



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

An Online Publication of PICS

<https://su.edu.pk/gleanings-from-national-press>

June 01-15, 2022

A pilot project of PICS

Table of Contents

01: June 01, 2022.....	03
02: June 02, 2022.....	15
03: June 03, 2022.....	20
04: June 04, 2022.....	31
05: June 05, 2022.....	46
06: June 06, 2022.....	53
07: June 07, 2022.....	59
08: June 08, 2022.....	65
09: June 09, 2022.....	75
10: June 10, 2022.....	87
11: June 11, 2022.....	91
12: June 12, 2022.....	100
13: June 13, 2022.....	104
14: June 14, 2022.....	114
15: June 15, 2022.....	115

Data collected and compiled by Rabeeha Safdar, Alishba Aslam and Zohaib Sultan

Disclaimer: PICS reproduce the original text, facts and figures as appear in the newspapers and is not responsible for its accuracy.

June 01, 2022

Business Recorder

Import of 0.2MMT granular urea on G2G basis

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government has allowed Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chinese Firm M/s CNAMPGC for import of 0.2 MMT granular urea from China on G2G basis, official sources told Business Recorder. Sharing the details, sources said, Ministry of Industries and Production noted that ECC of the Cabinet in its decision on May 15, 2022 had allowed import of 0.2 MMT of urea on G2G basis with stipulation that the procurement shall be made on deferred payment basis. The Federal Cabinet on May 17, 2022 ratified the decision.

On May 28, 2022, TCP informed the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet that pursuant to the directions of the ECC for import of 0.2 MMT urea, it had approached Chinese state owned enterprises for quotes on supply of granular urea which has offered supply of 0.2 MMT of granular urea at +ACQ-600/MT FOB for shipment in June to September 2022. The ECC stated that the deferred payment rate that was being offered was at 4.35 percent per annum which comes to around +ACQ-2.175/MT per month. Therefore, the FOB cost would total around +ACQ-606.525/MT on a three-month deferred payment basis. It was also noted that the bid validity was till 7 pm (Chinese local time) May 29, 2022.

The ECC was also informed that if the ECC approved the proposed procurement, but due to the ban imposed on export of urea by the Chinese government, the role of Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be pivotal to ensure speedy clearances. The Chairman TCP indicated that if the Chinese government gives its consent in the coming week, landing of urea in Pakistan could commence from mid-July, 2022, given the timeframe for approvals from the Chinese government, the transportation of the cargo to port in China, loading and voyage times. Ministry of Industries and Production requested ECC to allow TCP to import 0.2MMT granular urea from China on G2G basis on deferred payment basis and to sign MoU with counterpart Chinese agency.

After brief discussion, the ECC took the following decision: (i) TCP was authorized to sign the MoU for G2G procurement with M/s CNAMPGC and final price not exceeding +ACQ-606.525/MT FOB for 90 days deferred payment+ADs- (ii) in view of the timelines for ensuring an early arrival of urea in Pakistan and in case of no progress on further reduction attempts by TCP on prices being offered, TCP to sign the agreement with M/s CNAMPGC to procure 0.2MMT granular urea (5 percent MOLSO) from M/s CNAMPGC at FOB +ACQ-600/MT at 90 days deferred payments with an additional mark-up rate of 4.35 percent per annum, totalling +ACQ-606.525/MT+ADs- (iii) Ministry of Maritime Affairs shall ensure priority berthing for the cargo+ADs- (iv) PNSC to ship the cargo to Pakistan at the best possible rates and shortest timeframe+ADs- (v) Ministry of Foreign Affairs would ensure that the approvals from the

Chinese government are solicited on priority basis to ensure arrival of the consignment in Pakistan at the earliest+ADs- and (vi) Ministry of Industries, Commerce and Foreign Affairs would ensure effective coordination for ensuring priority clearance required from the Chinese government and earliest arrival of the cargo in Pakistan. The sources said Federal Cabinet in its meeting held on May 31, 2022 has ratified the decision of the ECC taken on May 28, 2022.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/01/1-page/931604-news.html>

Development of Gwadar Port and Gwadar Free Zone discussed

ISLAMABAD: Zhang Baozhong, Chairman China Overseas Ports Holding Company Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail at Finance Division, today.

Federal Minister Miftah Ismail extended warm welcome to Zhang Baozhong and highlighted deep-rooted friendly ties between Pakistan and China. Federal Minister further shared that the development of Gwadar Port and Gwadar Free Zone area as important node of CPEC has huge potential for economic development and progress of the region. Moreover, the Finance Minister lauded the technical support provided by the Chinese company for development of region's most strategically well located port of Pakistan. Chairman Zhang Baozhong acknowledged the significant opportunities and enormous potential of Gwadar deep sea port in the economic prosperity of Pakistan and the region and shared that their company is interested in enhancement of further cooperation in fields of maritime and logistics. He also elaborated on the development of Gwadar port and is looking forward for further cooperation from the government. The meeting also discussed and took decisions on important issues for the development of port and broadening the mutual cooperation.

The Finance Minister appreciated the endeavours of the company and assured complete support and cooperation by the present government in deepening the economic, trade and investment cooperation.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/01/1-page/931606-news.html>

Daily Times

Pak-China cooperation on nanotechnology to revolutionize production technologies

Pakistan-China collaboration on nanotechnology to revolutionize production technologies, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday quoting Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Honorary Chairman of Pak-China bio health cooperation project, Ex-Chairman of Pakistan Science and Foundation.

“We are working in collaboration with Northwest A&F University, China, to explore the effectiveness of nano-nutrients such as nano-biochar and liquid formulations containing a variety of nano-nutrients to improve the productivity of different potential crops such as wheat, maize,

and several summer and winter vegetables”, said Prof. Dr. Ashraf who is also Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lahore.

“In doing so, we hope to meet the challenges of food insecurity, especially under the backdrop of climate change”, he added.

Currently, water shortage and temperature extremities are affecting crop production and quality in Pakistan. During the initial phase of the experimentation under the cooperation project, researchers conducted a trial to maximize plant water use efficiency through various mulching.

Together with the nano-biochar application. “This benefited the crop water use efficiency to a great extent and increased productivity to signify large-scale applications”, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf told CEN.

“Stress-tolerant crops (heat and drought-tolerant cultivars) together with water-saving technologies like mulching, drip irrigation, etc. will help combat the climate challenges”, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf recommends.

According to him, significant progress has been made over the past decade, and numerous stress-tolerant cultivars/genotypes of economically important and edible crops have been identified.

In the next step, the workgroup of the cooperation project will apply organic nano-materials to various field crops, including wheat, maize, rice, cotton, and sugarcane.

“The experiments of organic nanomaterial application will be performed in the fields of local farmers, which is the ultimate objective of this collaborative research project between Pakistan and China to promote agriculture and revolutionize state-of-the-art production technologies”, informed Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf.

Compared with chemical fertilizers, nano-fertilizers that contain nanoparticles with sizes ranging from 1 to 100 nm have been introduced since the former releases nutrients slowly in the medium and has higher nutrient use efficiency. Nano-fertilizers have also been widely reported as promoters of the growth and yield of crops under stressful environments.

Thus, the primary objective of Pakistan-China nanotech cooperation is to assess the real-time influence of nano-materials, particularly of organic nature (nano-biochar and nano-nutrients) if they could promote the growth of potential crops.

“These are value-added nano-materials manufactured from waste biomass and possess an immense potential to improve crop production”, introduced Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, “very limited studies have been performed to investigate the practical application of such nanomaterials, so they are potentially ideal candidates to provide essential nutrients to plants with minimum disturbance to the environment”.

So far, the efficacy of both nano-biochar and nano-nutrients has been compared with some potential nano-fertilizers, including zinc and iron oxide nanomaterials.

Application of mulch and nano-biochar on growth and yield of cabbage. As a way forward, tests will be conducted on i) the potential of both nano-biochar and nano-nutrients on winter and summer vegetables as well as wheat and maize, ii) comparing the relative effectiveness of different nano-materials on these crops to establish an understanding of the effectiveness of these novel nanomaterials in terms of crop growth improvement and to disseminate this valuable information to the local and international community as well as researchers.

“Another key aspect of this joint research collaboration is to promote Bio-health agriculture in China and Pakistan, which focuses on natural ways of improving pre-existing agricultural systems without using synthetic inputs,” Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf said. It is also a sustainable way to conserve soil water contents and organic matter for sustainable use of agricultural inputs.

The Pak-China Biohealth Agriculture Demonstration Park was inaugurated last year. The concept of “Biohealth Agriculture” (BHA) was put forward by Professor Zhang Lixin of Northwest A&F University in 2017 at the first International Symposium on the Belt and Road Bio-health.

It refers to a modern way of agricultural production that employs advanced biotechnology and processes and can be applied to crop cultivation, livestock farming, rural tourism, farm produce, etc.

“On the one hand, both students, the local community, and farmers will be acquainted with novel ways to improve crop production while simultaneously reducing synthetic chemical fertilizer inputs, which are injurious to the health of all organisms including humans and animals.

On the other, biohealth agriculture model generated through our research can be safely and effectively employed by other countries”, Prof Ashraf concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/944459/pak-china-cooperation-on-nanotechnology-to-revolutionize-production-technologies/>

Pakistan, Turkey support each other on all core issues: PM

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan and Turkey support each other on all issues of core national interest – whether it is Jammu and Kashmir or Northern Cyprus.

The prime minister in an interview with Turkish news agency Anadolu thanked the leadership of Turkey for its principled support on Jammu and Kashmir dispute. “Both Pakistan and Turkey have a similarity of views on regional and international issues and enjoy close collaboration on bilateral, regional, and multilateral forums,” Sharif said ahead of his three-day official visit to Turkey.

Terming the Pak-Turkey relations as “exemplary”, the prime minister said historical relations were grounded firmly in common religious, cultural, and linguistic links and transcend political changes on either side. He mentioned that both countries were celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. “In these seven and a half decades, the two sides

have always stood by each other in the face of all changes,” he said, adding that people-to-people and cultural contacts were on an upward trajectory. PM Sharif said Pakistan was now focusing on economic cooperation with Turkey as the current level of bilateral trade still was not a true reflection of the excellent state of the relationship. “This is also an area where immense opportunities exist for both countries,” he said.

During the visit, the prime minister said that he would be meeting leading Turkish business companies to encourage them to utilize the immense opportunities existing in Pakistan in various fields, including energy, infrastructure, e-commerce, municipal agro-based industry and IT sectors, etc. He said with a population of over 220 million, Pakistan offered its investors a strong and large consumer market with an ever-expanding middle class. On Pakistan’s role in US policy in the region, he said Pakistan and the US had a longstanding and broad-based relationship in various areas of mutual interest.

He hoped that the continued constructive engagement could promote peace, security, and development in the region. “We wish to deepen and widen our engagement with the US, which remains Pakistan’s biggest export market and a major source of FDI and remittances,” he said. The prime minister said Pakistan had instituted dialogues with the US in various areas, including climate change, health, energy, trade and investment, which are playing an important role in strengthening our bilateral ties.

He said Pakistan encouraged major US companies to invest in Pakistan’s lucrative market and enhance commercial ties, particularly in the throbbing IT sector. On China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said the vision of connectivity and win-win cooperation at the heart of the project was in line with his government’s priorities, as well as the vision for Pakistan as a peaceful, prosperous region.

As the earliest proponent of President Xi’s visionary BRI, he said Pakistan firmly supported the BRI’s five-pronged emphasis on physical connectivity, financial cooperation, trade facilitation, policy consultation and people-to-people linkages.

“With the CPEC, we have successfully realized our two countries’ shared vision and the BRI’s ideals. With CPEC entering a new phase of high-quality development, our Belt and Road cooperation will accelerate Pakistan’s industrial and economic modernization,” he said.

He mentioned that work was underway on CPEC Special Economic Zones, and Pakistan was incentivizing foreign investments in key industrial sectors. On relations with India, he said Pakistan pursued its shift from geo-strategy to geo-economics, we are looking to forge partnerships, especially within the region, based on connectivity, collective development, and prosperity. Pakistan and India have a lot to gain from mutually beneficial trade, he said.

However, he mentioned that in the aftermath of the Indian illegal and unilateral steps of August 5, 2019, Pakistan took a principled stance and curtailed a range of bilateral activities. “This decision reflected Pakistan’s unequivocal condemnation of the reprehensible Indian design of

depriving the beleaguered Kashmiris of their fundamental rights through an unjust and muscular policy,” he said.

He highlighted that in the wake of continued brutalization of the Kashmiri people, attempts to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory (IIOJK), and continued denial by India of the Kashmiris’ right, its self-determination, it was hard to imagine that progress can be made on the trade front.

“For normalization of relations, India must revisit its actions of August 5, 2019, and not seek further division, bifurcation, and demographic changes in the occupied territory to perpetuate its illegal occupation,” he said.

In order to accrue the utmost benefit from mutually beneficial trade, the onus lies with India to create a conducive environment for dialogue and engagement, he added. On situation in Afghanistan, he said the engagement with the interim Afghan government was “not a matter of choice but a necessity”. He said the world cannot abandon the Afghan people and must shoulder the responsibility to immediately address the country’s humanitarian crisis and fragile economy.

He said Pakistan was emphasizing to the interim government to live up to their international commitments that the country will not be used for terrorism, that girls and women be able to pursue education, and that they form an inclusive government. PM Sharif said the current authorities in Kabul had repeatedly given assurances to us as well as to the wider international community that they would not allow their soil to be used against any country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/944550/pakistan-turkey-support-each-other-on-all-core-issues-pm-2/>

Pakistan Observer

Welcome moves on CPEC

REALIZING the seriousness of the issue, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, on Monday, directed the authorities concerned to release immediately Rs.

50 billion to Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs) as the first instalment out of outstanding dues of Rs.340 billion.

He also had an extensive interaction with chief executive officers (CEOs) of Chinese companies working on China-Pakistan Energy Corridor (CPEC) projects and issued on-the-spot orders to resolve complaints of project officials in a bid to avoid delay in their completion.

Chinese have long been demanding opening of a revolving account as envisaged under CPEC because dues piled up to Rs.340 billion due to delay in payments during the last four years.

This was one of the main irritants in the smooth execution of energy sector projects under the CPEC and hopefully, apart from release of Rs.50 billion tranche, the Government would also take necessary measures to resolve the issue on a sustainable basis.

The very fact that CEOs of Chinese companies heaped complaints about uncalled-for delay in the execution of almost all projects under the framework of CPEC during the last three and a half years is confirmation of reports that appeared repeatedly during PTI tenure that the previous government showed lacklustre interest in the implementation of all CPEC projects.

In fact, immediately after coming into power a PTI cabinet member proposed a moratorium on the initiative saying all projects could be eligible for suspension in a review to be conducted under the orders of the (then) Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Under pressure of the public opinion, the Government did not officially announce a moratorium but dragged feet on all projects and the resultant delay deprived people of Pakistan of the socio-economic benefits of these projects.

In this backdrop, the satisfaction expressed by representatives of the Chinese companies over measures taken by the coalition government to expedite work on projects is reflective of the restoration of the trust of the Chinese side.

They also hoped work on CPEC projects would be carried out and completed on “Pakistan Speed” now.

We hope Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would personally monitor progress of work on a regular basis so that all impediments are removed in the way of completion of different projects, especially those facing politically motivated delays.

<https://pakobserver.net/welcome-moves-on-cpec/>

Miftah lauded technical support provided by Chinese company for development of region

Mr. Zhang Baozhong, Chairman China Overseas Ports Holding Company Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mr. Miftah Ismail at Finance Division, today.

Federal Minister Mr. Miftah Ismail extended warm welcome to Mr. Zhang Baozhong and highlighted deep-rooted friendly ties between Pakistan and China. Federal Minister further shared that the development of Gwadar Port and Gwadar Free Zone area as important node of CPEC has huge potential for economic development and progress of the region. Moreover, the Finance Minister lauded the technical support provided by the Chinese company for development of region's most strategically well located port of Pakistan. Chairman Mr. Zhang Baozhong acknowledged the significant opportunities and enormous potential of Gwadar deep sea port in the economic prosperity of Pakistan and the region and shared that their company is interested in enhancement of further cooperation in fields of maritime and logistics. He also elaborated on the development of Gwadar port and is looking forward for further cooperation from the government.

The meeting also discussed and took decisions on important issues for the development of port and broadening the mutual cooperation.

The Finance Minister appreciated the endeavors of the company and assured complete support and cooperation by the present government in deepening the economic, trade and investment cooperation.

<https://pakobserver.net/miftah-lauded-technical-support-provided-by-chinese-company-for-development-of-region/>

CPEC: Economic instability and political consensus

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Despite the Western propaganda about the so-called stalemate of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), it is still strong, stable and sustainable in the country. Even current economic weak conditions do not affect its pace and productivity.

Most recently, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif directed that security of the employees of the Chinese companies should be made more effective. The PM said all facilities should be provided for reviving the projects undertaken with bilateral investment of Pakistani and Chinese companies.

Western media along with some English media outlets in the country claim that a bad spell of economic conditions may lead to a collapse of the CPEC. Moreover, some domestic media outlets are playing a dirty game by saying Pakistan faces a difficult task from a weak economy and so-called growing debt levels.

The Bloomberg International (May 25, 2022) also reported that Pakistan may default for the second time in its history if the country cannot get a bailout from the IMF. It has been further disseminated by the South China Morning Post (SCMP) by portraying imminent default of Pakistan which may jeopardize CPEC projects in the country. Actually both are incorrect about their sponsored scheme of arrangement and interpretation.

Furthermore, some pseudo intellectuals and fake economists of the country intentionally believe China and Pakistan may close down the CPEC amid Pakistan's increasing debt problems because they mistakenly think the project has inflicted a rising debt burden on Pakistan. However, official data showed the debt incurred from the projects of the CPEC is only one-tenth of Pakistan's total foreign debt.

Ironically, they blame CPEC for the current economic difficulties and challenges of Pakistan. With investment in roads, railways and ports, the CPEC offers enormous potential for the country to boost its economy, reduce poverty and promote regional economic cooperation. However, inflation and price hike has become a monster in the country.

Unending conflict between Russia and Ukraine is one of the main reasons for high inflation in the country which has nothing to do with CPEC projects in the country. Unilateral imposition of socio-economic sanctions on Russia has increased the cost of energy and agricultural goods which have already fueled the prices of basic necessities of life. Thus Pakistan's economic woes are the result of multi-dimensional factors and CPEC is a blessing not a curse for the country.

Most recently, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed his government's willingness to work with China to speed up the construction of the CPEC, deepen cooperation on key projects and special economic zones to bring more benefits to the peoples of the two countries. The CPEC has been a flagship project of the BRI and benefits local people through the improvement of local infrastructure. China will never leave the CPEC project unfinished.

In this connection, Wang Wenbin, a spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that rapidly changing international landscape does not bring any change to China-Pakistan relations which will remain unshakeable. Wang further said that the two sides reached important policy and political consensus in the five aspects consisting of trustworthy Pak-China friendship, further strengthening of bilateral relations and solidarity and cooperation between the two sides and termed it as an important stabilizing factor in a turbulent and changing world.

Second, he assured that any terrorist attack against Chinese citizens in Pakistan is unacceptable, any despicable attempt to undermine China-Pakistan friendship is doomed to fail, and incidents such as the terrorist attack on the Confucius Institute in Karachi must not recur. Third, both sides agreed that all-round cooperation between China and Pakistan enjoys fruitful results and broad prospects. The two sides will seek greater synergy between their development strategies, further tap into the potential of economic cooperation, and push forward all CPEC projects in a safe, smooth, and high-quality manner," he added.

Fourth, he said both sides agreed that the world has entered a period of turbulence and transformation, and more than ever, the international community yearns for peace and development. He appreciated Pakistan's positive role in supporting the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Global Security Initiative (GSI). Fifth, he added, both sides agreed that the sound situation of peace, stability, cooperation and development in Asia is attributable to the joint efforts of regional countries and needs to be cherished all the more.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry official said that State Councilor Wang stressed that China and Pakistan are true friends sharing weal and woe and good brothers having a heart-to-heart affinity.

CPEC stands for further strengthening of regional cooperation, development, socio-economic prosperity and revitalization. Unfortunately, BBC and VOA have intentionally projected so-called dissatisfaction in the common people of Balochistan from the Chinese presence and projects.

Gwadar has become a connecting hub and center of socio-economic activities and projects. In this regard, the Eastbay Expressway has been 98 percent completed; facilities of fresh water treatment, water supply and distribution, New Gwadar International Airport; Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar; infrastructure of Gwadar Free Zone Phase-II; a 300 MW coal power plant and a 1.2 million gallons' desalination plant have been completed. According to various official reports (May 2022), multiple CPEC projects worth \$2.1 billion are being carried out in the Gwadar area so far.

Three projects worth \$314 million have been completed, which included Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan, physical infrastructure of Gwadar Port and Free Zone Phase-1, and Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute. Moreover, the prioritized projects include provision of water in three months and electricity in five months for Gwadar, besides completion of M-8 motorway. The Trading Corporation of Pakistan had been authorized to import one-third cargoes at the Gwadar seaport. The long-term strategy of the government aims to build LNG (liquefied natural gas) and POL (petroleum oil & lubricants) terminals at the Gwadar Port and ensure availability of electricity, water and gas to enable phase-2 expansion of the port.

Nevertheless, effective development communication and positive engagement with local communities should be further cemented and systematized which is indeed critical for the effectiveness and long-term success of these projects. It is suggested that all the stakeholders should prepare a mechanism for an integrated socio-economic development strategy and ensure inclusion of the hopes and aspirations of the inhabitants of Gwadar vis-à-vis CPEC.

Moreover, a desalination plant of about 1.2 million gallons would become operational in six to eight months that would provide drinkable water for the locals. Furthermore, the newly inaugurated state-of-the-art Pak-China Vocational & Technical Training Institute would provide three years' training to the local youth, "which is a big contribution by our Chinese friends. Chinese authorities have also recently provided 3,000 solar panels to the poorest of the poor in Gwadar for the provision of electricity. Thus CPEC has been on the noble mission of eradicating poverty, generating new jobs and removing numerous socio-economic irritants from Gwadar and, of course, Balochistan.

To conclude, the government of Pakistan, its main stakeholders and policy makers should now work with China to safeguard the smooth implementation of the CPEC which has been dubbed as "life line" of Pakistan's economy and "guarantor" of its socio-economic prosperity.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-economic-instability-and-political-consensus-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

China's BRI Project: a Strategic Initiative

Dr Shoaib Baloch

US-China power competition has returned to Cold War politics. It can divide the world into two competing camps where both powers contest to expand their respective sphere of influence in those regions which have strategic salience for their future hegemonic ambitions. The Indo-Pacific region appears to be a theatre of power contest as both powers attempt to increase their geo-economic and geopolitical footprints in the region.

In the 21st Century's power politics, geo-economics seems to be an effective statecraft of powerful countries to advance their geopolitical objectives because now the "logic of conflict" is in the "grammar of commerce". Therefore, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has a strategic dimension: it can increase China's economic influence, diplomatic leverage, military presence, economic and strategic alliance, regional domination and soft power. China's quest to be the

regional player can be accelerated through this grand initiative by attracting regional countries for financial integration, infrastructural development, unimpeded trade, and sustainable economic development.

Similarly, the world's largest trade deal, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), was signed in 2020 by Beijing with a view to palliating the possible implications of the US trade war. The RCEP came into effect on 1 January 2022 that will provide alternative destinations to Chinese surplus trade products.

With its growing power, China tends to explore military bases around the world. The Indo-Pacific region is vital for Beijing's strategic ambitions; therefore, it seeks to get military bases in Island countries. Although China has created a military base in Djibouti to protect its interests in the African region, the US has been critical to China's increasing military presence in the South China Sea because Washington considers it against "open and free" Indo-Pacific for free trade and navigation.

Even though the Ukraine crisis has significantly diverted the US attention, China still seems to be the primary focus of the US. In his recent Asia trip, President Joe Biden has announced that the US proposed an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) with its partners, Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam. It demonstrates that the US wants to increase its economic influence in the region and assume regional economic leadership.

The US is employing economic elements to counter China and dilute the importance of the BRI. The Obama Administration's policy of pivoting Asia was aimed to advance Washington's geopolitical and geo-economic interest in the region. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) was negotiated for free trade. However, the Trump administration torpedoed this deal owing to its anti-globalization and anti-FTA policy.

In 2019, the Trump Administration also negotiated the Blue Dot Network (BDN) for global infrastructure development in an open and inclusive framework. Nevertheless, this initiative failed to match China's BRI projects which have practical manifestation in the world. Moreover, President Joe Biden and G7 leaders launched another economic initiative which is known as Build Back Better World (B3W) in 2021 and termed it "value added, high-standard, transparent and environment-friendly" infrastructure development. Nonetheless, it is far behind the BRI.

In the geopolitical context, the US has created military alliances such as QUAD and AUKUS against China in the Indo-pacific region. Creating a ring of regional alliance is aimed to strategically encircle China and prevent it from advancing its regional ambitions, domination of the Indo-Pacific region, control of the South China Sea and military occupation of Taiwan. The more the US tries to strategically squeeze China, the greater chances of confrontation.

Despite the US having maintained "strategic ambiguity" of its Taiwan policy for a couple of decades, President Joe Biden, in his Asia trip, announced that the US will protect Taiwan in the

face of China's invasion. This US policy can make China furious as it maintains a zero-tolerance Taiwan policy.

Evidently, the fundamentals of US-China relations are changing. The US tries to protect its liberal hegemony in the world by protecting the global liberal order—economic and political institutions, global norms, democratic ideals with human rights and freedom while China strives to get its place in the existing system or replace it with a new global order. Both the US and China want to shape the world in accordance with their interests by protecting or recreating global economic, political, ideological and technological orders.

To prevent both global powers from direct confrontation, it is debated that the bilateral economic interdependence, alliances, big corporates, world media and public opinion work as buffers which may stabilize their fractious relations. But credible deterrence, military discourse power, strategic stability, balance of power and deft diplomacy are primary factors which may repel war.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-br-project-a-strategic-initiative-by-dr-shoaib-baloch/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی لانگ مارچ اور پاکستانی لانگ مارچ

چین کے لانگ مارچ کا آغاز 1930ء میں ہوا جب چیانگ کا ئی شیک کی قوم پرست حکومت نے کیمونسٹوں کے خلاف جارحانہ کارروائیوں کا فیصلہ کیا۔ اس فیصلے کے بعد چین میں خانہ جنگی شروع ہو گئی۔ چیانگ کا ئی شیک کی سات لاکھ فوج نے پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کو گھیرے میں لا کر اسے ختم کرنے کا منصوبہ بنایا۔ کیمونسٹ پارٹی کے لیڈروں ماؤزے تنگ اور چو این لائی نے فوج کے گھیرے کو توڑنے کا فیصلہ کیا اور شمالی و جنوبی چین کی جانب اپنے سفر کا آغاز کر دیا۔ چین کا لانگ مارچ 1934ء سے 1935ء تک جاری رہا۔ پیپلز آرمی نے 6000 کلومیٹر کا فیصلہ طے کیا۔ 24 دریا اور 18 پہاڑی سلسلے عبور کیے۔ اس طویل لانگ مارچ کے دوران 24000 گوریلے جان بحق ہوئے اور 4000 اپنی منزل تک پہنچ سکے۔ کیمونسٹوں کے مثالی جذبے سے متاثر ہو کر لاکھوں چینی کسان کیمونسٹ پارٹی میں شامل ہو گئے۔ 1949ء میں کیمونسٹوں نے قوم پرست فوجیوں کو شکست دے کر اقتدار پر قبضہ کر لیا اور چین پر انقلابی حکومت قائم کر لی۔ چین کا لانگ مارچ انقلاب اور نظام کی تبدیلی یعنی بڑے قومی مقصد کے لیے تھا۔ اس کی قیادت عظیم لیڈر ماؤزے تنگ اور چو این لائی کر رہے تھے جن کے ذاتی مفادات نہیں تھے۔ چین کے انقلاب نے چین کی ترقی اور خوشحالی کے لیے زمین ہموار کی۔ چین میں اگر انقلاب کے ذریعے پرانے نظام اور سماج کو تبدیل نہ کیا جاتا تو چین کبھی عالمی طاقت نہیں بن سکتا تھا۔ علامہ اقبال نے کہا تھا

ہمالہ کے چشمے ایلنے لگے

گراں خواب چینی سنھلنے لگے

پاکستان میں لانگ مارچ کو حکومتیں تبدیل کرنے کے لیے استعمال کیا گیا۔ پاکستانی لانگ مارچوں میں چونکہ عوام کا اجتماعی مفاد شامل نہیں ہوتا اس لیے ہر لانگ مارچ کے بعد نظام جوں کا توں رہتا ہے اور عوام پریشان حال ہی رہتے ہیں۔ حبیب جالب نے کہا تھا

دن پھرے ہیں فقط وزیروں کے

ہر بلاول ہے دیس کا مقروض

پاؤں ننگے ہیں بے نظیروں کے

مسلم لیگ قیوم خان گروپ کے مرکزی رہنما خان عبدالقیوم خان نے 1957ء میں انتخابات کے انعقاد کے لیے ایک جلوس راولپنڈی سے گجرات تک نکالا جو بہت کامیاب تھا مگر اسے لانگ مارچ کا نام نہ دیا گیا۔ دیگر وجوہات کے علاوہ اس جلوس سے خوف زدہ ہو کر سکندر مرزا اور جنرل ایوب خان نے مارشل لاء مسلط کر دیا۔ پاکستان میں پہلی بار محترمہ بینظیر بھٹو نے لانگ مارچ کا نام استعمال کیا۔ نومبر 1992ء میں میاں نواز شریف کی حکومت کے خاتمے اور نئے انتخابات کے لیے لاہور سے اسلام آباد تک لانگ مارچ کا اعلان کیا۔ راقم بھی اس لانگ مارچ میں شریک تھا اور پولیس لاشھی چارج سے زخمی بھی ہوا۔ یہ لانگ مارچ حکومتی مزاحمت کی وجہ سے اسلام آباد پہنچنے میں کامیاب نہ ہو سکا۔ جون 2008ء میں پاکستان کے وکلاء نے جنرل پرویز مشرف کے خلاف لانگ مارچ کا اعلان کیا۔ یہ لانگ مارچ چیف جسٹس پاکستان اور دوسرے ججوں کی بحالی کے سلسلے میں تھا۔ اس لانگ مارچ میں سیاسی جماعتیں بھی شریک ہوئیں۔ اگست 2008ء میں جنرل پرویز مشرف نے استعفیٰ دے دیا اور آصف علی زرداری پاکستان کے صدر بن گئے۔ مارچ 2009ء میں مسلم لیگ اور وکلاء کے احتجاجی لانگ مارچ کے دباؤ کی وجہ سے آصف زرداری نے تمام ججوں کو بحال کر دیا۔ وکلاء کی تحریک کے دوران بیرسٹر اعتر از احسن کی یہ نظم بہت مقبول ہوئی۔

ریاست ہوگی ماں کے جیسی

ء سے 2022ء تک کئی لانگ مارچ ہوئے 2014ء میں عمران خان کی تحریک انصاف اور ڈاکٹر طاہر القادری کی پاکستان عوامی تحریک نے ماڈل ٹاؤن کے شہیدوں کے 2011ء قصاص اور انتخابی دھاندلی کے خلاف لاہور سے اسلام آباد تک نواز حکومت کے خلاف لانگ مارچ کیا۔ 126 دنوں کے طویل دھرنے کے باوجود یہ لانگ مارچ کامیاب نہ ہو سکا۔ 2018ء میں تحریک لبیک پاکستان نے لانگ مارچ کیا اور دھرنا دیا۔ عمران خان کی حکومت کے خلاف مولانا فضل الرحمن کی قیادت میں جمعیت علماء اسلام نے کراچی سے اسلام آباد تک لانگ مارچ کیا اور نئے انتخابات کا مطالبہ کیا مگر یہ لانگ مارچ اپنے مطلوبہ مقاصد حاصل نہ کر سکا۔ پی پی پی کے مرکزی رہنماء بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے عمران خان کی حکومت کیخلاف کراچی سے اسلام آباد تک لانگ مارچ کیا اور احتجاجی جلسے کے بعد یہ لانگ مارچ منتشر ہو گیا۔ عمران خان کیخلاف عدم اعتماد کی تحریک کی کامیابی اور حکومت کے خاتمے کے بعد عمران خان کے حق میں پورے پاکستان میں ہمدردی کی لہر پیدا ہو گئی۔ عمران خان نے اس جذباتی لہر کا درست ادراک نہ کیا اور جلد بازی میں لانگ مارچ کی کال دے دی۔ شہباز شریف کی حکومت نے اس لانگ مارچ کو کچلنے کے لیے ریاستی مشینری استعمال کی اور لانگ مارچ توقعات کے مطابق کامیاب نہ ہو سکا۔ لانگ مارچ کی ناکامی کے بعد عمران خان اب مکمل تیاری کے ساتھ دوسرا لانگ مارچ کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ تاریخ کا شعور ہمیں یہ سوچنے پر مجبور کرتا ہے کہ پاکستان کے عوام ایسے انتخابات کیلئے قربانیاں کیوں دیں جن کے بعد انکی حالت زار تبدیل نہیں ہوتی اور وہ مسلسل مسائل کا شکار رہتے ہیں۔ تاریخ کا سبق یہ ہے کہ عمران خان عوامی انقلاب کے لیے ایک متحدہ محاذ بنائیں انقلابی ایجنڈا تشکیل دیں جو ہر دل کی تمنا ہو اور مکمل انقلاب برپا کر کے حکومت پر قبضہ کریں۔ انقلابی ایجنڈے پر عملدرآمد کر کے اور آزادی کی تکمیل کے بعد نیا پاکستان تشکیل دیا جائے جس میں پولیس بیورو کریسی عدلیہ انتخابی معاشی نظام سب کچھ نیا ہو۔ عمران خان کو عملی تجربے اور مشاہدے کے بعد اس نتیجے پر پہنچ جانا چاہیے کہ انتخابات پاکستان کے مسائل کا حل نہیں ہیں۔ ریاست کا فرسودہ نظام تبدیل کرنے اور اس کا سیاسی قبلہ درست کرنے کے لیے انقلاب ہی واحد حل ہے۔ تاریخ نے ایک بار پھر عوامی انقلاب کا سنہری موقع پیدا کر دیا ہے۔ عمران خان عوامی مقبولیت کی بنا پر ہم خیال جماعتوں کا متحدہ محاذ بنا کر با معنی با مقصد اور نتیجہ خیز انقلاب برپا کر سکتے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-06-01/page-10/detail-3>

June 02, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan can learn from China's practices in dairy sector: Badar

Pakistan is the world's top five largest milk producers, with over 60 million tons of milk production each year. To further enhance production, Pakistan can learn from China's best

practices applied in the dairy sector, said Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counsellor Pakistani Embassy on Wednesday. According to China Economic Net (CEN), he made these remarks on World Milk Day (WMD), saying that Pakistani dairy products and milk are of high-quality and low price, from which Chinese enterprises can benefit through investing.

