



For Better Understanding on
China-Pakistan and
CPEC
Gleanings from the
National Press

September 16-30, 2019

A pilot project of PICS

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Data collected and compiled by Almas Noor and Rabeeha Safdar.

September 16, 2019

The Nation

Chinese mid-autumn festival gala performances held at PNCA

ISLAMABAD-Chinese mid-autumn festival gala performances, workshop on Chinese intangible cultural heritage for Pakistani students and Wuhan photographic exhibition were held here at Pakistan National Council of Arts hosted by the China Cultural Centre in Pakistan.

China Cultural Centre (CCC) in Pakistan hosted two different cultural troupes in the capital. The Chinese classical cultural troupe enthralled the audience with their mesmerizing performance in PNCA.

Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing was present on the occasion and said that these kinds of programmes were meant to promote the linkages between people and create the understanding amongst our nations regarding the Chinese culture and values. These programmes were part of the large public and cultural diplomacy initiatives of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan. Mr. Jamal Shah, Executive Director of PNCA also spoke on the occasion. Chinese Culture Counselor Zhang Heqing was also present on the occasion.

The artists came from Chengdu School of Culture and Art and presented Chinese musical and dance in gala performances in PNCA to celebrate the Chinese mid-autumn festival and 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Another Chinese troupe comprising of 9 members were from Wuhan Municipal Bureau of Culture and Tourism of China for a training workshop on 'Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage' i.e. hand embroidery, clay sculpture, oil paper umbrella, calligraphy, hangmen fist (traditional Chinese boxing) for Pakistani students.

'Zhong QiuJie', which is also known as the mid-autumn festival, is celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar. To the Chinese, mid-autumn festival means family reunion and peace. The festival is celebrated when the moon is believed to be the biggest and fullest. To the Chinese, a full moon is a symbol of prosperity, happiness, and family reunion. It is a time for family members and loved ones to congregate and enjoy the full moon an auspicious symbol of abundance, harmony and luck. The CCCP has invited more than 100 Pakistani students from 7 different schools of Rawalpindi and Islamabad who participated in the training workshop of hand embroidery, clay sculpture, marital art and other intangible heritage to experience the traditional history and culture of China. Charming Wuhan Photography Exhibition was inaugurated by Zhang Heqing, cultural counselor of China and Director CCCP which will be displayed from 14th to 21st September, 2019 at China Cultural Centre in Pakistan.

The cultural counselor attended the workshop as chief guest. He also interacted with Pakistani students and Chinese artists.

September 17, 2019

Business Recorder

PM reiterates resolve to complete ongoing projects under CPEC

CPEC contributes substantially to Pakistan's development.

Yao conveys best wishes of President Xi to PM Imran.

Yao Jing calls on PM Imran Khan.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday reiterated the resolve to complete ongoing projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which had contributed substantially to Pakistan's development and prosperity.

Talking to Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing, who called on him here at the PM Office, he also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China and underscored the high priority attached to the CPEC.

The Chinese envoy conveyed the best wishes of President Xi Jinping to the prime minister on his forthcoming birthday. The Chinese president's message described the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan as "rock solid" and reiterated the resolve to build a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

The prime minister asked the ambassador to convey his thanks to the Chinese president.

Dunya News

China reaffirms cooperation with Pakistan in future

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing called on Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday in Islamabad.

During the meeting, Chinese Ambassador conveyed the best wishes of President Xi Jinping to Imran Khan on his forthcoming birthday. The Prime Minister asked the Ambassador to convey his thanks to the Chinese President.

In a message to the prime minister, the Chinese president reiterated to work together in the future, adding that the friendship between China and Pakistan is as strong as a rock.

PM Imran Khan also reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to further strengthening the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China.

Imran Khan reiterated Pakistan's resolve to complete ongoing projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor which will contribute substantially to Pakistan's development and prosperity.

Earlier, while chairing a high level meeting in Islamabad to review progress on incentives being offered for attracting investments in the industrial sector and relocating units to Pakistan, the

prime minister directed to fast-track provision of utilities to Special Economic Zones for facilitation of potential investors in investments and establishment of industries.

He said basic utilities like electricity, gas and road access should be provided to SEZs on priority basis. The PM also directed Finance, Planning and Commerce Divisions and the Board of Investment to peruse successful investment models of regional countries so as to offer best facilities and incentives to the investors.

He underlined that Pakistan is now on the right track of economic growth and in order to attract investments, the government will provide incentives to potential investors along with ease of doing business.

