



# For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

## Gleanings from the National Press

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May 16-31, 2020

A pilot project of PICS

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**May 16, 2020**

## **Business Recorder**

### **Developers, enterprises**

BoI seeks extension in period of incentives for SEZs

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Investment (BoI) has moved a summary to the Finance Division asking for extending incentives for the developers and enterprises for Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which will expire on June 2020. A summary is included in the agenda items of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) meeting, which has been scheduled for next week, sources said.

The Special Economic Zones Act, 2012 will be amended with an objective to extend the period of incentives for developers and enterprises through Finance Bill 2020-2021, an official of the BOI told Business Recorder.

Under the SEZs Act 2012, zone developers, are granted one-time exemption from all custom-duties and taxes on plant and machinery imported into Pakistan except the items listed under Chapter 87 of the Pakistan Customs Tariff, for the setting up of an SEZ subject to verification by the BOI.

Exemption from all taxes on income accruable in relation to the development and operation of the SEZ are allowed for a period of five years, starting from the date of signing of the development agreement.

For zone enterprises, all zone enterprises shall be entitled to the following benefits, namely:- (a) one-time exemption from custom-duties and taxes on import of plant and machinery into SEZ except items listed under Chapter 87 of the Pakistan Customs Tariff, for installation in that zone enterprise subject to verification by the BOI; and (b) exemption from all taxes on income for enterprises commencing commercial production by the 30th June, 2020, in the SEZs for the next 10 years; “provided that exemption from all taxes on income for those zone enterprises or firms which commence commercial production after the aforesaid date shall be for the next five years.”

On Thursday, the Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) recommended the BOI, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to resolve all the issues pertaining to the SEZs on top-priority basis, so that these early harvest projects could be ready for economic activity.

Sources said that the BOI resolved all issues pertaining to taxes and duty exemptions for Rashahi Dhabeji and Faisalabad; however issues with the SBP are yet to be resolved.

General incentives of utilities for SEZs, gas, electricity and others would be provided at the zero-point of the zones.

Captive power generation is permissible to developers of the zones.

A total of Rs13.123 billion is required in funds to provide utilities including 880.3MW electricity, and 393.5 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) gas to seven SEZs in the current year 2020.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/16/1-page/837299-news.html>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **China expresses concerns over India's ceasefire violations along LoC Rejects New Delhi's objection over Diamer-Bhasha dam**

China on Friday expressed concerns over Indian troops' continued ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) in Occupied Kashmir and targeting of civilian population with artillery and other weapons on Pakistani side. "We note relevant reports with concern," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said while responding to question asked by APP that these violations could be a threat to the regional peace and security. The spokesperson said that as a neighbor to both Pakistan and India, China always believed that peaceful coexistence served the fundamental interests of both countries and was the shared expectation of the international community.

He said that in particular, against the backdrop of the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan and India should shelve disputes and enhance communication and cooperation. "We call on the parties concerned to exercise restraint and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability," he added.

According to reports, the Indian occupation forces along the LoC and the Working Boundary had continuously been targeting civilian populations with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars and automatic weapons at different sectors killing and injuring a number of innocent people in the area. In 2020, India has so far committed 989 ceasefire violations. Indian side is also not allowing the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) to play its mandated role as per the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions to monitor ceasefire violations on LoC. Referring to the Indian External Affairs Ministry's stance; Lijian stated that China's position on the issue of Kashmir was consistent. Beijing on Friday rejected the objection raised by New Delhi over the construction of Diamer-Bhasha dam and said economic cooperation between China and Pakistan was aimed at promoting economic development and improving the well-being of the local population. While responding to a question about the construction of the dam during a media briefing in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said: "China and Pakistan conduct the economic cooperation in order to promote the economic development and improve the well-being of the local population." The spokesperson said the project was mutually beneficial and win-win for the two all-weather friends and strategic cooperative partners.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-expresses-concerns-over-indias-ceasefire-violations-along-loc-rejects-new-delhis-objection-over-diamer-bhasha-dam/>

**May 17, 2020**

**Pakistan Observer**

**China highly appreciates Pakistan's objective position on Covid-19**

China highly appreciates that Pakistan upholds an objective and impartial position on Covid-19, said the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian here at a regular press briefing. He was asked to comment on the Senate of Pakistan's unanimous resolution "Thanking China for supporting Pakistan on coronavirus crisis", reports Gwadar Pro. In the resolution, the Senate of Pakistan rejected the baseless propaganda against China from certain quarters, which stems from geopolitical rivalry and is more an attempt to divert attention from their own internal failings as it has no factual basis. The resolution has expressed deep appreciation to China for its strong support and timely assistance to Pakistan during the current coronavirus crisis. Zhao said China appreciates the Senate of Pakistan for passing this resolution. China and Pakistan have been supporting each other and working closely to fight against the pandemic. China will never forget it is Pakistan that mobilized the whole nation to provide assistance to us when China was at a critical moment in fighting against the coronavirus. Chinese government also has provided many batches of aids to Pakistan according to its needs, actively mobilized all sectors of society to make donations to Pakistanis and sent medical expert teams to help combat the pandemic. This proves that China and Pakistan are true friends and good brothers sharing weal and woe, he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-highly-appreciates-pakistans-objective-position-on-covid-19/>

**Chinese enterprise donates 2 automatic mask production lines to Pakistan**

Xuzhou Xunyiike System Technology, a leading high-tech enterprise providing integrated solutions for intelligent manufacturing has donated two automatic intelligent mask production lines to help Pakistan build the mask industry. Each machine has a capacity to produce 100,000 masks per day, Qin Ping, General Manager of Xunyiike, located in Xiangcheng District of Suzhou, said in an interview. The production line donated to Pakistan, through Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, can ensure fully automatic production. It can also ensure remote data collection, debugging and maintenance services by giving operating instructions in Suzhou. "There is no mask industry in Pakistan, so we are donating the production lines to help Pakistan build the mask industry," he told Economic Daily-China Economic Net. Qin Ping said, "When the Hubei epidemic broke out, we donated some masks to Hubei province. Later, outbreaks in foreign countries began to occur in large areas. We also wanted to donate some masks at the beginning. However, our company did not originally produce masks. It was difficult to buy masks at that time. We decided to donate a mask production line." In March this year, Xunyi Branch donated two fully automatic intelligent mask production lines to Pakistan. "Pakistan is closer to us and one of the countries with better relations. Considering the opportunity to do some communication in the future, I chose (donate) Pakistan," he added. Qin Ping said the complete mask production line involves a lot of things. In addition to the mask machine itself, there are

also packaging systems and other auxiliary equipment. “We initially considered donating a complete, fully automatic mask production line, but considering that Pakistan itself does not have a mask industry, we later handed over relatively easy-to-operate semi-automatic equipment, at least to ensure that export masks can be produced immediately,” he added. Qin Ping said the fully automatic mask production line has relatively high skills requirements for workers, and the equipment has to be assembled after the equipment is disassembled and shipped. The process is very complicated.

“The semi-automatic production line only needs more labor. Although the production capacity is not as high as that of fully automatic, but if the workers can be skilled in operation, the two production lines donated by us should produce 100,000 masks per day should be no problem.” Liu Huaqu, Technical Supervisor informed that the company developed its mask producing machine in the first 15 days after the outbreak of Covid-19.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-enterprise-donates-2-automatic-mask-production-lines-to-pakistan/>

**May 18, 2020**

**Dunya News**

### **Govt to provide all out assistance to foreign investors interested in SEZs**

Minister for Foreign Affairs Shah Mehmood Qureshi Sunday reaffirmed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government’s commitment to fully encourage foreign investment in Pakistan and provide all out assistance to investors especially those interested to pump money in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He expressed these views during a meeting with Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) Chairman Mian Kashif Ashfaq who called on him, said a press release.

The minister said there were vast investment opportunities in Pakistan in the fields of energy, agriculture, health, education and construction for foreign investors.

He said the government was planning to envisage a comprehensive strategy in wake of coronavirus pandemic especially in context of post corona era and would initiate economic diplomacy through activating all embassies to apprise foreign investors on lucrative business opportunities in Pakistan.

He said the first phase of CPEC was focused on infrastructure development and energy generation while in second phase industrial cooperation and socioeconomic development were our highest priorities.

He said the government had set up SEZs especially prioritized ones and Allama Iqbal Industrial City under CPEC of FIEDMC would also help meet these objectives.

He also appreciated Mian Kashif Ashfaq for accelerating the pace of development projects in Allama Iqbal Industrial City and asked him to seek mutual cooperation from investors of this

whole region, especially the landlocked Central Asian countries and Afghanistan, to benefit from the CPEC.

“CPEC is a game-changer for the entire region and there is no restriction on any country, including the USA, to invest in the special economic zones, being established under CPEC,” added Qureshi.

FIEDMC Chief Operating Officer Muhammad Aamir Saleemi and other senior officers besides experts were also present on the occasion.

FIEDMC Chairman Mian Kashif Ashfaq apprising Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi of Allama Iqbal Industrial City said this sole project would house as many as 400 industries besides giving employments to 2,500,00 people.

He said approximately Rs450 billion foreign and local investments would be pumped into this project and development project was being carried out on fast track.

The FIDEMC always provided state of the art facilities to its customers besides resolving their issues through one window operation on top priority basis. He said the confidence of the investors on was being restored after completion of M3 project.

He further said many European countries were keen to invest in various economic sectors of Pakistan especially in newly launched state of the art Allama Iqbal Industrial Estate with 10 years tax holiday coupled with an excellent and unprecedented package of incentives.

Kashif Ashfaq said the FIEDMC, following the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, was extending maximum facilities and services to businessmen under one roof for ease of doing business in the province.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/545829-Govt-provide-all-out-assistance-foreign-investors-interested-SEZs>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **US, China, UK top destinations of Pakistan exports**

The United States of America (USA) remained the top export destinations of the Pakistani products during first three quarters of current financial year (2019-20), followed by China and UK. The total exports to the USA during July-March (2019-20) were recorded at US \$ 3097.635 million against the exports of US \$ 3021.542 million during July-March (2018-19), showing an increase of 2.51 percent during the period under review, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$ 1298.259 million against the exports of \$1310.136 million last year, showing nominal decrease of 0.90 percent. UK was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$ 1279.873 million during this year against the exports of US \$ 1319.685 million during last year, showing decrease of 3.01 percent, SBP data revealed.

<https://pakobserver.net/us-china-uk-top-destinations-of-pakistan-exports/>

### **Pakistan's imports from China decrease by 6.84pc**

Pakistan's imports of goods and services from China witnessed decrease of 6.84 percent during the first three quarter of financial year (2019-20) compared to the corresponding period of last year, SBP reported. The overall imports from China into the country were recorded at \$6973.167 million during July-March (2019-20) against the imports of \$7485.193 million during July-March (2018-19), showing decreased of 6.84 percent, SBP data revealed. The overall imports into the country decreased by 16.22 percent, according to the data from \$39.312 billion to \$32.935 billion, On the other hand, the exports to China during the period under review were recorded at \$1298.259 million against exports of \$1310.136 million during same period of last year, showing negative growth of 0.90 percent. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 1.13 percent in nine months, from \$17.793 billion to \$17.866 billion, the SBP data revealed.

Based on the trade figures, the trade of goods and services with China witnessed decrease of 8.09 percent in deficit during first three quarters of ongoing fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-imports-from-china-decrease-by-6-84pc/>

### **Chinese medical supply: A manifestation of time-tested friendship**

*Dr. Saeed Ahmed Ali*

Pak-China time-tested friendship is bonded in all-weather strategic and cooperative partnership based on unparalleled, unshaken mutual trust, commonality of interests and understanding. One of the well-known quotes referred to Pak-China friendship is: "A friendship higher than the mountains, deeper than the oceans, stronger than steel and sweeter than honey". Both countries had been extending cordial support to each other from time to time by solidifying the historic bonds of support and diplomatic ties and globally established a rich identity as the two "Iron Brothers". China was the first country to face the brunt of novel coronavirus pandemic and the only country in the world which has successfully defeated the disease. After its remarkable success against the pandemic, China is now playing a commendable role in global efforts against the Covid-19. The World Health Organization (WHO) Health Mission to China, consisting of 13 foreigners and 12 Chinese scientists has recently released a report, in which it was observed that the government and people of China adopted unprecedented aggressive measures to combat the deadly virus. A few weeks ago the Chinese hospitals were overflowing with Covid-19 affected patients, but now empty beds in the hospitals were witnessed, with very few cases there, the report said. The mission has compiled its report after studying various places and hospitals of five major cities of China. President Arif Alvi on March 16 visited China amid the coronavirus outbreak, which sent internationally a magnificent signal of unity and love of Pakistan for the government and people of China. Similarly, the Chinese government has recently sent medical supplies in abundance for Pakistan including protective gear and testing kits, in a bid to contain the spread of virus.



