



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

July 1-15, 2019

A pilot project of PICS

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July 01, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Chinese styled reforms in insurance sector urged

The Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) on Sunday Chinese styled reforms in insurance sector could prove to be a quantum leap in the economic mobility of Pakistan.

PCJCCI President Shah Faisal Afridi chaired a think-tank meeting, which proposed to introduce Chinese contemporary ideas in insurance sector. On this occasion, Afridi said that according to financial statistics, the phenomenal growth of Pakistani life insurance companies was being maintained at 54 per cent and 71 per cent in terms of net premiums and assets. Pakistan insurance industry contribution to GDP is 0.24 per cent which is abysmally low, he said and observed that Pakistani insurance sector had great potential especially in the wake of forthcoming 2nd phase of CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) labour and projects.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Ahmed Hasnain stressed the need of investment in Islamic Insurance and said that the concept of Islamic insurance should be flourished to cover up a vast room available in the area of Islamic insurance. There was an urgent need on the part of government and concerned authorities to take effective measures to boost up Islamic Insurance business to cater to the needs of people, he asserted.

PCJCCI General Secretary Salahuddin Hanif observed that the policy environment for Chinese companies in the insurance business in Pakistan was very conducive, as the government of Pakistan was eager to overcome the inefficiencies and flaws of the sector. He said that by attracting investment of Chinese insurance companies, Pakistan would be able to boost a dependable economic activity in insurance sector.

PCJCCI decided to extend the fullest support to the Chinese companies in introducing the Pakistan insurance policies for managing and indemnifying financial risks.—APP

The Nation

Belt and road initiative: target towards globalization 5.0

The strategic initiative of the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative has expanded and restructured with new routes being added along with the first project program. Now the plan aims to reach 4.4 billion people in around 69 countries with a combined effect of US \$ 2 trillion on their GDP. Primarily, the initiative would bridge the infrastructure gap and redistribute funds amongst the Asian economies. According to the implementation guideline for the Belt and Road initiative published by China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) in March 2015 "development plans along the Belt and Road routes aim to improve connectivity in five areas: policy, infrastructure, trade, currency, and people".

Moreover, utmost priority is given to the development of infrastructure, like the construction of roads, railways and ports, to improve the connectivity of the region. Another priority area is that of the energy sector that is essential for the smooth running of industries along with the initiative such as power grids, oil and gas pipelines, liquefied natural gas terminals, high-voltage power lines, nuclear power reactors, renewable energy installations and other energy projects. The best possible infrastructure facilities and unhindered flow of energy are the most vital necessities for success of the all-ambitious OBOR. Additionally, for the flow of technology and its acceptance, the communication lines and mega IT projects are also under the pipeline across Asia, the Middle East, East Africa and Europe.

The region is of the most significant since the global stats shows that East Asia is one of the most dynamic and fastest growing regions of the world. Despite the precious treasures of natural resources, Central Asia still lags in terms of development. China understands this fact better than anyone else does. Therefore, the stem of its infrastructure is developed for Central Asia. Such a move aims to reduce the friction in this region and to ensure a bilateral trade for equitable economic growth, development, and integration. The strategic goals of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) further emphasize the importance of regional stability and a better understanding of each other's political makeup to combat the forces of terrorists and extremists groups.

On the other hand, the one belt one-road initiative spreads over the ASEAN countries that have a history marred with neglect of regional connectivity and a desperate need for infrastructure to overcome the impending need for stable energy resources (SIEW 2015). For a 21st, Century China moving towards globalization the challenges that come with a sustainable domestic economy is numerous. Some of these challenges include 'lack of access to the resource markets for final products; reduction or reallocation of industrial overcapacity and diversification of its enormous US\$3.51 trillion in foreign reserves.

In my view the Belt and Road initiative is a window to crack some of these problems in an efficient manner. By the development and transformation of the infrastructure relating to transport, energy, and communication along the Road and the Belt, not only China but also regionally connected economies like Pakistan would be able to solve the problems relating to regional connectivity. For two millennia, China has emerged as a world power, which can be seen from the production, trade, finance culture, ecology, security, military and geopolitics. At an international level, China has evolved as a world power with substantial participation in structure, bilateral trade agreements and peace treaties. China dwells upon its span over a large, unprecedented geographic region that exercises control without any military power. Therefore, the given ideology of soft power without the use of force imposes an interest-driven discourse of its political, economic, and security reality on others.

The "Reform and Opening Up" policy, has been continually working on to improve its multilateral trade agreements and strategy for economic cooperation that provides mutual

benefits for future developments. The Chinese President Xi introduced the new idea that aims at creating a win-win strategy in the concept of “three together”.

Many countries playing a part in China’s One Belt One Road Initiative are working for improving infrastructure, IT and sustainable energy resources that are looking for strengthening their relationships with China. However, there are also some parties that are of the exact opposite view. Therefore the support and trust of the public and business communities are essential for the acceptance of the initiative. The indigenous communities are sensitive towards their religion and customs, in the countries along the path of the Belt and Road, hence getting local support for making decisions in the concerned countries relating to this multilevel and multipurpose gigantic project is very important.

China move towards globalization is not new; indeed, it involves the constant and persistent effort of the government, policymakers and the public at large. Pakistan should also take the same inspiration and make use of this platform in the most efficient manner. Last weekend, I attended the Industrial Energy Efficiency international conference organised by Energy Foundation China in Beijing where delegates from more than 20 countries have participated and put forth their proposals to make effective use of China’s Belt and Road initiative in energy conservation, green and healthy economy.

Nawaiwaqt

پاکستان کی طرف سے چین امریکہ تجارتی معاہدے کا خیر مقدم

بیجنگ (آئی این پی / شینہوا) پاکستان نے امریکہ کے صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ اور چین کے صدر شی جن پھنگ کے درمیان 14 ویں جی 20 کانفرنس کے دوران ہونیوالے تجارتی معاہدے کا خیر مقدم کیا ہے، پاکستانی سفارتخانے کے ایک افسر نے اس معاہدے پر تبصرہ کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ بین الاقوامی رائے عامہ کی بہترین توقعات کے مطابق ہے سرمایہ کار اور کاروباری دنیا کو اس معاہدے سے سکون حاصل ہوا ہے کیونکہ وہ ایک عرصہ سے اس قسم کے معاہدے کا انتظار کر رہے تھے چینی ذرائع ابلاغ کے مطابق اس معاہدے سے چین اور امریکہ کے درمیان ڈیڈ لاک کا خاتمہ ہو گیا ہے تاہم امریکہ اور چین کے دونوں صدور کے درمیان طے پانے والے اتفاق رائے پر عمل کرنا ہوگا، تاکہ مذاکرات کے دوران پیدا ہونے والے اختلافات پر قابو پایا جاسکے۔ اجلاس کے دوران صدر شی اور ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ نے اقتصادی اور تجارتی صلاح مشورے دوبارہ شروع کرنے کا معاہدہ کیا ہے، دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان یہ معاہدہ ہر اہری اور دو طرفہ احترام کی بنیادوں پر ہے۔

July 2, 2019

Dunya News

Developing Hattar, Rashakai SEZs on Govt's top priority: BOI

The government is according top priority to the development of special economic zones (SEZs) of Hattar (Haripur) and Rashakai (Nowshera) to facilitate foreign and local investors.

According to a senior official of Board of Investment (BOI), the government has already removed hurdles in the way of the two SEZs’ development.

The main problem being faced by the Hattar SEZ was that of power supply, which had been resolved by installing a 6 megawatt (MW) power feeder, receiving electricity from Tarbala Dam, he told APP on Monday.

He said the Hattar zone was initially established with setting up 12 industrial units of different sectors and tax exemption for 10 years.

The News

GCU, Chinese Academy of Sciences sign MoU

LAHORE: Government College University (GCU) Lahore and Research Center of Functional Polymer Materials, the Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China signed an MoU here on Monday.

GCU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Hassan Amir Shah and Director Research Centre of Functional Polymer Materials, the Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry, CAS, Prof Dr Dayong Wu signed the accord at a ceremony organised by the GCU Directorate of Academic Planning and External Links (AP&EL) at the University's Syndicate Committee.

GCU Registrar Saboor Ahmad Khan, Director Research Prof Dr Ikram UIHaq, Chemistry Department Chairman Prof Dr Ahmad Adnan, Dean Faculty of Engineering Prof Dr Riaz Ahmad and senior official of CAS, China were also present.

According to the MoU, both the institutes have agreed to share their research, academic data and publications and launch joint research programmes whereby they would support students and faculty members from each other's institute. They also agreed to hold joint training workshop to edify the skills of their faculty members. They have also consented for exchange of faculty and researchers in different disciplines. Later, the delegation visited the various departmental laboratories.

Daycare centre: Government College University (GCU) has established a daycare centre for children of its staff and faculty members at a newly-constructed building on the campus. GCU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Hassan Amir Shah inaugurated the centre, which has state of art facilities to accommodate more than 24 children at a time.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Shah said GCU had established this daycare centre from its own resources and without any external help. "Previously, it was very difficult for the female staff, to leave their children back home or in private day care centers," the VC said.

GCU Quality Enhancement Cell Director Ms Iram Sohail expressed her gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, saying that the university's female staff had been demanding this facility for the last many years. GCU Registrar Mr Saboor Ahmed Khan, Campus Engineer Shahid Hussain Abro and members of Works Committee attended the inauguration ceremony of daycare centre.

‘CPEC can help fill infrastructural gaps’

KARACHI: Pakistan still has a way to go in tackling the infrastructure challenge and China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a great opportunity for the country to bridge this gap, an official said on Monday.

“We make a considerable contribution to our infrastructure and must do more to meet our needs,” Sajjeed Aslam, Pakistan’s head of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, said commenting on the findings of a report titled “How accountants can bridge the global infrastructure gap”.

The survey, involving 3,611 respondents from across 118 countries, was a collaboration of the ACCA and Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA Canada), a statement said. The ACCA Pakistan head said globally, solving the infrastructure puzzle was crucial to achieving a better more sustainable future for all, as it tackled global issues such as inequality, poverty and climate change.

“Infrastructure is the foundation on which our social and economic well-being is built. All around the world – federal, provincial and local governments make decisions that serve the public and play a critical role in building and maintaining important infrastructure investments,” Aslam said.

July 3, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Razak stresses role of Chinese investors in textile sector

The Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textiles, Industries and investment, Abdul Razak Dawood on Tuesday underlined the significance of investment opportunities for Chinese investors in textile sector for industrial cooperation and growth.

Razak appreciated the role of Chinese Companies in textile sector of Pakistan and urged the Chinese delegation to have more extended cooperation in the textile sector, said a press release issued by Ministry of Finance here.

A Chinese delegation of National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) was called on Abdul Razak Dawood to deliberate upon bilateral trade and investment opportunities.

CNTAC is the National Federation of all textile-related industries, as it includes the textile industrial associations and the other economic entities as the registered members. Members of the delegation showed interest in technology up gradation in Pakistan by investing in Textile Research Centers and Stitching Labs. Adviser to PM emphasized to enhance know-how regarding Chinese technological advancement in textile sector and urged the delegation to cooperate in the development of textile sector to avail investment opportunities for developing better partnership.

He appraised the delegation that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has opened enormous investment and business opportunities in Pakistan. In the first phase of the project investment was only attracted to power sector and infrastructure development, he added. Now “we are entering into second phase of CPEC, as industrial cooperation, which provides enormous opportunities for investment in textile and agriculture.

Moreover, in the wake of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Phase-II bilateral cooperation between two countries is widening by providing extended market access to Pakistani product in Chinese market which has increased industrial base of Pakistan, adviser highlighted.

Razak said Chinese companies should invest in whole value chain of textile, from cotton to garment, for the development of sector and both countries should work for win-win position. He appraised the participant that China has already cooperated in manufacturing of polyester yarn in Pakistan and eyeing for extended mutual cooperation in finished/value added products of textile sector.

Head of CNTAC delegation appreciated the Pakistan’s business friendly environment for better cooperation in industrial development, especially textile industry. The visit of CNTAC aims to observe the existing business environment for future investment in industrial development in Pakistan.

Pakistan Observer

CPEC — poverty alleviation

SINCE the inception of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project under the Belt & Road (B&R) initiative and a lot of work has already been done. Out of 22 big and small projects, 11 have been completed while work on the rest is underway. Although CPEC and B&R is the Chinese initiative, yet aims at collective prosperity of the entire region. The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Phase II between Pakistan and China has already been signed besides other important agreements related to CPEC. In spite of lot of criticism by Opposition both the countries are much better positioned and the partnership between the two is growing. Obviously lot of job opportunities are expected to generate due to FTA but need to be optimal utilization of job opportunities from these generated through CPEC and its allied projects. For maximum utilization it is necessary to enhance the skill and productivity of Pakistani labour force.

Recently three small steel mills have been taken over by the Chinese and it is strange to note that all employees are replaced with Chinese nationals except required to deal with public. It is point of concern, it need careful analysis to find out the reasons. Is it due to non-availability of skilled work force or any other reason? If so, then our concerned ministry/departments should take immediate action to enhance the skills of labour up to the level required and leaving no excuse for Chinese and others to bring manpower from outside. I hope that Pakistani concerned ministry/department would have done homework what types of job opportunities will be generated as a result of CPEC and its allied projects. Pakistan needs to provide employment to

the youth and other unemployed to restrict and eliminate the poverty, for that employment is the major instrument. Pakistan's concerned authorities must be vigilant and should have a comprehensive follow-up program to avail maximum benefit from these projects otherwise the already poverty alleviation program like Ehsas will lose its effectiveness.

Under the CPEC's industrial cooperation, out of nine, Special Economic Zones (SEZ) the work on Rashakai has been initiated and 20 factories would be set up initially. According to original plan employment in the SEZs would be given to the local people and the latest technology would be transferred from China to Pakistan. Are local person are being trained to take over the jobs or again manpower will be imported from outside with the excuse of not having required skill? There are six areas in the social sector, including education, health, agriculture, water & irrigation, and poverty alleviation in which around 26 new projects will be initiated in Pakistan. Under the social sector cooperation of CPEC two model villages would be built in Pakistan under CPEC to uplift the living standard of low income segments of the society but that need sustainability in income of people which can be ensured by providing employment.

A comprehensive transportation package is also prepared. The economic corridor is considered central to China-Pakistan relations and will run about 2700 km from Gwadar to Kashgar. CPEC is intended to rapidly modernize Pakistani infrastructure and strengthen its economy by the construction of modern transportation networks, numerous energy projects, and special economic zones. A vast network of highways and railways are to be built under the aegis of CPEC that will span the length and breadth of Pakistan. Modern transportation networks built under CPEC will link seaports in Gwadar and Karachi with northern Pakistan, as well as points further north in western China and Central Asia. A 1,100 kilometer long motorway will be built between the cities of Karachi and Lahore as part of CPEC, while the Karakoram Highway between Rawalpindi and the Chinese border will be completely reconstructed and overhauled.

The Karachi-Peshawar main railway line will also be upgraded to allow for train travel at up to 160 km per hour. Pakistan's railway network will also be extended to eventually connect to China's Southern Xinjiang Railway in Kashgar. Over \$33 billion worth of energy infrastructure are to be constructed by private consortia to help alleviate Pakistan's chronic energy shortage, which regularly amount to over 4,500MW. A network of pipelines to transport liquefied natural gas and oil will also be laid as part of the project, including a \$2.5 billion pipeline between Gwadar and Nawabshah to eventually transport gas from Iran. Heavy construction activities are expected in result of these interventions and local trained workforce in these sectors would be largely required. It is time to work out the estimated required manpower and skill levels for these projects.

It is pertinent to mention that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has also been signed on the occasion between All Pakistan China Entrepreneurs Association (APCEA) and National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) to provide skilled workforce to Chinese companies engaged in various projects in Pakistan. The Chairman of NAVTTTC assured to provide all the required skilled labour for their projects. But it needs hard work and to

associate the Chinese professional to ensure the skill level required to them otherwise I have doubt the repetition of Steel Mills instance.

In the South Asian region, Pakistan's position in trained manpower is fairly weak. Development of Pakistan's enormous human potential requires a shift in national priorities, and a greater share of the country's financial resources to the technical education and vocational and technical training. Pakistan must create conditions and environment necessary for creativity and innovation essential for moving into and being competitive in the knowledge-based industries, which will provide the highest value-addition for the economy. This will require training of various technical skills in Pakistan preferably priority to require for CPEC projects. The formal institutions produce a very small proportion of the total increments to the skilled workforce and not necessarily in accordance with the demand and of requisite quality. Hence a high tech Vocational Training Institutes keeping in view the future requirements under CPEC needs to be established.

CPEC: A momentum for prosperity

Over the years, all of us have worked closely with Chinese officials and investors in facilitating projects, people to people relationships, cultural exchanges, and, most importantly, ensuring the security of everyone involved in CPEC projects. As we speak, 2,700 students from Pakistan were granted scholarships to study in China with thousands already learning Mandarin across the country. This kind of exchange is as important as big -scale projects. Because building trust between peoples is what binds countries together in ties that sustain the tests of time, in all weathers and all storms.

As the first containership sailed into Gwadar in March, CPEC has already started making an impact in all provinces. We have a long way to go in providing safe drinking water and schools to the people of Gwadar, but I am glad to see that social responsibility and signature projects are beginning to complement each other.

This must be something we work on together as early projects start harvesting into reality. Everywhere there is an industrial park or SEZ, a port or energy project, there should be a groundswell of children going to schools, functioning healthcare units and waste to energy plants, which China is so good at doing at every level. The responsibility for this lies with Pakistan and with the provinces too, but I urge our Chinese friends to double their interest and investment in social development as they are doing already in partnership with UNDP in Balochistan.

We are proud to say that the forward-looking government of Sindh has also been leading the way in renewable energy projects. Sindh province contributes 930 megawatts of wind energy to the national grid with the help of CPEC projects. In line with this, the federal government should allow the use of renewable energy in Sindh.

As part of our history of joint cooperation, PPP looks forward to continuing to work closely with local and Chinese stakeholders in achieving our common goals and interests for the betterment of

our people and the region. Two ports are now operating in their optimal capacities and other commercial ports, including the important KetiBunder, are under development in partnership with the Chinese.

Pakistan is not equivocal about its relationship with China. Right now, as we see promises turning into projects, the widespread public ownership of the ‘feel good’ factor that China generates in Pakistan continues as do questions about equity transparency spread. With a multi-billion dollar investment like CPEC, responsibilities and obligations for both Pakistan and China double. Transparency and equitability are the foundations for which an initiative with a scale as grand as CPEC must be built on.

As CPEC rolls out in Pakistan, there are three obvious areas to focus on: economy, environment and security.

It is undeniable that as an infrastructure and investment pipeline, CPEC has the potential of taking Pakistan into a quantum leap of prosperity and peace. It is believed that Chinese investment can stimulate a 15pc increase in Pakistan’s GDP by 2030 and would likely create over a million jobs across multiple sectors in Pakistan. While still in its very early stages, CPEC has already created 60,000 jobs and we hope that Pakistanis would be able to capitalize on this new job market. We need more Pakistanis trained to hold down these jobs.