The meeting was briefed that SEZs in Pakistan have great potential for attracting investments particularly the Chinese companies. It was also apprised that China has evinced keen interest in various Pakistani products which will improve trade balance between the two countries.

The meeting was informed that CPEC remains the top-most priority of the Government and infrastructure development, energy and communication sectors have been earmarked for attracting investments.

It was apprised that Chinese and Russian companies have shown interest in the revival of Pakistan Steel Mills and their offers are being evaluated.

Pakistan observer

China-Pakistan agri cooperation summit to be held soon

China Machinery Engineering Cooperation (CMEC) in collaboration with China Agricultural Association for International Exchange (CAAIE) is going to organize China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation Summit soon here in the federal capital. A delegation of the CMEC Monday called on Federal Minister for National Food Security and Sahibzada Muhammad Mehboob Sultan and discussed the matters relating to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture.

In the summit, top Pakistani and Chinese agricultural companies, and diplomats and senior officers of Pakistan and Chinese government would be invited. The Ministry of National Food Security and Research was processing the memorandum of understanding between Pakistan Agricultural Research Council and China Machinery Engineering Corporation.

Speaking on the occasion, minister expressed that the government is resolved to uplift the agriculture sector and is going to launch 13 mega projects across the country and the technical cooperation with China would help us in the field.

Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan said due to the lack of requisite technology we are lagging behind in value addition and processing hence the joint venture in this regard and adaption of best practices from China in the field of agriculture would help tap our agro resources/commodities in a befitting manner.

The delegation told that CMEC is eagerly looking forth to extensively collaborate through “Pak-China Modern Agriculture Comprehensive Development Project” and under the project China will assist in the field through technical and financial support this will help in poverty alleviation as is focused by current Pakistan government.

The delegation also said Pakistan has best environment, water reservoirs and abundant labor which could be exploited to get maximum agriculture output. Under CPEC, both Pakistan and China have gone beyond the traditional level of cooperation from assistance in crop farming, cattle farming, mechanization to food storage and export. This assistance will be mutually beneficial and bring two countries closer; the minister said.

The delegation briefed that the CMEC has expertise in waste land reclamation, high tech, deep processing and trading and in all those areas they presented their long time plan for halal meat market, enhanced cotton production and collaborate in changing the traditional agriculture outlook of Pakistan to that of the most powerful agricultural country in the region with wide access to Chinese and Middle East market.

Trout fish farming business China offers support for research in cold water fisheries sector

Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Gansu Fisheries Research Institute (GFRI), China jointly organized three (03) days Training Course on “Cold Water Fisheries (Trout Farming)” in Islamabad. The purpose of this training session was to facilitate potential investors in Trout Fish Farming Business by providing them with a general understanding of the business and cold water fisheries research and development in Pakistan. Under the Belt and Road initiative of Chinese Government, the Gansu province of China has initiated this project.

While addressing to its opening ceremony of the training course, Muhammad Ayub Chaudry, Chairman, PARC shared his views to the participants of the course and said that this training course has provided an opportunity for the scientists, industry and farmers to interact and learn latest techniques in cold water and trout fisheries. He further added that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, AJK and Gilgit Baltistan are the major cold water fish potential areas of Pakistan. They possess a rich variety of freshwater habitats including major rivers and numerous streams and lakes. These fresh water resources offer significant opportunities for the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture. PARC has decided to establish a cold water fish laboratory at its research station namely Mountain Agriculture Research Centre (MARC) Juglote, Gilgit with the technical cooperation of GFRI, China to produce seed of new cold water fish species and to multiply them in Gilgit Baltistan, KP and AJK after necessary initial research and in order to transform these opportunities into economic gains and maximize the livelihood of the northern areas training of farmers and industry is key component.

Yu Yongbiao, Researcher, Gansu Fisheries Research Institute, China also spoke on the occasion and told that Cold water fisheries especially trout farming is an area with immense potential for the poverty reduction and providing livelihoods to the population of northern areas. Developing

this section of fisheries can also enhance the food security of malnourished communities as fish is an important source of protein.

How the BRI is creating new-age entrepreneurs

We are in the midst of the third wave of globalization that focuses on technology creation, trade, and cooperation among developing countries, especially in Eurasia and Africa. New transport infrastructure, partly financed through the Belt and Road Initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, provides the hardware of this globalization. But, people-to-people links are the crucial software.

The first post-WWII globalization wave, 1945-1975, boosted trade and growth among Western developed countries. Developing countries were mostly suppliers of raw materials to the then industrialized countries.