Talking to APP, Services Hospital Lahore's Medical Superintendent Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed said that the continued and unprecedented medical supply assistance from China reached Pakistan at a critical time, when medical professionals and health workers were struggling to treat the patients. Prime Minister Imran Khan has conveyed sincere gratitude to China for supporting Pakistan in the hard time. "The medical equipment provided by China will greatly strengthen Pakistan's capacity" to fight the virus, PM Imran Khan has said. At start, Pakistan had received around 20 tons of medical goods and 20 ventilators from China, on urgent basis, a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) document revealed. Chairman Pakistan-China Institute Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said that Pakistan and China are staunch partners and the salient features of their ties were based on bilateral, cultural, regional and international relations which advance the shared-goals of promoting peace, solidarity and development in the region and beyond. He said that Chinese government, state institutions and leading entrepreneurs had made generous donations by providing an overwhelming number of supplies and medical equipment to Pakistan. He said, "The people and government of Pakistan acknowledge and laud the Chinese government for taking care of foreign and Pakistani nationals residing in China by ensuring their safety and health security like its own people amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Member Punjab Provincial Assembly (MPA) Muhammad Hanif Patafi said that the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan has mobilized institutional, capital and human resources, coordinated efforts to combat coronavirus, and Pakistan looked pretty mild as compared to the rest of the world. However, the shortage of medical infrastructure has been posing problem for entire healthcare system in developing countries, he added. Meanwhile, following the Pakistan government call, the Chinese government has also sent its medical teams and experts to Pakistan who have started training Pakistani doctors and paramedics on Covid-19 case detection, prevention and clinical management at King Edward Medical University under the supervision of Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid. The Chinese experts led by Mr. Minghui held technical sessions. Mr. Li Fengsen, Lu Dongmei, Song Yunlin, Enwer Nasiroula, Zhang Li, Meng Cunren and Liu Wanli demonstrated lectures on their respective areas of expertise and shared experience of controlling the Pandemic in Wuhan, China. The Chinese experts led by Mr. Minghui held technical sessions. Mr. Li Fengsen, Song Yunlin, Lu Dongmei, Enwer Nasiroula, Meng Cunren, Zhang Li and Liu Wanli delivered lectures on their respective areas of expertise and shared experience of controlling the Pandemic in Wuhan, China. In their lectures on the corona related medical treatment, the experts have emphasized over social distancing and isolation of confirmed and suspected patients.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-medical-supply-a-manifestation-of-time-tested-friendship/>

### **The Nation**

#### **Special flight operation begins to bring back students from China's Wuhan**

A special plane of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will arrive in China to repatriate the first batch of Pakistanis mostly students from Wuhan on Monday (today).

“All the arrangements have been finalized to airlift Pakistani students from the city hit by COVID-19 through a special flight to be operated by the national flag carrier on May 18,” according to official sources here on Sunday.

All the passengers will bear travelling expenditure for the special flights and after arriving in Pakistan will be subject to relevant procedures for containing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. Around 1,300 Pakistani students were studying in different universities in China’s Hubei province, including 800 students in Wuhan, epicenter of novel coronavirus outbreak, when the Chinese government decided to impose a lockdown in the city as well as the province.

Although, the Pakistan government has decided to bring all Pakistanis back at this stage; however, due to certain limitations, the return of laid-off workers or those Pakistanis whose visa have expired would be prioritized. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Naghmana Hashmi, in a recent interview, said Pakistan government took a difficult decision of not repatriating its students from Wuhan and Hubei province after a lockdown was imposed by the Chinese government on January 20.

Later, this decision proved very wise and useful as there was no case of coronavirus transmission from China to Pakistan, she added. At a time when the entire world was criticizing and trying to isolate China for the spread of virus, Pakistan’s government decided to support its iron brother and all weather strategic cooperative partner as Pakistan had a complete confidence in the Chinese government’s capability to win battle against COVID-19.

Chinese President Xi Jinping had also announced that Pakistani students would be treated as their own children in China and the Chinese authorities would take their complete care.

As a result, all the students and members of Pakistani community remained safe during the epidemic, she said and added, “This decision not only sent a good message at the political level but it was also fully acknowledged and praised by the Chinese nation.”

Ambassador Hashmi praised the students for demonstrating courage and commitment to face the difficult situation during the outbreak and fully supporting the government.

She informed that some of these students from Wuhan would be returning while a number of students who were waiting to receive degrees after completion of their studies in next couple of months would continue to stay. Ambassador advised the students to share their experience with their friends and relatives about preventive measures introduced by the Chinese authorities during epidemic so that the people in Pakistan could also follow this practice to save themselves. It may be mentioned here, the next special flight will transport members of Pakistan community from Shanghai to Karachi on May 20.

<https://nation.com.pk/18-May-2020/special-flight-operation-begins-to-bring-back-students-from-china-s-wuhan>

## The News

### **New Gwadar Airport enters 2nd phase of construction**

ISLAMABAD: The construction of the much-awaited New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) costing \$ 230 million has entered into its second phase after meeting specific benchmarks laid down in the first phase.

According to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Sunday, with completion of the first phase involving soil testing, ground leveling, land boundaries, design details and walls construction at adjacent properties, the second phase has been unveiled with a purpose-built mega permanent station. Earlier there was a temporary camp office comprising limited resources and man force strength. “Located in Gurandani area, some 26 km northeast of Gwadar city of Balochistan province just off the Makran Coastal Highway, NGIA is under construction over the last few months. Establishment and operationalization of the permanent station is a leading step in the second phase to bolster development activities with full tilt,” China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) Chairman Zhang Baozhong said.

As construction work did not suffer suspension despite the COVID-19 catastrophic devastation, he said, the second phase had been materialized as per schedule. With mobilization of civil work machinery, modern construction gears, terminal paraphernalia, manpower had been shifted into the newly constructed building, Mr. Zhang explained.

“NGIA to be completed within 3 years and set to be the second largest airport in Pakistan will connect the fast-rising Gwadar port city to the rest of world,” he claimed. NGIA Phase II made everybody sit up and take notice when CPEC authority chairman LT- Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa, who is also serving as SAPM on Information and Broadcasting, tweeted on May 7, “Construction work on Gwadar International Airport starts, all pending issues resolved, stalled containers of machinery cleared from Gwadar Port, labor mobilized, educated on COVID-19 SOPs.

The second phase involves modern terminal and cargo buildings, communication & navigational projects, air traffic control system, runway, water supply, power supply, HVAC, parking space, residential area, schools and other facilities. The design and construction of the new airport are in conformity with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards. Being part of the Early Harvest High Priority Project of CPEC in January 2014, NGIA is free from all sorts of loan obligations and debt burden. It is being constructed on grant assistance fully funded by the Chinese government according to papers signed in May 2017. The project is part of the overall infrastructure development of Balochistan. It would be developed as a green-field facility with all modern facilities for safe operation.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/660355-new-gwadar-airport-enters-2nd-phase-of-construction>

**May 19, 2020**

**Dawn News**

**274 students brought back from China**

RAWALPINDI: As many as 274 Pakistani students stranded in the Chinese city of Wuhan arrived at Islamabad International Airport (IIA) on a special flight of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Monday. PK 8872 carrying the students and 20 crew members landed at IIA at 8:15pm.

On arrival, they were checked by medical staff but no suspected Covid-19 patient was noticed.

In January, after the Chinese city of Wuhan was locked down in the wake of the spread of coronavirus, hundreds of Pakistani students got stranded there. Many students appealed to the government of Pakistan through social media that they should be taken back to their country as their classmates from other countries had been airlifted from the coronavirus-hit city. Separately, a PIA crew van moving on the airport's apron caught fire apparently due to shot circuiting.

According to a PIA spokesman, efforts were made to extinguish the fire but later the fire engines of the CAA were called as the flames started spreading in the van. The driver remained unhurt as he jumped out of the vehicle after noticing smoke coming out of the engine.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1558154/274-students-brought-back-from-china>

**Dunya News**

**Chinese President encourages Pakistani students to gain knowledge, understanding of China**

Chinese President Xi Jinping while replying to a letter from Pakistani students at the University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB), encouraged them to gain knowledge and understanding of China and hold exchanges with young people to enhance the building of a community of a shared future for mankind, Chinese Global Times reported.

Pakistani students who stayed in Beijing received good care and those who returned to Pakistan received personal protective equipment like masks from China, which deeply touched their hearts and prompted their idea of writing a letter to President Xi.

Students wrote the letter and sent it via the university in April to mark friendship of the two countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the letter, the students shared the university's assistance in epidemic control and maintaining their studies, their experience of studying and living in China, as well as witnessing fast development of the country. The students, when reached by the Global Times, said they were excited about receiving a letter of response from President Xi. They stressed that China and Pakistan are real friends sharing weal and woe, and spoke highly of China's epidemic-control efforts and contribution to the world pandemic fight.

This warm interaction came just ahead of the 69th anniversary of diplomatic ties of China and Pakistan, which falls on Thursday. Learning that the students have enriched their knowledge and

made quite a few Chinese friends while studying in China, Xi said he felt happy for the achievements they have made.

Xi said he learned that many foreign students have expressed their support to the Chinese people in various ways during China's fight against COVID-19.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed," he said, adding that China will continue providing various help to all foreign students studying in the country. Xi welcomed outstanding youth from other countries 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 connections and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/World/546036-Chinese-President-encourages-Pakistani-students-knowledge-understanding>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Coastal development project a pioneer venture under CPEC: Zaidi**

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Syed Ali Haider Zaidi was called on by Yao Jing, Ambassador of China to Pakistan in the backdrop of a major initiative envisioned for the residents of Karachi. The Minister of Maritime Affairs vision is of transforming Pakistan into a Maritime Nation and especially raising the port city par excellence with leading ports. The Minister is endeavoring to fast track projects designed to transform encroached land into systematically planned residential areas having all the basic amenities in a state of the art manner. The project is expected to attract substantial FDI. "Globally, port runs the cities whereby revenue streams of ports are utilized for the betterment of the people" observed Ali Zaidi citing the examples of Los Angeles and New York ports. "Karachi has been neglected since independence, resource allocation was minimum with available resources plundered rampantly in collusion with property mafia and land grabbers" lamented Ali Zaidi. The project initially set for launch in the first quarter of 2020 got delayed due to COVID-19 outbreak. Pioneering the concept of Blue Economy in Pakistan, Ministry of Maritime Affairs is poised to launch projects leading to sustainable exploitation of marine resources, and enhancement in turnaround time of cargo at ports. An enabling environment is being established in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. These initiatives are the outcome of efforts of the Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Zaidi, emphasizing the significance of Pakistan's coastline of more than a 1000 km and harnessing of the maritime potential which can rid the country of debt. During the meeting the Minister shared with the Ambassador that even during the present COVID -19 crisis port operations continued without any interruption. It was highlighted by the Minister that Port Qasim handled 140 ships in the month of March and 130 ships in April this year which bears testimony to the dedication with which MOMA is keeping the wheels of the economy running and Pakistan's supply chain intact. Moreover, the Ministry intimated the Ambassador that deep-sea fishing was allowed to resume, after complying with health SOP's, so that the fishermen were not affected adversely due to cessation of fishing.

The Ambassador of China to Pakistan appreciated the two pronged strategy of prevention through strict adherence of SOPs and protection of employment and sustenance by MOMA in these testing times.

<https://pakobserver.net/coastal-development-project-a-pioneer-venture-under-cpec-zaidi/>

**May 20, 2020**

### **The News**

#### **Chinese military medical team visits NCOC**

RAWALPINDI: A ten-member Chinese Military Medical team headed by Major General Huang Qingzhen visited National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC).

The team was briefed about Pakistan's efforts against pandemic so far, future course of action including emergency response measures, says an ISPR press release on Tuesday.

The visiting delegation was appraised on TTQ strategy which is corner stone of Pakistan's National COVID Effort and helping the scale and scope of targeted lockdowns and containment efforts against COVID-19. The NCOC officials thanked the visiting delegation for sharing their expertise and valuable input.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/661386-chinese-military-medical-team-visits-ncoc>

**May 21, 2020**

### **Business Recorder**

#### **CPEC: Wells reiterates criticism of China**

*ALI HUSSAIN*

ISLAMABAD: Alice Wells, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia at the US Department of State, Wednesday reiterated her country's position on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and hoped that China would renegotiate the "predatory, unsustainable and unfair" lending and create a "fair and transparent" deal for the people of Pakistan.

Ambassador Wells, who is retiring later this month, addressed the regional media including Pakistan, India and Afghanistan via a video link through which she outlined the policies of the US government towards the region.

On the CPEC, she said: "As is the case with the CPEC or any other development project, we, the United States support investment within international standards and that upholds environmental and labor standards that are sustainable and benefit people of the region."

Wells added that she enumerated the US government's concerns "over the lack of transparency involved in the projects, over the unfair rates of profits guaranteed to the Chinese organizations

to the distortion that is caused to Pakistan's economy, including the massive imbalance in trade between Pakistan and China."

She added that in the prevailing crisis situation when the world economy is facing serious challenges due to the situation created by Covid-19 pandemic it was incumbent upon China to take steps to alleviate the burden of the "predatory, unsustainable and unfair" lending, which was going to cost Pakistan.

However, both Pakistan and China had rejected the US concerns when Ambassador Wells first publicly voiced the "concerns" of the US government in November last year.

Wells talked about the Trump administration's South Asia Strategy, saying that the policy would be guided by conditions on the ground that "Pakistan must take decisive actions against militant groups and that India is an important partner in Afghanistan's development".

