



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

June 1 - 15, 2019

A pilot project of PICS

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June 01, 2019

Pakistan Observer 01-06-19

Pakistan, China want arms control, non-proliferation issues addressed

Pakistan and China agreed that arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament issues should be addressed through dialogue and diplomacy. The understanding was expressed during a sixth round of Pakistan-China Bilateral Consultations on Arms Control and Non-Proliferation in Islamabad.

Pakistan and China stressed the need for reinvigorating the multilateral arms control and disarmament forums to enable them to make meaningful progress towards the objective of global and regional peace and stability.

Pakistan's side briefed the visiting Chinese delegation about its robust nuclear safety and security regime and its export control mechanisms, which were consistent with those adopted by members of the multilateral export control regimes. The Chinese team also expressed appreciation for the steps taken by Pakistan in these areas.

Three weeks long Global Media Fellowship Programme concludes China emerges as role model for developing nations

A booming economy, vibrant culture, steady fiscal growth, secure environment and immense opportunities, all these factors make China the first choice of the developing nations. Belt & Road mainstream media persons were of this consensus view here Friday while speaking at the concluding ceremony of the three-week long Global Media Training Programme. They were addressing the concluding ceremony of the training programme that took place in the conference room of the Shanghai International Studies University (SISU).

Deputy Editor-in-Chief of China Daily one of the three main organizers of the training programme, Mr QuYingpu, Assistant to the President of University of International Business & Economics (UIBE) Beijing, Ms Ding Wenli, Party Secretary of SISU Mr Jiang Feng and Dean School of Journalism, SISU, Prof Dr GuoKe also addressed on the occasion. Ms Wah Foon Ho, a senior journalist from Malaysia while giving her observations on the occasion said three weeks of the training programme in Beijing, Changsha and Shanghai broadened her vision and taught her something new about China. China is a country, she said that wants to uplift the developing nations from abject poverty and support their people as well as governments in achieving prosperity and economic wellbeing.

While sharing her own experiences of China as she has been to the country many times, Wah Foon Ho said there used to be times when she came to China and found the Chinese people poorer than her countrymen but now she admitted she finds them (the Chinese people) living in better conditions than the Malaysian people.

She praised the Chinese investment in smaller and developing countries like Pakistan, Cambodia, Thailand, Nepal and other Belt & Road countries as the vision of President Xi Jinping now belongs to the world civilizations and humanity at large. However, she pointed out though China knew the world, the world still didn't know China and it needed to launch a mega campaign to divert the world attention towards its growth and advancement. "No one can now stop China's becoming the leading world power surpassing the US and the west," said she. Natalia Amaglobeli, a journalist from Georgia also highlighted the spirit of Belt & Road saying it contributed to uniting the nations and ending enmities among them. We saw in the programme journalists participating from Iran and UAE, Pakistan and India, Georgia and Russia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan and they went along very well despite the fact their countries either have no diplomatic relations or are at war with each other, said Natalia. Behind Belt & Road lies the Chinese leadership's desire to establish peace in the world and save our planet from warlike situation.

UAE's journalist TajAlradi also shared his observations with the audience regarding China's progress particularly its rural revitalization programme. Deputy E-in-C of China Daily QurYingpu while congratulating the participants for successfully completing the training programme hoped they had a better understanding of China's progress and the belt and road initiative. He asked them to spread China's message of peace and prosperity through their respective media outlets to their people. B&R means to connect nations and people, he said. He also thanked SISU, UIBE, China Eastern and Shanghai Municipal government for their contributions to make the programme successful. He wished the participating journalists safe journey back home.

The Express Tribune

Govt moves to set up CPEC Secretariat

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, the government has taken the first step towards establishing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority and approved the merger of existing support infrastructure into a new secretariat.

Project director of the new CPEC Secretariat is likely to be somebody with military background, said a top official of the Ministry of Planning and Development on Friday.

Headed by Minister for Planning and Development Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar, the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) approved the merger of two ongoing projects to set up the CPEC Secretariat and an authority. The government merged the CPEC Support Project and the CPEC Centre of Excellence.

Against the existing mechanism where a deputy project director had been heading the CPEC Support Project for the last three years, now the minister for planning and development will head the CPEC Secretariat. The number two in command will be the planning secretary.

The project director, who will be responsible for all operational and policy matters of CPEC, will be hired in the Management Pay Scale-I, which is also equivalent to grade-22.

The project director will head two wings – the coordination and monitoring wing and the research wing – and will enjoy vast powers, according to the concept paper of the new CPEC Secretariat and the authority.

In order to keep the matter secret, the Ministry of Planning and Development did not prepare a new working paper for approval of the revised PC-I by the CDWP. The deputy project director only gave a presentation to the CDWP. The planning ministry also did not mention the CPEC Secretariat in its official statement.

Planning Secretary Zafar Hasan and Planning Minister Bakhtiar did not comment on the need for CPEC Authority.

The secretariat will be responsible for overall coordination and implementation of CPEC work, according to the presentation that the acting project director gave to the CDWP.

The secretariat will coordinate activities for conducting meetings of Joint Working Groups (JWGs) and Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) and implementation of the decisions taken by these two forums.

JWGs have representation from both China and Pakistan and these groups thrash out technical details of projects for approval by the JCC. JCC is the highest joint decision-making body of CPEC.

The secretariat will also be responsible for coordination with local and international institutions and think tanks for preparing policies and conducting research. It will provide a mechanism for multi-sector coordination and ensure consultative process for trade support and policy formulation, according to terms of references of the new secretariat.

In 2014, Pakistan and China had announced that they would deepen their economic and strategic cooperation through CPEC, which is the pilot project of the trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative of the Chinese president. Initially, both the countries had announced \$46 billion worth of agreements in infrastructure and energy sectors. The volume subsequently increased to \$60 billion.

However, a couple of years ago, CPEC started hitting roadblocks and it is now estimated that the actual Chinese investment in the energy and infrastructure projects will not cross \$24 billion, according to documents of the Ministry of Planning and Development.

The News

Government approves merger of three CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday approved the merger of three projects related to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and come up with an umbrella project (for 60-month period) at a revised cost of Rs2.618 billion from July 2019 to June 2024.

All three projects have been merged into one and brought under the domain of CPEC Project Director at Ministry of Planning.

The umbrella project merged three projects including China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Support Project (CPECSP) at a cost of Rs1220.503 million, Center of Excellence China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (COE-CPEC) at a cost of Rs1350 million and China Pakistan Friendly Exchange Program at a cost of Rs306 million. The cost of three projects stood at Rs2.877 billion in totality.

Now with the merger of three projects, the cost has been revised downward to Rs2.618 billion, saving Rs259 million. However, the researchers are not happy with the decision to bring Center of Excellence CPEC under the direct control of Project Director of CPEC Secretariat at Ministry of Planning.

The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) in a meeting, held under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar, approved four projects worth Rs6.552 billion and recommended four projects worth Rs237.178 billion to Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) for consideration.

Two projects related to governance were presented. One of the presented projects, namely 'Competitive and Livable City of Karachi' worth Rs3.36 billion, was presented aims at addressing the structure development needs of Karachi and to improve competitiveness and livability of the city. The CDWP referred the project to ECNEC for further approval.

Ministry Of Planning Development and Reform presented the second project "China Pakistan Economic Corridor Support Project worth Rs2618.21 million as the scope of CPEC projects have been enhanced requiring separate coordination and research wings.

The projects related to energy, information technology, manpower, governance and education were presented in the meeting.

The Ministry of Planning and Development of Government of Sindh and Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs Division presented a project 'Sindh Secondary Education Improvement Project' worth Rs11533.500 million. The purpose of this project is the construction of 160 secondary school blocks, which will be implemented in following ten districts of Southern Sindh, Sujawal, Tharparker, Umerkot, Thatta, Badin, Sanghar, TandoM.Khan, Matiari, MirpurKhas and Tando Allah Yar . The CDWP recommended this project to ECNEC for consideration.

The second project “Improving Human Development Indicators in Pakistan (Education Related)” worth Rs2995.896 million, presented by Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training with a focus on Sustainable Development Goals was also approved by the CDWP meeting.

Two projects related to energy sector namely “1230 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Haveli Bahadur Shah, District Jhang“ worth Rs97253.06 million and “1230 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Balloki, District Kasur” worth Rs94037.63 million were referred to ECNEC for further approval.

“Youth Education, Employment, Empowerment Project Sindh” worth Rs1019.519 million was approved by the CDWP. One Information Technology related project “High Impact Skills Boot Camp” worth Rs338.522 million was also given approval in the CDWP meeting.

Express News

حکومت نے سی پیک اتھارٹی کے قیام کا فیصلہ کر لیا

اسلام آباد: حکومت نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) اتھارٹی کے قیام کا فیصلہ کر لیا، سی پیک سیکریٹریٹ میں پروجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر آرمی بیک گراؤنڈ کے افسر کو تعینات کیے جانے کا امکان ہے۔ سی پیک سیکریٹریٹ کے سربراہ وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی و ترقیات مخدوم خسرو بختیار ہوں گے اور ان کے نائب سیکریٹری منصوبہ بندی و ترقیات ہوں گے، سینٹرل ڈیولپمنٹ ورکنگ پارٹی نے سی پیک اتھارٹی اور سی پیک سیکریٹریٹ کے انضمام کی منظوری دے دی ہے۔ حکومت نے سی پیک پروجیکٹ اور سی پیک سینٹر آف ایکس لینس کے انضمام کی بھی منظوری دے دی ہے۔ سی پیک پروجیکٹ ڈائریکٹر 22 گریڈ کا افسر ہو گا جو پالیسی اور آپریشنل امور کا ذمے دار ہو گا۔

وزارت منصوبہ بندی نے سرکاری اعلامیے میں سی پیک سیکریٹریٹ کا کوئی ذکر نہیں ہے، وفاقی وزیر خسرو بختیار اور سیکریٹری پلاننگ ظفر حسن نے سی پیک اتھارٹی کے قیام کی ضرورت پر کوئی تبصرہ نہیں کیا۔ سی پیک سیکریٹریٹ کے ٹرمز آف ریفرنس کے مطابق سیکریٹریٹ عالمی اور مقامی اداروں سے رابطہ اور تھکنیک کی مشاورت سے تحقیق اور پالیسی کی تشکیل کرے گی۔

Nawaiwaqt

سی پیک کے تحت ملک میں زراعت کے شعبے کی بہتری پر خصوصی توجہ دی جا رہی ہے: حکام

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کے تحت ملک میں زراعت کے شعبے کی بہتری پر خصوصی توجہ دی جا رہی ہے، اس شعبہ میں بہتری سے پاکستان کی برآمدات میں خاطر خواہ اضافہ ہو گا۔ سی پیک سیکریٹریٹ حکام کے مطابق موجودہ حکومت نے پہلے ہی دن سے زراعت کے شعبے پر خصوصی توجہ دی ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt

نائب صدر کا دورہ پاکستان سٹریٹجک پارٹنرشپ بلندیوں پر لے جائیگا: چینی وزارت خارجہ

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین نے کہا ہے کہ چینی نائب صدر وانگ تشان کا دورہ پاکستان انتہائی کامیاب رہا ہے، دورہ دو طرفہ تزویراتی پارٹنرشپ کو نئی بلندیوں تک لے جائے گا، دونوں ممالک اعلیٰ سطحی تبادلوں، سٹریٹجک کمیونیکیشن اور چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کی تعمیر اور اس کے ساتھ ساتھ مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کیلئے مزید فروغ پر آمادہ ہیں، دونوں ممالک علاقائی و بین الاقوامی معاملات کو دیکھتے ہیں اور مشترکہ لائحہ عمل ترتیب دے رہے ہیں، دونوں ممالک آپسی تعلقات کو بڑھانے کیلئے مزید کوشش

کریں گے، تفصیلات کے مطابق چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان کیڈنگ شوآننگ نے جمعہ کے روز معمول کی پریس بریفنگ میں چینی نائب صدر وانگ قیشان کے دورہ پاکستان پر روشنی ڈالتے ہوئے کہا کہ دورہ انتہائی کامیاب رہا، دونوں ممالک دو طرفہ تیز رفتاری پر ترقی پارٹنرشپ کو نئی بلندیوں تک لے جانے کے خواہشمند ہیں۔ دونوں ممالک اعلیٰ سطحی تبادلوں، سٹریٹجک کمیونیکیشن اور سی پیک کی تعمیر اور دیگر شعبہ جات میں تعاون کے فروغ کیلئے آمادہ ہیں۔ دونوں ممالک علاقائی و بین الاقوامی معاملات کو دیکھتے ہیں اور مشترکہ لائحہ عمل ترتیب دے رہے ہیں۔ ترجمان نے مزید کہا کہ وانگ قیشان کو دورہ پاکستان کے نتائج پر مکمل اعتماد ہے، دورہ کی بدولت دو طرفہ تعلقات اور تعاون میں مزید اضافہ ہو گا۔ دونوں ممالک کے سربراہان کی موجودگی میں دو طرفہ تعلقات کے مختلف معاہدوں پر دستخط کئے گئے جس میں زرعی شعبہ، کسٹم اور ناگہانی آفات کے شعبہ جات قابل ذکر ہیں۔

اسلام آباد (صبح نیوز) پاکستان اور چین نے اتفاق کیا ہے کہ ایٹمی عدم پھیلاؤ اور تخفیف اسلحہ کے مسائل مذاکرات اور سفارہ کاری کے ذریعے حل کئے جانے چاہئیں۔ یہ اتفاق رائے اسلام آباد میں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ہتھیاروں کی فراہمی پر پابندی اور ایٹمی عدم پھیلاؤ پر مشاورت کے چھٹے مرحلے کے دوران ہوا۔ فریقین نے ہتھیاروں پر پابندی اور ان کے خاتمے سے متعلق کثیر جہتی اداروں کو موثر اور فعال بنانے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا جس سے عالمی اور علاقائی امن و سلامتی کے ہدف کے حصول میں با مقصد پیشرفت ہو سکے گی۔ پاکستان نے دورے پر آئے ہوئے چین کے وفد کو اپنے ایٹمی اثاثوں کے کمان اور کنٹرول نظام سے آگاہ کیا جو ایٹمی ہتھیاروں پر کنٹرول کے عالمی قوانین اور نظام کے عین مطابق ہے۔ چین نے متعلقہ شعبوں میں پاکستان کی جانب سے کئے گئے اقدامات کو سراہا۔ چین کے وفد کو آگاہ کیا گیا کہ پاکستان جامع سول ایٹمی پروگرام، تجربے، مہارت اور ایٹمی صلاحیت کی فراہمی کے حامل ملک کی حیثیت سے نیوکلیر سپلائر گروپ کی رکنیت کی مکمل اہلیت رکھتا ہے

June 02, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan urges African countries to apply CPEC to access wider Asian markets

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can help African countries to access wider Asian markets with much-reduced time and economic cost. This was stated by Pakistan's envoy to the African Union (AU) Asghar Ali while addressing the Belt and Road Dialogue for China-Africa Cooperation, reports Chinese media on Saturday. The CPEC will offer the shortest route to China and beyond to the wider regional market, he said adding, Pakistan will enhance its interaction with the African countries through Gwadar deep sea port. The dialogue was jointly organized by the AU and the Chinese Mission to the AU in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.

Pakistan's keen interest to cooperate with African countries in various socioeconomic sectors, also described the CPEC as "an important opportunity" for African countries to reduce the economic cost of penetrating the much-larger Asian markets.

The Pakistani envoy's positive remarks were also echoed by African and Chinese officials attending the event on Thursday, as they emphasized the need to deepen partnership under the BRI so as to drive the momentum in the China-Africa Comprehensive Strategic and Cooperative Partnership.

"A large number of projects involving railways, roads, bridges, airports and seaports and industrial parks are being implemented, bringing genuine benefits to Chinese and African

peoples and enriching the China-Africa Comprehensive Strategic and Cooperative Partnership,” Liu Yuxi, Head of the Chinese Mission to the AU, told the high-level dialogue.

The Express Tribune

470 cops complete training for CPEC special protection unit

RAWALPINDI: As many as 470 police personnel of special protection unit (SPU) for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) completed their six-month training here in Police College Sihala on Saturday.

During the training, the police officials learned special skills in first aid, modern weaponry, field craft, self defence, advance firing and martial arts. Pakistan Army instructors played a key role in the training programme and paid special attention on character-building and morale training of the personnel so they can fulfill their duties suitably.

Addressing the successful cadets, Rawalpindi Regional Police Officer (RPO) Muhammad Ehsan Tufail said that CPEC bears great significance for the economic development and progress of the country. The Punjab Police was committed to root out terrorism and cleanse the society of criminal elements, he added.

RPO Tufail lauded the spirit of newly-inducted police officials, who have been given the great responsibility of protecting the CPEC project. He said that the police personnel, who were trained to combat militancy, were the assets of the force.

He expressed hope that besides providing protection to CPEC projects, the SPU officials would also combat terrorism and other crimes.

Earlier, the Rawalpindi RPO, along with Commandant Police College Abbas Ahsan, inspected the march-past, presented by the smartly turned out contingent of the SPU officials.

Later, shields were also distributed among the SPU officials on displaying outstanding performance during the training.