“Top Chinese dairy enterprises showed interest in investing in Pakistan. Some of them visited Pakistan, but due to COVID-19, the development delayed. When the COVID situation gets better, two enterprises will set up their factories in Pakistan immediately”, Badar stated.

According to the Pakistan Dairy Association, the government should support this industry to boost export and domestic production, especially to control the adulteration of loose milk.

“Out of 60 million tons of annual milk production, just 3 percent is processed. Nearly 80 percent of milk is supplied by small farms (less than 10 animals), while the supply from medium and large farms is a mere 1 percent. The reliance on small farmers explains the low milk yield – which is of 20 to 25 percent among top-yielding countries”, Pakistan Dairy Association stated.

Shahid Khan, a dairy farmer in Rawalpindi, told CEN that local farmers are facing many problems, such as a lack of education, latest storage facilities, transfer of milk, and cold storage.

“China is one of the major dairy and milk consuming countries. Chinese technologies are usually low-priced. If we adopt the techniques and technology used by China, Pakistan could advance in this industry”, Shahid mentioned.

Dr. Qamar Shakil, Senior Scientist (Sorghum) of Fodder Research Sub Station Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Faisalabad told CEN that in Pakistan, there is a deficiency of 35%-40% in fodders and sorghum which could be a good source of animal feed.

“Using sorghum as animal feed at large not only helps achieve the animal nutrition and feed supply but also quality milk and dairy products would be produced here. Sorghum grain provides an ample quantity of energy and is rich in vitamins and minerals like B vitamins, magnesium, potassium, phosphorus, iron, and zinc. An excellent source of fiber, antioxidants, and protein”, he added.

“There is a tremendous amount of international experience, especially belonging to China, that can assist in building the infrastructure in the sorghum breeding programs and animal nutrition that is required to enhance Pakistan’s ability to efficiently produce animals”, he mentioned.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/944851/pakistan-can-learn-from-chinas-practices-in-dairy-sector-badar/>

Chinese firms to continue operations in Pakistan

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian on Wednesday highly appreciated positive remarks by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on China-Pakistan relations and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying, the China would continue to support its companies in investing and operating in Pakistan to realize win-win results and shared development.

“Chinese side has noted the positive remarks by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on China-Pakistan relations and the CPEC on several occasions. His personal commitment to facilitating Chinese companies’ investment and operation in Pakistan has produced noble results. We highly appreciate that,” he said during his regular briefing.

Talking to heads of leading Chinese companies and investors recently, the prime minister said that Pakistan was keen to learn from China’s experience in reforms, particularly in trade and agriculture. PM Sharif said that Pakistan was looking towards China to seek support in every walk of life in a bid to ensure sustainable development. He also said the Chinese development was a model to emulate in fields of industry, trade, information technology, and agriculture.

Zhao Lijian said that the CPEC, as an important pilot project under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) had given a strong boost to Pakistan economic growth and livelihood improvement and added that it has delivered positive economic and social effects. In the meeting, PM Sharif had also thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping for extending his support to Pakistan in shape of the multi-billion CPEC project, which he said was helping Pakistan to move forward.

The spokesperson said that China was ready to work with Pakistan to act on China-Pakistan leaders consensus, dovetail development strategy, increase experience sharing in state governance, advance high quality CPEC development, deepen cooperation in research areas, industries and agriculture side technologies and livelihood, in order to unleash CPEC’s potential in accelerating growth and improving peoples wellbeing. “We will continue to support Chinese companies in investing and operating in Pakistan to realize win-win results and shared development,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/944884/chinese-firms-to-continue-operations-in-pakistan/>

The News

‘Green CPEC Alliance’ launched for eco-friendly CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate’s Defence Committee and Chairman Pakistan-China Institute Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed pressed upon the urgency of the Climate Change situation in the world by arguing to prioritize the need for a green Pakistan, including redefining the notion of national security from a military-centric approach to human security, cantering on Climate Change, population planning, food security and water scarcity.

Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), in collaboration with Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), hosted the launch event and the inception meeting of the first-of-its-kind “Green China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Alliance”.

The conference was attended by over 40 participants and featured 6 panellists including Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute, Acting Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China Ms Pang Chunxue, Zhang Jun, CEO, China Three Gorges (CTG) Corporation, Muhammad Aurangzeb, CEO, Habib Bank Limited (HBL), Senator Seemin Ezdi, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Climate Change, Dr Abid Suleri, Executive Director,

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). The event was moderated by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute.

The goal of the establishment of the Green CPEC Alliance with members from both countries' governments, investors, as well as civil society, and environmental experts, is to support and accelerate this transition within Pakistan and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The Alliance aims to green and decarbonize CPEC by supporting a re-direction of Chinese infrastructure investments away from emission-intensive investments and towards green infrastructure projects, e.g., from coal to renewable energy, like wind, solar and hydropower.

Chairman Pakistan-China Institute Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed in his welcome remarks expressed great pleasure in being part of the inception and thanked the presence of all esteemed guests. Mushahid reckoned it integral to press upon the urgency of the Climate Change situation in the world, by arguing to prioritize the need for a green Pakistan, including redefining the notion of national security from a military-centric approach to Human Security, cantering on Climate Change, population planning, food security and water scarcity. He also shared his experiences from the COP 26 meeting in Glasgow, acknowledging that some work was being done on the international level but not much progress was made on Green Finance. He called for accelerating the efforts to mitigate the effects of Climate Change at the community level in Pakistan, referring to his initiatives to launch the first public hearings on the environment and climate change in the Parliament.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed was followed by the Acting Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan Ms Pang Chunxue who expressed her delight to be part of the event.

Her remarks revolved around the efforts of China to mitigate global Climate Change threats and she emphasized Chinese initiatives of ensuring that all Chinese investments that are part of the Belt and Road Initiative are made green. She talked about the various hydropower and solar power plants that have been built as alternatives to the coal power projects currently benefiting the people of Pakistan.

Lastly, she expressed China's desire to continue efforts that will help make the CPEC and the BRI green and sustainable for the country, adding that China has publicly declared the intention no longer to finance or build coal-fired plants overseas.

Apart from the keynote speakers and the special guests, the Executive Director of the Pakistan-China Institute also presented the concept of the Green CPEC Alliance. Dr Hina Aslam from the Sustainable Development Policy Institute was also present alongside him.

They explained the objectives of the Alliance. Mr Mustafa Sayed emphasized that this alliance is a first of its kind bringing all stakeholders to deliberate options that can make the CPEC green and sustainable.

He explained that the focus was on making sure that the promises made by the two governments on international fora like COP 26 and COP 23 are materialized. “This Alliance will focus on producing research in the form of policy briefs, reports and conferences that will push policymakers and other stakeholders to opt for greener options in development,” he said.

Zhang Jun, CEO of China Three Gorges (CTG) Corporation said that CTG is committed to its mission statement i.e., ‘Provide clean energy and build beautiful communities together’.

He said CTG is committed to expanding its new energy business globally as part of the BRI plan and has established four international business lines: investment, construction, operation, and consultancy. He said CTG is also playing role in the implementation of the CPEC. “We believe that the CPEC agreement will provide huge socio-economic advantages to the people of both China and Pakistan, and we hope that in the future, we will be able to contribute to more clean projects under the CPEC that will provide even more socio-economic benefits,” he said. Muhammad Aurangzeb, CEO of Habib Bank Limited (HBL) appreciated the uniqueness of the initiative launched by the Pakistan-China Institute and Sustainable Development Policy Institute. He said that HBL is closely linked with CPEC projects in their financing as well as structuring.

Commenting on CPEC Phase 2, he remarked that the second phase is all about building further on the first phase of the project which has improved transport infrastructure and alleviated the energy crisis in Pakistan. He also expressed hope that the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC, like Rashakai SEZ, would boost industrialization in the country. “Seeing this opportunity, HBL has already opened a branch in Rashakai. It is worthy to note that HBL is the signatory to the Green Investment Principles for greening investment in the Belt and Road. These include seven principles at three levels, i.e., strategy, operations, and innovation,” he said.

Lastly, he said he recommended learning from China’s experience since 40% of green bonds issued today are coming from China. “HBL is the first Pakistani bank to open a branch in Beijing,” he said.

Dr Abid Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) termed the launch of the ‘Green CPEC Alliance’ a timely initiative since humanity is facing the question of survival after the looming threat of Climate Change.

Appreciating China’s role in leading the initiatives to combat Climate Change, he said China has much to offer to the developed as well as developing countries for enhancing their capacity to combat Climate Change.

It is worth mentioning that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari attended the Global Food Security Summit last week in which two key questions were discussed: i.e., the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on food security and how to ensure food security amidst Climate Change. This speaks about the urgency of the matter.

In her closing remarks, Senator Seemin Ezdi, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Climate Change said that Pakistan contributes less than 1% to Climate Change but is the 8th most affected country in the world.

It is the need of the hour, she maintained, to plan for the future since it is the issue that affects the whole of humanity, not only the countries responsible for it.

Moreover, she expressed happiness with China's desire to pursue green development through CPEC.

The session lasted for two hours and had participation from a diverse audience of students, media, civil society, policymakers, parliamentarians, and environmentalists.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=93744>

June 03, 2022

Business Recorder

Staggered payments

Govt decides to convince Chinese firms

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has decided to convince Chinese power projects established China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for staggering payment of their outstanding dues of about Rs 350 billion, well-informed sources told Business Recorder.

This was decided at a high level meeting on CPEC projects, presided over by Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif.

Prime Minister has also held a luncheon meeting with the representatives of Chinese projects and directly heard their grievances.

Issues faced by Chinese companies in respect of non-CPEC projects, and steps being taken to address these issues along with timelines also came under discussion. Chinese embassy and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of power projects are continuously writing to all the concerned authorities and seeking their help for payment of their dues, pending since long.

“Prime Minister has directed Power Division and Finance Division to negotiate with CPEC IPPs to agree to a staggered payment schedule or other suitable modalities for payment of their outstanding dues and submit a comprehensive proposal at the earliest,” sources added.

An inquiry has also been ordered against Managing Private Power & Infrastructure Board (PPIB), Shah Jahan Mirza to probe as to why he was unaware of the commitment given by the government of Pakistan for payment of Rs 100 billion to Chinese power producers. PTI government had approved Rs 100 billion for CPEC IPPs, of which Rs 50 billion were paid to them prior to the visit of former Prime Minister Imran Khan to China in February this year whereas remaining amount was released later.

The meeting also decided that in case of coal power projects using imported coal, Power Division shall explore the possibility of using local coal in place of imported coal and submit a way forward along with timelines.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Petroleum Division have been directed to pursue M/s Centinco which has shown an interest in investing \$ 15 billion in a Petrochemical and Industrial Park at Gwadar.

Minister for Planning along with Board of Investment shall personally visit Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC and hold meeting with Provincial authorities for resolving outstanding issues and suggest way forward along with timelines. Meeting to review progress on SEZs shall be held immediately after return of Prime Minister from Turkey.

In respect of ML-1 project, the meeting decided that MOFA will approach National Railway Administration (NRA) of China through Pakistan's ambassador to China for expediting their response to the communication sent by the Ministry of Railways.

Ministry of Finance, Planning Division, Railways Division and Board of Investment shall workout the strategy to address issues relating to underwriting of ML-1 project by Sinosure, whereas Ministry of Railways shall revise PC-1 of the ML-1 project at the earliest.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also been directed to approach Iranian side for early finalization of agreement for laying transmission lines for provision of electricity to Gwadar.

Communications Division will pursue amicable settlement of disputes with Chinese companies in respect of Thakot-Havelian section, in addition to expediting realignment of KKH Thakot-Railkot section and address theft issues on Sukkur-Multan section.

Aviation Division noted that the issue raised by M/s Beijing Urban Construction Group will be resolved through absorption of additional project cost on account of anti-dumping duties by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Prime Minister also directed visa issues of CPEC/ Chinese companies should be addressed at the earliest. The Cabinet Committee on CPEC will be reconstituted/ notified with well-defined Terms of Reference (ToRs).

The sources said, during the meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister, potential opportunities for future investments in solar energy projects, wind energy projects, water supply schemes for Karachi (similar to K-IV) and desalination plant, etc) also came under discussion.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/03/1-page/931852-news.html>

CPEC: Media urged to tell true stories, spread positive energy

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Charge d'Affaires Pang Chunxue said that there is a need to encourage the strengthening of narrative building and join hands in combating fake news, and media should bear the sacred mission of advocating order and justice.

“Some Western countries continue to slander China on issues related to Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong, and spread rumours on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). We should take advantage of our complementarity, increase positive publicity, take the initiative for building narratives from our own perspectives, and jointly respond to negative public opinions. The CPEC is a valuable asset that has created huge potential for media cooperation.”

Pang Chunxue, Thursday, expressed these views while addressing the 7th CPEC Media Forum.

She hoped that the media of China and Pakistan will play a more active role as a bridge, tell true stories of China-Pakistan cooperation, and consolidate the all-weather friendship between the iron brothers.

The CPEC Media Forum was jointly organized by the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) and the China Economic Net (CEN) in cooperation with the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Pakistan.

The Forum conducted in-depth exchanges and discussions on topics including “CPEC Phase 2: Opportunities and Challenges”, “Pakistan, Global Development Initiative, and the Role of Media”, and “Objective and Fair reporting of CPEC”.

Yang Jiandou, CEO of All Pakistan-Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA) said that the Chinese investment in Pakistan is a phenomenal opportunity for the Pakistani community to prosper and become self-sufficient. He said that as a flagship project within Pakistan, the CPEC has attracted \$25 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). He said that the CPEC is not limited to constructing roads but is extended to building capacity in the energy and industrial sector.

He said, “Phase 2 of the CPEC comprises a total of 27 projects that are planned to improve seven different sectors within Pakistan. These are agriculture, health, education, drinking water supply, poverty alleviation, and vocational and educational training.”

National Assembly Speaker Raja Parvaiz Ashraf, speaking as chief guest, said that the CPEC has changed the destiny of so many people in the country and, in fact, through the CPEC, China has given a vote of confidence in Pakistan’s potential to build a better future. He said that not even a day passes when we don’t hear about development by Chinese enterprises on CPEC projects in the media. “As the CPEC moves forward, the media’s responsibility to report fairly and factually on CPEC would grow,” he said

He said that the media, since the inception of the CPEC, has played a very important role in the dissemination of facts on the CPEC. He also commended the Pakistan-China Institute and the China Economic Net for hosting the forum and said that through events like these, both countries get an excellent opportunity to consolidate the existing all-weather friendship.

In his opening remarks, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed thanked China for helping Pakistan during Covid-19 by extending much-needed medical and moral support, which saved millions of

lives. China, he said, established an air corridor for six weeks in March-April 2020 which enhanced Pakistan's capacity to contain the pandemic at home.

Commenting on the dividends of the CPEC, he said that the CPEC has created 75,000 jobs for Pakistanis so far, and energy projects under the CPEC have produced over 5,000 MW of electricity. While rejecting the Cold War mentality, he advocated for multilateralism and connectivity and said the enemies of Pakistan-China friendship have launched a campaign of disinformation and fake news against CPEC.

A special video message by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari was played during the event. He said that the Pakistan-China relationship is indeed a special relationship that has no parallel in contemporary international relations. For me personally, he remarked, it is a great honour to be talking about this special bond because my grandfather Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is the architect of this very relationship and in 1963, he signed a historic boundary agreement between Pakistan and China. He was also the last world leader to meet Chairman Mao. Moreover, he said that the Pakistan Peoples Party is committed to sustaining, maintaining, and continuing this relationship.

Zhao Zizhong, Vice President of Economic Daily, said that the development of Asia is impossible without the contributions of China and Pakistan. He said that the two countries have always helped each other and firmly supported each other on issues concerning each other's core interests and major concerns. In recent years, in particular, thanks to the joint efforts of both sides, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has achieved remarkable results, brought important benefits to the two peoples and added a strong impetus to regional prosperity, he said. He proposed three suggestions, i.e., seek truth since it is the essence of news hinges, seek harmony since Chinese culture values harmony in diversity, and seek innovation since the characteristic of news is demonstrated by new content and new forms.

Tian Yuhong, Executive Secretary of the All-China Journalists Association, said CPEC is an economic corridor featuring mutual benefit and win-win outcomes. He said that the infrastructure under CPEC has served as a connecting bridge, while the media cooperation between the two countries has opened an avenue of "people-to-people bond". He proposed that the media of both countries should tell true stories and spread positive energy, adopt to new media technologies to create appealing content for Gen-Z, and strengthen cooperation among journalists' associations.

Li Yue, Vice President, and Director, China Economic Information Service, Xinhua News Agency said that we shall utilize diversified platforms, channels, and patterns to disseminate the updated CPEC information, tell good stories of China-Pakistan cooperation and create a favourable public opinion atmosphere to achieve the "hard connectivity" of infrastructure, the "soft connectivity" of system rules, and the "people-to-people connectivity" through information connectivity.

After the speeches, a book titled “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC): Stories Behind” was launched by Cui Jin, Editor of China Economic Net.

At the end of the forum, four notable journalists from Pakistan were also awarded CPEC Communication Awards. They included Muhammad Asif Noor, Tahir Ali, Hafiz Tahir Khalil, and Syed Kamal Hussain Shah.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/03/4-page/931882-news.html>

Chinese engineer dies in Bin Qasim power plant accident

KARACHI: A Chinese engineer was killed in an ‘accident’ that occurred at the Port Qasim coal power plant here on Thursday.

The police have arrested a man named Niaz, driver of the vehicle which hit Chinese engineer Wang, seriously injuring him who later succumbed to his wounds.

The police have lodged an FIR of the accident in the Bin Qasim Police Station.

According to the FIR, the accident occurred due to the ‘negligence’ and ‘carelessness’ of the driver.

Police officials said that they have been investigating the matter of how the accident happened.

Pertinent to note that Port Qasim power plant is located approximately 37km southeast of Karachi and among energy projects undertaken as part of the CPEC.—INP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/03/5-page/931895-news.html>

Daily Times

China to refinance \$2.3 billion in debt

In a major development, China has agreed to refinance \$2.3 billion in debt providing a breathing space to Pakistan to bolster its reserves, make import payments and support to the rupee that has lost over 25% to dollar since the start of the outgoing fiscal year 2021-22. “The terms and conditions for refinancing of RMB 15 billion deposit by Chinese banks (about US\$ 2.3 billion) have been agreed,” Miftah wrote on his official Twitter handle on Thursday.

“Inflow is expected shortly after some routine approvals from both sides. This will help shore up our foreign exchange reserves,” he added. Foreign exchange reserves of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) declined by \$190 million to \$10.308 billion during the week ending on May 6, according to the central bank. The disbursement of loans by the multilateral creditors virtually paused due to the delay in reaching a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which also put on hold the budgetary support loans. The Ministry of Economic Affairs’ lack of focus on pushing the project executing agencies to fast-track the development work also caused slowdown in loan disbursement in April. Data released by the Ministry of Economic Affairs earlier this month showed that Pakistan received only \$248 million in foreign loans in April, including \$100 million worth of oil on deferred payments from Saudi Arabia. The World Bank gave \$63 million

and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) extended mere \$18 million. Total disbursement by all the multilateral lenders came in at \$95 million in April, according to the ministry. Pakistan could not receive \$1 billion loan tranche from the IMF, while the World Bank delayed the approval of \$400 million policy loan, which affected the endorsement of a similar loan from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). AIIB has pegged its loan with the World Bank's budgetary support. The then finance minister Shaukat Tarin in March said that China had agreed to roll over \$4.2 billion debt that was maturing this week.

The \$2 billion loan by China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), has been rolled over, Tarin said while talking to a reporter.

Tarin had said that the Chinese foreign minister also conveyed on Tuesday China's willingness to roll over another \$2.2 billion Chinese commercial loan.

Pakistan had made repeated requests to Beijing to roll over the debt and the latest request was made last week to the Chinese top leadership, according to the ministry officials.

The news comes as a lifeline, as the country is already facing an uncertain economic situation due to a delay in the revival of stalled multibillion-dollar International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

<https://dailymail.com.pk/945553/china-to-refinance-2-3-billion-in-debt/>

Speakers eulogize media's role in fighting propaganda against CPEC

Speakers here at the 7th CPEC Media Forum, eulogized the role of media in propagating the importance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor project and mitigating the malicious propaganda against it.

The 7th CPEC Media Forum titled "Enhance new Media Cooperation to depict the multinational and comprehensive CPEC" was organized by the Paki-China Institute and China Economic Net.

Addressing the Forum through a video message, Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said, his grand father and former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the architect of the Pakistan-China relations while his mother former Prime Minister Shaheed Benazir Bhutto took forward the relations to new heights. Similarly, he said President Asif Ali Zardari laid the foundation of the mega project CPEC.

He said Pakistan was committed to sustaining and maintaining the bilateral relations with the time tested friend China.

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on the occasion said that the coalition government gave utmost importance to Pak-China relations which reflected from the fact that Bilawal Bhutto Zardari made his maiden visit as foreign minister to China to promote bilateral relation and the mega project of CPEC.

He said the parliament was already playing its role in promoting CPEC. The speaker National Assembly pointed out that both Pakistan and China were committed to successful and smooth completion of the mega project of CPEC.

He said through this media forum, both countries could get the opportunity to consolidate the gains of CPEC by promoting the project in the world. He also stressed the need to encourage the exchange of journalists and media material between the two countries.

Charge d'Affairs of the Chinese embassy in Islamabad, Pang Chunxue praised the efforts and contribution of media from both the countries in promoting Pak-China relations and CPEC.

Since its inception, she said the media forum had brought the governments and business community of the two countries together.

She said, CPEC had improved infrastructure and energy situation in Pakistan, while it had also promoted the industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Chairman Pak-China Institute Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said “We are clear that the China was the guarantor of peace, prosperity and development of Pakistan”.

He said CPEC was the project, on which there was a broad political consensus among all the political parties in Pakistan.

He said some 75000 Pakistanis got their jobs in various projects of CPEC phase-1, while 10,000 MW of electricity added to the national grid through energy projects under CPEC.

In Thar, CPEC is empowering women as women were driving heavy duty dumpers, he said adding “CPEC is changing the lives of the poorest of the poor”.

With respect to news of possible cold war in the region, Mushahid Hussain said “We reject such talks, such mindsets about the containment of China”. He said Asia was emerging now as a major economic force in the world. “We are recovering from wars, conflicts and confrontations, therefore there is no question of accepting any new cold war in the region, we reject it,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/945498/speakers-eulogize-medias-role-in-fighting-propaganda-against-cpec/>

Pakistan's rice export to China crosses \$225 million

Pakistan's rice export to China crossed \$ 225.52 million in the first fourth months of this year, while broken rice witnessed an increase of 40.27% as compared with last year in the same period, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday quoting General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Although the COVID-19 pandemic affected the months of April and May, bilateral trade has increased significantly during the first four months of 2022.

China imported more than 601,574.052 tons of different varieties of rice (worth more than \$225.52) from Pakistan, up 12.45% by volume while last year in the same period it was 534,946.42 tons, sources told Gwadar Pro.

Michael (Gao), sales manager of Hefei Meyer Optoelectronic Technology International told Gwadar Pro that Chinese technology helped Pakistan increase yield in rice processing and maintain high quality.

“To date, nearly 1,000 Meyer color sorters are in operation in Pakistan. Our sales volume has been rising every year”, Michael added.

He further said that almost all main Pakistani rice exporters to China used their sorter machines and showed satisfaction by using their products, added that this also indicates the export of rice to China is increasing every year.

“We have authorized agents in Pakistan; they have a professional service team. Meanwhile, the machine can be connected by WIFI, and we offer remote service, we can even check problems on computers in China,” Gao mentioned.

Pakistani enterprises also said that they are getting the best quality raw rice and installing the latest milling machines to get the best output recoveries; Chinese technologies help them get upright results. It is worth mentioning that 53 Pakistani rice enterprises are on the approval list of the General Administration of Customs PRC.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/945470/pakistans-rice-export-to-china-crosses-225-million/>

Dawn News

Hostile forces targeting CPEC progress: Chinese envoy

Baqir Sajjad Syed

ISLAMABAD: Chinese envoy and Pakistani leaders on Thursday warned of growing threats to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor from fake news and disinformation about the mega-development project and emphasised the need for cooperation in countering it.

The issue was highlighted at the 7th CPEC Media Forum, which was jointly hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan-China Institute, and China Economic Net, where the speakers talked about the potential of propaganda, misinformation and fake news to polarise public opinion, promote violent extremism and undermine the development project.

CPEC has been widely projected in Pakistan as a game changer that would influence the region’s geo-strategic, geo-economic and geo-political dynamics; and as an answer to its infrastructure shortcomings. But, at the same time media reports spread scepticism about it by pointing to the possibility of Pakistan falling in China’s debt trap, alleged absence of transparency in the projects, and environmental impact of the projects, especially coal-based power plants.

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, in his keynote speech, underscored the importance of CPEC, saying it was the country's best bet for becoming the region's geo-economic hub, but regretted that it had been "a victim of the malicious disinformation campaign" carried out by the "detractors" of CPEC and China.

'Fake news' termed a threat to mega project; Baloch communities can fall for anti-CPEC propaganda, warns NA speaker

In an apparent reference to growing attacks against Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan by the Baloch separatists, Mr Ashraf suggested that extremist and ethnic elements could be exploited to sabotage the project.

He, therefore, called for reaching out to the local communities to address their grievances as they could fall for the vicious anti-CPEC propaganda.

Chinese chargé d'affaires Pang Chunxue also spoke of the seriousness of this challenge.

"False propaganda and disinformation on CPEC are on the rise. Hostile forces are trying to undermine the development of CPEC, as well as the unity and mutual trust between the two countries," she maintained.

She was more specific about who was behind the fake news and propaganda campaigns against CPEC.

Mentioning the strategic alliances formed by the US to contain China — Quad, which is a group of US, Australia, India and Japan; Aukus, which is a trilateral security pact between Australia, UK, and US; and Indo-Pacific Economic Framework — she said they were targeting China and undermining its efforts for promoting peace and development in the world.

"CPEC cannot progress well in the world full of cold war mentality," the Chinese diplomat added while reminding about the impact of the global environment on it.

Chairman Senate Defence Committee Mushahid Hussain, who also heads Pakistan-China Institute, described fake news and disinformation as the biggest challenge for CPEC.

He urged the two countries to jointly counter it.

"The journalists not only of the two countries, but from other countries too should promote truth about CPEC and BRI so that people realise which is the way forward," he said, adding that the path ahead lay in being part of BRI, promoting cooperation and connectivity and bringing countries together in win-win cooperation.

CPEC, he emphasised, was not directed against any other country and said the mindset of cold war and containment of China is rejected.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1692879/hostile-forces-targeting-cpec-progress-chinese-envoy>

The Nation

Pakistan Can Learn From China Practices In Dairy Sector

BEIJING – Pakistan is among world’s top five largest milk producers, with over 60 million tons of milk production each year. To further enhance production, Pakistan can learn from China’s best practices applied in the dairy sector, said Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of Pakistan.

In his remarks on World Milk Day (WMD), he said that Pakistani dairy products and milk are of high-quality and low price, from which Chinese enterprises can benefit through investing. “Top Chinese dairy enterprises showed interest in investing in Pakistan. Some of them visited Pakistan, but due to COVID-19, the development delayed. When the COVID situation gets better, two enterprises will set up their factories in Pakistan immediately”, Badar told China Economic Net (CEN).

According to the Pakistan Dairy Association, the government should support this industry to boost export and domestic production, especially to control the adulteration of loose milk. “Out of 60 million tons of annual milk production, just 3 percent is processed. Nearly 80 percent of milk is supplied by small farms (less than 10 animals), while the supply from medium and large farms is a mere 1 percent. The reliance on small farmers explains the low milk yield – which is of 20 to 25 percent among top-yielding countries”, Pakistan Dairy Association stated. Shahid Khan, a dairy farmer, told CEN that local farmers are facing many problems, such as a lack of education, latest storage facilities, transfer of milk, and cold storage. “China is one of the major dairy and milk consuming countries. Chinese technologies are usually low-priced. If we adopt the techniques and technology used by China, Pakistan could advance in this industry”, Shahid mentioned.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/03/pakistan-can-learn-from-china-practices-in-dairy-sector/>

The News

CM, Chinese envoy discuss Pak-China ties

LAHORE: New Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren met Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz here on Thursday. The Chinese Consul General congratulated Hamza Shehbaz on assuming the office of chief minister of Punjab. Both the leaders discussed promotion of Pakistan-China relations, CPEC projects and enhancing cooperation in new fields. The chief minister expressed good wishes for Zhao Shiren on assuming the post of Consul General in Lahore. Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren appreciated the vision of the CM Punjab and said his vision of serving the people was commendable. The chief minister and the Chinese envoy agreed to take immediate steps to give a new dimension to future cooperation. “We value China's cooperation in the construction and development of Pakistan,” Hamza Shehbaz said, adding work has started on new dimensions of Pak-China economic relations.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=94062>

Ulema delegation visits Chinese Embassy

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, a delegation of Ulema under the ambit of Milli Yek Jehti Council (MYJC) visited Embassy of China here on Thursday. The Ulema belonging to different schools of thought met Chinese diplomats and expressed their grave condolences over the killings of three Chinese nationals in the Karachi University blast. The delegation led by Naib Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Liaquat Baloch with its members, including Khawaja Moeenuddin, Allama Arif Hussain Wahidi, Pir Muhammad Safdar Shah, Pir Abdus Shakoor Naqshbandi, Hafiz Zubair Ahmad Zaheer, Nasarullah Randhawa, Mian Muhammad Aslam and Syed Saqib Akbar. A statement issued by the MYJC said the delegation on behalf of all the religious parties condemned the killing of Chinese nationals.

They said it was an attempt to dent the relations between Pakistan and China. The delegation also thanked China for its support on Kashmir issue and economic progress in the country.

The delegation also mentioned the propaganda regarding treatment being meted out against the Muslim population in China. In this regard, the delegation proposed contacts between the people of two countries, saying the Ulema from Pakistan should be allowed to visit China to meet Muslims in order to defuse all the negative propagandas.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=94078>

Nawaiwaqt News

تمام مشکل حالات میں چین نے پاکستان کیساتھ تعاون کیا: بلاول

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے کہا ہے کہ تمام مشکل حالات بالخصوص کرونا وائرس میں چین نے پاکستان کے ساتھ تعاون کیا۔ تقریب سے وزیر خارجہ بلاول بھٹو زرداری کا ویڈیو پیغام جاری کیا گیا جس میں وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ چین نے پاکستان کو کرونا وائرس کی روک تھام کے لیے مفت ویکسین اور آلات فراہم کیے۔ وزیر خارجہ کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تعلقات میں میرے نانا ذوالفقار علی بھٹو نے کردار ادا کیا جبکہ محترمہ بے نظیر بھٹو نے بھی ذوالفقار علی بھٹو کے ویژن کو آگے بڑھایا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-06-03/page-1/detail-34>

پاکستان، چین دوستی حکومتوں نہیں، عوام کے درمیان ہے: پرویز الہی

لاہور (خصوصی نامہ) سپیکر پنجاب اسمبلی چودھری پرویز الہی سے چینی قونصل جنرل ژاؤ شرن نے اسمبلی چیئرمین میں ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات میں دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات اور باہمی دلچسپی کے دیگر امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ ژاؤ شرن نے سپیکر چودھری پرویز الہی کو چین کے صوبہ گان ژو میں منعقد ہونے والی تقریب میں شرکت کی عورت دی جسے چودھری پرویز الہی نے قبول کر لیا۔ سپیکر نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین یہ دوستی حکومتوں کے درمیان نہیں بلکہ عوام کے درمیان ہے۔ ہمارے دل ایک ساتھ دھڑکتے ہیں۔ سپیکر پنجاب اسمبلی نے کہا کہ سی پیک دونوں ملکوں کی ترقی میں ریڑھ کی ہڈی کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کشمیر اور دیگر امور پر پاکستان کے اصولی موقف کی دنیا بھر میں

سفارتی سطح پر کھل کر حمایت کرتا ہے۔ دونوں ممالک خطے میں امن و سلامتی اور ترقی کیلئے اپنا رول بخوبی ادا کر رہے ہیں۔ چینی توئصل جنرل مسٹر ژاؤ شرتین نے چودھری پرویز الہی کے خیالات و جذبات کا خیر مقدم کیا۔ چینی توئصل جنرل نے پنجاب اسمبلی کے نئے ایوان کا دورہ بھی کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-06-03/page-8/detail-5>

گودار میں کھارے پانی کو پینے کے قابل بنانے کیلئے پلانٹ لگائے جائیں گے، چینی ناظم الامور

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چینی ناظم الامور نے کہا ہے کہ گودار میں کھارے پانی کو پینے کے قابل بنانے کیلئے پلانٹ لگائے جائیں گے، تین ہزار سولر پینلز گودار میں توانائی کے بحران پر قابو پانے کیلئے دیئے گئے۔ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے چینی ناظم الامور نے کہا سہی یک کے ذریعے پاک چین تعلقات کو نئی جہت ملی، میڈیا کی خبروں کے ذریعے چین پاکستان تعلقات میں مزید تعاون کو فروغ دیا جاسکتا ہے، معاشی اور اسٹریٹجک تعلقات کو مضبوط بنانے کیلئے روابط کو بڑھایا جا رہا ہے، سہی یک منصوبوں پر 25 ارب ڈالر سے زائد کی سرمایہ کاری ہوئی۔ چینی ناظم الامور نے کہا سرمایہ کاری سے پاکستان کے روڈ انفراسٹرکچر میں بہتری آئی ہے، تین ہزار سولر پینلز گودار میں توانائی کے بحران پر قابو پانے کیلئے دیئے گئے، کھارے پانی کو پینے کے قابل بنانے کیلئے پلانٹ لگائے جائیں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-06-03/page-8/detail-33>

June 04, 2022

Business Recorder

Gwadar comes under renewed govt focus

PM inaugurates Eastbay Expressway

GWADAR: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Friday said having increased oil prices again with a heavy heart, the government believed that any more burden on the poor masses would be unjust and it was a time for the elite class to sacrifice.

“I have called a meeting tomorrow... The billionaire elite should come forward and sacrifice for the poor masses and provide their resources through austerity... This will start from me, ministers, advisors, federal and provincial secretaries, and government officers,” the prime minister said. Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Eastbay Expressway and groundbreaking of seven more development projects for Gwadar, he said the elite would have to play their part in that noble cause.

“This is their duty. I will ensure that they shower their resources for the poor and bear strict measures,” he remarked.

A component of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the 6-lane Eastbay Expressway would connect the Gwadar Port with the Makran Coastal Highway, also providing a link to Karachi. The prime minister told the gathering that the government tried to avert the burden of oil price hike, but it was done with a heavy heart as 90 percent of the country’s needs were met through imported oil.

He said perceiving the success of vote of no-confidence against it, the previous regime reduced the oil prices to trap the incumbent government.

He questioned as how the government could provide subsidy on the imported oil through loans. He said the government had announced a relief package of Rs 2,000 each family under the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) to mitigate the impact of the oil price hike.