The second wave, which ran roughly from 1975 to 2010, saw the industrialization of developed countries, but most of their exports flowed to developed countries.

In the third wave, we are seeing sustainable trade flows between countries in Asia and Africa, leading to fast development with much less dependence on demand from the high-income countries.

April 2019 World Bank research by Maryla Maliszewska and Dominique van der Mensbrugge estimated that total world GDP will rise more than 0.7 percent by 2030 as a result of increased trade facilitated by the BRI infrastructure.

That may not sound like much, but it's a significant percentage of a huge number, so it amounts to as much as \$1 trillion and will contribute to lifting 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million from moderate poverty, according to the study. Half of this GDP gain will likely flow to BRI economies apart from China. In percentage terms, the largest return accrues to Pakistan with an increase of 10.5 percent in overall real income and the Kyrgyz Republic with 10.4 percent.

East Asian economies will also see sizable gains: Thailand (8.2%), Malaysia (7.7%), Cambodia (5%) and Laos (3.1%). About 20 percent of the gain flows to China, which is estimated to see a GDP increase of 0.7 percent. Other big beneficiaries are East African countries (Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Kenya) and Eastern Europe, especially Poland. The new trade made possible by the BRI infrastructure is creating a new generation of entrepreneurs.

At the Bishkek summit on June 13-14, the heads of state of the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization called for "the development of technology parks and business incubators in the SCO region for the purpose of improving the regional business climate and supporting youth startup projects, including the International Youth Business Incubator of SCO countries within the framework of the SCO Youth Council."

I've had the opportunity to meet with lots of young foreigners, mostly students at universities in Beijing, who are working to build new companies in China or that connect their home countries

to the Chinese economy. It's exhilarating to see the dynamism of these young entrepreneurs. I accompanied the students on a "walk around Haidian", Beijing's high-tech region, organized by the Zhongguancun Belt and Road Industrial Promotion Association and also met with entrepreneurs through the Global Foundation for Youth Entrepreneurship, which is affiliated with the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. I also attended a Model SCO, in which young people simulated a meeting of the SCO.

Many young people are building their lives around these new business opportunities. For example, Svitlana Kutia, an MBA-student from Ukraine, has set up a company called Tech Pool CEE that connects tech companies in Central and Eastern Europe to Chinese tech companies. "Five or seven years ago we heard about Chinese copycats, but currently they are completely different. They have unique projects, unique devices, and actually unique companies. That are going global and succeeding so fast. Foreigners have to pay attention to this and think about how we can succeed in China," she said in an interview with China Daily. She notes that the business climate is safer than in her home country: "I believe the policies here are working better and because of this we can do our business."

Abdul Hadi Hanan, from Pakistan, who is working on a master's degree in electrical engineering at Beijing Jiaotong University, said that the BRI is very good for countries that are still developing. For example, in Pakistan, China is investing in energy and infrastructure and is building a road, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, linking the two countries. "China is investing a lot on the education side and the infrastructure side and, after some time, there will be a lot of opportunities and jobs for the people. I think it is a great initiative. So, trade becomes easy."

An MBA student from Mexico, who preferred not to be named, said: "I think what Zhongguancun and the Haidian government are doing is just amazing. They use facilities that they already have to build incubators and to link students who have entrepreneurial aspirations. It is not just money. They provide mentorship facilities and help meet regulations. This should be replicated not only in other cities in China, but also in our own countries."

And, Saman Pouyanmehr, from Iran, founder and CEO of the GFYE and a recent graduate of the UIBE with a major in finance, said: "China is a unique country that offers unique opportunities and values to entrepreneurs for realizing their goals. I'm very happy that I'm in China at the same time that the Belt and Road Initiative is growing. China soon will be an influential country in the digital economy era through integration of Chinese and foreign talents, and also by introducing world-class startups. The biggest opportunities for entrepreneurs are here."

Olim Alimov, from Tajikistan, who is the head of the Beijing office of the United Center for Business Cooperation under the SCO Business Council Secretariat and who also runs a consulting company and imports Russian caviar into China, said: "The Chinese government understands that small and medium-sized businesses are driving the economy now. They understand that they need to boost entrepreneurship to bring innovation. They do everything in order to make it happen for all the entrepreneurs and startups."