Nawaiwaqt

چینی کمپنی پاکستان میں سرامکس پلانٹ لگائے گی: میاں کاشف اشفاق

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) فیصل آباد انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ ڈویلپمنٹ اینڈ مینجمنٹ کمپنی اور چائینیز کی ہونان یاتائی سرامکس کمپنی کے درمیان 70 ملین ڈالر کی پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کا معاہدہ طے پا گیا۔ معاہدے کی تفصیلات بتاتے ہوئے چیئرمین فیڈرل میاں کاشف اشفاق کا کہنا کہ ہونان یاتائی سرامکس کمپنی ابتدائی طور پر ستر ملین ڈالر کی خطیر سرمایہ کاری علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل سٹی میں کرے گی اور سرامکس پلانٹ لگائے گی اس سرمایہ کاری کے تحت ہزاروں افراد کو روزگار ملے گا اور سرامکس کی امپورٹ میں بھی واضح کمی ہوگی یہ سرمایہ کاری سے نہ صرف علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل سٹی کے لیے بلکہ پاکستان کے لیے بھی ایک خوش آئند بات ہے۔ علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ ایک مکمل انڈسٹریل سٹی ہے جو کہ

فیڈک جیسے پر اعتماد ادارے کے زیر سایہ مکمل ہو رہی ہے یہی وجہ ہے کہ پروجیکٹ مکمل ہونے سے قبل ہی صنعتکاروں کی نظریں اس پروجیکٹ پر ہیں ان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل سٹی کا باقاعدہ افتتاح کریں گے

June 03, 2019

Business Recorder

China plans more foreign access to futures markets

SHANGHAI: China is looking to give foreign investors more access to its futures market and will accelerate the launch of TSR 20 rubber, rice and fertilizer futures, and a China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) official told an industry forum on Tuesday.

“China will encourage state owned enterprises, private companies and institutional investors to invest in futures products,” Lu Dongsheng, Director General of CSRC’s Futures Department said at the Shanghai Derivatives Market Forum.

Shanghai Futures Exchange Chairman Jiang Yan said the TSR 20 standard rubber contract would be the second Shanghai commodities futures to be opened to international investors after crude oil.—Reuters

Dawn News

Bureaucratic inefficiency troubles Pakistani students in China

LAHORE: Bureaucratic inefficiency and red-tapism has been found to be the main factor that created a nightmare for Pakistani students in China when their scholarship funds for the last quarter of the current financial year were delayed.

The chief minister had instructed the University of Education to continue paying the scholarship funds for the students studying Chinese language in China after they were selected on merit under a government-to-government commitment. The university was supposed to bridge-finance and the Punjab higher education department releases the required funds.

Owing to the delay and hue and cry raised by the fund-starved students, the PTI government’s critics took to social media to take on the Punjab government, as the scholarship project was initiated by the Shahbaz Sharif government in 2017. Currently, the third batch of around 200 Pakistani students is learning Chinese language in China.

Chief Minister Usman Buzdar expressed indignation over non-issuance of funds for the students on time and sought a report from the higher education secretary. He instructed that steps should be taken to release around Rs200 million by Monday (today).

Sources in the chief minister’s secretariat said the University of Education had caused the Punjab government embarrassment by not releasing funds in time despite clear instructions. They claimed that sufficient funds were available with the university. The government was also paying

the university at least 15 per cent administrative charges on account of facilitating the students studying in China.

Since the payments had been delayed in every quarter, the sources said, the University of Education was instructed to ensure timely payments for students even if there were technical delays on the part of the higher education and finance departments. They said the university was told that it should release scholarship money from its own funds and write to the higher education department to bridge finance later. Yet, the university delayed the payment, the sources added.

The chief minister has also chided the higher education department over the delay and directed that negligence would not be tolerated again. “Pakistani students must not face any difficulty on foreign land,” the chief minister said.

Sources in the university said the release of funds was delayed because of the higher education department’s failure to send a formal letter on time to pay the students’ scholarship funds.

University of Education Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Rauf-i-Azam said the university used to release funds after receiving instructions from the higher education department. He said the university had already released Rs250 million for the last quarter and the remaining Rs200m would also be paid on Monday (today), adding that a letter from the department had been received.

In the third quarter, Dr Azam added, the university had paid Rs450m for the students in China.

The Punjab government had sanctioned Rs200m on May 27 for placement in the higher education secretary’s account and an audit copy was signed and authenticated by the finance department.

However, an authority letter has not been issued yet by the accountant general’s (AG) office. Higher education department officials say that after issuance of the authority letter, it will transfer funds to the varsity for disbursement to students in China.

Meanwhile, the higher education secretary has tasked a team for coordinating with the AG office and place funds with the university on Monday for further disbursement

The News

Two Chinese language centres open at AIOU

Islamabad: Two Chinese languages centres will start functioning soon at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) at its Islamabad and Multan Campuses, with the support of Open University of China (OUC).

The OUC is extending its tutorial and infrastructural support to the AIOU for the purpose. “We have received video conferencing equipment, furniture and more than 100 sets of computers from their side,” said Dr. Zahid Majeed, Director International Collaboration and Exchange office of the University.

The collaboration is part of MoU, the two sides signed recently in promoting Chinese language in Pakistan, so as to provide academic support to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Zia-Ul-Qayyum sent a message to President of OUC Professor Dr. Yang Zhijian, expressing his desire to further strengthens their mutually beneficial partnership.

Appreciating Chinese support for the Centres, he said, this is good initiative since Chinese language is going to play a pivotal role in the coming years due to the importance of the Belt and Road Initiative and the CPEC in the region. He hoped that the two sides will also share their experience and expertise in expanding and promoting quality education through the open distance learning system. The AIOU is also looking forward for academic research and exchange of academia and students for their mutual benefit as was proposed in the MoU, he added.

Dr. Zia also conveyed him his heart-felt greetings on 40th anniversary of the University's establishment that is going to be celebrated on June 21. He wished them much more academic achievements in the years to come. The message further said, it is their pride that Pakistan and China are enjoying outstanding cooperative partnership in all spheres of life including education. With the setting of the two language centres, the interested students could learn the Chinese language, both speaking and writing through online teaching. The AIOU is also engaged in promoting collaborative partnership with other Chinese Universities including Yunan Open University (YOU).

As per the understanding, the Chinese side will also undertake a project to promote Urdu language in China.

Rs1.5 million fines slapped on profiteers, 25 FIRs lodged: Rawalpindi District Administration conducted 1892 raids in different markets of the district including Rawalpindi city and cantonment areas during last seven week and imposed fines amounting to over Rs1.5 million on profiteers while 25 FIRs were also lodged against the violators. According to a district administration spokesman, the Assistant Commissioners and Price Magistrates of the district on the directive of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Muhammad Ali Randhawa, conducted raids in different areas and took action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. The raids were conducted by the magistrates concerned in their respective areas to check quality of edibles and their rates, he said adding, fines were imposed on profiteers for overcharging the consumers.

Assistant Commissioners Rawalpindi City, Cantonment, Kahuta and Gujar Khan also imposed fines on profiteers. He said that the administration was taking action in accordance with the law against profiteers and the violators would not be allowed to cheat the public.

Nawaiwaqt

اوپن یونیورسٹی کے "چائینز لنگوئج سینٹرز" جلد فنکشنل ہو جائیں گے

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) اوپن یونیورسٹی آف چائینہ کے تعاون سے علامہ اقبال اوپن یونیورسٹی کے اسلام آباد اور ملتان کیمپسز میں قائم "چائینز لنگوئج سینٹرز" جلد فنکشنل ہو جائیں گے اس حوالے سے اوپن یونیورسٹی آف چائینہ نے ٹیوٹوریل اور انفراسٹرکچرل سپورٹ کی فراہمی شروع کر دی ہے انٹرنیشنل کولیریشن اینڈ ایجوکیشن آفس کے ڈائریکٹر ڈاکٹر زاہد مجید کے مطابق چین اوپن یونیورسٹی کی جانب سے ہمیں ویڈیو کانفرنسنگ سامال فرنیچر اور 100 عدد کمپیوٹر سیٹ موصول ہو گئے ہیں۔ یہ تعاون اس مفاہمت کی یادداشت کا حصہ ہے جو دونوں ممالک کی اوپن یونیورسٹیز کے مابین سی بی سی کو تعلیمی سپورٹ کی فراہمی کے لئے ہوا تھا۔ اوپن یونیورسٹی کے وائس چانسلر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر ضیاء القیوم نے اوپن یونیورسٹی آف چائینہ کے قیام کے چالیسیوں سالگرہ کے موقع پر یونیورسٹی کے صدر ڈاکٹر یانگ شیبیان کے نام ایک پیغام بھیجا ہے جس میں انہوں نے چائینز لنگوئج سینٹرز کے قیام و فعال کرنے میں تعاون کی فراہمی پر شکر یہ ادا کیا ہے۔

K2 News

سی پیک منصوبے تعاون کے نئے ادوار کھولیں گے، چین

ہماری پاکستان میں سیکٹریل سینٹر کے قیام کا فیصلہ پاکستان کے مضبوط مستقبل پر مبنی ہے

چینی نائب صدر نے پاکستان کی بہتر سمجھ بوجھ حاصل کرنے کیلئے لاہور کا دورہ کیا، ڈپٹی چینی سفیر

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چین کے ڈپٹی سفیر لی شی جی، نائب صدر کا دورہ طرفہ گفتات کے فرا

جیان ڈاؤن نے کہا ہے کہ چینی نائب صدر ایک کھلی اور چین پاکستان کشادگی راہداری (سی پیک) کے

نے پاکستان کی بہتر سمجھ بوجھ حاصل کرنے کے لئے وقت بڑھتے ہوئے مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کے

لاہور کا دورہ کیا، دونوں ممالک کا تعلق انتہائی مضبوط اور عامے سے ایک اہم قومی

دلت ہے، اسے منصوبے ہی بیک کے تحت ہا ہی تعاون کے لئے ادوار کھولیں گے، ہوا سے کی جانب سے پاکستان میں بین الاقوامی سیٹو کے قیام کا فیصلہ پاکستان کے مشیروں کے مشیروں پر مشتمل ہے۔ جس کا ایک تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے لی جیان ڈاؤ نے کہا کہ چین کے نائب صدر وانگ کشان کا دورہ پاکستان انتہائی کامیاب رہا، دورہ دو طرفہ تعلقات اور ہی بیک کے تحت ہوتے ہوئے مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کے حوالے سے دورہ ایک اہم پیش رفت ہے۔ دورے کے دوران پانچ اہم گھنٹوں پر مشتمل کئے گئے جبکہ چار منصوبوں کا سنگ بنیاد رکھا گیا۔ یہ منصوبے ہی بیک کے تحت ہا ہی تعاون کے لئے ادوار کھولیں گے۔ چینی نائب صدر کا دورہ پاکستان اس بات کا مظہر ہے پاکستان اور چین کا تعلق انتہائی مضبوط اور مثالی ہے۔ یہ تعلقات دونوں ملکوں کے مشترکہ مفاد کے حصول کے لئے مزید مضبوط ہوں گے۔ دونوں ممالک ایک دوسرے کے کھلی دوست ہیں دورے کے دوران ہی بیک کے اگلے نئے حوالے سے بات چیت کی گئی۔ چین نے اس دورہ پاکستان کے سوشل نیٹور کے پروگراموں کیلئے ایک ارب چینی کرنسی جو آن گرانٹ فراہم کرنے کا اعلان کیا۔ علاوہ اس میں 40 بلین یو آن ڈی این ایسٹر ریٹیف فنڈ میں دیا گیا۔ سب سے اہم منصوبہ شیاری سے لاہور انسٹیٹیوٹ لائن کا منصوبہ ہے۔ جس کی لمبائی 888 کلومیٹر ہے اور اس کی لاگت 1.6 ارب ڈالر ہے۔

June 04, 2019

The Express Tribune

Recipe for SEZ success

If there is one thing that the government should do right now, to consolidate the gains of China Pakistan Economic Corridor, it is to fix the special economic zones (SEZs).

The Phase II of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is here, with industrial cooperation as one of the two new priority areas going forward. But notwithstanding these recent developments, even earlier the experts were convinced that effective industrial cooperation is the only way to ensure that the massive CPEC infrastructure leads to a prosperous future for Pakistan. The ultimate success of CPEC would be to use improved connectivity to enhance trade and drive industrialisation. And SEZs are the first milestone on this road.

No wonder, when Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan recently visited Pakistan, he made a special emphasis on tremendous potential of industrial parks in driving economic development of Pakistan, during his address at Pak-China Institute.

So what are these zones and how can we manage them effectively?

As opposed to common perception, SEZs are not merely about lower taxes, reduced tariffs or lucrative investment incentives. There is much more to them. In fact, these carrots remain peripheral to the central concept behind SEZs.

The special economic zones are special, because they promise to avoid the investment impediments otherwise present in the country. In the 1980s, the SEZs offered China a deviation for its otherwise closed economy. The SEZs offered laboratories for progressive reformers to test their breakthrough ideas while comforting conservatives that these experiments remained confined to tight geographical boundaries, not affecting country's overall policy framework. The SEZs were used to tinker with capitalism to attract foreign capital and the results were phenomenal, turning fishing villages into mega industrial complexes.

Since then, China has moved much farther, but the thought behind SEZs has not changed much. These enclaves remain far ahead on the policy curve, bending and circumventing otherwise strict Chinese policies. Some of the Chinese zones, for instance, now provide much open Internet access, as opposed to countrywide censorship of certain sites.

This is the philosophy we need to embrace in Pakistan. Let's think of wildly progressive policy reforms and experiment with them in these zones. These SEZs should, in fact, be a paradise for reformers, who want to bring Pakistan on a par with Shenzhen, Dubai or Singapore in terms of investor experience.

But how can this journey start? There are a few basic ingredients and a simple recipe. Let the private sector build and manage the infrastructure and let the government bring cutting-edge legislation, enabling these SEZs to have their own civil and commercial legal framework.

The SEZ legislation should be based on three principles of ease of administration, transparency and automaticity. Ease of administration should cover effective use of one-window operations, minimal licensing requirements and use of negative lists, streamlined approval processes and accelerated customs inspection and procedures. Transparency should lead to limited discretion, avoiding case-by-case evaluation of applications and using a simple process based on clearly defined criteria, whereas automaticity should mean putting in place default mechanisms to confer automatic approvals within a pre-determined time period.

Another important piece of the puzzle is to establish truly autonomous and empowered zone authorities and letting them run these zones. Such authorities, manned with the best global talent, should also be made responsible for administering the SEZ civil and commercial legal framework.

There are nine planned priority SEZs under CPEC, along with a free zone in Gwadar. But numbers hardly matter. If the government can figure out just one SEZ right and make it a success, there can be countless others. Or else more numbers without a clear recipe for success will only mean more chances of failure.

June 05, 2019

Nawaiwaqt

سی پیک دو طرفہ عوامی امنگوں کا ترجمان قرار، چینی میڈیا

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) سی پیک اوہور منصوبہ کا اہم ترین جزو ہے، سی پیک پاک چین حکومتی تعاون کے ساتھ ساتھ نجی شعبہ کی تعمیر و ترقی میں اہم کردار کر رہا ہے، سی پیک کی بدولت پاک چین دوستی ایک نئے مرحلہ سے لطف اندوز ہو رہی ہے، سی پیک منصوبہ پاک چین عوام کی قربت میں اضافے کا باعث ہے۔ چینی میڈیا رپورٹس کے مطابق چینی تجربہ کاروں کا کہنا ہے کہ اوہور منصوبہ چینی صدر شی جن پھنگ کے ویژن کا عکاس ہے اور اس منصوبہ کا پرچم بردار منصوبہ سی پیک ہے۔ چین کے ایک نامور اقتصادی تجربہ کار کا کہنا ہے کہ سی پیک کی بدولت چین اور پاکستان میں نہ صرف حکومتی سطح پر تعاون میں اضافہ ہوا ہے بلکہ پاک چین نجی شعبے جات کی سرمایہ کاری میں اضافہ کیلئے اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ اوہور منصوبہ کا سی پیک منصوبہ کی بدولت پاک چین دوستی ایک نئے مرحلے سے لطف اندوز ہو رہی ہے۔ سی پیک منصوبہ دو طرفہ روابط میں مزید استحکام کا سبب ہے۔ لی کا کہنا ہے کہ اس منصوبہ نے پاک چین عوام کے باہمی روابط میں بھی اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ اس منصوبہ کی وجہ سے جتنی تیزی سے پاک چین عوامی تعلقات کو فروغ ملا ہے لگتا ہے کہ دونوں ممالک کی عوام کی ایک دوسرے میں رچ بس گئیں

June 08, 2019

Business Recorder

Malik, Chinese envoy discuss progress on CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Lijian Zhao, Deputy Chief of Mission of China in Pakistan and Senator A. Rehman Malik, Former Interior Minister and Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior, here on Friday discussed the progress on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and reiterated their firm resolves of completing CPEC.

Chinese Deputy Ambassador greeted Senator Rehman Malik and Pakistani nation on Eid-ul-Fitr and both exchanged best wishes for Pakistani and Chinese nations. Both leaders discussed in detail the bilateral relations, regional current situation.