The prime minister, who earlier unveiled the plaques of projects, expressed dissatisfaction over the slow pace of work.

He broke ground for the Gwadar seawater desalination plant by China Aid, Jingtal Gwadar Private Limited, Hangmei Lubricant Plant, Hangeng Agricultural Industrial Park, Gwadar Expo Center and Gwadar Fertilizer Plant, besides distribution of 3,000 solar panels.

He also took an overview of the development projects, including the under construction Gwadar Airport which was being built under a Chinese grant and faced a delay in completion.

He said the Eastbay Expressway would also provide a link to Karachi to ease the transportation of goods. He said a desalination plant would be installed and a hospital had been built for the people of Gwadar, while 3,200 solar panels would be distributed among the families there. He said instead of wasting billions on the water reservoirs, a desalination plant should have been installed to cope with the water needs of Gwadar.

The prime minister said in order to avoid any more delay in the projects, he had directed to strictly follow the timelines.

He assured that due to the silting, the depth of Gwadar sea port was reducing and instructed for the dredging to allow the traffic of heavy ships.

He suggested a G2G model for installation of the desalination plant and called for initiating talks with the Chinese side without any delay. Proposing a model to address the issue of power supply to Gwadar, he said the government should award a contract to any private company to provide solar panels to the households and bank loans should be arranged for them to pay back.

Proposing a second model, the prime minister said a solar plant of 100-150 megawatt should be installed in Gwadar to provide off-grid power supply to the people, who would be paying to the company as electricity bills.

Shehbaz Sharif also announced that in the first phase, the Federal Government would provide 2,000 boat engines to the fishermen through balloting.

He announced that the Federal Government would also allocate funds for the establishment of a university in Gwadar to ensure its timely completion. The prime minister said the Federal Government would enroll another 500,000 poor people as beneficiaries of the BISP, with 100 percent cover to the poor people of Gwadar.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/04/1-page/931988-news.html>

Daily Times

Efforts on to start two-way Pakistan-China flights

Efforts on card by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training for operating two-way special flights between Pakistan and China in order to facilitate the Pakistani students enrolled in Chinese universities.

The relevant Chinese authorities, in that regard, would be requested for two-way operating special flight so that students in China could also be facilitated in coming back to Pakistan, the official sources from the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training told APP.

In first phase, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training in collaboration with the Ministry of Affairs and other relevant institutions was making all-out efforts for the return of Pakistani students to China in order to continue their studies in Chinese universities that were halted due to Covid-19. According to the sources, the initiative has been taken on the special directions of Federal Education Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain who took special interest in that regard and put the issue on top priority.

The authorities concerned ensured speedy execution of these students so that their educational loss can be minimized on emergency basis.

In that regard, a special charter flight of PIA will fly on June 7th to take Pakistani students to Xian, China, the sources said adding that, the minister was informed that all formal approvals for a charter flight have been gained from the government of China. The flight will take approximately 150 students back to China, contingent on issue of Chinese visas to Pakistani students.

The sources informed that the ticket prices have been highly subsidized so that they are affordable for the students, adding, 112 student visas have been issued to the Pakistani students while 17 visas are still pending.

A number of meetings had taken place between Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Higher Education Commission and Aviation Division with the Cultural Counselor in Chinese Embassy in order to start the return of Pakistani students to China, they told. The process of returning Pakistani students has been started in coordination with the Chinese government, they said.

Zhang Heqing, Cultural Counselor in Chinese Embassy informed that 96 Visas have been issued and reiterated that Chinese Embassy in Islamabad would assist in providing remaining visas to students, the sources said.

Pakistan government has thanked the Chinese government for the support and called Pakistan and China iron brothers. Education Minister hoped that such cultural exchange would lead to enhanced bilateral relationship and trade, the sources added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/946102/efforts-on-to-start-two-way-pakistan-china-flights/>

Railways to make fresh request to China for ML-I project

Pakistan Railways said that it was planning to make a fresh request to China for undertaking the \$US 6.8b Mainline-I (ML-I) project under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The ML-I project involves track doubling and upgrades some 1872 kilometres of railway split into three sections, the 527 km northern section between Peshawar, Rawalpindi and Lahore, 521km of track between Lahore and Hyderabad and 740 km of track upgrades along Rawalpindi – Peshawar and Hyderabad – Multan lines, sources in the Ministry of Railways told APP on Friday.

They said the work would also include improvements to signalling and control systems. The project was part of the CPEC, a subsection of the Belt and Road Initiative. The ML-I was the most significant one to revamp the major railway tracks in the country with a view to reviving the sagging railways infrastructure and putting it back on track to achieve its past glory, they added. Under the project, they said that the trains with speeds of around 120 to 160 kilometre per hour would run on the track. Currently, the trains can move at speeds from 65km to 105km per hour, they said.

The project, which was approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council on August 2020, would be executed by financing through the Chinese Government Concessional Loan.

According to the experts that the ML-I was a ‘game changer’, and once completed, Peshawar and Karachi would become the centres of business activity and a source of livelihood for tens of thousands of people, the sources said and added that the project, which would see level crossings converted into underpasses and flyovers, would also benefit the landlocked Central Asian countries through land route linkages.

They said that Pakistan Railways was expecting to transport over 20pc of the country’s freight business after the completion of Main Line-I which would help the department to make profitable entity.

Currently, Pakistan Railways is transporting only 4pc of freight traffic in the country which was not sufficient for the department, they added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/946342/railways-to-make-fresh-request-to-china-for-ml-i-project/>

Pakistan’s rice export to China crosses \$225m in 1Q-2022

Pakistan’s rice export to China crossed \$ 225.52m in the first four months of this year, while Broken rice witnessed an increase of 40.27pc as compared with last year in the same period, according to General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC). Although the COVID-19 pandemic affected the months of April and May, bilateral trade has increased significantly during the first four months of 2022. China imported more than 601,574.052 tons of different varieties of rice (worth more than \$225.52m) from Pakistan, up 12.45pc by volume while last year in the same period it was 534,946.42 tons, according to China

Economic Net (CEN). Michael (Gao), sales manager of Hefei Meyer Optoelectronic Technology International told Gwadar Pro that Chinese technology helped Pakistan increase yield in rice processing and maintain high quality. “To date, nearly 1,000 Meyer colour sorters are in operation in Pakistan. Our sales volume has been rising every year”, Michael added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/946349/pakistans-rice-export-to-china-crosses-225m-in-1q-2022/>

China, Pakistan to strengthen disaster risk cooperation

China and Pakistan will strengthen cooperation on natural disasters prevention and mitigation to build a China-Pakistan community with a shared future. This was stated by Cui Peng, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, in an exclusive interview to China Economic Net (CEN).

“Building a beautiful homeland is a common dream for mankind. In face of climate change, disaster prevention and mitigation and other global issues, no country can manage alone or stand aloof. Only through joint efforts can we address them in a scientific way,” said Cui, who is also the Director-General of China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences (CPJRC).

According to Cui, the annual frequency of extreme weather and major natural disasters caused by global climate change is about 320 times on average in the past four decades. Similar situation prevails in Pakistan.

Unusual heat wave has been striking Pakistan from March to May 2022, it is most likely by human-caused climate change, a rapid analysis finds. The peak temperatures reached 51C in March. Since the start of May, Balochistan province has been engulfed in ever growing forest fire. China and Iran both assisted Pakistan in putting out the blaze.

As an expert on disaster risk reduction, Cui shared his opinion with CEN on China-Pak cooperation in this regard. Cui called to establish a China-Pak cooperation mechanism on disaster information sharing and cooperation in disaster prevention and mitigation, to facilitate bilateral collaboration.

With reference to international practices on investments, the two nations should accelerate establishing a disaster risk assessment and prevention mechanism for major projects under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), to guard against and defuse major investment and engineering disaster risks. Cui advised to advance the compilation of the disaster prevention and mitigation action plan under CPEC for closer people-to-people bonds and the building of China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

In terms of disaster prevention and mitigation cooperation, Cui advanced the application of the new generation “space-sky-ground” stereoscopic monitoring technology by using satellites, UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) and ground-based real-time monitors in disaster identification and monitoring.

Cui thought it is necessary to strengthen disaster monitoring cooperation and carry forward the building of a monitoring network applicable to multiple disasters including earthquake, sleet and

snowstorms, geo hazards, flood and tsunami, to improve the monitoring and early warning capacity.

China and Pakistan could conduct regular disaster risk assessment of the key areas along CPEC in order to guarantee the people's livelihood and major projects' construction. Cui encouraged various government departments and organizations to launch talents training program on disaster prevention and mitigation, and youth exchanges and cooperation plans under CPEC.

Cui hoped to train professionals on disaster prevention and mitigation for Pakistan by special program of international students, skill training on disaster prevention and mitigation, international cooperation program and talents exchanges program. "As a scientific researcher, it is my responsibility and obligation to make efforts to mitigate and/or reduce the damage to nation and people's safety and property," Cui said.

Cui has been doing scientific research for almost 40 years at Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment (IMHE), Chinese Academy of Sciences. He is dedicated to mountain hazards (specializing in debris flow and landslide), disaster risk reduction, water and soil conservation and fluvial geomorphology.

Cui insists that scientific researchers on geological disasters should make field trips to get the first-hand data as the direct scientific basis for creating better methods and technologies on disaster prevention and mitigation.

"After investigating many disaster events, I was shocked by their damages to the safety of life and property, and the environment, which hardened my resolve to engage in debris flow and landslide research and disaster prevention and mitigation," said Cui.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/946047/china-pakistan-to-strengthen-disaster-risk-cooperation/>

Dawn News

10pc duty imposed on Chinese petroleum

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday imposed a 10 per cent regulatory duty on the import of petroleum products from China after a massive 673pc surge in duty-free imports to Rs250 billion this year with a revenue loss of Rs25bn under the garb of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA).

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet which also approved almost Rs147bn worth of supplementary grants including Rs81bn additional funds to defense services for expenditure before June 30.

The meeting, presided over by Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, also approved a summary for the grant of an unspecified amount of honorarium to officers and staff of the ministry of finance and

revenue board. The decisions came a day after the government increased petroleum prices to reduce the budgetary burden.

Under the country's import policy, petroleum products attract 10pc customs duty on imports while an equivalent 10pc deemed duty is applicable on local production of these products by domestic refineries. However, the CPFTA signed in 2019 provides duty exemption to thousands of items in bilateral trade also including petroleum products.

ECC approves Rs147bn in supplementary grants

It is not clear yet as to how and why the petroleum imports were made part of the revised CPFTA in 2019 when China is a net importer of oil and these products were not even in the original FTA signed in 2006 and then revised in 2016. It is also strange that such a facility is not part of FTA with Malaysia which is a major oil producer and exporter.

OMCs increase imports from China

Informed sources said the ECC was told that due to the waiver of customs duty under CPFTA, some of the oil marketing companies (OMCs), particularly a multinational, had increased their imports of petrol from China by availing the benefit of the CPFTA. The government could not do anything against OMCs given such sourcing from China was legal under CPFTA even though the importers availing the FTA exemption pay zero customs duty while others pay customs duty at the rate of 10pc.

This results in a price saving of about 10pc on petrol imports from China and the differential is retained by the OMCs as windfall profit instead of its benefit reaching the exchequer or the consumers. Depending on the international petrol price published in Platt's Oilgram, the gap currently goes up to Rs20 per litre.

At the time of preparation of the summary, it was reported that such imports increased from Rs30bn in FY21 to Rs232bn with an Rs23bn negative revenue impact to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in FY22.

It was, therefore, decided by the ECC to impose 10pc regulatory duty on the import of petrol where customs duty was zero. However, the import of petrol where customs duty at 10pc is paid will be exempt from the levy of regulatory duty. The Tariff Advisory Board had already cleared the proposal on February 28, 2022.

Interestingly, the key purpose of the free trade agreement between the two friendly countries signed on April 28, 2019 was the promotion of fair trade competition. China itself is a net importer of petroleum products including petrol and transportation cost to Pakistan is relatively higher than that of the Middle East. Yet this provides a substantial cushion to the OMCs. The current position under the CPFTA is valid for four years — starting Jan 1, 2020 to Dec 31, 2024.

Collection of utility bills

The ECC also approved a summary of the Ministry of Communication for clearance of Rs37.33bn remaining funds out of a total of Rs62.33bn seized by the Ministry of Finance through procedural gimmickry collected as utility bills by the Pakistan Post on behalf of power distribution companies.

The ECC was told that clearance of these liabilities of the utility companies, particularly power distribution companies and agency partners of the Pakistan Post Office Department (PPOD) was urgently required as these funds did not belong to the federation but bills collected from consumers on behalf of Discos.

It was reported that the collection of utility bills was one of the agency functions performed by Pakistan Post and the amount thus collected was deposited in SBP's Central Account-1. Liabilities to the tune of Rs62.33bn have been accumulated till March 31 this year owing to the changed mechanism under the Public Finance Management Act 2019. Rs25bn had already been approved on April 15 for payment to utility companies.

The ECC ordered payment of Rs37.33bn for clearing the remaining outstanding liabilities of the utility companies or agency partners of Pakistan Post after verification of claimed amount by SBP.

The ECC also approved the release of Rs621 million for making payment of gas bills to SSGCL for gas supplies to Pakistan Steel Mills for eight months (July-February) at the rate of about Rs80 per month. PSM is being provided low flame gas of 2MMCFD by SSGC due to the closure of the production activity primarily to preserve the Coke Oven Batteries and refractories kilns.

The ECC also approved about 17 other supplementary grants worth Rs146bn including 10 with an additional financial burden of about Rs122bn. This included about Rs81bn to defence services to meet critical shortfall during the current fiscal year and Rs40.5bn to exporters under the previous government's duty drawback schemes (DLTL and LTLD etc) cleared by the State Bank of Pakistan.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of National Food Security & Research, the ECC also approved up to 2.67pc increase in the tobacco cess for the 2022-23 crop. Under the decision, the cess on flue-cured Virginia tobacco was to Rs6 per kg, showing an increase of 2.45pc and 2.13pc on the plain area and sub-mountainous area.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1693024/10pc-duty-imposed-on-chinese-petroleum>

PU approves four-year BS in Chinese language and culture

LAHORE: The Punjab University (PU) Academic Council on Friday approved several programmes and upgraded the curriculum of various courses.

PU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Niaz Ahmad Akhtar chaired the meeting of the Academic Council at Al Raazi Hall here on Friday. The council approved a four-year BS in Chinese Language and Culture, under which students would study two years each in Punjab University and China. The meeting also approved the establishment of a Women Development Centre.

Various departments proposed MPhil/PhD programmes, however, the council decided to get them approved by the Higher Education Commission.

Prof Niaz said that the international ranking was improved due to good governance and making all statutory bodies functioning to ensure transparency for the first time in the last 40 years.

He said that keeping in view national and academic requirements for the next 50 years, the PU was academically restructured and 67 new teaching and research institutions were created and several departments were upgraded.

He said that for the first time, those research projects were particularly promoted and encouraged which could resolve the socio-economic problems of the country.

He said unprecedented appointments and promotions were made in these four years which have never been witnessed before.

He said that for the first time in the recent 50-year history, eight meetings of the Senate were conducted in the last four years as per the requirement of the calendar and in the past, the Senate meeting was conducted over eight to 10 year gap and the university was run through statutory bodies to ensure a model of good governance.

Prof Niaz said progress was made in academic, research and administrative fields and international ranking was improved by 16 percent.

He said that a jump of 87 points was improved in QS Asian ranking and Nature Publishing had declared PU No 1 in natural sciences in Pakistan.

He said that no subject was internationally recognized till 2018 and 15 subjects were ranked in QS subject-wise ranking in 2022.

He said that the Petroleum Engineering subject was ranked among the world's top 101-150 institutions while religious studies were among the top 101-130 subjects.

VACATION: The PU announced summer vacations from June 6 to July 29. However, departments concerned can make a little amendment regarding the start of summer vacations due to semester examinations.

Vacations for MPhil and PhD students will be issued by the departments concerned. The courses will also be completed before the start of summer vacations.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1693000/pu-approves-four-year-bs-in-chinese-language-and-culture>

Pakistan Observer

Malicious campaign against CPEC

CHINESE envoy and Pakistani leaders on Thursday warned of growing threats to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from fake news and disinformation and emphasized the need for cooperation in countering it.

The issue was highlighted at the 7th CPEC Media Forum which was jointly hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan-China Institute and China Economic Net, where the speakers talked about the potential of propaganda, misinformation and fake news to polarize public opinion, promote violent extremism and undermine the development project.

Since its inception, the detractors have been pursuing a malicious propaganda campaign to undermine the CPEC project.

These hostile forces, in fact, are enemies of both Pakistan and China which do not want the region making progress on the economic front.

Sometimes, the project is termed as a debt trap for Pakistan whilst at other times the workers engaged with the corridor related projects are attacked and killed.

It is, however, a matter of satisfaction that both the countries whilst conscious of the threats have repeatedly expressed their commitment to the CPEC.

Regardless of recent attacks on Chinese workers in Pakistan, the Chinese government continues to encourage the Chinese companies to invest in the country.

Also in difficult economic times, it has rolled over the Pakistani loans. This is why this relationship is dubbed as higher than the Himalayas and sweeter than the honey.

Expediting work on the CPEC, in fact, is the best answer to its detractors.

This is a game changer project not only for Pakistan but also the entire region as it will promote regional connectivity and bring the peoples close to each other.

We will suggest greater collaboration between different media platforms of both the countries as well as people-to-people contacts at different levels in order to collectively and effectively counter the baseless campaign against the CPEC.

The CPEC Media Forum must be more forthcoming to promote truth about the corridor project.

At the same time, foolproof security should also be ensured for the Chinese workers to foil the nefarious designs of the enemy against this development project.

<https://pakobserver.net/malicious-campaign-against-cpec/>

Railways to make fresh request to China for undertaking ML-I project

Pakistan Railways said that it was planning to make a fresh request to China for undertaking the \$US 6.8 billion Mainline-I (ML-I) project under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The ML-I project involves track doubling and upgrades some 1872 kilometers of railway split into three sections, the 527 km northern section between Peshawar, Rawalpindi and Lahore, 521km of track between Lahore and Hyderabad and 740 km of track upgrades along Rawalpindi – Peshawar and Hyderabad – Multan lines, sources in the Ministry of Railways told APP on Friday.

They said the work would also include improvements to signaling and control systems. The project was part of the CPEC, a subsection of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The ML-I was the most significant one to revamp the major railway tracks in the country with a view to reviving the sagging railways infrastructure and putting it back on track to achieve its past glory, they added.

Under the project, they said that the trains with speeds of around 120 to 160 kilometer per hour would run on the track. Currently, the trains can move at speeds from 65km to 105km per hour, they said.

The project, which was approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council on August 2020, would be executed by financing through the Chinese Government Concessional Loan.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/railways-to-make-fresh-request-to-china-for-undertaking-ml-i-project/>

The Nation

SEZs, A Game Changer?

CPEC, an initiative worth more than 60 billion USD, at its start was heralded as a game-changer for the industry, economy, and people of Pakistan. Politicians, policymakers, and soothsayers predicted that CPEC will revolutionise the economy of the country with industry booming, job opportunities exploding and an unparalleled inflow of FDI.

However, many years down the road, the first phase of CPEC, which is generally related to infrastructure development such as the building of roads, and bridges, and setting up thermal power plants, has been completed. However, the effect of the first phase of CPEC on the local economy in terms of job opportunities, maximum utilisation of local industry output, and increase in the skill level of the local workforce is not visible. For instance, in any huge infrastructure project, steel is a necessary ingredient, but our Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM), Karachi is not only closed but on the gavel for some time. Further, a very important project of the CPEC initiative is the extension and dualisation of the railway line, which has still to move beyond discussions. Thus, so far, the promises and claims associated with the CPEC are still to materialise.

Now, some time back, the government announced the start of the second phase of CPEC which generally relates to the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and their industrialisation, along the CPEC route. Now again, as before, politicians, policymakers, and economists have started predicting the second phase to be a game-changer for the economy of Pakistan. They are soliciting immediate establishment of SEZs but the question as to how these SEZs will be financed, especially in the backdrop of Pakistan going to every money lending institution for loans, is not being answered. Further, there is no risk failure analysis—if the SEZ(s) fail, is the country in a position to absorb the failures and repay bad loans along with the accrued interests?

Next, how will the SEZs be populated? It is being hyped that by some magic wand, foreign investors, especially Chinese investors, will flock to the SEZs, which will, in turn, generate jobs and kick-start the economy. Further, federal and provincial governments are struggling to provide utilities: gas, electricity, and water, at competitive rates, to existing domestic and industrial consumers. Hence, it is not clear how the federal and provincial governments will supply cheap utilities to the SEZs.

Also, the government is bending backward to secure loans from foreign institutions such as the IMF. But even the IMF is suspicious that its money might not be used to service interest on loans secured from China for CPEC, and the government is not divulging the monetary details and agreement of CPEC with IMF and other money lending institutions. Pakistan has invited Turkey to join the CPEC project. The PM's trip to Turkey to convince investors to become part of the CPEC is an indicator that probably Pakistan does not have the resources to complete the second phase and perhaps Chinese investors are not that keen to invest, as trumpeted earlier.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/04/sezs-a-game-changer/>

The News

Shehbaz inaugurates road, development projects in Gwadar

GWADAR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday inaugurated the Eastbay Expressway project, and performed ground-breaking of seven more development projects in Gwadar.

A component of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the six-lane Eastbay Expressway would connect the Gwadar Port with the Makran Coastal Highway, also providing a link to Karachi.

The prime minister, who unveiled the plaques of the projects, expressed dissatisfaction over the slow pace of work. He broke ground for the Gwadar Seawater Desalination Plant by China Aid, Jingtal Gwadar Private Limited, Hangmei Lubricant Plant, Hangeng Agricultural Industrial Park, Gwadar Expo Centre and Gwadar Fertilizer Plant, besides distribution of 3,000 solar panels.

He also took an overview of the development projects, including the under-construction Gwadar Airport, which was being built under a Chinese grant and faced delays in completion.

Shehbaz said a desalination plant would be installed and a hospital had been built for the people of Gwadar, while 3,200 solar panels would be distributed among the families there. He said instead of wasting billions on the water reservoirs, a desalination plant should have been installed to cope with the water needs of Gwadar.

The prime minister said in order to avoid any more delay in the projects, he had ordered to strictly follow the timelines. He promised that due to the silting, the depth of Gwadar sea port was reducing and instructed for dredging to allow the traffic of heavy ships.

He suggested a G2G model for installation of the desalination plant and called for initiating talks with the Chinese side without any delay. Proposing a model to address the issue of power supply

to Gwadar, he said the government should award a contract to any private company to provide solar panels to the households and bank loans should be arranged for them to pay back.

Proposing a second model, the prime minister said a solar plant of 100-150 megawatt should be installed in Gwadar to provide off-grid power supply to the people, who would be paying to the company as electricity bills.

Shehbaz Sharif also announced that in the first phase, the federal government would provide 2,000 boat engines to the fishermen through balloting. He announced that the federal government would also allocate funds for establishment of a university in Gwadar to ensure its timely completion.

The prime minister said the federal government would enroll another 500,000 poor people as beneficiaries of the BISP, with 100pc cover to the poor people of Gwadar.

He asked Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal to hold comprehensive talks with Chinese investors and prepare a clear roadmap for the resolution of all issues. Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti and special assistants Tariq Fatemi and Fahd Hussain also attended the meeting.

Separately, addressing the officers attending the Command and Staff Course at the Command and Staff College, Quetta, PM Shehbaz Sharif said that the armed forces of Pakistan were the guarantors of peace, internal and external security, and regional stability, besides contributing to the global peace efforts. He paid rich tribute to the achievements and sacrifices of Pakistan armed forces.

On arrival, he laid a wreath at the Shuhada Monument to pay homage to the martyrs of Pakistan, according to ISPR. The PM said that Pakistan's successes in the war against terrorism were unparalleled and duly acknowledged by the world. He said the armed forces had always done a commendable job in service of the nation during natural calamities. The armed forces of Pakistan are a very important state institution and the pride of the nation, he reiterated.

Shehbaz said that the country's defence was sacred and Pakistan's security, sovereignty and integrity would be ensured at all costs. "The nation owes its freedom to monumental sacrifices of our heroes, our martyrs," the prime minister remarked.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=94334>

Cold war mentality haunts CPEC, says Chinese envoy

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: Acting Chinese ambassador for Pakistan Pang Chunxue has said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) cannot progress well in a world full of Cold War mentality. The media in Pakistan and China have the responsibility of speaking out for fairness and justice, she said.

Addressing the Seventh CPEC Media Forum, she reminded that the CPEC cooperation had achieved fruitful results under which the two sides had initiated or completed 46 of the 70 early harvest projects with a total investment of \$25.4 billion. Among the projects, “the East Bay Expressway of Gwadar Port has been completed and will open to traffic soon. This year, China donated another 3,000 sets of solar panels to Gwadar people, which brings the total number of donations to 7,000 sets. The construction of a desalination plant aided by China will start soon in Gwadar,” she said.

She said that two units of the Karot Hydropower project had started providing stable clean power to Pakistan’s power grid since May. After its full operation, its four units will provide electricity to five million people. Despite the fruitful CPEC cooperation, false propaganda and disinformation on CPEC are on the increase. “Hostile forces are trying to undermine the development of CPEC as well as the unity and mutual trust between the two countries.” She mentioned the Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative, which called for common development and progress of all countries. However, QUAD, AUKUS, Indo-Pacific Economic Framework targeting China are undermining such efforts. In this regard, Pang said that the media in Pakistan and China had the responsibility of speaking out for fairness and justice and should be a positive force for CPEC for world peace and stability. She suggested that synergy among media circles should be strengthened.

“Chinese media has seven permanent bureaus and one Urdu language studio in Pakistan. Pakistan is believed to have over 100 television channels and 150 radio stations. Both countries’ media should form in-depth cooperation in terms of exchange of news materials, co-production of programmes, personnel training and co-organising of activities, especially on the CPEC,” she said.

She also suggested full mobilisation of resources of multiple entities, the strengthening of narrative building, and the two sides should join hands in combating fake news, as some western countries continue to slander China on issues related to Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong, and spread rumours on the CPEC. “I hope that the media in Pakistan and China will play a more active role as a bridge, tell true stories of Pakistan-China cooperation, and consolidate the all-weather friendship between the iron brothers,” Pang said.

Former prime minister and Speaker of the National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf, who chaired the forum, said that the CPEC had changed the destiny of so many people in the country and, in fact, through the CPEC, China had given a vote of confidence in Pakistan’s potential to build a better future. Not even a day passes when we don’t hear about development by Chinese enterprises on CPEC projects in the media. The professionalism and consistency through which Chinese enterprises continued work on the CPEC despite a global pandemic like Covid-19 when almost every project in the world hit snags has been lauded by the governments of Pakistan and China as well as the international media.

As the CPEC moves forward, the media's responsibility to report fairly and factually on it would grow. He was of the view that the media, since the inception of CPEC, has played a very important role in the dissemination of facts on CPEC.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed thanked China for helping Pakistan during Covid-19 by extending the much-needed medical and moral support, which had saved millions of lives. In his opening remarks, he said that the CPEC had created 75,000 jobs for Pakistanis so far and energy projects under the corridor had produced over 5,000 MW of electricity. While rejecting the Cold War Mentality, he advocated for multilateralism and connectivity and said the enemies of Pakistan-China friendship have launched a campaign of disinformation and fake news against CPEC.

In his video message, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the Pakistan-China relationship was indeed a special relationship that has no parallel in contemporary international relations. For me personally, he remarked, it is a great honour to be talking about this special bond because my grandfather Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto is the architect of this very relationship and in 1963, he had signed a historic boundary agreement between Pakistan and China. "He was also the last world leader to meet Chairman Mao." Hameed Haroon, CEO of Dawn Media Group, said that he was privileged enough to lead a delegation in the early 1980s from the media to China and that and subsequent visits to China have been unforgettable in his mind. He said there was a need for cross-cultural cooperation and understanding to cement the existing people-to-people bond, which is considered the heart of the unique bond between Pakistan and China.

Pakistan's ambassador in China Moin-ul-Haq spoke virtually and said that events like CPEC Media Forum are vital to fighting misinformation related to the CPEC. These events have reinvigorated the friendly sentiments between our two countries and helped pass on the finest traditions of bilateral friendship to our younger generations.

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of the Pakistan-China Institute, that co-hosted the forum, recalled that last year, the institute had launched the Rapid Response Information Network (RRIN), which identifies fake news on CPEC and counters them with facts. The institute will be publishing "The Governance of China", Part 2 and Part 3 in Urdu, which are authored by President Xi Jinping. Zhao Zizhong, Vice-President of Economic Daily, Tian Yuhong, Executive Secretary of the All-China Journalists Association, Yang Jiandou, CEO of All Pakistan-Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA), Journalist Najma Minhas, Li Yue, Vice President, and Director, China Economic Information Service, Xinhua News Agency and Wang Qianting from China Media Group also spoke.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=94350>

June 05, 2022

Pakistan Observer

Development of Gwadar

DURING a visit to Balochistan on Friday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed his dismay over the slow pace development of Gwadar city and vowed to work on a war footing for the completion of various development projects there.

PM Shehbaz Sharif is known as a doer and for fast track completion of development projects.

One may see its manifestation in Lahore where Shehbaz Sharif during his stint as the provincial Chief Minister executed the unprecedented number of projects in record period and changed the outlook of the provincial capital.

For this he also earned the title of ‘Punjab Speed’. Given the strategic location of Gwadar and the role it can play to change the economic landscape of the country, we believe that the same kind of speed is required to be replicated in Gwadar.

Despite funding from Chinese friends, there are some important projects such as Gwadar airport which has not been completed regardless of its foundation laid back in 2017-18.

Then the city is also faced with power shortage and other infrastructural bottlenecks which are a big hurdle in exploiting the potential of this strategically located port.

The next few decades are likely to see a struggle among powers to secure routes for transportation of resources.

We have already seen a competition to control choke points, ports and connecting routes. This contest will intensify in the near future.

The Indian Ocean has already become a stage of geopolitical competition because of the abundant natural resources it holds.

Pakistan is blessed to have Gwadar as it is more suitable for capitalizing on trade opportunities with energy rich Afghanistan and the Caspian Region.

Being a gateway to the Persian Gulf at the Hormuz Strait, the port will offer various harbour services like show-casing and storage of sea resources, shipment, trans-shipment and manufacturing conveniences for regional and extra-regional key players, as well as for the UAE, Gulf States and European nations.

A modern port and supporting infrastructure will also help exploit the natural resources of Balochistan province.

Hence, efforts should be accelerated with the cooperation of China to make Gwadar Port fully functional and the busiest port of the region.

Resource constraint should not be allowed under any circumstances to hinder the development projects in the city.

We have to make full use of Gwadar port to realize the long cherished dream of sustainable development and self- reliance.

<https://pakobserver.net/development-of-gwadar/>

Work on Gwadar Desalination plant to be completed within year

Work on Gwadar Seawater Desalination Plant is expected to be completed within a year and will provide 5,000 tons of fresh water per day to Gwadar residents and enterprises, greatly mitigating water shortage, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

The groundbreaking ceremony of the 5,000-ton per day Seawater Desalination Plant in Gwadar Free Zone was held recently.

The project will be greatly mitigating water shortage in the area. The report says, China had donated solar power equipment to thousands of families in Gwadar, built hospitals and other infrastructure that improves people's livelihood, and will also help build a desalination plant.

The Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif highly appreciated China's great contribution in helping solve people's livelihood problems in Gwadar.

On the occasion, Pang Chunxue, Charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, stressed that China attaches great importance to people's livelihood in Gwadar and is ready to continue to promote the development of medical care, and education and training of vocational and technical personnel in Gwadar.

Efforts are being made to address the shortage of electricity and fresh water for a smart, green, and modern Gwadar Port.

"China is ready to further synergize development strategies, implement the Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation, strengthen cooperation in industries, people's livelihood and agriculture, and jointly implement high-quality development of CPEC with new Pakistan speed", she said.

The Seawater Desalination Plant is one of the eight projects that was inaugurated or performed groundbreaking during PM's visit to Gwadar.

The others include the Eastbay Expressway, the Installation of 3,000 Household Solar Power Generation System, Huafa commodity display center, Agvon fertilizer plant, Jintai meat processing plant, Hang Geng industrial park, and Hengmei lubricating oil plant.

China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) will undertake the construction of the seawater desalination plant and the procurement and installation of seawater desalination equipment.

<https://pakobserver.net/work-on-gwadar-desalination-plant-to-be-completed-within-year/>

The Express Tribune

Thar Coal Block-I foundation stone laid

Power plant to generate 1,650 MW and will cost Rs182bn

UMERKOT: In a major step towards alleviating the province, and indeed the country's power crisis, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah laid down the foundation stone of the Rs182.3 billion infrastructure project to provide water to the Thar coalfield.

Independent power producers (IPPs) have been working under a public-private partnership to generate around 1650 MW of coal-fired power in Thar Block-I.

The chief minister disclosed that this was the first-ever water delivery project launched in the country on a public-private partnership basis by attracting foreign direct investment (FDI).

The stone laying ceremony was organized at Nabirsar near Umerkot and was attended by PPP ministers, local leaders, Consul General of Kuwait Salim Yusuf Al Hamdan, CEO of Kuwaiti Company Enter Tech Holding Company Abdulla Al Muttairi, CEO Enertech Water Private Ltd Yasser Malik, Pakistan Kuwait Investment Company Chairman Mohammad Al Fares, Chinese experts working on the project and local notables.

The Sindh government was looking for investment to start laying the groundwork for water infrastructure for IPPs in Thar Block-I, the chief minister said.

He added that a canal was required to be constructed from the Farsh X-regulator to Nabisar for the discharge of 200 cusecs of water.

Shah said that out of 200 cusecs, 45 cusecs would be supplied to IPPs of Thar Coal Block- I and the remaining 155 cusecs be provided to Nabirsar for agricultural purposes.

He added that considering the significant cost of the construction of a canal and the deadline set with the IPPs, the Sindh Cabinet decided to undertake this project through a PPP mode.

The CM said that a Kuwaiti Investment Company, M/s Enertech Water Pvt Ltd, taking interest in the project, submitted a proposal for the development and operation of the water supply facility.

Finally, the concession agreement was signed on June 26, 2021.

According to the project document, the Kuwaiti company is responsible for constructing a 60.7 km pipeline of 45 cusecs capacity from Nabisar to Vajihar, along with the building of two reservoirs with a capacity of 45 and 30 days at Nabisar and Vajihar, respectively.

The reservoir capacity has been enhanced to incorporate evaporation loss. Under the contract, the private partner has to establish a 4.8 MW power generation system for 48 cusecs pumping stations.

There would be two pumping stations with a maximum capacity of 60 cusecs. A water treatment system of 51 cusecs would also be established, comprising flocculation/clarification and

filtration to attain the required water quality as has been proposed. It would also have a project control system (PCS).

Murad Ali Shah proudly said that the project's transaction structure has won global awards in two categories- the most Innovative Deal of the Year and Pakistan Deal of the Year'.

