



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

August 16-31, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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August 16, 2021

Daily Times

CPEC to usher in new era of development in Balochistan

Acting President of Pakistan, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has expressed the confidence that the successful completion of China Pakistan Economic Corridor's (CPEC) projects would bring development and prosperity for the Balochistan province and the whole nation.

Addressing a 100-member delegation of students from seven districts of Balochistan here at Parliament House, he said Balochistan was on the path of development and prosperity.

“Development of Gawadar is imperative for the prosperity of the country”, he said, adding people from all over the country would come to Balochistan for economic activity, and “this province will be at the forefront in coming days.”

Sanjarani said optimum utilisation of natural resources and promoting education was crucial to development and prosperity of Balochistan. He added that Balochistan was rich in natural resources, and the people of Balochistan, especially the educated youth, could reap benefit from the CPEC projects.

“Being the future of the nation, the young generation should step up and play their full role in the country's progress and prosperity”, he remarked.

Highlighting the importance of Gawadar, Sanjrani underscored that the development of the country was interlinked with Gawadar, which could be taken advantage of not only to change the destiny of Balochistan but also to bring growth and prosperity to the entire country. “Steps are being taken to promote education in Balochistan. Soon universities will be set up in Chaghi and Gawadar areas of Balochistan province so that the people there can get higher education,” he informed the visiting students.

He said the Senate had been playing an essential role in encouraging the young generation and invited various delegations to acquaint the students with the work of Parliament House.

The Acting President remarked that it was the shared responsibility of all of us to convince the world that the people of Balochistan were progressive and would work hard to find new avenues for development.

While lauding Prime Minister Imran Khan's efforts for Balochistan development, Sanjrani underlined that the Prime Minister had been paying particular attention to the development of Balochistan, which resulted into approval of projects worth billions of rupees. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjarani, while giving detailed answers to the questions regarding power outages and water issues, said steps were being taken to solve the problems of electricity and water in Gawadar.

While referring his recent visit to Iran, Sanjrani apprised the students that detailed consultation on the aforementioned issues was held with the newly elected President of Iran.

He informed that six trade routes on the border were also identified during the meeting with the newly elected President of Iran.

Sanjrani assured the delegation that a permanent solution for electricity and water would be sorted out in a year.

He said with the cost of Rs 18 billion, Gawadar would soon be connected to the national grid. Furthermore, with the installation of a 50MW solar plant, the electricity requirement of one district could be met.

For the permanent solution of the water issue, a plan would be put in place to desalinate salted water, he informed, adding “There are vast opportunities to generate electricity from alternative sources in the province.”

Sanjrani also remarked that he would talk to the Chinese government about granting scholarships to at least 300 students of Balochistan. “I will take every possible step to bring the student of Balochistan at par with other students of the country,” he stressed.

The Saudi government has also sought details of 50 to 60 students in terms of scholarships and higher education, he said, adding children from Balochistan would also be sent there to pursue higher education. He asked students of Balochistan to learn from the expertise of those who are already working in Gawadar. The Acting President and a delegation of visiting students cut the cake to commemorate the Independence Day of Pakistan.

The Acting President also presented a shield to the delegation. The delegation comprising of 100 students from seven districts of Balochistan, while thanking the Acting President of Pakistan, expressed pleasure and said that the visit would help them understand the affairs of Parliament. A delegation of students from various educational institutions of Balochistan also visited the Senate Museum and Senate Hall.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/805097/cpec-to-usher-in-new-era-of-development-in-balochistan/>

Pakistani movies to be screened in China festival

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said on Sunday that Pakistani movies would be screened in the prestigious Hainan Film Festival later this year. “After successful holding of first ever Pakistan Film Week in the Chinese capital, we are now planning to showcase Pakistani movies at the Hainan Film Festival to be held in December,” he told APP. He said that this is just the beginning of a new era of cooperation between Pakistan and China in the area of film and added, “We are trying for the joint film production with Chinese film producers to promote cultural exchanges and foster better understanding between the people of two countries.” •

Ambassador Haque said that five movies from Pakistan were screened at a cinema of China Film Archive as part of celebratory activities of 70 years of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations. He said that Pakistan Embassy, Beijing and China-Film Administration jointly organized the four-

day event and thanked the Chinese film administration for providing a great opportunity to Pakistani movie makers to showcase their films in China.

Terming films a strong medium of communications, he said, “We can introduce our culture, festival, daily life and cuisines to the Chinese audience and beautiful landscape as well as further improve our soft image.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/805087/pakistani-movies-to-be-screened-in-china-festival/>

Pakistani mango festival held in Guangzhou

As part of its public diplomacy activities and to further introduce and popularise Pakistani mangoes in China, the Trade and Investment Section of the Consulate General of Pakistan Guangzhou organised the “Pakistan Mango Festival”.

According to China Economic Net, on behalf of Muhammad Irfan, the Trade and Investment Counselor of Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou, the Acting Consul General Ali Shahid delivered welcome remarks and made a full introduction about the star of the event – White Chaunsa. Ali proudly stated that mango is the national fruit of Pakistan and it is called the ‘King of Fruits’ and Pakistani mango is among the sweetest fruits on the face of the earth.

This is the second and consecutive year that Trade and Investment Section has successfully organised the mango promotion campaign. More and more Chinese people in South China have been introduced to this Pakistani National Fruit. This year also marks the 70th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Diplomatic Relationship. “We wish our friendship is as sweet as our mangoes. Long live Pakistan-China Relationship,” Acting Consul General said.

Chinese dignitaries and fellow diplomats with Ali Shahid Acting Consul General joined the cake cutting ceremony. The cake was prepared from Pakistan mangoes. As one of the special parts of this year’s event, the Trade and Investment Section has invited two local social influencers for online live streaming during the whole event. Hundreds of people got the chance to see this whole event and see Pakistani mangoes right from their small screens in their hands.

On top of that, the mango selling link was activated during the live stream. 20 boxes of fresh Pakistani mangoes shared by the Trade and Investment Section Guangzhou were sold out in just about 10 minutes. The guests attending the festival were served with slices of fresh Chaunsa, as well as a range of most popular mango dishes – including mango lassi, mango sphere, mango pudding, and mango tart. The guests thoroughly enjoyed the variety of dishes and hailed the unique and sweet taste of Pakistani mangoes.

A large number of guests including Chinese dignitaries, government functionaries, diplomats from the Consulate General of Malaysia, Belgium, and Turkey in Guangzhou, members of civil society, fruit importers, and media persons attended the event and had a first-hand experience of the taste and aroma of the famous Pakistani mangoes. A group photo was taken that showed everybody was giving a big thumbs-up and happy smile towards this year’s event and they are looking forward to next year’s event.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/805178/pakistani-mango-festival-held-in-guangzhou/>

Pak-China trade volume increases

Import and export trade volume between Pakistan and China has increased explosively against the global trend under the influence of epidemic.

According to General Administration of Customs PR China, trade between Pakistan and China totaled US \$12.56 billion in the first half of 2021, 1.6 times larger than that of the same period last year. The rapid growth of trade volume between both countries has brought great challenges to cross-border logistics and transportation, especially exports to China.

Shipping is the main method of transport for Pakistan's exports to China. Currently, the capacity of maritime transport is tight and the freight rate remains high, according to CEN.

Ms Li Yiman, General Manager of Zhejiang Eman Supply Chain Management Company, said that in the case of aquatic products, there was a shortage of containers at the Karachi Port, and exporters of frozen aquatic products had to book space 1-2 weeks in advance. It is learned that about 90pc of Pakistan's exports of aquatic products to China are shipped from the Karachi Port. Ms Li believes that it is under the influence of a global shortage of shipping containers, plus the Pakistan route capacity has been squeezed to a certain extent, shipping space has also been reduced. In addition, due to the epidemic, the freight cycle is lengthened. It takes about a month from Karachi to complete customs clearance in China, and the customs inspection cycle for frozen products is relatively longer, affecting turnover efficiency.

"We have communicated with Yiwu Customs on how to improve the timeliness of the process while ensuring safety, such as preparing relevant documents before the arrival of the goods to facilitate rapid customs clearance." Ms Li explained.

Under the condition of insufficient supply of transport capacity, the demand for logistics is still rising. As per China Customs, Pakistan's exports to China in the first half of 2021 crossed \$1.735 billion, a growth of 70.3 percent as compared to 1H 2020 figures. In the case of supply falling short of demand, freight rates continue to rise. The shortage of seaborne capacity is expected to continue this year. "Shipping space in Pakistan is likely to continue to decrease in the second half of the year, and freight rates are still in the upstream channel." Ms Li stated.

For Pakistani and Chinese traders, the pressure of cross-border logistics will continue, but as logistics enterprises stretch to the upper and lower reaches of the industrial chain, full-chain services will bring ease to the situation. For example, in terms of exports to China, Eman Logistics has set up a Pakistan National Pavilion in Yiwu, the world's largest small commodity distribution base, to regularly display Pakistani products, and organised Chinese buyers to visit Pakistan's top 50 aquatic product companies to promote collaboration between Chinese and Pakistani companies.

"Pakistan is rich in fishing resources and has a huge market for fishing and processing seafood. Chinese companies can replicate their frozen product techniques to Pakistan." It is learned that

about 60pc of Pakistan's aquatic products are sold to China. In addition to aquatic products, mineral salt, ore, agricultural products, cotton yarn and handicrafts are all products that Pakistan often exports to China.

On the import side, cross-border e-commerce is on the rise. "Most of China's investment in Pakistan's logistics industry has shifted from traditional logistics (import and export) to cross-border e-commerce."

Ms Li said that in 2019, Eman Logistics was awarded the Pakistan Purchasing Business Service Center by Yiwu Municipal Bureau of Commerce to provide one-stop service for nearly 1,000 Pakistani buyers and Chinese enterprises, to deliver small goods from Yiwu, China, to Pakistani consumers.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/805183/pak-china-trade-volume-increases/>

Dunya News

Pak-China mutual trade records growth in first half of 2021

ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) - The mutual trade volume between Pakistan and China has increased explosively against the global trend under the influence of epidemic.

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<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/615167-Pak-China-mutual-trade-records-growth-in-first-half-of-2021>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China Partnership and Regional Peace

Prof Dr Muhammad Khan

ON August 10, 2021, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong had an in-depth meeting with Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa at General Headquarters.

As per ISPR, issues related to common interests of both countries came under discussion during the meeting. For China, Pakistan is a key state in the region.

Owing to new developments in Afghanistan where Taliban are winning over the Government forces, both Pakistan and China are concerned over the future status of this state. Neither Pakistan nor China would like Afghanistan to get into an unwanted civil war-like situation.

Unfortunately, President Ghani did not let the reconciliation process move forward for an amicable and political solution between Taliban and Government. US forces will be out by end-August and the US President has left everything to the Kabul Administration.

Indeed, the US has created a mess in Afghanistan and is now leaving without clearing that. Restoration of peace in this already war-torn country is a big challenge for Pakistan and China.

Apart from other issues of mutual interest, Gen Bajwa and Nong Rong had detailed discussion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and security issues, facing this gigantic project.

The project is very very significant for Pakistan as well as China. There are many rival powers and forces, trying to sabotage it by all means.

The Dasu incident was an unfortunate incident in which many Chinese and Pakistani lost their lives as a result of terrorist attacks.

Pakistani security divisions are very particular about the security of all those working on CPEC and CPEC related projects.

The Army Chief assured the Ambassador about the safety and security of Chinese nationals and Chinese interests. On his part, the Ambassador greatly appreciated Pakistan's sincere efforts for the smooth construction of CPEC and ensuring peace and stability in the region.

Ambassador Nong reiterated that China would continue to support Pakistan as a strategic partner. Indeed, CPEC is part of Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a global project that China initiated in 2013.

The concept of globalization can well be defined as global interconnectedness, which is achieved through regional connectivity.

Regional connectivity in turn is achieved through the development of communication network between two or more states and even within the boundaries of a state.

The CPEC aims to promote interconnectedness between China and Pakistan, but has the plans and potential for regional integration within South Asia and areas of Central and West Asia.

As per the British geographer, Halford John Mackinder, who talked about the heartlands and geographic pivots, in his article, "The Geographical Pivot of History" said, Pakistani geopolitical position fits into the definition of geographic pivot, connecting various regions of Asia, politically as well as economically.

As part of Chinese 'One Belt, One Road' strategy the CPEC once fully constructed would integrate India, Afghanistan, Central Asia and West Asia.

Through India, other states of South Asia will be direct and indirect beneficiary of the CPEC. The economies of these countries would be connected to the other regions of Asia and even with the global economy.

This fact is very much known to India, but, its enmity and rivalry with Pakistan and China is the main factor, where it opposes the corridor in the realm of power politics and to please its masters in the US.

Indeed, the CPEC is not a new concept, rather a continuation and expansion of the Karakoram Highway (KKH), constructed in the 1970s through 1980s by Pakistan and China through difficult and very high altitude terrain. It is the same KKH which is being expanded to the level of the corridor; the CPEC.

Upon its successful completion, CPEC will boost regional integration and economic prosperity, the benefits of which would be for all and India, being a major economy, will be the major beneficiary.

If India can ask for a transit trade route for its economic linkages with Central Asia through Afghanistan, and is a partner of the TAPI, there should be no reason for India opposing the CPEC through political statements and promoting terrorism along the route of CPEC. Pakistan otherwise had raised two security divisions for the physical protection of CPEC.

Iran is likely to become a stakeholder of the CPEC after its economic deal with China; first in January 2016 and later in July 2020.

China agreed to invest \$400 billion in Iran over 25 years in exchange for a steady supply of oil to fuel its growing economy under a sweeping economic and security agreement.

This deal will deepen China's influence in the larger Middle Eastern region, where India and the US are really worried. US President Joe Biden has offered Iran for renegotiations with Iran over the 2015 nuclear accord also.

Both Pakistan and China favour restoration of the 2015 Nuclear Deal. It is to be noted that over 70% of Chinese oil transportation is taking place from the Middle East and Africa, all passing through the Strait of Hormuz which make Iran a significant state.

The IP gas pipeline has potential to be further extended to China and CPEC will be the best suited route as an energy corridor.

Besides Iran, the Central Asian Republics have the huge potential and reserves for the contribution to sale in the international market.

On July 30, 2021 Gen Bajwa, while highlighted the security situation, said, "In the evolving security milieu Pakistan-China partnership was becoming increasingly important for regional peace and stability.

The General was addressing the ceremony held at GHQ to commemorate the 94th anniversary of the founding of China's Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA). The ceremony was attended by Amb Nong Rong and other senior Chinese officials too.

In fact, Pak-China relationships are unique and robust, no matter how the world situation changes, they would always stand together in safeguarding the national sovereignty, territorial integrity and maintaining regional peace and stability.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-partnership-and-regional-peace-by-prof-dr-muhammad-khan/>

The Nation

Full chain service to bring more ease for Pak-China traders in cross-border logistic industry

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Shipping is the main method of transport for Pakistan's exports to China. Currently, the capacity of maritime transport is tight and the freight rate remains high, according to CEN.

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Li believes that it is under the influence of a global shortage of shipping containers, plus the Pakistan route capacity has been squeezed to a certain extent, shipping space has also been reduced. In addition, due to the epidemic, the freight cycle is lengthened.

It takes about a month from Karachi to complete customs clearance in China, and the customs inspection cycle for frozen products is relatively longer, affecting turnover efficiency. Thus, some cargo ships prefer to return to China even with empty containers.

"We have communicated with Yiwu Customs on how to improve the timeliness of the process while ensuring safety, such as preparing relevant documents before the arrival of the goods to facilitate rapid customs clearance." Li explained.

Under the condition of insufficient supply of transport capacity, the demand for logistics is still rising. As per China Customs, Pakistan's exports to China in the first half of 2021 crossed \$1.735 billion, a growth of 70.3 per cent as compared to 1H 2020 figures. In the case of supply falling short of demand, freight rates continue to rise.

The shortage of seaborne capacity is expected to continue this year. "Shipping space in Pakistan is likely to continue to decrease in the second half of the year, and freight rates are still in the upstream channel." Li stated.

For Pakistani and Chinese traders, the pressure of cross-border logistics will continue, but as logistics enterprises stretch to the upper and lower reaches of the industrial chain, full-chain services will bring ease to the situation. For example, in terms of exports to China, Eman Logistics has set up a Pakistan National Pavilion in Yiwu, the world's largest small commodity distribution base, to regularly display Pakistani products, and organised Chinese buyers to visit Pakistan's top 50 aquatic product companies to promote collaboration between Chinese and Pakistani companies.

“Pakistan is rich in fishing resources and has a huge market for fishing and processing seafood. Chinese companies can replicate their frozen product techniques to Pakistan.” It is learned that about 60 per cent of Pakistan's aquatic products are sold to China. In addition to aquatic products, mineral salt, ore, agricultural products, cotton yarn and handicrafts are all products that Pakistan often exports to China.

On the import side, cross-border e-commerce is on the rise. “Most of China's investment in Pakistan's logistics industry has shifted from traditional logistics (import and export) to cross-border e-commerce.” Ms. Li said that in 2019, Eman Logistics was awarded the Pakistan Purchasing Business Service Centre by Yiwu Municipal Bureau of Commerce to provide one-stop service for nearly 1,000 Pakistani buyers and Chinese enterprises, to deliver small goods from Yiwu, China, to Pakistani consumers.

“Our services include e-commerce DARAZ registration, sea and air e-commerce logistics, door-to-door bulk cargo, sorting and distribution of overseas warehouses, and we have also set up a warehouse in Karachi.” •

As one of the investment counsellors appointed by the BoI, Li is confident that the future development of Pakistan-China trade will be more balanced.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-16/page-8/detail-7>

Salt-tolerant plants to add fertility to Pakistan's salt-affected soils

BEIJING - To better combat salinity, Pakistan and China have been cooperating with each other in reclaiming salt-affected soils and developing new varieties of quality salt-tolerant plants in Pakistan.

“In Pakistan, about 14% of irrigated lands have deteriorated with salinity, while 64% yield losses are reported due to salinity,” revealed Dr Zhang Huaxin, Research Fellow and Director of the Research Centre of Saline and Alkali Land of the National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China. He said, “In Pakistan, the average level of salinity increases by an estimated one ton per hectare each year in irrigated areas and can rise to as high as three to five tons in extreme cases.”

Such prevalent salinity is largely driven by high temperatures and scarce water resources and this calls for urgent actions against deteriorating salinity.

There are broad prospects for China and Pakistan to collaborate on determining the types of saline/ sodic soils and germplasm resources of salt-tolerant plants in Pakistan, and developing new varieties of quality salt-tolerant plants in Pakistan, Dr Zhang told CEN.

On the sustainability of biological solutions for Pakistan, Dr Muhammad Saqib, Associate Professor of the Institute of Soil and Environmental Science, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad said, a triad of scientific measures have been adopted worldwide to contain sprawling salinity in soils, namely the engineering approach, the reclamation approach, and the biological approach.

In the engineering approach, a lot of systems are installed which involves a huge amount of work and expenditure and is not sustainable, noted Dr. Saqib. Likewise, the reclamation method, which requires a strict combination of clean water and amendments, is not suitable for Pakistan as the country is grappling with rising temperatures and salinity.

The third is the biological approach, in which salt-tolerant plants and trees grow in salt-affected soils and absorb a certain amount of salt in the soils. “We have been struggling with salinity for decades, and the biological approach is the only solution in Pakistan. It is sustainable because trees and plants are important with respect to the environment and the water cycle,” noted Dr Saqib.

To better combat salinity, Pakistan and China have been cooperating with each other in reclaiming salt-affected soils, said Dr Saqib. In May, the Chinese Academy of Forestry and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to deepen China-Pak cooperation in the remediation of saline/ sodic soils through exchange activities, joint academic conferences, and joint academic projects.

“China has a wide variety of salt-tolerant plants and some of them can be introduced to Pakistan to deal with salinity, such as the plants in the southern part of China’s southern autonomous region of Xinjiang,” said Dr Saqib, who made field investigations in several demonstration zones in China’s eastern Shangdong province and discussed with Chinese experts about the collection, preservation and optimization of salt-tolerant plant resources during his visit to China in 2019.

With such cooperation in place, saline/ sodic soils are likely to regain their fertility in Pakistan. According to Dr Saqib, “We know China has been developing salt-tolerant rice varieties that can maintain a high output in salt-affected lands. Such rice varieties can also be introduced to Pakistan on an experimental basis and rolled out to more farmers with adequate research and demonstration.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-16/page-9/detail-1>

Pak handmade carpets’ expo opens in Shanghai

ISLAMABAD - An exhibition themed ‘Image-Making’ recently opened in Shanghai centre at Baoku Art Centre to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan, according to China Economic Net.

With Pakistani carpet art collection, Chinese contemporary paintings and images as carriers, the exhibition aims to carry out dialogue between two ancient civilisations of Silk Road, reveal the connotation of “community with a shared future for humanity” and provide inspiration for the development of art globalisation in the new era.

“I am very happy to see such an exhibition and would like to thank the organisers for promoting cultural exchanges between China and Pakistan. The year 2021 not only marks the 70th anniversary of our bilateral friendship, but also the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China. The government and the people of Pakistan all highly esteem of the contribution of CPC in serving its people wholeheartedly and hope that in the future, the development of the two countries will go further and reach a new climax,” Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai said at the opening ceremony.

“Handmade carpet is one of Pakistan’s cultural treasures. Pakistani handmade carpets are made of wool and silk, with exquisite and varied patterns. Along the ancient Silk Road, Chinese merchants exchanged silk for wool carpets in Pakistan. After the handmade carpets were introduced to China, Chinese weavers combined Pakistani weaving techniques with traditional Chinese craft of hand-knitting carpets. This is a kind of cultural interaction,” said Zubair Jan, one of the exhibition designers and a collector of the Pakistani carpet art pieces.

The video and part of photography works on display were created by Li Rongkai, a photographer and director of art films in China, also the curator of the exhibition.

“The different histories, cultures and social systems are as old as human societies, and they are the inherent features of human civilisation. Due to different cultural backgrounds, the art exhibitions of China and Pakistan show their differences. Therefore, we adhered to the philosophy of seeking harmony without uniformity while preparing the exhibition,” said Joshua Gong, academic adviser of the exhibition.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-16/page-10/detail-1>

August 17, 2021
Pakistan Observer

Ready for friendly ties with Afghanistan, says China after Taliban enter Kabul

BEIJING – China said on Monday that it is ready to deepen “friendly and cooperative” relations with Afghanistan, after Taliban took control of the country after 20-year-long war.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told reporters, “The Taliban have repeatedly expressed their hope to develop good relations with China, and that they look forward to China’s participation in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan”.

“We welcome this. China respects the right of the Afghan people to independently determine their own destiny and is willing to continue to develop... friendly and cooperative relations with Afghanistan.”

She also urged the Taliban to “ensure a smooth transition” of power and keep its promises to establish an “open and inclusive Islamic government” and ensure the safety of Afghans and foreign citizens.

The spokesperson said that China’s embassy in Kabul will remain operational.

In a statement Monday, the Chinese embassy told its citizens to “pay close attention to the security situation” and stay indoors.

Last month, a delegation of Taliban delegation led by Taliban negotiator and deputy leader Mullah Baradar Akhund visited China to hold key meetings.

Nine Taliban representatives met Foreign Minister Wang Yi in the northern Chinese city of Tianjin on a two-day visit during which the peace process and security issues were discussed, a Taliban spokesperson said.

Wang said the Taliban are expected to “play an important role in the process of peaceful reconciliation and reconstruction in Afghanistan”, according to a readout of the meeting from the foreign ministry.

Security in Afghanistan, with which China shares a border, has been deteriorating fast as the United States withdraws its troops by September.

<https://pakobserver.net/ready-for-friendly-ties-with-afghanistan-says-china-after-taliban-enter-kabul/>

August 18, 2021

Business Recorder

Chairman Senate meets Vietnam envoy

‘SEZs under CPEC important for regional connectivity, development’

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi said that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are very important for regional connectivity and development.

He expressed these views in a meeting with Ambassador of Vietnam Nguyen Tien Phong, who called on him at the Parliament House on Tuesday.

During the meeting, emphasis was laid on trade and economic cooperation between the two countries to further strengthened people-to-people contact.

The Deputy Chairman Senate acknowledges and appreciates Vietnam's rapid economic growth. He said that the two countries need to promote cooperation in the fields of tourism, education, textile, agriculture and other fields.

Mirza Afridi highlighted that diplomacy at the parliamentary level can take bilateral relations to new heights. He believed that accelerating the exchange of parliamentary delegations will further strengthen bilateral ties.

He also emphasized that Vietnamese investors can take advantage of investment opportunities in Balochistan, especially in Gwadar. He reiterated that Vietnamese investors need to take advantage of Pakistan's improved business environment. He also highlighted that Pakistan is providing visa on arrival facility for citizens of Vietnam.

While speaking on the Kashmir Issue, Deputy Chairman Afridi said that the international community should play its role in resolving the Kashmir issue. The Kashmir issue should be resolved in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the UN resolutions. He underscored that Pakistan values its relations with Vietnam.

“Pakistan and Vietnam can learn a lot from each other's experiences in the field of trade and economic cooperation,” he said during meeting with the ambassador of Vietnam. The Deputy Chairman Senate also extended his well wishes to the government, Parliament and people of Vietnam. He assured the ambassador of all possible cooperation for further strengthening of Pak-Vietnam relations.

Nguyen Tien Phong thanked the deputy chairman Senate for a warm welcome at the Parliament House. The ambassador said that we are proud of the friendship between Pakistan and Vietnam, which spans over 50 years. The ambassador showed pleasure that the Pakistani people are filled with hospitality.

He said that the two countries have excellent cooperation at the international level. The ambassador believed that there is scope for further enhancement of trade and economic cooperation.

He informed that contacts are being made with various chambers of commerce and business community to promote trade and explore opportunities for multi-dimensional cooperation.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/18/5-page/897466-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan, China cooperate to develop textile sector

Pak-China cooperation plays an important role in development of Pakistan's textile industry as now all the metal items as well as advanced production machines are imported from China, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. “Firstly, the relationship between Chinese and Pakistani governments is very good, and people's relationship is also very good. We feel like

more comfortable to invest in Pakistan,” said Karen Chen, manager director of Challenge Fashion, a Chinese company that is investing \$150 million in an industrial park.

As a foreign direct investment (FDI) in an export industry in Pakistan, the project is made by the Shanghai-based Challenge, which is already operating as Challenge Apparel since 2017 with its garment manufacturing unit on Multan Road near Lahore fetching nearly \$44m in export revenue during the last fiscal year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/805666/pakistan-china-cooperate-to-develop-textile-sector/>

Dunya News

Chinese FM Wang Yi telephones FM Qureshi to discuss Afghanistan situation

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi telephoned Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and exchanged views on the evolving situation in Afghanistan. During the telephonic conversation, Foreign Minister Qureshi underlined that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was of critical importance for Pakistan and the region. In this perspective, Pakistan had assiduously supported the Afghan peace process, he said as quoted by the Foreign Office. Pakistan and China, as part of Troika Plus, had made valuable contribution to these efforts.

FM Qureshi said in the given situation, it was extremely important to ensure safety and security as well as protection of rights of the Afghan people. He stressed that an inclusive political settlement was essential, for which all Afghans should work together.

Qureshi said that it was equally important for the international community to remain engaged in support of the Afghan people. He emphasized that the international community must also have sustained economic engagement with Afghanistan. He apprised Foreign Minister Wang Yi of Pakistan’s efforts to facilitate the evacuation of personnel and staff of diplomatic missions, international organizations, media and others from Afghanistan.

FM Qureshi said Pakistan and China were ‘iron brothers’ and strategic partners. The two countries had the tradition of maintaining close coordination and communication on issues of common interest and significance, he added. Foreign Minister Qureshi and State Councilor Wang Yi agreed to remain in close contact to promote the shared objectives.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/615498-Chinese-FM-Wang-Yi-telephones-FM-Qureshi-discuss-Afghanistan-situation>

Pakistan Observer

China to play positive role in Afghanistan political solution

A Chinese foreign ministry’s spokesperson Tuesday said that China would continue playing a constructive role in the political settlement of Afghanistan issue and hoped that Afghan Taliban will fulfill their promises of the establishment of an inclusive government.

“China as Afghanistan’s largest neighbour will always respect the country’s sovereignty, integrity and independence and will stick to non-intervention.

Our friendly policies are towards the entire Afghan people,” Hua Chunying made these remarks at her regular briefing here while responding to several questions regarding current situation in Afghanistan. The spokesperson said that the China on the basis of respecting the country’s sovereignty and will of all the factions had maintained close contact and communications with Afghan Taliban and had been playing a constructive role in the political settlements.

In the last month, China’s State Councilor Foreign Minister Wang Yi attended a series of meetings with foreign ministers of the Central Asia countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan and the SCO Afghanistan Contact Group.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-to-play-positive-role-in-afghanistan-political-solution/>

Fertilizer transit trade from Gwadar to Afghanistan continues: GT

Even as battle raged across Afghanistan last week, Gwadar Port, now operated by a Chinese company, continued to ship fertilizers to the landlocked country, the Global Times reported.

A total of 500 tonnes of fertilizers were shipped out of the port’s warehouse by a fleet of Pakistani trucks during the past week, a source at the port told the Global Times.

Gwadar Port is a key project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Since its operation, the port has begun to play a new role as an efficient transit stop and time-saving trade port for land-locked Afghanistan. Its shipments of fertilizer started in January 2020.

Fertilizer shipments, destined for Afghanistan are leaving the warehouses intermittently due to border closures. But this business was not cut off despite the fighting between Taliban fighters and Afghan government forces last week, according to the port’s source.

Zhou Rong, a senior researcher at the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at the Renmin University of China, saw the unbroken trade flow through this international corridor, even during times of war and conflicts, as a validation of the advantages of trade.

“What happened just showed that normal trade between nations should not be blocked regardless of the situation,” Zhou said, noting that the Taliban knew it should not set up roadblocks for trade which is beneficial for Afghanistan’s war-torn economy.—TLTP

A trickle of Chinese products continues to flow into Afghanistan through Pakistan, improved by CPEC infrastructure, though trade has been mostly done through the Port of Karachi, one of South Asia’s largest and busiest deep-water seaports that handle about 60 percent of Pakistan’s cargo, according to Zhou.

Goods made in China shipped to Afghanistan include small machinery, electrical transmission, and distribution equipment which are imported by Chinese companies that provide electricity to the country's major cities.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Monday that China hopes that the Taliban will honor its vows to establish through negotiation an open and inclusive Islamic government, and act responsibly to ensure the safety of Afghan citizens and foreign missions in Afghanistan.

According to Chinese experts, China could play a role in the post-war reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, pushing forward projects under the BRI and providing investment when safety and stability are restored in the country.

Afghanistan has become the first landlocked Central Asian country to benefit from using the Gwadar Port for transshipment trade.

In 2020, the country imported 43,000 tons of fertilizers through the port contributing to its agricultural development. —TLTP

<https://pakobserver.net/fertilizer-transit-trade-from-gwadar-to-afghanistan-continues-gt/>

CPEC and Containment of China

U K Dar

The USA is withdrawing from Afghanistan without achieving its major strategic aims; one of which was the containment of China.

The operation in Afghanistan has cost the USA trillions of dollars and the loss of thousands of soldiers, yet it is withdrawing and leaving behind a trail of destruction in its wake.

The stakes of the USA in Afghanistan were very high; nothing short of ruling the world in the next century.

The main contender for the top slot, China, was observing very closely every step the USA was taking in Afghanistan.

While the USA was busy spending trillions of dollars in the pothole of 'graveyards of empires', China was steadily making headway in every field from economy to technology and emerging as a new superpower.

Some economists are predicting that China has already become the global powerhouse economically, and is expected to surpass the USA as the world's biggest economy by 2025.

Militarily, China still lags behind but with increased spending on weapons technology, especially in its naval power, it's a matter of time that China can project its military might as well.

The development of military bases in the South China Sea and the standoff between India and China in the Himalayan region proved that China is ready to flex its muscles at any time to safeguard its strategic interests.

The USA is in no mood to take this lying down and leave the superpower status without giving a fight.

Though she has to leave Afghanistan in sheer humiliation, yet is trying to achieve its strategic aim of containment of China through other means.

The Philippines has provided the urgently needed space to the USA and has shocked the world by restoring the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) with the USA.

The Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in the presence of USA Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin had formally announced the decision of restoration of VFA in a joint press conference held on 30 July 2021. The VFA is an agreement that allows the USA military aircraft and vessels free entry into the Philippines and operates from the Philippines.

Restoration of the VFA is being considered a big move in the region and a signal to China of a renewed commitment of the USA for denying the dominance of the South China Sea to China, through which as much as \$3.3 trillion in global trade passes annually.

China's claim to the South China Sea within its famous Nine Dash Lines saw a blowback when China lost a landmark arbitration case at the International Tribunal at The Hague where the court ruled it as invalid.

Besides, the USA has time and again made it clear that it does not accept China's hegemony over the South China Sea and has offered all kinds of help to countries that have maritime territorial disputes with China.

This is a clear and dangerous threat to China as the majority of its oil and gas supplies pass through the South China Sea that is crucial for China to run its industrial base. As a result, the Chinese see the South China Sea as essential to their survival; the thing is important to other neighbouring countries including the USA as well.