However, development does not start and end at infrastructure and economic growth. We must also look into tech knowledge sharing and collaborations as we enter the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The development of regional value chains, a phenomenon that has entirely reshaped global trade in recent decades, is a particularly exciting prospect. Pakistan is well positioned to gain from this shift and CPEC is the perfect opportunity of bringing advanced manufacturing and production practices to the country.

We have a responsibility to empower our youth and Pakistan can be a powerhouse of opportunities. Almost 60pc of Pakistan’s population is under the age of 30, making it the country’s most important demographic. To put that in context, three out of five Pakistanis are under the age of 30, full of hope and energy, but most without real employment prospects. Close to 60pc of them are currently in unstable or underpaying jobs and about 35pc are working in unpaid jobs. CPEC has given the millions of young people who enter the workforce every year a renewed hope. We have a joint task to find ways in which we can tap into the potential of Pakistan’s youth and expand their growth, and look at ways to accelerate youth employment and skill training.

As CPEC grows, Pakistan and China must look into a broader range of ventures and issues where we can cooperate and work on, one of which is environmental protection and climate change. Pakistan currently is the 7th most vulnerable country in the world to climate change. Pakistan’s carbon emissions are expected to double in two years and surge 14 times by 2050, which is way more than the global average. Given my travels in China, I know that the People’s Republic is no stranger to challenges brought about by climate change.

The enormous industrial investment and projects that will come with CPEC can be amplified if we prioritize creating a clean energy economy. I can only hope that we safeguard the future of the generations to come and that what we do today, in the name of progress, does not create new challenges for them. We hope that the Chinese government can bring to Pakistan the clean energy initiatives they have strictly enforced at home. We are old friends, and whom else can you ask for more, except from friends. Together, we must resolve to move towards eco friendly, sustainable and renewable energy sources.

Let me reiterate, if there is one thing that Pakistanis agree on, it is CPEC's vision of human security, economic cooperation, reform and joint prosperity. As an economic bloc, South Asia will be one of the wealthiest regions in the world, with markets and growth vectors second only to China. At the same time, the region is also forecast for growing inequality, land hunger, poverty based migrations, water stress and social deficits. These trends can be divisive in a region already crackling with tension.

We believe that CPEC will create a new engine for reinvigorating innovation and ingenuity not just in both the countries but for the region as well. It is this cooperation, innovation and ingenuity that will drive the project of peace in a world divided by inequities, conflicts and social disorder.

The Nation

NA Speaker, Duma Chairman agree to boost ties

ISLAMABAD - National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser and Russian State Duma Chairman VolodinViaheslavViktorovi on Tuesday agreed on the establishment of a Joint Parliamentary Commission for discussing and suggesting a way forward for promotion of bilateral economic and investment relations between Pakistan and the Russian Federation.

The NA speaker and the Russian State Duma chairman met in Moscow on the sidelines of the Conference on Development of Parliamentarians, according to a message received from Russia.

Matters relating to enhancing bilateral relations and economic cooperation were discussed between the two presiding officers.

The Speaker opined that structural changes in the economy and pro-investment policies of the Pakistan government had resulted in creation of immense economic potential.

He also suggested for Russian participation in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

The Russian Duma Chairman proposed for meetings to finalise the proposal regarding the Parliamentary Commission.

He said that it was heartening to note that Pakistan-Russia relations were in phase of progression and would attain strength with continued interaction and cooperation.

Volodin Viaheslav Viktorovich suggested that such Parliamentary moots should be held on regular basis in order to discuss issues confronting regional and global peace, socio-economic growth and development of human potential.

While talking to his Russian counterpart, the NA Speaker said Pakistan attached immense importance to its relations with Russia.

Recalling the Russian assistance in industrial sector, he said that the establishment of Steel Mills played an important role in development of Pakistan.

The Speaker suggested for cooperation in trade, investment, space security, defence, nuclear energy for peace purposes, culture and education between Pakistan and Russia.

He expressed satisfaction on pace of strategic dialogue between the two countries on consultation of regional issues that include cooperation addressing the menace of terrorism and extremism, human and drug trafficking and other diverse sectors.

The Speaker expressing his satisfaction on the quantum of trade between Pakistan and Russia said mutual trade had increased up to \$ 314 million which needed to be enhanced in view of trade potential on both sides.

Speaking about the Parliamentary relations between the National Assembly of Pakistan and Russian State Duma, Asad Qaiser said that cordial relations existed between both the Parliaments and friendship groups had been established on both sides which had been actively interacting and sharing experiences.

He conveyed his appreciation for successful holding of Conference on “Development of Parliamentarians”.

Chairman State Duma Volodin Viaheslav Viktorovich conveyed his profound sentiments to his Pakistani counterpart stating that Russia valued its relations with Pakistan and wanted to further cement them through economic and Parliamentary cooperation.

He agreed that establishment of Joint Parliamentary Commission comprising members of the Parliament from both sides could be a giant leap in cementing Russia-Pakistan relations.

He agreed for enhancing trade between Pakistan-Russia which should commensurate with existing trade potential on either side.

Nawaiwaqt

سی پیک کے تحت 8.2 ارب ڈالر سے ریلوے لائنوں کی اپ گریڈیشن کی جائیگی

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے تحت وفاقی حکومت 8.2 ارب ڈالر مالیت سے ریلوے کی مین لائن ایم ایل ون کی اپ گریڈیشن کا منصوبہ رواں مالی سال کے دوران شروع کر رہی ہے، وفاقی حکومت کی جانب سے سی پیک کے تحت ریلوے کی مین لائن ایم ایل ون کی اپ گریڈیشن سے اس سٹرٹیجک منصوبے پر جلد کام مکمل کر کے پاکستان ریلوے کو جدید خطوط پر استوار کیا جاسکے گا۔ سی پیک سیکرٹریٹ کے حکام کے مطابق وفاقی حکومت ریلویز کے شعبے کو رواں مالی سال کے بجٹ میں

خصوصی اہمیت دے رہی ہے تاکہ اس کی تکمیل سے ملک کی اقتصادی اور معاشی ترقی اور خوشحالی کے اہداف میں مدد حاصل کی جاسکے سی پیک سیکرٹریٹ حکام کے مطابق چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) منصوبہ کے آغاز کے بعد پاکستانی شہریوں کی زندگیوں میں خاطر خواہ بہتری اور تبدیلی نمایاں نظر آرہی ہے، یہ پراجیکٹ چینی حکومت کی ”بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ اینڈ نیٹ ویئر ایٹو“ پراجیکٹ کا اہم عنصر ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا اربوں ڈالر کے منصوبہ میں روٹ کے ساتھ ساتھ سکیناگ میں کاشغر کو جنوب مغربی پاکستان کی گواہر بندرگاہ سے ملانے کیلئے انفراسٹرکچر کی تعمیر شامل ہے

July 4, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Razak invites Chinese investors to explore investment opportunities in IT sector

The Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile Industry and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood Wednesday met Chinese investors for aiming to explore the investment opportunities in Information Technology (IT) sector in Pakistan.

The Adviser to PM appraised the delegation regarding the investment friendly policies of Pakistan and urged the delegation to exploit the untapped potential of IT sector by bringing investment in Pakistan. A Chinese delegation of China Railway Construction Cooperation (CRCCI) called on Abdul Razaq Dawood, said a press release issued by Ministry of Commerce here. CRCCI is one of the largest integrated developer and contractor which have strategic partnership with top-notch IT companies.

Dawood further underscored the special incentives provided to the investors in Information Technology (IT) Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Capital city Islamabad.

The Managing Director RCCI appreciated Pakistan's business friendly policies and informed the participants that RCCI intended to undertake 'Islamabad IT Special Economic Zone Project' as a Public Private Partnership between Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) and CRCCI.

He underlined that RCCI was committed to invest in development of SEZ without financially burdening the Pakistan government.

The project aims to develop an IT Special Economic Zone in Islamabad with state of the art infrastructure, superior connectivity and smart facilities and showed interest in investment in IT sector, he added.

The proposed project would bring immense benefits to Pakistan by attracting top IT companies for investment in Pakistan, he said. The project will provide safe, convenient and affordable office spaces to nurture home grown IT business and will generate thousands of new jobs for Pakistani IT talent while increasing the competitiveness of Pakistan's IT product in global market, the CRCCI representative highlighted.

The Adviser to PM appreciated the investment proposal of the CRCCI and ensured all kind of cooperation to push the project forward. Moreover, he stressed that the CRCCI should collaborate with local Pakistani IT firms and companies to transfer the technological know-how and create jobs for local IT human resource.

China's Hunan province to support Pakistan in agriculture development

Chinese expertise and technological advancements in agriculture can help Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in accomplishing his dream of socio-economic development and poverty reduction in Pakistan.

This was stated by Mr. Chen Wenhao, Deputy Governor of Hunan Province of China, who led a six-member Chinese delegation to the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (S3H) at National University of Science and Technology (NUST).

The delegation met with Dr. Ashfaq Hasan Khan, Dean and Principal of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities (S3H), and Director Chinese Studies Center Ambassador (Retired), Syed Hasan Javed.

While briefing the delegation, Dr. Ashfaq said CPEC, as a major project of BRI is playing vital role in economic growth, industrialization, regional connectivity and socio-economic development of Pakistan. Dr. Ashfaq also said Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan, on international and local forums, has emphasized the need to learn from China's model of socio-economic development.

Pakistan's vast agriculture sector offers tremendous opportunities of win-win collaboration for the Hunan enterprises and companies, especially, in agritech, forestry, ground water resource engineering, industrial design and innovation, he added.

Dr. Ashfaq appreciated the interest of the delegation to establish joint cooperation with NUST and hoped collaboration with China's agriculture institutes and universities will increase in various fields in future. Mr. Chen in his remarks offered to expand cooperation in iconological development, forest conservation, information technology, and water and air pollution control, academic exchanges, and industrial design, media and communication sectors. China's Hunan province has made marvelous development in agriculture and Chinese scholars and experts can support Pakistan in the agriculture sector, leading to socio-economic development and poverty reduction, Mr. Chen said in his remarks.

Furthermore, he emphasized the need of comprehensive and multi-disciplinary cooperation in forest ecology, conservation, timber, biomass energy, and natural resource conservation. Governor also proposed to establish a scientific information exchange center for the development of agriculture sector and environmental protection.

While highlighting the various prospective areas of collaboration for Chinese institutions, Director CSC Hassan Javed said NUST's Science and Technology Park, an innovative

economic incubation center, offers immense business opportunities for the Chinese Agritech companies to tap the raw material potential of Pakistan.

Finally, both sides agreed to boost exchanges of experts and scholars, students and faculty for the educational and technical development. The meeting concluded with a lively and insightful question answer session wherein Dr. Ashfaque Hasan Khan presented a memorial shield of the NUST to the head of Chinese delegation.

The Nation

Chinese Film Festival kicks off at PNCA

ISLAMABAD- One of the largest Chinese cultural events, Chinese Film Festival, on Wednesday opened with the screening of hit Chinese movie ‘The Founding of a Republic’ here at Pakistan National Council of the Arts.

In collaboration with Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the festival is aimed to mark the 70th founding anniversary of People’s Republic of China and the 68th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationship between China and Pakistan.

The event is a combined launched by Chinese Embassy, China Cultural Center in Pakistan and China Film Archive to introduce one of the best Chinese works in cinema to the people of Pakistan as top Chinese films will be screened for local audiences till 6th of July.

According to the schedule released by PNCA, the festival started off with the screening of first movie named ‘The Founding of a Republic (2009)’ at 8pm in PNCA auditorium.

On July 4, the movies ‘Brotherhood of Blades II’ to be screened at 11 am followed by lunch at 1 pm, then next movies will be screened including ‘Ashima’ at 2pm and ‘Taste of Rice Flower’ at 5pm in the PNCA Auditorium while ‘Operation Mekong’ at 11 am, Himalayas: Ladder to Paradise at 2 pm and ‘The Taste of Rice Flower’ at 4 pm will be screened in PNCA Lecture Hall.

The festival will continue the next day with Lecture at 11 am, lunch at 1 pm followed by conference at 2 pm while later that evening movie “The Founding of a Republic” will be screened at 6 pm. On the last day of the festival, movie ‘The Grandmaster’ at 11 am, ‘Brotherhood of Blades II’ at 2 pm and ‘The Knot’ will be screened at 5pm in the evening at PNCA Auditorium Hall.

It is one of the largest and most popular Chinese cultural events and is held annually in major cities of the world. Cinema was introduced in China in 1896 and the first Chinese film, Dingjun Mountain, was made in 1905, with the film industry being centered on Shanghai in the first decades while 1930s was considered the first ‘golden period’ of Chinese cinema.

The News

Chinese president's vision demolishes traditional statecraft theories

Every time I visit China, I am left wondering over the massive development and growth that this country has achieved as compared with every passing day, driven by the philosophy of President Xi Jinping that has demolished many theories of statecraft in practice in the capitals known to be the de facto rulers of the world.

There are many interpretations in the field about this philosophy or vision and as many differences of opinion, both in terms of ideology and methodology. I am using the word vision to draw a comparison with many 'visions' in play in the countries/systems that claim to be outside the 'iron curtain'. What iron curtain? If discipline, organised lifestyle and hard work constitute iron curtain, it should be a number one priority of leaders entrusted the task of governance, all over the globe. What use the governance that leads to nothing but dependency and despondency? At least, China is rapidly coming out of this dark abyss, as I came to know directly from the "horse's mouth" (as we interacted with a number of Chinese officials including Mr Li of China Economic Net (CEN), Mr Xu Honghai of China International Culture Exchange Center and the seniors of China Railway, State Council Information Office, Norinco International and deputy general manager of Lahore MRTS Orange Line Project).

What are the yardsticks applied to judge or counter check this information or claims of eradication of poverty? The answers were more inspiring than the development visible on roads, in subways, in markets and other areas of human activity. That 'below the poverty' graph has been reversed more than 70 percent. It is unprecedented. All the economic models that have been tried in other countries are still lagging behind. Perhaps this is what is meant by the 'Chinese characteristics theory' as the Chinese functionaries often give credit to their own, unique socio-economic model that is in place with Chinese characteristics'. I am grateful to China Economic Net, the colossal hub of growth, information and prosperity for giving me an opportunity to come on the stage and speak out my mind and impressions about this driving force behind China's immense development.

It is somewhat like real politics that delivers, not lingers. A broad cross section of the Chinese society says it all owes to the intrepid leadership of President Xi Jinping, who is among those very few leaders after Mao Xedong who galvanized the Chinese society into action by instilling ideas and motivational concepts. Take for example one such concept which is popular worldwide as President Xi's theory of two mountains. According to this theory, a lush green mountain and clean water are worth more than a mountain of gold. My conclusion is that the Chinese leadership has tried its utmost to transform the entire citizenry into an optimally functioning engine of economic growth and thus of prosperity otherwise feeding and organizing a population of 1.4 billion people would have remained a remote possibility.

One must thank the Chinese Consulate-General at Lahore and its collaborators who undertook this mission titled 'Understanding China', by inviting Pakistani journalists and intellectuals to

have an objective view of these wondrous happenings, that should be emulated in other parts of the world, instead of being viewed with jealousy and protectionism (I mean protectionist policies, tariff barriers instead of fair competition). What, however, inspired me the most during the recent China tour that culminated on July 1 was the declaration of shared prosperity that China appears to be adhering to, moved by the ideals of peaceful co-existence and non-intervention with no desire for hegemony.

July 5, 2019

Daily Times

Xinjiang: land of peace and ethnic diversity

Xinjiang is the nearest place of China to Pakistan. When we say that ‘Sino-Pakistan friendship is higher than mountains’ it refers to the Karakoram Mountains between Xinjiang and Pakistan. As the starting point for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the hub area of the ‘Belt and Road Initiative’, Xinjiang is facing unprecedented opportunities for development.

From 1978 to 2018, Xinjiang has made great improvement in people’s living standards. The GDP of Xinjiang increased from 3.9 billion yuan to 1.15 trillion yuan (\$1686 billion) and the per capita GDP increased from 313 yuan to 48,000 yuan (\$7000), an increase of 294 times and 153 times respectively. Tourism has become an important engine for high-quality development. Last year, the number of domestic and international tourists in Xinjiang exceeded 150 million, an increase of more than 40%.

The greatest charm of Xinjiang lies in the multi-ethnic harmony and diversity in cultures. There are 25,000 places for religious activities, including 24,400 mosques. On average, there is one mosque for every 530 Muslims. Xinjiang has a population of 25 million and hosts all 56 ethnic groups in China such as Uygur, Han, Kazakh, Hui, Kirgiz, Mongolia, Tajik, etc. The minority population accounts for 59.9% of the total population. The people of all ethnic groups hold together like pomegranate seeds, cherishing national unity as much as their own lives.

The remarkable economic and social development that Xinjiang has achieved attributed to the policy of the Chinese government in firmly cracking down on terrorism and safeguarding social stability. Since the 1990’s, terrorists, extremists and separatists inside and outside China have planned and organized thousands of violent terrorist attacks in Xinjiang, resulting in a large number of casualties of innocent people of all ethnic groups. Among these attacks are some notorious cases. On 5 July 2009, mobs smashed the city of Urumqi, causing 197 deaths and more than 1,700 injuries. At that time, Xinjiang was on the verge of being swallowed by terrorism.

By combining anti-terrorism experience of the international community with the ground situation, the Chinese government has taken a series of deradicalization measures, including establishing the vocation and education training center. Lessons on official language of China, Chinese laws, vocational training and deradicalization were offered for free, so trainees can

master a skill and achieve self-reliance after the training. During the training, customs and habits of different ethnic groups and different religions are respected. After the training is completed, trainees are recommended jobs in local enterprises.

Deradicalization in Xinjiang has been proven effective with remarkable outcomes. For nearly 3 years, no violent terrorist attacks have taken place in Xinjiang. Number of criminal and public security cases also decreased sharply, and the infiltration of extremism has been effectively curbed. Today, Xinjiang is not only as beautiful as it used to be, but also much safer. It becomes a beautiful home for people of all ethnics to live and work in peace.

Despite all the development in Xinjiang, in the past few months, there have been some noises by Western media. Some attacked the training center as “prisons” or “concentration camps”, which “seriously violated human rights”. Among those who make voices, some have never been to Xinjiang, their allegation is based on rumors or imagination; some have hidden motives, who intentionally twist the truth to discredit China or provoke conflict between China and Muslim countries by linking the effort of Chinese government in maintaining social stability with “religion repression”.

For those who do not have a chance to know what is happening in Xinjiang, they are welcome to visit Xinjiang truth with their own eyes. Recently, representatives from international organizations including the UN, OIC, and government officials and media groups from Pakistan, Malaysia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and some other countries visited Xinjiang and met face-to-face with the trainees. They witnessed how local Muslims lived and worked in peace and fully enjoy the freedom of religion. They highly appreciated the ethnic and religious policies of China, and firmly supported China’s preventive anti-terrorism and deradicalization efforts. For those who pretend to be asleep, we know that they can never be awakened. We believe that facts speak louder than words, while lies cannot hide the truth.