She stated that the strategy was clear that Pakistan should take action against terrorist groups, particularly those that were involved in violence in Afghanistan and also Hafiz Saeed and his group. She pointed out that after over a year of direct talks, the US and the Taliban signed the peace agreement on February 29, 2020 in Qatar in which the Taliban committed that Afghanistan would never be a base for international terrorism.

Wells stated that the US was upholding its end by bringing its troops back to home and continues to closely watch the Taliban's actions.

"A response will be necessary to defend the Afghan security forces," she said, adding that the level of increase in violence was "unacceptable" and it was the responsibility of the Taliban to significantly reduce violence. The top US diplomat stated the US also welcomed the agreement between Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, adding, "We look forward to the rapid implementation of the agreement and immediate steps to enter the intra-Afghan negotiations". She said that peace and stability in Afghanistan, as many Pakistani leaders had been saying, was in Pakistan's interest, adding that recently US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad held productive meetings with Pakistani leadership on Pakistan's continued support to the Afghan peace process.

Wells said that the US was pushing hard all the sides in Afghanistan to create an environment for reduction of violence, release of the prisoners and start of the intra-Afghan negotiations.

She expressed the hope that women should be heard in the peace process, adding that women had a very critical role to play.

Responding to a question about India's role in the Afghan peace process Wells said that India was "very critical" player in Afghanistan with a huge investment in development of the country. However, she added that it was up to India how to engage itself in the peace process as to whether it wanted to talk directly with the Taliban. At a time when the US is in talks with the Taliban to be part of governing structure, she added that it would be good for the future relationship between India and Afghanistan.

To another query about Nepal-China dispute, Wells said that Nepal is a sovereign country and "won't take dictation from China".

She hoped that the leaders of Nepal stand up for the people of Nepal.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/21/13-page/837971-news.html>

### **Hub SEZ expected to create 90,000 jobs**

KARACHI: Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Hub, Balochistan, is expected to create 90,000 jobs in 211 industrial units.

Out of 90,000 jobs, 15000 jobs would be created directly and 75000 indirectly, the official documents of the project showed. Project was approved by Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and is in line with the government's strategy to provide favorable environment for industrial sector to produce internationally competitive products. Establishment of Hub Special Economic Zone will boost industrialization in the area which will ultimately lead towards enhancement in exports. This will lead towards contraction in the twin deficit thus contributing to overall economic development of the country, the working paper of the project indicated.

Project documents showed that rapid industrialization is a key to economic growth and the project is a step towards providing basic facilities for industrial sector at a strategic location of Hub Balochistan to enjoy instant benefits in the backdrop of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The project is designed to provide all of the basic facilities in the area for the prospective investors. In line with the objective of federal government, the project is beneficial for industrial as well as socio-economic development.

The project envisages establishment of Hub Special Economic Zone by providing basic amenities to the industrial sector in the area. As many as 211 industrial plots will be developed on 406 acres of land along with development of warehousing plots, fuel dispensing station, weighbridge, mosques, wastewater treatment plant, car parking, etc.

The project has been approved at the cost of Rs2.287 billion. The government would contribute Rs2 billion funding for it. According to project document, it is being developed by relating it to issues of industrial sector which range from absence of strong industrial base and unfeasible business environment, low share of 13 percent to GDP by manufacturing sector to major reliance on import of goods and lack of indigenous production, uncompetitive products, inadequate supply of skilled human resource and lack of advanced technology, innovation and R&D in industrial sector. According to the working paper, the project is linked to the government policy which envisages provision of a level-playing field for industrial sector through development of SEZs, establishment of training centers to ensure supply of skilled workforce, developing of technologically advanced manufacturing sector through transfer of technology and lowering of reliance on imports and enhancing indigenous production of imported products.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/21/3-page/837893-news.html>

### **Dunya News**

#### **Timely completion of CPEC projects top priorities of govt: FM Qureshi**

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday said that timely completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects is amongst top priorities of the government.



Presiding over a consultative meeting regarding regional security and Pakistan's priorities held in Islamabad on Thursday, he said that peace and stability in Afghanistan is of paramount importance for the region.

The minister said Pakistan has been playing his reconciliatory role in Afghan peace process with utmost sincerity under common obligation and it will continue to do so in future as well.

The meeting also held detailed discussion on Coronavirus pandemic challenge, changing situation in the area, and challenges confronting the region as a result of contagion.

Qureshi emphasized on ensuring complete preparation to face new possible challenges in wake of regional and international situation due to COVID-19. He also stressed upon promoting economic diplomacy to achieve economic goals. The foreign minister said the world is heading towards a global economic crisis as a result of Coronavirus pandemic, which will have serious consequences for developing nations, adding that we have to focus on new opportunities at a time when our remittances and exports are depleting due to coronavirus outbreak.

Prime Minister's Special Assistant on National Affairs Moeed Yousaf and other senior officers also attended the meeting.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/546518-Timely-completion-CPEC-projects-top-priorities-govt-FM-Qureshi>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Pakistan, China, Russia and Iran join hands for Afghan truce**

Pakistan, China, Iran and Russia on Tuesday urged all sides in Afghanistan to declare a "comprehensive ceasefire throughout the war-torn country" as they welcomed the recent power-sharing agreement between President Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah. The special representatives of these four countries held a virtual conference to discuss the current situation in Afghanistan and ongoing efforts seeking an end to the lingering unrest in the country.

Their meeting came against the backdrop of recent power-sharing deal in Afghanistan, ending the months-long deadlock between Ghani and Abdullah and also the recent spike in violence particularly the horrific terrorist attack targeting a maternity hospital in Kabul. A joint statement issued simultaneously by Islamabad, Beijing, Tehran and Moscow voiced serious concerns over the terrorism threat existing in Afghanistan. The statement said the quartet supported the initiative of the UN Secretary General António Guterres for a universal ceasefire and called for a simultaneous declaration of a comprehensive ceasefire throughout Afghanistan as agreed among parties to the conflict. Concerned with the serious terrorism threat existing in Afghanistan, they urged all sides in Afghanistan to take decisive action against al Qaeda, ISIL, ETIM, TTP and other international terrorist organizations operating against regional countries, and to completely eradicate the production and trafficking of narcotics in the country. Pakistan, China, Russia and Iran have shared common views on Afghanistan particularly the threat posed by groups such as Da'ish to these respective countries. Iran suggests forming new bloc with Pakistan, Turkey, Russia & China. Importantly; these four countries have maintained contacts with the Afghan Taliban as they view the insurgent group to stop the rise of Da'ish in

Afghanistan and beyond. It was because of this reason these countries favored a peace deal between the Taliban and the US, allowing orderly withdrawal of foreign forces from the region. “Pay close attention to the follow-up developments resulting in exit of foreign troops from Afghanistan, call on foreign troops to withdraw in an orderly and responsible way so that the situation in Afghanistan will experience a steady transition,” the joint statement read. The joint statement reiterated their respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, and the decision of its people on their future and development path.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-russia-and-iran-join-hands-for-afghan-truce/>

### **Pakistani student hails China’s poverty alleviation campaign**

“To help the needy by whatever means is a great accomplishment,” said Talha Elahi, a Pakistani student who spent his 2019 winter holiday to observe China’s poverty alleviation campaign in a small village named Sabazi in Yunnan Province, China. According to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN), a few months ago Talha was an average Pakistani student studying in Sichuan Normal University. He attends classes, plays basketball, friends others, travels around, with not much difference from his schoolmates. But earlier this year when he returned to school from Sabazi Village, he came to understand things about China’s poverty alleviation a must-win battle for the Chinese government as quoted by him, “two months that I’ll never forget”.

Talha has been in China for further study since 2016. Living in Chengdu, one of the most important financial, commercial, cultural and transportation centers of western China, he is quite familiar with urban life, so he made a decision to experience rural life in China’s developing Yunnan Province, and more importantly, to see how the Chinese government help its people who yearns for a better life. Sabazi Village, with a population of 1,171, is located in Songping Town, Yongsheng County of Yunnan Province.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-student-hails-chinas-poverty-alleviation-campaign/>

## **The Express Tribune**

### **From Khunjerab to Gwadar: 69 years of concord, cooperation and connectivity**

*Naghmana A Hashmi*

Reflecting on the monumental journey traversed by Pakistan and China over the past seven decades calls to mind the Chinese proverb: “Finding a soul mate who knows one’s heart is far harder than striking gold.” On the international stage, where ceaseless change is the only certainty along the long road to harmonious interdependence, I marvel at the wisdom of successive generations of our two nations for forging a bond stronger than steel, and bequeathing this invaluable legacy for those to follow. Our forebears have done well by us.

In 1950, Pakistan became the first Muslim and third non-Communist country to recognize the People’s Republic of China. The establishment of diplomatic ties of which we mark the 69th

anniversary today followed a short year later, and under personal handwritten instructions from Chairman Mao Zedong to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. The first high-level contact between Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Bogra and Premier Zhou Enlai on the sidelines of the Bandung Conference in 1955 initiated a tradition of frequent exchanges that endures to this day.

Premier Zhou visited Pakistan a record four times a feat of bilateral relations reflected in the name of the main avenue running through Islamabad's diplomatic enclave. In Beijing, then Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the last visiting foreign leader received by Chairman Mao despite his frail health at the time. In contemporary times, Pakistan was the first overseas destination for Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in May 2013 following the CPC's historic 18th National Congress that ushered in a new era for China. In April 2015, President Xi Jinping paid a historic state visit to Pakistan, elevating the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and giving further impetus to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the flagship project of his visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Prime Minister Imran Khan has paid three visits to China within the span of a year after taking office, each time taking Pakistan and China further along the road to a closer community of shared future in the new era and adding further substance to the depth and breadth of cooperation.

High-level contact between Pakistan and China goes far beyond symbolism or rhetoric. It underlines the unshakable trust and understanding that is the hallmark of our relationship and the consensus of our leaders provide essential guidance for continuing along our shared path towards the common goals of peace and prosperity. Perhaps uniquely amongst international relations in this day and age, the Pakistan-China friendship marks a departure from conventional theories about real politic and zero-sum games. This relationship is based on mutual respect, enabling it to withstand the vicissitudes of history and grow continually irrespective of international, regional and even domestic developments. The seeds sown and tended by successive generations of Pakistanis and Chinese have thus bloomed into an All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership that we have today, enjoying broad-based support from all segments of society.

At a time of a profound transformation in the international system and unprecedented challenges for humanity, the continuing vitality of the Pakistan-China relations is a stabilizing influence in the region and beyond. Pakistan shares the joy over China's re-emergence on the world stage: the jubilant celebrations of New China's 70th anniversary last October was followed with admiration and cheer in Pakistan. Following decades of economic revitalization and guided by her longstanding principles of mutual respect, equality and win-win cooperation, Pakistan sees a stronger China as a force of good in the world. China, in turn, sees a strong, safe and prosperous Pakistan as a source of strength and stability.

As the world is braced for the Covid-19 outbreak, China bought precious time through the unprecedented lockdown of Hubei and Wuhan. While others withdrew their citizens from the affected areas – ignoring the scientific evidence and perhaps contributing to the global pandemic we face today – local Pakistanis stayed put. In fact, Pakistan was the only country to send its diplomats to Hubei during the lockdown with a mission to facilitate our citizens and reinforce the local authorities' efforts to look after them as their own. We have thus chronicled first-hand the

heroism of the Chinese nation, and especially of people in Wuhan and Hubei, and are proud to have stood shoulder to shoulder with them during this difficult time.

At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic in March this year, President Arif Alvi arrived in Beijing with the singular purpose of expressing solidarity with China in its people's war against the disease. Speaking of Pakistan's assistance for China when the outbreak was first discovered, President Alvi noted that Pakistan did not need a back-up plan for its friendship with China. Reciprocating that sentiment, President Xi recalled the Chinese proverb that fire is the test of gold. Throughout the global ordeal, Pakistan and China have withstood all trials, reinforced the mutual confidence of both peoples, and provided an example for the rest of the world.

With the virus finding its way eventually to my country, and despite the residual risks of an imported second wave of infections, China's assistance for Pakistan has been both timely and generous. From medical teams to ventilators to PPEs, a sustained air bridge between our two countries has ensured that supplies reach those who need it on the frontlines.

These flight operations are living up to our forebears' legacy: Pakistan's national airline was the first outside the Soviet Bloc to fly to China at the height of the Cold War. During the SARS outbreak of 2002-03, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) continued to fly to Beijing even as others cancelled. And none may forget that detail in the saga of the United States' long-awaited course correction in the 1970s: It was Pakistani diplomats and aircraft that ferried Henry Kissinger to Beijing for that fateful meeting. The lesson from history is clear: Pakistan would never let China face difficulties on its own.

Faced with the Covid-19 pandemic that respects no borders and makes no distinctions between nations, Pakistan deplors efforts to politicize the issue and stigmatize China. Short-sighted and fruitless as such attempts will undoubtedly prove to be, it is the world's collective misfortune that there are those for whom even a global public health emergency is nothing more than a political soapbox. Rather than a witch-hunt, Pakistan wishes we would rather seize the opportunity for forging stronger mechanisms for cooperation. Such calamities will recur in the globalized world and we have a shared responsibility to ensure we are prepared.