That's why this whole dispute is not going away in the foreseeable future. Rather its militarization and escalating war games between two of the world's largest militaries is making experts believe that chances of confrontation are more likely than ever.

In addition to the maritime frontiers dispute, China also has land border disputes with powerful and competing neighbouring countries like Russia and India thus making China vulnerable from that side as well.

Another problem China is facing is that the major areas that are generating wealth for China are the handful of eastern and southern provinces, whereas the central and western provinces have lagged far behind in progress. Average annual income in the western region remains much below the national average. Therefore, China has ramped up incentives to develop central and western China. However, feeding these areas through the South China Sea becomes a logistical nightmare.

Faced with these challenges, China started planning to expand its strategic space by heading West. Here comes the importance of the Pak-China relationship.

Pakistan can serve as a crucial bridge as well as an alternate supply route between China and Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East, from where China buys the bulk of its energy needs.

This is why China is willing to pour vast amounts of resources into the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Likewise, Pakistan has realized that the USA has always been a fair-weather friend and has always dumped her at crucial junctures; whereas China has always given high strategic importance to Pakistan in its economic and military development., Military relations between China and Pakistan date back to the early 1960s and remain strong, as both countries view India as a regional rival.

In recent years, China has emerged as the main supplier of military hardware to Pakistan and the two countries have cooperated in the development of several weapon systems, such as the JF-17 Thunder fighter jet. A recent Pew Research Centre surveying the public opinion shows that 84 percent of the Pakistani people held a positive view about China, compared to 16 percent for the USA.

Lastly, the development of Gwadar port, as a part of the CPEC project, along with the development of Special Economic Zones and Gwadar Oil Terminal City is a step in the same direction where China can ensure that she can counter China's containment policy of the USA.

In addition to the alternative energy supply route, Gwadar can also provide China with a crucial naval presence in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf if and when China decides to project military power in this region so that uninterrupted energy supply for its industrial base is ensured.

CPEC thus can safeguard China's regional as well as global interests by providing a land route that can guarantee China's energy and trading needs are met, even if the access to the South China Sea is blocked by rival powers.

—U.K. Dar is a freelance columnist based in Manchester, UK

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-containment-of-china-by-u-k-dar/>

August 19, 2021

Business Recorder

China, Pakistan appear to be on the same page

ZULFIQAR AHMAD

ISLAMABAD: While stressing the need for an all-inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said on Wednesday that he would be visiting some

other countries to develop a regional consensus on the evolving situation in the neighbouring country.

He stated this while talking to his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi who telephoned him to discuss the Afghan situation in the backdrop of Taliban takeover.

A statement issued by Foreign Office said that Qureshi shared the details of his upcoming visits with Wang, adding that both the foreign ministers agreed to remain in contact on shared interests, particularly the Afghanistan situation.

The exchange between the foreign ministers comes after China said it is ready to deepen friendly and cooperative relations with Afghanistan following the country's takeover by Taliban. Qureshi underlined that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan is of critical importance for Pakistan and the region, adding that "in this perspective, Pakistan has assiduously supported the Afghan peace process".

"Pakistan and China as part of Troika Plus have made valuable contribution to these efforts," he added.

The foreign minister said that in the given situation, it is extremely important to ensure safety and security as well as protection of rights of the Afghan people.

He said that it is equally important for the international community to remain engaged in support of the Afghan people, adding that the international community must also have sustained economic engagement with Afghanistan.

Qureshi apprised Foreign Minister Wang of Pakistan's efforts to facilitate the evacuation of personnel and staff of diplomatic missions, international organizations, media and others from Afghanistan.

The minister said that Pakistan and China are 'iron brothers' and strategic partners. The two countries have the tradition of maintaining close coordination and communication on issues of common interest and significance, he added. Both the foreign ministers agreed to remain in close contact to promote the shared objectives.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/19/1-page/897523-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan moves to build 'regional consensus' on Afghan situation

Federal Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Wednesday informed his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, that he would be making visits to other countries to develop a 'regional consensus on the evolving situation in Afghanistan'.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi called Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and exchanged views on the evolving situation in Afghanistan. During the telephonic conversation, Foreign Minister Qureshi underlined that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was of critical importance for Pakistan and the region. In this perspective, he said, Pakistan had assiduously

supported the Afghan peace process, the Foreign Office said. Pakistan and China, as part of Troika Plus, had made valuable contribution to these efforts.

Qureshi said in the given situation, it was extremely important to ensure safety and security as well as protection of rights of the Afghan people. He stressed that an inclusive political settlement was essential, for which all Afghans should work together.

Qureshi said that it was equally important for the international community to remain engaged in support of the Afghan people. He emphasized that the international community must also have sustained economic engagement with Afghanistan.

He apprised Foreign Minister Wang Yi of Pakistan's efforts to facilitate the evacuation of personnel and staff of diplomatic missions, international organizations, media and others from Afghanistan.

Qureshi said Pakistan and China were 'iron brothers' and strategic partners. The two countries had the tradition of maintaining close coordination and communication on issues of common interest and significance, he added.

Meanwhile, Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Wednesday said that on the directives of Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan has offered a special package of transit visa to Afghan diplomats and high officials on their arrival at Islamabad.

Addressing a press conference here at the ministry, he said that the government has decided to remain open all Pakistani airports round-the-clock for foreign diplomats, journalists, and high officials of IMF, World Bank etc who are coming from Kabul. Immigration department, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and other concerned staff were available on airports to facilitate them, he said.

Rejecting the false propaganda of Indian media regarding the situation on Torkham and Chaman borders, he made it clear that there were no Afghan immigrants present over there. "The situation on these two borders reportedly remained peaceful. The route was clear for trade and transit," the minister maintained.

Sheikh Rasheed, however, said the personnel of civil armed forces, law enforcement agencies and the government officials were on high alert. However, everything was under control on borders.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/806194/pakistan-moves-to-build-regional-consensus-on-afghan-situation/>

The Sino-US Rivalry: Pakistan's Predicament — II

M Alam Brohi

Pakistan, wittingly or unwittingly, is caught in the crosshair of the rivalry between the two great powers of the world, which would test the diplomatic skills of our foreign and security policy mandarins. Diplomacy without military prowess and economic strength does not yield desired

results. Economic stability is the foremost pre-requisite for a country's success in carving out a safe and secure strategic place for itself at the global level. Within the intensifying Sino-American competition, we need to review the prototype of our bilateral relations with both the competing powers, revisiting the challenges and opportunities we had in the past, and what the coming years hold in store for us.

Pakistan's relations with the USA had always been transactional, subject to ebb and flow and mostly driven by the American interests and priorities. The bitter fact is that the US never treated Pakistan at par with India even when the latter was in the Soviet Union's tight embrace. We had many disappointments. Notwithstanding the past setbacks, we could never resist any inducement to return to the US stables when occasioned by a cataclysmic event. Today, India has been elevated to a higher pedestal as a trusted ally to countervail China. Much water has passed under the bridge. Pakistan will have no privileged relationship as in the past with the US in the evolving global power politics. The world has long past the Cold war era.

Conversely, the dependability of China's friendship with Pakistan, despite our weaknesses or aberrations in policy and practice needs no elaboration. Much before its withdrawal from Afghanistan, the US lowered Pakistan in its foreign policy priorities leaving it with the only option of moving closer to China with which we have already had a multi-faceted relationship including an advantageous partnership in the CPEC and understanding on peace process in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, Pakistan, too, partially succeeded to mend its relations with Russia. However, all this did not deter Pakistan to engage the US for recalibrating relations between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect seeking trade and investment and convergence on the issues of international concern without any compromise on its rounded relationship with China. This engagement continues unabated.

Pakistan, today, has a much deeper political, economic and strategic relationship with China, which is a thorn in the body of India and the US-led West.

Nevertheless, we should be well prepared for the American pressure, which will be brought to bear on our foreign policy options when the rivalry between the two powers intensifies in the coming decades. The Americans would very much like to undermine our old and trusted friendship with China by targeting BRI, in general and the CPEC, in particular. India is hell bent to fail CPEC. President Donald Trump's senior officials supported India's stance on CPEC. Stepping up its pressure, the US can possibly squeeze Pakistan through international financial institutions and FATF. This would pose a formidable challenge. Our chronic dependence on the IMF, World Bank and Asian Development Bank for loans and aid could be our Achilles' heel.

We have withstood American pressures in the past. But those pressures had a different background and intensity. The Chinese leaders understand our vulnerability to external pressures on many counts. Pakistan, today, has a much deeper political, economic and strategic relationship with China, which is a thorn in the body of India and the US-led West. For economic connectivity with South West and Central Asia, Pakistan and China have evolved a

mutually supportive policy on peace and stability in these regions. Peace and stability in Afghanistan is the key to economic integration of these regions and Middle East.

Foreign policy of a country cannot be divested from its internal situation. Our vulnerabilities to external as well as internal pressures are monumental. Pakistan is a medium country with strong military and nuclear assets but a chronically weak and unstable economy. It is overburdened with foreign loans. The federation is not homogenous and suffers from political, economic, ideological and cultural fault lines with small provinces chronically resenting the injustice meted out to them in the distribution of state resources. The elite have completely captured state resources. Corrupt oligarchies have taken hold of the country. Corruption is endemic. Almost 60% of our population is deprived of its constitutional right to education, healthcare, livelihood, security of life and honour.

The population of the hewers of wood and drawers of water is on the rise. The economic structural and stabilizing reforms have been long overdue and cannot be further delayed. We have to reset our economic priorities rationalizing our revenues and expenditures and reducing dependence on foreign loans and financial aid. The IMF has been chronically entrenched in our economic and financial affairs controlling our budgets, prices of the utilities, tariffs, taxes, salaries and pensions. This is too much for a self-respecting nation.

The chronic tug of war between the main institutions of the country for more power and space has critically undermined constitutional democracy and governance. We have to address this anomaly forthwith along with other pressing political, federal and ideological fault lines and economic woes to rise as a nation to be reckoned with. Our immediate concerns should be the insurgency in Balochistan; the increasing militancy of religious outfits, parochialism and ethnic divide in Sindh. These problems look daunting but are not insurmountable.

The CPEC is termed as the linchpin of BRI – a game changer and harbinger of prosperity in South Asia and beyond. Simultaneously, it is viewed as a fissiparous project heightening domestic rivalries for a bigger piece of the cake, and generating regional and international controversies over the passages of the corridor through territories disputed by certain states. It is also increasingly looked at as an extension of the new economic Great Game being played out in the neighbouring Central Asian region between the world powers and the regional countries including USA, China, Russia, Pakistan, India, Iran and Turkey. All these views about the CPEC have some merit, and need to be examined properly.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/806078/the-sino-us-rivalry-pakistans-predicament-ii/>

Pakistan can benefit from China's medical tourism industry

Medical tourism is that people take a trip to other countries to get good health facilities. There is a need for this thing between Pakistan and China," said Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, president of China Pakistan Medical Association (CPMA), according to Gwadar Pro.

“In my opinion, Pakistan patients should reach China for treatment, the quantity now is too little. Due to Covid-19, there are too many visa issues, and flights are not coming, a lot of difficulties are there.”

“I did my master’s degree and Ph.D. in China. In the last 15 years, I have seen that a lot of work has been done in China to enhance the technology of artificial intelligence, big data, augmented and virtual reality, and telemedicine. Top-class universities and hospitals in China are included in the list of the world’s top 500 universities and hospitals. Pakistan medical technology has not progressed to this extent, while our population has crossed more than 21 crores. In this regard, there is a dire need of medical cooperation between Pakistan and China.” “Since China did not have much medical contact with the outside world, foreign patients don’t know China’s real medical level. This is also why in the global medical tourism industry which is worth USD 700 billion, the market occupied by China is 0,” said Li Dinggang, executive president of medicine of Beijing Lu Daopei Hematology Hospital. Shahbaz also agreed that one reason for the little number of Pakistan patients who come to China for treatment is that China does not market itself enough. “Except for the language barrier, one problem is that we do not have a platform to develop a connection between nations and related institutions. There is also a shortage of awareness and medical knowledge.” Shahbaz suggested that a platform that provides medical knowledge to other countries should be established and information about which kind of diseases can be treated in China should also be provided by them.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/806116/pakistan-can-benefit-from-chinas-medical-tourism-industry/>

Dunya News

NBP to participate in China International Fair for Trade-in-Service 2021

BEIJING (Web Desk) – The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) will participate in the 8th China International Fair for Trade-in-Services (CIFTIS) 2021, scheduled to be held from September 2nd to 7th in Beijing. Accounting Society for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade of China (ASFETC), an affiliate of Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China will host the 2021 International Forum on Financial Innovation and Cooperation with the theme of “Innovating Financial Services and Boosting Economic and Trade Development”.

<https://dunyaews.tv/en/Business/615664-NBP-to-participate-in-China-International-Fair-for-Trade-in-Service-2021>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan can benefit from agricultural research in Ningxia

“The world can benefit from the agricultural research work being done in Ningxia”, commended Dr. Muhammad Ali Talpur, an economist at the Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR), in his message to the fifth China-Arab States Expo.

According to a report published by China Economic Net, the expo will be physically unveiled on Thursday in Ningxia Hui autonomous region, a sister province of Punjab, in northwestern China.

Impressed by the modern agriculture of Yinchuan, Ningxia's capital city, during his visit to the city for the fourth Expo, he anticipates fruitful results from this year's expo, which will be held both offline and online amid the pandemic.

“It is a great forum to share the experience and expand cooperation in the agricultural sector for the betterment of the people in China, Arab, Pakistan, and the rest of the world”.

Apart from a conference featuring modern agriculture to be held on Aug 20th, the Expo also presents green food and smart agricultural technologies in its cloud exhibition, which has attracted thousands of companies worldwide.

Agricultural products in Ningxia, such as goji berry (wolfberry), organic vegetables, honey, milk, etc. have been increasingly popular in the international market. For instance, it is now exporting US\$ 60 million of goji annually to over 30 countries and regions.

“I never run out of goji”, said Kassem Tofailli, President of Arab Chinese Cooperation and Development Association (ACCDA) in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN), with goji right inside his cup. “In the winter, I always have Babao Tea (assorted Chinese herbal tea)”.

After establishing the agricultural technology transfer center between China and Arab countries, Ningxia has set up a sub-center in Pakistan, focusing on building the Islamabad Pavilion of Featured Agricultural Products of Ningxia and cross-border e-commerce service platform to display its high-quality agricultural products and advanced agricultural machinery and equipment.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-can-benefit-from-agricultural-research-in-ningxia/>

FESCO to complete 500 KW grid station for AIIC soon

Chairman Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq Wednesday, said that 500 kw grid station is being constructed on fast track basis on top priority at state of the art Allama Iqbal Industrial City, a mega project under CPEC.

Talking to a delegation of investors here he said he had held fruitful meeting with FESCO Chief Executive Bashir Ahmad who told that construction of grid is in full swing under the supervision of a team of highly qualified Pak engineers and hoped to accomplish this task well ahead of schedule.

He said progress of grid construction is being monitored on monthly basis to fully ensure quality of work and standards of construction.

Mian Kashif said GM Sui Northern Gas Pipeline (SNGPL) and his technical teams also held categorical assurance that sanctioned quota of gas will be made available at industrial city soon after execution of laying of pipes.

He said that as desired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, investors will be provided all facilities under one window operation including new connection of gas and electricity.

He said Prime Minister Imran Khan is himself taking personal interests for timely completion of this gigantic project of national importance which will help bring industrial revolution in city country mainly aimed at greater weal of down trodden and poor segments of the society besides ushering an era of prosperity and development.

FIEDMC Chief said PM Adviser on Commerce Razak Dawood and Minister Industries Punjab Mian Muhammad Aslam Iqbal have assured full support and cooperation to achieve the targets.

<https://pakobserver.net/fesco-to-complete-500-kw-grid-station-for-aiic-soon/>

GT Voice: Accusation against Huawei won't affect China-Pakistan economic cooperation

Accusation by a US-based contractor that Chinese tech giant Huawei had set up a “backdoor” to spy on Pakistanis has drawn growing attention with the political implications behind the scene.

California-based contractor Business Efficiency Solutions LLC (BES) filed a lawsuit in California district court accusing Huawei of not only stealing its technology, but also of creating a “backdoor” in a safe-cities surveillance project located in Pakistan’s second largest city of Lahore, The Wall Street Journal reported.

BES said in the lawsuit that Huawei required it to set up a system in China that gives Huawei access to sensitive information about citizens and government officials in Lahore, but Huawei claimed that the system in China was only a test version and it is “impossible for Huawei to extract data from the customer’s live network,” according to the WSJ report.

The US has long accused Huawei of installing backdoors in its systems, but Huawei always denied the allegations, citing the absence of any evidence of Huawei using backdoors to spy on other countries.

The lawsuit this time may represent a rare example that involves specific project and companies when it comes to the backdoor allegation.

However, given the complicated geopolitical background, it is hard to tell whether the allegations raised by BES are based on business disputes or whether they have an ulterior motive.

It should be noted that Huawei and BES also sued each other in Pakistan, and BES is reportedly no longer operational and has no revenue.

Many have stated that it appears unusual that Pakistan is involved in the lawsuit. Over the past seven decades, China and Pakistan have formed a strong and close relationship, which saw strategic partnership and cooperation flourish in almost every field.

Pakistan is one of the most active participants in the Belt and Road Initiative, and there are multiple areas of economic cooperation and development projects between China and Pakistan. Pakistan is also one of the markets where Huawei enjoys the fastest development.

Huawei's software and systems are widely used in countries around the world. With the launch of the Harmony system, it is expected that there will be more and more countries choosing Huawei software and systems.

Whether Huawei wins the lawsuit or not, the accusations may not only affect Huawei's global business but also be used to drive a wedge between China and Pakistan.

Such calculations may help answer the question as to whether there was any political motivation behind the lawsuit.

Yet, we believe that high levels of mutual trust between China and Pakistan will be sufficient to allow bilateral economic cooperation to withstand the impact of groundless accusations.

Some US or Western companies vying to access the South Asian market have been envious of China's long-term economic cooperation with Pakistan.

Nevertheless, it is important to note that their cooperation projects don't reject the participation of companies from other countries. But the precondition is that they have the willingness to cooperation instead of smearing and squeezing Chinese companies out through improper means.

<https://pakobserver.net/gt-voice-accusation-against-huawei-wont-affect-china-pakistan-economic-cooperation/>

The Nation

Need stressed to promote Pak-China medical tourism

ISLAMABAD - As cooperation between Pakistan and China in multiple sectors is rapidly increasing, there is also a dire need to tap the potential of medical tourism between the two 'iron brothers', said President of China Pakistan Medical Association (CPMA) Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz yesterday. "In my opinion, Pakistan patients should reach China for treatment, the quantity now is too little. Due to Covid-19, there are too many visa issues, and flights are not coming, a lot of difficulties are there," Gwadar Pro quoted him as having said this.

He said that he has witnessed that a lot of work has been done in China to enhance the technology of artificial intelligence, big data, augmented and virtual reality, and telemedicine.

Top-class universities and hospitals in China are included in the list of the world's top 500 universities and hospitals. Pakistan medical technology has not progressed to this extent, while our population has crossed more than 220 million. In this regard, there is a dire need of medical

cooperation between Pakistan and China. “Since China did not have much medical contact with the outside world, foreign patients don’t know China’s real medical level.” This is also why in the global medical tourism industry which is worth \$700 billion, the market occupied by China is zero,” said Li Dinggang, Executive President of Medicine of Beijing Lu Daopei Hematology Hospital.

“Except for the language barrier, one problem is that we do not have a platform to develop a connection between nations and related institutions. There is also a shortage of awareness and medical knowledge,” said the CPMA president. He suggested that a platform that provides medical knowledge to other countries should be established and information about which kind of diseases can be treated in China should also be provided by them.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-19/page-3/detail-7>

August 20, 2021

Express News

گواہر میں چینی شہریوں کے قافلے کے قریب خودکش حملہ، چینی شہری زخمی

دو بچے جاں بحق ہو گئے جب کہ دو بچے اور ایک چینی شہری زخمی ہو گیا۔ گواہر میں چینی شہریوں کے قافلے کے قریب خودکش حملے کے باعث وزارت داخلہ نے دھماکے کی تصدیق کرتے ہوئے بتایا ہے کہ گواہر میں ایسٹ بے ایکسپریس وے پر پاکستان آرمی اور پولیس کے دستوں کی مربوط سکیورٹی کے ہمراہ چار گاڑیوں پر مشتمل چینی شہریوں کے قافلے کو نشانہ بنایا گیا، واقعہ فشر میں کالونی کے قریب کوسٹل روڈ پر پیش آیا۔ وزارت داخلہ کا کہنا ہے کہ چینی شہریوں کی گاڑیوں کا قافلہ جب فشر میں کالونی کے قریب پہنچا تو ایک نوجوان کالونی سے باہر بھاگا ہوا آیا، خوش قسمتی سے سادہ لباس میں پاکستان آرمی کے جوانوں نے اسے روکنے کی کوشش کی جس نے قافلے سے 15 سے 20 میٹر کے فاصلے پر خود کو دھماکا خیز مواد سے اڑا دیا۔

وزارت داخلہ کے مطابق دھماکے سے ایک چینی شہری زخمی ہو جبکہ جانے وقوع پر کھینے والے دو بچے جاں بحق اور دو شدید زخمی ہو گئے، جاں بحق افراد اور زخمیوں کو اسپتال منتقل کر دیا گیا۔ اس حوالے سے وزیر اطلاعات چوہدری نواز حسین نے اپنے ٹویٹ میں کہا ہے کہ گواہر حملہ چین اور پاکستان کی عظیم قیادت کے معاشی وژن کے خلاف تخریب کاری کا ایک اور کھیل ہے، دشمن ہمارے عزم کو کمزور نہیں کر سکتا، ہم مجرموں کو انصاف کے کٹہرے میں لانے کی کوئی کسر نہیں چھوڑیں گے

<https://www.express.pk/story/2215366/1/>

August 21, 2021

Business Recorder

Afghan Affairs

Chinese envoy meets Foreign Secretary

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Special Envoy for Afghan Affairs Ambassador Yue Xiaoyong, on Friday, met Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and exchanged views on the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

According to a statement of the Foreign Office, the two sides reviewed the latest situation in Afghanistan during the meeting.

The Foreign Secretary shared Pakistan's perspective, stressing the importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan for Pakistan and the region.

He added that, in the given situation, safety, security and protection of rights of Afghans as well as stability and an inclusive political settlement were of critical importance. The Foreign Secretary underlined that the current situation necessitated sustained international engagement with Afghanistan, including humanitarian assistance and economic sustenance.

The Foreign Secretary also highlighted Pakistan's support for the evacuation of diplomatic and international organisations personnel, the media and others from Afghanistan. The two sides agreed to maintain close coordination and communication.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/21/2-page/897655-news.html>

Daily Times

Two children killed in another suicide attack on Chinese

At least two children were killed in a 'suicide attack' targeting a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Gwadar district on Friday.

Three people, including the car's driver, were also injured when a suicide bomber blew himself near the vehicle. The blast took place shortly after 7pm in Baloch Ward near Gwadar's Eastbay Expressway.

"On Friday the evening, in a cowardly attack, a convoy of Chinese nationals comprising four Chinese vehicles with integral security details of Pakistan Army and police contingent was targeted on East Bay Expressway in Gwadar," an interior ministry official said. "The attack took place along the coastal road near a fishermen colony. A young boy ran out of the colony once the convoy reached there to target Chinese vehicles. Fortunately, soldiers of Pakistan Army in plain clothes employed as hang around security rushed to intercept the boy, who immediately, exploded himself about 15-20 meters away from the convoy," the official said. "Resultantly, a Chinese national got injured. He is stable and has been evacuated to nearest Gwadar Hospital," he added.

"Unfortunately, two innocent children playing nearby the incident site lost their precious lives while another two children received critical injuries in the heinous act. They have been evacuated to the hospital," the interior ministry official said.

"Both Pakistan and China recognise the threats posed to their cooperation and collaboration towards growth and development of their communities under the evolving regional environment. Cognizant of hostile designs, Government of Pakistan is already undertaking a comprehensive review of security of Chinese brothers and is committed to ensuring their safe stay in Pakistan in this journey of progress. We reaffirm our Chinese brothers our wholehearted endeavours to deal

with these threats comprehensively,” the interior ministry said. “In this hour of distress, while we are saddened by injury to our Chinese brother and loss of innocent Pakistani children, both countries stand together firmly in defeating the inimical acts aiming to undermine our cooperation and friendship,” the ministry added.

Meanwhile, Balochistan government spokesperson Liaquat Shahwani tweeted, “Strongly condemn suicide attack on Chinese nationals’ vehicle in Gwadar.” He said two children playing nearby had died in the explosion, while one Chinese national sustained minor injuries. The Gwadar police control room earlier said three children had been injured in the incident. The injured were shifted to GDA Hospital in Gwadar.

Shahwani said police and Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) teams were at the crime scene, and an investigation into the incident had been launched. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/806426/two-children-killed-in-another-suicide-attack-on-chinese/>

Pakistan, China enhance coordination on Afghanistan

China and Pakistan are enhancing communication and coordination on Afghan issues as two important neighbors of Afghanistan, and expect to play constructive roles in maintaining regional peace and stability, which has triggered India’s anxiety.

India has been unwilling to make a U-turn in its policies after a prolonged hostility toward the Afghan Taliban. China and Pakistan share similar stances and interests on the Afghan issues, hoping Afghanistan can restore stability soon and set up an inclusive political structure that is broadly representative, Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, told the Global Times on Thursday, noting China and Pakistan also hope the Taliban-led government will fulfill pledges of cracking down on terrorism and embark on reconstruction.

The all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between China and Pakistan enabled the two countries to act in coordination on the Afghan situation, bringing about positive changes to the region, Qian said.

The changing Afghan situation triggered anxiety from India, which had followed the US closely and cooperated in depth with the Kabul government and has long been hostile to the Taliban.

Taliban spokesperson Muhammed Suhail Shaheen told media earlier that if India comes to Afghanistan militarily and has presence there, that will not be good for them. But he also appreciated India’s financial and infrastructure aid that has helped the Afghan people.

India’s past strategy has pushed itself into embarrassment. It cannot make a U-turn in its Afghan policies, neither can it cast aside geopolitical influence of the US and its Western allies, Qian said.

Lan Jianxue, head of the Department for Asia-Pacific Studies at China Institute of International Studies, noted India was a chess piece of US strategy in the region but lacking diplomatic independence to some extent jeopardized India from keeping influence in the region.

There are barriers for India to cooperate with other regional countries, Lan said.

The US, Russia, China and Pakistan are four countries that have stronger influence on Afghan issues and they have a mechanism to push forward peaceful transition, the Troika Plus. •

Given the tense relations between Pakistan and India, the major powers will be cautious to have India get involved in the Afghan issue, Lan said.

Both Qian and Lan mentioned India has been adjusting its policies and restoring contact with the Taliban.

If the new Afghan government can guarantee India's interests in Afghanistan, New Delhi may continue to play a certain role on Afghan reconstruction and economic development, Lan said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/806362/pakistan-china-enhance-coordination-on-afghanistan/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC SEZs open for third countries as well

The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are not just limited to Chinese enterprises and all industrial ventures are open for participation by the third countries as well, said Board of Investment (BOI) Secretary Fareena Mazhar.

Speaking virtually at the Belt and Road Investment Promotion Conference held at Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China on Friday, she welcomed the high quality investment in Pakistan aimed at enhancing business-to-business and person-to-person cooperation.

“Since the launch of CPEC, China has emerged as the largest investor in Pakistan with investment inflows of \$8 billion and outsourcing of \$2.1 billion, contributing 36% to the net investment in Pakistan,” she told the conference participants.

Capitalising on the opportunity, she highlighted the incentives offered by Pakistan to the international investors such as one-time customs duty exemption and 10-year income tax holiday for both the SEZ developers and enterprises.

Online portals developed by the BOI in collaboration with the China Council for International Investment Promotion were also available to facilitate the SEZ investors, she said.

Predicting the strongest post-recession recovery in 80 years and estimating global expansion of 5.6% in 2021, she said that a world of opportunities had opened up, setting the fundamentals of industrial and business-to-business cooperation.

Under the theme of “Opportunities, Future, Sustainability”, the event participants witnessed the signing of multiple contracts.

Ningxia Communications Construction Company signed an agreement valuing at around \$43 million with Nauman Construction Company of Pakistan for highway construction including a cross-railway bridge till Multan.

Construction was expected to start shortly and conclude in about two years, company staff told the China Economic Net (CEN).

Hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the government of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, the conference was aimed at promoting joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative and two-way investment for sustainable development.

The conference was part of the fifth China-Arab States Expo inaugurated in Ningxia on Friday.

The event was attended by Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Qian Keming, Vice President of Export-Import Bank of China Sun Ping, China Centre for International Economic Exchanges chief researcher Zhang Yansheng and officials from the China International Contractors Association.

Moreover, representatives of China Communications Construction Group, KPMG and senior guests from Egypt and the UAE were also present on the occasion.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2316471/cpec-sezs-open-for-third-countries-as-well>

Attack in Gwadar

In yet another attack, Chinese nationals in Pakistan were targeted in what seems to be a bizarre attempt to derail the path of progress and stability. Friday's attack in Gwadar should be taken more seriously as it was reportedly carried out by a suicide bomber. A minor rammed into a vehicle carrying Chinese workers. This suicide activity points out at deep-rooted fissures. Nonetheless, in a heroic effort security personnel present on the spot did all in their capacity to limit damage, and thwarted a major tragedy. Two children died on the spot and three others, including a Chinese citizen, were injured.

This is the second such attack in almost a month apparently on Chinese nationals engaged in various CPEC projects countrywide. The previous one was on Dasu Hydropower Project in the remote Kohistan district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. What makes Friday's act dare-devil is that a security convoy of the Pakistan Army accompanying the Chinese was targeted. This hints at not only formal planning on the part of vested interests, but also a mindset prevalent to sabotage Pakistan-China cordiality and cooperation. But the credit goes to the visionary Chinese leadership who always looks at the bigger picture of regional development, and moves on with resilience. This is what makes this understanding an all-weather friendship.

While CPEC is nearing completion and there is a change of guard in Afghanistan, Pakistan will have to raise its vigil. There are non-state actors, as well as foreign-funded elements in political disguise, whose one-point agenda is to indulge in sabotage activities and unwind the gigantic

development that Pakistan is witnessing under Chinese auspices. A glance at all such cowardly attacks carried out on Chinese assets were meant to stall the pace of development.

At the same, the security blanket seems to be unsatisfactory as there are certainly loopholes in it. This is why terror remnants are at their free will to choose their targets. The recent hurling of a grenade on a family truck, and gunmen who shot a Chinese engineer who had just arrived in Karachi; the motorcycle bomb blast in Quetta; and the audacity of anyone to lay siege to the federal capital hint at ensuing unrest. Take them out with smart intelligence gathering.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2316619/attack-in-gwadar>

Timely establishment of SEZs urged

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is vital for Pakistan and the government should provide maximum facilities to local and foreign investors under the project, said Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan.

Speaking as a chief guest at the Bahria University on Friday, he said that investor facilitation would help tap complete investment potential under CPEC which, in turn, would lift the economy of Pakistan.

He was addressing the students at the conclusion of summer school, which focused on CPEC.

“The government has to establish nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC in the first phase and the zones should be established well in time so that the economy can reap the benefits and grow,” he said.

He urged the government to ensure that 50% share in investment and joint ventures under CPEC was given to local investors and 90% of employment opportunities were provided to Pakistani human resources.

He underlined the need for technology transfer for the benefit of the economy.

Khan also highlighted the avenues to be tapped by Pakistan under CPEC in the short and long term in a bid to improve the country’s economy.

He appreciated the efforts of Bahria University for organising the summer school for its students and assured the varsity that the ICCI would offer the required assistance for holding such events in future.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2316479/timely-establishment-of-sezs-urged>

The Nation

Pakistan can tap China’s expertise on traditional medicines: Dr. Atta

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan can make best use of traditional medicines through cooperation with China, said Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, Chairman of Prime Minister’s Task Force on Science and Technology.

According to a report by CEN, Dr Atta currently China has many herbal and traditional drugs that are used alongside the western medicine. Pakistan have to work on similar lines to develop our homeopathic medications, carrying out research in an organized way to certify all the herbs that have medical benefits based on science and then promote them, he added. In this effort, Dr. Rahman contributed to the cooperation between Hunan University of Chinese Medicine and the University of Karachi in Pakistan on the establishment of the Sino-Pakistan TCM Research Centre in 2013.

“We have been carrying out clinical trials on many herbal drugs from both Pakistan and China.”

One of the researches we are doing now at the centre is to examine herbs that are active against Corona Virus,” said Dr. Atta.

For diseases, like malaria, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and heart disease, we refer to the TCM certification procedures to test the herbs and see which herbs are beneficial against them.

In Pakistan, traditional medicines have been a strong part of its cultural heritage and play a significant role in providing health care to a large part of the population. Based on diversified medicinal plants distributed in various climatic zones in Pakistan, three developed systems of medication, Tibb-e-Unani, Ayurveda, and Homoeopathy, are applied in different areas of the country.

