



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

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Table of Contents

01: May 16, 2022.....	03
02: May 17, 2022.....	10
03: May 18, 2022.....	17
04: May 19, 2022.....	29
05: May 20, 2022.....	34
06: May 21, 2022.....	40
07: May 22, 2022.....	53
08: May 23, 2022.....	67
09: May 24, 2022.....	82
10: May 25, 2022.....	100
11: May 26, 2022.....	104
12: May 27, 2022.....	108
13: May 28, 2022.....	116
14: May 29, 2022.....	123
15: May 30, 2022.....	129
16: May 31, 2022.....	142

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May 16, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan can leverage Chinese technology to make lower priced solar panels

Pakistan can take an initiative to manufacture low cost solar panels locally in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) built under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

According to a renewable energy expert and consultant in Pakistan, China is the leader in solar technology right now. Pakistan should work with China to manufacture solar panels in Pakistan inside the SEZs, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. “It will lower its cost for local population and will help create job opportunities. Imported solar panels are costly, despite tax and duties exemption. Therefore, it would be better for us to manufacture our own solar panels in Pakistan”.

He said, the manufacturing of the solar panels locally will make it affordable for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to install these systems in their homes and factories. According to solar experts, an area needs a minimum of four hours of peak sunlight in order to produce electricity that is economical. In this regard, Pakistan is the most blessed country that has sunlight most of the areas for more than 300 days, and that too with 7 to 8 peak hours of sunlight. The unbearable electricity crises in Pakistan have greatly affected not only the daily lives of people but businesses and industries as well. Although, since the past couple of years, the government has attempted to resolve the issue of load shedding, but the gap in the demand and the production of electric energy is so vast that it cannot be covered with the current electric energy production sources alone.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/935421/pakistan-can-leverage-chinese-technology-to-make-lower-priced-solar-panels/>

CPEC helping Pakistan achieve SDG-2030 agenda

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been contributing to the United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs) 2030 Agenda in Pakistan.

Although it is expected that CPEC will empower Pakistan to move forward economically, it also has a high potential to achieve a number of SDGs.

Three out of 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Agenda 2030 are highly relevant to the construction and running of CPEC, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

As it is important to know that developing countries need great resources of funding to achieve SDGs in their countries, CPEC has been proven as the best economical resource for Pakistan.

Chinese FDIs are also identifying actionable measures in terms of CPEC investments, developments, business opportunities, jobs creations abilities, and innovation in social services in Pakistan.

Pakistan has to achieve Sustainable Development Goals as per the 2030 Agenda, and it requires substantial financial resources and also non-financial support.

Pakistan has already faced severe consequences of terrorism. These war costs have led to a reduction in exports and inflow of foreign investment including other financial damages.

During these crucial and toughest times, China came forward and offered CPEC to Pakistan.

Pakistan has a long-term development plan called Vision 2025, which has identified 7 priority areas or pillars. Each of these finds resonance with one or more of the latest proposals for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Currently, it is only possible through the mega projects of CPEC which offers a full opportunity for Pakistan with all resources to move forward not only with its Vision 2025 but also to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda and many of the SDGs in the Pakistani context.

The UN's 2030 Agenda key objectives and CPEC core goals or objectives are very similar and connected. CPEC will help facilitate the work on poverty alleviation in Pakistan and neighbouring countries, and on economic prosperity with advanced and highly infrastructural regional connectivity. CPEC's priority is to increase regional and world trade and accelerate FDIs investment from all over the world into Asia.

All these above said economic activities would help achieve poverty alleviation in Pakistan, resources for food clean drinking water, health facilities, right to education, and access to everyone. UN's 2030 agenda goals are the same and directly or indirectly connected with CPEC in the context of Pakistan's SDGs achievement.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/935426/cpec-helping-pakistan-achieve-sdg-2030-agenda/>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China ironclad friendship

Foreign office organised a memorial service on Saturday to pay respect and homage to three Chinese teachers killed in recent terrorist attack at Karachi University.

This was an expression that people of Pakistan feel the pain and shock of bereaved Chinese families and Chinese people over this incident.

This tragic incident anguished and shocked the entire Pakistani nation, which would always remember services of these and other Chinese workers who contributed or continue to play their role for progress and development of Pakistan.

The sentiments expressed both by Pakistani and Chinese side at the memorial service manifested once again that this ironclad friendship is unshakeable and unbreakable and nobody can come in between this relationship.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari stated that enemies of Pakistan-China would not be forgiven, adding nobody will be allowed to harm this relationship.

Chinese Charge d'Affaires Pang Chunxue said that any attempt to undermine the two countries' mutual cooperation and trust and on-going CPEC project is doomed to fail.

These remarks definitely would disappoint those who are always out and plot to hurt this time-tested friendship and sabotage the multi billion dollars corridor project.

It is a matter of satisfaction that leadership of both the countries is fully cognizant of nefarious designs of the enemies and committed to foil them through collective efforts.

Those behind Karachi University attack must be nabbed at the earliest and given exemplary punishment in order to send a loud and clear message that such sort of attacks on our friends and guests will not be tolerated.

At the same time, current security arrangements put in place for safety and security of Chinese workers and investors should be revisited, making them foolproof in real and practical sense.

On security arrangements, the Chinese side should also be taken on board.

Simultaneously, pace of work on various development projects being executed under the CPEC should be accelerated, removing all obstacles and hurdles coming in their way.

We believe their early completion will be a big slap on face of the enemy.

Undoubtedly relationship between Pakistan and China is deeply rooted in the hearts of our two peoples and has grown from strength to strength regardless of changes on global and regional landscape.

Efforts should be made to further strengthen these bonds of friendship through increased people to people contacts at different levels.

Enhanced exchanges will also help identify more areas of cooperation.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-ironclad-friendship/>

China to help set up pest management centre in Pakistan

Pakistan and China have agreed to execute a Memorandum of Understanding on disease and pest management to help enhance Pakistan's agriculture production and exports under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Adnan Khan, a CPEC Authority official, said that the understanding came at a recent online meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture.

“The JWG fine-tuned the details of establishing a plant pest management centre in Pakistan.” The official said that the focus of the discussions was on establishing agricultural development priorities. “Discussions centered on expanding agricultural mechanisation, growth of agri-value chain, corporate farming, and capacity building via research.”

Adnan Khan said that China's emergency support was urgently needed since Pakistan was facing the desert locust. Under its second phase, the CPEC is transforming into a "Green Corridor" as it exploits the development potential of Pakistan's agriculture sector.

The second phase of the multi-billion-dollar project entails the phased execution of a wide range of projects, including short, medium, and long-term.

The second phase is also focused on industrialisation, agricultural modernisation, information technology, and scientific and technological collaboration. The ministry of national food security and research is already working on project ideas in these areas with its equivalent in Beijing.

The first phase of the CPEC created an enabling environment for investment in other industries by filling existing infrastructural and energy gaps. The CPEC Authority official told WealthPK that all the projects were moving along smoothly and would be completed on time. "The Chinese government is assisting Pakistan in diversifying its agriculture industry and improving yields for greater economic growth by developing institutions and cooperating on technology exchange."

Because of strong collaboration and excellent execution of the first phase of the mega project, there is more connectivity between farms and markets, allowing growers to access not only local but also regional and international markets. The energy projects launched under the CPEC framework have also aided in increasing agricultural production, which had traditionally been hampered by a shortage of energy supplies.—INP

https://pakobserver.net/china-to-help-set-up-pest-management-centre-in-pakistan/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=china-to-help-set-up-pest-management-centre-in-pakista

The Express Tribune

Chinese teachers leave for home

Confucius Institute at Karachi University likely to shut down; online teaching under consideration

KARACHI: Chinese teachers teaching the Chinese language to Pakistani students have started returning home on Sunday.

Eleven Chinese teachers living at a cordoned off area of the NED University left under high security for the Jinnah International Terminal to catch a flight home.

After the suicide bombing at University of Karachi (KU) last month, the Chinese language classes at the Confucius Institute and NED University had practically stopped. The KU and NED authorities are now considering teaching the Chinese language online.

KU Institute Director Professor Dr Nasiruddin Khan has confirmed the departure of the Chinese teachers from Pakistan. Talking to The Express Tribune, he said in a sombre tone that Chinese teachers and officials had decided to leave on Sunday evening.

"This is the first step. Now it is time to decide how our children will learn Chinese," he said. He added that, "Online classes are under consideration, while our Pakistani teachers who have learned Chinese will try to carry the BS programme forward instead of the Chinese teachers."

It should be noted that the Confucius Institute for the Chinese Language was established at KU in 2013. It was the ninth year since the first batch of the BS programme was admitted. At the same time, the NED University had made Chinese language compulsory for all its disciplines for two semesters, and about 2,500 students were studying the Chinese language simultaneously each semester.

According to KU sources, all Chinese teachers and officials had moved to NED University after the explosion outside the Confucius Institute last month, which killed three Chinese teachers and a Pakistani driver. A Baloch secessionist outfit had claimed the responsibility of the terrorist attack targeting Chinese nationals.

Subsequently, the authorities moved the Chinese teachers and officials to a cordoned off area of NED. They were kept under tight security by the Rangers, and a food container was sent to the NED from the Chinese Consulate for their food needs.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2356795/chinese-teachers-leave-for-home>

Second phase of CPEC: what is needed

There must be no politics on mega project, point scoring by any party

ISLAMABAD: The current government comprises the political parties that consider themselves the champion of Pakistan-China relationship.

Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) takes pride in attributing Pak-China friendship to the founder of the party. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) claims a major role in providing policy guidelines for economic cooperation in the late 1990s, especially during the visit of JUI-F leadership to China.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) boasts the finalisation and signing of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

Thus, it is expected that the new government will give a fresh push to CPEC, as all parties are on the same page and want to strengthen Pak-China relationship.

PML-N, which claims that it executed the first phase of CPEC with great vigour, has raised the level of expectation.

However, the execution of plans is not according to the claims made by the parties and requirements of the second phase of CPEC.

PML-N is still stuck in the first phase and busy in delivering lengthy lectures on its past performance. It needs to acknowledge that the second phase is entirely different from the first phase.

The first phase was dominated by government-to-government or government-to-business cooperation in the fields of roads, highways and energy infrastructure.

On the contrary, the second phase revolves around the private sector. Industrialisation is the driving force along with cooperation in the fields of science and technology as well as agriculture.

It requires the involvement of numerous ministries and agencies. For example, to register a firm, an investor has to deal with eight agencies and departments (SECP, bank, tax facilitation centre of the Regional Tax Office, FBR, Excise and Taxation Department, Social Security Institution, Employees Old Age Benefits Institution and labour department).

The process becomes more complex during the execution phase, as the firm would need a number of certificates and clearances.

Besides, the incentive system for attracting an industry or investor is not according to the need, which is a pre-requisite to attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

On top of that, after the 18th Constitution Amendment, the process has become more complicated, as the provincial governments have devised their own policies for investment.

Hence, it was decided that the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will be established to expedite the industrialisation process and work will be consolidated in one place to speed up cooperation in the fields of agriculture and science and technology.

CPEC Authority was established to achieve the above objectives. Unfortunately, it could not deliver in line with the objectives. So, the problems still exist.

There are hurdles in smooth implementation and the impact is evident in the form of delayed work on the SEZs.

Security is another area, which requires new mechanisms and arrangements according to the need of the second phase.

In recent months, we have witnessed a surge in terrorist attacks. Terrorists are also targeting Chinese nationals, and the security apparatus has to step up its efforts.

In this context, the second phase of CPEC needs a new policy framework to smoothen its implementation.

First of all, the government must devise and adopt innovative policies to present the SEZs as an attractive opportunity. It is required to promote industrialisation, attract FDI and enhance trade.

An analysis of SEZs across the world suggests that the lack of innovation in policies, incentives and consolidation of work are the common reasons of the failure of SEZs.

Most of the countries fail to understand that the SEZs are specialised areas to achieve specific goals. Thus, Pakistan should formulate the policies and instruments to make the SEZs successful.

Apart from that, Pakistan needs to bring all work related to CPEC, from registration to execution, under one roof. For that purpose, the country can strengthen the structure and role of CPEC Authority, which will help to enhance the confidence of investors.

Third, an incentive system should be designed to attract investors. Pakistan should realise that the SEZs or industrialisation process can only be successful by offering customised incentives. These must be lucrative and different from the rest of country.

For that purpose, Pakistan can learn from the experience of Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, China. It would be helpful to understand the required mechanisms for the successful execution of SEZs plan for industrial and trade development.

It will also provide good policy guidelines for the political leadership to learn how to devise the political and governance system to support rapid economic growth, industrialisation and attract FDI.

On the security front, Pakistan needs to bring fundamental changes in the policy and implementation framework. The new framework must focus on the fifth-generation warfare and inclusiveness.

On the other hand, companies should develop their own capacity to counter propaganda and forge close linkages with the communities in project areas. For that purpose, they will have to understand the local dynamics and culture.

Regrettably, the new government is not considering these points and is still busy in beating drums pertaining to the achievements of the first phase. It is a disastrous recipe and the government must abandon it.

Pakistan must understand that there is need of a strong CPEC Authority to steer the second phase. Otherwise, the ministries and agencies will keep on fighting for supremacy and in practical terms no ministry is superior than other.

Pakistan is already witnessing a tug of war among ministries, which is impacting the pace of CPEC. The Ministry of Planning cannot dictate any other ministry or agency.

So, it will be better to look for alternative ways to speed up work and the CPEC Authority would be an excellent choice. However, if the Ministry of Planning still wants to lead CPEC, then it should revise its SOPs and take up the job of CPEC Authority.

Concluding, the government should try to comprehend that Pakistan is not the only member of the Belt and Road Initiative, there are other 146 countries, which have joined or signed agreements to join the BRI.

For China, every member of BRI is equally important and it offers opportunities to everyone. Moreover, there are more than 5,400 SEZs in 147 countries, which are also working to attract FDI.

If Pakistan is not able to consolidate work, the present lucrative incentives and provide fool-proof security, then investors can go anywhere. It is high time to take action and say goodbye to the lengthy speeches.

Lastly, there must be no politics on CPEC and point scoring by any party.

The writer is a political economist

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2356763/second-phase-of-cpec-what-is-needed>

Express News

چینی قافلے کو نشانہ بنانے کی کوشش ناکام، خاتون خودکش بمبار گرفتار

ترجمان سی ٹی ڈی کے مطابق تربت سی ٹی ڈی اور وومن پولیس نے خفیہ اطلاع پر ہوشاب میں آپریشن کے دوران خودکش بمبار خاتون کو گرفتار کر لیا ہے جس کے قبضے سے دھماکا خیز مواد اور ڈیٹونائیٹر برآمد ہوئے ہیں۔

سی ٹی ڈی حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ خودکش بمبار کے نیٹ ورک کو پکڑنے کے لیے جھڑپوں کا سلسلہ جاری ہے۔

واضح رہے کہ گزشتہ ماہ 26 اپریل کو کراچی یونیورسٹی میں چین کے اساتذہ کو لے جانے والی وین کو خودکش بمبار نے دھماکے سے اڑا دیا جس کے نتیجے میں تین چینی باشندے اور ایک پاکستانی شہری جاں بحق ہو گیا تھا۔

واقعے کی بعد تحقیقات میں انکشاف ہوا کہ خودکش بمبار شاری بلوچ نامی خاتون تھی، بم دھماکے کے بعد پولیس اور قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کی ٹارگٹڈ کارروائیاں جاری رہیں اور متعدد افراد کو حراست میں لے لیا گیا ہے، حراست میں لیے جانے والوں میں خودکش بمبار خاتون کے شوہر کے قریبی دوست بھی شامل ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2322706/1/>

May 17, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan reaffirms complete security to Chinese nationals

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday assured Chinese Premier Li Keqiang that Pakistan was determined to take all necessary measures for enhanced security and safety of the Chinese people in Pakistan.

The two leaders talked over phone. Traditional warmth and cordiality marked the talks, said a statement issued by the PM Office.

Karachi suicide bomb attack that resulted in the death of three Chinese scholars came under discussion. The interaction between the two leaders came in the backdrop of Chinese academics teaching at the Confucius Institute of the University of Karachi leaving the country.

The prime minister offered his condolences to the Chinese government and people and sympathized with the families of victims of the heinous terrorist attack. Shehbaz condemned the

terrorist attack and reaffirmed Pakistan's firm resolve to hold a thorough investigation and apprehend the perpetrators of this criminal act, bringing them to justice in accordance with the local laws. He also reiterated that Pakistan attached the highest importance to the safety, security and protection of all Chinese nationals working in Pakistan on economic projects and institutions.

Apart from deliberations on the attack, the two premiers also discussed in detail bilateral matters, while agreeing that Pakistan and China would not allow anyone to harm the time-tested The prime minister thanked China for its firm support of Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and national development and reaffirmed his government's unwavering support to China on all issues of its core interest.

Shehbaz affirmed his government's firm resolve to fast-track both the ongoing as well as the new projects under the transformational China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which had immensely contributed to the socio-economic development of Pakistan and also realize its high-quality development. He underscored the need for both sides to work together and enhance cooperation between the concerned agencies of the two countries to fully operationalise the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) at an early date.

Recalling Pakistan-China sister-city partnerships, the prime minister expressed his desire to learn from the experience of those Chinese officials, who have remained instrumental in setting up SEZs in their provinces.

The prime minister also expressed his commitment to working with renewed zeal and enthusiasm, in concert with China, especially on projects of strategic significance for both the countries, such as the ML-1 project.

Emphasizing people-to-people contacts, Shehbaz Sharif also conveyed sentiments of the families of the Pakistani students, who were desirous of returning to China for resumption of their studies.

Premier Keqiang assured the PM Shehbaz of China's readiness to enhance economic cooperation, expand trade, and encourage greater investments from China to Pakistan.

Both the prime ministers shared the view that the "Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" must continue to serve the vital interests of the peoples of the two countries, as well as the broader interests of peace and stability amidst the evolving regional and global milieu.

To this end, the two leaders agreed to enhance the momentum of exchanges to take bilateral cooperation to even higher levels.

PM Shehbaz also expressed his commitment to working with renewed zeal and enthusiasm in tandem with China, especially on projects of strategic significance for both the countries, such as the ML-1 project.

The prime minister underscored the need for both sides to work together and enhance cooperation between the concerned agencies of the two countries to fully operationalise the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) at an early date, the communique further read.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/936075/pakistan-reaffirms-complete-security-to-chinese-nationals/>

Pakistan's export of sesamum seeds to China up 102%

Pakistan's export of sesamum seeds to China achieved a historical figure of \$45.99 million, rising by 102.49 percent in the first quarter of 2022, said Badar U Zaman, Commercial Counsellor of the Pakistani Embassy.

Badar U Zaman told China Economic Net (CEN) that according to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), China imported around 30,923 tons of sesamum seeds in the first quarter of this year and was one of the main destinations for sesamum seed exports from Pakistan, while in the same period in 2021 it was only around 18,444 tons. Now it has increased 67.65 percent by volume and more than 102% percent by value.

"The main reason for the increasing trade of this product is that after the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement signed, Pakistan's export of sesamum seeds enlarged in the Chinese market because the export duty is zero on this item and many new exporters of this product have been added to the Chinese Customs list, meanwhile Pakistani exporters cultivated those varieties of the sesame seeds that are demanded in China", he stated.

He further said that Chinese Customs data showed that China imported overall about 401,823 tons of sesamum seeds worth around \$600 million from different parts of the world.

Niger with around 77,140 tons worth \$116.85 million was founded the country with the largest volume of sesamum seeds exported to China in the first three months of 2022, followed by Togo with \$102.60 million and Sudan with \$98.18 million.

Pakistan ranked the sixth and shared around 7.67 percent of total exports to China in the first quarter of this year.

Rakesh Pal Khamuani, Director of Kanwal Trading Company Private Limited (Pakistan), a leading sesamum seeds exporter to China told CEN that sesamum seed is a cash crop with good export prices and the demand is increasing but they still need to improve the traditional method of cultivation and seed quality that would help increase yield per acre.

"Last year the crop was more than 105,000 MT and the yield was 480 kg per acre. In Pakistan sesamum is grown in more than 65 districts in which Punjab contains 70-80% of the total productions.

The main reason for the export increase is less local consumption and good price & huge demand that converted farmers to cultivate this crop at larger scale," he added.

He further said that still, both governments need to work a lot to improve the export of sesamum seeds, especially since the pandemic affected the exports, and GACC should relax its new

registration policy for Pakistani exporters. It is worth mentioning that Pakistan exported 92516.55 tons of sesamum seeds to China worth \$120.44 million dollars in 2021.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/935883/pakistans-export-of-sesamum-seeds-to-china-up-102/>

All provinces to develop industrial clusters under CPEC: Ahsan Iqbal

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has a portfolio of projects in different provinces in Pakistan, depending upon their requirements and their areas of competency.

In addition, based on different comparative advantages, every province will develop its own cluster of industries, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

As the minister put it, such a portfolio will bring more investment and create more employment opportunities for the youth from that province.

Take Balochistan as an example. CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) is focusing on the development of Gwadar, where it also provides – besides developing the port infrastructure – facilities for medical care, education, technical education and livelihood of the locals. “We are also working to provide clean drinking water to people of Gwadar and also a power generation station to generate electricity for the area,” Ahsan Iqbal further said.

“CPEC connects Pakistan with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China. And through BRI and CPEC, Pakistan can be linked with the global supply chains more easily,” the minister pinpointed.

At the moment, many jobs are being relocated from China to countries where cheaper labour is available. In addition, Pakistan with the CPEC connectivity has a very good opportunity to absorb most of this relocation.

“We hope that when the special economic zones in each province are ready, they will attract considerable investment in the relocation of Chinese industry that will bring more job opportunities in the region and also help Pakistan move up on the industrialization part,” Ahsan Iqbal added.

In the second phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA-II), China has bought down tariffs to zero for Pakistan on 313 high-priority tariff lines. The new FTA, the minister noted, offered more opportunities for promoting trade between both countries.

However, the challenge faced by Pakistani businesspersons and enterprises is to enter China with more information and knowledge about its market. Traditionally Pakistani enterprises have been doing business with Europe and the United States and they had little understanding of the Chinese market. Now the chambers of commerce and industries are being guided, and they are being encouraged to have closer cooperation with their Chinese counterparts.

“As I see it in coming years, there will be greater cooperation between Pakistani and Chinese enterprises,” said the minister. In addition, this offers great promise in light of the long-term plan

of CPEC that envisages cooperation in all dimensions of economy, agriculture, industry, technology, service, education, health and so on.

“We hope that this cooperation will fully blossom in all areas and there will be greater connectivity between China and Pakistan,” Ahsan Iqbal told CEN.

However, “We must be mindful that there are some forces which are enemy of CPEC, which do not want CPEC to move forward,” the minister said. While strongly condemning the terrorist attack on a shuttle van of Confucius Institute at the University of Karachi last month, he said that the government has devised a strategy for greater coordination amongst all security agencies and organizations to ensure foolproof security to the Chinese working on CPEC projects.

The minister noted the best way to defeat such forces is not to let such incident impact the speed of CPEC and to increase the implementation of CPEC so that they get the message that through such cowardly acts, they will not be able to stop the progress of CPEC.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/935986/all-provinces-to-develop-industrial-clusters-under-cpec-ahsan-iqbal/>

Dawn News

Chinese PM presses Shehbaz to punish Karachi university blast culprits

Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: China’s Prime Minister Li Keqiang on Monday repeated his government’s demand for punishment for those involved in the attack on Chinese teachers at Karachi University and asked for enhancement of security for Chinese institutions and citizens in Pakistan.

Li Keqiang was speaking to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who had “requested” for the telephone conversation, according to the Chinese foreign ministry.

It was PM Sharif’s first conversation with his Chinese counterpart since assuming office last month.

“China hopes that the Pakistani side will bring the perpetrators to justice as soon as possible, make every effort to deal with the follow-up matters of the casualties, comfort the bereaved families and the injured, and comprehensively strengthen security measures for Chinese institutions and personnel in Pakistan to ensure that similar tragedies will not recur,” Mr Li told PM Sharif.

Li Keqiang assured of strengthening security measures for all Chinese institutions, personnel

He said China was “shocked and outraged” by the April 26 Karachi attack in which four people, including three Chinese teachers, lost their lives.

It should be recalled that China's foreign ministry had soon after the attack asked Pakistan to severely punish the perpetrators, protect Chinese citizens and prevent such incidents from happening again.

PM Sharif told Premier Li that Pakistan would do its utmost to probe the attack, arrest the perpetrators and punish them to the full extent of the law. He also promised to strengthen security measures for all Chinese institutions and personnel in Pakistan to prevent recurrence of attacks.

Beijing has pulled out Chinese teachers working at the Confucius Institutes in Pakistan after the Karachi attack. There are five Confucius Institutes and two Confucius Classrooms across Pakistan that work for promoting Chinese language and culture. About 30,000 students are studying Chinese language at these centers. Karachi attack renewed China's security concerns.

China is worried that the Sindh government has been slow with the investigations. The matter was reportedly raised when Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke to his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, whose party rules Sindh, on May 11.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1690075>

Pakistan Observer

Construction of relocated KKH-02 commenced

The construction of the 2nd phase of the relocated Karakoram Highway (KKH-02) under the Dasu Hydropower Project (DHPP) has commenced, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

Anwar-ul-Haque, General Manager and Project Director DHPP along with Deputy Commissioner Kohistan (Upper) commenced the activity in the presence of the senior officers of Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), consultants and Chinese contractors.

The construction work shall mainly include rock excavation, subgrade preparation water bound aggregate base course, asphaltic base course, asphalt concrete wearing course, bridges and other structures. The proposed Dasu reservoir will be extended from Dasu dam site, located about seven kilometers north of Dasu Bridge, to the toe of Diamer Bhasha dam proposed about 74 km further north.

The existing KKH, in a stretch of about 46 km, will be submerged in Dasu reservoir requiring its relocation to a higher ground. Another 10 km length of road will have to be rebuilt downstream of Dasu dam site to join the existing KKH located at a lower level with the new road relocated at the higher level upstream of the Dasu dam site. The total length of the relocated KKH will be 61.7 km approximately.

The relocated KKH has been divided into two phases i.e. KKH-01 (Part-I) and KKH-02 (Part-II). The first Phase is comprised of 25.200 km of relocated KKH plus a link road of 3.028 km, from the existing KKH at a lower level and joining with the relocated KKH at a higher altitude.

<https://pakobserver.net/construction-of-relocated-kkh-02-commenced/>

K2 Daily News



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=News

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified

Nawaiwaqt News

چین نے پاکستان کیلئے 313 اعلیٰ ترین جی ٹی اے فنانسنگ پر ٹریف صفر کر دیا: احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد / نارووال (این این آئی + نامہ نگار) وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی، ترقی اور خصوصی اقدامات احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک کے پاس پاکستان کے مختلف صوبوں میں منصوبوں کا ایک پورٹ فولیو ہے۔ جو ان کی ضروریات اور ان کی اہلیت کے شعبوں پر منحصر ہے اور مختلف تقابلی فوائد کی بنیاد پر ہر صوبہ اپنی صنعتوں کا اپنا کلکٹر تیار کرے گا۔ احسن اقبال نے مزید کہا کہ ہم امید کرتے ہیں کہ جب ہر صوبے میں خصوصی اقتصادی زونز تیار ہوں گے تو وہ چینی صنعت کی نقل مکانی میں خاطر خواہ سرمایہ کاری کو راغب کریں گے۔ جس سے خطے میں روزگار کے مزید مواقع پیدا ہوں گے اور پاکستان کو صنعت کاری کے شعبے میں آگے بڑھنے میں بھی مدد ملے گی۔ چین پاکستان فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ کے دوسرے مرحلے میں چین نے پاکستان کیلئے 313 اعلیٰ ترین جی ٹی اے فنانسنگ پر ٹریف لائنوں کو صفر کر دیا ہے۔ وزیر نے نوٹ کیا کہ نیا ایف ٹی اے دونوں ممالک (CPFTA-II) کے درمیان تجارت کو فروغ دینے کے مزید مواقع فراہم کرتا ہے۔ پاکستانی کاروباری ادارے یورپ اور امریکہ کے ساتھ کاروبار کرتے رہے ہیں اور انہیں چینی مارکیٹ کی بہت کم سمجھ تھی لیکن اب چیمرز آف کامرس اور انڈسٹریز کی رہنمائی کی جا رہی ہے۔ دریں اثناء اینول ڈیولپمنٹ پروگرام 2022-2023 کے حوالے سے وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی احسن اقبال کی صدارت میں اجلاس ہوا، ڈپٹی کمشنر میڈم صبا صغرنے وفاقی وزیر کو ڈسٹرکٹ ڈیولپمنٹ کی جانب سے ضلع بھر میں جاری ترقیاتی سکیموں کے بارے میں تفصیلی بریفنگ دی۔ وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال چودھری کی جانب سے ضلع میں جاری شدہ سکیموں کو بروقت مکمل کرنے کے لئے ان سکیموں پر کام کی رفتار کو تیز کر کے سکیموں کو بروقت مکمل کرنے کے احکامات جاری کئے گئے۔ اجلاس میں ڈسٹرکٹ ہیڈ کوارٹر نارووال کی مسجد کی سکیم کو مکمل کرنے کے لئے تمام تر مسائل کو ہنگامی بنیادوں پر حل کرنے شہر کی سیوریج سکیم جلد شروع کر کے جلد مکمل کرنے پر زور دیا۔ وفاقی وزیر احسن اقبال چودھری کی جانب سے نارووال میڈیکل کالج کو جلد از جلد شروع کرنے کی فیڈ بیک رپورٹ ہنگامی بنیادوں پر تیار کر کے جلد از جلد جمع کروانے کے احکامات بھی جاری کئے گئے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-05-17/page-8/detail-57>

چین: روئی کی برآمدات 168 ملین ڈالر تک بڑھ گئیں

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) رواں سال 2022ء کی پہلی سہ ماہی میں چین کی روئی کی برآمدات 168 ملین ڈالر تک بڑھ گئیں۔ جنرل ایڈمنسٹریشن آف کسٹمز چائینہ کی رپورٹ کے مطابق جنوری تا مارچ 2022ء کے دوران پاکستان سے 168 ملین ڈالر مالیت کی روئی درآمد کی گئی ہے جبکہ سوتی دھاگہ کی چین کو برآمدات بھی اس عرصہ کے دوران 166.30 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچ چکی ہیں۔ جنوری تا مارچ 2022ء میں چین نے پاکستان سے 51147.28 ٹن سوتی دھاگہ درآمد کیا ہے۔ پاکستان سینٹرل کاؤن کمیٹی نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں کپاس کے کاشتکاروں اور روئی و سوتی دھاگہ کے برآمد کنندگان کو چین سے اچھی قیمت مل رہی ہے جس کی وجہ سے برآمدات کے فروغ میں مدد ملی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گزشتہ سال روئی کی فی من قیمت 5500 روپے رہی تھی جبکہ رواں سال اس کی قیمت 8000 روپے فی من تک بڑھی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ملک میں ٹیکسٹائل کا شعبہ تیزی سے ترقی کر رہا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-05-17/page-12/detail-6>

May 18, 2022

Business Recorder

Ahsan vows to revive the process of development in Gwadar

QUETTA: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Ahsan Iqbal has said that the completion of all CPEC projects was the top most priority of the present government. Addressing the students and faculty at the University of Gwadar in Gwadar on Tuesday, he said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is a national development plan which the previous government tried to make controversial.

The Minister said that education, water, electricity and health development projects, started in 2017, were delayed due the inattentiveness of previous government.

He vowed to resume the process of development in Gwadar at the same pace as was left in 2018. Ahsan Iqbal said that transmission line project would be completed soon while the construction work of the University of Gwadar could also be completed within two years saying that we have given importance to higher education in Gwadar because higher knowledge is essential to achieve objects of CPEC projects in country and Gwadar.

“If there is no education, the process of development will be stopped”, he said and added that efforts were being made to complete the university campus in 2-3 years for making this top varsity of the country.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/18/5-page/929923-news.html>

Daily Times

Chairman HEC visits KU, pays homage to victims of Confucius Institute blast incident

The Chairman of Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr Tariq Banuri on Tuesday visited the University of Karachi and met the acting vice chancellor Professor Dr. Nasira Khatoon, acting

Registrar Professor Dr. Maqssod Ali Ansari, Director Finance Tariq Kaleem at the VC secretariat.

The Chairman of HEC Dr. Tariq Banuri expressed deep sorrow on the casualties of Chinese faculty during a terrorist attack on April 26, and termed it a great loss. During the meeting, the Chairman HEC Dr. Tariq Banuri, and the KU administration discussed security arrangements and plans in details, especially in the aftermath of suicide attack on the Chinese institute. The HEC chairman was further informed that the varsity has been working on the PC-I regarding the security of the campus, and soon it would be shared with the commission to get the release of funds.

During the meeting, it was discussed to introduce computerized cards for students, faculty, employees, and other staff. The Chairman assured full support and said that the HEC would help the varsity in improving its security so that students could continue their education with ease. Later, he visited the Confucius Institute for Chinese Language and Culture situated at University of Karachi and met the institute Pakistani Director Professor Dr. Nasiruddin Khan who briefed the Chairman of HEC Dr Tariq Banuri about the CIUK and its performance.

Moreover, the chairman HEC paid homage to the victims of the unfortunate incident and acknowledged the role that CIUK was providing to students in terms of giving critical knowledge and in strengthening the Pak-China relations.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/936497/chairman-hec-visits-ku-pays-homage-to-victims-of-confucius-institute-blast-incident/>

Buner's stone industry may attract Chinese investors

While China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has opened new horizons for industrial investment between the two countries, the marble and granite sector of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has great potential to attract Chinese and other foreign investors, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday.

One such opportunity for the local and non-local investors is Buner Marble City (BMC). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) is developing BMC at Bampokha areas of Buner district which is spread at about 126.4 acres. The KPEZDMC has started accepting online applications for the acquisition of plots from the investors.

The BMC, which is set to be Buner's first economic enterprise, will add value to the district's natural resources, especially the stone industry. The zone will attract new businesses by providing an integrated infrastructure as well as a business friendly environment for sustainable industrial revolution.

The BMC will bring innovation in the processing of marbles in accordance with international standards. The zone has easy access points via Swat Expressway (M-16), which joins M-1 at Karnal Sher Khan Interchange (M-1). BMC has also other alternate access points. According to

official data, the annual production of marbles in Buner is 2.6 m tons, dolomite is 18,684 tons, feldspar is 5,157 tons while granite, limestone and barium are also found in the district.

Chinese engineers and workers are already showcasing their skills in different marble mines of Buner. “Buner could be an attractive investment for the Chinese who can introduce modern techniques in the marble industry,” Islam Jan, a resident of Kingargalai village told Gwadar Pro.

“The Chinese can bring with them modern-style marble polishing, flooring, ceiling and wall gilding,” said Jan.

KP’s mining sector has great potential for growth and the government is encouraging and facilitating local and foreign investors to come to explore the opportunities. “Foreign companies can also set an mechanized mining in the district,” according to Islam Jan, adding that besides generating avenue a large number of local will also get jobs in stone sector. Several Chinese investors, during their recent visits to KP, have shown keen interest in investing in mining of iron and copper ores and establishing mineral processing units and to create synergies with existing leaseholders.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/936467/buners-stone-industry-may-attract-chinese-investors/>

All Confucius Institutes in Pakistan operational: China

A spokesperson of the Chinese embassy in Islamabad on Tuesday said all the Confucius Institutes in Pakistan were operational and none of them had been shut down. In response to a query by APP, the spokesperson said all the teaching activities at various Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms in Pakistan would be carried out through online or offline ways by the Chinese and Pakistani teachers, and the partnering universities of China. On April 26, at least four people including three Chinese nationals, were killed while four others were injured in a suicide attack outside the University of Karachi’s Confucius Institute. The spokesperson said after discussions with the concerned the departments of Pakistan, some Chinese teachers had returned to China for the upcoming summer vacation and would, as per request, come back to Pakistan at an appropriate time. In the meantime, he said, the Chinese side plans to provide more quality teaching resources to meet the needs of the Pakistani students to learn the Chinese language.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/936533/all-confucius-institutes-in-pakistan-operational-china/>

Paki pine nuts exports to China up \$25m in first quarter

Pakistani Pine nuts exports to China in the first three months of this year achieved a historical figure of \$25.13m, according to the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

Data showed that in the first three months of 2022, China imported 2,299.21 tons of Pakistani pine nuts and was one of the main destinations of Pakistani pine nuts. Overall, China has imported 7,780.32 tons of pine nuts around the world valued at \$57.05m, of which 44.04pc by value and 29.55pc weight is from Pakistan.

In the first two months of 2022, China imported 1,606.51 tons of Pakistani pine nuts worth \$17.67m, and in March, the imports reached 692.70 tons valued at \$7.45m.

Yar Muhammad Niaz, Chief Executive of Hangzhou Aiza Food Co, Ltd. told China Economic Net (CEN) that this year they are expecting a good crop of pine nuts but he is also afraid of environmental changes that could affect the crop.

“Last year the price of pine nuts fluctuated too much. The price of unprocessed pine nuts has gone up to RMB 190 per kg, but the overall price remained between RMB 170-180 per Kg. Currently; the price is RMB 130 per kg. The reason is that after the Chinese Spring Festival, price always comes down. Besides, before the production season starts in September, the suppliers have inventory from the previous year,” he stated.

He further said that China was a big market for this product. To fulfil the demand, direct cargo flights are needed on regular basis and airlines should provide subsidies for lower freight. Ali Raza, a local shopkeeper in Peshawar told CEN that when he bought unprocessed pine nuts, there were many empty shells, which was one of the reasons for the high price.

Secondly, when they process them after roasting, the taste changes, and in different areas the tastes vary because of the salt and water used during processing.

“We need the latest technology to process pine nuts that could help maintain the taste and expedite the processing time. China is the largest importer of Pakistani pine nuts; therefore, we should use Chinese technology that would be cheap and would meet the consumers’ demand,” he added.

It is to be noted that experts believe that this year in Pakistan extreme weather in most parts of the country could affect the pine nuts crop as well.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/936607/paki-pine-nuts-exports-to-china-up-25m-in-first-quarter/>

Dawn News

Sinovac ready to invest in Pakistan’s health sector

Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: Representatives of the Chinese company, Sinovac, have expressed an interest in forming partnerships for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diseases through investment in the health sector of Pakistan.

A delegation from the company, led by its General Manager Qiang Gao, assured Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday that they were ready to start projects in Pakistan.

During the meeting, it was decided that the Ministry of National Health Services (NHS) will form a task force for the projects proposed by Sinovac so that the process of implementation of work could be expedited. The company has already supplied millions of Covid-19 vaccine doses and played a major role towards boosting the immunity level of the masses against the disease.

The premier said increasing foreign direct investment in Pakistan was one of the top priorities of the government.

The meeting was attended by Sinovac's Director (International Business) Kevin Zhang, Minister for NHS Abdul Qadir Patel, National Institute of Health (NIH) Executive Director Prof Dr Aamer Ikram and other relevant officials.

The prime minister welcomed the investment offer made by the Chinese company and directed Mr Patel to form a task force to oversee the project proposed by company.

Meanwhile, a two-day special campaign was launched in Islamabad for administration of the Covid-19 booster shot.

According to District Health Office Dr Zaeem Zia, the administration of Covid-19 booster shots was launched as per directions of the Centre for Diseases Control (CDC) NIH and the ministry of NHS.

“The main objective of the campaign is to encourage Covid-19 vaccination; 16 camps have been designated in addition to the already established vaccination centres from where citizens can get themselves vaccinated.

“CDC, NIH and the ministry of NHS have urged public and private offices to instruct their officials to get Covid-19 booster shots to enhance immunity against the virus,” Dr Zia said while talking to Dawn.

Letters were written to different departments, advising them to ensure that their staff got the booster dose to minimise the chances of infection, he added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1690211/sinovac-ready-to-invest-in-pakistans-health-sector>

Pakistan Observer

PM welcomes Chinese company Sinovac's interest for joint venture in disease diagnosis

The meeting was attended by General Manager Sinovac Qiang Gao, Director International Business Kevin Zhang, Federal Minister for Health Abdul Qadir Patel, Executive Director National Institute of Health Major General Professor Amir Ikram and relevant senior officials.

The prime minister was briefed on the vaccine provided by Sinovac to Pakistan during the COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

The prime minister directed the Federal Minister of Health to immediately form a task force in this regard so that Sinovac could start work on the project soon. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-welcomes-chinese-company-sinovacs-interest-for-joint-venture-in-disease-diagnosis/>

Won't tolerate any design to harm CPEC project, warns PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday categorically stated that the government will not tolerate any attempt designed to harm the CPEC project. PM Shehbaz was presiding over a meeting summoned to deliberate on the issue of provision of security to the Chinese nationals in Pakistan. Officials of interior ministry, chief secretaries and top officials of CPEC project attended the meeting. The premier was briefed about the security being provided to the Chinese nationals.

Shehbaz ordered to take immediate steps for the safety of the Chinese. He reaffirmed that government would not tolerate any attempt to damage the CPEC project.

He also ordered the authorities to take measures to improve law and order situation in the country.

Prime Minister Shehbaz on Monday made a telephonic contact with the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Keqiang and assured him that the government would take all necessary steps to protect the Chinese citizens.

PM Shehbaz and Premier Li Keqiang viewed the Pak-China partnership as vital for peace and stability amidst evolving regional and global situations.

Shehbaz offered his condolences to the government and people of China and expressed sympathies with the families of victims of the heinous terrorist attack that took place at the Karachi University on 26 April 2022, in which three Chinese scholars lost their lives.

He strongly condemned the terrorist attack and reaffirmed Pakistan's firm resolve to hold a thorough investigation, apprehend the perpetrators of this criminal act and bring them to justice in accordance with our laws.