It also claimed a runner up in another category - Project & Infrastructure Finance Deal of the Year - from globally the reputed Islamic Finance News (IFN).

The Project is expected to generate revenue of Rs35 billion over its life for the Sindh government and it would be constructed in one-year's time.

Media talk

Replying to a question, the chief minister said that his government had lodged a protest with the federal government against the unjust distribution of water.

"This is not a question of our [coalition] partnership in the federal government, but a question of our people's right to get their due share of water".

To a question about giving positions of administrators of KMC and Hyderabad to MQM, the CM said that talks between his government and the other party were in progress.

He added that a meeting for the purpose was held on Friday. "Let us see what decisions are taken and the same will be shared with the media".

Shah said that the agreement inked with MQM was an open document and nothing has been made secret.

Minister of Energy Imtiaz Shaikh, speaking on the occasion, lauded the efforts of the chief minister to materialize the project.

He added that 8 MTs of coal would be excavated from Thar Block-I for generation of 1650 MW of power.

Imtiaz Shaikh recalled that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, foreseeing the future of Thar coal, said that it will change Pakistan.

"Today, her prediction has come true".

Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro, addressing the ceremony, said that the people of Nabirsar have been demanding a water scheme.

"Today, the PPP government is meeting the demand by constructing a canal from Makhi regulator to Baisar so that local people can use the water for drinking and agricultural purposes," he said.

The minister continued that added simultaneously, water through a pipeline would be supplied to Thar Block-I for power generation.

Forest Minister Taimur Khan Talpur said that under the guidance of the PPP leadership, the Sindh government has not only served the people of Sindh, but contributed in national flagship projects.

He appreciated the vision of the party leadership and hard work of the Sindh chief minister.

Enter Tech Holding Company CEO Abdulla Al Mutairi, speaking on the occasion, said that he was keen to further strengthen his partnership with the Sindh government by bringing in more investment.

Appreciating Sindh chief minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Mutairi said Shah is a man of his word.

"Whatever commitment he made with us has been fulfilled in time."

Earlier, the chief minister, along with Abdulla Al Mutairi, performed a groundbreaking ceremony and then unveiled the plaque of the foundation stone.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2360142/thar-coal-block-i-foundation-stone-laid>

Green CPEC to play key role in tackling climate change

Senator says Pakistan's dependence on imported gas making situation worse

ISLAMABAD: As the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) advances further, it can play an important role in the country's efforts to mitigate climate change effects, said Pakistani experts.

During a two-day event named "Green China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Alliance" and a workshop to mobilise renewable energy investment for sustainable development held by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Pakistan-China Institute, experts and officials discussed CPEC and green development in Pakistan.

Senator Seemi Ezdi, Chairperson of upper house's committee on climate change, said Pakistan is the eighth most vulnerable country to climate change, and the country's dependence on imported gas is making the situation worse.

She added that CPEC is playing an important role in introducing renewable energy in the country, which will help in its efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change besides meeting its energy demand.

Hina Aslam, head of the China Study Centre at the SDPI, said that CPEC helps Pakistan through job creation, income growth, infrastructure upgrading, skill development, education and more.

"China is leading the transition in clean energy. The concept of eco-civilisation is one of the major drivers of this transition that could be brought into CPEC. And if CPEC can go green, it can bring an enormous positive showcase for the other BRI countries as well," she added.

The experts recalled the time when the country was facing up to 10 hours of power outages a day due to the lack of electricity, and CPEC addressed the problem through coal-fired power plants, which helped the country facilitate its industrial production.

It was noted that CPEC coal plants are using supercritical technology, enabling them to ensure the emissions meet the local and world standards.

Muhammad Ali Qureshi, an energy expert, told Xinhua that climate change is one of the most pressing issues, and CPEC can help the country win its battle against climate change through investment in the renewable sector and other measures.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2360123/green-cpec-to-play-key-role-in-tackling-climate-change>

The Nation

China, Pakistan To Strengthen Coop On Disaster Risk Reduction

ISLAMABAD – China and Pakistan will strengthen cooperation on natural disasters prevention and mitigation to build a China-Pakistan community with a shared future which will ensure a stable platform for preservation of natural resources.

“In face of climate change, disaster prevention and mitigation and other global issues, no country can manage alone or stand aloof. Only through joint efforts can we address them in a scientific way,” said Cui Peng, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Director-General of China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences (CPJRC), while talking to CEN here on Saturday.

According to Cui, the annual frequency of extreme weather and major natural disasters caused by global climate change is about 320 times on average in the past four decades. Similar situation prevails in Pakistan.

Unusual heat wave has been striking Pakistan from March to May 2022, it is most likely by human-caused climate change, a rapid analysis finds. The peak temperatures reached 51C in March.

According to him, since the start of May, Balochistan province has been engulfed in ever-growing forest fire. China and Iran both assisted Pakistan in putting out the blaze.

As an expert on disaster risk reduction, Cui shared his opinion with CEN on China-Pak cooperation in this regard.

Cui called to establish a China-Pak cooperation mechanism on disaster information sharing and cooperation in disaster prevention and mitigation, to facilitate bilateral collaboration.

With reference to international practices on investments, the two nations should accelerate establishing a disaster risk assessment and prevention mechanism for major projects under the framework of the CPEC, to guard against and defuse major investment and engineering disaster risks.

Cui advised to advance the compilation of the disaster prevention and mitigation action plan under CPEC for closer people-to-people bonds and the building of China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

In terms of disaster prevention and mitigation cooperation, Cui advanced the application of the new generation “space-sky-ground” stereoscopic monitoring technology by using satellites, UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) and ground-based real-time monitors in disaster identification and monitoring.

Cui thought it is necessary to strengthen disaster monitoring cooperation and carry forward the building of a monitoring network applicable to multiple disasters including earthquake, sleet and snowstorms, geo-hazards, flood and tsunami, to improve the monitoring and early warning capacity.

China and Pakistan could conduct regular disaster risk assessment of the key areas along CPEC in order to guarantee the people’s livelihood and major projects’ construction.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/05/china-pakistan-to-strengthen-coop-on-disaster-risk-reduction/>

The News

Cabinet approves terms for \$2.4bn loan from China

ISLAMABAD: The Finance Ministry has obtained approval from the federal cabinet for a syndicated loan facility of \$2.4 billion from the China Development Bank and its consortium for a three-year period at six-month SHIBOR (Shanghai Inter-Bank Offered Rates) plus 1.5 percent margin. The rate was reduced by one percent as compared to the previous facility.

According to a summary moved by the Finance Ministry, the China Development Bank has agreed to extend RMB 15 billion facility and (\$2.4 billion) for a three-year period at six-month SHIBOR plus 1.50 percent margin. This facility was earlier extended in March 2019 and matured on March 24, 2022. The Chinese side has reduced the margin by one percent as compared to the previous facility. The draft Facility Agreement shared by the China Development Bank was forwarded to the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Office of the Attorney General for Pakistan for vetting and clearance in the light of the cabinet decision dated May 14, 2019. The Ministry of Law and Justice has cleared the draft agreement subject to fulfilment of all codal formalities. The clauses under the waiver of immunities in the draft facility agreement are the same as those under facility agreement executed on March 19, 2019.

Approval of the cabinet is solicited to the draft Facility Agreement in terms of Rule 16 (1) (d) of the Rules of Business 1973 as well as in view of the observations of the Office of Attorney General for Pakistan. "The prime minister has been pleased to approve the placement of the Summary before the Cabinet through circulation under Rule 17(1)(b) of the Rules of Business 1973 in view of the urgency to relieve the current pressures on the exchange rate."

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=94663>

Express News

چینیوں کی حفاظت کیلئے ڈسٹرکٹ فارنزسیکیورٹی سیل بنانے کا فیصلہ

وفاقی وزیر داخلہ اور وزارت داخلہ کی ہدایت پر چائینیز کی سیکیورٹی کیلئے ڈسٹرکٹ فارنزسیکیورٹی سیل قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا گیا ہے۔ اسلام آباد

وفاقی وزیر داخلہ اور وزارت داخلہ کی ہدایت پر سی پیک، نان سی پیک اور نجی کمپنیوں میں کام کرنے والے چائینیز کی سیکیورٹی کیلئے ڈسٹرکٹ فارنزسیکیورٹی سیل قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا گیا ہے، فیصلہ آئی جی اسلام آباد ڈاکٹر اکبر ناصر خان کی زیر صدارت اہم اجلاس میں کیا گیا۔ اجلاس میں ڈی آئی جی ہیڈ کوارٹرز ملک اویس احمد، ڈی آئی جی آپریشنز سہیل ظفر چٹھہ، ایس ایس پی اور ایس بیزنس نے شرکت کی، سی پیک سیکیورٹی کی طرز پر تمام ایس او بیز کا اطلاق نان سی پیک سیکیورٹی منصوبوں کے لیے بھی کیا جائے گا۔ اسپیشل برانچ، سی ٹی ڈی اور سیکیورٹی ڈویژن و قنفذ قنا سیکیورٹی انتظامات کا آڈٹ کریں گے۔ ڈی آئی جی آپریشنز ڈسٹرکٹ فارنزسیکیورٹی سیل کے کام کی نگرانی کریں گے جس کی سربراہی ایڈیشنل ایس پی آپریشنز کریں گے۔ اسلام آباد پولیس چائینیز زبان بولنے والے نوجوان پاکستانی مردوں اور عورتوں کی خدمات حاصل کرے گی جبکہ دفتر خارجہ اور دیگر قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کے ساتھ ضروری ہم آہنگی کی جائے گی۔ ڈسٹرکٹ اینڈ فارنزسیکیورٹی سیل میں ڈیٹا مینجنگ ریشن نادر کی مدد سے کیا جائے گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2331137/1/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی باشندوں کی سیکیورٹی کیلئے ڈسٹرکٹ فارنزسیکیورٹی سیل قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ

اسلام آباد (اپنے سٹاف رپورٹر سے) وفاقی پولیس نے وفاقی وزارت داخلہ کی ہدایت پر سی پیک، نان سی پیک اور نجی کمپنیوں میں کام کرنے والے چینی باشندوں کی سیکیورٹی کیلئے ڈسٹرکٹ فارنزسیکیورٹی سیل قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا ہے اس سلسلے میں آئی جی اسلام آباد ڈاکٹر اکبر ناصر خان کی زیر صدارت اہم اجلاس منعقد ہوا جس میں بتایا گیا کہ سی پیک سیکیورٹی کی طرز پر تمام ایس او بیز کا اطلاق نان سی پیک سیکیورٹی منصوبوں کیلئے بھی کیا جائے گا سنٹرل پولیس آفس میں ڈسٹرکٹ فارنزسیکیورٹی سیل کے قیام اور اسے فعال کرنے کے حوالے سے منعقدہ اجلاس میں ڈی آئی جی ہیڈ کوارٹرز ملک اویس احمد، ڈی آئی جی آپریشنز سہیل ظفر چٹھہ، ایس ایس پی اور ایس پی شریک تھے اجلاس کو آگاہ کیا گیا کہ وفاقی وزیر داخلہ اور وزارت داخلہ کی ہدایت پر سی پیک، نان سی پیک اور نجی کمپنیوں میں کام کرنے والے چائینیز کی سیکیورٹی کے لئے ڈسٹرکٹ فارنزسیکیورٹی سیل قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا اسپیشل برانچ، سی ٹی ڈی اور سیکیورٹی ڈویژن و قنفذ قنا سیکیورٹی انتظامات کا آڈٹ کریں گے ڈی آئی جی آپریشنز ڈسٹرکٹ فارنزسیکیورٹی سیل کے کام کی نگرانی کریں گے جس کی سربراہی ایڈیشنل ایس پی آپریشنز کریں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-06-05/page-3/detail-15>

June 06, 2022

Business Recorder

China's Shaanxi Hydro Power Group to build WWTP in Sialkot

ISLAMABAD: The foundation of Sialkot's first Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) has been laid which is to be built by China's Shaanxi Water Resources & Hydro Power Engineering Group Company Ltd (SWEG), according to Gwadar Pro.

Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif laid the foundation of WWTP which is to be built in the northern part of the city. The plant will be completed with an amount of Rs. 1,830,017,429, covering an area of 239 acres. On average, 68.23 cusecs of contaminated water will be treated and used for farming as per WHO guidelines.

Last year, Punjab Intermediate Cities Improvement Investment Program (PCIIP) awarded the contract of the project to Shaanxi Water Resources & Hydro Power Engineering Group Company Ltd (SWEG), China. As per the official document, the completion date for the whole of the work is 730 days.—INP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/06/16-page/932276-news.html>

Daily Times

KU suicide bomber's husband booked in terror financing case

The husband of female suicide bomber – who blew herself inside the University of Karachi – has been booked in a terror financing case. On April 24, four people including three Chinese nationals were killed and three others injured in the blast outside the Confucius Institute, a Chinese language school, inside the university. The bomber, later identified as Shari Baloch, blew herself near a van transporting Chinese teachers from their hostel to the institute. On June 4, Karachi Police's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) filed a first information report (FIR) against Baloch's husband Haibtan Basheer for allegedly abetting and financing the attack. According to the FIR, Basheer was a member of Majeed Brigade of banned Baloch Liberation Army's (BLA). He was allegedly involved in the planning of the attack and arranged the finances. A case against Basheer has been registered with the CTD police station under section 11N of the Anti-terrorism Act, 1997. Section 11N states that any person who finances or provides any sort of support to carry out the attack would be sentenced to up to 10 years of imprisonment with fine. Basheer has been on the run since the attack and raids for his arrest have been in vain.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/947081/ku-suicide-bombers-husband-booked-in-terror-financing-case/>

Pakistan Observer

Energy remains the core focus of CPEC

Energy has remained the core focus of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and helped to reduce power shortage in Pakistan, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif paid an important visit to the Karot Hydropower project, which is currently progressing in full swing.

The visit came in the backdrop of rising energy shortage across Pakistan and Pakistan's seeking updates on the early completion of essential projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The project is the first hydropower project under CPEC with a 729 MW energy production capacity, being developed by the consortium of China's most extensive renewable

energy companies. Once completed, the project would help Pakistan produce cheap electricity and help promote a green, clean and sustainable future.

With its completion, the project will generate 3.2 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, meeting the power needs of 5 million people in the country. This will eventually reduce power shortage and increase economic growth for the country. The project will reduce 3.5 million metric tons of carbon emissions annually and save around 1.4 million tons of standard coal equivalent each year. Energy has remained the core focus of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) since its beginning as China and Pakistan mutually decided to overcome the acute energy shortfall for Pakistan.

CPEC is making ways for Pakistan to achieve its sustainable energy needs, especially to build its renewable energy power generation capacity from the current 4 percent to 30 percent in 2030. The energy cooperation on CPEC is ongoing between China and Pakistan. Overall, there are 21 energy projects under this fate-changing project initiative between both countries. Among these, 11 have been completed, and the rest are in the process of completion and are at different stages of development progress.

When the initial development commenced on CPEC's energy project, the power production capacity of Pakistan was no more than 20,000 MW, with two-thirds contribution from oil and hydro-based plants. The sources of power production had to be diversified through quick interventions such as coal and gas, to begin with, adding 6900 MW to the national grid.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/energy-remains-the-core-focus-of-cpec/>

Chinese industrial relocation possible only with completion of SEZs

Chinese industrial relocation possible only with completion of nine CPEC Special Economic Zones, Gwadar Pro reported quoting Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal.

The Minister regretted that work on the CPEC SEZs was slow and they could not be completed on time.

“There has been little work on the projects of CPEC in recent years. The work on 9 SEZs of CPEC was to be completed by 2020 but not a single SEZ has been completed, “he contended. He stressed that the Chinese industrial relocation was possible only with the completion of these 9 CPEC SEZs, “which did not happen.”

Iqbal emphasized that the Chinese government was more interested in the Hattar SEZ project, but the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government decided to transfer the project to Rashakai SEZ. “Now the government is trying to include Hattar SEZ also (for early completion),” he remarked.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-industrial-relocation-possible-only-with-completion-of-sezs/>

KP-EZDMC working on industries, academia linkage

The Head of the Department of Industries Facilitation & Services (HoD-IF&S) along with his team visited Government Advance Technical Training Centre (GATTC) Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) in Hayatabad Economic Zone, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

During the visit they were briefed about the facilities and resources of the College and the Skill development programmes, placements, projects and specially the role of Institute Management Committee (IMC) and how the IMC is involved in making linkages with industries and providing trainings and skill workers with new methodology. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/kp-ezdmc-working-on-industries-academia-linkage/>

The Nation

China Soong Ching Ling Foundation Launches Junior Cultural Ambassadors Event

ISLAMABAD – In order to promote cultural exchanges and mutual learning, and tighten people-to-people bonds between different countries, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation has launched the 2022 Junior Cultural Ambassadors event.

The event is expected to build a platform for young people all over the world to make the acquaintance of each other both online and offline, and bring out more junior cultural ambassadors who would make their own share of contribution to people-to-people exchanges, said a press release.

The 2022 event, under the theme of “Get Connected Through Art: My Favorite Chinese Arts,” encourages young people to exchange ideas and tell stories about Chinese culture through videos. With the support of the Bureau of International Exchange and Cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People’s Republic of China and Guangming Online, the event is hosted by the China Soong Ching Ling Science and Culture Center for Young People and China Cultural Centers Overseas.

Exchange among civilizations spurs diversity, mutual learning promotes the richness of civilizations. Different civilizations complement each other and together constitute a world that blooms with cultures. In order to further strengthen communication and understanding and write a new chapter of friendship among young people around the world, China Soong Ching Ling Foundation, with the support of the Bureau of International Exchange and Cooperation, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People’s Republic of China, and working together with China Cultural Centers Overseas, is delighted to invite teenagers aged 13-16 around the world to participate in the 2022 China Soong Ching Ling Foundation Junior Cultural Ambassadors event.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/06/china-soong-ching-ling-foundation-launches-junior-cultural-ambassadors-event/>

China Backs Pakistan Amid Economic Crisis

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD – China has once again backed Pakistan amid an economic crisis and rising inflation.

Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves fell below \$10 billion this week, threatening to turn into a full-blown economic crisis unless policy makers secure a loan from the International Monetary Fund which is now expected soon as the government has almost accepted all demands of the IMF.

As Pakistan struggled economically, Chinese banks agreed to refinance Pakistan with \$2.3 billion worth of funds in a massive relief for the cash-starved country to help it bolster its depleting foreign exchange reserves.

Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said last week that the terms and conditions for refinancing have been agreed and the inflow is expected "shortly" after some routine approvals from both sides.

"Good news: The terms and conditions for refinancing of RMB 15 billion deposit by Chinese banks have been agreed. Inflow is expected shortly after some routine approvals from both sides. This will help shore up our foreign exchange reserves," he said in a tweet.

The stockpile decreased by \$366 million in the week ended May 27 to stand at \$9.72 billion, the State Bank of Pakistan said in a statement on its website earlier. That's roughly a 50 percent drop from August and enough to pay for less than two months of imports.

The shortage of dollars could worsen as the nation forecasts its trade deficit will widen to a record \$45 billion in the year ending June 30. The government has raised fuel and electricity prices, a key condition to unlock the remaining \$3 billion of an existing loan by the multilateral lender. In addition to raising fuel prices, Pakistan will need to make further fiscal adjustments to narrow the budget deficit for Financial Year 222022-2023 to secure the IMF loan.

This will likely entail measures to boost tax collection and to reduce subsidies and capital expenditure. According to the Pakistani government, China has approved "RMB 15 billion syndicate loan facility from China Development Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and Bank of China, China Development Bank in capacity of agent bank to the syndicated loan facility from consortium of Chinese banks i.e. China Development Bank, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and Bank of China has granted to extend RMB 15 billion facility (\$2,4000 million) for a three years period at six month SHIBOR+1.50 percent margin."

This facility was earlier extended in March 2019 which matured on March 24, 2022. The Chinese side has reduced the margin by one percent as compared with the previous facility.

The federal cabinet has already granted its necessary approval for obtaining a loan facility from China at one percent margin for the period of next three years.

The federal cabinet has granted the approval through a circulation of summary to obtain the loan facility at one percent margin from China for a three years period under an agreement signed by the former Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf-led government in year 2019.

Pakistan has been to the IMF 22 times in the past seeking a bailout. But real efforts at reform have been missing, which is why they keep going back. Pakistan's foreign currency reserves are currently depleting. They have halved in less than a year. And the country is in dire need of \$36 billion in foreign financing in the next fiscal year that starts now, in June.

The financial support from China is expected to revive Pakistan's economy to some extent before the IMF funds arrive. This is one of the many times, Beijing has stood by Islamabad.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/06/china-backs-pakistan-amid-economic-crisis/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین پاکستانی صنعتوں میں G5 کی تنصیب کا خواہاں

سید شعیب شاہرم

دنیا میں ٹیکنالوجی تیزی سے ترقی کر رہی ہے، انسان پہلے سے کہیں تیز رفتار زندگی بسر کر رہا ہے، عالمی سطح پر تحقیق اور ایجادات کا سلسلہ جاری ہے۔ ٹیکنالوجی نے جہاں ہر شعبے کی کارکردگی میں بے پناہ اضافہ کر دیا ہے وہیں کاروبار کرنے کے طریقوں میں بھی جدت آگئی ہے۔ ایک وقت تھا جب لوگ بڑے بڑے اور مہنگے کمپیوٹر، پھر اس کے سافٹ ویئر اور اسٹوریج کیلئے خطیر رقم خرچ کرتے تھے۔ اب وہ سب کام سپر کمپیوٹرز، اسمارٹ فونز اور ٹیبلٹس کے ذریعے ہو جاتا ہے۔ ماضی میں اسٹوریج ایک بڑا مسئلہ تھا جس کیلئے اب متعدد آپشنز موجود ہیں۔ جبکہ اسٹوریج کا مسئلہ اب کلاؤڈ نے ختم کر دیا ہے۔ یہی نہیں عالمی سطح پر بہت سی ایسی کمپنیاں موجود ہیں جو خطیر سرمایہ کاری سے اسٹوریج کے بہترین معیار کی سہولیات فراہم کر رہی ہیں۔ ان ہی کمپنیوں میں سے ایک ہواوے ہے۔ چینی ٹیکنالوجی کمپنی نے ملک میں سماجی شعبے کی ترقی اور معاشی نمو کو بڑھانے کے لیے اپنی رول آؤٹ کی حمایت میں دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے۔ دہئی میں ہواوے کلاؤڈ ڈیل ایسٹ اینڈ افریقہ 2022 راؤنڈ ٹیبل میں ہواوے G مہارت کا اشتراک کرتے ہوئے پاکستان میں 5 نیٹ ورک بنا رہا ہے اور کمپنی نے اسے چینی نیٹ ورک G کے گلوبل کمیونیکیشنز کے نائب صدر کارل سوئنگ کے مطابق بہت سی دوسری قوموں کے ساتھ ساتھ، پاکستان بھی 5 نیٹ ورکس کو یقینی بنا سکتے ہیں۔ G فراہم کرنے کی پیشکش کر رکھی ہے۔ کارل سوئنگ کا کہنا تھا پاکستان میں سیلولر آپریٹرز ہماری صلاحیتوں کو استعمال کرتے ہوئے ہموار اور موثر 5 کے آغاز کے لیے اہم ثابت ہوگی۔ پاکستان کی اقتصادی G صارفین ہیں۔ ان کا خیال تھا کہ چین کی مہارت پاکستان بھر میں تیزی سے 5 G کیونکہ چین میں 1.5 ملین سے زیادہ 5 نیٹ ورکس کو اہم قرار دیتے ہوئے، انہوں نے کہا کہ نوجوان نسل کے ساتھ انڈسٹری بھی تیز رفتار، محفوظ اور قابل اعتماد انٹرنیٹ کنیکٹیویٹی کی G ترقی کو تیز کرنے کے لیے 5 کی تنصیب میں سرفہرست ہے اور اس سلسلے میں پاکستان کی مدد G سیگمنٹ اور صنعتوں میں 5 (B2B) تلاش میں ہے۔ سوئنگ نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ چین بزنس ٹو بزنس کرنے کا خواہاں ہے۔ بیجنگ مختلف شعبوں جیسے کوئلے کی کان کنی، بندرگاہوں، لاجسٹکس اور ٹرانسپورٹ کے لیے مربوط ٹیمیں بنانے میں کامیاب رہا۔ کوئلے کی کان کنی کے آپریشن کے لیے کئی آپریٹنگ سسٹم ہیں اور اب انہیں چینی مارکیٹ میں لاگو کیا جا رہا ہے۔ پاکستان میں صارفین اور شراکت داروں کے ساتھ بھی اسے شیئر کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ ہواوے کی کاروباری حکمت عملی میں پاکستانی مارکیٹ ایک اہم مارکیٹ ہے کیونکہ اس کا آئی ٹی سیکٹر نوجوان نسل کی جانب سے آسانی سے اپنانے کی وجہ سے عروج پر ہے۔ پاکستان کی آبادی میں نوجوانوں کی بڑھتی ہوئی شرح کے بارے میں اقوام متحدہ کے ترقیاتی پروگرام کی پیش گوئیوں کا حوالہ دیتے ہوئے، کارل سوئنگ کا موقف ہے کہ 2050 تک نوجوانوں کی تعداد میں اضافہ متوقع ہے۔

کلاؤڈ پورے نخلے میں نئی ڈیجیٹل معیشت کے لیے انتہائی اہم ہے۔ ہواوے پر پختہ یقین رکھتا ہے کہ پوری دنیا ڈیجیٹل ہونے جا رہی ہے، اور اس ڈیجیٹلائزیشن کے اہم عناصر جدید انفراسٹرکچر ہوں گے۔ ہواوے کلاؤڈ کے پاس جدید انفراسٹرکچر ہے جو بالآخر پورے معاشرے کو سپورٹ کرنے کے لیے ضروری ہے کیونکہ وہ ڈیجیٹل تبدیلی کو اپنانے کی کوشش کرتے ہیں۔ جس کا مقصد بنیادی نظریات، فن تعمیرات اور سافٹ ویئر کو نئی شکل دینا ہے جو آئی سی ٹی کے شعبے کو تقویت دیتے ہیں۔ مشرق وسطیٰ کے ممالک ان اہداف جیسی ٹیکنالوجیز کا انضمام ہو سکے۔ جیسا کہ تنظیمیں اپنے آئینہ (AI)، کلاؤڈ، اور مصنوعی ذہانت G کو اپنانے کے خواہشمند ہیں، جس میں صنعتوں کو فائدہ پہنچانے کے لیے 5 ڈیجیٹل اہداف کے لیے جدید ترین ڈیجیٹل ٹیکنالوجیز کو اپنانے میں پیش رفت کرتی ہیں، اس کے ساتھ ساتھ سائبر سیکیورٹی کے خطرات اور چیلنجز پر بھی سمجھوتہ نہیں کیا جاسکتا کی مد میں اس سرمایہ کاری کا 5 فیصد براہ راست سائبر سیکیورٹی، لوگوں کو اس R&D۔ ہواوے نے سائبر سیکیورٹی میں بہت زیادہ سرمایہ کاری کی ہے، تقریباً 132.5 بلین ڈالر کیلئے آمادہ کرنے اور ہماری اپنی تنظیم کے ساتھ ساتھ اس کی مصنوعات کو محفوظ بنانے کے لیے مختص ہے۔ فی الحال، ہواوے کلاؤڈ پلیٹ فارم دنیا بھر میں 100 سے زیادہ سیکیورٹی کے عمل میں ضم کیا گیا ہے۔ یہ کلاؤڈ صارفین کے لیے 20+ کلاؤڈ مقامی سیکیورٹی O&M، ترسیل، اور R&D سٹریٹجیکل سٹریٹجی پاس کر چکا ہے۔ سیکیورٹی اور قابل اعتمادی کو سروسز کے ذریعے مکمل اسٹیک سیکیورٹی سروس کی صلاحیتیں بھی فراہم کرتا MDR سروسز کے علاوہ 300+ سیکیورٹی ایکوسسٹم پروڈکٹس اور صلاحیتیں بھی فراہم کرتا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-06-06/page-9/detail-1>

June 07, 2022

Daily Times

Pak-China cooperation in bio health agriculture to boost wheat production

Pakistan and China have further enhanced their cooperation in Biohealth Agriculture to promote wheat production, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday.

The report says, China-Pakistan wheat cooperation is of great significance. With the world's population expected to increase to 9 billion by 2050, populous countries like China and Pakistan needed to develop areas such as saline-alkali land to further meet food needs. It is imperative to develop drought-tolerant and saline-alkali-tolerant wheat varieties and improve the existing saline-alkali soil environment.”

Prof. Zhang Lixin from Northwest A&F University, China in an interview with CEN hoped that per unit yield of wheat in Pakistan will be increased from the current 200-300 kilograms to more than 400 kilograms through technologies, such as, biohealth agriculture.

According to the report, “It is expected that by 2040, due to the global warming, local temperature in Pakistan will increase by 3-4 degrees on the existing basis. It will lead to evaporation of water, which will bring soil drought, while rainfall will be further concentrated.

This means that droughts and floods will occur at the same time. Climate change is enough to reduce Pakistan's wheat production by 15-20 percent. Therefore, if our wheat breeding doesn't advance against climate change, a huge food crisis will pose a serious threat to human existence”, said Prof. Zhang Lixin.

Currently, water shortage and temperature extremities are affecting crop production and quality in Pakistan. As for wheat, statistics from Pakistan Bureau of Statistics show that wheat accounts for about 9 percent of the national agricultural added value.

About 80 percent of farmers in Pakistan are engaged in wheat production, and the total area of wheat cultivation occupies as much as 40 percent of the total agricultural land in Pakistan. The importance of wheat production in Pakistan cannot be overstated.

However, this year, Pakistan is expected to harvest about 28 million tonnes of wheat, while overall demand is about 30 million tonnes, which means a 2 million tonnes gap to be filled by imports, in other words, Pakistan is yet self-sufficient in this vital crop.

It is learned that Pakistan's wheat planting area is about 16.2 million acres this year, down a bit compared with 16.6 million acres last year.

The concept of "Biohealth Agriculture" (BHA) was put forward by Prof. Zhang Lixin in 2017 at the first International Symposium on the Belt and Road Bio-health. "Germplasm improvement must be our primary goal.

Prof. Habib-ur-Rehman Athar from Bahauddin Zakariya University has worked with our researchers to hybridize the Chinese wheat variety S-24 with high yield and salt tolerance, which has been verified by research institutes such as the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), with the Pakistani variety Fd-08, and the new varieties have been successfully cultivated.

According to our theoretical prediction, once put into industrialization, the cost can be reduced by 13 percent, and the income of farmers can be increased by 25-27 percent.

Besides germplasm, bilateral researchers in Pak-China Biohealth Agriculture Demonstration Park have applied three core technologies to the wheat experimental field in Pakistan, and remarkable results have been achieved.

"First of all, we are working with Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Honorary Chairman of Pak-China biohealth cooperation project and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lahore, to improve local soil with bio-nanotechnology, which can greatly increase local wheat production. Currently, new wheat varieties have the potential to increase the yield by 2.7 percent per annum have accounted for 3 percent of the total in Punjab. The role of nano-materials such as nano-biochar and nano-nutrients (zinc, potassium, iron oxide, etc.) cannot be underestimated," Prof. Zhang introduced.

"Secondly, University of Agriculture Faisalabad has introduced our vermiculture technology to produce high quality vermicompost as bio-organic fertilizer. The nano-fertilizer and vermicompost fertilizer can be used in combination to further achieve the goal of increasing wheat production.

Thirdly, our biological immunity technology can effectively improve the immunity of the plant. The nano-nutrient solution, as a 'plant vaccine', will greatly reduce the impact of diseases and

insect pests to a minimum threshold. Taking wheat as an example, biological immunity can protect the grain, the economic organ of the plant, from pests and diseases to the greatest extent.”

At present, Pakistani wheat growers are suffering from a lack of high-quality germplasm resources, and the high price of chemical fertilizers makes their predicament worse.

Local farmer Abdul Majeed mentioned that the yield of the “Galaxy” wheat seeds they are using is decreasing year by year, and there is nothing they can do about it. And another farmer, Ameer Ali, complained that the price of DAP has risen from Rs 2,200-2,300 per bag to Rs 4,500 per bag, while the price of urea has also risen from Rs 1,600-1,800 per bag to Rs 2,200 per bag. Clearly, an overhaul of the wheat field is indispensable. And experts from both China and Pakistan are working hard for this.

In Prof. Zhang’s view, the blueprint for China-Pakistan wheat cooperation has just begun. In the next step, in addition to Pakistan, Biohealth Agriculture Demonstration Park will also be gradually built in various parts of China, serving as an important bridge for agricultural cooperation.

Not only wheat, various Pakistani high-quality crops will be gradually introduced, and young scientists from Pakistan will also come to China regularly for exchange and training.

“We want to promote the development of agricultural trade through the display of excellent varieties. If bilateral wheat with local advantages can communicate at the trade level while responding to the food crisis, especially in the context of climate change, it will be a win-win situation,” Prof. Zhang added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/947680/pak-china-cooperation-in-bio-health-agriculture-to-boost-wheat-production/>

PCJCCI proposes implementation of Chinese taxation model

Instead of yielding to the pressures of regulation, Pakistan’s tax structure must be reviewed and upgraded so that it is based on economic expansion. Mr. Wang Zihai, President of the Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), stated on Monday, during an online meeting held at the PCJCCI Secretariat, that administrative reforms are required in the tax system and that the tax recovery system should be redesigned.

In addition, he provided an overview of the planned road map for tax reforms, which is based on the Chinese taxation model. He stated that there was a need to develop an optimal balance between a tax regime and the growth of business in order to create an investment-friendly environment and an efficient system for generating sufficient revenue for public services.

He stated that China’s taxation reforms had resulted in a magnificent community development and that Pakistan could undergo a paradigm shift in order to develop a business-friendly taxation system by emulating China’s taxation reforms. He asserted that China had primarily shifted resources from private to public use through the use of taxes. In addition, he stated that China

had made taxation a central component of both its economic and community development agendas.

During his presentation, PCJCCI Senior Vice President Ehsan Chaudhry informed the audience that China, a socialist state, has met the needs of society from birth to death. State-owned corporations were primarily responsible for providing services such as elder care, child care, education, job placement, housing, and food, in addition to health care.

He continued by stating that the current system of taxation was a burden on the business community and that it should be replaced with more effective taxing models from around the world, including the Chinese model, which had proven to be the most effective of all the models.

Vice President of the PCJCCI, Sarfaraz Butt, stated that the reform of China's value-added tax (VAT) was the single most significant factor that contributed to the growth of China's service sector and its emergence as the "world's factory." He went on to explain that the reform of the VAT was intended to replace the business tax in the manufacturing sector so as to protect the tax revenue of local governments. In China, the tax was a by-product of economic expansion, and he suggested that the Pakistani government should also prioritize economic expansion, which would inevitably lead to an increase in taxes. The tax in China was the result of economic growth.