Among more than 6000 plant species inhabiting the vast land of Pakistan, approximately 600-700 species are significant from a medicinal point of view.

These medicines in Pakistan are treasures as they contain many important compounds applied in modern medicine, he maintained.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-21/page-10/detail-1>

Express News

چین کا پاکستان سے موثر سیکورٹی اقدامات کا مطالبہ

چینی سفارت خانے نے پاکستان میں متعلقہ محکموں سے حفاظتی اقدامات اور سیکورٹی تعاون کو بہتر بنانے کے لیے عملی اور موثر اقدامات اٹھانے کا مطالبہ کیا ہے۔

اسلام آباد میں چین کے سفارت خانے کی جانب سے جاری بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ گزشتہ رات گوادریکسپرس وے منصوبے پر چینی عملے کے قافلے پر خود کش حملہ کیا گیا جس میں ایک چینی زخمی، دو مقامی بچے جاں بحق اور کئی زخمی ہوئے۔ واقعے کے فوری بعد پاکستانی حکام نے زخمیوں کو علاج کے لیے قریبی اسپتال منتقل کیا۔ چینی سفارت خانہ دہشتگردی کے اس واقعے کی سختی سے مذمت اور واقعے میں دونوں ملکوں سے تعلق رکھنے والے زخمیوں سے ہمدردی کا اظہار کرتا ہے۔

چینی سفارت خانے نے پاکستان سے مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ زخمیوں کا علاج کیا جائے، حملے کی مکمل تحقیقات کی جائیں اور مجرموں کو سخت سزا دی جائے۔ اس کے ساتھ ہی پاکستان میں ہر سطح پر متعلقہ محکموں کو حفاظتی اقدامات اور سیکورٹی تعاون کے طریقہ کار کو بہتر بنانے کے لیے عملی اور موثر اقدامات کرنے ہوں گے تاکہ اس طرح کے واقعات دوبارہ نہ ہوں، پاکستان میں سیکورٹی کی صورت حال انتہائی خراب ہوئی ہے۔ پے در پے کئی دہشت گرد حملوں کے نتیجے میں کئی چینی شہریوں کی جانیں ضائع ہوئیں۔

چینی سفارت خانے نے پاکستان میں موجود تمام چینی شہریوں کو ہدایت کی ہے کہ وہ چوکس رہیں، حفاظتی احتیاطی تدابیر مزید سخت کریں، غیر ضروری طور پر باہر جانا کم کریں اور سیکورٹی کے موثر اقدامات کریں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2215549/1/>

Jang News

گوادر میں ہونے والا واقعہ قابل مذمت ہے، وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان

وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان جام کمال خان نے کہا ہے کہ گوادر میں ہونے والا واقعہ قابل مذمت ہے، امن و امان کی بہترین کے لیے موثر اقدامات کیے جا رہے ہیں۔

ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے آل پارٹیز اور عماندین شہر کے اجلاس کے دوران گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا۔

اس موقع پر وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نے زور دیا کہ گوادر کی بہتری کے لیے آل پارٹیز اور عماندین حکومت کے ساتھ کردار ادا کریں۔

گوادر واقعے پر بات کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ گوادر میں ہونے والا واقعہ افسوس ناک اور قابل مذمت ہے، امن و امان کی بہتری کے لیے موثر اقدامات کیے جا رہے ہیں۔

جام کمال خان کا کہنا تھا کہ گوادر کی ترقی و فاقی اور صوبائی حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔

وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان نے بتایا کہ گوادر کے لیے اربوں روپے کے 104 ترقیاتی منصوبے بھی شامل کیے ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/973344>

August 22, 2021

Daily Times

DO MORE

China on Saturday asked Pakistan to severely punish the perpetrators of Gwadar suicide attack and take 'practical steps' to ensure such incidents do not occur again.

"On August 20, at the Gwadar East Bay Expressway project in Balochistan, a motorcade carrying Chinese personnel was attacked by a suicide bomber. One Chinese was injured, two local children were killed and several others were injured. After the incident, the Pakistani side sent the wounded to the hospital in Gwadar for treatment," a statement issued by the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad on Saturday read.

"The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan strongly condemns this act of terrorism, extends its sincere sympathies to the injured of both countries, and expresses its deep condolences to the innocent victims in Pakistan," the statement said. "The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan launched the emergency plan immediately, demanding Pakistan to properly treat the wounded, conduct a thorough investigation on the attack, and severely punish the perpetrators," it further said. "At the same time, relevant departments at all levels in Pakistan must take practical and effective

measures to accelerate to implement strengthened whole-process security measures and upgraded security cooperation mechanism to ensure that similar incidents will not happen again,” it added.

“Recently, the security situation in Pakistan has been severe. There have been several terrorist attacks in succession, resulting in the casualties of several Chinese citizens,” the embassy statement read. “The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan reminds the Chinese citizens in Pakistan to be vigilant, strengthen safety precautions, reduce unnecessary outings, and take effective security protections,” it concluded.

At least three people were killed in a ‘suicide attack’ targeting a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Gwadar district on Friday. Three people, including the car’s driver, were also injured when a suicide bomber blew himself near the vehicle. The blast took place shortly after 7pm in Baloch Ward near Gwadar’s Eastbay Expressway.

“On Friday the evening, in a cowardly attack, a convoy of Chinese nationals comprising four Chinese vehicles with integral security details of Pakistan Army and police contingent was targeted on East Bay Expressway in Gwadar,” an interior ministry official had said after the incident. “The attack took place along the coastal road near a fishermen colony. A young boy ran out of the colony once the convoy reached there to target Chinese vehicles. Fortunately, soldiers of Pakistan Army in plain clothes employed as hang around security rushed to intercept the boy, who immediately, exploded himself about 15-20 meters away from the convoy,” the official said. “Resultantly, a Chinese national got injured. He is stable and has been evacuated to nearest Gwadar Hospital,” he had added.

Both Pakistan and China recognise the threats posed to their cooperation and collaboration towards growth and development of their communities under the evolving regional environment. Cognizant of hostile designs, Government of Pakistan is already undertaking a comprehensive review of security of Chinese brothers and is committed to ensuring their safe stay in Pakistan in this journey of progress. We reaffirm our Chinese brothers our wholehearted endeavours to deal with these threats comprehensively,” the interior ministry said. “In this hour of distress, while we are saddened by injury to our Chinese brother and loss of innocent Pakistani children, both countries stand together firmly in defeating the inimical acts aiming to undermine our cooperation and friendship,” the ministry had added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/806761/do-more-3/>

Pakistan’s banking sector to participate in China trade fair

Pakistan Banking sector will participate in the 8th China International Fair for Trade-in-Services 2021, scheduled to be held from September 2nd to 7th in Beijing.

Talking to China Economic Net, Shaikh Muhammad Shariq, Chief Representative, National Bank of Pakistan, Beijing, said that, during the fair, the Accounting Society for Foreign Economic Relations & Trade of China (ASFETC), an affiliate of Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China, will host the 2021 International Forum on Financial Innovation and

Cooperation with the theme of “Innovating Financial Services and Boosting Economic and Trade Development”.

At the fair, he will be presenting about the status of financial technology in Pakistan, and the opportunities of cooperation available between the Chinese & Pakistani financial and information & digital technology companies. He added, the NBP is actively working in promoting digital technology in Pakistan and has signed cooperation agreement with Union Pay to provide settlement services to the bank.

“Since the China & Pakistan are working on finalizing the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor in which, cooperation in the field of digital technology is one of the most important component. The Government of Pakistan is also promoting IT & digital finance sector under Digital Pakistan initiative and offering attractive incentives and packages to promote this sector”, he stated

Shariq said that the NBP is participating in CIFTIS from the last many years, and facilitated Chinese companies interested in expanding business in Pakistan. He observed that the interest of participants in one of largest exhibition in China is increasing with every passing year, which shows that the fair has achieved significant results.

He mentioned that advanced digital technology such as AI, CLOUD computing, BIG DATA and its utilization on finance, current status of digital currency as well as future development of its promotion may be expected during participation in relevant events. Adding that concerned technologies may be promoted to Pakistani counter-part for its detailed study and future collaboration with Chinese banking sector. “CIFTIS is the first comprehensive fair for trade in services in the world. China has very advanced technology and well established technology infrastructure, and Pakistan’s IT exports crossed USD 2 billion for the first time in the history and one of the major IT free lacing service provider in the world, with big market of more than 220 million, therefore the cooperation between the two countries will result in win-win situation for both the brotherly countries”, Shariq mentioned.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/806676/pakistans-banking-sector-to-participate-in-china-trade-fair/>

Two million doses of Sinovac flown in from China

Two million more doses of China’s Sinovac vaccine reached Pakistan on Saturday, according to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). “Another consignment of 2 Million doses of #SinoVac Vaccine arrived in Pakistan on 21 Aug 21,” a spokesperson for the NDMA tweeted Sources told a private news channel that the vaccine arrived in Islamabad on board a Pakistan International Airport (PIA) flight and has been shifted to an EPI warehouse in the capital. They said two million more doses of the Chinese vaccine are expected to reach Islamabad tomorrow (Sunday). While the health authorities aim to procure as many as 30 million doses of different vaccines this month, 20 million of them have already been flown in.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/806678/two-million-doses-of-sinovac-flown-in-from-china/>

Dunya News

Pakistan committed to work with US, China & Russia to preserve gains made in Afghanistan: Asad

(Web Desk) - Pakistan is committed to work closely with United States, China and Russia to preserve the gains made in Afghanistan.

This was stated by Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Asad Majeed Khan in an interview with USA TODAY's Editorial Board in Washington.

The Pakistani Envoy said what we are hearing from the ground is that there has not been major violence so far, and it seems that Taliban have been receptive to the concerns of and listening to the international community in terms of the way they are conducting themselves.

Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan warned that the instability in Afghanistan could have deleterious consequences, which could certainly reach farther than Pakistan.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/616022-Pakistan-committed-work-US-China-Russia-preserve-Afghanistan-Asad-Majeed>

Express News

پاک چین باہمی تعاون و ترقی کو یرغمال نہیں ہونے دیں گے، وزیر داخلہ

وزیر داخلہ شیخ رشید کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے باہمی تعاون اور ترقی کو دہشت گردوں کے ہاتھوں یرغمال نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔

امیکیسٹریس نیوز کے مطابق پاکستان میں تعینات چین کے سفیر لونگ لونگ وزیر داخلہ شیخ رشید کی رہائشگاہ پہنچے اور ملاقات کی، شیخ رشید احمد نے چینی سفیر اور دیگر سفارتی عملے کو ظہرانہ بھی دیا۔

اس موقع پر وزیر داخلہ شیخ رشید کا کہنا تھا کہ چینی شہریوں اور پاکستان میں کام کرنے والی چینی کمپنیوں کی سکیورٹی کو مزید بہتر بنائیں گے، چینی شہریوں کی حفاظت کے لئے مشترکہ حکمت عملی ترتیب دے رہے ہیں، پاکستان اور چین کے باہمی تعاون اور ترقی کو دہشت گردوں کے ہاتھوں یرغمال نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔

وزیر داخلہ نے کہا کہ افغانستان میں تبدیل ہوتے حالات کے پیش نظر ہمارا خطہ اور زیادہ اہمیت اختیار کر چکا ہے، افغانستان میں پائیدار امن خطے کے ترقی اور دنیا کی سلامتی کے لئے اہم ہے، پاکستان افغان امن اور وہاں مستحکم حکومت کے لئے اپنا کردار ادا کرتا رہے گا، وزارت داخلہ افغانستان سے نکلنے والوں کو بھرپور معاونت دے رہی ہے۔

چینی سفیر کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان میں چینی کمپنیاں مختلف منصوبوں پر کام کر رہی ہیں، چینی شہریوں اور کمپنیوں کے لئے سکیورٹی پروٹوکول مزید سخت کیا جائے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2215937/1/>

K2 Daily

شہباز شریف کی چینی باشندوں کے قافلے پر حملے کی مذمت

پٹنہ شہریوں پر پے در پے حملے کے واقعات پر سمجیدگی سے غور کرنا ہوگا، شہباز شریف
 لاہور (آئی این پی) پاکستان مسلم لیگ (ن) کے صدر اور قائد حزب اختلاف چینی جانوں کے ضیاع بے حد افسوسناک ہے،
 شہباز شریف نے گواہ میں پٹنہ باشندوں کے ساتھ غامخوں سے دلی اہردی ہے۔ شہباز
 قافلے پر دہشت گرد حملے کی مذمت اور اظہارِ زشریف نے کہا کہ ہمیں پٹنہ شہری سمیت دیگر
 تشویش کیا ہے۔ ہندو مسلم لیگ (ن) کے صدر زشریفوں سے اہردی ہے، ہلدست پانی کی دعا
 اور قائد حزب اختلاف شہباز شریف گواہ کرتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ
 میں پٹنہ باشندوں کے قافلے پر دہشت گرد حملے کی بے دریغ واقعات پر سمجیدگی سے غور کرنا ہوگا۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=News&Date=2021-08-22

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی عملے کی گاڑیوں پر دوبارہ حملہ قابل تشویش، حکومت تحقیقات کرائے: شیریں رحمان

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) نائب صدر پیپلز پارٹی سینیٹر شیریں رحمان نے ٹویٹ میں کہا کہ بجلی کے زرخوں میں اضافے کے باوجود پاکستان کا گرجی قرضہ 2.28 ٹریلین روپے تک بڑھ گیا ہے، وجہ حکومت کی پچھلے 3 سالوں کی مسلسل بدانتظامی اور نااہلی ہے، جب تباہی سرکار حکومت میں آئی تو یہ 1.14 ٹریلین تھا، پی ٹی آئی حکومت نے دسمبر 2020 تک ملک کے گرجی قرضہ ختم کرنے کا دعویٰ کیا تھا۔ نائب صدر پیپلز پارٹی سینیٹر شیریں رحمان نے گواہ خود کش حملے کی شدید مذمت کی ہے، شیریں رحمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں مقیم چینی عملے سے بچھتی کا اظہار کرتے ہیں، چینی عملے کی گاڑیوں پر ایک اور حملہ قابل تشویش ہے، حکومت اس حملے کی مکمل تحقیقات کرائے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-22/page-8/detail-8>

August 23, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan pledges foolproof security to Chinese citizens

Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad on Sunday said that foolproof security will be ensured to Chinese citizens and companies functioning in Pakistan.

Sheikh Rasheed was speaking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong who visited him at his residence to discuss matters of interest between the two countries. During the meeting, the Chinese envoy and the interior minister also discussed the ties between Pakistan and China and the overall regional situation.

Sheikh Rasheed said that the region has got great importance due to changing situation in Afghanistan. He added long-lasting peace in Afghanistan is important for the region as well as for the international community. He said that Pakistan will continue playing its role in

maintaining peace in Afghanistan and for a stable government. He added the government of Pakistan is providing full assistance to those leaving Afghanistan.

The minister told the Chinese envoy that the government will take further measures to ensure security to Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. He said that a joint strategy was being prepared for the security of Chinese citizens. “No one can become a hurdle in the relations and joint ventures between Pakistan and China,” he added.

The Chinese envoy said that a number of Chinese companies are working in Pakistan on several projects. He said that the Chinese government is thankful to the interior ministry for the provision of facilities to its nationals working in the country.

A day earlier, China had asked Pakistan to severely punish the perpetrators of Gwadar suicide attack and take ‘practical steps’ to ensure such incidents do not occur again.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/807108/pakistan-pledges-foolproof-security-to-chinese-citizens/>

Pakistan’s export of rice to China may cross 1mn tonnes in two years

Pakistani rice exports are likely to cross one million tons within two years with increased demand from the Chinese market, said Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counselor of Pakistan Embassy in China.

“Last year our rice exports to China was 475,000 tons and in quantity wise we are the 3rd largest country while in amount of money wise we are the 4th largest rice exporter to China,” Badar told China Economic Net.

Last year, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Thailand were the top three rice exporters to China, amounting to 787,538 tons, 911,231 tons, and 324,642 tons respectively. “Rice is the 4th largest export item to China after copper, cotton yarn, and ores”, he mentioned. China had appeared as one of the top destinations for importing Pakistani rice, as reflected in the 59% increase of broken rice in last year, while semi/wholly milled rice and IRRI-6 and IRRI-9 are the main top two rice varieties imported by China amounted to around \$259 million last year.

Badar said the number of registered rice exporters has increased to 53 and within the last two years 18 new Pakistani rice companies were registered by the General Administration of Customs P.R. China, which shows the huge demand for Pakistani rice in the Chinese market. These companies fully meet the Chinese standard. He further said that IRRI-6 and IRRI-9 types of rice have special Chinese consumer taste, while all commercial sections in China are trying B2B marketing to promote all kinds of Pakistani rice types, and also the products of quality are in demand here.

Dr. Amjad Abbas Khan Magsi, Assistant Professor at Punjab University Pakistan, agricultural analyst, and the landlord, said that the area of hybrid rice increased due to huge demand from China, and new hybrid rice varieties are being developed in Punjab and other parts of Pakistan, which would give maximum yield and low costs. “Hybrid rice gives more profit and easy

techniques to cultivate that also helps to save more than 40% irrigation water, while rice crop cycle span is shorter than the major crops,” he told CEN. Experts said that in the last few years, massive investment in the rice industry has been made and due to the popularity of hybrid rice, an enormous quantity of color sorter machines were imported from China to meet the Chinese standard and to capture the world’s largest market.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/807037/pakistans-export-of-rice-to-china-may-cross-1mn-tonnes-in-two-years/>

Dunya News

China to work with Pakistan to deal with threat of terrorism: FM Spokesperson

BEIJING (Dunya News) - China would continue to work with Pakistan to deal with the threat of terrorism and protect the safety of the Chinese people and personnel in Pakistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry’s Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Monday.

“Terrorism is the common enemy of mankind. China firmly opposes any force using terrorism to seek geopolitical interests,” he said during his regular briefing held here.

Expressing shock and condemning the attack on a vehicle carrying the Chinese nationals in Gwadar, he offered condolence over killing of Pakistani personnel in the attack and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved families and injured.

The spokesperson urged the Pakistan side to arrest the perpetrators and punish them as soon as possible.

He said the Pakistani side had given proper treatment to the injured Chinese personnel, adding, the Pakistani authorities had said they would take every effort to ensure the safety of the Chinese personnel projects in Pakistan.

He called on all regional countries to collaborate in eradicating terrorist groups and upholding the common safety and development interests of all the countries in the region.

Responding to a question about Chinese nationals still in Afghanistan, he said that the Chinese side was closely following the security of the Chinese institutions and personnel in Afghanistan.

“Now our embassy there is operating normally. Most Chinese nationals in Afghanistan have returned to China beforehand with the arrangement made by our embassy,” he added.

With regards to the few Chinese who stayed there, he said, the Chinese embassy was in close contact with them, given them guidelines on strengthening the awareness of safety and taken relevant measures coordinated with the Afghanistan side to offering security guarantees for them.

Noting reports of the announcement of the government framework by Afghan Taliban in near future, he said that China’s position on Afghan issue was consistent and clear cut.

“We hope Afghanistan can form an inclusive open broad-based government which adopts a foreign and domestic policy that is prudent and moderate so as to echo and meet the aspiration and share will of the international community and its own people,” he added.

To yet another question, he stressed that the US was an important perpetrator and biggest external factor for the Afghan issue.

“It cannot leave the mess without doing anything.”

He said that the US also pledged clearly that it wanted help Afghanistan to maintain stability with peace, reconstruction and development.

“We hope the US will match its words with deeds and shoulder its responsibility to honour its own commitments in humanitarian assistance and reconstruction,” he added.

The spokesperson said that China always adopted a friendly policy towards entire Afghan people and added, “We have provided substantial assistance to socio-economic development in the country.”

[China to work with Pakistan to deal with threat of terrorism: FM Spokesperson - Pakistan - Dunya News](#)

Pakistan Observer

TNFJ chief says India behind Gwadar attack

The Patron-in-Chief of the Shia Ulema Board and Quaid-i-Millat Jafariya Agha Syed Hamid Ali Shah Mousavi has said that the Gwadar suicide attack was the result of bewilderment of India, the eternal enemy of Pakistan.

The display of unity and brotherhood shown by the citizens of the motherland thwarted the conspiracies of anti-patriotic forces.

The security agencies including army and police deputed to maintain peace, voluntary organizations, media highlighting Hussainiyyat, Shia-Sunni brethren’s practical display of peace, Ulema, Zakireen, Waizeen, founders of Azadarai pro-programmes and Matmi Azadaran deserve appreciation.

This was stated by him while addressing the office-bearers of Markazi Muharram Committee Azadari Cell of Tehreek Nafaz Fiqh-e-Jafariya.

Agha Moosavi lamented that at some places, attempts were made to discredit Pakistan by banning gatherings even within the chardivari.

<https://pakobserver.net/tnfj-chief-says-india-behind-gwadar-attack/>

BOI invites int'l investment in SEZs

Board of Investment (BOI) has invited foreign investors particularly those from China to set up their business houses in Pakistan's special Economic Zones (SEZs).

“We look forward to your high-quality investments in Pakistan while enhancing B2B and P2P cooperation”, says Mrs. Fareena Mazhar, Secretary Board of Investment, Pakistan while addressing the “Belt and Road” (BRI) Investment Promotion Conference held in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China, according to China Economic Net.

“Since the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China has been the largest investor in Pakistan with FDI inflows of US dollars 8 billion and outsource of US dollars 2.1 billion, thereby contributing 36% to the net investment in Pakistan”, she informed the participants.

She further stressed that the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under CPEC are not limited to the Chinese enterprises alone and that all industrial corporation ventures under CPEC are open to third-country participation as well.

Taking this opportunity, she introduced the incentives Pakistani provides to international investors, such as one-time custom exemption and a 10-year income tax holiday for both zone developers and enterprises.

Online portals developed by BOI and in collaboration with China Council for International Investment Promotion are also provided to facilitate SEZ investors.

Facing an estimated global economy expansion by 5.6% in 2021, the strongest post-recession recovery in 80 years, she says, “a world of opportunities has opened up, setting the fundamentals of industrial B2B cooperation.”

With the theme of “opportunities, future, sustainability”, the forum also witnessed the signing of contracts

. Ningxia Communications Construction Co., Ltd. signed a contract totaling USD 43 million with Nauman Construction Company of Pakistan for highway construction including a cross-railway bridge to connect Rhodland to Multan, Punjab.

The construction is expected to start recently and conclude in about two years, company staff told China Economic Net (CEN).

BOI Secretary invites international investment in SEZs BOI Secretary invites international investment in SEZs Ningxia Communications Construction Co., Ltd. signing contract with Nauman Construction Company of Pakistan Hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the government of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, the conference aims to promote joint construction of the Belt and Road and two-way investment for sustainable development.

The conference is part of the fifth China-Arab States Expo inaugurated in Ningxia. Qian Keming, Vice Minister of Commerce of China, Sun Ping, Vice President of Export-Import Bank of China, Zhang Yansheng, chief researcher at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges, representatives from China International Contractors Association, China Communications Construction Group, KPMG, and senior guests from Egypt and UAE also attended the meeting.

<https://pakobserver.net/boi-invites-intl-investment-in-sezs/>

The Express Tribune

Strategy being crafted for protection of Chinese

China's Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong and diplomatic staff called on Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid and discussed the overall regional situation, besides bilateral ties, on Sunday.

During the discussion, Rashid observed that Pakistan would not let bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and China and progress become hostage at the hands of terrorists.

The minister observed that the region had gained more specific significance than before. He emphasised that lasting stability in Afghanistan was imperative for the region's progress and the world's security.

The minister further stated that Pakistan would continue to play its role for peace and a stable government in the neighbouring country.

The interior ministry, he maintained, had been providing full assistance to those evacuating Afghanistan.

Speaking of security for Chinese nationals in the wake of recent incidents, Rashid said, "We will further improve security for the Chinese citizens and [staff of] Chinese companies operating in Pakistan." "We are devising a joint strategy for the protection of the Chinese citizens," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Rong observed that the Chinese companies had been working on various projects in Pakistan.

He asked for making the security protocols for the citizens and the companies more stringent.

Earlier, the Chinese embassy strongly condemned Friday's suicide attack on a motorcade of Chinese personnel in the port city of Gwadar and demanded of the Pakistani authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and "severely punish the perpetrators".

In a statement, the embassy urged the authorities at all levels to take effective measures to strengthen the security of the Chinese citizens in Pakistan and upgrade security cooperation mechanism to prevent a repeat of such incidents.

On Friday, a suicide bomber targeted a motorcade carrying Chinese personnel at the Gwadar East Bay Expressway project in Balochistan, killing two children and injuring several others. At least one Chinese national was among the injured, the embassy said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2316714/strategy-being-crafted-for-protection-of-chinese>

‘Pakistan in control, China to cement grip in Afghanistan’s new Great Game’

The Russian and British empires battled over Afghanistan in the 19th century, and the United States and the Soviet Union in the 20th. As the Taliban take over in the strategic, landlocked nation, the new Great Game has Pakistan in control, with its ally China looking to cement its grip on the region.

The West claims that Pakistan has ties with the Taliban as it battled the US-backed government in Kabul - charges denied by Islamabad. When the insurgent group captured Kabul last week, Prime Minister Imran Khan said Afghans had broken the "shackles of slavery".

As the Taliban hold discussions to decide on its government model, media reports have said some Pakistani officials are involved.

A Foreign Office spokesperson in Islamabad said Pakistan wanted an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan that ensured peace and stability in the region but added the "key role remains with the Afghans". China, with no previous involvement in Afghanistan but a strong alliance with Pakistan, has held out an olive branch to the Taliban, enticed by the country's mineral wealth, including its large reserves of lithium, a key component for electric vehicles. China is also looking at the prospect of extra security for its narrow land route through the Karakoram mountains into Pakistan.

And then there is India, Pakistan's old enemy, which has been locked in a military standoff with China along their disputed border for more than a year. India was a key supporter of the ousted regime in Kabul and as both Pakistan and China become key players in a Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, New Delhi's nervousness is increasing.

China however says its main aim in reaching out to the Taliban is to protect its western Xinjiang region from anti-Beijing East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) militants, who could seek sanctuary within Afghanistan. "While Pakistan might be thinking of leveraging on Afghanistan against India, this is not necessarily the case for China," said Zhang Li, a professor of South Asian studies at Sichuan University.

"China's primary concern now is for the Taliban to ... build an inclusive and moderate regime so that terrorism would not spill over to Xinjiang and the region. Any other calculus further to that remains to be seen."

The US government says ETIM no longer exists as a formal organisation.

China has dangled the prospect of providing the two things the Taliban needs to govern Afghanistan: diplomatic recognition and much-needed infrastructure and economic assistance, said Brahma Chellaney, professor of strategic studies at the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi.

"China is certain to exploit the new opening to make strategic inroads into mineral-rich Afghanistan and deepen its penetration of Pakistan, Iran, and Central Asia," he said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2316847/pakistan-in-control-china-to-cement-grip-in-afghanistans-new-great-game>

The Nation

Joint strategy being prepared for security of Chinese citizens, Sh Rashid tells Nong Rong

ISLAMABAD - Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said Sunday that foolproof security will be ensured to Chinese citizens and companies functioning in Pakistan. Sheikh Rashid was speaking to the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong who visited him at his residence to discuss matters of mutual interest between the two countries. During the meeting, the Chinese envoy and the interior minister also discussed the bilateral ties between Pakistan and China and the overall regional situation.

Sheikh Rashid said that the region got great importance due to changing situation in Afghanistan. He added long-lasting peace in Afghanistan was important for the region as well as for the international world. He said that Pakistan will continue playing its role in maintaining peace in Afghanistan and for a stable government. He added the government of Pakistan was providing full assistance to those leaving Afghanistan.

The minister told the Chinese envoy that the government will take further measures to ensure security to Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. He said that a joint strategy was being prepared for the security of Chinese citizens. He added, "No one can become a hurdle in the relations and joint ventures between Pakistan and China". The Chinese envoy said that a number of Chinese companies were working in Pakistan on several projects. He said that the Chinese government was thankful to the interior ministry for the provision of facilities to its nationals working in the country.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-23/page-12/detail-2>

The News

‘Pak rice export to China may cross one million tons in next two years’

BEIJING: "Pakistani rice exports are likely to cross one million tons within two years with increased demand from the Chinese market," said Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counselor of Pakistan Embassy in China.

“Last year our rice exports to China was 475,000 tons and in quantity wise we are the 3rd largest country while in amount of money wise we are the 4th largest rice exporter to China,” Badar told China Economic Net. Last year, Vietnam, Myanmar, and Thailand were the top three rice exporters to China, amounting to 787,538 tons, 911,231 tons, and 324,642 tons respectively.

“Rice is the 4th largest export item to China after copper, cotton yarn, and ores”, he mentioned.

China had appeared as one of the top destinations for importing Pakistani rice, as reflected in the 59% increase of broken rice in last year, while semi/wholly milled rice and IRRI-6 and IRRI-9 are the main top two rice varieties imported by China amounted to around \$259 million last year.