Shehbaz reiterated that Pakistan attached the highest importance to the safety, security and protection of all Chinese nationals working in Pakistan on economic projects and institutions.

PM Shehbaz assured Premier Li that his government was determined to take all necessary measures for the enhanced security and safety of Chinese citizens in Pakistan. INP

<https://coverpage.org/wont-tolerate-any-design-to-harm-cpec-project-warns-pm-pakistan-observer/>

CPEC and Uzbekistan's SCO Chairmanship

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Moreover, TIR, Cluster Trading Mechanism (CTM), Integrated Transport Trucks System (ITTS), QATA, Trade Through Seaports (TTSs) and last but not the least, Commercial Cargos System (CCS) would play very decisive role in the further strengthening of intra and trans-regional trade volumes in the days to come.

Early implementation of PTA, FTA, standardization of custom duties and incentives, people & business/investment policies, corridor of knowledge and formation of strategic partnership would foster inflows of FDIs, FPIs, Joint Ventures (JVs), establishment of special economic zones and last but not the least, building of reciprocal trade houses would be value-addition in the days to come.

Currently, the Republic of Uzbekistan holds the “Chairmanship” of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). It is worth mentioning that Uzbekistan has already chaired the SCO “three” times: in 2004, 2010 and 2016.

Most recently the IMF (April 2022) has improved its estimate of Uzbekistan’s economic growth in 2021 to 6.1 percent. In April, the IMF predicted that the economy of Uzbekistan will grow by 5 percent. In 2022, experts expect Uzbekistan’s GDP to grow by 5.4 percent; earlier it was predicted 5.3 percent. Thus its current chairmanship of the SCO would further enhance its macro-economy and accelerate chances of regional connectivity in the days to come.

Furthermore, the rating agencies have upgraded Uzbekistan due to its external and fiscal achievements. Gradual fiscal consolidation, continuing access to external financing and reforms in agriculture, construction and industrial sectors are the main reasons for its upgradation. In this regard, significant improvement of governance standards, improvement in rule of law, accountability, regulatory quality and control on corruption has further improved economic efficiency, pace of productive channels and last but not the least efficacy of the State. Thus SCO chairmanship provides an essential platform to Uzbekistan to achieve further improvement in the political, social and economic systems.

However, it suggests that economic success will depend on improved global economic conditions and progress made on structural reforms for increasing private sector growth, reducing state dominance in the economy and improving economic inclusion. Promotion of green financing and the private sector is the need of the hour.

The visionary President of Uzbekistan H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev has already revolutionized the macro-economy of his country. In this connection, the 3.5 billion population of the SCO which roughly accounts for half of the world having a combined GDP exceeding 25% of the global GDP would be an ideal opportunity for Uzbekistan to move forward and achieve desired goals of socio-economic development.

A “holistic” and “comprehensive” plan for the development of intra-regional trade through elimination of trade barriers, align technical regulations and digitalize customs procedures should be pursued in Uzbekistan’s SCO chairmanship. Thus “strategic road-map” for the qualitative economic expansion of the SCO would provide “win-win situation” for all the member countries because greater business activities, inflows of FDIs, imports & exports, meaningful PTA, FTA and grant of custom & duty incentives would further enhance economic scope and strategic utility of the SCO. Thus the role of CPEC is vital.

Special focus on institutionalization of artificial intelligence technologies and digitalization of societies and economies alike would have multiplier socio-economic effects. Hopefully, the SCO chairmanship, Uzbekistan would lead the member countries towards greater socio-economic integration, resolution of conflicts, combating state and non-state security threats, smart economies, smart living, green revolution, carbon neutrality, poverty reduction and e-commerce & governance.

To conclude, the SCO Interbank Consortium and the SCO Business Council should pool efforts for the purpose of implementing joint economic projects and expediting the approval of a road-map to increase the share of national currencies in reciprocal payments.

On the other hand, the shortage of containers and the need to expand the capacity of entry points on borders between the SCO countries have become a critical issue in rail transit amid the COVID-19 pandemic which would be further enhanced with the inclusion of CPEC in the days to come.

It is suggested that the Mazar-i-Sharif-Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif-Peshawar and Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-China railways should be completed as soon as possible, which will help the Central Asian States to gain access to seaports and develop their economies.

Moreover, these railways will also become a key element of the East-West and North-South routes and enable the SCO to enhance its role and authority as it works to ensure peace in Afghanistan and facilitate its integration in the system of regional inter-connectedness. Thus the role of CPEC is on the rise.

The primary focus of the SCO is the enhancement of regional security. The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) coordinates activities such as information sharing and confidence building, to combat the “three evils” of terrorism, extremism and separatism would also be matching propositions for the CECP in Afghanistan and Central Asian Region.

Economic integration is also growing which may also be further enhanced due to the extended role of CPEC in Uzbekistan. Moscow has proposed connecting the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) with China’s Silk Road Economic Belt thus CPEC has a golden opportunity to get connected with Uzbekistan and many other regional countries.

Beijing and Moscow have already agreed to a \$400 billion gas deal and Russia is now China’s largest source of natural gas. The China-Iran Strategic Partnership of \$400 billion would also be useful for the extended role of the CPEC.

SCO members are also beginning to expand cooperation on development and infrastructure issues, including resolving transnational water disputes, expanding transportation integration and deepening cultural exchanges.

South Asia provides Uzbekistan with the shortest and cheapest gateway to transport its natural resources to the international market via Gwadar or Karachi ports. Uzbekistan can expand its

trade volume by utilising warm waters via Pakistan. It would also get access to the Middle Eastern and African markets without increasing its dependence on Russia, the US and Europe.

Furthermore, the Pakistan-Uzbekistan Transit Trade Agreement (AUPTT) has been operationalized. The two countries have expanded their bilateral cooperation in science, technology, cultural exchange, tourism, media, environment and establishment of inter-parliamentary groups of collaboration. Moreover, both countries have agreed to start regular flights from Tashkent-Lahore and Tashkent-Islamabad to facilitate the business community and enhance people to people ties. Thus Uzbekistan's SCO chairmanship and CPEC would be an ideal combination to proceed further for achieving the dreams of greater regional connectivity and immense socio-economic integration.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-uzbekistans-sco-chairmanship-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

CPEC: Gateway to Pakistan's Development

Asad Ali

The CPEC is a large package of investment projects, potentially totaling more than \$55 billion (19 percent of FY2015/16 GDP) over the next decade, aimed at upgrading infrastructure, boosting and diversifying energy supply and improving regional trade connectivity thereby stimulating investment. The estimated size of CPEC is likely to change overtime.

strategic ties between two iron brothers are at highest level apart from the change in government in Islamabad. No matter who governs Pakistan, the strategic partnership between Islamabad and Beijing continues to grow massively. Their bilateral ties are time tested as whenever Pakistan need economic, political and military assistance, China always provides within no time.

The CPEC is extending various benefits to Pakistan and being considered as backbone of Islamabad's economy.

Interestingly, the CPEC is not specifically limited to economy, it also covers political and military cooperation as well.

Under the CPEC, China will invest over 55 billion dollars in Pakistan to uplift the economic conditions of Pakistan. The two countries are also working tirelessly to further enhance their existing bonhomie by increasing bilateral trade.

In the past few years, Pakistan has been facing dire energy shortage and substantial underinvestment in infrastructure.

Pakistani policymakers estimate the cost of these challenges to the economy at about two per cent of GDP per annum.

To meet this glaring challenge, Pakistan asked China for the assistance. Ultimately, China comes to rescue Pakistan to execute these shortages.

Under the CPEC projects, China is building dams, roads, power plants and developing strategically pivotal port of Gawadar.

China is also targeting some core areas to develop Exclusive Economic Zones in different parts of the country.

Recently, Chinese companies have started construction of much-delayed Bhasha Dam to meet energy needs of the country. These Chinese projects under the ambit of CPEC will give massive boost to our dwindling economy.

At the same time, Pakistan Army and other law enforcement agencies are providing maximum security to Chinese engineers, workers and installations. Pakistan Army has allocated special unit as well to maintain security of Chinese projects in different parts of the country.

Likewise, one of the prospective benefits of CPEC projects for Pakistan would be the training and development of skilled manpower.

In addition, plans have to be made to assess the long-term manpower requirements, both for construction and operational phases of CPEC projects. There are cultural aspects as well in CPEC.

Both countries are also executing cultural exchange programs to encourage direct people-to-people contacts between the two countries. Thousands of Chinese students are visiting Pakistan and Pakistan students are going to China for higher education.

Both countries are also organizing some cultural festivals as well which are meant to highlight cultural values of bilateral ties.

Alongside, these investments will provide a boost to Pakistan's GDP. This boost will likely come in three stages: construction, power generation once the installed capacity becomes operational, and-over time-second-round effects on broader economic activity owing to increased productivity, lower costs and improved trade connectivity owing to improved infrastructure.

The first two stages (direct contribution) will likely materialize in the next several years, while the second-round effects will likely accrue more gradually and could lead to a significant contribution in the long run, although the exact impact will depend on many other supportive factors.

If implemented on schedule, these investments could help close Pakistan's power deficit and significantly improve energy costs and the fuel mix.

Unfortunately, some elements are persistent to sabotage the efficacy of the projects under CPEC. They are going all out to derail the progress of the projects by spreading disinformation, chaos and distorted facts.

India is leading the campaign in this regard. Indian government is providing financial support to secessionist elements within Baluchistan to execute New Delhi's nefarious designs.

Meanwhile, Pakistani defence forces are working relentlessly and are vigilant to thwart hostile approach of India. In the meantime, Islamabad has also provided actionable evidence to the international community with regard to sabotage its economic progress.

It has urged international community, organizations and human rights watchdogs to take notice of India's involvement in Pakistan's domestic affairs and providing financial and logistic support to non-state actors in Baluchistan. The consolidated response from international community is still awaited. It is pertinent to mention here that, involvement of any country in internal affairs of any sovereign state is blatant violation of international norms and practices.

The world must press India to stop its illegal activities in Pakistan to fuel extremism and terrorism in the country.

Stable and peaceful Pakistan is in the interests of entire world and region as well. Instead of disrupting its economic progress, world must come forward and support Pakistan to become strong economic power in the region.

They must follow the footsteps of China for investment in the country. Abandoning Pakistan will have severe political, economic and strategic implications not only for regional but international community as well.

Therefore, all regional and international states must join CPEC and get maximum economic benefits out of it. They must not involve in any kind of hostile activity to malign CPEC in order to accomplish their political, economic and strategic objectives.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-gateway-to-pakistans-development-by-asad-ali/>

The Nation

Minister Vows For Early Completion Of Incomplete Projects In Gwadar

ISLAMABAD – Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal vowed on Tuesday that the development projects that were facing delays during last four years would be completed on priority.

“We will resume work on the projects in Gwadar city with same speed that were being executed during our previous tenure,” Ahsan Iqbal said while addressing students at the Gwadar University in Gwadar. He said the projects of transmission lines and upgradation of hospitals in Gwadar would be completed soon. The minister added that the university campus would also be completed soon while the local students would be provided with scholarships to enable them continue their education.

Ahsan Iqbal said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was the project of Pakistan's development. He said the present government was not only spending funds on the development projects but on public as well. He said completing CPEC projects was the top priority of the present government.

During our previous government, we were working hard to speed up the development process of Gwadar city, he said, adding that we gave importance to higher education in Gwadar as if there is no education, there would not be development. He said the present government would put its

best efforts to complete the university campus in two to three years. The minister added that Balochistan province could play vital role in the development of the country.

“We worked hard for the development of Gwadar citizens and completed numerous development projects in the city,” he said, adding: “We also started projects of basic needs such as electricity and water in the city.” In 2017, he said the PML-N government started dam projects in Gwadar but these projects faced delays.

“We were hoping that these projects would be completed in two years but unfortunately they could not yet be completed.” He said the project of Islamabad Metro Bus also faced unnecessary delays of four years, but we made it operational within ten days after taking over the charge of the government.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/18/minister-vows-for-early-completion-of-incomplete-projects-in-gwadar/>

Nawaiwaqt News

گوا در: تمام چینی ادارے معمول کے مطابق کام کر رہے ہیں، سی او پی ایچ سی

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) چائنہ اوور سیز پورٹس ہولڈنگ کمپنی نے گوا در، بلوچستان میں چینی کاروباری اداروں کی بندش کے حوالے سے سوشل میڈیا پر گردش کرنے والی بے بنیاد خبروں اور پروپیگنڈے کو مسترد کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ تمام چینی کاروباری ادارے معمول کے مطابق کام کر رہے ہیں۔ اس سے قبل کچھ پروپیگنڈہ کرنے والوں نے سوشل میڈیا پر جھوٹی خبریں پھیلائی ہیں کہ چینی سرمایہ کاروں نے اپنا پیسہ نکالنا شروع کر دیا اور ایچ کے سنز جیسی بڑی کمپنیاں بند کر دی گئیں۔ گوا در پرو کے مطابق او پی ایچ سی نے ایک ٹوئٹر پوسٹ میں جواب دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ ہم ایچ کے سنز کی بندش کے حوالے سے سوشل میڈیا نیٹ ورکس پر گردش کرنے والی بے بنیاد خبروں اور غلط معلومات پر مبنی پروپیگنڈے کی مذمت کرتے ہیں۔ گوا در فری زون میں ایچ کے سنز اور دیگر تمام کاروباری ادارے معمول کے مطابق کام جاری رکھے ہوئے ہیں اور کمپنی نے کہا کہ ایچ کے سنز کمپنی گوا در فری زون میں کام کرنے والے پہلے سرمایہ کاروں میں سے ایک ہے۔ کمپنی مقامی لوگوں کیلئے روزگار کے مواقع فراہم کر رہی ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-05-18/page-10/detail-3>

سی پیک ملکی ترقی کا منصوبہ، گوا در کے طلباء کو سکا لرشپ دیئے، احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی، ترقی، اصلاحات و خصوصی اقدامات احسن اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک ملکی ترقی کا منصوبہ ہے، علم و تحقیق اور جستجو سے دنیا میں ترقی ممکن ہے، جس رفتار سے 2018 میں کام چھوڑا تھا، گوا در میں اسی رفتار سے دوبارہ شروع کریں گے، گوا در میں ٹرانسمیشن لائن کے منصوبے جلد مکمل کیے جائیں گے، گوا در کے طلباء کو سکا لرشپ دیں گے۔ گوا در یونیورسٹی میں طلباء سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک ملکی ترقی کا منصوبہ ہے۔ پچھلی حکومت نے سی پیک کو متنازعہ بنانے کی کوشش کی۔ ہم ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے ساتھ عوام پر بھی خرچ کر رہے ہیں۔ سی پیک کے منصوبے موجودہ حکومت کی ترجیحات میں شامل ہیں۔ گوا در میں آپ سے 4 یا 5 سال بعد مخاطب ہونے کا موقع ملا۔ اپنے پچھلے دور میں گوا در کی ترقی کے عمل کو تیز کرنے کے لئے کام کر رہے تھے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم نے گوا در میں ہائیر ایجوکیشن کو اہمیت دی۔ اگر تعلیم نہیں ہوگی تو ترقی کا عمل رک جائے گا۔ کوشش ہے کہ 2 سے 3 سال میں یونیورسٹی کا کیسٹم مکمل ہو جائے۔ اس یونیورسٹی کو سینٹر آف ایکسیلینس بنائیں گے۔ بلوچستان کے خطے کو کلیدی حیثیت حاصل ہے۔ تعصب اور عصبیت کی سوچ کا مقابلہ علم سے کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اختلاف کو تشدد سے نہیں، مکالمے سے حل کرنے

کی ضرورت ہے۔ علم اور تحقیق اور جستجو سے دنیا میں ترقی ممکن ہے۔ میں گوادری کی ترقی سے منسلک رہا ہوں۔ ہم نے گوادری کے شہریوں کے لئے محنت کی، کئی منصوبے شروع کئے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ بجلی اور پانی کے منصوبے شروع کئے، ہمیں امید تھی کہ دو سال میں مکمل ہو جائیں گے، لیکن مجھے افسوس ہوا کہ ہمارے شروع کئے گئے منصوبے تاخیر کا شکار ہوئے۔ 2017 میں گوادری میں ڈیمینز کے منصوبے شروع کئے لیکن پچھلی حکومت کی غفلت سے یہ ڈیمینز تاخیر کا شکار ہوئے۔ اسلام آباد میٹرو کا منصوبہ چار سال غیر ضروری تاخیر کا شکار ہوا، ہم نے اگر دس دن میں اس کو چالو کیا۔ جس رفتار سے 2018 میں کام چھوڑا تھا، گوادری میں اسی رفتار سے دوبارہ شروع کریں گے۔ گوادری میں ٹرانسمیشن لائن کے منصوبے جلد مکمل کیے جائیں گے۔ گوادری میں ہسپتال اپ گریڈ کریں گے۔ گوادری میں یونیورسٹی کا کمپس قائم کریں گے اور گوادری کے طلباء کو سکالرشپ دیں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-05-18/page-6/detail-28>

May 19, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan's dried fruits have a huge market in China

To tap the numerous potential of Pakistan's dried fruits export, the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, held a webinar on the export of dried fruits and nuts from Pakistan to China, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

On the occasion, Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, highlighted that exports of nuts and dried fruits from Pakistan to China reached \$65 million in 2021, a surge from \$8 million in 2020, which shows great potential for Pakistan's dried fruits export to China.

“Pakistan has a strong agricultural foundation and quality dried fruits. Under the second phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, Pakistan exports dried fruits to China with zero tariffs, which is of great benefit to Pakistan.”

The CG further mentioned that “Chinese snack food is a rapidly expanding market and snacks with high nutrition are becoming more popular. Preference for small packages is growing and online purchase is becoming the prevailing mode of purchase. By catering to the needs of the Chinese market, Pakistani dried fruits companies can seize business opportunities.”

More than 20 related companies from China and Pakistan attended the webinar. Pakistani enterprises propose to simplify road transport procedures, increase transport channels and reduce transportation costs.

The ongoing epidemic in Shanghai has made people pay more and more attention to food and realize the importance of nutritious food that can improve immunity and can be preserved for a long time. Chinese trade, logistics, and e-commerce enterprises present believe that Pakistan's export of dried fruits to China has a bright future, and they are willing to display quality Pakistani dried fruit products through exhibitions and other channels to expand its popularity in China.

Pakistan exported oilseeds, nuts, and kernels worth \$185.2 million during the first ten months (July-April) of the current fiscal year against the exports of \$84.6 million during the same period of the last fiscal year, showing an increase of 118.93 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the exports of oilseeds, nuts, and kernels also increased by 76.06 percent, going up from 77,415 MT to 136,294 MT, according to the data.

China has become Pakistan's largest trading partner for years. In the first four months of 2022, China imported a total of 2.819 million tons of dried and fresh melons and nuts, an increase of 12.9 percent over the same period last year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/937228/pakistans-dried-fruits-have-a-huge-market-in-china/>

Meeting discusses security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan

Counselor of the Department of External Security Affairs of China Wang Daxue along Chinese Charge d'Affaires called on Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan here Wednesday.

Pak-China bilateral relations and other issues of mutual interests came under discussion during the meeting, said a press release. The discussions to ensure security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan were also held in the meeting. They expressed the resolved that Pak-China relations would not be affected by Karachi like incidents. Both the sides agreed to make liaison more effective between Interior Ministry and Chinese Embassy to ensure security. The minister expressed sorrow and grief over the loss of lives of Chinese nationals in Karachi University terror incident. The Chinese Counselor reiterated that China would continue to provide financial and technical assistance to Pakistan in its ongoing development projects. The Chinese leadership attached great importance to Pak-China relations, he said. He said they would foil all conspiracies of miscreants to spoil Pak-China relations. He expressed the hope that the investigation into the Karachi University terror incident would be completed soon and the culprits would be taken to task. Sana Ullah said all out possible resources were being utilized to ensure the security of Chinese nationals in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was personally monitoring the security of Chinese citizens, he added. He said culprits involved in Karachi University would be given exemplary punishment. He said Foreign National Security Desk had been set up at the Ministry in that regard. The purpose of setting up the desk was to ensure effective liaison to ensure the security of foreigners in Pakistan, especially Chinese nationals, he added. The minister said foolproof security arrangements had been made for Chinese residents working on CPEC projects. Relations between Pakistan and China were historical and long standing, he added. He said Anti Pakistan elements would never succeed in their nefarious designs to spoil Pak-China bilateral and cordial relations. Interior Secretary Yousuf Naseem Khokhar also attended the meeting.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/937326/meeting-discusses-security-of-chinese-nationals-in-pakistan/>

The US-China “Thucydides Trap” and Pakistan

Ambassador G Rasool Baluch

In my earlier essay published in July 2020 in this paper, I had argued that the US, as a ruling global power, and China, as a rising global power, are caught in the “Thucydides Trap,” which The Harvard Professor Graham T Allison, in one of his lectures a year ago, alluded to as an inevitability (of course, with a caveat) of an armed clash between the Ruling Power (the US) and the Rising Power (China). His observation was based on his theory that took the name of the great Greek thinker, philosopher and the founder of History (c,460-400 BC) Thucydides. He wrote his first History book called, “The History of the Peloponnesian War between Sparta and Athens,” 2500 years back. Athens, as a strong City State, was the Ruling Power and was challenged by Sparta, a Rising Power in ancient Greece. The Peloponnesian Wars resulted in the total ruin of Athens and the rise of Sparta as a leading power in Greece. The theory was put to test over the past 500 years by Harvard University, in which 16 conflicts between the Ruling Powers and the Rising Powers were observed during five centuries, and it came out that out of 16 cases of Thucydides Trap, 12 resulted in wars, which none of the protagonists won, and in the majority of the conflicts, the war was provoked by a third party.

The “accidental” firing of an Indian ICBM on Pakistan’s populated area is a stark reminder of the very thin nuclear risk threshold on which nuclear deterrence rests in South Asia.

Professor Allison argues that perhaps, with the meteoric rise of China as an economic global power and its endeavours to catch up with the US in technology and military power, the country is caught in the “Thucydides Trap.” The question is can the two sides defy the Thucydides Trap and escape the Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), which could result in a catastrophic military conflict, given the most devastating land, air, sea, nuclear, space, cyber, and an electromagnetic array of weapons the two sides possess. Since World War II, the US as a leading global power has been waging wars all over the world, including in Latin America, East Asia, the Middle East, and West Asia. All the wars that the US Army has waged after the second World War have resulted at best as test grounds for new military weapons and at worst brought death, destruction, and misery to millions. While the Chinese President Mr Xi Jinping has declared that China must have a “modern army which can fight and win,” but Chinese leadership has adopted a “Dialectical Security Philosophy” contrary to US “Technological Superiority/Monopoly Philosophy.” The Chinese believe that there is no such thing as “Absolute Security” since, if one side develops an offensive weapons system, the targeted adversary will ultimately be able to develop its way to defend, so they bid for time, and do not normally rush in matters of war, while the US approach is to overwhelm the adversary with technically more sophisticated weapon systems. In the case of the China and US conflict, there is a rough parity, which constrains the US to undertake any precipitous Military venture without risking a matching Chinese response. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has added yet another complexity to US-China relations. China has reaffirmed the universally recognized principle of inviolability of internationally recognized state boundaries of sovereign nations. It has abstained on UN

Resolutions tabled at the UN Security Council as well as UN General Assembly. The US-China confrontation for global dominance would most likely define the world order unfolding in the near future. Pakistan, in the past few decades, has deftly managed balanced foreign relations with the two world powers. Since 9/11, Pakistan was fully engaged as an active partner with the US in its war on terror albeit, at a substantial human and material cost. The relations with China termed as “all-weather Iron brothers” led to strategic partnership in China’s flagship multi-billion-dollar One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with a projected outlay of about 60 Billion US Dollars, was launched with lofty objectives to upgrade Pakistan’s infrastructure and strengthen its economy by the construction of modern transportation networks, several energy projects and special economic zones. There was a national consensus that Pakistan would not be part of any political block and that it would like to have balanced strategic relations with both the superpowers. However, the recent internal upheaval caused by the ouster of the PTI Government and the so-called “Lettergate” seems to have created a wave of anti-US sentiment. The former Prime Minister has been openly claiming that the US hatched a conspiracy to oust him and that the present government, which he calls the “imported government” has been foisted by the US. His public pronouncements are laced with nationalistic and anti-American rhetoric. According to analysts, the foreign conspiracy narrative helps Imran Khan deflect public anger away from his failure of governance and economic mismanagement during his tenure as PM . . Pakistan is in the midst of a serious economic crisis and its dependence on IMF and The World Bank for sailing through the economic crisis. Also, the Pakistan Military has a long strategic relationship with the US Military in terms of equipment, training and even Military Warfare doctrine. Therefore, it will be in Pakistan’s interest to continue this mutually beneficial relationship based on the universally recognised principle of sovereign equality.

Pakistan’s internal security is intrinsically linked to the peace and stability in Afghanistan. Afghanistan, unfortunately, seems to be descending into a status of a nonfunctional state with broken or nonexistent governance structures, the state actors are fast encroaching upon more space to extend their respective terrorist activities. The wave of terrorist acts in Afghanistan in which scores of civilians have died seems to be an attempt to deplete further the weak writ of the Taliban lead government in Kabul. As stated earlier by one of the US intelligence officials, international terrorist outfits could launch terrorist operations against the US and the West. The US will require Pakistan’s cooperation in Afghanistan. The US and Pakistan have a strategic interest in not allowing international terrorist organisations to regroup and launch large scale terrorist operations in the world from the Afghan territory.

Pakistan and India, two historical rivals, are armed with nuclear weapons. The relations between the two neighbours have deteriorated in the past three years since India illegally annexed the disputed territory of Indian occupied Kashmir by abrogating the Indian Constitution article 370. The US-Pakistan relations also are vital for keeping nuclear restraint in South and West Asia. The “accidental” firing of an Indian ICBM on Pakistan’s populated area is a stark reminder of

the very thin nuclear risk threshold on which nuclear deterrence rests in South Asia. Pakistan-US relations have strategic significance for Nuclear Security in South Asia.

There are a number of mutual strategic interests that should bind Pakistan -USA relations. The two countries are following a democratic and Parliamentary system, the respective democratic deficiencies notwithstanding. The two countries should continue to cooperate for strengthening democracy and democratic institutions from threats posed by indigenous as well as exogenous anti-democratic Forces.

In my view, Pakistan does not have to choose sides in the unfolding of what can be termed as a “Bipolar-Plus World Order,” in which the US and China would be the main global actors, while there would be other centres of power with varying degrees of areas of ascendancy and global reach, which may include EU (dominated by Germany and France), India, and Japan in Asia Brazil in Latin America, South Africa and Nigeria in the African Continent. In the unfolding Bipolar Plus World Order, Pakistan’s geostrategic and geo-economic interests can only be ensured by following a balanced foreign policy, which should follow the golden principle of friendship with all and malaise against none.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/937218/the-us-china-thucydides-trap-and-pakistan/>

The Nation

CDWP Clears Project Proposal For Building 17 IB Offices Along CPEC Route

ISLAMABAD – The Central Development Working Party Wednesday cleared a project proposal for the construction of 17 Intelligence Bureau offices along China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route.

The CDWP, which met under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Dr Mohammad Jahanzeb Khan, cleared the project proposal worth Rs 2.127b for the construction of 17 Intelligence Bureau (IB) offices along CPEC route, official source told The Nation. The forum considered six projects, one position paper and a concept clearance proposal. The forum cleared four development projects worth Rs 71.4b, deferred two and cleared the position paper and concept clearance.

According to the source, China has agreed to provide a grant of Rs 2.127b to Pakistan for the construction of Intelligence Bureau (IB) offices at different locations along CPEC route. Project after completion will provide office and residential accommodation to the IB staff posted along the CPEC route enabling them to perform their official duties with professional satisfaction and commitment, the source said.

The project includes construction/upgradation of offices in Balochistan, Punjab, KP, Islamabad, Azad Jammu Kashmir, and Gilgit Baltistan. The CDWP approved the Establishment of NIHD at total cost of Rs 7869.0m. The center will be a state-of-the-art preventive research and development center for Cardio Vascular Disease (CVD). It will introduce advanced modalities of

community based preventive research and corresponding development of services/products aimed at reducing the disease burden in the society and therefore cost effective treatment of CVDs. The project will set forth a paradigm shift from therapeutics to prevention, thus reduction in the disease burden of CVDs in the society, within the overall domain of Non Communicable Diseases.

The forum also approved the Up-gradation of Nuclear Institute of Medicine & Radiotherapy (NIMRA), Jamshoro at total cost of Rs 1223.330m. NIMRA is the first Oncology & third Nuclear Medicine Institute of Pakistan, established in 1965 aimed to provide cancer related health care facilities to the residents of Distt. Jamshoro and its surrounding areas. NIMRA is providing diagnostic services (for various benign and malignant diseases) and treatment facilities (to the patients, suffering from deadly disease of cancer) to population of approximately 18.5 million from more than 14 districts for more than 55 years, especially from interior Sindh, including Thatta, Badin, Tharparkar, Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Mirpurkhas and frontier areas of Bolouchistan with an area of 88,942 square km. The Institute is equipped with one Linear Accelerator unit, two Cobolt-60 units, a Conventional Simulator, a Single Head Gamma Camera, a Dual Head Gamma Camera, one Doppler Ultrasound unit, one Conventional Mammography and an X-Ray Unit. The forum also cleared construction of Torawari Dam in district Hangu, KP at the original cost of Rs 3489.80m. Torawari Dam is a small dam designed to conserve storm run-off of Saroobi Algada for irrigation supplies to 7000 acres of land. Currently agriculture is practiced on a limited area i.e. 750 acre irrigated through Civil Channel. With the construction of Tora Wari Dam irrigation will be done on a larger area of 7000 acres. The dam will meet the irrigation needs of the command area. The construction of Torawari Dam; socio-economic conditions of the people in the project area would be improved by achieving the maximum benefits from irrigated agriculture and drinking water facility. The project envisages to achieve the following objectives which includes the conservation of available flood flows in the Nullah up to a storage capacity of 7369 acre-feet (gross) and 6323 acre feet live which will facilitate utilization of average annual flow 14,000 AF for irrigated agriculture.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/19/cdwp-clears-project-proposal-for-building-17-ib-offices-along-cpec-route/>

May 20, 2022

Daily Times

Pak-China vocational training opportunities to be tapped

“There is a strong need from both Pakistan and China to cooperate in vocational education. Much progress has been made, and it’s just the start,” said Syed Javed Hassan, Chairman National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC).

He told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview that China has provided hundreds of Pakistani schools with vocational training and technical equipment that was worth about 500

million rupees. About 200 Pakistanis have been sent on scholarship to get short-term training in Chinese vocational institutions. “Dialogues are ongoing regarding how to further enhance the cooperation”, he added.

According to Syed Javed Hassan, there is a lot that can be done in Pakistan in vocational training. First is capacity building. “The total amount of capacity of formal vocational training is about 400,000, but what we need is probably as much as 2 million”.

Just as important is the training of trainers. “It is not simply a question of having classrooms and equipment, but it is also very important to have the right kind of trainers”, Syed Hassan told CEN that communication is underway as to what training of trainers can take place both by bringing Chinese trainers to Pakistan and by sending trainers to China to get trained there.

Then there is also a question of course certification. “We would like to see some joint programs between the two countries so that for example, if Chinese employers come to Pakistan, they should be able to immediately employ those with mutually recognized certification and vice versa”, Syed Hassan opined. “More institutes, training equipment of higher quality, better trainers, the curriculum in line with international standards and market demand, this is where Pakistan’s vocational education is going”, he added.

Educational institutions on both sides are responding to this huge demand. “This year, we will see cooperation established with about ten institutions in Pakistan”, Mr. Ma Xiaoyan from Tang International Education Group told CEN.

The group, which launched the China-Pakistan modern dual-degree joint talent training program at the end of last year, selected 210 majors out of over 700 vocational majors in China to be introduced to Pakistan.

In the third year of the program, students shall have a chance to study in China for Sino-Pak Dual Diploma. “About twenty Pakistani students come here to study each year”, introduced Mr. Wen Yongming, Vice President of Bailie Vocational College, one of the partners of Tang International Education Group. The college has been cooperating with Faisalabad Agricultural University on modern agricultural technology training programs with plans, courses and credits mutually agreed upon.

“Along with Pakistani partners, we upgrade the curriculum catering to market needs. Moreover, the Chinese language is a special focus”, Mr. Ma further elaborated. They have developed a “CCTE” model that integrates training in the Chinese language, commerce, technical skill, and employment. “It is much more about teaching and learning. We aim to help improve the overall education system in Pakistan. For instance, many of our courses are provided online through our smart education system using the latest information technologies that can be transferred to Pakistan. Besides, after providing training to the teachers, they will in turn promote changes in their classrooms”, Mr. Ma added.

According to Syed Hassan, while traditional manufacturing, welding, and construction industries shall be an indispensable part of Pakistan's vocation education, the greater demand for young people is in the high-tech sector. "For the first time, in the "Skills for All" initiative, we not only covered traditional skills such as electricians, plumbing, welding, etc. but also introduced high tech skills training including certification programs for Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, coding, etc. This kind of workforce is also needed by Chinese firms", he told CEN.

Coinciding with Mr. Syed Hassan's opinion, Tang International Education Group is training professional talent for the special economic zones under CPEC in the fields of modern agriculture, e-commerce, and AI, and logistics and customs clearance. For Pakistan's industrial parks, the group provides training programs on electrical and electronic technologies and civil engineering. Courses on new energy vehicles and information technology will also be introduced. College-enterprise cooperation has proved to be an effective model. "Support from the government, protection by laws, training to teachers, and the idea of life-long learning are pillars supporting vocational education development", Mr. Wen added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/937918/pak-china-vocational-training-opportunities-to-be-tapped/>

Govt committed to further deepen Pak-China ties: PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday, while underlining the significance of China in Pakistan's foreign policy, reaffirmed the government's resolve to further deepen the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

He also affirmed the government's firm resolve to fast-track both the ongoing as well as new projects under the transformational China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which had immensely contributed to the socio-economic development of Pakistan, and also realize its high quality development. The prime minister was talking to a Chinese delegation led by Cheng Guoping, China's External Security Commissioner, which called on him here. He expressed his commitment to working with renewed zeal and enthusiasm, in concert with China, especially on the projects of strategic significance for both the countries, such as ML-1 project, a press release issued here by the PM Media Wing said.

The prime minister said China-Pakistan relations were based on mutual trust, mutual respect and cooperation. He appreciated that Pakistan and China had always stood by each other to overcome every challenge with solidarity and mutual support. The prime minister reiterated his strong condemnation of the Karachi terrorist attack and stated that the entire Pakistani nation grieved with the families of the victims and the people of China at the loss of precious lives, and offered his heartfelt condolences. He reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to thoroughly investigate the Karachi attack, apprehend the perpetrators at the earliest, and bring them to justice.

Referring to his telephonic conversation with Premier Li Keqiang on April 16, 2022, the prime minister affirmed that Pakistan was committed to providing the highest level of safety and security to all Chinese nationals and institutions working on projects in Pakistan. Cheng Guoping appreciated the measures taken by the Government of Pakistan, under the guidance and direct

supervision of the prime minister, to carry out thorough investigations of the terrorist attacks and enhance measures for safety and security.

He underscored that terrorism was a common enemy of both Pakistan and China, and the two sides shared firm resolve to eradicate the menace. Cheng Guoping said Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership was a model of inter-state relations and a pillar of stability at a time when the international situation was in flux.

Separately, a delegation of lawyers' leaders called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Thursday. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar and Attorney General Ashtar Ausaf were also present in the meeting. The delegation of lawyers' leaders comprised President Supreme Court Bar Association Ahsan Bhoon, Chairman Pakistan Bar Council Hafeez-ur-Rehman, President Lahore High Court Bar Association Akbar Dogar, Chairman Punjab Bar Council Jaffar Tayyar, Chairman Islamabad Bar Council Qamar Sabzwari, Syed Qalb-e-Hassan, Amjad Shah, Masood Chishti, Abid Saqi and others.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/937985/govt-committed-to-further-deepen-pak-china-ties-pm/>

China based Gauss Auto Group to establish of EV plant in Pakistan

China based, Gauss Auto Group on Thursday has announced plans to establish an Electric Vehicle (EV) Plant in Pakistan's Karachi Special Economic Zone (SEZs).

The plan is to enter into a Joint Venture (JV) with AKD Group Holdings (Pvt.) limited and set up the plant near Port Qasim, Karachi on around 1000 acres of land, said a press release issued by Board of Investment (BOI). Gauss Auto is an enterprise focusing on the innovation and development of automobiles and the integration of resources. It is registered in Silicon Valley, California, and operates in Shanghai, China. A delegation led by Mr Chen Feng, CEO Gauss Auto Group and CEO AKD Group Holding, Mr Nasir Rizwan visited the Board of Investment today and held a detailed meeting with Federal Minister Board of Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Secretary BOI Ms. Fareena Mazhar. The delegation also highlighted their intention to export their locally produced EVs from Pakistan to other countries. The organization delivered a comprehensive presentation of their production plant and apprised BOI leadership on the variants of the vehicles they are already producing. Secretary BOI briefed the delegation about Pakistan's recently launched Electric Vehicle policy, which offers benefits to both; existing and new manufacturers. The delegation was also informed about Pakistan's liberal investment regime, which treats foreign and local investors equally and where all economic sectors are open to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) except a few specified restricted industries like arms and ammunition, explosives, radioactive substances, currency etc. BOI leadership encouraged Gauss Auto Group to invest in the auto sector of Pakistan and extended maximum support and facilitation to the company. In order to cater to their technical queries about Government's EV Policy and to subsequently materialize their manufacturing plant on AKD Holding's land in Karachi, BOI has scheduled a meeting with CEO Engineering Development Board on May 20th.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/937871/china-based-gauss-auto-group-to-establish-of-ev-plant-in-pakistan/>

Pakistan Observer

PM reaffirms Govt resolve to deepen Pak-China cooperative partnership

The Prime Minister also expressed his commitment to working with renewed zeal and enthusiasm, in concert with China, especially on projects of strategic significance for both the countries, such as ML-1 project.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that China-Pakistan relations were based on mutual trust, mutual respect and cooperation. He appreciated that Pakistan and China had always stood by each other to overcome every challenge with solidarity and mutual support.

Shehbaz Sharif reiterated his strong condemnation of Karachi terrorist attack and stated that the entire Pakistani nation grieved with the families of the victims and the people of China at the loss of precious lives, and offered his heartfelt condolences. He reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to thoroughly investigate the Karachi attack, apprehend the perpetrators at the earliest, and bring them to justice.

Referring to his telephonic conversation with Premier Li Keqiang, the Prime Minister affirmed that Pakistan was committed to providing highest level of safety and security to all Chinese nationals and institutions working on projects in Pakistan.

Mr. Cheng Guoping appreciated the measures taken by the Government of Pakistan, under the guidance and direct supervision of the Prime Minister, to carry out thorough investigations of the terrorist attacks and enhance measures for safety and security. He underscored that terrorism was common enemy of both Pakistan and China, and the two sides shared firm resolve to eradicate this menace.

Mr. Cheng Guoping said that Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership was a model of inter-state relations and a pillar of stability at a time when the international situation was in flux.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-reaffirms-govt-resolve-to-deepen-pak-china-cooperative-partnership/>

The Express Tribune

Plan to set up Pak-China Technology Gateway

Project aimed at transferring redundant technology from China

LAHORE: Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Wang Zihai has pledged that after the successful working of Pakistan-China Knowledge Portal, an online Pakistan-China Technology Gateway will be established soon.

Speaking at a think tank session held at the PCJCCI premises, he maintained that technological advancement for human resources development is the prime agenda of PCJCCI.

“After the successful working of Pakistan-China Knowledge Portal, we are keen to establish an online Pakistan-China Technology Gateway,” he announced.

Wang elaborated that this project would be initiated in collaboration with China, and the purpose would primarily be the transfer of redundant technology from China. He promised to step up the pace of technological advancement in Pakistan through Chinese cooperation.

On the occasion, PCJCCI Senior Vice President Ehsan Chaudhry said that the acquisition of appropriate technology from China in the field of renewable energy and alternative sources of energy such as solar, nanotechnology, wind power and run-of-the-river power plants was also included on priority.

PCJCCI Vice President Sarfaraz Butt mentioned that PCJCCI was planning to establish a state-of-the-art Chinese information and material centre that would be executed in two phases.

“The first phase involves establishment of a display centre and the second phase involves the transfer of production facility from China to Pakistan,” he added.

PCJCCI Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif told the audience that they will also initiate online technological courses for the youth through the Pakistan-China Technology Gateway.

“These courses will convey contemporary knowledge and information related to various sectors which include electronic and automotive advancement, insurance, agriculture, textiles, shoe manufacturing, chemicals, battery recycling plant and real estate advisory,” he explained.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2357378/plan-to-set-up-pak-china-technology-gateway>

The News

Early return of Pakistani students to China hinted

Islamabad: Hopefully, Pakistani students will soon return to China to resume pandemic-hit education, said External Security Commissioner (Cross Agency Working Group of China) Cheng Gouping on Thursday.

"Limitations due to COVID-19 in China have been a downward trajectory. We hope that Pakistani students will soon be able to travel to China to continue their education," Cheng Gouping told Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain during a meeting here. The meeting was attended by a Chinese delegation and senior officials of the ministry.

The minister said the relationship between China and Pakistan was deeper than the Sea and the two countries were iron brothers.

He offered condolences to the visitors at the recent terrorist attack near the University of Karachi's Confucius Institute, which led to the death of three Chinese citizens. The minister said the cultural and educational exchange was pivotal in strengthening the relationship between

China and Pakistan. He said the cultural and educational exchange should not be allowed to be affected by such cowardly attacks as it enhanced the trade and economy of both countries.

