



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

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A pilot project of PICS

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August 01, 2019

Business Recorder

Eight socio-economic projects of Rs5.6bn to be implemented under CPEC framework

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Government has proposed eight projects in education, health, and agriculture sectors to be included in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Socio-Economic Development Framework worth around Rs 5.6 billion.

Under the framework, five new schools would be established in the province at Tehsil levels at a cost of Rs 800 million which would be equipped with smart classrooms including smart interactive white boards, multimedia equipment, computer equipment, table computer for learning, teaching furniture projects and printers. Once launched, the project is estimated to be completed within one year, sources in Punjab Planning and Development Board said.

Under the Socio-Economic Development Framework, China had agreed to provide Pakistan a grant of \$1 billion for initiating various projects across the country especially in under developed areas. In another project, Punjab Tianjin University of Technology Lahore would be upgraded at a cost of Rs 642 million by provision of machinery and equipment besides a faculty exchange programme would also be established under the project.

In health sector, three projects have been proposed including establishment of burn unit, Bahawalpur at a cost of Rs 775 million, revamping and modernizing tertiary healthcare facilities at a cost of Rs 1.66 billion and revamping specialized healthcare system at district level at a cost of Rs 800 million.

Similarly in Agriculture sector a joint cotton research laboratory would be established in Multan at a cost of Rs 186 million. The project will help in improving the productivity of the agriculture sector by increasing cotton cultivation area and production. It will also help in development of climate resilient cotton varieties that will ensure reliability and productivity.

The project will help farmers by lowering the need to invest in insecticides and pesticides and will help alleviate poverty in rural Punjab. Under the framework, oil laboratory in Faisalabad would be strengthened to assist research activities regarding rapeseed crop.

The project will be helpful in developing rapeseed varieties and hybrids with higher oil content and good quality edible oil. Pest warning and quality control of pesticides is another project to be located in Sahiwal, Sargodha, D.G.Khan and Bahawalpur to benefit farmers by increasing their livelihoods and standard of living by ensuring greater crop security through increasing epidemic resilience.

The project is also expected to complement the IPM programmes of the Agriculture Department and is in line with provincial growth strategy and will also help Punjab with its compliance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The sources said that a Chinese team will due in Pakistan this month to visit all sites of the project and then will give final approval to the projects.

Daily Times

CPEC's Kernel

The Himalayan giant extended its hand to strengthen its bond with Pakistan through CPEC in 2015. The project itself is an offshoot of China's mass initiative of revamping of old silk route, frequently known as One Belt One Road. In Pakistan, CPEC is welcomed by every visionary person. Holistically Pakistan will be bagging enough through CPEC. However, Pakistan's largest province Balochistan will be benefiting the most. For long, the south western province of Pakistan has faced a lot of deprivation. Despite being mineral rich, Balochistan has received the smallest share of benefits and resources. This long forgotten part of Pakistan came under limelight when CPEC was drafted making Gwadar as its cynosure.

Balochistan has been seen as the excluded part of the country for long in many social and economic terms. It's very population has been showing grievances towards state for the past few years. The Pakistani state also gauges its security apparatus in Balochistan to counter the irritants. The not-so-friendly Pakistan's neighbours has also been acting as sinister god of these nuisances to wage acts of terror against Pakistan with special emphasis on Balochistan region in order to destabilize it and sabotage CPEC in any possible way. Owing to the fact that Balochistan remains of key importance in the CPEC. Its importance has also made it Achilles heel for CPEC where hostilities are being conducted covertly supported by the foreign factions in order to make the Pakistan's growth stagnant. However, despite the challenges, since China-Pakistan Economic Corridor became a reality Balochistan became kernel for CPEC's prosperity.

The gigantic combo of 1+4 included Gwadar at its core along with energy, transportation, industry and infrastructural cooperation. In order to have secure, safe and feasible Gwadar its relative proximity must be developed too. Large portion of CPEC's investment and projects is been injected in Balochistan to facilitate the successful maneuvering of CPEC. Overall, Balochistan alone holds 16 out of 22 approved and 22 in-pipeline projects as mentioned by Chinese Embassy. It also has one of the largest energy projects in Hub, which costs around USD 2 billion. Apart from the infrastructure and energy projects, CPEC also has done numerous social welfare projects such as contributing towards educational sector with cooperation from the locals. Fageer Primary School is one such project where a primary school is being built on the land donated by an old man called Shair Muhammad.

The government needs to make full use of CPEC's realities in Balochistan and include Balochistan and its people part of it. It is up to Pakistan to make CPEC an inclusive project for Pakistan and integrate the nation and provinces through it.

According to the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Mr. KhusroBakhtyar, western route development is an important development made possible by CPEC and it would attract a

lot of commerce activity and ensure development of remote regions of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Other projects such as construction of International Airport at Gwadar, a Hospital and a Technical Institute etc, are also becoming a reality now.

Blame it to the low literacy rate of region or miscommunication; CPEC is not warmly welcomed by inhabitants. There exist lots of doubts and concerns among the Baloch masses regarding this opportunity. CPEC can be used as the tool to refurbish the ideas and society of Balochistan and reconstruct the damaged bridge between federal apparatus and the provincial people. Dr Malik, the ex-CM Balochistan stated that 29 districts on Balochistan are living below the poverty line. With CPEC creating opportunities of employment can improve the living standard of the population that has expressed these grievances. Through education and providing basic facilities, people will be able to comprehend what CPEC is and how it will benefit them as well.

Water Scarcity is another huge problem that a larger proportion of province's population faces. Highlighting this, CM Balochistan, Jam Kamal Khan said that water sector projects can help improve the present conditions prevailing in the province pertaining to water scarcity. This definitely will assist in refining the image of Chinese investment and Federal government in the eyes of locals.

The reason that people of Balochistan have this notion in their minds that CPEC would not benefit them and it is just another gamble of state to pin them into the ruins is because they were never being told that what actually CPEC is and what opportunities are coming with it which are social and economic prosperity of Pakistan as a collective and its provinces as individual. When they were not addressed by Pakistan side the anti-thesis happened, they were fed by the anti-Pakistan camps and were exploited and used against Pakistan.

Nevertheless, if CPEC is fully ushered in Pakistan, it can make Pakistan a central player in the region's economic ranks. Developments in Balochistan under CPEC are being done with robust on ground affects but there still remains a catch for government in Pakistan. The government needs to make full use of CPEC's realities in Balochistan and include Balochistan and its people part of it. It is up to Pakistan to make CPEC an inclusive project for Pakistan and integrate the nation and provinces through it.

CPEC: the new world economic order

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with its flagship project the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has received enormous attention globally. Through BRI, worth over one trillion dollars, Beijing aims to increase China's connectivity with countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, South America and even the Pacific. CPEC is one of the first BRI projects through an investment of \$63 billion in infrastructural and other projects across Pakistan. The Gwadar Port is CPEC's centrepiece. As some countries, such as the United States and India, have apprehensions on the BRI/CPEC, there is no shortage of false or propaganda-driven information about these projects. With the aim of providing factual information on CPEC, the book CPEC: A Precursor to

Regional Economic Growth and Stability, edited by Professor Zafar Iqbal Cheema, is a step in the right direction.

Comprising of a dozen chapters, this edited volume provides timely analyses of a range of geo-economic and geopolitical issues in the context of CPEC. Various chapters of the book are written by prominent experts from China and Pakistan. This book is a product of the Strategic Vision Institute's China Studies & Information Centre based in Islamabad.

For the benefit of readers, the book is divided into four thematic sections. The first section focuses on CPEC within the Pak-China framework with chapters written by Quratulain Hafeez, Hassan Dawood Butt, and M Waqas Jan. These chapters provide a comprehensive account of the historic relations between China and Pakistan and focus on geo-economic and geo-strategic aspects of CPEC.

While the first chapter comprehensively deals with the background of Pakistan-China relationship, the second chapter by Butt argues, "The overarching vision of CPEC not only includes Pakistan's economic well-being through regional trade but also allows it to position itself as a key regional hub for connecting diverse cultures and societies." In the final chapter of section one, Jan presents an inclusive analysis of Gwadar and the Gwadar Port. By examining the socio-economic situation of Gwadar, the author argues, "Gwadar holds immense potential in uplifting the socio-economic conditions of a stagnant region."

Pakistan is likely to be strategically and militarily strengthened, diplomatically integrated, technologically more advanced and socially more synthesized with China" through CPEC

Section two of the book benefits from detailed chapters by Syed Hassan Javed, Song Guoyou and Liu Jun who focus on not just the BRI but also China's economic rise. Javed presents a comprehensive account of China's economic model with an analysis of the role of the Communist Party. This chapter follows Song's examination of the grand vision behind the BRI vis-à-vis regional integration. In this chapter, the author from China claims that the BRI is not merely limited to investment in infrastructural development because "the end goal of this massive initiative is to foster a joining of hearts and minds of a diverse range of people."

In the final chapter of this section, Liu looks at CPEC as part of the 'New World Economic Order' and argues that CPEC will provide Pakistan's entry into the new world economic order. Further, the author argues, "CPEC will not only bring about development and prosperity for both China and Pakistan" but will help build a vibrant market across South Asia.

Section three focuses on Pakistan's economy in the context of CPEC with chapters from Vaqar Ahmed and Zafar Mehmood. Ahmed's chapter presents a balanced analysis of the pros and cons in relation to CPEC, especially with reference to Pakistan's financial commitments. The author has put forward a range of recommendations to maximize the benefits of CPEC to Pakistan's economy. Compared to the previous chapter, a chapter by Mehmood zooms in on the much-debated issues of special economic zones (SEZs) under CPEC. The author claims, "These SEZs

are expected to be a major source of innovation and technical expertise along with a highly valuable source of [FDI].”

Section four, the final section of the book, looks at CPEC as part of a new global paradigm with chapters from Shabana Fayyaz, Shabbir Ahmed, Naeem Lodhi, Abdul-Rehman Bilal, and S Sadia Kazmi examining security and regional integration and regional potential of this project. Fayyaz focuses on security issues, such as militancy, and their implications for the economic viability of CPEC. Fayyaz is of the view that militancy, terrorism and Pakistan’s troubled relations with India will continue to pose threats to CPEC.

In the second chapter of this section, Ahmed analyses the potential of CPEC for the integration of South Asia economies with that of the Central Asian Republics that are landlocked and will depend on sea routes established through the BRI. This chapter follows a co-authored paper by Lodhi and Bilal who argue, “Pakistan is likely to be strategically and militarily strengthened, diplomatically integrated, technologically more advanced and socially more synthesized with China” through CPEC.

In the final chapter of the book, Kazmi presents a meticulous account of CPEC’s progress until the publication of this book. This chapter reveals the often-less known aspects of CPEC, for example, various bilateral agreements and the allocation of funds for those projects.

Overall, this edited volume holds rich information and analyses that are important for not just policymakers and diplomats but for journalists, researchers and students focusing on Pakistan and China. I also recommend this book to be included in the course material of Pakistan Studies’ programmes globally.

CPEC: Barriers and Challenges

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor, commonly known as CPEC, is one of the prime projects of Beijing’s grandiose Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). China announced BRI in 2013; it has two components: land driven, famously known as the Silk Road Economic Belt, and maritime drive, twenty-first-century, the Maritime Silk Road. According to different estimates, the worth of this ‘project of the century’ would be around \$1 trillion. The primary potential rationale behind this endeavor is to build a ‘community with a shared future for mankind’ and ‘jointly creating an open, inclusive and balanced regional economic cooperation architecture that benefits all’. So far, 129 countries and 29 international organizations have signed the BRI agreement with China, and the total trade between the BRI countries and China increased to \$6 trillion.

CPEC has been projected as a ‘flagship project’ of the BRI, having worth of more than \$46 billion. It links China’s northwestern province Xinjian to Pakistan through road and rail, and provides easy access to Beijing to the critical maritime sea route via Gwadar deep seaport to the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. The major thrust of CPEC projects in Pakistan is on energy, roads, rail, pipelines, and special economic zones, enhancing regional connectivity and integration.

Amidst uncertainty and shift in the global political order, China's pivot to South Asia is highly significant from the strategic viewpoint. Though Beijing would like to avoid the cold war-style tug of war in this region, opposing forces have been luring China to take the bait.

