEC are making the dates' market accessible to farmers and helping them bring the latest machines and modern farming tools to their farms in remote parts of the country. The report says, the consumption of dates, especially in its natural form, is an essential part of the Ramadan diet; dates are an unmissable part of iftar (breaking of fast) and Suhur (pre-dawn meal). Dates are the third largest horticulture crop in Pakistan, which is found in all four provinces of the country. Pakistan produces one of the best dates in the world and the country has the potential to become a leader in date

production and export; however, due to connectivity problems, lack of suitable agricultural machinery and date processing units, the desired results have not been achieved so far. According to the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), dates are cultivated over 99 thousand hectares of land with productions of around 540,000 tons annually. Pakistan ranks sixth in dates' productions in the world with over 300 date varieties in the country including Dhakki, Dhakki Dried, Shareefa, Muzawati, Kupro, Hillavi, Aseel and Rabbi Etc. As the name Dhakki shows, these dates with exotic taste are cultivated in the Dhakki area of D.I Khan District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Dhakki has established itself in national and international markets; however, market access is one of the problems that discourage farmers from growing dates on a large scale. Hakla-D.I Khan Motorway (M-16), under CPEC, is near to its completion. The 292-kilometer motorway will provide the farmers of Dhakki and other adjoining areas with easy access to the market. "Motorway would bring our products to the main markets of the country," date grower Arsalan Baloch told Gwadar Pro and he added, "Farmers would no longer be exploited to sell their products at low prices." According to Arsalan Baloch, the farmers would now utilize the motorway and would grow dates on all of their cultivable lands. "We would be able to frequently invite agriculture experts from Islamabad and other cities to examine our crops," Mr. Baloch said.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-to-help-increase-cultivation-of-dates/>

CPEC new route to boost trade, development, tourism

The 153 km long Chitral-Shandur road will help boost trade activities, development and tourism in Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan, according to a Gwadar Pro's report. The new alternate route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will minimize the burden of Karakoram highway. Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan formally inaugurated a multi-billion project to widen and reconstruct the Chitral-Shandur-Gilgit road. PM said the project would not only help in the development of Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan but would also open up scenic areas to national and international tourists. The report added, the construction would be completed in four phases. The maximum width of the road presently is around 6 to 7 meters which will be extended to 30 meters. The project would cost about Rs17 billion. Chitral-Shandur Road, known as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Highway S-2, is a provincial highway which extends from Chitral in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to Shandur in Gilgit-Baltistan province. The road starts from the town of Chitral and continues alongside the Chitral River to the north pole. It crosses the old chew bridge and goes along with a number of villages of lower Chitral. These villages include Denin, Moroi, Kari, Istangol, Baranis, Reshun, Zait, Kuragh, Charun, Junalikoch, Booni (across the river), Parwak and Mastuj. From Mastuj the road splits into two, continuing to the north pole to Yarkhun road which ends in the last valley of Broghil.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-new-route-to-boost-trade-development-tourism/>

The Express Tribune

G-B to benefit from CPEC investment

Chinese investment under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will bring an economic revolution in Pakistan, which will also benefit Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B), said G-B Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid. Talking to media on Saturday, he said that hydropower projects being constructed under CPEC in the region will supply power to the national grid but unfortunately the province was not connected to it. He recalled sharing the issue with Planning Minister Asad Umar who promised swift resolution. The province did not receive its due share after co-funding Chinese investment under CPEC, however, Prime Minister Imran Khan ended the abuse of its residents. “Prime Minister Imran Khan’s government has increased G-B’s share from Rs2 billion to Rs10 billion,” he said. According to him, China’s Challenge Group signed an accord with the Gilgit-Baltistan government under which 150 people will be immediately employed and this number will be rise to 2,000 in future.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2302345/g-b-to-benefit-from-cpec-investment>

May 31, 2021

Business Recorder

Pakistani mangoes to enter Chinese market from June 10

BEIJING: Pakistani mangoes will hit markets in China from June 10, this year, when first consignment of King of fruits will be transported from Lahore to Kunming, capital city of South-Western Yunnan province.