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Pakistan has long been disturbed by terrorism. Under the joint efforts of the Pakistani government, the armed forces and the people, terrorism has been basically eliminated with tremendous sacrifices paid by the society. Social security has been effectively maintained. China and Pakistan have cooperated with each other in combating the “three forces” over the years, and jointly safeguarded the construction of the CPEC. China supports Pakistan in its efforts in carrying out the National Action Plan on Anti-terrorism. China is ready to jointly enhance counter-terrorism capacity, and beef up international cooperation with Pakistan. Working hand in hand, China and Pakistan will play a more positive role in safeguarding the security of the two brotherly countries, as well as the peace and stability in the region.

Pakistan Observer

Yao Jing calls Nyazee

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing on Thursday called on Chief Organizer Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Saifullah Khan Nyazee at PTI’s Central Secretariat here at Islamabad. According to the press release issued by party’s Central Media Department, PTI’s Central Secretary General Arshad Dad and others were also present in the meeting. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, including bilateral ties between the two countries and features of Chinese political system were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese envoy stated that transcending diplomatic and governmental ties, bilateral relations on public and societal level between the two countries have steadily grown in strength.

“In addition to the partnership on state level, we are looking forward to build dynamic and enduring ties on party level as well”, said the Chinese envoy. He went on to add that Prime Minister Imran Khan during his visit to China expressed keen interest in his visit to party school of Communist Party of China (CPC).

He said China lauded PM Imran Khan’s commitment towards poverty alleviation and socioeconomic uplift of masses of his country and his vision on anti-corruption. “We acknowledge PM Imran Khan’s unflinching commitment towards China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)”, he said adding that our government was working to provide easy access to Pakistan’s agricultural merchandise to Chinese markets.

“We will welcome Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf to learn from the political experience of the Communist Party of China”, he said. The envoy extended invitation to PTI Chief Organizer Saifullah Khan Nyazee to visit China which he accepted with gratitude. Both sides would coordinate to finalize the schedule of the visit. Chief Organizer PTI Saifullah Khan Nyazee, on the occasion, stated that economic partnership between the two countries was significant.—APP

Chinese companies want to introduce contemporary technology in Pakistan

Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) have taken an initiative to introduce Chinese techniques in paper machinery and environmental protection equipment by conducting a B2B (Business to Business) session with various Chinese companies. A number of renowned companies from Shandong province of China participated in the meeting, which included Shandong Lutai Paper Machinery Group Company Limited, Shandong Pulute Machine Tool Company Limited, Shandong Shansen CNC Technology Company Limited, ZaozhuangXinjinshan Intelligent Machinery Company Limited.

Their areas of interests were paper machinery, environmental protection equipment, the first kind of pressure vessel, steel welding heat conduction, oil drying cylinder, high-tech enterprises, CNC machine, the intermediate relay module, splitter module, communication interface module, cable, electronic brake of AC motors, mining enterprises, etc.

Addressing the B2B session here, the PCJCCI President Shah Faisal Afridi said that PCJCCI aimed at introducing innovative ideas and contemporary technology in Pakistan for making improved and new machinery in low-cost. He was glad that PCJCCI was successful to take high-level companies on board in the field of paper machinery and environmental protection equipment which was the dire need of future industry in the world.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Ahmed Husnain acknowledged that China had extended proactive cooperation to Pakistan for bridging communication gap between two friendly nations by continuously identifying potential sectors of trade, investment and joint venture opportunities.

He said, “By conducting such B2B sessions, we can learn different contemporary ways of technological advancement which will definitely prove to be fruitful for the industry of Pakistan.”

While, Shandong Pulute Machine Tool Company Limited Chairman Lin Zhaoyou said, “We want to share our very own concept of ‘the creation, the innovation, and sharing co-prosperity’ with Pakistan, which will help it to progress more in CNC machinery.”

ZaozhuangXinjinshan Intelligent Machinery Company Limited Chairman Mr Sun Zhongyan shared his views by saying that China valued the friendship with Pakistan and thanked for hospitality, Pakistan and China had cooperation and PCJCCI was a part of that cooperation. He said high-level exchanges and visits of Pakistan and China leaderships gave them a kind of direction and momentum for more cooperation.

PCJCCI General Secretary Salahuddin Hanif said that this session would open new vistas of opportunities for Pakistani investors and their China counterparts and intend them to shift their production facility to Pakistan.

The News

Pak-China cooperation in mango tech carries bright prospects

BEIJING: China-Pakistan co-op in mango technology has bright prospects both for promoting the rapid growth of this popular regional fruit and getting its good market prices, says a report published here by the China Economic Net (CEN).

Pakistani trade associations needed to build up their bargaining power to support mango sales prices and at the same time, the government should come forward to set up a special fund to subsidize fruit growers.

This is the best way to ensure the enthusiasm of the fruit growers stay unaffected, the report said quoting Cheng Xizhong, special Commentator of CEN and visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law senior Fellow of the Chahar Institute.

Known as "oriental fruit basket", Pakistan is a big fruit producer. In most Asian countries, including China, fruit supply has exceeded demand. In order to make mango more competitive, China has mainly adopted five measures:

First, open up more sales channels. In addition to wholesale fruit dealers, consumers can also buy mango from retailers, or more conveniently, shop on e-commerce platform. Second, encourage supply chain enterprises to invest in fruit production bases for mutual benefits.

Third, steadily establish a modern production system. Only by establishing large-scale bases can we better introduce modern technology, cultivate more popular categories through science and technology, and forecast through big data, produce fruits that consumers like, control and improve quality.

Fourth, improve logistics and cold chain facilities; build roads, large warehouses and wholesale markets to facilitate transportation, storage and sale of fruits.

Nawaiwaqt

پاکستان اور چین باہمی اعتماد اور دوستانہ تعلقات میں منسلک ہیں، یا جو جنگ

اسلام آباد (اپنے سٹاف رپورٹر سے) پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یا جو جنگ گذشتہ روز تحریک انصاف کے مرکزی سیکرٹریٹ لیو ایر یا پینچ جہاں چیف آرگنائزر سیف اللہ خان نیازی اور سیکرٹری جنرل ارشد داد نے ان کا خیر مقدم کیا چینی سفیر نے پی ٹی آئی کے دونوں قائدین سے ملاقات بھی کی جس میں دو طرفہ تعلقات اور باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تفصیلی بات چیت کی گئی ملاقات میں چین کے سیاسی ڈھانچے کے مختلف پہلوؤں پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا چینی سفیر نے چیف آرگنائزر سیف اللہ خان نیازی کو دورہ چین کی دعوت دی اور کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین باہمی اعتماد اور دوستانہ تعلقات میں منسلک ہیں دونوں ملکوں میں تعلقات سفارتی و حکومتی سطح کے بڑھتے ہوئے سماجی و عوامی سطح پر بھی مضبوط ہوئے ہیں ہم چاہتے ہیں کہ حکومتی تعاون و اشتراک کے ساتھ جماعتی بنیادوں پر بھی متحرک و مستحکم روابط استوار کئے جائیں، سیف اللہ خان نیازی نے دورہ چین کی دعوت قبول کر لی، چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ غربت اور کرپشن کے خاتمے کے حوالے سے وزیراعظم پاکستان کے ویژن کے معترف ہیں، سی پیک سے وزیراعظم کی کمٹمنٹ کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں، وزیراعظم عمران خان کی خواہش پر پاکستان کی زرعی اجناس کی چینی منڈیوں تک رسائی کے عمل کو سہل اور تیز بنا رہے ہیں، سیف اللہ خان نیازی نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک میں اقتصادی اشتراک دونوں ممالک کیلئے سود مند ہیں

فنی تعلیم کے شعبے میں پاکستانی ٹرینرز کا دوسرا وفد تربیت کیلئے چین روانہ

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) پاکستان میں انفارمیشن و کمیونیکیشن ٹیکنالوجی کی ترقی کرتی ہوئی صنعت اور مستقبل میں اس کی افادیت کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے نیشنل ووکیشنل اور ٹیکنیکل کمیشن (نیو ٹیک) نے ہوا سے ٹیکنالوجیز لیسٹیڈ پاکستان کے تعاون و اشتراک سے ملک بھر کے پیشہ ورانہ و فنی تربیت فراہم کرنے والے متفرق اداروں سے سترہ ماہرین و اساتذہ منتخب کئے گئے۔ ان فنی ماہرین و اساتذہ کو ایک ماہ کے تربیتی کورس پر چین بھیجا جائے گا۔ چیئر مین نیو ٹیک سید جاوید حسن نے ٹرینرز کے وفد کی چائناتربیت روانگی کے موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ضرورت کے مطابق تربیت فراہم کرنا ہمارے ٹیوٹ ریفرم ایجنڈے کے لئے اہم ترین امر ہے۔ نیو ٹیک کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر، ڈاکٹر ناصر خان نے پاکستان کو اساتذہ کو مزید قابل و ہنرمند بنانے کے لئے ہوا سے کے تعاون کی بھرپور پذیرائی کی اور امید ظاہر کی کہ اس طرح کے خیر سگالی پر مبنی پراجیکٹس مستقبل میں بھی جاری رہیں گے۔

July 06, 2019

Daily Times

Xi'an-rejuvenation of culture

Xi'an is the capital of Shaanxi Province, China. A sub-provincial city on the Guanzhong Plain in northwestern China, it is one of the oldest cities in China, and the oldest of the Four Great Ancient Capitals, having held the position under several of the most important dynasties in Chinese history, including Western Zhou, Qin, Western Han, Sui, and Tang. Xi'an is the starting point of the Silk Road and home to the Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang.

This scribe had the opportunity to visit this ancient city recently and was surprised by Xi'an's rich and culturally significant history. The Lantian Man was discovered in 1963 in Lantian County, 50 km southeast of Xi'an, and dates back to at least 500,000 years before the present time. A 6,500-year-old Neolithic village, Banpo, was discovered in 1953 on the eastern outskirts of the city proper, which contains the remains of several well-organized Neolithic settlements carbon dated to 5600-6700 years ago. The site is now home to the Xi'an Banpo Museum, built in 1957 to preserve the archaeological collection

Xi'an was the first city in China to be introduced to Islam. Emperor Gaozong of the Tang Dynasty officially allowed the practice of Islam in AD 651. Xi'an has a large Muslim community, the significant majority is from the Hui group, there are an estimated 50,000 Hui Muslims in Xi'an. There are seven mosques in Xi'an, the best known being the Great Mosque.

Because of the city's many historical monuments and a plethora of ancient ruins and tombs in the vicinity, tourism has been an important component of the local economy, and the Xi'an region is one of the most popular tourist destinations in China.

The city has many important historical sites, and some are ongoing archaeological projects, such as the Mausoleum of Qin Shi Huang and his Terracotta Army, which comprises the eighth wonder of the world. A Terracotta soldier was presented to LokVirsa Museum in Islamabad, where it stands in its entire splendor. There are several burial mounds, tombs of the Zhou Dynasty kings located in the city. Xi'an also contains some 800 royal mausoleums and tombs from the Han Dynasty, with some of them yielding hundreds of sculpted clay soldiers, and remains of sacrificial temples from the Han era. The city has numerous Tang Dynasty pagodas and is noted for its history museum and its stele forest, which is housed in an 11th-century Confucian temple containing large stone tablets from various dynasties.

With Chinese President Xi Jinping's endeavor to rejuvenate China's rich and ancient culture, Xi'an has taken major steps to attract both domestic and international tourists. The whole city wears a festive look intricate street lights designed in the shape of Chinese knots adorn lamp posts and beckon visitors.

The city is surrounded by a well-preserved city wall which was re-constructed in the 14th century during the early Ming Dynasty and was based on the inner imperial palace of Tang Dynasty. The Bell Tower and Drum Tower, both are located at the city's central axis. The city's Muslim Quarter offers a wide array of Muslim cuisine, with ushers inviting visitors to partake of the exquisite delicacies presented. Giant Wild Goose Pagoda and Small Wild Goose Pagoda are both spectacular towers being well over 1,000 years old and have survived great earthquakes. The former is next to a large square with the largest fountain in Asia which projects water high into the air, rising and falling in time to music during one of the daily performances (usually at noon and soon after sunset). They protected Buddhist writings and literature in the past.

The Stele Forest is famous for its numerous historic inscriptions and stone works. The Famen Temple and its towering pagoda located 120 kilometers west of Xi'an.

A visit to Xian would be incomplete without a trip to Mount Huashan, located 120 kilometers from Xi'an. It is famous for natural vista of steep and narrow paths, precipitous crags and a high mountain range. Its five peaks are the representative attractions, and each has its distinctive charms: East Peak is the best place to enjoy the sunrise; South Peak has the highest altitude; West Peak is the most elegant; North Peak is famous as the Cloud Terrace Peak and Middle Peak is also called Jade Lady Peak. The Mount Huashan is also home to several influential Taoist temples, where many emperors of past dynasties took part in Taoist activities and sacrificed to the god of mountain, making it a holy land of Taoism. At its foot, are the representatives of its Taoist elements? To get to the top, cable cars have been installed, which provide a spectacular landscape and panoramic view. The installation of the cable cars is a feat of engineering skill.

In 2012, Xi'an was named as one of the 13 emerging megacities, or megalopolises, in China. It is our honour that Lahore became a twin sister city for Xi'an in 1992.

CPEC: Awakening the Giant

Only a drop is needed to make barren fields fertile. One such corroboration is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that, despite all odds, is becoming a reality. Since its dawn, it was unnecessarily criticized for its nature and has been inculpated to have shady dealings. Yet, it has stood firm in its certitude.

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Roll back to the days when Pakistan was not only unsafe for investments but also accused to be a safe haven for harvesting and fostering violent activities. From the economy to the social strata, all was desolated and no less than a barren piece of land that lacked any productive capacities. However, fast forward to April 2014, China kept its promises and proved that Pakistan-China friendship could weather all.

When no one was willing to even support Pakistan's stance, China came up with the investment. Since then, these investments, commonly known by the umbrella term CPEC, are proving to be that much-needed drop, which is fertilizing the obscured potential in Pakistan.

Today, no one can deny the fact that although Chinese would bag massive benefit from the CPEC, it still has a lot to provide Pakistan.

The CPEC is unveiling itself as a blessing in disguise. Just as the slow but persistent can lead to triumph, the gradual progress have brought a lot of eyes to Pakistan, which is fast becoming the pivot of attention in the region. Since the very beginning of the CPEC, it has procured a great deal of investment for Pakistan whether it is the Saudis or the comrades in Russia. Everyone seems intrigued by the thriving development on the lands of Pakistan.

The world has always acknowledged the geo-strategic importance of Pakistan. However, with CPEC, it is being highlighted even more. The CPEC is comprehensive and substantive cooperation between China and Pakistan, which has the potential to unfold flairs of development in Pakistan.

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The drop of CPEC aided the social and economic segment of Pakistan to bear fruits in the form of various projects. These fruits, upon their ripening, would bring holistic benefits for Pakistan. In other words, these perks would not be restricted to specific parts or provinces of Pakistan but the whole country, including each segment of society, would be benefited.

One key aspect of CPEC is its connectivity and integration. It is not only inter-connective but also intra-connective, which reflects it would connect provinces with each other as well as cities within these provinces with each other. From the gateway to the Arabian Sea, the road network climbs up to the peaks of Karakoram.

The CPEC not only covers a route of 2700 kilometers, its aura shadows all. Moreover, CPEC's development in the western part of Pakistan, including Gwadar port, would create a favorable environment for doing business, which would ultimately attract the investors from across the globe to the much-deprived province, Balochistan.

From the railway network to road infrastructure, the CPEC covers all basic contours required to uplift the socio-economic fabric of Pakistan. The systematic development and organised structure make it a progressive project.

Locations for the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are chosen in a certain fashion, which would benefit not only each province but also parts like Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. In these SEZs, industries would be established to further contribute to the economics of Pakistan.

Pakistan has fought a decade-long skirmish with terrorism, which, most of the time, has forced Pakistan to direct its state potential to security, thus, neglecting other sectors of the society. Pakistan's economy was getting ravaged by this fact. When Pakistan's potential and productivity was wizened by the security concerns, China stood with Pakistan and supplied what was required. China trusted Pakistan when no one else was willing to even bat an eye on Pakistan.

For both countries, CPEC has a lot to give. China would get easy and secure access to the market for its products whereas the giant within Pakistan has just awakened. Nonetheless, it still needs true and upright conviction and intellect from the Pakistani side to fully maneuver CPEC in its favour and ascend from the ashes. Also, if Pakistan extracts maximum benefits out of CPEC, it would become a centre of global economic attention.

Pakistan Observer

Malicious propaganda against CPEC

THE China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has turned into a reality as different projects completed under the initiative have started contributing to the economy of Pakistan and resolution of critical and chronic problems of the people but still some circles in the West are trying to mislead public opinion on this highly beneficial project. The latest twist against the project came through a news article carried by some sections of international media titled "IMF

won't stop China from turning Pakistan into the next Sri Lanka", a crude attempt to spread falsehood through incorrect data and distorted facts.

It has repeatedly been clarified by relevant officials both in Pakistan and China that CPEC, a flagship project of One Belt One Road Initiative of President Xi Jinping, can, in no way, be considered as debt trap for Pakistan because of transparent mode of financing. Its finances comprise government-to-government loans, private investment and grants. To date, 22 projects are progressing in various stages of implementation and the liability of Government of Pakistan is only to the tune of US \$6 billion consisting of low interest loans and grants in infrastructure projects spread over 20 to 25 years payback period. Therefore, those giving the impression US\$ 40 billion as liability on Pakistan is false, baseless and distorted and is meant to create doubts about a project that is going to transform the economy of Pakistan and lives of its people in a big way. Finances of energy projects, which have dominant share in the number of projects so far initiated under CPEC, are mainly taken by the private companies against their own balance sheets which mean the Government of Pakistan has no liability on this account.

These projects have been or are being completed on IPP mode, under which a number of entrepreneurs from across the globe made investment in the energy sector of Pakistan. As for Gwadar, it is being developed on modern lines through grants and assistance of China and once the task is completed, the port is going to become hub of regional connectivity and economic activity, contributing immensely to the economy development of Pakistan. It was in view of the salutary impact of the CPEC projects on the economy of the country that Pakistan and China have agreed to move towards second phase focused on industrial cooperation, socio-economic development and agriculture cooperation, directed towards poverty alleviation of less developed areas of Pakistan. CPEC is, therefore, emerging as a major stimulus for the economy of the country and that is why people are not paying any heed to malicious propaganda by vested interests.

The Express Tribune

Cherry export to China – just one step away

KARACHI: China might soon be importing cherries from Pakistan. And for Pakistani officials, it'll be six years of efforts finally coming to fruition.

A delegation of Chinese quarantine experts and government officials travelled to Pakistan late last month to check the farm-to-market quality of Pakistani cherry. And, according to Pakistani officials, the visitors returned home satisfied. The delegation from China's food and quarantine department visited the picturesque Gilgit-Baltistan region – home to cherry orchards in Pakistan.¹

Currently, China imports bulk of its cherry from South American countries to meet growing demand of the exotic fruit. However, the transportation cost and time is a major predicament.

“China wants to gain market access for cherry from Gilgit-Baltistan – something which it didn’t have access earlier,” said Ministry of Food Security the Directorate of Plant Protection Department Deputy Director Shahid Abdullah.