That said, the success of CPEC would determine the future of China's BRI. Since 2015, CPEC achieved many milestones and completed early harvest projects in Pakistan, mainly in energy and infrastructure sectors. According to one estimate, since 2015, China spent almost \$20 billion in Pakistan, in a variety of developmental projects.

Given the gigantic scale and scope of the BRI led CPEC project, it has been facing negative propaganda, conspiracies, and criticism at the domestic, regional and global level from day one. There are different forces present in Pakistan who wish to stall the progress of CPEC by creating suspicion and discord between the strategic partners. Then there are the regional state actors, whose agenda is to disrupt regional connectivity and progress by infusing instability in the region. At the international level, Beijing's BRI has been maligned and dubbed as 'tool of neocolonialism' and 'debt-trap diplomacy'; there is geopolitical leverage to undermine the sovereignty of the host countries.

Amidst uncertainty and shift in the global political order, China's pivot to South Asia is highly significant from the strategic viewpoint.

Pakistan and China are strategic partners and all-weather friends, and it is utmost important for both countries' leadership to remain cognizant to the evolving negative paradigm against CPEC. Forces that oppose the economic revival and progress of Pakistan employ hybrid tactics to stoke instability through invoking ethnic tension, sense of economic deprivation, rift between the local community and government institutions, and igniting disharmony between the federation and provincial governments.

Besides these mounting challenges, the new wave of terrorist attacks, especially against the security forces and CPEC projects, add fuel to fire in the already volatile security landscape of the country. Elusive peace and stability in Afghanistan are further impeding the prospects of economic progress and integration.

In this context, the key to success is the political consensus within the country, and better coordination between the federal and provincial governments and state institutions. In the past, it was observed that political instability proved to be fatal for the peace and economic prosperity of Pakistan. In the current scenario, any potential instability would be far more damaging and push the country on a wrong path. Externally, Pakistan is in a difficult situation facing the belligerence from Modi government, pressure from the Financial Action Task Force, the worsening economic crisis, and pressure from the US to deliver in Afghanistan.

The above-mentioned trigger points do not bode well for the steady progress of CPEC projects. Though Pakistan's political and security institutions do understand the gravity of the situation, and strive to bridge the political gulf on one hand and fighting hybrid warfare through kinetic and non-kinetic means on the other. To provide security to CPEC projects, Pakistan army raised

a separate special security division for CPEC and vowed to build another division to further enhance the security arrangements in the wake of growing militancy in the Balochistan province.

On the regional front, Pakistan and China have to confront threats jointly and through mutual assistance. It is no secret that there are some regional countries that are against China's BRI led CPEC project, and they are trying their best to harm the regional economic connectivity and integration by tarnishing the very premise of this mega initiative. The recent proactive role assumed by China to further the cause of peace and stability in Afghanistan would be vital for regional stability; and there is a growing consensus between Islamabad and Beijing that peace in Kabul would be critical for the economic prosperity of the region.

CPEC is, undoubtedly, the 'project of the century' for Pakistan, and its success and failures will potentially determine the fate of Beijing's BRI. Therefore, it is imperative for both strategic allies to stand firm against all controversies and threats to CPEC, and improve policy coordination for the steady progress of CPEC. Given the geopolitical and geo-economics importance of this project, it is prudent of for both countries to timely complete the projects under the given deadlines, as any delay in this regard would have adverse impacts on the financial feasibility of the projects on one hand, and long term stability of CPEC on the other.

Pakistan Observer

Chinese firm to start another online cab service on Aug 10

Eyeing on the potential transport market, a Chinese company is all set to launch its online taxi service on August 10 in six big cities of the country, inviting competition with two such services already operating in the market.

Timesaco, the company launching the Buraq Taxi Service, has devised a comprehensive strategy to attract customers towards its newly established service for making it competitive, since two taxi services namely Careem and Uber are already operating in the market. Initially these instant services will be launched in the six major cities of Pakistan, including Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Islamabad, Rawalpindi and Peshawar, and it would be extended to other urban centers.

Timesaco Chief Operating Officer (CEO), Donald Li talking to APP said that initially the taxi service would be offered at 10 percent discount rates for ride to education institutions, health centers and marriage halls. He said that special discount would also be provided to professionals including teachers, army personnel and students.

He said that for Timesaco services, customers could download application from Google Play Store for instant services. He said that people interested to work with Timesaco taxi service could register their vehicles with the company without any precondition. Buraq drivers will get 97% share of their earning and company will get only 2% from drivers while one percent would be invested in Drivers' Club for providing health and education services to families of drivers.

He said people could register their bikes, cars, rickshaws, pickups, qingqi loaders, and trucks with the company and get multiple ways for earning. Talking about an elaborated programme of his company, he said that a comprehensive business plan had been worked out to provide five important services to citizens of Pakistan in six big cities, initially investing \$20 million, with future prospects of \$600 million.

The services would be provided in five special sectors including transportation, cargo, bank transaction and advertising, Donald Li said. “We will provide a rapid service platform to citizens by launching five special service including the Buraq Taxi Service, Heavy Cargo Delivery, Orders’ Delivery, Moving Automated Teller Machines (ATM) and vehicle advertisement facilities. Donald said that modern technology and innovative methods of E-commerce would be utilized in delivering these services. —APP

PCJCCI keen for joint ventures with China in handicrafts

Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), President Mr. Shah Faisal Afridi, has said the shifting of Chinese handicrafts industry to Pakistan could play a vital role in empowering Pakistani women.

Afridi urged the government in a statement here on Thursday in think tank session, to work on strategic methods to bring the women in main stream of economy and address the cultural barriers in the full exercise of women’s citizenship. He said that, “China could be helpful in attaining this goal as China is one of the leading producers of hand-made products with over 40 percent share in the world trade but with the technological revolution and high labor cost, the handmade sector in China is highly disturbed. In this scenario, Pakistan can become the manufacturing house of handicrafts for China as Pakistan is enriched with a labor captive skilled human resource in the form of bucolic women, he said and added that that there was an intense similarity of interest between Pakistan and China in respect to production and exports of giftware and handicrafts, which could lead to a viable partnership between the two countries. Mr. Ahmed Hasnain, Senior Vice President PCJCCI said that currently, the handicraft manufacturing industry in China is facing hurdles due to expensive labor, whereas demand of traditional hand-made products is on rise.

Pakistan, China get connected through cross-border optical cables

As many as 17 cross-border optical cables have been put into service in Xinjiang Autonomous region, connecting China with Pakistan and some other neighboring countries. This was stated at a news briefing by Shohrat Zakir, chairman of the Xinjiang regional government while highlighting the region’s recent achievements in promoting peace, tranquility and prosperity. Giving credit of the achievements to the Central government and the leadership of the Communist Party of China, he said there has been fast development in the recent years, improving the socio-economic life of the people.

Shohrat Zakir who was accompanied by other senior’s officials Alken Tuniaz and Zhang Chunlin said that the religious freedom and tranquility were being upheld, while making

considerable progress in eliminating terrorism in its all forms and manifestation. About the vocational education and training centers in the region, he said the majority of the people receiving training from there can find suitable jobs and earn a satisfactory living. The graduates from these centers have started to play a positive role in Xinjiang's development.

"They have also helped others in finding better jobs and pursuing a better life," he said. According to Shohrat Zakir, in the economic sector, Xinjiang region continued to pursue mutual benefits and promote trade. Since 2014, they have established 2,451 railway services to link western neighboring countries with an average annual growth of 100%. In recent years, a total of 1,002 railway services were launched in Xinjiang to connect 26 cities of 19 countries in Central Asia and Europe.

The Chinese nation, he said is a family where we are making concerted efforts to achieve our Chinese Dream. At such a historic point in time, we will continue to bear in mind our original aspiration and mission, carry out the Party's Xinjiang governance strategy under the guidance of the Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. They have focused on the overall objective of social stabilization and lasting stability and durable peace, insist on rule of law, ethnic unity and long-term construction in the region, strive to build a united, harmonious, prosperous, civilized, and progressive Xinjiang based on socialism with Chinese characteristics and strive to write a good Xinjiang chapter in the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation, he added. Xinjiang's economic development has realized a historic leap. Its GDP increased from 791 million yuan in 1952 to 1.2 trillion yuan in 2018. Adjusted for inflation, this represents a 200-fold increase, with an average annual gain of 8.3%. Xinjiang's per-capita GDP rose to 49,000 yuan in 2018, from 166 yuan in 1952 and that's approximately a 37.7-fold increase in real terms, averaging 5.7% annual growth. Xinjing boosted financial cooperation and innovation. In 2016, Pakistan's Habib Bank set up a branch in Urumqi, he added.

The Express Tribune

China to help launch Pakistani to space: Fawad

ISLAMABAD: Last week, Science and Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry generated quite some buzz and a whole lot of questions when he announced plans to launch Pakistan's first manned space mission in 2022.

"Proud to announce that selection process for the first Pakistani to be sent to Space shall begin from Feb 2020, fifty people will be shortlisted — list will then come down to 25 and in 2022 we will send our first person to space, this will be the biggest space event of our history," he tweeted.

Naturally, many across the country were curious as to how serious the minister was, whether he was outlining more than a vague vision to generate interest in his ministry and if he was just how the country would go about executing such a complex and costly endeavor.

In an exclusive interview with The Express Tribune, Fawad provided much-needed clarity on the surprise announcement of the 2022 manned space mission and the revamp of Pakistan's space programme.

To begin with, the minister downplayed potential hurdles and challenges that the country might face as it sets out to launch a person into outer space.

“Yes, launching even a satellite is costly,” he admitted. “But there is no difficulty now as the mission that we are planning is a collaborative one with China.”

“Although several factors, such as procurement and development of necessary infrastructure and technology will determine the final cost of the programme, with Beijing's help and a few million dollars, we should be able to achieve our objective,” he said with confidence.

Fawad pointed out that the planned 2022 mission would be the culmination of the space policy Pakistan's national space agency, Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) outlined in 2002. According to him, an agreement with China in line with the policy was reached in 2015.

“Our government, upon coming to power, decided to take this policy to fruition. We will complete the vision Suparco outlined 17 years ago and send the first Pakistani to space,” he said.

Suparco and the Pakistan Air Force would carry out the mission jointly, Fawad elaborated. “In accordance with international practice when it comes to space programmes, the individuals shortlisted for the mission will be selected by PAF from its pool of fighter pilots,” he said.

“Astronauts all over the world generally have an air force background. Air force pilots are understood to have the necessary fitness, training and experience for such missions and as such, are considered optimal candidates,” the minister explained. He added that once PAF has selected the potential astronauts, Suparco would complete work on other projects associated with the 2022 mission. Fawad lamented the lack of attention successive governments in Pakistan paid towards space research.

“We were the second Asian country after the then Soviet Union to launch a space programme. We launched ours in 1962 under Dr Abdus Salam's guidance,” he pointed out. “Sadly our governments did not take much interest in it. There are countries that have reached Mars since, but we have lagged behind.”

Fawad expressed hope to turn this situation around. “Since 2002, fast-paced development has been taking place in Pakistan's space programme. It should reach an advanced stage by 2030.”

Talking about the utility of a space programme especially at a time when the country is experiencing a financial crunch the minister stressed that developing it would directly benefit other sectors. “A space programme is absolutely vital if we are to progress, particularly in various technological fields like defence, energy and even agriculture,” he said.

Cautiously noting that anything could happen at the eleventh hour – “Even India’s space programme got delayed,” he pointed out – Fawad said that everyone involved in the programme was prepared and hoped that the 2022 mission would launch as scheduled.

Although Suparco has released no details about the space mission, sources in the science and technology ministry told The Express Tribune that the plan was discussed prior to Fawad’s tweet in a meeting held at an undisclosed location that the minister participated in.

According to sources, while Suparco has the capacity to build satellites, it is dependent on launch facilities in China. The Express Tribune attempted to reach out to Suparco for further details on the 2022 mission but received no response till the filing of this report.

According to the 2015 Pakistan-China space agreement, both countries will jointly conduct scientific research and experimental development and will cooperate on astronaut training and sending space missions. The China National Space Administration (CNSA) and Suparco will establish a Pakistan-China space committee, presided over by the heads of both space agencies, which will design collaborative space ventures.

Under the agreement, Pakistan will be able to carry out land surveys and monitor agricultural productivity, natural catastrophes and waste disposal using space-based technologies. Pakistan also launched two satellites into orbit last year with China’s help.