Senator Rehman Malik said that CPEC guarantees progress, peace, stability and prosperity for the entire region adding that enemies who remain inimical to CPEC will not succeed in their nefarious designs against it. He thanked Lijian Zhao for his visits and best wishes on Eid, said a press release.—APP

Business Recorder

Pakistan, other BRI countries reject China's debt trap theory: Chinese media

BEIJING: Pakistan and other member countries of Belt and Road Initiative have rejected the West's conspiracy theory of China's "debt trap", says Chinese media.

According to China Economic Net's report, as the trade war between China and the United States escalates, the US Secretary of State Pompeo has been busy fanning the flames among its allies, pressuring and intimidating, and even rushing to the North Pole to spread rumors and fear. At a recent meeting of the Arctic Council, he accused China and Russia of being "aggressive" in the Arctic region, saying that China's rise would plunge the Arctic countries into a "debt and corruption crisis" and that some countries were forced to accept "poor infrastructure".

With the continuous progress of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, the slander about China's debt and the fallacy about China's fund are endless. It is fallacy because the same behavior and the money of western countries are called sweet "pies", but what China provides could become a dark "trap"?! That simply makes no sense. The root cause for that lies in prejudice.

As is known to all, infrastructure construction is an important way to solve the current development bottleneck in many countries. Building high-quality, sustainable, risk-resistant, affordable and inclusive infrastructure is a key and core part in connecting facilities along the China-proposed Belt and Road.

It is not just developing countries that need to improve their infrastructure construction. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), 28% of major urban roads in the United States are sub-optimal or inferior, and by 2025, roads, highways, bridges, water systems, schools and transport systems will cost a total of 4.59 trillion dollars to renovate and build.

The sustainability of debt is not only related to the achievements of projects, but also to the prospect of building an open and inclusive world economy. In the process of pushing forward the Belt and Road Initiative, China has continuously paid attention to the issue of debt sustainability.

During the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF), China officially published the Debt Sustainability Framework, which focuses on the debt management capabilities of participating countries, and the investment and financing decisions of financial institutions.

However, these efforts are in vain in the eyes of the US government officials represented by Pompeo. According to data from US consultancy Rhodium Group, China has renegotiated up to \$50 billion in loans to debtor countries over the past decade, with most countries receiving debt relief or extension.

By contrast, the international financial institutions dominated by the West are less moderate. They would demand fiscal austerity, structural reform and capital liberalization.

Pakistan Economic Affairs Division Secretary Noor Ahmed said Chinese loan accounts for a mere 10 to 11 percent of the total amount, the remaining 89 to 90 percent is from other sources including the International Monetary Fund, Paris Club, and other western organizations. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects have provided 75,000 direct jobs for Pakistan. By 2030, job opportunities are expected to increase by 700,000. Who is setting the trap? The fact remains self-evident, the report added.—INP

Daily Times

Chinese VP in Pakistan

The recent visit of the Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan to Pakistan and launching of four mega development projects in the fields of energy, technology, and education under CPEC reveals that bilateral relations between Pakistan and China has strengthened to a great extent.

The incumbent government, certainly, deserves credit for this because all this has become possible due to the successful foreign policy of the PTI-led government both at the centre and the provincial levels.

Pak-China friendship is higher than Himalayas, deeper than ocean, sweeter than honey and stronger than steel. Right from energy projects to transport projects, from the construction of Gwadar port to CPEC; China is always supporting Pakistan at every stage.

Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the Pakistan is making strenuous efforts to further cemented ties between the two countries. It is hoped that this new era of friendship will prove to be a milestone for the betterment and prosperity of masses at both sides.

Daily Times

CPEC route to economic and political stability

CPEC is not just a small prospect for Pakistan but has the potential to possibly turn the state into a geo-economically substantial powerhouse in South Asia. China and Pakistan aim for substantially momentous strategic and political gains within the international order towards their benefit with the help of CPEC and the meta-structure of OBOR. Much more than this, the strategic merit of South Asia could be largely heightened because of CPEC. The contemporary situation that persists in Afghanistan, as a result of which all the massive actors have become involved and convoluted in the region, has tied and looped in all the security complexes together. It has put Pakistan at a predisposed position and aggravated its insecurity.

It needs to be implied that the security configuration of Pakistan has now become much more linked to its economic system and CPEC is a pronounced example of this idea as well. Since CPEC is going to be an enterprise that will focus on both security and economics, it inevitably means that advantageously Pakistan will get jauntiness.

But with all of its scale, there are certain trials that Pakistan faces; not just internal but also external in the landscape. To begin with the external vestibule, the biggest challenge for Pakistan is the recognition of the project, which certain other states with an inimical stance are failing to give. Thus, they are repudiating towards CPEC as well as the strategic enterprise of China and Pakistan. This resentment is pre-eminently represented in the dominion of Afghanistan. Additionally in a setting where India has been continuously vexing to push Pakistan into seclusion and the US still has the swindling policy of uncertainty towards the state in lieu of Afghanistan and, in reality, has been able to enhance their “do-more” policy, speaks for itself. Additionally, the concept of unwarranted security and diplomatic relationships with Iran could also manifest in CPEC. In all of this, China requires a suave undertaking of the project without any internal or external instability. And though the military and civilian representatives have reinforced their efforts to restraint terrorism, it appears to be re-developing in terms of some latest events in Lahore, Quetta and now Peshawar.

This tips us to somewhat gradual and raw challenges even for the state. Apart from the revitalization of terrorism and extremism, the security structure is friable as well as the economic and political one. There is civil-military friction on the horizon and much more than that the non-existence of consistency between political entities, especially affecting CPEC, is a massive issue. Many provincial parties have directed their frameworks towards CPEC and blame the old government for not forming policies, which benefited them all.

Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are central to the CPEC infrastructure. Both are vulnerable in terms of security situation

Then there is the idea that in the given dynamics of Balochistan and particularly Gwadar, these areas would become the core areas of interests. As a matter of fact, Balochistan is going towards a dim cataclysm in terms of security, strategy, politics and economy. Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are central to the infrastructure of CPEC but both are susceptible in terms of security.

Balochistan specifically is vulnerable not just from some of the Baloch nationalist groups, which are keen to disrupt peace, but also from India, which is working clandestinely to keep the situation in Balochistan very dismantled.

The current attempt brings the dangers of the relegation of Balochi, which could also lead to issues of powerlessness, joblessness, discrimination and material and infrastructure deficiency given the past records of how governments managed Balochistan.

The policy makers play a prominent role in this scenario since they are required to come up with such concepts that deal with all the latent issues without making a mess of the internal and external issues or causing any fissures with Pakistan's relationship with China. For that reason, the very first thing that needs to be done is the incorporation of the features of the law, which deal with such immense bi-lateral projects in detail. They ought to understand as to what extent Pakistan, and China would have to contribute to the give-and-take of it.

Furthermore, there is also a necessity to make instantaneous and stable efforts to restraint terrorism from not just the North Waziristan Agency but also from Balochistan and Punjab. There need to be education and job opportunities in the quotas for Baloch, KP and other repressed youth so they could disband themselves from any pugnacious groups. Pakistan also needs to articulate constant policies in terms of Gwadar and its strategic, security and economic dynamics.

Lastly, in order to cope with the peripheral threats, Pakistan ought to come up with a comprehensive foreign policy that includes stringent measures to deal with antagonized state behaviour towards itself, which had, in the past, brought massive insecurity and instability within the country. It needs to come up with a framework as to how it deals with India, Iran, Afghanistan as well as the US in terms of CPEC. Perhaps, there is a need to assess the future it can face as well as the past mistakes it made in terms of its foreign policy, jumbling its economic and trade links as well.

The Nation

BRI states reject West's China 'debt trap' theory

BEIJING - Pakistan and other member countries of Belt and Road Initiative have rejected the West's conspiracy theory of China's 'debt trap', says Chinese media.

According to China Eco-nomic Net's report, as the trade war between China and the US escalates, US Secretary of State Pompeo has been busy fanning the flames among its allies, pressuring and intimidat-ing, and even rushing to the North Pole to spread ru-mours and fear.

At a recent meeting of the Arctic Council, he accused Chi-na and Russia of being “ag-gressive” in the Arctic region, saying that China's rise would plunge the Arctic countries into a “debt and corruption crisis” and that some coun-tries were forced to accept “poor infrastructure”. With the continuous progress of the China-proposed BRI, the slan-der about China's debt and the fallacy about China's fund are endless.

As is known to all, infra-structure construction is an important way to solve the current development bot-tleneck in many countries.

It is not just developing countries that need to im-prove their infrastructure construction. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), 28% of major urban roads in the United States are sub-opti-mal or inferior, and by 2025, roads, highways, bridges, water systems, schools and transport systems will cost a total of 4.59 trillion dollars to renovate and build.

The Nation

Chinese diplomat meets Rehman Malik

ISLAMABAD-Lijian Zhao, Deputy Chief of Mission of China in Pakistan calls on Senator Rehman Malik, Former Interior Minister and Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior, here yesterday at his residence in Islamabad. Chinese Deputy Ambassador greeted Senator Rehman Malik and Pakistani nation on Eid ulFitr and both exchanged best wishes for Pakistani and Chinese nations, said a statement. Both leaders discussed in detail the bilateral relations, regional current situation and progress on China Pakistan Economic Corridor and reiterated that China and Pakistan stand committed to successful completion of CPEC.

Senator Rehman Malik said that CPEC guarantees progress, peace, stability and prosperity for the entire region adding that enemies who remain inimical to CPEC will not succeed in their nefarious designs against it. He thanked Lijian Zhao for his visits and best wishes on Eid.

Nawaiwaqt

پاکستان کی مالی امداد کا مقصد عوام کو زندگی کی بہتر سہولیات کی فراہمی ہے: چین

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کو فراہم کی جانے والی امداد قرضوں کا بحران نہیں بلکہ اس کی مدد سے ملک بھر میں انفراسٹرکچر کی تعمیر نو ہو رہی ہے تاکہ عوام کو زندگی کی بہتر سہولیات میسر آسکیں۔ جمعہ کو چین کے معروف میڈیا گروپ چائے آکٹانک نیٹ کی رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ جیسا کہ چین اور امریکہ کے مابین تجارتی کشیدگی بڑھ رہی ہے، امریکی سیکرٹری خارجہ مائیک پومپئیو اپنے اتحادیوں کے مابین تجارتی تناؤ کے حوالے سے جذبات کو بھڑکا رہے ہیں، ان پر دباؤ ڈال رہے ہیں اور اس حوالے سے افواہیں پھیل رہے ہیں، حال ہی میں آرکنیکٹ کونسل میں ہونے والے ایک اجلاس میں انہوں نے الزام عائد کیا ہے کہ چین اور روس اس خطے میں جارحانہ رویہ اختیار کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اور ابھرنا آرکنیکٹ کے ممالک پر قرضوں اور بد عنوانی کا دباؤ بڑھائے گا جبکہ کچھ ممالک پر انفراسٹرکچر کی تعمیر نو کے نام پر ان قرضوں کو قبول کرنے کیلئے

دباؤ ڈالا جا رہا ہے، بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کے آگے بڑھتے ہوئے چین کے حوالے سے پھیلا یا جانے والا پروپیگنڈا دم توڑ رہا ہے، مغربی ممالک کی جانب سے ترقی پذیر ممالک کو دیئے جانے والے قرضے کو شہد جبکہ چینی قرضوں کو بحران قرار دینا انتہائی غلط اقدام ہے، جس کی کوئی منطق نہیں بنتی، یہ موقف تعصب پر مبنی ہے، عالمی برادری جانتی ہے کہ انفراسٹرکچر کی تعمیر نو، تعمیر و ترقی کی راہ میں موجود رکاوٹوں کو ختم کرتی ہے

June 09, 2019

Business Recorder

Political parties' reservations over CPEC projects in Balochistan addressed:

Suri

QUETTA: Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri said Prime Minister Imran Khan-led government has eliminated reservations of political parties about CPEC projects in Balochistan. Addressing the traders' community at Quetta Chamber of Small Traders in Quetta on Saturday, he said that the government has started construction work on western route of China Pakistan Economic Corridor at a cost of 75 billion rupees. He said enhancement of exports is the top most priority of incumbent government.

Qasim Suri said that projects of establishment of Cardiac and Shaukat Khanum Cancer hospitals in Quetta is underway to provide best treatment facilities to the masses at their doorsteps. Qasim Suri said that Hajj flights from Quetta have been resumed. He said that it has been decided that a joint Quick Response Force will be established for securing Pakistan-Iran border.

On this occasion, Iranian Counsel General Agha Mohammad Rafi'ee was also present.—NNI

The Nation

Pakistan Garden continues attracting global visitors at horticultural expo

BEIJING - Exotic horticulture and handicrafts at the Pakistan Garden have drawn the attention of the global visitors at the ongoing International Horticultural Exhibition that was taking place in the Yanqing district of Beijing from April 29 to October 7. The garden presents a glimpse of Mughal architecture as its design was inspired by the historic Mughal gardens in Pakistan, according to organizers here on Saturday.

Traditional handicrafts with Pakistani characteristics including jewelry, carpets and Pakistani jade are on display in the garden. A number of flowers and plants shipped from Pakistan for the exhibition also add to the beauty of the garden set up at the Asian Gardens of the expo. The garden has been divided into several parts, including viewing platform and flowing water running through it.

Pakistan takes the exhibition as a platform for demonstrating its newest horticulture achievements and promoting tourism as well as making horticulture and agriculture exchanges. Pakistan is one of the first countries to confirm the participation in the Expo, which fully reflects

the friendly relations between China and Pakistan, executive deputy director of the Beijing World Garden Bureau, Zhou Jianping said.

The Beijing Expo, themed “Live Green, Live Better,” is the world’s largest expo of its kind and has attracted exhibitors from 110 countries and international organizations. There are indoor displays and outdoor gardens, highlighting the integration of life and ecology. This is the second time for China to hold such a high-level horticulture expo. The first such event was held in the southwestern Chinese city of Kunming in 1999.

June 10, 2019

Business Recorder

Poverty alleviation in a la Chinese style

Prime Minister Imran Khan while addressing the opening ceremony of the second Belt and Road initiative (BRI) summit in Beijing titled "Shaping a Brighter Future" reiterated his admiration for China in lifting 800 million Chinese out of poverty within a matter of decades yet again.

Researchers Ke Zhang, John Dearing, Terence Dawson, Xuhui Dong, Xiangdong Yang and Weiguo Zhang acknowledge the significant gains made by China in eradicating poverty and in a scholarly article identify the cost of the Chinese growth model: "Spectacular economic growth over the past 30 years has made China the world's second largest economy, taking more than 600 million people out of poverty (World Bank 2007). At the same time, environmental deterioration has become a major threat to China's future sustainable development (Liu and Diamond 2005). With growing evidence for reduced crop yields (Guo et al. 2010, Ray et al 2013), polluted water bodies (Gao and Zhang 2010) and higher frequencies of extreme flood events (Dai and Lu 2010) as unintended consequences of agricultural development, it seems that a conventional approach to environmental management in China is failing."

In 2017, China released details of its national carbon market covering power generation (contributing to half of China's overall emissions) subsequent to the 2009 pledged 34.6 billion dollars for development of clean technology; however other major emitters including automobiles, industrialization of the agriculture sector, chemical complexes, steel mills and cement factories did not initially fall under this programme. Chinese initiative for the development of clean technology was deemed necessary given that high growth had led to an increasingly unstable farm output, with a projected decline in output of wheat, corn, rice; with the ecosystem more vulnerable with an increased frequency of pests and diseases (exposure to 50 percent higher malaria transmission probability rate), decrease in water resources, more floods, and drought and extreme weather conditions.

Many of these negative environmental factors plague Pakistan today and one wonders at the nature of the recommendations pertaining to the agriculture sector under preparation by the supposed PTI expert on farming, Jehangir Tareen. To produce a higher output than one's

competitors in a micro context is not the same within a macroeconomic context, and one would hope the Prime Minister has learnt this lesson from his earlier confidence on Asad Umar's capacity to deliver on the economy which after less than eight months, he was compelled to acknowledge was misplaced.

Irrespective of Prime Minister Imran Khan's pledge to follow the Chinese model for poverty alleviation his administration has been effectively disabled from following it given the prior International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditions (two already implemented while implementation of the third, notably a primary deficit of 0.6 percent of the GDP in the budget 2019-20, would be revealed on 11 June) and during programme conditions that are widely known (though the precise quantitative time bound structural benchmarks would be made available as and when the IMF uploads the entire agreement on its website). The IMF had projected a growth of 2.8 percent for next year before the staff level agreement was reached and after the agreement it would be safe to assume that growth would be further downgraded to around 2.5 percent at most, notwithstanding the over optimistic figure of 4 percent cited during the APCC.

Imran Khan has pledged house ownership for the poor at cheaper rates. In 1999 China established a housing fund (after millions were laid off in state owned entities) by which employees would contribute to it (the exact amount was left to the local governments to determine as they would be in a better position to be aware of land values and associated construction costs in their area of operations) and be eligible for preferential mortgage rates, be able to repair/maintain houses and/or get a rent subsidy; if the fund remained unused it could be redeemed on retirement and would function as a secondary pension. Additionally, the Chinese government allowed these funds to be used during emergencies for example unforeseen medical expenses.