As the world recovers and we set about restoring normalcy to billions protecting both lives and livelihoods China's principled approach and dignity in the face of antagonism will serve as a stark contrast to the behavior of other parties.

Amid shrill warnings of de-globalization, trade conflicts and "decoupling", China's experience in fostering greater cooperation and connectivity promises a far more attractive alternative for the world. Seven years after its unveiling, the BRI has made considerable progress towards our shared vision of the future, free from divisions and uneven development that have haunted the world like a specter in the past.

In Pakistan, the BRI's signature project of CPEC has steadily delivered tangible results and directly benefited the local people. The 3,000km-long corridor starts from the city of Kashgar in southwest China and terminates at Gwadar in southwest Pakistan, thereby connecting the overland Silk Road Economic Belt with the overseas 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.

Prior to the economic headwinds precipitated by the pandemic, CPEC and the broader Pakistan-China economic partnership had infused renewed vitality into our socioeconomic development in the short span of a few years. The focus of CPEC's early-harvest phase on energy and transportation infrastructure has set the stage for Pakistan's economic revitalization through efficiency of communications, removal of bottlenecks and creating a conducive business environment through the development of industrial parks and special economic zones. This industrialization drive will not neglect traditional mainstays of our economy, such as agriculture and textiles, and it will give full play to investors and businessmen from Pakistan and elsewhere. As we look beyond the storm of the global pandemic, CPEC's next phase of even higher quality development will encompass new areas such as science and technology and agriculture. Meanwhile, 27 socioeconomic development projects across all parts of the country would create necessary conditions for enabling the multiplier effects of the large-scale investments, ensuring that no-one would be left behind.

As Imran Khan noted in his first speech as Prime Minister, China's success in rescuing 700 million people out of the clutches of poverty is a miracle worth emulating. China, for its part, has readily shared its experience and best practices for Pakistan's benefit. China has stepped forward to assist Pakistan in harnessing the potential of our dynamic population, and thus realizing the fruits of our demographic dividend. Both sides are stepping up efforts to ensure that the results of our economic engagement are in keeping with the needs of our people and the development path chosen by Pakistan.

In the town of Gwadar, the port and Free Zone have already become operational, creating opportunities for employment, investment and commerce. At another level, Gwadar will complement our other ports and make Pakistan an increasingly efficient and attractive trans-shipment hub between and among China, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa. The emergence of Gwadar as a hub of regional commerce and logistics will multiply economic opportunities for the broader region.

Our concerted efforts have ensured the smooth implementation of CPEC projects despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Thanks to the special measures taken, there is some comfort in knowing that there were no cases of imported infection, and all Chinese in Pakistan are safe. Just as we cut through the mountains of the Himalayas to build the Friendship Highway in the 1960s and 1970s, Pakistan and China are writing a new chapter in the storied history of our friendship through CPEC, the common struggle against Covid-19, and in myriad other arenas. Looking back at the past 69 years of shared weal and woe, Pakistan's confidence in this partnership has been well placed and well earned, reminding me of Chairman Mao's lines: "Idle boast the strong pass is a wall of iron, With firm strides we are crossing its summit."

Looking forward to the milestone 70th anniversary in a year's time, there may be many uncertainties in the world, but the Pakistan-China friendship is here to stay.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2226118/6-khunjerab-gwadar-69-years-concord-cooperation-connectivity/>

## The Nation

### **CPEC pioneers battle corona in Thar**

Taking part in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, the Chinese company, China Railway 19 Bureau Group Mining Investment has provided necessary infection prevention and control material to its staff at its coal-mining project (Thar-block II) in Tharparkar, Sindh, Gwadar Pro reported yesterday.

It was noted that during COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistan stands one of the worst-hit countries in South Asia. Ensuring workers' health and safety is a top priority for each China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

To safeguard staff's health and eliminate their anxiety, the Company had taken immediate action to contact local suppliers in Karachi to formulate supply plan.

According to the report, medical materials such as disposable medical masks, protective coveralls, safety protective goggles and disinfectant have been sent to the project.

It may be mentioned here that till now over 800 local villagers have got jobs in this coal mining project. Due to the effective and timely pandemic prevention measures, all the workers' health is well protected, and the project runs normal at present.

As Pakistan's first large-scale open-pit coal mine, this project is an important part of Thar integrated coal mine and power project under CPEC. The coal resources have been used to generate electricity with a capacity of 660 MW since March 25, 2019 to alleviate Pakistan's power shortage, the report added.

<https://nation.com.pk/21-May-2020/cpec-pioneers-battle-corona-in-thar>

### **China is main feature of Pakistan's foreign policy: FM**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China partnership has grown to unprecedented levels as the two allies are celebrating the 69th diplomatic relations' anniversary on Thursday (today). On the eve of the anniversary, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Pakistan-China ties were unbreakable and time-tested. "China is the main feature of our foreign policy. We are iron brothers. May 21 is important for both of us," he told The Nation. The FM said there was a consensus among all the political parties on close ties with China. "Our partnership is ever growing. We will not look back. China is a great friend," he added. Qureshi underscored that Pakistan and China were All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners and had preserved the fine tradition of solidarity, mutual assistance and mutual support.

<https://nation.com.pk/21-May-2020/china-is-main-feature-of-pakistan-s-foreign-policy-fm>

## The News

### **'Pak missions to market SEZs'**

LAHORE: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood on Wednesday said trade and investment officers in Pakistan's missions abroad will be given special marketing tasks to bring maximum investment in Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC).

AIIC is a prioritized Special Economic Zone of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) working under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“These trade and investment officers working in more than 50 countries will be bound to link the expected investors with one window operation of FIEDMC and update the administration of these economic zones about the trade possibilities of their designated countries for promoting and marketing of Pakistani products which would help the country enhancing volume of exports,” said the adviser while talking to Mian Kashif Ashfaq, chairman FIEDMC in a meeting. “Besides this, the ministry has already tasked its trade and investment officers posted abroad to explore new and viable markets for our new products and to ensure that export orders of Pakistani exporters were not canceled.” Dawood said the government was committed to bring out comprehensive solutions for sustaining the economic growth in the wake of global COVID-19 outbreak. “The government is also committed to shifting the country from being a consumption-driven economy to an investment-driven one”.

FIEDMC chief Mian Kashif Ashfaq, highlighting the distinctive features of Allama Iqbal Industrial City to adviser, said this sole project would house as many as 400 industries besides giving employments to 250,000 people. He said approximately Rs450 billion foreign and local investments would be pumped into this project and development project is being carried out on fast track. Ashfaq further said FIDEMC had always provided state of the art facilities to its customers besides resolving their issues through one window operation on top priority basis, while the confidence of the investors was being restored after completion of M3 project.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/661513-pak-missions-to-market-sezs>

**May 22, 2020**

### **Business Recorder**

#### **China will never try to become Pakistan’s ‘teacher’: envoy**

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing on Thursday categorically said that unlike the US “China will always be a partner of Pakistan, but will never try to become its teacher”.

Speaking at a special webinar under the framework of ‘Friends of Silk Road’ to celebrate 69 Years of Diplomatic Relations between Pakistan and China, organized by Pakistan China Institute in cooperation with LUMS Centre for Chinese Legal Studies, while referring to what he called “disinformation and baseless allegations” leveled by US Ambassador Alice Wells, who is retiring as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, he said: “China will always consider Pakistan its partner and will never think of becoming its teacher”.

He said that the American attitude towards China, the CPEC and Pakistan-China relations was a combination of ‘arrogance, distortion and desire for hegemony’.

Pakistan Ambassador to China Naghmana Hashmi cited China and Pakistan supporting each other during crises especially Covid-19, and she quoted President Xi Jinping as telling President

Alvi during their meeting in Beijing on March 17 that Pakistan and China have a ‘unique, all weather, strategic, cooperative partnership’.

She said that the future of Sino-Pak relations is beyond Covid-19 as our relations are brighter, stronger and more enduring. Chinese former minister and member of parliament, Dr Zhao Baige said: “We are all learning about Covid-19 and we are also learning from each other”, and the future of Pakistan-China relation is bright because future belongs to the Youth of both Pakistan and China, who are stake holders in this relationship’.

Senator Mushahid Hussain talked of the role of parliament and political parties in Pakistan being staunch advocates of Pakistan-China friendship, and he cited the February 12 and May 14 resolutions unanimously passed by the Senate of Pakistan expressing solidarity with China, lauding the leadership of President Xi Jinping and rejecting the baseless propaganda against China.

He said that during the April 3 webinar hosted by PCI, eight political parties of Pakistan, both government and opposition, showed unity in their vision to promote, protect and preserve CPEC since they see this as a guarantor for a better tomorrow for the 220 million people of Pakistan.

The senator also lauded China for having an inclusive and cooperative approach in tackling coronavirus at home and also seeking cooperation with other countries to collectively meet this common threat.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/05/22/14-page/838123-news.html>

### **Dunya News**

#### **CPEC is flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative: FO**

Pakistan has said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a transformational project contributing positively and transparently to the country's national development.

In a statement on Friday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Aisha Farooqui clarified that our total public debt relating to CPEC projects is less than even 10% of the total debt. Moreover, the public debt obtained from China has a maturity period of 20 years and the interest is 2.34 percent.

If grants are included, the interest value slides down to about two percent. She said the claims made by some of the commentators and public officials on Pakistan's debt obligations relating to CPEC are contrary to facts. She said the CPEC is a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative. She said Pakistan believes that regional economic connectivity will provide a critical stimulus for creating broad-based growth across the region.

She reiterated that CPEC, a long-term project, has helped address development gaps in energy, infrastructure, industrialization, and job creation.

The spokesperson said Pakistan and China are all weather strategic cooperative partners. Both the countries are engaged in prompting peace, development and stability in the region based on the principles of mutual respect, mutual benefit, win-win cooperation and shared development. Our ties are based on deep mutual trust and understanding.



Aisha Farooqui said Pakistan and China have several mechanisms to discuss matters of mutual interest. She said the two countries are regularly in touch to address those issues bilaterally.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/546653-CPEC-is-flagship-project-of-Belt-and-Road-Initiative-FO>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Chinese embassy takes note of Alice Wells' remarks on CPEC**

The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan has taken note of the irresponsible remarks once again by Mrs. Alice Wells on the China-Pakistan relations and the CPEC. Her speech is totally baseless, just a repetition of her same old tune. This is yet another doomed attempt to defame Sino-Pak relations and the CPEC. We are firmly opposed to it. The outgoing US Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Alice Wells criticized the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and defamed China Pakistan relations. The Chinese embassy said, today marks the 69th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. For the past 69 years, our two countries have established and consolidated an all-weather friendship. We respect each other and support each other. We cooperate for common prosperity. We work together to promote regional peace and stability. In the current fight against COVID-19, China and Pakistan stand together and China donated medical equipment and materials of more than \$55 million to Pakistan. We take Pakistan as an equal partner and never asked Pakistan to “do more”. We support Pakistan’s own model of development and never intervene its domestic affairs. We highlight Pakistan’s responsible role in regional affairs and never exert pressure. The CPEC is an important cooperation project between the Governments of China and Pakistan. It has always adhered to the principles of mutual benefit, win-win cooperation, openness and transparency. The planning and implementation of the projects are carried out by the two sides through thorough consultations based on equality and scientific study. The Chinese companies under the CPEC are all leading companies in their respective sectors and operate in full compliance with local laws and regulations. Since its implementation, the CPEC has brought \$25 billion in direct investment and created more than 75,000 jobs for Pakistan. China has been the major source of FDI for Pakistan in the past five consecutive years. While according to the BOI, the FDI from the USA to Pakistan was a bit over \$1billion between 2012 and 2019. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, there is ZERO infection on CPEC projects due to strict measures taken by the both sides. The Chinese companies do not have not suspended construction nor have they laid-off a single local staff. The CPEC projects have secured local employment and kept contributing to Pakistan’s economy. The energy projects are generating 1/3 of the electricity for Pakistan now. The Phase II of KKH is almost ready for traffic. The integrated test and commissioning for the Lahore Orange Line have been successfully completed. The construction of the new airport in Gwadar entered into the second phase. Gwadar has become an economic hub for Baluchistan. All Chinese companies working for the CPEC have generously donated medical assistance to Pakistan in the current difficult situation. Over 20,000 Pakistani students are studying in China on scholarships provided by the Chinese

government and Universities. In the next stage of the CPEC, both sides will strength the cooperation on health care, industrial development, agriculture and education. The CPEC will give new impetus to Pakistan's economic revival even in the post COVID-19 period. China knows the impact of the COVID-19 on Pakistan's economy and is sparing no effort to help Pakistan address the challenge. According to the State Bank of Pakistan, its debt from multilateral institutions amounts to about 47% of its total external debt, while loans from the CPEC is only \$5.8 billion, 5.22% of the Pakistan's total debt. It has no pressure on Pakistan at all. Recently, the G20 members adopted a Debt Service Suspension Initiative for the Poorest Countries. China supported Pakistan to be included and is ready to provide relief. China will never force Pakistan to pay back the debts and China's loans have no strings attached. While China and Pakistan are cooperating to prevent and control the epidemic, China sent a group of experts to Pakistan to combat the locust plague. China has donated 300 tons of Malathion and 50 air-powered high-efficiency remote sprayers to Pakistan in this regards. We are ready to extend more help. The CPFTA Phase-II has taken effect from Jan 1, 2020. The level of trade liberalization between the two countries has increased with tariffs further reduced. In addition, China and Pakistan are working together to promote the peace process in Afghanistan and provide humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan. China also opposes the politicization of the International Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and is working with Pakistan to strengthen its capacity.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-embassy-takes-note-of-alice-wells-remarks-on-cpec/>

## The News

### **Chinese seed sector helps Pakistan fight against virus**

ISLAMABAD: Chinese seed companies have been making efforts to extend a helping hand and support to Pakistan in its on-going fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and locust outbreak through measures including donations of anti-epidemic materials and guarantee of seed export, reports Gwadar Pro.