“We feel this support for international entrepreneurs in government policies. For example, in the last year, the tariffs and the taxes for many of the product lists, including the caviar, have dropped significantly. We pay now 40 percent less to bring in caviar than we did two years ago. “There is a lot of government support toward building entrepreneurship parks. For example, right here in Zhongguancun, Innoway (an information exchange platform set up by the Beijing and Haidian governments) hosts many international companies. It is basically a one-stop shop. It is one window toward all the resources you can get for a startup. That is a huge, huge boost.”

However, there is still a long way to go to create a system of easy trade and cross-border entrepreneurship in Eurasia. Delegates to the Model SCO identified visa issues as a major barrier to young entrepreneurs. The Pakistani delegation proposed that an “SCO youth card” be established to allow young students and entrepreneurs to travel and work throughout the region. The Russian delegation to the SCO said that a key obstacle to entrepreneurship across the region is “lack of easy information and harmonization between national bureaucracies.” Other delegates said that key barriers include protectionism and competition from established monopolies.

Alimov summed up the view of many young entrepreneurs: “The Belt and Road Initiative is a true vision of connectivity of the Eurasian land mass – not only through infrastructure but also through connectivity of the minds.” (Courtesy China Daily.)

Nawaiwaqt

چین کی مشاورت سے دائرہ کار کو وسعت دینے میں کامیاب ہو گئے ہیں: سی پیک حکام

اسلام آباد۔ 16 ستمبر (اے پی پی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری پاکستان کے لئے اہم منصوبہ جو ملک کی ترقی و خوشحالی کا ضامن ثابت ہو گا، حکومت سی پیک فریم ورک کے تحت نئے مواقع سے فائدہ اٹھانے کے لئے پر عزم ہے۔ سی پیک اتھارٹی کے حکام کے مطابق موجودہ حکومت چینی حکومت کی مشاورت سے سی پیک کے دائرہ کار کو وسعت دینے میں کامیاب ہو گئی ہے جس میں اب دوسرے شعبہ جات بشمول سماجی و معاشی ترقی، غربت کا خاتمہ، زراعت اور صنعتی تعاون پر توجہ دی جائے گی۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے وژن کے مطابق سی پیک کے سلسلہ میں عوام کی فلاح و بہبود کے منصوبوں پر توجہ دی جائے گی۔ سی پیک منصوبہ صحیح سمت میں گامزن ہے اور یہ منصوبہ دوسرے منصوبوں سے مختلف ہے کیونکہ دو دوست ممالک کی دیرینہ دوستی کا مظہر ہے جس سے ترقی و خوشحالی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہو گا۔

September 18, 2019

Business Recorder

China expresses satisfaction over pace of CPEC development: Khusro

Khusro says China expresses satisfaction CPEC development work.

Khusro says government has allocated Rs 20 billion for provision of electricity to the economic zones. 7,000 megawatt electricity would be added to national grid stations under CPEC.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform, Makhdom Khusro Bakhtiar has said China had expressed its satisfaction over the speed of development work on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Talking to private news channel on Wednesday, he said Railway line project 'ML-1' was the most important project for development of the country.

To a question, he said the previous government of Pakistan Muslims League (PML-N) gave priority to orange line train project and ignored the development of economic zones under CPEC. No initiative had been taken in PML-N government tenure to provide gas and electricity to these economic zones, he added.

Khusro Bakhtiar pointed out that the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) government had allocated Rs 20 billion for provision of electricity to the economic zones. All preparations had been made to inaugurate Rashakai economic zone during next month, he added.

The minister said 7,000 megawatt electricity would be added to national grid stations under CPEC. He said the government was developing Gawadar on priority as shipping hub of the country. China Pakistan Business Council had been established to boost business activities between the two countries, he said, adding that top businessmen of both countries were being given representation in the Council.

TECNO partners with Airlink

Popular Chinese smart phone manufacturer TECNO has paired up with Pakistan's largest telecommunication company Airlink with the aim to enhance the availability of its phones across the country.

On Monday, Airlink entered into a partnership with TECNO in an official press conference. Although Yello Stone and United Mobile will continue to work for it, TECNO wants to ensure that with the addition of Airlink, its smart phones capture the mobile market.

Since its success of Spark Go, the company has made efforts to maximize the reach of its smart phones, not just into the minds of the billion users, but also to every market in Pakistan. TECNO will not be the only one to benefit from this partnership, as Airlink, which since its beginning 45 years ago, is working to expand their distribution network will also get to add a top smart phone manufacturer to their portfolio.

During the press conference on Monday, it was revealed that Airlink will get to distribute TECNO's Spark 4. The upcoming phone, set to be launched in the mid of October, will be an upgraded version of Spark Go.