August 03, 2019

Daily Times

Pak-China friendship: a flowing river

It is said that we have friendly relations with the whole world. After realizing the true meaning of the words “brotherly and friendship,” a few countries can be identified, and China is foremost amongst them. China is a friendly nation, who has helped Pakistan in all difficult times by keeping up the pride of brotherhood and friendship.

China is a great and ancient country on this planet. The 6,000-years-old civilization and culture of China are amongst the oldest civilizations of the world, which invented written language; such a language whose single alphabet can represent the entire word or phrase. Chinese love their language and do not consider any foreign language as a means of development. They have proven how a person could be associated with his language and civilization.

The rapid development in the economic sector made them proud, and their moral soars high as a nation. When we talk about a nation, it has certain languages, territories and customs. China fulfills all terms, and it is a nation in true sense. Therefore, they respect their language by owning it mutually. Few days before, we had a chance to visit Beijing under the leadership of Dr Zafar Mehmood. Other members of the group, including myself, were Mian Saif-ur-Rehman, Mohsin Goraiya, Mazhar Barlas, Asif Affan, Sajjad Jahaniyan, Malik Suleiman, Komal Saleem, Muhammad Mehdi, Yasir Habib Khan and Aamir Khan.

One night after dinner, Komal Saleem and I visited nearby shopping places and lost our way back to the hotel. We inquired about the location of the hotel from almost 35 people. Yet, no one could guide us as they were unable to understand English. At last, we used Google translator and showed the Chinese translation to a nice young lad on a bicycle, who guided us to the hotel. One important thing to point out is that the head of any institute or organization does not address their audience in a foreign language. They take a translator along everywhere they precede in some foreign land.

China is rich in every sense. According to the archaeological testimony, the present human history is two million years old while one in China is 22.5 lakh years old. They even have a record of ancestors, who resembled like humans. The first man probably belonged to the land of opportunities. In Mandarin, China is called Zhong Guo, which means the “central country.”

China did not persist in its existence but linked it with development.

Inventions like paper, the compass, explosives and publications graced China making it a leader in all fields. We are friends but still, we cannot set our priorities. It is a famous saying that neighbours are closer and helpful than relatives as they stand by us in sorrow and happiness. China is our neighbor. We love each other and realize that these matters are not similar to the dramatic love stories of Heer Ranjha and Sohni Mahiwal, but the love is real in all its meanings. In the past, we kept Russia at a distance and ignored China unnecessarily. Relations never end, but sessions of coldness have come from time to time. Today, we are friends whether we are far or near. There may be doubts on both sides, but friendship with China is beyond all shadows of doubt.

China wants to have ties with the world based on equality as it believes in the policy of “live and let live.”

Thousands of years of history of China revealed that it always adopted the principle of non-intervention in others' affairs. Peaceful people do not allow anyone to interfere in their matters. China wants to have ties with the world based on equality as it believes in the policy of “live and let live.”

Most population of China is atheist but possesses high moral values and believes in service to humanity.

While describing the importance of education, our dear Prophet (PBUH) stated that you should seek knowledge even if you have to go to China. He referred to China and acknowledged their superiority.

Today, we have to understand the wisdom hidden in their view and strengthen friendship with China. Hopefully, relations between Pakistan and China would keep on nourishing in the coming days.

Today, when Pakistan is facing a lot of economic and social challenges and is supposed to be isolated globally, it needs a sincere friend to not only hold his hand and help get rid of the situation but also stand with it against the aggressive behavior of the current powers.

There is no grouping in Pakistan, regarding China. The whole nation, institutions and the government are united and this friendship is stronger at the public level, as compared to the government.

Chinese rulers always appreciate the passionate emotions of Pakistan's 1949 efforts when Pakistan played its role in introducing China in the world. Today, the Chinese nation and the government are playing their role in getting Pakistan out of this situation.

It is the need of the hour to change ourselves along with the expectations of the government. We should think about how a country getting freedom in 1949 has become a superpower today. The history of our friendship with China is linked with its independence journey. We got freedom before, but our freedom was limited to registration on the world map only. Whereas, China was very successful in introducing itself as a sovereign country both economically as well as politically. Apart from political stability, the resolute and commitment of people and the government of China played a great role in its development.

China is moving forward on the road of continuous economic freedom, whereas we do not have any other matter of significance other than mutual conflicts. The purpose of all efforts of political parties for domestic development is just to get political benefits. Due to rumours, political and democratic instability, we are still unable to see the real face of freedom. Nowadays, many projects are set to be completed in Pakistan with the help of China, including CPEC, which have common importance for both countries. People who simply raise slogans should be aware of China's half-century struggle. Now, the opposition should realize that staging sit-in and placing obstacles in the way of the government is not its only duty. Its leaders are also supposed to give wise advice and positive criticism on wrong policies. If we have to start the journey of economic freedom, we need to follow the progress plan of China. Pak-China's friendship is like a powerful river. Both countries are constantly progressing by moving on their separate paths by avoiding the conspiracies of the time. The Orange train is a gift that contains no-interest loans. Prime Minister Imran Khan has strengthened China's friendship with his visit and has shown to the world that China is our friend in all circumstances. China does not interfere in religious, political and social matters of other countries. We have to follow China's policy in this regard as well.

Time is not far when Pakistan will emerge as a great nation on the map of the world and will be fully independent in making decisions. Those who dream of breaking down our geography would simply have their hands empty. Today, China's existence in Pakistan is linked with the projects started mutually by Pakistan and China but we should remember that China helped us, supported us, gave us confidence and supported our viewpoint when the world had left us. To forget those who helped in times of trouble is not our culture. May the friendship river of China and Pakistan flow forever; giving prosperity and beauty to life!

The Nation

Pakistan-China ties based on mutual trust: CJCS

BEIJING - Pakistan-China relationship is close and solid, and it is based on mutual respect and mutual trust, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS) General Zubair Mahmood Hayat told Chinese media.

He also stressed that Pakistan-China relationship is far beyond the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, but the projects of CPEC are a mega initiative that Pakistan is very proud of and pleased to have, according to China Global Television Network (CGTN).

Gen Zubair Hayat briefed Chinese media and shared his thoughts on China-Pakistan relations and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during his recent visit to China for the 13th Defence and Security Talks by China and Pakistan.

When mentioning the construction process of CPEC, Gen Zubair said that the initial part of the projects is focused on energy and infrastructure. Most of the energy- and infrastructure-based projects have come online and are making tangible contributions, he said. According to a Chinese news website, Gen Zubair said that Pakistan is pleased to have the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as centerpiece of the country's economic growth and prosperity.

Pakistan embraces and fully supports the BRI, and the CPEC, which encompasses investments in two major areas of energy and infrastructure and has already, achieved significant progress, he added.

The CJCS said that the China-Pakistan relationship is not a transitional, issue-based or interest-driven one; rather, it is a solid friendship based on mutual trust and respect dating back to the era of the ancient Silk Road. Faced with some common challenges in the 21st Century, Pakistan and China share an identical world view and vision of development, since the two countries both value peace, stability and prosperity, he added.

“China was, is and will remain our friend,” the official said, “and we will help each other in times of need.”

During the visit, Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan also held a meeting with Gen. Zubair and said that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. No matter what changes take place in the international and regional landscapes, China and Pakistan will always trust and support each other, he said.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has achieved fruitful results in the past five years, he added. It is moving towards a new stage of substantial, expanding and high-quality development, he stated.

Wang stressed that the two sides should implement the consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, firmly promote the construction of the CPEC and deepen cooperation in various fields such as counter-terrorism and security.

During the visit, Vice Chairman of China Central Military Commission, Gen. Zhang Youxia and a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and head of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the CPC Guo Shengkun also held separate meetings with the visiting dignitary.

August 04, 2019

Business recorder

Pak-China joint cotton research laboratory to be established under CPEC framework

ISLAMABAD: The Punjab Government has proposed numerous new agriculture sector development projects to be included in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Socio Economic Development Framework.

Under the framework, a joint cotton research laboratory would be established in Multan at a cost of Rs 186 million to help improving the productivity of the agriculture sector by increasing cotton cultivation area and production.

It will also help in development of climate resilient cotton varieties that will ensure reliability and productivity. The project will help farmers by lowering the need to invest in insecticides and pesticides and will help alleviate poverty in rural Punjab, sources in Punjab planning department said.

Under the Socio-Economic Development Framework, China had agreed to provide Pakistan a grant of \$1 billion for initiating various projects across the country especially in under developed areas. Similarly, the government will also an oil laboratory in Faisalabad would also be strengthened to assist research activities regarding rapeseed crop.

The project will be helpful in developing rapeseed varieties and hybrids with higher oil content and good quality edible oil.

Pest warning and quality control of pesticides is another project to be located in Sahiwal, Sargodha, D.G.Khan and Bahawalpur to benefit farmers by increasing their livelihoods and standard of living by ensuring greater crop security through increasing epidemic resilience.

The project is also expected to complement the IPM programmes of the Agriculture Department and is in line with provincial growth strategy and will also help Punjab with its compliance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The sources said that a Chinese team will due in Pakistan this month to visit all sites of the project and then will give final approval to the projects.

The Express Tribune

Pakistan seeks Korean investment in CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industries, Production and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood has urged South Korean companies to participate in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)-related projects and has also proposed the establishment of an exclusive economic zone for Korean companies as part of CPEC.

He invited Korean investors at the Pak-Korea CEO Forum held in Seoul where representatives of top Korean companies were present. Dawood headed a delegation of top players of the textile industry during the visit to South Korea. The visit has now concluded. Speaking at the forum, the PM adviser urged Korean companies to invest in Pakistan because of its improved global ranking in the Ease of Doing Business Index, which went up 11 points.

Moreover, he said, Pakistan had launched a programme titled Regulatory Guillotine to improve business regulations in an attempt to attract investment into the country. Through this programme, two to three regulations were being scrapped every month to streamline business activities. He added that Pakistan government had taken various effective steps to improve trade procedures by establishing a better trade facilitation regime.

During the trip, the PM adviser also met his Korean counterpart and deliberated the challenges and opportunities in order to enhance bilateral cooperation in trade and investment.

He emphasized that there was enormous potential for bilateral trade and investment, which needed to be exploited by both countries.

The adviser also held meetings with heads of private-sector organizations in an effort to draw investment. In order to enhance bilateral trade, the PM aide offered the Early Harvest Programme to his Korean counterpart, which may lead to a free trade agreement (FTA) between the two countries.

He also asked his counterpart to hold a meeting of the Joint Trade Committee at the earliest in order to address the trade issues and facilitate trade. The Korean minister agreed to organize the meeting by the end of current year. The minister said big companies of South Korea were interested in investing in different projects of mutual interest, pertaining to manufacturing of technology equipment.

“Businessmen are very much interested in making investment in Pakistan due to huge investment opportunities and intend to engage in constant interaction with the business community for better understanding of the investment regulatory regime in the country,” the Korean minister said.

Both sides agreed to remove trade and investment bottlenecks in order to enhance bilateral economic cooperation. South Korea will also send a buying mission of importers to Pakistan in coming months.

Nawaiwaqt

گوا در میں فوجی اڈہ بنانے کا کوئی ارادہ نہیں: چین

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین نے دو ٹوک الفاظ میں کہا ہے کہ پاکستانی شہر گوا در میں نیوی کا فوجی اڈہ بنانے کا کوئی ارادہ نہیں رکھتا، چائنہ اکنامک نیٹ نے قومی دفاع کے حوالے سے واٹس پیپر کا حوالہ دیتے ہوئے حکومت نے چین اور کمبوڈیا کے درمیان ہونے والے خفیہ معاہدے اور گوا در میں چینی ملٹری بیس کے حوالے سے میڈیا میں گرم افواہیں اور قیاس آرائیاں مکمل طور پر مسترد کی ہیں۔ میڈیا رپورٹس میں الزام عائد کیا گیا تھا کہ چین کی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ عسکری نوعیت کا ہے جبکہ بعض مغربی سکارلز یقین رکھتے ہیں چین کی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کا مقصد عسکری و معاشی تعاون کی آڑ میں دوسرے ممالک کو جال میں پھنسانا ہے۔ واٹس پیپر نے ان تمام ابہام کو دور کیا ہے اور کہا ہے کہ پیپلز لبریشن آرمی کا مقصد ایک مستحکم طاقت کے ذریعے دنیا میں امن اور استحکام کا قیام ہے اور فوج کا مقصد دوسرے ممالک میں دخل اندازی نہیں بلکہ امن کا قیام ہے، انہی اصولوں پر عمل کر کے چائنہ نہ صرف آگے بڑھے گا بلکہ بہتر طریقے سے دنیا میں اپنا کردار ادا کرتا رہے گا۔

August 05, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Xinjiang sees growing trade with Pakistan

Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region has seen \$15.56 billion of imports and exports to member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the first half of 2019. Officials said here on Sunday that the two-way volume of trade with Pakistan has been showing an upward trend as well, under the framework of the SCO and the bilateral arrangements. The trade ties with Pakistan has also seen significant improvement in the corresponding period under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as recently built road network and the Gwadar seaport provides an easy access for the transportation of trade goods between the two sides. In the period, Xinjiang's exports to the SCO member states reached 65.41 billion yuan, up 4.3 percent year-on-year, while its imports totaled 42.52 billion yuan, up 13 percent, according to Urumqi Customs.