According to China Seed Association, Anhui Quanyin Seed Industry donated 1,000 N95 masks and 30,000 medical surgical masks through Pakistani companies; Sichuan Guohao Seed Industry donated 3,000 N95 masks to ICI Pakistan Limited; Jiangsu Hongqi Seed Industry donated 10,000 medical surgical masks through its Pakistani peers; Anhui Longping Gaoke Seed Industry and Pakistani partners donated material packages of flour, rice, edible oil and sugar to 1,000 poor families in Pakistan's Punjab province.

In addition, donated materials from other Chinese seed companies are also in the process of collection and transfer. Since the end of last year, Pakistan has struggled to combat locust plagues which have destroyed crops and threatened the livelihoods of farmers. Chinese seed companies have taken solid actions to help ensure the grain yield of Pakistan after work resumption amid pandemic.

On February 14 and March 4, two batches of hybrid rice seeds from Jiangsu Shennong Dafeng Seed Industry Technology Co. and Jiangsu Hongqi Seed Industry Co., Ltd. were loaded on ships

respectively. On March 31, a batch of corn seeds from Anhui Longping Gaoke Seed Industry Co., Ltd. were loaded on ships and departed for Pakistan.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/662118-chinese-seed-sector-helps-pakistan-fight-against-virus>

**May 23, 2020**

**Daily Times**

### **Pakistan refuses claims regarding CPEC debt**

The Foreign Ministry said on Friday that claims by some commentators and officials on Pakistan's debts regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were contrary to the facts. Earlier, the United States urged China to wave off or renegotiate what it called Pakistan's "unsustainable and unfair" debt, as it once again raised serious questions about the lack of transparency in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"We have reiterated many times that our total public debt relating to CPEC projects is less than even 10pc of the total debt. Moreover, the public debt obtained from China has a maturity period of 20 years and the interest is 2.34pc. If grants are included, the interest value slides down to about two per cent," said the Foreign Office spokesperson Aisha Farooqui, rejecting western propaganda over CPEC.

"The claims made by some of the commentators and public officials on Pakistan's debt obligations relating to CPEC are contrary to facts," she said, adding that CPEC, a long-term project, has helped address development gaps in energy, infrastructure, industrialization, and job creation.

"Pakistan and China are 'all weather strategic cooperative partners'. We are engaged in prompting peace, development and stability in the region based on the principles of mutual respect, mutual benefit, and win-win cooperation and shared development. Our ties are based on deep mutual trust and understanding."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/616878/pakistan-refuses-claims-regarding-cpec-debt/>

**Dawn News**

### **FO defends CPEC after Alice Wells' criticism**

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office (FO) on Friday said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was transparently contributing to national development and issues in the execution of the project were bilaterally addressed by Beijing and Islamabad through existing mechanisms.

The statement was issued after senior US diplomat for South and Central Asia Ambassador Alice Wells repeated her criticism of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its flagship CPEC project. The FO statement, however, did not say that it was a rejoinder to what Alice Wells said at her online media briefing about CPEC.

“The economic development and long-term prosperity of the people is our government’s top priority. The CPEC, a flagship project of BRI, is a transformational project contributing positively and transparently to Pakistan’s national development,” the FO said.

“Pakistan believes that regional economic connectivity will provide a critical stimulus for creating broad-based growth across the region,” it added.

The FO said that CPEC projects had helped Pakistan address energy shortages and develop infrastructure, industrial base and create jobs.

At her media briefing, Alice Wells said that the US was concerned about CPEC projects because of “lack of transparency”, and the “unfair rates” of profits guaranteed to the Chinese firms that were executing these projects.

She said the US calls on “China to offer transparent relief from BRI’s predatory loans that countries are suffering from to emerge on stable footing”.

The FO clarified that Pakistan’s total public debt relating to CPEC projects was less than 10 per cent of the total debt burden. Moreover, it said, the CPEC loans from China had a maturity period of 20 years and the interest was 2.34pc. Therefore, the claims about the burden of Chinese debt on Pakistan’s economy were “contrary to facts”, the FO said.

The statement said that Pakistan and China had instituted various mechanisms to address issues that arise in the execution of the projects and they often address those matters bilaterally.

“Pakistan and China are ‘All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners’. We are engaged in prompting peace, development and stability in the region based on principles of mutual respect, mutual benefit, and win-win cooperation and shared development,” the statement emphasized.

“Our ties are based on deep mutual trust and understanding,” it further said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1559080/fo-defends-cpec-after-alice-wells-criticism>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **Pakistan-China, true friends**

AS Pakistan and China celebrated 69th anniversary of establishment of their diplomatic relations, Beijing has reiterated its position to continue working closely with Islamabad for taking the relationship to new heights and promoting the cause of regional security, peace and prosperity. At his regular briefing, Chinese Foreign Ministry’s spokesperson Zhao Lijian said that the iron clad friendship between the two countries had stood test of changing international landscape and remained firm as a rock. The anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations, this year, was observed in the midst of Covid-19 and, therefore, there were no traditional activities and fanfare but there was no lack of warmth in the sentiments of the leadership and people of the two countries, who expressed their firm, resolve to strengthen all dimensions of the ties for mutual benefit. While President Xi Jinping proudly declared that the relationship is a high priority for his country in its neighborhood diplomacy, Premier Li Keqiang assured that China was ready to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation with Pakistan. Similar sentiments were echoed by President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan who vowed to stand with brotherly people of China under all circumstances. A strongly worded message of Chinese

Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing gave a vivid account of how strongly the bilateral relationship is and that the two sides are determined to diversify their cooperation further. The expression of 'all weather friendship' received more credence during the crisis thrown to the world by Coronavirus. China and Pakistan are standing firmly together and supporting each other in fighting this war. While Pakistan expressed its complete solidarity with China when it was single-handedly fighting the menace, Beijing extended liberal support and cooperation to Pakistan in overcoming the challenge. Chinese provided valuable support and as a result there was zero infection in CPEC related projects no layoff of the local staff and Chinese engineers were not withdrawn. At a time when other sectors of the economy and work on thousands of development projects was on standstill, there was no disruption on CPEC projects, all energy projects guaranteed electricity supply and Gwadar Port and infrastructure projects ensured the normal supply of living material for people of Pakistan. This is important and significant as work on other foreign-assisted projects was affected due to temporary pulling of staff by respective government. It is hoped that through mutual cooperation the two countries would be able to overcome the problems being faced due to Covid-19.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-true-friends/>

### **The News**

#### **China supports Pakistan's own model of development**

ISLAMABAD: China fully supports Pakistan's own model of development and never intervenes its domestic affairs while highlighting Pakistan's responsible role in regional affairs.

This was stated here by a spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy, while taking note of the reported irresponsible remarks once again by Mrs. Alice Wells on the China-Pakistan relations and the CPEC.

According to Gwadar Pro, the spokesperson reiterated that the CPEC is an important cooperation project between the Governments of China and Pakistan. China has always adhered to the principles of mutual benefit, win-win cooperation, openness and transparency. The planning and implementation of the projects are carried out by the two sides through thorough consultations based on equality and scientific study.

Alice's speech is totally baseless, just a repetition of her same old tune. This is yet another doomed attempt to defame Sino-Pak relations and the CPEC. We are firmly opposed to it, he added. The spokesperson added: "We respect each other and support each other. We cooperate for common prosperity. We work together to promote regional peace and stability.

In the current fight against COVID-19, China and Pakistan stand together and China donated medical equipment and materials of more than \$55 million to Pakistan. We take Pakistan as an equal partner and never asked Pakistan to "do more".

The Chinese companies under the CPEC are all leading companies in their respective sectors and operate in full compliance with local laws and regulations. Since its implementation, the CPEC has brought \$25 billion in direct investment and created more than 75,000 jobs for Pakistan.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/662728-china-supports-pakistan-s-own-model-of-development>

**May 24, 2020**

**Daily Times**

### **Sino-Pak Agri Cooperation under CPEC- Way Forward**

*Muhammad Asif Noor*

Agriculture has remained at the heart of Pakistan's economy contributing nearly 19 per cent of the country's entire GDP. Being a well-integrated sector, Agriculture is providing largest employment base to nearly thirty percent of the labor force contributing towards overall wellbeing of Pakistan's economy. Pakistan is amongst top producers of rice, mango, dates, citrus, cotton, and sugarcane with attached livestock, fishery and forestry sectors contributing immensely. With recent changing climatic conditions and due to lack of innovation including use of the advance of technology has led Agriculture to remain sluggish in its economic contribution. Despite having a huge potential, Agriculture in Pakistan continues to remain struggling to survive with the available resources. China Pakistan Economic Corridor emerged as a life line to this sector. The first phase of CPEC, apart from other important steps, had focused on the overall development of communications and network projects including roads, bridges and motorways. CPEC energy projects are energy booster to not only industry but also for agriculture sector as well. This has created a plethora of opportunities to farmers to connect not only with the tremendous network at the local level but may reach to the global markets. However, this was also realized that with the development of networks, roads and other communications links alone will not help the Agriculture and there is more to be done. As a result in the second phase of CPEC, apart from other important focus on the areas of collaboration, Agriculture has received primary and immediate attention from all sides. We have also observed that new to the second phase of CPEC and emphasis of both Pakistan and China, China has recently appointed Agriculture Commissioner to oversee the cooperation between the two countries. As a result of these effective measures and efforts, CPEC is also turning into a green corridor which galvanized the mutual opportunities in the entire framework of cooperation.

Recently the second meeting of Joint Working Group on Agriculture was hosted online to further deepen the cooperation in the field cooperation was held between Pakistan and China online. There were discussions primarily in the setting priorities for development of the agriculture. Both Pakistan and China agreed to jointly implement the Memorandum of Understanding on further cooperation in dealing with disease and pest control including locust, plant diseases and insect and pest prevention. There was also discussion on finalizing modalities to establish a sustainable plant pest control center in Pakistan. The decision and discussion during this joint working meeting has reflected China's emergency assistance especially where Pakistan is currently battling with the Desert Locust. During the meeting other options for cooperation in trade,

investment and construction as well. Representatives from the Chinese Secretariat of the CPEC and Pakistan Affairs Bureau of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor were present during the meeting. All the projects under the CPEC are moving on a fast track to be completed under the given timeline. With building of intuitions and cooperation's on exchange of technology sharing, Chinese government is supporting Pakistan in its drive to diversify the agriculture sector and improve the yield for better growth of economy.

CPEC is a combination of phase wise implementation of diverse range of project including short, medium and long term with estimation of completion of each phase in 2017, 2025 and 2030. Agriculture sector is part of the second phase. We have observed that as a result of the strong cooperation and effective implementation of Phase I of CPEC, there are larger connectivity that has made the linkages from farms to the market hence providing ample assistance to farmers to reach to not only local but regional and international markets as well. CPEC Energy projects have also helped boost the level of contribution for the Agriculture which was under stress as a result of the lack of energy resources. CPEC is overall strengthening the entire agriculture system in Pakistan. The plans that include in CPEC are to promote and introduce the water management techniques, improve the crop yielding, storage and transportation of agriculture products in pre and post-harvest period apart from creating innovation for marketing and sales. As a result of larger and close cooperation between Pakistan and China under the CPEC framework, there have been several important steps taken in order to provide effective ways and transfer of technology along with learning experience between experts, farmers and connected agriculture value chain that is making headways now in various directions. During the ongoing phase as the primary focus is on Agriculture, Industrial Cooperation along with Socio Economic projects, these all are overlapping and building one way or the other. Especially when we look at the industrial cooperation, we also observe that many of our industrial units are relying heavily on the agricultural products including cotton and others. This gives a multiplying effect to overall strategy for improving business. The second phase of CEPC is focusing also on the Agriculture sector in order to improve Pakistan's agriculture based exports which is currently lingering on only 18 percent of the entire export based. It is also important to note here that our Agri-based exports to China are also at 8 percent. Pakistan is looking for capitalizing on the building and evolving opportunities created by the CPEC and trying to add high value products that can be exported to China for consolidating and reaping the fruit. Recently a list of the items were enlisted 313 items that are free from any duties, most of them are agricultural products or by products.