Mr. Cheng Gouping said China highly valued its relationship with Pakistan. He said Pakistan had 300 Chinese students and that China deemed it important to enhance people-to-people exchange. "The security of Chinese citizens is of high importance. We wish to work with Pakistani authorities for the safety of our citizens in the country," he said.

The minister assured the Chinese delegation of the highest standard of security for students at the University Campuses. He said all of the relevant organizations in Pakistan will be taken on board to ensure maximum security is provided to Chinese students and teachers. The minister said there were 6,000 Pakistani students, who wanted to go back to China to resume their education.

He said 250 students were returning to China soon, while hopefully, the others would follow suit soon. Both sides agreed to enhance the security of Chinese students and teachers to ensure that people-to-people exchanges are not affected so that bilateral trade between the two countries can continue to grow. Earlier, Rana Tanveer Hussain during a meeting with a delegation of the World Bank and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said there is a dire need for a national response to the crisis of out-of-school children as well as a decline in foundational learning due to COVID-19 pandemic. It is one of the biggest challenges that Pakistan faces today. The government is striving to provide access to schools and relevant facilities to students across the country.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=89045>

May 21, 2022

Business Recorder

Bilawal leaves for China today to review gamut of bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari will leave for China Saturday (Saturday) on a two-day official visit for reviewing the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said that at the special invitation of State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Foreign Minister Bilawal will visit China on 21-22 May 2022.

"This would be Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's first bilateral visit abroad since assuming office last month," he said, adding that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and senior officials would be part of the foreign minister's delegation.

During the visit, he added the Foreign Minister would hold extensive consultations with State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

"The two leaders will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China. Fast-tracked progress on

the transformational China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, flagship project of President Xi Jinping's visionary Belt and Road Initiative, will also feature in the discussions," he said, adding the two sides would also have wide-ranging exchange of views on major regional and international issues.

He added that Bilawal's visit would also coincide with the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

State Councilor Wang Yi had written a letter of congratulations to Foreign Minister Bilawal on his assumption of the office of Foreign Minister. The two Foreign Ministers had previously held a virtual meeting on 11 May 2022.

"The foreign minister's visit is part of the high-level exchanges between the two sides, which recently also included message of felicitations to the Prime Minister from Premier Li Keqiang, and telephone conversation between the two Premiers on 16 May 2022," the spokesperson added.

He stated that the Foreign Minister's visit would contribute towards further fortifying the "time-tested All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" between Pakistan and China, enhance and deepen CPEC-related engagement, and help in identifying new avenues for bilateral cooperation to the benefit of the two countries and peoples.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/21/2-page/930318-news.html>

Concerns over decreasing depth of Gwadar port

ISLAMABAD: A preparatory meeting on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Joint Working Group (JWG) on Transport Infrastructure observed that due to negligence of the previous regime, the depth of Gwadar port has decreased to 11 meters which should be 18 meters deep for navigation of big ships; it had led to hindering the anchoring of big ships on the port.

The meeting also expressed concerns on the ML-1 Railway Project which should have been started in 2018 but the delay has caused huge financial loss to the national exchequer. It directed Railway authorities to speed up processing of ML-1 project.

Minister of Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal chaired a preparatory meeting on a joint working group on transport infrastructure on Friday which was attended by officials from CPEC Authority, NHA, Gwadar Port Authority and senior officers from the Ministry of Planning and Railways.

On the observation for decreasing 11 meters' depth of Gwadar port, the Minister directed to take urgent measures to initiate dredging process at Gwadar Port so that Gwadar port will be made a viable transportation of big ships.

Minister for Planning has also expressed his concerns on the ML-1 project and took notice that the project should have been started in 2018 but the delay has caused huge financial loss to the national exchequer.

The minister also directed to evaluate the cost of 250 km/hour track for the future viability of the project. He asked Railway authorities to speed up the processing of ML-1 project. Minister emphasized that laying down fibre optic cable project should be integrated within ML-1 to economize the project.

The minister said that the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) is another important mass-transit project which should be executed on the same model as Orange Line in Lahore.—NAVEED BUTT

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/21/2-page/930321-news.html>

71st anniversary of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations ‘1951-2022’ celebrated at UoP

PESHAWAR: China Study Centre, University of Peshawar, and Pakistan China Friendship Association jointly organized a seminar on “Celebrating 71st Anniversary of Pakistan China Diplomatic Relations 1951-2022” at the China Study Centre, UoP conference hall on May 20.

The seminar was joined by Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Director China Study Centre, UoP, Prof Dr Zahid Anwar, Secretary-general of Pakistan China Friendship Association (KPC) Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, Dr Kashif Saeed, (Assistant Professor Department of Economics, UoP), Dr Saima, IR Department, UoP, Sumera Farid, (Social Work Department UoP).

While addressing the seminar Prof Dr Zahid Anwar highlighted, “Pakistan is an important country in the region. Pakistan and China enjoy close and friendly relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations in May 1951. Today we are celebrating the 71st anniversary of Pakistan and China relations. With the official launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the bilateral relationship has been elevated to a higher level. Today for Pakistan, the CPEC initiative is forming its economic model through cooperation in infrastructure development, energy, science and technology, agriculture, and more importantly social-economic development.”

Dr Saima said Pakistan’s location strategically was very important. “Pakistan and China are sharing the concept of development and progress and both the countries’ relationships are based on mutual trust and a win-win situation.”

Dr Kashif Saeed talked about China Pakistan diplomatic relations, and he focused on the development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said the special economic zones (SEZs) in Pakistan under CPEC could change the destiny of Pakistan. He also said Rashakai SEZs which was part of CPEC could uplift the economy of Pakistan, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, adding the SEZs would help in creating jobs and will facilitate the local firms.

Sumera Farid said besides economic, political, and infrastructure development China and Pakistan were also working social development of the people. She mentioned that investment on

the people was the need of the day and “we hope that Pakistan and China will collaborate and will invest more on people’s welfare and development.”

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani who was the guest speaker talked about the historical evolution of Pakistan and China relations. He stated that Chinese Prime Minister Zhou Enlai first visited Peshawar in 1956. He said China helped Pakistan on many occasions. With the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC, the relations between both countries became stronger. He said Peshawar was declared a sister city with Urumqi, China in 1985, and Kashgar Abbottabad was declared a sister city in 2007. “The relations between Pakistan and China today are at a high peak and we expect that both the countries will continue supporting each other and will work for the progress of the people.”

A one-minute silence was observed in respect of Chinese teachers who were targeted in a terrorist attack in Karachi.

At the end of the seminar cake cutting ceremony was held to “Celebrating the 71st Anniversary of Pakistan China Diplomatic Relations 1951-2022”.

The seminar was ended by a vote of thanks by Prof Dr. Zahid Anwar. He thanked the Secretary-general of Pakistan China Friendship Association Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, faculty members, researchers, and students for their participation in the seminar.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/21/2-page/930317-news.html>

ASEAN states envoys briefed about CPEC

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Friday hosted a briefing on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for resident diplomatic missions of ASEAN member countries. Chaired by the Additional Secretary (Asia-Pacific), Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, the panel included senior officials of the ministry, CPEC Authority, and the Board of Investment (BOI).

In her briefing, the additional secretary shared the underlying vision of CPEC, which was based on Pakistan’s desire for connectivity with the region and interest in deepening linkages with Central Asia, the Middle East, and the East Asian region as envisaged under the Vision East Asia policy.

She emphasized that the CPEC had added a new dimension in the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, which was based on mutual understanding and respect. “Pakistan welcomes development partners and enterprises from around the world to strengthen investment and trade linkages and consider opportunities in Special Economic Zones (SEZs),” she said.

Thanking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant government departments for the briefing, the heads of diplomatic missions underscored abiding mutual interest in enhanced economic cooperation between Pakistan and ASEAN member countries.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/21/5-page/930343-news.html>

Daily Times

China and Pakistan iron-clad friendship is rock-solid

Nong Rong

China and Pakistan are very close neighbors connected by mountains and rivers, and are indestructible iron-clad brothers with a shared future. Under the strategic guidance of the leaders of the two countries, China-Pakistan relations have continued to forge ahead, and have always maintained robust vigor despite the changes of the international situation.

Year 2021 marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. More than 100 celebrations were held, which injected new vitality into China-Pakistan relations. The world today is undergoing major changes unseen in a century. China and Pakistan are both at a critical period of national development. It is an inevitable choice for the two countries to join hands and move forward together to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. The all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan is unique. The friendship between the two sides will be passed on from generation to generation and will not be shaken or changed by a single event.

China always regards its ties with Pakistan as a priority in its diplomacy with neighboring countries. China will firmly support Pakistan in defending national sovereignty and security, maintaining unity, achieving stability, development and prosperity.

The all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan is unique. The friendship between the two sides will be passed on from generation to generation and will not be shaken or changed by a single event.

Developing amicable relations with China has always been a common perception in Pakistan that transcends all political differences and enjoys a high degree of agreement throughout the country. The two countries and two militaries have maintained the momentum of close high-level exchanges, strengthened strategic communication and jointly led the direction of China-Pakistan relations. In February this year, President Xi Jinping met with then Prime Minister Imran Khan in Beijing during his visit to China to attend the Opening Ceremony of 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. Recently, Premier Li Keqiang talked over phone with Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and had an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral ties. In March, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Pakistan and the Chinese Foreign Minister attended the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers for the first time in history. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will make his first official bilateral visit to China on 21 May, the anniversary day that China and Pakistan established diplomatic relations. On 11 March, the first batch of six J-10C was formally inducted to Pakistan Air Force. The Pakistani political and military leadership praised this grand military cooperation project as another important symbol of China-Pakistan all-weather friendship, and will strongly boost the new development of Pakistani military capacity.

Under the strategic planning of President Xi Jinping, the CPEC has been expanded in an all-round way, entering a new stage of enrichment and expansion. The two sides have initiated or completed 46 of the 70 early-harvest projects with a total investment of 25.4 billion US dollars. The CPEC improved has Pakistan's infrastructure, which is playing a major role in the economic development of the country. New breakthroughs keep flourishing in industrial cooperation. The East Bay Expressway of Gwadar Port has been completed and will open for traffic soon. This year, China donated another 3,000 sets of solar panel to Gwadar people, which brings the total number of donation to 7,000 sets. The construction of a desalination plant aided by China will start soon in Gwadar. Two units of the Karot Hydropower project have started to provide stable and clean power to Pakistan's power grid since May. After its full operation, its four units will provide electricity for 5 million people. The two countries stand ready to further synergize development strategies, firmly advance the development of CPEC, hold a new round of CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee meeting in due course, implement the Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation, strengthen cooperation in industries, people's livelihood and agriculture, and jointly implement high quality development of CPEC with new Pakistan speed.

After the terrorist attack on a van of the Confucius Institute at the University of Karachi on April 26, Pakistani President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the National Assembly, leaders of various political parties and people from all sectors unanimously condemned the terrorist attack. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan to convey condolences at the earliest opportunity and sent a letter of condolence to the Chinese leaders. The Pakistani cabinet has decided to take unprecedented measures to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens in Pakistan. China fully recognizes this.

The governments and leaders of China and Pakistan have agreed that the two countries should take immediate action and adopt firm and effective measures to deal with it. The pressing task is to speed up the investigation and hunting down of the perpetrators and give exemplary punishment to them as soon as possible. Targeted measures need to be taken to improve security protection for Chinese personnel, institutions and projects in Pakistan. Efforts should be made to give timely security warnings, and plug security loopholes so as to prevent similar incidents from happening again. China will continue to support Pakistan in enhancing its counter-terrorism capacity, and stands ready to make joint efforts with Pakistan to thwart any attempt to undermine China-Pakistan relations.

We are proud of our deeply rooted friendship. People-to-people exchanges between the two countries will not be deterred by any terrorism. The Confucius Institutes in Pakistan will continue to teach Chinese to Pakistani students through various means to promote the traditional friendship between the two countries. People-to-people and cultural exchanges between our two countries will never stop, the hearts of the two peoples will become closer.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan 70 years ago, no matter how the international situation changes, the two sides have always shown each other with sincerity and shared weal and woe. China is firmly

committed to advancing China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and jointly addressing international and regional challenges. I believe that with joint efforts of both sides, the building of a China-Pakistan community with a shared future will surely take new and firm steps!

The writer is Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/938378/china-and-pakistan-iron-clad-friendship-is-rock-solid/>

Pakistan's national pavilions open in Beijing

A signing ceremony for the establishment of Pakistan's national pavilions (offline & online) in Beijing was held here at the Pakistani Embassy on Thursday, according to a Gwadar Pro's report.

To enhance the access to Pakistani products in China, social media TikTok would be used, said Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque.

Ambassador Moin ul Haque held a meeting with Mr. Lu Hongjun, President of China Asian Economic Development Association Urban Cooperation Committee (CAEDA- UCC), and greatly appreciated CAEDA's proactive role in strengthening bilateral trade ties and promoting Pakistan's quality products in Chinese offline and online markets.

He also expressed his confidence that Pakistan's national pavilions in Beijing and on TikTok will serve as promising platforms for the promotion of trade linkages, business expansion, cultural promotion, and people-to-people exchanges between the two iron-brothers.

“[I'm] Pleased to formalize Pakistan national pavilions (offline & online) in Beijing and on TikTok at a signing ceremony held at the Embassy today. With such initiatives, we are working to enhance the access of Pakistani products to the Chinese markets,” the ambassador tweeted after the signing ceremony. Lu thanked the ambassador for his continuous support for the establishment of Pakistan's national pavilions and for promoting trade ties between the two brotherly countries. He also assured CAEDA's full commitment to complete these proposed pavilions at the earliest. In the end, Ambassador Haque and President Lu also signed the Letter of Cooperation to formally initiate the establishment of Pakistan's national pavilions in China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/938403/pakistans-national-pavilions-open-in-beijing/>

Dawn News

Shehbaz proposes including Turkey in CPEC

Imran Ayub / Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has proposed turning the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into a “trilateral arrangement” between China, Pakistan and Turkey so that all three nations could benefit from its potential.

He made the remarks while addressing a launching ceremony on Friday at Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works for the third Milgem corvette built by Turkey, where he was the chief guest. “Trade activities have the potential to increase manifold with the development of financial and industrial activities. The ongoing CPEC project is set to translate our desire to enhance regional connectivity and maximise trade [...] with Gwadar at its focal point,” the premier said.

“I would like to avail this opportunity to propose that let this — CPEC — be a trilateral arrangement between China, Pakistan and Turkey and let us benefit from its wonderful potential to benefit our nations,” he said, assuring the participants that the government was committed to developing maritime infrastructure.

At the outset, PM Shehbaz began by lauding the launch of the warship built with the cooperation and collaboration of a Turkish company.

Says Imran enjoyed ‘unprecedented support’ from state institutions

Mr Sharif said indigenisation was at the forefront of Pakistan’s national policy and it was encouraging to see modern warships being built in Pakistan and Turkey.

The newly launched corvette is equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors, including surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles and anti-submarine weapons, which would significantly boost Pakistan Navy’s defensive and offensive capabilities.

In a video message, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country wanted to share its expertise with Pakistan in the area of defence, adding that the Milgem project was one such example.

‘Imran annoyed China’

Later, during an address at the Chief Minister House, where he was invited by the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry to discuss key economic issues, the premier briefly touched on the ongoing political situation of the country.

Calling PTI chairman Imran Khan a laadla (blue-eyed), PM Sharif said Mr Khan’s rule had enjoyed “unprecedented support” from state institutions and regretted the country could “rise like a rocket” if his government had only 30 per cent of that support.

He also accused the former minister of annoying China after “fake accusations” were made against CPEC, which slowed down the pace of development work under the project.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sharif took notice of a fire that engulfed pine (Sanober) trees in Balochistan’s Sherani district and directed the federal disaster management departments to take immediate measures to put out the fire, spanning a radius of seven kilometres.

Lawyers’ meeting

Earlier, a group of senior lawyers called on the prime minister to discuss significant political and constitutional developments happening in the country. According to Prime Minister Office, the premier said the government would extend all possible cooperation to lawyers in performing

their professional duties. He directed the law minister to immediately start working on amendments to the Lawyers' Protection Act and Bar Council Act.

The lawyers' leaders stressed that their community had always been playing its role in strengthening the country's democratic institutions and would continue to do so in future as well.

Syed Irfan Raza in Islamabad also contributed to this report.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1690701>

Bilawal arrives in China today

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari is scheduled to arrive in China on Saturday (today) on a two-day visit on the invitation of State Counsellor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

According to an official statement of the Foreign Office, the minister of state for foreign affairs and senior officials would be part of the foreign minister's delegation.

During the visit, the foreign minister will hold extensive consultations with Mr Wang.

The two leaders will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations with particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The progress of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, will also feature in the discussions.

The two sides will also have wide-ranging exchange of views on major regional and international issues.

Mr Bhutto-Zardari's visit will also coincide with the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

The foreign minister's visit will contribute towards further fortifying the time-tested all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China, enhance and deepen CPEC-related engagement, and help in identifying new avenues for bilateral cooperation to the benefit of the two countries and their peoples.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1690695>

Pakistan Observer

KP-EZDMC chief visits Mohmand Economic Zone

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak along with Chief Finance Officer (CFP) and Chief Physical Planning & Development (PP&D) visited Mohmand Economic Zone on Friday.

Zone Manager briefed CEO about the ongoing civil works and colonisation drive. The CEO inaugurated newly constructed industrial Facilitation Office in Zone.

Various issues including infrastructure work, colonization drive and access road were discussed in detail and a way forward to resolve the long outstanding issues in Zone.—APP

<https://coverpage.org/kp-ezdmc-chief-visits-mohmand-economic-zone/>

New Gwadar international airport to be operational by 2023

The new \$246m greenfield Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) being built at an area of 4,300 acres would be made operational by September 2023.

According to the official source, the passenger terminal building of the project would be completed by June 2023; work related to air traffic control by March 2023, while the overall construction of the airport would be finished before September 2023.

The New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) was being managed and operated by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). To be owned by a joint venture between Pakistan, Oman, and China, the airport would handle domestic and international operations. The airport development is a part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) development, which was a cornerstone of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative.

The biggest in Pakistan and would also become the nation's second airport capable of handling A380 aircraft upon its commissioning in 2022. It will stimulate the development in Gwadar peninsula and boost trade between Pakistan and China. The airport would be operated under open sky policy and developed under the guidance of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

The New Gwadar International Airport project was initiated as an early harvest high-priority project of the CPEC programme in 2014.

It was approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) in January 2015. The project is being funded through a grant agreement signed between China and Pakistan in May 2017. Soil testing on the project site was started in January 2018 and involved drilling of 300 boreholes in various locations. The groundbreaking ceremony was held in March 2019.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/new-gwadar-international-air-port-to-be-operational-by-2023/>

Significance of China for Pakistan

PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while underlining the significance of China in Pakistan's foreign policy, has reaffirmed the government's resolve to deepen the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

Talking to a Chinese delegation led by External Security Commissioner Cheng Guoping that called on him in Islamabad on Thursday, the PM affirmed his government's firm resolve to fast-track both the ongoing as well as new projects under the transformational China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which had immensely contributed to the socio-economic development of Pakistan and also realize its high quality development. It is a matter of satisfaction that relations with our time-tested friend – China – are once again taking centre stage

in our foreign policy as was the case when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto laid foundations of this enviable friendship and both Asif Ali Zardari and Mian Nawaz Sharif nurtured it further because of their visionary approach.

The growing bilateral relationship is playing a crucial role in socio-economic development of Pakistan, which is a unique case in our context in the backdrop of monumental developmental activities taking place in the length and breadth of the country as a result of initiation of a number of projects of far-reaching importance for peoples and different regions.

The relationship remained subdued due to a jaundiced understanding of the CPEC and its relevance for progress and development of Pakistan during the tenure of PTI Government when several projects faced uncalled for delays.

Therefore, the credit rightly goes to the leadership of the new Government for rejuvenating ties with China in all spheres of life, especially intensified cooperation under the framework of CPEC.

During his interaction with the Chinese delegation, the Prime Minister affirmed his government's firm resolve to work with renewed zeal and enthusiasm, in concert with China, especially on projects of strategic significance for both the countries, such as ML-1 project.

Shehbaz said the China-Pakistan relations were based on mutual trust, mutual respect and cooperation and appreciated that Pakistan and China had always stood by each other to overcome every challenge with solidarity and mutual support.

It was because of the strategic dimensions of the relationship and its long lasting impact on the life of the people that some powers are trying to exert pressure on Pakistan to either abandon the path or slow down implementation of work on important projects on the pretext of rising burden of external debt despite the fact that the loans extended by China would be repayable after a gap when economic benefits of the projects under CPEC would help strengthen our capacity and capability to pay back not just Chinese loans but also those taken from other countries and multilateral institutions.

The sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister were not one sided as the head of the delegation also proudly declared that Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership was a model of inter-state relations and a pillar of stability at a time when the international situation was in flux.

The issue of safety of Chinese nationals in Pakistan is assuming greater significance in the backdrop of repeated foreign-sponsored terrorist attacks and that is why it was also a point of discussion between the two sides.

The Prime Minister reiterated that Pakistan was committed to providing the highest level of safety and security of all Chinese nationals and institutions working on projects in Pakistan.

Cheng Guoping appreciated the measures taken by the Government of Pakistan, under the guidance and direct supervision of the PM, to carry out thorough investigation of the terrorist attacks and enhance measures for safety and security.

He underscored that terrorism was a common enemy of both Pakistan and China, and the two sides shared the firm resolve to eradicate this menace.

All this shows the two countries are determined not to allow their relationship to be affected by conspiracies being hatched by enemies of this great friendship.

We firmly believe that the pace of socio-economic development of people of Pakistan can be accelerated provided we do proper homework to take advantage of repeated offers and gestures by the Chinese side for cementing cooperation in different sectors of the economy.

Chinese are not just willing to provide funding for more mega projects but their entrepreneurs are also ready to invest money and relocate their businesses to the country in view of competitive labour costs and strategic location of Pakistan.

A concrete plan of action needs to be developed and discussion on it can start during the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister to China.

<https://pakobserver.net/significance-of-china-for-pakistan/>

The Nation

Foreign Office Briefs ASEAN Diplomatic Missions On CPEC

CPEC added a new dimension in Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership

ISLAMABAD – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday hosted a briefing on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for resident diplomatic missions of ASEAN member countries.

Chaired by the Additional Secretary (Asia-Pacific) Mumtaz Zara Baloch, the panel of briefers included senior officials of the Ministry, CPEC Authority and the Board of Investment. In her briefing, the Additional Secretary shared the underlying vision of CPEC, which was based on Pakistan's desire for connectivity with the region and interest in deepening linkages with Central Asia, the Middle East, and the East Asian region as envisaged under the Vision East Asia policy.

She emphasised that CPEC had added a new dimension in the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, which was based on mutual understanding and respect. Pakistan welcomes development partners and enterprises from around the world to strengthen investment and trade linkages and consider opportunities in Special Economic Zones.

Thanking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant government departments for the briefing, the heads of diplomatic missions underscored abiding mutual interest in enhanced economic cooperation between Pakistan and ASEAN member countries.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/21/foreign-office-briefs-asean-diplomatic-missions-on-cpec/>

Chinese Delegation Meets Foreign Secretary

ISLAMABAD – A delegation led by Cheng Guoping, External Security Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, met with Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood at the Foreign Office, yesterday. The Foreign Secretary reiterated Pakistan's strong condemnation of the terrorist attack in Karachi on April 26. He shared that the law enforcement authorities were thoroughly investigating the attack to apprehend the perpetrators and bring them to justice. The Foreign Secretary added that Pakistan was committed to providing highest level of safety, security and protection to Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan. The Foreign Secretary underlined the high importance attached by Pakistan to its longstanding, multifaceted relationship with China. He underscored that both sides were committed to further strengthening the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China, ensuring fast-tracked progress in high-quality development of CPEC, and deepening bilateral exchanges in all areas.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/21/chinese-delegation-meets-foreign-secretary/>

Culprits Behind Attacks On Chinese Workers To Get Exemplary Punishment, Says Interior Minister

ISLAMABAD – Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah said Friday that security of Chinese citizens is the top priority.

Chairing a high level meeting pertaining to law and order situation of the country in Islamabad, the Minister expressed regret over the incidents of Dasu Dam and Karachi University. He said the entire Pakistani nation is sad over the loss of previous lives of Chinese citizens in terrorist incidents. Rana Sanaullah said on the occasion that the culprits would be awarded exemplary punishment.

He informed the meeting that a special cell has been set up in the Interior Ministry to protect foreign nationals. The interior minister ordered the concerned authorities that Counter-terrorism departments should be modernized to prevent terrorist incidents in the country.

He said National Counter Terrorism Authority should be made fully operational and hoped that it can be a very effective institution to eradicate terrorism from the country.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/21/culprits-behind-attacks-on-chinese-workers-to-get-exemplary-punishment-says-interior-minister/>

The News

Pakistan, China agree on return of Pak students to Chinese varsities

ISLAMABAD: In a recent development, Islamabad and Beijing have agreed upon the return of Pakistani students to Chinese universities subject to the Covid-19 situation in China. Pakistani Embassy in Beijing shared on Twitter that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif discussed the return of

Pakistani students to their universities in China in his recent telephonic conversation with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

"The unprecedented and extraordinary situation caused by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has affected students' educational activities across the world, including Pakistani students enrolled at Chinese universities, many of whom are currently in Pakistan," an official statement issued by the embassy said.

It stated that as a result of joint efforts by Pakistani and Chinese embassies, the two sides have worked out sending the students back to China in phases, as the Chinese premier assured to keep the matter on high priority.

The statement further said that Pakistan and China are finalising the arrangements for the return of first batch of students at the earliest. The Pakistani Embassy in China also assured of pursuing the matter with the Chinese authorities for return of remaining students as well.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=89365>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان اور چین: پیشہ ورانہ تعلیم میں تعاون کی سخت ضرورت: چیئر مین نیوویک

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) پاکستان اور چین دونوں ممالک کو پیشہ ورانہ تعلیم میں تعاون کی سخت ضرورت ہے، اس میں بہت زیادہ پیش رفت ہوئی اور یہ صرف شروعات ہے۔ یہ بات چیئر مین نیشنل ووکیشنل اینڈ ٹیکنیکل ٹریننگ کمیشن پاکستان سید جاوید حسن نے ایک انٹرویو کے دوران بتائی۔ سید حسن کے مطابق چین نے سینکڑوں پاکستانی سکولوں کو پیشہ ورانہ تربیت اور تکنیکی آلات فراہم کیے، جن کی مالیت تقریباً 500 ملین روپے تھی۔ چین کے پیشہ ورانہ اداروں میں قلیل مدتی تربیت حاصل کرنے کیلئے تقریباً 200 پاکستانیوں کو سکا لرشپ پر بھیجا گیا ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ تعاون مزید بڑھانے کیلئے بات چیت جاری ہے۔ پاکستان میں ووکیشنل ٹریننگ میں بہت کچھ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ ملک میں پیشہ ورانہ تربیت کی کل صلاحیت تقریباً 4 لاکھ لیکن ہمیں 2 ملین کی ضرورت ہے۔ سید حسن نے بتایا کہ ٹرینرز کی تربیت بھی اتنی ہی ضروری ہے، یہ صرف کلاس رومز اور آلات رکھنے کا سوال نہیں بلکہ صحیح قسم کے ٹرینرز کا ہونا بہت ضروری ہے۔ چینی ٹرینرز پاکستان اور پاکستان ٹرینرز کو چین بھیج کر وہاں تربیت حاصل کریں، پھر کورس کی سند کا بھی سوال ہے۔ ہم دونوں ممالک کے درمیان کچھ مشترکہ پروگرام دیکھنا چاہتے ہیں، مثلاً اگر چینی آجر پاکستان آتے ہیں تو وہ فوری طور پر باہمی تسلیم شدہ سرٹیفیکیشن کے حامل افراد کو ملازمت دینے کے قابل ہو جائیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-05-21/page-12/detail-5>

May 22, 2022

Business Recorder

PM highlights dynamism in Sino-Pak ties

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Saturday reiterated that the iron-clad ties between Pakistan and China would reach new acme of bilateral cooperation, trust and affinities.

In a message on 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and

China, the prime minister felicitated Chinese President Xi Jinping, the governments and the people of the two countries. He said that Pakistan and China were brotherly countries, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Today has been a day when the two countries established diplomatic ties. The seeds of friendship during last 70 years had now grown into a strong and fruit-bearing tree, he added.

Since May 21, 1950, the leadership of the two countries had been playing their parts to further strengthen the time-tested ties, he added.

“I want to salute all the leadership of China and Pakistan who have transformed this unprecedented friendship into a cooperative strategic partnership between the Iron Brothers,” the prime minister observed.

The prime minister said that this iron-clad friendship would withstand tests of time, emerging situations, and enemies’ machinations.

He also paid tributes to those who had sacrificed their lives for Pakistan-China friendship.

Referring to Karachi terrorist incident, the prime minister said they saluted the Chinese brothers and sister who laid down their lives and expressed his condolence with the bereaved families. The prime minister resolved to eliminate the elements involved in such crimes.

About the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the prime minister said it had laid the foundations to efface poverty from the region, foster economic cooperation, and regional connectivity, and bring stability.

The CPEC augured and guaranteed the bright future of the coming generations, he added. In a separate tweet, the prime minister posted “Our relationship with China has transformed into an Iron Brotherhood over last 71 years.

This comprehensive strategic partnership has stood test of time & emerged as a factor of stability in the region & beyond. My congratulations to the govts & the peoples of both the countries.”— APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/22/1-page/930411-news.html>

Pak-China friendship significant among comity of nations: CM

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Hamza Shahbaz in his message on the completion of 71 years of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations has said that the long standing friendship of Pakistan and China is of special significance among the comity of nations.

CM Hamza said exemplary agreements were being made during the tenure of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif. Hamza Shahbaz maintained that the Economic Corridor Project speaks volumes of a deep- rooted Pakistan-China friendship.

He lamented that unfortunately during the tenure of Imran Khan; work on CPEC projects remained sluggish adding that China is a highly trustworthy friend of Pakistan. CM underscored

that he highly appreciates the cooperation of China with regard to the progress and uplift of Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/22/2-page/930420-news.html>

China-Pakistan relations: new dimensions

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

On the occasion of the 71st anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China both the nations deserve congratulations. These two brotherly countries have stood by each other at all times. In particular China has not only been heavily involved in Pakistan's reconstruction projects but also its engineers and workers have sacrificed their lives, for that act of bravery the Pakistani nation is grateful to the peoples of China. The ideal friendship between China and Pakistan is a threat to their enemies. These forces keep trying to weaken the relations between Pakistan and China by that way but which is not possible because China and Pakistan have proved in every age of difficulty that their friendship is as strong as the China Wall. Recently, Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif telephoned his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang. China also expressed its deep regret over the attack on the Confucius Center in Karachi and vowed that the friendship would be further strengthened in the future.

In a phone call on May 16, Premier Li said that China and Pakistan are friendly neighbors and steel friends. China always prioritizes its relations with Pakistan in its diplomacy with neighboring countries.

According to Prime Minister Li, China is ready to strengthen strategic ties with Pakistan, promote cooperation on major projects such as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and strengthen bilateral staff exchanges to prevent the Corona epidemic. Prime Minister Li pointed out that the recent attack on Chinese nationals in Karachi has shocked and angered the Chinese people and strongly condemned this terrorist attack.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, too, expressed deep sorrow over the deaths and injuries of Chinese nationals in the Karachi terrorist attack and said that he would strengthen security measures for all Chinese institutions and citizens in Pakistan.

It is true that the friendship between China and Pakistan is not such that a few incidents can weaken it because it has a history of its own.

Bilateral relations have grown from the initial Chinese policy of neutrality to a partnership with Pakistan. Pakistan-China diplomatic relations were established in 1950, border issues were resolved in 1963, military aid began in 1966, a strategic alliance was formed in 1972, and economic cooperation began in 1979. China has become the third largest supplier of arms to Pakistan and the third largest trading partner.

Maintaining close ties with China is a central part of Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan has played a key role in bridging the communication gap between the People's Republic of China and the West by facilitating the historic visit of US President Richard Nixon to China in 1972.

Relations between Pakistan and China have been described as higher than mountains, deeper than seas, stronger than steel, dearer than the light of eyes, sweeter than honey.

Strong military ties were also aimed primarily at countering regional Indian and American influence. In recent years, the relationship has been strengthened by ongoing military plans and agreements between Pakistan and China. Since 1962, China has been a reliable source of military equipment for the Pakistani military. The training aircraft includes tailor-made training aircraft for Pakistan Air force. China has designed state-of-the-art tailor-made weapons for Pakistan, making it a strong military power in the South Asian region.

China is the largest investor in Pakistan's Gwadar Deep Sea Port. China has recently pledged about 43 billion dollars in investment.

In 2008, Pakistan purchased military equipment from China for better quality of defense weapons and forces to counter the relentless onslaught of foreign militants. In the past, China played a key role in developing Pakistan's nuclear infrastructure.

China has also provided technical and material support for the completion of the Chashma nuclear power complex and plutonium reprocessing facility, which was built in the mid-1990s. On January 26, 2015, at the end of the then Pakistan army chief Raheel Sharif's two-day visit to Beijing, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi described Pakistan as China's "irreplaceable, all-weather friend." Raheel Sharif also met with Yu Zhengsheng, Meng Jianzhu and Xu Qiliang. On April 19, 2015, China concluded the sale of eight conventional submarines worth 5 billion, the largest arms sales by China in its history. The two countries are cooperating in counter-terrorism. China, Pakistan and Afghanistan have cooperated to enhance regional stability. Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said that China wants to use Xinjiang as a base for economic development in the region.

Pakistan has been one of China's major trading partners. Bilateral trade volume exceeded US 20 billion for the first time in calendar year 2017, according to China Customs. In 2017, China's exports to Pakistan increased by 5.9% to 18.25 billion. Economic cooperation between Pakistan and China has recently increased and a free trade agreement has been signed. Economic relations between the two countries continue to dominate by military and technical transactions and China has promised to increase its investment in Pakistan's economy and infrastructure. On April 22, 2015, China released its first foreign investment plan under the Belt and Road Initiative for the development of a hydropower station near Jhelum, according to China Daily. When it comes to economic cooperation, the mother of all these projects is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the biggest project of the century and the major project of which is the Gwadar Port.

CPEC will connect Pakistan with China and Central Asian countries through the highway connecting Kashgar to Khanjarab and Gwadar. The port of Gwadar in southern Pakistan will serve as a trade nerve hub for China. Shanghai is the only commercial port in the country that is more than 16,000 kilometers away. The voyage takes two to three months during which time

ships are exposed to pirates, bad weather, political rivals and other threats. Instead using the Gwadar port will reduce the distance and potentially cost.

The plan seeks to increase market presence in Chinese businesses. It would not be an overstatement to say that the future of China and Pakistan is linked to the CPEC and Belt and Road Initiative project. The CPEC will raise the flag of success all over the world and the economic condition of the people of Pakistan will also be improve with the proud China with zero poverty.

(The writer is Secretary-General Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province-Pakistan & Senior Media Consultant email syeed.gilani@gmail.com)

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/22/4-page/930443-news.html>

China firmly supports Pakistan in defending national sovereignty, achieving stability, says envoy

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Charge d' Affaires to Pakistan, Ms Pang Chunxue on Saturday said that China always regarded its ties with Pakistan as a priority in its diplomacy and it would firmly support Pakistan in defending national sovereignty and security, maintaining unity, achieving stability, development and prosperity.

She made these remarks while addressing a cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate the 71st Anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

The Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb, attended the ceremony on the special instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. On the occasion, the Information Minister also read the message of the Prime Minister.

Ms Pang Chunxue, in her address, said that under the strategic guidance of the two countries' leaders, the China-Pakistan relations were continued to forge ahead and have always maintained vigour and vitality despite the changes in the international situation. She added that China and Pakistan were close neighbours connected by mountains and rivers, and were Iron-clad brothers and sisters with a shared future.

The Chinese Charge d' Affaires further stated that Premier Li Keqiang talked over the phone with Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and had an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral ties. "Today, we are very honoured to receive the warm greetings and best wishes for China-Pakistan relations from Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. We will implement the consensus reached by the leadership of two countries, strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, health, science and technology, culture, education, help Pakistan to speed up industrialization, and jointly implement high-quality development of CPEC with new Pakistan speed," she expressed.

She also appreciated the Minister of Information and Broadcasting of Pakistan, Marriyum Aurangzeb, for launching the Chinese News Desk at Associated Press of Pakistan (APP). She said media is not only an essential force for spreading China-Pakistan friendship but also an

essential component of promoting the friendship, which can help deepen the people-to-people and cultural exchanges between our two countries.

Ms Pang Chunxue said that the people-to-people exchanges between the two countries were deeply rooted. After the terrorist attack on the Confucius Institute at Karachi University, the Chinese Embassy received so many condolences from all walks of life, she said and added any attempt to undermine China-Pakistan's friendship and cooperation is doomed to fail. The Confucius Institutes in Pakistan will continue to teach Chinese to Pakistani students through various means. The hearts of the two peoples will become closer, she vowed.

“We believe that with joint efforts of both sides, the building of a China-Pakistan community with a shared future will surely make new and firm steps, she concluded.

Federal Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid, Principal Information Officer (PIO) Mobashir Hasan, MD PTV Mubashir Tauqeer and Director Current Affairs PTV Aoun Sahi were also present on the occasion.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/22/9-page/930483-news.html>

Ahsan says Gwadar completely neglected in last four years

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal on Saturday said that Gwadar, the gateway of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, has been completely neglected in the last four years. He was talking to the media after his meeting with the Vice-Chancellor Government College University Lahore Asghar Zaidi.

He said that due to negligence the depth of the port was decreased from 18 meters to 11 meters and it is not possible for a large ship to anchor at the port. Only small ships were anchored there. He termed it as a criminal negligence against CPEC.

Earlier, during his meeting with the Vice-Chancellor GCU, Ahsan Iqbal has stressed the need for modernizing teaching methodologies in the higher education institutions.

During a visit to the Government College University (GCU) Lahore, he said his visit to the university is reaffirmation of commitment towards promotion of higher education in the country. Ahsan Iqbal said that libraries established at universities were used to be the brain of universities and said there is a need to equip them with modern-day requirements.

He said the universities had a great role to curb hate and bigotry causing polarisation in society and they should play that role for a positive change.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/22/9-page/930481-news.html>

Daily Times

Locally assembled Chinese mobiles vehicles gain foothold in Pakistan

Locally assembled Chinese mobiles and vehicles have gained a foothold in Pakistan's car and mobile phone markets.

The ban on importing vehicles and phones will further increase the manufacture of Chinese cars and cellphones locally and will help the Government of Shehbaz Sharif to save the country's foreign reserves, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

The Government of Pakistan has decided to ban the imports of luxury items to save the country's precious "foreign exchange".

Expensive cars and smartphones are amongst the items imported from abroad, shrinking foreign exchange. However, according to the report, Chinese companies have recently started manufacturing high-end mobile phones and luxury cars in Pakistan that will somehow meet the demands of the people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif tweeted on Thursday that "My decision to ban import of luxury items will save the country precious foreign exchange. We will practice austerity & financially stronger people must lead in this effort so that the less privileged among us do not have to bear this burden inflicted on them by the PTI Govt".

Chinese top mobile companies have started manufacturing mobile phones in Pakistan. Pakistan has issued Mobile Device Manufacturing Authorization to more than 30 mobile manufacturing companies including China's Oppo, Xiaomi, Huawei, Itel, VGO TEL, Infinix, Vivo and Tecno, etc. Other than Chinese companies, Samsung and Nokia have also started manufacturing mobile phones.

However, Chinese companies are leading this race. The mobile manufacturing companies have attracted around \$76 million investments.

According to a media's report, every year Pakistan imports luxury cars worth \$1.6 billion and mobile phones worth about \$1.5 billion. If the number of imports is controlled, the country will save foreign exchange. "If luxury vehicles are banned it will save a lot of foreign reserve; such cars are bought by rich people, corporate sectors or the middle class, not the needs of poor people, so it can save billions of dollars," he said.

When it comes to banning car import, Pakistani consumers can rely on China made vehicles in the country. Many Chinese automobile companies are operating in Pakistan. These companies include Changan, MG, BAIC, FAW and SFSK. These companies are manufacturing from premium small cars to luxurious vehicles, the report added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/938913/locally-assembled-chinese-mobiles-vehicles-gain-foothold-in-pakistan/>

Sindh govt agrees to provide fool-proof security to Chinese

Sindh government and Chinese security authorities have agreed to work together to evolve a fool-proof security mechanism for Chinese working in the province in CPEC and non-CPEC projects.

The consensus emerged in a meeting between Sindh Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput and Chinese

Ministry of Foreign Affairs' External Security Commissioner Cheng Gouping along with their respective teams, said a statement issued on Saturday.

The Chief Secretary was assisted by Acting IG Kamran Afzal, Home Secretary Saeed Mangnijo, Adl IG Karachi Ghulam Nabi Memon, Adl IG Special Branch Javed Odho, Additional IG CTD Imran Yakoob Minhas, Rangers Colonel Nasrum Minullah, Special Secretary to CM Rahim Shaikh and others. The Chinese delegation members include Defence Attache Yang Yang, Deputy DG CTD State Security of China Zhou Shanwu, Counselor Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wang Daxue, Deputy DG International Cooperation (Public Security) Li Yuhong, Director Administration Chinese Embassy Sun Mingji, Deputy Director Asian Affairs Wei Guo and others.