Badar said the number of registered rice exporters has increased to 53 and within the last two years 18 new Pakistani rice companies were registered by the General Administration of Customs P.R. China, which shows the huge demand for Pakistani rice in the Chinese market. These companies fully meet the Chinese standard.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/881888-pak-rice-export-to-china-may-cross-one-million-tons-in-next-two-years>

Jang News

عالمی قوتیں پاکستان میں دہشت گردوں کی مدد سے بازر ہیں، چینی میڈیا

کراچی (نیوز ڈیسک) چین کے سرکاری میڈیا میں شائع ہونے والے ادارے میں کہا گیا ہے کہ گواہوں کے ہونے والے حملے میں ایک چائیز شہری زخمی ہوا ہے اور دہشت گرد تنظیم بلوچستان لبریشن آرمی نے اس واقعے کی ذمہ داری قبول کی ہے۔ پاکستان میں چینی سفارت خانے نے واقعے کی مذمت کی ہے۔ ادارے میں کہا گیا ہے کہ تاریخی وجوہات کی بنا پر بلوچستان کے قبائل میں پاکستان کی مرکزی حکومت کی مخالف منفی جذبات پائے جاتے ہیں جس کی وجہ سے کچھ دہشت گرد گروہیں بھی قائم ہوئے ہیں۔ پہلے ایسی مثالیں موجود نہیں تھیں کہ یہ گروہیں چین کے بھی مخالف ہیں۔ لیکن اس کے باوجود حکومت پاکستان کو نقصان پہنچانے کیلئے ان گروہوں نے چینی شہریوں کو نشانہ بنانا شروع کیا ہے جو پاکستان میں گزشتہ کئی برسوں سے کام کر رہے ہیں، ان واقعات کا مقصد حکومت پاکستان کو دباؤ میں لانا ہے۔ ادارے میں لکھا ہے کہ چین کا مجوزہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ پاکستان میں دہشت گردوں کی کارروائیوں کا ہدف بن چکا ہے اور اس صورت حال میں کچھ بین الاقوامی قوتیں بھی ملوث ہیں۔ خطے میں امریکی اور بھارتی انٹیلی جنس قوتیں پاکستان میں غیر قانونی طور پر داخل ہو کر چین کے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ پروجیکٹ کی مخالفت کام کرتی رہی ہیں تاکہ چین کے بڑھتے اثر و رسوخ کو روکنے کیلئے اس منصوبے کو نقصان پہنچایا جاسکے اور داسو میں ہائیڈرو پاور پروجیکٹ پر چینی شہریوں پر ہونے والے حملوں میں بھی کہا جاتا ہے کہ انڈین انٹیلی جنس ایجنسی ملوث ہے۔ بین الاقوامی قوتوں کی شہ پر ہی پاکستان میں دہشت گرد گروہوں کی کارروائیاں کر رہے ہیں۔ غالب امکان ہے کہ یہی قوتیں پاکستان میں دہشت گردوں کی معاونت کر رہی ہیں۔ چین کو اس سلسلے میں طویل جنگ کیلئے تیار رہنا ہو گا تاکہ حکومت پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر دہشت گردی کا مقابلہ کیا جاسکے۔ چین کیلئے ضروری ہے کہ وہ دہشت گردی کو جڑ سے اکھاڑنے کیلئے پاکستان کی مدد کرے۔ ادارے میں لکھا ہے کہ چین کیلئے ضروری ہے کہ وہ افغانستان میں نئی حکومت پر زور دے کہ ان دہشت گرد گروہوں کو کچلنے کے اقدامات کیے جائیں جو پیدائشی افغانستان میں ہوئے تھے لیکن اب پاکستان میں فعال ہیں۔ یہی وہ طریقہ ہے جس کے ذریعے چین دیکھے گا کہ نئی افغان حکومت کیا کچھ کر سکتی ہے۔ ادارے میں لکھا ہے کہ بلوچستان میں دہشت گرد گروہوں کا مخصوص بدنام زمانہ بلوچستان لبریشن آرمی نے پاکستان میں چائیز شہریوں کو نشانہ بنایا ہے جبکہ ٹی ٹی پی بھی نمایاں خطرہ ہے۔ ادارے میں لکھا ہے کہ چین نہ

صرف ان دہشت گرد قوتوں کو زبردست دھچکا پہنچانے کیلئے پاکستان کی مدد کرے گا بلکہ غیر ملکی قوتوں کو بھی خبردار کرے گا کہ ان دہشت گرد گروہوں کی مدد سے بازر ہیں۔
جیسے ہی چین کو ثبوت مل گیا کہ بین الاقوامی قوتیں پاکستان میں دہشت گردوں کی معاونت کر رہی ہیں، چین انہیں سزا دے گا۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/973971>

K2 Daily

گوادریس چینی قافلے پر ہونیوالے
خودکش حملے کا مقدمہ درج
گوادریس (آن لائن) گوادریس چینی قافلے پر
ہونے والے خودکش (ہائی سٹو 7 بجے نمبر 40)

بنفجہ 40
ملنے کا مقدمہ سی ٹی وی قافلے میں نامعلوم
دہشت گردوں کے خلاف درج کر لیا گیا ہے۔ مقدمہ سی
ٹی وی قافلے کے افسر کی مدیت میں درج کیا گیا
ہے۔ مقدمے میں دہشت گردی، ایکسپلوژو، قتل اور
اقدام قتل کی دفعات شامل کی گئی ہیں۔ دو روز قبل
بعد 20 اگست کو چینی حملے کے قافلے پر خودکش حملہ کیا
گیا تھا جس میں تین مقامی بچے جاں بحق اور تین افراد
زخمی ہوئے تھے۔ واقعے پر چین کی جانب سے بھی شدید
نہایت کی گئی تھی جبکہ پاکستان میں چینی سفارتخانے نے
اپنے بیان میں کہا تھا کہ دونوں ممالک کے ذہنی افراد
سے اہردی کا اظہار کرتے ہیں۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2021-08-23

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2021-08-23

Nawaiwaqt News

افغانستان: امریکہ کی پاکستان اور چین سے مدد کی درخواست

امریکا نے افغانستان میں سیاسی تصفیے کے لیے پاکستان اور چین سے مدد مانگ لی۔ امریکی محکمہ خارجہ کے ترجمان نیڈ پرائس نے کہا کہ امریکا چاہتا ہے کہ تمام پڑوسی ممالک
افغانستان میں امن و استحکام کے لیے اپنا کردار ادا کریں۔ نیڈ پرائس نے پریس بریفنگ میں مزید کہا کہ بائینٹن انتظامیہ امن کے لیے افغانستان کے تمام پڑوسیوں سے رابطے میں
ہے اور ہم نے افغانستان کے تمام پڑوسیوں بالخصوص پاکستان اور چین کے سامنے یہ بات رکھی ہے کہ افغانستان میں استحکام، سلامتی اور سیاسی تصفیے کی تیاری میں ہماری مدد
کریں۔ یہ سب کے مفاد میں ہے۔ چاہے پاکستان ہو یا چین ہو یا پھر وہ ممالک ہوں جن کا افغانستان میں کوئی نہ کوئی کردار رہا ہے، ہم نے ان سب کے ساتھ تعمیری گفتگو جاری رکھی
ہے حالانکہ جب چین کی بات آتی ہے تو ظاہر ہے کہ ہمارے مفادات بہت کم ہوتے ہیں۔ امریکی صدر جو بائیڈن نے کہا ہے کہ وہ کابل کے ایگزپورٹ سے ہنگامی انتحار کے حتمی
نتیجے کی ضمانت نہیں دے سکتے، اسے اب تک کی سب سے مشکل ایگزپورٹ آپریشن میں سے ایک قرار دیتے ہیں۔ میڈیا رپورٹس کے مطابق جو بائیڈن نے وائٹ ہاؤس سے ٹی

دی پر خطاب میں کہا کہ یہ تاریخ کا سب سے بڑا، مشکل ترین فضائی سفر ہے، میں نہیں کہہ سکتا کہ اس کا حتمی نتیجہ کیا ہو گا۔ امریکی افواج نے 14 اگست سے اب تک 13 ہزار اور جولائی سے اب تک 18 ہزار لوگوں کو ہوائی جہاز سے باہر نکالا ہے جبکہ مزید ہزاروں کو نجی چارٹر طیاروں کے ذریعے امریکی حکومت کی سہولت سے نکالا گیا ہے۔

امریکہ کو صرف آج ہی پاکستان کی ضرورت محسوس نہیں ہوئی، ماضی میں اسے بار بار پاکستان کی ضرورت پڑی۔ چین کے ساتھ تعلقات استوار کرنے کے لئے امریکہ کی درخواست پر پاکستان نے کردار ادا کیا۔ روس کو افغانستان سے نکلنے میں پاکستان کا کلیدی کردار تھا۔ یہیں سے سوویت یونین کے ٹوٹنے کی ابتدا ہوئی اور امریکہ کو دنیا کی واحد سپر پاور بننے کا موقع ملا۔ نائن ایون کے بعد افغانستان پر یلغار میں بھی پاکستان کا اسے تعاون درکار تھا۔ امریکہ ہی کی درخواست پر پاکستان نے طالبان کو اس کے ساتھ براہ راست مذاکرات پر آمادہ کیا۔ جس سے امن معاہدہ ہوا۔ آج افغانستان سے امریکہ اور اس کے اتحادیوں کو مکمل انخلا کے لئے پاکستان کی ضرورت ہے۔ امریکہ کو مستقبل میں بھی پاکستان کی ضرورت رہے گی۔

پاکستان نے امریکہ کا ہر موقع اور ہر قدم پر ضرورت پڑنے پر ساتھ دیا۔ امریکہ کو اپنے کردار کا جائزہ لینا ہو گا کہ بدلے میں اس نے پاکستان کو کیا صلہ دیا؟ اس کی نوازشات پاکستان کے دشمن بھارت پر رہیں۔ پاکستان کو اسی کے ایما پر دھمکیاں دی جاتی رہیں۔ افغانستان میں امریکہ کی طرف سے بھارت کے مستقل کردار پر اصرار کیا جاتا تھا۔ حالات نے ایسا رخ اختیار کیا کہ افغانستان سے بھارت ڈم دبا کر بھاگ گیا۔ ادھر دنیا کی واحد سپر پاور افغانستان کے سنگلاخ پہاڑوں سے سر نکل کر واپس لوٹ رہی ہے تو اسے ایک بار پھر پاکستان اور چین کی مدد درکار ہے۔

کابل ایئر پورٹ پر ہزاروں غیر ملکی پھنسے ہوئے ہیں۔ ایئر پورٹ کے اندر اب بھی امریکی فوج موجود اور اپنے شہریوں کی واپسی کو یقینی بنا رہی ہے۔ امریکی فوج کی حفاظت کے لئے طالبان نے ایئر پورٹ کو حفاظت میں لے رکھا ہے۔ ان کی طرف سے کہا گیا ہے کہ آخری غیر ملکی کی بحفاظت واپسی کو یقینی بنایا جائیگا۔ طالبان امریکہ کے پر امن انخلا کے وعدے پر قائم دکھائی دیتے ہیں۔ صدر جو بائیڈن کی طرف سے کہا گیا ہے کہ ہماری افواج پر کسی بھی حملے یا ایئر پورٹ پر ہمارے آپریشنز میں رکاوٹ کا فوری اور زبردست جواب دیا جائیگا۔ جو بائیڈن کی طرف سے ایسی تشویش ان کے اندر کے خوف کی عکاس ہے۔ بادی النظر میں طالبان ہر قدم بڑے غور و غوض سے اٹھارے ہیں۔ وہ پہلے والی غلطیاں نہیں دہرا رہے۔ القاعدہ اور داعش کے ساتھ اس نے رابطے منقطع کر لئے۔ خواتین کے حقوق کے معاملے میں وسیع قلبی سے کام لے رہے ہیں، مخالفین کے ساتھ سختی سے پیش آنے کے بجائے ان کے ساتھ رابطے کر رہے ہیں۔ عبداللہ عبداللہ، حامد کرزئی اور گلبدین حکمت یار کے ساتھ مذاکرات ہو رہے ہیں۔ طالبان عالمی برادری کے تحفظات اور خدشات دور کرنے کیلئے کوشاں ہیں۔

امریکہ کی طرف سے امن معاہدے کے بعد افغان انتظامیہ اور طالبان کے مابین سیاسی سیٹ اپ کی تشکیل پر اتفاق نہ کرنا جرم سے کم نہیں اس کے خطرناک نتائج سامنے آسکتے تھے۔ اشرف غنی خود فودہ ہو کر راہ فرار اختیار کر گئے جس سے طالبان کی حکومت کی بحالی کی راہ ہموار ہوئی اور خونریزی کا خطرہ ٹل گیا۔ امریکہ کی درخواست سے قبل ہی پاکستان اور چین خطے میں امن کے قیام کیلئے کردار ادا کر رہے ہیں۔ دونوں کے طالبان کے ساتھ روابط ہیں اور طالبان کی طرف سے مثبت جواب دیا جا رہا ہے۔ افغانستان پر طالبان کا کنٹرول مضبوط ہو رہا ہے وہ افغانستان میں جس طرح چاہیں حکومت کر سکتے ہیں۔ آج دنیا گلوبل ویلج بن چکی ہے کوئی بھی ملک دنیا سے کٹ کر نہیں رہ سکتا۔ طالبان کو ابھی دنیا کی طرف سے تسلیم کرنے کا مرحلہ بھی درپیش ہے۔ بین الاقوامی دھارے میں آنے کیلئے اسے عالمی برادری کو کئی حوالوں سے مطمئن کرنا ہو گا۔ دنیا افغانستان میں جمہوریت کی کار فرمائی چاہتی ہے۔ جمہوریت ہی کے ذریعے طالبان ان کو ساتھ ملا سکتے ہیں جو ان کے مخالف ہیں اور مذاکرات کر رہے ہیں۔ طالبان کا مطمح نظر شریعت کا نفاذ ہے شریعت میں جمہوریت پر کوئی قدغن نہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-23/page-8/detail-12>

August 24, 2021
Business Recorder

China says terrorism common enemy of mankind

BEIJING: China would continue to work with Pakistan to deal with the threat of terrorism and protect the safety of the Chinese people and personnel in Pakistan, Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Monday.

"Terrorism is the common enemy of mankind. China firmly opposes any force using terrorism to seek geopolitical interests," he said during his regular briefing held here.

Expressing shock and condemning the attack on a vehicle carrying the Chinese nationals in Gwadar, he offered condolence over killing of Pakistani personnel in the attack and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved families and injured.

The spokesperson urged the Pakistan side to arrest the perpetrators and punish them as soon as possible.

He said the Pakistani side had given proper treatment to the injured Chinese personnel, adding, the Pakistani authorities had said they would take every effort to ensure the safety of the Chinese personnel projects in Pakistan.

He called on all regional countries to collaborate in eradicating terrorist groups and upholding the common safety and development interests of all the countries in the region.

Responding to a question about Chinese nationals still in Afghanistan, he said that the Chinese side was closely following the security of the Chinese institutions and personnel in Afghanistan. "Now our embassy there is operating normally. Most Chinese nationals in Afghanistan have returned to China beforehand with the arrangement made by our embassy," he added.

With regards to the few Chinese who stayed there, he said, the Chinese embassy was in close contact with them, given them guidelines on strengthening the awareness of safety and taken relevant measures coordinated with the Afghanistan side to offering security guarantees for them.

Noting reports of the announcement of the government framework by Afghan Taliban in near future, he said that China's position on Afghan issue was consistent and clear cut. "We hope Afghanistan can form an inclusive open broad-based government which adopts a foreign and domestic policy that is prudent and moderate so as to echo and meet the aspiration and sheer will of the international community and its own people," he added.

To yet another question, he stressed that the US was an important perpetrator and biggest external factor for the Afghan issue.

"It cannot leave the mess without doing anything."

He said that the US also pledged clearly that it wanted to help Afghanistan to maintain stability with peace, reconstruction and development.

“We hope the US will match its words with deeds and shoulder its responsibility to honour its own commitments in humanitarian assistance and reconstruction,” he added.

The spokesperson said that China always adopted a friendly policy towards entire Afghan people and added, “We have provided substantial assistance to socio-economic development in the country.”

He hoped that there would be an early end to the chaos and wars in the country, and it could resume financial order at an early date. China will also play a positive role in helping the country in self-capacity building, peace and reconstruction and improvement of peoples’ livelihood.—
APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/24/2-page/897988-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese scholar sees potential for China-Pak trade

Chinese scholar Prof. Cheng Xizhong has said that there is great potential for China-Pakistan trade in future. In a report by China Economic Net, he noted that trade volume between China and Pakistan totaled US\$ 12.56 billion in the first half of 2021, showing an increase of 1.6 times against the same period last year.

According to the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China, trade volume between China and Pakistan has increased explosively against the global trend under the serious impact of the pandemic. For this beyond-expectation feat, he thought the main reasons are: First, over the past two years, China and Pakistan have overcome the impact of the pandemic and jointly promoted the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Special economic zones, special technological zones, industrial parks, and agricultural demonstration zones in Pakistan have been carried out in an all-round way, which has greatly improved the business environment in Pakistan.

Many foreign enterprises, especially Chinese enterprises, have greatly increased their investment in Pakistan, and multiple Chinese enterprises from a variety of industries have settled down in Pakistan and cooperate with local companies across different industries by providing them with modern technologies and equipment.

This has greatly enhanced the production and export of Pakistan’s commodities. Second, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. Both sides take this opportunity to comprehensively promote bilateral relations, including trade and economic cooperation, to a new height. China-Pakistan relations have become more pragmatic, and economic and trade cooperation has further consolidated the foundation of traditional friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries.

Third, since the second phase protocol of the China-Pakistan FTA entered into force on December 1, 2019, the number of zero-tariff products between the two countries has increased significantly, thus paving the way for the substantial and sustained growth of bilateral trade.

Fourth, China, with a population of 1.4 billion, is a huge market for all kinds of commodities from Pakistan. Over the years, more and more Pakistani exporters and Chinese importers have vigorously tapped the Chinese market and contributed to the growth of bilateral trade.

Pakistan's exports to China in the first quarter of 2021 totaled US\$ 888 million compared with US\$ 526 million during the same period in 2020, representing a year-on-year increase of 69%, thus reducing the trade imbalance between China and Pakistan, Cheng added who is visiting Professor at the Southwest University of Political Science and Law.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/807398/chinese-scholar-sees-potential-for-china-pak-trade/>

Pakistani rice export to China may cross one million tonnes in coming years

Pakistan has a huge potential to enhance rice export to several countries especially China and Pakistani rice export is likely to cross one million tons within two years with increased demand from the Chinese market, said Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counselor of Pakistan Embassy in China.

“Last year our rice exports to China was 475,000 tons and quantity wise we are the third largest country while amount or money wise we are fourth largest rice exporter to China,” he said. Last year Vietnam, Myanmar, and Thailand were the top three rice exporters to China, with exports of 787,538 tons, 911,231 tons, and 324,642 tons respectively. China had appeared as one of the top destinations for Pakistani rice with a 59pc increase of broken rice in last year while semi/wholly milled rice and IRRI-6 and IRRI-9 are the main top two rice varieties imported by China, which amounted to around \$259 million last year.

Badar uz Zaman said the number of registered rice exporters has increased to 53 and within the last two years as 18 new Pakistani rice companies were registered by the General Administration of Customs, China, which shows the huge demand for Pakistani rice in the Chinese market. These companies fully meet the Chinese standards. He said IRRI-6 and IRRI-9 types of rice have special Chinese consumer taste, while all commercial sections in China are trying B2B marketing to promote all kinds of Pakistani rice types, and also the products of quality that are in demand here. According to a report released by China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Information Platform (CPAIC), Pakistan has already become one of the top rice producers and exporters in the world.

The rice grown in Pakistan is mainly divided into basmati rice and non-basmati rice. Basmati rice, with slender and elongated grains, aromatic taste, soft and fluffy texture when cooked, is one of the most favoured high-end rice varieties in the international market.

Pakistan is the most important growing area of basmati rice besides India and Bangladesh. Hybrid rice breeding assisted by China is elevating Pakistani rice yield to new heights. Honglian

hybrid rice developed by Wuhan University and harvested in eight demonstrative plots in Pakistan has demonstrated the ability to raise production by two times.

A rice variety bred by China's Yuan Longping High-tech Agriculture Co., Ltd in collaboration with Guard Agriculture Research and Services is anticipated to double the rice production in Pakistan from two tons per acre to four tons per acre.

Last year, a total of 500 tonnes of hybrid rice seeds from a seed company in east China's Jiangsu province landed in Pakistan to help ensure the country's grain yield.

It may be mentioned here that China permitted imports of Pakistani rice on January 1, 2006. In February of the same year, the first batch of rice was shipped from Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/807297/pakistani-rice-export-to-china-may-cross-one-million-tonnes-in-coming-years/>

Pakistan's regional exports increase 20.50pc in July 2022

Pakistan's exports to the seven regional countries witnessed an increase of 20.50 percent in the first month of the current financial year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding month of previous year.

The country's exports to countries including Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, and the Maldives account for a small amount of \$282.020 million, which is 12.49 percent of Pakistan's overall exports of \$2257.042 million in July 2021-22, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

China tops the list of countries in terms of Pakistan's exports to its neighbours, leaving behind other countries such as Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Pakistan carried out its border trade with farther neighbours Sri Lanka, India, Nepal and Maldives. Pakistan's exports to China posted growth of 55.26 percent to \$165.878 million in July 2022 from \$106.775 million in July 2021 while exports to Bangladesh also increased by 5.66 percent to \$51.033 million from \$48.297 million.

The country's exports to Afghanistan however dropped by 38.57 percent to \$38.557 million this year from \$62.774 million whereas exports to India plunged by a whopping 87.81pc to \$0.054 million from \$0.443 million as the government has suspended trade relations with India.

Similarly, exports to Sri Lanka rose by 68.55 percent to \$235.991 million from \$15.420 million in the previous year.

Exports to Nepal declined by 39.86 percent to \$0.273 million from 0.454 million while to Maldives dipped by 1.21 percent to 0.325 million from 0.329 million, it added.

On the other hand, the imports from seven regional countries were recorded at \$1350.535 million during July 2022 compared to \$1131.427 million during July 2021, showing an increase of 19.36 percent.

The imports from China during July 2022 were recorded at \$1311.976 million against the \$1100.268 million during July 2021, showing an increase of 19.24 percent during the period.

Among other countries, imports from India worth \$12.405 million against the imports of \$15.833 million, decrease of 1.52 percent while imports from Afghanistan increased by 194.23 percent from \$4.216 million to \$12.405 million.

Meanwhile, imports from Sri Lanka witnessed 2.62 percent decline from \$7.096 million to \$6.910 million whereas Pakistan imports from Bangladesh recorded at \$3.518 million from \$3.948 million during July 2021.

The imports from Nepal into the country witnessed a decline of 4.54 percent from \$0.066 million to \$0.063 million, it added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/807319/pakistans-regional-exports-increase-20-50pc-in-july-2022/>

China Cultural Centre in Pakistan launches online documentary series ‘Tibet Story’

China Cultural Centre in Pakistan has launched online documentary series “Tibet Story”. The third series of Tibet documentaries composed of four episodes, namely Highland Dancers, Watchmen in the Barley Field, the Mask God and Symphony of Heaven and Earth. Through telling stories about intangible cultural heritage and how locals cultivate barley on fertile land along the Yarlung Zangbo River, the video exhibits the progress in Tibet’s agricultural production and the efforts in the protection of traditional Tibetan cultural.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/807338/china-cultural-centre-in-pakistan-launches-online-documentary-series-tibet-story/>

Dunya News

Perpetrators of terrorist attacks on Chinese nationals to be punished: NSA

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – National Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf Tuesday said the perpetrators of terrorist attacks on Chinese nationals working in Pakistan would be brought to justice.

The national security adviser made these remarks in a video call with the State Councilor, Minister of the Public Security of the People’s Republic of China, Zhao Kezhi, said a news release issued here.

The two leaders resolved that the all-weather Pakistan China friendship could not be undermined by third countries that try to target their bilateral interests.

During the call, the two leaders discussed regional peace and security as well as other matters of mutual interest.

The both sides resolved to remain closely engaged over the evolving situation in the region and reiterated the importance of and their support to a peaceful political settlement and all inclusive setup in Afghanistan.

They agreed that the Afghan soil should not be allowed to be used against other countries by terrorists.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the excellent bilateral relations between their countries. State Councilor Zhao said that he was looking forward to visit Pakistan and meet NSA Yusuf once the Covid 19 situation improves.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/616471-Perpetrators-of-terrorist-attacks-on-Chinese-nationals-to-be-punished:-N>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese ambassador says no one can harm friendship between Pakistan & China

Chairman Tehreek Jawanan Pakistan and Kashmir Mohammad Abdullah Gul called on Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong in Gwadar.

They discussed security of Chinese workers, CPEC and Afghan issue. The Chinese ambassador strongly condemned suicide attack on a car carrying Chinese nationals at Gwadar East Bay Expressway and attack on a vehicle of Chinese engineers and workers at Dasu Dam in which several people were killed or wounded.

The Chinese ambassador said friendship between China and Pakistan is old and deep and no force can stand in their way.

Abdullah Gul said that the Ambassador is a very capable, intelligent and Pakistan-loving person. He hoped that relations between Pakistan and China would become stronger and deeper in his presence.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-ambassador-says-no-one-can-harm-friendship-between-pakistan-china/>

Zong's relentless commitment to Pakistan is a show of enduring Pak-China ties

By addressing Pakistanis' increasing communication needs and preparing the country for the 5G era, Zong, Pakistan's top cellular and digital services provider, has raised the standard for industry participants in terms of going above and beyond to help society in difficult times.

With the largest 4G network and 4G subscriber base in Pakistan, CMPak is the industry leader. CMPak was the first operator in Pakistan to invest in 4G, and it was also the only company to pay for Spec-trum in full, showing its commitment to the telecom industry of the country.

Furthermore, CMPak is the only operator in Pakistan with 14,000+ 4G stations in 300+ cities and a Foreign Direct Investment of over USD \$ 3 billion. CMPak also aims to invest more than \$1 billion in 2021 to expand its 4G network further.

CMPak has also aided in the development of economic activities and is contributing to directly and indirectly create employment opportunities.

Today, Zong employs a workforce of 3,500 direct employees and over 200,000 indirect contractors' workers.

As Pakistan marks the 73rd anniversary, Zong continues the Pakistan- China friendship to contribute towards Pakistan's economy and society is worth noting.

Zong's Incredible Covid Response

Zong's CSR initiatives were highlighted in the aftermath of Covid-19, where the company's response was both extraordinary and inspiring.

In this time of great distress, it has hardly left any stone unturned in providing assistance to the Pakistani people.

As the coronavirus spread across Pakistan, wreaking havoc on people's lives and businesses, Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunications network, decided to step forward, quickly, and offer assistance to communities and people across the country, in keeping with its core value of "Responsibility Makes Perfection."

Zong 4G has teamed with the federal and provincial governments to convey essential information in some of the country's most vulnerable communities to aid authorities in their fight against Covid-19 and create awareness.

When the situation with Covid-19 in Pakistan deteriorated, Zong offered massive donation to help the country fight the epidemic.

The vast sums of money were to be spent on extending assistance through large partnerships with Pakistani government and health officials.

To raise public awareness about Covid-19 in Pakistan, Zong partnered with UNICEF to leverage all of its digital channels to spread accurate and verifiable information about the novel coronavirus.

The telecommunications behemoth teamed up with local governments in Punjab, KPK, and Sindh to raise awareness about the new coronavirus and educate the public about important preventive measures.

Furthermore, the company has worked with orphan-ages, nursing homes, schools, and other organizations to provide support, everyday goods, and training.

Zong has also committed to constructing several vocational facilities for girls and women in order to ensure gender equality.

Zong's consistent network transformation journey

The powerful and expansive nationwide network that spreads into the distant reaches of the country, bringing isolated communities into the realm of digital inclusion and connecting them to a world of possibilities, is what has enabled Zong's enormous success.

Zong has also established itself as a leading provider of connectivity and digital services to millions of Pakistanis and thousands of enterprises. Zong is rising as a pioneer in the sphere of digital business solutions, while simultaneously providing to the ever-changing connectivity needs of more than 40 million cellular subscribers.

The quality of Zong's network is demonstrated in various industry-leading statistics. The company's IT infrastructure is cutting-edge and advanced to meet the evolving needs of its customers.

The company is connecting millions to the globe and creating limitless opportunities through high-speed mobile internet, with over 14,000 4G sites dispersed across the country. Zong is geared to further expand its 4G footprint to equip the country through the fastest connectivity.

In addition, the company has the most LTE spectrum bandwidth and provides an unrivalled consumer experience.

Furthermore, Zong has an IGW network with three independent service providers (ISPs) to ensure redundancy and reliability, as well as congestion-free and uninterrupted data services for its consumers.

Zong's Role in CPEC The Game-Changer Project. Another example of Zong's unwavering commitment to Pakistan is its pivotal position in the massive CPEC project, which is a critical component of the bigger Belt & Road initiative. CPEC is all about bringing people and businesses together.

It plans to build a network of motorways, railways, and pipelines across Pakistan, as well as energy, industrial, and other infrastructure development projects.

Pakistan's preferred connectivity partner Zong 4G has been one of the primary accelerators and enablers of CPEC's unbroken progress.

Zong 4G is the key connectivity provider in the majority of CPEC projects, thanks to its unrivalled network footprint and best-in-class high-speed data products and services, which have boosted digital penetration across the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/zongs-relentless-commitment-to-pakistan-is-a-show-of-enduring-pak-china-ties/>

The Nation

Fazl-Nong Rong discuss CPEC, Afghan situation

MANSOOR ALI

ISLAMABAD - Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong on Monday discussed several issues including the Afghan crisis and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Maulana Fazlur Rehman, during the meeting, appreciated deep relations of Pakistan and China and thanked Chinese nation for supporting Pakistan at every platform. Meanwhile, Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong said that Chinese government had always appreciated the services of Maulana Fazlur Rehman and his party for the success of CPEC.

Both leaders exchanged views on bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest of both countries. Both leaders were of the view that China Pakistan Economic Corridor was very important for both China and Pakistan. Maulana Fazlur Rehman thanked Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong for Chinese efforts to uplift the economy of Pakistan. The ambassador said that China will always stand by Pakistan and help for economic progress of the country.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-24/page-2/detail-1>

Nawaiwaqt News

وزیر داخلہ سے چینی سفیر کی ملاقات

اگستان میں چین کے سفیر رونگ نوٹنگ نے گزشتہ روز وزیر داخلہ شیخ رشید احمد سے ملاقات کی اور ظہرانے میں بھی شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر چینی سفار ستخانے کا دیگر عملہ بھی شریک تھا۔ وزیر داخلہ شیخ رشید نے پاک چین دوستی اور تعلقات پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ دونوں ملکوں کے باہمی تعاون کو دہشت گردوں کے ہاتھوں پر غمال بننے نہیں دیں گے۔ چینی شہریوں اور پاکستان میں کام کرنے والی چینی کمپنیوں کے لیے حفاظتی اقدامات کو مزید بہتر بنائیں گے۔ اس موقع پر دونوں ملکوں کی افغان پالیسی، خطے میں پائیدار امن پر بھی تبادلہ خیالات ہوا۔ چینی سفیر نے چینی شہریوں اور کمپنیوں کی سکیورٹی اور پروٹوکول مزید سخت کرنے کا کہا، چین نے بیرونی قوتوں کو بھی خبردار کیا کہ اگر بیرونی قوتوں کے پاکستان میں چینی باشندوں کے خلاف دہشت گردی کے شواہد ملے تو چین سزا دے گا۔

بلاشبہ کئی بالادست قوتیں اور سازشی عناصر پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات خراب کرنے کے لیے ناکام اور مذموم سازشوں کے تانے بانے بننے رہتے ہیں پاکستان میں چینی شہریوں کو نشانہ بنانے کی ناکام کوششیں بھی سازشوں کے اسی سلسلے کی کڑی ہیں تاہم پاکستان کے ذمہ دارانہ کردار کی وجہ سے ایسے عناصر کو ہمیشہ منہ کی کھانا پڑی ہے جس کا ایک سبب پاکستان چین کا ایک دوسرے پر بھروسہ اور اعتماد اور دونوں ملکوں کے مثالی تعلق بھی ہیں تاہم افغانستان کے موجودہ حالات اور خطے میں امن و امان کی صورت حال کے پیش نظر دونوں ملکوں کے فرائض اور باہمی تعاون و اعتماد کو وقت کے تقاضوں اور ضروریات کے مطابق مزید بہتر بنانا لازم ہو جاتا ہے تاکہ ایک طرف دہشت گردوں کے ناپاک عزائم کو خاک

میں ملایا جاسکے تو دوسری طرف خطے میں اپنا کردار پہلے سے بہتر انداز میں ادا کیا جاسکے۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کو نقصان پہنچانے کی کوششوں اور سازشوں میں ملوث بھارت سمیت کسی بھی بیرونی قوت کو منہ توڑ جواب دیا جائے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-24/page-8/detail-8>

August 25, 2021

Business Recorder

Chinese patience is wearing thin

It was only a matter of time before the Chinese expressed unreserved concern about the way their nationals working in Pakistan are being targeted and killed once again. Pakistan knows the drill, of course, but the fact that the Chinese felt compelled to tell us how to proceed shows in no uncertain terms that they are, quite naturally, very upset that such attacks can happen in such quick succession and still manage to leave the Pakistani government clueless. The latest incident featured a suicide attacker trying to hit a vehicle carrying Chinese workers from the Gwadar port, and it left three people injured and two children, who just happened to be playing in the area at the time, dead. Just a few days ago, it was a Chinese engineer who had just arrived in Karachi that was shot at and wounded by gunmen on a motorcycle, who were obviously able to slip away very easily. And on July 14, a bus carrying Chinese workers to or from the Dasu dam, which they were working on, was also attacked by a suicide bomber who managed to take 13 lives and also injure 28 people.

The Dasu attack was claimed by the Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF) and the Gwadar attack by the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA). So the Chinese are probably left wondering about the fate of their CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) investments in Balochistan, where at least two outlawed militant brigades are openly challenging the writ of the Pakistani state; to the point that they are clearly bent upon sabotaging the partnership with Beijing. Surely, the Chinese don't expect to tiptoe their way around suicide bombers or look over their shoulder for Baloch terrorists all the way to the finish line. So there's only so long that things can continue this way. They waited for quite a while before coming out openly with their feelings, which began to betray a fair amount of concern after the Dasu attack.

Perhaps they were a little upset that Pakistani authorities tried to downplay the incident in its immediate aftermath; implying that the bus might have plunged into the ravine quite on its own. And it was only later, when the Chinese pressed them - some accounts say they even brought evidence - that Islamabad conceded that a suicide bomber had indeed been up to this dirty work. Islamabad knows that this trend cannot be allowed to continue.

There's no doubt that Pakistan's special geographic location has a lot to do with CPEC being an integral part of the bigger Belt and Road Project - President Xi's vision of recreating the ancient Silk Route, and the bonanza associated with it, in the modern setting. But it's also true that the Chinese, "iron brothers" though they are, will hard put if its opportunity cost becomes

unbearably high. Islamabad must, therefore, act immediately and make sure that their concerns are properly addressed. It's not just one project that is in danger. China is not only the largest foreign investor in Pakistan but also a vital ally that shields us whenever the international glare becomes overbearing. Besides, even though a number of important economic indicators seem encouraging enough at long last, the FDI (foreign direct investment) chart is still pretty depressing to watch, so there's a desperate need to prevent any eggs from falling out of this basket.

Now, with Afghanistan's emerging situation making Pakistan even more vulnerable to surprise attacks from TTP (Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan) terrorists and their associates, the need for vigilance has never been greater. Pakistan has already lost between seventy and eighty thousand people to terrorism. There is no way it can allow any more lives to be taken or the economy to be harmed any further.

Everybody, especially China, is very serious about finally putting a lid on terrorist threats in this country. The coming days and weeks, not months and years, will show which way things are going to go.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/25/6-page/898166-news.html>

‘Sino-Pak ties cannot be undermined by third countries’

ISLAMABAD: In a veiled yet an obvious warning shot to India and the US, Pakistan and China on Tuesday resolved that the all-weather Sino-Pak ties cannot be undermined by “third countries” which try to target their “bilateral interests”.

This significant development transpired in a video call between National Security Advisor Dr Moeed Yusuf and State Councilor, Minister of Public Security of China Zhao Kezhi.

As Afghanistan is on the crossroad with the collapse of the US and Indian-sponsored Afghan government, the leaders of the two countries reiterated to stand shoulder to shoulder for a peaceful political settlement and an all-inclusive setup in the war-torn country.

The duo resolved to remain closely engaged over the evolving situation in the region in wake of chaos in Afghanistan as Americans and other foreigners stuck in the country are yet to be evacuated.

During the call, the two leaders discussed regional peace and security, as well as, other matters of mutual interest, said a statement issued by the office of National Security Advisor Dr Yusuf. Yusuf was quoted as saying that the perpetrators of terrorist attacks on Chinese nationals working in Pakistan will be brought to justice.