One of the important sectors within agriculture is that to have effective seeds and yields and better production capacity including training and helping farmers to build their capacities in order to come out of low production syndrome. It is strongly believed that the joint ventures between Pakistan and China have the capacity that can bring Chinese researchers, agriculture experts and business investors to develop joint cooperation to boost the agriculture sector. In order to consolidate the entire process of cooperation a special Centre for the Pakistan-China Agriculture exchange was established under the Pak-China Agriculture Cooperation Exchange

Framework. Another important step is to protect the yield from disease as well. In this regard, experts and scientist are working together for sharing information and building new pesticides and helping to develop seeds that are disease free and high yield as well. In this regard, several Chinese agriculture intuitions and agencies are in close coordination with the Pakistani counterparts. During the recent visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan, there was a detailed discussion and inking of initial agreement of cooperation on agriculture as well. The visit has put an impetus towards building and attracting Chinese investment and technical assistance in all subsectors of agriculture. Pakistan's one of the leading companies Fatema Group has also signed agreement of cooperation with the two important leading companies China Machinery Engineering Cooperation (CMEC) a construction and engineering company and Xinjiang Tianye Group. Xinjiang Tianye Group specialized in irrigation and water saving drip irrigation technologies. Pakistan Agriculture Research Council is a leading specialized intuition providing a lead in developing synergies in Pak-China Agriculture Cooperation. There has been as special committee on Agricultural Products was formed within the parliament initiated by the current Speaker of the National Assembly which is one of the largest having members of National Assembly from across Pakistan overlooking the entire Agriculture cooperation and one of the important subject is CPEC and its Agriculture related steps. These collaboration, institutions and at people's level connection is making CPEC cooperation to a much higher level and creating cementing ties amongst people at the very grassroots level.

CPEC is an opportunity corridor and is transforming Pakistan's entire economic base with proven results as we have witnessed in first phase of the project. Pakistan needs to adopt to changing methods and techniques that are offered in this unique cooperation period and beyond. All we have to do is to gather our energies and make every possible step to benefit from this emerging and established opportunity.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/617119/sino-pak-agri-cooperation-under-cpec-way-forward/>

## **The Nation**

### **Defending CPEC**

This is not the first time that Pakistan's Foreign Office has had to defend the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) against attacks from countries and international bodies alike, which view China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative as a strategic threat. As articulated in several official documents, the United States' Indo-Pacific policy is highly critical of CPEC and OBOR as a whole, and the US has made India its primary strategic partner in the region to counter Chinese plans. This is evidenced by the many defense and economic agreements between the US and India, including LEMOA, BECA, COMCASA, STA 1, NSG and FATF memberships and sale of aircraft carriers, submarines, multi task helicopters, drones and so on.

This excessive leverage to India has been provided to contain China's peaceful rise and to discourage Pakistan from implementing CPEC. One way that the American fear of isolation and losing hegemonic power in the region manifests itself is through attacking the economic merits of CPEC and OBOR. This is why terms like "predatory economics" are thrown around freely to



dissuade countries from engaging with what is a transformational project for many. CPEC will help Pakistan fulfill its energy needs, create employment opportunities with 400,000 to 700,000 direct jobs, enable infrastructure development and skill development, bring Chinese investment into Pakistani industry, agriculture and services sectors, relocate Chinese sunset industries into our country and allow it to become a part of the global supply chain. Finally, Pakistan may yet realize its incredible potential as a transit economy with the development of Gwadar port and links to Afghanistan, Russia and Central Asia.

That being said, Pakistan can only benefit from CPEC by adopting the correct energy, industrial, trade, financial and foreign exchange policies. Perhaps a CPEC Ministry could be set up to ensure transparency at each step and effective implementation of national policy. The existing CPEC Authority could be made more vibrant. Institutional capacity enhancement of FBR, IRS, Planning Commission, WAPRA, NEPRA and other bodies will also help immensely. If this is to be done, and it must be, it should be done right.

<https://nation.com.pk/24-May-2020/defending-cpec>

## The News

### **Pakistani EV sector embracing Chinese investor**

DEZHOU: Pakistan's EV sector is embracing Chinese investor as a group of five local enterprises signed a MoU with China's Songuo Motors on the Songuo-Pakistan e-Trike & BSS Pilot Project.

Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday that the Songuo-Pakistan e-Trike & BSS Pilot Project includes two sections, one of which is swapping system construction as Pakistan infrastructure facility, cooperated with energy storage enterprises, gas & Oil Company, electric company.

While the other section is to export Songuo electric bicycles, electric tricycles and EVs to the project site, and bring the awareness to the public based on established swapping system with the cooperation of E-commerce platform (logistic network for electric logistic vehicle and motorcycle), tricycle manufacturing enterprise etc.

Pakistani companies, included energy storage company BarBox, GFC (General Fan Company), multinational chemical and power DESCONE, and E-business platform Cheetay, the second largest tricycle manufacturer Sazgar Engineering, software development company Confiz and Gas & Oil Pakistan, online travel company New Asis and investment agency 47 Ventures.

They will jointly establish a joint venture operating company with Songuo in Pakistan.

The pilot zone mode will be spread across the country after six months of operation to build the largest new-generation new energy enterprise with the best technology and the latest model in Pakistan.

The online signing ceremony of Songuo-Pakistan e-Trike & BSS Pilot Project was held in the New Energy Equipment Industrial Complex of Dezhou (Yucheng) High-tech Zone in the city of Dezhou, China's Shandong Province on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Naveed Arshad of Lahore University of Management Sciences, also the founding partner of Songuo Systems said that "Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable

countries from climate change, and Pakistan direly needs EVs to reduce air pollution in its cities". With swappable battery based electric rickshaws and motorcycles, the cost of vehicle and battery is split into two different businesses, Dr. Naveed said, adding that this will make EVs affordable for the public. It will also create a new business for oil companies and other companies interested in battery leasing business.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/663203-pakistani-ev-sector-embracing-chinese-investor>

### **Govt mulls new law to remove roadblocks in SEZ development**

ISLAMABAD: Government has decided to bring in new legislation to remove roadblocks in development of a special economic zone envisaged under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, a top official said on Saturday.

Board of Investment Chairman Atif Bokhari said a new act through parliament would ensure the presence of all the federal and provincial departments remove hurdles in the SEZ development through a one-window operation.

“The government will take special measures to facilitate local and foreign investors to bring in more investment to Allama Iqbal Industrial City, a prioritized SEZ of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) to accelerate the pace of development,” Bokhari said in a meeting with FIEDMC Chairman Kashif Ashfaq.

Bokhari, who is also state minister, said road shows would be conducted in different countries of the world through joint venture of BOI and FIEDMC to attract foreign investment. President of China is expected to visit in Pakistan and FIEDMC should take preparation in this regard to welcome delegations of Chinese investors, he said.

Under the CPEC framework, nine economic zones dedicated to industrial development with incentives are to be set up. Tax exemptions for expatriates till 2040 were proposed as incentive to attract investments in SEZs. The \$60 billion CPEC kick-started five years back concentrating mainly on construction of roads and motorways and power plants to ensure energy security in the wake of massive power shortfall. Within a last couple of years, a series of power projects transformed the country into energy-surplus destination from the power-deficient one. CPEC framework envisaged 10,000 megawatts of production capacity.

Special economic zones are the next crucial component after early harvest projects under the CPEC. Initially, 27 zones were expected to be set up. The number was now reduced to nine.

Bokhari said the government has been working to improve all the nine indicators of the World Bank’s ease of doing business. Both Chairmen BOI and FIEDMC also discussed the investment prospects available in the country and the areas and fields where foreign investors could show interest and make investments leading to overall economic development and increase in the GDP growth rate. The problems faced by the foreign investors post COVID-19 environment were also discussed.

Ashfaq said Allama Iqbal Industrial City is being built as a priority project under the CPEC framework. Completion of the project would mark the start of an industrial era for the country. The industries being set up in AIIC would enjoy 10-year tax exemption on import of machinery. Additional facilities planned for the industrial city include a technical university.

The FIEDMC chairman said the company would collaborate with the Naya Pakistan Housing Authority and construct 10,000 flats for Allama Iqbal Industrial City laborers and a shuttle train would be launched soon for commuting them from one place to another.

“On the pattern of Faisalabad Express, another new road from Sahianwala to Chiniot will be constructed to get easy access to special economic zone,” he said. Ashfaq also invited Chairman BOI to visit FIEDMC to review the progress of different projects.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/662907-govt-mulls-new-law-to-remove-roadblocks-in-sez-development>

**May 27, 2020**

**Pakistan Observer**

**CPEC & Alice Wells**

*Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan*

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has once again in the line of fire and international forces are now trying their best to spoil and defame Sino-Pakistan relations. US diplomat Alice Wells repeated her criticism of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC during an online media briefing and had urged Beijing to relieve the countries involved in these undertakings of its predatory loans. On the contrary, latest reports of the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) termed Chinese investment “participatory” and “productive” for the national economies of its partners and Pakistan is not any exception.

During her media briefing the US diplomat called on “China to offer transparent relief from the BRI’s predatory loans that countries are suffering from, emerge on stable footing. Many international reports and research studies have already negated her baseless tall claims because many countries in the BRI have their own macro-economic imperfections, inflexibilities having imbalanced fiscal and monetary policies and Chinese investments are rather value-addition to their economic development.

Wells had reiterated that the US was concerned about CPEC projects because of a lack of transparency, and the unfair rates of profits that are guaranteed to Chinese firms involved in their execution. It is again out of the context and unsubstantiated.

The Chinese embassy of Pakistan called her speech totally baseless and just a repetition of her same old tune. According to its statement, China always treated Pakistan as an equal partner and continued support its own domestic model of development and never intervened in its national affairs. Furthermore, it highlighted Pakistan’s responsible role in regional affairs and never exert pressure.

Furthermore, the Chinese statement upheld CPEC as an important cooperation project between the governments of China and Pakistan which has been carried out on the principles of mutual benefit, win-win cooperation, openness and transparency.

It negated statement of the US diplomat Alice on the issues of planning and implementation of the CPEC projects and termed it “open” and “transparent” carried out by the two sides through thorough consultations based on “equality” and “scientific” study. The said statement rightly highlighted the leading role of the Chinese companies in the CPEC projects operated in full compliance with local laws and regulations. According to the statement, CPEC has so far brought \$25 million in direct investment and created more than 75,000 jobs in Pakistan. Right from the beginning, China has been the major source for foreign direct investment (FDIs) for Pakistan in the past five consecutive years. Whereas, according to the Board of Investment (BoI) Pakistan only received over \$1billion between 2012 and 2019 from the US which showed its huge disparity with Chinese FDIs in the country.

In the next stage of the project, the two sides will strength cooperation on healthcare, industrial development, agriculture and education. CPEC will give a new impetus to Pakistan’s economic revival even in the post-Covid-19 period.

The statement calcified that China will never force Pakistan to pay back “debts” and that “China’s loans have no strings attached as projected by Alice, the US diplomat. This is not the first time Wells has criticized CPEC. In November 2019, Wells had said that the multibillion-dollar project would take a toll on Pakistan’s economy at the time of repayments and dividends in the coming years. She had stated that the project was a form of financing that guarantees profit for Chinese state-owned enterprises, with little benefits for Islamabad.

Being strategic partner of Pakistan the Chinese companies did not suspend construction and laid-off a single local staff. The CPEC projects secured local employment and kept contributing to Pakistan’s economy. The energy projects are generating 1/3 of the electricity for Pakistan now. The Phase-II of KKH is almost ready for traffic. The integrated test and commissioning for the Lahore Orange Line have been successfully completed. The construction of the new airport in Gwadar entered into the second phase. All Chinese companies working for the CPEC have generously donated medical assistance to Pakistan in the current difficult situation.

According to latest reports of the State Bank of Pakistan, its debt from multilateral institutions amounts to about 47% of its total external debt, while loans from the CPEC is only \$5.8 billion, 5.22 percent of the Pakistan’s total debt. Contrary to criticism of Wells, China supported Pakistan’s inclusion in the G-20 members “Debt Service Suspension Initiative” for the Poorest Countries.

Even international media, the puppets of international forces have once again become active to tarnish Sino-Pak relations by hitting utility, transparency and productivity of the CPEC projects which is indeed a “game” and “fate” changer for Pakistan and rest of the region too. Most recently, an article titled “Pakistan Discovers the High Cost of Chinese Investment” published in the “Diplomat” authored by Hussain Haqqani, former Ambassador of Pakistan to the US, intentionally raised some questions about CPEC’s transparency and utility and termed it inflated with high set-up costs. It is totally groundless accusation which has no relevancy.

Politicization of CPEC is on the rise which has no substance. On the contrary, most of the power projects under the umbrella of CPEC are “cost, time and energy efficient”. CPEC energy projects

instrumented to lessen “siege of darkness in Pakistan”. There was doom and gloom in the country and national energy emergency compelled the government of Pakistan to take extraordinary steps to eradicate energy deficiency. There was no concert evidence of high set-up costs in power projects of the CPEC as mentioned by Hussain Haqqani in his article.