The meeting, in the backdrop of the Karachi University incidents, agreed to work out a comprehensive plan to provide security to the Chinese nationals working in non-CPEC projects, on the pattern of CPEC-related projects security system.

The meeting was told that Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah had already directed provincial police to conduct a security audit of the institutions/organization where Chinese are working under private arrangements.

The provincial Home Department is collecting the data of all the Chinese working in the province so that they could be brought under the security cover. For this purpose, the visiting delegation was also urged to help the provincial government to develop a comprehensive data base, for which the delegation assured their full support.

The Chief Secretary, on behalf of the Sindh Chief Minister, offered the Chinese delegation that their proposals, if any, for the fool proof security of Chinese nationals working in Sindh would also be incorporated in the new security plan being worked out on national and provincial levels.

The Chief Secretary told the visiting delegation that the federal government has convened a meeting of all the provincial governments in Islamabad to discuss security of all the Chinese working in different province of the country next week.

The Chinese delegation was also briefed on the progress made so far into the Karachi University incident. The delegation was told that the day-to-day progress into the investigation of the case was being shared with the focal person, the Chinese authorities have nominated. The Chinese delegation offered to strengthen provincial police by providing them important equipment and gadgets used for investigation and other policing purposes. The chief secretary thanked the Chinese government for their support. The Chinese delegation thanked Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah for visiting the Chinese Consulate just after the Karachi university incident and offered condolence for the departed souls. He also attended the last rituals and memorial services of the Chinese killed in the blast at the consulate.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/939015/sindh-govt-agrees-to-provide-fool-proof-security-to-chinese/>

China grants 5b yuan for socio-economic projects in Gwadar

China has granted more than 5b RMB for several socio-economic projects during the last 7 years to upgrade the living conditions of the local people of Gwadar under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives.

The grant is dedicated to New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), East Bay Expressway, 300-bed China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital, China-Pakistan Vocational and Technical Training Institute, China-Pakistan Gwadar Faqeer Middle School, China-Pakistan Fraternity Emergency Centre, and the 1.2 MGD desalination plant so far. Chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) Zhang Baozhong revealed this during a two-day conference, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. “NGIA will have the longest runway, 3.78 km, in the region, equipped with a capacity to handle the largest aircraft. The tourism sector will inevitably boom,” Zhang said.

With its operationalization, new resorts would be established attracting many tourists from China and other countries, he added. While delivering the keynote speech, the chairperson COPHC spoke at length about the experiences of his 7 years’ stay in Gwadar. “We are cognizant of the fact that Gwadar deserves more rapid development to live up to the expectations of the local people. There is no denying the fact that it has developed much during the past 7 years,” he remarked.

He stated three reasons for the promising prospects of Gwadar: the cooperation of the Gwadar people, its vast resources, and its strategic location. “The inhabitants of Gwadar deserve respect and development,” Zhang added. Zhang made it clear that Gwadar port was fully functional. Some problems do exist like logistics and lack of market demand, however, development is an evolutionary process and Gwadar is on its way towards industrialization, he mentioned.

“After the completion of M8, he said, cargos will be able to reach Lahore and other major cities, reducing the distance significantly. 4 new Chinese investors are coming to Gwadar to explore opportunities and investment potentials in the refinery, textile, petrochemical and agricultural sectors,” acclaimed the chairperson. “COPHC is one of the major players in Gwadar and has undertaken remarkable steps in Gwadar’s development. Gwadar is my second home and we are ready to collaborate with local community in educational development. We can offer exchange programs for the students and academics of Gwadar. Through the scientific research laboratory we will impart sophisticated know-how to the local youth,” Zhang pronounced. It has been observed that for the pursuit of a clean and green Gwadar, more than 50,000 plants were planted, predominantly spearheaded by COPHC.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/939113/china-grants-5b-yuan-for-socio-economic-projects-in-gwadar/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese company announces to establish EV plant in Karachi

The ‘Gauss Auto Group,’ a Chinese corporation, has announced to construct electric vehicle (EV) plant in Pakistan’s special economic zone near Port Qasim in Karachi.

The company would enter into a Joint Venture (JV) with AKD Group Holdings (Pvt.) limited and set up the plant near Port Qasim, Karachi on around 1000 acres of land.

The development comes after a delegation led by Mr. Chen Feng, CEO Gauss Auto Group and CEO AKD Group Holding, Mr. Nasir Rizwan visited the Board of Investment (BOI) and held a detailed meeting with the Federal Minister Board of Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Secretary BOI Ms. Fareena Mazhar.

The delegation also highlighted their intention to export their locally produced EVs from Pakistan to other countries. The organization delivered a comprehensive presentation of their production plant and apprised BOI leadership on the variants of the vehicles they are already producing.

Secretary BOI briefed the delegation about Pakistan’s recently launched Electric Vehicle policy which offers benefits to both; existing and new manufacturers. BOI leadership encouraged Gauss Auto Group to invest in auto sector of Pakistan and extended maximum support and facilitation to the company.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-company-announces-to-establish-ev-plant-in-karachi/>

The Nation

Pakistan, China Enjoy Exemplary Strategic Ties Based On Mutual Respect: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD – Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday visited the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad to mark the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

Speaking on the occasion, she said, “We mark this day as a historic day.” The minister said the Pak-China relationship has not only brought economic and human development in Pakistan but also contributed to bringing regional prosperity. She said China withstood us through thick and thin and it helped the interests of Pakistan at all the forums across the world. She said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a historic strategic partnership example.

Referring to the recent terror incident in Karachi in which three Chinese nationals were killed, the minister said, “We will bring the culprits to justice.”

She said the entire security infrastructure is being monitored by the Prime Minister himself. The minister said the CPEC projects will be expedited.

The information minister, who visited the embassy on the direction of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, read out his message on the occasion.

In her remarks, Chinese Charge d'Affaires Pang Chunxue said China and Pakistan are close neighbours, connected by mountains and rivers and the two countries have a shared future. She said under the strategic guidance of the leaders of our two countries, the China-Pakistan relations have continued to grow. She said China always regards its ties with Pakistan as a priority.

Info minister visits China embassy to mark 71st anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations

The Chinese Charge d' Affaires said, "We firmly support Pakistan in defending national sovereignty and dignity, maintaining unity and achieving stability, development and prosperity." She said we will implement the consensus reached by the leadership of our two countries to strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, science and technology, culture and education and help Pakistan to speed up industrialization.

Referring to the recent terrorist attack near the Confucius Institute at Karachi University, the Chinese diplomat said any attempt to undermine China-Pakistan friendship and cooperation is doomed to fail. She said the Confucius Institute will continue to teach Chinese to Pakistani students through various means. She said hearts of our two peoples will become closer. To celebrate 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, the Information Minister, the Chinese Charge d' Affaires and Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid cut the cake. The Minister also recorded her impressions in the visitors' book.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/22/pakistan-china-enjoy-exemplary-strategic-ties-based-on-mutual-respect-marriyum/>

Crucial China Trip

The foreign policy overture tour continues for Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari as the foreign office attempts to make amends for the missteps made in recent times, especially when it comes to key international actors. Following his visit to the US, the Foreign Minister is undertaking his maiden trip to China.

Though the FM has made visits to the US and Saudi Arabia since assuming office, those trips were not bilateral in nature, and this time around, the minister of state for foreign affairs and senior ministry officials will be part of the foreign minister's delegation. This appears to be part of a renewed push by the coalition government to enhance cooperation with Beijing, which is crucial especially in light of the ongoing economic crisis.

The agenda is expected to cover the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on deepening trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. It is important for us to also discuss the fast-tracking of CPEC projects, which were stalled under the previous government. Given our energy challenges, the operationalisation of these neglected projects must be undertaken urgently.

The security of these projects and of Chinese nationals residing and working in the country could also come under discussion. In recent times, there have been multiple attacks, some of which also tragically claimed the lives of Chinese nationals. A trend has emerged and our security agencies must be extremely vigilant going forward. Beijing too has asked to tighten up security so we may have to give them further assurances on this matter during the trip.

Reports also suggest that the coalition government is looking in Beijing's direction for support in view of the grave economic challenges facing the country. Before that can happen however, China and other partners of Pakistan want the new government to resume the IMF programme. All in all, this is an extremely important trip considering how China is among our most reliable allies and it is good to see the foreign office team work in overdrive to shore up the country's key alliances.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/22/crucial-china-trip/>

Pakistan's Dried Fruits Export To China Reaches \$65 Million

BEIJING – Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, Hussain Haider Wednesday said that exports of nuts and dried fruits from Pakistan to China reached \$65 million in 2021, a surge from \$8 million in 2020, which shows great potential for Pakistan's dried fruits export to China.

“Pakistan has a strong agricultural foundation and quality dried fruits. Under the second phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, Pakistan exports dried fruits to China with zero tariffs, which is of great benefit to Pakistan,” he said while addressing webinar on the export of dried fruits and nuts from Pakistan. The webinar was organized by Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan to tap the numerous potential of Pakistan's dried fruits export to China, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Hussain Haider said, “Chinese snack food is a rapidly expanding market and snacks with high nutrition are becoming more popular. Preference for small packages is growing and online purchase is becoming the prevailing mode of purchase. By catering to the needs of the Chinese market, Pakistani dried fruits companies can seize business opportunities.” More than 20 related companies from China and Pakistan attended the webinar. Pakistani enterprises propose to simplify road transport procedures, increase transport channels and reduce transportation costs. The ongoing epidemic in Shanghai has made people pay more and more attention to food and realize the importance of nutritious food that can improve immunity and can be preserved for a long time.

Chinese trade, logistics, and e-commerce enterprises present believe that Pakistan's export of dried fruits to China has a bright future, and they are willing to display quality Pakistani dried fruit products through exhibitions and other channels to expand its popularity in China. Pakistan exported oilseeds, nuts, and kernels worth \$185.2 million during the first ten months (July-April) of the current fiscal year against the exports of \$84.6 million during the same period of the last fiscal year, showing an increase of 118.93 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

(PBS). In terms of quantity, the exports of oilseeds, nuts, and kernels also increased by 76.06 percent, going up from 77,415 MT to 136,294 MT, according to the data. China has become Pakistan's largest trading partner for years. In the first four months of 2022, China imported a total of 2.819 million tons of dried and fresh melons and nuts, an increase of 12.9 percent over the same period last year.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/22/pakistans-dried-fruits-export-to-china-reaches-65-million/>

Chinese Company To Introduce Corn, Cotton, Wheat Seeds To Improve Yield In Pakistan

BEIJING – Vice President of China Seed Association, Zhang Qin Wednesday said that her company was about to promote corn, cotton, wheat, and vegetable seeds in Pakistan to assist it in variety optimization and yield improvement of these crops.

“Our company has entered the Pakistani market for 15 years and has introduced more than 20 varieties of high-yield rice seeds to Pakistan,” she said who is also the CEO of Win-all Hi-Tech Seed Co., Ltd, a leading seed enterprise in China. Chinese rice seeds have been widely planted in Pakistan and have contributed a lot to rice production. Zhang Qin believed that the successful experience of rice could be used for reference in more crops in the future, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

“Take cotton as an example. Although it is one of the largest crops in Pakistan, its unit yield is far behind that in Xinjiang, China, and Pakistan is importing a large portion of its cotton.” Zhang Qin noted. She told us that her company had bought the largest cotton seed company in Xinjiang. “Since Xinjiang and Pakistan are adjacent to each other and have similar natural conditions, it is easier for our Xinjiang company to breed high-yield and high-quality cotton seeds suitable for planting in Pakistan.”

High amylose corn is a dual functional crop that can be used as functional food and material, such as the raw material for the degradable film. Win-all Hi-Tech has done a lot of work on that.

“We have successfully bred high amylose corn. Its price is much higher than that of ordinary corn. We plan to introduce such corn varieties to Pakistan to increase the income of corn farmers there.” “When we visited Pakistan Farmers Association in 2019, they expressed their expectation to export more agricultural products from Pakistan to China,” Zhang Qin recalls.

“China has the largest population in the world, which create a big demand for the mentioned agricultural products. Through exporting seeds and importing grains, we can not only provide Pakistan farmers with more yield and more sales channels, but also address China's shortage of those crops.” Zhang Qin suggested. “We have submitted our plan of coordinating Pakistani agricultural products imports to the related department and hope we can contribute to Pak-China trade in the future,” She added.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/22/chinese-company-to-introduce-corn-cotton-wheat-seeds-to-improve-yield-in-pakistan/>

PM Expresses Resolve To Take Pak-China Cooperation To New Heights

LAHORE – Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Saturday congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping, the governments and the peoples of the two countries on the 71st anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations. In his message on the occasion, he said China and Pakistan are the names of two brothers. The Prime Minister said the leadership and peoples of the two countries have nurtured this evergreen tree of friendship over the past 71 years. The Prime Minister paid rich tributes to all the leaders of both the countries, who made efforts to transform this unmatched friendship into Cooperative Strategic Partnership and the Iron Brothers relationship.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/22/pm-expresses-resolve-to-take-pak-china-cooperation-to-new-heights/>

Pashto-China Song To Celebrate 71st Anniversary Of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations

PESHAWAR – On the occasion of the 71st anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations, the people Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have sent a friendship message in the form of a song

to their Chinese brothers and sisters to further strengthen the ties. The song prepared in Pashto language by China Window, a Chinese Cultural Center based in Peshawar, in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Youth and KP Culture and Tourism Authority.

A colorful song launching ceremony was held at China Window with famous singer of subcontinent Khayal Muhammad inaugurated the song.

A large number of people from different walks of life were present on the occasion. The song was written by Hashmat Javed, a renowned poet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gohar Jan composed the music while eminent director Ahmad Nawaz acted as the director. Famous Pakistani singers Sitara Younis and Sajjad Khan have sung it with prominent Chinese singers Shao Feng and Lan Yuliang. Legendary singer Khayal Mohammad, who has sung more than 50,000 songs in many languages including Urdu and Pashto, officially launched the song on the occasion of 71st Anniversary of Pak-China friendship. Talking to media, Khayal Muhammad said that Pak-China friendship is deeper than the sea and higher than the Himalayas and will be further strengthened in the future. Poet Hashmat Javed Javid said that he has written hundreds of songs but it is no less an honour for him to write this song regarding Pak-China friendship. He said that this song in Pashto and Chinese language is the voice of hearts of all Pakistanis.

Administrator China Window Amjad Aziz Malik said about the song that since the establishment of China Window, they have been trying their best to send a message from Peshawar and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/22/pashto-china-song-to-celebrate-71st-anniversary-of-pak-china-diplomatic-relations/>

Jang News

چینی باشندوں پر حملہ کرنیوالوں کو کیفر کردار تک پہنچائیں گے، وزیر خارجہ بلاول

وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری کا کہنا ہے کہ بے قصور چینی باشندوں کو نشانہ بنانے کی مذمت کرتے ہیں، یقین دلاتے ہیں چینی باشندوں پر حملہ کرنے والوں کو جلد کیفر کردار تک پہنچائیں گے۔

وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے گوانگژو میں چینی ہم منصب سے ملاقات کی جس میں پاک چین تعلقات پر تفصیلی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا، جبکہ فوڈ کی سطح پر بھی ملاقات ہوئی۔ دونوں رہنماؤں کی مشترکہ پریس کانفرنس میں بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے کہا پاک چین دوستی وقت کے ساتھ مزید مضبوط ہو رہی ہے، پاکستان ون چائنا پالیسی پر یقین رکھتا ہے۔ پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کے 71 برس مکمل ہونے پر وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری اور چینی ہم منصب نے ایک بھی کاٹا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان چین دوستی نہ صرف علاقائی بلکہ عالمی امن کیلئے بھی بہت ضروری ہے، شاندار میزبانی پر چین کا شکر گزار ہوں وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری کا کہنا تھا کہ بطور وزیر خارجہ چین کے پہلے دورے پر انتہائی مسرت ہے۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ وزیر اعظم اور پاکستانی عوام کی طرف سے چینی قیادت اور عوام کیلئے نیک خواہشات کا پیغام لایا ہوں، میرا دورہ دوطرفہ تعلقات کے 71 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔

وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ پاکستان چین کے ساتھ قریبی دوستی اور اسٹریٹجک تعلقات کو انتہائی اہمیت دیتا ہے، ہر مشکل وقت میں چین کے بھرپور تعاون اور مدد پر شکر گزار ہیں۔ بلاول نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والے چینی شہریوں کی سیکورٹی یقینی بنائی جا رہی ہے، انہوں نے چینی وزیر خارجہ کیساتھ دوطرفہ تجارت، اقتصادی تعلقات اور سرمایہ کاری پر مفید تبادلہ خیال کیا۔

وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے بتایا کہ پاکستان ہمسایہ ملک افغانستان میں امن اور استحکام کا خواہشمند ہے، افغان مسئلے کو طاقت کے بجائے مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل کرنے پر یقین رکھتے ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ کسی کو بھی پاکستان چین دوستی کو نقصان پہنچانے کی اجازت نہیں دیں گے۔

وزیر خارجہ کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ بھارت مقبوضہ کشمیر میں مسلم اکثریت کو اقلیت میں بدلنے کی کوششیں کر رہا ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان خطے کو درپیش مسائل سفارتکاری کے ذریعے حل کرنے پر رُو دیتا ہے۔

اس موقع پر چینی ہم منصب نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے ساتھ اپنی مضبوط دوستی کو انتہائی اہمیت دیتے ہیں، وزیر خارجہ کی حیثیت سے بلاول بھٹو کو خوش آمدید کہتے ہیں۔

چینی وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کا مختلف علاقائی اور عالمی امور پر یکساں موقف رہا ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1089325>

May 23, 2022

Business Recorder

CPEC under renewed Sino-Pak focus

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Sunday expressed their firm resolve to synergizing development strategies, pushing forward all CPEC projects in a safe, smooth and high-quality

manner, and also agreed to make optimum use of Phase-II of CPFTA and work together to diversify their trade ties.

The resolve was expressed through a joint statement, issued at the conclusion of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's two-day official visit to China for his first official bilateral trip after taking office as Foreign Minister at the invitation of State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

"Both sides expressed firm resolve to synergize development strategies, pushing forward all China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in a safe, smooth, and high-quality manner, promoting cooperation in areas such as economy and trade, investment, industry, agriculture, health, and science and technology, contributing to the peoples' well-being and delivering greater benefits to local communities," said the joint statement.

Noting with satisfaction the record bilateral trade achieved last year, it added that the two sides agreed to work together to make optimum use of phase-II of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) and work together to diversify their trade ties with deepening cooperation in export-oriented sectors in Pakistan and integrating value chains of the two countries.

It further stated that the two sides noted with satisfaction the steady growth of economic cooperation between China and Pakistan. In this context, they agreed that CPEC has effectively improved Pakistan's infrastructure and boosted its socio-economic development.

"Both sides also agreed on stronger collaboration in the services sector and skill development in the areas of tourism, education, financial and information technology sectors," it added.

During the visit, State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held in-depth discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations, as well as, regional and international issues of shared interest.

"The talks were conducted in a warm and friendly atmosphere, in line with the finest tradition of mutual trust and cooperation between the two countries," it stated, adding that the two sides agreed that amidst profound regional and international changes, the importance of China-Pakistan strategic relations has assumed even greater significance.

"As all-weather strategic cooperative partners, China and Pakistan share ironclad mutual trust and friendship, which is a source of peace, stability, and prosperity for the region and beyond. Both sides reaffirmed their strong support for each other's core interests and major concerns, and commitment to deepening strategic communication including at the highest political level and practical cooperation, and building an even stronger China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era," the statement added.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the growing momentum of bilateral defence cooperation and exchanges. They underlined that China-Pakistan defence cooperation was in fact a factor of peace and stability in the region, it added.

The two sides termed terrorism as the common enemy of humanity, it stated, adding that they once again strongly condemned the Karachi University Confucius Institute terrorist attack.

Pakistan reiterated that efforts will be made to speed up investigation, hunt down the culprits, and bring them to justice. Pakistan briefed the Chinese side on its efforts to ensure the safety of all Chinese nationals, projects, and institutions in the country, it added.

“China appreciated Pakistan’s commitment to the safety and security of Chinese nationals. Pakistan and China will further enhance counter-terrorism and security cooperation,” it stated, adding that the two sides called on the regional countries and the international community to form synergy and fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The two sides expressed their determination not to allow anyone to damage China-Pakistan iron brotherhood, it added. In the face of multiple traditional and non-traditional global challenges, the two sides agreed on the need for international cooperation and solidarity. They noted that, based on the principles of win-win cooperation and shared benefits, Belt and Road cooperation has become an open and inclusive platform for international cooperation and is widely welcomed as a global public good.

“The China-proposed Global Development Initiative (GDI) and Global Security Initiative (GSI) are new initiatives to respond to the pressing challenges facing the humanity,” it stated, adding that both countries stand ready to work with other countries to focus on the development agenda, tackle security challenges, implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind.

The two sides discussed the Ukraine situation, noting the necessity of being alert to the negative spill overs of the Ukraine crisis, in particular preventing its impact on developing countries, and called on relevant parties involved in the conflict to resolve differences and disputes through diplomacy and dialogue.

Through the statement, the two sides reaffirmed the firm commitment to upholding the UN-centered international system, the international order based on international law, and the basic norms governing international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, practicing true multilateralism, and promoting democracy and rule of law in international relations.

The two sides underscored that Asia, with its rich history, civilizational heritage and growing economic potential, is playing a leading role for peace, prosperity, and economic development in the region and beyond.

The two sides hoped that in the pursuance of these cherished goals, the regional countries would uphold Asian values of mutual respect, equality and win-win cooperation, and build an open and inclusive regional architecture, safeguard peace and stability in the region, and advance common development and prosperity.

Both sides reiterated that a peaceful and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties. Given the challenges faced by the peoples of the region, due to global pandemic, soaring

commodity prices, climate change and poverty, they stated that it is critical to resolve all outstanding disputes to promote regional cooperation and advance the goals of lasting peace, stability and shared prosperity.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari briefed the Chinese side about the latest developments in Jammu and Kashmir. The two sides underlined the importance of the peaceful resolution of the dispute based on the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

The two sides discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan. The two sides agreed that peace and stability in Afghanistan was vital for regional development and prosperity.

The two sides called upon the Afghan interim government to develop a broad-based and inclusive political structure, adopt moderate and sound internal and external policies, and protect the rights of women and children and ensure that the Afghan soil is not used against any of its neighbours.

Both sides called on the international community to help avert humanitarian crisis and earnestly honour the pledges on Afghanistan's economic reconstruction and future development.

“Both sides support the continued contribution of the mechanism of coordination and cooperation among Afghanistan's neighbouring countries and expressed readiness to work with all parties to implement the Tunxi Initiative of the Neighbouring Countries of Afghanistan on Supporting Economic Reconstruction and Practical Cooperation with Afghanistan and provide all possible support for the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan,” the statement added.

The two sides also reiterated their readiness to extend CPEC to Afghanistan in consultation with the Afghan interim government and to the mutual benefit of all parties.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari thanked State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi for the safe and secure return of Pakistani students in a phased manner to China. The two sides also decided to resume direct flight between the two countries carried out by Pakistan airlines at the earliest and subsequently increase direct flights based on the evolving pandemic situation.

Foreign Minister Bilawal thanked State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi for the hospitality extended to him and his delegation in the finest Chinese tradition of hospitality. Wang Yi accepted his invitation to visit Pakistan for Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue, the joint statement added.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/23/1-page/930507-news.html>

Pakistani mangoes set to enter Chinese market next week

BEIJING: The first consignment of Pakistani mangoes of present season will be transported by air cargo service in Kunming, capital city of China's South-Western Yunnan province.

The shipment comprising 3-4 tons of “Sindhri” variety of mangoes is likely to arrive on May 28 as per the tentative schedule of the airline, Adnan Hafeez, director of Imperial Ventures (Pvt) Ltd., said in a media interview on Sunday.

The Pakistani mangoes would be sold in the market after custom clearance and necessary certifications by the relevant Chinese authorities, he added.

“The Farm’s Choice” an indigenous premium fruit brand operation by Imperial Ventures Private Limited has been extensively working on promotion and marketing of Pakistani Mango in China since last six years and has seen positive growth trend.

He said, this year, the expected export of mangoes from Pakistan to China is set to touch 100 tons which is almost 100 percent increase from last year but the recent wave of Covid-19 pandemic in China could affect the outcome. “We also look forward that all relevant departments will provide close coordination and all possible support to make it successful,” he added. Adnan Hafeez said that many Chinese people prefer mangoes imported from South Asian countries especially Pakistan because of its pulp and taste. As per official data, Pakistan is among the top mango exporters in the world, and mango is known as the king of fruits in Pakistan.—NNI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/23/16-page/930615-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan, China term terrorism ‘common enemy of humanity’

In the meeting of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, the two leaders urged the regional countries and international community to fight terrorism together, while terming terrorism as the “common enemy of humanity.” “The two sides called on the regional countries and the international community to form synergy and fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,” a joint statement issued by Pakistan and China read. The statement was issued after the meeting of FM Bilawal with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Guangzhou on Sunday during his maiden visit to China. FM Bilawal landed in China with an aim to strengthen bilateral and economic ties on Saturday. The two leaders met in Guangzhou Sunday morning.

FM Bilawal briefed the Chinese side on its efforts to ensure the safety of all Chinese nationals, projects, and institutions in the country, as the two sides once again condemned the terrorist attack outside Confucius Institute, Karachi University.

He also reiterated that efforts will be made to speed up investigation, hunt down the culprits, and bring them to justice.

In response, China appreciated Pakistan’s commitment to the safety and security of Chinese nationals. Pakistan and China will further enhance counter-terrorism and security cooperation, the statement said.

Moreover, the foreign minister discussed issues of mutual interest and bilateral relations with Wang. The Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin, during a press briefing held earlier in Beijing, expressed China's desire to use Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's visit as an opportunity to continue with the traditional friendship with Pakistan. He said that Beijing hopes to consolidate strategic mutual trust and further deepen the all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership. Taking to Twitter, FM Bilawal thanked Wang for a warm welcome and hospitality. "Such a delight to visit #Guangzhou, meet State Councilor & FM #WangYi, celebrate 71 years of enduring ties and discuss matters of mutual interest. I thank the State Councilor for warm reception & gracious hospitality in #China," he wrote.

The FM said that the two leaders discussed enhanced economic engagement, trade, investments, industrialisation and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) cooperation and exchange students in the meeting. He said that Pakistan and China are committed to elevating the partnership to a higher level. The foreign minister's two-day trip – May 21-22 – is his first bilateral visit abroad since assuming office last month. Bilawal is in China at the invitation of State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, the Foreign Office had said in a statement.

A Foreign Office statement issued before the foreign minister's visit said Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and senior officials will be part of the delegation.

During the visit, Bilawal will hold extensive consultations with Yi, the statement had said. "The two leaders will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China," the Foreign Office said.

Fast-tracked progress on the transformational CPEC and the flagship project of President Xi Jinping's visionary Belt and Road Initiative will also feature in the discussions. The two sides will also have a wide-ranging exchange of views on major regional and international issues.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/939454/pakistan-china-term-terrorism-common-enemy-of-humanity/>

Hybrid oilseed to enhance Pak edible oil production: Chinese expert

Executive member of the Asia and Pacific Seed Association and General Manager of Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed Company, Zhu Xiaobo said that the hybrid canola variety developed by her company has been planted in Pakistan about 10,000 hectares of land, covering around 6,000 households.

In the next three to five years, we expect it to expand to over 40,000 hectares and provide more, healthier edible oil to Pakistani people, she told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview.

Edible oil shortage has long been a hot topic in Pakistan, which imports edible oil worth \$250 million annually, accounting for 75pc of its entire consumption.

The hybrid canola developed by the company and planted in Bhakkar, Multan, Draya Khan, Chishtian, etc. of Punjab, features earlier maturation, short strain, and low content of erucic acid and glucosinolate, two substances that adversely affect people's cardiovascular health. So far, the

hybrid variety has been certified by Pakistani authorities for its health value. Farmers planting this variety will obtain government subsidies.

Currently, rapeseed is being cultivated on 0.23 million hectares of land across Pakistan, covering 12pc of the entire oilseeds cultivated area. According to estimation, this area is likely to be increased by 10pc-15pc this year. During FY2021 (July-March), among the 2.917 million tonnes of edible imported, local production is provisionally estimated at 0.374 million tonnes, grabbing a mere 13pc share, told Ghazanfar Ali, Head of Marketing, Evyol Group, an agriculture services provider group and business partner of Qingfa Hesheng. “Pakistan needs to ensure food security for a fast-multiplying population. For this, we ought to be independent in local seed production. This is where we look forward to China’s cooperation for meaningful technical support both in terms of training and development of local human resources and farm mechanization, he said. In Pakistan, the prevailing rape mustard is low in oil yield but rich in erucic acid and glucosinolate. On the other hand, Chinese oilseed rape varieties used to be vulnerable to pod splitting and lodging.

“Through hybrid technologies, we overcome these disadvantages by lowering erucic content to less than 3pc and the glucosinolate content to less than 30 micromoles per gram. The plants are shorter and more resilient to gusts. The growth period is shortened by 8 to 10 days, which allows farmers to arrange the next crops and get better output of whole year, Ms. Zhu introduced.

While promoting the hybrid canola variety, Ghazanfar Ali found that awareness about better quality oil, higher yield, and higher market price of the hybrid canola is yet to be improved for farmers to further tap the benefits of the hybrid technology.

“Luckily, consumers are paying more attention to health when it comes to food and ingredients”, he added. Punjab farmers told the reporter that for each acre of this hybrid oilseed rape, they can get a subsidy up to Rs. 5000. “We bought the designated variety, register at the local agriculture extension department, and then we will receive the government subsidy,” a farmer in Multan said. Production and health, this is what I expect out of this hybrid variety.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/939630/hybrid-oilseed-to-enhance-pak-edible-oil-production-chinese-expert/>

Dawn News

FM Bilawal hopeful China ties will deepen in many areas

Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Sunday reiterated commitment to cementing bilateral relations in the fields of defence, trade, economy, investment, health, agriculture, science and technology and CPEC to the mutual benefit of the two counties.

The two sides made these commitments at a meeting of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi during the former’s maiden visit to China.

According to the Foreign Office, the visit coincided with the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan. The two leaders held in-depth discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of shared interest. The talks were conducted in a warm and friendly atmosphere, in line with the finest tradition of mutual trust and cooperation between the two countries.

According to a joint statement, the two sides agreed that amidst profound regional and international changes, the importance of China-Pakistan strategic relations has assumed even greater significance.

Bilawal meets Wang, thanks him for safe return of students

China and Pakistan reaffirmed their strong support for each other's core interests and major concerns and commitment to deepening strategic communication, including at the highest political level and practical cooperation, and building an even stronger China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the steady growth of economic cooperation between China and Pakistan. In this context, they agreed that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has effectively improved Pakistan's infrastructure and boosted its socio-economic development.

Both sides expressed firm resolve to synergising development strategies, pushing forward all CPEC-related projects in a safe, smooth and high-quality manner, promoting cooperation in areas such as economy and trade, investment, industry, agriculture, health, and science and technology, contributing to the peoples' well-being and delivering greater benefits to local communities.

Noting with satisfaction the record bilateral trade achieved last year, the two sides agreed to work together to make optimum use of phase-II of CPFTA and work together to diversify their trade ties with deepening cooperation in export-oriented sectors in Pakistan and integrating value chains of the two countries. Both sides also agreed on stronger collaboration in the services sector and skill development in tourism, education, financial and information technology sectors.

Defence cooperation

They expressed satisfaction over the growing momentum of bilateral defence cooperation and exchanges. They underlined that China-Pakistan defence cooperation was in fact a factor of peace and stability in the region.

The two sides termed terrorism as the common enemy of humanity and strongly condemned the Karachi University terrorist attack. On this, Pakistan reiterated that efforts will be made to speed up investigation, hunt down the culprits, and bring them to justice. Pakistan briefed the Chinese side on its efforts to ensure the safety of all Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in the country.

China appreciated Pakistan's commitment to the safety and security of Chinese nationals. Pakistan and China will further enhance counter-terrorism and security cooperation. The two

sides called on the regional countries and the international community to form synergy and fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The two sides expressed their determination not to allow anyone to damage China-Pakistan iron brotherhood.

In the face of multiple traditional and non-traditional global challenges, the two sides agreed on the need for international cooperation and solidarity. They noted that based on the principles of win-win cooperation and shared benefits, Belt and Road cooperation has become an open and inclusive platform for international cooperation and is widely welcomed as a global public good.

The China-proposed Global Development Initiative (GDI) and Global Security Initiative (GSI) are new initiatives to respond to the pressing challenges facing the humanity.

The two sides discussed the Ukraine situation, noting the necessity of being alert to the negative spillovers of the Ukraine crisis, in particular preventing its impact on developing countries, and called on the relevant parties involved in the conflict to resolve differences and disputes through diplomacy and dialogue.

They reaffirmed the firm commitment to upholding the UN-centered international system, the international order based on international law, and the basic norms governing international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN charter, practicing true multilateralism, and promoting democracy and rule of law in international relations.

The two sides hoped that the regional countries would uphold Asian values of mutual respect, equality and win-win cooperation, and build an open and inclusive regional architecture, safeguard peace and stability in the region, and advance common development and prosperity. Both sides reiterated that a peaceful and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties.

Situation in held Kashmir

Mr Bhutto-Zardari briefed the Chinese side on the latest developments in India-held Kashmir. The two sides underlined the importance of the peaceful resolution of the dispute based on the UN charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

Pakistan and China also discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan and agreed that peace and stability in Afghanistan was vital for regional development and prosperity. Both sides support the continued contribution of the mechanism of coordination and cooperation among Afghanistan's neighbouring countries. They also reiterated their readiness to extend CPEC to Afghanistan in consultation with the Afghan interim government and to the mutual benefit of all parties. Mr Bhutto-Zardari thanked State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi for the safe and secure return of Pakistani students in a phased manner to China. The two sides also decided to resume direct flights between the two countries at the earliest and subsequently increase direct flights based on the evolving pandemic situation.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1691058/fm-bilawal-hopeful-china-ties-will-deepen-in-many-areas>

Pakistan Observer

Bilawal, Wang discuss industrialisation and CPEC cooperation

Islamabad will not allow anyone to dent Pak-China ties; both leaders cut cake to celebrate 71st anniversary of diplomatic ties

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday held talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Guangzhou to push Pakistan-China relations to a new height and build a closer community of Pakistan-China shared future in the new era.

This is Bilawal Bhutto's maiden visit to China after he took office of foreign minister of Pakistan and it is also the first official interaction between high-level officials of the two countries after the establishment of the new Pakistani government.

Bilawal Bhutto and State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi jointly met the press after holding talks with in Guangzhou. Bilawal Bhutto expressed Pakistan's determination of not allowing anyone to dent Pakistan-China relations. He said Pakistan and China enjoy unique and time-tested iron brotherhood. He said bilateral relations between the two countries are based on solidarity, trust, mutual respect and support.

He also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism for the peace, stability, and development in the region and beyond.

Condemning the terrorist attack on Chinese scholars at Karachi University last month, Bilawal said the perpetrators involved in this heinous crime will be taken to justice. He said Pakistan accords the highest importance to ensure safety, security and protection of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan.

Talking about ever deteriorating human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, he said India is trying to change Muslim majority by allowing non-natives to settle in IIOJK. He also thanked China for its consistent support to Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir dispute.

The Foreign Minister further said the situation in Afghanistan continues to pose direct threat to peace and stability in the region. He said the festering humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is a threat to economic collapse and have serious consequences not only for the people of Afghanistan but also for the whole region.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs here said, China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners and friends who stand together through thick and thin. Close strategic communication is a fine tradition of both sides.

The foreign ministers of the two countries held fruitful talks, which further consolidated the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan, further enhanced the political mutual trust between the two countries, and strengthened the cooperation confidence between the two sides.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari along with China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday cut a cake to celebrate the 71 years of establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China.

Bilawal Bhutto is on a two-day visit to China at the invitation of Wang Yi and is in Guangzhou, southern Chinese city and also the largest city and capital of China Guangdong province.

In a tweet, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian congratulated Pakistan and China on the 71st anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations.

In his message, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said, on 71st anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic ties, we reaffirm to further fortify our iron-clad friendship, strengthen strategic communication, deepen eco engagement and promote people-to-people exchanges, thus taking the relations to a high pedestal.

<https://pakobserver.net/bilawal-wang-discuss-industrialisation-and-cpec-cooperation/>

The Express Tribune

Bilawal assures China of its citizens' security in Pakistan

FM vows to further strengthen Sino-Pak cooperation

BEIJING: In his maiden visit to China after becoming the foreign minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the Sino-Pak relationship is "based on solidarity, trust, mutual respect and support".

"The two nations enjoy a unique, unrivaled and time-tested brotherhood," the foreign minister said while addressing a news conference alongside his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

Bilawal extended a warm invitation to Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Yi to visit Islamabad.

The FM reiterated Pakistan's commitment to providing safety to Chinese citizens in the country, and once again strongly condemned the Karachi University Confucius Institute terrorist attack on April 29. He also emphasised Pakistan and China's shared commitment to stability and alleviation of poverty in the region.

He arrived in Guangzhou, China late Saturday on his first bilateral visit at the invitation of Yi. The two-day trip is also the first in-person high-level interaction between the two countries since the establishment of Pakistan's new government in April.

The foreign minister will hold extensive consultations with his Chinese counterpart Yi, during which they are expected to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Bilawal made the announcement of his arrival on Twitter, adding that Sunday also marked the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China.

Fast-tracked progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative, will also feature in the discussions.

According to a statement issued by Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin, the two sides will also have a wide-ranging exchange of views on major regional and international issues. "As all-weather strategic cooperative partners, it is necessary for China and Pakistan to improve communication and coordination on major issues to deal with changes in the region and risks and challenges," he added.

The spokesperson also stated that China hoped to use this visit as an opportunity to carry on with the traditional friendship with Pakistan, consolidate strategic mutual trust and further deepen the all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

The statement comes just days after Chinese Premier Li Keqiang assured his Pakistani counterpart, Shehbaz Sharif, of his country's readiness to enhance bilateral economic cooperation, expand trade and encourage greater investments from China to Pakistan, during a telephonic conversation on May 16.

In a statement on May 10, Bilawal also expressed that he sought to further strengthen Pakistan's "all-weather strategic partnership" with China, including through the "rapid implementation" of CPEC.

The statement issued by the Foreign Office said, "Pakistan will continue efforts to enhance cooperation with China through CPEC, to advance national implementation of SDGs, in addition to participating actively in the work of the GDI Group of Friends to promote the common aspiration of a peaceful, prosperous, and shared future for all mankind.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2357796/bilawal-assures-china-of-its-citizens-security-in-pakistan?amp=1>

The News

Pakistan, China agree to firm up strategic ties

Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China Sunday agreed that amidst profound regional and international changes, the importance of China-Pakistan strategic relations has assumed even greater significance.

"As All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners, China and Pakistan share ironclad mutual trust and friendship, which is a source of peace, stability, and prosperity for the region and beyond," said a 15-point joint statement issued at the conclusion of the maiden visit of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to China, on special invitation of his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. Both the foreign ministers met in the Chinese city of Guangzhou.

The visit coincided with the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan.

During wide-ranging talks with State Councilor Wang Yi, the foreign minister said he discussed enhanced economic engagement, trade, investments, industrialisation and CPEC cooperation and issues facing students, adding that both sides were committed to elevating the multi-faceted partnership to greater heights.

Both sides reaffirmed their strong support for each other's core interests and major concerns, and commitment to deepening strategic communication including at the highest political level and practical cooperation, and building an even stronger China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

China before the arrival of the foreign minister said it hoped to use Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visit as an opportunity to carry on with the traditional friendship with Pakistan, consolidate strategic mutual trust, and further deepen the all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to multilateralism for peace, stability, and development in the region and beyond. "China is my second home, and we have a three generation relationship with the people of China and the government of China. I look forward to make many more firsts with the people of China," Bilawal tweeted in between meetings.

Both sides reiterated that a peaceful and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties. Given the challenges faced by the peoples of the region, due to global pandemic, soaring commodity prices, climate change and poverty, it is critical to resolve all outstanding disputes to promote regional cooperation and advance the goals of lasting peace, stability and shared prosperity.

Great importance is being given to the Pak-China joint statement in which Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari briefed the Chinese side about the latest developments in occupied Jammu & Kashmir. The two sides underlined the importance of the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute based on the UN charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

During the joint press talk, Bilawal once again raised the issue of Kashmir pointing out the ever deteriorating human rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).

"India is trying to change Muslim majority of the state by allowing non-natives to settle," he said and thanked China for its consistent support to Pakistan's stance on Kashmir dispute.

While both sides termed terrorism the common enemy of humanity, China appreciated Pakistan's commitment to the safety and security of Chinese nationals.

"Pakistan and China will further enhance counter-terrorism and security cooperation. They once again condemned the Karachi University Confucius Institute terrorist attack. Pakistan reiterated

that efforts will be made to speed up investigation, hunt down the culprits, and bring them to justice,” said the joint statement.

In this connection, Pakistan briefed the Chinese side on its efforts to ensure the safety of all Chinese nationals, projects, and institutions in the country. The two sides called on the regional countries and the international community to form synergy and fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The two sides expressed their determination not to allow anyone to damage China-Pakistan iron brotherhood.

As defence cooperation continues to grow, both sides expressed satisfaction at the growing momentum of bilateral defence cooperation and exchanges. They underlined that China-Pakistan defence cooperation was in fact a factor of peace and stability in the region.

There was good news for Pakistani students wishing to return to China to continue their studies as Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari thanked State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi for the safe and secure return of Pakistani students in a phased manner to China.