They agreed that the Afghan soil should not be allowed to be used against other countries by terrorists.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries. Kezhi said that he was looking forward to visit Pakistan and meet Yusuf once the Covid-19 situation improved.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/25/7-page/898173-news.html>

All set to exempt Chinese agri drones from taxes

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet which is scheduled to meet on Wednesday (today) will grant exemption of all taxes on drones gifted by China for agriculture sector, and supply of flour and rice to Syria as humanitarian assistance. In this regard, Ministry of National Food Security and Research in a summary has stated that during a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador, Minister for National Food Security & Research (MNFS&R) requested the Chinese side for provision of drones for controlling desert locusts in Pakistan.

Consequently, after mutual consultation, a formal request was made through Ministry of Economic Affairs to China for provision of drones. Thereafter, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) China donated twelve drones to the Department of Plant Protection (DPP), which were handed over to the Pakistani Mission at Beijing.

The drones which were to be transported by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) remained parked in a warehouse in China and could not be transported to Pakistan due to the Covid pandemic restrictions worldwide and other reasons. MNFS&R with the assistance of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Pakistan has now made all the arrangements for transportation of these drones by ship. The requisite cost has already been approved and a sanction letter issued for transfer of these funds to MOFA.

At present, there are various taxes/duties/levies/port charges such as Federal Excise duty, sales tax, withholding tax, import duties, etc., applicable on the import of drones. Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) was consulted on the issue and it opined that the FBR allows tariff exemptions upon the recommendation of the Federal Government. In addition, Government of Sindh was also consulted and they have informed that the import of drones is not liable to Sindh Sales Tax under the Sindh Act of 2011

MNFS&R has proposed that all applicable taxes/duties on the import of drones, donated by the People's Republic of China to Pakistan, may be waived off. Moreover, according to the summary of NDMA, Prime Minister of Syria who appreciated Pakistani Government's humanitarian assistance to Syria provided in November, 2020 to fight against Covid-19 pandemic has requested for further support to the Syrian people in the form of edible items like wheat, rice and life-saving drugs because the Syrian people are badly affected by the Caesar Act 2019 applied by the US on Syria.

Pakistan's Ambassador in Syria has noted that Syria is expected to revert to normalcy soon. Further, Syria has always supported Pakistan on the Kashmir issue.

The summary says that option of sending edible items (wheat and rice) to Syria is not considered feasible due to non-availability of sea freight to Syria and huge cost involved for transportation

of heavy donation consignment by air. Ministry of Foreign Affairs; therefore, analyzed the option of procuring wheat and rice from the Syrian market or from its neighbouring countries.

Pakistani Mission in Syria evaluated the option of procuring edible items (flour and rice) from the local market. Accordingly, the Mission has shared the prices of edible commodities. MOFA has endorsed the proposal and suggested that at least 200 tons each of rice and flour (total 400 tons) may be considered as food package to be given to Syria as humanitarian assistance. MOFA requested NDMA to arrange funds and get necessary approval from the competent forums to provide the humanitarian assistance to the people of Syria. Federal Cabinet previously approved donation of 50,000 PPES Kits to Syria and these were dispatched to Syria in November, 2020.

In terms of Section 6(21) read with Section 23(3) of the National Disaster Management Act, 2010, approval of the government is required to provide support to other countries affected by disasters, says the summary.

NDMA has proposed that Government of Pakistan may provide donation of 200 tons each of flour and rice (total 400 tons) as a message of solidarity and help to Syria in time of need. If the proposal is approved, Pakistani Mission in Syria will procure 200 tons each of flour and rice (total 400 tons) from Syrian local market. An amount of Rs 44.24 million , (equivalent to USD 270,000 @ US \$ 1 = Rs 163.85) will be released through Technical Supplementary Grant after approval by ECC of the Cabinet for further transfer of funds to Pakistan Mission in Syria, through MoFA, for edible items.

Finance Division has already endorsed the proposal of donation to Syria. —MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/25/12-page/898222-news.html>

Dawn News

Anti-China attacks

THE uptick in attacks targeting Chinese nationals in Pakistan must not be taken lightly by the government and the security apparatus. Firm steps are needed to prevent such incidents from recurring. The latest incident occurred in Gwadar as a motorcade carrying Chinese nationals was attacked on Friday on the East-Bay Expressway. Some local children were killed in the act of terrorism, while a Chinese individual was injured.

Earlier, Chinese citizens had been attacked elsewhere in the country, including in Karachi late last month, and earlier in the horrific Dasu incident in the middle of July, in which a number of Chinese nationals were killed. Clearly, efforts are afoot by hostile actors to damage the Pakistan-China relationship, specifically the flagship CPEC project, by targeting China's citizens in Pakistan. While the Pakistan-China relationship is deep and multifaceted, China has issued a strongly worded statement in the aftermath of the Gwadar incident. The Chinese embassy in Islamabad has asked Pakistan "to take practical and effective measures" to prevent such incidents in the future and to "conduct a thorough investigation".

Moreover, the Chinese ambassador, Nong Rong, met Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid on Sunday and called on Pakistan to provide “stronger security protocol” to nationals of his country. It should be recalled that after the Dasu incident, both the foreign minister and the army chief had to assure Chinese officials that Pakistan would do all it could to bring the perpetrators to justice.

With the fall of Kabul and the security situation in Afghanistan incredibly fluid, Pakistan must remain on its toes where security threats are concerned. While the threat from religiously motivated militants having sanctuaries in Afghanistan is very real, Baloch separatists also operate out of Pakistan’s western neighbour. The banned Baloch Liberation Army claimed it had carried out the Gwadar attack. Therefore, Pakistan must make it clear to the new set-up in Kabul that it is their responsibility to act against all elements working against this country on their soil. Domestically, intelligence-based operations need to be carried out to neutralise cells that are looking to harm Chinese nationals and interests in this country. Some states in the region that do not want to see Pakistan-China ties prosper will be ready to take advantage of the changing geopolitical situation in the area. Their efforts must be thwarted by the security apparatus so that foreign nationals can work here in a secure and peaceful environment.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1642328>

Gwadar attack part of anti-CPEC plot: minister

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said on Monday that investigators had got to the bottom of the last week’s suicide attack targeting a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Gwadar district of Balochistan.

Speaking at a press conference here, he said an international conspiracy had been hatched against the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), but expressed the confidence that all such nefarious plots would be foiled.

Terming the CPEC the jugular vein of the country’s economy, he said the project would continue as the government was committed to go ahead with it.

About investigations into other incidents involving Chinese people, he said some suspects had been arrested while others were being traced.

Regarding the fallout of the Afghan situation, he said now the importance of CPEC had increased. He said 40 companies operating under CPEC were being provided protection by security forces, but recent events such as the Dasu attack and Quetta’s Serena Hotel blast signalled that “people want to play with the lives of Chinese who are not only friends but well-wishers of Pakistan”.

Rashid says Taliban have assured Islamabad militants won’t be allowed to use Afghan soil against Pakistan

Mr Rashid said that he had assured Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong of complete security to Chinese workers, adding that all of Pakistan’s institutions were working on it.

He said the Afghan Taliban had reassured the government that the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) would not be given permission to operate in Afghanistan against Pakistan. The interior minister said that some TTP members such as Maulvi Faqir Mohammad had been released by the Taliban after their takeover of Kabul on August 15, adding that the government was in “full contact” with the Taliban on the issue.

“The Afghan Taliban have reassured the Pakistan government that Afghanistan’s soil will not be allowed to be used in any case by the TTP,” said Mr Rashid. He said Pakistan desired peace in Afghanistan.

The interior minister’s comments came two days after the Foreign Office said that Pakistan would ask the incoming government in Afghanistan to act against the TTP.

“Pakistan has been taking up the issue of the use of Afghan soil by the TTP for terrorist activities inside Pakistan with the previous Afghan government and it would continue raising the issue with the incoming government in Kabul as well to ensure that the TTP is not provided any space in Afghanistan to operate against Pakistan,” the FO spokesman had said. According to a report prepared for the United Nations Security Council in July, the TTP has about 6,000 trained fighters on the Afghan side of the border. The report had noted that “despite growing distrust, the TTP and the Taliban carry on with relations mainly as before”, adding that the former supported the latter in operations against the Afghan government. Regarding Pakistan’s efforts to facilitate evacuations of Pakistanis and other people from Afghanistan, Mr Rashid said more than 1,200 people, including Americans, had been evacuated and more than 4,000 visas had been issued in total.

Mr Rashid said that 50 members of the Afghan cricket team had been issued visas as well and one-month visa-on-arrival facilities were being provided to diplomats and officials of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. He said the interior ministry was increasing its capacity to issue more visas if needed. The interior minister clarified that Pakistan had no connection with the situation at Kabul airport.

“People are expecting us to gather people from different areas and give them entry to Kabul airport, but this is not our responsibility,” Mr Rashid said. He said that Pakistan had “no reservation” on requests by the European Union and other countries to park their planes in Pakistan for transport and other matters.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1642278>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC our economic jugular vein

THERE cannot be any better lexeme for multibillion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) than the one used by Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad whilst talking to the media persons on Monday, declaring it the economic jugular vein of Pakistan.

It is so as ever since the launch of this corridor project, the country has been able to build state of the art road infrastructure, which is a must to improve connectivity and bolster trade.

Besides, the power generation projects have greatly contributed to address the longstanding issue of electricity load shedding.

In fact had the Chinese not invested in the power sector, Pakistan still would have been languishing in darkness and load shedding of twelve to eighteen hours.

Our Chinese friends are still engaged in some of the most strategically important projects such as Diamer Basha and Dasu dams which are of immense importance not only to generate cheap and clean electricity but also to irrigate large swaths of barren land.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are also being opened in the provinces which will take the country towards industrialization.

These SEZs will not only help bolster our exports but also provide immense job opportunities to our youths.

However, recent terrorist attacks in which a number of Chinese workers were killed clearly indicate that our enemies are out to cut this very jugular vein, and if they succeed, the results will be disastrous for the economy.

The Chinese Embassy in a statement recently also voiced its concerns over the security of its workers in Pakistan.

We in these columns have been stressing that the government must come up with a comprehensive security cover ensuring foolproof security for the Chinese workers.

Through better intelligence coordination, it is imperative to pre-empt and foil the terrorist plots. These foreign-backed terrorists must not be allowed any space to sabotage the CPEC project.

Our Chinese friends also fully understand the threats faced by the corridor project and in the past whenever somebody tried to kick dust on it, they came forward to fully defend it.

We are confident that both the countries will continue to work together to foil the evil designs of the enemy.

The best response to its ploys will be to further accelerate the pace of work on all the CPEC-related projects.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-our-economic-jugular-vein/>

Pakistan's digital achievements shine at China-SCO forum

Pakistan's digital achievements wow the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states at the 2021 China-SCO Forum on the Digital Economy Industry and the Smart China Expo 2021 that started in China's tech hub of Chongqing.

The digital achievements, which are showcased in the Pakistan Pavilion, feature the contributions of two digital-minded organisations in Pakistan.

According to China Economic Net, for the Ignite National Technology Fund of Pakistan (Ignite Paki-stan), the pavilion shows how Ignite Pakistan contributes to the development of the digital economy in Pakistan by funding digital-conscious startups and innovative projects.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-digital-achievements-shine-at-china-sco-forum/>

Strategic Significance of Pakistan's Gwadar Port in the region

MD Pathik Hasan

Pakistan's Gwadar port under the China's project 'Belt and Road Initiative' is going to be one of the top trade hubs in the region, linking the West Asian nations to (Commonwealth of Independent States) CIS countries. 'China Pakistan Economic Corridor' (CPEC) has been formed around Gwadar.

Although the seaport of Gwadar is in Balochistan in Pakistan, its root is deep in the whole region. A deep link is going to be formed between Asia and Europe centred on Gwadar Port and CPEC.

The huge investment of 60 billion US dollars has taken Pakistan-China relations to the next level. Not only that, CPEC will open a new horizon in Pakistan's trade and commerce.

CPEC under 'Belt and Road initiative, China's multifaceted project will not only connect China's landlocked province of Xinjiang, but also take Pakistan's trade to a new level by taking advantage of Pakistan's unused coastline.

This multifaceted project includes the construction of the deep seaport of Gwadar in southern Pakistan and the construction of a wide road from Karachi to Kashgar in China.

Karachi, a busy commercial city of more than two core people, has two huge seaports through which all trade and commerce of Pakistan is conducted. Karachi is the main centre of trade and commerce in Pakistan.

The seaport of Gwadar in Pakistan's Balochistan and the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) built around it will boost up Pakistan's economic prosperity. This corridor will significantly reduce the distance between Pakistan and China.

The multi-purpose corridor project will establish Pakistan's connectivity with the landlocked province of Xinjiang. Besides, Pakistan's unused coastline will be utilized.

The CPEC will connect China's Kashgar with Pakistan's commercial cities of Karachi and Gwadar. Karachi, the world's fifth largest city, already has two ports that cater to all trade and commerce needs in Pakistan.

Balochistan, the largest province by area and rich in mineral resources, is a gem of Pakistan.

There are immense treasures hidden under the soil of the Rocky Mountains of Balochistan. China's huge investment in Gwadar is like a pearl for Balochistan.

The seaport of Gwadar, located on the Strait of Hormuz in the United Arab Emirates, which connects the Caspian region, is a gateway to the development of the Caspian region. The port of Gwadar will serve as a hub for future trade and commerce.

In case of any threat to the port of Malacca, the port of Gwadar will be the only option for China to enter the Indian Ocean and the Middle East and West Asia.

About 60% of China's energy demand comes from the Persian Gulf. Gwadar will play a huge role in China's energy imports. In 1971, India attacked the port of Karachi twice.

The port of Gwadar will act as radar for Indian deep operations in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Aden under the Indian Navy.

Surrounded by Central Asia, South Asia, Iran and Afghanistan, the Caspian Sea, known as the energy-rich 'Lake', has always been known as an area of peace due to its economic and geographical importance. China has already announced its intention to invest in the Chabahar rail link project.

China's contribution to the development of Chabahar port would be a great opportunity for this port to further establish itself as a trade hub in the region since China is currently one of the world's most advanced countries in terms of maritime and port industries.

Gwadar is located at a very important place at the junction of the Energy Corridor in the Gulf States and Central Asia. Gwadar plays an important role in fuel transportation in landlocked Central Asia and the western provinces of China.

In addition to its economic and business importance, the port of Gwadar is expected to create at least two million jobs in Pakistan, analysts say.

The first part of this huge port was completed in 2006. PSA International Company of Singapore operated the first part of the port from 2007 to 2012.

In 2013, the port's operations were transferred to China Overseas Holding Company, a Chinese state-owned company. The second phase of work is underway. The second phase of the plan includes work to increase the scope and efficiency of the service.

The port of Gwadar has emerged as one of the largest and most important ports in the world under the CPEC.

Located on the southern coast of Pakistan, the seaport of Gwadar is surrounded by the Harjum Strait, the important region of South Asia, the oil-rich Arab Peninsula, and the abundant natural resources of Central Asia.

The key to the larger international political game has now shifted from Central Asia to the West.

Moreover, the hidden resources in Balochistan, gas, coal, gold, as well as Pakistan's steel-hard friendship with China (Iron Brother) will be a source of frustration for India and Israel, as the agenda of these two anti-Muslim states destabilizes Pakistan.

Balochistan is a paradise for Pakistan not only for its breathtaking natural beauty but also for its vast natural resources. Balochistan has a lot of resources to enrich not only Gwadar but also Pakistan.

The discovery of gold in Chaghai will soon make Pakistan one of the richest countries in the world. Pakistan has been using Sui gas for the last 60 years. The tourist attractions from Jiraat to Jhal and from Bolan to Hingal are special.

These sights will attract tourists from all over the world. 600 million tons of iron and 500 million tons of copper were found in Chaghai alone. Concerned quarters are of the opinion that when the Gwadar port is fully operationalized, it will provide employment to millions of people.

According to Pakistani media, the central government of Pakistan has adopted a new plan for the development of Balochistan.

According to the new plan, once the port development of Gwadar, including Balochistan, is completed, Gwadar will be the most developed and beautiful city in Pakistan, which will probably outperform Singapore.

Due to Pakistan's geographical location and geographical strategy, it would take Pakistan to a higher level of geo-economic development.

Gwadar port makes Pakistan a more strategically significant state in the region. It is the clear-cut example of 'Shifting of Pakistan's Foreign Policy towards geo-economic from geo-strategy.

However, States of Asia, Europe and Africa will benefit from this Chinese project. It is going to be a communication link between Asia and Europe.

<https://pakobserver.net/strategic-significance-of-pakistans-gwadar-port-in-the-region-by-md-pathik-hasan/>

CPEC & drastic change in regional power chessboard

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

WITH the drastic change in the regional geopolitical and geostrategic scenarios, especially in Afghanistan, there have been lots of anti-CPEC articles published in the Times of India, Hindustan Times and The Diplomat in recent times indicating Taliban capturing Kabul as a great setback to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Even the US and the EU, as usual, propagated spill-over geopolitical and geostrategic repercussions of Afghanistan on the development of CPEC which they termed stalled and derailed.

It is all their wishes and whims making castles in the air and do not have any concrete foundations.

The most recent published book of Mr. Zahid Hussain “No Win War” also showed serious concerns about imminent fall and rise of the Taliban which it considered a “security threat” to Chinese investment and operations in Pakistan because TTP has been targeting Chinese interests and projects of CPEC in the country. Apparently, his all concerns are baseless and do not have any substance.

Furthermore Muhammad Akbar Notezai’s article entitled “Chaos in Afghanistan Threatens CPEC” published on July 19, 2021 in The Diplomat intentionally raised serious concerns about the CPEC which is the flagship project of massive Belt and Road Initiative aiming to build infrastructure, expand trade links and deepen ties across Eurasia and Africa.

It seems that the writer does not have even basic knowledge of CPEC and BRI and he derived his conclusion on the basis of law and order deterioration in Afghanistan and intentionally correlated it with CPEC. It is even against the basic logic of economic derivatives and rational thinking.

Undoubtedly, China has strategic interest in Afghanistan that is why it has been investing in its infrastructure development and mining projects.

In this direction, Beijing has been advising Pakistan to open border points with Afghanistan in order to increase trade with an eye toward CPEC since 2015.

As a result, Pakistan announced a plan to establish 12 border markets with Afghanistan, versus just six border markets with Iran during 2020.

Time and again, China, Pakistan and Afghanistan revealed an inclination to extend the CPEC project into Afghanistan which could help boost Afghanistan’s exports.

In the near past even the Taliban showed keen interest to welcome China’s assistance in reconstruction and development of their country with the departure of US troops, calling China a friend of Afghanistan.

Now with the peaceful fall of Kabul and seemingly smooth power transition, chances are very bright for CPEC to enter into the soil of Afghanistan for massive reconstruction and development through the potential extension of CPEC.

In this connection, the Foreign Ministers of China, Pakistan and Afghanistan held a dialogue in September 2019.

They agreed then that the three countries should increase mutual connectivity and push the extension of CPEC to Afghanistan.

It seems that the CPEC expected extended operations into Afghanistan, would assist China to help build or improve infrastructure between Afghanistan and Pakistan to facilitate their economic exchange.

In this regard, the highway between Peshawar and Kabul may be again qualified for greater transport connecting hub.

China can help build bypasses to that road as well as expanding relevant customs to make the connectivity between Afghanistan and Pakistan smoother.

After its completion, goods manufactured in Afghanistan will manage to find their way into the abundant markets in Pakistan which is important for its economy and growth of exports.

In this context, Chinese companies could help invest in energy infrastructure in Afghanistan such as building electricity plants and water irrigation channels.

It could be enhanced to a further stage such as the construction of processing areas and industry parks in the two countries' neighbouring areas, where overseas capital can be directed in.

Therefore, the CPEC has an apparent positive spill-over effect in the reconstruction process of Afghanistan.

Regional connectivity pledged by BRI will facilitate the flow of goods and people via CPEC's key transportation routes, and it is not hard to see that Afghanistan's post-war reconstruction, industrial and digital build-up and economic growth could benefit.

Moreover, CPEC's industrial parks, many invested by Chinese investors, could provide the goods and products needed by the reconstruction process in Afghanistan.

It would create new jobs for locals. Hopefully, it would be conducive to the country's security and its march to peace.

Afghanistan has become the first among several landlocked Central Asian States to benefit from using the Gwadar Port in Pakistan in transshipment trade.

In 2020, the country imported 43,000 tons of fertilizers via the port, contributing to its agricultural development.

In May 2021, Uzbekistan also sent a high-level delegation to the Gwadar Port to look for logistics opportunities that might help it export its cotton.

So the Gwadar Port will definitely play a major role in the reconstruction of war-torn Afghanistan.

The Chinese spokesperson Zhao Lijian said that the BRI and CPEC are open and inclusive international economic cooperation initiatives that are dedicated to improve connectivity and achieve common development.

He termed CPEC, as pioneering projects of the Belt and Road Initiative, has made important and major progress in infrastructure, energy, ports and industrial parks.

Zhao Lijian also said that China would like to work with Pakistan for the high-quality development of the CPEC and extend it to regional countries, improve people's well-being and play a bigger role in regional connectivity and economic integration.

The two sides are having consultations through diplomatic channels, he said. “We notice that Afghanistan is importing and exporting goods through Gwadar and Karachi ports.

High-speed highways are also being extended to Afghanistan.” Prospects are very high that China will make an exclusive entry into post-US Afghanistan with its BRI.

Taliban are growing more intensively engaged with China on an extension of the CPEC which involves the construction of highways, railways and energy pipelines between Pakistan and China to Afghanistan, reported international media.

According to another diplomatic source Beijing and Kabul are seriously considering constructing a China-backed major road between Afghanistan and Pakistan’s north-western city of Peshawar, which is already linked with the CPEC route.

In this regard, there is a discussion on a Peshawar-Kabul motorway between the authorities in Kabul and Beijing and linking Kabul with Peshawar by road means Afghanistan’s formal joining of CPEC.

Under its BRI, China wants to connect Asia with Africa and Europe through land and maritime networks spanning some 60 countries.

By virtue of its location, Afghanistan can provide China with a strategic base to spread its influence across the world, ideally located to serve as a trade hub connecting the Middle East, Central Asia and Europe.

Being a prominent regional expert of CPEC & BRI, I suggest that China and Pakistan should now focus on the reconstruction of Afghanistan through the imminent extension of CPEC. Even the ML-I mega railway project may be extended to Kabul which would be game and fate changer.

In this regard, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan’s proposed trans-regional railway project of “Termez-Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar” would be further consolidated and accordingly connected. To conclude with the peaceful fall of Kabul the chessboard of power politics should now promote spirit of development instead of destruction, mutual cooperation instead of conspiracies and spells of cooperation instead of contradictions because CPEC stands for regional peace and stability and economic prosperity is a must for greater regional connectivity.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-drastic-change-in-regional-power-chessboard-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Nawaiwaqt News

معید یوسف کا چینی ہم منصب کو فون، خطے کی بدلتی صورت حال پر ملکر چلنے کا عزم

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) مشیر قومی سلامتی معید یوسف نے چینی ہم منصب سٹیٹ کونسلر ژاؤ کو ٹیلی فون کیا۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے علاقائی امن اور باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے خطے کی بدلتی صورت حال پر مل کر کام کرنے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا۔ افغانستان میں پر امن سیاسی تصفیہ کی حمایت کا اعادہ کیا گیا۔ اعلامیہ میں کہا

گیا ہے کہ پاک چین دوستی کو کوئی کمزور نہیں کر سکتا۔ پاک چین مفادات کو نشانہ بنانے والے کامیاب نہیں ہوں گے۔ افغان سرزمین دوسرے ممالک کیخلاف دہشتگردی کیلئے استعمال نہیں ہونی چاہئے۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے پاکستان و چین کے درمیان بہترین دو طرفہ تعلقات پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-25/page-1/detail-22>

August 26, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese modern tech to help boost rice production in Pakistan

The production of high-yielding hybrid rice receives a notable boost in Pakistan, from the startup of modern color sorter machines and seeds given by China to Pakistan to facilitate the sowing of this grain.

Michael Guo, sales manager of Hefei Meyer optoelectronic technology international told China Economic Net that they started to sell the color sorter to the Pakistan market in 2008, it's very hard to promote the Chinese Brand at the very beginning, as many people prefer to buy European and Japanese Brand. He said that in the first five years they only sold not more than 50 machines, but after 2013 rice mills owners have experienced the Chinese Brand, saying it's not only cheap but also has good quality and stability.

“Up to now, Meyer has sold more than 600 color sorter machines in the Pakistani market with a share of 40%. Most rice exporters are using Meyer color sorter machines, and they are very satisfied with it. MEYER color sorter provides the greatest guarantee of food security for all over the world”, he added. According to the General Customs Administration of China, data about Pakistan sales of color sorter machines increased over the past four years, and the next three years are an estimate as per previous experience.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/808496/chinese-modern-tech-to-help-boost-rice-production-in-pakistan/>

CPEC helping broaden scope of govt to industrial, IT, agri sectors

China-Pak_CPEC-1The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) government's special focus on multi-billion dollar projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has helped broaden its scope from infrastructure and energy to industrial, information technology (IT) and agriculture sectors.

During the first three years of the incumbent government, new infrastructure projects started with particular emphasis on the western alignment of CPEC which connects the most underdeveloped regions with Gwadar and major urban centers of the country.

In addition, based on the government's emphasis on clean energy, work on hydel power projects such as Azad Pattan and Kohala has also been initiated.

With respect to Gwadar's development, a three-year performance report launched by the government on Thursday said a new international airport in the city is under construction; the connection with national power grid is in advance stages of completion; dams for increased water supply have been built; Eastbay Expressway is nearly completion and a number of socioeconomic projects for the people of Gwadar and nearby areas are being implemented.

The first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) under CPEC became operational in Faisalabad in 2020. The second SEZ has been set up in Rashakai in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by a Chinese developer, who is also responsible for marketing this SEZ to Chinese and other investors. The third SEZ is expected to become operational at Dhabeji in Sindh soon. Major industrial investment is expected in these SEZs which will make the industrial cooperation strand of CPEC the most vibrant element of the Corridor.

The agriculture Joint Working Group (JWG) under CPEC was set up in March 2020. One of the first projects being taken up is high quality cotton seed production.

Collaborative investments by Chinese and Pakistani companies for different high value crops and large-scale dairy farming are being worked out. This injection of new vitality and global connection is absolutely vital for our agricultural transformation, the report added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/808535/cpec-helping-broaden-scope-of-govt-to-industrial-it-agri-sectors/>

Pakistan Observer

Fixing the agro-economy of Pakistan

Prof Abdul Shakoor Shah

AGRICULTURE is an art of nurturing harvest and hoisting livestock. Its paramount economic role in undersized or budding countries has vital significance. In Pakistan it has been considered an economic axis for growth.

In the 40s, it made up around 53% of the country's GDP and more than 65% of our labour engaged in this sector.

During the last seven decades, political, social, environmental and climate change have curtailed these figures. Currently, agriculture is contributing 22.04% to national GDP. The agro-employment ratio has fallen from 65% to mere 35.9%.

The national rural population is around 63.09% and overwhelming preponderance of the bucolic is unswervingly or circuitously connected with agriculture. It also supplies unrefined material for the various industrial sectors as well as a chief purchaser of agro-products.

Ironically, we are only cultivating 21.1 million of the area out of 796,096 km that is why roughly 1/3rd of our population lives below the poverty line approximately, around 49% of our people are facing food insecurity.

It is anticipated that the wheat production will decline by 50% in 2050 due to climatic change. Climatic change has drastically affected our mango production.

Despite all this we are one of the largest producers of chief crops contributing to around 35% of agriculture, livestock contributes to around 61% in agriculture, fisheries contribute 2.06% and forestry contribute 2.13% in agriculture.

The crops production had negative growth in 2015, 2016 and 2019, Forestry saw a gigantic beg off in 2015 and downbeat growth of 2.33% in 2017.

Wheat is one of the most used crops in the world. During 2020, it contributed to 8.7% in agriculture and 1.7% in GDP of the country.

In 2019-2020, despite covid19 and locust attacks Pakistan managed to produce 24.9 million tons of wheat and the area for wheat cultivation also increased by 1.7%. Rice is the second most vital crop in terms of food, cash and export. It contributes to 3.1% of agriculture and 0.6% to national GDP. In 2020, Pakistan produced 7.4 million tons of rice and the area of cultivation also increased by 8%.

Cotton is also considered the backbone of our economy. It contributes to 4.1% of agriculture and 0.8% to the GDP of the country; in 2019-20 we produced 9.1 million bales of cotton, the 7% production of cotton decreased by almost 7% from the output of 2018-19. The area of cultivation was increased by 6.5% but the overall output decreased in 2019-20.

Sugarcane is very significant for the sugar related industries. The Sugar Mafia and the sugar crisis had been rampant some months before.

Sugarcane contributes to 2.9% of agriculture and 0.6% to the GDP of the country, in 2019-20, the production of sugarcane declined by 0.4% and the area under cultivation fell by 5.6%.

The negligence in sugar production resulted in a severe sugar crisis. Maize contributes to 2.9% of total agriculture and 0.6% to national GDP.

The area of cultivation was increased by 2.9% in 2019-20 and its production increased by 7%. The increase is due to allocation of more area and better seeds.

The production of gram, Bajra and Tobacco boosted by 21.9%, 9.7% and 5.8% in the year 2019-20 respectively, while the production of Jowar declined by 19.5%.

As for the pulses the production of moong increased by 12.6%, mash decreased by 5.8% and the production of masoor remained stable.

Production of chilies increased by 34.6%, due to the good weather conditions but the production of onions and potatoes decreased by 1% and 5.3% in the year 2019-20. The production of oil from oilseeds was only 0.5 million tons.

More than eight million families are directly or indirectly linked with this livestock sector and it is the source of 35-40% of their income. Livestock also contributes to 3.1% of our exports.

960.6% of total agriculture is based upon livestock and it contributes to 11.7% of our national GDP. Globally, Pakistan is the fourth largest milk producer. In 2019-20 we produced 61.6 million tons of milk and 4.7 million tones of meat.

Poultry is a sub-sector of livestock, currently the investment in this sector has reached 700 billion rupees and the sector provides jobs to around 1.5 million people in the country.

This sector balances the overall meat production of the country as 35% of the total meat comes from poultry.

This sector grew by 9.1% in 2019-20. Fisheries is the source of income for the people living in coastal areas of Pakistan. It has a 0.4% share in GDP.

In 2019-20 the total fisheries production was approximately 701762 metric tons and we exported Rs 49528 million worth of fishes and fish products.

There is an overall increase in production, in comparison to 2018-19 was 9.7%, whereas the overall increase in the exports of fish and fish related products was 2.7%. Forestry is very important but unluckily only 5.01% area of Pakistan comprises forest.

The country has 4.51 million hectares of forest, in which 3.44 millions of forests are on government owned land, the rest are on private owned lands. The share of forestry is only 2.1%.

The results indicate that agriculture and sub-sectors of agriculture have a significant impact on economic growth of the country; however forestry did not have a significant impact on economic growth. There is a dire need of turning our lens to agro-economic development.

AJK and GB must be kept on focal points in this respect as there are greater prospects of agro-economic growth and contribution to national GDP. In AJK and GB most of the areas are uncultivated and uninhabited.

The industry of livestock can bring a tremendous change to boost a country's economy and the living standard of the masses. Agro-economic sector needs immediate attention of the concerned authorities to tackle the future problems which may get worse in case of further delay.

<https://pakobserver.net/fixing-the-agro-economy-of-pakistan-by-prof-abdul-shakoor-shah/>

The Express Tribune

Security termed crucial to CPEC stability

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Wednesday noted that security of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was crucial to achieve economic stability, maintaining that lack of security could affect businesses.

The 37th committed meeting, presided over by MNA Sher Ali Arbab, was briefed over a range of issues, including security measures set in place for the projects undertaken within the CPEC framework, the Main Line-1 (ML-1) project with special focus on the ET component and the progress on Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

The committee observed that the establishment of SEZs would be futile if industries were not installed timely. The issues pertaining to the sale and cancellation of plots in the SEZs need to be resolved at the earliest so that the process of establishing industries in SEZs could be expedited.

The panel stressed the need to move towards ease of doing business so as to attract massive local and foreign direct investment in Pakistan. The committee highlighted that quarters concerned should incentivise industries in the SEZs in such a way that the SEZs established in Pakistan could compete with other countries in the region.

“Moreover, apart from focusing on agriculture and industrial sectors, the untapped potential in tourism should also be exploited. It noted that a great deal of revenue and employment opportunities could be generated by establishing integrated tourism zones in the country under CPEC,” a statement quoted members of the panel as saying.

The committee, while receiving the briefing on security measures for projects under the CPEC framework, maintained that issues faced by SEZs in terms of security measures affect businesses.

It was noted that measures to facilitate smooth and easy businesses in Pakistan was the top priority in order to ensure economic stability which, in turn, will lead to peace and security in Pakistan.

The members asserted that the goals envisaged under the CPEC would remain elusive without local ownership, therefore, issues faced by locals in terms of security arrangements should be resolved at the earliest so that local ownership of CPEC projects could be secured.

Regarding the promising results of the Electric Traction (E.T) component in the Mainline-1 (ML-1) project, the committee members were of the view that the world was fast moving towards the adoption of modern technologies.

“Adding Electric Traction (E.T) component in Mainline-1 (ML-1) project after 8 to 10 years would become obsolete and costly,” the statement added.