Despite hue and cry in the international circles and media, CPEC is heading towards its 2nd phase in the country wherein social development will be emphasized. Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri has informed about the progress of Kuchlak-Zhob road under CPEC. The road, part of CPEC western route, would reduce the distance between Quetta and Dera Ismail Khan by eight hours. It would not only connect areas in Baluchistan but also Dera Ismail Khan, {erstwhile} FATA and other districts. It would help set up new industrial zones to accelerate the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-alice-wells/>

### **US still working to sabotage CPEC**

*Mohammad Jamil*

THE Chinese Embassy in Pakistan took exception to the irresponsible remarks by outgoing US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Alice Wells, who tried to spoil China-Pakistan relations. A day earlier, Wells had once again criticized China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC during an online media briefing, and had urged Beijing to relieve the countries involved in these undertakings of, what she said, and its predatory loans. Wells had reiterated that the US was concerned about CPEC projects because of a lack of transparency, and the unfair rates of profits that are guaranteed to Chinese firms involved in their execution. The Chinese Embassy called her statement totally baseless and said: “We take Pakistan as an equal partner and never asked Pakistan to ‘do more’. We support Pakistan’s own model of development and never intervene in its domestic affairs”.

CPEC is an important project between the governments of China and Pakistan, and is a symbol of cooperation between the two countries. “The planning and implementation of the projects are carried out by the two sides through thorough consultations based on equality and scientific study. The Chinese companies under the project are all leading companies in their respective sectors and operate in full compliance with local laws and regulations,” the statement said. Since its implementation, CPEC has so far invested \$25 billion and created more than 75,000 jobs in Pakistan. In the next stage of the project, both sides will strength cooperation on healthcare, industrial development, agriculture and education; thus CPEC will give a new impetus to Pakistan’s economic revival even in the post Covid-19 period.

In an atmosphere of doom and gloom vis-à-vis Coronavirus, the nation has something to rejoice. Progress in construction of New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) continues according to time schedule, and is to be completed in 2022. The other good news is that award of contract for Diamer-Bhasha Dam has been awarded, which is to be completed by 2028. The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) awarded the contract for civil and electro-mechanical works on Wednesday. As per details, an agreement worth Rs.442 billion with a joint venture of

Power China-FWO was signed the other day for the construction of diversion system, main dam, access bridge and 21MW Tangir Hydropower Project. China has been the major source of FDI for Pakistan in the past five consecutive years. While according to the Board of Investment, the FDI from the USA to Pakistan was a bit over \$1billion between 2012 and 2019.

In 2005, the US had promised to establish Reconstruction Opportunity Zones in erstwhile FATA with a view to providing boost to the local industry and provide jobs to people affected by the war on terror and also to earthquake-affected people of the Hazara region. Under the proposal, the US was to set up industrial units in FATA and earthquake-hit areas as part of the ROZs and facilitate tax-free export of products to the United States. Additionally, local people were to get jobs on a priority basis in the industrial units. The idea of providing employment to the local population was meant to end terrorism. But the US backtracked on its promises, and Pakistan was left alone to bear the burden of rehabilitating the displaced persons. The list of betrayals by the US is long, and it ditched Pakistan after achieving its objectives; and after the (former) Soviet Union's demise, the US started applying sanctions.

Anyhow, since the COVID-19 outbreak, there is zero infection on CPEC projects due to strict measures taken by the two sides. The Chinese companies did not suspend construction nor did they lay off a single local staff. The CPEC projects have secured local employment and kept contributing to Pakistan's economy. The energy projects are generating 1/3 of the electricity for Pakistan now. The Phase-II of KKH is almost ready for traffic. The integrated test and commissioning for the Lahore Orange Line have been successfully completed. The construction of the new airport in Gwadar entered into the second phase. Gwadar has become an economic hub for Baluchistan. All Chinese companies working for the CPEC have generously donated medical assistance to Pakistan in the current difficult situation. Over 20,000 Pakistani students are studying in China on scholarships provided by the Chinese government and universities.

China knows the impact of the COVID-19 on Pakistan's economy and is sparing no effort to help Pakistan address the challenge. According to the State Bank of Pakistan, its debt from multilateral institutions amounts to about 47% of its total external debt, while loans from the CPEC is only \$5.8 billion, 5.22% of the Pakistan's total debt. It has no pressure on Pakistan at all. Recently, the G-20 members adopted a Debt Service Suspension Initiative for the poorest countries. China supported Pakistan to be included and is ready to provide relief. China will never force Pakistan to pay back the debts and China's loans have no strings attached.

While China and Pakistan are cooperating to prevent and control the epidemic, China sent a group of experts to Pakistan to combat menace of the locust. China has donated 300 tons of Malathion and 50 air-powered high-efficiency remote sprayers to Pakistan in this regard. The level of trade liberalization between the two countries has increased with tariffs further reduced. In addition, China and Pakistan are working together to promote the peace process in Afghanistan and provide humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan. China also opposes the politicization of the International Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and is working with Pakistan to strengthen its capacity. But the US is wary of Chinese strategic access to the Arabian Sea and its presence in the region. Reportedly, the US tried several times to

persuade Pakistan against involving China in the mega project but Pakistan remained firm on its commitment to China.

<https://pakobserver.net/us-still-working-to-sabotage-cpec/>

**May 28, 2020**

### **The News**

#### **Hundreds of Pak students respond to Xi's letter**

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping replied to a letter from all Pakistani students studying in the University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB) that created a sense of happiness and pride among them, reports Gwadar Pro.

Almost 20 colleges and universities have held discussions about Xi's reply, including Peking University (PKU), Renmin University of China (RUC), Shanghai University (SHU), Jiangsu University (JSU), Tianjin University (TJU) and so on. Meanwhile, hundred Pakistani students studying in different institutions of China respond to Xi's letter.

According to PKU's report, there are 44 Pakistani students studying in PKU and most of them are doctoral candidates of science and engineering, "they've been hard workers and obtained prominent achievements in academic field".

Hamid Muhammad, who is going to graduate this summer, is one of them. He decided to stay in Beijing during the pandemic outbreak so that he could finish his dissertation. After reading Xi's letter of response, Hamid said, he is so proud that China is another hometown of him, "Friendship between Pakistan and China cannot be shaken. We're taken care well in China. Thanks for President Xi's kindness to us."

Yassin, another Pakistani student studying in PKU, said "It's correct that we decided to stay in China during the COVID-19 spreading. The Chinese government and PKU have given us the best care."

Meanwhile, a part of Pakistani students of SHU have stayed in China as well. Muhammad Majid Riaz said that during the epidemic outbreak, Pakistan decided not to evacuate our nationals from China, as a respond, China has taken full responsibility for us and treated us like its own people. "It was 3 years since I came to China, I can feel the love and respect of the Chinese people for the Pakistani people all the time," he said.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/664201-hundreds-of-pak-students-respond-to-xi-s-letter>

**May 29, 2020**

**Pakistan Observer**

**1,127 NDMA teams conducting locust control operation China-Pakistan using all technology tools to win war against locusts**

As all-weather strategic cooperative partners, China and Pakistan are using all the technology tools at their disposal to strengthen cooperation to win the war against desert locusts while dealing with challenges from the novel coronavirus. Both the countries have made a lot of progress in agricultural cooperation, with bilateral work to control locusts one of the most notable examples, Gu Wenliang, agricultural commissioner said in an interview, says a message received here from Beijing.

He told Global Times that a virtual salon on joint efforts to control locusts, part of the hotline campaign for China-Pakistan Economic and Trade was facilitated on May 20, right before the 69th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The cloud salon attracted almost 170 delegates to discuss cooperation between China and Pakistan in locust control. The delegates work in embassies, locust control departments, agricultural universities, agricultural enterprises and innovative technology companies. Earlier in 2020, the outbreak of the desert locust disaster in Pakistan had a serious impact on agricultural production and food security in the country. The Pakistani government is stepping up efforts to fighting the epidemic. As of the end of April, the Chinese government had provided Pakistan with 300 tons of malathion pesticides and 50 vehicle mounted high-efficiency sprayers to help Pakistan fight the locust disaster.

The two countries' agricultural departments are actively implementing a Memorandum of Understanding on strengthening cooperation on plant pest and disease control, which aims to improve the ability and level of sustainable management of locusts. "In my opinion, desert locusts might continue to affect Pakistan for several years," Gu said. So far, Pakistan has deployed more than 1,100 locust survey and control teams across the country, Gu said, citing sources. The locust exterminators are isolated in the wild and have not been affected by the COVID-19 epidemic. To help Pakistan cope with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs donated 1,000 sets of protective clothing, 1,000 goggles and 30,000 medical masks to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research of Pakistan in early April.

Meanwhile, it is reported that National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has constituted 1,127 teams to conduct locust control operation in effects districts of the country. According to spokesman, the NDMA has completed the poisonous fumes spray of over 4,200 hectare and survey of 290,000 hectare locust swarm hit area of the country in the last 24 hours. Both Ariel and ground spray of various districts was being continued right now. Sharing details of the ongoing efforts to kill locust swarms, he said the spraying of 1,500 hectare area of Baluchistan and 8,00 hectare area of Punjab have been completed in the last 24 hours. The treatment of 700



hectare area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 1,200 hectare area of Sindh has been finished in the last 24 hours.

<https://pakobserver.net/1127-ndma-teams-conducting-locust-control-operation-china-pakistan-using-all-technology-tools-to-win-war-against-locusts/>

### **India responsible of tensions with China, regional countries: Masood**

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has said that the Indian rulers are habitual of attempting to coerce the weak and kneeling before the powerful. ‘The inattention of the international community toward the massacre of defenseless and peaceful Kashmiri people for the last 72 years, and threats to impose war on Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit-Baltistan had emboldened the Indian fanatic rulers to challenge China and Nepal, but China gave a measured response,’ he underlined. In interview with different private TV channels and media outlets, the AJK president held the Indian fanatic rulers responsible of igniting tension. He expressed hope that the tension will help the world to realize the importance of peaceful and diplomatic solution of the disputes including the Kashmir issue. ‘Unarmed clashes between Chinese and Indian soldiers in Ladakh and Naku La at the Sikkim-Tibet border will redefine the strategic landscape and international diplomacy for Kashmir, if the tensions grow further.

Sardar Masood Khan asserted that the Indian extremist rulers are constantly taking actions, particularly in occupied Kashmir, Line of Control and are hurling threats on Pakistan which may culminate in a war. While commenting on the nuclear capability, Pakistan had acquired on May 28, 1998, the AJK president said that the nuclear capability had made Pakistan’s defense invincible. However, we are trying to use the nuclear capability as deterrence instead of sword, but the shrewd and unreliable Indian rulers can do anything including false flag operation, limited war or hybrid war. About China-India tension in Ladakh, he said that China does not believe in war, but India is constantly engaged to push the region towards a war. While declaring China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a flagship project of both the countries, the AJK president said that every attempt to sabotage this project would be foiled. He said that the people of Pakistan as well as Jammu and Kashmir do not believe in war and destruction, but if India did not stop the brutalities of its forces in occupied Kashmir, the peace of South Asia cannot be guaranteed.

Welcoming the statement of the UN Secretary General António Guterres about the anti-Muslim bigotry during the situation of coronavirus pandemic, AJK President said that the United Nations should also raise its voice against the massacre and ethnic cleansing of Muslims in occupied Kashmir. ‘More than 100 youth have been killed and thousands of other youth arrested in occupied Kashmir during the last few months,’ he said adding that the youth detained in the Indian prisons were being subjected to the worst torture. Ridiculing allegation of the Indian Government that spy pigeons were being sent to occupy Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan said that the Indian Army is afraid of even the innocent birds because they know that they are a foreign army in an alien land, and thus they are not secure here.

<https://pakobserver.net/india-responsible-of-tensions-with-china-regional-countries-masood/>

## The News

### **Pak students bring high-yield agri-magic from China**

ISLAMABAD: Two Pakistani students from Sichuan Agricultural University, are using and popularizing China's maize-soybean strip intercropping technology under professors' guidance in their hometown, and have achieved satisfactory results by now.

At the beginning of this year, COVID-19 pandemic swiftly swept the globe and also hindered the two students' return to the university. According to Gwadar Pro, during their stay in hometown, the two students Muhammad Ali Raza and Sajad Hussain have not only kept studying online but also made full use of time to investigate the Chinese planting technology's performance in Pakistan.

In China, this maize-soybean strip intercropping technology has been widely applied to 4.76 million hectares of land in 19 provinces and created new economic benefits of RMB 24.5 billion. However, as a mature technology for Chinese farmers, it still remains alien to Pakistan. With the fervent hope of bringing benefits of the research to Pakistan's agri-sector, Ali and Sajad started to use this technology respectively in Bahawalpur and Layyah, Punjab since February, 2020.

At first, villagers were curious, even doubted that this planting method would work. "Nobody was ready to believe me. They took it as a daydream. Even on a few occasions, farmers told me that you were doing it wrong," Ali recalled.

However, maize and soybean's strong growth proved the technology's worth. Now farmers are visiting in numbers on a daily basis, taking pictures of the field and consulting them about plating techniques.

This technology has also attracted government and enterprises' attention. Officers of Monsanto Pakistan and Engro Fertilizers visited the crops and requested Ali to teach them this new technology on their research farms.