Secretary General of the PCJCCI, Salahuddin Hanif, stated that once equality and fairness in the tax system had been proven, enforcement and compliance would significantly improve.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/947950/pcjcci-proposes-implementation-of-chinese-taxation-model/>

Pakistan Observer

Police to beef up security for Chinese nationals

Police on Monday advised the Chinese citizens living in the city to avoid traveling unnecessarily, and only after informing the security agencies of their movement, if necessary. This was decided at a high-level meeting, which was chaired by SP Security Rashid Hidayat at Police Lines in Qila Gujjar Singh.

It was agreed at the meeting that foolproof security arrangements be made in view of threats to the lives of the Chinese nationals and the recent terror attacks targeting people from the neighbouring country in Karachi. Speaking on the occasion, SP Hidayat said that already foolproof security was being provided to the Chinese working on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in the city. "We consider it our national duty to look after our Chinese friends," he said.

In the meanwhile, a Dolphin Police personnel opened fire on his brothers and their wives, killing one of his sisters-in-law and leaving his two brothers with critical injuries in Lahore on Monday.

According to police, the incident occurred in Factory Area where the accused, identified as Waqas, shot his sister-in-law Fauzia dead over some domestic issue. Police said that the accused also opened fire on his two brothers, leaving both of them with critical injuries. "The accused

managed to escape from the scene after the incident. The injured were shifted to a hospital for medical treatment,” they added.

https://pakobserver.net/police-to-beef-up-security-for-chinese-nationals/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=police-to-beef-up-security-for-chinese-national

The Nation

China In The South Pacific

The US compulsion to contain and manage the phenomenal rise of China is getting starker, grimmer and more urgent by the day. US efforts to circumscribe its sphere of influence and concomitant strategic reach across the globe appear to be floundering. China, on the other hand, riding high on its rampaging BRI, has effectively moved across Eurasia into Western Europe, is well established in the SCAR (BRI-CPEC) and is making substantial ingresses into the GMER and Africa.

Now, it seems to be out-maneuvering US efforts to encircle and confine it to the Indo-Pacific. In a bold stratagem, of grave geopolitical, geo-economic and geostrategic import, it has moved stridently into the South Pacific. It has broken free of the psychological shackles that the policies of the US and its allies’ (US Island Chain Strategy, QUAD, AUKUS) ostensibly wanted to lay on it. It is fast emerging as a major player, an alternate center of power in the South Pacific too.

This multipronged Chinese onslaught at the global level is causing serious concern to the US as it scrambles to retain its increasingly challenged global hegemony. The Ukraine crisis may help it deal with the BRI in Europe/Eurasia, albeit temporarily. It has mustered India to its ranks and their national interests converge generally in the SCAR, broadly against China and specifically against the BRI-CPEC moving through Pakistan. In the Indo-Pacific it has created the QUAD, (Australia, India, Japan), through which it intends to confine China to within manageable limits.

To be really effective, the QUAD will have to inevitably acquire a significant military avatar and a tangible political will to employ it. AUKUS, Five Eyes and NATO (?) may need to focus more intensely on the South Pacific too. It is thus here that the US and its allies are now moving in decisively to not only halt this Chinese juggernaut but to deny it any major foothold in this very critical region. Some reports indicate that South Korea and Japan could become part of the QUAD and the AUKUS, respectively.

Deep geopolitical maneuvering to dominate, control and manage the South Pacific is now the new normal there.

The South Pacific, aka Oceania comprises at least ten thousand islands. The major sub-regions are Australasia (Australia, New Zealand), Melanesia (Vanuatu, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea), Micronesia (Micronesia, Palau, Kiribati, Nauru, the Marshall Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Wake Islands), Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaii, Samoa, Tonga, French Polynesia) et al.

Of most importance is not the size of these islands or their populations but the enormous EEZs they command – a whopping 7.7 million square kilometers of vast, open, rich, ocean space! Furthermore, their crucial geostrategic locations make them indispensable for any major power which has pretensions to dominate the region, as was amply demonstrated in WWII.

China's ingress into the South Pacific gives it immense advantages at the geopolitical level. It has made serious overtures to some of the major South Pacific Island states/subregions and engaged them in diplomatic, economic, climate change, trade, tourism, agriculture, security, investment and other related domains.

Climate change is of immense concern for these Island States as rising sea levels threaten their very existence. FM Wang Yi is on a whirlwind tour of the South Pacific to develop mutually beneficial relationships with them. This Chinese move presents options to these Island States other than those traditionally provided by US-led Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Furthermore, China is successfully encouraging them to switch to a one-China policy, further crystallizing its evolving sphere of influence.

At the geostrategic level, this Chinese maneuver wholesomely nullifies the US Island Chain Strategy – a maritime containment plan first conceived during the Korean War to restrain the erstwhile USSR and PRC; still valid and applicable. It proposed surrounding the USSR and the PRC with a series of military/naval bases in the West Pacific on three parallel chains of islands, intending to project power and restrict sea access (area denial, anti-access!).

Furthermore, two island chains are also being considered in the Indian Ocean to reinforce this strategy. The Chinese view this as maritime encirclement at the strategic level and appear to have broken through it. In one fell swoop, they have changed the dynamics and paradigms of the US Island Chain Strategy and the region's geostrategic environment. By penetrating deep into the South Pacific, they have enhanced their strategic reach very considerably and raised possibilities of acquiring military/naval bases in the region too.

That portends to expanding the potential Pacific theatre of war substantially, causing a pull on the US-led forces in the Indo-Pacific, bringing the vital SLOCs in the region under its oversight and positioning itself well to exploit the enormous riches of the South Pacific Ocean! Chinese bases on the Spratly and Paracel Islands in the South China Sea now allow its strategic bombers to penetrate even deeper into the South Pacific. China's emergence as a genuine Pacific/South Pacific Ocean power is thus inevitable.

At the geo-economic level, China is making a very profound and unequivocal push into the resource rich, strategically crucial region. It seeks newer markets and access to the enormous fishery, raw material and mineral resources of the region. It is a win-win position for both China and the Pacific Island States. Bilateral trade, climate change, investments, infrastructure development, tourism, etc are the vehicles for this relationship to develop further. Some analysts see Beijing's inroads into the region as stepping stones to the Americas and Antarctica as well.

Thus, an economic stake is being developed for the Pacific Island States in China's presence in their region.

The Chinese foray down under might have irked the traditional Pacific Ocean powers. However, if a free and open Indo-Pacific is a sine qua non for co-existence there then the same paradigms must be applied here too; China and the Pacific Island States must develop their ties peacefully and without undue external interventions/influences.

The South Pacific must become a region of development, peace and stability and must never be allowed to degenerate into yet another potential Theatre of War!

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/07/china-in-the-south-pacific/>

June 08, 2022

Daily Times

Protecting Chinese Nationals and Chinese Investment

Yasir Habib Khan

In the backdrop of robust Pak-China economic partnership, tried and tested through thick and thin irrespective of how regional and international landscapes evolve, the appalling buzzword is that given the formidable security challenges to Chinese nationals working on CPEC and other joint ventures, how severely may Chinese investment take a hit in Pakistan.

Frankly speaking, it is high time not to indulge in ostrich syndrome. Admission of ground realities that investment flow is prone to be impaired if Chinese workers, engineers and officials engaged in the development of Pakistan remain vulnerable to terror onslaughts. Seriously it is a wake-up call to all who are at the helm of affairs with the narrative being built up that better to shape up or ship out. Indeed Sino-Pak relationship that has always withstood to test of time despite all odds plagued by the West is an entrenched fact. This congeniality has an innate capacity to earn deep consolidation with a snowball effect at present and in future as well. However, there is another parallel truth that Chinese businessmen, traders and marketers also deserve a safe and sound environment to work and grow.

As per the global rule of business, international investors always seek a sense of protection of life. Other segments of bilateral cooperation in trade and commerce come later. Across the world, life Insecurity breeds shaky peace of mind. As a result, when there is volatility in peace of mind, investment definitely is susceptible to pour in. No doubt, in Pakistan, concerns on security infrastructure for Chinese people are rife. Big wigs know very well that there is no other way except to ensure their safeguard believing that a guarantee to life leads to a guarantee to business.

As per the global rule of business, international investors always seek a sense of protection of life.

Given the precariousness, early warning signs are getting visible implying how security for Chinese nationals is taking a center stage in upcoming new projects. According to sources in the CPEC authority, for security reasons Chinese company declined to work on Main Line 1 (ML-1), the first modern railway project in Pakistan. Around Rs36 billion was sought to provide security to the Chinese nationals. In the wake of disagreement between both parties, the \$6.8 billion project of CPEC had to be hung in balance. The ML-I project is planned to rehabilitate Pakistan's Railways network of 1,733 kilometres from Karachi to Peshawar. China had expressed concern over the deletion of security components from the approved PC-I for the up-gradation of ML-I.

Last year on July 14 when nine Chinese nationals were killed during their trip to the site in coach at an under-construction tunnel site of the 4,300-megawatt Dasu hydropower project in the Upper Kohistan area, A Chinese company "China Gezhouba" discontinued their work. Though finally, they resumed work but with heavy hearts only for sake of time-tested Pak-China relations. Later after a female suicide bomber killed Chinese teachers in Karachi, a few teachers at National Defense University (NDU) left Pakistan. These bloody tragedies upset the ambience of investment building measures among Chinese investors.

In an exclusive interview with Zhang Baozhong, chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), a Chinese company operating Gwadar Port in Pakistan, said that in all respect safety is one of the first considerations. "Not only Chinese investors instead all foreign investors across the world want security." "If it is not provided well, neither global nor Chinese investors will prefer to make an investment," he added.

In reply to a query on security issues to Chinese people and the impact on Chinese investment in Pakistan, Mr Li Bijian, Consul General of Chinese Consulate Karachi said that it is highly likely that the flow of Chinese investment may be hindered if the sense of insecurity among Chinese enterprises continues to grow unabatedly. "Government of Pakistan should give more heed to security infrastructure for Chinese nationals devoting their lives and energies for the development of Pakistan," he added.

Feeling the heat, some activism has been witnessed to hammer out foolproof security plan for Chinese working in CPEC and non-CPEC projects in Sindh province in Pakistan In this regard, recently the Sindh government met with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs External Security Commissioner, Cheng Gouping and his team members including Defence Attache, Yang Yang, Deputy DG CTD State Security of China, Zhou Shanwu, Counselor Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Wang Daxue, Deputy DG International Cooperation (Public Security), Li Yuhong, Director Administration Chinese Embassy, Sun Mingji, Deputy Director Asian Affairs, Wei Guo and others.

Now, the provincial home department is collecting the data of all the Chinese working in the province so that they can be brought under the security cover.

Farhan Maqsood, a businessman and member of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry linked the gradual drop in Chinese investment to a frail security ecosystem. Among other factors including political instability and bureaucratic inertia, he believed that missteps to plug up security gaps for Chinese staff were taking a heavy toll on the economic health of Pakistan. On the 71st anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China till 2022, he said that thousands of Chinese companies in diverse fields invested billions of RMB. The last government, he explained, aimed to enhance Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from \$2.8 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 to \$7.4 billion in FY 2022-23 under its multi-year foreign direct investment strategy. “However, a recent report by the State Bank of Pakistan states that the country’s FDI has dipped by 30 per cent,” he added.

Economist Muhammad Mehmood said that after the initiation of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2013, China’s share in Pakistan’s FDI significantly increased, replacing the United States and the United Kingdom. However, the net FDI from China has declined to \$358.9 million from \$395.8 million last year. Among other dynamics like deteriorating foreign investment climate, Chinese companies’ apprehension on security issues are also inflicting harm to FDI, he revealed.

According to the official data from the General Administration of Customs of China, the total imports and export between the two countries stood at \$27.82 billion in 2021. Mr Mehmood said that Sino-Pak mutual trade has enormous potential to grow manifold after the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement (Phase 1 and Phase 11), but an unsafe security paradigm is an impediment. Mr, Luo Jianxue, President of China Overseas Association (Lahore Chapter) said that in recent years, there have been several terrorist attacks on Chinese personnel that raise a concern about the prospects of Chinese investment in Pakistan. He urged upon Pakistan government to be more attentive to improving the security protection of Chinese enterprises and projects.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/948155/protecting-chinese-nationals-and-chinese-investment/>

50MW IPP’s plant likely to be installed in Gwadar Port

After a new hike in petrol prices, a proposal to install a 50MW Independent Power Producers (IPPs) plant in collaboration with Chinese power producers in Gwadar is going to be floated in a crucial meeting, which is likely to be held in the federal capital this week between the government and Chinese companies in Gwadar. Gwadar electricity shortage that remained atop during PM’s visit to Gwadar has finally been listed as the utmost priority among other challenges to be pondered during the course of Gwadar-centric meeting, sources from Ministry of Planning, Development, and Reform said, according to report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday.

Long- and short-term proposals from the PM’s side and from China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), which will also represent other Chinese enterprises, have been laid down and the meeting will green light prompt courses of actions to fix electricity issues, sources said. For long, Chinese companies have been overstressed by overpriced power production by 8.5

MW generators in Gwadar Free Zone against the backdrop of non-availability of power supply from government. Now on the heels of inflated petrol prices, the cost of electricity has gone up to the roof, putting extreme burden on corporate finance. “Before petrol price surged, Gwadar Port used to purchase petrol at a cost of Rs. 20.3 million monthly. Chinese companies in Gwadar Free Zone were charged Rs. 49 per unit accordingly, which was very high. In a new scenario, when Rs. 60 has been increased in petrol price, the monthly purchase cost for Gwadar companies has soared to Rs. 25.5 million. It is more than 25 percent rise,” a COPHC official said. COPHC has proposed that if the government allows relevant terms and conditions conferred to IPPs, COPHC in collaboration with Chinese power producers can generate 50 MW sufficiently. “Chinese IPPs’ power cost will be more affordable. This will not only be a shot in the arms of the already functional enterprises but will also embolden new investors to operate in Gwadar Free Zone with a peaceful mind,” he added. Currently, in Gwadar free Zone, around 51 companies have been registered. Around 10 companies including CBC, H.K. Sons, Agvon, Linyi Trade City, China Ecological Company, China Harbor Engineering Company, Hengmei, Jintai and others are up and running their functions. Chairman COPHC Zhang Baozhong said “We cannot develop until enough electricity is available. At COPHC, we produce electricity by generators which is very expensive. Chinese investors are keen to shift their industries from China to Pakistan. Areas of investment are very diverse and include but not limited to refinery, assembly, petrochemical, and textile. However, without power, the shift might not be possible,” he said. “There are strong intentions from Chinese investors to invest \$5 million to set up an oil refinery in Gwadar. Once the plan is materialized, job opportunities can be offered to the locals in addition to booming business activities,” he added. From the government side, there are many overtures to fix energy crisis in Gwadar. The government plans to import 70-to-100-megawatt Iranian electricity to power up Gwadar Port. The average supply from Iran hovers around 40-70 MW. The 300 MW coal-fired power plant under-construction in Gwadar will be completed by 2023. Another option is to lay down a transmission line of 220 KV from the national grid to Gwadar. Gwadar Port is poised to reshape the economic landscape of Pakistan in addition to opening multiple avenues for foreign direct investment. In this regard, Gwadar holds pivotal importance. The development of Gwadar is sine qua non for Pakistan’s development.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/948182/50mw-ipps-plant-likely-to-be-installed-in-gwadar-port/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC & Strategic Partnership with China: The Defining Moments

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

CHINA and Pakistan, the iron brothers, are celebrating 72 years of their diplomatic relations this year.

During all these years, the two countries helped each other and consolidated the friendship up to the mark of “strategic partnership” in diverse sectors of economy, investment, joint venture,

industrialization, agriculture, infrastructure development, energy, defence production and, above all, people-to-people contact.

That is why, the change of government in Pakistan does not bring any deviation in our foreign policy towards China, the iron-clad friend.

Rather, it will further enhance bilateral relations and resolve all pending issues pertaining to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In this connection, new Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif commonly known as “Mr. Speed” will further strengthen “pace”, “utility” and “strategic importance” of the CPEC projects in the country.

In this regard, Premier Sharif has already advised all stakeholders to remove all barriers in the early completion of the CPEC projects through “integrated mechanism” of policy streamlining, swift approval, allocation of funds, perfect “security arrangements” and smooth sailing of public-private partnership in the country.

It seems that sincere efforts are now being made to give some momentum to the projects of CPEC in the country.

In this regard, the role of Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal is “commendable” who is striving hard to streamline the implementation of CPEC projects in the country.

Nevertheless, the genie of geopolitics has been pursuing dirty power politics in the region which has already disturbed the chances of greater regional connectivity and immense socio-economic prosperity.

India’s ridiculous concern about the CPEC has been further converted into an invisible 5th generation hybrid war against Pakistan and, of course, CPEC.

The recent attacks against Chinese teachers and workers attached to CPEC projects vividly reflect “holy alliance” among the enemies of development, progress, prosperity and peace in the region.

The incumbent government in the country has already taken all possible measures and policy decisions to plug in flaws in the security system in order to provide perfect security protection to all Chinese citizens and workers, working in the ongoing projects of the CPEC.

Unfortunately, somehow there have been some serious issues regarding the upholding and “dissemination” of “national narrative” towards utility and importance of the CPEC projects in the country in which puppetry journalists, pseudo intellectuals and fake economists have played detrimental role.

Furthermore, the Western sponsors and schemers have been approaching to our journalists, opinion makers, so-called regional experts and think-tanks to write against “sagacity” of the CPEC. Its pouring of lavish funds has tried to label the CPEC as a porous entity.

The “BCC” and “VOA” have indulged into blame game by exceeding even basic norms of “impartiality”, “transparency” and equal right to respond.

Both international media outlets have been busy defaming the projects of the CPEC through fake news, planted interviews, borrowed ideas and last but not the least, connecting ironies of domestic politics and unrest with the so-called exploitation of China and CPEC especially in Balochistan and Gwadar.

They are not the merchants of development and decency rather they are proponents of destruction and derbies.

However, thanks to the strategic partnership of Pakistan and China that despite constant propaganda of the West and domestic support of the liberals, the projects of CPEC have been executed and completed. To rectify these irritants, there is an urgent need to form a genuine Pak-China Media Forum to mitigate false, fake and fictional propaganda of the western lobbies against CPEC.

There is an urgent need to form a genuine forum of regional experts to safeguard the vested interests of both countries and their national narratives in the country. In this regard, the Centre for South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS) Islamabad would be an ideal choice.

Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said the country would further strengthen relations with its strategic partner China to boost the economic development of Pakistan.

Addressing a conference organised by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), the Minister said China brought investment to Pakistan in the hardest of times under the framework of the CPEC, a flagship project of its Belt and Road Initiative.

He was of the view that “when no one in the world was ready to invest even a single penny in Pakistan, China came forward and made investment worth billions of dollars under CPEC, bringing socio-economic development for the country”.

Iqbal said Pakistan is taking special measures to make the most of CPEC, adding that the pace of work on the CPEC projects is being accelerated for their early implementation. He highly appreciated China’s model of economic development, and said the achievements made by China over the last few decades are extremely remarkable and Pakistan should learn from them.

He suggested that Pakistan needed to maintain political stability, continuity of policies and rule of law to complete projects of the CPEC in the country. In this context, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said that the Karot hydropower project, being completed under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, will meet electricity needs of around five million local residents, improve Pakistan’s energy structure and boost sustainable development. He said that the Karot hydropower plant on the Jhelum River is a major energy cooperation project between China and Pakistan.

He said that once all units are installed and put into operation, the project will start generation of steady and affordable 720 megawatt energy.

Zhao Lijian said that the hydropower plant is expected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by around 3.5 million tons per year which would make a new contribution to the global response to climate change.

Thus completion of Karot hydropower plant is a defining moment in the strategic partnership of both countries.

To conclude, both sides should seriously initiate specific policies and projects to tackle the looming threats of energy & food security, innovate solutions to increasing climate change incidents by launching numerous green projects in the ongoing or CPEC Phase-II projects, agriculture revolution through hybrid cropping techniques, public transport systems through public-private partnership, financial integration through swapping of national currencies on reciprocal basis and persuasion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies through transfer of technology apparatus.

Moreover, due to depleting water resources in the country, special projects may also be included and implemented on water conservation technologies in the CPEC projects.

Multiple tasking projects in science & technology, agriculture drones, tea, rice, wheat and other cash crops may also be included in the CPEC Phase-II.

Furthermore, COVID-19 has already exposed serious flaws in the health capacity building system in the country which urgently needs to be included in the CPEC Phase-II.

Tourism, affordable housing schemes/techniques on the basis of smart & green living should also be part of CPEC Phase-II.

It is suggested that progress of projects under construction such as the Gwadar East Bay Expressway and Gwadar New International Airport should be completed on a priority basis along with the Main Line-1 (ML-1) and deepening highway technical cooperation.

Hopefully, the new Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif the “Speed Man” will remove all suspicions about the CPEC projects in the country and will successfully mitigate all dirty schemes of the western lobbies against the same.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-strategic-partnership-with-china-the-defining-moments-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Political rapprochement in Balochistan & CPEC

Asad Ali

BALUCHISTAN is 44 percent of Pakistan in terms of its geography and is also the most resource-rich province of the country.

It offers some of the best assets for development. It is generously bestowed with natural resources.

It possesses the largest land area of any province of Pakistan, providing vast rangeland for goats, sheep, buffaloes, cattle, camels and other livestock. Its southern border makes up about two-thirds of the national coastline, giving access to a large pool of fishery resources.

As a frontier province, it is ideally situated for trade with Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and the Persian Gulf countries.

Over the last four decades, it supplied cheap natural gas to Pakistan's economic centres, supporting the country's industrialization.

This province has always remained in the headlines of both international media and political fraternities for different reasons.

They are actively involved in the political, economic and security situation of the mineral-rich province.

Apart from this, there are some hostile elements as well, who are working proactively in order to derail the economic progress of the province, lure the sympathies of anti-Pakistan elements and massively provide financial support to the secessionist elements.

These hostile elements are also involved and spreading radicalization, extremism, terrorism, panic and a chaotic environment in the province.

Pakistan is well aware of the ground situation in the province and has been extending massive political and economic support to the provincial leaders in order to uplift the economic situation of the province.

Additionally, the government of Pakistan has started various social programs as well to improve the educational condition of the province.

Balochistan's students are being offered admission in various leading universities of Pakistan to pursue their higher education. They are getting maximum incentives as well in this regard.

Likewise, Pakistan's government and defence forces are determined to boost the overall situation of the province.

Our forces are working tirelessly to eradicate the menace of terrorism from the province while the civilian government is engaging political actors of the province in order to bring them in mainstream politics.

The general masses of the province have also been taking part in the political process which is a good omen for democracy.

The active participation of the people in the political process has negated all the propaganda, launched by hostile agencies, to derail the political and economic progress of the province.

This political rapprochement in the province is result of our government and defence forces' tireless efforts for peace in the province due to which insurgents are giving up arms and joining mainstream political process.

Similarly, the locals have participated in Local Government elections in Balochistan. The massive turnout was recorded and the overall election process was completed peacefully.

The participation of people in local elections expressed confidence in democracy by rejecting the resistive/armed narrative of Baloch insurgents.

The secessionist elements are also joining the mainstream political process by leaving separatist groups in the process, which are being funded by hostile intelligence agencies.

This is indeed a great victory for our political process and the credit for this goes to our brave defence forces, who sacrificed their lives to bring peace and development to the province.

Not only politically, the government of Pakistan is also working to generate massive economic opportunities in the province, which aims at uplifting infrastructure and other important core areas.

To accomplish this objective, the government of Pakistan along with the Chinese government has started marathon economic projects to build infrastructure of the province.

A practical example of this progress is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The CPEC covers various projects and its major chunk is also related to the development of Balochistan in general and port of Gwadar in particular.

The Chinese and Pakistan engineers are working tirelessly to utilize the untapped resources of the province for economic uplift.

The provincial government's policy of development is based on all packages of programmes being implemented by the government through Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), federal PSDP and other Federal government programmes.

Within the framework of above development programs, road and irrigation infrastructure, education and health facilities, agriculture and industrial development get the highest priority so that the socio-economic condition of the masses improves, and employment opportunities are created.

Likewise, Balochistan offers an excellent experiment in inclusive development, tackling poverty and regional income disparities by exploiting its comparative advantage, investing and developing its human resources and connecting it with the national market of goods and services.

The structural impediments that have kept the province at a disadvantage can be offset by proactive, strategic interventions.

This would require an all-hands-on-deck approach in which the federal, provincial and local governments, the private sector, NGOs, academics and professionals and the security agencies all work together for a common agenda.

Despite the efforts of hostile elements, the province is now on the right track with increasing political activities in the entire province.

For the further enhancement of the economic situation of the province, there needs to be a comprehensive provincial development strategy for Balochistan which outlines the key areas of investment for inclusive growth and provides the roadmap for integrated development in the province.

In addition, both Pakistani government and defence forces have defeated terrorism, extremism and cyber war of hostile agencies successfully. The province is flourishing democratically as they say, “Democracy is the Best Revenge”.

<https://pakobserver.net/political-rapprochement-in-balochistan-cpec-by-asad-ali/>

The Express Tribune

Expressway to link Gwadar with highways

Will boost socio-economic development in Gwadar Port region

BEIJING: The Eastbay Expressway, when it is opened for traffic, will connect Gwadar Port with Pakistan’s national highways and expand transportation between Gwadar and other places in the country and even other regional states, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian at a regular press conference on Monday.

“The artery will further harness Gwadar Port’s role as an international logistics hub and boost socio-economic development in the Gwadar Port region,” he said.

Zhao shared that when he was posted in Pakistan, he visited the Gwadar Port seven times and attended the groundbreaking ceremony of the Eastbay Expressway.

“I’m happy about the project’s completion,” he said. “China will continue to work with Pakistan in the development and operation of CPEC projects including the Gwadar Port, and inject strong impetus into Pakistan’s economic development, improvement of people’s livelihood and regional economic integration, for the betterment of the local people and beyond.”

The Eastbay Expressway is a \$153 million early harvest project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and a key transportation infrastructure project promoting regional connectivity.

It starts from China-Pak Friendship Avenue at Gwadar Port and converges at the existing Makran Coastal N-10 Highway. The expressway has a total length of 19.49 km, with a six-lane embankment and a four-lane-pavement in each way and a design speed limit of 100km per hour.

On June 3, it was inaugurated by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif during his visit to Gwadar.

THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED ON THE CHINA ECONOMIC NET

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2360544/expressway-to-link-gwadar-with-highways>

The News

Chinese govt promotes Ambassador Nong Rong

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese government has promoted Nong Rong, its ambassador to Pakistan, to a senior position in administrative hierarchy of Guangxi Autonomous Region.

The ambassador who left for Beijing last month is expected to return in July. A political appointee, Ambassador Nong Rong was made ambassador in Islamabad by Chinese government in view of his proficiency in trade and business. His appointment was best suited besides other spheres, for promotion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which was flagship project of President Xi's gigantic initiative of Belt and Road (B&R).

Ambassador Nong Rong would play a proactive role for the promotion of CPEC further since incumbent government has assured China all sort of assistance to furtherance of the project. He will be here with fresh instructions from Beijing. He was director of the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee of his region before moving to Pakistan as ambassador in September 2020. Ambassador Nong, 55, belongs to Mashan County, Guangxi and joined the Chinese Communist Party in January 1987. He began his political career in July 1991. After graduating from Peking University in 1991, he was assigned to the Guangxi Foreign Economic and Trade Commission, becoming director of the Cooperation Division in April 2002 and dean and director in January 2003. After working in the Department of Commerce of Guangxi Autonomous Region for a year, he was transferred to the Guangxi International Expo Affairs Bureau. In April 2013, he was vice mayor and deputy party chief of Fangchenggang, he remained in that position until December 2015, when he was transferred to Guigang and appointed vice mayor and deputy party chief. In December 2019 he was promoted to become director of the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee of Guangxi Autonomous Region. He was made ambassador to Pakistan in September 2020, replacing Yao Jing.

Well-placed diplomatic sources told The News that Ambassador Nong had extensive meetings with the new administration in Pakistan and expressed his confidence to work with new zeal to promote cause of mutual interest of two countries.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=95770>

June 09, 2022

Daily Times

Belt and Road Arts Festival to offer Pakistani youth platform to show talent

The 2022 Belt and Road Online Arts Festival was launched both online and offline recently at the Northwest Minzu University, China, providing a platform for Pakistani youth to showcase their talent, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday.

To participate in the event, youth in Pakistan and other countries can prepare music or dancing videos and share them on designated channels that will be announced soon. Selected videos will be broadcast on mainstream international and Chinese media platforms.

The event, under the “100 Sister Schools Initiative”, is hosted by Gansu Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Education Department of Gansu Province, organized by Northwest Minzu University, China and co-organized by the Gansu Association of 100 Sister Schools Initiative and Gansu UNESCO Association.

“The 100 Sister Schools Initiative opens an avenue for people-to-people exchanges by enabling the middle and primary schools in partner countries to connect and communicate with one another”, said Liu Xiaolin, Vice President of Gansu Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, on the launching ceremony.

A number of representatives of institutions in the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Belarus, Chile, Poland, Pakistan, Thailand, Maldives, Uzbekistan, etc. felicitated the launching of the event via video. “I hope Pakistani youth can have a better understanding towards Gansu Province through this event”, said Ma Bin, President of China-Pak Educational Center and Chairman of Overseas Chinese Association of Pakistan in his video message.

Ms. Wang Junyi from Gansu Provincial People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries told CEN that in the past two years, 100 Sister Schools Initiative art exhibitions were held to promote cultural exchanges.

“In the previous sessions, we collect drawings or photographic works. Among the over 500 pieces of work from 15 countries, many works from Pakistan were selected as outstanding ones. This time, we expand the forms from graphic arts to videos”, she said.

Gansu province has been enhancing trade, economic, and agricultural relations with Pakistan. At the end of last year, Lanzhou City, the capital of the province, and Jiuquan City formed sister ties with Quetta and Faisalabad respectively.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/948727/belt-and-road-arts-festival-to-offer-pakistani-youth-platform-to-show-talent/>

Pakistan Observer

PEC sets up 62 display centres in Gwadar

Pakistan Election Commissioner (PEC) District Gwadar Muhammad Samiullah on Wednesday said that the Election Commission of Pakistan has set up 62 Display centers in Gwadar district to review the electoral rolls to be used in the next general elections.

Talking to APP through telephone, he urged public to visit their nearest established Display Center to ensure that their names and those of their families are registered as voters in the correct block. District Election Commissioner Gwadar Muhammad Samiullah further said that Form No,

15 would be used for name registration, in addition, Form No, 16 could be used to object to a voter and Form No, 17 to be used to correct the voter's data.

It may be mentioned that 62 display centers have been set up in Gwadar district for the convenience of voters, which will be open till June 19 despite, these display centers would be remained open on Saturday and Sunday, he mentioned. He also requested the public to visit the nearest display center and view the lists without waiting for the deadline to correct their voter lists. The official said that public could also contact the office of the District Election Commissioner of Gwadar District for more information or call 0864211055.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pec-sets-up-62-display-centres-in-gwadar/>

The Chinese view of Pakistan

Usman W Chohan

IN the early phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), there was widespread positivity among the Chinese and Pakistanis about the fuller culmination of an already long-standing and all-weather friendship.

This cordiality helped spearhead considerable development that was mutually beneficial, bolstered by a warm unconditionally of spirit.

Having studied and lived in China during a period that coincided with the incipient phase of the One Belt One Road initiative, I could observe a marked receptivity and fraternal proximity towards Pakistan among the Chinese during that phase, even among ordinary citizens such as university students.

This augured well for what would come to be one of the strongest bilateral ties in this part of the world.

Yet as the economic prominence of China has grown, the United States (both under the Trump and Biden Administrations) has opted for a decoupling process which also involves a smear campaign against China.

Along with its rag-tag allies such as Australia and India (two minions in the “Quad”), the US has invested enormous sums in carving a distortionary narrative to malign China around the world, particularly in the eyes of its allies.

At the core of this narrative was that China would essentially behave as Europeans and Americans did (and still do): pillaging the earth and bleeding the third world dry through wretched colonialism.

They argued that China (no different from them) would exert tentacles of hegemony through debt traps and exploitation.

Whether this narrative worked abroad or not, it was certainly forced down mouth of the public in Quad countries.

But story-telling was not the only tool in the anti-China arsenal. As part of a hybrid war strategy, Chinese experts were targeted in Pakistan in several incidents.

These tragic events were traced by Pakistani authorities reportedly to India, which had every incentive to see two neighboring nations falter in their erstwhile fraternal endearment.

If India could help promote the debt trap myth and also put Chinese residents in Pakistan in physical danger, it might at least forestall what it perceives as an imminent contest to its bloodlust for regional hegemony.

This would be especially true if ordinary Chinese began to wield negative public opinion about Pakistan (or vice versa).

Given the onslaught of media coverage and actual incidents to back it, one might hypothesize that India's strategy might have already begun to succeed.

To test this hypothesis, of negative or declining public perception among Chinese towards Pakistan, some public polling data would be necessary.

Therefore, a recent study by the Central European Institute of Asian Studies (CEIAS), an independent and well-respected European think tank, offers a rich dataset of public opinion in China towards other countries.

The mandate of their polling focuses largely on Chinese perception of Europe, the United States and Russia, but their rigorous analysis also offers a timely glimpse into Chinese views of India and Pakistan.

Their large sample size (n=3039) also lends credence to their findings, and the date constraints (March 9-23, 2022) speak to the recency of results.

According to the CEIAS study, Pakistan is the best perceived country among the Chinese public second only to Russia.

A full 78% of Chinese are favorably disposed towards Pakistan, with 33% having a very positive view of Pakistan, tying it with Russia for this specific tier of very high favorability.

The Russian jump is also somewhat recent since 78% of Chinese have improved their opinion of Russia over the last 3 years, which would make Pakistan the country with the longest-standing positivity in Chinese eyes.

Pakistan is followed in favorability by countries such as Singapore (66%) and Germany (61%), whose scores are much lower.

In a mirroring act of who would perceive China positively abroad, Chinese respondents believe that Russia and Pakistan would have the highest positivity, with perhaps 77% of Pakistanis being favorably disposed and 40% in that having very positive views, which would be the highest of any country.

This is very likely to be true, and recent polling data in Pakistan should be gathered to assess this.

Meanwhile, the US is viewed largely unfavorably by the Chinese public, with 70% of Chinese holding negative or very negative views about the country.

They also tend to describe it as “hegemon,” “retarded,” and “bossy,” as recorded by CEAIS. 60% of Chinese have seen their views on America worsen over the past three years, and a majority of Chinese believe that their country should take a tougher foreign policy stance towards the United States.

Moving to Chinese views of India, one finds a scathing indictment of India as a polity, economy, military and “culture.

” Had the Indian hybrid war been successful thus far, Pakistan would appear somewhat negatively in Chinese eyes and India would appear somewhat favorably.

As mentioned before, Chinese people continue to have extremely favourable views about Pakistan. But Chinese views on India are almost damning in their scorn.