“We are picking Sindhri variety from the farms in Tando Allahyar, Sindh province and after processing and packaging in Lahore, we will airlift first consignment to Kunming on June 10, Adnan Hafeez, Director, Imperial Ventures (Pvt) Ltd told APP on Sunday.

He informed that most Chinese people favor mangoes imported from South Asian countries because of their plump and taste.

“This year, we are offering the product to our clients directly under business to customer strategy and even if they want to buy one box, we will deliver to their homes,” he added.

He informed that his company will efficiently utilize the air cargo services and express delivery services to supply mangoes to the customers in a very smooth and timely manner.

Adnan Hafeez said that this year, Pakistani mangoes will be available in 4.5 kg and 2.5 kg packings respectively and in the next phases we will also import Chaunsa from Pakistan.

He said that his company is also planning to organize promotional activities in collaboration with the embassy of Pakistan and its consulates to introduce Pakistani mangoes in China.

Pakistani mangoes are of very high quality and Chinese consumers have an emotional attachment to Pakistani products because of the Pak-China friendship.

According to a Chinese analyst, Pakistani mangoes are expected to enter the Chinese market on a large scale this summer. Last year, Pakistan held mango tasting event in Shanghai and the feedback from the Chinese consumers was very positive.

Pakistan is the third largest mango exporter in the world, and mango is known as the King of Fruits in Pakistan. The soil and climate conditions in Pakistan are particularly suitable for the growth of high-quality mangoes, which can be supplied for five to six months every year.

Mango is also the main export fruit of Pakistan. In 2018, Pakistan's mango production reached 1.9 million tons, ranking sixth in the world.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/31/3-page/887956-news.html>

Daily Times

PIA transports 500,000 doses of Sinovac vaccine to Pakistan from China

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA)'s special flight PK6852 on Sunday transported a batch of 500,000 doses of Sinovac vaccine from the Beijing Capital International Airport to Islamabad.

Last Sunday, a special flight PK 6853 had also transported a consignment of two million doses of Sinovac vaccine procured from China to fight the ongoing wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in Pakistan, Qadir Bux Sangi, PIA Country Manager for China told APP.

Pakistan has so far received over 13 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines comprising Sinopharm, Sinovac and CanSino procured from China including others through COVAX programme.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson has stated in a statement that China has always attached great importance to Pakistan's demand for vaccines to help fight Covid-19 pandemic and carried out close cooperation with that country.

“Chinese vaccine manufacturers have cooperated with Pakistan in the development and production of vaccines from the very beginning and will continue to export vaccines to Pakistan,” he added. China and Pakistan are all weather strategic cooperative partners, adding, Since the outbreak of Covid-19, China and Pakistan have worked together to help each other and achieve positive results. It may be mentioned that Pakistani health authorities had launched a nationwide vaccination drive with around a million doses of Sinopharm vaccine donated by China, starting with older people and frontline healthcare workers, in March.

The drive began with a focus on the oldest people in the community, generally over the age of 80, and worked its way down. Initially, the government had to deal with vaccination hesitancy and a shortage of vaccine supplies and had limited shots for people aged 30 or over.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/764264/pia-transport-500000-doses-of-sinovac-vaccine-to-pakistan-from-china/>

Rashakai Prioritized Special Economic Zone: A game-changer project for entire region

Rashakai Prioritized Special Economic Zone (RPSEZ), a game-changer project being established on 1,000 acres of land, has the potential to attract US \$ 4 billion direct foreign investment (DFI) which will generate over 200,000 jobs during the next three years.

The zone will serve as a trade gateway for promotion of industrialization and economic development of Pakistan. Located at the most strategic site on Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway in Nowshera district with major international markets of Central Asia, Afghanistan, CARs, China and SAARC in its close proximity, RPSEZ is an emerging business hub.

It will bolster industrialization, promote Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), construction, pharmaceutical, food and marble industries in addition to increase trade volume between Pakistan and the aforementioned countries.

“Following its successful commercial launch by Prime Minister Imran Khan, the industrialization process at KP’s first RPSEZ under CPEC Phase-II has been formally started in large-scale where US \$ 4 billion DFI is expected besides generation of over 200,000 jobs during next three years” said Javed Khattak, Project Director, KP Economic Zone Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) while talking to APP.