In April, the Pakistani cabinet approved the Naya Pakistan Housing Authority for construction of 13500 apartments in Islamabad and Balochistan in the first phase for targeted construction of 5 million houses in five years pledged by the Prime Minister. The Authority has yet to be established and there is no clarity as to who would initially fund the houses as the Prime Minister has repeatedly stated that the federal government would not fund them and that it would be through public private partnership. He further stated that the World Bank has said it would help but the terms and extent remain a mystery probably because a formal request has not yet been submitted to the World Bank; China and Malaysia have shown an interest in the project, the Prime Minister added, but their interest may fizzle out unless a profit can be made. The question therefore would be who would pay for the initial cost of building flats/houses and at what agreed price would then be on-sold to the poor? And the solution: why not follow the Chinese model as it takes account of all issues including extending assistance to those with an emergent need for funds.

So what is Imran Khan's poverty alleviation strategy? He has frequently referred to the launch of a targeted poverty alleviation programme called Ehsaas, or feeling, (with "Mazdoor-Ka-Ehsaas" launched on Labour Day - 1 May - falling on the same day as the 23 foundation day of Pakistan

Tehrik-i-Inssaf). The same day the Prime Minister further pledged that "a number of policy measures have been approved for the welfare of overseas Pakistani workers under Ehsaas, such as enhancing the number and quality of institutional arrangements that are responsible for protecting migrant workers, creating online interfaces to facilitate them, negotiations with host countries aimed at increasing the duration of the first contract of migrant workers and subsidies on air tickets for the workers who haven't returned home for 7 years."

The actual modalities of the Ehsaas programme were worked out by his Special Assistant on social protection and poverty alleviation Dr Sania Nishtar who outlined four pillars on Sunday last. And to appease the Prime Minister's sensibilities she stated that the Ehsaas programme was formulated keeping in mind the principles of the state of Madinah whose objectives she defined as reducing inequality, investing in people, and lifting lagging districts. The Ehsaas programme Dr Nishtar revealed would comprise of 115 policies and four pillars which are as follows: (i) all departments including Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal, Zakaat, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Trust for Voluntary Organizations would work under an umbrella of the ministry to address issues in efficient way. This would do away with duplication and be a one-window operation for the beneficiaries, a pillar that can be fully supported; (ii) Kifalat programme (stipends to be distributed to 7 million women to undertake their own business - BISP envisages a similar programme) while the tahafuz programme, an entirely new programme, would be geared towards those who suffer an unexpected financial problem (perhaps this can be better handled through the housing fund as in China), and opening of half way houses in various cities is also appreciated though only a small number would be able to enjoy this facility; and a welfare and pension scheme for the informal sector would be launched as per the recommendations of the Labor expert group and for welfare of workers abroad; (iii) Human capital development ranging from tackling malnutrition, preschool or early education, protecting children from harm, ensuring access to quality education, skills and jobs, long-term commitment to Universal Health Coverage, and measures for empowering women and girls with many components envisaged in BISP; and (iv) employment generation.

These are good pillars however the amount budgeted for next fiscal year is, as per the Prime Minister and his Advisor on Finance, around 180 billion rupees - an amount that PTI claims is double what has been spent in the current year. Revised estimates of 2017-18 reveal that BISP was disbursed 113 billion rupees, while other development expenditure (including grants for poverty alleviation fund) accounted for another 40 billion rupees. Allocation for the current year in the April 2018 PML-N budget was 180 billion rupees hence claims of 180 billion rupees being double what was targeted this year are inaccurate however the available funds from other government entities that would henceforth be working under the umbrella of the Ministry have not been identified and may well double the funds of the ministry.

To conclude, there is much good in the programme formulated by Dr Nishtar though its ambitious nature requires funds well in excess of what the government can possibly provide today given the appalling state of the economy. But as envisaged and implemented under BISP

there would be a steady refining and expanding of the Ehsaas programme but under a name that would be associated from henceforth with PTI rather than the PPP.

The Express Tribune

Why China prefers silence on imported Pakistani sugar?

BEIJING: “We know little about the import of Pakistani sugar,” said China Sugar Association (CSA) Chairman JiaZhiren and CSA Vice Chairman Hu Zhijiang at the World Sugar Seminar on May 25. They both kept silent on the reporter’s questions.

The 2019 China Sugar Expo and World Sugar Seminar was held in Guangxi, a province whose produced sugar accounts for 60% of China’s total sugar output. At the venue of hundreds of people, can the reporter find any signs of the previously reported 300,000 tons of imported Pakistani sugar?

“I’ve been studying sugar all my life, but I still don’t know who’s in charge of the sugar price,” said Jia, who did not respond directly to the sugar issue, pointing straight at the price of sugar.

According to Jia, China’s sugar-making enterprises lost 1.9 billion yuan last year, and most of the main producing areas are in the border, and poor areas with leftover children and the elderly, including Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, Guangxi, Yunnan, and Guangdong.

China’s sugar farmers are about 40 million, and their income contributes around 70% of the sales income of sugar enterprises.

Such a high proportion of sugarcane farmers’ income mainly refers to the purchasing price of sugarcane, that is, the raw material price from sugar enterprises.

At the intervals of the meeting, Xu Sheng, a senior researcher of white sugar at the agricultural sector from Shanghai Chaos Investment Co Ltd, analyzed three reasons why the purchasing price of sugarcane in China could not be reduced. First, the difficulty of mechanised planting second is the increase in labour costs, and third, the rigidity of land rent.

“There are many sloping fields in the south, it is difficult to drive jeeps, let alone popularizing mechanised production. Now that sugarcane cutters have been paid no less than 120 yuan per mu of land, the sugar factory will not be able to bring down the purchasing price of 490 yuan per ton for sugar farmers,” said Xu Sheng.

Joining in the sugar price discussion, Wang Jiabo, a senior researcher of SDIC ESSENCE Futures, remarked, “Recently, some sugarcane farmers have seen a fall in sugar prices and a rise in fruit prices, so they intended to give up sugarcane planting, turn to fruit planting. Next year, Guangxi may have competition in the planted area, if this figure falls domestically, we will see a rising market.”

In the process of exploring the sugar market, various views and remarks on sugar price bring to mind the nickname “demon sugar”, since the domestic sugar commodity prices go up and down, and with unpredictable mystery. The market mentioned above is the domestic sugar prices.

When talking about domestic sugar prices, the most discussed is ‘sugar No 11’ – New York raw sugar futures, FOB prices of 29 sugar producers around the world, which is an indicator of international raw sugar prices. Moreover, the key factor that connects domestic and international sugar prices is import tariff.

In 2019, the in-quota tariff rate of 1.945 million tons of imported sugar in China is 15%, and the out-quota import tariff is applied to the trade guaranteed rate of 85%, with 70% difference between.

“Every country has protection measures against its domestic sugar prices, so does the United States and Japan. Japan has the highest import tariffs of 100%,” said Wang.

The price of ‘sugar No 11’ would drop to 11.62 cents per pound and \$256 per ton (about 1,856 yuan), after a likely rebound from 85% to 50% a year later, Brazil’s Ministry of Agriculture said on May 21.

On the same day, the spot prices of domestic coastal ports were between 5,300 yuan and 5,400 yuan, and the price difference between futures and spot was 3,544 yuan per ton.

According to survey data from the research group of the Agricultural Trade Promotion Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture, the price of ‘sugar No 11’, with additional out-of-quota tariff, freight charges and refined processing in China, tumbled to 3,900 yuan in September 2014.

Even though the average price of domestic sugar had sunk to the lowest in the same period, it was 100 yuan higher than the refined after-tax price of imported raw sugar. Therefore, it is self-evident that the industry is sensitive to international sugar imports, especially low-priced imported sugar.

“Pakistan will certainly benefit from selling sugar to China with high sugar prices, but their low-priced sugar will bring impact on our domestic market. And China’s 40 million sugar farmers will absolutely have to surrender part of the profits. As far as we know, 182,000 tons of Pakistani sugar has gone through customs clearance, whether the next 120,000 tons will be settled within the year, I don’t know yet,” commented Xu Sheng, who was the first among the participants to mention Pakistani sugar.

Since the domestic sugar industry is so concerned about the import of Pakistani sugar, the total sugar import and its distribution among the major sugar-producing countries is also the core concern.

JiaZhiyan said at the sidelines of the event that China’s annual average import of sugar from 2011 to 2018 was 3.46 million tons. “China’s total import each year is planned. If there is more of this, there will be less of that,” he said.

Martin Todd, General Manager of UK LMC International, believes that Pakistan does not have a sustained supply capacity for sugar export and has a higher probability of one-off export to China.

In mid-April, in an interview in Lahore, Adviser to PM on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood said that China's first \$1 billion special access for Pakistan, including sugar, rice and yarn, has been launched. As this first \$1 billion agreement is completed, China will grant a second \$1 billion special access.

The director-general of the International Sugar Organization, Joseph Orif, believes that Pakistan has sugar stocks this year and that special access next year is likely to be replaced by other categories.

A sugar researcher, who spoke on condition of anonymity, gave the reporter a retail price list of sugar in Pakistan. "After the export to China, the price of sugar in Pakistan has gradually risen, surging by over 20% in April compared with the same period last year. As far as we know, sugar may not be expected to be exported next year."

The Express Tribune

Govt intends to link FBR with Chinese tax dept

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to link Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) with Chinese state tax department under the newly-introduced Belt and Road Initiative Tax Administration Cooperation Mechanism (BRITACOM).

The Chinese government has come up with the idea of BRITACOM to build interdepartmental relations with tax authorities of different countries.

In this connection, Pakistani Ambassador to China Masood Khalid has sent a letter to Ministry of Foreign Affairs special secretary for Asia Pacific region and director general for China, says a document of which copy is available with The Express Tribune. The dispatch also refers to the letter sent on May 2nd to the ministry concerned.

In the letter, envoy Khalid has stated that China had recently introduced the BRITACOM to establish interdepartmental linkages between State Tax Department of People's Republic of China and tax authorities of different countries.

As there is no such measures or pact between Pakistan and China, he said the Pakistani embassy in China under the established mechanism wants to associate the Pakistani tax department with Chinese tax department. It also stressed the need for assessing the probability of establishing interdepartmental relations.

The embassy said that for linking the FBR with the Chinese tax authorities on interdepartmental basis, an official letter should be sent to China so that the matter can proceed forward.

Moreover, in the letter, the foreign office has been asked to seek remarks and answers from FBR for a framework on building interdepartmental relations with Chinese tax department.

Nawaiwaqt

عمران خان اور چینی صدر 13 جون کو بشکیک میں ملاقات کریں گے

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) وزیر اعظم پاکستان عمران خان اور چین کے صدر شی جنپنگ کی ملاقات 13 جون کو شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم (ایس سی او) کے رکن ممالک کی سربراہ کونسل کے 19 ویں اجلاس کے موقع پر ہو سکتی ہے، یہ اجلاس بشکیک میں منعقد ہو رہا ہے، اس اجلاس کے موقع پر دونوں رہنماؤں کو باہمی دلچسپی کے دو طرفہ امور پر بات چیت کرنے کا موقع ملے گا۔ دونوں ممالک ایک دوسرے کے اتحادی ہیں، اور ان میں مثالی تعلقات قائم ہیں دونوں ممالک آپس میں اعلیٰ سطح تبادلہ خیال اور اجلاسوں کے دوران باقاعدہ ملاقاتیں کرتے رہتے ہیں۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کی ترجمان لو کانگ نے گزشتہ روز اعلان کیا ہے کہ چین کے صدر 12 سے 16 جون تک کرغستان اور تاجکستان کا سرکاری دورہ کریں گے۔ 12 سے 14 جون تک صدر شی جنپنگ کرغستان کے دورے پر ہوں گے

K2 News

چین اور پاکستان کے عوام کے
درمیان رابطوں کو بڑھانے کی
ضرورت ہے، مسعود خالد

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین میں پاکستان کے سیکرٹری
ہوئے والے سفیر مسعود خالد نے کہا ہے کہ چین میں بلور
سلطنت کا تجربہ شاندار ہا امید ہے گجراتی سینٹر مشین میں
بھی ایسی مینوں کے درمیان فٹو کے چلنے پر کام کرتے
گا۔ دونوں ممالک کے عوام کے درمیان رابطوں کو بڑھانے
کی ضرورت ہے، چین کے

دنیا کی دوسری بڑی صنعت بننے کے سفر میں ترقی پزیر
ممالک کیلئے سستی موجود ہے۔ اتوار کو چین میں پاکستان
کے سیکرٹری ہونے والے سفیر مسعود خالد کے اعزاز
میں الوداعی تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ تقریب کا انعقاد
چائے اور میٹھی گجراتی کی پیشکش، سینئر کی طرف سے کیا
گیا۔ تقریب میں پاکستانی سفارت خانے کے
عہدیداران کے علاوہ چین کے سول و مسلحہ کامرے
بھی شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے
مسعود خالد نے کہا کہ چین میں بلور سلطنت کا تجربہ
شاندار ہا امید ہے گجراتی سینٹر مشین میں ایسی مینوں
ممالک کے درمیان فٹو کے چلنے پر کام کرتے گا

June 11, 2019

Business Recorder

27bn dollars projects completed under CPEC: Asad Umer

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf senior leader Asad Umer on Monday said that projects amounting to \$ 27 billion under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have completed or near completion.

Speaking in National Assembly, he said, “Total of 50 billion dollar projects were started in the country under CPEC out of which 27 billion dollars projects have been completed or near completion.”

He said that only seven billion dollars Foreign Director Investment (FDI) arrived in the country during Pakistan Muslim League (N) tenure out of which 4 billion dollars FDI came under CPEC.

He appreciated the Chinese government for providing loans on lower rate and said, “We are thankful to China for providing loans on lower rate”. However, Asad Umer said that he never said that projects undertaken by the Pakistan Muslim League (N) under CPEC were transparent.

He also disagreed with opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif that world’s cheapest power projects had been installed under CPEC. “If the projects are cheaper then why NEPRA was asking government to increase the tariff of the electricity to meet the expense of power generation,” he added.

Minister for Science and Technology Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said that he was thinking that Shahbaz Sharif would take credit for arrest of Asif Ali Zardari as cases against him were started by the PML-N government in 2015. He said that the then interior minister Ch Nisar Ali Khan had disclosed about the fake accounts of Asif Ali Zardari while PTI had nothing to do with these cases. The minister said that the PML-N government was also involved in corruption in import of LNG.

Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid said that Pakistan Railways had earned billions of rupees during last ten months. “We have earned billions of rupees during last 10 months without investing single penny which is big achievement” he added.

Pakistan People’s Party senior leader Abdul Qadir Patel asked the Speaker of National Assembly to issue production order of Asif Ali Zardari.

Pakistan Observer

GEOSTRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE ON CPEC

In the last week of May, 2019, the Chinese Vice President, Wang Qishan made a historical visit to Pakistan. The visit was marked with momentous events such as the commemoration of 68 years of “Iron Brother” diplomacy between the two countries and the highest award, Nishan-e-

Pakistan for a foreign leader presented by the President of Pakistan to Mr. Wang Qishan. The Vice President came to gauge the progress of CPEC projects while addressing the complexity of geostrategic dimensions of the Belt and Road Project. The creation of special economic zones and expansion of CPEC into agriculture sector was yet another development. But the most critical part of this visit was its strategic timing and regional position in Asia, especially the U.S-Iran tension and what it means for Pakistan and China. In all its convoluted peripherals, China could come out as the ultimate victor with the advent of CPEC in the wake of a US-Iran War.

The expansion of CPEC projects and their progress was the key element of Mr. Wang Qishan's visit. He made his visit with a highly powered contingent of Chinese diplomats and officials. By this time, both Pakistan and Chinese Governments are conscious of the on-ground facts. CPEC is the stepping stone for One Belt Road Project. The route by land is the most economic, viable and void of interference by enemy and opposing states. Gwadar is fast pacing up to the requirements of both states. Concerns of the PTI-led Government have also been highlighted and remedial measures were actively discussed and perused during meetings held between the Prime Minister Imran Khan and Mr. Wang Qishan. It must be kept in perspective that the position of Vice President in China is the one of the final authorities when it comes to foreign relations and geo-strategic ties. Unlike many countries, China enjoys absolute delegation of powers and authorities from top to bottom of the Central Political Party. The significance of this trip cannot be overemphasized at this point in time. Among other MoUs, there were agreements signed by the two sides, according to the PM Office, included the framework agreement on agricultural cooperation, the memorandum on the requirements of foot and mouth disease-free zone; the letter of exchange of disaster relief goods, China-Pakistan economic agreement and the agreement between the China Machinery Engineering Corporation and the Balochistan Government and Lasbela University on modern agriculture with comprehensive development in Lasbela. Also, different projects were inaugurated, including 660KV transmission line project from Matiari to Lahore, Rashakai Special Economic Zone Project, Huawei Technical Support Centre and Confucius Institute at University of Punjab. Security matters also remained the central agenda on the visit.