The main exports to SCO member states via Xinjiang are mechanical and electrical products, textiles, clothing and footwear, while crude oil and natural gas are the main import commodities. The major trading partners of Xinjiang ports to SCO member states are Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Kyrgyzstan. The inland port of Alashankou and the Horgos Port in Xinjiang are the major trading ports, according to the customs. The SCO was established in 2001 by China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017.

The Express Tribune

Chinese firm demands payment from Sindh government

KARACHI: The Sindh government has withheld the payment of Rs950 million to a Chinese company, which was contracted to lift the garbage and clean districts West and Malir.

The private company has written a letter to Sindh CM Syed Murad Ali Shah, saying that they have been fulfilling all their obligations under the contract and demanding that the payment be released at the earliest.

The Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SWMB) which is responsible for cleaning four of Karachi's six districts outsourced the cleaning of West and Malir districts to Hangzhoo Jinjiang Group, Sanitation Services and Co.

The company is now facing a financial crisis. According to the company, the payment of Rs950 million has been withheld by the Sindh government on baseless allegations. "We are carrying out our duties which include picking garbage door-to-door, cleaning of roads and streets as well as washing the roads but we are facing difficulties due to the non-payment of funds," reads the letter which claims payment has been withheld since January 2019.

The company claims it has written several letters to the relevant authorities since April 2019 but nothing has been done in this regard.

The Chinese company has further mentioned in the letter to Sindh CM that this kind of behavior can affect international investments. "We have provided hundreds of jobs in Karachi and made large scale investments," states the letter. The company bought machinery worth millions of rupees for cleaning purposes in districts West and Malir.

It has been nine months since then and that is the reason the cleaning situation in both the districts have affected, maintains the company. It says that while it is still continuing efforts in Malir district, it has become increasingly difficult for it to continue operations and is now attempting to contact government agencies for the payment to be released.

Is Pakistan drifting away from China?

The positive vibes generated by Prime Minister Imran Khan's maiden visit to the United States from July 21 to 23 are still being discussed both in Washington and Islamabad. While Imran hailed Trump's 'vision' for the region in a recent high-powered meeting to review the outcome of his trip to Washington, President Donald Trump also spoke about his 'excellent' interaction with the Pakistani prime minister.

The Trump-Imran apparent bonhomie has given many a reason to believe that both Pakistan and the US can still stitch together a cooperative relationship despite many divergences and mistrust. The issue that brought the two estranged allies once again on one platform is of course the

Afghan endgame. The Trump administration, desperate to save some pride after 18 years of failed efforts to bring some semblance of stability in Afghanistan, is looking up to Pakistan for a bailout.

But Imran's visit was not just about Afghanistan. The two countries are also discussing other areas of cooperation such as trade and business ties. Trump himself spoke about increasing trade to manifolds with Pakistan. There is no official word nor will anyone publicly say it but there are speculations that the Trump administration is ready to offer a 'lucrative deal' to Pakistan in return for rethink on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, who complemented Saudi efforts in securing the White House invitation for Imran, is lobbying for free trade deal to Pakistan if it helps the US in bringing peace in Afghanistan. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which already extended financial assistance to Pakistan, will pump in further investments in the country. But for that to happen, Pakistan may have to adjust its current foreign policy priorities particularly towards China.

The US opposition to China's 'Belt and Road' initiative (BRI) is well known. Alice Wells, senior State Department official, told a group of journalists in Islamabad in April that the "US welcomes the infrastructure investment by China and by all countries so far it advances the prosperity of the countries involved." The larger objective behind America's opposition to BRI is to stop the rise of China as global power.

Of late there has been a debate in Pakistan that whether CPEC is mutually beneficial for the country. Those who take a critical view of CPEC claim that contracts signed with the Chinese companies were not favorable to Pakistan. On top of that the PM's US visit has set off speculations that Pakistan may rebalance its ties with China. There was no official confirmation of this possible policy shift but it can't be ruled out given how Pakistan often makes somersaults on the foreign policy front. There were many instances where Pakistan simply went for a short-term gain but lost sight of the bigger picture. We must learn from our history. Our policy of choosing sides in foreign relations has always come back to haunt us. The major flaw in our foreign policy has always been putting all eggs in one basket. When China announced billions of dollars of investment under CPEC few years back, we were boasting our 'strategic partnership' to tell the West, particularly the US, that we no more needed your support.

Now that the US has extended a "hand of friendship" to Pakistan, our romance with Washington is suddenly reignited. There is no point in getting blown away by Trump's "charm offensive". The government or the ones in charge of Pakistan's foreign policy should avoid committing the past mistakes.

Reengagement with the US is certainly a positive development but that doesn't mean Pakistan has to antagonize China. Pakistan can optimally use its geostrategic location to its advantage by maintaining friendly ties with both China and the US while without becoming a party to their power politics. It is certainly a difficult task but not an impossible one.

Chunxue to replace outgoing Chinese DCM

ISLAMABAD: Pang Chunxue has been appointed as the Chinese embassy's new deputy chief of mission (DCM), replacing the outgoing Lijian Zhao, who is set to leave the country on August 8 after completing his term in Pakistan.

Chunxue is a senior diplomat, who has served in the United Kingdom, and Afghanistan and first came to Pakistan almost 20 years ago in a junior position in the late 1990s.

Chinese Deputy Chief of Mission in Pakistan Lijian Zhao is leaving with effect from August 8.

Zhao has served in Islamabad on more than one occasion, cumulatively spending more than eight years here.

A popular figure in the diplomatic circles in Islamabad, he became one of the first Chinese diplomats in the federal capital who effectively leveraged social media to explain the Chinese aspect and to clarify confusion and rumours surrounding Pakistan-China ties and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Zhao was originally born in the Hebei province, China in 1972. He obtained a master's degree in political affairs and joined the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1996. As a junior diplomat, he has served in Washington.

Between 2013 and 2015, he served as the director of the Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh Office in the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Nation

Three CPEC projects ready for opening

ISLAMABAD - A total of three motorway projects, being executed as part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), are almost ready for their opening but the National Highway Authority has yet to decide about their final dates of inauguration.

These projects include 392km long Multan-Sukhar Motorway (M-5), 54km long package-I and 14km long package 2-D of Hakla-D.I Khan Motorway and a 40km long section of Thakot-Havelian expressway.

These CPEC projects in addition to several others were started by the previous government of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz out of which the aforementioned projects are almost ready and now the NHA will take the final decision about their opening.

However, sources informed that the NHA management is uncertain about the level of inauguration ceremonies for these important projects.

When contacted, Member Engineering Coordination Arbab Ali Dakan confirmed that these projects will be ready in the month of August and it can be opened for general public.

The projects include 392km long Multan-Sukhar Motorway, 68km long Hakla-DI Khan Motorway and 40km long section of Thakot-Havelian expressway

The Multan-Sukhar Motorway (M-5) is a part of the country's Peshawar-Karachi Motorway and its total cost is around Rs.294 billion, which was provided by the China EXIM Bank under the CPEC. The said project is ready and now NHA is doing codal formalities to take over the project from the contractor.

The construction of Hakla-D.I Khan Motorway project is part of the western alignment of CPEC and this four-lane 285-kilometre north-south motorway starts from the Hakla on Peshawar-Islamabad Motorway, near Fateh Jang interchange and ends at Yarik near Dera Ismail Khan.

The said project was divided among five packages and work was awarded to different contractors to meet the deadlines. However, the concerned project director Noor Mustafa has informed that a 54km long package-I and 14km long package 2-D of this project are ready for opening.

The package-I is between Yarak and Rahmani Khel and it is constructed by the National Logistics Cell (NLC) while the package 2-D is between Rehmani Khel to KotBelian.

On the other side, the Thakot-Havelian is an early harvest project of CPEC and it is divided into two portions Havelian-Mansehra and Mansehra-Thakot, which are supposed to be completed in March 2020. However, according to project director ZaferYaqoob, a 40-kilometre long portion between Havelian and Mansehra is almost ready.

He, however, informed that there are some technical issues which are being discussed with the highups and after due deliberations, the management would decide whether to open the completed section or not.

Nawaiwaqt News

رحمن ملک سے چین کے سبکدوش ہونے والے ڈپٹی چیف مشن کی الوداعی ملاقات

اسلام آباد (آن لائن) چین کے پاکستان میں سبکدوش ہونے والے ڈپٹی چیف آف مشن لی جان ٹاؤ نے سینیٹر رحمن ملک سے الوداعی ملاقات کی ہے۔ ملاقات میں لی جان ٹاؤ کے ہمراہ نئے مقرر ہونے والے ڈپٹی چیف آف مشن وٹسٹر کونسلر مس چین زونگ بھی تھی، سینیٹر رحمن ملک نے سبکدوش ہونے والے ڈی سی ایم لی جان ٹاؤ کی خدمات کو سراہا۔ انہوں نے نئے مقرر ہونے والے ڈی سی ایم وٹسٹر کونسلر مس چین زونگ کو خوش آمدید کہتے ہوئے کہا کہ سی پیک پر خوش اسلوبی اور تیزی سے عملدرآمد کرانے میں لی جان ٹاؤ کا کردار مثالی و قابل تحسین ہے۔ انہوں نے پاک چائنہ تعلقات کو مزید تقویت دینے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ سینیٹر رحمن ملک لی جان ٹاؤ نے عوامی سطح پر رابطوں سمیت مختلف شعبہ جات میں اشتراک کار میں نمایاں خدمات انجام دیئے، مس چین زونگ کو پاکستان کیلئے بطور ڈی سی ایم وٹسٹر کونسلر تقرری پر مبارکباد پیش کرتا ہوں۔ لی جان ٹاؤ نے کہا کہ سینیٹر رحمن ملک کا پہلے بطور وزیر داخلہ اور بعد میں بطور چیئر مین قائمہ تعاون مثالی رہا ہے۔ میں سینیٹر رحمن ملک کے مسلسل تعاون و رہنمائی کا شکر گزار ہوں، رحمن ملک نے کہا کہ سی پیک علاقائی ترقی اور امن و امان کا ضامن ہے۔ سینیٹر رحمن ملک نے مس چین زونگ کو اپنی کتاب داعش رائزننگ مونسٹر پیش کی۔

سی پیک پر اجیکٹ کی 3 موٹرویز تیار، افتتاح کی تاریخیں طے نہ ہو سکیں

اسلام آباد (محمد اسد چودھری، نیشنل رپورٹ) سی پیک منصوبے کے جزو کی حیثیت رکھنے والی 3 موٹرویز افتتاح کیلئے تیار ہیں تاہم نیشنل ہائی وے اتھارٹی نے تاحال ان کے افتتاح کی باقاعدہ تاریخوں کے بارے فیصلہ نہیں کیا۔ ان شاہرہ اہوں میں 392 کلو میٹر طویل ملتان سکھر موٹروے (ایم 5) 54 کلو میٹر طویل ڈی آئی خان موٹروے اور 40 کلو میٹر طویل تھاکوٹ حویلیاں ایکسپریس وے شامل ہیں۔ تاہم ذرائع کے مطابق اگست میں ہی عوام کیلئے یہ سڑکیں کھولی جاسکتی ہیں

August 06, 2019

Pakistan Observer

SDPI seminar on ‘Pak-China FTA’ ‘Revised FTA with China a silver lining for Pakistan’s economy’

Experts on Monday called upon the government to build its export capacity to cater the demand of the Chinese markets at competitive pricing, amid finalization of the second phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and China.