Aside from the US, the most negatively viewed country is India, with a full 60% being negatively disposed, and 25% holding very negative views. 60% of Chinese believe that they and the Indians do not hold compatible or similar values.

In something of a slap to the face, when Chinese were asked whether they would travel to a country if the pandemic hadn’t occurred, the country they responded that they would least like to visit was India (almost 70%).

India was also the least likely country that they would go to study in. Worse still for the Indians, a full 50% of Chinese thought that Indians are unfriendly people (the worst rank), their vaccines are untrustworthy (70%, worst), the Indians are economically weak (45%, worst rank), militarily weak (40%, also worst), and they have the least attractive culture (50%, lowest rank).

Indeed, India is by far the least attractive country overall in China’s eyes. So much for India’s hybrid war, Pakistan and China continue to enjoy all-weather cordial relations, both as governments and as people.

Meanwhile, Indians are an almost despised nation in the eyes of the Chinese, and their tin-pot Quad with a minnow like Australia and a “retarded hegemony” (as some Chinese respondents put it) like the United States does not seem to be doing them any favours.

The excellent CEIAS dataset is not something for Pakistanis to gloat on. Rather, it should offer food for thought about how the relationship can be strengthened, particularly at the civil society level.

Wider cultural and economic cooperation are necessary drivers, and ones in which any Pakistani can participate in good faith.

In particular, the role of the now tens of thousands of Pakistani students who attend Chinese universities will be crucial, as they are young ambassadors of Pakistan.

Almost a decade ago, I too was a student at China's leading university for a semester.

Being near the top of my class, I left an early (positive) impression on a successful cohort of China's vanguard.

Quite a few of them have visited Pakistan since, and now it is up to future generations of Pakistanis to maintain what is now evidenced to be an unequivocally positive and lasting relationship.

—The writer is the Director for Economic Affairs and National Development at the Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS).

<https://pakobserver.net/the-chinese-view-of-pakistan-by-usman-w-chohan/>

The Express Tribune

IMF asks govt to reopen CPEC deals

Demand comes before payment of around Rs300b to Chinese power plants

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has asked Pakistan's government to renegotiate the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) energy deals before making payments of around Rs300 billion to the Chinese power plants, putting Islamabad in a tight spot.

The global lender has asked the government to treat the Chinese CPEC power plants at par with the power plants established under the 1994 and 2002 power policies, highly placed sources told The Express Tribune.

These plants had been set up under the CPEC framework agreement.

The IMF's demand came after China's refusal in the past to renegotiate the terms of agreements with the independent power producers (IPPs).

Sources said the IMF suspected that the Chinese IPPs might have been overcharging Pakistan and there was a need to reopen these deals. The Mohammad Ali report on the IPPs had identified overpayment of about Rs41 billion to the Chinese IPPs.

Top officials in the Ministry of Finance confirmed to The Express Tribune that the IMF had raised the issue of payments to the Chinese IPPs with their willingness to renegotiate the deals.

When contacted, Esther Perez, IMF's Resident Representative, emphasised the need for equitable treatment of all power sector stakeholders due to the limited fiscal space.

“An important principle underpinning these (power sector) reforms is that all stakeholders contribute in an equitable manner to reduce the circular debt, between the government, IPPs and consumers, while protecting the most vulnerable consumers,” said Perez.

She said that Pakistani authorities should be cognizant of the limited fiscal space available to clear any outstanding arrears of the sector stakeholders, and thus there should be a trade-off between this and other government priorities, and the potential to unlock lower capacity payments for electricity as part of the aforementioned burden sharing across stakeholders.

Perez added that in order to contain circular debt in the power sector, the government of Pakistan had engaged efforts to reduce the cost of power generation as part of a broad power sector reform strategy, including in concluding renegotiations of the capacity payment terms with over 30 IPPs last year.

She added that a number of partners of Pakistan were supporting those reforms, including the World Bank and the IMF.

Finance ministry sources said that the global lender had also objected to giving Rs50 billion to the Chinese IPPs in February this year without first renegotiating the agreements.

Due to the IMF's objections, the government did not directly make payment of Rs50 billion to the Chinese IPPs last week. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had announced that the Chinese IPPs would be given Rs50 billion to ensure fuel supplies.

Instead, the government released Rs50 billion for the Power Division under the general subsidy claims for July. In return, the Power Division made the payment to the Chinese IPPs and some others to address their "liquidity crunch", said sources. Sources added that after knowing about the indirect payment to the Chinese IPPs, the IMF asked Pakistan to provide the list of power plants that received the Rs50 billion injection.

The IMF's objections to clearing the outstanding dues of the Chinese IPPs may jolt Pakistan's efforts to address the Chinese concerns over the slowdown of CPEC during the past four years and its desire to put the multibillion-dollar initiative back on track.

So far, 11 Chinese IPPs, set up with an investment of \$10.2 billion, are operational, having total generation capacity of 5,320 megawatts. Out of these, nearly 2,000MW of power plants had been shut last month due to the depletion of imported coal inventories.

Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the 600MW units each of Sahiwal and Port Qasim power plants would be back to the national grid from June 16 to 30.

As of May 13, Pakistan owed Rs340 billion to these power plants, out of which the government has now indirectly cleared some of the dues, leaving behind around Rs300 billion. The Chinese IPPs had threatened to stop their plants if the payments were not immediately cleared, prompting the prime minister to convene a meeting to address their concerns.

Six more Chinese IPPs, being set up with an investment of \$6.8 billion, are at various stages of implementation and will add 3,584MW to the generation capacity of Pakistan.

The previous government had renegotiated the power purchase and implementation agreements with the 46 IPPs established under the 1994 and 2002 power policies. The renegotiation is expected to save Rs770 billion over a period of 20 years.

The government had won concessions on account of reduction in the return on equity and other cost saving benefits from the power plants of 1994 and 2002 policies. In return, the government agreed to pay Rs403 billion to them in two installments.

The payments were made in the shape of one-third in cash, one-third in five-year Sukuk and one-third in 10-year PIBs at the floating treasury bill rate plus 70 basis points.

Sources said that the IMF wanted the same treatment with the Chinese IPPs and after renegotiating the deals, payments should be made in cash and treasury papers.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2360714/imf-asks-govt-to-reopen-cpec-deals>

The Nation

CPEC Under Attack

ZIA TANOLI

The recent attacks on Chinese nationals are actually attack on China's economic interests in Pakistan especially CPEC, a \$65 billion-plus investment in infrastructure in Pakistan and part of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative.

On April 26, three Chinese nationals and a Pakistani driver were killed in a suicide attack in Karachi and later the responsibility of the attack was claimed by Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), a militant group operating in Balochistan for a long time.

The attack gave a clear message to China that its direct or indirect presence in Balochistan will not be tolerated. The group's statement also claimed that the attack was carried out by the first female suicide bomber, Shari Baloch, belonging to the Majeed Brigade of BLA, illustrating the operational role women play in terrorist attacks. This increase in attacks on Chinese nationals also sent chills to the Chinese Communist Party, which wanted safe and secure economic ties with Pakistan.

Historically, the BLA has primarily targeted Pakistani security forces in the Balochistan province and Karachi, the key economic hub close to the province. However, as China's economic, political, and security inroads in Pakistan have increased over the past years—especially since the launch of the \$62 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2013—the BLA has also deliberately targeted Chinese nationals and interests in the country. In November 2018, the group targeted the Chinese consulate in Karachi, and last year, a spate of attacks targeted Chinese workers in the city.

Other than the BLA several other militant groups are also targeting China's interests and nationals in Pakistan. Last year, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong, was nearly a casualty in a bombing targeting a hotel in Quetta carried out by the Pakistani Taliban, also

known as the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). In June 2017, two Chinese nationals were kidnapped in Quetta, Pakistan, and later executed by members of the Islamic State. The broad range of organizations that have targeted Chinese nationals and interests in Pakistan poses a big challenge for the new government, which is already struggling to stand on its feet economically and desperately needs foreign help in terms of investment as well as strategic partnership in various projects and China is one of the countries that can rescue Pakistan in this hard time. In 2020, Beijing and Islamabad signed an agreement to enhance defense cooperation between the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) and Pakistani counterparts. In 2021, the two countries announced deeper counterterrorism cooperation. As security concerns for China in Pakistan will likely continue to grow as violence worsens, the Sino-Pakistan strategic military and security cooperation will continue to evolve in parallel. The deepening Sino-Pakistan relationship serves Beijing's geopolitical goals in the region, strengthening its traditional alignment with Pakistan against India and deepening ties to a now Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

Now Chinese are urging the Pakistani government to take immediate and firm actions on protecting Chinese nationals and projects and to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a press conference recently that terrorism was the shared enemy of all humans and China and Pakistan have the resolve and capability to cut the black hands of terrorists and make them pay the price. "The Pakistani government has promised to strengthen safety for Chinese nationals, projects and organizations. We will not allow any force to sabotage the great China-Pakistan friendship and cooperation. We believe Pakistan will take stronger measures to ensure smooth China-Pakistan cooperation. Any attempts to destroy this cooperation will be smashed by the two peoples," said Wang.

A senior government official said already there are many security paradigms in place to ensure the security of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan that further may be beefed up by increasing intelligence sharing and relevant paraphernalia. Recently, the newly appointed Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also announced that Pakistan will provide all out security to the Chinese citizens. A security specialist believed that fully-supported by malicious international players, nexus of evils have ganged up with one another to sabotage regional peace, CPEC and Pak-China relations. He said in order to revamp security standards for Chinese nationals, there is also a need to launch special capacity building courses for Special Security Division (SSD) for CPEC that consists of regular armed forces and elements of the "Civil Armed Forces" (CAF), which is a federal paramilitary force within the Ministry of Interior. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has to take serious notice of the situation as any harm to CPEC or Chinese nationals in Pakistan will also hit the friendly ties between the two countries and will definitely affect the ongoing economic partnership.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/09/cpec-under-attack/>

CPEC A Gift, A Project Of Mutual Interest For Both Pakistan, China: Zhao Shiren

Khawar Abbas Sandhu

Lahore – Newly-appointed Consul General of People’s Republic of China in Lahore Zhao Shiren on Wednesday visited offices of The Nation and Nawa-i-Waqt and had a meeting with Managing Director of Nawa-i-Waqt Group Ms Rameeza Majid Nizami.

MD Rameeza Majid Nizami accorded a warm welcome to Chinese Consul General in Lahore and presented flowers to him. She said that Nawa-i-Waqt Group has always played a leading role in promoting the everlasting friendship between Pakistan and China. The courtesy call of Chinese delegation was also attended by Director General Operations Nawa-i-Waqt Group Lt-Col (R) Sayed Ahmad Nadeem Qadri, Special Correspondent Khawar Abbas Sandhu and Attache Chen Bo.

Zhao Shiren said that they were very happy after visiting Nawa-i-Waqt offices. He said that CPEC, an important corridor of Belt and Road Initiative, was not just a gift but a project of mutual interest for both the countries which will bring prosperity to the people of Pakistan. Zhao Shiren said that his focus was on CPEC and its development. Under CPEC, a number of infrastructure projects such as roads, railways and energy projects had been completed. He especially praised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and said that the government had given them full confidence in the very first meeting. He said that in future, he will be keeping pace with the work on CPEC. He mentioned the tenure of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as the Chief Minister of Punjab and said that work on many projects was completed expeditiously during his tenure. He specifically mentioned the Sahiwal Coal Project.

Chinese Consul General in Lahore visits The Nation, Nawa-i-Waqt offices | MD Rameeza Nizami invites Chinese investors to come and invest in Pakistan

On the occasion, MD Rameeza Majid Nizami advanced suggestions to further explore opportunities for mutual cooperation covering areas of mutual interest between the two countries. She said that Pakistan is a big market for newspaper industry and in this regard Chinese companies should come and invest in Pakistan. She also gave suggestions for promotion of Chinese culture and language. She said that Turkish dramas on Pakistani TV screens in recent years have greatly influenced the Pakistani people which has promoted the Turkish culture here. The Pakistani people want to know the Chinese culture and TV screen is the most effective way to introduce the culture of any nation.

Zhao Shiren expressed satisfaction over suggestions given by MD Rameeza Majid Nizami and said that these suggestions were impressive and workable and comprehensive work needed to be done in this regard so that friendship between the two brotherly countries and supportive relationships could be made stronger. Director General Operations Nawa-i-Waqt Group Lt-Col (R) Sayed Ahmad Nadeem Qadri said on the occasion that Nawa-i-Waqt Group had done a remarkable job in introducing the Belt and Road Initiative program to the people of Pakistan. On

the occasion, MD Rameeza Majid Nizami presented a commemorative shield to the Consul General of Lahore Zhao Shiren. She also presented a shield and flowers to outgoing Deputy Consul General Peng Zhengwu to honour his services.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/09/cpec-a-gift-a-project-of-mutual-interest-for-both-pakistan-china-zhao-shiren/>

Express News

دہشت گردی سے جاں بحق چینی باشندوں کو ”تمغہ پاکستان“ دینے کا فیصلہ

حکومت نے دہشت گردی سے ہلاک ہونے والے چینی باشندوں کے لیے ”تمغہ پاکستان“ کا اعزاز دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ اسلام آباد ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کی سفارش پر صدر ڈاکٹر عارف علوی نے چینی باشندوں کو بعد از وفات اعزاز دینے کی منظوری دی۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے تین چینی باشندوں کو تمغہ پاکستان تفویض کرنے کی ایڈوائس صدر مملکت کو بھجوائی تھی۔ چینی باشندے 26 اپریل 2022ء کو کراچی میں دہشت گردی کا نشانہ بنے تھے۔ چینی اساتذہ جامعہ کراچی کے داخلی دروازے پر خود کش دھماکے میں جاں بحق ہوئے تھے۔ کنفیو شس انسٹی ٹیوٹ کراچی کے ڈائریکٹر ہو آنگ گیو پھنگ، ونگ مو فانگ اور چن سائی کو اعزاز دیا گیا ہے۔ چینی باشندوں کو چین پاکستان دوستی کے لیے عظیم خدمات کے اعتراف پر اعزازات تفویض کیے گئے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2333265/1/>

آئی ایم ایف کا سی بیک کے توانائی منصوبوں پر از سر نو گفت و شنید کا مطالبہ

عالمی مالیاتی فنڈ (آئی ایم ایف) نے حکومت پاکستان سے کہا ہے کہ وہ چینی پاور پلانٹس کو 3 کھرب روپے کی ادائیگی سے پہلے سی بیک کے تحت کیے گئے توانائی کے: اسلام آباد منصوبوں پر از سر نو گفت و شنید کرے۔ آئی ایم ایف کی اس شرط نے حکومت کی پریشانی بڑھادی ہے۔ باخبر ذرائع نے ”ایکسپریس ٹریبیون“ کو بتایا کہ آئی ایم ایف نے پاکستان سے کہا ہے کہ وہ چینی سی بیک پاور پلانٹس کے ساتھ 1994ء اور 2002ء کی پاور پالیسی کے تحت قائم کردہ پاور پلانٹس کے مساوی برتاؤ کرے۔ آئی ایم ایف کی جانب سے یہ مطالبہ ایک ایسے وقت میں سامنے آیا ہے جب چین ماضی میں آئی پی پی بیز کے معاہدوں کی شرائط پر نظر ثانی یا دوبارہ بات چیت سے انکار کر چکا ہے۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ آئی ایم ایف کو شبہ ہے کہ چینی آئی پی پی بیز پاکستان سے زائد نرخ وصول کر رہے ہیں چنانچہ ان معاہدوں کا از سر نو جائزہ لینے کی ضرورت ہے۔ محمد علی کی رپورٹ میں چینی آئی پی پی بیز کو 41 ارب روپے کی زائد ادائیگیوں کی نشاندہی کی گئی تھی۔ وزارت خزانہ کے اعلیٰ ذرائع نے ”ایکسپریس ٹریبیون“ سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے تصدیق کی کہ آئی ایم ایف نے چینی آئی پی پی بیز کو ادائیگیوں کو معاملہ اٹھایا ہے اور وہ چاہتے ہیں کہ معاہدوں پر آئی پی پی بیز سے دوبارہ مذاکرات کیے جائیں۔

نے محدود مالیاتی گنجائش کے پیش نظر پاور سیکٹر کے تمام اسٹیک ہولڈرز کے ساتھ مساوی سلوک پر زور دیا۔ Esther Perez رابطہ کرنے پر آئی ایم ایف کی ریزیڈنٹ نمائندہ

<https://www.express.pk/story/2332934/6/>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک پر کام کی رفتار تیز ہوتے دیکھ رہا، حکومت نے بھرپور اعتماد دیا: چینی قونصل جنرل

لاہور (خاور عباس سندھو، سٹیٹل کار سپونڈنٹ) عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے نو تعینات قونصل جنرل لاہور مسٹر ژاؤ شیریں نے نوائے وقت اور دی نیشن کے دفاتر کا خیر سگالی دورہ کیا اور نیجنگ ایڈیٹر نوائے وقت گروپ رمیزہ مجید نظامی سے ملاقات کی۔ ایم ڈی رمیزہ مجید نظامی نے چینی قونصل جنرل لاہور مسٹر ژاؤ کا پر تپاک استقبال کیا، انہیں پھول پیش کئے اور کہا پاکستان اور چین کی لازوال دوستی کے فروغ کے لئے نوائے وقت گروپ نے ہمیشہ ہر اول دستہ کا کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ ملاقات میں ڈائریکٹر جنرل آپریشنز نوائے وقت گروپ لیفٹیننٹ کرنل (ر) سید احمد ندیم قادری، سٹیٹل کار سپونڈنٹ خاور عباس سندھو اور اتاشی مسٹر جن بو بھی موجود تھے۔ قونصل جنرل لاہور مسٹر ژاؤ شیریں نے کہا انہیں پاکستان آئے ہوئے قریباً ایک ماہ گزر رہا ہے اور دی نیشن اور نوائے وقت کے دفاتر کے دورہ پر وہ بہت خوش اور پرسکون ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کا اہم کوریڈور سی پیک صرف تحفہ نہیں بلکہ دونوں ممالک اور عوام کے لئے باہمی مفاد کا منصوبہ ہے جس سے پاکستان کے توانائی، انفراسٹرکچر سمیت بہت سارے مسائل حل جائیں گے جو پاکستانی عوام کے لئے خوشحالی لانے کا موجب ہو گئے۔ جہاں سی پیک سے پاکستان اور پاکستانی عوام کو فائدہ پہنچ رہا ہے یہ سی پیک دیگر کئی ممالک کے لئے بھی سود مند ثابت ہوا ہے۔ قونصل جنرل لاہور مسٹر ژاؤ شیریں نے کہا کہ ان کا فوکس سی پیک اور اس کی ترقی پر ہے۔ سی پیک کے تحت بہت سارے انفراسٹرکچر پراجیکٹس جیسا کہ سڑکیں، ریلوے لائنیں اور توانائی کے منصوبے پایہ تکمیل کو پہنچ چکے ہیں۔ قونصل جنرل لاہور مسٹر ژاؤ شیریں نے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کی خاص طور پر تعریف کی اور کہا کہ حکومت نے پہلی ہی ملاقات میں ہمیں بھرپور اعتماد دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مستقبل میں سی پیک پر کام کی رفتار تیز ہوتے دیکھ رہا ہوں۔ انہوں نے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے بطور وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب دور کا خاص طور پر ذکر کیا اور کہا شہباز شریف کے وزارت اعلیٰ کے دور میں بہت سارے منصوبوں پر کام تیزی سے مکمل ہوا۔ انہوں نے سہا یو ال کول پراجیکٹ کا خصوصی طور پر ذکر کیا۔ اس موقع پر ایم ڈی رمیزہ مجید نظامی نے دونوں ممالک کے مابین باہمی تعاون کے مزید مواقع اور دونوں ممالک کے درمیان باہمی مفادات کے شعبوں میں آگے بڑھنے کے لئے تجاویز دیں۔ انہوں نے کہا پاکستان نیوز پیپر انڈسٹری کے لئے بڑی مارکیٹ ہے اور اس حوالے سے چینی کمپنیوں کو پاکستان میں آکر سرمایہ کاری کرنی چاہیے۔ انہوں نے چینی کلچر اور زبان کے فروغ کے لئے بھی تجاویز دیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حالیہ برسوں میں پاکستانی ٹی وی سکرین پر ترک ڈراموں نے پاکستانی عوام کو بہت متاثر کیا ہے جس سے ترک کلچر کو یہاں تقویت ملی بالکل اسی طرح چین کو بھی غور کرنا چاہیے کیونکہ چین کا کلچر صدیوں پر محیط اور علم کا خزانہ ہے۔ جسے پاکستانی عوام جاننا چاہتے ہیں اور کسی بھی قوم کے کلچر کو متعارف کرانے کے لئے ٹی وی سکرین سب سے موثر ذریعہ ہے۔ ایم ڈی رمیزہ مجید نظامی کی تجاویز پر قونصل جنرل لاہور مسٹر ژاؤ شیریں نے اظہار مسرت کیا اور یقین دہانی کرائی کہ یہ تجاویز نہ صرف بہت موثر بلکہ قابل عمل ہیں اور اس حوالے سے بھرپور کام کرنے کی ضرورت ہے تاکہ دو برادر ممالک کے مابین دوستی اور مشکل وقت میں ساتھ دینے کے رشتے مزید مستحکم ہو سکیں۔ ڈائریکٹر جنرل آپریشنز نوائے وقت گروپ لیفٹیننٹ کرنل (ر) سید احمد ندیم قادری نے اس موقع پر کہا کہ نوائے وقت گروپ نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو پروگرام کو پاکستان کے عوام سے متعارف کرانے کے حوالے سے سب سے نمایاں کام کیا ہے اور گذشتہ 38 مہینوں سے اس پر مسلسل لکھا جا رہا ہے۔ چین کی ہزاروں سال پرانی تاریخ، قدیمی شاہراہ ریشم سے موجودہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو تک عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے سفر کی خصوصی اشاعت کی جا رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے سی پیک کی گلوبل اہمیت کے بارے میں بات کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ دونوں ملکوں کے عظیم مفاد کا مظہر پروگرام ہے۔ انہوں نے چینی قوم کے عزم اور گلوبل ویژن کی تعریف کی جس پر قونصل جنرل لاہور مسٹر ژاؤ شیریں نے کرنل سید احمد ندیم قادری (ر) کا شکریہ ادا کیا اور کہا کہ نوائے وقت اور دی نیشن دفاتر کا دورہ ان کے لئے نہایت مفید رہا، خاص کر انہوں نے سی پیک کے حوالے سے نوائے وقت و دی نیشن کے کردار پر ایم ڈی رمیزہ مجید نظامی کو خراج تحسین پیش کیا اور کہا کہ ورننگ کو آرڈینیشن نہ صرف جاری رہنی چاہیے بلکہ مستقبل میں اس میں اضافہ ہونا چاہیے۔ اس موقع پر ایم ڈی رمیزہ مجید نظامی نے قونصل جنرل لاہور مسٹر ژاؤ شیریں کو یادگاری شیلڈ پیش کی جبکہ ان کے پیشرو ڈپٹی قونصل جنرل مسٹر پنگ زینگو کے لئے ان کی خدمات کے اعزاز میں شیلڈ اور پھول پیش کئے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-06-09/page-1/detail-32>

June 10, 2022

Daily Times

Govt revives work on CPEC with full speed, Senate told

Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) and Special Initiatives Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Thursday informed Senate that the government has revived work on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project with full speed.

Replying queries during Questions Hour session in the Senate, he said a long term plan is being considered into an implementation matrix on CPEC, adding that joint working groups are being convened to pave the way for 11th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting in this regard.

He said that the Chinese investment has decreased by 10 percent in last two years (FY2020-FY2021).

In written reply, the minister said that the decrease in Chinese investments was due to various reasons including COVID-19. He said that COVID-19 outbreak caused a sharp decline in global economic activity. “As majority of Chinese investments fall under the CPEC ambit, the economic disruptions and social restrictions caused by COVID-19 also impacted the pace of CPEC, thus impacting the overall Net FDI” he added.

The minister said that the decrease in Chinese investment in the last two years is partly due to the conclusion of CPEC Phase-1 which has overall impacted the outlay of Chinese investments in Pakistan.

The minister said that unfortunately during previous government’s tenure CPEC was not assigned priority in either allocation of resources or implementation.

Chaudhry Salik said that creation of CPEC authority created confusion and duplication in functions of Ministries and Departments.

He said that most of the early harvest projects under the first phase of CPEC relating to power and infrastructure have completed and CPEC has entered the second phase (2020-2025) which focuses on industrial cooperation which is a long-term endeavor and dependent on industrialization through industrial relocation from China, particularly in the Special Economic Zone (SEZs). Sites for Nine SEZs were identified but not a single SEZ was readied, in fact work on five SEZs was never started.

He said that the decrease in Chinese investments in the last two years is also due to decrease in the FDI inflows in the manufacturing sector; electrical machinery (-36.41 percent) and ceramics (-63.83 percent) being the top two sectors with major decline.

He said that despite all the aforementioned facts, the country-wise FDI data confirms that China has the largest share of foreign investment in Pakistan.

Replying another question, in written reply the minister said that as per State Bank report, Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been recorded at \$1,056.6 million during first half (July-December) of the Current Financial Year 2021-22.

He said that the same is 20.1% higher than the corresponding period of preceding Financial Year 2020-21 i-e.879.7 million. “However, last ten year trend regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country shows that since financial year 2017-18 onwards net FDI has decreased todate” he said, adding that FDI from July to April, 2021-22 has decreased, being US\$ 1455.6 million as compared to the same period of last financial year 2020-21, being US\$ 1480 million dollars. APP

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/949378/govt-revives-work-on-cpec-with-full-speed-senate-told/>

Dawn News

Govt plans Panda bonds for Chinese market

Shahid Iqbal

KARACHI: The government is planning to tap the Chinese capital market through the issuance of Panda bonds, the Economic Survey of Pakistan revealed on Thursday.

The government plans to diversify its international capital market instrument base through the issuance of various bonds under its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Framework and also likes to tap the Chinese capital market through the issuance of Panda Bonds, it said.

The government is planning to accumulate more debt, but the size of debt servicing has been increasing alarmingly.

Interest servicing was recorded at Rs2,118 billion during the first nine months of the current fiscal year FY22 against its annual budgeted estimate of Rs3,060 billion. Domestic interest payments were recorded at Rs1,897 billion and constituted around 90 per cent of total interest servicing, which is mainly attributable to a higher volume of domestic debt in the total public debt portfolio.

Domestic debt was recorded at Rs28.076 trillion at end-March 2022, registering an increase of Rs1.811tr during the first nine months of the current fiscal year.

At the end of March, debt from multilateral and bilateral sources cumulatively constituted around 79 per cent of the external public debt portfolio.

In US dollar terms, the revaluation gain owing to the appreciation of the greenback against other international currencies decreased the external public debt stock by around \$1.6 billion.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1694047/govt-plans-panda-bonds-for-chinese-market>

UE signs MoU with Chinese institute

LAHORE: The University of Education (UE) and the Hebei Academy of Fine Arts China on Thursday signed an agreement to establish the ‘Culture and Education Cooperation and Exchanging Centre’.

The signing ceremony was held online and the signatories are UE Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Talat Naseer Pasha (SI) and Chancellor and Chairman Zhen Zhongyi from Hebei Academy in China.

Hebei Academy of Fine Arts is a full-time undergraduate Academy of Fine Arts approved by the Ministry of Education and one of the nine independently established academies of fine arts in China.

According to the agreement, the centre will be established in the Hebei Academy and the UE for better communication, cooperation, exchanges in PhD and MPhil programmes and to provide quality education and training to the students pursuing degrees in History, Arts and Cultural Heritage.

The collaboration is devoted to building the first level of the One Belt One Road research community in the areas of History, Arts, Cultural Heritage or other key topics, and academic projects from the governments of China and Pakistan.

Under the programme, students from the Chinese academy will come to the UE to get higher education in History, Arts and Cultural Heritage and the same UE students will go to the academy.

Moreover, both institutions will organise the conferences, seminars, symposiums and summer and winter training camps for students and faculty.

In addition, the faculty of the two institutions will also conduct joint research projects in the fields of history, arts and cultural heritage.

VU: The Virtual University of Pakistan on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding with three universities of south Balochistan. These include the University of Gwadar, the University of Turbat, and the Balochistan University of Engineering and Technology, Khuzdar.

The MoU was signed by VU Rector Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem and Prof. Dr. Abdul Razzaq Sabir, VC University of Gwadar, Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad, VC University of Turbat, Dr. Ehsanullah Kakar, VC Baluchistan University of Engineering & Technology, Khuzdar, at Virtual University Islamabad.

On this occasion, Prof. Dr. Arshad Saleem said the MoU would help uplift the educational standards in Balochistan.

He said the VU and the three partner institutions would collaborate in academic programmes by sharing/extending the facilities to students and faculty along with sharing of academic data, publications, and information.

Development of joint academic programmes/trainings under the “Digital Skills Training and Support Programme for Southern Balochistan” of the Virtual University, access to laboratories, provision of space/building for establishing labs/office and accommodating the mobile/ smart bio lab(s) of the VU at the partner universities will be the main focus.

Moreover, providing necessary facilities, exchange of faculty and students for academic and research purposes, joint conferences, seminars, workshops, and other such activities are salient features of the memorandum, he added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1694012/ue-signs-mou-with-chinese-institute>

Pakistan Observer

Govt revives work on CPEC with full speed, Senate informed

Federal Minister for Board of Investment and Special Initiatives Chaudhry Salik Hussain on Thursday informed Senate that the government has revived work on China Pakistan Economic Corridor project with full speed.

Replying queries during Questions Hour session in the Senate, he said a long-term plan is being considered into an implementation matrix on CPEC, adding that joint working groups are being convened to pave the way for 11th Joint Cooperation Committee meeting in this regard. He said that the Chinese investment has decreased by 10 percent in last two years (FY2020- FY2021).

In written reply, the minister said that the decrease in Chinese investments was due to various reasons including Covid-19. He said that Covid-19 outbreak caused a sharp decline in global economic activity.

“As majority of Chinese investments fall under the CPEC ambit, the economic disruptions and social restrictions caused by Covid-19 also impacted the pace of CPEC, thus impacting the overall Net FDI” he added.

The minister said that the decrease in Chinese investment in the last two years is partly due to the conclusion of CPEC Phase-1 which has overall impacted the outlay of Chinese investments in Pakistan. The minister said that unfortunately during previous government’s tenure CPEC was not assigned priority in either allocation of resources or implementation.

<https://pakobserver.net/govt-revives-work-on-cpec-with-full-speed-senate-informed/>

The Nation

President Approves Tamgha-E-Imtiaz For 3 Chinese Teachers

ISLAMABAD – President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday approved to confer Tamgha-e-Imtiaz posthumously to three Chinese teachers killed in a terrorist attack in Karachi on 26th April. The award was conferred in recognition of their services for strengthening Pakistan-China relations and promotion of relations in the field of education and culture. The President signed the summary sent by the PM office on the matter under Article 259 of the Constitution and

Decorations Act 1975. On April 26, a female suicide bomber targeted a vehicle carrying faculty members of Karachi University's Confucius Institute, killing three Chinese nationals and their local driver. The president approved national awards for Huang Guiping, Ding Mupeng and Chen Sai.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/10/president-approves-tamgha-e-imiataz-for-3-chinese-teachers/>

June 11, 2022

Business Recorder

'Foreign Security Cell' at CPO

Sindh CM reviews action plan for security of Chinese

KARACHI: The Sindh government, in order to register data of foreign nationals, particularly the Chinese, and provide them security, has established Foreign Security Cell at Chief Police Office (CPO) in the city with its 31 branches in all district headquarters.

This emerged on Friday in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah here at CM House which was attended by Advisor Law Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Home Secretary Saeed Mangnijo, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Adl IG CTD Imran Yakoob Minhas, Adl IG Karachi Javed Odho, Deputy DG Rangers, provincial heads of intelligence agencies and other concerned, said a statement.

The chief minister said the incidents like Karachi University where Chinese teachers were attacked in a suicide attack would not be allowed to happen again. "We have to strengthen the security of all foreign nationals, particularly the Chinese working on CPEC and other projects in the province," he said, adding he had given guidelines to the police and other law enforcement agencies to chalk out a detailed foolproof security plan.

Syed Murad Ali Shah said provision of security to Chinese nationals working on CPEC and other projects was a joint responsibility of all the stakeholders concerned. "Any incident threatening the security of Chinese nationals employed on various projects will have an impact on national level," he said, adding the Karachi University incident highlighted the vulnerability of Chinese nationals' security working here.

The CM was told that at present, eight CPEC projects were running in six districts of the province where around 4,000 Chinese were working. In 2016, the Police had created a Special Protection Unit (SPU) to provide security cover to CPEC projects based in Sindh.

The Home Secretary said that Sindh Police, Pak Army, Rangers, FC and private security guards were providing security cover to the CPEC projects under the umbrella of Special Security Division (SSD) in the light of SOPs issued by NECTA.

It was disclosed that there were 214 projects, including 21 non-CPEC but government-sponsored and 193 non-CPEC projects privately sponsored where 2,300 Chinese were working.

IG Police Ghulam Nabi said that a Foreign Information Desk had also been established by the Special Branch at Karachi Airport to register the data of all foreign nationals, including Chinese. He added the FIA had been requested to provide 40 dashboard terminals for entry/exit data of foreign nationals and it was yet to be done.

The CM was told that a well-coordinated security mechanism for Chinese security was being prepared. The prime minister has formulated a national action plan for their [Chinese] security which has been developed for which a task force has been constituted under the ministry of interior.

The CM directed the IG police to keep the Chinese consulate in the loop for the proposed security arrangement and compiling of the data.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/11/3-page/932830-news.html>

Daily Times

Finally, Green CPEC Alliance

Munir Ahmed

World Environment Day (June 5) is a globally significantly happening day. Even the entire week is full of meaningful new commitments, and all the days of the week are very important for green outputs and sustainable outcomes. This year the global event was organised by the Sweden government in partnership with the relevant UN organisations as Stockholm 50 plus, reviewing the journey from Stockholm in 1972 to 2022. Themed on “Only One Earth” – Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature,” the global meeting has carved a new scope of work for the nations. Detailed comment next time.

Today’s focus shall be Pakistan’s grand launch of the “Green CPEC Alliance”, an imitative taken after several allegations, stories of environmentally unfriendly practices under the CPEC regime, conflict of interests and so on. With the launch of the Green CPEC Alliance, I believe, many rumours, suspicions and conflicting stories will die down. The bilateral key stakeholders will have figurehead support from both the governments while Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pak-China Centre (PCI) and development and management partners will run it on the parameters of sustainability and green growth models. Appreciable, though quite late.

As we all know, climate change is one of the fundamental challenges to life as we know it. It is crucial for energy investments in BRI countries to minimise climate impacts and more broadly any adverse environmental impacts while providing economic growth opportunities. To date, BRI countries are among the largest recipients of coal and fossil investments, particularly China. The most important among the countries receiving Chinese investments in the BRI is Pakistan.