He said the DFI has been diverted to Pakistan under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a major component of China’s One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative, which has entered into an advanced phase of industrialization after signing of the landmark RPSEZ development agreement between Pakistan and China on September 14, 2020, paving the way of large-scale industrialization and construction activities at project site by the domestic, Chinese and overseas Pakistanis companies.

“China’s Century Steel Mills having an investment US \$ 366 million being setup on 40 acres has started construction work at RPSEZ after importing machinery and equipment besides all necessary incentives are being provided to domestic and foreign investors through one window operation and all bottlenecks were removed”, said Chief Executive Officer KPEZDMC.

He said companies and firms investing in the mega CPEC project have been exempted from Income Tax for 10 years and custom duties on import of machinery.

The CEO said about 2,000 applications from domestic and foreign companies and firms have been received including 32 reputable Chinese and 25 Pakistanis companies for investment at RPSEZ where construction activities for establishment of industrial units was started at a large-scale.

“Foreign investors from brotherly countries of Turkey, Gulf, Pakistan’s origins, Candians and others have shown interest at RPSEZ, he said.

Following official announcement of CPEC, he said around 37 zones were proposed as Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for all provinces of Pakistan out of which establishment of nine SEZs were prioritized including RPSEZ, Dhabeji, Bostan Industrial Zone, Allama Iqbal Industrial City Faisalabad, ICT Model Industrial Zone Islamabad, Industrial Park Pakistan Steel Mills Port Qasim, Mirpur Industrial Zone AJK, Mohmand Marble City and Moqpondass in Gilgit-Baltistan.

However, RPSEZ is holding a unique competitive advantage due to its close proximity to the first juncture of CPEC route, close location with Peshawar Airport, Islamabad and ML-I besides a significant resource and manufacturing base, making it an attractive destination for domestic and international investors to capture local and international markets for capital gains.

Work on the project was initiated after inking Memorandum of Understandings during KP-China Roadshow in April 2017. After long deliberations, KP Government had signed the Concessional Agreement with CRBC to develop RPSEZ during the historic visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China where he attended Second Belt and Road Forum (SBRF) and Beijing International Horticulture Exhibition (BIHE) 2019.

RPSEZ had been awarded SEZ status on August 6, 2019 before it’s Concession agreement was signed in April 2019. The agreements provided a comprehensive roadmap for establishment of RPSEZ while holding federal and provincial governments besides developers jointly responsible for its timely development and completion as per international standards.

Javed Khattak said the project’s commercial launch was scheduled on November 18 last but was postponed due to a spike in COVID-19 cases. It is a three- year project to be developed on 1,000 acres in three different phases. Total area designated for industrial use was 702 acres and as per Federal SEZ Areas Regulations, of which 159 acres would be developed in Phase I, 279 acres in Phase II and 264 acres in Phase III besides 76 acres land for commercial use.

In the first phase, industries related to foods processing, textile garments, home building materials, general merchandise, electronics, mines and minerals, electrical appliances, automobile and mechanical equipment would be set up and more industries to be included in later stages.

“All essential services including roads, water and electricity were provided to the facility and work on the gas project is in full swing”, he said.

Former President, Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Faud Ishaq told APP that RSEZ was a landmark project to promote foods, steels, pharmaceuticals and marble industries besides SMEs.

He said the KP’s investors spend more than other provinces on cargo services due to the provincial geographical placement in terms of long distance from Karachi seaport, which would

be largely beneficial for RPSEZ and other such projects enabling them to capture domestic and international markets for capital profit.

Former Chairman, Economics Department, University of Peshawar, Prof Dr. Zilakat Malik said there was a large scope to increase the volume of trade between Pakistan and the above countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/764267/rashakai-prioritized-special-economic-zone-a-game-changer-project-for-entire-region/>

Liver transplantation in China-Pakistan Health Corridor

Dr. Zhu ZhiJun, a Chinese Professor of Medicine, Director of Liver Transplant Center, Beijing Friendship Hospital (BFH), and his liver transplantation team have provided Pakistani patients with liver transplant free of charge for two years.