“FTA is a silver lining for Pakistan’s economy and great opportunity for both countries.” They were addressing a seminar titled “Pakistan China Free Trade Agreement (FTA): Where we are and where we are going?” was organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Counselor, Economic and Commercial Section, Chinese Embassy in Pakistan Dr Wang Zhihua said though trade volume between Pakistan and China has increased over the years, the trading imbalance remained the biggest challenge and concerned by the Pakistani government and the business community.

“The main reason behind the trade imbalance between the two countries was of structural in nature, where China has strong manufacturing base to export goods as compared to import” he said added the finalization of second phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between two countries on the sideline of second Belt and Road Forum will help resolve these issues and strengthen further bilateral trade ties.

Dr Zhihua argued as per phase two FTA, China has agreed to eliminate duties on more than 300 products, especially in the agriculture sector, where Pakistan has the potential to expand its export basket to China. He said China also encourage more business to business interaction activities in China to help Pakistani business community to learn more about Chinese demand and needs. “We hoped that the incumbent government will adopt new industrial policy at the earliest to help improve business environment and ease of doing business”, he said adding it would also help Chinese investors to bring more investments which will also help build manufacturing capacity of the country. Project Director and Focal Person for CPEC, Hassan

Daud Butt said the previous two FTAs could not yield the desired results, hence, pave the way for another revised agreement for the mutual benefit of both Pakistan and China.

“In the previous FTAs between China and Pakistan, there were no safeguard measures for industries, no synergy between relevant institutions, balance of payment vision was not incorporated, and no data exchange policy was agreed to counter under-invoicing issues”, he said added the revised FTA with China has incorporated all these factors to make the commercial relationships beneficial for both countries. He also argued that due to lack of efficiency and relatively lower productivity of human resource, Pakistan was lagging behind in the race of competitiveness as compared to its peer countries in the region and internationally. He stressed the need for enhanced efficiency and urged the business community to initiate joint ventures with the Chinese businesses. In her opening remarks Dr Hina Aslam, Head of China Study Center, SDPI said even though Pakistan and China had signed two FTAs already — one in 2006 on trade in goods and the other in trade in services in 2009 — but their impact has been less than salutary on Pakistan’s economy.

Executive Director, Pakistan-China Institute, Islamabad Mustafa Hyder Sayed stressed the need for changing mindset when it comes to trade with China. “We always look for concessions, favors and grants, whereas, we failed to developed our own market and industries” he said added the government of Pakistan and business community must fundamentally change the mindset and thinking towards China and other trade destinations. He argued that there is no preparedness on the list of products by our businesses and the government which could compete internationally. “Pakistan needs to improve its regulatory environment and need to ensure the ease of doing business to attract investments”, he added.

The Nation

Experts for building export capacity to meet Chinese markets’ demand

ISLAMABAD - Experts on Monday called upon the government to build its export capacity to cater the demand of Chinese markets at competitive pricing, amid finalization of second phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and China.

They termed the FTA as a silver lining for Pakistan’s economy and splendid opportunity for both countries. The seminar titled “Pakistan China Free Trade Agreement (FTA): Where we are and where we are going?” was organised by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI).

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Wang Zhihua, Minister Counselor, Economic and Commercial Section, Chinese Embassy in Pakistan said though trade volume between Pakistan and China has increased over the years but trading imbalance remained the biggest challenge and concerned by the Pakistani government and the business community. “The main reason behind the trade imbalance between the two countries was of structural in nature, where China has strong manufacturing base to export goods as compared to import” he said and added the finalization of second phase of free trade agreement (FTA) between two countries on the sideline of second

Belt and Road Forum will help resolve these issues and strengthen further bilateral trade ties. Dr Zhihua argued that as per phase two FTA, China has agreed to eliminate duties on more than 300 products, especially in the agriculture sector, where Pakistan has the potential to expand its export basket to China. He said China also encourage more business to business interaction activities in China to help Pakistani business community to learn more about Chinese demand and needs. “We hoped that the incumbent government will adopt new industrial policy at the earliest to help improve business environment and ease of doing business”, he said and added this will also help Chinese investors to bring more investments which will also help build manufacturing capacity of the country.

Project Director and Focal Person for CPEC, Hassan Daud Butt said the previous two FTAs could not yield the desired results, hence, pave the way for another revised agreement for the mutual benefit of both Pakistan and China. “In the previous FTAs between China and Pakistan, there were no safeguard measures for industries, no synergy between relevant institutions, balance of payment vision was not incorporated, and no data exchange policy was agreed to counter under-invoicing issues”, he said and added the revised FTA with China has incorporated all these factors to make the commercial relationships beneficial for both countries. He also argued that due to lack of efficiency and relatively lower productivity of human resource, Pakistan was lagging behind in the race of competitiveness as compared to its peer countries in the region and internationally. He stressed the need for enhanced efficiency and urged the business community to initiate joint ventures with the Chinese businesses.

In her opening remarks, Dr Hina Aslam, Head of China Study Center, SDPI said that even though Pakistan and China had signed two FTAs already — one in 2006 on trade in goods and the other in trade in services in 2009 — but their impact has been less than salutary on Pakistan’s economy. “Under the revised FTA, China has agreed to provide duty free access and unilateral concession to 313 Pakistani product lines (an increase of 257 tariff lines) over the next fifteen years. Moreover, under the new FTA, Pakistan would commission approximately 65% of its market with Chinese exports, whereas China would open up 90% of its market for Pakistani exports”, she said added this would also help in remedying the colossal trade deficit between the two countries, which was around \$10b last year.

Dr Hina said that amidst the national and global economic tranquility, the culmination of second phase of Free Trade Agreement is none less than a silver lining for Pakistan’s economy. “China’s annual imports figure stands at \$2 trillion, whereas \$64 billion of its imports are what Pakistan produces”, she said added if Pakistan manages to capture 10% share of those \$64 billion Chinese imports, it can experience a significant increment in exports - reaching up to \$6.5 billion.

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director, the Pakistan-China Institute, Islamabad stressed the need for changing mindset when it comes to trade with China. “We always look for concessions, favors and grants, whereas, we failed to developed our own market and industries” he said added the government of Pakistan and business community must fundamentally change the mindset and thinking towards China and other trade destinations. He argued that there is no preparedness on

the list of products by our businesses and the government which could compete internationally. “Pakistan needs to improve its regulatory environment and need to ensure the ease of doing business to attract investments”, he added.

Nawaiwaqt

چینی کمپنی زاپیا کا کراچی صفائی مہم میں مدد فراہم کرنے کا اعلان

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین کی انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی کی معروف کمپنی زاپیا نے پاکستان کے سب سے بڑے شہر کراچی میں صفائی مہم میں مدد فراہم کرنے کا اعلان کر دیا۔ پیر کو چینی ٹیکنالوجی کمپنی زاپیا کی طرف سے جاری ایک بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ وہ علی زیدی کے کراچی شہر کو صاف کرنے کے اقدام میں تعاون فراہم کرے گی۔ چینی کمپنی کی طرف سے کراچی میں صفائی مہم کے حوالے سے سوشل میڈیا اور زاپیا اپ کے ذریعے تکنیکی مدد فراہم کی جائے گی۔ چینی ٹیکنالوجی کمپنی اپنے صارفین کو صفائی مہم میں حصہ لینے کیلئے ترغیب دے گی۔ صاف کراچی مہم کے اعلان کے بعد چینی کمپنی نے اس مہم میں تعاون کرنے کا بیڑا اٹھایا ہے۔ عوام کی ایک بڑی تعداد نے پہلے ہی صاف کراچی مہم کیلئے اپنے تعاون کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ یہ مہم کے پہلے دن سے شروع ہو کر دو ہفتوں تک جاری رہے گی۔ کمپنی کے اعلان کے مطابق مہم کے بارے میں تازہ ترین معلومات حاصل کرنے کیلئے پاکستانی صارفین کیلئے زاپیا اپ میں تشہیری ویڈیوز شامل کی جائیں گی

August 07, 2019

Pakistan Observer

CPEC: A thorn in enemies' eyes

ONE should admit and admire that actuality of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) PEC has bestowed broader socio-economic dividend and all partners would enjoy. This Land-Sea based economic corridor cooperation is based on mutual respect and trust between China and Pakistan. The idea of CPEC was floated in 1990s. China approached Musharraf's government to connect China's "western provinces to the Arabian Sea in 1999". Therefore, Gwadar Port has changed the nature of relations between the two old and time tested friends. Many agreements have been signed between China and Pakistan but CPEC is a bench mark. CPEC is a puzzle for India and the US. In 2015, China happily agreed to spend \$46 billion (now it has been increased) for infrastructure to launch the trade route –connectivity with the regional and global markets.

China has provided "concessional loan" to Pakistan which has never been possible between the two old partners – Pakistan and the US.

In his address to the joint session of Parliament, President Jinping, commended Pakistan and China's historical relations and said "Pakistan stood by Beijing at a time when it stood isolated on the world stage". In global politics every state seeks its personal interests at other's cost but China also keeps Pakistan on its priority to provide economic benefits through CPEC. CPEC is an unprecedented regional/global project which would strengthen Pakistan's fragile social and

economic sectors. Since Imran Khan has assumed power, his government is striving to enhance China-Pakistan partnership. During his first visit to China, Prime Minister Imran Khan, urged that “we can learn from China more than any country in the world” because China is a rising global power and the Chinese leadership set example to eliminate poverty and corruption from their society. Indeed Khan also wants to uplift Pakistani society, China, to him, the best modern state which is rising.

Today, CPEC is actually changing Pakistan’s fate. Pakistan’s energy, industrial and agriculture sectors would excel and increase Pakistan’s capacity to facilitate its people. The year of 2019 may take off Pakistan economically and CPEC’s broader dividend would drastically change Pakistan’s internal socio-economic order. According to the Minister for Planning and Development, Khusro Bakhtiar, “in 2019 several economic zones are being set up and they would increase Pakistan’s export”. Soon Pakistan would enjoy its dividends. Recently Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Yao Jing, rightly said, “CPEC is a broader initiative and China does not have any unilateral interest in it”. A broader initiative for broader dividends will make and shape Pakistan’s economy to uplift its poor people and feeble industry.

Undoubtedly, CPEC has provided new avenues to Pakistan which is fighting against terrorism on its own soil and terrorism has left grave impact on Pakistan’s socio-economic condition, without China’s help it would not have been possible for Pakistan to commence commendable projects to develop its infrastructure and to connect itself with international markets – Central Asian States, Middle East, Africa and Europe. As we know the other’s war ‘War on Terrorism’ has incapacitated Pakistan and it needs tremendous economic support. Ironically, many people in Pakistan criticize CPEC in seminars, conferences and on TV Channels they depict CPEC as a ‘trap by China’ against Pakistan, it seems they do not read China-Pakistan history and their bilateral political and security relations. Their naïve narrative disseminates unrest in developing zones and irks China as well. The critique must understand that “for their survival states depend on each other” fortunately, Pakistan is depending on China which never disappointed Pakistan and its people.

It is evident, CPEC is irritating Pakistan’s rival India and China’s rival US. Both consider China as the only ‘competent competitor’ in the world. Both India and the US have launched great debate and campaign against CPEC. Debate gained momentum after the US Defence Secretary, James Mattis, said, “CPEC would traverse disputed territory” (Gilgit- Baltistan). US opposition to CPEC seemed to be confirmed when the Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, argued that an IMF financing program for Pakistan should not be used to repay Chinese ‘bond holders’ and banks. The US stance was interpreted widely as part of its strategic confrontation with China “spanning trade, technology, the South China Sea”. So, CPEC is not a threat to Pakistan, however, this is a great puzzle and upset to anti-Pak-China forces.

CPEC, undoubtedly, will influence the US and India’s interests. Consequently India and the US have common concerns which were reflected by the US Secretary of defence, Jim Mattis. He said, “The One Belt One Road strategy to secure China’s over both the continental and maritime

interests, in their eventual hope of dominating Eurasia and exploiting natural resources there, things that are certainly at odds with US policy. So what role do you see China playing in Afghanistan, and particularly related to their” Belt Road Initiative (BRI). To the US China, via CPEC would be able to have direct access to Indian Ocean. India and the US know that CPEC would not work without Gwadar Port which will enable China’s movement in Indian Ocean.