“The two sides also decided to resume direct flights between the two countries carried out by Pakistan airlines at the earliest and subsequently increase direct flights based on the evolving pandemic situation,” said the joint statement.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the steady growth of economic cooperation between China and Pakistan. In this context, they agreed that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has effectively improved Pakistan’s infrastructure and boosted its socio-economic development.

Both sides expressed the firm resolve to synergising development strategies, pushing forward all CPEC projects in a safe, smooth, and high-quality manner, promoting cooperation in areas such as economy and trade, investment, industry, agriculture, health, and science and technology, contributing to the peoples’ well-being and delivering greater benefits to local communities.

Noting with satisfaction the record bilateral trade achieved last year, the two sides agreed to work together to make optimum use of phase-II of CPFTA and work together to diversify their trade ties with deepening cooperation in export-oriented sectors in Pakistan and integrating value chains of the two countries. Both sides also agreed on stronger collaboration in the services sector and skill development in the areas of tourism, education, financial and information technology sectors.

In the face of multiple traditional and non-traditional global challenges, the two sides agreed on the need for international cooperation and solidarity. They noted that, based on the principles of win-win cooperation and shared benefits, Belt and Road cooperation has become an open and inclusive platform for international cooperation and is widely welcomed as a global public good.

The China-proposed Global Development Initiative (GDI) and Global Security Initiative (GSI) are new initiatives to respond to the pressing challenges facing the humanity. Both countries stand ready to work with other countries to focus on the development agenda, tackle security challenges, implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and jointly build a

community with a shared future for mankind. The two sides discussed the Ukraine situation, noting the necessity of being alert to the negative spillovers of the Ukraine crisis, in particular preventing its impact on developing countries, and called on relevant parties involved in the conflict to resolve differences and disputes through diplomacy and dialogue.

They also reaffirmed the firm commitment to upholding the UN-centered international system, the international order based on international law, and the basic norms governing international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN charter, practicing true multilateralism, and promoting democracy and rule of law in international relations.

Afghanistan was also part of the talks and they discussed practical cooperation with Afghanistan and provide all possible support for the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

The two sides also reiterated their readiness to extend CPEC to Afghanistan in consultation with the Afghan interim government and to the mutual benefit of all parties. They also agreed that peace and stability in Afghanistan was vital for regional development and prosperity. The two sides called upon the Afghan interim government to develop a broad-based and inclusive political structure, adopt moderate and sound internal and external policies, and protect the rights of women and children and ensure that the Afghan soil is not used against any of its neighbours.

Both sides called on the international community to help avert humanitarian crisis and earnestly honour the pledges on Afghanistan's economic reconstruction and future development. Both sides support the continued contribution of the mechanism of coordination and cooperation among Afghanistan's neighbouring countries and expressed readiness to work with all parties.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office announced that at the invitation of president of the World Economic Forum (WEF), Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will attend the Forum's annual meeting from May 23-26 in Davos, Switzerland. The foreign minister will be accompanied by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar. This year the Forum is being organised under the theme, "history at a turning point: Government policies and business strategies". Both the foreign minister and the minister of state will participate in a number of WEF events on contemporary global and regional issues.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=90012>

Express News

ترت: چینی قافلے پر مبینہ حملے کی کوشش میں گرفتار ملزمہ کی ضمانت منظور

ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق مبینہ خود کش بمبار کو گزشتہ دنوں بلوچستان کے شہر ترت سے گرفتار کیا گیا تھا جس پر الزام ہے کہ وہ سی پیک روٹ پر چینی قافلے پر حملہ کرنے کی منصوبہ بندی کر رہی تھی۔

مبینہ حملہ آور خاتون کی درخواست ضمانت 5،5 لاکھ روپے کے مچکلوں کے عوض منظور کی گئی۔

یاد رہے کہ انسداد دہشت گردی فورس (سی ٹی ڈی) اور وومن پولیس نے خفیہ اطلاع پر تربت کے علاقے ہوشاب میں آپریشن کر کے نور جہاں کو گرفتار کیا تھا۔ قانونی نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کا کہنا تھا کہ ملزمہ کے قبضے سے دھماکا خیز مواد اور ڈیٹو نیٹر برآمد ہوئے ہیں۔

سی ٹی ڈی حکام نے کہا تھا کہ مبینہ حملہ آور کا تعلق کالعدم تنظیم بی ایل اے مجید بریگیڈ سے ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2325863/1/>

May 24, 2022

Business Recorder

First batch of ‘Made in China’ buses delivered for Karachi

BEIJING: The first batch of 120 12m Higer buses were delivered to Karachi.

As one of ‘Made in China’ representatives, the buses will guarantee Pakistan’s daily transportation, providing the locals with comfortable and perfect public transportation experience.

“We officially entered the Pakistani market in 2008. Last year, we sold a total of 115 passenger coaches and city buses locally. At the beginning of this year, we have launched in-depth cooperation with the governments of Sindh Province and Islamabad by customizing 250 and 30 buses respectively,” said Zhang Bangguo, South Asian Market Overseas Account Manager of Higer buses, in an interview with China Economic Net.

With the delivery of the first batch of Higer buses, 130 buses will be further delivered to Sindh soon.

On the first day of the delivering, the Minister of Transport & Mass Transit Sindh and the honourable Minister of Labour & Human Resources Sindh arrived at the scene in Suzhou, China for test-ride of the Higer buses and delivered a speech.

They both agreed that the first batch of buses have taken a solid step to improve the public transportation system in Karachi.

As Higer’s important product exported to Pakistan’s largest city, the first batch of Higer buses meet the regulatory requirements of local government, and also have made a series of adaptive improvements according to habits and aesthetics of the locals. The first batch of Higer buses will provide services to six major cities in Sindh, Pakistan, including Karachi.— NNI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/24/3-page/930641-news.html>

Media conclave and roundtable conference held in Gwadar

MUHAMMAD BILAL TAHIR

GWADAR: The “Haq Do Tahreek” (Rights Movement) of Balochistan has started bearing fruits to the people of the province as Chinese firms and government functionaries are endeavouring to expedite the work on socioeconomic development projects in Gwadar.

A two-day media conclave and roundtable conference titled “CSR Initiatives in Gwadar (The Gateway to CPEC)” was held in the strategic port town, jointly organised by Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad and the University of Gwadar in collaboration with COPHC, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) and Gwadar Development Authority (GDA).

The conference also stressed the need to address reservations of locals with evidence-based data sharing with all relevant stakeholders.

Jawed Akhtar Khokhar, Advisor, Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives gave a detailed overview of the development projects in Gwadar under various modalities and highlighted the CPEC projects in Gwadar worth US 2.1 billion dollars so far.

He said so far three projects worth \$ 314 million have been completed. These projects included Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan, physical infrastructure of Gwadar Port and Free Zone Phase-1, and Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute. Another seven projects worth \$ 1.44 billion are under implementation process. These projects included Eastbay Expressway, which is 98 percent completed, facilities of fresh water treatment, water supply and distribution, which are 70 percent completed, New Gwadar International Airport, Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar, infrastructure of Gwadar Free Zone Phase-II, 300 MW coal power plant and 1.2 million gallons desalination plant.

Khokhar said under the short-term strategy the prioritised projects included provision of water in three months and electricity in five months for Gwadar. Trading Corporation of Pakistan has been authorised to import one-third cargoes at Gwadar and completion of M-8 Motorway. Highlighting the long-term strategy, he said the government is aiming to build LNG and POL terminals at Gwadar Port and ensure availability of electricity, water and gas to enable Phase-2 expansion of the port. Speaking on the occasion, Naseer Khan Kashani, Chairman, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) stressed the importance of bringing the locals together through CSR. “We must prioritise people over infrastructure development. Drinkable water and electricity is the top priority of the authorities in Gwadar”, he stated.

Kashani said a desalination plant of about 1.2 million gallons would become operational in six to eight months that would provide drinkable water for the locals.

Moreover, the newly inaugurated state-of-the-art Pak-China Vocational & Technical Training Institute will provide three-year training to local youth, which is a big contribution by our Chinese friends, he added.

“Chinese authorities have also recently provided 3,000 solar panels to the poorest of the poor in Gwadar for the provision of electricity”, he informed.

While delivering the keynote speech, Zhang Baozhong, Chairman COPHC spoke at length about the experiences of his seven-year stay in Gwadar.

He stated three reasons for the promising prospects of Gwadar: the cooperation of the Gwadar people, its vast resources, and its strategic location.

“The inhabitants of Gwadar deserve respect and development according to their rightful demands”, Baozhong underscored.

“We are sending 20 students to China on scholarships every year. We have been running a primary school here for the last five years and soon we will construct a secondary school as well. More than 6000 solar panel units have been distributed among the people of Gwadar so far, and around 500,000 trees have been planted”, Shahzad Sultan, Country Head Marketing of COPHC informed while providing details of the CSR initiatives.

Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman highlighted the concept of CSR and elements that can improve the lives of the local inhabitants.

“We must have solution-oriented recommendations, not problem-oriented”, he said adding that positive thinking and improvement in governance will bring a huge change in the life of the people of Gwadar.

“CSR activities do not mean spending a share of your profit, it’s about creating an environment which is not harmful for the society in any way”, he added.

Professor Dr Abdul Razzaq Sabir, Vice-Chancellor, University of Gwadar, in his welcome address earlier appreciated the initiatives of IPS for identifying challenges in the area.

He said giving back to the society is the biggest responsibility of corporate sector. Working on development of human resources should be the biggest priority of the government and private sector. As Gwadar is expanding after development of the port, it is important to learn from China’s experience and expertise through student exchange programme.

“We must train our youth to become productive elements of Gwadar”.

He was of the view that CSR must be defined in local perspective. Local issues could be considered to resolve people’s genuine and basic issues and problems through CSR initiatives.

He emphasised that engaging local community and civil society could result in better planning, befitting solutions and better implementation with local wisdom and participation. Dr Rashid Aftab, Director Riphah Institute of Public Policy (RIPP) commented that reservations of locals must be addressed with evidence-based data sharing with all relevant stakeholders.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/24/5-page/930657-news.html>

Daily Times

Pak-China friendship deeper than the sea, higher than the Himalayas: Senator Samina

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri has congratulated Chinese President Xi Jin ping, Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, the governments and peoples of the both countries on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.

In her congratulatory message, she said, “Pakistan was proud of its everlasting and strong friendship with China. Pak-China friendship is everlasting and unique and is getting stronger with time.”

“The CPEC project is a living example of our mutual commitment to a lasting relationship between the two brother countries,” she said.

“The journey of Pak-China friendship spans decades and its scope have extended to all walks of life saying that China and Pakistan are two brothers. This is the happy day when the two countries sowed the seeds of friendship which has become a strong and fruitful tree in 71 years,” she said.

“Whether it is war or peace or any natural calamity, China has given full support to Pakistan in every difficult time and important occasions,” she noted.

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri said Chinese investment in Pakistan has played a significant role in economic development. Thanks to CPEC, billions of dollars are being invested in Pakistan and it is playing a key role in the development of Pakistan.” “At present thousands of Chinese are serving in Pakistan in various fields and is imparting knowledge to Pakistanis on administrative and technical skills.

She said that Chinese serving in Pakistan have been targeted by enemies in various terrorist acts so that disagreements arose between the two countries, but the governments and peoples of the two friendly countries did not allow the slightest difference in their friendship and the enemy failed in its nefarious aims.

The senator said, “The Chinese citizens in Pakistan have nurtured this friendship by sacrificing their precious lives and the everlasting sacrifices of their Chinese brothers will always be remembered by the people of Pakistan.”

“CPEC project is a great example of Pak-China friendship which is less to be proud of,” she added.

She said, “CPEC would be a messenger of positive change in the region and China’s friendship is deeper than the sea, sweeter than honey and higher than the Himalayas of which every Pakistani is proud.”

She said that Pakistani people highly value China’s blunt stance on Kashmir issue. Samina Mumtaz said, “Pak-China friendship is not digested by the enemies of both the countries but our security agencies have always thwarted the tricks of these vicious and cowardly enemies. She said that protection of Chinese citizens in Pakistan is our top priority and all resources are being utilized for this.” She said that Pak-China friendship would last till the end of time and it would get stronger with the passage of time.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/940119/pak-china-friendship-deeper-than-the-sea-higher-than-the-himalayas-senator-samina-2/>

Hard work key to unlocking true potential of Pak-China ties

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari observed Monday that the “harder” Beijing and Islamabad work, the more both countries can “unlock the true economic potential of the Pakistan-China relationship”.

“We feel that the harder we work, the more we can unlock the true economic potential of the Pakistan-China relationship,” Bilawal said in an interview with China’s state-run broadcaster CGTN.

The foreign minister emphasised that the ties with Beijing are the “cornerstone” of Pakistan’s foreign policy.

Bilawal, who was on an official visit to China from May 21 to 22, said that all the coalition partners in the current government attach great importance to the country’s relationship with China. Bilawal labeled China’s proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) a “truly inspirational” project, adding that “it has enormous economic potential globally.”

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship cooperation program under the BRI, “has contributed immensely” to the economic cooperation between Pakistan and China and created economic opportunities for both Pakistani businesses and Chinese investors, he was quoted by CTGN. The foreign minister highlighted that the Shehbaz Sharif-led government “is very keen” to enhance ties with China in building CPEC. “We feel that the harder we work, the more we can unlock the true economic potential of the Pakistan-China relationship,” he said. Commenting on China’s dynamic zero-COVID approach, the country’s top diplomat said it shows that Beijing “attaches utmost importance” to the people’s lives and health.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/940170/hard-work-key-to-unlocking-true-potential-of-pak-china-ties/>

7 projects worth \$1.44b under way in Gwadar

Seven development projects under various modalities, worth \$1.44 billion, are under implementation process in Gwadar.

Advisor Maritime Affairs, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Jawad Akhtar Khokhar said this while addressing a two-day media conclave and roundtable conference titled ‘CSR Initiatives in Gwadar (The Gateway to CPEC)’ co-organised by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) Islamabad and the University of Gwadar in collaboration with COPHC, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) and Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) in the strategic port town, said a press statement issued on Monday. The advisor said that these projects include the Eastbay Expressway, which is 98 percent complete; facilities of fresh water treatment, water supply and distribution, which are 70 percent complete; New Gwadar International Airport; Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar; infrastructure of Gwadar Free Zone Phase-II; 300 MW coal power plant and 1.2 million gallons’ desalination plant.

He said that initiatives in the domain of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) undertaken by China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) and other Chinese firms in Gwadar are

appreciable and are aimed at the right direction; however, effective development communication and positive engagement with local communities are critical for the effectiveness and long-term success of these projects. Khokhar said that under the short-term strategy, the prioritised projects include: the provision of water in three months and electricity in five months for Gwadar, the Trading Corporation of Pakistan has been authorised to import one-third of cargoes at Gwadar; and the completion of the M-8 motorway. Highlighting long-term strategy, he said the government is aiming to build LNG and POL terminals at Gwadar port and ensure the availability of electricity, water and gas to enable phase-2 expansion of the port. Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani stressed the importance of bringing the locals together through CSR. “We must prioritise people over infrastructure development. Drinkable water and electricity is the top priority of the authorities in Gwadar”, he stated.

Kashani said a desalination plant of about 1.2 million gallons would become operational in six to eight months that would provide drinkable water for the locals. Moreover, the newly inaugurated state-of-the-art Pak-China Vocational & Technical Training Institute will provide three years’ training to local youth, which is a big contribution by our Chinese friends, he added. “Chinese authorities have also recently provided 3,000 solar panels to the poorest of the poor in Gwadar for the provision of electricity,” he informed. Delivering the keynote speech, Chairman COPHC Zhang Baozhong spoke at length about the experiences of his seven-year stay in Gwadar. “We are cognisant of the fact that Gwadar deserves more rapid development to live up to the expectations of the local people. There is no denying the fact that it has developed much during the past seven years”, he remarked. He stated three reasons for the promising prospects of Gwadar: the cooperation of the Gwadar people, its vast resources, and its strategic location. “The inhabitants of Gwadar deserve respect and development according to their rightful demands”, Baozhong underscored. “We are sending 20 students to China on scholarships every year. We have been running a primary school here for the last five years and soon we will construct a secondary school as well. More than 6000 solar panel units have been distributed among the people of Gwadar so far, and around 500,000 trees have been planted,” Shahzad Sultan, Country Head Marketing of COPHC informed while providing details of the CSR initiatives.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/939969/7-projects-worth-1-44b-under-way-in-gwadar/>

Dawn News

MoU signed for Chinese investment in Gwadar

Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: With a view to enhancing business-to-business cooperation between Islamabad and Beijing, a Chinese entrepreneur will make an initial investment of \$50 million in Gwadar for setting up of an end-to-end supply chain facility for export of seafood to China.

A high-tech processing facility with technology transfer will be set up in the industrial zone of Gwadar for the export of fish from Pakistan to China. The facility will be a large-scale

production unit with infrastructure upgrades for high quality processing, associated modern technologies, and robust cold chain logistics.

This will enable the two companies to export in large volumes and empower them to command a premium price.

The project will also include a Chinese customs clearance facility through which all exports to China will get customs clearance while on Pakistani soil in Gwadar. Both companies will work with high-quality wholesalers and use their own cold chain transport for export to China from Gwadar.

The Board of Investment (BoI) facilitated the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Optima Integration Group of China and Asia-Pak Investments of Pakistan in Islamabad on Monday. The Chinese General Administration of Customs has already approved 79 species of fish for export from Pakistan to China.

According to the terms of the agreement, the first phase of investment will create more than 100 jobs in Gwadar and Karachi in the fishing, power and logistics sectors.

In the second phase, the project will first expand from the fishing sector to livestock, commencing with the export of beef and goats to China through cold chain transport, and then scaling with Chinese standard breeding, feedlot operations, vaccinations, track and trace technology, and slaughter and packing facilities at Karachi.

The MoU was signed by Sam Siu, Chairman of Optima Integration Group of China, and Eusha Saleem Bajwa, Chief Executive Officer of Sino Pak Optima Technologies, on behalf of their respective sides.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1691236/mou-signed-for-chinese-investment-in-gwadar>

Pakistan Observer

FM Bilawal's visit shows Pak Govt's commitment for bilateral partnership

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Monday said Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's maiden official visit had further demonstrated the new Pakistan Government's commitment to developing all-weather bilateral strategic partnership.

"I would like to stress here that Foreign Minister Bilawal has made China destination of his first official bilateral visit after assuming the office. This further demonstrates that the new Pakistani Government is committed to developing our all weather strategic cooperative partnership. China appreciates it," he said during his regular briefing.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto paid a two-day visit to China at the invitation of Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and held fruitful talk in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere in Guangzhou, capital city of Guangdong province.

The spokesperson said during the talks, the two sides agreed that friendship between Pakistan and China was rock solid, and solidarity and cooperation between the two nations had become an important source of stability in a turbulent world.

Both side agreed that the terrorist attack targeting Chinese citizens in Pakistan was unacceptable and such despicable attempts to undermine China-Pakistan friendship would not succeed, he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/fm-bilawals-visit-shows-pak-govts-commitment-for-bilateral-partnership/>

China-Pakistan Joint Statement

(Full Text)

At the invitation of State Councilor and Foreign Minister H.E. Wang Yi, H.E. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited Guangzhou, China, on 21-22 May 2022 for his first official bilateral visit after taking office as Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

The visit coincided with the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan.

During the visit, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held in-depth discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of shared interest.

The talks were conducted in a warm and friendly atmosphere, in line with the finest tradition of mutual trust and cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides agreed that amidst profound regional and international changes, the importance of China-Pakistan strategic relations has assumed even greater significance.

As All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partners, China and Pakistan share ironclad mutual trust and friendship, which is a source of peace, stability, and prosperity for the region and beyond.

Both sides reaffirmed their strong support for each other's core interests and major concerns, and commitment to deepening strategic communication including at the highest political level and practical cooperation, and building an even stronger China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the steady growth of economic cooperation between China and Pakistan.

In this context, they agreed that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has effectively improved Pakistan's infrastructure and boosted its socio-economic development.

Both sides expressed firm resolve to synergizing development strategies, pushing forward all CPEC projects in a safe, smooth, and high-quality manner, promoting cooperation in areas such as economy and trade, investment, industry, agriculture, health, and science and technology, contributing to the peoples' well-being and delivering greater benefits to local communities.

Noting with satisfaction the record bilateral trade achieved last year, the two sides agreed to work together to make optimum use of phase-II of CPFTA and work together to diversify their trade ties with deepening cooperation in export-oriented sectors in Pakistan and integrating value chains of the two countries.

Both sides also agreed on stronger collaboration in the services sector and skill development in the areas of tourism, education, financial and information technology sectors.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the growing momentum of bilateral defense cooperation and exchanges. They underlined that China-Pakistan defense cooperation is in fact a factor of peace and stability in the region.

The two sides termed terrorism as the common enemy of humanity. They once again strongly condemned the Karachi University Confucius Institute terrorist attack. Pakistan reiterated that efforts will be made to speed up investigation, hunt down the culprits, and bring them to justice.

Pakistan briefed the Chinese side on its efforts to ensure the safety of all Chinese nationals, projects, and institutions in the country. China appreciated Pakistan's commitment to the safety and security of Chinese nationals.

Pakistan and China will further enhance counter-terrorism and security cooperation. The two sides called on the regional countries and the international community to form synergy and fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The two sides expressed their determination not to allow anyone to damage China-Pakistan iron brotherhood.

In the face of multiple traditional and non-traditional global challenges, the two sides agreed on the need for international cooperation and solidarity.

They noted that, based on the principles of win-win cooperation and shared benefits, Belt and Road cooperation has become an open and inclusive platform for international cooperation and is widely welcomed as a global public good.

The China-proposed Global Development Initiative (GDI) and Global Security Initiative (GSI) are new initiatives to respond to the pressing challenges facing the humanity.

Both countries stand ready to work with other countries to focus on the development agenda, tackle security challenges, implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind.

The two sides discussed the Ukraine situation, noting the necessity of being alert to the negative spillovers of the Ukraine crisis, in particular preventing its impact on developing countries, and called on relevant parties involved in the conflict to resolve differences and disputes through diplomacy and dialogue.

The two sides reaffirmed the firm commitment to upholding the UN-centered international system, the international order based on international law, and the basic norms governing

international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, practicing true multilateralism, and promoting democracy and rule of law in international relations.

The two sides underscored that Asia, with its rich history, civilizational heritage and growing economic potential, is playing a leading role for peace, prosperity, and economic development in the region and beyond.

The two sides hoped that in the pursuance of these cherished goals, the regional countries would uphold Asian values of mutual respect, equality and win-win cooperation, and build an open and inclusive regional architecture, safeguard peace and stability in the region, and advance common development and prosperity.

Both sides reiterated that a peaceful and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties.

Given the challenges faced by the peoples of the region, due to global pandemic, soaring commodity prices, climate change and poverty, it is critical to resolve all outstanding disputes to promote regional cooperation and advance the goals of lasting peace, stability and shared prosperity.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari briefed the Chinese side about the latest developments in Jammu & Kashmir.

The two sides underlined the importance of the peaceful resolution of the dispute based on the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

The two sides discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan. The two sides agreed that peace and stability in Afghanistan is vital for regional development and prosperity.

The two sides call upon the Afghan interim government to develop a broad-based and inclusive political structure, adopt moderate and sound internal and external policies, and protect the rights of women and children and ensure that the Afghan soil is not used against any of its neighbors. Both sides call on the international community to help avert humanitarian crisis and earnestly honor the pledges on Afghanistan's economic reconstruction and future development.

Both sides support the continued contribution of the mechanism of coordination and cooperation among Afghanistan's neighboring countries and expressed readiness to work with all parties to implement the Tunxi Initiative of the Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan on Supporting Economic Reconstruction in and Practical Cooperation with Afghanistan and provide all possible support for the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

The two sides also reiterated their readiness to extend CPEC to Afghanistan in consultation with the Afghan interim government and to the mutual benefit of all parties.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari thanked State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi for the safe and secure return of Pakistani students in a phased manner to China.

The two sides also decided to resume direct flight between the two countries carried out by Pakistan airlines at the earliest and subsequently increase direct flights based on the evolving pandemic situation.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari thanked State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi for the hospitality extended to him and his delegation in the finest Chinese tradition of hospitality. H.E. Wang Yi accepted his invitation to visit Pakistan for Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-joint-statement-full-text/>

‘Necessary for China, Pakistan to strengthen communication, coordination on major strategic issues promptly’: Wang Wenbin

Beijing: As Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is set to embark on a journey to China today on his first official bilateral visit, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin’s said that the visit would fulfil FM Bilawal’s wish to make China the first stop on his official foreign tours, as well as be the first in-person high-level engagement between the two countries since the formation of the new Pakistani government.

Wang Wenbin, talking in a press conference, was asked to comment on China’s consideration for inviting Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal to visit China.

The spokesperson replied that, as all-weather strategic cooperative partners, China and Pakistan needed to strengthen communication and coordination on major strategic issues promptly and jointly respond to new developments in the international and regional situation and various risks and challenges.

Regarding the iron-clad relationship between the two countries, he said that China hopes to take this visit as an opportunity to renew our traditional friendship, consolidate strategic mutual trust, further deepen our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

<https://pakobserver.net/necessary-for-china-pakistan-to-strengthen-communication-coordination-on-major-strategic-issues-promptly-wang-wenbin/>

BOI facilitates MoU signing between Optima Integration Group and others

Board of Investment has facilitated MoU signing between Optima Integration Group, China Optima Integration Group, China and Asia Pak Investments.

A statement of the Prime Minister office of the BOI issued here on Monday said, Pakistan in spirit to enhance Business to Business (B2B) Agricultural Cooperation between Pakistan and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Monday, May 23,2022 under the auspices of Board of Investment (BoI).

Federal Minister Board of Investment, Chaudhry Salik Hussain was the chief guest of the event and Secretary BOI Ms. Fareena Mazhar also participated in the ceremony.

The signatories included Mr. Sam Siu, Chairman, Optima Integration Group and Mr. Eusha Saleem Bajwa, CEO, Sino Pak Optima Technologies (SPOT).

Federal Minister BOI appreciated the interest of Chinese side in Agriculture & Livestock sector of Pakistan particularly, Fish & Seafood industry.

The Minister informed the participating parties about the establishment of Pakistan-China Business and Investment Forum (PCBIF) which is the result of joint efforts of Board of Investment (BOI), Chinese Embassy and All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA) and comprises of leading Pakistani and Chinese companies.

<https://pakobserver.net/boi-facilitates-mou-signing-between-optima-integration-group-and-others/>

Media conclave reviews CSR, socioeconomic development under CPEC

Speakers at a two-day media conclave and round table conference appreciated the role undertaken by Chinese companies working in Gwadar in the domain of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

However, they highlighted the importance of effective development communication and positive engagement with local communities for the effectiveness and long-term success of these projects.

The conclave titled “CSR Initiatives in Gwadar (The Gateway to CPEC).” was jointly organized by Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad and the University of Gwadar in collaboration with China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC), Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) and Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) in the strategic port town. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Naseer Khan Kashani stressed the importance of bringing the locals together through CSR. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/media-conclave-reviews-csr-socioeconomic-development-under-cpec/>

The News

Ties with China

Irrespective of the hyperbole normally used while discussing ties between China and Pakistan, the two countries have remained steadfast in their friendship over the past seven decades. Both countries have a lot to offer to each other, especially Pakistan which can benefit from continued cooperation in sectors such as agriculture, economy, health, and investment. China is one of the leaders in science and technology and its help to Pakistan in the shape of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has started giving dividends to both countries. A mutually beneficial relationship with our larger neighbour is likely to continue as the foreign ministers of the two countries have reaffirmed recently during Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari's visit to

China where he met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. The visit has come at an opportune moment as both countries are celebrating the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

In addition to international and regional issues, there are several directions in which shared interests need more exploration and coordination. Since there is already a long-standing friendly atmosphere, there is no trust deficit between China and Pakistan that Pakistan has experienced at various times with countries such as Afghanistan, the US, India, and even with Iran and Russia. The joint statement issued after the recent meeting clearly mentions an agreement on changes that have taken place in the region and beyond. Strategically, China and Pakistan have enjoyed an understanding that not many neighbours in the world can claim to have – though there are some pressing issues that need attention on a priority basis. One of them is the facilitation of a safe return of all Pakistani students. Then there is a need for steady growth of economic cooperation so that Pakistan can export more to China and not the other way round, as is the case now.

We also need better synergy in development strategies that complement each other. While both the foreign ministers have resolved to push forward all CPEC-related projects, there is a need for more projects directly related to people's wellbeing in areas such as education and health. China has high-quality expertise in drip irrigation in areas where water is scarce. Keeping in view Pakistan's perennial water shortage, the country needs a more modern method of agriculture that China can help us in. There has been some improvement in bilateral trade in the past couple of years but still the balance of trade between the two countries is still overwhelmingly in China's favour. This needs correction with more exports from Pakistan. Lastly, better collaboration in the services sector such as skill development in tourism, education, and information technology must be explored and promoted. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto appears to understand that Pakistan at present needs to maintain a balance in its ties with the US and China, as well as Russia. The foreign minister's task is to overcome this and do everything possible to benefit Pakistan. This will involve some delicate balancing of egos and good diplomatic skills. The US is wary of China's engagements in Pakistan, but at the same time is also a major source of assistance both in fiscal terms and in weapons to the country. Pakistan has to walk the tightrope of keeping all its patrons and partners happy.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=90211>

Chinese scholarships for water conservancy professionals

Islamabad: The Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Education, China have jointly implemented the 'Chinese Government Scholarship on Senior Water Conservancy Professional' to select government officials across the world responsible for water conservancy policy to pursue their master's degree in China at Hohai University.

Under the Scholarships programme, the government officials from project management and river basin planning and governance, young experts in water engineering related fields from scientific

research institutions and engineers of water conservancy enterprises would also be selected to pursue their master's degree in China at Hohai University.

According to official sources from Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan, in that regard, the China's Hohai University has announced May 25, 2022 (Wednesday) as deadline to apply for Master's Programme of senior water conservancy.

The University informed that more than 100 candidates from Belt and Road countries have learned advanced experience and technologies in China's water resources management, water conservancy project construction, and other fields, and have participated in extensive cultural exchange activities.

In 2022, the programme will provide 20 scholarships dedicated to the applicants from the member states of UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), especially those from the Belt and Road countries, African countries, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Education, the Hohai University has upgraded itself with good momentum of development in hydraulic engineering and water resources as its main focus, education of engineering subjects as its first priority, and coordinated development of a wide array of disciplines.

The university is a state key university under the 'Double First-Rat' discipline plan, with national level innovation platforms as well as the graduate school. Over the past 100 years, HHU has contributed greatly to the nation's rejuvenation in the course of water governance and enjoyed a high reputation as China's cradle of hydropower innovators and entrepreneurs and a hub of water science and technology innovation.

It is located in the Yangtze River Delta region, one of China's most economically active, open and innovative regions and currently comprises 3 campuses in Jiangsu Province (Xikang Road Campus and Jiangning Campus in Nanjing and Changzhou Campus in Changzhou).

Being first batch of universities authorized to grant doctoral, master and bachelor's degrees to international students, HHU has cultivated thousands of international talents so far. Diploma, Graduation and Degree Awarding The standard master's length of schooling is set to 3 years (no less than 2 years & no more than 5 years).

Those who have completed all courses stipulated in the academic plan and passed all the exams and thesis defence shall be awarded the graduate diploma. Those who pass the degree examination shall be awarded the corresponding academic degree.

As per application requirements the applicant should have a relevant bachelor's degree with the applied major or above, under age 35 (born after Sep.

1st, 1987), be healthy physically and mentally, abide by Chinese laws and regulations, respect Chinese traditions and customs. Sharing the details of specialization subjects, the university said that it included Hydrology and Water Resources, Hydraulics and River Dynamics, Hydraulic Structure Engineering, Water Conservancy & Hydropower Engineering, Harbor, Coastal and

Offshore Engineering, Civil Engineering, Environmental Science and Engineering, Public Administration, and Resettlement Science and Engineering.

The desired applicants are asked to complete Chinese Government Scholarship online application via <http://studyinchina.csc.edu.cn> (Agency number:10294, type: B); complete Hohai University online application via <http://admission.hhu.edu.cn>; and send application form to shenkejun@mwr.gov.cn, kejun723@163.com.

The scholarship consists of tuition, accommodation, comprehensive medical insurance and living allowance 3000 RMB Yuan/month, international airfare not included.

For further information, the applicants are asked to contact International School, Hohai University Website: <http://ie.hhu.edu.cn>.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=90498>

Ties with China cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy: Bilawal

BEIJING: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari observed Monday that the "harder" Beijing and Islamabad work, the more both countries can "unlock the true economic potential of the Pakistan-China relationship". "We feel that the harder we work, the more we can unlock the true economic potential of the Pakistan-China relationship," Bilawal said in an interview with China's state-run broadcaster CGTN. The foreign minister emphasised that the ties with Beijing are the "cornerstone" of Pakistan's foreign policy. Bilawal, who was on an official visit to China from May 21 to 22, said that all the coalition partners in the current government attach great importance to the country's relationship with China. Bilawal labelled China's proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) a "truly inspirational" project, adding that "it has enormous economic potential globally." The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship cooperation programme under the BRI, "has contributed immensely" to the economic cooperation between Pakistan and China and created economic opportunities for both Pakistani businesses and Chinese investors, he was quoted by the broadcaster. The foreign minister highlighted that the Shehbaz Sharif-led government "is very keen" to enhance ties with China in building CPEC. "We feel that the harder we work, the more we can unlock the true economic potential of the Pakistan-China relationship," he said. Commenting on China's dynamic zero-Covid approach, the country's top diplomat said it shows that Beijing "attaches utmost importance" to the people's lives and health. No one to be allowed to destabilise country, says Ahsan LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Monday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was trying to create unrest and polarisation through hybrid warfare tools, but the coalition government would not allow anyone to destabilise the country. Talking to the media

here, he said the coalition government, led by the PML-N, believed in democracy and provision of fundamental rights to people. Therefore, it would not hinder peaceful demonstrations, but if anyone would try to create anarchy and take the law into one's hands, strict action would be taken against him.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=90597>

B2B agricultural cooperation Chinese company signs MoU with Pak firm

Israr Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Asia Pak Investment -- a company owned by son of the former ISPR DG Lt-Gen (ret'd) Asim Saleem Bajwa -- inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China's Optima Integration Group on Monday to strengthen B2B agricultural cooperation between the two nations. The MoU was signed under the auspices of the Board of Investment (BoI). Board of Investment Chairman Chaudhry Salik Hussain was the chief guest. BoI Secretary Fareena Mazhar was also present. Sam Siu, Chairman of Optima Integration Group, and Eusha Saleem Bajwa, CEO of Sino Pak Optima Technologies (SPOT), signed the agreement. Eusha Saleem Bajwa is the son of the former ISPR DG Lt-Gen (ret'd) Asim Saleem Bajwa, a senior official of the BoI confirmed. The federal minister appreciated the interest of the Chinese side in the agriculture and livestock sector of Pakistan, particularly, fish and seafood industry. The minister said the establishment of the Pakistan-China Business and Investment Forum (PCBIF), is the result of joint efforts of the Board of Investment (BOI), the Chinese Embassy, and the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA). The project between the signing parties will comprise setting up an end-to-end supply chain for seafood export (79 species of fish are approved by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) for export from Pakistan to China) to be produced in Pakistan and transported to China for consumption there. It will include a high-tech processing facility and related technology transfer. In the first phase, the estimated investment will be around \$50 million and it would create more than 100 jobs in Gwadar and Karachi in the fishing, power, and logistics sectors. The project will expand from fish to beef and goat in the long run – starting with exporting beef with cold chain transport, then scaling with standard Chinese breeding, feedlot operations, vaccinations, track and trace technology, and

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=90601>

CPEC is on its way

Ather Naqvi

Is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) going as planned? Since it was launched in 2013, the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has been under the watchful eye of regional and global powers, and an occasional target for terrorists.

Pakistan has hinged its economic progress on the rapid implementation of CPEC. Initially valued at \$47 billion, the value of CPEC projects was worth \$62 billion as of 2021. Since 2018 onwards, however, it was not been smooth sailing under the PTI government as far as work on CPEC was concerned. While a number of armed attacks on Chinese officials working in Pakistan over the years failed to make a dent in the progress of the project, work on the corridor seemed to have hit a snag under the PTI government.

We have also seen recent attacks on Chinese citizens in Pakistan. The suicide bombing at the Karachi University Confucius Institute on April 26 and earlier at a bus carrying Chinese workers near the Dasu hydropower plant in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in July 2021 are a case in point.

The government of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has vowed that it will take CPEC forward with a new vigour. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has also reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to further strengthen its strategic ties with China, including through the implementation of CPEC. Bilawal has emphasised that Pakistan will increase cooperation with China through CPEC to not just achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but also to participate in the work of the Global Development Initiative (GDI) Group of Friends for a peaceful and shared future.

With the change in the political setup, the change in the pace of development is discernible. After the tables were turned on the PTI government and a new one was formed with the PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif as the prime minister, the newly appointed planning minister, Ahsan Iqbal, was quick to announce a security review meeting to be held every month on CPEC and urged that CPEC could enable Pakistan to become an industrial economy. Chairing a meeting, he lamented that the momentum between 2013-18 could not be sustained by the PTI government. He also pointed to the fact that Pakistan's side of CPEC's Joint Working Group on Security did not hold regular meetings.

It is in this backdrop that soon after coming to power, the new government announced it was going to abolish the CPEC Authority, declaring it a waste of resources and a hurdle in the speedy implementation of the CPEC. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal's first briefing on the state of CPEC blew the lid off the claims of the previous government that everything was fine as far as the project was concerned. He was told that over 37 per cent of the installed capacity of the CPEC power projects, or 1,980 megawatts, was out of order due to non-payment of dues to the Chinese investors. He was informed that the total receivables of the 10 Chinese IPPs had increased to Rs300 billion.

Since the incumbent government has only limited time before the general elections are announced after it completes its tenure – which it has said it will till now – it can at least work to move things in the right direction for the next government as far as CPEC is concerned. Besides other areas, Pakistan sees great potential for development in its agriculture, energy, industrial and transport sectors under the project. Pakistan can learn from the Chinese experience of modernising its agriculture sector, focusing on corporate farming, new seed development for increasing crop yield, introduction of new varieties of agriculture products, and establishing agro-industry. Experts have proposed agri technology zones to enhance cooperation in this field. The cooperation between Faisalabad Agriculture University and Chinese universities is a very good starting point.

Another good news is that the Global Innovation Centre (GIC), an organization based in China, is planning to set up an office in Pakistan and a China-Pakistan Trade, Energy, and Investment Centre in the organisation's Shenzhen office. GIC, which works in the areas of international

cooperation in technology; incubation of new businesses; scientific and technological industrial zones and training of entrepreneurs, has offices in ten countries, including the US, UK, Indonesia, and Thailand.

China's cooperation with Pakistan in the field of solar energy is also a ray of hope for replacing coal-powered energy gradually. In April this year, C&D Clean Energy, based in China, announced a partnership with Integra Solar in Pakistan for panel supply chain services. According to the reported memorandum of understanding, C&D Clean Energy will provide Pakistan's company with integrated supply chain services of 100MW solar modules in 2022. There's a lot of room for cooperation in this field at a time when rising temperatures is a global environmental concern.

Infrastructure projects are a mainstay for the progress of a developing country. The 392 kilometres-long Sukkur-Multan motorway, for instance, has been regarded as a part of the largest transport infrastructure project of CPEC. Passing through rural and mostly under-developed areas of Pakistan, the project provided jobs to about 30,000 people at one time and quick transportation for villagers.

In another development, in April this year, 120 hybrid buses left China for Karachi and other cities of Sindh. These buses have now reached Karachi. This development is expected to address one of the most serious problems faced by the people in Karachi – lack of public transport. The Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT) in Lahore is another example of an affordable and decent commuting option.

The most notable development would be the completion of the ML-1 project, negotiations for which are going on with the Chinese government. ML-1, which initially cost \$9 billion was later revised downwards to \$6.8 billion.

Pakistan Railways is expected to transport over 20 per cent of the country's freight business after the completion of Main Line-I (ML-I) under CPEC which would help make the department a profitable entity. According to reports, Pakistan Railways transports only four per cent of freight traffic in the country. ML-I is a 1872-kilometer long track from Peshawar to Karachi and is expected to create around 24,000 jobs with a train speed of 160 kilometres per hour.

But all these developments will not make their full impact unless the benefits of these projects trickle down to the common man in a true sense. Indeed, only inclusive development is true development.