The China-Pakistan medical cooperation project led by the Liver Transplantation Center of BFH was launched in 2015. In the last few years, the team led by Professor Zhu Zhijun has travelled to Pakistan many times to carry out liver transplant surgeries for patients, and worked on training local medical professionals in liver transplantation.

On the eve of the 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties, China Economic Net interviewed Zhu and his team.

One day in 2003, Zhu Zhijun, working at Tianjin No. 1 Central Hospital at that time, took over a Pakistani patient with end-stage liver failure.

“The patient had post hepatitis C cirrhosis, terminal liver failure and massive ascites, which could not be treated by internal medicine and was in serious danger of death,” Zhu recalled, “We performed liver transplantation for him, then fortunately, the patient recovered very well after the surgery.”

After the successful case, the news of Chinese doctors’ skilled liver transplants spread like wildfire within the Pakistani military. Pakistan has a high incidence of liver disease, including hepatitis C and hepatitis B, but no more than 200 liver transplants are performed in Pakistan each year. Therefore, the Pakistani government urgently needs to cultivate local liver transplantation talents.

After many times of communication and contact, Zhu, who had led the liver transplantation of Friendship Hospital the first in Beijing and attended liver disease conferences in Pakistan many times, received an official invitation from the Embassy of Pakistan in 2015.

“The Pakistani embassy came to our hospital and invited me to cooperate with Pakistani hospitals for assisting the training of Pakistani doctors and directly operating surgeries on Pakistani patients,” he recalled.

“Liver transplantation is special because there is no alternative treatment, unlike kidney transplantation, which can be replaced by dialysis, or heart transplantation, which can be

replaced by artificial heart. If liver failure occurs, the patient's life is in danger without liver transplantation," he said.

Zhu recalled: "When I was in Pakistan, I saw a lot of patients at a very advanced stage who were not getting treatment, with severe ascites, itchy jaundice, and liver failure, and it was very sad for me because they were treatable with liver transplantation."

After a long period of coordination and communication, they finally decided on the way that Pakistan hospitals provide hardware facilities and Chinese doctors go to Pakistan to carry out the operation. The project was officially implemented in 2018.

Since then, Zhu and his team have made regular trips to Pakistan to perform operations on local patients.

Zhu said: "At first, our family members, colleagues and friends thought it would take too much of our effort.

We have to go there once a month, for about 4 days at a time. In addition to a six-hour flight, we used to work for more than 10 hours a day after we arrived in Pakistan. Even so, the project has received support from their families and hospitals."

Up to now, Zhu and his team have performed more than 40 liver transplants for Pakistani patients. All the patients recovered well after the operation, and many of them have returned to their normal lives and work.

Apart from performing liver transplants for Pakistani patients, Zhu and his team have focused on training medical talents for Pakistan and improving the level of its medical care.

Since the project launched, each time they were performing liver transplants in Pakistan, they would invite local doctors to observe and study. Besides, they also give lectures, hold meetings and tutor practice on models for Pakistani doctors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/764239/liver-transplantation-in-china-pakistan-health-corridor/>

Pak-China will jointly research on materials technology

University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB) has proposed CPEC Research Institute of Materials Technology to train professional talents for CPEC infrastructure projects.

According to Gwadar Pro, academicians, experts and professors from USTB will work together to develop training programs for various materials used in CPEC projects.

In the early stage of the project, teachers, students and technical personnel in Pakistani universities will be provided with guidance on material research methods through sharing teaching videos, holding bilateral conferences and conducting research tutoring work, so as to improve their professional competence.

Earlier 52 Pakistani students studying at USTB received a letter from Chinese President Xi Jinping. Xi encouraged the students to communicate more with their Chinese peers and join

hands with youth from all countries to contribute to promoting people-to-people connectivity and building a community with a shared future for humanity.

The letter evoked a warm response among Pakistani students in China and laid a foundation for connectivity between USTB and Pakistani academic institutions.

Coinciding the 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties, USTB initiated CPEC Research Institute of Materials Technology to train professional talents for CPEC infrastructure projects.