Two words can adequately describe the geo-political scenario among the world powers and Asia at the moment, they are, "competition" and "conflict". Amid talks of cooperation, there were also issues raised by the Chinese diplomats on security. Earlier in May, terrorists attempted to storm a five star hotel in Gwadar, which was dealt professionally by the armed forces and precious lives were safeguarded. In similar attempts, CPEC projects and Chinese personnel appointed in key areas have come under violent assaults. Terrorism, in these times, is not simply an edifice of violent social movement but a tool in the hands of enemy states. Time and again, insurgents in the KP and Balochistan have been found to have ties to Indian Intelligence Agencies and the conspirators have been tackled with mechanical efficiency. Pak Army has proved itself to be a battle hardened and professionally sound organization that can provide a bulwark against all explicit and implicit threats. CPEC is a prospect that is major concern for countries like India and the United States combined. Mr. Qishan's visit was a signal to all such adversaries that such

covert tactics to malign and to threaten the viability of CPEC and One Belt and Road Project through loss of precious lives will not deter the Heads of States to reconsider. With such zeal, the Pak Army vividly announced that another regular Division of the Army and a specialized military force of 15,000-member squad are also in the works to enhance the security of CPEC projects and the commitment of the people of Pakistan to push on with the One Belt and Road Project. It appears that on every challenge and minor setback, Pakistan and China are determined to repel any chance of decline in mutual cooperation. After the domestic security perspective of CPEC, the visit of Vice President also alluded to a larger game which is in motion, one, which could potentially initiate the “Chinese Century”, with Pakistan as its frontline nation.

CPEC and One Belt and Road have entered into a new era in 2019. The United States has opened its economic framework to two separate frontlines. Donald Trump has altered the philosophy of “strategic engagement” with China to “aggressive competition”. In his recent reforms, he actively got Chinese goods blacklisted with tariff barriers to promote American exports and discouraging Chinese imports. This shift in hostile economics has put China on the alert, with an active counter-strategy. This move has brought China and Russia ever closer and both countries are on the lookout to weaken American hegemony in Asia by any means. As of 2019, the Chinese economy continues to expand while Washington seems to be dipping into debt with every quarter. Now, with such a cutting edge competition, the United States, on the advice of a few Senators of Donald Trump, has decided to open another front against Iran.

Facts on the ground are that a military conflict between Iran and the US would be catastrophic, considering that Iran and its developed army is almost three times the size of Iraq. The US economy has still not recovered from the disaster of 2003 in Iraq and a losing battle in Afghanistan. A war with Iran would be a golden geo-strategic opportunity for China. If a war breaks out between Iran and the US, China would assist Iran against such aggression and the land route of CPEC and One Belt and Road would come in most “handy”. As mentioned earlier, land routes are exponentially more secure than marine or air passages. In the wake of a war, China and Pakistan would open trade routes for flow of essential goods such as fuel, technical assistance and food for Iran, thereby making the war more expensive for US and its allies. It would be a death-trap for the weakening US economy. Pakistan would play the role of a contributor and a valuable ally for both China and Iran against a classic Western aggressor. With this in mind, the visit of Iranian delegation to Pakistan and subsequent visit of Mr. Wang Qishan can be put into its geostrategic perspective. CPEC is not just a prospect between two countries; it is now a tool of geo-strategic importance. It has come of age.

Pakistan must gear up and show combat readiness for whatever lies ahead. China and Pakistan are on the right track. Both Governments seem determined to let no stone unturned in achieving success for CPEC. Five years and CPEC is already a major point in the geo-strategic arena in the region and in the world. As time goes by, it can only go up from here.

‘The Road to Leadership’ book launched CPEC to change destiny of entire region: AJK President

President of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) Sardar Masood Khan on Monday termed the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) a project that will play transformative role for Pakistan and AJK, helping change the destiny of the region.

CPEC will bring to AJK four mega projects including two hydropower projects, the Mansehra-Muzaffarabad-Mirpur Expressway joining all of AJK to the western CPEC route and a modern Special Economic Zone in Mirpur.

The president made these remarks while addressing the book-launching ceremony of “The Road to Leadership” authored by the eminent intellectual Group Captain (R) S.M. Hali at Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services. The event was attended and addressed by Yao Jing, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Foreign Committee, Tariq Fatemi, and former Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs to the Prime Minister, Group Caption SM Hali, Lt General (R) Asif Yasin Malik and Professor Li Xiguang, Professor at Tsinghua University.

Recalling his interaction with President Xi Jinping, President AJK said he found him as a well-baled personality, a patient listener, a polite and attentive conservationist with an enigmatic smile; beneath all of which lay his steely resolve towards committed and sustainable development and peace in the region.

He added that Xi Jinping has transformed China and he has set his eyes on good governance, rooting out corruption and rebalanced, sustainable and stable growth for his country. Ambassador Yao Jing while commending the efforts and keenness of Group Captain Hali for China Pakistan friendship said despite our global challenges we have friends like Pakistan who share our concept of development and CPEC is an example of a shared ideology. He said that China is rapidly developing and we believe in sharing this development and achieving our goals in a peaceful, constructive and inclusive manner. The event was also attended by numerous parliamentarians, diplomats, researchers, academicians, representatives of the print and electronic media.

Mushahid Hussain Sayed also spoke on the occasion and said that BRI would connect over 70 countries and is not localized rather is a transcontinental project promoting peace, connectivity, development and economic growth. This is a new paradigm of transcontinental connectivity and cooperation and Pakistan is lucky to be a part of this project. He added that we must not be detracted by the so called “debt trap” conspiracy hatched against CPEC and certain countries calling the BRI as ‘disruptive communication’.

This, he said Chinese ideology censures colonialist trends and dominance, instead China continues to help developing countries to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and has written off loans of many smaller countries to help them develop economically.

Earlier in his welcome remarks, the author of the book Mr Hali said China and Pakistan's friendship was based on equality and there is no doubt that our relationship is of "Iron Brothers". He said China Pakistani friendship spanned over decades and stood the test of time. He said that the CPEC project formulated by the Chinese Government as a part of the BRI will further bring the countries closer and will prove to be a game-changer for the region. The CPEC, he said, is an example of the strong relationship enjoyed by Pakistan and China and the shared ideology for peaceful connectivity and development.

MMP partners COPHC for three strategic CPEC routes

Nawabzada Zaheer Barakzai, Chairman Mega Movers Pakistan talks about the development of country's largest logistics park being setup on M-8 Gwadar – Ratodero Motorway by Mega Movers Pakistan under the title Shahdadkot Inland Container Terminal (SICT) Private Limited. SICT's container terminal spread over an area of 60 acres will have a capacity to handle 1.0 million TEUs annually.

Commenting on present government, Zaheer Barakzai said that the incumbent government should curb the hurls in logistic development in the ways of CPEC, there is a need on commercial basis and marketing it to the corporate sector across the globe, Barakzai appreciated formation of CPEC Business Forum but he has strong reservations on the formation of the committee as he is still struggling to receive any information from the Ministry of Commerce.

He reiterates that CPEC should not solely be run through government channels and it needs to be commercialized, as only then country can reap true benefits of this multi-billion dollar project. He urged the Advisor to involve relevant players by taking people of Balochistan in this matter. Relevant ministers are either showing no serious attitude or they have knowledge deficiency on the depth of CPEC.

We are continuously trying to build a working relation with the current Ministers but we are experiencing wider gap in correspondence. Mega Movers Pakistan is the largest player in the market with a ground investment.

PO: What is SICT project and how would it facilitate Gwadar Port operations?
Nawabzada Zaheer: Gwadar is the first phase project of CPEC and presently four berths are operational. As activity is started at a port, a container terminal is required for efficient port operations. There is no container terminal around Gwadar unlike Karachi Port or Port Qasim, which have several container terminals. "We intend to develop and operate this logistics park on international standard and market it as a professional setup to invite international business for setting up their business as well". CPEC has made a significant impact in Pakistan to revolutionize things. With a number of projects on-going and pending, heavy vehicles requirement is crucial.

Shahdadkot Inland Container Terminal (SICT) is the flagship project of Mega Movers Pakistan, which was announced in 2015 and is presently under construction. We are working in close coordination and strategic partnership with China Overseas Port Holdings Company (COPHC).

This logistics park is actually being constructed for Gwadar Port operations. It is located at Gwadar RatoDero M-8 Motorway, which is the junction of all three CPEC routes. Central route of CPEC is the backbone of this mega project. It starts from Gwadar Port through M-8 motorway connecting to upstream country.

Presently Gwadar is connected with coastal highway, which will not be viable in future. Services trade will also benefit from the increased trade traffic from China and the initiative would prove to be a catalyst for private business investment and boosting productivity. Spread over an area of 90 acres of land, SICT, the integral part of Gwadar Port, is offering multiple facilities such as Business Complex, Hotels, Motels, Warehousing and a dedicated Logistics fleet to connect SICT with the port. This fleet of 500 vehicles would transport all the cargo coming to SICT from across Pakistan to Gwadar port and similarly move cargo meant for upcountry transportation from port to SICT. The distance between SICT and Gwadar port is 325km. In the pretext of some security issues, we have a MoU with National Logistics Cell (NLC) according to which NLC will deliver all the cargo, received at China Kashgar border, to SICT.

We are the only private company having strategic partnership with China Overseas Port Holdings Company and several cooperation agreements are in place. PO: What is the cost of project and when do you expect it to commence commercial operations?

Nawabzada Zaheer: It is one of the largest private sector logistics and supply chain projects in Pakistan.

The estimated cost of the project is \$85 million. Around 35 percent of construction work has been completed and by December 2019 80 percent construction will be completed and we are hoping to achieve commercial operations by the mid of 2020 depending on the prevailing circumstances. We hope that M-8 motorway and N-55 motorways will be completed by that time.

PO: How do players in the logistics and supply chain business benefit from SICT?

Nawabzada Zaheer: Once the Gwadar Port becomes fully operational by 2020, much of the load from Karachi port and Port Qasim will switch to Gwadar Port due to tax holidays and other factors. We would facilitate all these stakeholders. However, there would be some additional benefits for the cargo dedicatedly coming from China to Gwadar port.

PO: how would you facilitate the logistics of petrochemicals? Nawabzada Zaheer: SICT is housing warehouses as well as open warehousing areas, where we plan to erect storage facilities for petrochemicals as well as the machinery and equipment used in petrochemical industry. SICT is also developing a warehousing facility at Gwadar Free Zone on an area of 10 acres. We would start construction of the warehousing facility in the second phase of SICT project. SICT project will be completed in three phases; Inception and launching of project has also been attained in the first phase; second phase is the construction of terminal, and after its completion we would start construction of our facility in Gwadar Free Zone and expect its completion by 2022.

There is no warehousing facility in Gwadar Free Zone, while the Gwadar terminal is only catering to the China's cargo.

PO: How would SICT contribute to the economy of Pakistan in terms of logistics? Nawabzada Zaheer: SICT Logistics Park would generate around 700 direct employment opportunities in addition to 3,000 indirect employment opportunities. Besides, the people dwelling across Shahdadt to Khuzdar will also benefit in the form of daily wage jobs. Once traffic starts on Motorway, there will be a whole lot of business and economic activities. It would be a blessing for the people of this area, as there is very limited employment or business activities here at present and 2,500 families in the area will be benefited.

Naturally, motorways and highways being development and prosperity to the very areas these pass through. M8 motorway and SICT will also augment livestock and fisheries industry in the area enabling speedy transportation of the produce.

Further, once economic and business activities are started in this area, there will be requirement for housing facilities and this construction and real estate sector will also get a boost. SICT will also be looking into this sector going forward. As part of corporate social responsibility, SICT will impart truck and heavy-duty vehicle driving trainings to 800 youth every year from the areas of Khuzdar, Turbat and Mund as well as facilitate them in obtaining required licenses. We intend to develop and operate this logistics park on international standard and market it as a professional setup to invite international business for setting up their business as well. We have also applied with the relevant authorities to develop Shahdadt Special Economic Zone to attract investment from local and international businesses. Shahdadt Inland Container Terminal will contribute huge revenue.

The Express Tribune

Pakistan rejects trade or new cold war with China: Mushahid

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Senator Mushahid Hussain said on Monday that Pakistan rejects any trade war or cold war with China.

Speaking during the launch event of a book on the leadership of the Chinese president, authored by Group Captain (retd) Sultan M Haali, Senator Mushahid lauded the leadership of Xi Jinping.

Ministry discusses issues relating to Pak-China trade

“President Xi has placed China at the centre stage of global politics leading the struggle against climate change, supporting globalization as well as launching the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of which CPEC is the flagship project,” he said.

Senator Mushahid termed BRI as the most important diplomatic and developmental initiative of the 21st century. He thanked China for not just supporting CPEC but also to provide strategic support to Pakistan at all international forums including the UN Security Council, G-20 and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

Senator Mushahid termed CPEC as a “success story” and said, the best of the CPEC was yet to come after the second phase of the corridor started with the launch of Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing on this occasion said, “Pakistan-China relations have stood the test of changing times and their relationship today is more robust and resilient.”

Visiting scholar from China, Professor Li Xiguang in his keynote address talked about the compatibility of Islamic civilization with the Chinese civilization.

The chair of the event, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Masood Khan termed China as Pakistan’s ‘best’ friend. “CPEC projects in AJK are beneficial for the economy and employment in Azad Kashmir,” said AJK president.

Former Foreign Minister Tariq Fatemi and former Defence Secretary Lieutenant General (Retd) Asif Yasin Malik also spoke on the occasion. According to them, despite efforts to undermine CPEC and Pak-China relations, ties between the two countries was so strong that it would withstand all kinds of pressures from any quarter.

A large number of people attended the book launch event which was organised by the Pakistan-China Institute.

Express News

پاکستان واحد مستقل اور با اعتماد دوست ملک ہے، چینی سفیر

اسلام آباد: چین کے سفیر یاؤ جینگ کا کہنا ہے کہ چین کا دنیا میں اگر کوئی مستقل و با اعتماد دوست ملک ہے تو وہ پاکستان ہے۔

پاکستان چائنہ انسٹی ٹیوٹ کے زیر اہتمام ایس ایم حالی کی کتاب ”روڈ ٹو لیڈر شپ“ کی تقریب رونمائی سے خطاب میں چینی سفیر کا کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک خطے اور اقوام عالم کے ساتھ تعلقات اور روابط کو فروغ دینے کا ایک تاریخی منصوبہ ہے، یہ منصوبہ چین کی خارجہ و معاشی پالیسی کا حصہ ہے، ان کا کہنا تھا کہ، سی پیک کے تحت پاکستان میں انسانی ترقی پر توجہ مرکوز ہے، چین ترقی کر رہا ہے لیکن چین چاہتا ہے کہ دنیا کے دیگر ممالک بھی ترقی کرے جب کہ چین دنیا میں کثیر بیوٹ کر رہا ہے کیونکہ چین کے پاس وسائل ہیں۔

سینیٹ کی خارجہ کمیٹی کے سربراہ مشاہد حسین سید کا کہنا تھا کہ صدر شی جن پنگ نے پاکستان اور چین کو آئرن برادر قرار دیا تھا، سی پیک کے تحت چین غیر مالی کاروبار اور پیشوں کی نگرانی کا نظام تیار کرنے کیلئے شرائط و ہدایات تیار کر کے وزارت خزانہ کو بھیجا دیں

ایکسپریس کو دستیاب کاپی کے مطابق یہ چکدار ہیں اور ورکنگ گروپ کو تبدیلی کے اختیارات ہونگے تاہم اس کی نگرانی سے متعلق اختیار کو برطانیہ، امریکہ، کینیڈا، متحدہ عرب امارات اور نیوزی لینڈ کی طرح محدود نہیں کیا جائے گا۔

Nawaiwaqt

سی پیک سے پاکستان اور چین کے مشترکہ مفادات وابستہ ہیں: شوکت پوپلزنی

کراچی (یوزر پورٹر) بلوچستان اکنامکس فورم کے صدر سردار شوکت پوپلزنی نے کہا ہے چائینا پاکستان اکنامکس کوریڈور (سی پیک) پروگرام سے دونوں ممالک کے مشترکہ مفادات وابستہ ہیں اور اس پروگرام کے تحت 34 بلین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری سے 17,000 میگا واٹ بجلی کے پیداواری منصوبوں کی تکمیل کے نتیجے میں پاکستان اپنی بجلی کی ضروریات پوری کرنے کے قابل ہو جائے گا۔ یہ بات انہوں نے گزشتہ روز محمد علی جناح یونیورسٹی (ماجو) کراچی کیا ایم بی اے (پروجیکٹ) کے طلبہ سے سی پیک اور ون بیلٹ۔ ون روڈ پروگرام کے محرکات کے موضوع پر بطور مہمان اسپیکر خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ یونیورسٹی کی بزنس ایڈمنسٹریشن اینڈ سوشل سائنسز فیکلٹی کے ایسوسی ایٹ ڈین ڈاکٹر شجاعت مبارک اور فیکلٹی ممبر علی ناصر بھی اس موقع پر موجود تھے۔ سردار شوکت نے کہا کہ سی پیک ایک علاقائی انضمام کا پروگرام ہے جس سے ملک کے پسماندہ صوبوں اور خاص طور پر بلوچستان کو بہت فائدہ ہو گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے اثرات ایک لمبے عرصہ کے بعد سامنے آئیں گے جس کی بنا پر پاکستان کو علاقائی اقتصادی طور پر پاور فل راہداری ریاست بننے میں مدد ملے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس وقت بلوچستان کے لئے تین اہم منصوبے زیر تکمیل ہیں اور ان منصوبوں کی تکمیل سے صوبہ کو ڈاون اسٹریٹس اینڈ سٹریٹس جن میں آئیل ریفائنری، کھاد کے پلانٹس اور پیٹر و کیمیکل اینڈ سٹریٹس شامل ہیں کے مواقع حاصل ہوں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ صرف پاکستان بلکہ سینٹرل ایشیا کے تمام ممالک اس پروگرام سے مستفیض ہو سکیں گے۔