They said that given the huge benefit of the ET component in ML-1 in terms of its payback, cost and compatibility with the environment, “we need to move towards its adoption right from now and upgrade the existing infrastructure”.

The government has planned to establish nine special economic zones all across the country.

The nine zones include one located in each of the provinces, one model zone in the capital territory, Moqpondass in Gilgit-Baltistan, Mohmand Marble City in FATA, Bhimber Industrial

Zone in AJK, Industrial Park on Pakistan Steel Mills Land at Port Qasim near Karachi under federal government control.

The idea of a special economic zone (SEZ) is to establish a specific area of land to promote industrial growth by providing special concessions in tax and economic policies.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2317197/security-termed-crucial-to-cpec-stability>

KCR groundbreaking to take place in Sept

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has directed Pakistan Railways to complete all the formalities at the earliest and ensure necessary arrangements are made for the groundbreaking of Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) infrastructure by September 2021.

While chairing a meeting to review the latest status of KCR and railways freight corridor projects on Wednesday, he said that simultaneous work on PPP components of the KCR would result in months of time saving and completion of the project. So, the railways should expedite consultation with P3A. The minister was briefed on the KCR and told that the KCR scheme envisaged construction of a 43km-long world-class affordable mass transit system by using environment-friendly electric trains. The railways secretary emphasised that the KCR project was on track as per the timelines given by the ministry.

Meeting participants also held discussion on the freight corridor project from Keamari/KPT to Pipri Marshalling Yard, which involved the construction/ dualisation/ upgrading of a 50km dedicated freight corridor from Karachi Port to Pipri and the development of an inland container depot/ Marshalling Yard at Pipri. The meeting was briefed that the project was expected to facilitate 40% of the cargo meant to be transported upcountry. Furthermore, the plan has been submitted to the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Authority for approval.

Umar gave directives that the corridor must be designed for optimising the outcome, and in addition to the financial cost, the destination time should be reduced as well. Umar directed all the concerned officials to ensure the completion of projects within timelines, as such projects were crucial for the socio-economic wellbeing of the people of Karachi.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2317161/kcr-groundbreaking-to-take-place-in-sept>

Nawaiwaqt News

کلبھوشن کے پکڑے جانے کے بعد بلوچ علیحدگی پسندی کے اثرات اب بھی موجود ہیں

عبدالستار چودھری

افغانستان میں ذلت بھری شکست کا سامنا کرنے کے بعد امریکہ اور اس کے حواری ابھی تک ورطہ حیرت میں مبتلا ہیں، محض اللہ پر بھروسہ کرنے والے خاک نشینوں کے خلاف سپرپاور اور اس کے گماشتوں کی تدبیریں الٹ گئیں تو نخطے میں تھانیدار بننے کے خواب سجائے ہندو بنیا بھی اس ذلت آمیز شکست کے بعد ابھی تک اپنے اوسان بحال نہیں کر پایا،

طالبان نے جس تیز رفتاری سے پیشرفت دکھائی اس میں کچھ ناواقف اندیشوں کو ابھی بھی کوئی امریکی سازش دکھائی دیتی ہے لیکن حقیقت یہی ہے کہ افغانستان کی صورت حال روز بروز بہتری کی جانب بڑھتی دکھائی دیتی ہے، اشرف غنی سمیت تمام مسلح گروہوں اور اپنے مخالفین کے لئے عام معافی کا اعلان کر کے طالبان نے انتہائی ذمہ داری کا ثبوت دیا ہے اور عملی طور پر یہ ثابت کیا ہے کہ وہ کابل فتح کرنے نہیں بلکہ کابل پر حکومت کرنے کے لئے آئے ہیں، شاید بیس سال کی جدوجہد نے طالبان کو یہ بات اچھی طرح سمجھا دی ہے کہ شہروں کو فتح کرنے سے اقتدار نہیں ملتا بلکہ اس کے لئے لوگوں کے دلوں میں اترنا پڑتا ہے اور طالبان اب اسی منزل کے حصول کے لئے جدوجہد کرتے دکھائی دے رہے ہیں۔

پر امن افغانستان خطے اور خاص طور پر پاکستان کے لئے انتہائی ضروری ہے، امریکی شکست کے نتیجے میں جب بھارتی خواب چکنا چور ہوئے تو پاکستان کے لئے ملک میں قیام امن کو برقرار رکھنے کے لئے پہلے سے کہیں زیادہ الرٹ رہنا پڑے گا کیونکہ بلوچستان میں بھارتی شراکتی اور دہشت گردی کلبھوشن یا دیوینٹ ورک کے خاتمے کے بعد اگرچہ ختم ہو چکی ہے لیکن کہیں نہ کہیں بھارت کے زیر اثر بلوچ علیحدگی پسندوں کے اثرات اب بھی موجود ہیں۔ ایک ایسے موقع پر جب کہ پوری دنیا کی نگاہیں طالبان پر مرکوز ہیں پاکستان میں سیاسی استحکام بہت اہمیت اختیار کر چکا ہے۔ کابل پر طالبان کا پرچم لہرانے سے چند روز قبل اشرف غنی کے نیشنل سکیورٹی ایڈوائزر محب اللہ سے ملاقات کر کے بھارتی لابی کے لئے بے پناہ خوشی کا باعث بننے والے پاکستان کے سابق وزیر اعظم میاں نواز شریف توفی الحال اپنے نواسے کی شادی کی تقریبات میں خاصے مصروف دکھائی دیتے ہیں لیکن خوشی کے اس موقع پر بھی ان کے چہرے سے وہی پریشانی بلکہ پشیمانی عیاں ہے جو بھارت اور امریکہ کے حصے میں آئی ہے۔

یہ بات بھی سفارتی حلقوں میں گردش کر رہی ہے کہ امریکہ کا افغانستان سے انخلاء جلد بازی میں نہیں بلکہ ایک سوچی سمجھی سکیم کے تحت ہے اور وہ درحقیقت طالبان کو افغانستان اور پاکستان کے سرحدی علاقوں میں مسلط کر کے درحقیقت سی پیک کو مشکلات کا شکار کرنا چاہتا ہے اور اس کے نتیجے میں چین کو کمزور کرنے کا خواہش مند ہے لیکن گزشتہ روز کی ایک پیشرفت نے امریکہ سے منسوب اس ”خیالی“ سازش کے غبارے کی ہوا بھی نکال دی ہے۔ گزشتہ روز وفاقی دارالحکومت اسلام آباد میں چینی سفیر سے نواز شریف کے قریبی بلکہ ہم خیالی اتحادی جمعیت علمائے اسلام (ف) کے سربراہ مولانا فضل الرحمان نے ملاقات کی ہے اور اس ملاقات میں جہاں پاکستان اور سی پیک کے لئے حوصلہ افزا خبریں موجود ہیں وہیں امریکہ، بھارت اور افغانستان میں طالبان مخالف قوتوں کے لئے مزید مایوسی بڑھی ہے۔ چائے کے سفیر نوگ روگ سے ملاقات میں مولانا فضل الرحمان کا کہنا تھا کہ چین پاکستان کا با اعتماد ساتھی ہے اور پاکستان میں چین کی سرمایہ کاری اور ترقیاتی منصوبے تحسین کے قابل ہیں۔ چینی سفیر نے بھی مولانا فضل الرحمان کو اعزازی شیلڈ سے نوازتے ہوئے کہا کہ چینی حکومت سی پیک کے لئے مولانا فضل الرحمان کی خدمات کو سراہتی ہے۔ چینی سفیر کی اپوزیشن اتحادی ڈی ایم کے سربراہ سے ملاقات سفارتی لحاظ سے بھی انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے کیونکہ حکومت اور عسکری اداروں کے علاوہ اہم اپوزیشن رہنما کی یہ خیر سگالی ملاقات قومی اہمیت کے حامل اور خطے کے لئے گیم چیمجر ترقیاتی منصوبے سی پیک کے لئے ایک مثبت پیشرفت ثابت ہوگی۔

مولانا فضل الرحمان کی چینی سفیر سے ملاقات اس لحاظ سے بھی اہمیت کی حامل ہے کہ طالبان کے افغانستان میں قدم جتنے ہی پاکستان میں موجود دہشت گرد اپنے آپ کو طالبان کا حمایت یافتہ تصور کرنے لگے تھے اور یہ تاثر پایا جانے لگا تھا کہ شاید افغانستان میں طالبان کی حکومت پاکستان میں تحریک انصاف کی حکومت کے خلاف اسی طرح زہر اگلے گی جس طرح سابق اشرف غنی انتظامیہ بھارت نوازی میں پاکستان کے خلاف بدگمانی کا شکار تھی اور افغان سرزمین کے ذریعے بھارت کی جانب سے پاکستان میں پھیلائی جانے والی دہشت گردی پر پردہ ڈالنے اور فاشٹ مودی کی ترجمانی میں لگی رہتی تھی لیکن پاکستان کی بہتر حکمت عملی اور کامیاب خارجہ پالیسی کے نتیجے میں نہ صرف امریکہ اور بھارت کو شرمندگی اٹھانا پڑی ہے بلکہ دن بدن پاکستان کا موقف دنیا میں تسلیم کیا جانے لگا ہے کیونکہ پاکستان کا شروع سے ہی یہ موقف تھا کہ طالبان کو موقع ملنا چاہیے، جنگ مسائل کا حل نہیں ہوتی، وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے تو یہاں تک کہا تھا کہ امریکہ کو طالبان کے ساتھ اس وقت مذاکرات کی میز پر بیٹھنا چاہیے تھا جب طالبان امریکہ سے جنگ کر رہے تھے، اب تو طالبان امریکہ کو شکست دے چکے ہیں اور اب انہیں اہمیت دینا طالبان کی نہیں بلکہ امریکہ کی مجبوری ہے۔ وزیر داخلہ شیخ رشید کا بھی کہنا ہے کہ کچھ عناصر نہیں چاہتے ہیں

کہ پاکستان سی پیک پر آگے بڑھے کیونکہ افغانستان کے حالات کی وجہ سے سی پیک اور اہم ہو گیا ہے اور اس کے خلاف سازشیں ہو رہی ہیں، بعض دستانے پہنے ہاتھ نہیں چاہتے پاکستان آگے جائے مگر عمران خان کی حکومت کا عزم ہے کہ سی پیک کو آگے لے کر جائیں گے۔ وفاقی وزیر داخلہ کا کہنا تھا کہ طالبان نے یقین دلایا ہے کہ تحریک طالبان پاکستان کو پاکستان میں دہشت گردی اور عدم استحکام کے لئے افغان سر زمین استعمال نہیں کرنے دی جائے گی۔ پرامن اور مستحکم پاکستان کے لئے یہ انتہائی ضروری ہے کہ بڑی سیاسی جماعتوں سمیت تمام سٹیک ہولڈرز میں ہم آہنگی پائی جاتی ہو اور اسی طریقے سے پرامن اور خوشحال افغانستان کی منزل حاصل ہو سکے گی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-26/page-10/detail-2>

گوا اور ملکی ترقی کیلئے ناگزیر: نوائے وقت دی نیشن کی اشاعت کا آغاز

لاہور (رپورٹ / فاخر ملک) روزنامہ نوائے وقت کو یہ اعزاز حاصل ہے کہ اس نے 63 سال قبل گوا اور کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کرنے کے لئے جو کام شروع کیا تھا آج وہ ملکی اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے ناگزیر حیثیت اختیار کر گیا ہے نوائے وقت کے لئے یہ امر بھی تاریخی حیثیت رکھتا ہے کہ معمار نوائے وقت جناب مجید نظامی مرحوم کی قیادت میں جس قافلہ نے گوا اور کو ملکی ترقی کے لئے لازم و ملزوم کا درجہ دیا تھا اس قافلہ کی سالانہ نوائے وقت میڈیا گروپ کی مینجنگ ڈائریکٹر اور ایڈیٹر انچیف محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی کی قیادت میں نوائے وقت نے گوا اور سے اشاعت کا آغاز کر دیا ہے یاد رہے کہ 20 ویں صدی کے نصف اول میں گوا اور کا ہوائی اڈا برطانیہ سے بھارت آنے والے طیاروں کے لیے ایک اہم پڑاؤ تھا دفاعی عدم تحفظ کے مسئلے سے نمٹنے کے لیے حکومت پاکستان نے مختلف جائزے مرتب کروائے جن کے بعض منتخب حصے 25 ستمبر 1958 کو نوائے وقت میں کے مقام تک، جو پاکستانی سر زمین کا آخری مقام ہے، ایک سڑک (Gwadar) شائع ہوئے۔ اس رپورٹ کے مطابق پاکستان بحیرہ عرب کی اس ساحلی پٹی کے ساتھ ساتھ گوا اور کا علاقہ تھا جس تعمیر کرنے کا ارادہ رکھتا تھا تاکہ ملک کا دفاع مضبوط بنانے کے ساتھ ساتھ سمگلنگ پر بھی قابو پایا جاسکے۔ لیکن اس منصوبے کی راہ میں سب سے بڑی رکاوٹ گوا اور کا علاقہ تھا جس پر پاکستان کا کوئی اختیار نہیں تھا۔ اس سلسلہ میں مرتب کی جانے والی رپورٹ کے مطابق یہی سبب تھا کہ حکومت پاکستان نے 1949 میں ہی گوا اور کے حصول پر سنجیدگی سے توجہ دی 1954 میں امریکی جیالوجیکل سروے نے گوا اور کو ڈیپ سی پورٹ کے لیے بہترین مقام قرار دیا تھا ٹائم میگزین نے اپنے ستمبر 1958 کے شمارے میں انکشاف کیا تھا کہ پاکستان گوا اور کے مقام پر ایک بڑا ایئر پورٹ اور بحری اڈہ تعمیر کرنے کا ارادہ رکھتا ہے۔ یہ پیٹنگوئی کم و بیش نصف صدی بعد پوری ہونے کی طرف آئی اصل میں گوا اور پر پاکستان کی توجہ تقسیم ہند کے فوراً بعد ہی مبذول ہو گئی تھی اور اس نے اپنے قیام کے تقریباً دو برس بعد سنجیدگی سے کوشش کی کہ یہ علاقہ اس کی تحویل میں آجائے۔ بحیرہ عرب کے کنارے واقعہ اس ساحلی علاقے میں پاکستان کی دلچسپی کی وجوہات دو تھیں "ایک معیشت اور دوسری مضبوط دفاعی حصار"۔ گوا اور ان دونوں مقاصد کی راہ میں ایک بڑی دیوار کے طور پر حائل تھا۔ یہ دیوار صرف اسی طور گرائی جاسکتی تھی اگر یہ علاقہ پاکستان میں شامل کر لیا جاتا پاکستان اپنے قیام کے بعد اقتصادی بحران سے دوچار تھا جب وہ سرکاری ملازمین کی تنخواہوں کی ادائیگی کے وسائل بھی نہیں رکھتا تھا۔ سمگلنگ کی وجہ سے اس مسئلہ کی سنگینی میں مزید اضافہ ہو گیا تھا کیونکہ اس طرح سے قومی وسائل تیزی سے سکڑتے جا رہے تھے۔ اس زمانے میں سمگلنگ کا ایک بڑا مرکز گوا اور کی یہی پرانی اور غیر ترقی یافتہ بندرگاہ تھی یہ کوششیں 1958 میں اپنے عروج پر پہنچ گئیں جب پاکستان اور عمان کے درمیان اس معاملے میں فیصلہ کن بات چیت ہوئی جس میں اس خطہ میں سابق قابض قوت اور عمان میں فوجی اڈے رکھنے والی طاقت برطانیہ نے دونوں ملکوں کی معاونت کی۔ یوں اس زمانے کی غیر ترقی یافتہ بندرگاہ پاکستان کا حصہ بن گئی۔ پاکستان میں گوا اور کے انضمام کا اعلان اس وقت کے پاکستانی وزیر اعظم فیروز خان نون نے پارلیمنٹ کے اجلاس میں کیا اور قوم کو بتایا کہ گوا اور جو نسلی، لسانی، جغرافیائی اور تاریخی طور پر فطری طور پر پاکستان کا حصہ تھا۔ پاکستان کے حوالے کر دیا گیا ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ یہ بھی واضح کر دیا گیا کہ "اٹین کی دفعہ 104 کے تحت یہ علاقہ (مغربی پاکستان) موجودہ پاکستان میں شامل سمجھا جائے گا، اسے خصوصی حیثیت حاصل ہوگی اور یہاں کے باشندوں کے حقوق ملک کے دیگر شہریوں کے برابر ہوں گے۔ پاکستان کے طول و عرض میں یہ اعلان ایک بڑی کامیابی کے طور پر سنا گیا اور ملک کے تمام حصوں میں چراغاں کر کے اس کی خوشی منائی گئی۔ گوا اور کی آبادی بھی ان خوشیوں میں شامل تھی جہاں پاکستان کی گوا اور میں دلچسپی تھی وہاں بھارت کی نظریں بھی اس علاقہ پر تھیں گوا اور میں بھارت کی دلچسپی

کی دوہڑی وجوہات تھیں ایک یہ کہ کراچی سے گوادری تک سمگلروں کا ایک نیٹ ورک متحرک تھا جو پاکستان سے سونا، غذائی اجناس اور دیگر قیمتی چیزیں بیرون ملک منتقل کیا کرتا تھا دوسرا سمگلنگ میں تیزی کی اطلاعات کہ گوادری پاکستان میں شامل ہو جائے گا جس کے بعد پاکستانی سیاحوں اور غیر ملکی سامان سے داموں خریدنے کے شائقین افراد نے گوادری کا رخ کرنا شروع کیا۔ ان سیاحوں نے گوادری کا آنکھوں دیکھا حال کچھ یوں بیان کیا کہ "گوادری کے پاکستان میں شمولیت کے وقت وہاں کے بازار قیمتی سازوسامان اور غیر ملکی کپڑے سے بھرے ہوئے تھے۔ پھر یہ سامان راتوں رات غائب ہونا شروع ہو گیا جس کے ذمہ دار وہ ہندو تاجر تھے جن کی مارکیٹ پر اجارہ داری تھی"۔ سیاحوں نے یہ بھی بتایا کہ عمان کا حصہ ہونے کے باوجود وہاں بھارتی کرنسی میں لین دین ہوتا تھا لیکن جب سونے، کرنسی اور دیگر ایشیا کی سمگلنگ شروع ہو گئی تو حکومت کو مجبوراً بہت سے پابندیاں عاید کرنا پڑیں تاہم ایسی ہی سرگرمیوں کی روک تھام کے لیے ساحلی علاقوں کے گرد ایک شاہرہ کی تعمیر کی ضرورت محسوس کی گئی لیکن اس کی راہ میں عمان حائل تھا جس کا گوادری پر اختیار تھا۔ گوادری کی پاکستان میں شمولیت سے یہ رکاوٹ بھی دور ہو گئی۔ یوں انڈین قیادت کی کوتاہ نظری نے انڈیا کی قسمت کا ستارہ بلند ہونے کا موقع ضائع کر دیا اور تاریخ اور جغرافیہ، دونوں کا دھار ابدل گیا لگ بھگ نصف صدی گزرنے کے بعد گوادری کو بندرگاہ بنانے کا کام شروع ہوا اور اس وقت کے فوجی صدر جنرل پرویز مشرف نے گوادری میں بندرگاہ کی تعمیر کے کام کا افتتاح کیا اور 24 کروڑ ڈالر کی لاگت سے یہ منصوبہ 2007 میں مکمل ہو گیا۔ حکومت پاکستان نے اس بندرگاہ کو چلانے کا ٹھیکہ سنگاپور کی ایک کمپنی کو بین الاقوامی بولی کے بعد دے دیا اس پر کوئی اعتراض سامنے نہیں آیا لیکن گوادری کی بندرگاہ پہلی بار تنازع کی زد میں اس وقت آئی جب 2013 میں حکومت پاکستان نے اس بندرگاہ کو چلانے کا ٹھیکہ سنگاپور کی کمپنی سے لے کر ایک چینی کمپنی کے حوالے کر دیا یہ وہ دور تھا جب پاکستان میں بڑے پیمانے پر چینی سرمایہ کاری کی باتیں سامنے آرہی تھیں۔ اور جو منصوبہ سامنے آیا اس منصوبے کو چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کا نام دیا گیا جو بنیادی طور پر خنجراب کے راستے چین کو گوادری کی بندرگاہ سے ملانے کا منصوبہ ہے۔ اس معاہدے پر 2015 میں دستخط ہوئے اس منصوبے میں سڑکیں، ریلوے لائن، بجلی کے منصوبوں کے علاوہ متعدد ترقیاتی منصوبے شامل ہیں۔ چونکہ یہ راہداری گوادری سے شروع ہوتی ہے (یا ختم ہوتی ہے) اس لیے گوادری اس کی بندرگاہ کو اس سارے منصوبے میں مرکزی اہمیت حاصل ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-26/page-1/detail-14>

Nawaiwaqt News

گوادری سی پیک پروجیکٹس میں کلیدی اہمیت کا حامل، خالد منصور

گوادری (بیورو رپورٹ) وزیراعظم پاکستان کے اسپیشل اسسٹنٹ برائے سی پیک افیئرز خالد منصور نے گزشتہ روز گوادری کا تفصیلی دورہ کیا جہاں پر انہیں گوادری اور سی پیک پروجیکٹس سے متعلق بریفنگ دی گئی اس موقع پر ڈپٹی کمشنر گوادری میجر (ر) کبیر خان زرکون نے انکی آمد کو گوادری کے پینے کی پانی، بجلی کی بلا تعلق فراہمی سمیت دیگر امور کے پیشرفت سے آگاہ کیا۔ اس موقع پر وزیراعظم پاکستان کے اسپیشل اسسٹنٹ برائے سی پیک افیئرز خالد منصور نے کہا کہ وفاقی حکومت صوبائی حکومت کے تعاون سے گوادری اور گردونواح کے مسائل کے حل میں انتہائی سنجیدہ اقدامات اٹھا رہی ہے جبکہ اس مد میں ڈپٹی کمشنر گوادری اور متعلقہ حکام کے اقدامات کو سراہا، انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادری سی پیک پروجیکٹس میں کلیدی اہمیت کا حامل منصوبہ ہے اور اس کے تمام جملہ مسائل کے حل کے لیے ہر ممکن اقدام کو یقینی بنایا جائے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-27/page-1/detail-31>

August 27, 2021
Business Recorder

Parliamentary panel on CPEC for prioritising Gwadar development

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar is the gateway to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and we have to place it at high priority; therefore, no effort should be spared to resolve all the outstanding issues of clean water, electricity, infrastructure, and livelihoods faced by the people of Gwadar.

Member National Assembly (MNA) Sher Ali Arbab expressed these views, while chairing the 39th meeting (in-camera) of the Parliamentary Committee on CPEC at the Parliament House Thursday.

The chairman remarked that Gwadar is the gateway to the CPEC and undeniably important in entire rationale behind CPEC. “We have to place it at high priority therefore no effort should be spared in resolving all the outstanding issues of clean water, electricity, infrastructure and livelihoods faced by the people of Gwadar,” he said.

The committee directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of payments to be disbursed among the victims of damaged houses and land acquisitions, so that people of Gwadar, who are already agitating for basic amenities of life, could be compensated.

The committee also inquired about the progress on New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA).

The secretary, Aviation Division, assured the committee that the airport will be fully operational by September 2023.

The chairman, Gwadar Port Authority, informed that all the efforts regarding completion of Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute are on track and the project will be completed in December 2021.

The Gwadar Port Authority is also consulting with the NAVTTC, TEVTA, and Chinese to devise a broad curriculum for the institute.

The committee remarked that while keeping present and future skills required in view, the curriculum for the institute should be devised in a way that there must not be any gap between the skills required and offered in the institute.

The committee remarked that \$1 billion grant given by China for socio-economic development projects under the CPEC framework should be utilised effectively by including the projects having high social impacts and high visibility.

The committee directed the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives to devise a comprehensive framework through which provinces may choose the projects which could bring value addition and meet true sense of socio-economic development.

The committee was briefed by the secretary Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, secretary Aviation Division, secretary Maritime Affairs, chairman Wapda, secretary Planning and Development KP, chairman Gwadar Port Authority, director general Gwadar Development Authority, and others concerned regarding Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC), DI Khan and compliance report on the recommendations of the Committee made in its previous meeting held on 20th March, 2021 at Gwadar.

At the outset of the meeting, the Committee took up the agenda on CRBC, DI Khan, which was deferred in yesterday's meeting.

The WAPDA chairman apprised the committee that a feasibility study and the detailed engineering design of the project would be completed by March next year.

Committee Chairman Sher Ali Arbab said that the project is pivotal for the agriculture sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and decided that the committee will convene a special follow up meeting on the said project in February next year to ensure that the given timelines are met in letter and spirit.

The meeting was attended by Sadaqat Ali Khan Abbasi, MNA, Umar Aslam Khan, MNA, Mir Khan Muhammad Jamali, MNA, Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak, MNA, Ghous Bux Khan Mahar, MNA, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, MNA, Mehnaz Akber Aziz, MNA, Raza Rabbani Khar, MNA, Zahid Akram Durrani, MNA, Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizenjo, and Senator Khalida Ateeb.—NAVEED BUTT

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/27/3-page/898429-news.html>

Army to participate in ‘Common Destiny 2021’ exercise in China

BEIJING: Pakistan Army will participate in the “Common Destiny 2021” international peacekeeping exercise to be held at PLA 90Queshan Tactical Training Base in China from September 6-15, Spokesperson of China’s Ministry of National Defense, Senior Col Tan Kefei said on Thursday. China, Pakistan, Mongolia, Thailand and other countries will send more than 1,000 troops to participate in the 10-day exercise hosted by the Chinese military, covering infantry, rapid response, security, helicopters, engineers, transport, medical and other major peacekeeping forces, he said during his monthly briefing held here.

The spokesperson said that the topic of the exercise is joint operations of multinational peacekeeping forces. The exercise will be based on the real scene and set up in accordance with international, professional and actual combat standards.

He informed that the main exercises include battlefield reconnaissance, patrol, armed escort, protection of civilians, response to violent terrorist attacks, temporary operation base construction, battlefield rescue and epidemic situation management.

It aims to respond to the United Nation “Action for Peacekeeping” initiative, promote practical cooperation among peacekeeping troop contributors and jointly enhance the capability of peacekeeping standby forces to carry out their tasks.

He said that China is a firm supporter and active participant of UN peacekeeping operations. Recently, UN Deputy Secretary-General and other senior UN officials spoke highly of the outstanding contribution made by the Blue Helmets in UN peacekeeping operations.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/08/27/3-page/898425-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Gwadar LG denounces Guardian’s report, reserving right of lawsuit

The Chief of Municipal Committee of Gwadar has issued a clarification letter to condemn a report by the Guardian in which it tried to sabotage the relationship between the Chinese and Pakistani people by spreading ‘misleading, malicious, and misinterpreted information’ that’s against the will of the majority of Gwadar people.

‘Your report has damaged our reputation, negatively affect the development of Gwadar and loss has occurred to us thereof.

Therefore, we reserve our right to take legal action to protect our action,’ the government proclaimed in the letter, according to Gwadar Pro.

‘The people of Gwadar are very grateful for the assistance provided by the Chinese government and companies,’ it stated, adding that the ongoing projects, such as Gwadar Port and Gwadar Free Zone Development, New International Airport Gwadar, Gwadar Vocational Training Institute, China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital, and many others not only bring immediate employment for the local community but also will improve the poor infrastructure in Gwadar.

According to a report by Gwadar Pro, dating back to 2013, Gwadar Port was on the verge of desolation with obsolete facilities, barely surviving the seaport business.

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-lg-denounces-guardians-report-reserving-right-of-lawsuit/>

The Nation

PM’s aide briefed about CPEC projects

Gwadar - Prime Minister’s Special Assistant for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Khalid Mansoor visited Gwadar yesterday.

He was given a detailed briefing on Gwadar and various ongoing projects of CPEC. Further, the Deputy Commissioner Gwadar Major(retd) Kabeer Khan Zarqoon apprised him of recent development of different projects including provision of drinking water and electricity in the area.

Khalid Mansoor said, “Both federal and provincial governments with mutual cooperation are trying to resolve the issues related to Gwadar and its surrounding areas. “ Besides, he appreciated the efforts of deputy commissioner Gwadar and his team in this regard. He further said, “Gwadar is a significant part of CPEC and government is committed to resolve all its issues.”

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-27/page-2/detail-1>

Pakistan moves to promote trade with SCO states

ISLAMABAD - In a milestone move to promote collaboration among Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states in the digital economy, Pakistan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on building a cross-border e-commerce platform with nine trade organisations of SCO member states. The MoU inked at the Digital Commerce Conference of the 2021 China-SCO Forum on the Digital Economy Industry in China's tech powerhouse of Chongqing, CEN reported yesterday. Four areas of cooperation in the cross-border e-commerce are highlighted in the MoU.

According to the document, online and offline conferences will be held to help build e-commerce platforms for international trade facilitation, digital technology exchanges and experience sharing. The cooperation will also cover joint e-commerce talent training. The organisations will engage colleges and universities, professional training institutions, e-commerce enterprises and industry associations in cultivating e-commerce talents. The MoU said that the organisations will draw on e-commerce to promote the production and distribution of competitive products among SCO countries, and to facilitate production and marketing by providing enterprises with overseas public warehouse, logistics, payment and other services and support to reach cooperation. The organisations will also encourage and guide enterprises to participate in and share e-commerce developments in international exhibitions and forums on the digital economy, and draw on such platforms to create business opportunities for enterprises. Themed "Joint e-commerce cooperation for a shared future, the Digital Commerce Conference discusses the new trends in international e-commerce and is joined by officials of SCO member states including Pakistan, and ambassadors of SCO countries in China, e-commerce enterprises and experts.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-27/page-4/detail-18>

New Gwadar International Airport to be operational in September 2023

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Thursday directed the departments concerned to expedite the process of disbursement of payments among the affectees of damaged houses and land acquisitions in Gwadar.

The Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which met with Sher Ali Arbab, MNA in the chair, was assured by Secretary, Aviation Division that the New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) will be fully operational by September, 2023.

The Committee was briefed by the Secretary, Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Secretary, Aviation Division, Secretary, Maritime Affairs, Chairman, WAPDA, Secretary, Planning and Development, KP, Chairman, Gwadar Port Authority, Director General, Gwadar Development Authority and other concerned regarding Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC), D.I.

Khan and compliance report on the recommendations of the Committee made in its previous meeting held on 20th March, 2021 at Gwadar.

The Committee took up the agenda on Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC), D.I. Khan which was deferred in the previous meeting. Chairman, WAPDA apprised the Committee that feasibility study and the detailed engineering design of the project would be completed by March next year. Chairman remarked that the project is pivotal for the agriculture sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and decided that the Committee will convene special follow up meeting on the said project in February next year to ensure that the given timelines are met in letter and spirit.

The chairman remarked that Gwadar is gateway to CPEC and undeniably important in entire rationale behind CPEC. We have to place it at high priority therefore no effort should be spared in resolving all the outstanding issues of clean water, electricity, infrastructure and livelihoods faced by the people of Gwadar, he said. The Committee directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of payments to be disbursed among the affectees of damaged houses and land acquisitions so that people of Gwadar, who are already agitating for basic amenities of life, could be compensated. The Committee also inquired about the progress on New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA). The Secretary, Aviation Division assured the Committee that the airport will be fully operational by September, 2023.

Chairman, Gwadar Port Authority informed that all the efforts regarding completion of Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute are on the track and the project will be completed in December 2021. Gwadar Port Authority is also consulting with NAVTTC, TEVTA and Chinese to devise a broad curriculum for the institute. The Committee remarked that while keeping present and future skills required in view, the curriculum for the institute should be devised in a way that there must not be any gap between the skills required and offered in the institute.

The Committee remarked that \$1 billion grant given by China for socio-economic development projects under CPEC framework should be utilized effectively by including the projects having high social impacts and high visibility. The Committee directed M/o Planning, Development and Special Initiatives to devise a comprehensive framework through which provinces may choose the projects which could bring value addition and meet true sense of socio-economic development. The meeting was attended by Sadaqat Ali Khan Abbasi, MNA, Umar Aslam Khan, MNA, Mir Khan Muhammad Jamali, MNA, Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak, MNA, Ghous Bux Khan Mahar, MNA, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, MNA, Mehnaz Akber Aziz, MNA, Raza Rabani Khar, MNA, Zahid Akram Durrani, MNA, Senator Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo and Senator Khalida Ateeb.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-27/page-8/detail-1>

The News

Mushahid rejects West's move to demonise China over corona origin

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Defence Committee Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed rejected demonization of China, saying that August 24 report by 17 US intelligence agencies failed to trace origins of the coronavirus or lay blame on China, and despite this China is being demonised through a politically-motivated campaign.

“West needs to adopt China’s approach for equitable distribution of vaccines as a ‘global public good’, and halting vaccine nationalism through a ‘Vaccines Without Borders’ initiative plus reset of priorities, focusing on health, population planning, climate change, food security and water Security,” he said while addressing a webinar organized by Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), a first of its kind on “Covid-19 Origin and International Cooperation” under its flagship event series, “Friends of Silk Road (FOSR)”.