The materials science of USTB is a world-class discipline with long-history and has developed various high-performance materials for BRI projects.

At the same time, USTB has also trained a number of Pakistani students, who have not only learned professional knowledge, but also become a bridge of friendship between Pakistan and China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/764237/pak-china-will-jointly-research-on-materials-technology/>

Dunya News

Gwadar Port fully operational: Asim Saleem Bajwa

GWADAR (Dunya News) - Chairman of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority Lt. General (ret'd) Asim Saleem Bajwa has said that Gwadar port has been made fully operational and now online booking for delivery of goods can be made. Addressing a news conference in Gwadar, Chairman CPEC Authority informed the media persons that the work on Phase-II of Gwadar Free Zone is underway and other projects connected to Gwadar Port have also been expedited in last two and a half years. Asim Saleem Bajwa further Gwadar City Master Plan has been approved and a hospital is also being built in Gwadar with the help of China. He further said that work on Gwadar Airport is also in full swing and about 12,000 jobs have been provided in Gwadar during the last 3 years.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/603998-Gwadar-Port-fully-operational:-Asim-Saleem-Bajwa>

The Nation

Sino-Pak friendship

Masud Ahmad Khan

Pakistan was the first Muslim country, and third non-communist country, to establish diplomatic relations with China. The resolution of China's admission to UN was moved by Pakistan. The Bandung conference in 1955 provided the opportunity to the leaders of the two countries to interact. In 1956, the then Prime Minister Suhrawardy visited China in October and the Chinese Prime Minister Zhou Enlai visited Pakistan in December. Even Pakistan international Airline (PIA) was first international carrier to link China to the outside world.

Pakistan played an important role in bringing China and the US closer, which led to the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. It was from Pakistan that Henry Kissinger took off secretly for Beijing and he recognised and praised Pakistan's role in promoting ties between the two countries. During the 1962 war with India, Pakistan condemned India as an aggressor and that helped to grow closer to China.

The boundary between China and Pakistan was demarcated in 1962 and an agreement was signed on March 2, 1963, at Beijing by Bhutto and his Chinese counterpart, Chen Yi. China ceded 750 square miles of territory to Pakistan, contrary to false claims that Pakistan ceded territory to China. Bhutto said, "The facts are that Pakistan has not ceded even one square inch of territory to China. It has gained 750 square miles of territory which had been in China's control". According to late Abdul Sattar Khan, who served as Foreign Secretary, "Pakistan must remember with gratitude an extraordinary gesture by Premier Zhou Enlai."

The China-Pakistan boundary agreement was a historic event to settle territorial dispute between the two countries. China supported Pakistan during the 1965 and 1971 wars. Pakistan supported China's claim over Hong Kong and the enactment of the law to safe guarding national security in the region. Over the years, cooperation between the two countries had flourished. China assisted Pakistan in setting up the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Heavy Industries Taxila, Pakistan Ordnance Factories and also supported in the establishment of the Guddu Thermal Power Plant and Chashma Nuclear Power Plant. The military cooperation between the two countries has strengthened further over a period of time.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that passes through Pakistan. The 64 billion project includes the construction of roads, railways and hydro power plants. It will link Pakistan's sea port in Gwadar to the Xinjiang province in China. CPEC will also provide China a much shorter route for its trade with the Middle East and Africa. President Xi Jinping, during his first visit to Pakistan in 2015, said "I feel I am going to visit the home of my own brother".

The west is afraid of China's growing economy and therefore, wants to contain it as much as possible. Recently, the construction of the Diamer Bhasha Dam—worth 442 billion—is a joint venture signed between China Power and FWO. The dam will go a long way for economic development and will socially uplift the country after its completion in 2028. The relations between the two countries are based on solid friendship dating back to the era of the ancient Silk Route.