Gilgit Baltistan produces 4,000 metric tons of cherry per season. And since local consumption is limited, farmers export the fruit, Abdullah told The Express Tribune. Cherry is easily perishable fruit – with little shelf life – so Pakistan has been looking for nearby destinations to export cherry to. And China, being a next-door neighbor with an ever-growing appetite for the fruit, is the most viable option. Could cherry help make our economy bloom?

“We had been working on it for six years. We would send samples, but they were never accepted. Now, China has finally agreed to take a step forward by sending its officials to Pakistan,” Abdullah said.

The Chinese delegation visited cherry orchards to see if there was any disease, or pest in the fruit that could become a concern of quarantine. They toured cherry orchards, and inspected fruit quality and its shelf life. “Their major concern was fruit fly, but they didn’t find any,” he added.

The Chinese delegation collected samples of leaves and bark of cherry trees for pathologists back home to ensure the fruit is disease-free. “The two countries are expected to complete pest risk analysis (PRA), an international requirement, before exports formally start.

The Chinese delegation would also be preparing a post-visit report in which experts might mention mitigation measures and recommendations to rectify issues, if any. “The visit objective was to identify issues and recommend remedial measures.”

The Chinese delegation also visited laboratories. “We have an integrated pest management (IPM) lab that has biological control agents. There are controls in the lab for things found in the plant, like preys in the orchards, refrigerator requirements, etc,” Abdullah said.

They also saw pack houses in the Nomal area of G-B, where cherry is processed to increase its shelf life, among other things. “The delegation was also satisfied with the processing.”

About transportation, Abdullah said shipping containers carrying cherry would be sent by road via Sost dry port on the China-Pakistan border. “Getting access to the Chinese market for cherry would be a major breakthrough, which could be followed by export of apricot and potatoes, etc.”

G-B Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GBCCI) President Imran Ali said the Chinese delegation has assured that they would remove hurdles to cherry imports from Pakistan. “They [Chinese officials] said they would also recommend to their government to import Pakistan’s cherry which is purely organic.”

He said the Chinese delegation was satisfied with everything – from quality of the fruit to processing and packaging. “They tasted our cherries – and liked it.”

Ali said they are trying to improve the fruit quality – and it would be further improved after formal exports starts to China. “We are also trying to increase production by encouraging

growers. And I'm sure we would be able to meet the Chinese demand once the supply starts," he added.

The Nation

China policy on Xinjiang issue successful: Yao

ISLAMABAD - China has proved its strength and capability combating terrorism, as it has successfully controlled terrorist groups in its Xinjiang autonomous region, providing a peaceful life to the people. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing said this in a statement here on Friday that since the 1990s, terrorists, extremists and separatists inside and outside China have planned and organised thousands of violent terrorist attacks in Xinjiang, resulting in a large number of casualties of innocent people of all ethnic groups. "This was the result of the Chinese government's policy of tracking down terrorism and safeguarding social stability," he said.

By combining anti-terrorism experience of the international community with the ground situation, the Chinese government has taken a series of de-radicalization measures, including establishing the vocation and education training centre. Lessons on official language of China, Chinese laws, vocational training and de-radicalization were offered for free, so trainees can master a skill and achieve self-reliance after the training.

Gwadar: Economic prosperity of Pakistan

Gwadar a deep sea port city, located at South-western Arabian Sea coast of Pakistan, has opened up its arms, asking the world to come and invest.

The charm of this city is gradually gaining momentum. Gwadar to Pakistanis is a game changer, with its strategic location, it is destined as the economic hub that will not just cater the locals but will also come off as a key factor for the economic prosperity of Pakistan.

Gwadar, being an ideal site of future raised its bar as China our friendly neighboring country positioned itself under their flagship mega infrastructural initiative, "China Pakistan Economic Corridor" (CPEC).

CPEC is a paramount enterprise of China, under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), commonly known as One Belt One Road, which covers around 65 countries, 4.4 billion people and 40% of the global Gross Domestic Product. China has designed BRI in a manner that addresses the cultural sensitivities, economic needs and security concerns of participant states; moreover, it includes additional aspects like production, trade, transportation costs, exchange of knowledge, innovation and technological growth etc.

BRI initiative is gaining global recognition and legitimacy. The United Nation's Social and Economic Council held a workshop in April 2017 to explore how this initiative intersects with the UN 2030 agenda and their Sustainable Development Goals. The Chinese and UN experts came to a conclusion that the initiative was in line with 17 SDG's and 169 targets, as it focuses on five categories of SDG's namely people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.

CPEC is declared as the pivotal component of BRI, facilitating connectivity through BRI in general and CPEC in particular. China promotes a vision where a state of mutual benefit can be achieved. Invoking a 2000 years old history that China shares with Central Asia, Eurasia and other parts of the world, president Xi Jinping has been persistent in conveying that the BRI, including the CPEC, aims to revive regional connectivity through infrastructural development, trade and investment in industry from which development dividends can be shared across the world.

CPEC offers Pakistan an opportunity for both economic and human development initiatives. Projects in CPEC are estimated in-between \$46 billion to \$62 billion, around 17% of the country's total GDP. Through CPEC a network of road and communication infrastructures will be developed, spanning over 3000 km from the city of Kashgar in China to Pakistan's south-west most tip, Gwadar

It will augment the geo-strategic location of Pakistan in the Persian Gulf and also in the Arabian Sea, connecting and providing China an access to the rest of South Asia, Middle East and Africa.

In addition to infrastructural development, three other key elements of CPEC consist of development of Gwadar port, investment in energy sector and creation of industrial zones.

Over 60 projects are identified under CPEC, among which 12 are road and rail projects, 21 relate to energy, 12 projects are exclusively meant for Gwadar, and 3 include cross border optical fibre, digital terrestrial multimedia broadcast and early warning system projects.

Furthermore, many other projects have also been classified as 'New Provincial Projects', 'Proposed Special Economic Zones' and 'Social Sector Development Projects'.

The scope and opportunities of Gwadar can be clearly depicted, keeping in mind the fact that this city will be the gateway of trade between China, its neighbouring countries and the rest of the world. The ideally located deep seaport is the biggest charm of Gwadar and one of the major sea routes to trade under CPEC. A huge infrastructural development is currently underway and its scope will grow exponentially, once proper trading activities will began.

The construction of new international airport has already been initiated in Gwadar. Other mega projects includes construction of an estimated 19 km East-Bay Expressway, which will connect with over 650km Makran Coastal highway, infrastructural development of Free Zone and Export Processing Zones, Bao Steel park, petrochemicals, stainless steel and other industries, a university, hospital, fresh water treatment and supply, upgradation and development of fishing, boat making, maintenance services and Gwadar smart port city.

This entire scenario portrays a prosperous future for the city of Gwadar. Communities who want to take future benefits from this initiative have already visited the city and planned their investments, primarily in shape of commercial or residential properties.

In the coming time, real estate will be a dominant industry in Gwadar. The importance of the city will elevate as international investors, trading and multinational companies will land their feet in Gwadar; marking the fate of this sector with unprecedented success.

Many Pakistanis have already secured their investment in different commercial or residential real estate projects at minimal prices. A large number of expatriates have placed their investments in Gwadar's realty sector too. The investments made, either in the previous decade or in recent years, will give maximum returns in near future. Gwadar will be established as per international standards, hence, it will be the best to invest in the projects whose developers are in this business since decades and enjoy a good reputation.

The second phase of CPEC is about to start and within this phase; Gwadar will emerge on the global landscape with its true potential. This is one of the areas; where our politicians, security agencies and China are all on one page.

So make a smart move; invest in Gwadar. A fact that Pakistanis know well is encapsulated in the slaying of American Financer Russell Sage, "Everyone wants a piece of land. It's the only sure investment; it can never depreciate like a car or a washing machine". Take this chance and anticipate the rewards that will come out of your investment decision.

Financial liabilities of Govt. for CPEC projects only \$5.8b

ISLAMABAD - Out of total \$28 billion so far utilized for CPEC projects, the financial liabilities of government of Pakistan are only to the tune of \$5.8 billion comprising of low interest loans and grants in infrastructure projects spread over 20 to 25 years payback period.

Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms clarified a news article carried by some sections of international media titled "IMF won't stop China from turning Pakistan into the next Sri Lanka", published on 4th July, 2019. The article is based on incorrect data and distorted facts.

The spokesperson of CPEC, Hassan Daud Butt, said that the writer needs to know that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative. CPEC financing comprises of Government to Government loans, Private investment and grants.

According the spokesman, to date, 22 projects worth \$28 billion are in various stages of implementation, of which \$22 billion worth are private sector energy projects.

The government of Pakistan's financial liability is only to the tune of \$5.8 billion comprising of low interest loans and grants in infrastructure projects spread over 20 to 25 years payback period, he added.

The energy projects are being executed purely in the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) mode and finances are mainly taken by the private companies against their own balance sheets. Therefore, debt would be borne by the investors instead of any obligation on part of the government of Pakistan. Therefore; the impression of debt burden falling on the government of Pakistan is based on incorrect analysis.

Similarly, stating that “CPEC will add to corruption” clearly depicts the writer is not aware that the second phase of CPEC is focused on industrial cooperation (B 2 B JVs), socio economic development and agriculture cooperation, directed towards poverty alleviation of less developed areas of Pakistan based on pragmatic planning and due diligence on both sides.

Comparing cooperation with China through CPEC, with any other country, is unrealistic as it has facilitated in overcoming crucial energy, transport infrastructure and supply chain bottlenecks.

Under CPEC, development of Gwadar (mostly through grant/interest free loans) projects would ensure strengthening of maritime sector. The development of Gwadar port project is on BOT mode and cannot be compared with any port project being developed on foreign funding/loans. Gwadar continues as high priority and is being developed as a standalone project as well as a transshipment hub based on blue economy principles.

All in all, CPEC is acting as a stimulus to the economic growth of Pakistan. The false narrative of a “debt trap” is not based on the ground realities, the spokesperson concluded.

The News

A decade after Xinjiang riots, ethnic tensions persist

BEIJING: A recurrence of the Urumqi riots which left nearly 200 people dead a decade ago is hard to imagine in today’s Xinjiang, a Chinese region whose Uighur minority is straitjacketed by surveillance and mass detentions. A pervasive security apparatus has subdued the ethnic unrest that has long plagued the region. Last week, Xinjiang’s vice chairman AierkenTuniyazi told the UN Human Rights Council no terrorist attacks have occurred in the region in three years. But experts say the absence of visible violence belies the ongoing repression of minority culture and inequality between the Han Chinese majority and Uighurs - who are mostly Muslim. “There’s a lack of trust,” said Reza Hasmath, a professor at the University of Alberta who has studied ethnic relations in Xinjiang. Tough policies such as the re-education camps “are going to suppress any potential violence,” he told AFP. “But it still creates a generation of distrust with Han people among Uighurs.” Xinjiang, home to most Uighurs in China, has for decades been struck by episodes of inter-ethnic violence. But the riots that broke out in Urumqi, the regional capital, on July 5, 2009, were a seminal event for Xinjiang. Hundreds if not thousands of rioters smashed shops, burned vehicles and attacked people after a factory brawl in southern China left at least two Uighur migrant workers dead. The riots revealed “very ugly scenes” of distrust, said Joanne Smith Finley, an expert on Uighur-Han relations at Newcastle University, describing reports of Han Chinese doctors refusing to treat Uighur patients and vice versa. In the years since, divisions between the two groups have only “magnified”, she told AFP, and with members of both ethnic groups fleeing mixed neighborhoods. “It’s still very strained,” she added, recounting Uighur-Han interactions she observed on a work trip last year. “It’s all pretenses on the surface.”

In recent years, Xinjiang authorities have clamped down on public displays of religion and rounded up an estimated one million mostly Muslim Turkic-speaking minorities into internment

camps in the name of counter-terrorism. China describes the facilities as “vocational education centres” where “trainees” learn Mandarin and job skills. Tuniyazi told the rights council the centres have “scored remarkable achievements” as trainees have “broken away from the spiritual control of terrorism and extremism”.

But former inmates have said they were incarcerated for merely following Islamic traditions, such as wearing long beards and face veils. A Kazakh businessman, who spent nearly two months in a camp, told AFP the facilities only had one goal: to strip detainees of their religious belief. Inmates were forced to sing patriotic songs every morning and eat pork, a violation of Islam’s religious restrictions, he said.

Dozens of mosques and religious sites around Xinjiang have also been demolished or stripped of their domes since 2017, according to satellite images. Observers say racial profiling is prevalent, with Han Chinese often waved through police checkpoints while Uighurs is stopped. “The Han Chinese in the region more or less are given special treatment, and don’t have to undergo the type of scrutiny in terms of checks that Uighurs do,” said Timothy Grose, a China ethnic policy expert at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. “I think this will certainly add to the discontent between the two groups,” he said.

Along with its security clampdown, Xinjiang authorities are actively pushing Uighurs to assimilate. According to a 2018 central government document, Xinjiang is popularizing the use of Mandarin at schools.

The aim is to ensure “ethnic minority students can master and use the national language” by 2020. The local government is also trying to encourage inter-ethnic marriage. National census data from 2010 shows only 0.2 percent of Uighurs were married to Han people.

In May, the Xinjiang government published new rules to reward mixed students by upping the number of bonus points they receive on the nationwide college entrance exams, while reducing them for those whose parents are both ethnic minorities.

Meanwhile, waves of mass migration from China’s heartland have raised Xinjiang’s Han population from six percent in 1949 to 37 percent in 2015, according to the latest official figures. The growing influx of Hans could exacerbate ethnic tensions if higher income jobs continue to be skewed towards them, said Hasmath, who cites 2002 and 2012 census data in a paper on socioeconomic inequality between the two groups.

If Han people get the best jobs and tend towards hiring others within their group, “minorities are pushed out of the best jobs and the best wages,” he added.

Jang News

چین کی ترقی کی بڑی وجہ

یکم اکتوبر 1949ء کو بیجنگ میں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی بنیاد رکھنے والے ماؤ زے تنگ ہمارے قومی شاعر علامہ اقبالؒ کی طرح ایک شاعر، فلاسفر، سیاست دان اور مصنف تھے، ماؤ میں انقلابی جذبہ بہت تھا، انہوں نے خانہ جنگی میں چینی کمیونسٹ پارٹی کی قیادت کرتے ہوئے کامیابی حاصل کی، ماؤ نے چینوں کو بتایا کہ تم ایک قوم ہو، ماؤ نے اپنی قوم کو ایسا سبق پڑھایا کہ چینی آج بھی چینی زبان پر ہی فخر کرتے ہیں۔ چینی پاکستانیوں کی بہت قدر کرتے ہیں، شاید اس کی بڑی وجہ یہ ہو کہ پاکستان نے اسے سب سے پہلے تسلیم کیا، پاکستان نے چین اور امریکہ کو قریب لانے میں کردار ادا کیا، پاکستان ہی نے چین کو مسلم دنیا سے متعارف کروایا، چین کو اقوام متحدہ اور سلامتی کونسل تک پاکستان ہی لے گیا۔ چین نے قریباً نصف صدی اپنے دروازے دنیا کیلئے بند رکھے مگر چینی کام میں لگے رہے آج چین کی ترقی سرچڑھ کر بولتی ہے، امریکہ، چین کا مقروض ہے، دنیا چینوں کی ترقی کو حیرت کی نگاہوں سے دیکھ رہی ہے۔ دنیا کو حیرت میں مبتلا کر دینے والا چین اب بھی پاکستان پر فریفتہ ہے، چینی پاکستان کی ابتدائی نیکیاں ابھی تک نہیں بھولے بلکہ مجھے پیپلز پارٹی کے سابق رکن اسمبلی اخوندزادہ چٹان نے بتایا تھا کہ چینی اپنے ابتدائی نصاب میں اپنے بچوں کو بتادیتے ہیں کہ پاکستان چین کا محسن ہے، یہ شہد سے میٹھی، سمندروں سے گہری اور ہالیہ سے بلند دوستی چینی نصاب کا حصہ ہے۔ چین کی ترقی میں چین کے انقلابی لیڈروں کی سوچ کا بنیادی کردار ہے، آپ ماؤ کے بغیر چین کو کیسے دیکھ سکتے ہیں، چو این لائی کے بغیر خارجی کامیابیاں چین کے لئے ممکن نہ تھیں، اسی طرح آپ زائو ژیا ننگ، لی پینگ، دین جیا باؤ، لی شیان نیان، ہو جتاؤ اور موجودہ صدر شی جن پنگ کو نظر انداز نہیں کر سکتے، ان رہنماؤں نے ایک طرف چین کی ترقی پر توجہ دی تو دوسری طرف چین کو جنگوں سے بچا کر رکھا۔ چین طاقتور ہے مگر کسی سے لڑنا نہیں چاہتا بلکہ اپنے ساتھ قریبی ملکوں کو ترقی کرتے دیکھنا چاہتا ہے۔ چین میں اگرچہ پارٹی بادشاہت ہے مگر اس کا ہرگز یہ مطلب نہیں کہ چین میں کوئی کرپٹ آدمی بچ جائے، میرے نزدیک چینوں کی ترقی کا راز یہی ہے کہ وہ بڑے سے بڑے آدمی کی کرپشن برداشت نہیں کرتے، چین کیسے ترقی کر گیا، اس کو سمجھنے کیلئے میں ایک واقعہ آپ کی نذر کر رہا ہوں تاکہ آپ چین کی حالیہ ترقی کے پس پردہ جو اصل بات ہے وہ سمجھ سکیں، یہ بات آپ نے سمجھ لی تو پھر آپ چین کو بڑے آرام سے سمجھ جائیں گے

پانامہ کا نام تو آپ سب پاکستانی بہت اچھی طرح جانتے ہیں، پانامہ میں 2006ء میں تقریباً دو سو لوگوں نے کھانسی کی ایک دوا استعمال کی، اس دوائی کے استعمال کے بعد چالیس افراد مر گئے۔ جب 40 افراد ہلاک ہوئے تو وہاں کی حکومت نے تحقیقات کیں، پتا چلا یہ دوا چین سے درآمد ہوئی تھی اور یہ مضر صحت تھی۔ پانامہ کی حکومت نے چین کے سفیر کو طلب کیا یہ سارا قصہ بیان کیا، چینی سفیر نے پانامہ حکومت کا احتجاج سنا اور اس سلسلے میں اپنی حکومت کو ای میل کے ذریعے آگاہ کیا۔ چینی حکومت نے تفتیش شروع کی تو ہفتے میں پوری کہانی سامنے آگئی، معلوم ہوا کہ چین کی فوڈ اینڈ ڈرگ اتھارٹی میں ڈیٹا بیس کا ایک ڈائریکٹر تھا، یہ ایک کرپٹ افسر تھا اس نے آٹھ دوا ساز کمپنیوں سے ساڑھے آٹھ لاکھ ڈالر رشوت لی اور دودر جن ادویات کی منظوری دی، پانامہ بھیجی جانے والی دوا بھی ان میں شامل تھی۔ ڈیٹا بیس نے یہ تمام کام اپنی ریٹائرمنٹ سے چند دن پہلے کیا تاکہ کسی کو پتا ہی نہ چل سکے کیونکہ ادویات کی تیاری اور انہیں برآمد کرنے میں تو وقت درکار تھا، ڈیٹا بیس نے سوچ بھی نہیں سکتا تھا کہ اس کی ریٹائرمنٹ کے بعد بھی کوئی ”مکنا“ کھل سکتا