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<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=90222>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین خارجہ پالیسی کانسنگ بنیاد، بلاول: ورلڈ انٹرنیشنل فورم میں شرکت کیلئے ڈیووس پہنچ گئے

بیجنگ، اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ، خصوصی نامہ نگار) وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین تعلقات پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی کانسنگ بنیاد ہیں۔ پاکستانی حکومت اور تمام سیاسی جماعتیں پاک چین تعلقات کو بہت اہمیت دیتی ہیں۔ چین کا تجویز کردہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو بہت متاثر کن منصوبہ ہے جو عالمی سطح پر بہت اقتصادی صلاحیت کا حامل ہے۔ نجی ٹی وی کو انٹرویو میں کہا کہ سی پیک بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو کے تحت ایک اہم تعاون کا پروگرام ہے۔ سی پیک سے پاک چین اقتصادی تعاون میں بہت زیادہ اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ پاکستان کو سی پیک سے نہ صرف پاکستانی بلکہ چینی سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے بھی اقتصادی مواقع پیدا ہوئے ہیں۔ نئی پاکستانی حکومت سی پیک پر چین کے ساتھ تعاون بڑھانے کی خواہشمند ہے۔ ہم سی پیک کے دوسرے فیڑ میں داخل ہو رہے ہیں۔ سی پیک کے دوسرے فیڑ میں صنعتی اور خصوصی معاشی زونز شامل ہیں۔ وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری صدر ورلڈ انٹرنیشنل فورم کی دعوت پر سوئٹزر لینڈ کے شہر ڈیووس پہنچ گئے۔ ترجمان دفتر خارجہ کے مطابق وزیر مملکت خارجہ حنا ربانی کھر بھی وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری کے ہمراہ ہیں۔ اس سال فورم کے اجلاس کا عنوان ہے "تاریخ ایک دور ہے پر سرکاری پالیسیاں اور کاروباری حکمت عملیاں"۔ وزیر خارجہ ابھرتی ہوئی جغرافیائی اور سیاسی پیشرفت کے اقتصادی اور سماجی اثرات اور کرونا واء سے پیدا ہونے والے مسائل تحفظ خوراک و توانائی اور موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے بارے میں پاکستان کا کٹھ نظر بیان کریں گے۔ وہ اس سالانہ اجلاس میں شرکت کرنے والے اپنے ہم منصبوں سے ملاقات کریں اور میڈیا سے بھی گفتگو کریں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-05-24/page-1/detail-18>

پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان زرعی شعبہ میں تعاون آگے بڑھانے پر اتفاق

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) وزیر سرمایہ کاری بورڈ چوہدری سالک حسین نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کے زراعت اور لائیو سٹاک دلچسپی رہا ہے، زرعی شعبہ میں ویلیو ایڈیشن کے ذریعے عالمی سپلائی چین میں پاکستان کے حصے میں اضافہ ہو گا، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان بزنس ٹورنٹس پورٹل بنایا جائے گا جس سے مزید بہتری آئیگی۔ چین ایشیا پاک سرمایہ کاری گروپ اور چین کے اوپنٹا گروپ کے مابین مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کی تقریب میں وزیر سرمایہ کاری بورڈ چوہدری سالک حسین اور سیکرٹری بی او آئی شریک ہوئے، معاہدے کے تحت دونوں ممالک کے درمیان زرعی شعبے میں تعاون کو آگے بڑھایا جائے گا۔ چوہدری سالک حسین نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کے زراعت اور لائیو سٹاک دلچسپی رہا ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ فوڈ پراسیسنگ پاکستان میں ترجیحی شعبہ ہے، زرعی شعبے میں ویلیو ایڈیشن کے ذریعے عالمی سپلائی چین میں پاکستان کے حصے میں اضافہ ہو گا۔ چوہدری سالک نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان بزنس ٹورنٹس پورٹل بنایا جائے گا جس سے مزید بہتری آئیگی۔ وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ دونوں کمپنیوں کو کامیابی سے مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط پر مبارکباد دیتا ہوں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-05-24/page-10/detail-6>

May 25, 2022

Daily Times

ICCI delegation to visit Rashakai Special Economic Zones

A delegation from Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) headed by its president will visit Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and other economic zones (EZs) to explore investment opportunities and to acquire land for establishing of industrial units. This was decided

during a meeting between Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)-Board of Investment and Trade (BoIT)-BOIT Dr Hassan Daud Butt, Adil Salahuddin, Chief Commercial Officer KP-EZDMC and DMD-SIDB Noman Fayyaz with President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the leading Business Community including VP and executive body of ICCI. The CEO BOIT gave a detailed briefing to the President ICCI regarding investment opportunities in Special Economic Zones, industrial estates and Small Industrial Estate tourism, energy & power, agriculture, mines & minerals and other sectors in KP. The business community of Islamabad showed keen interest to invest in KP and specially in Rashakai SEZ as well as in the upcoming zones in Mansehra and Mohmand.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/940840/icci-delegation-to-visit-rashakai-special-economic-zones/>

Baloch leader greets Chinese envoy on 71 years of friendly diplomatic ties

The Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) leader Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri greeted the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong as Pakistan and China celebrate 71 years of friendly diplomatic ties.

According to Gwadar Pro, the Baloch leader congratulated Chinese President Xi Jinping, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, the governments and the people of both countries on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. In her congratulatory message, she said: “Pakistan is proud of its everlasting and strong friendship with China. The Pakistan-China friendship is everlasting and unique and is getting stronger with time. The CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) project is a living example of our mutual commitment to a lasting relationship between the two brother countries.”

She added: “The journey of Pakistan-China friendship spans decades and its scope has extended to all walks of life saying that China and Pakistan are two brothers. This is the happy day when the two countries sowed the seeds of friendship which has become a strong and fruitful tree in 71 years. Whether it is war or peace or any natural calamity, China has given full support to Pakistan in every difficult time and on important occasions.” Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri acknowledged that the Chinese investment in Pakistan had played a significant role in economic development. “Thanks to CPEC, billions of dollars are being invested in Pakistan and it is playing a key role in the development of Pakistan. At present thousands of Chinese are serving in Pakistan in various fields and are imparting knowledge to Pakistanis on administrative and technical skills,” she mentioned.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/940546/baloch-leader-greets-chinese-envoy-on-71-years-of-friendly-diplomatic-ties/>

The Express Tribune

Chinese IPPs face default risk

They find it difficult to make debt repayment due to Rs340b outstanding dues

ISLAMABAD: Power projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) face further risk of default on the upcoming debt repayments, as their outstanding dues have jumped above Rs340 billion amid Pakistan's back-pedaling on fulfilling its contractual obligations.

Owing to the gravity of the situation, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is expected to hold a meeting to find solutions to the chronic issues that have affected the pace of work on the multibillion-dollar initiative of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Official documents showed that 11 Chinese power companies were facing serious issues due to the mishandling of their investment by the Pakistani authorities. Of these, eight independent power plants (IPPs) were waiting for the clearance of their cumulative dues of Rs340 billion to cover the cost of power generation.

One Chinese firm has also demanded compensation for the losses faced due to the obsolete power transmission system.

Despite their severe fiscal constraints, the Chinese power producers have not yet invoked sovereign guarantees that the government of Pakistan has extended to them, in case the power purchaser – Central Power Purchasing Agency-Guarantee (CPPA-G) – fails to make payments, sources told The Express Tribune.

The 1,320-megawatt Port Qasim power plant, set up by the Port Qasim Electric Power Company, faces the immediate challenge of clearing \$83 million worth of debt, including \$70 million in principal loan repayment on May 31, revealed the proceedings of a recently held meeting.

The government owed Rs91.2 billion to the Port Qasim power plant that has created serious liquidity problems for the firm. The plant, in turn, owes \$140 million to the coal supplier.

The supplier has already stopped providing coal for the power plant due to the huge outstanding payments, company officials recently informed the Ministry of Planning and Development.

“Without urgent payments to restore coal supply, the whole complex will shut down shortly,” the company warned. Documents showed that the Port Qasim power plant also sustained losses of \$153 million due to rupee devaluation.

“Since 2014, billions of US dollars have been invested, thousands of people have worked hard for seven years but today the company has no cash, low coal inventory, huge outstanding payments, a huge exchange loss, making coal supplier and operation and maintenance contract bankrupt and facing loan default soon,” complained the company officials in talks with the Pakistani authorities.

Documents showed that Pakistan owed Rs96.4 billion to the 1,320MW Sahiwal coal-fired power plant. The plant has been established by Huaneng Shandong Rui Group of China.

The company faces the issue of low payments for coal transportation and the royalty fee charged by the Port Qasim Authority.

A few months ago, Pakistan made a payment of Rs50 billion to the Chinese IPPs but blocked the processing of another Rs50 billion besides backtracking from its fresh commitment to open the Escrow account.

Finance ministry sources claimed that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had raised certain objections to the payment of Rs50 billion to the Chinese without any budgetary provision. Receivables of the 1,320MW Hub coal power project, set up by China Power Hub Generation Company Limited (CPHGC), have increased to Rs71.6 billion, according to the official documents.

Since the fourth quarter of last year, the international coal price has skyrocketed and resultantly the company does not have funds to purchase the coal needed in the monsoon season, CPHGC informed the government.

Planning ministry officials said that CPHGC stated that the power units would have to be shut down in June and July due to the absence of imported coal and the lack of fiscal muscle.

The firm has demanded that Nepra approve a tariff true-up petition and also sanction 800,000 tons of coal import every year to resolve the outstanding issues.

CPPA-G also owed Rs45 billion to Engro's 660MW Thar coal power project. The firm's tariff true-up petition has been delayed by Nepra for the last two and a half years.

Owing to non-payments to the functional power plants, Sinosure, which backed the Chinese loans, has also delayed the financial close of the 1,320MW SSRL Thar coal block-1. This has delayed the project completion and the company's request for extension in the commissioning date is also pending.

Hdyro China Dawood wind farm and power project is seeking \$13 million in compensation from the Pakistani authorities for the losses that it is sustaining due to the transmission of electricity through a single transmission line. The firm's outstanding dues have reached Rs2.7 billion.

The UEP 100MW power plant is also facing the default scenario due to its outstanding dues of Rs4.3 billion, according to the briefing given to the planning ministry. Owing to delayed payments, the company has not been able to clear its dues.

The 100MW Three Gorges wind power project is also experiencing similar problems due to its outstanding dues of Rs4.1 billion.

Chinese financial institutions are now reluctant to underwrite the Kohala power project, the 700MW Azad Pattan power project and the 300MW Gwadar coal-fired power plant. The Karot power project too is facing "pressures" due to a tax dispute with the FBR and cash problems arising out of the delayed commissioning of the project and currency devaluation.

The dues of the 900MW Zonergy solar power plant have increased to Rs10.4 billion while the dues of Matiari-Lahore transmission line project have surged to Rs14.5 billion.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2358211/chinese-ipps-face-default-risk>

May 26, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistani handicrafts have potential to get more market space in China

Pakistani handicrafts have rich potential to get more market space in China, by having proper packaging.

This was stated by Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai at a webinar on Packaging Strategies and Requirements for Handicrafts in China held by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

The Consul General pointed out that Pakistani handicrafts have rich cultural heritage and are well-known for their exquisite craftsmanship and long history. Through the meticulous design and packaging of traditional handicrafts, Pakistan can show its unique cultural connotation and give handicrafts more market space. In this way, packaging is a key to exploring the Chinese market.

To equip Pakistani handicraft suppliers with the best practices in packaging and to make their products competitive in the Chinese market, Haider gave an overview of China's import regime with special reference to the laws and regulations on product packaging and labelling.

Packaging has been integrated into the development, design and production of all kinds of modern goods, and has become a powerful weapon in the competition among various merchants. Echo Li, Senior Partner of a Chinese company that entered Pakistan in 2013, said, "The Chinese market is a buyer's market, and therefore, the needs and preferences of the target buyers should be given top priority. Packaging should be attractive and convenient.

Different products require different types of packaging. For handicrafts, it is important to emphasize the cultural and historical features of the product to make a lasting impression on Chinese buyers."

The webinar was attended by more than 25 handicrafts-related companies from Pakistan. The use of offline and online channels to reach out to the Chinese market was also explained to the participants. The companies expressed their confidence and passion to further explore the Chinese market.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/941071/pakistani-handicrafts-have-potential-to-get-more-market-space-in-china/>

Sino-Pak cooperation benefitting Pak auto industry

The Pakistani automotive industry is set to usher in a golden age because of the cooperation between the Chinese and Pakistani companies, said Philip Jian, Pakistan's Honorary Investment Counsellor in China.

“Chinese brands including BAIC Motor, Changan Auto and SAIC Motor, have set up their own assembly plants in Pakistan while other brands like GWM, BYD and Geely are likely to open plants in Pakistan too,” he said in an interview with CEN.

Now, increasingly more Chinese brands, with positive prospects on Pakistan’s automotive industry, are cherishing Pakistan as an important destination of their strategic plan.

“Chery’s market of right-hand drive cars covers seven countries. Especially in South Africa and Nepal, etc., we have already been listed, but these are the market for complete vehicles.

Pakistan is the first market for CKD vehicles among them, and the vehicles will be assembled and produced locally,” Felix Hu, Director of Chery Automobile Pakistan told CEN.

Automobile manufacturing in Pakistan through Sino-Pak collaboration will improve local employment and tax revenue.

More importantly, “as we will manufacture our latest model here, therefore our technology and management skills will be integrated into the project in Pakistan, which will have an extremely positive impact on the improvement of the entire industry in Pakistan,” Felix said.

There are always advantages for JV because both sides save time and money. We can in very short time, start production and go forward. “It’s great,” said Zubair Aamir, Head, Three-Wheeler Project Team of Sazgar Engineering Works Ltd.

In 2020, the Pakistani government approved the Electric Vehicle Policy 2020-2025, aiming to seeing electric vehicles capture 30pc of all the passenger vehicle and heavy-duty truck sales by 2030, and 90pc by 2040. Benefitted from the support from the Pakistani government, in recent years, the electric vehicle industry in Pakistan is growing strongly, and the cooperation between Chinese and Pakistan enterprises is springing up like mushrooms.

“China has developed standards for electric vehicles including electric storage, batteries, etc. China had done it because China is much ahead than any other nation in the world about standardizing electing vehicle and its products. So I would like to get these things from China,” Zubair Aamir said.

It has learned that the whole EV industry revolves around the battery system, which is mainly dominated by China, Japan and South Korea worldwide.

He also showed an electric three-wheeler, integration of Chinese and Pakistani wisdom, to CEN. “It’s motor, battery and electronic control system are all imported from China, sharing the same production line with Tesla.

The steel frame steering system of the whole vehicle is also from China. All the seats on the car are made of Pakistani calfskin, comfortable and soft,” he said.

“In recent years, Chinese automobile brands have become very mature in technology, especially when it comes to the entry-level models. We can confidently say that they already can compete with Japanese and Korean models.

In fact, we encourage enterprises to invest in the whole industry chain in Pakistan, not just in CKD assembly plants. That is to say, through our technology and equipment exports and capacity transfer, Pakistan's basic industrial supporting capacity can be rapidly stimulated. We believe we have the ability to make it, Philip Jian concluded with confidence."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/941380/sino-pak-cooperation-benefitting-pak-auto-industry/>

Pakistan Observer

China-Pakistan economic cooperation

Ali Jawad Raza

May 21, 2022 marked the 71st anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan.

For a long time, under the careful cultivation of successive leaders and people from all walks of life, friendship between China and Pakistan is like a thriving tree with deep roots. China-Pakistan friendship is becoming deeply rooted in the hearts of the two peoples.

In Pakistan, there is an Urdu poem: "The beautiful image of a friend is in the mirror of my heart, and if you bow down, you can see it.

" When President Xi Jinping came to Pakistan for his first visit in April 2015 he used this Urdu poem to describe China-Pakistan friendship.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a benchmark project of China's "Belt and Road Initiative".

It starts from Kashgar in Xinjiang in the north and Gwadar Port in Pakistan in the south.

It is a trade corridor including roads, railways, oil & gas pipelines and communications and optical cables.

With an investment scale of multibillion dollars, the whole project is the "flagship project" in the "Belt and Road" construction plan.

The project runs through several provinces in Pakistan, from Gwadar, Balochistan, through Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and the Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan eventually to the Khunjerab Pass and to China.

CPEC is conducive to promoting employment and its development outcomes will benefit the grassroots in Pakistan.

The road infrastructure project is expected to create 51,000 jobs, more than 94 percent of which will be offered to local Pakistanis.

All China-Pakistan joint ventures will create 1.2 million jobs, more than 33 percent of which will only be open to Pakistanis.

From 2015 to 2030, CPEC will create a total of 2.3 million jobs, bringing more than 2.5% of annual growth to Pakistan's GDP.

At present, the CPEC has carried out many projects, including roads, railways, sea ports, oil and gas pipelines, optical fiber, special economic zones cross-border trade cooperation centers and signing free trade agreements.

The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of China's ambitious multi-billion-dollar Belt & Road Initiative (BRI).

The BRI is a multi-billion-dollar initiative launched by President Xi Jinping when he came to power in 2013.

It aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a network of land and sea routes.

After coming to power, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif pledged to take the US\$ 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) forward with a new vigour, vitality and in a rejuvenated manner, ensuring multifaceted development of the flagship project of China's ambitious BRI initiative.

On his first day in office as Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif met the Chinese Acting Ambassador Charge d'Affaires Pang Chunxue and made it clear that Pakistan considered China as closest friend and strongest partner.

"We will take the CPEC forward with new vigour, with new vitality and in a rejuvenated manner," he said.

The first phase of the CPEC was completed in Nawaz Sharif's tenure and the completion of the second phase will go to the credit of Shehbaz Sharif.

Under CPEC, so far nine projects have been completed while 13 ongoing projects have created over 70,000 direct jobs another 450,000 direct jobs could be generated in the next 4 to 5 years.

The future of CPEC now lies in the commencement of Special Economic Zones and Gwadar Free Trade Zone.

Moreover, the institutional mechanism of CPEC is still intact and JCC meetings are held on a regular basis despite the worries of a global pandemic that has taken the world into its grip.

Pakistani academia now has to devise effective human resource strategies to tackle the issue of much needed technical labor force.

Socioeconomic cooperation is also getting a boost with the passage of time. Moreover, strategies need to be made to attract FDI in prioritized special economic zones.

Balochistan is the largest province in Pakistan, covering 44% of Pakistan's land area, with abundant mineral and natural resources, innate conditions for developing agriculture, fishery, livestock, dairy industries, and 750 km coastline and deep water sea port. With the development

of Gwadar FFTA and special economic zones, Balochistan is becoming more attractive to investors.

The Baloch and Sindh regions represented by Gwadar Port are the key construction areas of the CPEC, but there are also multiple security threats to the CPEC in the region, among which outlawed groups and forces backed by the external hands are the most direct security threat.

Since 2020, insurgency in Sindh and Balochistan has been posing a challenge to the authorities however, the Shehbaz Sharif government is tackling this challenge with an iron hand. Because of the federal government's strict policy against the banned outlawed groups and consistently monitoring the security situation in the region, the situation now is returning to normalcy.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-economic-cooperation-by-ali-jawad-raza/>

The Express Tribune

Chinese firms can invest \$6b in ARE

Pakistan plans to generate 10,000MW of alternative renewable energy by 2030

ISLAMABAD: The world needs more and more energy but natural energy sources are dwindling, therefore Pakistan is coming up with new ways to meet its growing needs – via free wind and sun! Pakistan is planning to generate 10,000 megawatts of alternative renewable energy (ARE) by 2030 with an investment of over \$6 billion, for which bidding will take place later this year.

Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) CEO Shah Jahan Mirza, in an interview with China Economic Net, highlighted the investment opportunities for foreign investors, especially Chinese companies and banks, in Pakistan's ARE sector. "Pakistan and China are already in coordination in AED (wind/ solar) projects, we have 300MW solar power projects in operation under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)," Mirza said.

"We have the target of having 10,000MW during the next eight to nine years, which means we need \$6 billion in investment in these power plants," Mirza said, adding that the country needs to bring in the foreign investment and foreign financing. "Chinese companies and banks are best suited because we are already working with them in coal and hydropower projects. They are familiar with the country's environment."

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2358348/chinese-firms-can-invest-6b-in-are>

May 27, 2022

Daily Times

Quality control to accelerate Pakistan mangoes entering Chinese market: report

Quality control will accelerate Pakistan mangoes entering Chinese market, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

According to Adnan Hafeez, director of Imperial Ventures (Pvt) Ltd, “Quality control is the keyword of this year’s mango export”. The first shipment of Pakistani mangoes of the present season will arrive in Kunming, China this week. Adnan told Gwadar Pro that this time there are 4 tons of mango, half of which will be sent to Chinese wholesalers and retailers as samples.

“We have already got connected with some big supermarkets and e-commerce platforms in China, including Walmart, JD.com and Fresh Hema. The current issue is that they stressed the outlook of mango rather than its taste. Our mango tastes very good, but its outlook is not advantageous.”

Noticing the requirements, Adnan and his team are trying their best to improve the mango’s outlook. “We need to follow the strict processing guidelines from picking to transporting. ”

“This year, to guarantee the mango’s outlook and the quality, we are doing everything by ourselves. We need to sort out clean and beautiful mangoes manually. We also rent a licensed mango processing factory for the whole mango season. We’re spending a lot of time, money and manpower on this,” Adnan added. “If the samples get accepted, we can expand our Chinese market and increase the frequency of our regular mango shipments till September.” Last year, Pakistan’s mango export was 150,000 tons, while its export to China was only 50 tons. Adnan aims to double this amount to 100 tons this year. “Right now we have the largest mango export market in Europe, the UK, and the middle east.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/941663/quality-control-to-accelerate-pakistan-mangoes-entering-chinese-market-report/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan-China relations

THE author, in a small book of 150 pages, has focused on various aspects of China’s development as well as contextualizing this for Pakistan- China relations substantiating it with relevant data. There is no doubt that China’s spectacular progress, in a matter of four decades has created a new stir in global politics but also ignited research on these phenomena.

In the West, scholars have come up with various theories to explain the phenomena but at times their findings reflect their bias about China.

This book is an excellent effort to objectively present facts and also a reminder as to what Pakistan can learn from its trusted friend.

The author begins from the history of the Old Silk Route and its relevance in modern times through connectivity projects like BRI.

Apart from trade, The Silk Route provided an interplay and relationship of mutual benefit and mutual trust” and promoted cross cultural interaction and knowledge.

Pakistan was the first Muslim country to recognize New China and both countries showed an understanding and empathy towards each other despite the incompatibility of ideology and different world views.

Pakistan joined the Western camp, to counter the communist threat, but it is remarkable that both countries understood their policy compulsions of the time.

First meeting of their Premiers in Bandung in 1955 and exchange of first leadership level visits in 1956 laid a solid foundation of their future ties.

The signing of the border treaty in 1963 was a defining moment in their relationship followed by 1964 landing of PIA, first foreign airline from a non- communist country, in China lifting its air blockade.

China' support in 1965 war with India heralded a new era of mutual ties. Since then both countries have never looked back.

Today this relationship rests on the principles of mutual trust, mutual respect, mutual support and non- interference in internal affairs.

This relationship is now multi- domain and is guided by regional geo political and geo economic imperatives.

The author has recounted various events and episodes highlighting the evolution of this important strategic partnership.

In the chapter, on 100 years of CPC rule, the author has underscored the strength of the party in giving a new direction to China, relying on the innate capability of the Chinese people.

After waging a relentless and difficult struggle to emancipate Chinese people from the clutches of colonialism, feudalism and poverty, CPC has presented to a model of governance which is being closely studied world over.

Chinese development is a great lesson for developing countries to be self- reliant. Considerable attention has been given to BRI and its objectives.

CPEC is a flagship project which has given tangible results to Pakistan in five- six years in terms of infrastructure development, power generation and employment generation.

Its next phase has been enlarged to benefit Pakistan in the fields of Agriculture, Education, IT, Industry, S&T, Tourism and socio- economic domain.

There was a need to highlight more that China came forward to invest in Pakistan when no one was prepared to come forward.

Secondly, China's loans are concessional in terms. Thirdly, coal based power projects are based on super critical technology reducing emission levels.

Lastly, CPEC is helping Pakistan as of now as development projects are being built in Pakistan not in China and country's infrastructure will develop as a result of CPEC by infusion of capital, technology and upgradation of skill set of our workers.

Hopefully author will be able to focus more on this particular aspect in next edition of his book.

The chapters on China's education and Pakistan and China educational exchanges are exhaustive and give valuable information.

China is at the cusp of becoming a full fledged knowledge economy and is spending about six percent of its GDP on education and research.

CPC's emphasis on innovation and new technologies is part of a national drive to catapult China into a most modern and prosperous country by 2049, centenary year of New China.

New grounds are being broken in mathematical sciences, engineering, quantum physics, nuclear and space sciences.

Already most forecasts are, China becoming the largest economy by end of this decade. As pointed out by the author, Pakistan and China have intensified their academic and scholarly exchanges in the last few years and institutionalized their cooperation.

This will be of immense benefit to Pakistan to broaden its industrial and scientific base by learning from our friend who is willing to help Pakistan.

A knowledge and information corridor under CPEC should be the priority of Pakistan Planners.

Tourism is another potential area where Chinese help could be sought to develop our infrastructure.

This is very relevant for our northern region which is the entry point of CPEC. Financially and technically feasible tourism projects could be offered to Chinese for investment.

Indeed security is a pre requisite for such projects to materialize.

The book's contribution for students and general readers to understand the dynamics of Pakistan-China relations should be acknowledged.

The book will introduce more in depth research on this vital relationship among the students of University and Study Centres.

The book will also be useful for general reader of Pakistan to understand the relationships between China and Pakistan.

In the end, I would like to congratulate Professor (Dr) Atta Ullah Shah on his accomplishment and recommend book whole heartedly to all the Academia, Govt Servants and General Readers as well. We all live to learn.

—The writer is Vice Chancellor, Karakoram International University, Gilgit-Baltistan

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-relations/>

China decide to invest in EVs manufacturing, local agri sector

China has decided to invest in Pakistan in the Electric vehicles (EVs) manufacturing and agriculture sector to enhance the economic activities in the local market.

The Investment in both sectors will create growth and new employment opportunities in these sectors, the senior official of Board of Investment told APP here on Thursday.

He said that Optima Integration Group of China has joined hands with Asia Pak Investments of Pakistan to invest \$50 million in the first phase to develop agriculture power and logistics sectors in Gwadar and Karachi.

He said that in a recent agreement, the Board of Investment (BoI) has facilitated the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two companies in this regard, which would create more than 100 jobs in Gwadar and Karachi, besides establishment of a high-tech processing facility along with technology transfer. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/china-decide-to-invest-in-evs-manufacturing-local-agri-sector/>

US, China, UK remain top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports

The United States remained the top export destinations of Pakistani products during the ten months of fiscal year (2021-22), followed by China and United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the USA during July-April (2021-22) were recorded at US \$5616.739 million against the exports of \$4020.901 million during July-April (2020-21), showing a growth of 39.68 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data.

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$2342.526 million against the exports of \$1641.283 million during last year, showing an increase of 42.72 percent.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/us-china-uk-remain-top-3-destinations-of-pakistani-exports/>

Xi's global security initiative and Pakistan

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

NOW Asia & economic NATO has become a hot debate in many regional capitals. It seems that the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict has alarmed many countries which consider that Taiwan would be the next point of conflict between the US and China.

That is why NATO's heavy presence has been on the increase for the last six months in the Indo-Pacific Region (IPR).

Moreover, the first step of economic NATO has been initiated during the recently concluded visit of the US President Joe Biden to Japan by launching a new the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

The sole aim of this IPEF is to contain China because it does not have spirits of “economic integration” and “inclusiveness” because regional economic cooperation initiatives should be open and inclusive, instead of discriminatory and exclusive.

12 nations joining the IPEF include Australia, India, Japan and South Korea, while China, the second largest economy in the world, is currently not on the list.

Besides having a so-called collaborative vision of economic cooperation, the IPEF has not detailed any substantial benefits that it can provide to its signatories yet.

Thus all efforts are being carried out at all corners to contain China. Furthermore, the US increases its influence in IPR with the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) and AUKUS (a trilateral security pact between Australia, the UK and the US) under the Indo-Pacific Strategic Framework.

Despite the Chinese government’s warnings, NATO is constantly increasing its military presence in the backwards of China.

In this connection, the US arms sales and military training to Taiwan and many other regional countries and military strategic alliances and partnerships with Japan and South Korea all indicate that the US and its allies are on the mission of containing China through force and economic barricade.

To counter these emerging socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic anti-China trends in the region and beyond, Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has floated the idea of “BRICS Plus” which would further promote humanity’s common values of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom among the developing countries through unremitting efforts to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

BRICS Plus vividly reflects true spirits of “multilateralism” and “multiculturalism” which consequently guarantees the survival of emerging markets and developing countries.

It would follow principles of the United Nations and oppose all tactics of coercion against developing countries.

It would also global security enhance governance and safeguard world peace and tranquillity.

According to the Chinese Foreign Minister, it would pursue sustainable development goals and implement the mission of global governance.

In this regard, he urged the developing countries to work together to improve global governance and strive for greater space for development.

He rightly suggested that true spirits of solidarity and mutual assistance, South-South cooperation should be pursued and implemented on a larger scale, in broader areas and at deeper levels, so as to enhance the power of international discourse, agenda-setting and rule-making, and promote the development of global governance system in a more just and reasonable direction.

Thus the “BRICS Plus” cooperation, as a platform for emerging markets and developing countries, is built for cooperation and development.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi welcomed more countries to join it in promoting democracy in international relations, making the world economy more inclusive and rationalizing global governance, so as to jointly create a bright and better future.

The BRICS comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa accounting for nearly 42 percent of the world population, 27 percent of land surface and 32 percent of global GDP (PPP) and has always remained committed to multilateral cooperation and a multipolar world order.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, while addressing the opening session of the meeting, urged the BRICS countries to reject the Cold War mentality and shun confrontation and work together to build a global community of security for all.

This was clearly hinted at the geopolitics of polarization pursued by the US and its Western allies wherein the world is divided in the simplistic, yet irrational, binary of allies and adversaries similar to the times of the Cold War.

Xi noted that BRICS could play a constructive role in dealing with these challenges. He was of the opinion and constructive force in the international positive, inspiring that as a community, the BRICS countries should be brave enough to tackle all hurdles to promote peace and development, uphold fairness and justice and advocate democracy and freedom in the world.

Good news is that the BRICS is now preparing for the expansion of BRICS to include other large emerging markets as members.

The BRICS Foreign Ministers’ joint statement revealed that discussions on the expansion process are already ongoing and “the guiding principles, standards, criteria and procedures” for new members will be formulated through consultation and consensus among the present members.

It seems that at least four countries that are part of the Group of 20 (G20) largest economies of the world, including Argentina, Indonesia, Mexico and Turkey along with Bangladesh have expressed strong interest in full membership of the BRICS, while Egypt, Iran, Nigeria, Sudan, Syria and most recently Pakistan have also expressed a desire in joining BRICS.

The five current BRICS countries are G-20 members as well. Thus forces of multilateralism and multiculturalism are on the rise to defeat the forces of darkness and destruction.

A BRICS expansion could multiply the global influence of the bloc while also consolidating its principle of multilateralism through greater representation of developing countries.

Hopefully, an expanded BRICS will have the potential to become a pivot for global growth, security and peace.

On the other hand, most recently the Chinese President Xi Jinping's proposed Global Security Initiative (GSI) which aimed at creating an Asian security framework that replaces confrontation, alliance and a zero-sum approach with dialogue, partnership and win-win propositions.

So it is a value addition in the regional security systems which will be a balancing act in the days to come.

It is a holistic and comprehensive new security system which cares about security, economy, sovereignty, dignity and last but not least, humanity.

To conclude, Xi's GSI is against the Western theory of geopolitical security rather is a giant step towards Asian Security Architecture (ASA).

It pledges "six commitments", comprising of the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security; respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries; abiding by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; taking the legitimate security concerns of all countries seriously; peacefully resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation; and staying committed to maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional domains.

World is changing and changing rapidly thus Chinese BRICS Plus and GSI would be a catalyst for sustainable development and an equitable security system in the world. The policy makers of Pakistan should support both.

—The writer is Director, the Centre for South Asia & International Studies Islamabad & regional expert, China, CPEC & BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/xis-global-security-initiative-and-pakistan-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan, China urged to improve fruit quality

PCJCCI official stresses need for forming research team to put ideas into practice

LAHORE: Pakistan and China can collaborate to launch fruit quality enhancement centres, fruit processing units, dehydration plants and cold storage chains to prepare Pakistani fruits in line with international standards for export to global markets, said Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President SM Naveed.

Speaking at a think tank session on Monday, he said that the fruit sector of Pakistan had enormous potential that could be beneficial for both countries. "There is a dire need to form a preliminary research team in order to put ideas into practice."

He emphasised that the aim was to import fresh, processed and dry fruits from Pakistan, which would be re-exported to the rest of the world after value addition.

Speaking on the occasion, PCJCCI Senior Vice President Daud Ahmed said that Pakistan produced a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, with total annual production estimated at nine million tons.

This includes 438,000 tons of mangoes, 525,000 tons of apples, 126,000 tons of guavas, apricots and other such fruits, and 1.914 million tons of bananas, grapes, pomegranates, pears and dates.

PCJCCI Vice President Khalid Raffique Choudhry pointed out that unfortunately, due to lack of advanced processing and packaging techniques, nearly 50% of the total fruit production was being wasted during harvesting, transportation, grading and processing for value addition and while reaching markets for export of fresh fruit and value-added products. He added that the major operational activities in the process that needed attention included sorting, washing, waxing, drying, grading and packaging.

PCJCCI Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif added that it would be a great initiative if China established fruit processing and value addition plants in Pakistan, which would be beneficial for both countries.

Highlighting the prospects of joint ventures in mango cultivation, he said that with a total area of 167.5 thousand hectares under mango cultivation, it was the second major fruit crop of Pakistan after citrus and the country was ranked fourth in the world in mango production..

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2296836/pakistan-china-urged-to-improve-fruit-quality>

May 28, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan's Trade with China and India

Foqia Sadiq Khan

Trade is a cornerstone of important economic policymaking. In order to expand trade, many countries have chosen Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)/Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs). An economy dominated by global value chains and underwritten by regionalism has impressed upon the countries to opt for FTAs.

In order to discuss free trade agreements, trade between Pakistan and China, and trade between Pakistan and India; we refer to Shahid Yusuf's publication F-19150-PAK-1 in the International Growth Centre, 2020 and Akbar Zaidi's chapter on the political economy of neighbourly relations in his book "Issues in Pakistan's Economy," published in 2015.

Shahid Yusuf writes, "Through FTAs, countries can strengthen linkages created by GVCs (global value chains) and forge other strategic ones as well leading to larger flows of FDI. Trade agreements covering a large region are particularly advantageous because firms can specialize and reap scale economies. In addition to greater access to markets, technology and skills, FTAs are attractive because they can spur reforms – as in the case of China prior to its accession to the

WTO – including trade liberalization and bring about a simplification of rules governing trade. Hence FTAs/RTAs have proliferated.”

FTAs/PTAs support multilateralism. However, WTO data suggests that trade enhancing impact of FTAs/PTAs is likely to be “modest” since most countries already have agreed to tariff reductions under GATT/WTO.

Akbar Zaidi is of the view that PTAs established on the basis of competitive rather than complementary economies are more likely to be effective to create opportunities for trade and product specialisation.

Trade in South Asia could increase threefold, and inject the needed foreign direct investment into the economy.

South Asian Free Trade Agreement was executed in 2004 and it materialised in 2006 but it has performed at a very sub-optimal level. It has not generated much trade amongst its members. Exports are just six per cent and intraregional trade is only three per cent. South Asia has the lowest intraregional trade that makes up five per cent of total regional trade in the world. Unless India and Pakistan relations improve, SAFTA is not going to perform to its optimal level. This is in direct contrast to India and China’s bilateral trade, which is highly substantial despite the border dispute between the two of them. Yusuf refers to a World Bank research to state that trade in South Asia could increase threefold from its current level and this increase in trade could lead to injecting the needed foreign direct investment into the economy. To cite an example, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has made crucial investments in energy, infrastructure, and transport. However, there is a dire need for foreign direct investment in the export-oriented sectors in Pakistan.

There are advantages as well as disadvantages to trading between a lower-middle-income economy of Pakistan with a GDP of \$313 billion in 2018 and China, which is the world’s second-largest economy with \$13.6 trillion. The first FTA was negotiated between China and Pakistan in 2006. Its second phase was finalised in 2019. Trade between Pakistan and China that was less than \$800 million in 2000 increased to \$3.5 billion in 2006.

Pakistan largely imported machinery, transport equipment, iron, steel, yarn, and textiles from China. However, China imported textile yarn, resource-based products, and fabrics from Pakistan. The total Pakistan and China trade was roughly to the tune of \$ 13.5 billion in 2017-18. Pakistan imports \$11.5 billion worth of goods from China; while exports \$1.7 billion worth of products in a similar range of manufactures as mentioned above. Over the years, Pakistan’s exports to China have increased twofold while China’s exports to Pakistan have increased threefold. It shows that more industrialised countries have an edge while trading with less developed countries. Pakistan needs to carefully negotiate the terms of trade with other countries. Pakistan should not compromise its long-term economic growth goals while pursuing medium-term trade arrangements.

Akbar Zaidi asks the question of whether Pakistan needs to trade with India meaningfully or can it remain in the bubble of a “non-peace, non-war environment.” Though there are two views on trade with India; Zaidi is emphatic that trade with India would be beneficial to Pakistan. Moreover, trade with India would help to bring down hostilities between the two countries.

It is hard to understand why the pro-status quo forces in Pakistan are opposed to trade with India. Despite the so-called claims of “independent foreign policy;” various Indian governments have not been able to pursue an independent foreign policy post-Nehru. Indian governments post-Nehru have been as much influenced by the US, the West, and important countries in the Middle East for decades as Pakistani governments have been for ages. Indian governments have been as much controlling and influencing their Indian civil society, academic, media and other organs of the state and society for decades as much as Pakistani governments have been controlling their civil society, academia, media, and other organs of the state and society just like the rest of the world whether the US, the UK, the Middle East or the rest of the world. Whether it is the developed world countries or developing countries; the governments control and influence the rest of the society and the government and the state institutions. So, when Pakistan and India are both in the Western camp and have been influenced by the West and are still being influenced by the West; why are the pro-status quo forces in Pakistan opposing open trade with India? Is it to keep the narrative of the “hostility with India alive” for the sake of showing it to the public, so that they can claim large amounts of the budget for their institutional interests year after year, decade after decade?

Right now, direct trade between India and Pakistan is not high in volume and indirect trade through a third country or smuggling is much greater. The actual trade (the majority being the illicit trade) is four to five times greater than the official trade. And it incurs a loss to both countries. For example, as far back as 2004, it was estimated that Pakistan could save \$110 million a year if it directly bought tea from India rather than Kenya or any other source. Other statistics paint a similar picture. Pakistan is losing out by not trading with India. Due to this reason, civilian governments in Pakistan have been for opening up trade with India but it has been opposed by the status-quo forces in the country. Zaidi refers to the Ministry of Commerce study in Pakistan, “The study looked at a number of sectors in the Pakistan economy and concluded that ‘the economic benefits of liberalising trade with India outweigh costs’. Consumers in Pakistan would benefit ‘unambiguously’ because of lower prices, and the government will get far greater revenue from legalising the existing illicit trade. Moreover, ‘important segments of producers would also benefit because of increased competitiveness and market access to a much larger Indian economy.’”

Whether it is trade with China, CPEC, or trade with India; the government and the state in Pakistan must do thorough homework and look at the long-term growth prospects of the country and play to its advantage while minimising the risks. There would certainly be costs of opening up the trade but the benefits outweigh them.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/942215/pakistans-trade-with-china-and-india/>

Training on ‘Pathways for Industrial Decarbonisation in Belt and Road Countries’ from June 8-9

BTBU– ECOSF Joint Training Centre has planned to host its 5th training program on “Pathways for Industrial Decarbonisation for the Belt and Road Countries” from June 8-9.

Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU) is a public comprehensive university in Beijing, China while ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) a specialized agency of the ECO for promotion of Science and Technology leading to economic development.

The training is being arranged in an attempt to bring China’s extensive expertise and best practices in low carbon development to other Belt and Road (B&R) countries.

Climate Change is the biggest risk to humankind and one of the greatest global challenges of the 21st century, which needs to be addressed through international cooperation in the context of sustainable development.

China has emerged as global climate leader with its announcement in 2020 that the nation would aim to achieve “carbon neutrality” before 2060. China already leads the world in the clean energy technologies and it is by far the largest investor, producer and consumer of renewable energy.

Most of the world’s focus has rightly been on today’s major emitting countries when it comes to fighting the battle with climate change. From a forward-looking perspective, however, the biggest climate risk and opportunity lies in our ability to support a low carbon development pathway for the Belt and Road Countries that have signed up to China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

This is going to be a second training session dedicated to low carbon development for Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) while previously the similar training session on low carbon development was held last year in June 2021.

The purpose of this training program is to accelerate to low-carbon and climate-resilient development with special focus on key industrial sectors. The interested individuals can register themselves for the training at <http://www.ecosf.org/signup.aspx>. By June 06. This training program will seek to understand and learn about viable options for low carbon transition, best practices, success stories, and barriers on implementation of policies and programmes promoting low carbon industrial development, and match the potential cooperation among BRI counties in the key industrial sectors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/942549/training-on-pathways-for-industrial-decarbonisation-in-belt-and-road-countries-from-june-8-9/>

Fig production to expand under Pak-China agri cooperation

Compared with traditional crops, fig, as an emerging cash crop, can obviously play a greater role in promoting farmers’ income.

“At present, a small-scale fig soil environmental improvement experiment has achieved remarkable results,” said Dr Abdul Ghaffar Shar, Researcher of Yangling Fig Research Institute in China.

Eric Fang, Chairman of Yangling Fig Industry Development Company Ltd, echoed his viewpoint “In the future, in addition to simple planting experiments, we hope to bring a complete set of technical systems to Pakistan.”

There are more than 20 varieties of figs in our demonstration garden, of which two most outstanding varieties have an average yield of two tons per mu (0.067 hectare). Besides, with a short growth cycle, they can be picked in just five months, Eric Fang said in an interview with China Economic Net.

“In fact, it is only the average yield of the first year of harvest, a few years later, the yield can reach a peak of 5 tons per mu,” he added.

As per official data, fig cultivation in Pakistan is about 875,000 hectares and the total production can reach 7,200,000 tons. With an average production of about 8.23 tons per hectare, the yield cannot meet the need of whole county, therefore, Pakistan imports a large number of figs from Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey and other central Asian countries. Boosting local production is the top priority of China-Pakistan fig cooperation.