Pakistan and China hold the same stance on almost all major international issues. Relations between the two countries would continue to flourish as the Pak-China friendship enjoys the support of their masses. Pakistan was the first country to receive donations of half a million Chinese Covid-19 vaccines. Earlier, China also provided medical gear and equipment to fight against the outbreak of Covid-19. At the 69th anniversary of the diplomatic relationship between China and Pakistan, China said our relations with Pakistan are 'firm as a rock'. Pakistan and China's relationship has been referred to by the Chinese President Xi Jinping as 'higher than

the mountains, deeper than the oceans and sweeter than honey”. Prime Minister Imran Khan has made it clear that our future is tied with China which has stood by us through thick and thin.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-31/page-6/detail-4>

Chinese diplomacy in South Asia

Yasir Habib Khan

China’s robust integration and engagement with the South Asian region is centered around shared peace and green development along with the policy of coexistence, equality and rule of law. Largely underpinned by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), investments in infrastructure for connectivity, trade, tourism, science, technology, health, education and a comprehensive plan for economic recovery in post-pandemic era has been Beijing’s focus.

China hosted a ‘foreign ministers meeting’ of five South Asian nations—including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal. To push forward cooperation, China announced the creation of the China-South Asian Countries Emergency Supplies Reserve, set up a Poverty Alleviation and Cooperative Development Centre, and held an E-commerce Cooperation Forum on Poverty Alleviation in Rural Areas.

The six countries’ foreign ministers gave a thumbs up to active participation in the spirit of openness and inclusivity. They unanimously decided to keep tabs on the development of the Covid-19 situation in India, and expressed their willingness to continue to provide support through respective channels in consultation with India.

The meeting became the first high-profile platform to thwart any attempt to politicise the issue of pandemic origin, vaccine-making and its distribution. South Asian countries supported the Chinese President Xi Jinping’s stance on making vaccines a global public good, and carrying out continued vaccine cooperation with the participating countries in a flexible manner. Even the importance of the co-production of the vaccines was discussed.

Led by China, all countries agreed to deepen cooperation for the BRI, open their borders under the premise of pandemic prevention and control for smooth trade, keep the industrial and supply chains stable and secure, and give a stronger boost to economic recovery to improve the people’s lives. They stressed the importance of tackling poverty, food security and other non-traditional security fields to protect the livelihoods of the most vulnerable groups of society.

Asian economies will remain an anchor for multilateralism and play a key role in bolstering pandemic control, keeping industry and supply chains efficient and stable, and promoting trade and investment, said Li Baodong, the secretary-general of 2021’s Boao Forum for Asia.

If traced back to 2019, the Second China-South Asia Cooperation Forum—a platform to further enhance socio-economic ties between China and South Asia—was held in Yuxi, in the Yunnan Province. The forum’s discussion topics revolved on closer cooperation in terms of interconnectivity, business, poverty reduction, finance, and people-to-people exchanges.

China plans to build an important passageway, opening to South Asia through the Tibet Autonomous Region. This plan is envisaged in the outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for national economic and social development and the long-range objectives through the year 2035.

It is the result of China's efforts in South Asia that regional countries including Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives and Nepal want to boost their collaborations in every sector.

Bangladesh's President, Abdul Hamid, told the Chinese Defence Minister, Gen Wei Fenghe, that China is one of the most important development partners of Bangladesh, and relations between the two countries are gradually expanding in various fields—including trade and investment. He mentioned that Chinese investment in various sectors, including infrastructure and communication, is playing a very significant role in the socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

The Sri Lankan President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, wanted to work together with China to promote construction for the BRI. Talking to China's new ambassador to Sri Lanka, Qi Zhenhong, Rajapaksa said Sri Lanka always bore in mind the firm support from China in the island country's fight against terrorism and the post-war reconstruction. He desired to study China's developmental path and model, and strengthen cooperation with it in key areas related to people's livelihood, such as rural areas, science and technology, education, and investment.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, eulogised China for its friendliness and cooperation in helping Pakistan to bolster its economy in the pre and post pandemic arena during a meeting with the Chinese ambassador, Nong Rong. Seeking opportunities in deepening access to the Chinese market, the Foreign Minister also stressed the need to speed up the completion of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. He also maintained that CPEC was a transformational project and hoped that the ambassador, with his experience in trade and infrastructure development, will fast track the projects and promote industrialisation in Pakistan. China's robust engagement with the region needs to be integrated with pragmatism and developmental reciprocity.

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