Nawaiwaqt

سی پیک خطے کی تقدیر بدل دیگا: مقررین

یوشی / چین (عدنان فاروق) چین کے سیاحتی شہر یوشی میں چین۔ جنوبی ایشیا کارپوریشن فورم کے زیر اہتمام ”خطہ میں معاشی ترقی اور تعاون کے موضوع“ پر دو روزہ کانفرنس کا آغاز ہو گیا۔ کانفرنس کا افتتاح چین کے صوبہ یونان کے گورنر وان چینگ فائ نے کیا۔ پاکستان، افغانستان سمیت جنوبی ایشیائی ممالک کے علاوہ میانمار کے نمائندوں نے بھی شرکت کی۔ پاکستان کی نمائندگی ڈپٹی میئر اسلام آباد سید ذیشان علی نقوی نے کی۔ افتتاحی تقریب خطاب کرتے ہوئے گورنر صوبہ یونان وان چینگ فائ نے تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ یونان چین اور جنوبی ایشیا ممالک اور ان کے عوام کے درمیان اقتصادی اور ثقافتی رابطہ ہے اور چین۔ جنوبی ایشیا تعاون میں اہم صوبائی کردار ہے۔ حالیہ برسوں میں بیلٹ اور روڈ اقدام کے فریم ورک کے تحت چین۔ جنوبی ایشیا ایکسپو اور سرمایہ کاری فیئر جیسے پلیٹ فارمز کے ساتھ صوبہ یونان نے جنوبی ایشیا ممالک کے ساتھ تبادلوں اور تعاون کو وسعت دی ہے۔ آج اقتصادی عالمگیریت، اطلاعات پر مبنی اور متنوع معاشرہ تشکیل پارہا ہے۔ سائنسی اور ٹیکنالوجی انقلاب اور صنعتی ترقی تیزی سے رونما ہو رہی ہے۔ یہ معیشت و تجارت، تخفیف غربت، گورنرز اور میٹرز مکالموں، میڈیا اور دیگر امور پر توجہ مرکوز کرے گا۔ یہ فورم ہمارے تعاون کے معیار کو بہتر بنانے کے لئے بہت زیادہ اہم ہے۔ گورنر نے تجویز کیا کہ تمام فریقین کو خارجہ امور محکمہ جات میں رابطہ و دفتر قائم کرنے چاہئیں تاکہ روزمرہ رابطہ میں آسانی ہو اور تعاون کے منصوبہ جات کے نفاذ میں مشترکہ طور تیزی آئے۔ اقتصادی اور تجارتی تعاون کے لئے ٹھوس ماحول پیدا کرنے کے لئے ملکر کام کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم صنعتی ترقی کے فروغ کے لئے ملکر کام کریں گے۔ انہوں نے تجویز دی کہ تمام فریقین اپنے مفادات کو بروئے کار لاتے ہوئے بالخصوص توانائی زراعت، صحت اور ڈیجیٹل اکانومی میں گہرے تعاون کے مشترکہ مقصد کے لئے ملکر کام کریں۔ اور سمارٹ ٹورازم، انٹرنیٹ کلچر اور ای۔ کامرس جیسے کراس باڈر ڈیجیٹل سروس پلیٹ فارم تشکیل دیں۔ اسلام آباد کے ڈپٹی میئر سید ذیشان علی نقوی نے فورم میں نمائندگی کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ہمیشہ سے برادرانہ تعلقات استوار ہیں اور آج یہ دوستی مثالی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعاون کی عمدہ مثال ہے اور اس سے خطے کی تقدیر بدل جائے گی۔ چین جنوبی ایشیا میں اقتصادی ہم آہنگی، دہشت گردی و انتہا پسندی کے

خاتمے اور استحکام کے مفادات کا حامل ہے۔ اس نے سی پیک کے ذریعے علاقائی رابطوں اور بین الاقوامی تعاون کا شاندار موقع پیش کیا ہے۔ پاکستان سمجھتا ہے کہ علاقائی رابطوں کے فروغ سے خطے کے ایک ارب نوے کروڑ عوام کے معیار زندگی میں نمایاں بہتری آئے گی۔ ذیشان نقوی نے کہا کہ ذیشان نقوی نے کہا کہ کراتاپور رابھداری کا افتتاح اس ضمن میں ایک چھوٹا مگر اہم قدم ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہ داری نے دو طرفہ تعلقات کو نئی وسعت دی ہے پاکستان کے حقیقی دوست ہونے کے ناطے چین پاکستان کی سماجی و اقتصادی کو تیز کرنے بھی معاونت کر رہا ہے۔ رابطوں اور اقتصادی تعاون کے ذریعے خطے میں اقتصادی ہم آہنگی کو فروغ ملے گا۔ پاکستان اپنے ہمسایہ ممالک کے ساتھ دوستانہ تعلقات قائم کرنے اور خطے میں موصلاتی رابطوں کو مضبوط کرنے خواہاں ہے۔ اس لئے پاکستان کی کوششیں اپنے ہمسایوں کے ساتھ مثبت روابط کے فروغ پر موقوف ہیں جن کا مقصد پاکستان پر امن اور خوشحال خطے کی تشکیل ہے۔ افغانستان کے قائم مقام برائے صنعت و تجارت اجمل احمد نے کہا کہ چین اور جنوبی ایشیا کے ممالک کے درمیان علاقائی شراکت داری کا فروغ اہمیت کا حامل ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ خطے کے ممالک کے درمیان تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری کا حجم بہت کم جیسے بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ خطے میں تیسری اور معاشی ترقی کے بے پناہ مواقع ہیں اور یہ فورم اس سلسلہ میں اہم کردار ادا کر سکتا ہے۔ چین میں بنگلہ دیش کے سفیر فضل الکریم نے کہا کہ فورم زراعت، تجارت، غربت میں کمی سمیت مختلف شعبہ جات میں باہمی تعاون کے لئے معاون ثابت ہو سکتا ہے اور اس طرح ترقی و خوشحالی کی مشترکہ منزل حاصل کی جاسکتی ہے۔ چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے ایشیائی امور کے شعبہ کے ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر جنرل یاو وین نے کہا کہ چین جنوبی ایشیائی تعاون فورم عوامی سطح پر رابطوں کے فروغ اور باہمی تعاون کے حوالے سے بات چیت کے لئے موزوں پلیٹ فارم ہے۔ انڈین چیئرمین آف کامرس (شمال مشرقی) کے چیئرمین مہیش صحاریہ نے کہا کہ جنوبی ایشیائی نیٹ ورک سے ترقی کرنے والا خطہ ہے تاہم بین الاقوامی تجارت کا حجم بہت کم جس کو بڑھانے پر توجہ دینی چاہئے۔ یہ صدی ایشیا کی صدی ہے۔ مالدیپ کے وزیر مملکت برائے خزانہ احمد شریف نے کہا اس طرح کے فورم بہتر کے فروغ کے لئے راستہ متعین کرتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہمیں مختلف شعبہ جات میں باہمی رابطوں کو فروغ دینا ہو گا۔ ہمیں بہتر مستقبل کے لئے مفید شراکت داری کے فروغ پر بھرپور توجہ دینا ہو گی۔ میانمار کے صوبہ مندالے کے وزیر اعلیٰ ڈائنٹونگ نے خطے میں میانمار کی اہمیت اور محل وقوع کو اجاگر کیا انہوں نے کہا کہ علاقائی رابطوں کے فروغ کے لئے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ (بی آر آئی) منصوبہ اہم ہے۔ چین میں نیپال کے سفیر لیلامانی پانودیا نے کہا کہ جنوبی ایشیائی ممالک کے تجارت عوامی رابطوں کے فروغ کا باعث بنے گا۔ ہمیں مشترکہ مقاصد کے حصول کے لئے مل کر کام کرنا ہو گا۔ سری لنکا کے وزارت شہری منصوبہ بندی کے سیکرٹری ایم ایم پی کے مایا دو نے، نے کہا کہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ اچھا اقدام ہے۔ بیرون ممالک کے ساتھ دوستی کے لئے چین کی تنظیم کی نائب صدر لی لی نے کہا کہ جنوبی ایشیائی ممالک متعدد قدیم تہذیبوں کا گہوارہ ہے۔

June 12, 2019

The Nation

Govt allocates Rs4.5b for upgradation of ML-1

ISLAMABAD - The federal government has allocated Rs.4.5 billion for upgradation of Pakistan Railways existing Main Line-1 (ML-1) and establishment of dry port near Havelian under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Another project to prepare preliminary design and engage the services of consultants for said scheme is already underway with total funding of Rs10.6 billion from which Rs.5.1b has already been spent in last financial year and now an amount of Rs1.8 billion has also been allocated in PSDP 2019-20.

The federal government has allocated a total amount of Rs.16b for ongoing and new schemes of Railways Division for the financial years 2019-20 under the Public Sector Development

Programme (PSDP). The budgetary allocation included Rs 11.37 billion for 23 ongoing projects and Rs4.6 billion for five new schemes, according to budgetary document issued here on Tuesday. Regarding the ongoing schemes, an amount of Rs2.4 billion has been earmarked for procurement and manufacturing of 820 High Capacity Bogie Freight Wagons and 230 Passenger Coaches.

The News

Budget freezes PSDP spending; CPEC allocations slashed by 44pc

ISLAMABAD: The PTI government has halted the growth of development spending in the next fiscal year and cut allocations for the flagship China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects by almost 44 percent despite foreseeing a slowdown in economy, budget documents revealed on Tuesday. The government allocated Rs110 billion for CPEC projects in the 2019/20 fiscal year, while it earmarked Rs198 billion in the public sector development program (PSDP) for the China-backed projects for the outgoing 2018/19 fiscal year.

The PSDP data showed that the total allocated amount of federal share of PSDP stood at Rs675 billion, while the government earmarked Rs250 billion under the public-private partnership mode. Therefore, total PSDP was envisaged at Rs925 billion. The overall national development outlay stood at Rs1.837 trillion, including Rs925 billion as federal PSDP and Rs912 billion as provincial annual development plans for the next fiscal year.

The government allocated Rs24 billion for the budget for the Prime Minister's sustainable development goals program executed through parliamentarians. It has allocated Rs195.522 million for construction of official residence of chairman senate at the minister enclave.

The government allocated Rs28.648 billion for Higher Education Commission. Overall, it earmarked Rs32 billion for education program including Higher Education Commission, Rs36 billion for the finance division, Rs516 million for information and broadcasting, Rs44 billion for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Rs12.047 billion for national food security and research, Rs13.376 billion for National Health Services Regulation & Coordination Division, Rs24.457 billion for Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Rs9.470 billion for planning, development and reforms, Rs16 billion for railways, Rs6 billion for Suparco and Rs85.021 billion for water resource division in the budget 2019/20.

The government allocated Rs295 billion for ministries/divisions, Rs189 billion for corporations such as National Highway Authority and Water and Power Development Authority, Rs40 billion for special areas of Azad Jammu and Kashmir-Gilgit Baltistan, Rs24 billion for merger of federally administered tribal areas' (FATA) districts into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Rs5 billion for Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority and Rs13 billion for knowledge economy initiative.

The government allocated Rs100 billion for special programs managed by the finance division in the next budget. That included Rs65 billion for special development program for internally-

displaced persons and security enhancement of FATA, Rs10 billion for Prime Minister's youth skill development initiative, Rs22 billion for 10 years development plan of merged areas of FATA, Rs2 billion for Clean Green Pakistan Movement and Rs1 billion for gas infrastructure development.

The infrastructure sector has been allocated 64 percent of Rs575 billion meant for ministries/divisions.

The government allocated Rs200 billion for transport and communication sector. This included Rs160 billion for national highways, Rs16 billion for railways and Rs24 billion for other projects, including aviation scheme.

Allocation for water sector should be 10 percent of PSDP under the National Water Policy. The government allocated Rs70 billion for water sector. Kachhi canal project will be completed during next two to three years.

The government planned Rs120 billion as investment in the energy sector. Of that, Rs80 billion was allocated in the budget, while National Transmission and Dispatch Company/power generation companies/Water and Power Development Authority would invest Rs40 billion on transmission and distribution from self-generated resources.

Inter-connection of isolated Makran Network via Nag Basam Grid Station from Panjgoor will be completed within next three years.

The allocated funds for the government's program of Rs10 billion worth of tree tsunami program stood at Rs8 billion. For development of Islamabad Capital Territory, a special package of Rs10 billion was allocated to improve sewerage and sanitation, water supply and road.

June 13, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Propaganda against CPEC persists

CHINA-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has emerged as one of the most important contributors to socio-economic development of the country but it is highly regrettable that propaganda still persists against this project of far-reaching significance. Of late, an impression is being created by some vested interests that work on CPEC-related projects has slowed down, which is quite contrary to ground realities.

To the dismay of its critics and opponents, CPEC is successfully proceeding ahead and all projects under its umbrella are on track. A number of projects undertaken as part of CPEC have already been completed including power plants that have helped resolved critical energy shortage faced by the country. It was because of fast track completion of several power projects under CPEC that people of Pakistan witnessed no load-shedding during entire Ramadan this year and it is hoped that would also be no or nominal load-shedding during summer. With the introduction

of CPEC energy projects, Pakistan also reduced its heavy dependence on gas and LNG power plants, which account for 50% of total installed capacity, resulting into saving of precious foreign exchange. Similarly, a number of infrastructure projects have already been completed and the two countries have agreed to undertake the mega project of ML-I that would provide convenient and low cost transportation of goods and passengers to about seventy percent population of the country. Economists are of the opinion that exploitation of the fuller potential of Gwadar port is a must to accelerate the pace of economic development in the country and with this in view it is encouraging that the goal seems to be within sight because of several important projects that are at different stages of completion in Gwadar that would link it to other parts of the country and regional states. In fact, CPEC has entered into the second stage featuring industrial cooperation, social sector development and third party participation. Special Economic Zones are also being set up under CPEC where third parties are welcomed to make investment. As per vision of the present Government, 27 social sector projects have also been approved as part of CPEC and the leadership of both Pakistan and China is determined to expand cooperation further in diverse fields.

China important partner in Pakistan's economic development: FPCCI

President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Engr. Daroo Khan Achakzai has said that the business community of Pakistan perceives China as a time-tested friend and a very important partner in its Economic Development of Pakistan. He said that the involvement of Chinese enterprises, both in terms of technical and financial assistance in several projects of Pakistan is reflective of our cordial relations based on mutual interest, unstinting confidence and sincerity.

The President FPCCI stated this while addressing the 14th China South Asia Business Forum and the 2nd China South Asia Cooperation Forum organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) Yunnan Council at Kunming China.

He further stated that China-South Asia Business Forum was initiated in 2006 as a joint venture between CCPIT and trade bodies of South Asia to promote trade which has now emerged as a strong economic alliance between Chinese and South Asian enterprises. Since starting of the Forum, the China's export to South Asia has increased to US\$ 118 billion from US\$ 35 billion while imports from South Asia increased to US\$ 22 billion from US\$ 15 billion in 2006. Engr. Daroo Khan said that China's investment is more important than trade in South Asia, because investment has multi-dimensional positive impacts on Industry, transfer of technology, human resource development and creation of employment opportunities while trade only provides the low cost Chinese goods to South Asian nations.

He further indicated that there are huge potentials available wherein South Asia region can cooperate with China for economic integration, prosperity and utilization of untapped resources. China South Asia Business Forum is a big event of China giving opportunity to South Asian

countries to cooperate and collaborate for joint ventures and market their products as the event is attended by approx. 4,000 companies from 74 countries.

The President FPCCI re-emphasized that the Pakistan is viable and most favorable nation for foreign investment and the foreign investors can enjoy the benefits of Pakistan's business friendly environment policies and high profitability.

The News

CPEC security discussed

LAHORE: A meeting regarding the security of the CPEC and Main Line (ML-I) programme was held at Pakistan Railways Central Police Office here on Wednesday. According to a press release, Shariq Jamal Khan, DIG Headquarters, Pakistan Railways Police, presided over the meeting in which the steps regarding the security of the ML-I programme in the light of CPEC project were discussed. Shariq Jamal Khan said the CPEC project was imperative for the progress of Pakistan and it was the responsibility of Railways Police to provide security to the Chinese engineers, Chinese infrastructure and Pakistan railways infrastructure and a composite security plan must be devised to ensure security measures.

The News

'Pakistan, China must counter anti-CPEC propaganda'

YUXI, CHINA - Declaring media role vital for promoting people-to-people contacts, speakers at China-South Asia Media Forum said all South Asian countries will have to make collective efforts for progress of the region and chalk out an effective policy to meet challenges faced by media. They underlined the effective role of media in furthering collective regional objectives of social and economic prosperity.

The China-South Asia Media Forum serves as a platform for media professionals from China and South Asia countries to pursue stronger cooperation and promote people-to-people exchanges, participants of the forum agreed. The forum was opened in Yuxi, southwest China's Yunnan province, on Tuesday.

Hundreds of professionals and experts from China and South Asia countries, including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives and Afghanistan attended the session.