ہے، پولیس نے چھاپہ مارا تو ریٹائرڈ افسر ٹیگ ٹیانو کو گرفتار کیا، مزید تحقیقات پہ انکشاف ہوا کہ کاوزین زوجہ نام کا ایک اور ڈائریکٹر بھی اس مکروہ دھندے میں شامل تھا، وہ بھی غیر معیاری ادویات کی منظوری دیتا رہا، پولیس نے اسے بھی گرفتار کر لیا، یہ ملزمان سالوں یا مہینوں میں نہیں صرف دو ہفتوں میں مجرم ثابت ہوئے، کیس عدالت میں پیش کیا گیا چینی عدالت نے مئی 2007ء میں ٹیگ ٹیانو اور جولائی 2007ء میں کاوزین زوجہ کو سزائے موت دی۔ ٹیگ ٹیانو نے سزا کے خلاف اپیل کی، ٹیگ کا کہنا تھا کہ ”میں اپنا جرم تسلیم کرتا ہوں مگر میری وجہ سے کوئی چینی باشندہ ہلاک نہیں ہوا، میرے خلاف کوئی چینی مدعی بھی نہیں ہے لہذا میرے جرم کے مقابلے میں میری سزا زیادہ ہے، میرے ساتھ رعایت کی جائے، میری سزا کم کر دی جائے“ کوئی لمبا نام نہیں عدالت نے دو ہفتے میں یہ اپیل نمٹا دی نچ نے اپنے فیصلے میں لکھا ”یہ شخص نہ صرف انسانی جانوں کا قاتل ہے بلکہ اس کی وجہ سے چین پوری دنیا میں بدنام ہو لہذا یہ درندہ رعایت کے قابل نہیں“ اپیل مسترد ہونے کے بعد ٹیگ ٹیانو کو دس جولائی 2007ء میں گولی مار کر ہلاک کر دیا گیا، دوسرے مجرم کاوزین ٹوگ نے اپیل نہیں کی تھی اسے بھی چند دنوں کے بعد اگلے جہان روانہ کر دیا گیا۔ یہ کیس جتنا عرصہ چلتا رہا چینی میڈیا روزانہ اس حوالے سے خبریں شائع کرتا رہا، یوں پاناما چین میں خاصا مقبول ہو گیا۔ آپ اس کیس کا کمال دیکھئے کہ یہ دونوں افراد اگر پاناما کے شہری ہوتے تو انہیں سزائے موت نہ ہوتی یہ زیادہ سے زیادہ دس برس جیل جاتے یا ان کی جائیداد ضبط کر لی جاتی لیکن چین نے دس ہزار کلو میٹر دور ایک دوسرے ملک میں ادویات کے استعمال سے مرنے والے لوگوں کے بدلے اپنے دو ریٹائرڈ افسروں کو سزائے موت دے دی، کیوں؟ کیونکہ چین سمجھتا ہے کہ یہ لوگ ملک کی بدنامی کا باعث بنے ہیں۔ اب آپ پاکستان کی مثال لیجئے تو آپ کو چین کے ترقی کرنے اور پاکستان کے پیچھے رہ جانے کی سمجھ آ جائے گی۔ ہمارے ہاں جعلی ادویات کا کتنا کاروبار ہے مگر کبھی کسی کو سزا ملی، ہمارے ہاں تو کسی کو درختوں کی یاد نہ آسکی۔ ستر سالوں بعد عمران خان ایک ایسا وزیر اعظم آیا ہے جو درخت اگانے کی بات کرتا ہے، جو کرپشن کے خلاف ڈٹ کے کھڑا ہے، یاد رکھنا کرپشن ترقی کے راستے روکتی ہے چینوں نے کرپشن پر موت کی سزا دے کر ترقی کی رکاوٹوں کو دور کیا، کاش ہمارے ہاں بھی ایسا ہو جائے، کاش ہم چین ہی سے سبق سیکھ لیں مگر پھر شعیب بن عزیز کا شعر یاد آ جاتا ہے کہ

یہ خود سر وقت لے جائے کہانی کو کہاں جانے

مصنف کا کسی کردار میں ہونا ضروری ہے

Nawaiwaqt

چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کی خواہش رکھتی ہیں، امجد حسن قریشی

راولپنڈی (نمائندہ خصوصی) چین کے تجارتی وفد نے راولپنڈی چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کا دورہ کیا اور قائم مقام صدر محمد بدر بارون سے ملاقات کی وفد کی قیادت شینگ جیانن کے سی او امجد حسن قریشی کر رہے تھے وفد نے اپنے دورے کا مقصد بیان کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کی خواہش رکھتی ہیں چین کے عظیم منصوبے ایک سڑک ایک پٹی کے تحت انرجی، کیمیکل، کنسٹرکشن، انجنیرنگ اور ٹیکسٹائل میں دوطرفہ تجارت کو فروغ دیا جا سکتا ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ ان کے دورے کا مقصد

چیمبر آف کامرس کے ساتھ مل کر کاروباری مواقع تلاش کرنا ہے تاکہ مختلف شعبوں میں دو طرفہ تجارتی تعاون کو بڑھایا جاسکے راولپنڈی چیمبر کے قائم مقام صدر محمد بدر ہارون نے وفد کو بتایا کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے (سی پیک) کے حوالے پاکستان میں تیزی کے ساتھ براہ راست سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع بڑھ رہے ہیں ان کو عملی شکل دینے اور پائیدار بنانے کے لیے ضروری ہے

July 07, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Trade fair held in China to boost economic cooperation among BRI countries

The 25th China Lanzhou Investment and Trade Fair opened in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province to deepen economic and trade cooperation and promote green development with countries along the Belt and Road.

The five-day event has attracted more than 600 foreign guests from 42 countries including Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, and Argentina, according to the organizing committee. Conferences, forums, and exhibitions focusing on 10 green industries such as energy conservation, advanced manufacturing and circular agriculture held during the fair. The fair featured more than 30 investment and trade promotion activities.

First held in 1993, the fair has become an important platform for the opening up of northwest China and has grown in importance as the country accelerates opening up to central and western Asia in recent years under the BRI.

Gansu Province saw rapid growth in trade revenue with BRI countries this year, which rose 6.7 percent year on year in the first five months and accounted for over half of the province's total foreign trade revenue.—INP

The Nation

Charisma behind Chinese success

70 years later China's charisma as one of the most resilient and booming nations continues unabated. The mesmerizing growth rate takes the world by storm. Success journey starts from leadership resolve to staggering reforms agenda. Momentum intensifies with opening up to world. The progress agenda gets impetus from economic miracle to political success, trade modernity to business liberalization, manufacture-based market to consumer-based market, innovative models to high-tech strategies and peace endeavors to people-centric policies.

In order to touch new heights of development, Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), new economic engine of global growth, is on a roll. BRI is truly the vanguard of globalization and champions the cause of shared destiny through regional connectivity to international connectivity raising above all prejudices, race, color, language, region and others.

It is fortunate that in the journey of ultimate success, Pakistan is playing a central role being a part and parcel of BRI in the shape of China Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC).

Weathering all global odds China is progressing by leaps and bounds. How did China find its own road to prosperity is the most enigmatic question which is sending world reeling. Since Chinese government know that it is highly inevitable to lay bare all secrets of successes behind China's growth to help sensitize people who matter an informative expedition program formally or informally has gone underway. Under this program, various businessmen, journalists, scholars, political leaders and others have been taken to China to let them to look deeper into multiple issues to understand China and its robust growth.

As a part of such initiative, Understanding China (an NGO or Think Tank) led by Dr Zafar Uddin Mahmood, former special envoy for CPEC in collaboration with Chinese Lahore Consulate arranged a media delegation last month. Shoab Bin Aziz, former Punjab Information Secretary and ex-press secretary to former CM Punjab Shahbaz Sharif also played his central role in organizing the delegations. From Chinese side in Beijing, Mr. Cui Jun, Editor-in-Chief of China Economic Net, known news portal providing timely economic news reports, was the host.

Sponsored by the Economic Daily, China's leading business newspaper founded in early 1980s, China Economic Net (CE.cn) is currently the largest and most comprehensive economic information portal in the country. China Economic Net (CE.cn) has forged a unique position within China's internet media organizations with its Chinese edition, which provides news content support to twenty different channels including News Center, Macro-economy, Finance & Securities, Industries & Commodity Markets, Modern Life, Stock Market, Insurance, Medicine, Auto Industry, Real Estate, Home Appliances, Fashion, Travel, Communication, IT, Chat-room for well-known people, CE Index, and CE Forum.

The core strengths of CE.cn lie in providing the content and analytics needed by its target readers, government officials, economists, professionals and business elite in China. The following four sections in CE.cn's Chinese Edition can serve most information requirements from its readers.

Currently the English Edition consists of six major parts, including China Report, World News, Business news, Industries, Markets, Insight, and Life. To follow some very important events home and abroad, it will organize relating special report columns on this website. The pages designed for readers overseas to further understand China will also appear under the title Facts about China.

During five days, delegations comprising senior journalists of various organizations received fresh information about what drives China economy, infrastructure, energy, trade, social, cultural and political system.

One of secrets behind development of China is scientific progress of China Railways. With interaction with Zhu Zhexun, chief Engineer of China Railways International Co, Ltd(CRI),

officials and NORINCO's officers, it came to fore how China Railways is making its best strides.

Currently, CRIG owns 8 wholly-owned subsidiaries, 8 branch companies, 3 majorly-owned subsidiaries, and 9 overseas offices, covering many countries from Asia, Africa, Middle East, South America, Oceania and Central & Eastern Europe.

China Railway has built two-thirds of the total length of railways across China. Based on the expertise it has accumulated at home, the company is looking to boost infrastructure exports as a core player in the "One Belt, One Road," or "New Silk Road," initiative promoted by the administration of President Xi Jinping. In particular, the company plans to accelerate exports of railway infrastructure -- from rails to traffic control systems to rolling stock -- in collaboration with such concerns as CRRC, a state-owned manufacturer.

By 2020, China Railway plans to double its ratio of overseas sales to 10%. The company hopes to increase orders from Southeast Asian and other nations.

On energy landscape, China boasts best high-tech technology to produce electricity through coal-fired plants across the world. China Huaneng Group Co Ltd is among the toppers in the field.

Since its establishment 33 years ago, China Huaneng produces coal fired power, hydropower, wind power, solar power, and other products. China Huaneng Group also operates investment management, transportation, and other businesses.

With creating dozens of National Records and several World Records in the field of power generation, wholly-owned and majorly-owned installed power capacity of China Huaneng at home and abroad is over 176.56 GW, among which the coal-fired installed capacity is 128.69 GW, hydro power 26.06 GW, wind power 18.62 GW and solar power 3170 MW by the end of 2018. It is first power Generation Company in China to "go global". It expands overseas power technological services to over 20 countries including Pakistan.

Chinese economy grew at 9.5 percent in last 40 years the highest growth rate was 15.2 percent. It's important to keep a growth rate of at least 6 percent for developing countries like China. Investment, export-oriented industries and domestic consumption were the three main driving forces.

Prior to the 1978 reforms, nearly four in five Chinese worked in agriculture; by 1994, only one in two did. Reforms expanded property rights in the countryside and touched off a race to form small nonagricultural businesses in rural areas. De-collectivization and higher prices for agricultural products also led to more productive (family) farms and more efficient use of labor. Together these forces induced many workers to move out of agriculture. The resulting rapid growth of village enterprises has drawn tens of millions of people from traditional agriculture into higher-value-added manufacturing.

By welcoming foreign investment, China's open-door policy has added power to the economic transformation. Cumulative foreign direct investment, negligible before 1978, reached nearly

US\$100 billion in 1994; annual inflows increased from less than 1 percent of total fixed investment in 1979 to 18 percent in 1994. This foreign money has built factories, created jobs, linked China to international markets, and led to important transfers of technology. These trends are especially apparent in the more than one dozen open coastal areas where foreign investors enjoy tax advantages. In addition, economic liberalization has boosted exports--which rose 19 percent a year during 1981-94. Strong export growth, in turn, appears to have fueled productivity growth in domestic industries.

The News

Lecture, conference on Pak-China film collaboration

Islamabad: Pakistan National Council of Arts in collaboration with Embassy of People's Republic of China, China Cultural Centre (Islamabad), China Film Archive.(China Film Art Research Centre),Ministry Of Information & Broadcasting and China Film Group Corporation, apart from holding a four-day film festival at PNCA, held a day-long film conference and a lecture on Pakistan-China film collaboration and cooperation on Friday.

Jamal Shah (Director General PNCA), Zhang Heqing (Cultural Counselor Embassy of China),Professor Zhou Xin(Beijing Normal University),Zhou Xin, (Network of International Cultural Link Entity were hit subjects,China),Wang Xinglin (China Film Group) and SatishAnand (Film Producer, Distributor, Importer, Exporter) were the major speakers and participants

Professor Zhou Xin re-created the over hundred year's history of cinema in China with his talk, photographs and film clips.

It first all began in 1905 with tradition of family ethics which came both with tragedy, comedy and romance.More came with martial arts, rich vs. poor conflicts and fantastic expectations.The thirties and forties was the Golden Age for films. Real trials of people became subject. Neo-realism was now on screen.

This kind of style with low-budget filming on streets and house came much later to Europe in late-forties with Bicycle Thief in Italy.

After late-forties, the screen shifted to love and emotions, poetry, darkness of life. Intellectual women arrived on screen with their trials and tribulations.

As the time passed,the country opened up with social and economic development. While martial arts kept going,China opened up to the outside world.This came with participation in international film festivals(Venice, Cannes, Berlin), exchange of delegations and joint-productions. Yellow Earth and Red Sorghum became international hits. Ruthless reality was filmed like never before onscreen life. More came with smash hits like Hero, Mr.Six and Ice Lake.

Film Dying to Survive took a leap by showing a man being sent behind bars .He saved thousands of lives with illegal medicine. On his way to prison, he is applauded by thousands of his patents. This showed how strict rules and regulations can affect life.

Today, Chinese cinema is in its best form and it stands number One in world cinema with 900 films a year and over 60,000 screens. It is collaborating with several countries in co-productions. There is no major film festival in the world where Chinese films are not winning awards and acclaim.

Professor Zhou Xin lecture was followed by Film Conference where matters relating to collaboration between China and Pakistan were discussed and debated. Several Pakistani films including Baaghi, MeraNaamHaiMohabbat, Teefa in Trouble, ParvazHaiJanoon and more have been shown in China. That is not enough. Collaboration is needed in holding regular film festivals, film conference, workshops and seminars. Exchange of members from film industry and use of filming locations both here and there is prerequisite.

Jamal Shah, Director General PNCA said that Pakistan has the potential and diversity as a filmmaking country.

Cost of filming are low and Chinese film production companies can use that as a benefit because budget here would be even lower than in China?

Strong subjects and good locations could become highlights of the film and win, win both for Pakistan and China.

Jang News

چین کو 2 ارب ڈالر کی برآمدات کا ہدف مقرر کر لیا، عبدالرزاق داؤد

لاہور (اے پی پی) وزیراعظم کے مشیر برائے تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان سے ایک ارب ڈالر کی امپورٹ کرنے کے بعد مزید ایک ارب ڈالر کی امپورٹ کریگا، پاکستان نے چین کو دو سو ارب ڈالر کی ایکسپورٹ کرنے کا ہدف مقرر کیا ہے، جاپان پاکستان کو اس سال اینڈ میڈیم انٹری انز کیلئے ٹیکنالوجی فنڈز دینے کو تیار ہے، ہمارا کام سرمایہ کاروں کو سہولیات فراہم کرنا ہے جو کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کی دنیا میں 2.1 ٹریلین کی امپورٹ ہے جسے وہ 5 کھرب ڈالر تک لے کر جانا چاہتا ہے، پاکستان کو چائنہ کی امپورٹ سے زیادہ سے زیادہ استفادہ کرنا چاہئے۔ وہ ہفتے کے روز محکمہ صنعت و تجارت و سرمایہ کاری کے ذیلی اداروں کے مقررہ اہداف کے حوالے سے ایک منعقدہ اجلاس کی صدارت کر رہے تھے۔ اس موقع پر صوبائی وزیر صنعت و تجارت میاں اسلم اقبال، محکمہ صنعت و تجارت کے تمام ذیلی اداروں کے افسران، سرمایہ کاری بورڈ، ٹیوٹا، لیسکو سمیت دیگر اداروں کے نمائندے بھی موجود تھے۔

Nawaiwaqt

پاکستان، چین تعلقات کی مضبوطی کیلئے ملکر کام کرنا ہوگا: چینی وزیر خارجہ، سی پیک ترقی کا مشترکہ منصوبہ: سفیر یاؤ جنگ

بیجنگ (آئی این پی + آن لائن) چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے کہا ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان چار موسموں کے دوستانہ تعلقات اور شراکت داری موجود ہے، پاک چین تعلقات کی بنیاد مضبوطی پر استوار ہے، ہمیں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات کو مضبوط بنانے کے لئے ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنا چاہیے۔ چائے ریڈیو انٹرنیشنل کے مطابق چینی وزیر خارجہ سے سبکدوش ہونے والے پاکستانی سفیر مسعود خالد نے ملاقات کی۔ اس موقع پر وانگ ای نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان چار موسموں کے دوستانہ تعلقات اور شراکت داری موجود ہے۔ چین پاکستان تعلقات تمام آزمائشوں پر پورے اترے ہیں جن کی بنیاد مضبوطی پر استوار ہے۔ دونوں ملکوں کے عوام کے دل ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کے لئے دھڑکتے ہیں۔ ہمیں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات کو مضبوط بنانے کے لئے ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنا چاہیے۔ مسعود خالد نے پاکستان-چین دوستی کے روشن مستقبل پر اپنے اعتماد کا اظہار کیا اور کہا کہ وہ پاک-چین دوستی کو فروغ دینے کے لئے اپنی پوری کوشش جاری رکھیں گے۔ دریں اثناء چین کے سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے قومی ادارہ صحت (این آئی ایچ) اسلام آباد کا دورہ کیا۔ اس موقع پر ادارہ کے ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر ممبر جنرل پروفیسر عامر اکرام نے ان کا خیر مقدم کیا۔ چینی سفیر کے قومی ادارہ صحت کے دورے کا مقصد صحت کے شعبے میں دو طرفہ تعاون کو مزید فروغ دینے کے ساتھ ساتھ جاری منصوبوں پر تبادلہ خیال کرنا تھا۔ ملاقات کے دوران، ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر عامر اکرام نے معزز مہمان کو صحت کے شعبے میں قومی ادارہ صحت کے کردار سے آگاہ کیا۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین دوستی کے مضبوط رشتے میں بندھے ہوئے ہیں اور دونوں ملکوں کی دوستی ہر دور میں مثالی رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے سی پیک پراجیکٹ کو دونوں ملکوں کی ترقی کا مشترکہ منصوبہ قرار دیا۔

July 08, 2019

The News

Pak envoy calls on Chinese FM

BEIJING: Ambassador Masood Khalid paid a farewell call on State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday. In his remarks, Khalid emphasized the singular honour of having represented Pakistan in China, a close friend, trusted partner and good neighbor. The Ambassador conveyed his gratitude for the continued support Pakistan has received from the leadership, government and people of China. State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi thanked the Ambassador for his contributions to the Pakistan-China partnership. As time tested partners who had always stood shoulder to shoulder, the State Councilor added, China would continue to promote its cooperation with Pakistan in all areas.