Furthermore, government officers spoke highly of this technology that it could be a new Green Revolution for cereal and legume production in Pakistan.

Currently, a bumper crop is on the way. "I found that as compared to locally practiced maize cultivation method, maize-soybean strip intercropping model significantly reduces lodging of maize plants and increases light utilization," Sajad expected the yield of maize to reach 7500-8500 kg per hectare, up about 50% compared with the general production without using strips.

Moreover, as for the first time that soybean planting has been introduced to promote in their hometown, a yield of 1350 to 1650 kg/ha is forecasted by Ali.

The Chinese professors provided generous support in the whole planting process. It's Prof. Yang Wenyu and his team who have developed maize-soybean strip intercropping system for 18 years in China and formulated the core idea of introducing this technology to Pakistan. During the interview, Sajad and Ali both expressed their gratitude to the professors Yang Wenyu, Yang Feng, and Liu Weiguo. Four years ago, Ali chose brotherly China for Ph.D. study instead of going to Canada. As he said, that's a right decision that changes his life. In China he has found love, respect, and care from everyone. As soon as the international flights resume, Ali and Sajad will return to Sichuan Agricultural University to finish their studies. Last week, President Xi

Jinping replied to a letter from Pakistani students encouraging them to promote youth exchanges and understanding. Sajad and Ali both felt heartened.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/664760-pak-students-bring-high-yield-agri-magic-from-china>

**May 30, 2020**

**Daily Times**

### **China-India tension and CPEC**

*Muhammad Mehdi*

The recent military tensions between China and India are not an unforeseen event. While I am writing that this is not an unforeseen event, I do not mean that it does not matter. The significance is obvious, but what I mean is that this process on the Line of Actual Control continues and will continue. One of the main reasons for this is the growing relationship between China and Pakistan, the most important sign of which is the CPEC. Now the question arises as to where Pakistan came from in this whole conflict. If we look at the location of this conflict on a map and analyze the Indian actions taken there, it will be clear that the Indian military action is in fact a practical picture of the desire to keep the area at its target at all times. Ground contact of Pakistani and Chinese forces easily possible and that area is Ladakh and surroundings. Any kind of construction on this part of Ladakh that poses a threat to China-Pakistan relations is not acceptable to China at all. The reason for the recent tension is that the Indian sub-sector North (SSN) is located east of the Siachen Glacier and in this area India feels that its defense infrastructure is very weak and since then it has been obsessed with gaining control of the area. Since then, he has been working to build infrastructure in the region that would pose a permanent threat to the infrastructure of China and Pakistan. Sub-sector North (SSN) is also important to India because it is the only area from which India has access to Aksai Chin. India began its military manifestation of its latest ambitions in 2007 when it began building roads of military importance there.

The first of these roads was built up to the sur la pass, but sur la pass Despite being built up to, it cannot be used by India for the whole year as the road is covered with a heavy snowfall during the snowy season and traffic is completely closed. India needs a tunnel to use it all year round. He wants to make it, but he can't do it in practice. Apart from this, India has also built another road. It is a 255 km long road and its specialty compared to this other road is that it is available for transportation all the year round. The confluence of the Shyok and Gulwan rivers is only five kilometers from the Line of Actual Control. The current controversy started when India started construction of another road adjacent to this road. The second route to Aksai Chin is from the Chang Chenmo River valley to the south. Where the Indian army is only three kilometers away? India has also built a road here along the river changcenmo and other roads adjacent to this road which gives it access to the ane la pass and this road remains open all year round. The rear of the Chinese army can be reached by Indian army through the Pangong River, Sririjap and Kharnak.

The area ahead is known as the Fingers. In which India occupies up to Finger Four while it patrols its forces near Sirijap till Finger 8. The Chinese military post is on finger 8 but it declares the area up to finger 2 as its territory. It is also interesting for Pakistan that when the Kargil incident took place in 1999, China built a road up to Finger 5 at that time. In addition, Nigari is an important Chinese military base there, located just 50 kilometers from Demchok.

If we look at all these places, it will be clear that the sole purpose of Indian initiatives is to directly target the entire region, which has land links between Pakistan and China, whether economic or military. India to want keeps itself a constant threat to all of them. That is why in 2013, Chinese and Indian forces came face to face in the same places. China is well aware of these moves of India. He seems fully prepared to deal with it not only at the diplomatic level but also at the military level.

By the way, a study of the military history between China and India makes it clear to what extent China's weight is heavy, but if we want to keep in mind China's military readiness, we must first look at it from today. It goes back to the military exercises that China did fifteen years ago. In these military exercises, China visualized to attack India from Aksai Chin and the sub-sector North With one division of army and a mechanized force. How can it be attacked? An impartial analysis of the situation reveals the fact that India has been creating problems in the region since the second decade of independence, but each time it has been defeated by China's military might. In the last two decades, India has performed better economically, while the beloved homeland Pakistan has been besieged first by dictatorships and then by conspiracies against democracy. As a result, the growth rate of about 6% is going now in the low to the negative side. Under these circumstances, India has a chance to take position and in doing so, it wants to jeopardize C-Pack, the most important part of China's BRI, and when China was only a military power, India was defeated by China In the past and now China has become an economic power also.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/619196/china-india-tension-and-cpec/>

### **Dawn News**

#### **People asked to learn from China's fight against Covid-19**

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at an international virtual seminar on Friday urged people to follow preemptive measures, stay at home and keep themselves virus-free by keeping social distancing and washing hands.

Addressing the seminar "Combating Covid-19: Learning from China" they said social distancing was the first and only solution adopted by the Chinese to defeat the Covid-19 infections.

Secondly, the Chinese government practiced its writ in letter and spirit in hundred per cent harmony with the stakeholders. The flawless and strict command and control could bring the desired results.

The participants were of the opinion that contrary to China, Pakistan government has been confused on preemptive measures and lockdown strategies.

Public also reacted to the lockdown in the face of economic breakdown despite huge food and financial charity. The virtual seminar was jointly organized by Development Communications Network Devcom-Pakistan and DTN.

The panel of speakers included chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, and Chinese professor from Xi'an (China) Dr. Shan Wang, geopolitical analyst from Beijing, China Malik Ayub Khan, and Nima Gurang from Pokhara, Nepal to mention some. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said lack of clarity and shortfall in the healthcare system was other drawbacks.

The best lesson from China's fight against Covid-19 is the leadership and timely decision making. The people of China followed the government instructions in letter and spirit.

Condemning western propaganda against China for spreading the virus, he said that delaying the lockdown and going for herd immunity was the blunder of the leadership in the US, UK and other western countries for which they are facing the brunt now.

Emphasizing on preemptive measures, Devcom-Pakistan and DTN director Munir Ahmed said total cases have risen to more than 65,000 in a couple of weeks from 12, 000 patients. Hospitals have told the government and the public that they have no more beds for the infected ones. Situation is expected to worsen in the next couple of weeks.

Dr Shan Wang said Chinese followed government instructions carefully and remained indoors. Chinese government had taken strict measures for those violating SOPs. Dr. Wang said Chinese people were disciplined, and became even more so fearing the infection.

She said some herbal medicines were also used for the mildly infected patients while the government established the first big hospital in Wuhan city just in ten days while the second one in twelve days.

Timely decisions, strict lockdown and a strong healthcare system were the major elements to recover from the corona pandemic.

Geopolitical analyst Malik Ayub Khan while speaking from Beijing said, "China's fight against Covid-19 is exemplary for the rest of the world, especially the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and use of the various apps like 'Health Kit', to screen the people according to their travel history.

Dr Amena Hassan described different steps and SOPs required combating the corona crisis. She insisted on following the awareness campaign first. "Mostly people have taken it lightly but now suffer from their own ignorance and neglect. We are habitual to flout the SOPs of the government whatever the situation is. Perhaps we don't trust our government or it's the usual ignorance," she lamented. Nima Gurung said the government in Nepal is following a strict lockdown which was why the cases were low but the economic crisis was looming large.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1560249/people-asked-to-learn-from-chinas-fight-against-covid-19>

## The Express Tribune

### **First cargo ship carrying wheat, urea reaches Gwadar: Asim Bajwa**

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting, Lieutenant General (retired) Asim Saleem Bajwa has said first bulk cargo ship “MV Manet” carrying wheat and urea of Afghan Transit trade reached Gwadar this week.

In a tweet on Saturday, Bajwa, who is also a chairman CPEC authority, said a dream come true for local economy as it will stimulate host of business activity.

“First bulk-cargo ship “MV Manet” carrying wheat n urea of Afghan Transit trade reached Gwadar this week-a dream come true for local economy as it will stimulate host of business activity”. Asim Saleem Bajwa, Last month, Adviser to PM on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood had said that Gwadar Port has been made operational for the Afghan Transit Trade.

Announcing the development via his twitter handle, the commerce adviser shared that the Gwadar Port is now operational for Afghan Transit Trade under APTTA 2010.

The adviser said that that the move fulfills long-standing request of the business community and the shipping industry of the country.

It will also pave the way for generating business opportunities employment both in Gwadar and the surrounding regions, he added. In January this year, the Gwadar port started handling transit cargo destined for Afghanistan.

The war-torn country has relied on Pakistani land routes and the two ports of Karachi and Port Qasim for international trade after a bilateral agreement, known as the Afghan Transit Trade Agreement (ATTA), was signed with Islamabad. CPEC is a collection of projects currently under construction at a cost of more than \$50 billion. The major portion will be spent on enhancing the energy capacity of the country and almost \$12 billion on infrastructure related projects.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2231855/1-first-cargo-ship-carrying-wheat-urea-reaches-gwadar-asim-bajwa/>

**May 31, 2020**

## The Express Tribune

### **China promotes Pakistan's hybrid rice**

BEIJING: China has continued to assist Pakistan in various fields including agriculture in a bid to enhance its capacity to feed entire population of the country.

“Agriculture in Pakistan still relies heavily on manpower and my goal is to promote advanced agricultural technologies and hybrid rice to improve rice production and alleviate the burden of farmers,” a young Chinese agronomist, Dai Yingnan, said.

Dai has been promoting the plantation of hybrid rice in Pakistan for three years.

Born in a village of Liaoning province in northeast China, Dai grew corn and rice with his parents when he was young and possesses a deep understanding of the hardship of farmers.

“Following the advice of my teacher, I chose to learn agronomy at Hunan Agriculture University,” Dai told the China Economic Net on Saturday. “Since few students would opt for this major, who had strong links to farming, it became a safer choice for me to go to this university.”

Dai regretted his choice for a long time because he was of the view that he would become a farmer after receiving four-year education in college. The turning point appeared when Dai, as a representative of his university, had an opportunity to talk to Yuan Longping, who is known as the father of hybrid rice.

“When I was confused about the prospect of agronomy, the esteemed man told me that agriculture was the foundation of a country,” he said. “At the same time, it is a slow growing industry that demands a lot of time and people devoted to it.” Following his graduation in 2017, Dai accepted an offer at Yuan Longping High-Tech Agriculture Company and was later sent to Pakistan to promote hybrid rice.

Earlier in his career, Dai never thought he would love the work until he got stranded at home for almost half a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

“I really miss the farmlands in Pakistan,” Dai said. According to him, carrying out research and promoting the plantation of hybrid rice in Pakistan was not an easy task.

Out of thousands of seeds, Dai had to select the one which was most suitable for the local environment. This task itself demanded years of experience.

One of the best ways to find the right seed was to plant hybrid rice in test fields, observe it carefully and record details of the growing process from sowing and blooming to final harvest.

“One missing or false record would lead to failure of the experiment and that usually wastes at least half a year,” he said. Pakistan’s torrid weather was another big challenge for the young boy as temperature could reach nearly 50 degrees in summer. During harvest every year, the yield of hybrid rice is apparently higher than the locally grown rice and sometimes even twice by comparison, Dai said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2232035/2-china-promotes-pakistans-hybrid-rice/>

## **The News**

### **Chinese spacecraft finished space journey with Pak flag**

BEIJING: A Chinese spacecraft successfully finished space journey with Pakistani national flag, reports Gwadar Pro on Saturday. A ceremony was held here to open the re-entry module of the new-generation manned spacecraft test ship. On May 5th, taken by Long March 5B carrier rocket, this test ship was launched in Wenchang Space Launch Site, China.

There was a Pakistani national flag carried by Long March 5B and returned to the Dongfeng Landing Site on May 8th. At the ceremony, China turned over the flag which has been carried in test ship to Ambassador of Pakistan to China Mrs. Naghmana Hashmi.

Subsequently, Mrs. Hashmi has tweeted that “Flag returns from its space journey with Long March 5B. Pakistan and China are all weather strategic cooperative partners and our iron brotherhood extends even in space.” On 2019 April 27th, Pakistan and China have signed an agreement on cooperation in Manned Space Flight Activities.

Later, in September last year, it was announced by Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Federal Minister for Science and Technology that the selection process for Pakistani astronauts would begin in 2020. By the end of 2022, Pakistan would launch its first manned space mission with China’s support and kicking off its exploration into space.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/665758-chinese-spacecraft-finished-space-journey-with-pak-flag>