The webinar examined reports and analyses about the origins of the Coronavirus pandemic. The webinar was attended by over 50 online participants from Asia and Africa, and featured six panelists, including Ambassador to UN Munir Akram, Naghmana Hashmi, former-Ambassador to China, Chairman Senate Defence Committee, Hasaan Khawar, Public Policy Expert, Hassan Daud Butt, CEO KP Board of Investment and Trade, and Dr Manzoor Ahmed, former Ambassador to WTO. This dialogue was moderated by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute.

The webinar discussed report of the 17 US intelligence agencies presented to President Biden on August 24, which remained “inconclusive” regarding the origins of the Coronavirus pandemic. This followed the March 13 Joint Report of experts from WHO and China, comprising almost 20 experts from over a dozen countries, which said it is “extremely unlikely” that the Corona pandemic was a leak from a lab. Speaking in the webinar, Senator Mushahid Hussain mentioned how President Trump coined the term ‘China Virus’. “Such ethnic targeting is similar to racism, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism”, he added. He uncovered the prevailing Cold-War mentality prevailing in the US, which has tried to link the virus to Asians, “causing a spike of 169% in hate crimes against Asian-Americans.”

Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN, called the politicization of tracing the origins of the virus a ‘regrettable move’, and said the efforts have been tainted by ‘conspiracy theories and smear campaigns.’ “This has set a wrong precedent by exploiting the WHO as a ‘tool for political maneuvering.” About close cooperation of China with WHO to trace the origins of the virus, Ambassador Akram advised that only way forward out of this misinformation epidemic is through “science, as origin tracing, trust science, stay away from prejudice and politics.”

Hassan Khawar, public policy expert, highlighted how the pandemic has taken more than 4 million lives, while continuing to wreak havoc throughout the world. He said that despite efforts

to find the origins of the virus during the last two years, there is no scientific evidence to blame China. Talking about the way forward, Khawar said, “We need all countries to come together for research, and only then will we be able to find the origins of the virus.”

Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China during the onset of the pandemic, called Covid-19 a ‘politically-charged virus’ that has increased global competition, and created two blocs in global system; one which alleges the virus was created in a Wuhan lab, whereas other thinks that it was created in a lab in Maryland, US.

Ambassador Naghmana also shed light on how the virus started an international debate on capitalism versus ‘socialism with Chinese characteristics’ to see which system was better.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/883949-mushahid-rejects-west-s-move-to-demonise-chine-over-corona-origin>

August 28, 2021

Daily Times

Bilawal asks govt to address China’s reservations on CPEC, terrorism

Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Friday stressed that the government should remove reservations of the Chinese government over CPEC and the recent terrorist incidents targeting the Chinese nationals.

Addressing a press conference in Thatta, Bilawal urged the government to implement the national action plan to contain terrorism in the country. He said Pakistan will not allow anyone to use its soil for terrorist activities.

Talking about Afghan situation, the PPP chairman strongly condemned the recent bomb blasts at Kabul airport.

On Sindh, the PPP chairman said water deficiency in the province is increasing speedily, adding that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government should not compel them to hold a protest for their share of water. He warned the federal government that they can resort to staging a protest again if due share of gas and water is not provided to Sindh as per its right. He said that people want to get rid of the ‘incompetent and failed government’ of PTI.

Bilawal said that PTI had promised to construct five million houses for the poor people. “Instead, Imran Khan has snatched their houses,” he lamented, adding that PPP is the only political party in the country which gives relief to the people. “On the other hand, PTI has provided relief to the rich and tortured the poor,” he added.

Bilawal said that people are not satisfied with the three-year performance of the incumbent government.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/808929/bilawal-asks-govt-to-address-chinas-reservations-on-cpec-terrorism/>

Reports about protests against BRI in Gwadar termed ‘fake’

Reports by The Guardian and some media outlets about protests against the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Gwadar, Pakistan, are untrue, and behind the fake news are some foreign media organizations’ deliberate smears of China-Pakistan cooperation, an investigation by the Global Times has found.

Refuting a report by The Guardian, Gwadar authorities said in a statement sent to the Global Times that the report is “full of misleading, malicious and misrepresented information.”

China Overseas Ports Holding Co (COPHC) Pakistan, the enterprise that operates the Gwadar Port, also refuted reports of the protests against Chinese trawlers in a reply to the Global Times on Thursday, saying the reports are “not true.”

Tahir Murtaza, a Pakistani reporter who has been following the situation in Gwadar, told the Global Times that the protests have been going on for a long time. The issues are about the lack of electricity and water but China is not related. However, some media outlets deliberately linked those protests with fishing by Chinese trawlers.

Gwadar’s electricity supply is not connected with the Pakistani electricity grid and relies on electricity imported from Iran, which has also faced a supply shortage recently, Murtaza said. “Pakistan has talked with Iran about providing extra energy to meet local demand but local people are demanding an uninterrupted supply of electricity. The same is the case with water,” he said, noting that “China is not the reason for the lack of electricity and water” there.

According to the statement by the Municipal Committee of Gwadar, Chinese companies have managed to supply 100,000 to 200,000 gallons of water to the local community with their own water plant.

The Guardian said that the protests are part of local people’s increasing “discontent with China’s presence in Gwadar,” and the newspaper even alleged the deadly attack on a bus carrying Chinese engineers and workers that killed nine Chinese nationals in July as a sign of Pakistani’s growing resentment against the BRI.

The Municipal Committee of Gwadar refuted the claims, saying that the people of Gwadar are “grateful for the assistance provided by the Chinese government and companies,” and China’s projects have boosted employment for the local community and would improve the infrastructure in the city.

Li Chao, a Chinese business insider in Pakistan, told the Global Times that most local Pakistanis he knows support the construction of the CPEC and believe that cooperation between the two countries is good for Pakistan.

There were shortages of electricity for six hours a day even in Islamabad in 2016, but with the energy projects under the CPEC coming into operation, electricity supply in the capital area has been relatively sufficient since 2017, he noted.

“Such improvements are real and are often highly recognized by many locals,” he said.

According to reports by Pakistani media, Chinese companies have helped build hospitals, schools, breeding farms and other facilities in Gwadar, and provided a large number of local jobs. Amid the coronavirus pandemic, Chinese companies have donated medical supplies to Gwadar hospitals.

In addition to blaming China for electricity and water shortages, The Guardian also mentioned that five Chinese trawlers were “detained” in Pakistan on suspicion of illegal fishing not far from Gwadar Port, and that “Chinese trawlers illegally fishing in the nearby waters” was another factor behind local fishers and workers’ protests.

However, the Global Times reporters learned from the staff of COPHC Pakistan on Thursday that the so-called “detention” of the five Chinese trawlers is completely fake news.

According to a document from Xiamen Haixintian Pelagic Fishery the Global Times obtained, the company that owns the five trawlers, on May 27, the vessels were docked at Gwadar Port for shelter due to the Indian monsoon, and could not get home in time. The ships’ equipment was damaged and in need of repair.

With the coordination and help of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and the COPHC Pakistan, the vessels successfully left the waters of Gwadar Port for the high seas of the Indian Ocean on Wednesday, said the document.

The Gwadar Port, as the flagship project of the CPEC, has seen a huge transformation in recent years. Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan said during a visit to Gwadar Port on July 5 that Gwadar’s development has long been limited by the lack of electricity and water, but with the help from China, the port is making significant progresses.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/808866/reports-about-protests-against-bri-in-gwadar-termed-fake/>

Dunya News

Signing of Rs 27.8 billion Sialkot-Kharian motorway approved

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – The Board of Directors’ meeting of Public-Private Partnership Authority (P3A) Friday approved signing of Rs 27.8 billion Sialkot-Kharian Motorway Project.

The approval under first of its kind innovative transaction structure is a major breakthrough in development financing, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said while chairing the meeting.

Meanwhile in a tweet, the minister said “It is first project using innovative financial structure using Viability Gap Fund (VGF). This will open a major new development financing instrument”.

He said the worth of the development projects in pipeline had now crossed the Rs 1 trillion mark.

The Board of P3A considered approval of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) agreement for the construction of Sialkot-Kharian Motorway on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis.

Earlier the Board had approved transaction structure and bidding documentation package of the project and successful bidder’s proposal in its meetings held in March 2021 and June 2021 respectively.

The project envisages the construction of a 69 km green-field 4-lane toll road on a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis, at a cost of Rs 27.8 billion. The project is expected to be constructed in a period of 24 months following the achievement of the financial close.

The concession period of the project is 25 years including the construction period. The government of Pakistan is supporting the financial viability and bankability of the project through the provision of capital and operational Viability Gap Funding (VGF) totaling Rs 10.94 billion.

The project is expected to supplement the existing Lahore-Sialkot and future Kharian-Rawalpindi Motorway to take the motorway network up to the city of Rawalpindi.

The Board approved the PPP Agreement of the project for its execution between the National Highway Authority and the consortium of Frontier Works Organization and Sultan Mehmood & Co.

Besides, aforesaid agenda item, Malik Ahmad Khan, CEO P3A sought approval of the Board to consider ratification of the earlier decisions taken by the Board’s Executive Committee and the decisions taken through circulation. The Board also approved revised budget estimates of the P3A for the ongoing financial year.

Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Secretary MoPD&SI, the nominee of Secretary Finance Division, Secretary Communications, Member Private Sector Development, Chairman NHA, and two private members of the Board also attended the meeting.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/617002-Signing-of-Rs-27.8-billion-Sialkot-Kharian-motorway-approved>

Pakistan Observer

Economics of BRI & US global human rights propaganda

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

ECONOMICS of One Belt & One Road Initiative (BRI) is positive, productive and participatory.

It has trickle down effects on all its member countries in terms of poverty alleviation, provision of basic necessities of life, education, clean drinking water and affordable housing.

Its economic, financial and investment magnitude has already termed it “project of the century” which has been dubbed as main instrument for greater socio-economic prosperity, regional connectivity, generation of new job, poverty eradication and last but not the least, immense social development in the world.

It strives for more fair, free and equitable world. It stands for transparency and accountability and does not have any hidden political agenda or geopolitical scheme to snub other regional countries.

Unfortunately, due to unending war of tug and national narratives staged by the West against China’s BRI it has also been in the line of fire.

Right from its beginning in 2013 Western media and especially US and the EU tried to disseminate biased, untrue and ineffectual propaganda against its motives, aims, programs and projects and termed it as Chinese global debt trap and contributor of human right violations. It is not true and does not have any substance.

Ultimately, Group of 7 (G7) has now announced its own Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative and floated an alternative model of regional as well as international economic partnership against the BRI.

It will provide so-called transparent infrastructure partnership to help narrow the \$40 trillion and called it so-called values-driven, high-standard and transparent” partnership.

Most recently, a US-based institution published a report attempting to dispute the China-proposed BRI, claiming that a hydroelectric dam in northeastern Cambodia under the BRI “has undermined the life and livelihood of thousands of local communities and ethnic minorities.

It was published by Human Right Watch which self-claimed that the Lower Sesan 2 dam violated the human rights of nearly 5,000 people whose families had lived in the area for generations, and also impacted the livelihood of those both up and downstream.

It does not have any economic rationality, relevancy, financial feasibility and social correlation with the overall economic benefits of the proposed dam.

Apparently, it is just another failed attempt by the US to affront mutually beneficial projects under the BRI.

In this regard, right from the beginning the BRI holistic concept of development and shared prosperity has been under attack from the US and the West. It has been targeted from financing to ecological protection to human rights domains.

Frankly speaking it has not been any issue of human rights or economic exploitation or financial burden since its inception in 2013 however, the US is intentionally trying to scheme and sow the spirit of discord, discomfort and delusion among China and member countries under the BRI framework, in a bid to contain China’s development and maintain its hegemonic power across the world.

According to the latest data (2020-2021) during the eight years since the BRI was announced and implemented its projects have been creating differences and delivering palpable befitting propositions and partnerships to local communities and countries and constantly generating more new jobs and, of course, more prosperous societies in terms of economic self-reliance, economic diversification, productivity, exports, infrastructural development, eradication of poverty and last but not the least social stability.

The US latest report intentionally targeted the 400-megawatt dam which is the largest and the seventh one built by China in Cambodia with a length of 6,500 meters and has become a major power source for the local community.

It has revolutionized economic outlook of local communities in terms of agriculture production, generation of cheap electricity and greener source of energy.

It has multiplier socio-economic effects because before its launch Cambodia was highly dependent on imported electricity and electricity shortage which was a major stumbling block for it in attracting outside investment.

It had serious issue of circular debt because of shortage of electricity and it had been sieged in the darkness of load-shedding. The Lower Sesan 2 dam was put into operation in 2018.

Moreover, the seven Chinese built dams were capable of producing a total of 1,328 MWs, or 50.1 percent of the electricity production available in Cambodia.

Earlier in 2009, Chinese companies started to help set up Cambodia's first national power transmission and transformation project.

In the construction phase alone, the projects offered over 10,000 job opportunities to local residents.

Various reports verify that the Lower Sesan 2 dam project has been contributing greatly to the development of the nation and also improved the livelihood of local residents, who used to live without access to electricity or proper transport infrastructure.

After relocation, they not only enjoy affordable electricity but also modern infrastructure, including roads, schools, hospitals and temples.

Thus US Human Right Watchdog does not have any substance but barking capacity to malign Chinese global economic out-reach policy under the flagship of BRI. Despite the US propaganda African Continent has been blessed with Chinese BRI.

The Cabinda water supply project in Angola covers 92 percent of residential areas in Cabinda, with 600,000 Angolan residents benefiting from the project. For some residents in Cabinda, it was the first time they had access to clean tap water.

According to latest reports (June 2021), a total of 205 financially sound and economically cooperative contracts have been signed between China and 171 countries and international organizations under the BRI.

It has facilitated the BRI members and the world through its vaccine diplomacy and has also helped advance the economic recovery for participating countries.

In 2020, China's non-financial direct investment in BRI countries reached \$17.79 billion, up 18.3 percent year-on-year, despite the ongoing covid-19.

On the other hand, as usual the US has been only offering obstructions to the development of related countries, including Southeast Asian nations.

In this connection, the US has lacked a coherent trade policy or sufficient presence in the infrastructure construction in the Southeast Asian region for the last 50 years.

It has a notorious history of violating human rights itself, the US has ironically turned it into a weapon to attack others.

Undoubtedly, economic rights lead toward a decent and harmonious society but somehow during the journey of self-reliance and promotion of trans-regional or cross-border cooperative projects the benefits of the BRI projects for participating countries and regions should not be vilified.

Thus the US should join the campaign to help offer electricity and other critical infrastructure to less developed countries to genuinely protect human rights.

To conclude World Bank report (2020-2021) suggests that when fully implemented, the BRI could increase global trade by 6.2 per cent and global real income by 2.9 per cent, and give a significant boost to global growth.

—The writer is Director, Geopolitics/Economics Member Board of Experts, CGSS.

<https://pakobserver.net/economics-of-bri-us-global-human-rights-propaganda-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Plan mulled to convert KCR into railways freight corridor

The federal government has envisaged a plan to convert the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) into Railway Freight Corridor and decided to complete the codal formalities of the circular railway project at the earliest.

The decision was taken in a session chaired by Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar regarding the KCR and Railway Freight Corridor projects. He was briefed over the progress of work for the revival of the KCR project.

It has been decided by the federal authorities to convert Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project into a freight corridor. In the briefing, Asad Umar was told that the work was on track in accordance with the timeline of the KCR project provided by the planning ministry.

It added that electric trains will be run on a 43km long KCR railway track after the construction of an affordable mass transit system.

The planning minister directed concerned authorities to complete arrangements for the groundbreaking of KCR project by September 2021.

During the meeting, it was briefed that the upgradation and expansion of the 50-kilometre freight corridor project will be completed to run the trains from Keamari/KPT to Pipri Marshalling Yard.

On the other hand, it was learnt that there was no development work initiated on the almost 20-kilometre track of KCR from Orangi Town to Drigh Road except the removal of encroachments, whereas, Frontier Works Organization (FWO) was still due to start the construction of bridges and underpasses for the project.

In February last year, the Ministry of Railways had decided to construct a special freight corridor by laying a 50-kilometre-long double-track line between Karachi Port and Pipri Yard.

The spokesperson had said a double-track line will be laid for running freight shuttle trains for transporting containers between Karachi Port and Marshalling Yard Pipri.

He said Karachi Port possesses the capacity of average of three million containers annually and the new project will reduce the traffic burden on Karachi's roads.

The special freight corridor will also generate a huge revenue for the railway sector said the spokesperson, adding that the ministry will acquire services of a firm for conducting feasibility study of the project.

<https://pakobserver.net/plan-mulled-to-convert-kcr-into-railways-freight-corridor/>

The Nation

Govt formulates three plans to address water, power shortage in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD - The federal and Balochistan governments have devised three plans to address the water and electricity issues in Gwadar.

“The plans include completion of the 300MW coal-fired power plant, connecting Gwadar with the national electricity grid, and providing immediate relief by transmitting electricity from Iran,” said Senator Kauda Babar, while responding to recent protests rallied in Gwadar.

As opposed to a distorted report by The Guardian, which claimed protests in Gwadar were against China's Belt and Road Initiative, Babar clarified that “the protests have nothing to do with BRI and CPEC, according to Gwadar Pro.

“The issue was local in nature, related to water and electricity shortages. Therefore, it is wrong and ill-intended to link these protests as anti-CPEC protests.”

Water and electricity shortage has long been a historical problem for the Gwadar people. “It is the responsibility of the local administration and government of Balochistan to provide the demanded services,” Babar stressed.

In this regard, the government is holding negotiations with Iran on the transmission of electricity to Gwadar, which will be concluded in the next 2-4 months so that a short-term relief can be provided to the residents.

Besides, the work on the 300 megawatts coal-fired power plant is also in full swing and will be functional by October 2023, as per a report of Gwadar Pro.

“After getting assurances from the government, people have ended the protests,” Babar said, adding that Pakistan is a democratic country and the government has allowed its people to exercise the right to protest and express their demands.

As for The Guardian’s allegations that no achievements have been made in Gwadar under the CPEC, Babar pointed out that, since the inauguration of CPEC, dividends have come in various ways. “Before CPEC, we had load shedding of about 18 hours. Currently, load shedding does not happen in Pakistan, even in the summer months.

“Employment opportunities have been created in the form of power plants. Industrialisation has started due to the availability of sufficient electricity. These dividends emerge with CPEC and will continue to grow in future.”

“Earlier, Gwadar was a small city of fishermen community. With CPEC, positive changes have emerged,” the senator stated. Dating back to 2013, Gwadar Port was on the verge of desolation with obsolete facilities, barely surviving the seaport business. Since China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) took over the port, the infrastructural work has been completed with three 20,000-ton multi-purpose berths and a storage yard of 140,000 square meters.

On January 14, 2020, Gwadar Port greeted the first ship from Dubai’s Jebel Ali Port to Afghanistan, marking the first operational use of Gwadar port for trade activities under the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade.

Since then, the seaport has been busier with a dozen vessels carrying fertilisers, urea bags, and other goods from different countries for transit to Afghanistan.

“The international community will have the opportunity to do business there. All of this would be possible because of CPEC. Both locals and foreigners will avail those facilities,” the senator noted.

Apart from the relentless verbal attacks on the CPEC, “Chinese trawlers” is yet another made-up story, frequently told by the western media to sabotage developments in Gwadar and friendship between the Chinese and Pakistani people.

“There is no reality in this accusation,” Babar said, “the Chinese vessels operating in international waters came to Gwadar anchorage, calling for emergent shelter from the monsoon of the Indian Ocean, and we are bound to assist ships in case of emergencies.

After inspecting the catch of trawlers, officials from Fisheries Department and local fishermen verified that the fishes that were caught are found in international waters. Unfortunately, the issue was politicised.”According to sources from COPHC, the five Chinese fishing vessels had left Gwadar anchorage on August 25, senator maintained.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-28/page-10/detail-3>

Foreign media deliberately smears China-Pakistan cooperation: probe

Islamabad - Reports by The Guardian and some media outlets about protests against the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Gwadar, Pakistan, are untrue, and behind the fake news are some foreign media organizations' deliberate smears of China-Pakistan cooperation, an investigation by the Global Times has found.

Refuting a Friday report by The Guardian, Gwadar authorities said in a statement sent to the Global Times on Wednesday that the report is "full of misleading, malicious and misrepresented information."

The statement, which was issued by the Chief of the Municipal Committee of Gwadar, said that shortages of water and electricity in Gwadar "are not the responsibility of the Chinese at all," instead, they are due to historical reasons and still a problem for Gwadar. In The Guardian's report about protests against water and electricity shortages in Gwadar, where a flagship project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is located, the newspaper said local people blamed China for the problem and the protests were "part of a growing backlash" against the BRI in Pakistan.

On Sunday, another report -- this time by ANI -- said that the protests were staged against "illegal fishing by Chinese trawlers."

China Overseas Ports Holding Co (COPHC) Pakistan, the enterprise that operates the Gwadar Port, also refuted reports of the protests against Chinese trawlers in a reply to the Global Times on Thursday, saying the reports are "not true."

Tahir Murtaza, a Pakistani reporter who has been following the situation in Gwadar, told the Global Times that the protests have been going on for a long time. The issues are about the lack of electricity and water but China is not related. However, some media outlets deliberately linked those protests with fishing by Chinese trawlers.

Gwadar's electricity supply is not connected with the Pakistani electricity grid and relies on electricity imported from Iran, which has also faced a supply shortage recently, Murtaza said. "Pakistan has talked with Iran about providing extra energy to meet local demand but local people are demanding an uninterrupted supply of electricity. The same is the case with water," he said, noting that "China is not the reason for the lack of electricity and water" there. According to the statement by the Municipal Committee of Gwadar, Chinese companies have managed to supply 100,000 to 200,000 gallons of water to the local community with their own water plant.

The Guardian said that the protests are part of local people's increasing "discontent with China's presence in Gwadar," and the newspaper even alleged the deadly attack on a bus carrying Chinese engineers and workers that killed nine Chinese nationals in July as a sign of Pakistani's growing resentment against the BRI. The Municipal Committee of Gwadar refuted the claims,

saying that the people of Gwadar are “grateful for the assistance provided by the Chinese government and companies,” and China’s projects have boosted employment for the local community and would improve the infrastructure in the city.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-28/page-11>

August 29, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese expert sees great potential in Pakistan service trade

Pakistan is a country with a population of more than 200 million and has a huge consumer market. Population and resources are huge advantages for the development of service trade, and their labour force is very young,” said Zhang Wei, chief expert of China Association of Trade in Services.

During the FY 2020-2021, Pakistan’s service exports increased by 9.19pc to \$5.937 billion, and the service trade deficit fell sharply by 43pc. Pakistan service trade shows great potential. For its development, Zhang Wei shared his advice.

“For Pakistan, the development of the network infrastructure industry should be the priority. It is necessary to establish 4G and 5G base stations, especially in ports where cross-border freight is concentrated and large cities where cross-border trade is concentrated, this is the foundation of developing online cross-border trade.” Zhang Wei told CEN that he knew there are many Chinese network companies including China mobile investing in Pakistan for its infrastructure network facilities and he strongly supports that.

Zhang Wei also stressed the importance of the processing trade development.

“Pakistan’s exports to China, including agricultural products and minerals, are all resource products. China’s exports to Pakistan are all manufacturing products, home appliances, electronics, and mechanical products. Such trade in goods between China and Pakistan is bound to have a deficit.” Zhang Wei said, adding that Pakistan should increase added value and variety of products, which could help increase employment and promote the development of service trade.

Last year, China signed the RCEP with 14 other countries. Zhang Wei noted that it manifests the international cooperation tendency of establishing free trade zones and signing free trade agreements. “More and more countries have reached a consensus to be more open and provide convenience in their customs. All participants have benefited from RCEP. Vietnam has cooperated with China in entrepot trade, and Singapore and China cooperate in offshore finance. RCEP can provide them with more conveniences and profits. These have strong references for Pak-China cooperation. China and Pakistan also have free trade agreements which can be fully utilised”.

“Trade between Pakistan and China has progressed a lot during the first six months of 2021. In this duration, Pakistani exports have increased up to 80pc. The reason behind this is that in 2020 the second phase of FTA was launched,” said Moin ul Haque, Pakistani ambassador to China. “Along with that we are trying to arrange promotional events, many Pakistani pavilions are established in many cities of China, through which we are promoting trade and products of Pakistan.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/809227/chinese-expert-sees-great-potential-in-pakistan-service-trade/>

Ambassador Haque visits China-Pakistan Iron Brothers Young Artists Exhibition

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moinul Haque visited China-Pakistan Iron Brothers Young Artists Exhibition held at Beijing Auto Museum and highly appreciated display of paintings done by Chinese and Pakistani children.

The exhibition, a part of 70th anniversary celebrations of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, was intended to promote interaction and culture exchanges between the youth of the two countries.

Talking to media on the occasion, Ambassador Haque said that purpose of organising the exhibition was to bring the people, especially the children of two countries closer and helping them to learn about the culture and history of friendship of the two countries.

“This way they can be a messenger of not only friendship, but also taking forward the sentiments of goodwill and friendship to our newer generations,” he added.

Expressing pleasures over display of many paintings from Pakistani students, he said that most of the painting had symbols of the two countries. The paintings were very colourful and depicted the symbols, landscapes, national flowers and animals of the two countries.

“These children, through their paintings, basically showcased strong bonds of friendship between two countries spread over the 70 years,” he added.

He informed that after conclusion from the Automobile Museum, the exhibition would be travelling to other cities of China as well.

‘This way they can be a messenger of not only friendship, but also taking forward the sentiments of goodwill and friendship to our newer generations,’ he added

He said that many similar activities were in pipeline and informed that a photographic exhibition of Pakistani landscape would soon be organized while there was also a plan to hold photographic exhibitions in other cities of China.

“Recently, a photographic exhibition about the Gandhara civilization of Pakistan was held in the city of Qingdao,”he added.

Ambassador Haque also visited the automobile museum where he was briefed about history of the development of transportation and first automobile in China and contribution of China in the automobile industry.

Principal, Pakistan Embassy College Beijing (PECB), Mrs. Shazia Amjad said that as many as 14 students from the college participated in the exhibition's art competition.

All 14 paintings displayed by the students got prizes and out of them four won the first prize, seven got the second prize and three obtained third prize, she added.

Over 400 teenagers from Pakistan and China participated in the event and their paintings vividly demonstrated the longstanding friendly exchange between the two countries, distinctive local customs and practices, China Pakistan Economic Corridor, and interpret the young people understanding and expectation for bilateral friendship from different perspectives.

The event was co-sponsored by the Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Embassy of Pakistan in China and Fengtai District People's Government of Beijing Municipality.

It was undertaken by the Foreign Affairs Office of Fengtai District People's Government of Beijing Municipality, Beijing Auto Museum and Children Palace of Fengtai District.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/809164/ambassador-haque-visits-china-pakistan-iron-brothers-young-artists-exhibition/>

August 30, 2021

Daily Times

PIA airlifts 12m doses of Sinovac vaccine from China

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) special flights have airlifted fresh batch of 12 million doses of anti-Covid-19 vaccines from Beijing Capital International Airport to Islamabad.

"PIA special flights PK-6852, PK-6853, PK-6854 and PK-6856 transported 12 million doses of Sinovac vaccine procured from China for vaccination of people under government's ongoing prevention and control drive against Covid-19 pandemic," Qadir Bux Sangi, PIA Country Manager for China told APP here on Sunday. He said that under able leadership of its Chief Executive Officer, Arshad Malik, the national flag carrier had so far airlifted 57 million doses of anti-Covid-19 vaccine through 47 special flights.

"Till now, PIA has brought around 17 million doses of Sinopharm and 40 million doses of Sinovac and CanSino vaccines from China to Pakistan," he added. It is worth mentioning that the government under its mass vaccination drive has set a target to vaccinate 75 million population by end of 2021.

So far, over 32 million vaccines have been administered with a maximum of 1.07 million doses in a day on August 02. Chinese vaccines namely Sinopharm, Sinovac and CanSino besides other

vaccines are being used in the mass vaccination drive. The health authorities launched the nationwide vaccination drive with around a million doses of Sinopharm vaccine donated by China, starting with older people and frontline healthcare workers, in March this year. The drive began with a focus on the oldest people in the community, generally over the age of 80 but now the vaccine is being administered to the people aged over 18 years. Islamabad received the first COVID-19 vaccine consignment after a military aircraft transported it from Beijing on February 01, this year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/809474/pia-airlifts-12m-doses-of-sinovac-vaccine-from-china/>

More upside potential in Pak-China border trade: Badar Zaman

Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region plays an important role in Pakistan-China border trade. There're more business opportunities to be spotted besides mango and citrus," said Badar Zaman, commercial counsellor of embassy of Pakistan, while attending the seminar titled "Cloud Dialogue for Guest of Honour on Economic and Trade Projects" under EACT EXPO 2021.

Co-hosted by Secretariat of China-Eurasia EXPO and Trade Development Bureau, Ministry of Commerce of China, the 2021 Online (China) Eurasia Commodity and Trade Expo (EACT EXPO 2021) kicked off this week, with Pakistan as one of Guests of Honor, Gwadar Pro reported.

At the opening ceremony, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque noted that the Expo will play a positive role in deepening Pakistan-China cooperation and trade and inject new impetus into Pakistan's cooperation with Xinjiang.

"We have got a road network between Xinjiang and the northern parts of Pakistan. Besides, on both sides of the border we have set up bonded warehouses which could benefit exporters and importers," Badar said, adding that the border trade between Pakistan and China through the Khunjerab Pass had increased these years after the signing of China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) on 24th November 2006, which came into effect in July 2007.

According to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), a turnaround was witnessed in the bilateral trade when both countries signed CPFTA, as more business opportunities and convenience have been brought to enterprises and more benefits have been brought to consumers.

"One of the fastest increasing sectors we have seen is seafood," Badar said. In addition to seafood, Pakistan is also experiencing a strong demand for minerals and metals from the Chinese market.

Badar noted that there are numerous opportunities available and he welcomes all the investors, traders and businessmen to spot opportunities at the Expo.

The Expo was held under the theme of "building the Silk Road trade platform and promoting win-win economic cooperation".

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/809694/more-upside-potential-in-pak-china-border-trade-badar-zaman/>

Pakistan Pavilion launched in Urumqi to showcase local products

A “VR Pakistan National Pavilion” was launched at the ongoing 2021 Online (China) Eurasia Commodity and Trade Expo (EACT EXPO 2021) to showcase Made-in-Pakistan products to the globe especially China during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This national pavilion is connected with many e-commerce platforms and an offline national pavilion,” explained Badar Zaman, commercial counsellor of the embassy of Pakistan in Beijing.

Ma Xiaoyan, Chairman of UNI International Business Consultancy Co Ltd and senior consultant to Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry noted that by visiting the online pavilion, enterprises and individuals from all around the world, especially China, can truly understand the unique charm of Pakistani products and spot opportunities in Pak-China cooperation and trade.

“I’ve lived in Pakistan for more than 15 years,” Ma Xiaoyan said, adding that his connection and bonding with Pakistan made him dedicated to promoting cooperation between China and Pakistan and continuing the story of China-Pakistan friendship as 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.

Next, Ma Xiaoyan said, a physical National Pavilion of Pakistan will be set up in Urumqi Comprehensive Bonded Zone (UCBZ), Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China, to offer Pakistani traders an opportunity to market their products.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/809695/pakistan-pavilion-launched-in-urumqi-to-showcase-local-products/>

Pakistani outlet stands out in Beijing’s catering industry

A Pakistani restaurant called ‘Zam Zam’, located in China’s capital city Beijing, stands out in the city’s hyper-competitive catering industry, beating COVID-19’s heavy impact to become the second most popular restaurant in Beijing’s Haidian district, according to the Chinese food rating platform Da Zhong Dian Ping.

As a Pakistani businessman, Hammad Zaheer credits his success to his team and the vibrant business environment, which was enabled by advanced online services, according to Gwadar Pro.

Even before the pandemic, the online food market was booming in China as a consequence of the country’s rapid development of e-commerce, where online and offline businesses blend together through the digitisation of the complete retail value chain.

The rise of third-party rating and delivery platforms reshaped purchaser propensities and now, foodies in China prefer to order food sitting at their homes as those platforms provide time-efficient services, bulk discounts and user ratings.

According to statistics released by Yiguan Analysys, trade volume for China's internet catering market will reach RMB934 billion this year. "Hardly any restaurant owner would say no to bringing their business online in China, no matter before or during the pandemic. Online services can help increase customer reach and boost revenue streams."

Graduated as a student of medicine from Yangtze University, China, Hammad Zaheer boldly abandoned his major and went for his true passion— food.

"I have spent almost nothing on marketing and advertising. As a foodie, I've decided that the most important thing for my restaurant is the taste, the quality of cuisine, so I spent the majority of my resources on forging the best chef team." Hammad said. He hired his chef directly from Lahore to make sure that his kitchen would only send out the most authentic Pakistani food.

"At first, Zam Zam was just a place for friends to hangout, then word got out, our rankings on rating and delivery platforms kept climbing. So yes, platforms do help us to reach more customers, yet the quality of food is the ultimate trump card."

However, during the pandemic, online services became critical, "We stayed open when the COVID-19 pandemic was at its peak in China. There were over one thousand Pakistani students who lived close to our restaurant, stranded in their dorms. Food delivery services helped them, as well as 'Zam Zam'," Hammad said.