July 09, 2019

The Nation

Envoy urges Malaysian firms to tap Pak trade, CPEC potential

RAWALPINDI - Malaysian High Commissioner in Pakistan Ikram Mohammad Ibrahim has urged Malaysian business communities and key players to seize the opportunities offered within Pakistan's market, specifically the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

Addressing the inaugural session of Pakistan-Malaysia Business Opportunities Conference (BOC) being organized by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) at a local hotel in Kuala Lumpur Monday, he said the CPEC project – a 15-year master plan under the 'One Belt, One Road' (OBOR) initiative – is a chance for local businessmen to look into, and penetrate, the market which includes roads and railways that would stretch from the Western Chinese city of Kashgar in China's Xinjiang province to Pakistan's second-largest port of Gwadar.

"Ever since the recent governments' changes and exchanges of the head of states' visits, the countries are now moving to a greater level of partnership and cooperation.

"The CPEC megaproject is a huge market opportunity that could not be missed by Malaysian business players. This is where the Malaysia-Pakistan Business Council (MALPAK) should play their big role in facilitating business meetings and help to boost the business linkages on both ends", he added.

The BOC gathered more than 300 participants – including about 150 Malaysian companies – representing various sectors including tourism, pharmaceutical, chemical, plastic, textile, surgical goods, furniture and construction.

Pakistan's Chargé d'Affaires to Malaysia, Atif Sharif Mian, said CPEC would continue to create more joint investments in the long run.

"In terms of Pakistan's context, the project is a US\$40-50 billion investment and it is going to upgrade all the infrastructures as well as across other (sectors of) Pakistan's economy. It is a big corridor and definitely will bring in more traffic for investments.

"Malaysia, in this regard, is globally known as good at providing services and expertise on railways, roadways and construction, thus the country can also invest in this project," said Atif.

Earlier in his welcoming speech, RCCI President Malik Shahid Saleem said Malaysia and Pakistan could do more to increase and enhance the bilateral ties shared to date.

"The focus of the BOC was also to promote and engage the private sectors from both sides because at the end of the day, though governments have helped to facilitate the efforts, it is the private sectors that would need to find opportunities for increasing trade and investments' purposes," he said.

China to assist Pakistan in sports revival: IPC Minister

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Dr Fahmida Mirza has said that Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing met has assured of his all-out support for the revival of sports in Pakistan. Dr Fahimda discussed 'Sports Diplomacy' with the Chinese Ambassador at IPC office on Monday and sought area of collaboration in repairing, maintenance and capacity building of trainers of Sports Complex. The IPC Minister said: "Promotion of sports and rebuild of Sports Complex is the top priority of the incumbent government. We believe, China can help us to rebuild the complex and in capacity building of our trainers." The Minister laid emphasis on completion of the complex before South Asian Games in Nepal. "Pakistan would seek the assistance of China to build the complex in financial aspect as well as capacity building of coaches for table tennis, martial arts and gymnastics." Dr Fahmida also discussed the idea of holding an international conference on sports diplomacy along with China, Afghanistan, India and Central Asian Countries to form a regional sports committee like International Olympic Committee (IOC) with headquarter in Islamabad. The regional sports committee will be given the mandate to promote international sports as well as common traditional games of the region. The Minister said: "We need to have tangible achievement on MoUs of three sister cities. We need to specify areas of cooperation for each city. Foreign offices of both countries should chalk out a plan for an upcoming conference, so that, it can reap substantial results." Yao Jing assured assistance in the maintenance of the Sports Complex and appreciated the idea of the Regional Sports Committee. The meeting concluded with reiteration for the revival of sports and speedy formation of friendship cities between Pakistan and China

Express News

سی پیک پر اچیکس پر شمالی کورین باشندوں کے ممکنہ کام کرنے پر امریکا کو تحفظات

اسلام آباد: امریکانے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے مختلف پراجیکٹس پر شمالی کوریا کے باشندوں کے ممکنہ طور پر کام کرنے پر شدید تحفظات کا اظہار کیا ہے۔

ذرائع نے ایکسپریس ٹریبیون کو بتایا کہ اس حوالے سے اسلام آباد میں امریکی سفارتخانے کے حکام نے وزارت خارجہ سے رابطہ کر کے ان "افواہوں" پر اپنے تحفظات اور

تشویش کا اظہار کیا ہے کہ سی پیک کے منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والی چینی کمپنیوں کی جانب سے شمالی کوریا کے باشندوں کو بھی بھرتی کیے جانے کا امکان ہے۔

واضح رہے کہ اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل نے 2017 میں اپنی قرارداد نمبر 2375 کے ذریعے رکن ممالک کو اس بات کا پابند کیا ہے کہ وہ شمالی کوریا کے باشندوں کو روزگار کیلئے

بھرتی نہیں کریں گے۔

پاکستان نے بھی اس قرارداد کے تناظر میں 21 نومبر 2017 کو ایس آر آ جاری کیا تھا جس کے ذریعے شمالی کوریا کے باشندوں کو روزگار کے حوالے سے ویزے جاری کرنے

پر پابندی عائد کی گئی تھی

Nawaiwaqt

سی پیک کے تحت سکی کناری ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ پر تیزی سے کام جاری

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) چین پاک اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے تحت سکی کناری ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ میں 3 ہزار 800 چینی افراد دن رات بروقت تکمیل کے لئے مصروف عمل ہیں۔ سی پیک سیکرٹریٹ حکام کے مطابق سی پیک کے تحت تعمیر ہونے والے سکی کناری ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ پر تیزی سے کام جاری ہے۔ تکمیل کے بعد یہ منصوبہ پاکستانی عوام کی خوشحالی میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گا۔ اس منصوبے کا شمار سی پیک کے اولین منصوبوں میں ہوتا ہے۔ اس منصوبے پر کام کا آغاز 31 دسمبر 2016ء کو ہوا تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا ہے کہ سکی کناری ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ 31 دسمبر 2022ء تک مکمل ہو جائے گا۔ اس پراجیکٹ کی تکمیل کے بعد ہر سال 3.221 بلین کلو واٹ بجلی پیدا ہوگی اور پاکستان میں بجلی کی کمی کو پورا کرے گی۔

July 11, 2019

Business Recorder

Pakistan to follow Chinese examples of Industrialization: Chairman BoI

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Board of Investment, (BOI) Zubair Gilani on Thursday said that Pakistan is deeply fascinated by China's example of industrialization and economic wisdom.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative and industrial cooperation between the two nations is the first step in transforming the lives of people of the two countries, he expressed these remarks while briefing a 50-member Chinese Investment delegation here at BoI office.

The delegation was comprised of CEOs / General Managers of Businesses from the City of Chongqing, China said press release issued by BOI here.

Secretary BOI, Omer Rasul, Additional Secretary BOI, Muhammad Saleem Ahmed Ranjha, Executive Director General BOI, Fareena Mazhar and President of Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industries Faisal Afridi were also present on the occasion.

Zubair Gilani said that China Pakistan relationship transcends all differences; despite political differences among political parties in Pakistan, there has always been complete unanimity as to the importance and significance of China Pakistan's Friendship.

Chairman BOI stated that Pakistan to learn lessons from Chinese experiences in the development of the industrial sector. Keeping in view its historical and cultural legacy, China is an inspiration for Pakistan and it has given a clear message to the world that anything is possible with the right leadership" he added.

He further assured that his team at BOI would provide all-out support to the Chinese investors regarding investment opportunities in Pakistan.

While head of the Chinese delegation Pan Guangfeng acknowledged the significance of Pakistan's strategic location and the immense investment opportunities in the country.

He also highlighted the potential role of BRI in contributing to the economic and social development of Pakistan and further explored the avenues of collaboration in technological innovation and up-gradation, job creation, e-commerce, and development of human resource capabilities through industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan.

Mr. Guangfeng informed that the city of Chongqing is side by side with OBOR and a center of heavy industrial activity in central China, especially the automotive and electronics industries of the region along with 37 industrial parks.

He highlighted that the investors could raise \$ 300 million to \$ 500 million for SEZ infrastructure development and an umbrella investment of \$ 1-5 billion in several sectors. He hoped that Chinese investment in Pakistan would help to create 500-thousands of direct jobs for local youths besides the transfer of technology and raising of industries tech standards in Pakistan.

Members of the visiting delegation personified immense experience in developing economic zones and expressed their intention to facilitate in the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Pakistan.

While on the occasion, Secretary BOI, Omer Rasul, introduced his team of the Board of the Investment (BOI) which is the one window of the government of Pakistan for the facilitation of foreign and local investors in Pakistan. He accentuated that the BOI has especially set up a Chinese Project Management Unit (PMU) for a smooth transition of future cooperation.

Rasul emphasized that the time to invest in Pakistan is now.

He highlighted Pakistan's reforms agenda such as steps to improve Pakistan's ranking on the ease of doing business and structural changes in micro-economic sectors particularly industrialization in the country. He further said that Pakistan and China are agreed on CPEC next phase- Industrialization of Pakistan.

The Express Tribune

'Pakistan to welcome Commonwealth partnership in SEZs on CPEC route'

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Wednesday apprised his counterparts from the Commonwealth states of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying that the project was fast reaching fruition to make Pakistan a regional hub for economic activity.

Addressing the Extraordinary Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers' Meeting (CFAMM) in London, the foreign minister said that a civil government in Pakistan transferred power to the next elected government after completing its five-year tenure.

“The third general elections were held in July 2018 and true democracy was ushered in as a result, as compared to many other Muslim countries,” he said. “The 2018 elections are declared free and transparent by the European Union and the Commonwealth,” he added.

Qureshi explained that the CPEC was providing a platform for regional development, increase in productivity rate and prosperity. He added that Pakistan would welcome partnership of Commonwealth in special economic zones on the CPEC route.

The meeting was convened to mark the 70th anniversary of the London Declaration, which marked the creation of the Commonwealth of Nations. It was chaired by the UK in its capacity as the current chair-in-office.

The ministers discussed matters of collective interest and deliberated on the role of Commonwealth in economic development, governance and social development to realize the shared vision of a fairer, a more prosperous, a more sustainable and a more secure future.

Qureshi said that after the restoration of its membership in 2008, Pakistan had taken many positive and long lasting steps. He stressed that Pakistan’s National Development Strategy, Vision 2025, remained fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“Prime Minister Imran Khan’s government has recently launched a comprehensive programme for poverty alleviation called Ehsas that will focus on areas hit by the Afghan war,” the foreign minister said.

He informed the meeting that Pakistan had given refuge to 2.7 million Afghans, which is a huge number, compared to refugees all over the world. As far as the movement from one country to another was concerned, he added, Pakistan supported only legal movement.

“Ehsas has been initiated to eliminate poverty and assist the weak class and promote workforce power,” he said, adding that a health programme named “SehatSahoolat programme” had been initiated so that the needy persons could be provided healthcare.

Reiterating Pakistan’s commitment to deliver on the vision of the Commonwealth, Qureshi dilated on steps taken towards building sustainable institutions and inclusive society, internalizing good governance and mainstreaming gender parity.

Qureshi told his counterparts from the Commonwealth states that rule of law, eradication of corruption economic development and social justice were key priorities of the Pakistan government for a long-term and sustainable growth.

Speaking on the gender equality, the minister informed the meeting that there were an ever-growing number of Pakistani women entering workforce and the government had introduced legislation to protect their rights and their economic and social empowerment.

“The representation of women in civil service, law and other departments has increased to a great extent,” he said. “The women representation in Parliament is also high with 68 seats in the National Assembly and 18 seats in the Senate and 139 in the provincial assemblies,” he added.

“Pakistan is cognizant of its human rights obligations and takes its commitment to the minorities very seriously,” Qureshi said. “A 5% quota has been allocated for the minorities, while the 11th of August is observed as the minority’s day,” he added.

Giving an overview of economic reforms, Qureshi stated that Pakistan believed in people-centric development. He also highlighted the government’s special focus on youth and the various programmes that have been started for economic uplift.

Qureshi briefed the delegates on Pakistan’s successful fight against extremism and terrorism and the measures taken by the government against hate speech, violent extremism, money laundering and terror financing. He said Pakistan was treading in a difficult situation and believed in trade, investment and communication. He added that with a population of more than 200 million, Pakistan was a rising economy.

He said that 65% of the population comprised youth. He added that a national youth council had been formed in which loans have been given to the youth through a special programme so that “the youth can start business and promote their skills”.

He said that in view of the dangers faced due to the environmental changes, Pakistan had completed a billion-tree programme successfully in which forestation on 300,000 hectare area has been carried out. To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Commonwealth, the minister announced the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp by Pakistan as an expression of solidarity with the organization.

The foreign minister also interacted with the foreign ministers of other Commonwealth countries. Pakistan is one of the founding members of the Commonwealth. The CFAMM mechanism was established to provide political oversight and guidance for implementation of mandates agreed by leaders in the period between Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings (CHOGMs).

July 12, 2019

Daily Times

Pak-China relations and western propaganda

The Uighur community living in Pakistan also called Ex-Chinese Community of Pakistanis actually citizens of Pakistan but historically descendants of Chinese Xinjiang-based Uighurs migrated families, with ancestral roots in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of China.

The Ex-Chinese community in Pakistan has contributed a lot to build strong people-to-people relations between China and Pakistan as after opening of the Karakoram Highway, they become a bridge between two nations. The Ex-Chinese Association was established in 2007 with an aim to work for the wellbeing of Xinjiang-based Uighur community living in Pakistan almost for last two generations. The sole purpose to establish the Uighurs representative association was to bring the community under one umbrella to provide educational facilities to every community member and also to facilitate the deserving families.

In early days of the association, we were struggling with the financial hurdles to ensure a better future for each and every community members equally. Our weak financial conditions and lack of resources would often put us in a situation where we were not able to provide assistance equally to all the deserving families. So our association made request to the Chinese Embassy for education and livelihood assistance, which has always been supportive to overseas Chinese. The embassy agreed to help in providing tuition to the children and also donated winter goods, such as rice, oil, blankets to the needed families.

As Uighur Chinese community living in Pakistan, we are facing huge western propaganda campaign which is totally groundless. For the last many months, many western attempts to defame China have been noticed which are politically motivated and their only aim is to presenting very negative picture of China and damage its friendly and brotherly relations with Pakistan. To give credence to their propaganda campaign, they also use some Uighur people living within Pakistan who don't have good reputation and have been found involved in doing negative propaganda against Pakistan-China relations in the past as well.

One such person is Umer, who is resident of Rawalpindi and is part of the Uighur community living in Pakistan. Unfortunately Umer is badly influenced by the Uighur separatist movement of RabiaKadeer. In the past, he has tried to establish his office in Afghanistan also. During his visit to Afghanistan, Umer, in a recorded phone call to a Turkey-based Uighur news channel admitted his affiliation with Kadeer. He also admitted that he visited Afghanistan on the advice of RabiaKadeer to influence the local Uighur Afghan community. This conversation is available in a recorded form on the social media page of Turkish Uighur news agency.

This time Umer crossed all the limits by hurling allegations not only on China but also on Pakistan. In his recent allegations, he has accused Ex-Chinese Association of collecting data of Uighur Pakistani residents on behalf of the Chinese Embassy. He provided the association's internal membership form as an 'evidence' of collection of data. He further claimed that China is collecting data for forceful extradition of Ex-Chinese Uighur Pakistanis to China. On the other hand, Umer and his family always enjoy the benefits of being member of the Ex-Chinese Association as his children receive free education from the community school and his family also receives the yearly assistance.

The allegations are childish in nature but the western elements have found another opportunity to malign China and its relations with Pakistan. The Ex-Chinese Association and the whole Uighur community living in Pakistan takes recently published articles based on such false claims as a charge sheet against Umer and demand that the Pakistani authorities investigate the matter and help dismantle the baseless propaganda against the Ex-Chinese Association. We openly and strongly demand that there should be a mechanism to expose all such baseless propaganda campaigns against China-Pakistan relations, and anyone who attempts to dent this bond of brotherly relations with baseless propaganda should be punished severely.

Pakistan-China Friendship Zindabad

Dunya News

Chinese corporate heads assure \$5billion investment in Pakistan in 3-5 years

ISLAMABAD (APP) – Heads of different Chinese companies on Friday gave assurance to Prime Minister Imran Khan to invest five billion Dollars (US \$5 billion) in Pakistan in next three to five years.

The investment and transfer of industrial set-up by Chinese companies will generate over 50,000 jobs in Pakistan the first year, the PM Office said, as a delegation comprising heads and representatives of 55 Chinese companies met the prime minister.

The Chinese corporate leaders with their businesses in multiple areas including small and medium enterprise showed keen interest to invest in Pakistan.

The meeting was the follow-up of Prime Minister Khan's visit to China in April where the leadership of two countries agreed to strengthen bilateral relationship in key areas, particularly trade and investment.

Prime Minister Imran Khan welcomed the interest of Chinese companies, saying Pakistan's diverse areas had immense potential for foreign investment. Inspired by the strategy of Chinese leadership on peace, governance and poverty alleviation, he said the government was willing to learn from these experiences to achieve the goals of national prosperity.

Imran Khan said China always sided with Pakistan in tough times, adding that people of both countries were tied with a strong bond of friendship.

On China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said the project would prove a game changer in exploring the true potential of bilateral trade relations.

The prime minister said implementation of CPEC-related initiatives was a priority for the government and mentioned setting up a special department at the Planning Ministry to oversee smooth running of projects. He said the government was focusing on the concept of ease of doing business to promote foreign investment.

Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing said China would extend full cooperation to Pakistan in promoting business activities and establishing strong trade links for the country's economic stability.

Planning Minister Khusro Bakhtiar and Adviser to PM on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood apprised the meeting of the government's fiscal policies and progress on CPEC-related projects.

Adviser to PM on Finance Dr Hafeez Shaikh, Chairman Board of Investment Zubair Gilani and Chairman Federal Board of Revenue Shabbar Zaidi were present.

The Nation

Chinese business delegation willing to invest \$1b in various sectors

ISLAMABAD - A Parliamentary Committee pointed out different ambiguities and shortcomings particularly highlighting a detailed business plan of CPEC Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and its impact in providing job opportunities to the local people of the project areas.

The in camera meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on CPEC was held here under the chairmanship of Sher Ali Arbab, MNA. The Committee was briefed by the Secretary Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms regarding the overall progress and recommendations made by the Committee in its last meeting. Moreover, the respective secretaries of the provinces also briefed the Committee about the SEZs included in the early harvest programme of the CPEC.

The Committee also appreciated the progress and work done so far by the Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Faisalabad with the remarks that they will complete the project within time line shown by them in presentations and it would be a model project up to expectations of all stakeholders and play a role of driver to promote export and economy of the country.