Considering that fig originated in Arabian Peninsula, Pakistan’s high temperature and abundant sunshine are already suitable for its growth. What we need to do is to promote the concept of “facility agriculture” here. Our facility greenhouses, water-saving irrigation systems and automatic control systems can well cope with the extreme climate that may occur. Temperature-controlled greenhouses can adjust the temperature whether it encounters high temperature or low temperature.

If the local soil lacks one or several trace elements necessary for plants, integrated water and fertilizer system can replenish nutrients in time.

In addition, facing the shortage of water resources in Pakistan, Yangling has formed a complete set of targeted measures; precise control of water is no longer a problem with water-saving irrigation systems. If a branch of the Yangling Agricultural Demonstration Zone can be set up in Pakistan in the future, we can slowly evolve a complete planting system suitable for Pakistan based on local conditions, which has the lowest risk and cost,” Eric Fang emphasized.

Dr Shar also mentioned the problems he encountered in Pakistan, “The abuse of chemical fertilizers is the most important factor in reducing yields. Most local farmers lack systematic agricultural knowledge so they believe that the more fertilizers are applied, the better the crops grow.

On the contrary, it can increase the pests and diseases and reduce the yield. Instead of using pesticides and chemical fertilizers that are harmful to health, it is better to change the planting

mode, like using new nutrients such as straw and biochar to achieve the effect of increasing yield and environmental protection.”

Besides yield, quality is also an issue that Yangling fig producing areas are very concerned about it.

According to Eric Fang, many varieties have reached a high yield now, under this premise, the quality should be improved and the output value can be further increased, to increase income. China and Pakistan also have a lot of room for cooperation in this regard. “Not only introducing China’s superior varieties into Pakistan, but also improving the local fig quality.” Moreover, to increase the output value, industrialization is the only way.

Apart from the existing by-products such as jam and dried fruit, Yangling Fig Industry Development Company Ltd has also developed fig cosmetics, including shampoo, shower gel, perfume, facial mask, and has cooperated with several biopharmaceutical company in Xi’an, Shaanxi Province to develop fig health supplements and medicines. Eric Fang said, “Given that China-Pakistan cooperation requires complementary advantages, we hope to make full use of Pakistan’s advantages in land, labour, photovoltaic energy, and build a production centre in Pakistan in the future. Because of the epidemic, we can start related online personnel training in Pakistan.

Figs have high economic value and are highly processed, so except the fresh fruit, the processing industry is also promising. I believe the future of this industry is bright. “As for Dr Shar, it is his primary goal to use the advanced agricultural knowledge learned in China to benefit his hometown. He mentioned that in Pakistan, fig-producing areas are mainly concentrated in the north. Pakistan has vast desert areas, and many places have sandy loam soils that are most suitable for fig growth, so he hopes that these areas can be fully utilized. What’s more, local farmers generally do not know much about the commercial value of fig by-products, and it is a top priority to spread relevant knowledge for them as soon as possible.

“I think in the future, Pakistan and China will have more and more cooperation in that aspect under the framework of CPEC. I expect that the Pakistani government can unite the Yangling demonstration zone to launch a large-scale agricultural cooperation project to provide assistance to Pakistani farmers who do not understand the professional knowledge, so that they can truly realize the value of the fig industry.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/942562/fig-production-to-expand-under-pak-china-agri-cooperation/>

Dunya News

Pakistan likely to get \$2.5b from China: sources

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Pakistan is likely to get \$2.5 billion from China after both sides reached an agreement on economic package.

According to sources privy with the development, foreign exchange reserves will increase while pressure of foreign debt payments will reduced after Chinese funds are received.

Sources further said that government is also in talks with China for economic package for next fiscal year.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/653937-Pakistan-likely-to-get-2-5b-from-China-sources>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan looks to low-cost CPEC power plants from China

Pakistan is looking forward for low-cost CPEC power plants from China for energy security and affordability, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday.

The report says, as Pakistan is struggling to provide uninterrupted electricity to its 220 million people amid soaring generation costs due to skyrocketing fossil fuel prices in the international market, the country looks to the low-cost China-sponsored power plants to avoid an impending energy crisis.

Shanghai Electric's 1320MW Thar Coal Block-1 (TCB-1) power plant, the 720MW Karot, and 870MW Suki Kinari hydropower plants, as well as the K2 and K3 power plants in Karachi (1100MWs each) will lower the average cost of electricity in the overall energy mix and ensure sustainability in Pakistan's power sector, a senior official in finance wing of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) told Gwadar Pro.

The TCB-1, expected to come online in early 2023, will use indigenous Thar coal at \$35-36 per ton as against the imported coal price of \$188 in January, \$226 in February, and \$160 in April 2022.

The fuel cost component for the TCB-1 will be around Rs 3.5 per unit with the consumer tariff of Rs 8 per unit. On the other hand, the power plants running on imported coal have sought Rs 12 per unit in fuel cost for April 2022 with the consumer tariff of above Rs 17, the official elaborated, referring to the power purchase data for the month issued by the Central Power Purchasing Authority (CPPA).

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-looks-to-low-cost-cpec-power-plants-from-china/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کی 71 ویں سالگرہ پر نیڈل آرٹسٹ کی سابق وزیراعظم ماوزے تنگ کی سوئی دھاگہ سے تصویر بنا کر خراج عقیدت

لاہور (نیوز پورٹ) چین کی 71 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر نیڈل آرٹسٹ ساجدہ حنیف نے چین کے سابق وزیراعظم ماوزے تنگ کی سوئی دھاگہ سے تیار کی گئی تصویر بنا کر خراج عقیدت پیش کیا جو چینی عوام سے محبت کا اظہار ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-05-28/page-4/detail-10>

May 29, 2022

Daily Times

75% work on first AI lab under CPEC complete

Seventy-five percent work of Pakistan first high-standard artificial intelligence laboratory under CPEC at National University of Science and Technology (NUST) has been completed while the equipment installation is almost 100% finished, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

At the beginning of this year, the laboratory under CPEC–Qingluan Artificial Intelligence Laboratory was officially established at NUST, with joint efforts of NUST and Guangzhou Institute of Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Research, development and customization is currently underway. I would say work is almost finished to 75%.” Muhammad Khubaib Shabbir, Deputy Director of China Study Center of NUST told Gwadar Pro.

The lab has been put into full use, both students and teaching staff are keen on researching Pattern and Facial Recognition algorithms, the reporter learned.

“Currently, Cognizer-V1 intelligent video analysis project—a pilot project with the Government of Pakistan, and a commercial project, namely GymBot are the main projects that are under development.” Muhammad Khubaib Shabbir revealed.

“Ideally, Cognizer-V1 is one of the most sophisticated surveillance equipment, which has the capability of converting ordinary cameras and surveillance equipment into a Smart Equipment, using AI and Computer Vision Algorithms.” Muhammad Khubaib Shabbir said.

“To put it simple, the Cognizer-V1 has the ability to sense the people who are lurking around in certain areas and generate warnings, regarding dangerous behavioral patterns such as suicide, or other suspicious activities.” Muhammad Khubaib Shabbir said.

In the case of Pakistan, the country is blessed with a large number of artificial intelligence application scenarios and a huge market, thanks to its world’s 6th largest population. Moreover, the country is never short on talents.

However, challenges lie in the commercialization of scientific achievements— an important step which can be viewed as one of the sources for innovation.

Due to the backward industrial conditions and obstruction of international exchanges during the epidemic, the progress of commercialization in Pakistani scientific research institutes has been extremely slow.

“Our other key project, ‘GymBot’, can be a perfect example of science commercialization. It is designed to be a deep learning device, using AI and Computer Vision Algorithms and serve as an auxiliary tool under various gym scenarios, monitoring whether the clients’ postures are correct.

Experts in various fields are joining the research team to finalize the product. The core functions have been developed already. Now what the team is doing is developing additional modules to integrate and research new areas to better customize the device.” Muhammad Khubaib Shabbir shared his insights.

“It is important to keep in mind that Guangzhou Institute of Chinese Academy of Sciences has shared the source code for ‘GymBot’. This enabled the researchers from Pakistan to get first-hand experience of the latest results on AI developments and offered them a chance to learn from it, enhance it and make it more usable for the local community. This will most definitely open new doors of opportunities for Pakistanis.”

Moving ideas from lab to marketplace is a complicated journey. Researchers and stakeholders need to manage the time-consuming process of moving from academic to commercial contexts, and seek balance between different goals amongst stakeholders and researchers.

CPEC enables the exchanges of advanced concepts, from both technical and management level. Qing Luan lab can be one of the successful examples.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/942783/75-work-on-first-ai-lab-under-cpec-complete/>

China-Pakistan cooperating to upgrade mango production: Wang Yan

Chinese and Pakistani experts are trying to find opportunities for cooperation to improve mango production in Pakistan by using advanced facilities and technology. “With our advanced facility agriculture, I believe that if there is an opportunity for cooperation, we will be able to systematically improve the reduction of mango production in Pakistan due to extreme weather,” said Wang Yan, General Manager of Yangling Qingpita Garden Dragon fruit Demonstration Base, in an interview with China Economic Net.

He said that once the water and fertilizer integrated greenhouse is built; the service life is generally more than 15 years, with high economic benefits. “With global warming, extreme weather is likely to occur more frequently in the future, a long-term stable growth environment can fundamentally minimize the damage caused by natural disasters.

In addition, application of organic fertilizers to increase soil organic matter is also a top priority because extreme weather can also cause serious damage to the topsoil.

“If we can work together with Iron Brother, we will start with the greenhouse and soil, and achieve a two-pronged approach. Considering the relative high cost of integrated greenhouse, building a simple rain shelter with steel wire and plastic film can be a good choice for local farmers. When the weather is fine, the shelter can be removed, and in case of extreme weather such as storms and hail, they can unfold the ‘umbrella’ made of plastic film. This low-cost method can effectively protect the trees.”

Regarding the abuse of fertilizers and pesticides in Pakistan, Wang Yan also put forward her own opinions.

“In fact, the extensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides can cause fruit to spoil easily. Therefore, we must reduce the use of chemical fertilizers so organic farming methods such as fermented farmyard manure and returning straw to the field are worthy of promotion, by which can also effectively cope with the high price and shortage of local fertilizers. We are very willing to share our experience with the Pakistani friends.”

Pakistani farmers are desperately in need of modern orchard management techniques. Mohammad Rafi, a mango grower, said that there was a dire need of introducing modern techniques for producing mangoes, which could double per acre produce within five years.

“If the government can offer support, the average grower can increase per hectare production from 12 tons to 22-25 tons by focusing on modern orchard management practices.”

Except for planting technology, Wang Yan also proposed by-product processing as a useful way to improve industrial development level and increase income.

“As a cash crop, mangoes have extremely high processing value. Juice, jam, dried fruit, fruit tea and other products are very popular. If the cooperation between China and Pakistan is realized, we will also fully share the supporting technology of processing by-products. I believe that with modern management technology, the Pakistani mango industry will get out of the predicament and usher in new opportunities.”

In the Yangling Agricultural Hi-tech Industries Demonstration Zone in Shaanxi Province, which is located in the temperate zone with little water in north-western China, mangoes, as a kind of tropical and subtropical fruit, have been harvested for three consecutive years.

Among our three best varieties, a variety with smaller fruit has a yield of about 1.3 tons per mu (0.067 hectare), and the other two varieties with larger fruit has the yield between 1.5-2 tons per mu. In addition, they all have a strong resistance to disease and cold, said Wang Yan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/943072/china-pakistan-cooperating-to-upgrade-mango-production-wang-yan/>

Dawn News

Two Chinese working on CPEC receive burn injuries

ISLAMABAD: Two Chinese working on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) sustained critical burn injuries in a fire incident here on Saturday, police said.

They were identified as Zhang Haihong and Jiang Nan, working with China Energy Engineering Group North III Electric Power Company Limited at CPEC, they said, adding that both were residing in a guesthouse for Chinese at F-7/1 where 15 more Chinese and 10 Pakistani servants are residing.

The fire erupted in the room of the two injured when they were taking meal there, the police said, adding the fire spread quickly and engulfed the room and as a result the two foreigners trapped in the flames.

The fire further spread to adjacent areas of the room, the police said, adding that shortly after getting the information the rescue team, including firefighters and police, reached there and got the guest house and nearby houses vacated and started the rescue work.

The fire was extinguished and the injured were shifted to hospital for medical assistance, they said, adding that both are kept at the Burn Center of the Pims under observation of doctors as their condition is critical.

Preliminarily findings suggested that the fire erupted due to gas leakage from Air Conditioner and short circuit, they said adding that as a result the compressor of the AC was bust and the fire spread in the room and burnt two beds, two table and a chair, a cupboard, the AC, ceiling and curtains.

A report over the incident was registered in the daily diary of the Kohsar police station and further investigation was in progress, they added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1691981>

Pakistan Observer

ECC allows TCP to import 200,000 MT Granular Urea from China

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mr. Miftah Ismail presided over meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet at Finance Division, on Saturday.

Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mehmood, Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mr. Abdul Shakoor, Minister of State for Finance & Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, Minister of State for Petroleum Division Mr. Musadik Masood Malik, Federal Secretaries and senior officers attended the meeting. Ministry of Industries and Production submitted a summary on the continuation of PM relief package – 2020 for the months of May and June, 2022 through USC. The ECC after deliberation allowed continuation of existing subsidy for two weeks on essential commodities (Atta, Sugar, Rice, and Pulses), and Rs. 100/kg subsidy on Ghee at USC. Finance Division will also release the outstanding amount on account of subsidy under PM Relief Package – 2020 approved by the ECC for the previous months.

Ministry of Industries and Production submitted another summary on Chinese offer for import of Urea by TCP on G2G basis. ECC after deliberation allowed TCP to import 200,000 MT Granular Urea from China on G2G basis on deferred payment basis within 90 days.

Ministry of National Food Security and Research submitted a summary on modalities framed for import of 3.00 MMT of wheat in the light of the decisions of the ECC of the Cabinet on 09-05-2022 and Federal Cabinet on 10-05-2022. The ECC after discussion allowed import of 2 MMT on G2G basis while 1 MMT through international tendering process under the existing arrangement. PASSCO will be the recipient agency for the imported wheat. The ECC further directed the MNFS&R to get the requirements of Wheat by the provincial governments.

On another summary of Ministry of National Food Security & Research for Ramzan Package Subsidy on wheat flour- Bridge financing facility for Punjab Food Department, the ECC decided that in case subsidy is not approved by the Punjab Cabinet, the shortfall will be bridged by the Federal Government but Govt. of Punjab will ensure that provincial cabinet approves the package as soon as its meeting is convened.

<https://pakobserver.net/ecc-allows-tcp-to-import-200000-mt-granular-urea-from-china/>

The Express Tribune

China's Grab Unloaders to aid bulk cargo handling

Port Qasim will receive large cranes in early June

KARACHI: Port Muhammad Bin Qasim is poised to receive two Grab Unloaders next week to facilitate its handling of dry bulk cargo.

The DM25T-43M Grab Unloaders are designed and manufactured by Nanjing Port-Machinery and Heavy-Industry Manufacture Co Ltd (NPHMC), China.

This type of crane features a hopper, fully closed belt and dust control system, which is energy-efficient and environmentally friendly.

The biggest advantage lies in its high cost performance. On the one hand, its unique design can save time and labour for the unloading work.

On the other hand, the price is low as the machine with the same function made by the European countries is two or three times as much as NPHMC's.

"That's why we have sold dozens of such Grab Unloaders in East Asian countries," said Winnie Wang, a manager at NPHMC.

However, the Grab Unloader faces problem in its shipment. As the height of the complete crane is too high to go through bridges over the Yangtze River, NPHMC has to take apart the crane first, ship them to a proper port and then assemble them to ship for Port Qasim.

After close communication and coordination over this issue between NPHMC and Fauji Akbar Portia Marine Terminals (FAP), the two unloaders were finally shipped from Pingtan Port, Fujian, China on May 5 and are estimated to reach Port Qasim on June 2, 2022.

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, to help Pakistan and the construction of CPEC, NPHMC has sent two batches of team with 15 people from China and Indonesia respectively for the installation and commissioning at site.

The article originally appeared on the China Economic Net

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2358896/chinas-grab-unloaders-to-aid-bulk-cargo-handling>

Nawaiwaqt News

ی ایم ایف سے جون میں معاہدہ، چین سعودی عرب بھی مدد کریں گے: مفتاح

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وفاقی وزیر خزانہ مفتاح اسماعیل نے کہا ہے کہ آئی ایم ایف کا سٹاف لیول معاہدہ جون میں ہو جائے گا۔ اگر آئندہ انتخابات میں ہمیں مینڈیٹ ملا تو شاید آئی ایم ایف کے پاس نئے معاہدے کے ساتھ جائیں۔ آئی ایم ایف سے پروگرام میں ایک سال کی توسیع اور پیسج ڈار بڑھانے کا کہا ہے۔ آئی ایم ایف سے فنڈز ملنے سے دیگر اداروں سے بھی فنڈز ماننا شروع ہو جائیں گے۔ ایک ارب ڈالر ورلڈ بینک سے ملیں گے۔ آئندہ ہفتے چین سے اچھی خبر دیں گے۔ جبکہ سعودی عرب بھی ہماری مدد کرے گا۔ سعودی وزیر خزانہ نے 3 ارب ڈالر کے ڈیپازٹس میں توسیع کا بیان دیا ہے۔ بجلی کی قیمت بڑھانے کی میرے پاس کوئی سمری نہیں ہے۔ پیٹرول کی قیمت خوشی سے نہیں بڑھائی، یہ بھی نہیں پتہ کہ آئندہ پیٹرول کی قیمت بڑھے گی یا نہیں، ابھی قیمتیں بڑھانی ہیں مجھے نہیں لگتا، 2، 4 روز میں دوبارہ بڑھیں گی۔ خان صاحب نے جس طرح سبڈی دی حکومت دیوالیہ ہو جاتی۔ گزشتہ حکومت کی نااہلی کے باعث مہنگائی کا طوفان آیا۔ وفاقی وزیر خزانہ نے ان خیالات کا اظہار گزشتہ روز پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ اس موقع پر وزیر مملکت خزانہ عائشہ غوث پاشا بھی موجود تھیں۔ مفتاح اسماعیل نے کہا آئی ایم ایف سے سٹاف لیول معاہدے کے بعد بورڈ کا اجلاس ہو گا جس کے بعد رقم وصول ہوگی۔ ہم نے آئی ایم ایف سے قرض پروگرام میں ایک سال توسیع کر کے 2 ارب ڈالر مزید دینے کا کہا ہے، مجھے امید ہے کہ پروگرام میں ایک سال کی توسیع بھی ہوگی اور پروگرام سے 5 ارب ڈالر مل جائیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اگر 5 ارب ڈالر ملے تو ضرور ملیں گے۔ آئی ایم ایف کے ساتھ سٹاف لیول معاہدہ جون میں ہو جائے گا۔ ہم گزشتہ حکومت کی جانب سے آئی ایم ایف کے ساتھ کیے گئے معاہدے کو لیکر چل رہے ہیں۔ اگر آئندہ انتخابات میں ہمیں مینڈیٹ ملا تو شاید آئی ایم ایف کے پاس نئے معاہدے کے ساتھ جائیں۔ آئی ایم ایف سے فنڈز ملنے سے دیگر اداروں سے بھی فنڈز ماننا شروع ہو جائیں گے۔ ایشیا انفراسٹرکچر بینک سے بھی پیسے ملیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پیٹرولیم مصنوعات کی قیمتیں نہ بڑھاتے تو ملکی معیشت پر مزید دباؤ آتا۔ پیٹرول کی قیمت بڑھنے سے روپیہ ڈھائی روپے اوپر گیا۔ غریبوں کیلئے مہنگائی کا تدارک ضروری ہے۔ پیٹرولیم مصنوعات کی قیمتیں بڑھانے سے روپیہ کی قدر اور سٹاک مارکیٹ میں بہتری آئی۔ ہم مکمل مدد انہیں کر سکتے مگر زخموں پر مرہم رکھ سکتے ہیں۔ 8 کروڑ 40 لاکھ پاکستانیوں کو وظیفہ دیا جائے گا۔ وظیفہ دینے کے اخراجات حکومت برداشت کرے گی۔ انتہائی غریب ترین لوگوں کو 2 ہزار روپے دیے جائیں گے۔ بینظیر انکم سپورٹ کے صارفین کو اس دفعہ ڈبل پیسے ملیں گے۔ 37 فیصد غریب ترین لوگ اس پروگرام سے مستفید ہوں گے، جن کی آمدن 40 ہزار سے کم ہے، موبائل نمبر 786 پر شناختی کارڈ نمبر ایس ایم ایس کریں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ شادی شدہ خواتین سکیم کے تحت ایس ایم ایس کریں، ہمارے خیال میں ایک لاکھ چالیس ہزار گھرانے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ایک پاکستانی اوسط 5 فیصد ٹرانسپورٹ پر خرچ کرتا ہے۔ آئندہ سال اس سکیم کو بجٹ کا حصہ بنایا جائے گا۔ وزیر خزانہ نے کہا کہ ذاتی سامان اگر آپ لے کر آ رہے ہیں تو اس پر کوئی روک نہیں ہوگی۔ اگر آپ 10 کلو چاکلیٹ یا 100 بوتلیں پرفیوم کی لارہے ہیں تو وہ ذاتی استعمال کیلئے نہیں۔ ہم پرسنل سامان لانے والوں کو نہیں روک رہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے اعلان کیا کہ 40 روپے کلو آٹا یوٹیلیٹی سٹور پر دیں گے۔ ہم میرٹ کی بنیاد پر گھر کی سربراہ خاتون کو 2، 3 دن میں تصدیق کرنے کے بعد 2 ہزار روپے دیں گے۔ گھر کی سربراہ خاتون کا انتقال ہونے کے صورت میں ان کی صاحبزادی سکیم کے تحت درخواست دینے کے لیے اہل ہوگی۔ موٹر سائیکل سواروں کو پیٹرول میں سبڈی دینے کی تجویز کے حوالے سے اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ ممکن تھا کہ ہم موٹر سائیکل سواروں کو سبڈی دیتے لیکن بہت سارے گھرانوں کے پاس موٹر سائیکل نہیں ہوتی، وہ لوگ بسوں میں سفر کرتے ہیں اور ڈیزل میں اضافے کے بعد بسوں کے کرائے بھی بڑھیں گے جس کے باعث تمام غریبوں کو اس سکیم میں شامل کر رہے ہیں۔ اس سکیم کی ایک مہینے کی لاگت 28 ارب روپے ہے جبکہ اگلے سال کی لاگت کا تخمینہ بعد میں لگائیں گے۔ وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ پیٹرولیم مصنوعات کی قیمتوں میں اضافے سے حکومت کے نقصان میں 60 ارب روپے کمی ہوگی کیونکہ تقریباً 2 کروڑ لیٹر پیٹرول ڈیزل استعمال ہوتا ہے۔ وزارت پیٹرولیم کے مطابق 85 فیصد پیٹرول 40 فیصد امیر ترین گھرانے استعمال کرتے ہیں، لہذا پیٹرول پر سبڈی زیادہ تر امیر لوگوں کو دے رہے تھے جو کہ نامناسب بات تھی۔ یکم جون سے پیٹرولیم مصنوعات کی قیمتوں میں اضافہ ہونے کے سوال کا جواب دیتے ہوئے مفتاح اسماعیل

نے کہا کہ عمران خان کی حکومت میں شوکت ترین نے عالمی مالیاتی فنڈ سے معاہدہ کیا تھا کہ پٹرول پر کوئی سبسڈی نہیں ہوگی جبکہ 30 روپے کی پٹرولیم لیوی بھی عائد کریں گے۔ اس طرح حکومت کو ڈیزل پر 84 روپے کا نقصان ہو رہا تھا تو پہلے 84 روپے کا اضافہ کرنے کے بعد 30 روپے کی لیوی عائد کرنے سے 114 روپے کا اضافہ ہوتا ہے۔ ڈیزل کی قیمت 144 روپے تھی اس طرح اضافے کے بعد ڈیزل کی قیمت 258 روپے بنتی ہے اس کے اوپر سیلز ٹیکس عائد کریں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ شوکت ترین کے فارمولے کے تحت ڈیزل کی قیمت 300 روپے اور پٹرول کی قیمت 260 روپے کے قریب ہونی چاہئے تھی، ہم اس فارمولے پر نہیں جا رہے اور نہ ہم ٹیکس لگائیں گے۔ وزیر خزانہ نے کہا کہ مئی میں پٹرول بڑھایا ہے، مناسب نہیں ہو گا کہ چند دن بعد پھر بڑھا دیا جائے، مجھے نہیں لگتا ہے پیٹرول کی قیمت میں کم جون کو اضافہ ہوگا۔ بجلی کی قیمت بڑھانے کی کوئی سمری ہمارے پاس نہیں آئی۔ وزیر خزانہ مفتاح اسماعیل نے کہا کہ گزشتہ رات وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے خطاب کو سراہا گیا، غریب عوام کی مدد کرنا ہماری اولین ترجیح ہے، اور شہباز شریف کا غریب پرور ہونا روایت ہے۔ جو مہنگائی کا طوفان پچھلی حکومت کی وجہ سے آیا اس کا تدارک ضروری ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید بتایا کہ فورسز کا بجٹ 1340 ارب روپے ہے۔ اس میں فورسز کو ملنے والی گرانٹ بھی شامل کر لیں تو یہ بجٹ 1400 ارب روپے بنتا ہے۔ فورسز کا بجٹ جی ڈی پی کے 2 فیصد سے بھی کم ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بجٹ دس جون کو پیش کیا جائے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-05-29/page-1/detail-10>

May 30, 2022

Business Recorder

Chinese firms' 'woes' invoke 'Shehbaz speed'

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is reportedly proactively engaged in the resolution of issues facing the Chinese companies including those working in power sector projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), well informed sources told Business Recorder. Prime Minister Office, sources said, has convened a preparatory meeting on Monday (today) with all the concerned Ministries. PMO has asked the Ministries to provide a synopsis for the Prime Minister (one pager), a comprehensive brief and a copy of presentations and talking points.

Recently, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal held a meeting with the Chinese companies and heard their concerns in the presence of senior officials of relevant Ministries and issued directions for their early resolution.

Official documents reveal that the following Chinese Companies complained about delays in payments by CPPA-G and NTDC: (i) 1320MW Sahiwal IPP;(ii) 1320MW Port Qasim IPP;(iii) 1320MW China Hub IPP;(iv) 660MW Engro Thar IPP;(v) 300MW Zonergy IPP;(vi) 100MW UEP Wind Farm;(vii) 50MW Dawood Wind Farm;(viii) 50MW Sachal Wind Farm;(ix) 100MW China Three Gorges Wind Farm; and (x) Lahore-Matiari HVDC Transmission Line.

The companies stressed that the increase in fuel prices had worsened their liquidity situation, forcing them to shut down their plants.

Power Division stated that 86 per cent of the bills had been paid and efforts were under way to make further payments to the IPPs.

Power Division will expedite action for payment of outstanding amount.

Insiders claim that the outstanding payables to Chinese IPPs have reached over Rs 350 billion.

Another key issue highlighted during meeting was the delay in opening of revolving account for CEPC IPPs. The following companies raised the issue stating that the non-fulfilment of this contractual obligation was creating difficulties for them: (i) 1320MW Sahiwal IPP ;(ii) 1320MW Port Qasim IPP;(iii) 1320MW China Hub IPP;(iv) 300 MW Zonergy IPP;(v) 660MW Engro Thar IPP;(vi) 100MW China Three Gorges Wind Farm.

The meeting decided that Power Division and Finance Division will expedite action for a final decision on opening of Revolving Account.

According to sources, Finance Division approached Power Division a couple of days ago and pressed for resolution of this issue pending since long.

The following project raised the matter of issues in Financial Close due to no clearance from Sinosure: (i) 1320MW TCB-1; (ii) 300MW Gwadar power plant; (iii) 700MW Azad Pattan HPP; and (iv) 1124MW Kohala HPP. It was decided that this matter will be raised with Chinese embassy.

On the issue of extension in LoS of Azad Pattan HPP and RCOD of 1320 MW TCB-1, the meeting decided that PPIB and CPPA-G Boards will consider the proposed extension of the LoS for Azad Pattan HPP in their upcoming meetings within a month's time.

The following companies agitated the matter of increase of Sales Tax on imports from 0% to 17%o in Supplementary Finance Act 2021- 2022:(i) 700MW Azad Pattan HPP ;(ii) 1124 MW Kohala HPP;(iii) 884MW Suki Kinari HPP;(iv) 1320 MW TCB-I;(v) 300MW Gwadar IPP;(vi) 330MW TEL;(and (vii) 330MW Thal Nova. Power Division has been directed to take this issue with the FBR.

The meeting decided that the issue of increase in WHT on local shareholders dividends for IPPs from 7.5% to 25 % will also be raised with FBR.

M/s China Hub Power 1320MW and Engro Thar Power Plant 660MW agitated the matter of raising tariff. NEPRA asked the companies to provide required information for final decision. The following companies suggested that GOP may consider the central purchasing of imported coal for efficient negotiation; (i) 1320MW Sahiwal IPPs; (ii) 1320MW Port Qasim IPP; and (iii) 1320MW China Hub IPP. Deputy Chairman Planning Commission (DCPC) stated that the suggestion may be considered by the relevant authorities.

M/s Pakistan Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line Company agitated that NTDC is in default to solve ROW of drainage outlet of Matiari Converter Station since last three years. Power Division will take up the matter with NTDC for resolution.

M/s Hydro China Dawood Wind Power Project agitated the issue of power curtailment due to single circuit 132KV single circuit transmission line instead of double circuit 132KV transmission line.

Power Division explained that Ghara Double Circuit 132KV Transmission Line is under construction. The issue will be settled after completion of this double circuit line.

The representative of CSCEC, the contractor for Multan-Sukkur motorway (M5), raised the matter of withholding of substantial amount by NHA on various grounds, which should be released without linking them to the issues pending with DAB.

Contractor has proposed amicable settlement of all claims/ disputes through Third Party instead of the lengthy arbitration/ legal process. Ministry of Communications will scale up its efforts to resolve the outstanding issues between NHA and the contractor. It was also decided that NHA and the contractor would hold a meeting within a week and proposed a way forward for amicable settlement as per contract.

The representative of CRBC, the Contractor of Havelian-Thakot, complained of contractual disputes between NHA and the contractor. Chinese Embassy and contractor have proposed that the matters pending with DAB since July 2020 may be resolved through amicable settlement, to avoid lengthy legal process.

The representative of CREC, the Chinese company nominated by Government of China as the lead for Mian Line-1, raised the matter of project cost approved by the Planning Commission, being lower than the cost worked out in the feasibility study. It was suggested that the project may be reviewed.

Commercial Councillor of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan was requested to take up the matter with NDRC & MoFCom for initiation of the bidding process and finalization of term sheet for financing of Package-I of the project.

The representative of CRBC stressed on the timely completion of the feasibility study of Realignment of KKH Phase-II (Thakot-Raikot section) which will be merged to construction of dams. It was decided that the technical working group to finalize the ToRs of the feasibility study of project within one week. MoPD&S will convene a meeting under the chairmanship of the Minister to discuss the project in detail.

Multiple Chinese companies raised issues relating to delay in issuance of visas, as well as, problems relating to conversion of business visas into work visas for Chinese workers of CPEC projects.

Chinese companies were requested to share lists of their workers requiring conversion of business visas into work visas. Ministry of Interior (MoI) will process the case for permission to convert all such Business visas to work visas.

China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) requested additional favourable policies for CPEC SEZs to make them more competitive in the region. However, BoI stated that incentives in place

for SEZs are already competitive enough and more incentives will create discrimination for other investors.

CRBC, the Chinese company working on Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone Project (KCCDZ), requested signing of Investment Framework Agreement for the project so that the subsequent works could be carried out without any further delay.

BoI has been directed to hold a meeting with all stakeholders and submit a position paper to the Minister PD&SI.

COPHCL raised the issue of hinterland connectivity of Gwadar Port to make the port commercially viable with respect to KPT and Port and Port Qasim.

NHA will hold a meeting with COPHCL/ GPA and advise them of the possible economic transportation route for the cargo from Gwadar to up country.

COPHCL urged Government of Pakistan to import cargoes of Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) through Gwadar Port. Ministry of Commerce informed that imports via Gwadar Port will add further costs which cannot be borne by TCP. Ministry of Commerce will hold a meeting with COPHCL/ GPA to assess the viability of import of TCP cargoes via Gwadar and suggest measures to increase its viability.

COPHCL raised the issue of exemption of Gwadar Free Zone from Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947. The proposal was presented directly to SBP by the Bank of China and COPHCL. Response on draft proposal for provision of commercial transaction of foreign currency (RMB) in Gwadar Free Zone will be obtained from SBP through Ministry of Finance.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/30/1-page/931345-news.html>

Daily Times

Training on “Pathways for Industrial Decarbonisation in Belt and Road Countries” from June 8

The joint training center of Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU) and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF) has planned to host its 5th training program titled “Pathways for Industrial Decarbonisation for the Belt and Road Countries” from 8 to 9 June. The BTBU is a public comprehensive university in Beijing, China while the ECOSF is a specialized agency for the promotion of Science and Technology leading to economic development of Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) member states. The training is being arranged in an attempt to bring China’s extensive expertise and best practices in low carbon development to other Belt and Road (B&R) countries.

Climate Change is the biggest risk to mankind and one of the greatest global challenges of the 21st century, which needs to be addressed through international cooperation in the context of sustainable development. China has emerged as global climate leader with its announcement in 2020 that the nation would aim to achieve “carbon neutrality” before 2060.

China already leads the world in the clean energy technologies and it is by far the largest investor, producer and consumer of renewable energy. Most of the world's focus has rightly been on today's major emitting countries when it comes to fighting the battle with climate change. From a forward-looking perspective, however, the biggest climate risk and opportunity lies in our ability to support a low carbon development pathway for the Belt and Road Countries that have signed up to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

This is going to be a second training session dedicated to low carbon development for Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) while previously the similar training session on low carbon development was held last year in June 2021. The purpose of this training program is to accelerate to low-carbon and climate-resilient development with special focus on key industrial sectors.

The interested individuals can register themselves for the training at

<http://www.ecosf.org/signup.aspx>. by June 06. This training program will seek to understand and learn about viable options for low carbon transition, best practices, success stories, and barriers on implementation of policies and programmes promoting low carbon industrial development, and match the potential cooperation among BRI countries in the key industrial sectors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/943435/training-on-pathways-for-industrial-decarbonisation-in-belt-and-road-countries-from-june-8/>

Chinese breeding technology helping high yield of Pakistani rice

Chairman Pakistan Hi Tech Hybrid Seed Association (PHHSA) Shahzad Ali Malik on Sunday said that Chinese breeding technology helping Pak farmers to easily cultivate high-yield, disease resistant new rice varieties for exports. Talking to a delegation of progressive farmers led by Shafique Ur Rehman here today, he said Chinese enterprises and research institutes that evolved new varieties of seeds and introduced excellent cultivation techniques helping farmers which boosted rice production in Pakistan and exports to China.

He said guard agricultural research and services was the first in the country which brought hybrid rice technology from China to Pakistan in 1999 through a collaboration agreement with a number one technology provider 'Yuan Longping' high tech Agriculture Company. Shahzad Ali Malik, who is also founder chairman Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP) disclosed that China during first quarter of current fiscal year, under bilateral trade, imported from Pakistan more than 466,617 tonnes of different types of rice increasing 9.34pc by volume and \$175,99 million by worth.

He said broken rice commodity increased 41.70pc by worth crossing \$57.69 million. He said both countries have close cooperation in the agriculture sector which was showing positive results especially in high yielding rice varieties. He said PHHSA was the only one in private sector which was conducting ultra modern research in evolving hi tech hybrid seeds in Pakistan with a sole objective of extending helping hand to government for boosting agricultural production and meeting ever increasing food staples needs of population.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/943436/chinese-breeding-technology-helping-high-yield-of-pakistani-rice/>

Dawn News

Pak-China plus movement urged against challenges

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a webinar urged governments and other stakeholders to come up with a Pak-China plus movement to combat challenges emerging from regional conflicts.

The geopolitical pursuits are likely to hit China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) if cohesive and corrective measures are not taken. The intensifying cold war strategies and increasing interest of the US, UK and Nato countries in the extended region may hamper the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC, a very aggressive rail and road connectivity and trade regime of President Xi Jinping.

According to a statement, the event was organised by Development Communications Network and Friends of China on “Where CPEC stands in the emerging global scenario?”

Centre for China and Globalisation (Beijing) Vice President Prof Victor Gao said highly coordinated efforts were being made by the so-called super power to put the region on fire.

He urged both the governments to launch the Pak-China plus movement for the CPEC 2.0 along with the joint information technology solutions and software development engaging the youth of Pakistan.

Ambassador retired Naghmana Hashmi said China’s speedy economic growth had been a matter of concern for the US and the West. Now, the US is the country owing largest debt to China but propagating against CPEC and BRI initiatives as a debt trap.

Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Beijing) President Wang Zihai called for intensive industrial cooperation between the two countries that had already been delayed for long.

Cultural Counselor at the embassy of China in Islamabad Zhang Heqing said the Chinese government was fully aware of the power of collaboration in the infotainment and cultural collaboration.

“Once the Covid-19 will be over, a comprehensive bilateral initiative will be launched for joint ventures, exchange and collaboration,” he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1692139>

Pakistan Observer

China to cooperate with Pakistan to overcome fertilizer crisis

Sino-Pak enhances its cooperation for mitigating Pakistan’s fertilizer crisis, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.

As per the report, in recent years, the sharp rise in fertilizer prices kept farmers in Pakistan unsettling. Data shows that the cultivated land area in Pakistan has increased by 2 million hectares in the past two years, and 2021 is the year with the highest urea sales in Pakistan's history.

It is predicted that if the supply of urea cannot be guaranteed, the annual wheat yield in Pakistan may decrease by 5% to 10%.

To relieve the fertilizer shortage, at the beginning of 2022, the Pakistani government approved the import of 50,000 tonnes of urea from China on an immediate basis, at a price lower than the current international level.

Besides import and export trade, the two countries can explore more cooperation in fertilizer. Some Chinese agricultural experts shared their experience with Pakistani farmers during interview with CEN.

“The type and dosage of fertilizers used should be set according to local conditions and crop characteristics. Farmers should not only know the amount of fertilizer to be used, but also understand why they should use it that way,” Li Guang, Secretary-General of China Phosphate and Compound Fertilizer Industry Association said.

The saying “no pains, no gains” is not for applying fertilizer, and the overuse of fertilizer will bring about resource waste and environment damage.

Reasonable use of fertilizer can reduce cost and decrease waste for farmers, achieving ‘twice the result with half the effort’. Besides, improving planting method can save the amount of fertilizer to be used on unit area too. Intercropping is a good choice.

“This is strawberry-onion intercropping. In the late stage of strawberry planting, onion seedlings are sowed. —INP

<https://pakobserver.net/china-to-cooperate-with-pakistan-to-overcome-fertilizer-crisis/>

The Express Tribune

Pak-China red chilli farms achieving bumper harvest

Crops giving estimated yield of 700 tons of dried chillies

MULTAN: Six model farms under Pakistan-China Red Chilli Contract Farming Project are achieving a bumper harvest in southern Punjab and northern Sindh, with an estimated yield of 700 tons of dried chillies.

According to China Machinery Engineering Corporation's (CMEC) agricultural project leader in Pakistan Dai Bao, crops in the six model farms with a total area of nearly 300 acres began bearing fruit in May.

“When chillies are naturally dried, we'll ship them to China for further processing,” he said.

Compared with last year, the size of planting area has increased six times, extending from Lahore to other parts of Punjab and Sindh. “The total output also increased sevenfold, and the yield per unit area increased by more than 30%,” Dai shared with a CEN reporter.

More than 200 local technicians were trained this planting season and nearly 1,000 jobs were created, he added.

Based on planting, they will further develop downstream deep-processing industries and create more employment opportunities for the locals in the future.

As China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has entered into a stage of enrichment and expansion since 2020, agricultural exchanges and cooperation have become the focus for both China and Pakistan.

The chilli contract farming project was launched with joint efforts of the Chinese embassy in Pakistan, Pakistan’s Ministry of National Food Security and Research and companies from both countries, including CMEC, China, Sichuan Litong Food Group, China, Fatima Group, Pakistan, and so on.

The project is also designed to modernise the agriculture sector in Pakistan, including providing new seeds to enhance crop yield, providing skill development to farmers as well as boosting the export of agricultural products from Pakistan to other countries.

The article originally appeared on the China Economic Net

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2358702/pak-china-red-chilli-farms-achieving-bumper-harvest>

The Nation

Gwadar’s 300MW Coal Power Plant To End Energy Scarcity By 2023

ISLAMABAD – The longstanding issue of Gwadar city due to growing energy scarcity would end by October, 2023 after the completion of the 300 megawatts (MW) coal-fired power plant.

The 300MW coal-fired Gwadar power plant would cater the needs of some 150,000 local people by the end of 2023 under the 2050 Master Plan of Gwadar, said an official source while sharing exclusive updates of the project. The power plant was one of the key energy projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he added. The project is aimed at improving reliability on local power supply that would help to resolve power outages in current economic development and urban expansion in Gwadar region.

According to the official source, they were currently spending millions of dollars per annum to generate electricity from diesel generator. The official also hoped that the discussed plant would be operationalised soon to solve the port’s power scarcity issues. Power plant is of great significance to deepening the energy cooperation between China and Pakistan, boosting the development of the Belt and Road Initiative, improving the overall power structure of Balochistan, and promoting local economic development in Gwadar Port.

All major projects under CPEC in Gwadar, including Gwadar Power Plant, the New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East-bay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone, and Gwadar Port would become a shining pearl in the region.