Online food services do help restaurants maintain their revenue and stay in business when dine-in options were restricted due to the pandemic. The 2021 annual report of the catering industry in Beijing, jointly carried by China Hotel Association and Xinhua Net, indicated that the epidemic accelerated the digital process of the catering industry and promoted the overall acceleration of digital transformation.

Although the proportion of catering enterprises specialising in takeout is not high, the average proportion of takeout sales still increased by 0.41pc year-on-year, reflecting the momentum of digital transformation to a certain extent.

Can the Online Food market be a way out for Pakistan's restaurants during the pandemic? Hammad shared his opinion: "I think for Pakistan, 'third-party' or not, the development of the online food market is necessary, especially during the pandemic. Currently, online ordering services such as FoodPanda are only available in major cities in Pakistan. Customers have not yet developed consumption habits to order online. The epidemic is devastating for everyone, yet it also opens vast opportunities."

Pakistan, still haunted by the pandemic, is already witnessing the light of digital transformation in all sectors. Last year, mass transit startup Airlift launched a 30-minute grocery delivery platform to counter the impact of pandemic. Since then, the platform's revenue has grown 30-50pc MoM on average, and has currently raised \$85 million in its Series B financing round.

Can the pandemic accelerate the digital transformation process for Pakistan's catering market? Will Pakistan get its own delivery platforms in the future? Time will tell, the report added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/809683/pakistani-outlet-stands-out-in-beijings-catering-industry/>

Pakistan Observer

32,073 acres of land acquired for Basha Dam

The government has so far acquired 32,073 acres of land for important Diamer Basha Dam project which is expected to be completed by April, 2029 and would meet growing water and power needs of the country. The acquired land is around 90 per cent of total required 35,924 acres of land for the project.

The official information revealed that total estimated cost of Diamer Basha Dam project is Rs 1406, 122 million which includes PC-I (acquisition of land & resettlement Rs 175,436 million, PC-I (Dam Part Rs. 479,686 million while cost for PC-I (Power Generation Facilities yet to be approved) is Rs 751,000 million.

Similarly, the amount spent by previous governments on the dam is Rs 86,685 million under acquisition of land & resettlement (AL&R) since 2009-10 while present government has spent Rs. 30273 million under AL&R and Rs 51555 million under dam part

The total amount of Rs 116,158 million has been spent under AL&R and Rs. 51,555 million under dam part.

<https://pakobserver.net/32073-acres-of-land-acquired-for-basha-dam/>

CAEXPO to be held online, offline from Sept 10

The 18th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) will take place both online and offline in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, from September 10-13.

Pakistan, like previous year, will be the special partner country at the CAEXPO, which is a high-level dialogue platform of concerted efforts, successfully convened for 17 consecutive years.

In response to the COVID-19, this year's CAEXPO will go cloud and hold both physical and online exhibitions.

To be specific, the organizers will hold physical exhibition mainly participated by domestic participants and exhibitors and, in parallel, 'Cloud CAEXPO' mainly joined by overseas participants and exhibitors.

Wang Lei, Secretary-General of the China-ASEAN Expo Secretariat, said that by exploring the potential of cross-border e-commerce cooperation, online CAEXPO will promote the formation of new growth points for China-ASEAN economic and trade cooperation.

The mixed model of "physical exhibition + online CAEXPO" adopted for the first time in the 17th China-ASEAN Expo provided Chinese and foreign enterprises with free services such as online exhibition, online negotiation and conference, live broadcast and cross-border e-commerce.

The online CAEXPO is divided into China Pavilion, ASEAN Pavilion, Pavilion for Special Partner Country and “Belt and Road” International Pavilion, and provides link services to well-known e-commerce platforms at home and abroad.

In the meantime, trade and investment promotion activities such as online cross-border procurement matchmaking, sales by online celebrities on live streaming, and ASEAN products promotion conferences will be held online.

The online CAEXPO, which debuted last year, created a multi-linkage exhibition platform, showcasing more than 4,800 items.

A total of 1,956 enterprises in the 17th China-ASEAN Expo participated in online CAEXPO, 135 online conferences were held, 3,000 pairs of accurate matching were made, the entire network exposure reached 1 billion, and the site visits were 20.17 million, providing a new experience of the mixed model for participating businesses. Online CAEXPO has achieved substantial results.

According to statistics, the past 17th CAEXPO’s have attracted 926,000 Chinese and ASEAN participants, and made a series of important achievements in goods trade, investment cooperation and international production capacity cooperation, which have effectively promoted the upgrading.

<https://pakobserver.net/caexpo-to-be-held-online-offline-from-sept-10/>

The Express Tribune

Completion of Gwadar airport delayed till Sept 2023

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was informed that the progress on New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) was on track and it would be fully operational by September 2023.

In a meeting of the committee presided over by Sher Ali Arbab, the Aviation Division secretary told the panel that the project, which was originally expected to be completed by next year, has been postponed till October 2023.

The China Airport Construction Group informed the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) about the new time limit for the project, deferring the project funded by the Chinese company.

According to the document obtained by The Express Tribune, the passenger terminal building of the project will be completed by June 2023; work related to air traffic control will be completed by March 2023 while the overall construction of the airport will finish by October 2023.

However, sources said that the parliamentary committee working on the project was pushing for further rationalisation of the project's timeline so that the airport could be completed as soon as possible.

“We have to place it at high priority therefore no effort should be spared in resolving all the outstanding issues of clean water, electricity, infrastructure and livelihood faced by the people of Gwadar,” the chairman of the committee remarked.

The Gwadar Port Authority chairman informed the panel that all the efforts regarding the completion of Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute are on track and the project would be completed in December 2021.

Read More: Gwadar gateway of rapid growth

Gwadar Port Authority is also consulting with NAVTTC, TEVTA and Chinese to devise a broad curriculum for the institute.

The committee remarked that while keeping the requirement of present and future skills in view, the curriculum for the institute should be devised in a way that there must not be any gap between the skills required and those offered in the institute.

The committee also directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of payments to be disbursed among the affected people of damaged houses and land acquisitions so that people of Gwadar, who are already agitating for basic amenities of life, could be compensated.

On the agenda of Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC), DI Khan, the Wapda chairman apprised the committee that the feasibility study and the detailed engineering design of the project would be completed by March next year.

The chairman said that the project was pivotal for the agriculture sector in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and decided that the committee will convene a special follow-up meeting on the said project in February next year to ensure that the given timelines are met in letter and spirit.

The committee observed that the \$1 billion grant given by China for socio-economic development projects under the CPEC framework should be utilised effectively by including the projects having high social impacts and visibility.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2317722/completion-of-gwadar-airport-delayed-till-sept-2023>

Nawaiwaqt News

گوار سے نوائے وقت اور دی نیشن کی اشاعت کا آغاز

تحریر: خاور عباس سندھو

ملک و قوم کی تعمیر و ترقی میں ذرائع ابلاغ کا کردار ہمیشہ سے لازم و ملزوم رہا ہے۔ میڈیا کے ذریعے ہم کسی بھی ملک کے معاشی حالات کو یکسر تبدیل کر سکتے ہیں اور اس کے صحیح استعمال سے ہم معاشرے میں بہتری لاسکتے ہیں۔ دو قومی نظریہ کی بنیاد پر بننے والے پاکستان کے قیام کا جب تک کہ تذکرہ ہوتا ہے تو اس تحریک آزادی میں نوائے وقت کا کردار سنہری حروف میں لکھا جاتا ہے۔ پاکستان کے معرض وجود میں آنے کے بعد دو قومی نظریہ، نظریاتی سرحدوں کا تحفظ اور ریاست کے مفادات میں بھی نوائے وقت ہی ہر اول دستہ کے طور پر ہمیشہ نمایاں رہا ہے اور اس میں جناب حمید نظامی مرحوم کے بعد جناب مجید نظامی مرحوم کو تحریک کار و روح رواں گردانا جانا جاتا ہے۔ تحریک آزادی پاکستان ہو یا امت

مسلمہ کے حقوق۔۔۔ مقبوضہ جموں کشمیر کی آزادی ہو یا افغان باقی کھسار باقی۔۔۔ کالا باغ ڈیم ہو یا ایٹمی دھماکے۔۔۔ امام صحافت و معمار نوائے وقت جناب مجید نظامی مرحوم نے جو کردار ادا کیا ہے اسے تمام تحریکوں میں مرکزیت حاصل ہے۔ اور آج جب پاکستان کو ترقی و خوشحالی اور دنیا میں قیام امن کے ساتھ خطے میں تجارت کو فروغ اور دنیا کو حقیقی معنوں میں گلوبل ویلج بنانے کے لئے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کی اہم راہداری کے مرکز و محور گوادر کو چنا گیا ہے تو سب سے پہلے نوائے وقت گروپ ہی میدان عمل میں کودا ہے۔ نوائے وقت ایک ایسی تحریک ہے جس نے مسلم امہ اور قیام پاکستان سمیت ریاست کے مفادات کے بیڑا اٹھا رکھا ہے۔ نوائے وقت گروپ نے گوادر سے باقاعدہ اشاعت کا آغاز کر دیا ہے۔ اس تحریک کے روح رواں امام صحافت و معمار نوائے وقت جناب مجید نظامی کے بعد نوائے وقت میڈیا گروپ کی مینیجنگ ڈائریکٹر اور ایڈیٹر انچیف محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی نے یہ علم تھام رکھا ہے اور انہوں نے ریاست پاکستان کے مفادات، خطے میں قیام امن اور خوشحالی کی ضامن گوادر بندرگاہ کی اہمیت کے پیش نظر اسے جاگر کرنے کرنے کا عملی اظہار کر دیا ہے۔ نوائے وقت گروپ نے گوادر پراجیکٹ پر کام کرنے والے مقامی باشندوں و غیر ملکیوں اور ساحلی علاقے کے باسیوں سمیت ملک بھر کے محب وطن عوام اور اس پراجیکٹ سے جڑے تمام ممالک و باشندوں کی رہنمائی کے لئے انگریزی اور اردو میں باقاعدہ روزناموں کا اجرا کر دیا ہے۔ دی نیشن اور نوائے وقت سمیت اس کے تمام اشاعتی پلیٹ فارم پر گوادر بندرگاہ اور ملحقہ علاقوں میں ہونیوالی تعمیراتی سرگرمیوں اور ثقافتی، علمی، طبی، تحقیقی تقاریب الغرض نمایاں کردار ادا کرنے والی شخصیات کو اجاگر کیا جائے گا۔ تاریخ گواہ ہے کہ جب پاکستان کے ایٹمی صلاحیت ہونے کے عملی اظہار کا وقت آیا تو جناب مجید نظامی مرحوم ہی وہ عہد ساز شخصیت تھے جنہوں نے 1998 میں اس وقت کے وزیر اعظم نواز شریف سے کہا تھا کہ

”اگر تم نے بھارت کے دھماکوں کے جواب میں ایٹمی دھماکے نہ کئے تو قوم تمہارے دھماکے کر دے گی“

تو پھر یہ کیسے ممکن تھا کہ پاکستان دنیا میں ساتویں ایٹمی طاقت کے طور پر متعارف نہ ہو تا۔ پاکستان اور امت مسلمہ کے مفادات سے جڑی ہر تحریک و مقصد میں نوائے وقت کا کردار مثالی رہا ہے اور آج ایک بار جب دنیا کے چند ممالک سی پیک اور گوادر بندرگاہ کے خلاف سازشوں میں مصروف ہیں تو یہ ادارہ اپنی لیڈنگ کردار کر کے ان سازشوں اور پراپیگنڈا کے بھرپور جواب دینے کے لئے شانہ بشانہ کھڑا ہے۔

ایڈیٹر انچیف محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی نے واضح طور پر کہا ہے کہ ریاست کے مفادات کے لئے وہ اور ان کا ادارہ امام صحافت و معمار نوائے وقت جناب مجید نظامی مرحوم کے نقش قدم پر چلتے ہوئے اپنا بہترین کردار ادا کرے گا۔ آج سے 63 سال پہلے جب حکومت پاکستان نے دفاعی عدم تحفظ کے مسئلے سے نمٹنے کے لیے مختلف جائزے مرتب کرائے تو اس کے بعض منتخب حصے 25 ستمبر 1958 کو نوائے وقت میں شائع ہوئے۔ نوائے وقت کی ادارتی پالیسی کے تحت گوادر کو ادارتی صفحہ پر ان گنت بار نمایاں جگہ دی گئی۔ 2007 میں بھی جب حکومت پاکستان نے حکومت چین کے ساتھ گوادر ہوائی اڈے کی تعمیر سمیت مختلف سمجھوتے کئے تو نوائے وقت اس خبر کو نمایاں جگہ دی۔

چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے تین مراحل طے کئے گئے، جن میں 2020ء تک پہلا مرحلہ اپنے اختتام کو پہنچا، دوسرا سال 2021ء تا 2025ء ہے جبکہ تیسرے مرحلے کی تکمیل 2030ء تک ہو جائیگی۔ سی پیک کا مرکز و محور گوادر بندرگاہ ہے۔ سی پیک میں مستقبل میں 60 ممالک شامل ہو جائیں گے اور گوادر بہترین سٹی پورٹ بن جائے گا۔ سی پیک بلاشبہ دنیا بھر کے لئے گیم چینجر منصوبہ ہے لیکن یہ کوئی نیا پراجیکٹ نہیں، گوادر بندرگاہ سمیت یہ منصوبہ برسوں پرانا ہے جس کا مقصد روس اور چین کی گرم پانی کے سمندر تک رسائی ہے۔ 1999ء میں گوادر بندرگاہ پر فوکس کیا گیا۔ اس وقت کے صدر جنرل پرویز مشرف نے 2002ء میں گوادر میں بندرگاہ کی تعمیر کے کام کا افتتاح کیا اور 24 کروڑ ڈالر کی لاگت سے یہ منصوبہ 2007ء میں مکمل ہو گیا۔

مارچ 2007ء میں گوادر پورٹ کا افتتاح ہو اور اس کو چلانے کا ٹھیکہ ملائیشیا کی ایک کمپنی کو دیا گیا۔ 2007ء میں ہی وزیر اعظم شوکت عزیز نے دورہ چین میں اپنے چینی ہم 20 منصب کے ساتھ بین الاقوامی طرز کے گوادر ایئر پورٹ کی تعمیر سمیت 27 سمجھوتے کئے۔ تاہم فروری 2013ء میں گوادر بندرگاہ کی تعمیر کا ٹھیکہ باقاعدہ طور پر چین کو دے

دیالگیا۔ جس کے بعد اس منصوبے کو چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کا نام ملا جو بنیادی طور پر خنجراب کے راستے چین کو گوادرن بندر گاہ سے ملاتا ہے۔ 2015 میں تاریخی پیشرفت سامنے آئی جب اس معاہدے پر دستخط ہوئے اور سڑکوں، ریلوے لائنوں، بجلی کے منصوبوں سمیت دیگر پراجیکٹس کو منصوبے کا حصہ بنایا گیا۔ چین کے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیٹی ایٹیو کی راہداریوں میں شامل سی پیک میں گوادرن پورٹ کو ”دلہا“ کی حیثیت حاصل ہے جبکہ باقی پراجیکٹ باراتی ہیں۔

ماضی میں کئے گئے متعدد ایسے فیصلے جنہیں تاریخ نے قومی مفاد میں بہترین ثابت کیا ان میں پاکستان کے صوبہ بلوچستان کا ساحلی قصبہ گوادرن

اور اس سے ملحقہ علاقہ کی 1958 میں حکومت پاکستان کا سلطنتِ اومان سے خریدنا شامل ہے۔ بنیادی طور پر یہ علاقہ اومان کی ملکیت نہیں تھا۔ تاریخی اعتبار سے یہ ساحلی اور ملحقہ علاقہ مکران کا حصہ اور کچی بلوچوں کی ملکیت رہا۔ جیسے ہی پاکستان معرض وجود میں آیا تو اس کے اہمیت کے پیش نظر پاکستان نے اس کے حصول کے لئے کوششیں شروع کر دی تھیں۔ تاہم برطانیہ کی معاونت سے حکومت پاکستان نے یہ علاقہ حاصل کیا۔ پاکستان نے جب یہ اہم علاقہ خرید تو ٹھیک چار سال پہلے 1954 میں امریکی ارضیاتی سروے نے گوادرن کو گہرے پانی کی بندرگاہ کے لیے بہترین مقام قرار دیا۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق یہ ساحلی علاقہ ایک بڑی بندرگاہ بننے کیلئے قدرتی صلاحیت رکھتا ہے۔ گوادرن پورٹ قدرتی طور پر جس صلاحیت سے مالا مال ہے اس کا اندازہ دیگر ممالک کی بندرگاہوں سے موازنہ کر کے لگایا جاسکتا ہے جیسا کہ چاہ بہار (11)، بندر عباس (10; 223; 9)، جبل علی (16; 223; 15)، اومان (10)، دامام (9)، دوحہ (12; 223; 11) گہرے ہیں جبکہ گوادرن (18; 223; 17) میٹر گہری ہے۔ گوادرن پورٹ کے بارے میں کہا جا رہا ہے کہ یہ دنیا کی سب سے بڑی گہرے پانی کی بندرگاہ ہے

ایسا کم ہی ہوتا ہے کہ ساحلی علاقوں کو بطور بندرگاہ استعمال میں لانے کے لئے کھدائی نہ کرنا پڑے مگر گوادرن پورٹ ان چند بندرگاہوں میں شامل ہے جس کی قدرتی طور پر بناوٹ اس کی اہمیت کو نمایاں کر دیتی ہے۔ بندرگاہوں میں دوسری بڑی ضرورت یہ ہوتی ہے کہ اس کے لئے سمندر میں پانی کا کٹاؤ روکنے کے لئے تھوڑے کے سرے جیسی جگہ مصنوعی طریقے سے بنانی پڑتی ہے جبکہ گوادرن میں یہ بھی قدرتی طور پر بنا ہوا ہے۔ گوادرن کی تیسری بڑی خصوصیت اس کا تزویراتی محل وقوع ہے۔ اس زون میں اومان، مسقط، دہئی، عُجمان، قطر، بحرین، سعودی، کویت، عراق اور ایران کی کم و بیش ساٹھ بندرگاہیں ہیں جن میں چاہ بہار، بندر عباس، اومان، دہئی، جبل علی، پورٹ خلیفہ، شاہ عبداللہ، دامام، دوحہ، شویک اور ام قصر وغیرہ شامل ہیں۔ چین اور مشرقی ایشیا سے مغرب کی طرف جاتے ہوئے گوادرن ان تمام بندرگاہوں کے سرے پر واقع ہے۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ گوادرن پورٹ کو سی پیک کا گیٹ وے قرار دیا گیا ہے۔ گوادرن بنیادی طور پر بلوچی زبان کے دو الفاظ گوات یعنی ”کھلی ہوا“ اور در یعنی ”دروازہ“ کا مجموعہ ہے اور اسے ”ہوا کا دروازہ“ بھی کہا جاتا ہے۔ جو وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ گوادرن بن گیا۔ گوادرن کی تاریخ بہت پرانی ہے اور یہ علاقہ ”دشت طالب“ یا ”وادی دشت“ بھی کہلاتا ہے۔

چین نے اپنے مغربی حصے صوبہ شنخیانگ کو ترقی اور خوشحالی دینے کے لئے 2001 سے قریباً 320 ارب ڈالر کے میگا پراجیکٹس شروع کر رکھے ہیں۔ شنخیانگ ہی سے چین کی رسائی گوادرن تک ہوگی۔ چونکہ سی پیک کی بنیادی اکائی گوادرن بندرگاہ ہے اس لئے چین کیلئے یہ ایک گیم چینجر کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ چین تائیوان کے قریب اپنے جنوب مشرقی ساحلوں سے اگر مسقط تک، ملاکہ سے ہوتے آتے تو اسے 4600 ناٹیکل میل سے زیادہ کا فاصلہ طے کرنا پڑے گا۔ اور اس کے ساتھ ساتھ بحیرہ جنوبی چین تنازعات سے گراہوا ہے جہاں سے بحری تجارت ہمیشہ خطرات سے دوچار رہی ہے۔ بحیرہ جنوبی چین میں نائن ڈیش لائنز اس بات کی غمازی کرتی ہیں کہ مستقبل قریب میں یہ سمندری سرحدی تنازعات حل ہوتے نظر نہیں آتے۔ اس کے برعکس گوادرن سے یہ فاصلہ 208 ناٹیکل میل بنتا ہے اور یہ راستہ انتہائی آسان، کم خرچ اور قیمتی وقت کے ضیاع سے بچاتا ہے جہاں کسی قسم کا کوئی تنازع نہیں ہے۔ ادھر چین کو کاشغر سے گوادرن تک 2700 سے 3000 کلومیٹر کا زمینی فاصلہ طے کرنا پڑے گا۔ اسی راستے کا نام سی پیک ہے۔ مگر سی پیک صرف راستہ نہیں ہے۔ یہ ہائی ویز، موٹرویز، ریل، تیل اور گیس کے پائپ لائنوں کا ایک جال ہے۔ یہ سب کچھ گوادرن پورٹ کے گرد گھوم رہا ہے۔ سی پیک 4 منصوبہ کی مالیت اس وقت 60 ارب ڈالر سے تجاوز کر چکی ہے۔ دوسری طرف سی پیک سے پاکستان کی معیشت کو بھرپور فائدہ ہو گا پاکستان میں عوام کو روزگار کے لاکھوں مواقع میسر آ رہے ہیں

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-08-30/page-7/detail->

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Pakistan Observer

Pakistan-China relations

Urooj Hayat

THE Pak-China friendship is described as higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the deepest sea, sweeter than honey by the leadership of both countries.

Pak-China relationship is unique in nature, which the Chinese describe through a particular Chinese terminology “Tie Gee Men Err” or simply “Ba Tie” which can be translated as “Iron Brothers” in English.

It is a unique case indeed in the international system that we live in. Chinese have reached economic progress with Pakistan’s cooperation.

As China’s investment in Pakistani infrastructural expand, the Chinese government announced the CPEC project in 2015 with an aim to expand its trade links and influence in Pakistan to grow better relationship between the two countries, in which Karot Hydropower Project is a great example of China-Pakistan friendship.

I have personally worked at Karot Hydro Power Project and it is an absolute pleasure working with the Chinese.

Not only has it helped me in my self-growth and learning their language and culture, I’ve had a great experience growing intellectually and learning how things are done in China. The Chinese are happy, hard-working, proud and free people and their model is far more effective in getting things done.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will enhance cooperation by win-win model which will result in a well connected and integrated region of shared destiny and harmony and China will also help Pakistan achieve great development in technological revolution.

This will be completed under industrial cooperation which will help Pakistan in achieving rapid economic development.

Karot Hydro Power Project is also being developed in a way which not only stimulates our economic growth but also provides a great basis for the local people’s integrity, development, and reduces poverty by providing jobs to the locals who are struggling to make both ends meet. This is just one example from a project.

CPEC has provided more than 20 energy projects to Pakistan. It not only provides financial support but also gives a chance to individuals to build a strong persona by living and working in challenges and adapting the skill of finding solutions to any problem causing hindrance.

Every individual working here is earning a decent salary for all the hard work they are putting in.

This project has also become a way to meet new people with healthy and productive minds and an urge to prove their skills and develop better plans.

Living and working here provides a big opportunity to be part of a social circle that influences your healthy thinking.

People residing in areas around the project sites are greatly benefitted from job opportunities and development of their entities.

On the whole, CPEC is the biggest project having all kinds of benefits to both nations and setting the bars high for other countries in their social interactions with other countries.

The harmony, dedication, and hard work of employees here is the core reason behind the project's success.

Pakistan has no shortage of natural beauty, and after the development of energy projects, 3000 km road, hospitals, educational institutes, agriculture, irrigation system, human resources development and most importantly, poverty alleviation by China-Pakistan cooperation, tourists from around the world would visit Pakistan and Pakistan's economy will flourish.

This is how the tourism and other sectors will most likely complement the GDP of Pakistan in upcoming years.

It is a wave of change in Pakistan and no doubt Pakistan is developing and becoming economically strong. May the Pak-China friendship prosper more and become stronger like steel.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-relations-by-urooj-hayat/>

The News

Chinese high-yield maize-soybean intercropping technology completes sowing

ISLAMABAD: The autumn sowing of maize and soybeans in the demonstrative plots of maize-soybean strip intercropping technology, the Chinese high-yield technology which was praised by Prime Minister Imran Khan at Kissan Convention on August 11, was completed.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), with the speedy development of maize-soybean strip intercropping technology locally, this autumn the total demonstration area has skyrocketed to over 150 acres, reaching a 50% increase.

This season there are altogether 13 demonstrative plots which spread over Punjab and Sindh in Bahawalpur, Khairpur Tamewali, Rajanpur, Rahim Yar Khan, Shiekhpura, Sargodha, Kasoor, Talagang, Khairpur Mirus, Tandojam, Hyderabad, Faisalabad and Burewala respectively.

As maize-soybean strip intercropping technology is getting increasingly more attention and recognition from Pakistan with its promising harvests in last season, a large number of Pakistani farmers want to learn the technology.

Responding to farmers' enthusiasm, training will be delivered in the Intercropping Center, jointly built by Sichuan Agricultural University and the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and inaugurated by PM Imran Khan.

“We have planned to arrange two training sessions for two days each. Every training is prepared for 25 to 30 farmers. In this way, they can better grasp the technology to achieve bumper harvests,” Muhammad Ali Raza, Sichuan Agricultural University post-doc, told CEN.

“We’re always ready to guide the farmers who are willing to learn maize-soybean strip intercropping technology,” he emphasized. Last season, maize-soybean strip intercropping demonstrative plots has achieved promising results. The average production of maize and soybeans reached 7,603 kg and 1,052 kg per hectare respectively in the 12 irrigated intercropped fields. Along with the guidance and research under the newly established Sino-Pak Intercropping Center, there’s a reason to expect more for the coming harvest.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/885953-chinese-high-yield-maize-soybean-intercropping-technology-completes-sowing>

Learning from China

Prime Minister Imran Khan has repeatedly shown admiration for the Chinese system. Contrary to popular notions, being an authoritarian state is not the *raison d'etre* of China’s rapid success.

If one studies the Chinese system, their success would be found ingrained in the governance at the local level. It is unfortunate that no mainstream political party in Pakistan has ever been sincere in this important, yet ignored, aspect of governance. If Pakistan has to learn something from China, the importance of local governments should take priority.

As China is a highly centralized state, policymaking remains the domain of the central government. However, for administrative functioning, the central government has devolved authority to the local governments at the grassroots level to perform their designated functions.

The local governments handle the administrative affairs that include, but are not limited to, education, health, social security, agriculture, industries and local development. The local governments in China are financially empowered. They get ample resources for the service-delivery. More than 90 percent of the education and health budgets are bestowed to the local governments to spend for the population’s needs and welfare. Agriculture, in which a lot of the workforce is employed, is also a responsibility of local governments.

Pakistan has a different political system from that of China. China’s one-party model cannot be replicated, but some key lessons can surely be drawn when it comes to local governance.

One, there should be a consensus-based socio-economic agenda in Pakistan. China has one party at the center but in Pakistan, the political parties at the center change with elections. It is mandatory that the different mainstream parties minimise their differences with thorough negotiations and set up a system that is mutually agreeable for all. For result-oriented policies, it is vital that the succeeding government does not undo the works of the preceding one relating to the local governments.

Two, Pakistan can give more authority to the local governments and strengthen them in areas relating to planning, financing and execution of the projects like China has. It can be fruitful for

Pakistan considering it is a democracy (though a weak one). Democratic local governments are more responsive, representative, accountable and authorized.

Three, there must be a strong mechanism of accountability like the Chinese local government system has. China follows a cake-layered model of top-down accountability in which the higher tiers keep a check on the bottom tiers. Being a democratic state where local governments are set up with relatively competitive elections, Pakistan can have an even better accountability model. It can have a three-dimensional accountability model in which the local governments are answerable to the voters of their constituencies, higher authorities (like in China) and to a specially designed accountability institution for local governments which is independent of political interference.

Four, the local governments in Pakistan can help the country maintain socioeconomic order like they do in China. The Chinese central government tolerates and even incentivizes officials, using any means to produce local employment and attract investments. In Pakistan, employment opportunities are not uniformly distributed. People have to migrate or travel to big cities to earn livelihood.

Local governments boosting employment and economic activities can be of significant help in urbanizing the rural areas. Local governments are helpful to the locals as they consist of officials who have a better understanding of the local problems and who are able to utilize the local resources in an efficient way. With fiscal devolution, the autonomy of local governments increases. They can perform well to create jobs that can make the workforce involved and busy in work to meet their expenses and avoid the disturbance in socioeconomic order.

Five, it can help resolve the problem of mass movements challenging the state. Mass movements emerge out of the grievances of the people. As the local governments meet the basic requirements of people in a better way, it can be expected that societies at the periphery would feel empowered and less deprived. That would help the state resolve matters of insurgencies.

China, being an authoritarian state, uses the local government system as a tool of surveillance. The counties in China are small, and thus suspicious activities are monitored. With the help of local governments, Pakistan – a security state – can keep a check on alleged sponsors of terrorism and stop people from joining organizations posing a threat to national security. For that, the state must provide people with means to get their grievances resolved in the first place.

Six, local governments in China have done a phenomenal job in alleviating poverty. Pakistan has a huge problem of poverty. As local governments function well, local needs can be catered to by enhancing jobs, and local manufacturing helps lower prices so that things are purchasable by the poor. Healthcare, education and assistance in agriculture at the local level can significantly improve the lives of people in the rural areas.

China's local government system does have its own limitations. For instance, this model has a one-size-fits-all approach. On the contrary, the rural and urban areas have different problems, but the model presents a more or less similar approach to the problem-solving mechanism.

Resultantly, China as a whole has experienced sustained prosperity, yet the divide within the country is still huge.

Pakistan can take some key lessons from China with respect to the local government system and implement these in establishing stable and long-lasting local governments. They not only help serve as political nurseries for generating political acumen among masses and producing leaders in democracies, but also provide assistance in tackling lots of social problems like poverty and unemployment.

In China, the administrative powers are devolved to the local governments, but the political authority is centralized. Pakistan is a democratic state and there are multiple parties that participate in the electoral process. In our country, it can go one step further and political power can also be devolved to the local governments for they too are elected with competitive elections.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/885616-learning-from-china>

‘Agriculture remains a nonstarter under CPEC’

LAHORE: Despite extensive discussions at government level, agriculture related initiatives remain a nonstarter under the framework of much-trumpeted China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a provincial minister said on Monday.

It seems even both federal and Punjab governments of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are not on the same page when it comes to implementing agriculture related projects for boosting cooperation with China. In spite of vowing time and again to enhance cooperation between the two neighbouring countries, words are still words as no action has been seen at any level, it is learnt.

Not a single project had been finalised even on paper yet, let alone forming a joint venture under much-touted economic corridor, said an official. Since 2017-18, there have been various announcements to make CPEC functional in the Punjab province, which is the biggest contributor in the field of agriculture but to no avail. There are several statements mentioned in the budget documents since 2018 referring to “harnessing the potential of Western Corridor of CPEC” and “enhancing competitive position of agriculture sector in line with global and domestic market demands, including getting benefit from CPEC opportunities”.

Interestingly, emphasis on CPEC has been mentioned in the foreword of Annual Development Programme (ADP) 2020-21 but its scope is hardly seen realising in the shape of joint projects during the financial year. Hence, the statement of “leveraging CPEC for realising economic opportunities as key drivers of growth and development for the province” effectively remains rhetoric.

The progress on finalisation of agriculture related projects under CPEC stalled and wasn't moving on even at a snail's pace, said an official. Views about dismal state-of-affairs regarding agriculture sector being placed on the back burner in the CPEC, were echoed by Hussain Jahania Gardezi, the Punjab Agriculture Minister.

Talking to The News, he said, despite wide-ranging consultation with the federal government for last several years to jumpstart work on CPEC projects for the development of agriculture sector, “we are yet to launch a single project”.

“The pace of consultation is abysmally low with the federal institutions,” he said, adding, “Work on several key projects should have been started by now but after consuming so much energy and time, we are still waiting at the starting line”. There was a dire need to improve coordination between various departments at federal level if the government really wanted to benefit from the Chinese expertise in the field of agriculture sector, he observed.

Gardezi regretted that too much dependence on federal departments had been one of the reasons of no tangible development on forming joint agriculture ventures with China. Regarding under-discussion projects, Punjab agriculture minister said, one of the proposed key projects under the framework of CPEC was upgrade of all agriculture research laboratories with the technical collaboration of China.

“We are expecting a lot of improvement in the working of agriculture department for the betterment of farming practices with technology transfer from China,” Gardezi said. He termed introduction of early warning system for the natural calamities as well as pest attack including locust infestation as one of the major projects the provincial agriculture department wanted to launch with the help of China.

“Among others, agriculture mechanisation and introduction of precision agriculture has been an important proposed initiative we want to launch under CPEC.” However, voicing dissatisfaction with pace of work shown by federal entities, the minister blamed the very slow processing on various proposals submitted by Punjab to the federal government under CPEC.

When contacted, Khalid Mansoor, newly appointed Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CPEC did not comment on the stalemate holding back work on agriculture related projects.

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