China’s expansion in Ocean would deter the US “from blocking the Strait of Malacca, a key passage in the Indo-Pacific region”. To curtail China’s influence the US has developed its grand strategy and renamed the US Pacific Command as ‘US.-Indo Pacific Command’ in 2018 and Secretary Mattis categorically stated that “in recognition of increasing connectivity of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, we renamed the US Pacific Command”. The former commander of the US Pacific Command has said that “great power competition is back”. CPEC would bring prosperity to Pakistan while it is a great threat to India and it’s like mind partner- those oppose China as emerging power in the world. But India- US nexus may not be able to alter the regional and international dynamics which are going to be changed via CPEC and BRI. China is going to change the regional and world order.

CPEC update

THE China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is a main platform for comprehensive cooperation between China and Pakistan. It is an important consensus obtained by these great friendly countries. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in May 2013, proposed the initiative of CPEC during his visit to Pakistan, while President Xi Jinping, in his April 2015 visit, signed the agreement for a one plus four pattern of economic cooperation, featuring a central role of the CPEC and four key areas including the Gwadar port, energy, transportation infrastructure and industrial cooperation, so as to achieve successful results and common development. Both China and Pakistan agree on the principles of scientific planning, gradual implementation, consensus through consultation, mutual benefit and excellent results, as well as ensuring quality, safety and environmental protection. Both the countries have recently reaffirmed the future trajectory of the CPEC, timely completion of its projects and joint efforts for realization of its full potential with a focus on socio economic development, job creation and livelihoods and accelerating cooperation in industrial development, industrial parks and agriculture.

The major avenues of focus of CPEC include energy, infrastructure, Gwadar Port and industrial cooperation. Energy is the driving force for economic development and a key factor to ease load shedding and improve the life of millions of people. Fifteen energy projects highlighted as the priority sector under the CPEC framework are planned as priority with a total generation capacity of 11,110MW, among which seven have been completed and are in operation while eight are under construction with a total capacity of 6,910MW. At present, Zonergy 300MW Solar Park, 50MW Dawood Wind Farm, Jhimpir UEP wind power project, Sachal 50MW Wind Farm, Sahiwal 2×660MW Coal fired Power Plant, Port Qasim 2×660MW Coal fired Power Plant and Three Gorges Second and Third Wind Power Projects have been completed. These projects have added 3240 MW to Pakistani national grid, amounting to more than 11pc of the total

installed capacity of 29,000 MW in Pakistan. The project also includes alternate energy sources, while the total package is aimed at providing affordable energy to Pakistani consumers in a diversified manner.

Over the past five years, under CPEC, eleven projects have reached fruition and eleven are under construction. The total investment of the twenty two projects is around US \$19 billion, with twenty more projects in the pipeline. For the execution of CPEC, both China and Pakistan have set up a ministerial level Joint Cooperation Committee on CPEC Long Term Planning. There are seven joint working groups, namely planning, energy, transportation infrastructure, Gwadar port, industrial cooperation, social economic development and international cooperation. Joint Cooperation Committee is responsible for overall planning and coordination under CPEC. The two secretariats are responsible for communicating and coordinating with the line ministries related to the projects of CPEC. Until now, Joint Cooperation Committee has convened eight meetings and since 2015 it is held on annual basis. The eighth meeting was held in Beijing on December 20, 2018.

In the infrastructure section, efficient transportation network is key to economic development. Currently, KKH Phase-II (Havelian-Thakot section), Karachi-Lahore Motorway (Sukkur-Multan section) and Lahore Orange Line are three projects very near to completion. The information highway for laying of optical fiber cable (OFC) from Rawalpindi to Khunjrab is in operation.

These ongoing projects are funded by preferential loans from the Chinese government at around 2pc interest rate with a total amount of US\$ 5.874 billion. The upgradation of ML1 railway and the KCR are under discussion.

The Gwadar Free Zone is in the northern part of Gwadar, about 7km away from the port. The planned development period is from 2015 to 2030 and is divided into four phases. The project of Gwadar East Bay Expressway was agreed by China and Pakistan during President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan in 2015. The EPC contract of the project was signed in September and construction commenced in November 2017. The construction period of the project is three years with the designed speed of hundred kilometers per hour, which is implemented by the China Communications and Construction Company (CCCC). After inauguration, the project will become the main channel for the cargo distribution of Gwadar Port and a vital communication line to connect the Free Zone in southern and northern areas of Gwadar.

As far as industrial development is concerned, the federal government of Pakistan and each province has attached paramount importance to the construction of SEZs. The work has been in progress with the joint efforts of both sides. The mega project is endeavoring to create job opportunities and social responsibility. According to the preliminary statistics, CPEC projects have created more than seventy five thousand direct job opportunities for Pakistani people. To promote economic development and employment of Pakistan, Chinese companies also subcontract many projects to local Pakistani companies. This also develops relevant upstream and downstream industries, such as raw material processing, catering industry which also provide more employment opportunities for local people.

China and Pakistan signed the Long-Term Plan at the seventh JCC after obtaining consent of both federal government and all the Pakistani provincial government. The plan provided the macro guidance for implementation of CPEC in the next phase and could be adjusted based on the real situation as well as the consensus between the two parties during its implementation in the future. A lot of misreporting has been done about CPEC being a debt trap. Nothing could be further than the truth. The Chinese government provided concessional loans of US \$ 5.874 billion for Pakistan government's major transportation infrastructure projects, with a composite interest rate of around two percent in repayment period of twenty to twenty five years. The Pakistani government provides sovereign guarantee for the above loans and will start the repayment from 2021.

The Chinese Companies and their partners invested US \$ 12.8 billion in energy projects in Pakistan. Among them, Chinese companies provide US \$ 3 billion from their own equity. The rest US \$ 9.8 billion is raised from commercial banks with interest rate of about five percent. The repayment period is twelve to eighteen years. All the CPEC energy projects are investment in nature, which is purely independent business behavior of these companies. China provides interest-free loans for Expressway East Bay in Gwadar and grant for some livelihood projects. Pakistan provided funding for the feasibility study of ML-1 up gradation. Therefore, Pakistan will repay only US\$6.017 billion (Category- I \$5.874 billion and Category-III US \$ 0.143 billion) and their interests to China. China and Pakistan are discussing how to use Chinese grant to implement new projects such as new Gwadar international airport, Gwadar Vocational Training Centre and Friendship Hospital.

Jang News

آئی ایم ایف اور سی پیک

بین الاقوامی مالیاتی ادارے کی ریڈیڈنٹ چیف ٹیریا ڈین سانیچیز نے پیر کے روز 6 ارب ڈالر مالیت کے فنڈ پروگرام کو لاحق خطرات اجاگر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اگر ایف اے ٹی ایف کی گرے لسٹ سے نکلنے میں ناکام رہا تو ترسیلات اور غیر ملکی مالی ضمانتیں خطرے میں پڑ جائیں گی۔ انہوں نے آئی ایم ایف پروگرام کو درپیش چند بڑے خطرات کی نشاندہی بھی کی، جن میں مالی اقدامات کو پیش آنے والی مزاحمت، حسن حکمرانی اور ادارہ سازی کی مذموم مفادات کی حامل قوتوں کی جانب سے مخالفت، مختصر المیعاد قرضوں کو ختم کرنے کی ضرورت اور ایف اے ٹی ایف کی گرے لسٹ سے نکلنے میں پاکستان کی ناکامی شامل ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ پاکستان کیلئے آئی ایم ایف پروگرام چھ جولائی کو منظور کیا گیا تھا اور اس کے تحت ایک بلین ڈالر کی رقم فوری طور پر پاکستان کو فراہم کر دی گئی تھی۔ پاکستان متوقع نیل آئوٹ پیکیج کے لئے گزشتہ 10 ماہ سے مشکل مذاکرات کر رہا تھا۔ دوسری طرف سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں جاری کام کو تیز کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ سی پیک اور ون بیلٹ ون روڈ منصوبہ اُس کی اہم ترین کڑی اور اُس کی افادیت پر مہر تصدیق کے مترادف ہے، جس کی بدولت آج پوری دنیا کی نظریں اُس پر مرکوز ہیں۔ اس منصوبے کی تکمیل سے پاکستان کی معاشی مشکلات میں یقیناً کمی واقع ہوگی۔ پاکستان پہلے ہی دو مرتبہ

ایف اے ٹی ایف کا ایکشن پلان مکمل کرنے میں ناکام ہو چکا ہے اگر اکتوبر 2019ء تک اپنا پلان مکمل نہیں کرتا تو پھر گرے لسٹ سے بلیک لسٹ میں جانے کا خطرہ موجود ہے۔ بلا شبہ آئی ایم ایف کا ٹیل آؤٹ پیکیج پاکستان کی ناگزیر ضرورت ہے لیکن آئی ایم ایف کی شرائط کو پورا کرتے ہوئے اس امر کو مد نظر رکھنا بھی ضروری ہے کہ اس سے مہنگائی کا نیا طوفان غریب عوام کے سروں پر نہ اٹھ آئے۔ اشیائے ضروریہ پہلے ہی عوام کی دسترس سے باہر ہو چکی ہیں۔ یہ تمام حالات اس بات کے متقاضی ہیں کہ زمینی حقائق کے مطابق مالیاتی ڈسپلن اختیار کیا جائے۔

August 08, 2019

Daily Times

Pakistani mango farmers count on China ties for rosy future

Khakwani, whose farmhouse is famous for producing top varieties of mango, including Chaunsa, Langra, Red King, Fajri, Dussehri and Anwar Ratol, has plans to export his tasty and pulpy summer fruit to other countries, including China.

Muhammad Ashraf, another mango farmer whose business has a big push from the improved road infrastructure under CPEC.

Ashraf owns an 80-acre mango orchard in Punjab's Vehari district, which is famous for its different varieties of sweet-smelling delicious juicy mangoes. In the past, Ashraf had to sell the majority of his production at local markets or in neighboring cities at cheap rates owing to the absence of a proper road network leading to big cities. Now the new road infrastructure is helping him sell his mangoes on good prices to big cities like Lahore and Islamabad.

Ashraf told Xinhua that CPEC's top-class road infrastructure has shortened distances and cut traveling time by half, which has revolutionized the local transport system and facilitated his mango supply to other areas. "CPEC has brought big changes in Pakistan by spreading a vast road network linking south with the north. In the past, it took us a long time to reach big cities and sometimes trucks got turned turtle due to poor roads, but now transportation has become very easy," he said.

Pakistan is a major producer of the world's best and most popular mangoes, ranking the 4th largest in the world with an annual output of around 1.8 million tons. The sweet and juicy mangoes have earned a reputation in European and Gulf countries and serve as a main pillar of Pakistan's fruit exports.

Mango is widely cultivated in Punjab and Sindh provinces. However, with a huge amount of production and multiple exporting destinations, Pakistani mango's share in the global export market is only 7.6 percent, according to an official from the Ministry of Commerce. "Pakistan exports less than 6 percent of its total production to 57 countries, including Britain, the United

States, China, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Saudi Arabia and Iran,” said the official, believing that the production and exports are not up to the mark.

The official said Pakistan’s export potential is much more than the current volume but the country is unable to increase it due to poor processing, old cultivation and harvesting methods, lack of required facilities to meet international protocols, low per-hectare yield and higher cost.

Zargham Khan Khakwani, a mango farmer with over 100-acre orchard, told Xinhua that he hopes China can assist local farmers apply modern cultivation technologies to increase mango’s competitiveness in the global market. “Power projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have cut electricity load shedding by 70 percent in the rural areas, which is helping us use tube wells for orchard irrigation. Water is life for fruit trees. In the past, a number of mango trees would wither due to shortage of water, but now, the availability of ample power from CPEC projects is helping us provide required water to the trees, which has increased their life and also boosted production,” he said.

Khakwani, whose farmhouse is famous for producing top varieties of mango, including Chaunsa, Langra, Red King, Fajri, Dussehri and Anwar Ratol, has plans to export his tasty and pulpy summer fruit to other countries, including China. Muhammad Ashraf, another mango farmer whose business has a big push from the improved road infrastructure under CPEC.

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By reaching big markets, the mango growers’ income has also increased by 50 to 70 percent. They sell a basket with up to eight kilogram mangoes for 550 rupees at the local market but now they can sell the same basket in big cities for 900 rupees.