The Chairman also welcomed the Senator Mir Kabir Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, Senator Dr. Shehzad Waseem who were recently nominated by the Chairman Senate in the Committee and further said that the Committee will be benefited by the experience and contribution of these Senior Parliamentarians.

The meeting was attended by Noor Alam Khan, Umar Aslam Khan, Ms. ZilleHuma, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Mehnaz Akber Aziz, Zahid Akram Durrani, MNAs, Senator Mir Kabir Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, Senator Dr. Shehzad Waseem and the secretaries, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms, Board of Investment and senior officers of Provincial Governments.

Meanwhile, a press release issued here stated that a Chinese business delegation has shown interest in the investment of \$ 1 billion in various sectors in Pakistan.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reforms Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar has said that the incumbent government is focusing on promoting export-led industry and import substitution for sustained economic growth. He stated that China can help increase Pakistan's exports by relocating export oriented industries and initiating joint ventures in various fields. He added that this will boost industrial cooperation besides strengthening bilateral economic partnership between the two countries.

The minister was chairing a meeting with visiting Chinese business delegation here in Islamabad on Thursday. The Chinese delegation comprised CEOs and general managers from various sectors especially from the western region city of Chongqing which is leading China in automotive and several other hi-tech industries. Project Director Hassan Daud and senior officials of the Ministry were also present in the meeting.

The minister underlined that Pakistan offers liberal investment policies to attract foreign investment in different areas. He stated that foreign investors can tap the potential of local export oriented industries through joint ventures. The minister underscored that private sector of both countries should forge partnerships for mutual economic benefit of the two countries. There are investment opportunities in various sectors such as maritime, iron and steel, petrochemical, agro based industries, tourism, energy, minerals and mines and textiles, said the minister. He invited Chinese businessmen and investors to take advantage of incentives being offered by Pakistan.

Talking about CPEC, the minister noted with appreciation that CPEC has now entered in its second phase with focus on industrial and agriculture cooperation, socio-economic development and development of Gwadar. He said that establishment of industrial zones has the potential to revive Pakistan's industrial sector adding that it will also create job opportunities besides developing local industries.

The visiting Chinese business delegation expressed desire to invest around \$1 billion in various sectors in initial phase. They expressed desire to invest in various sectors in Pakistan including automotives, textiles, agriculture related industries, IT and telecom industries.

K2 News

چلویت چین تعاون سے پیش کش کی گئی کہ نام کی جلد تکمیل یقین بنائے گی؟ خسرو

یہ ایک اب دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو رہا ہے جس میں بزنس ٹویزیس، سماجی، صنعتی اور زرعی تعاون پر فوکس کیا جائے گا

چینی تاجروں نے مختلف شعبوں میں پہلے مرحلے میں تقریباً ایک ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری پر رضامندی ظاہر کر دی

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چینی بزنس وفد نے جبکہ وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و اصلاحات، تعاون کو حریف فروغ دے سکتے ہیں، حکومت چین کے پاکستان کے مختلف شعبوں میں پہلے مرحلے میں تقریباً 100 کروڑ ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری پر رضامندی ظاہر کر دی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے تعاون سے آئندہ ایک نام کی جلد تکمیل کے لئے ایک ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی کا اظہار کر دیا۔ سرمایہ کار مشترکہ منصوبے شروع کر کے باہمی صنعتی کوشاں ہے، حکومت نے

یہ دینی سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ کیلئے سرمایہ کار دوست
پالیسیاں حصارف کرائی ہیں، آئندہ ایک نام کی جلد تکمیل کے لئے
روزگار کے مواقع، جیٹا ٹویزیس کی منتقلی اور مقامی صنعتوں
کی ترقی اور اقتصادی سرگرمیوں کو فروغ ملے گا، یہی ایک
اب دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو رہا ہے جس میں
بزنس ٹویزیس، سماجی، صنعتی اور زرعی تعاون پر فوکس کیا جائے گا۔
صحتی اور زرعی تعاون پر فوکس کیا جائے گا۔
کونہ وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و اصلاحات

July 13, 2019

Business Recorder

Heads of over 55 Chinese companies meet PM

ISLAMABAD: Chinese companies have decided to invest \$5 billion in various small and medium sized industrial sectors in Pakistan over a period of five years, said the Prime Minister's Office after a delegation of over 55 Chinese companies' chiefs met with Prime Minister Imran Khan here on Friday.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing was also present in the meeting. An official said the investment by the Chinese companies is expected to generate opportunities of around 50,000 jobs in the first year.

The Prime Minister said that China had always been a trusted partner of Pakistan and its leadership's sagacity, wisdom, vision of peace & development, good governance and poverty alleviation were very impressive.

Khan added that Chinese companies' interest for investment and relocating business and industrial units to Pakistan reflected the trust of Chinese side in Pakistan's economy and a desire to translate Pak-China equation into a win-win economic partnership. The government was working to facilitate investors by reducing impediments in ease of doing business, he said adding that partnership with Chinese companies and their investment would benefit both the countries equally with employment generation, transfer of technology and economic growth.

The Prime Minister said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would be a game-changer in terms of enhancing trade activities and to further cement Pak-China relations. Fast-track implementation of the CPEC projects was government's priority for which a special unit in Planning Division is overseeing implementation of various projects, he added.

Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhtiar and Advisor to PM on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood briefed the meeting about CPEC projects and various steps being taken to facilitate businesses and improve ease of doing business.

The visiting delegation represented various sectors including construction, machinery, glass, automobile, electrical, power, transportation, information technology and technological research.

The visit of the Chinese delegation, according to Prime Minister Office, is a follow-up of the Prime Minister's visit to China and inking of agreements to enhance bilateral cooperation in different areas.

Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing remarked that Chinese investors would extend all possible support towards realising the vision of a strong, stable and prosperous Pakistan.

Advisor to PM on Finance Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, Chairman Board of Investment (BoI) Syed Zubair Haider Gilani and Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Syed Shabbar Zaidi also attended the meeting.

July 14, 2019

Business Recorder

PBIT chief, Chinese delegation discuss CPEC-related matters

LAHORE: Chairman Punjab Board of Investment and Trade met Chinese delegation and discuss matters related to CPEC; he stated that CPEC is a project which shall reap long lasting benefits to the people of Pakistan as well as China. Its pivotal focus is to further strengthen the brotherly relations and help the region economically. Hence concrete steps are being taken to generate conducive environment for flourishing economic activities.

He briefed the delegation with the importance and contributions of the province of Punjab in Pakistan's economy, as Punjab contributes approximately 60% in Pakistan's GDP with 68,000 functional industrial units with 3 economic zones which have already been announced while another 7 are in the planning phase. He also briefed that quite a few Chinese companies are already engaged in business activities within these economic zones.

Chairman PBIT reiterated that measures to further improve the economic infrastructure are being undertaken by Punjab's government. Projects related to Agriculture, Food processing, Low Cost Housing, Dairy, Livestock, and Auto manufacturing, Health and Education sectors have huge potential and prospect investors may benefit from. Further, he also briefed the Chinese delegation of immediate investment opportunities that lies within Allama Iqbal Industrial City at Faisalabad under the CPEC framework.

The Chinese delegation appreciated the efforts of Chairman PBIT Sardar Tanveer Ilyas for promoting conducive environment for Trade and Investment in Punjab and assured him that Chinese investors have keen interest to invest in projects through which both brotherly nations shall benefit. Sardar Tanveer also reciprocated by assuring to take all possible steps to facilitate Chinese investors in an unprecedented manner.—PR

Chinese scholar stresses construction of development zone along CPEC to produce high quality products

BEIJING: A Chinese scholar has stressed for construction of agriculture development zone along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to produce high-quality agriculture products.

“China and Pakistan can jointly produce high-quality agricultural products such as soybean, cotton, peanuts, grapes, olive oil, citrus, mango, pomegranate, and strawberry, and then export them to China, which has the potential to generate around US \$12 billion a year for Pakistan,”

Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law, Senior Fellow of the Chahar Institute told China Economic Net. He said Southern China's Guangdong province was now focusing on economic cooperation with South Asian countries, including Pakistan.

The province took the lead in reform and opening-up, paying special attention to the research and development of new technologies in the fields of industry and agriculture, its climate was warm, similar to Pakistan, and its new crop varieties and cultivation technology were very suitable for Pakistan, he added.

He informed that Yuan Longping, a Chinese agricultural scientist, was the pioneer of hybrid rice research and development in China and was known as the "father of hybrid rice" in the world.

"China is also a traditional producer of soybeans and maize. For a long time, China has accumulated advanced planting technology and management experience, which it is willing to share with Pakistan," he added.

Cheng observed that China and Pakistan were countries which place great importance on agriculture. Pakistan's budget this year had substantially increased investment in agriculture; hence there was great potential for cooperation in agriculture between China and Pakistan.

In his perspective, water conservancy infrastructure construction was very important and Guangdong's enterprises could cooperate fully with Pakistan. He said another key area for growth was the deep-processing of agricultural products, which could bring enormous economic benefits.

Therefore, China and Pakistan should work together to develop deep-processing of agricultural products. The Chinese scholar informed that Guangdong enterprises had advanced deep-processing machinery and excellent technology.

They could invest in the deep-processing industry of agricultural products and create conditions for Pakistani agricultural products to increase value and open up international markets.

Daily Times

Govt. to set up CPEC Authority to speed up work on projects

Reiterating government's resolve of not compromising on development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiyar said the government will soon establish CPEC Authority to speed up work on project under it.

The authority will help strengthen country's endeavors to achieve economic targets and enhance regional connectivity, Khusro said while addressing a press conference along with Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information Firdous Asiq Awan. He said the required legal framework will be prepared for the purpose as soon as possible. "We will soon come up with a bill so that the CPEC Authority is established as soon as possible," he added.

The minister said the authority will be established after upgrading the existing CPEC infrastructure in the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, adding that skillful human resource will be hired for the purpose to run it on modern lines and strengthen the capabilities to achieve the set targets.

He said one of the purposes of establishing the authority is to speed up work on different projects under the long-term CPEC Plan 2030. He said the \$230 million Gwadar Airport has already been inaugurated, while the work on water plant, Gwadar Vocational Training Institute and hospital is underway.

The minister said the CPEC is the manifestation of long-term relations between China and Pakistan. He said by the end of October this year, his Chinese counterpart along with a delegation will visit Islamabad to attend the ninth annual Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on CPEC.

Khusro Bakhtyar said the government, this year, will also start work on the most important \$8.5 billion railway project of CPEC for up-gradation of Main Line 1 (ML-1). He said the Multan-Sukkur motorway is set to be opened in August this year while the Sukkur-Hyderabad motorway will also be completed soon.

He said in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2019-20, the government has set aside funds for completion of Western Route of CPEC. He said due to crisis in Pakistan's energy sector, the international investors are reluctant to come to Pakistan, however at this difficult stage, the all-weather friend China came forward and invested heavily in Pakistan's power sector to bring the country out of crisis.

He said now the government-to-government focus is being shifted to business-to-business focus and private sector will be engaged in the mega projects of the country in order to ease out budget pressure on government besides developing the small and medium enterprises of the country.

Khusro said recently, a high-level Chinese business delegation visited Pakistan and committed to invest around \$5 billion in the industrial sector of the country. To another question, the minister said that Pakistan's balance of payment issue can be resolved by relocation of Chinese industry in Pakistan which will help producing value-added export-oriented products to boost exports.

The Express Tribune

Govt lays stress on power supply to SEZs

LAHORE: The federal government has decided to expedite the provision of supply of electricity to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) with a view to promote investment and stimulate industrial growth in the country.

The decision was taken at a meeting jointly chaired by Punjab Chief Secretary YousafNaseemKhokhar and Federal Secretary Power Division Irfan Ali on Saturday.

The meeting reviewed various proposals regarding provision of required load of electricity to Sundar Industrial Estate Lahore, Quid-e-Azam Apparel Park Sheikhpura and industrial estates of Rahim Yar Khan, Bhalwal, Vehari and Faisalabad.

Addressing the session, the chief secretary highlighted the role of industries in development of a country and reiterated that establishing business units keeps the wheels of economy turning.

He said China is showing keen interest in investing in SEZs. Khokhar stressed that industrial growth in Punjab would contribute to the national exchequer and help address the economic issues.

He said that the government is committed to provide an amiable environment to the investors. “All possible facilities will be given to industrialists within the regulatory framework,” he noted.

The chief secretary said issues related to SEZs would be resolved on priority basis. He directed the relevant provincial departments to liaise with the federal government.

Power Division’s Secretary Irfan Ali said full cooperation would be extended for the provision of electricity to SEZs and issued special guidelines to power distribution companies for the purpose.

The meeting was attended by the Board of Investment federal secretary, administrative secretaries of provincial industries and energy departments, National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) MD, Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) CEO and other related officials.

The Express Tribune

Another mega economic zone planned in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) will construct another mega economic zone in Faisalabad, disclosed FIEDMC Chairman Mian Kashif Ashfaq.

Talking to The Express Tribune, Ashfaq said the company, which was already running a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Pakistan, would build another zone, named the Allama Iqbal Industrial City, over 3,270 acres of land. The existing SEZ is called the M-3 Industrial City.

“The new industrial city will create 250,000-300,000 jobs and 350-400 mega industrial units will be set up in it,” he said. “The management has prepared a framework to accelerate work on the industrial estate,” he said, voicing hope that national and foreign investors would invest in the new industrial zone.

Ashfaq revealed that the company had received encouraging response from investors and a few international companies had also signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs) for injecting capital into the SEZ.

He was of the view that the industrial city would attract millions of dollars in foreign direct investment.

“A portion has been allocated for small and medium-sized industrial units to promote the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector,” he highlighted. “This portion will not only facilitate small traders but will also promote new SMEs in the industrial estate.”

He emphasized that development work was going on at a swift pace and Prime Minister Imran Khan would inaugurate the Allama Iqbal Industrial City in September this year. The other industrial estate (M-3 Industrial City) occupies over 4,500 acres of land, which has been

allocated to domestic and foreign companies. “This is Pakistan’s largest industrial estate and prominent Chinese spinning mills have also invested for setting up

Spinning mills of 600,000 spindles,” he added. “FIEDMC has completely allocated the available land and will develop another 3,270 acres under the second phase.”

The federal government has planned to establish nine prioritized SEZs under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) but there has been no meaningful progress on these zones so far, which are critical for attracting Chinese investment into Pakistan. FIEDMC Chief Operating Officer Aamir Saleemi said the state-of-the-art Allama Iqbal Industrial City would accelerate industrial activities in the city.

“We have massive number of investors from Pakistan and abroad and the industrial estate will meet needs of new manufacturing units,” he said. “China, the UK, the UAE and many other countries are investing in these industrial estates.”

However, Saleemi did not share details of prospective new investment in the Allama Iqbal Industrial City.

Car manufacturing firms like Hyundai and Renault had already set up their assembly units in the FIEDMC zone, he pointed out. “Steel, textile, engineering, chemical, plastic and pharmaceutical companies are also setting up their units here.”

The Nation

China explores market to import fruit from Pakistan’s northern region

BEIJING - China stepped up its efforts to explore market in Pakistan’s northern region for importing the country’s popular fruits like cherry. A delegation of Chinese quarantine experts and government officials recently visited the picturesque Gilgit-Baltistan region – home to cherry orchards in Pakistan.

They checked the farm-to-market quality of Pakistani cherry. And, according to Pakistani officials, the visitors returned home satisfied, reports China Economic Net (CEN).

A group of journalists including those from Economic Daily – China Economic Net (CEN) went to a cherry orchard in the Gilgit–Baltistan region and talked with officials, growers and exporters for cherry’s export to China.

They had a meeting with Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman and inquired from him the potential and opportunity for promoting trade and the economic ties between China and the northern regions.

Currently, China imports bulk of its cherry from South American countries to meet growing demand of the exotic fruit. “China wants to gain market access for cherry from Gilgit-Baltistan – something which it didn’t have access earlier,” said Ministry of Food Security the Directorate of Plant Protection Department Deputy Director Shahid Abdullah.

Gilgit-Baltistan produces 4,000 metric tons of cherry per season. And since local consumption is limited, farmers export the fruit, Abdullah said during the interview. Cherry is easily perishable fruit – with little shelf life – so Pakistan has been looking for nearby destinations to export cherry to. And China, being a next-door neighbor with an ever-growing appetite for the fruit, is the most viable option.

“In the past, we would send samples, but they were never accepted. Now, China has finally agreed to take a step forward by sending its officials to Pakistan,” Abdullah said.

The Chinese quarantine experts’ delegation visited cherry orchards to see if there was any disease, or pest in the fruit that could become a concern of quarantine. They toured cherry orchards, and inspected fruit quality and its shelf life. “Their major concern was fruit fly, but they didn’t find any.

They collected samples of leaves and bark of cherry trees for pathologists back home to ensure the fruit is disease-free. “The two countries are expected to complete pest risk analysis (PRA), an international requirement, before exports formally start.

The Chinese side would also be preparing a post-visit report in which experts might mention mitigation measures and recommendations to rectify issues, if any. “The visit objective was to identify issues and recommend remedial measures.”

The delegation also visited laboratories. “We have an integrated pest management (IPM) lab that has biological control agents. There are controls in the lab for things found in the plant, like preys in the orchards, refrigerator requirements, etc,” officials said. They also saw pack houses in G-B, where cherry is processed to increase its shelf life, among other things. “The delegation was also satisfied with the processing.”

About transportation, shipping containers carrying cherry would be sent by road via Sost dry port on the China-Pakistan border. “Getting access to the Chinese market for cherry would be a major breakthrough, which could be followed by export of apricot and potatoes, etc. G-B Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GBCCI) President Imran Ali said the Chinese delegation has assured that they would remove hurdles to cherry imports from Pakistan. “They [Chinese officials] said they would also recommend to their government to import Pakistan’s cherry which is purely organic.”

He said the Chinese delegation was satisfied with everything – from quality of the fruit to processing and packaging. “They tasted our cherries – and liked it.” CEN recently contacted the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan. Wang Zhihua, Economic and Commercial Counselor of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, said that China’s efforts to promote the field visit and inspection and quarantine of Pakistani cherry is the first step towards achieving the goal of Pakistan’s cherry export to China.

The News

Pakistan among 37 states defending China on HR cause

GENEVA: UN ambassadors from 37 countries, including Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, have released a letter defending China's "contribution to the international human rights cause" in the Xinjiang region, in direct response to Western criticism earlier this week.

On July 10, a group of 22 countries, including the member states of the European Union, joined by Japan, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, issued a statement urging China to stop the mass detention and arbitrary incarceration of ethnic Uighurs and other Muslims in its western Xinjiang region, The New York Times reported.

On Friday a diverse group of states including Russia, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Algeria and North Korea replied on Beijing's behalf, claiming China had faced terrorism, separatism and religious

extremism in Xinjiang, the vast northwest region that is mainly Muslim. But through counter-terrorism measures and vocational training, these states said, China had restored peace and security there.

"We note with appreciation that human rights are respected and protected in China in the process of counter-terrorism and de-radicalization," they said in the letter to the UN. China denounced the West's letter as "distortions" and "hypocrisy" of the Western media, and insisted that the region's people "feel much better and much more happy and secure." Chinese diplomats further suggested that China's experience in tackling terrorism could even be usefully shared with other countries.