Supporting a successful greening of CPEC would provide an important role model for greening other BRI countries to green their overseas Chinese investments.

Under the umbrella of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan has received about US\$36 billion in energy investments and US\$ 10.6 billion in transport investments. Of the energy investments, 28 per cent went into coal, and seven per cent into gas. With Pakistan's goal to not build new coal-fired power plants in 2020 and China's announcement to not build new coal-fired power plants abroad in 2021, two challenges arise: how to accelerate the green transition through green investments, while ideally phasing out existing brown investments. CPEC is a particularly important case study, as it is considered a role model for China's overseas engagement. Supporting a successful greening of CPEC would provide an important role model for greening other BRI countries to green their overseas Chinese investments in the BRI.

The goal of establishing the Green CPEC Alliance with members from both countries' governments, investors, and developers, as well as civil society, would be to support, accelerate and promote this transition within Pakistan and the BRI. The Alliance aims to green and decarbonise CPEC by supporting a re-direction of Chinese infrastructure investments away from emission-intensive investments and towards green infrastructure projects such as from coal to renewable energy, and ideally an early retirement of existing coal-fired power plants. Over the next one to five years, the Green CPEC Alliance will be working with partners in both countries to accelerate both supply and demand for green infrastructure investments. It will work with relevant stakeholders through Belt Road Initiative Green Coalition (BRIGC) to scale experiences of greening CPEC to greening the BRI. It would also include working with Chinese regulators, investors and developers, and financial institutions to incorporate green financing guidelines and mechanisms, policy development, and provide relevant connections to accelerate green investment opportunities. On the demand side, the Green CPEC alliance will work with stakeholders in Pakistan to build a stronger pipeline of green investment opportunities and provide relevant capacity to plan and evaluate green projects, against stranded asset risks of fossil-fuel investments while ensuring a just transition. Internationally, the Alliance will work together with the relevant stakeholders, including multilateral banks, financial institutions, CSOs, and Academic institutions from all over the world to scale experiences from the Alliance with a broader stakeholder group.

Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) have jointly initiated the process of the establishment of the Green China (CPEC) Alliance with members from both countries, governments, investors, and developers, as well as civil society, to support, accelerate, and promote this transition within Pakistan and the BRI. The Alliance would therefore directly contribute to achieving the climate goals as well as better environmental outcomes while promoting economic growth along CPEC and beyond in the BRI and development finance. It will also help dissect the green financing mechanisms for CPEC energy projects in perspective of Pakistan's commitment to shifting to 60 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

The Green CPEC Alliance shall mainly be serving to achieve the ultimate goal of Green CPEC Alliance, the first year of the project will focus on two key thematic areas: renewable energy

investments, including public-private investments and non-mature markets, and green financing in RE infrastructure.

The Alliance will focus on building capacity on Green Financing guidelines and Sustainable development needs of Pakistan among relevant stakeholders through enhanced dialogues, communication and training workshops; to perform research on “Greening CPEC” and develop Green Financing Guidelines and framework for it through evidence-led research; to advocate the need of Greening CPEC through extensive dialogue, along with social media campaigns, and close engagements with Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in Pakistan, CPEC Authority, Chinese enterprises working on CPEC projects, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Climate Change, as well as competent ministries and institutions in China, such as BRIGC, MEE, NDRC.

Huge and ambitious agenda for the green goodness of the region. Let’s see how much is done and what positive impact we see.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/949897/finally-green-cpec-alliance/>

Traditional Medicine Alliance to help build Pak-China Health Corridor

“We hope the Health Corridor could link China with Pakistan, ensure people’s health and wellness, and promote the development of TCM,” said Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, President of China Pakistan Medical Association, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday.

Dr. Shahbaz made the remarks at the launching ceremony of the China-Pakistan Traditional Medicine and Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control Alliance (the Alliance) held in Shandong, China, aiming to help the building of the Pak-China Health Corridor.

The Alliance will promote the research on Herbal and Traditional Medicine in both countries, and jointly carry out research and development of new TCM, especially new anti-viral drugs for treatment of COVID-19 patients and others, according to Dr. Shahbaz.

“We want to build institutes and college of pharmacy with TCM characteristics in Pakistan, by the strength of the Alliance. We also plan to provide training for Pakistani medical staff on traditional medicine and therapies,” said Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz.

The traditional Chinese medicine plays an important role in helping the world combat the pandemic. TCM has proved to have a positive effect in coronavirus prevention and treatment.

Amid the global fight against COVID-19, the Alliance will further promote TCM experience on anti-pandemic to countries and regions along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

“Since the establishment of the Alliance, we hope the Chinese and the Pakistani sides would carry out pragmatic cooperation on the research of traditional medicine’s role in epidemic diseases’ prevention and controlling, to benefit the two nations.” said Yu head of Shandong Academy of Chinese Medicine. The Alliance is jointly established by the China-Pakistan Medical Association and the China Academy of Chinese Medicine.

Several Pakistani universities, including University of Punjab, Bahaudin Zakaria University and Gomal University, will join in the Alliance. Haripur University & Apex College of Pharmacy have already joined the Alliance, besides, seven Chinese universities and institutes.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/949953/traditional-medicine-alliance-to-help-build-pak-china-health-corridor/>

With focus on CPEC, govt unveils Rs 2.27tr PSDP

Pursuing an approach of balanced development across the country, the Federal Government on Friday revealed Rs 2.263 trillion Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the fiscal year 2022-23, with special focus on bridging infrastructure gaps and improve human and social development indicators. The National Economic Council (NEC) in its meeting held on June 08, approved National Development Outlay for 2022-23 at Rs 2.263 trillion, including Federal PSDP at Rs 800 billion and provincial Annual Development Programme (ADP) at Rs 1.463 trillion, according to a budgetary document released here. The NEC also approved the annual targets for the upcoming fiscal year 2022-23 including the economic growth target at 5%, along with the commitment to make efforts to raise it to 6 percent. The NEC also approved various sectors' growth targets for the new fiscal year including agriculture 3.9%, industries 5.9% and services 5.1 percent. The Council decided that 60% of the development budget would be spent on the ongoing projects, while the remaining 40% would be spent on the new development schemes.

In the outgoing fiscal year 2021-22, the federal government had allocated Rs 900 billion under the PSDP, however, owing to fiscal imbalance and to contain the increasing current account deficit and primary deficit, besides continuing with public relief package, the PSDP size was reduced to Rs 550 billion to accommodate resource constraint. The PSDP 2022-23 of Rs 800 billion includes Rs 73 billion as Public Private Partnership (PPP). The PSDP reflects the resolve of the government to achieve the targeted economic growth, maintain the momentum of development, improve livelihoods and remove regional disparities.

The PSDP 2022-23 focused specially on revival of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and related projects for inter-provincial and regional connectivity with equal importance to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to promote trade, industrialization and create job opportunities.

The CPEC continued to remain in focus as its projects had been fully funded, while special funds were kept for railways, water resource projects and housing sector in the PSDP.

Meanwhile, out of total Rs 800 billion federal PSDP, the government allocated Rs 564.963 billion for federal ministries, Rs 161.53 billion for corporations, including National Highway Authority (Rs 118.4 billion) and PEPCO (Rs 43.41 billion), Rs 500 million for ERRAs, and Rs 73 billion for VGF for Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects.

The government proposed an allocation of Rs 99.57 billion for Water Resource Division, Rs 2.48 billion for Aviation Division, Rs 807 million for Board of Investment, Rs 70 billion for Cabinet Division, Rs 9.6 billion for Climate Change Division, Rs 1.17 billion for Commerce Division, Rs

180 million for Communication Division (other than NHA), Rs 2.23 billion for Defence Division while Rs 2.2 billion have been earmarked for Defence Production Division.

Likewise, Rs 900 million was allocated for Establishment Division, Rs 7.24 billion for Federal Education and Professional Training Division, Rs 1.66 billion for Finance Division, Rs 44.18 billion for Higher Education Commission, Rs 13.9 billion for Housing and Works Division, Rs 184.6 million for Human Rights Division, Rs 2.85 billion for Industries and Production Division, Rs 2.1 billion for Information and Broadcasting Division and Rs 6.33 billion for Information Technology and Telecom Division.

Similarly, an amount of Rs 3.74 billion was earmarked for Inter-provincial Coordination Division, Rs 9.1 billion for Interior Division, Rs 1.83 billion for Law and Justice Division, Rs 3.46 billion for Maritime Affairs Division, Rs 207.9 million for Narcotics Control Division, Rs 10.1 billion for National Food Security and Research Division, Rs 12.6 billion for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination Division, Rs 550 million for National Culture and Literary Heritage Division, and Rs 26 billion for Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

The government also allocated Rs 289 million for Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority, Rs 1.48 billion for Petroleum Division, Rs 42 billion for Planning, Development and Reform Division, Rs 500 million for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division, Rs 32.6 billion for Railways Division, Rs 600 million for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Division, Rs 3.2 billion for Revenue Division, Rs 5.7 billion for Science and Technological Research Division, and Rs 7.4 billion for SUPPARCO.

The document revealed that to augment PSDP, resources of the private sector would be leveraged with the help of Public Private Partnership Authority (PPA), attracting domestic and foreign direct investment in commercially viable projects.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/950027/with-focus-on-cpec-govt-unveils-rs-2-27tr-psdp/>

Dawn News

Sindh CM Murad orders foolproof security for Chinese working on CPEC, other projects

Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: With its 31 branches in all district headquarters, the Sindh government has established a foreign security cell here at the Central Police Office (CPO) to register data of foreigners, particularly the Chinese, and provide them security.

This emerged on Friday at a meeting presided over by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah here at the CM House.

The CM said incidents like the Karachi University suicide attack in which Chinese teachers were targeted, would not be allowed to happen again.

“We have to strengthen the security of all foreign nationals, particularly the Chinese working on CPEC and non-CPEC projects in the province,” he said, adding that he had given guidelines to police and other law enforcement agencies to chalk out a foolproof security plan.

2,300 Chinese working on 214 non-CPEC projects in province

Mr Shah said the security of Chinese nationals working on CPEC and non-CPEC projects was a joint responsibility of all the stakeholders.

“Any incident threatening the security of Chinese nationals employed on various projects will have an impact on the national level,” he said.

Eight CPEC projects in six districts

He was told that at present, eight CPEC projects were running in six districts of the province where around 4,000 Chinese were working.

In 2016, the police had created a special protection unit (SPU) to provide security cover to those projects based in Sindh.

The home secretary said personnel of Sindh police, Pak Army, Rangers, FC and private security firms were providing security cover to the CPEC projects under the umbrella of special security division (SSD) in the light of safety guidelines issued by the National Counterterrorism Authority (Nacta).

The meeting was informed that there were 214 projects, including 21 non-CPEC but government sponsored, and 193 non-CPEC projects privately sponsored where 2,300 Chinese were working.

The provincial police chief informed the meeting that a foreign information desk had also been established by the Special Branch at Karachi airport to register the data of all foreign nationals, including Chinese.

He added that the FIA had been requested to provide 40 dashboard terminals for entry/exit data of foreign nationals, but it was yet to be done.

The CM directed the police chief to keep the Chinese consulate in the loop for the proposed security arrangements and compiling of the data.

He was told that a well-coordinated security mechanism for Chinese security was being prepared.

Earlier, a national action plan for the security of Chinese nationals was formulated and a task force constituted under the ministry of interior.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1694116/murad-orders-foolproof-security-for-chinese-working-on-cpec-other-projects>

Pakistan Observer

PM announces solar panels for Gwadar's power consumers

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has announced to provide solar panels to domestic consumers in Gwadar.

He was chairing a meeting in Islamabad today [Friday], to review progress on projects of power transmission lines in Balochistan. The Prime Minister said these solar panels will be a gift for the people of Gwadar from Federal government. He said the government will leave no stone unturned to facilitate the people of Gwadar. The Prime Minister directed to devise strategy for offshore and onshore wind power projects in Gwadar.

He said uninterrupted power supply will be ensured to make Gwadar Port the most modern port in the world. Shehbaz Sharif directed to expedite and complete work on transmission lines in South Balochistan by December this year. He said no negligence will be tolerated in delay of power projects. The Prime Minister also directed relevant departments to ensure that time and cost is reduced as much as possible in long term projects.

The meeting attended by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Power Engineer Khurram Dastgir and senior officials, was given a detailed briefing on construction of power transmission lines between Jeewani, Gwadar, Pasni, Ormara, Panjgur and Iran. The meeting was told that within six months, the government will be able to supply an additional 100 megawatts of electricity from Iran to Gwadar, increasing the total supply to 260 MW.

The meeting was informed that after completion of Khuzdar-Panjgur transmission line in December this year, 90 MW more electricity will be provided to the area. The meeting was also briefed about Hub Ormara transmission line that will further add 200 MW electricity after its completion.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-announces-solar-panels-for-gwadars-power-consumers/>

The News

Projects under CPEC second phase

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: Of Rs800 billion allocated for the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) in the budget, the Annual Plan for 2022-23 envisages concessional financing agreement for a multi-billion dollars ML-1 project under CPEC to be finalised in the second quarter of the fiscal. Subsequently, arrangements will be made for the ground-breaking of the project.

Construction work on the new Gwadar International Airport is underway and likely to achieve CoD by October 2023. The Annual Plan for 2022-23 states that the second phase of CPEC is well underway, with an emphasis on industrialisation and development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), agriculture modernisation, science and technology cooperation, promotion of

ICT-enabled environments and establishment of IT & High Technology Zones, and socio-economic development. The overall goal is to reap the benefits of the first phase (2015-20) investment, which has created an enabling environment for investment in the other sectors by mostly filling the existing infrastructure and energy gaps.

The 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) has several deliverables that have been identified by all the stakeholders. On the western alignment, Zhob-Quetta Section is under construction whereas the DI Khan-Zhob Section is under discussion with the Chinese side for financing and expected to be launched in FY2022-23. The G2G Joint Working Group (JWG) on transport infrastructure has been notified to prepare proposals of Realignment of Thakot-Raikot Section during 2022-23. The concessional financing agreement for landmark ML-1 project is to be finalised in the second quarter of 2022-23, and subsequently, arrangement will be made for ground-breaking of the project. The construction work on New Gwadar International Airport is underway and likely to achieve CoD by October 2023. The new projects proposed for inclusion in the CPEC framework in the 10th JCC meeting include DI Khan-Peshawar Motorway (365km), Swat Expressway Phase II (82km) and Dir Expressway (26km).

Six energy projects within installed capacity of around 3,284MW are currently under construction, out of which 720MW Karot Hydropower and 330MW Thar Energy Ltd are expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of FY2021-22.

The 330MW Thal Nova, 320MW Thar Block-I and 884MW Sukkhi Kinari HPP are expected to be completed in FY2022-23. Work on 1,124MW Kohala, 700.7MW Azad Pattan HPP and 300MW Gwadar Coal Power Project will start in FY2022-23.

To make Gwadar a smart port city, development of a port and allied infrastructure, operationalisation of free zone and implementation of Gwadar Master Plan along with other social sector projects are under way.

The Pak-China Friendship Hospital is expected to complete in November 2022 while work on 1.2 MGD Desalination Plant has commenced with the target to complete it in early 2023.

In addition, the following projects are expected to be launched in 2022-23:

- (i) Construction of Breakwater, (ii) Dredging of Breathing areas and Channels,
- (ii) (iii) Gwadar Smart Environment Sanitation System and Landfill project for Gwadar, (iv) Construction of Boat making industry on Gwadar West Bay, and (v) 5 MGD Desalination Plant in Gwadar.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=96804>

Nawaiwaqt News

مثالی پاک چین دوستی ملک دشمنوں کو برداشت نہیں: فیضان شفیق

جنڈیالہ شیرخان (نامہ نگار) انجمن تاجران مدینہ مارکیٹ کے صدر فیضان شفیق خان نے کہا ہے کہ بھارت سی پیک منصوبے کو سبوتاژ کر کے ہمیں بے دست و پا کرنا چاہتا ہے، مثالی پاک چین دوستی پاکستان دشمن قوتوں کو برداشت نہیں جس میں درازیں ڈالنے کی خاطر سازشوں کے جال بچھائے گئے، سی پیک منصوبہ دونوں ممالک کے اقتصادی و معاشی تعلقات کے فروغ کا ذریعہ ہے جو پاکستان کی خوشحالی کی نوبید ہے اس منصوبہ کے تحفظ اور جلد تکمیل کی راہ میں کوئی رکاوٹ حائل نہ ہونے دی جائے، صحافیوں سے گفتگو کرتے فیضان شفیق خان نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی معیشت کی مضبوطی غریب عوام کے معاشی مسائل کے حل کا پیش خیمہ ہے جس پر توجہ دینے کی خاطر ملکی سیاسی جماعتوں کی قیادت کو سر جوڑ کر بیٹھنا ہو گا اور ایسا منفقہ لائحہ عمل مرتب کرنا ہو گا کہ جو بھی سیاسی جماعت برسر اقتدار آئے وہ اسی معاشی ایجنڈا کو آگے لیکر چلے ہر بار حکومت تبدیل ہونے پر معاشی پالیسیوں کا از سر نو نفاذ مسائل کو جنم دیتا رہا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-06-11/page-11/detail-0>

June 12, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistani buffalo embryos to be exported to China soon

Pakistani Buffalo Embryos will be exported to China soon, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. Earlier this month, China and Pakistan have agreed on the protocol on quarantine and health requirements for buffalo embryos' export. It was agreed that both countries will join hands to enhance cooperation and upgrade the technology of the buffalo industry in Pakistan.

According to the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, China and Pakistan have reached consensus on the text of the Protocol on Quarantine and Health Requirements for Buffalo Embryos to be exported from Pakistan to China.

The donor cows and sperm bulls used to create buffalo embryos are quarantined and raised at the farm under regional management of foot-and-mouth disease. After signing the protocol, buffalo embryos produced in the embryo processing sites registered by both parties that meet the requirements of the protocol can be exported to China.

The signing of the Protocol is conducive to the introduction of Chinese buffalo embryo in vitro production and embryo transfer technology into Pakistan and the improvement of the embryo technology level of Pakistan's domestic buffalo industry. In addition, according to the requirements of Pakistan's Ministry of National Food Security and Research, half of the buffalo embryos developed by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan will be used in Pakistan and half can be exported to China, which will also help improve the superior varieties of buffalo in Pakistan.

The entry of Pakistani buffalo embryos into China is of great significance to China's buffalo milk industry. The donor cows and sperm bulls used for the production of buffalo embryos are the selected high-quality buffalo provenances with strong growth, high disease resistance and

high milk yield. Buffalo embryos will be used to improve the provenance of Chinese buffalo and provide continuous support for the development of the Chinese buffalo milk industry. According to Dr. Gu Wenliang, Agricultural Commissioner, Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Chinese enterprises have set up buffalo embryo processing laboratories in Lahore and are planning to build foot-and-mouth disease free farm in surrounding areas.

Buffalo embryos have been successfully trial-produced in Pakistan. Guangxi University, Buffalo Institute of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and other institutions have also carried out relevant cooperation with Pakistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) and University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/950480/pakistani-buffalo-embryos-to-be-exported-to-china-soon/>

Pakistan Observer

Govt allocates Rs118 billion for CPEC-road projects

Federal govt unveiled a Rs727b development program, with Rs118 billion set aside for new and ongoing connectivity projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program and Khyber Pass Economic Corridor.

According to Gwadar Pro, bulks of funds have been earmarked for road projects along the western alignment of CPEC.

The majority of these projects are underway in Balochistan to connect northern and eastern parts of the country with the Gwadar port. Also, over Rs 6b has been allocated for different projects to connect Gilgit with Chitral to provide an all-weather CPEC corridor in northern parts of country.

<https://pakobserver.net/govt-allocates-rs118-billion-for-cpec-road-projects/>

Pace of various ongoing uplift projects under CPEC reviewed

Additional Secretary to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Office Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry visited Gwadar to review the pace and implementation of various ongoing development projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as per the report of Gwadar Pro.

The visit – which aimed at reviewing the ongoing uplift projects and reporting to the Prime Minister's Secretariat from time to time so that the federal government could also pay special attention to the rapid development of Gwadar – was made on the special directive of the Prime Minister.

“Timely and quality completion of projects under CPEC will be ensured as these projects are key to the development of the economy,” the newly appointed Additional Secretary said during a meeting held to review the ongoing projects of Gwadar Development Authority (GDA). GDA Director General Mujeebur Rehman Qambrani briefed the additional secretary on the ongoing projects, including construction and repair of Gwadar Old Town, Dam, Water Box and others.

“Implementation on CPEC would be done in a way that would benefit the people of Balochistan, especially Gwadar,” Chaudhry remarked. Earlier, he presided over a meeting to discuss issues related to Pak-China Friendship Hospital.

<https://pakobserver.net/pace-of-various-ongoing-uplift-projects-under-cpec-reviewed/>

The Nation

Chinese Arts Centre Keen To Showcase Pakistan’s Cuisine, Music, Films

BEIJING – Silk Road Belt and Road Arts Centre in Langfang, Hebei province has expressed keen desire to showcase Pakistan’s cuisine, music and films in China for deepening of cultural exchanges between the peoples of two countries. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque during his visit toured various sections of the centre and reviewed its state-of-the-art facilities. General Manager Hu and Ms Claudia Yang, the Director of International Arts briefed the Ambassador on the role of Arts Centre for popularising performing arts of China and different countries. They also expressed keen desire to showcase Pakistan’s cuisine, music and films in China for deepening of cultural exchanges between the peoples of two countries. Appreciating the role of Silk Road Belt and Road Arts Centre, Ambassador Moin ul Haque highlighted the affinity between the culture and artistic styles of Pakistan and China and their role in solidifying bilateral relations between the two countries.

He expressed hope that the Centre would continue its endeavours for acting as a bridge between diverse cultures and civilisations of the world and for fostering a spirit of friendly sentiments between them. Both sides also discussed plans for organising events this year to promote Pakistan’s culture and history in China.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/12/chinese-arts-centre-keen-to-showcase-pakistans-cuisine-music-films/>

The News

BOI seeks Chinese solar investment

ISLAMABAD: The government is committed to provide ideal environment for Chinese investors in clean energy projects, said federal minister and chairman Board of investment (BOI) Chaudhary Salik Hussain in a meeting with China Energy International Group on Saturday.

The minister said Pakistan's growing economy required low cost electricity in the long run. He proposed a solar powered water treatment plant for Karachi, and urged Chinese investors to establish a solar panel manufacturing plant in Pakistan.

Hussain stated that government would ensure import of low cost solar panels for general masses. He was of the view that Chinese investment in solar energy would generate employment opportunities in country and would contribute in economic growth.

The minister was informed that Energy China had delivered about 23 mega projects in last three decades with a value of over \$15 billion. Hussain appreciated China Energy's proposed projects of 1.5 Giga Watt of solar power projects worth \$1.96 billion of investment.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=96905>

Express News

چین سے دو ارب ڈالر واپسی کی مدت میں ایک بار پھر توسیع کی استدعا

پاکستان نے چین سے دو ارب ڈالر کے قرض کی واپسی کی مدت میں ایک بار پھر توسیع کی درخواست کر دی۔ اسلام آباد ایکسپریس نیوز کے مطابق حکومت نے آئندہ مالی سال کے بجٹ میں 4 ارب ڈالر کے چینی قرض اور کم از کم 3 ارب ڈالر کے آئی ایم ایف قرض کو شامل نہیں کیا۔ چین کے چار میں سے دو ارب ڈالر کے قرض کی واپسی کا وقت قریب آ رہا ہے۔ حکام کے مطابق وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے باضابطہ طور پر چینی حکومت سے ایک ارب ڈالر کے دو قرضوں کی واپسی کی مدت میں توسیع کی درخواست کر دی ہے تاہم وزارت خزانہ نے 4 ارب ڈالر مالیت کے ”سیف ڈپازٹ“ لون اور 3 ارب ڈالر کے آئی ایم ایف کے قرض کو ایکسٹرنل ری بیٹ میں شامل نہیں کیا۔ وزیر خزانہ مفتاح اسماعیل نے گزشتہ روز تسلیم کیا تھا کہ آئی ایم ایف اور کچھ چینی قرض کا بجٹ میں شامل نہ ہونا ایک غلطی تھی جسے دور کر لیا جائے گا۔ یہ غلطی دور ہونے کے بعد مالی سال 2022-23ء کے لیے بیرونی معاونت (بیرونی قرض) کا حجم ریکارڈ 24 ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ جائے گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2334556/6/>

سی پیک اور خیبرپاس آکٹانک کوریڈور کیلئے 118 ارب روپے مختص

حکومت کی جانب سے 727 وفاقی بجٹ کے ترقیاتی پروگرام میں سی پیک، سینٹرل ایئر لائنز آکٹانک کوریڈور (سی اے آئی سی) پروگرام اور خیبرپاس آکٹانک: اسلام آباد کوریڈور (کے پی ای سی) کے تحت شاہراہوں کے نئے اور جاری منصوبوں کے لیے 118 ارب روپے مختص کیے گئے ہیں۔ ملک کے شمالی اور مشرقی حصوں کو گوادرنڈر گاہ سے ملانے کے لیے ان میں سے زیادہ تر منصوبے بلوچستان میں جاری ہیں۔ حکومت نے کے پی میں غلام خان پاک افغان سرحدی پوائنٹ کو سی پیک کی ایم 14 موٹروے سے جوڑنے کے لیے ایکسپریس وے منصوبے کی فزبیلٹی اسٹڈی کے لیے بھی فنڈز رکھے ہیں جو کابل کے لیے گوادرنڈر گاہ کے ساتھ مختصر ترین لنک ہے۔ سی پیک کے نمایاں منصوبوں میں کے پی کے ضلع ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان اور بلوچستان کے ضلع خضدار کے درمیان موجودہ قومی شاہراہ کو سی پیک کے ایم 14 اور ایم 8 موٹروے سے منسلک کرنے کے لیے دورویہ کیریڈور کے اپ گریڈ کرنے کے لیے 16 ارب روپے رکھے گئے ہیں۔ بلوچستان میں نوکنڈی ماش خیل روڈ کے لیے مزید 2 ارب روپے مختص کیے۔ اسی طرح بلوچستان کے کران اور قلات ڈویژن میں ایم 8 موٹروے کے دو سیکشنز کے لیے 7.8 ارب روپے رکھے ہیں۔ گلگت کوچترال سے ملانے کے لیے مختلف منصوبوں کے لیے 6 ارب روپے، ہزارہ موٹروے کی توسیع قراقرم ہائی وے کے حویلیاں، تھا کوٹ سیکشن کے لیے 1.4 بلین روپے مختص کیے گئے ہیں

<https://www.express.pk/story/2334560/6/>

June 13, 2022

Business Recorder

Pakistani, Chinese militaries reaffirm strategic partnership

ISLAMABAD: Top military leaders from Pakistan and China have met each other in Beijing and discussed the international and regional security situation and defence cooperation between the two sides.

According to the ISPR, a senior-level tri-service military delegation of Pakistan visited China from 9 to 12 June and held wide-ranging discussions with senior officials the of Chinese military and other government departments.

It shared that an apex meeting was held on 12 June where the Pakistani side headed by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa met the Chinese side led by Vice Chairman Central Military Commission of China General Zhang Youxia.

“Both sides discussed their perspectives on the international and regional security situation and expressed satisfaction on defence cooperation between the two countries,” the military’s media wing said.

It further said that Pakistan and China reaffirmed their strategic partnership in challenging times and agreed to continue regular exchange of perspectives on issues of mutual interest. “Both sides also vowed to enhance their training, technology and counterterrorism cooperation at the tri-service level.” —PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/13/1-page/933038-news.html>

Daily Times

Silk Road Cultural Exchange Center vows to deepen cooperation with Pakistan

Pakistani ambassador to China Moin ul Haque and General Manager Hu of Silk Road International Cultural Exchange Center, China agreed to deepen cooperation in art & culture, movie, and other areas.

According to China Economics Net (CEN) Moin ul Haque along with officers of the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing visited Silk Road International Cultural Exchange Center in Langfang, Hebei, where they toured various sections of the Center and reviewed its state-of-the-art facilities. General Manager Hu and Ms. Claudia Yang, Director of International Arts briefed the Ambassador and his team on the role of the Center in popularizing performing arts of China and different countries.

They also expressed a keen desire to showcase Pakistani cuisine, music and films in China to deepen cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Appreciating the role of Silk Road International Cultural Exchange Center, Ambassador Moin ul Haque highlighted the affinity between the culture and artistic styles of Pakistan and China and their role in solidifying bilateral relations between the two countries.

He hoped that the Center would continue its endeavors for acting as a bridge between diverse cultures and civilizations of the world and for fostering a spirit of friendly sentiments among them. Both sides also discussed plans for organizing events this year to promote Pakistani culture and history in China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/950972/silk-road-cultural-exchange-center-vows-to-deepen-cooperation-with-pakistan/>

Dawn News

Pakistan, China vow to enhance military ties

Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have reaffirmed their strategic partnership in challenging times and agreed to continue the regular exchange of perspectives on issues of mutual interest.

Both sides also vowed to enhance their training, technology and counterterrorism cooperation at a tri-service level.

The two sides reiterated these commitments when a senior tri-service military delegation of Pakistan, headed by Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, visited China from June 9 to June 12.

During the visit, the two sides pledged to enhance their “training, technology and counterterrorism cooperation”, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a press release on Sunday.

The delegation held wide-ranging discussions with senior officials of the Chinese military and other government departments.

The apex meeting was held on June 12 in which the Pakistani side was headed by COAS Bajwa while the Chinese side was led by Vice Chairman Central Military Commission of China Gen Zhang Youxia, the ISPR said.

Both sides discussed their perspectives on the international and regional security situation and expressed satisfaction with the defence cooperation.

“Pakistan and China reaffirmed their strategic partnership in challenging times and agreed to continue the regular exchange of perspectives on issues of mutual interest,” the ISPR said, adding that both sides further vowed to enhance their training, technology and counterterrorism cooperation at the tri-service level.

Earlier this week, Chinese charge d’affaires Pang Chunxue and Pakistani leaders met at the seventh China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) media forum in Islamabad and warned of

growing threats to the multibillion-dollar project from fake news and disinformation and emphasised the need for cooperation in countering it.

“False propaganda and disinformation on CPEC are on the rise. Hostile forces are trying to undermine the development of CPEC, as well as the unity and mutual trust between the two countries,” Ms Pang said.

CPEC has been widely projected in Pakistan as a game-changer that would influence the region’s geostrategic, geo-economic and geopolitical dynamics and as an answer to its infrastructure shortcomings.

At the same time, media reports spread scepticism about it by pointing to the possibility of Pakistan falling into China’s debt trap, the alleged absence of transparency in the projects and their environmental impact, especially coal-based power plants.

In his keynote speech at the last week’s gathering, National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf underscored the importance of CPEC, describing it as the country’s best bet to become the region’s geo-economic hub but regretted that it had been “a victim of the malicious disinformation campaign” carried out by the “detractors” of CPEC and China.

Ms Pang also spoke of the seriousness of this challenge. “False propaganda and disinformation on CPEC are on the rise. Hostile forces are trying to undermine the development of CPEC, as well as the unity and mutual trust between the two countries,” she said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1694556/pakistan-china-vow-to-enhance-military-ties>

Progress on Dasu hydropower project satisfactory: minister

MANSEHRA: Federal Minister for Water Resources Khursheed Shah during his visit to Upper Kohistan on Sunday expressed his satisfaction on the progress of work on the 4,300-megawatt Dasu hydropower project.

“I have visited the under-construction Dasu hydropower project which would not only meet the energy shortfall of the country, but also bring prosperity and development,” he said while speaking at a public meeting held in Suo village.

Mr Shah was earlier briefed by the dam’s general manager Anwarul Haq about the ongoing work on the dam being completed with the financial assistance of the World Bank.

“You people would be given priority in the employment at the dam and your other issues related to development projects would also be settled shortly,” he said.

Khursheed Shah says locals to be given priority in employment

The minister also announced Rs1 billion for the development of four tehsils of the district, saying besides that a 25-bed hospital would also be built in each tehsil.

Mr Shah said that because of the mismanagement of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government the country was facing high inflation and other economic challenges.

“We have been adopting measures to revive the economy and put the country on the path of prosperity and development,” he said. Pakistan Peoples Party’s general secretary Faisal Kareem Kundi also accompanied Mr Shah during his visit.

Speaking on the occasion, former MNA Mehboobur Rehman said people of Upper Kohistan were suffering problems because of the non-existence of the road and other infrastructure.

“The government should focus on resolving these issues,” he said.

TOURIST POLICE: Hazara Qaumi Mahaz Pakistan (HQMP) on Sunday staged a rally against the induction of non-locals in the Tourist Guide Police.

“We have not only launched a street agitation against the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, which ignored candidates from Abbottabad and Mansehra in Tourists Guide Police, but are also going to challenge it in the court of law,” HQMP provincial president Amjid Qudus told the protesters outside the press club here.

He said the government should withdraw the earlier appointment orders and carry out fresh recruitment process on merit.

Meanwhile, the Kaghan Development Authority allowed catching trout using fishing rod as a game. Earlier, it had imposed a ban on fishing of the endangered fish.

“We adopted measures to preserve the cold water indigenous fish and have now introduced fishing as a game for visitors,” KDA assistant director Asad Shahzad told mediapersons on Sunday.

He said that fishing with rod was inaugurated in a ceremony attended by local business community and tourists.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1694461/progress-on-dasu-hydropower-project-satisfactory-minister>

Pakistan Observer

Test flight from Gwadar new airport from December

The test flight from new Gwadar International Airport would be started from December this year as the construction work on site has been expedited, an official of Gwadar Development Authority said. The new \$246m green field Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) being built at an area of 4,300 acres would be made operational before the deadline which was September 2023, the official said.

The government has expanded the 50-bed Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar to 150 beds state-of-the-art medical centre in order to ensure best health care facilities for the people of Gwadar. The authority would ensure state-of-the-art free medical facility to the inhabitants of port city of Gwadar from January next year, he said.

The quarters concerned were making all out efforts to expedite the infrastructure and development projects for its timely completion. The GDA said the authority has expedited the implementation of old town rehabilitation plan of Gawadar to provide best infrastructure and provide every facility to masses of port city.

With the support of federal government, the project worth Rs 3.3 billion for old town rehabilitation of Gwadar was in full swing to set city on modern lines to end the sense of deprivation among the people of area, he added. The federal government would be funded 67 shares of the total cost while Balochistan government would bear the remaining cost for the development of old town rehabilitation under the Gwadar development plan.

Under the plan, water drainage, supply and distribution of utility projects would be completed soon, besides ensuring the supply of clean drinking water to the port dwellers.

The official said the water supply to Gwadar would be resolved in the short period of three months as desalination plant is also in progress to curtail the need of whole city. He said the authorities asked to strictly adhere to Gwadar Master Plan while carrying out development and other public welfare projects in the city.

The departments concerned were making all out efforts to expedite the infrastructure and development projects for its timely completion in Gwadar. He said there were vast investment opportunities in every sector and comprehensive strategy would be adopted to attract investors in this regard.