Ashraf, who is already in cooperation with a Chinese company for hybrid seeds of watermelon and different vegetables, said Pakistani mango producers need latest agricultural technology to increase mango production, improve quality and supply to the international market.

Chief of All Pakistan Fruit and Vegetable Exporters, Importers and Merchants Association Waheed Ahmed told Xinhua that Pakistan has set a target of 100,000 tons of mango export this year to earn a foreign exchange of 80 million US dollars.

The Nation

Pakistani students get fully-funded Chinese scholarships

ISLAMABAD - A total of 62 Pakistani students got fully-funded scholarships from the Chinese government to study in various top-ranking Chinese universities in their graduate, masters and doctor programmes. The Chinese embassy in Islamabad held a ceremony on Wednesday to award the scholarships to the students selected by Pakistan's Higher Education Commission.

The scholarships are part of China's scholarship programme for Pakistan under which over 7,000 students are already studying in China in various disciplines. In the latest scholarship programme, over 1,000 students applied online and the HEC shortlisted over 60, who have been granted the scholarship, Raza Chohan, academic director general at the Higher Education Commission, said.

Chohan said that most of the students would study applied sciences in China. Chohan added that the Pakistani students would act as ambassadors of Pakistan during their academic stay in China, and after coming back will act as a catalyst for socio-economic development in Pakistan. More than 28,000 Pakistani students are studying in various programmes in China currently, with over 7,000 under scholarship programs, according to the HEC record.

Most of the Pakistani alumni of Chinese universities are working at good positions in different universities, government offices, hospitals, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects, and other infrastructural projects running in the country, after coming back to Pakistan.

First Secretary of the Chinese Embassy to Pakistan Pan Yuqi, said that Pakistan is striving hard to provide high quality education to its students for the promotion of knowledge-based economy, and it is the pleasure of China to help Pakistan move that way by providing education and training to the students.

“When they come back, I am sure they will play a great part in building Pakistan's economy,” he added.

Nawaiwaqt

ہواوے کے اشتراک سے آئی سی ٹی ٹیچر ٹریننگ پروگرام کے تحت 17 اساتذہ چین جائیں گے

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت نیوز) ہواوے ٹیکنالوجیز پاکستان پرائیویٹ لمیٹڈ نے نیوٹیک کے اشتراک سے پاکستان کے ووکیشنل اور ٹریننگ سکولز کے 17 بہترین اساتذہ کو چائے کے

چونگ انڈسٹریل پولیٹیکنک کالج میں ایک ماہ کی مدت پر محیط آئی سی ٹی ٹیچر ٹریننگ کے لیے منتخب کیا ہے۔ شرکاء کا تعلق پاکستان کے تمام صوبوں سے ہے جبکہ کچھ اداروں کے

سربراہ بھی ہیں یہ دوسرا موقع ہے کہ ہواوے آئی سی ٹی کے شعبہ میں پاکستانی ٹیچرز کے علم کو نکھارنے کے لیے سپانسر (مالی کفالت) کر رہا ہے، گزشتہ سال ہواوے نے ’آئی

سی ٹی ٹریننگ پروگرام کا آغاز کیا اور چائے میں ایک ماہ کی ٹریننگ کے لیے پہلے بیچ کے 18 اساتذہ کو سپانسر کیا تھا۔ ناصر خان ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر نیوٹیک اور مسٹر میلنگ ڈپٹی سی ای او

ہواوے نے بھی تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ طلباء 5 جولائی کو اسلام آباد سے چائے کے لیے روانہ ہوں گے، اپنے قیام کے دوران وہ روٹ کنٹرول، باڈر گیٹ وے پروٹوکول، ملٹی کاسٹ، سوچنگ اور آئی سی ٹی کی بہت سی اختراعات بھی سیکھیں گے، اس کورس میں ہواوے ایڈوانسڈ مینجمنٹ کا کورس بھی شامل ہے۔ ٹریننگ کے اختتام پر نظریاتی ٹیسٹ کے ذریعے ہواوے ایچ سی آئی اے سرٹیفیکیشن کا امتحان لیا جائیگا

August 09, 2019

Pakistan Observer

China should encourage Pakistani exports to balance trade Businesswomen should be given opportunities in CPEC

Samina Fazil, founder President, Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI) on Thursday said China should encourage Pakistani exports to balance trade. Pakistan is facing a large deficit as bilateral trade between Pakistan and China is heavily tilted towards Beijing, she said.

Talking to Cultural Counselor of Chinese Embassy Mr. Heqing Zhang, she said that IWCCI is working for women empowerment and gender equality as sustainable development is impossible without it.

She said that China should relax terms and conditions in the trade agreement to balance the bilateral trade as Pakistan can export large quantities of agricultural products to China. Samina Fazil said that Pakistan women should be given opportunities in the projects under CPEC while they should also be given the opportunity of getting trained in various disciplines in leading Chinese universities.

Former President of IWCCI Mrs. Mumtaz Raja was also present in the meeting. She said that both countries should increase the frequency of business and cultural delegations and successful women entrepreneurs from China should visit Pakistan to encourage our women. At the occasion, Mr. Heqing Zhang said that China is promoting women empowerment and the women in his country enjoy all the support of the government.

He said that the proposals to bring businesswomen of both the friendly countries are laudable which would be considered for further action. Naima Ansari, Samina Akhtar, Sajida Anwar, Rozina, Ammara Ibrar and Gul Rukh were also present in the meeting.

The Express Tribune

Balochistan uplift, CPEC in focus at first NDC meet

ISLAMABAD: Primarily focusing on a plan for the socio-economic uplift of Balochistan and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, Prime Minister Imran Khan chaired the first meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) on Thursday at the PM's Office.

The forum approved the undertaking of feasibility studies for a port in Gadani and the establishment of a special economic zone in Hub.

It also gave the nod to the formation of the National Coastal Development Authority for building tourist resorts in the coastal areas of the province including Jiwani, Gwadar, Pasni, Makola, Ormara, Kund Malir, Hingol Park and Miani Hor.

On the development of ports, the forum endorsed the proposal for the development of eight landing sites and promoting the local boat industry by providing 10,000 green boats.

On the strategy for utilizing Balochistan's mineral resources, the forum was informed that the province would be divided into four zones — Chagai, Quetta-Duki, Khuzdar-Lasbela and Coastal Zone — and an appropriate model would be put in place to encourage private investment in large-scale mining.

It was decided that every possible effort would be made to increase the annual development spending of the province over the next nine years enabling it to overcome infrastructure challenges, reduce its budget deficit and enhance its revenue generation capacity.

The participants of the meeting were informed that the M-8 Motorway project, the 819-km long Chaman-Quetta-Karachi Motorway, Basima-Khuzdar Road and the 124-km long Awaran-Bela Road would significantly improve connectivity and the communication infrastructure in the province.

On the development of the oil and gas sector, the forum was informed about the efforts being made to develop four new blocks — Block-28, Zhob, Zorgarh, Jandran and Kohlu — for exploration, in addition to carrying out seismic survey at 30 onshore sites.

It was also briefed about various plans for the improvement of agriculture and water-management in the province. The forum, in principal, approved the constitution of the CPEC Authority for ensuring fast-track implementation of the projects under the plan. Discussing the development of Gwadar and its master plan, the forum approved the conceptual framework of the Gwadar Special Economic District. The NDC forum also discussed the 'Accelerated 10-Year Development Plan' for the erstwhile Fata.

The forum reiterated the commitment of the federal government to ensure availability of the allocated funds to agencies executing the development projects — Nespak, the FWO and the NHA — and facilitate the screening of NGOs operating in the tribal districts.

The participants of the meeting were also informed about the measures to further improve the security environment in the province, especially border management, and improving the writ of the state.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Planning Minister Khusro Bakhtiar, Commerce Adviser Abdul Razak Dawood, Finance Adviser Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Balochistan Chief Minister Jam

Kamal, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan, MNA Asad Umar and the Southern Command commander among others.

Jang News

شاہ محمود قریشی کا چین میں پرتپاک استقبال

وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ محمود قریشی کا چینی دار الحکومت بیجنگ میں اسٹیٹ گیسٹ ہاؤس آمد پر پاکستانی وفد نے پرتپاک استقبال کیا اور پاک چین دوستی زندہ باد کے نعرے لگائے وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ محمود قریشی مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر کی گھمبیر صورت حال کے پیش نظر سفارتی مشن پر چین کے دورے پر بیجنگ پہنچ گئے۔

شاہ محمود قریشی کے ہمراہ سیکریٹری خارجہ سہیل محمود اور وزارت خارجہ کے سینئر حکام بھی ہیں، وزیر خارجہ دورہ چین کے دوران چین کی اعلیٰ قیادت سے ملاقاتیں کریں گے۔

وزیر خارجہ چینی قیادت کو مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر سے متعلق بھارت کے غیر آئینی اقدامات اور بھارت کی جانب سے انسانی حقوق کی سنگین خلاف ورزیوں سے آگاہ کریں گے۔

مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر میں بڑھتی ہوئی بھارتی جارحیت اور خطے میں امن و امان کے تناظر میں وزیر خارجہ کے اس دورے کو انتہائی اہم سمجھا جا رہا ہے۔

روانگی سے قبل میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ بھارت یکطرفہ غیر آئینی اقدامات سے خطے میں امن و امان کو تہہ وبالا کرنے کے درپے ہے

وزیر خارجہ نے مزید کہا کہ چین پاکستان کا دیرینہ دوست ہونے کے ساتھ خطے کا اہم ملک ہے۔ چینی قیادت کو اس ساری صورت حال پر اعتماد میں لوں گا۔

Express News

پاک چین دوستی اور سی بیک پر 99 فیصد اتفاق ہے، لی جیان

اسلام آباد: چینی ڈپٹی چیف آف مشن لی جیان نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین دوستی اور سی بیک پر 99 فیصد اتفاق اور حمایت پائی جاتی ہے۔ سبکدوش ہونیوالے چین کے ڈپٹی چیف آف

مشن لی جیان نے اپنے اعزاز میں الوداعی تقریب کے دوران کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی اور سی بیک پر 99 فیصد اتفاق اور حمایت پائی جاتی ہے۔ لی جیان نے کہا کہ میں گزشتہ چار برس

سے پاکستان میں موجود ہوں مجھے پاکستان میں بہت پیار ملا۔ گزشتہ چار برس چین پاکستان دوستی میں نہایت پھلدار ثابت ہوئے ان برسوں میں دونوں ممالک کی قیادت نے اعلیٰ

سطح پر دورے کئے گزشتہ چار برس میں اقتصادی و بزنس ٹورنٹس تعلقات میں بھی اضافہ ہوا اہم نے سی بیک منصوبے میں آگے بڑھنے کی کوشش

August 10, 2019

Business Recorder

China says will continue to support Pakistan

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister and State Councilor Wang Yi supported Pakistan's position on Kashmir, calling for settlement of issue on the basis of relevant UN resolutions.

This he stated here on Friday during his meeting with the Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. Wang Yi noted that China is seriously concerned about the latest escalation of tensions in Kashmir. The Kashmir issue is a dispute left from the colonial history.

“It should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. China believes that unilateral actions that will complicate the situation should not be taken,” he added.

Wang Yi went on adding that as all-weather strategic cooperative partners; China and Pakistan have understood and supported each other on issues concerning our respective core interests. This is a good tradition that should be cherished by the two sides. China will continue to support Pakistan in safeguarding its legitimate rights and interests and uphold justice for Pakistan on the international arena.

Wang Yi also noted that Pakistan and India are both China's friendly neighbors and major developing countries that are in a crucial stage of development. China calls on the two sides to proceed from their national development and peace in South Asia, properly resolve historical grievances, get rid of the zero-sum mindset, avoid unilateral action and seek a new path to peaceful coexistence.

Wang Yi had talks with Foreign Minister Qureshi who paid an urgent visit to China. Qureshi briefed the Chinese side on Pakistan's observations, position and measures in response to the latest development of the situation in Kashmir. China is Pakistan's friend that has long been trusted, and that friendship between Pakistan and China is rock solid, he added.