Addressing last sitting of the forum, Tian Shubin, Vice President of China Federation of Internet Societies and Chairman as well as President of Xinhua Net, said China and Pakistan will have to evolve a strategy and make joint efforts to counter negative propaganda against CPEC.

He said CPEC was a guarantee to progress in the region. Tian said they faced new multiple challenges in media industry. "The world is progressing fast in this field and we will have to use social media as well as modern technology to meet these challenges," Tian was of the view.

He pointed out that bridge connecting different civilizations; media should contribute more to all-round, multi-layered and wide-ranging cooperation among countries. Tian also proposed to the participants to set up a fair and reasonable communication order, build a platform of interconnections and meet challenges of media developing together.

Tian said the media outlets should follow the trend seen in the realm of media transformation that calls for building platform for digital and connectivity networks.

Tian Shubin noted that South Asia and China were homes to 40 per cent of the world's total population which required robust representation at the international media forum through close cooperation and innovations in media sector. Through use of social media and modern technology gadgets, modern day challenges could be countered, he opined.

Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, the Consul General of Pakistan, in his address said through modern means of communications including the social media, vast information was being transmitted to people across the globe within friction of minutes. He emphasized upon judicious use of the modern day media.

Tipu further said China had invested hugely under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for the development of Pakistan. Certain projects under CPEC umbrella had been completed while others were being completed.

Expressing pleasure over the participation of Pakistani mediemen, the Consul General said their presence would enhance people-to-people and media contacts between China and Pakistan. He further said business tourism prospects of Yunnan province possessed greater attraction for Pakistanis which needed to be highlighted through use of media.

Senior Pakistani journalist Hassan Shahzad emphasized on the concerted efforts for exchange of information and a strong joint media policy between Pakistan and China. Expressing his views on the possibilities of connections and journalistic innovation, he said that media was a power that cast deep impacts on the society and culture.

Though Pakistan and China both have different systems of government yet they have a common value of an active media. However, the media has to make more efforts to bring public of both countries closer.

Hassan Shahzad commented that news and information pertaining to China were broadcast effectively on both print and electronic media incessantly in Chinese, English and Urdu languages. There was a need to counter the negative propaganda regarding CPEC through a joint well-designed communication by both countries.

Mr. Wang Chaowen said history of cultural bonds between China and sub-continent was very old and he stressed the importance of bringing the people from both regions closer. He said, "We must bring about joint ventures to fortify mutual relationships."

Wang Chaowen said Xinhua Net, a leading Chinese news agency, was acting like a bridge to bring closer various civilizations of the sub-continent. He showed his keenness to increase closer

mutual cooperation with the media organizations of the sub-continent. Yunnan Media Group President Hiyanning expressed that the media forum was a useful platform for nurturing strong media connections and exchange of mutual experiences.

Nawaiwaqt

سی پیک کیخلاف پراپیگنڈا، پاکستان اور چین کو مشترکہ حکمت عملی بنانا ہو گی

یوشی۔ چین (عدنان فاروق) جنوبی ایشیا میڈیا فورم میں عوامی رابطوں کے فروغ کے لیے میڈیا کے کردار کو اہم قرار دیتے ہوئے مقررین نے کہا ہے کہ خطہ میں ترقی کے لئے جنوبی ایشیائی ممالک کو مشترکہ کوششیں کرنا ہو گی، میڈیا کے شعبہ میں درپیش چیلنجز سے نبرد آزما ہونے کے لیے موثر حکمت عملی وضع کرنے کی ضرورت ہے، چین اور جنوبی ایشیا دنیا کی کل آبادی کا 40 فیصد ہیں تاہم بین الاقوامی رائے عامہ کے حوالے سے ہماری آواز اتنی تو انا نہیں ہے، چین اور پاکستان کو مل کر سی پیک کے خلاف پراپیگنڈا کے خلاف بند باندھنے کے لئے مشترکہ حکمت عملی بنانی ہو گی، سی۔ پیک منصوبہ خطہ کی ترقی کا ضامن ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار دوسری چین۔ جنوبی ایشیا تعاون کے زیر اہتمام کانفرنس کے اختتامی سیشن میں وائس چیئرمین چائنہ فیڈریشن آف انٹرنیٹ سوسائٹیز اور صدر شہوانیٹ تیان شو بن نے کیا اور کہا کہ میڈیا کا عوامی سطح پر تبادلوں کے فروغ میں اہم کردار ہے ہمیں اس ضمن میں باہمی رابطوں اور میڈیا کے موثر کرنے کے لیے نئی جہتیں متعارف کرانا ہو گی۔ جنوبی ایشیا کے ساتھ ہمارے رابطے نئے نہیں بلکہ ہمارے روابط کی تاریخ صدیوں پرانی ہے۔ ذرائع ابلاغ کے میدان میں نئے چیلنجز درپیش ہیں اس شعبہ میں دنیا تیزی سے ترقی کر رہی ہے ہمیں سوشل میڈیا سمیت جدید ٹیکنالوجی بروئے کار لاتے ہوئے ان چیلنجز سے نبرد آزما ہونا ہے۔ شہوانیٹ ذرائع ابلاغ کے عالمی اداروں کے ساتھ تعاون کر رہا ہے تاکہ اس ٹھوس میڈیا تعاون کے عوامی رابطوں کو مضبوط بنایا جاسکے۔ انہوں نے اس ضمن میں چین۔ جنوبی ایشیا میڈیا فورم کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ہم اس خطہ کو خوشحال ترقی یافتہ بنانے کے لئے قریبی تعاون کو فروغ دینے اور درپیش چیلنجز سے نمٹنے کے لئے جنوبی ایشیا کے دیگر ممالک کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کو تیار ہیں۔ چینگ دو میں پاکستانی قونصل جنرل محمد مدثر ٹیپو نے ہمہ جہت علاقائی ترقی کے لئے مضبوط تعاون پر اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ دنیا میں اطلاعات سوشل میڈیا سے منسلک اداروں لوگوں کے پاس لہجوں میں پہنچ جاتی ہے اس لیے بیانیہ محتاط اور منصفانہ انداز میں تشکیل دینا بہت اہم ہے۔ اقتصادی ترقی میں میڈیا ریاست حکومت سول سوسائٹی اور نجی شعبہ کا کلیدی شراکت دار بن سکتا۔ سی پیک کی اہمیت اجاگر کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے پاکستان کے بنیادی ڈھانچہ کی ترقی میں 62 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی ہے بعض منصوبے مکمل ہو چکے ہیں اور دیگر تکمیل کے مرحلہ میں ہیں۔ حالیہ برسوں میں چین اور پاکستان کے میڈیا روابط میں تیزی آئی ہے اور صحافیوں باہمی روابط بڑھے ہیں جو دونوں ممالک کے درمیان مزید اچھے تعلقات کا سبب بنے گا۔ چین کی عوامی سیاسی مشاورتی کانفرنس کی یونان صوبائی کمیٹی کے وائس چیرمین ہو دنگ چینگ نے کہا کہ میڈیا فورم ناصر فرہ تعلقات بلکہ خطے کے ممالک کی ثقافت اور ایک دوسرے کو بہتر طور پر سمجھنے میں معاون کردار ادا کر رہا کہ ہم عوامی روابط کے فروغ میڈیا کے مرکزی کردار کا جنوبی ادراک رکھتے ہیں میڈیا کا شعبہ تیزی سے ترقی کر رہا ہے لہذا معاشی تجارتی تعلیمی اور عوامی سطح پر تعلقات کے فروغ کی میڈیا کا تعاون بہت معاون ہے صحافی حسن شہزاد نے رابطوں کے امکانات اور صحافت جدت کے حوالے سے اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ میڈیا ایک ایسی طاقت کو معاشرے اور ثقافت پر گہرے اثرات مرتب کرتا ہے۔ وانگ چاؤون نے کہا کہ چین اور جنوبی ایشیا کے عوام کو قریب لانے کے لئے وقت کی ضرورت ہے، ہم جنوبی ایشیائی میڈیا اداروں کے ساتھ قریبی تعاون کو آگے بڑھانے کو تیار ہیں۔ یونان میڈیا گروپ کے صدر بی یانگ نے کہا کہ مضبوط میڈیا روابط کے فروغ اور باہمی تجربات کے تبادلے کے لئے میڈیا فورم موثر پلیٹ فارم ہے، میڈیا کے میدان میں نت نئے مواقعوں ساتھ مختلف چیلنجز بھی درپیش ہیں چائنہ انکناک نیٹ کے مدیر اعلیٰ سوئی جن نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تمام شعبوں میں تعاون جاری ہے۔ سی پیک منصوبہ اس حوالے سے منفرد اہمیت کا حامل ہے کہ اس منصوبے سے چین اور پاکستان ہی نہیں دیگر ممالک بھی مستفید ہوں گے۔ شہوانیٹ کے میڈیا پراڈکٹ انوویشن سنٹر کے ڈائریکٹر ماڈی کن، چائنہ ریڈیو انٹرنیشنل جنوب مشرقی سنٹر کے صدر این شیاؤ یو اور روزنامہ یونان کے ایوچیونگ نے چین میں نئی میڈیا ٹیکنالوجی اور اس کے اطلاق کے موضوع پر اظہار خیال کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ میڈیا کے میدان میں جدید، مسابقتی میڈیا وقت کی ضرورت ہے

– نیپالی صدر کے مشیر برائے ثقافت مادھو شرم نے جنوبی ایشیا کے خطے میں میڈیا کی صورتحال کو اناگر کرتے ہوئے کہا نیپالٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ ناصر مختلف علاقوں کو آپس میں ملانے کا بنگلہ دیش کی وزارت اطلاعات کے سینئر افسر اکرام الدین میر، سری لنکا کے سرکاری ٹی وی چینل روپا واہنی کے ڈی جی سرنگا وے رتنے، بھارتی خریدے ایک آف انڈیا کے ہیور چیف پرسائن رادھا کرشنن، بنگلہ دیش کی مرکزی نیوز ایجنسی بی بی سی کی کنٹرولر نیوز تانیہ نازمین افغانستان کے صحافی محمد احمد ہمدرد، نیپال کے سینئر صحافی کرشنا مراری بھنڈاری، نے بھی خطاب میں میڈیا تعاون کے ذریعے عوامی رابطوں کے فروغ کی ضرورت پر زور دیا

June 14, 2019

Business Recorder

CPEC to be made drug-free trans-regional trade route: Shehryar Afridi

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Narcotics Control and SAFRON Shehryar Afridi Thursday said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would be first trans-regional drug-free route and all necessary measures would be adopted to achieve this target.

Chairing a high-level meeting here, the minister said that since Pakistan had a geo-strategic location, Pakistan would take along Iran, Afghanistan and China to ensure the region free from illicit drugs, said a press release.

“We will work with our regional and global partners to make world free from menace of drugs. Pakistan would take all necessary measures to attain this goal,” the minister said.

He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had a zero-tolerance policy on illicit drugs and the ministry of Narcotics Control, along with its domestic and international partners, would pursue a rigorous drive to make Pakistan a drug-free country.

Afridi directed to speed up process of establishment of Regional Directorate (RD) of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) at Coastal Areas of Balochistan and Sindh.

He said that work on ANF posts at Pasni, Gwadar, Jewani and other coastal areas must be accelerated to secure coastal areas of the country.

The minister said that the ministry of narcotics control would engage top experts from Ministry of Law, Academia, Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) and the Parliament to enact new laws to effectively deal with the menace of drug abuse in the country.

Shehryar Afridi said: “Prime Minister Imran Khan had given me special task of making Pakistani youth free from all sorts of narcotics drugs. Since Pakistan had over 65 percent of its population comprising of youngsters, we had to make sure that our youth was protected from menace of drugs.”

Federal Secretary, Ministry of Narcotics Control, Amjad Javed Saleemi; Director-General Anti-Narcotics Force, Maj-General Arif Malik and other senior officials were also present. The Ministry and ANF also gave separate briefings to the minister on the mission and performance of the two institutions.

The minister was informed that the ministry had proposed amendments into Control of Narcotic Substance ACT, 1997, which had been tabled in the National Assembly and now is pending with relevant standing committee.

An official said that a regulation of Pharmaceutical industry was also proposed so as drug abuse could be ensured.

The meeting was informed that ANF had biggest conviction rate in the world as it had 95 percent conviction ratio. The meeting was informed that ANF is in process of building its Coastal RD while land had already been procured for establishment of posts at Pasni, Jewani and Gwadar.

The minister directed to conducting fresh national drug abuse survey. He said that an interaction with representatives of pharmaceutical industry would soon be arranged to take them on board on the government's initiatives to curb the menace of drugs.

He said that the government would also enact new laws to ensure swift and effective action against modern drugs.

The minister was informed that there was a decline in drugs business in Pakistan since 2017.

The minister was told that drug trade is not an isolated crime and rather this illicit is interlinked with other rackets involved with money laundering, terror-financing, child pornography and anti-state activities.

Dawn News

PM Imran meets Russia's Putin, China's Xi on sidelines of SCO in Kyrgyzstan

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday held a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the 19th Meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The leaders of the SCO countries today gathered to pose for a group photo prior to their meeting.

Prime Minister Imran had on Thursday had an 'informal' talk with Russian President Vladimir Putin after reaching Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan to represent Pakistan at SCO summit.

Earlier in the day, in an interview with Sputnik News, the premier had expressed his hope to meet Russian President Putin on the sidelines of the summit.

"I think this will just be an informal meeting on the sides of the SCO conference. I already met him briefly during my visit to China, where there was a conference by Chinese President Xi. So I met him, but this time I hope to have an informal chat with him. I already met the prime minister of Russia in China on my first visit," Sputnik News had quoted PM Imran as saying.

The prime minister also had a cordial meeting with the Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Sharipovich Jeenbekov on the sidelines of the SCO summit, a statement released by the Prime Minister Office said.

According to Radio Pakistan, Kyrgyz President Jeenbekov had extended the invitation to Prime Minister Imran to attend the two-day summit.

The prime minister congratulated the Kyrgyz president on hosting the summit, who in turn "appreciated Pakistan's role in the SCO", the statement added.

The two countries agree". The two leaders also reviewed bilateral relations and agreed to comprehensively upgrade mutual cooperation in diverse fields," according to the statement.

Furthermore, both leaders also agreed to a "joint ministerial commission and bilateral political consultations soon".

It was also decided that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan must enhance people-to-people contact and boost tourism through visa-friendly regimes.

PM Imran extended an invitation to the Kyrgyz President to visit Pakistan.

Earlier upon his arrival, Kyrgyzstan Prime Minister Mukhammedkalyi Abylgaziev and health minister Kosmosbek Sariievich Cholponbaev received the premier, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) shared on social media.

Dawn News

Senate body concerned by Pakistan's growing Chinese debts

ISLAMABAD: A parliamentary committee on Thursday observed that China is charging only 2 to 2.5pc on government-to-government loans with a repayment term that goes into a long tenure.

"Sovereign guarantees are also only required on government projects. There are currently 21 ongoing projects worth \$19 billion," PPP Senator Sherry Rehman informed the Senate Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The special committee met for details on CPEC financing and debt uptake besides the benefits of the project for the Gwadar Port City.

While the committee showed concerns about Pakistan's growing debts to China under CPEC, the members conveyed apprehensions of provinces that have arisen as a result of the capacity and coordination deficit of the current government.

Ms Rehman informed the members that China was still concerned about the current government's seriousness about CPEC projects and to take it forward.

Secretary Planning and Development Zafar Hasan briefed the members on the \$49 billion CPEC. He said repayment of infrastructure development would start in 2021. The total cost of the phase two of Thakot to Havelian section of Karakoram Highway was \$1.3 billion.

Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhtyar conceded that Balochistan had been neglected under CPEC.

“However, the government is now focused on Balochistan starting with the installation of a Rs17 billion electricity grid besides developing highways, small dams and the Rs80 billion Kachi Canal. The government has given top priority to development of Balochistan before moving on to the erstwhile Fata and southern Punjab which have also been neglected in the past,” Mr Bakhtyar said. Similarly, he added, the western corridor of Balochistan had been neglected.

The members were also informed that under CPEC Gwadar was being transformed into an oil city while encouraging foreign investors to inject money into different projects.

Industrial development and modernization of agriculture practices were all included in CPEC. Rejuvenation of industrial development and stimulating the agriculture sector besides other projects will generate 400,000 direct and indirect jobs.

However, the committee was displeased with the planning of the \$1bn fast track project which included advancements in health, education, water supply and poverty alleviation throughout the country. The committee will invite chief secretaries of all provinces for their feedback on these projects.

Planning and Development Department officials explained that Pakistan had also taken up the relocation of Chinese export-focused light manufacturer and consumer products industry to add to exports. Under the CPEC, five special economic zones (SEZs) will be set up with Chinese industrial relocation.

The Express Tribune

PM Imran meets Chinese President Xi on SCO sidelines

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday met Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting in Bishkek.

The two leaders exchanged views on bilateral relations and also discussing regional relations including those between Pakistan and India.

The leaders also had a detailed discussion about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

PM Imran is in Kyrgyzstan to represent Pakistan in the 19th Meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of the SCO.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Special Assistant to PM on Youth Affairs Muhammad Usman Dar are accompanying the PM. The PM will address two sessions of the meeting and will have bilateral interaction with other participating leaders on the sidelines.