China has been condemned internationally for setting up detention camps, which it describes as "education training centres" helping to stamp out "extremism" and give people new skills.

Nawaiwaqt

چین پاکستان سے چیری سمیت مشہور پھلوں کی درآمد کیلئے اقدامات کرے گا

بیجنگ (آئی این پی / شہنہوا) چین پاکستان سے چیری سمیت مشہور پھلوں کو درآمد کرنے کیلئے اقدامات اٹھا رہا ہے۔ اس ضمن میں چینی وفد پاکستان کے صوبہ گلگت بلتستان کا دورہ کیا جو چیری کیلئے مشہور ہے، چینی وفد نے چیری کے باغات کی سیر کی اور جی بی کے سرکاری عہدیداران سے ملاقات کی، چینی وفد نے جی بی کے وزیر اعلیٰ حافظ حفیظ الرحمان سے ملاقات میں چیری کے درآمدات میں فروغ بارے اور دوطرفہ اقتصادی ترقی کی کوششوں میں فروغ کیلئے تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق چائنہ اکنامک نیٹ کی رپورٹ کے مطابق چین نے پاکستان چیری سمیت مشہور پھلوں کی درآمدات میں فروغ کیلئے مزید اقدامات اٹھانے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔ اس ضمن میں چینی وفد نے پاکستان کے صوبہ جی بی کا دورہ کیا۔ وفد میں صحافیوں کا ایک گروپ بھی شامل تھا۔ چینی وفد نے عالمی سطح پر مشہور چیری کے باغات کی سیر کی اور جی بی کے وزیر اعلیٰ حافظ حفیظ الرحمان سمیت سرکاری عہدیداران سے گفتگو کی۔ ملاقات میں چیری کی درآمدات میں فروغ اور دوطرفہ اقتصادی صورتحال میں ترقی اور بہتری کیلئے تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ چائنہ اکنامک نیٹ کے مطابق وفد نے پاکستان کے پھل کی مارکیٹ ویلیو چیک کی، چینی وفد مطمئن ہو کر واپس گیا ہے۔ امید ہے چین جلد ہی چیری کی درآمدات میں اضافہ کیلئے کام شروع کر دے گا۔ ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر جی بی وزارت تحفظ خوراک شاہد عبداللہ نے میڈیا ٹاک کے دوران کیا ہے کہ جی بی 4 ہزار میٹرک ٹن ایک سیزن میں چیری کی پیداوار دیتا ہے جبکہ مقامی طور پر اس کی کھپت بہت کم ہے۔ چیری کی معیاری مدت کو بڑھانے کیلئے آسانی کے ساتھ اقدامات کئے جاسکتے ہیں۔ پاکستان کو چیری کی درآمدات بڑھانے کیلئے قریبی مارکیٹ کو تلاش کرنا چاہئے۔

July 15, 2019

Dawn News

Will CPEC survive the IMF bailout?

The staff report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last week must have provided some measure of comfort to the champions of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC) as well as China that chose Pakistan to be the first key destination for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to sustain its economic triumph and realise future ambitions.

If this is just a coincidence, it is intriguing. After a long lull, there is light blipping again on the CPEC drawing board. Last Friday, a 55-member Chinese delegation of business executives met Prime Minister Imran Khan and reportedly committed to sloughing \$5 billion investment over the next five years. “Probably the interaction with the Chinese delegations was already planned, but the fact that it did materialize as soon as details of the IMF deal were made public kindled new hope for the future,” commented a top leader of the government’s economic team.

In its staff report following the approval of a three-year \$6bn bailout programme, the IMF mentions the repayment of \$14.68bn due for \$21.8bn bilateral and commercial loans that Pakistan owes to China. This is almost 24pc of the country’s total \$85.8bn external debt and liabilities. The document states that the Chinese commercial debt will be fully retired by the end of the programme in 2022 while the bilateral debt (\$15.5bn) will be almost half of what the country owes at this point to \$7.9bn.

There is no official word from China on the apparent slow pace of CPEC projects. Its enthusiasm somewhat waned for want of clarity on the post-election economic direction

Sometime back, the United States explicitly expressed its dismay over the possibility that Pakistan could use the Fund’s money to pay back Chinese loans. The US stance exasperated the anxieties surrounding the multibillion-dollar China’s investment plan. The CPEC did stimulate growth and motivated economic drivers by removing infrastructure bottlenecks before the start of the current tumultuous phase in May last year.

There is no formal word on the issue from China. The enthusiasm of the dependable friendly nation did somewhat wane for want of clarity on the post-election economic direction. There were concerns about the intent of the new set of rulers on the pledges by the PML-N government regarding CPEC-related projects. The initial statements by members of Prime Minister Khan’s economic dream team where they questioned the sealed deals must have added to the confusion. How far the visit helped to allay China’s reservations is anyone’s guess. But the optics are lacking if China is still as upbeat on the CPEC as before.

China prefers to speak with its silence most of the times. However, people in the know of things in Islamabad said that China did remind the current government, at some point, of the grave consequences of renegeing on the earlier signed contractual obligations.

Approaching the relevant Chinese officers supervising the CPEC was a vain exercise as earlier efforts proved useless. It became apparent quickly that China feels neither keen nor obligated to share the details of its multiple deals. It sees no value in entertaining the prying journalists. Sometime back, a senior Chinese diplomat told this writer that whatever they wish to be known is put up on the CPEC website. He said their system does not allow free flow of information. “We need clearance from Beijing before sharing our opinion. It takes time and does not serve the calls of fast-paced media based in democratic traditions.”

The relevant people in the federal government dismissed the perception that the ruling party knocks the wind out of the CPEC sail as being a figment of someone's imagination. All provinces, except Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, endorsed the counter-narrative — the movement on the CPEC agenda has indeed slowed down under the watch of the current government.

The focal person on the CPEC, Hasan Dawood Butt, sees the project progressing at the expected pace. He termed Pakistan “the buckle of the Chinese belt initiative”. “Prime Minister Khan is as much devoted and committed to the CPEC as anyone else. His successful meetings with the leadership in China hold testimony to his recognition of the project's value to the country and its people. We are moving ahead in the next phase of economic cooperation that focuses on development of the social sector and economic cooperation,” he said over the phone from Islamabad.

“We host Chinese experts and business delegations every other day. Recently, a delegation of the petroleum sector was in Islamabad to explore the avenues of joint ventures in special industrial zones,” he said. There are nine sites identified across Pakistan for special zones.

Mr Butt attributed the relative lack of visibility of the Chinese in Pakistan to the completion of several early-harvest programmes in the first phase. “We are commencing the second phase of the CPEC where there are no big-ticket infrastructure projects that require Chinese technicians in big numbers. Instead, the focus now is on improving health, education and agriculture. There is discussion over agriculture co-branding etc. Once special zones become operational, perhaps the optics will improve,” he told Dawn.

The sense in the provincial capitals was different. Generally, officers were reluctant to come on record, but said that if the progress on the CPEC is not halted altogether, it is too slow to be seen as moving at all.

“Be it transport or industrial zones, I do not remember when it was last even mentioned in a high-level meeting. I don't have a shred of doubt in my mind that the lack of interest right now is mutually shared between both partners. It could be the preoccupation of China with sour trade relations with the United States or the obsession of Prime Minister Khan's team with the demands of the IMF. Whatever it is, it has pushed the CPEC down on the priority list on both sides,” a senior member of the hierarchy in Sindh said.

“At long last, the Punjab government has identified and started the process of acquiring land for the planned industrial zones. If all goes as planned, it will take another two years to fix the infrastructure and arrange for basic utilities before gates are opened to investors,” a senior officer from Punjab told Dawn.

Not everyone agrees. Dr Muhammad Amanullah, a senior officer from Punjab, defended the government. “In the second phase under the new government, the focus of the CPEC has moved towards industrial development, agriculture and socio-economic development. The perception of a slowdown, therefore, is wrong as currently provincial governments are working towards

identifying and proposing projects for special economic zones. The exercise needs research and spadework with eyes on realising the full potential of this opportunity,” he said.

KP Planning and Development Secretary Atif Rehman sounded optimistic. He said the work is in progress on the Rashakai Economic Zone. He was happy with the pace of progress.

According to insiders, not all of the 22 projects in the first phase of the CPEC worth about \$29bn have been completed yet. Some eight projects in the power sector that are completed are said to be in financial troubles for the non-payment of dues.

Chinese investment

THE next phase of CPEC was supposed to have been under way by now, with large Special Economic Zones being opened up and Chinese investors invited to acquire stakes, either via joint ventures, public-private partnerships or direct foreign investment, in various sectors of the economy. All the movement on CPEC that has been seen thus far — power plants, the Gwadar port and some road projects — were only the ‘early harvest’ phase. The real game in CPEC was always about preparing the landscape in Pakistan to absorb large quantities of Chinese investments in diverse sectors, ranging from electronic appliances to cement, automobiles, metals and mining — with a special focus on agriculture. The sweeping vision laid down in the Long-Term Plan was an indication of what is to come.

But it seems that at least two years have been wasted — there has been a prolonged period of political uncertainty, and failure on the part of the PTI government to find a decisive path forward regarding CPEC. Construction of the SEZs is only a part of what needs to be done to move ahead with the project. Arranging infrastructure within these zones, together with ensuring connectivity to the ports and cities, the supply of gas, water and power, labour and a residential environment for those who are supposed to live and work within these SEZs is a sprawling task. The latter requires a concerted effort by the federal government and effective coordination with provincial authorities. In agricultural investment, the policy environment needs equally decisive reforms to facilitate the entry of foreign investment.

The state of limbo that the entire enterprise is mired in was underscored at a recent meeting between the highest levels of the Pakistani government and a large delegation of Chinese investors, led by the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, in which they spoke of a possible \$5bn investment in Pakistan under the CPEC framework. Much work remains to be done before that potential can be realized, though, and it seems that one of the purposes of the meeting is to build upon the interactions that Prime Minister Imran Khan had during his last visit to Beijing. It is time for the PTI government to make up its mind, and resolve whatever tensions it has with the proposed CPEC investments; it should either move the enterprise forward in a clear direction, or scrap it altogether. The state of limbo needs to end.

The Nation

Decision to set up CPEC Authority lauded

ISLAMABAD - A renowned Economist Mirza IkhtiyarBaig has said the decision of the government to set up a China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority to upgrade the existing structure for speedy and focused execution of the projects was a positive move.

According to radio Pakistan, he said the decision would be further strengthening the confidence of Chinese investor and it was a long awaited decision. Many Chinese companies are willing to invest in Pakistan and to investing \$5 billion in the country in the next three to five years.

The investment will be made in various small and medium-sized industrial sectors. We must avail the opportunity of foreign direct investment in different projects in Pakistan, he added.

He said there must be business-to-business interactions between China and Pakistan and this will provide a platform for regular consultation between the government and business community on matters related to private sector investments and push forward industrial cooperation under CPEC.

Another Economist Dr.Noor Fatima said the role of media in highlighting the importance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor project is vital as it is a flagship program for the future of our country. Many countries are willing to be part of this mega project, she added. She said this project should not be politicized as it is a national project that will have a positive impact on the economy of our country. Pakistan is rightly focusing on attracting foreign investment under CPEC as it is a big opportunity for stabilization of the economy, she said. The government should also focus on training for productive and skilled labors, she added.

International Relations Expert Dr.HumaBaqai said Prime Minister Imran Khan is determined to eradicate poverty from Pakistan on coming to power by following the Chinese model. She said the government must introduce policies that will be in favor of the poor and will uplift them. The incumbent government wants to diversify CPEC in terms of foreign direct investment in the country, she added.

China firm builds \$250m industrial park in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD - The China Overseas Ports Holding Ltd has invested nearly US \$ 250 million and built a 25-acre modern industrial park in Gwadar port free zone.

The free zone is equipped with roads, water pipes, electricity, communications, security fence and waste disposal facilities, according to a report of China.org.cn here on Sunday. More than 30 Chinese and Pakistani enterprises have moved in the free zone, with three billion yuan of direct investment.

These include hotel, bank, insurance, financial leasing, logistics, overseas warehousing, grain and oil processing, aquatic product processing, and home appliances assembly. Their yearly output value will exceed five billion yuan once they all come into operation.

Both China and Pakistan agreed to build the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Pakistan in May 2013 to promote energy and transportation infrastructure development, among other projects. During President Xi Jinping's visit in April 2015, a closer bilateral cooperation was again highlighted.

A key element of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and an essential component of the Gwadar Port development project, the free zone aim to improve trade logistics, facilitate processing trade, and promote warehousing and financial services.

Jang News

سی پیک اتھارٹی: مستحسن فیصلہ

وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی و ترقی خسرو بختیار کا یہ انکشاف کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت جاری منصوبوں پر کام کی رفتار کو تیز کرنے کیلئے جلد ہی سی پیک اتھارٹی کے قیام عمل میں لایا جائے گا، اس اطمینان بخش حقیقت کا مظہر ہے کہ موجودہ حکومت پچھلے دور میں شروع ہونے والے اس عظیم الشان منصوبے کی جلد از جلد تکمیل کی خواہشمند اور اس کیلئے کما حقہ کوشاں ہے۔ وزارت منصوبہ بندی کے گزشتہ روز جاری کئے گئے ایک بیان اور وزیر موصوف کی پریس کانفرنس میں اس فیصلے کے محرکات پر روشنی ڈالتے ہوئے کہا گیا ہے کہ باہمی تعاون کو باضابطہ ادارے کی شکل دینے کی خاطر سی پیک سکرٹریٹ کو وزارت منصوبہ بندی کے تحت ایک خود مختار ادارے میں تبدیل کیا جا رہا ہے۔ بیان میں بجاطور پر توقع ظاہر کی گئی ہے کہ یہ فیصلہ مختلف شعبوں کے مابین رابطے کے ایک مشترکہ پلیٹ فارم کی شدت سے محسوس کی جانے والی ضرورت کی تکمیل کا باعث ہو گا۔ بیان میں صراحت کی گئی ہے کہ اس ادارے کے قیام کے بعد بھی سی پیک پر چین اور پاکستان کی حکومتوں کے درمیان طے پانے والی مفاہمت کی دو طرفہ یادداشت کے مطابق وزارت منصوبہ بندی ہی اس ضمن میں پاکستان کی جانب سے قائدانہ کردار ادا کرے گی۔ وزیر منصوبہ بندی نے سی پیک کے خود مختار ادارے کے تصور کی مزید وضاحت ان الفاظ میں کی کہ یا اتھارٹی معاشی اہداف کے حصول کیلئے قومی کاوشوں کو تقویت اور علاقائی رابطوں کو وسعت دے گی اور اسکے قیام کیلئے جتنی جلدی ممکن ہو اسودہ قانون پارلیمنٹ میں پیش کر دیا جائے گا۔ وزیر منصوبہ بندی نے مزید بتایا کہ یہ ادارہ اگلی وزارت کے اندر سی پیک کے موجودہ ڈھانچے کو اپ گریڈ کرنے کے بعد وجود میں لایا جائیگا۔ خسرو بختیار نے اس موقع پر ذرائع ابلاغ کے نمائندوں کو یہ اطلاع بھی فراہم کی کہ اس سال اکتوبر کے آخر میں ان کے چینی ہم منصب ایک وفد کے ساتھ جس میں این ڈی آر سی کے چیئرمین بھی شامل ہوں گے، مشترکہ رابطہ کمیٹی کے نویں اجلاس میں شرکت کیلئے اسلام آباد آئیگی۔ وزیر منصوبہ بندی نے پریس کانفرنس کے شرکاء کو سی پیک کی رفتار کار سے آگاہ کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ یہ پروگرام اب دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو گیا ہے جس میں صنعتی اور زرعی تعاون، گوادر اور سماجی معاشی ترقی پر زیادہ توجہ دی جائے گی۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ 23 کروڑ ڈالر کی لاگت سے بننے والے گوادر ایئرپورٹ کا افتتاح پہلے ہی ہو چکا ہے، واٹر پلانٹ، پیشہ ورانہ تربیت کے ادارے اور اسپتال کی تعمیر کا کام جاری ہے جبکہ حکومت اسی سال ساڑھے آٹھ ارب ڈالر کے سی پیک ریلوے پروجیکٹ پر بھی مین لائن ون کی اپ گریڈیشن کیلئے کام شروع کرے گی۔ انہوں نے یہ انکشاف بھی کیا کہ ملتان

سکھر موٹروے کی تکمیل اس سال اگست میں ہو جائے گی جبکہ سکھر حیدرآباد موٹروے بھی جلد ہی مکمل ہونے کی توقع ہے۔ سی پیک کے مغربی روٹ کی تکمیل کیلئے بھی موجودہ مالی سال میں بیلک سیکٹر ڈیولپمنٹ پروگرام کے تحت رقوم مختص کی گئی ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اگرچہ معاشی مشکلات کی وجہ سے بیرونی سرمایہ کاری کے حصول میں دشواری ہے لیکن آزمودہ دوست چین اس کے باوجود ہمیں بحران سے نکلانے کیلئے بھاری سرمایہ کاری کر رہا ہے جس میں نجی اداروں کی سرمایہ کاری بھی شامل ہے اور ایک اعلیٰ سطحی چینی کاروباری وفد نے پاکستان کو دورہ کرنے کے بعد صنعتی شعبے میں پانچ ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کیسٹین دہانی کرائی ہے۔ سی پیک منصوبوں پر کام کی رفتار سے قوم کو مطلع کر کے وزیر منصوبہ بندی نے ایک بڑی ضرورت کی تکمیل کی ہے جس سے اس ضمن میں جنم لینے والے شکوک و شبہات کا ازالہ اور ملک بھر میں لوگوں کو یہ اطمینان حاصل ہو گا کہ موجودہ حکومت ملک کی خوشحالی کے ضامن اس عظیم منصوبے کے معاملے میں پوری طرح سنجیدہ اور اس کی جلد تکمیل کیلئے ہر ممکن کوشش کر رہی ہے۔ اس مقصد کیلئے خود مختار اتھارٹی کے قیام کا فیصلہ مستحسن نظر آتا ہے اور امید ہے کہ کام کی رفتار کو خاطر خواہ طور پر بہتر بنانے کا سبب بنے گا۔

پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان چلنے والی بس سروس کی سکیورٹی سخت کرنے کی ہدایت

بہاول پور (ڈسٹرکٹ رپورٹر) پاکستان چائینہ کے درمیان چلنے والی بس سروس کی سکیورٹی سخت کرنے کی ہدایت کر دی گئی۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق ہوم ڈیپارٹمنٹ حکومت پنجاب کے مراسلہ کے مطابق وزارت داخلہ حکومت پاکستان کی جانب سے ہدایات جاری کی گئی ہیں کہ پاکستان اور چائینہ کے درمیان چلنے والی بس سروس جس کا سی پیک کے ساتھ کوئی تعلق نہیں لیکن کسی بھی حادثے کی صورت میں اس کے اثرات سی پیک پر پڑ سکتے ہیں لہذا ایس او پی کے مطابق اس بس سروس کی سکیورٹی فول پروف انتظامات کو یقینی بنایا جائے۔