<https://pakobserver.net/test-flight-from-gwadar-new-airport-from-december/>

CPEC under attack

Zia Tanoli

The recent attacks on Chinese nationals are actually attack on China's economic interests in Pakistan especially CPEC, a \$65 billion-plus investment in infrastructure in Pakistan and part of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative. On April 26, three Chinese nationals and a Pakistani driver were killed in a suicide attack in Karachi and later the responsibility of the attack was claimed by Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), a militant group operating in Balochistan for a long time.

The attack gave a clear message to China that its direct or indirect presence in Balochistan will not be tolerated. The group's statement also claimed that the attack was carried out by the first female suicide bomber, Shari Baloch, belonging to the Majeed Brigade of BLA, illustrating the operational role women play in terrorist attacks.

This increase in attacks on Chinese nationals also sent chills to the Chinese Communist Party, which wanted safe and secure economic ties with Pakistan. Historically, the BLA has primarily targeted Pakistani security forces in the Balochistan province and Karachi, the key economic hub close to the province. However, as China's economic, political and security inroads in Pakistan have increased over the past years—especially since the launch of the \$62 billion China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2013—the BLA has also deliberately targeted Chinese nationals and interests in the country.

In November 2018, the group targeted the Chinese consulate in Karachi, and last year, a spate of attacks targeted Chinese workers in the city. Other than the BLA several other militant groups are also targeting China's interests and nationals in Pakistan. Last year, the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong, was nearly a casualty in a bombing targeting a hotel in Quetta carried out by the Pakistani Taliban, also known as the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). In June 2017, two Chinese nationals were kidnapped in Quetta, Pakistan, and later executed by members of the Islamic State.

The broad range of organizations that have targeted Chinese nationals and interests in Pakistan poses a big challenge for the new government, which is already struggling to stand on its feet economically and desperately needs foreign help in terms of investment as well as strategic partnership in various projects and China is one of the countries that can rescue Pakistan in this hard time.

In 2020, Beijing and Islamabad signed an agreement to enhance defense cooperation between the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) and Pakistani counterparts. In 2021, the two countries announced deeper counterterrorism cooperation. As security concerns for China in Pakistan will likely continue to grow as violence worsens, the Sino-Pakistan strategic military and security cooperation will continue to evolve in parallel.

The deepening Sino-Pakistan relationship serves Beijing's geopolitical goals in the region, strengthening its traditional alignment with Pakistan against India and deepening ties to a now Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

Now Chinese are urging the Pakistani government to take immediate and firm actions on protecting Chinese nationals and projects and to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a press conference recently that Terrorism was the shared enemy of all humans and China and Pakistan have the resolve and capability to cut the black hands of terrorists and make them pay the price.

“The Pakistani government has promised to strengthen safety for Chinese nationals, projects and organizations. We will not allow any force to sabotage the great China-Pakistan friendship and cooperation. We believe Pakistan will take stronger measures to ensure smooth China-Pakistan cooperation. Any attempts to destroy this cooperation will be smashed by the two peoples,” said Wang.

A senior government official said already there are many security paradigms in place to ensure the security of Chinese nationals working in Pakistan that further may be beefed up by increasing intelligence sharing and relevant paraphernalia.

Recently, the newly appointed Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also announced that Pakistan will provide all out security to the Chinese citizens.

A security specialist believed that fully-supported by malicious international players, nexus of evils have ganged up with one another to sabotage regional peace, CPEC and Pak-China relations. He said in order to revamp security standards for Chinese nationals, there is also a need to launch special capacity building courses for Special Security Division (SSD) for CPEC that consists of regular armed forces and elements of the “Civil Armed Forces” (CAF), which is a federal paramilitary force within the Ministry of Interior. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has to take serious notice of the situation as any harm to CPEC or Chinese nationals in Pakistan will also hit the friendly ties between the two countries and will definitely affect the ongoing economic partnership.

The writer Zia Tanoli is the Editor of Daily Jehan Pakistan, a senior journalist and the Joint Secretary (Punjab) of Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-under-attack-by-zia-tanoli/>

The News

China rolling over \$2bn at reduced rate

Ansar Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: While offering the rollover of two billion dollars at a much reduced rate, China, in a latest communication, has assured Pakistan of standing with it during these difficult times with greater resolve and more proactively.

In a diplomatic communication received by the Foreign Office last Friday through Pakistan's ambassador in China, the Pakistani government is also told that the Chinese government plans to enhance and broaden their economic and strategic ties with Pakistan.

The Chinese leadership, it is said, has assured Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that they will not merely continue to stand with the people of Pakistan but will do so more proactively and with greater resolve as they (Chinese leadership) are excited about working with the incumbent premier.

A source told The News that the diplomatic communication also conveyed the confidence of the Chinese leadership that Shehbaz Sharif would be able to overcome the challenges currently confronting Pakistan, because of what they call his “governance philosophy”.

In order to help Pakistan meet its economic challenges, the China has confirmed to roll over the two billion dollars loan. It is doing so at a reduced interest rate, which is lower than even to the loan that China has given to its other close friends. According to the diplomatic communication, the Chinese leadership is more comfortable working with Shehbaz Sharif because of their past experience when Shehbaz was the chief minister Punjab.

Interestingly, it was Sharif missing the “Shehbaz Speed”.

During the last PMLN government, Shehbaz Sharif, as the chief minister of Punjab, had closely worked with the Chinese to undertake giant economic projects in the power and energy sectors and built major transport projects metros in minimum-possible time.

While the Pakistani government is busy meeting tough pre-conditions of the IMF to get the much-needed bailout, the source expects that once the IMF deal is done, Pakistan's friends including China would do more than expectations. The source, who is privy to top-level interactions with the friendly countries, shows the confidence that Saudi Arabia and the UAE are also eager to help Pakistan. Much is, however, linked with the IMF deal.

The help and assurances from friendly countries have encouraged the Pakistani government, which is finding it really hard to meet the IMF conditions. The government is expected to raise the oil prices shortly to end the subsidy allowed by the Imran Khan government. The tough decision, it is expected, to make is to increase the petrol and diesel per litre price by Rs27 and Rs55 respectively to end the oil subsidy. It would be a major step forward for the IMF deal, which Pakistan is keen to make before June 30th.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=97459>

Historic Pak-China military dialogue

Hanif Khalid

ISLAMABAD: The budget speech by Finance Minister Miftah Ismail is talk of the town in the twin-cities wherein he told the nation that the first priority of the government was to avoid Sri Lanka-like situation (bankruptcy) in Pakistan.

While Miftah Ismail was presenting federal budget in the National Assembly on June 10 after the meeting of federal cabinet, Pakistan's top-level military delegation was holding very important talks on regional and global situation with the military top-brass of time-tested friendly country China. Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa led his team in the APEX meeting.

Not only the leadership of Pakistan Army Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the chiefs of Pakistan Navy and Air Force were also present in the meeting. According to ISPR, the situation in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Afghanistan and Iran came under discussion apart from deliberations on how to enhance work on the Pak-China Economic Corridor project.

China had deposited \$2.4 billion in the State Bank of Pakistan in 2021, and there are hopes that it will grant Pakistan in a few days rollover of same amount for one year. This step of China will help stop downward slide in the foreign currency reserves.

The military top-brass meeting with the leadership of Chinese People's Liberation Army remained secret unless ISPR issued a brief statement on Saturday regarding the visit to China. The ISPR statement on the four-day vitally important military consultation in China is certainly pleasant news after worrisome statements about the future of Pakistan made by the leaders of both ruling alliance and the opposition in the last four days. The claim made by Bangladesh Prime Minister Hasina Wajid that her country was most stable economically than India and

Pakistan also came under discussion. The military leadership of Pakistan and China has declared that Pak nukes are very much saved and are a deterrence only against its arch-enemy India, and no one can take away nuclear capability from Pakistan.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=97547>

Jang News

کم شرح پر پاکستان کو 2 ارب ڈالر دیئے، چین کی تصدیق، شہباز کیساتھ کام کرنے پر زیادہ مطمئن

اسلام آباد (انصار عباسی) کم شرح پر دو ارب ڈالر کے قرضے کی پیشکش کرتے ہوئے چین نے تازہ ترین رابطے میں پاکستان کو یقین دہانی کرائی ہے کہ وہ مشکل وقت میں پہلے سے زیادہ عزم اور سرگرمی کے ساتھ پاکستان کا ساتھ دے گا۔

جمعہ کو دفتر خارجہ میں چین میں پاکستانی سفیر کے توسط سے موصول ہونے والی سفارتی رابطہ کاری میں پاکستانی حکومت کو یہ بھی بتایا گیا ہے کہ چائینز حکومت پاکستان کے ساتھ اپنے معاشی اور اسٹریٹجک تعلقات کو وسیع اور مضبوط کرنا چاہتی ہے۔

کہا جاتا ہے کہ چائینز قیادت نے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کو یقین دلایا ہے کہ وہ نہ صرف پاکستان کے عوام کے ساتھ کھڑے ہیں بلکہ سرگرمی اور پہلے سے زیادہ عزم کے ساتھ موجودہ وزیر اعظم کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔

ایک باخبر ذریعے نے دی نیوز کو بتایا ہے کہ سفارتی رابطہ کاری میں چائینز حکومت نے اس اعتماد کا اظہار کیا ہے کہ شہباز شریف ”اپنے گورننس کے فلسفے“ کی بنیاد پر ان چیلنجز پر قابو پانے میں کامیاب ہوں گے جو اس وقت پاکستان کو درپیش ہیں۔

پاکستان کو اس کے معاشی چیلنجز سے نمٹنے کیلئے چین نے دو ارب ڈالر کا قرضہ دینے کی تصدیق کی ہے جو کم شرح پر دیا جائے گا اور یہ شرح اس شرح سے بھی کم ہوگی جس پر چین نے اپنے دیگر قریبی دوست ممالک کو قرضہ جات دیے ہیں۔

سفارتی رابطہ کاری کے مطابق، چائینز قیادت شہباز شریف کے ساتھ کام کرنے میں زیادہ مطمئن ہے کیونکہ انہیں شہباز شریف کے ساتھ اس وقت بھی کام کرنے میں اطمینان حاصل تھا جب وہ وزیر اعلیٰ تھے۔ دلچسپ بات یہ ہے کہ جب شہباز شریف وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب تھے تو اس وقت ان کی گورننس کو دیکھ کر ہی چائینز حکومت نے ”شہباز اسپید“ کی اصطلاح متعارف کرائی تھی۔

تاہم، کئی لوگ سمجھتے ہیں کہ وزیر اعظم بننے کے بعد شہباز شریف میں ”شہباز اسپید“ نہیں رہی۔ نون لیگ کی گزشتہ حکومت میں شہباز شریف نے بحیثیت وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب چائینز کے ساتھ مل کر کام کیا تھا تا کہ بڑے معاشی پروجیکٹس مکمل کیے جاسکیں جو پورا اور انرجی سیکٹر کے تھے اور اسی رابطے کی وجہ سے بڑے ٹرانسپورٹ پروجیکٹس جیسا کہ میٹروز قلیل وقت میں مکمل ہو سکے۔

جس وقت حکومت پاکستان آئی ایم ایف کی کڑی شرائط کو پورا کرنے کیلئے کام کر رہی ہے، ذرائع کو توقع ہے کہ جیسے ہی آئی ایم ایف کی ڈیل مکمل ہو جائے گی تو پاکستان کے چین جیسے دوست اپنی توقعات سے زیادہ مدد کریں گے۔

سینئر سطح پر مذاکرات سے واقف ایک ذریعے نے بتایا کہ سعودی عرب اور متحدہ عرب امارات بھی پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کو تیار ہیں تاہم زیادہ تر معاملات آئی ایم ایف کی ڈیل سے جڑے ہیں۔

دوست ممالک سے ملنے والی مدد اور یقین دہانیوں کی وجہ سے حکومت پاکستان کو حوصلہ ملا ہے کیونکہ پہلے ہی اسے آئی ایم ایف کی شرائط پوری کرنے میں مشکلات کا سامنا ہے۔ توقع ہے کہ حکومت جلد ہی عمران خان کی دی ہوئی سبسڈی ختم کرنے کیلئے تیل کی قیمتوں میں مزید اضافہ کرے گی۔

توقع ہے کہ اس مشکل فیصلے کی وجہ سے پٹرول اور ڈیزل کی قیمتوں میں بالترتیب 27/ اور 55/ روپے کا مزید اضافہ ہو گا اور سبسڈی مکمل طور پر ختم ہو جائے گی۔ یہ آئی ایم ایف کے ساتھ معاہدہ مکمل کرنے کی جانب ایک بڑا قدم ہو گا اور یہ قدم پاکستان کو 30/ جون سے قبل اٹھانا ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1098437>

پہلی بار پوری عسکری قیادت کی چینی فوجی قیادت کے ساتھ مشاورت

اسلام آباد (حنیف خالد) وفاقی وزیر خزانہ مفتاح اسماعیل کی بجٹ تقریر جڑواں شہروں میں ٹاک آف دی ٹائون بنی ہوئی ہے جس میں انہوں نے قوم کو انتہا کیا ہے کہ انکی حکومت کی پہلی ترجیح پاکستان کو دیوالیہ شدہ جنوبی ایشیا کے ملک سری لنکا کی نچ پر جانے سے روکنا ہے۔

جمعہ کی شام جب 10 جون کو وفاقی کابینہ کے اجلاس کے بعد مفتاح اسماعیل قومی اسمبلی میں مالی سال 2022-23ء کا بجٹ پیش کر رہے تھے، عین اُنہی ایام (9 جون سے 12 جون تک) پاکستان کی تاریخ کا اعلیٰ ترین سطح کا سب سے بڑا عسکری وفد آزموہ دوست ملک عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی عسکری قیادت کے ساتھ علاقائی اور انٹرنیشنل صورتحال پر گہرائی میں جا کر جائزہ لے رہا تھا۔

کمپنی کے اجلاس میں پاکستان کے عسکری وفد کی قیادت کی۔ (APEX) چیف آف آرمی سٹاف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے

اس موقع پر اتفاقانہ حال کے مطابق ناصرف پاکستان آرمی کی قیادت بلکہ جوائنٹ چیفس آف سٹاف کمیٹی، پاکستان نیوی اور پاکستان ائرفورس کی اعلیٰ قیادت چائنا میں موجود تھیکو تک خطے کی صورتحال آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق زیر غور رہی تو بادی النظر میں انڈیا، بنگلہ دیش، سری لنکا، مالدیپ، افغانستان، ایران کی صورتحال، چائنا پاکستان اکنامک کارڈز کی رفتار کو بڑھانے پر بھی غور ہوا۔

چین جس نے 2021ء میں پاکستان کو 2 ارب چالیس کروڑ ڈالر کی رقم پاکستان کے اسٹیٹ بینک میں رکھوائی تھی اور شہباز شریف حکومت کے آنے کے بعد چائنا کی طرف سے سنگل ملا ہے کہ 2 ارب چالیس کروڑ ڈالر بینک آف چائنا، اسٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان میں ایک سال کیلئے مزید رول اوور کرنے کا اعلان چند دنوں میں کرنے والا ہے، جس سے زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر میں تیزی سے ہونے والی کمی اور پاکستانی اوپن مارکیٹ میں ڈالر کی بڑھتی ہوئی گراؤٹ رک پائے گی۔

12 جون کا مسلح افواج کے سربراہان اور پاکستان کی آرمی، نیوی، ائرفورس کی اعلیٰ قیادت کی چینی پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کی اعلیٰ ترین قیادت کے ساتھ جو ملاقاتیں ہوئیں مسلح 9 افواج کے ملکی تاریخ کے سب سے بڑے اعلیٰ عسکری قیادت کے وفد کے چین جانے کے پروگرام رکھا گیا۔

آئی ایس پی آر نے اس وفد کی چار روزہ چینی عسکری قیادت کے ساتھ دو طرفہ مشاورت کے بارے میں بڑے سوچ سمجھ کے ساتھ مختصر اعلامیہ 12 جون کو اُس وقت جاری کیا جب پاکستان کی اعلیٰ ترین عسکری قیادت (آرمی، نیوی، ائرفورس) چین کے دورے کے اختتام پر وطن پرور رہی تھی۔

ان چار دنوں میں پاکستان کی حزب اقتدار اور اُسکی مخالف جماعتوں کے رہنما پاکستان کے مستقبل کے بارے میں خوفناک تعبیریں قوم کے سامنے رکھتے رہے جس سے عوام کے دل دہل رہے تھے مگر آئی ایس پی آر کے اتوار کے روز پاکستان کی اعلیٰ ترین فوجی لیڈروں کے پیپلز لبریشن آرمی آف چائنا کی قیادت کے ساتھ غیر ملکی اہمیت کی چار روزہ مشاورت کے بارے میں جو اعلامیہ جاری کیا وہ جون کی جھلسا دینے والی گرمی میں قوم کیلئے آئی ایس پی آر کا اعلامیہ ٹھنڈی ہوا کا خوشگوار جھونکا ثابت ہوا ہے۔

یہ بات بھی پاک چین عسکری قیادت کے زیر غور آئی کہ بنگلہ دیش کی وزیراعظم حسینہ واجد کا کہنا ہے کہ بنگلہ دیش، انڈیا اور پاکستان سے زیادہ مستحکم معیشت والے ملک کا درجہ حاصل کر گیا ہے۔

پاک چین عسکری قیادت کی اعلیٰ ترین سطح پر ملاقاتوں سے قوم کی ڈھارس بندھی ہے کہ پاکستان کے ایٹمی اثاثے جو دشمنوں کی آنکھ میں خار کی طرح کھٹک رہے ہیں وہ پاک چین ، مستحکم دوستی کے نتیجے میں محفوظ سے محفوظ تر رہیں گے

جس کیلئے پاکستان کی افواج کے سٹریٹجک پلانز ڈویژن نے پاکستان کے جوائنٹ چیفس آف سٹاف کمیٹی کے چیئرمین جنرل ندیم رضوانے ماہ رواں کے آغاز میں ڈنکے کی چوٹ ، نپے تلے الفاظ میں واضح سنگٹل اُس وقت دے دیا جب پی ٹی آئی کے چیئرمین سابق وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے ایک ٹی وی انٹرویو میں یہ دعویٰ کیا کہ پاکستان کے خدا نخواستہ تین ٹکڑے ہونے والے ہیں اور اسکے نتیجے میں پاکستان کے ایٹمی اثاثے خطرے میں پڑ جائیں گے۔

ذرائع کے مطابق پاکستان اور چین کے عسکری قائدین نے پاکستان کے جوہری اثاثوں کو ہر قسم کے خطرات سے مبرا قرار دیا ہے کیونکہ پاکستان کے ایٹمی اثاثے صرف اُسکے ازلی وابدی دشمن بھارت کی طرف سے خطرے سے نمٹنے کیلئے بطور ڈیٹرس ہر لحاظ سے محفوظ ہیں ، کارگر ہیں اور دنیا کی کوئی طاقت پاکستان سے یہ جوہری صلاحیت نہ چھین سکتا ہے نہ اس سے محروم کر سکتا ہے۔

وزیر خزانہ مفتاح اسماعیل نے بجٹ تقریر میں پاکستان کو سری لنکا کی نیچ پر جانے سے روکنے کو پہلی ترجیح دینے کا جو اعلان کیا ہے اُس بارے میں پاکستانی قوم آگاہ ہے کہ سری لنکا کیخلاف ہمارے ازلی وابدی دشمن نے کیا چالیں چلیں ، اس بارے میں سری لنکا کن حالات سے گزرا ، وہ کسی سے ڈھکا چھپا نہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1098475>

June 14, 2022

Pakistan Observer

Pak, China military ties

PAKISTAN-China military and strategic relationship continues to deepen which in fact is the reflection of the strong bonds and the level of trust that exists between the two countries.

At a huddle in Beijing where Pakistani side was led by Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and the Chinese side by its Vice Chairman Central Military Commission General Zhang Youxia, the two sides reaffirmed their strategic partnership in challenging times and agreed to continue regular exchange of perspectives on issues of mutual interest. They vowed to enhance their training, technology and counterterrorism cooperation at tri service level.

The military-to-military relations, serving as the mainstay of the China-Pakistan friendship, have played an important role in the development of bilateral relations for a long time.

The two militaries have achieved fruitful results in fields such as high-level visits, joint training and exercises and equipment technology, constantly enriching the connotation of bilateral strategic cooperation.

The joint production of JF-17 thunder fighter jets is a clear testimony of how close and trustworthy their relations are.

The Pakistani nation will always remember the support provided by China in strengthening defence capabilities.

China is not only providing modern naval warships and helping Pakistan construct the modern submarines, but has also recently provided it with J-10 fighter jets.

Pakistan is the only country to have been provided with the war planes since their induction into the Chinese military.

As both the countries harbour no aggressive designs against any other country, the deepening military ties between them will serve as an anchor for peace and stability in the region.

The level of engagement needs to be further up-scaled in order to explore more avenues of cooperation which will inject a new impetus into the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. Over the years, our defence industry has greatly evolved and gone hi-tech.

In our view it can be further strengthened by entering into joint ventures with the Chinese friends. Since there is no dearth of capable scientists and engineers on both sides, sharing of experience in the defence production field will greatly benefit them to collectively achieve more milestones.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-military-ties/>

DPO holds meeting with CPEC police personnel

According to details, DPO Khan Zeb Khan Mohmand (PSP) met with the newly recruited CPEC police personnel from Waziristan.

On this occasion, DPO congratulated the new police personnel and expressed best wishes. Later, DPO Khan Zeb Khan Mohmand while talking to CPEC officials, said that CPEC is a very important responsibility of the police for which you have been selected, this responsibility must be fulfilled as a duty.

However, this is expected of you, that you meet these expectations, but no negligence or laziness will be tolerated in this responsibility. CPEC is a valuable asset of the country and the nation and its protection is an important responsibility of you people. The DPO said, "I hope and believe that you have the capacity to carry out this responsibility.

<https://pakobserver.net/dpo-holds-meeting-with-cpec-police-personnel/>

June 15, 2022

Business Recorder

China comes to our rescue in a big way

NUZHAT NAZAR & ALI HUSSAIN

Agrees to roll over \$2.3bn lending and extend additional assistance of \$2.5bn to \$2.8bn

ISLAMABAD: China has agreed to roll over \$2.3 billion loan to Pakistan and, significantly from the perspective of strengthening the \$9.2 billion foreign exchange reserves (as on 3 June), to extend additional assistance of between \$2.5 to \$2.8 billion.

Highly-placed sources told Business Recorder that the recent visit of Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa was a resounding success in procuring a highly valuable package. Sources further revealed that the three services' team is still in Beijing and negotiations on the economic package are ongoing at present with possibly two phases of assistance; in the first (initial) phase \$2.3 billion would be rolled over, a key International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan condition, and in the second phase another \$ 2.5 to \$2.8 billion would be disbursed, scheduled for November or early December.

Besides these two packages, China has also agreed to extend military aid, and to revive the strategic partnership between the two countries with the objective of raising it to the next level of cooperation in various fields under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Asked about the terms and conditions of the Chinese economic package, the source maintained that the loans will be at concessional rates but the Chinese side reportedly emphasized the criticality of avoidance of any political disruption, underscoring the need for ensuring that all contractual obligations with the Chinese companies are met. The Chinese side also highlighted the need for reinvigorating projects rejected by the previous government.

“The Chinese leadership has assured Pakistan of Beijing’s continued support at this difficult time, besides pledging a more proactive role to support the country’s economy through the CPEC,” the source added.

A high-powered military delegation comprising senior military officials from all three services led by Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa visited China from June 9 to 12 to attend the meeting of Pakistan China Joint Military Cooperation Committee (PCJMCC).

According to a statement issued by the military’s media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the senior level tri-service military delegation held wide-ranging discussions with senior officials of Chinese military and other government departments. The meeting was held on 12 June with the Pakistani side led by Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and the Chinese side led by General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman Central Military Commission of China.

It stated that both sides discussed their perspectives on international and regional security situation, and expressed satisfaction on defence cooperation between the two countries. “Pakistan and China reaffirmed their strategic partnership in challenging times and agreed to continue regular exchange of perspectives on issues of mutual interest. Both sides also vowed to enhance their training, technology and counterterrorism cooperation at tri service level,” it added.

The sources further noted that Saudi Arabia has also pledged rollover of \$3 billion assistance, contingent on the success of the seventh review, during Shahbaz Sharif’s visit to Saudi Arabia on 28 April and reports indicate that the Saudi government further pledged additional assistance including the deferred oil payment facility.

Reports also indicate that the Saudis urged the UAE to support Pakistan's beleaguered economy and fruitful discussions were held on this account on Eid day during the visit of a high-level UAE delegation to Pakistan.

Negotiations are also reportedly at an advanced stage with Qatar for procuring liquefied natural gas (LNG) on deferred payment.

Pakistan is also hopeful, after the good optics between foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Anthony Blinken, US Secretary of State in New York, on the sidelines of the Climate Change conference, that Washington may at best lend support to get Pakistan out of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list or, at the least, withdraw all objections. Pakistan's case will be heard by the FATF in Berlin, Germany, from June 15 (today) to 17, 2022 and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar is leading the Pakistani side at the FATF moot. "We've worked hard on the 27-point action plan given by the FATF and we are quite hopeful that Pakistan will be excluded from the grey list," another official dealing with the FATF action plan told BR.

"All these packages from friendly countries would help Pakistan boost its foreign reserves and create fiscal space which may give a breathing space to the country's economy," said Dr Ashfaq Hassan, former adviser to finance ministry.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/06/15/1-page/933262-news.html>

Daily Times

Pak-China science foundations to launch joint exchange program

The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) will soon launch the first batch of joint exchange programs for 2022, a source told Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. The program aims at funding up to 15 pairs of researchers from both nations to undertake a joint research project, the source added, requesting anonymity. The priority areas include Computer Science, Internet of Things, Blockchain, Biometrics, Big Data, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Deep Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and 3D Printing as well as Climate Change and water, food and ecosystem security etc. PSF will provide a Rs4 million grant to each Pakistani researcher, while NSFC will fund the Chinese researchers, the source disclosed. Under the programme, the Chinese and Pakistani researchers are required to submit joint research proposals with NSFC and PSF. The two organizations do not facilitate the matchmaking but researchers from both sides establish connections on their own. This will give a boost to collaboration among Chinese and Pakistani researchers and will further deepen scientific cooperation between the two nations, the source said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/952034/pak-china-science-foundations-to-launch-joint-exchange-program/>

Chinese technology, Pakistani labour joint venture to be a win-win situation

PM-1-1 Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday said that the joint venture of Chinese industry and technology with Pakistan's labour and investment would create a win-win situation for the two countries by boosting their production and exports to the world. The prime minister, in an interview with the representatives of Chinese media, said both the countries were moving toward the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which comprised regional cooperation and industrialization through establishing the industrial zones. He said Pakistan's skilled and semi-skilled labour was comparatively cheaper and the joint venture of Chinese technology and Pakistan's labour and investment would help the two countries make production at competitive rates and export their products to other countries. He said the first phase of the CPEC featured road and energy projects to meet Pakistan's power needs which transformed friendly relations into unique ones where people-to-people contacts had seen a new phase. He said when the CPEC agreement was signed between President Xi Jinping and that time Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan was faced with crippling load shedding. However, two years after the launch of CPEC projects, the country had been able to overcome the situation. He said Pakistan and China enjoyed time-tested friendship which had attained more heights under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. He said Chinese president's vision and dynamism offered an opportunity to attain progress, peace and prosperity, not only to Pakistan but the world. He said in form of CPEC, Pakistan had been the first beneficiary of the Belt and Road Initiative of President Xi. Coming to Gwadar Port, he said it was a gigantic project to benefit the entire region including Afghanistan, Iran and Gulf nations besides China and Pakistan. To a question, the prime minister said the CPEC projects had faced some hiccups during last three to four years; however, the incumbent government was resolved to take it to "Pakistan Speed" to fill the gap. Asked to comment about the role of the Communist Party of China, Shehbaz Sharif said since its inception, the party had made a remarkable journey despite numerous difficulties and challenges. He also lauded the CPC leadership for steering millions of the Chinese people out of poverty by creating jobs and other opportunities. He also spoke high of President Xi Jinping's leadership calling him "one of the most dynamic and visionary leader" China had ever produced. To another question, he said the enemies could not digest the close China-Pakistan ties but reiterated his government's resolve to ensure the security of the Chinese nationals in Pakistan. "The security of Chinese friends in Pakistan is as important as the security of Pakistanis. The Pakistani government will take all measures to ensure that the Pakistan-China friendship will not be damaged by the enemy," he remarked. Reiterating his condolence over the loss of three Chinese nationals in Karachi University in a suicide blast, the prime minister recalled his visit to the Chinese embassy and interaction with Premier Li Keqiang. He said he had held multiple meetings and formulated plan with the coordination of provinces.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/952087/chinese-technology-pakistani-labour-joint-venture-to-be-a-win-win-situation/>

Dawn News

Lahore Museum sets up Chinese Art Gallery

Shoaib Ahmed

LAHORE: The Lahore Museum has established the Chinese Art Gallery by exhibiting beautiful and worth seeing artifacts.

“There was no independent Chinese art gallery in the museum although it had Chinese art artifacts in its store. Owing to significance of Chinese art collection, an exhibition of Chinese artifacts for the tourists was needed,” Lahore Museum Director Ejaz Ahmed Minhas told Dawn.

He said the Chinese arts and crafts had a remarkable contribution to the art of Asia. Different dynasties of ancient China, including Ming and Qing dynasties, played a great role in enhancing the cultural traditions of the region, he said and added that the Ming Dynasty ruled China from 1,368 to 1,644AD and it was known for its trade connections to the outside world and establishing cultural ties with the West.

“The Ming dynasty is also remembered for its drama, literature and porcelain,” Mr Minhas added.

In the newly-established Chinese Gallery, the artifacts include jars, utensils, teapots and plates along with many other artifacts belonging to the Ming and Qing dynasties. The artifacts reveal the quality of painting and variety of shapes for which these two dynasties have had a historic reputation. The surface of these ceramics is beautifully painted with flora and fauna and other traditional motifs from China whose patterns are pleasing to see. The specimens of ivory carvings are also displayed in the form of a chessboard and chessmen, jewellery box of ivory and wood. These artifacts have been donated to the Lahore Museum by the late Molana Hifzur Rahman in the 1960s.

Chinese porcelain artifacts include large porcelain jars of the Ming Dynasty, decorated with traditional Chinese floral motifs, depicting floral patterns and sunflower motifs in blue and white colours. Other artifacts include a flower vase from Qing dynasty, chandelier, enameled plates, ivory mirror frame, paper cutter, flower vase, cylindrical vase, ivory tusk, showing seated the Buddha figure, traditional fly-whisk with an ivory handle, a ivory hand fan, a mirror frame and white rods all made of ivory.

An octagonal box showing seven containers and six small trays, showing landscape in lacquer decoration, male robe, boat in dragon shape, brass vase and utensils are also on display.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1694836/lahore-museum-sets-up-chinese-art-gallery>

The Nation

Pakistan, China Moving Towards Second Phase Of CPEC: PM

Shehbaz Sharif says joint venture of Chinese technology, Pakistani labour to be a win-win situation

ISLAMABAD – Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday said that the joint venture of Chinese industry and technology with Pakistan's labour and investment would create a win-win situation for the two countries by boosting their production and exports to the world.

The prime minister, in an interview with the representatives of Chinese media, said both the countries were moving toward the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which comprised regional cooperation and industrialization through establishing the industrial zones.

He said Pakistan's skilled and semi-skilled labour was comparatively cheaper and the joint venture of Chinese technology and Pakistan's labour and investment would help the two countries make production at competitive rates and export their products to other countries.

He said the first phase of the CPEC featured road and energy projects to meet Pakistan's power needs which transformed friendly relations into unique ones where people-to-people contacts had seen a new phase.

He said when the CPEC agreement was signed between President Xi Jinping and that time Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan was faced with crippling load shedding. However, two years after the launch of CPEC projects, the country had been able to overcome the situation. He said Pakistan and China enjoyed time-tested friendship which had attained more heights under the leadership of President Xi Jinping.

He said Chinese president's vision and dynamism offered an opportunity to attain progress, peace and prosperity, not only to Pakistan but the world.

He said in form of CPEC, Pakistan had been the first beneficiary of the Belt and Road Initiative of President Xi. Coming to Gwadar Port, he said it was a gigantic project to benefit the entire region including Afghanistan, Iran and Gulf nations besides China and Pakistan.

To a question, the prime minister said the CPEC projects had faced some hiccups during last three to four years; however, the incumbent government was resolved to take it to "Pakistan Speed" to fill the gap.

Asked to comment about the role of the Communist Party of China, Shehbaz Sharif said since its inception, the party had made a remarkable journey despite numerous difficulties and challenges.

He also lauded the CPC leadership for steering millions of the Chinese people out of poverty by creating jobs and other opportunities.

He also spoke high of President Xi Jinping's leadership calling him "one of the most dynamic and visionary leader" China had ever produced. To another question, he said the enemies could not digest the close China-Pakistan ties but reiterated his government's resolve to ensure the security of the Chinese nationals in Pakistan.

"The security of Chinese friends in Pakistan is as important as the security of Pakistanis. The Pakistani government will take all measures to ensure that the Pakistan-China friendship will not be damaged by the enemy," he remarked.

Reiterating his condolence over the loss of three Chinese nationals in Karachi University in a suicide blast, the prime minister recalled his visit to the Chinese embassy and interaction with Premier Li Keqiang.

He said he had held multiple meetings and formulated plan with the coordination of provinces.

"We will fully try to prevent such attacks and will utilize all-out resources to thwart the enemies of the friendship of China and Pakistan," he commented.

To a question, the prime minister appreciated the way China had handled the COVID-19 pandemic by keeping the safety of their national above all. He said China also supported Pakistan by donating vaccines and sending medical experts.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/15/pakistan-china-moving-towards-second-phase-of-cpec-pm/>

The News

Pakistan, China to launch exchange programme

Islamabad : Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and The National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) will soon launch the first batch of joint exchange programmes for 2022.

The programme aims at funding up to 15 pairs of researchers from both nations to undertake a joint research project, the source added, requesting anonymity.

The priority areas include Computer Science, Internet of Things, Blockchain, Biometrics, Big Data, Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, Deep Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and 3D Printing as well as Climate Change and water, food and ecosystem security etc.

PSF will provide Rs4 million grant to each Pakistani researcher, while NSFC will fund the Chinese researchers, a source told Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. Under the programme, the Chinese and Pakistani researchers are required to submit joint research proposals with NSFC and PSF.

The two organisations do not facilitate the matchmaking but researchers from both sides establish connections on their own.

This will give a boost to collaboration among Chinese and Pakistani researchers and will further deepen scientific cooperation between the two nations, the source said.

The source said that the process to evaluate the joint research proposals was already underway, adding that the programme will be launched after approval of the federal government's budget for the fiscal year 2022-23, starting July 1, 2022.

In Pakistan, scholars and researchers from the universities duly chartered by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) as well as public-sector research centres and institutes are eligible to participate in the programme.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=98100>