The Express Tribune

Repayment of Chinese infrastructure loans to start in 2021

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will start repayments for infrastructure project to China by the year 2021 the Senate Special Committee on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was informed on Thursday.

The secretary of the planning department, Zafar Hassan, informed the committee that China has provided the Pakistani government with concessional loan and buyer's credit for the Orange Line project at 2 per cent and 5.2 per cent interest respectively.

The special committee held its session at the parliament house with Senator Sherry Rehman in the chair. The chairperson maintained that there was a need for a fully-fledged CPEC authority to look after the affairs of mega project.

Furthermore, the planning secretary informed the panel that the CPEC's portfolio was in excess of \$49 billion while ML-1 and six projects in Gwadar were in the pipeline.

“The projects in Gwadar are being financed by Chinese grant and interest-free loans. The overall cost for the second phase of the Karakorum Highway project in Thakot-Havelian stands at \$1.3 billion,” the secretary said.

He added that for completion of the Thakot-Havelian section of KKH, the loan had been provided at 2 per cent as well as that for the Orange Line project while interest on loans through buyer's credit and PBC were set at 5.2% and 2% respectively.

Minister for Planning and Development Khusro Bakhtiar said that construction on the highway connecting Dera Ismail Khan and Hakla was under construction, while work on the wester corridor, part of Balochistan, was yet to start.

The meeting was informed that the land issue for a 300 megawatt (MW) electricity project in Gwadar, in the pipeline since 2015, had been resolved. “The tariff matter pertaining to 300 megawatt of electricity is now with the National Electronic Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra),” the planning secretary informed.

Regarding Balochistan, the meeting was informed that the government had allocated Rs7 billion in its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for Balochistan in the current fiscal year. “Funds for 80 per cent of the ongoing projects have been released while the development budget of the former tribal areas have also been increased,” he added.

According to the planning secretary, in the second phase of CPEC, focus will be placed on socio-economic development, poverty alleviation and industrial development.

Hassan said China would provide grant of \$1 billion in two stages. “Under the first stage, the country will invest \$200 to \$300 million in 16 small social projects, which would be completed within a year while the rest of the amount would be issued in three years' time.”

He added that the second phase of CPEC would also focus on agricultural development and the establishment of an oil refinery in Gwadar.

Committee convener Senator Sherry Rehman asked how \$300 million was enough for 16 socio-economic development projects and the possible and potential benefits of such projects.

She also expressed her dissatisfaction with the briefing given by the planning ministry. “There is a considerable difference between the briefing given by the planning ministry and the content of the photocopies given to us. You cannot even prepare and present the briefing properly, how would you run the CPEC?” she remarked.

Meanwhile, Senator Usman Kakar remarked that CPEC had turned into an anathema instead of a blessing, warning that the project might make the country excessively dependent on China. “Even the United States was giving such grants and we all know our condition today,” he said.

Addressing the issue of areas with a paucity of development, he said funds earmarked for the purpose were being spent on highly-developed districts instead of backward regions.

“In Balochistan, we need to address the water crisis above all things. Just give dams to Balochistan and we need nothing else,” he added.

The committee directed the planning ministry to come up with a comprehensive briefing pertaining to details and impact of socio-economic development projects in its next meeting.

Express News

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی چینی صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات، دورہ پاکستان کی دعوت

شنگھائی: وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے چینی صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات کی اور انہیں دورہ پاکستان کی دعوت دی۔

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کرغزستان کے شہر بشکیک میں شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے سربراہ اجلاس میں شریک ہیں اور اس موقع پر انہوں نے چینی صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات کی۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے پاک چین تعلقات پر تبادلہ خیال کیا اور وزیر اعظم نے چینی صدر کو پاکستان کے دورے کی دعوت دی۔

دونوں رہنماؤں کے درمیان سی پیک کے حوالے سے تفصیلی گفتگو ہوئی اور پاک بھارت مذاکراتی عمل پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ عمران خان اور شی جن پنگ کے درمیان خطے سے متعلق معاملات پر بات چیت ہوئی۔

Jang News

چین 2023ء تک سی پیک منصوبوں پر 44 کھرب روپے خرچ کریگا

اسلام آباد (ایجنسیاں) جنگ نیوز) سینیٹ کی خصوصی کمیٹی برائے سی پیک نے چینی سفیر یاو جنگ کو مدعو کرنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا جبکہ کمیٹی کو سیکریٹری منصوبہ بندی ظفر حسن نے بتایا کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبوں کی ٹوٹل لاگت 49 ارب ڈالر ہے، چین 2023ء تک سی پیک منصوبوں پر 29 ارب ڈالر (تقریباً 44 کھرب روپے) خرچ کرے گا، زیادہ تر انفراسٹرکچر منصوبوں کی ری پیمنٹ کا آغاز 2021 سے ہوگا، چین نے یو ایس ایڈ کی طرز پر ایک امدادی ایجنسی (سی آئی ڈی سی اے) قائم کی ہے جو گوادراور سی پیک کے سماجی و

معاشی ترقی کے منصوبوں کیلئے گرانٹس فراہم کرے گی، سی پیک کے توانائی کے منصوبوں میں کل 18751 ورکرز کام کریں گے جس میں 12314 پاکستانی ہوں گے جبکہ کمیٹی نے اگلے اجلاس میں سولہ منصوبوں بارے وفاق اور صوبوں سے تفصیلی بریفنگ طلب کر لی۔ جمعرات کو سینیٹ اسپیشل کمیٹی برائے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کا اجلاس چیئر پرسن شیر علی رحمان کی زیر صدارت ہوا۔ چیئر پرسن کمیٹی نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبے کے قرضوں میں شفافیت ہمیشہ سے مسئلہ رہا ہے۔ حکومت کی طرف سے سی پیک قرضوں پر آگاہ نہیں کیا جا رہا، قواعد کو چیک کر کے چینی سفیر کو سی پیک پر بریفنگ کیلئے کمیٹی میں مدعو کریں گے۔ شیر علی رحمان نے کہا کہ چین بلا سود قرضے کی فراہمی کیلئے تیار ہے۔ سیکرٹری وزارت منصوبہ بندی ظفر حسن نے کمیٹی کو بریفنگ دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ سی پیک 49 ارب ڈالر کا منصوبہ ہے، 29 ارب ڈالر کے منصوبے مکمل یا مکمل ہونے کے مرحلے میں ہیں، یہ 23 منصوبے ہیں، یہ آئی پی پی موڈ کے منصوبے ہیں، توانائی منصوبے نجی شعبے کے ذریعے مکمل ہو رہے ہیں۔

Nawaiwaqt

سی پیک منصوبہ جات پر ایک اتھارٹی ہونی چاہئے، شیر علی رحمان

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) سینیٹ کی اسپیشل کمیٹی برائے سی پیک منصوبہ جات کا اجلاس کنوینٹنر سینیٹر شیر علی رحمان کی زیر صدارت میں ہوا جس میں وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و اصلاحات خسرو بختیار، سینیٹر اعظم سواتی، سینیٹر سکندر میندھرو، سینیٹر محمد اکرم، سینیٹر عطا الرحمان، سینیٹر میر کبیر نے بھی شرکت کی۔ اجلاس میں منسٹری آف پلاننگ حکام نے کمیٹی کو سی پیک منصوبہ جات پر بریفنگ دی۔ شیر علی رحمان نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبہ جات پر ایک اتھارٹی ہونی چاہئے، چین کی حکومت پاکستان کو انٹرسٹ فری لون دینے کے لئے تیار ہے۔۔۔ سی پیک قرضوں کے متعلق لوگوں کے ذہنوں میں سوالات ہیں، وفاق بتائے بلوچستان کو سی پیک سے کیا مل رہا ہے؟ کیا اس انداز میں سی پیک منصوبے شروع ہوں گے۔ صوبوں کو خطوط لکھنے سے منصوبے مکمل نہیں ہوں گے۔ شیر علی رحمان نے حکام سے سوال کیا کہ کیا سی پیک کے تحت غربت مکاؤ ٹریڈنگ شروع کی جائے گی۔ سی پیک کے تحت سوشل سیکٹر کے چھوٹے چھوٹے منصوبے شروع کرنے کا کوئی مقصد نہیں ہے۔ ان منصوبوں کے لیے ملنے والے تمام فنڈز ضائع ہو جائیں گے۔ سوشل سیکٹر کے تحت بڑے بڑے منصوبے شروع کیے جائیں، سوشل سیکٹر کے تحت غربت مکاؤ کا بڑا پروگرام شروع کیا جائے، سوشل سیکٹر منصوبوں پر نظر ثانی کی جائے

June 15, 2019

Daily times

CPEC PTI govt's highest priority: Imran tells Xi

Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday met Chinese President Xi Jinping wherein both the leaders reaffirmed their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

The meeting took place in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz capital, on the sidelines of the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a PM Office statement said.

During the 'extremely cordial meeting', the two leaders discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations between 'iron brothers' China and Pakistan, including China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The prime minister said that CPEC remains the highest priority of the government. He thanked China for its steadfast support on all issues of Pakistan's core interest and expressed satisfaction

at the close coordination between the two sides on multilateral issues. He reiterated Pakistan's firm support to China on all issues of its core interest.

President Xi Jinping acknowledged Pakistan's efforts to counter terrorism and promote regional stability. The two leaders discussed the regional situation and agreed to enhance coordination to build Pakistan-China community of shared destiny in the new era.

Both sides agreed that the visit of Vice President Wang Qishan had proved to be a milestone in bilateral relations. They expressed satisfaction that Pakistan and China have identical views on various international and regional issues.

The two leaders agreed to closely coordinate on challenges emerging from the changing global dynamics and affirmed that the time-tested Pakistan-China relationship will continue to move from strength to strength.

The prime minister is attending the summit at the invitation of Kyrgyz President SooronbayJeenbekov. Besides Pakistan, SCO members comprise China, Russia, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The SCO observers include Afghanistan, Iran, Belarus and Mongolia.

Dawn News

China praises frequent Xi-Imran meetings

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday pointed out that his three meetings with Prime Minister Imran Khan over the past eight months fully reflected the high level of China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership and said that both countries should carry out closer coordination and cooperation under the changing regional and international situation.

“Xi Jinping pointed out that in the past eight months, I met with the prime minister three times. This fully reflects the high level of China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership,” said a statement issued by the Chinese foreign minister after the meeting held between President Xi and Prime Minister Khan on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The Chinese president remarked that under the changing international and regional situation, China and Pakistan should carry out closer coordination and cooperation to build a closer community of shared destiny.

Mr Xi emphasized that both the countries must maintain, consolidate and develop China-Pakistan all-weather relations and all-round cooperation. He maintained that the two sides should thoroughly communicate on issues of common concern and jointly safeguard international and regional security and stability.

“We must expand and enrich the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with new focus on industrial parks, agriculture and people's livelihood,” he added.

Mr Xi said it was necessary to seize the opportunity of the escalation of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and vigorously expand bilateral trade. China was willing to provide assistance to Pakistan within its ability, he added.

The Chinese president said his country supported Pakistan in carrying out the national anti-terrorism action plan and would help Pakistan strengthen its counter-terrorism capacity building, adding, “China supports Pakistan and India to improve relations.”

During the meeting, Prime Minister Khan said China was an all-weather strategic partner of Pakistan.

The Pakistani side thanked the Chinese side for its support and assistance for a long time and said Pakistan highly valued China’s positive role in promoting international and regional peace and security and was committed to continuously deepening its strategic relationship with China.

Pakistan Observer

Imran, Xi express resolve to advance CPEC

Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday met President of China Xi Jinping wherein both the countries reaffirmed their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and resolved to advance China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The meeting took place in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz capital, on the sidelines of the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a PM Office statement said.

During the “extremely cordial meeting,” the two leaders discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations between “iron brothers” China and Pakistan including the CPEC.

They agreed to closely coordinate on challenges emerging from the changing global dynamics and affirmed that the time-tested Pakistan-China relationship will continue to move from strength to strength, Radio Pakistan reported. The two leaders strongly reaffirmed the Pakistan-China all weather strategic cooperative partnership.

PM Imran thanked President Xi for China’s steadfast support on all issues of Pakistan’s core interest and expressed satisfaction at the close coordination between the two sides on multilateral issues. The Chinese side acknowledged Pakistan’s efforts to promote regional peace and the measures in the fight against terrorism.

The Nation

CPEC remains top priority, Imran tells Xi

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday met President of China Xi Jinping wherein both the countries reaffirmed their all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

The meeting took place in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz capital, on the sidelines of the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a PM Office statement said. During the “extremely cordial meeting,” the two leaders discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations between “iron brothers” China and Pakistan including CPEC.

The prime minister said that CPEC remained the highest priority of the government. He thanked China for its steadfast support on all issues of Pakistan’s core interest and expressed satisfaction at the close coordination between the two sides on multilateral issues. The prime minister reiterated Pakistan’s firm support to China on all issues of its core interest.

President Xi Jinping acknowledged Pakistan’s efforts to counter terrorism and promote regional stability. The two leaders discussed the regional situation and agreed to enhance coordination to build Pakistan China Community of Shared Destiny in the new era.

Both sides agreed that the visit of Vice President Wang Qishan had been a milestone. They expressed satisfaction that Pakistan and China had identical views on various international and regional issues.

The two leaders agreed to closely coordinate on challenges emerging from the changing global dynamics and affirmed that the time-tested Pakistan-China relationship would continue to move from strength to strength.

A statement issued by Chinese foreign ministry in Beijing after the meeting between President Xi and Prime Minister Khan in Bishkek said “Xi Jinping pointed out that in the past eight months, I met with the Prime Minister three times. This fully reflects the high level of China-Pakistan all-weather strategic partnership.”

The Chinese president also remarked that under the changing the international and regional situation, China and Pakistan should carry out closer coordination and cooperation to build a closer community of shared destiny. Xi Jinping emphasized that both the countries must maintain, consolidate and develop China-Pakistan all-weather relations and all-round cooperation.

The Chinese president maintained that the two sides should thoroughly communicate on issues of common concern and jointly safeguard international and regional security and stability. “We must expand and enrich the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with new focus on industrial parks, agriculture and people’s livelihood,” he added.

Xi said it was necessary to seize the opportunity of the escalation of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and vigorously expand bilateral trade. China was willing to provide assistance to Pakistan within its ability.

The Chinese president said his country supported Pakistan in carrying out the national anti-terrorism action plan and would help Pakistan strengthen its counter-terrorism capacity building, adding, “China supports Pakistan and India to improve relations.”

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said Prime Minister Imran Khan and Russian President Vladimir Putin in a brief meeting on sidelines of the SCO Summit discussed Afghanistan issue, situation in Middle East and Iran, and took the Russian President into confidence on Kashmir's situation.

Talking to media persons, he said the Russian President appreciated Pakistan's role and efforts for promoting regional peace and security. He said different changes were taking place in the world but unfortunately global uncertainty was increasing. He said the SCO forum provided an opportunity for peace, stability and regional connectivity.

K2 News

گلگت بلتستان کے بڑے منصوبوں چیسر ماکارم کی نئی تہ

گلگت (پبلک ریسرچ سوسائٹی) میں منعقد ہونے والے کانفرنس کے دوران کے مطابق منصوبے پر 130 ملین ڈالر (13 ارب روپے) کا فنڈنگ کی ضرورت ہے۔ اس منصوبے کے تحت 48 میگا واٹ بجلی گھر کے لئے فائل ورکنگ سربراہی کارپوریشن میں دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا گیا ہے۔ قیسر سے 8 ہزار ڈیڑھ لاکھ

اور 24 ہزار ان ڈیڑھ لاکھ ڈالروں کے مواقع ہیں ہوں گے، جبکہ مندر آکانہ ایڈ کالج انٹرنیٹ کی ڈیجیٹل سروس پر 6 ارب روپے کے اخراجات آئیں گے اور آگسٹ، ستمبر میں کام کا آغاز ہوگا ذرائع کے مطابق متعلقہ اداروں کے ذمہ داروں کی فریڈمٹی مکمل ہو چکی ہے جہاں 40 ارب روپے کی سرمایہ کاری ہوگی، ذرائع کے مطابق 48 میگا واٹ بجلی گھر کے لئے فائل ورکنگ گروپ کا اجلاس ہو چکا ہے جس میں پرائیویٹ کو اجازت ہوگی اور قرارداد دیا گیا ہے دفعہ بجلی ڈیم سے پرائیویٹ سٹریٹریٹس ہوگا، منصوبے میں چینی سرمایہ کاروں نے سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا ہے ذرائع کے مطابق بجلی ڈیم کے تقریباً 80 کروڑ روپے کی قیمت سے سٹریٹریٹس سے 48 میگا واٹ بجلی گھر کی جانے کی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق 48 میگا واٹ پاور پرائیویٹ کی فریڈمٹی کی تکمیل کے بعد ماہ 2019-20 میں باقاعدہ تعمیراتی کام کا آغاز ہوگا متعلقہ اداروں کے ذمہ داروں اور مندر آکانہ ایڈ کالج انٹرنیٹ کی فریڈمٹی مکمل ہو چکی ہے تاہم اسٹریٹریٹس سے آگے پاس نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے سرمایہ کاری میں رکاوٹ ہے اور وہی ہے۔