Chiniot Dam to generate 80MW cheap, eco-friendly electricity

The Chiniot Dam located on Chenab River about 5km from the Chiniot city would be completed by December 2022.

According to detail, the gross storage of Chiniot Dam has 0.90 MAF which will generate 80 Mega Watt (274 GWh) cheap and eco-friendly electricity. The project was executed by Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA). The government would be provided Rs50 million under public sector development programme (PSDP), whereas Rs96.330 million to be provided by WAPDA from its own resources.

The feasibility study of Chiniot Dam project was carried out by WAPDA and completed in 2019. The PC-II proforma for Detailed Engineering Design has been submitted to Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) for consideration in forthcoming DDWP meeting. The DDWP has approved the PC-II proforma subject to certain conditions.

Winder Dam to be completed in 2025

The Winder Dam project of 3 megawatts (MW) capacity would be completed in 2025 which is situated across the Winder River that would store 54,000 acre feet water. The Dam is located at a distance of 125 kilometer from Karachi, 66 kilometer from Uthal and 25 kilometer from Winder Town in Lasbela district of Balochistan, said an official of the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) while talking to media on Wednesday. He said that the Winder Dam would have 54,000 acre feet water storage and would help in irrigating 10,000 acres of land. He said the agriculture and livestock would be progressed in the area after completion of the dam. “About 54,000 acre feet of water storage capacity will be created and more than 10,000 acres of land will be irrigated from the conclusion of the Winder Dam,” he said. He said water supply to the lands from the dam through canal could also be ensured.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/30/gwadars-300mw-coal-power-plant-to-end-energy-scarcity-by-2023/>

Sino-Pak Cooperation Ensuring Availability Of Fertilizer In Pakistan

BEIJING – China and Pakistan can explore more cooperation to ensure the supply of fertilizer to the farmers for various crops in Pakistan.

At the beginning of this year, the Pakistani government approved the import of 50,000 tonnes of urea from China on immediate basis, at a price lower than the current international level. Besides import and export trade, the two countries can explore more cooperation in fertilizer.

S Li Guang, Secretary-General of China Phosphate and Compound Fertilizer Industry Association told media, “The type and dosage of fertilizers used should be set according to local conditions and crop characteristics. Farmers should not only know the amount of fertilizer to be used, but also understand why they should use it that way,” The saying “no pains, no gains” is not for applying fertilizer, and the overuse of fertilizer will bring about resource waste and environment damage.

Reasonable use of fertilizer can reduce cost and decrease waste for farmers, achieving “twice the result with half the effort”. Besides, improving planting method can save the amount of fertilizer to be used on unit area too. Intercropping is a good choice.

“This is strawberry-onion intercropping. In the late stage of strawberry planting, onion seedlings are sowed. Onion can secrete some bactericidal substances during its growth, which has the best effect on improving the soil conditions for strawberry. In addition, potassium fertilizer will also be used for strawberry to improve the sweetness of strawberry fruit. Ordinary onions are spicy, but the intercropped onions are sweetened by absorbing the fertilizer for strawberry, which taste great and unique,” Zhu Ning from Agricultural Technology Extension Station of Changping district, Beijing, China informed media. Some new fertilizers like organic fertilizer and water-soluble fertilizer are also worth attention. Compared with traditional fertilizers, new fertilizers have the characteristics of high efficiency, compound and slow-release.

“In the early stage of planting, some organic fertilizers, such as chicken manure and sheep manure, will be added to make the soil looser and rich in more organic matter. In the late stage of planting, more water-soluble fertilizers will be used for topdressing. In addition, in recent years, growers and consumers have more demands on the taste and quality of strawberries. Therefore, some fertilizers such as seaweed fertilizer, fish protein fertilizer and Huangpu acid fertilizer are being used to improve the fruit quality,” Zhu Ning added.

“Based on the current experience, the final demand is new fertilizers, not just the superposition of basic fertilizers. A complete set of solutions should be provided in accordance with the local environment, plant types, etc. Through fertilizer products, it will be much simpler for farmers to improve the nutrition for the plants during the whole process,” Li Guang said.

Chinese fertilizer companies are looking forward to explore more cooperation possibilities to ensure supply of fertilizers to farmers for crops in Pakistan. “We also do research on soil conditioners. Next, we are planning to introduce fertilizer and soil conditioners to Pakistan. We will also bring our field management cultivation mode including how to better raise seedlings, to Pakistan to carry out more cooperation,” Qi Liying, Executive Deputy General Manager of Tianjin Tianlongzaitian Agricultural Science and Technology Co Ltd said. Data shows that the cultivated land area in Pakistan has increased by two million hectares in the past two years, and 2021 is the year with the highest urea sales in Pakistan’s history. It is predicted that if the supply of urea cannot be guaranteed, the annual wheat yield in Pakistan may decrease by 5 percent to 10 percent.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/30/sino-pak-cooperation-ensuring-availability-of-fertilizer-in-pakistan/>

First Shipment Of Pakistani Mangoes Lands In Kunming, China

BEIJING – The first shipment of Pakistani mangoes of the present season arrived last night in Kunming, capital city of China’s South-Western Yunnan province, said Adnan Hafeez, Director of Imperial Ventures (Pvt) Ltd.

The shipment comprising 2.3 tonnes of “Sindhri” variety was transported via air cargo from Pakistan to China, he told media here on Sunday. The Pakistani “king of fruits” will be sold in the market after custom clearance and necessary certifications by the relevant Chinese authorities, he added. Adnan said that quality control is the keyword of this year’s mango export. This time, half of mango will be sent to Chinese wholesalers and retailers as samples.

“We have already got connected with some big supermarkets and e-commerce platforms in China, including Walmart, JD.com and FreshHema. “The Farm’s Choic” an indigenous premium fruit brand operation by Imperial Ventures Private Limited has been extensively working on promotion and marketing of Pakistani Mango in China since last six years and has seen positive growth trend. He said, this year, the expected export of mangoes from Pakistan to China is set to touch 100 tonnes which is almost 100 percent increase from last year but the recent wave of COVID-19 pandemic in China could affect the outcome. “Considering China’s large population, I believe that China will be one of the largest markets for Pakistan’s mango in the coming five to ten years. I will work continuously to explore the Chinese market,” he added. Adnan looks forward to all relevant departments to provide close coordination and all possible support to increase export of mango to China. To a question, he said that many Chinese people prefer mangoes imported from South Asian counties especially Pakistan because of its pulp and taste. The Chinese consumers have also an emotional attachment to the Pakistani products including mangoes in wake of the all-weather friendship between Pakistan and China, he added.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/30/first-shipment-of-pakistani-mangoes-lands-in-kunming-china/>

The News

The SEZs are a game-changer

Hassan Baig

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by China – which CPEC is part of – has a lot of potential to provide required economic stability and sustainability. The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC, if implemented in letter and spirit, are key to progress.

Economically Pakistan is in a greater mess than ever before. Foreign direct investment (FDI), which is key to economic growth and development, is touching the lowest level one can imagine. The ever-increasing gap in exports and imports is another ill to be taken care of, as is the current account deficit. Security issues are popping up day by day. But the most crucial question is: how to tackle these economic issues?

One of the best options may be to revive the CPEC and its related SEZs. This was the best option pursued by the previous PML-N government. Subsequently, after the 2018 elections, there was apparently a lacklustre attitude on the part of the PTI government – allegedly ignoring the most important initiative that could possibly contribute a lot in economic progress and prowess. As the new coalition government led by the PML-N has now taken over and they seem to be quite serious concerning the economy, there is a serious and immediate need to pursue the SEZs initiative of CPEC.

Initially, there were about 29 SEZs; this was subsequently revised to 27 out of which only nine SEZs were prioritised as a first step, but those nine also could not properly take off. There is no progress at all, whatsoever, except the economic zone and to some extent Rashakai. All others, including Dhabejee and Bolan SEZs, could not take off at all apparently due to lack of interest by the last government.

If the present government, which has a lot of credibility in the eyes of the Chinese government and investors, goes all out for revival of 27 SEZs – initially planning to implement an agenda for prioritizing nine in the first five years, and then 10 SEZs in the next five years, with the last eight SEZs in the last phase of five years. There could be an estimated investment of about \$350 billion by the Chinese government and investors in the next 15 years in Pakistan that could revive our economy in a big way. And it is badly needed to revive the economy.

The planning ministry has to chalk out a full-fledged plan and a policy document outlining packages providing special incentives and facilitation to Special Economic Zones to attract investment from China. What they need more than that are assurances from Pakistan to provide foolproof security to Chinese people, workers and management and their companies working in Pakistan. They also want assurances and timely payments of profits on their investments as well as repatriation of their profits, which is in fact a legitimate demand.

The Chinese model of economy has taught us to go all out for infrastructure development in the form of industrial clusters and economic zones to achieve big goals of economic development. Pakistan has learnt recently to follow this Chinese economic growth model and has started taking initiatives to develop Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the backdrop of CPEC. The SEZ initiative is a step in the right direction towards the goal of a developed Pakistan.

The history of industrial clusters and special economic zones dates back to the 1950s starting from Ireland with a growing concept of modern SEZs in the 1970s onward mainly to attract FDI with export-led growth achieving economies of scale and job creation. One can imagine the speed of such growth from the fact that the number of SEZs have added up to about 1400 in a span of the last five years – jumping up from 4000 to 5400 SEZs right now in the world. Although the concept of SEZs has contributed a lot to the world economy, the Chinese experience has been amazing.

Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in the late '70s and early '80s started implementing a new vision of economic growth through the modern concept of SEZs by opening its market for world

investors bringing a lot of investment in the country. There are mainly seven famous SEZs namely Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shantou, Xiamen, Hainan, Shanghai Pudong New Area and Tianjin Binhai New Area; China has also developed economic and technological development zones, free trade zones, export-processing zones and high-tech industrial development zones.

SEZs and other economic zones as mentioned above are contributing in a big way to the Chinese economy by attracting FDI, generating employment, upgrading skills, enhancing and diversifying exports as well as trade efficiencies. According to some of the estimates, the SEZs are contributing around 23 per cent in GDP, almost 60 per cent in Chinese exports while attracting 45 per cent of foreign direct investment and creating about 30 million jobs, which is not less than a miracle.

The SEZ model of economic growth is also popular in other parts and regions of the world; most such zones are found in African and Latin American countries. These zones are in the thousands. Countries like the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Eastern Europe have also developed their economic zones for growth and investment. The US has developed California Enterprise Zones, Maryland Enterprise Zones, New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zones and Michigan Neighbourhood Enterprise Zones. There are also some specialised zones developed by the US, which are substantially contributing to economic growth.

The same is the case in other countries of the world, especially developing countries or least developed countries in the African continent. Last but not the least, Bangladesh is another prime example of developing SEZs with impressive economic growth credited to such zones in the country.

It is believed that Pakistan may realize the dream of a developed Pakistan by implementing the SEZs initiative under CPEC by achieving roughly estimated GDP growth of about 8-9 per cent annually for about two decades. Pakistan can get rid of all foreign loans and attached conditions, especially loans from IMF and World Bank in 20 years time. Special incentives and facilitation to the SEZs can bring not only FDI but also export-led growth as well as employment, jobs and prosperity for the people of Pakistan, especially our unemployed youth. The SEZs can be a game-changer in the real sense of the word.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=92461>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان میں چاول کی پیداوار، چین کو برآمدات میں اضافہ ہوا: شہزاد علی مل

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاکستان ہائی ٹیک ہا ہیرڈ سٹیڈ ایسوسی ایشن کے چیئرمین شہزاد علی مل نے کہا ہے کہ چینی بریڈنگ ٹیکنالوجی کے استعمال سے پاکستانی کسانوں کو برآمدات کیلئے بہتر پیداوار اور بیماریوں کیخلاف مزاحمت رکھنے والی چاول کی نئی اقسام کاشت کرنے میں مدد مل رہی ہے۔ گزشتہ روز شفیق الرحمان کی قیادت میں ترقی پسند کسانوں کے ایک وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی کاروباری اور تحقیقی اداروں نے بیجوں کی نئی اقسام تیار اور کاشتکاری کی بہترین ٹیکنالوجی متعارف کرائی ہے۔ پاکستان میں چاول کی پیداوار اور چین کو اس کی برآمدات میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گارڈ ایگریکلچرل ریسرچ اینڈ سروسز ملک کا پہلا ادارہ 1999ء میں یو آن لانگنگ ہائی ٹیک ایگریکلچر

کمپنی کیساتھ معاہدے کے تحت ہائبرڈ رائس ٹیکنالوجی چین سے پاکستان لیکر آیا۔ شہزاد علی ملک نے کہا کہ چین نے رواں مالی سال کی پہلی سہ ماہی کے دوران پاکستان سے دو طرفہ تجارت کے تحت مختلف اقسام کا 466,617 ٹن چاول درآمد کیا جو حجم کے لحاظ سے 9.34 فیصد اور مالیت کے لحاظ سے 175,99 ملین ڈالر کا اضافہ ظاہر کرتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ٹوٹا چاول کی مالیت 57.69 ملین ڈالر سے تجاوز کر کے 41.70 فیصد بڑھ گئی، پاکستان ہائی ٹیک ہائبرڈ سیڈ ایسوسی ایشن انجی شعبہ میں بیجوں کی تیاری میں جدید تحقیق کر رہا ہے۔ جس کا مقصد زرعی پیداوار میں اضافہ اور آبادی کی بڑھتی ہوئی غذائی ضروریات پورا کرنے کیلئے حکومت کی مدد کرنا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-05-30/page-10/detail-8>

May 31, 2022

Business Recorder

Reforms in trade, agri sectors

Pakistan keen to follow in China's footsteps: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said in view of China's immense progress in the last three decades, Pakistan was interested in learning from Beijing's experience in reforms, particularly in trade and agriculture.

Addressing the heads of leading Chinese companies and investors here, the prime minister said Pakistan was looking toward China to seek support in every walk of life in a bid to ensure sustainable development.

PM Sharif said the Chinese development was a model to emulate in fields of industry, trade, information technology, and agriculture.

He said with a background of a trusted friendship between the two countries, it was an opportunity for Pakistan to learn from the Chinese experience about reforms in the areas of public interest. He emphasised the need for promoting bilateral trade by means of improving the level of exports and imports in diverse areas. He said Pakistan was also interested in learning skills from China for the enrichment of its energy resources.

PM Shehbaz Sharif thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for extending his support to Pakistan in the shape of the multi-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, which he said was helping Pakistan to move forward.

He regarded President Xi as a visionary leader and recalled that he had inked several projects along with the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif to improve power generation in Pakistan aimed at addressing the energy crisis. He expressed confidence that the friendship between Pakistan and China would further grow with time for the benefit of their nations.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/05/31/1-page/931459-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan wants Chinese investment, not aid: PM

Pakistan doesn't want handouts but investments from its Chinese friends, said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif adding that friendship between the two countries had weathered the storms and strengthened over time.

Shehbaz said this during a meeting on Monday with the representatives of Chinese companies investing in Pakistan. The premier praised China for progressing in various sectors and lifting numerous above the poverty level during the last three decades. Pakistan has China as a model to emulate and replicate its development reforms, Shehbaz said.

He said Pakistan looked forward to seeking support from China in every walk of life and it will benefit from China's experience in the fields of industries and agriculture. Pakistan has resolved that we will meet all the challenges however difficult they are and take Pakistan towards progress, the premier said.

“For this, Pakistan needs real support from our Chinese friends, not in terms of money, aid or handouts, but in terms of investment, trade and expertise.”

Shehbaz said China was the most reliable friend of Pakistan and thanked the Chinese leadership, and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping for their unstinting support towards Pakistan in the shape of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

He said CPEC had helped Pakistan move forward a huge way. Recalling the start of the last decade, when electricity load-shedding was at its peak, Shehbaz Sharif said that the Chinese president and then prime minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif made various deals to set up power plants to overcome the issue by 2017. The premier pledged to fully facilitate the Chinese investors in Pakistan and never to forget China's cooperation.

Separately, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had a telephone conversation with his British counterpart, Boris Johnson, and exchanges views on a wide range of bilateral and international issues, from the Pakistan-UK Enhanced Strategic Dialogue (ESD) to the ongoing situation in Afghanistan and Ukraine.

During the telephonic conversation, Prime Minister Johnson reiterated his felicitations to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on his election and assumption of office. He underlined UK's desire to further enhance its bilateral relationship with Pakistan.

Prime Minister Shehbaz felicitated the UK on the platinum jubilee celebrations of the Queen Elizabeth's coronation. Both leaders emphasised the importance of celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan-UK diplomatic relations in a befitting manner.

Shehbaz stated that Pakistan valued its relations with the UK, which were based on historical linkages and convergent interests on a broad range of issues. He reiterated Pakistan's desire to

bolster its ties with the UK across diverse fields, with a special emphasis on trade and investment partnership.

The prime minister appreciated the positive role played by 1.6 million Pakistani diaspora in forging closer links and building bridges between the two countries. He emphasised the need for strengthening cooperation in the fields of legal migration to fully realise the potential.

Shehbaz underscored the importance of the ESD and suggested the development of a 10-years roadmap to take the bilateral relations forward in diverse fields. He stressed that the ESD should deepen mutual engagement and the bilateral partnership elevated to the next level.

In the regional context, Shehbaz underscored the importance of peace and stability in Afghanistan and the need for scaling up efforts to avert the humanitarian crisis there. He underscored the importance of the release of Afghanistan's frozen assets to bring stability to the fledgling Afghan economy.

The prime minister also highlighted the grave violations of human rights in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). While reiterating Pakistan's commitment towards promotion of peace in the region, he stressed the importance of peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Prime Minister Johnson conveyed his government's deep appreciation for Pakistan's cooperation with UK, particularly with regard to evacuations in the aftermath of developments in Afghanistan post-15 August 2021.

They also exchanged views on the situation in Ukraine and other issues.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/943989/pakistan-wants-chinese-investment-not-aid-pm/>

Dawn News

Meeting of Pak-China business forum planned

ISLAMABAD: The first meeting of the steering committee on the Pak-China Business and Investment Forum will be held in Islamabad next month, the Board of Investment (BoI) announced on Monday.

Leading companies from the two countries will participate in the event and sign several memoranda of understanding and joint ventures, bringing in substantial foreign direct investment.

In this regard, the BoI and the All Pakistan Chinese Enterprise Association convened a meeting of the Pak-China Business and Investment Forum in Islamabad and finalised the modalities and programme for the first steering committee meeting.

The Pak-China Business and Investment Forum was launched in January this year and was praised by President Xi Jinping in a Pakistan-China joint statement in February.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1692389/meeting-of-pak-china-business-forum-planned>

Pakistan Observer

Pak keen to emulate China's reforms in trade, agriculture: PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said in view of China's immense progress in the last three decades, Pakistan was interested in learning from the country's experience in reforms, particularly in trade and agriculture.

Addressing the heads of leading Chinese companies and investors here, the prime minister said Pakistan was looking toward China to seek support in every walk of life in a bid to ensure sustainable development.

PM Sharif said the Chinese development was a model to emulate in fields of industry, trade, information technology, and agriculture.

He said with a background of a trusted friendship between the two countries, it was an opportunity for Pakistan to learn from the Chinese experience about reforms in the areas of public interest.

He emphasized the need for promoting bilateral trade by means of improving the level of exports and imports in diverse areas. He said Pakistan was also interested in learning skills from China for the enrichment of its energy resources.

PM Shahbaz thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for extending his support to Pakistan in the shape of the multi-billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor project, which he said was helping Pakistan to move forward.

He regarded President Xi as a visionary leader and recalled that he had inked several projects along with then prime minister Nawaz Sharif to improve power generation in Pakistan aimed at addressing the energy crisis.

He expressed confidence that the friendship between Pakistan and China would grow with time for the benefit of their nations.

The premier said that the friendship between Pakistan and China's unwavering friendship has weathered storms and strengthened over time. He praised China for progressing in various sectors and lifting numerous above the poverty level during the last three decades.

The premier said that Pakistan looks forward to seek support from China in every walk of life and it will benefit from China's experience in the fields of industries and agriculture.

Pakistan has resolved that we will meet all the challenges however difficult they are and take Pakistan towards progress, the premier said.

“For this, Pakistan needs real support from our Chinese friends, not in terms of money, aid or handouts, but in terms of investment, trade and expertise.”

PM Shehbaz Sharif said that China is the most reliable friend of Pakistan.

He thanked the Chinese leadership, and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, for their unstinting support towards Pakistan in the shape of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

He said that CPEC has helped Pakistan move forward a huge way. Recalling the start of the last decade, when electricity load-shedding was at its peak, PM Shehbaz Sharif said that the Chinese president and then prime minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif made various deals to set up power plants to overcome the issue by 2017. The premier pledged to fully facilitate the Chinese investors in Pakistan and never to forget China's cooperation.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-keen-to-emulate-chinas-reforms-in-trade-agriculture-pm/>

ZIEC to construct section of CPEC's central alignment in Balochistan

A joint venture of China's Zhongding Int'l Engineering Co. and Pakistan's Progressive Technical Associate won contract to construct the 55-kilometre-long Awaran-Jhal Jhao road in South Balochistan after offering the lowest bid.

According to Gwadar Pro, the National Highway Authority had floated the project with an estimated cost of Rs6.06 billion. However, the ZIEC-PTA joint venture offered to build the road for Rs5.15 billion.

The project is part of the government's plan to rehabilitate and widen the Hoshab-Bela road, which connected Gwadar and Karachi in the past but was later abandoned after the construction of Makran Coastal Highway in 2004.

<https://pakobserver.net/ziec-to-construct-section-of-cpecs-central-alignment-in-balochistan/>

First "electric cable company" in Gwadar Free Zone in the offing

Gwadar Free Zone (Phase II) is likely to see the first entry of the "electric cable manufacturing company of Pakistan" in the wake of warm interactions between stakeholders ushering in an era of a flurry of business activities in Gwadar, a regional business hub of Pakistan.

Out of many companies, registered, operational, or in process of being established in Gwadar Free Zone Phase I and Gwadar Free Zone Phase II, Pakistan's electric cable maker "Coppergate" will be the first enterprise to run its manufacturing unit if all business prospects radiate promising vibes.

<https://pakobserver.net/first-electric-cable-company-in-gwadar-free-zone-in-the-offing/>

The Express Tribune

Gwadar uplift imperative for CPEC success

Two-day media conclave, roundtable conference review CSR projects, socio-economic development

KARACHI: Without bringing the people of Gwadar and surrounding areas out of the extreme poverty, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) – the multibillion-dollar project dubbed as the game changer for Pakistan and the region – would never truly be considered a success.

It is imperative that all stakeholders should devise a mechanism for an integrated socio-economic development strategy according to the hopes and aspirations of the inhabitants of Gwadar – a small port city of strategic importance located on the southwestern coast of Balochistan – in connection with CPEC.

The ongoing initiatives in the domain of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) undertaken by China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) and other Chinese firms in Gwadar are appreciable. However, effective development communication and positive engagement with local communities is critical for the effectiveness and long-term success of these projects.

This was the gist of a two-day media conclave and roundtable conference titled ‘CSR Initiatives in Gwadar (The Gateway to CPEC)’, co-organised by Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) Islamabad and the University of Gwadar in collaboration with COPHC, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) and Gwadar Development Authority (GDA), held on May 19 in the strategic port town.

Speaking to media representatives at the roundtable conference, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani stressed the importance of bringing the locals together through CSR initiatives.

He said Gwadar Port was the flagship project of CPEC without which the multibillion-dollar initiative cannot materialise. “However, we must prioritise people over infrastructure development. Drinkable water and electricity is the top priority of the authorities in Gwadar,” he stated.

Kashani said a desalination plant of about 1.2 million gallons would become operational in six to eight months that would provide drinkable water to the locals.

Moreover, the newly inaugurated state-of-the-art Pak-China Vocational & Technical Training Institute will provide three years’ training to local youth, which is a big contribution by our Chinese friends, he added.

While delivering the keynote speech, Zhang Baozhong, Chairman COPHC spoke at length about the experiences of his seven-year stay in Gwadar.

“We are cognisant of the fact that Gwadar deserves more rapid development to live up to the expectations of the local people. There is no denying the fact that it has developed much during the past seven years,” he remarked.

He stated three reasons for the promising prospects of Gwadar: the cooperation of the Gwadar people, its vast resources, and its strategic location.

“The inhabitants of Gwadar deserve respect and development according to their rightful demands,” Chairman Bao underscored.

IPS Chairman Khalid Rahman highlighted the concept of CSR and elements that can improve the lives of the local inhabitants. “We must have solution-oriented recommendations, not problem-

oriented,” he said, adding that positive thinking and improvement in governance will bring a huge change in the life of the people of Gwadar.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2359295/gwadar-uplift-imperative-for-cpec-success>

The Nation

BOI, APCEA Convene Meeting Of Pak China Business And Investment Forum

ISLAMABAD – The Board of Investment and All Pakistan Chinese Enterprise Association (APCEA) convened the meeting of Pak China Business and Investment Forum. The latter was launched in January 2022, and received praise in the Pak-China Joint Statement of Feb 2022, by President Xi Jin Ping. The subject meeting was chaired by the Federal Minister Board of Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain and Secretary, BOI, Ms Fareena Mazhar from Pakistani side while from the Chinese side, Commercial Counsellor, Chinese Embassy, Li Yong, Commercial Attache, representatives of APCEA and major Chinese companies attended. Both sides discussed the future course of action for boosting the Pak-China B2B Investment Cooperation. For this, they joined hands to develop a comprehensive website for facilitating the matchmaking and presenting the relevant information regarding the B2B events, policies and investor friendly material. The website will also allow the Chinese enterprises to share their grievances which will be monitored and taken up with the relevant authorities. Modalities and the programme for the 1st PCBIF Steering Committee meeting were finalised. Wherein the leading enterprises from Pakistan and China will physically participate, under the chair of the top-level leadership of Pakistan. The Board of Investment and APCEA under the guidance of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, will take the lead in organising the Committee meeting. Several MoUs and JVs bringing substantial FDI are also in the pipeline to be signed during the said meeting. Both sides also discussed the visa issues of the Chinese enterprises, and deliberated on devising a feedback mechanism regarding the issues relating to visas and other grievances. The PCBIF in this way will not only play its role as a torch bearer for Pak China B2B and Industrial Cooperation, but will also ensure its all-out facilitation and convenience to the businesses in a wide range of areas.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/31/boi-apcea-convene-meeting-of-pak-china-business-and-investment-forum/>

The News

PM orders release of Rs50bn to Chinese IPPs

Mehtab Haider & Muhammad Anis

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday directed the authorities concerned to immediately release Rs50 billion to Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs) as the first instalment out of outstanding dues of Rs340 billion.

The PM chaired a meeting here and approved the immediate payment. With failure in opening up a revolving account as envisaged under CPEC and delays in payments over four years, the amount piled up to Rs340 billion.

The planning secretary briefed the PM about the progress achieved so far on special economic zones (SEZs), multi-billion-dollar ML-1 project, Karachi Circular Railway, power sector projects especially for solar energy. He said that the government was moving towards providing all kinds of facilities to pace up work on CPEC. He said that the government envisaged deadline for completion of all CPEC projects and these timelines would be adhered to avoid delays in completion of projects.

Later, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired a meeting of chief executive officers (CEOs) of Chinese companies working on CPEC projects in Pakistan. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal and Chinese embassy's senior officials attended the meeting.

The officials of Chinese companies engaged with CPEC road, port and energy projects especially participated in the meeting. The companies' representatives heaped complaints on PM Shehbaz Sharif in the meeting, saying work remained almost halted on CPEC projects during the past four years.

The PM issued various orders on the spot for resolving the issues, pointed out by the companies CEOs. The companies expressed their satisfaction at the measures taken by the coalition government. They hoped work on CPEC projects would be carried out and completed on "Pakistan Speed" now. They hoped the new government to be formed after elections next year would give priority to CPEC projects.

Addressing heads of the leading Chinese companies and investors, the PM said in view of China's immense progress in the last three decades, Pakistan was interested in learning from Beijing's experience in reforms, particularly in trade and agriculture. He said Pakistan was looking toward China to seek support in every walk of life in a bid to ensure sustainable development. He said the Chinese development was a model to emulate in fields of industry, trade, information technology, and agriculture.

He said with a background of a trusted friendship between the two countries, it was an opportunity for Pakistan to learn from the Chinese experience about reforms in the areas of public interest. He emphasised the need for promoting bilateral trade by means of improving the level of exports and imports in diverse areas.

He said Pakistan was also interested in learning skills from China for the enrichment of its energy resources. He thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for extending his support to Pakistan in the shape of the multi-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, which he said was helping Pakistan to move forward.

He regarded President Xi as a visionary leader and recalled that he had inked several projects along with the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif to improve power generation in Pakistan aimed

at addressing the energy crisis. He expressed confidence that the friendship between Pakistan and China would further grow with time for the benefit of their nations. Separately, taking note of increase in flour prices in the country, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday directed the authorities concerned to ensure its sale at the rate, fixed by the government.

“Nobody can be allowed to loot masses and, therefore, availability of flour at the government rate should be ensured,” he said. He directed the ministries of Food Security, Industrial Production and other departments to submit reports on implementation of the orders.

Also, PM Shehbaz said there would be no cut in the budget of higher education sector for the fiscal year 2022-23, and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) should be made functional, as it was working in the previous PMLN government.

Issuing directives to the ministries of Planning and Finance regarding the HEC, the PM regretted that budget cuts in the last four years had a negative impact on higher education, saying that the process should be reversed.

He directed the authorities concerned to focus on revival of education projects in universities across the country and increase the number of programmes to bring the education sector on a par with international standards.

Shehbaz said the HEC resources should be increased significantly and all possible facilities be provided to teachers and students. According to a Foreign Office statement, issued on Monday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would pay an official visit to Turkey, the first after assuming office, from May 31 to June 2.

The PM will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising ministers, special assistants, and senior officials. A business delegation from Pakistan comprising representatives of leading companies across various sectors will travel separately to Turkey to participate in the business engagements.

During the visit, the PM will hold talks with President Erdogan. This would be followed by delegation-level talks. Besides covering the entire gamut of Pakistan-Turkey bilateral relations, the two leaders will exchange views on regional and international issues. Both leaders will address a joint press talk after their meetings. President Erdogan will host a dinner in honour of the prime minister.

This year, Pakistan and Turkey are celebrating the 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations. During the visit, the Pak PM and Turkish president would jointly unveil a logo, marking the commencement of celebrations of this important milestone in the long history of exceptional bilateral ties.

The Turkish ministers of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Health would call on the PM during the visit. The PM will have extensive interaction with leading Turkish businessmen and potential investors from diverse sectors. He will be hosted by president of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB).

The PM will also attend a Pakistan-Turkey Business Council Forum, hosted in collaboration with DEIK (Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Board). During these events, the PM will highlight Pakistan's vast investment potential and encourage Turkish companies to invest in Pakistan and work to strengthen Pakistan-Turkey trade and economic ties. Prominent businessmen from Pakistan will participate in these events and will also hold B2B meetings on the sidelines.

A large number of Turkish companies have invested more than US\$1 billion in different sectors (construction, power, solid waste management, hygiene products, electronics and dairy etc.) in Pakistan. Prominent investors include Al Bayrak, Oz Pak, Zorlu, Arcelik, Siyahkalem, Sutas, Coca-Cola Icecek, and Hayat Kimiya. Heads of selected Turkish companies will also call on the PM during his stay in Ankara.

PM Shehbaz Sharif also said that democracy had strengthened with the local government (LG) elections in Balochistan. In a tweet, he said people's active participation in polls shows their trust in state institutions to provide security and ensure smooth conduct of polls. The PM lauded the role of law-enforcement agencies in maintaining peace during the polls.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=92799>

All set for return of Pakistani students to China

Islamabad: The Pakistani and Chinese authorities have agreed on the immediate start of the return of the Pakistani students enrolled in Chinese universities but got stuck in their country due to the pandemic-induced restrictions.

According to the federal education ministry, minister Rana Tanveer Hussain has accorded a top priority to the resolution of the issue and held many meetings involving the education ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Higher Education Commission and Aviation Division as well as the Cultural Counsellor in Chinese Embassy.

A meeting in continuation of these efforts to resolve the issue of Pakistani students studying in China was held on 13th May, 2022 under the chairmanship of Federal Minister Rana Tanveer.

In the meeting, it was decided that the process of returning Pakistani students will be immediately started in coordination with the Chinese government. An initial list of approximately 161 students was provided by HEC who will be returning to China to continue their education via the first flight.

Minister Rana Tanveer said a special chartered flight shall be arranged to ensure the return of the Pakistani students to China. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was directed to ensure facilitation of Pakistani students with respect to their Visas.

Zhang Heqing, Cultural Counsellor in Chinese Embassy informed that 96 Visas have been issued and reiterated that Chinese Embassy in Islamabad shall assist in providing permission by the Chinese government for a chartered flight to China.

It was decided that the relevant Chinese authorities will be requested for two-way operating special flight so that students in China can also be facilitated in coming back to Pakistan. The minister said that the issues of Pakistani students are of utmost importance and reiterated his resolve to ensure that the concerns of the Pakistani students will be addressed on priority basis.

He directed the forum to ensure speedy execution so that the loss of education of Pakistani students can be minimized on emergency basis. The minister also thanked the Chinese government for the support and called Pakistan and China iron brothers. He said such cultural exchange will lead to enhanced bilateral relationship and trade.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=92963>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک دوبارہ فعال ہو گا، وزیر اعظم کی چینی سرمایہ کاروں سے گفتگو

محمد اکرم چوہدری

چیئر مین پی ٹی آئی عمران خان کہتے ہیں "پرامن احتجاج کے تحفظ کے لیے سپریم کورٹ رولنگ دے، ورنہ اس بار ہم تیاری کے ساتھ جائیں گے۔ سپریم کورٹ سے رولنگ لے رہے ہیں کہ پرامن احتجاج کا حق ہے یا نہیں۔ سپریم کورٹ کو کہہ رہا ہوں کہ آپ ہمیں رولنگ دیں، ہمیں بتائیں کہ کس بنیاد پر ہمیں روکا گیا اور انتشار پھیلایا گیا۔ ہمیں بتائیں کہ کیا سپریم کورٹ اس طرح کے غیر جمہوری عمل کی اجازت دے گی۔ اگر سپریم کورٹ تحفظ دیتی ہے تو ہماری حکمت عملی الگ ہوگی اور اگر ہمیں تحفظ نہیں ملتا تو پھر ہماری دوسری حکمت عملی ہوگی۔"

حکومت ختم ہونے کے بعد سے عمران خان احتجاجی موڈ میں ہیں وہ ہر وقت احتجاج کی سوچ کے ساتھ سیاست کر رہے ہیں۔ سپریم کورٹ جاننا ان کا حق ہے یہ حق ہر شہری کو حاصل ہے۔ دوسری طرف آئین کی روشنی میں ملکی سلامتی کے تحفظ کو یقینی بناتے ہوئے احتجاج کرنے والوں اور احتجاج کو مسترد کرنے والوں کے حقوق کو دیکھتے ہوئے فیصلہ سپریم کورٹ کا اختیار ہے۔ آئین یقینی طور پر پرامن احتجاج کا حق دیتا ہے لیکن ساتھ ہی احتجاج میں شریک نہ ہونے والوں کے بنیادی حقوق کا تحفظ بھی اداروں کی ذمہ داری ہے۔ مختلف معاملات میں اہم سیاسی رہنما عدلیہ کی طرف دیکھ رہے ہوتے ہیں۔ سب اپنے اپنے مفادات کو دیکھتے ہوئے عدلیہ کی تعریف کرتے ہیں تو کبھی عدلیہ ان کے نشانے پر ہوتی ہے۔ گذرے چند ہفتوں میں رونما ہونے والے سیاسی واقعات کی وجہ سے اعلیٰ عدلیہ پر بہت بوجھ آیا ہے۔ ملک میں ممکنہ آئینی بحران کے خدشے کو دیکھتے ہوئے بھی عدلیہ کے بروقت اقدامات سے اصلاح کا پہلو نکالا اس کے بعد بھی حالات ایسے ہیں کہ ہر روز کچھ نہ کچھ ضرور ہو رہا ہوتا ہے۔ ان حالات میں جہاں ہر طرف سیاسی نفرت اور جھوٹ کا بازار گرم ہے، نفرتوں میں اضافہ ہو رہا ہے، بیان بازی نے ماحول کو بے پناہ آلودہ کر دیا ہے، سیاست دان ایک دوسرے بارے ایک ہی دن میں کئی بار ایسے ایسے سخت اور نامناسب الفاظ استعمال کرتے ہیں کہ پڑھ کر دل خون کے آنسو روتا ہے۔ گفتگو سن کر تکلیف ہوتی ہے کہ یہ وہ لوگ ہیں جنہوں نے قوم کی رہنمائی کرنی ہے، یہ ہمارے رہبر ہیں، سب ایک دوسرے کو نیچا دکھانے کے لیے ہر بات کا جواب بڑھا چڑھا کر دینا فرض سمجھتے ہیں۔ الفاظ کی نفرت اس حد تک پھیل چکی ہے کہ گھر گھر لڑائی ہے۔ یہ حالات یقینی طور پر اچھے نہیں ہیں۔ سیاست دان رکنے والے نہیں ہیں، شاید انہیں کوئی کہتا بھی ہو لیکن وہ کسی کے کہنے سننے میں کب ہیں۔ سب ایک دوسرے کو نیچا دکھانے کی دھن میں اس حد تک لگن ہیں کہ اچھے برے کی تمیز ہی ختم ہو چکی ہے۔ ان حالات اعلیٰ عدلیہ کو اپنا کردار ادا کرنا چاہیے، عدلیہ کچھ ایسا کرے کہ تمام سیاسی جماعتوں کے رہنماؤں کو ایک اکٹھا کرے کچھ ایسا سیاسی ضابطہ اخلاق ترتیب دے کہ بدزبانی پر بھی کوئی سزا مقرر ہو۔ نفرت کا بازار گرم ہے اور یہ نفرت کسی بڑی تباہی کا باعث بن سکتی ہے۔ جب سارے بھاگے بھاگے عدلیہ کی

طرف جاتے ہیں پھر عدلیہ کو بھی ایک قدم آگے بڑھ کر غیر معمولی حالات میں غیر معمولی اقدامات کی طرف بڑھنا چاہیے۔ یہ قدم ملک و قوم کے بہتر مستقبل کے لیے اٹھانا پڑے گا آج نہیں تو کل اس طرف بات ضرور آئے گی جتنا جلد ہم اس طرف بڑھیں گے اتنا ہی نقصان کم ہو گا۔ سیاست دانوں کی عدم برداشت کو دیکھتے ہوئے عدلیہ سب سے بڑی امید ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/31-May-2022/1557218>

حکومت چائنہ سے امپورٹ پر پابندی کا فیصلہ فوری واپس لے: شوکت علی صانی

لاہور (نیوز پورٹر) حکومت چائنہ سے امپورٹ پر پابندی کا فیصلہ فوری واپس لے ورنہ تاجر برادری احتجاج پر مجبور ہوگی۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار سی ای او پاک چائنا اور سیز کمیونٹی اور چیئر مین سٹینڈنگ کمیٹی شوکت علی صانی نے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستانی گورنمنٹ کی طرف سے مختلف اشیاء کی چائنا سے امپورٹ پر پابندی لگنے کی وجہ سے 2 لاکھ بڑے تاجر اور 20 لاکھ کے قریب چھوٹے تاجر بری طرح متاثر ہوئے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-05-31/page-4/detail-19>

آم کی پیداوار، برآمدات میں اضافہ: چین کیساتھ تعاون بڑھانے کی ضرورت، وانگ زیہائی

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاکستان چائنہ جو انٹ جیمیر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر وانگ زیہائی نے کہا ہے کہ درجہ حرارت میں غیر معمولی اضافہ اور پانی کی قلت کے باعث آم کی پیداوار میں کمی پاکستان میں ایک نیا بھرتا ہو مسئلہ ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کو آم کی پیداوار، برآمدات میں اضافہ اور قیمتی زرمبادلہ کمانے کیلئے چین کیساتھ تعاون بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ آم کی کامیاب نشوونما کیلئے ڈرپ اریگیشن سسٹم پر عمل کیا جانا چاہیے۔ قوم کو اس وقت بر فباری اور بارشوں کی کمیابی کے باعث پانی کی شدید قلت کا سامنا ہے، لہذا یہ طریقہ یقیناً آم کی فصل کی پیداوار بڑھانے میں مددگار ثابت ہو گا۔ سینئر نائب صدر احسن چوہدری نے کہا کہ 2018ء تک، پاکستان نے سالانہ 1.9 ملین میٹرک ٹن آم پیدا کیے، اس طرح دنیا میں چھٹے نمبر پر ہے۔ گلوبل وارمنگ کی وجہ سے گزشتہ چار سالوں میں ملک میں آم کی پیداوار میں کمی آئی ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ چین کیساتھ مشترکہ منصوبوں کی اشد ضرورت ہے۔ صدر سرفراز بٹ نے کہا کہ کاشت اور کٹائی کی فرسودہ تکنیک، پیداوار کی زیادہ لاگت، کولڈ سٹوریج کی ناقص سہولیات اور تحقیق اور ترقی کا فقدان آم کی صنعت کی ترقی میں بڑی رکاوٹ ہیں۔ سیکرٹری جنرل صلاح الدین حنیف نے کہا کہ پاکستان نے حالیہ برسوں میں چینی عوام کو پاکستانی آم کی نئی، بہتر اقسام اور بھرپور ذائقے کو فروغ دینے کے لیے چین میں بھی تقریبات منعقد کیں اور منتظمین کے مطابق تاثرات حوصلہ افزا تھے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-05-31/page-7/detail-8>