Qureshi said he believes China will stand up for justice on the Kashmir issue. Pakistan will continue to resolutely support China's just position on issues concerning China's core interests. The Pakistani side will continue to advance China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, he added.—INP

Jang News

سی پیک اتھارٹی کا قیام، خوش آئند

چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) جسے نہ صرف پاکستان بلکہ پورے خطے کے لیے ایک گیم چینجر منصوبہ قرار دیا جاتا ہے، پر بھارت اور امریکہ سمیت کئی علاقائی ممالک کے تحفظات ڈھکے چھپے نہیں ہیں۔ اس حوالے سے جہاں ایک طرف باقاعدہ پلاننگ سے اس منصوبے کے خلاف من گھڑت افواہیں پھیلائی جاتی ہیں وہیں اس سے خائف ممالک کی جانب سے اس کو سبوتاژ کرنے میں بھی کوئی کسر اٹھا نہیں رکھی جارہی۔ بلوچستان میں دہشت گردی کے واقعات کے تسلسل میں بھارت، افغانستان اور دوسرے ممالک کی خفیہ ایجنسیوں کے ملوث ہونے کے پس پردہ بھی سی پیک منصوبے کو ناکام بنانے کے مذموم ارادے کار فرما ہیں۔ آئی ایم ایف سے مذاکرات کے حوالے سے بھی کہا جاتا رہا کہ اس ادارے کی جانب سے سی پیک منصوبے کی تفصیلات طلب کیے جانے پر چین نے شدید ناراضی کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ یہ منصوبہ نہ صرف بلوچستان کی ترقی و خوشحالی کی کلید ہے بلکہ اسے ملکی ترقی کے سفر میں بھی ایک سنگ میل قرار دیا جا رہا ہے۔ اس لیے ضرورت محسوس کی جا رہی تھی کہ اس حوالے سے پائے جانے والے تحفظات، ابہام و خدشات کا بروقت ازالہ کیا جائے۔ اس تناظر میں جمعرات کے روز وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی زیر صدارت ہونے والے قومی ترقیاتی کونسل کے پہلے اجلاس میں سی پیک اتھارٹی قائم کرنے کی منظوری یقیناً خوش آئند ہے۔ اتھارٹی کے قیام سے جہاں ایک طرف موجودہ حکومت کی سی پیک معاملے میں سنجیدگی اور اس کی جلد تکمیل کے لیے کاوشوں کا اظہار ہوتا ہے، وہیں اس اتھارٹی کے قیام سے سی پیک منصوبے کے حوالے سے پائے جانے والے خدشات کا خاتمہ کرنے میں مدد بھی ملے گی اور یہ اتھارٹی بہترین نتائج حاصل کرنے کے لیے فیصلہ سازی کے عمل کو بھی آسان بنائے گی۔ اجلاس میں یہ فیصلہ بھی کیا گیا کہ سی پیک منصوبوں پر فاسٹ ٹریک بنیادوں پر کام کو یقینی بنایا جائے گا۔ امید ہے کہ سی پیک اتھارٹی اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے پر کام کی رفتار بڑھانے کا سبب بنے گی۔

August 11, 2019

Business Recorder

China has acquiesced to Pakistan's decision to move UNSC

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Saturday said that China supported Pakistan's decision to take up the Indian government's August 5 illegal actions with United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on which the two sides are working jointly. Speaking at a news conference after returning from his two-day trip to China, the Foreign Minister said it is a technical issue and requires an extensive deliberation which is under way. He said there are different aspects and options with regard to taking up the matter with the UNSC and consultations are under way as to which option should be acted upon.

After Modi government's illegal actions, he said the first important step was to take China, being the permanent member of the Security Council, into confidence. "Without taking the consent and

resolve of China, it's not even possible to take a step towards this end [UNSC]. The consultation with China has been done and they have definitely given its assent," Qureshi said.

He said that China has assured full support to Pakistan's stance on Kashmir issue at the UNSC, adding that Beijing recognizes occupied Jammu and Kashmir as a disputed territory which poses a threat to regional peace.

Qureshi said that China has directed its representative at the United Nations in New York to keep a close liaison with Pakistani diplomats on the issue, adding that the two countries have also nominated their focal persons at director general's level in this regard.

He said that China has a clear stance that India has taken a unilateral step in occupied Jammu and Kashmir which is illegal and against the norms of international law, adding that Beijing wants the resolution of the issue in accordance with the UNSC resolutions.

Qureshi said India is trying to create an impression before the international community that it is an internal matter but the international community knows the reality. He said Pakistan's apprehensions have proved true that the human rights situation in occupied Kashmir will further deteriorate and Indian forces have subjected the Kashmiri people to worst brute force.

The Foreign Minister said it is the sixth consecutive day of curfew and there are reports of acute shortage of food, medicines and other essential commodities in IOK. He said protest demonstrations reports are also coming from Ladakh where people have rejected Indian government's decision.

The Foreign Minister said occupation Indian forces are using brute force including pellet guns to suppress protest demonstrations in the held territory. He further said that Pakistan is also considering more options including approaching UN Human Rights Council if the situation gets further deteriorated in the occupied valley.

To a question, Qureshi said that after the August 5 actions, India itself has invited Pakistan to proceed towards multilateralism from bilateralism on resolution of the outstanding issues, adding that the Modi government has attacked the spirit of the Simla agreement under which the two countries had agreed to resolve the issue bilaterally. He said that Pakistan has never opposed resolving the issue bilaterally.

He out-rightly rejected a military option, describing it "ignorance and stupidity" to talk about a military option. "But be assured, we will defend our country at all costs if we were imposed any aggression, as we reserve the right to defend our country," Qureshi responded to a question, adding that after February 26, Pakistan's response was in defence and it was not aggressor while shooting down two Indian aircraft on February 27, 2019.

To a question about the arrest of PML-N's vice president Maryam Nawaz, the foreign minister declined to comment, saying: "Right now I am sending the message of unification".

He also called upon the political leadership of the country to avoid any division at this critical stage, adding that the situation is worsening following India's illegal actions on August 5.

“I hope our political leadership will rise up to the occasion,” he said, adding that Kashmiris need a united voice from Pakistan in their solidarity at this difficult time. To another question about Russia’s stance allegedly terming the Indian government actions its internal matter, Qureshi said that the news report in this regard is baseless, adding that our ambassador in Russia has confirmed that the news was fake.

He further said that outreach to the world is continuing and Prime Minister is contacting various world leaders. Qureshi said that he himself is contacting his counterparts in a number of countries, including Indonesia and Poland.

He further said the Prime Minister will also visit New York in September to address the UN General Assembly session where he would forcefully raise Pakistan’s stance and the cause of Kashmir people at the world platform.

Meanwhile, a press release issued by the Foreign Office stated that Qureshi held wide-ranging consultations with State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing. Qureshi highlighted the recent illegal Indian actions and stressed that no unilateral step could change the internationally recognized disputed nature of IOK. The Foreign Minister also highlighted the grave danger posed by illegal Indian actions to regional peace and security.

He further shared deep concern about the total clampdown of Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir by Indian security forces and the humanitarian crisis resulting there from the situation. The Foreign Minister further underlined that as part of its reckless approach there could be some false flag operation and Pakistan blamed on the fake pretext of “terrorism”.

Qureshi stressed that the disputed nature of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir was enshrined in the UNSC resolutions, which envisaged the framework for a final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute based on a free and fair plebiscite under the auspices of the UN. The Chinese side expressed serious concern over the situation arising from India’s unilateral actions. The Chinese Foreign Minister added that the Kashmir issue is a dispute since colonial days and that it should be resolved peacefully based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreement.

The Foreign Ministers agreed that both sides would closely coordinate and consult each other on the evolving developments. Earlier in the day, Foreign Minister Qureshi chaired a consultative meeting of former foreign secretaries upon his return from China. Qureshi apprised the former foreign secretaries on his discussions with the Chinese leadership and also took inputs from them with regard to the future course of action.

Speaking to them, Qureshi said the international community and humanitarian organisations should immediately take notice of grave situation in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

August 14, 2019

The Nation

A New East India Company

Will CPEC become a New East India Company? This is a question being asked by many. This solely depends on the planning and execution which is necessary to safeguard interests of Pakistan. The national and provincial government and relevant ministries are dealing with CPEC related projects and working to cooperate with one another to boost economic activity.

The global economy is going to impinge on the local politics and structure of Pakistan and therefore will affect how Pakistan will protect its own interests. It has to select its friends and foes strategically and this is a time to capitalize relations with countries which have shown interest in BRI of which a very small segment relates to CPEC. Balochistan in particular will benefit from CPEC and will create positivity for the region. The influx of Chinese populace and efforts that are required towards adaptation of the Chinese culture remains to be seen. The legal rights of public especially the people of Gwadar need to be safeguarded. The government is advised to follow port cities like Dubai and Singapore in safeguarding the public rights according to the constitution and legislation of Pakistan. The acculturation of the Chinese amidst the diversified regional and economic backdrop of Pakistan will further make this region rich and connected with the global economy. However, proper legislation is required to safe guard the beauty of our culture, norms, and values in the face of changing dynamics under CPEC which need to be emphasized.

It is important to remove all sorts of misperception and trust deficit within the country regarding CPEC and build a forum for open interaction between industry, academia and small and medium enterprises. More importantly we can borrow from the Malaysian model and the Cuban model where the locals were incorporated in all foreign direct investments within the country and where all profits were repatriated into the local coffers to boost the national economy. The trade routes should have tolls imposed and the routes should be managed to incorporate local trade to the Chinese cities. This should enable a balance of trade between the countries not to mention the technical and economic exchange of goods and services. More importantly the impact of CPEC should be assessed on the basis of its impact on poverty in Pakistan. A simple measure of this is the Multidimensional Poverty Index which captures the deprivation that each person experiences with respect to education, health and standard of living. While official monetary measures reflect deprivation in income and consumption only MPI measures effects on education, health, and living standards. Pakistan's poverty measure estimates 29.5% of population to be living below the poverty line. This can be addressed by assessing CPEC's ability to cover major areas affecting unsaved and underserved areas of the country thereby linking these to trans-regional economic belts linking key economic regions at the skeleton and major cities and industrial parks as nodes. The scope covers the whole territory of Pakistan and the Xinjiang with a total area of 2 million square kilometers and a population totaling over 250 million. The CPEC portfolio covers

a number of energy, transportation and telecom projects amounting to up to USD 2 billion and is going to have a positive impact on the areas in Pakistan where economic development is at a standstill.

CPEC is to Pakistan what the Indus River was to the Indus Valley Civilization; we only need to know how to drink from it.

CPEC's M-5 project to be opened this month

ISLAMABAD: The Multan-Sukkur Motorway (M-5) which is part of the multi-billion dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project has been completed.

The motorway – stretching over 392 km – is expected to be opened for public during the ongoing month. It will reduce the duration of journey between the two cities from 6 hours to 3-3.5 hours.

The project is completed at a cost of around Rs294 billion. This motorway begins from Multan and passes through Shujabad, Jalalpur Pirwala, head Panjnad near Bahawalpur, Uch Sharif, Ahmedpur Sharqia, Rahim Yar Khan, Sadiqabad, Obara, Ghotki and Pannu Aqil before culminating in Sukkur near Rohri.

The motorway included construction of a big bridge over River Sutlej near Bahawalpur as well as 54 bridges, 12 service areas, 10 rest area, 11 interchanges, 10 flyovers and 426 underpasses.

The motorway was inaugurated on May 6, 2016 and it took over three years to complete.

Talking to The Express Tribune, Chinese Deputy Chief of Mission in Pakistan Lijian Zhou called it a mega project, which will ease journey between the two cities. He said the Pakistan Army offered excellent security to staff working on the project.

He said the motorway would offer new economic opportunities to the locals. “Only 3% Chinese worked on the project. The project provided jobs and business to Pakistani citizens and the project also generated revenue in shape of taxes,” he shared.

He said material for the project was also bought from local markets. “This is a mega project which will offer economic benefit to Pakistanis and also reduce travelling time.”

The envoy, however, said security is one of the challenges facing CPEC. “More than 4,000 army, rangers and police personnel are deputed for the project. The Pakistan Army did a great job. There are coordination issues. We have to complete several procedures of various ministries,” he added.

Lijian Zhou also called for countering anti-CPEC propaganda. “Few countries are jealous of CPEC and Belt and Road initiative (BRI). CPEC is a flagship project of the BRI. A loss to CPEC will have a great impact. We will have to jointly counter the negative propaganda.”