Spark 4 with its 3D unibody sleek design with gradient colors will run on latest operating system of Android 9.0. The best thing about Spark 4 will be its 4000 mAh battery, which will allow users to stay connected without the fear of running out of charge.

The upcoming smart phone will feature a massive 6.5-inch water-drop notch display and will have Face Unlock option. Equipped with a triple rear camera setup (13MP+2MP+VGA) along with dual flash, Spark 4 will feature 8MP front camera along with micro slit flash.

The smart phone will be powered with a 2.0GHz Quad-core processor and will have 3GB BRAM and 32 GB ROM with an expandable storage option of 256 GB.

Jang News

چین میں پروفیسر عطاء الرحمن ریسرچ سینٹر کا افتتاح 23 اکتوبر کو ہوگا

اسلام آباد (حنیف خالد) اسلام آباد کے ماہرین تعلیم، شیوخ الجامعہ اور سائنس دانوں نے پروفیسر ڈاکٹر عطاء الرحمن کو چین میں انکے نام سے تحقیقی ادارے کے قیام پر مبارکباد پیش کی ہے۔ جامعہ ہنان برائے چینی طب نے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے صوبے ہنان کے دارالحکومت چانگشا میں اپنے مرکزی کمپس میں ماہر تعلیم پروفیسر عطاء الرحمن کی تعلیمی، سائنسی اور تحقیقی خدمات کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہوئے ون بیلٹ اور ون روڈ ٹی سی ایم ریسرچ سنٹر قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ مجوزہ سینٹر کی عظیم الشان افتتاحی تقریب 23 اکتوبر 2019ء کو ایچ یو سی ایم میں پانچویں سالانہ بائیو ٹی سی ایم بین الاقوامی کانفرنس کے ساتھ منعقد ہوگی۔ یہ مرکز پروفیسر عطاء الرحمن کی روایتی دوائیوں کے شعبے میں سائنسی خدمات اور انکی قیادت میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان سائنسی تعاون کو فروغ دینے کا ایک عاجز اعتراف ہے۔ پروفیسر وائے وانگ، پروفیسر وانگ جامعہ ہنان برائے چینی طب کے معزز فیور انگ سائنسدان ہیں۔ پروفیسر وانگ نے مزید تفصیلات بیان کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ پروفیسر عطاء الرحمن کا چائنیز اکیڈمی آف سائنس کی رفاقت کے اعلیٰ اعزاز میں شمولیت کا جشن بھی ہے۔ ایچ یو سی ایم چین کی سب سے بڑی پبلک سیکٹر جامعات میں سے ایک ہے جو بین الاقوامی سطح پر بہترین کارکردگی اور تحقیق کے معیار کیلئے پہچانی جاتی ہے۔ اس جامعہ میں غیر ملکی طلباء کی ایک بڑی تعداد زیر تعلیم ہے، جس میں 500 پاکستانی اسکالرز بھی شامل ہیں۔ پروفیسر عطاء الرحمن نے پی ایچ ڈی کی ڈگری نامیاتی کیمیا میں جامعہ کیمبرج سے 1968ء میں حاصل کی۔ نامیاتی کیمیا کے متعدد شعبوں میں انکی کل 1232 اشاعتیں ہیں جن میں 771 تحقیقی اشاعتیں، 45 بین الاقوامی پبلیٹس، 71 کتب ابواب اور 342 کتابیں شامل ہیں جن میں سے بیشتر بڑے امریکی اور یورپی پریسوں نے شائع کی ہیں۔ پروفیسر عطاء الرحمن کیمیا کے آٹھ یورپی جریدوں کے مدیر اعلیٰ بھی ہیں۔

September 19, 2019

Daily times

China to further strengthen economic ties with Pakistan

China extends another olive branch to Pakistan to further strengthen the economic ties between countries. For this purpose, China has decided to establish a visa office in Peshawar.

This was told by Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing while talking to media during his visit to China Window in Peshawar on Thursday.

He further announced that the first small economic zone of China Pakistan Economic Corridor in Rashakai will be operational this year which will help in poverty mitigation. This would provide multiple employment and business opportunities in future to Pakistani Public and meanwhile boost diplomatic and economic ties between two states.

Commenting on Kashmir issue, he maintained that Kashmir is an international issue and therefore, any unilateral attempt to temper its status is thoroughly unacceptable.

Moreover, he asserted that peaceful dialogue through proper diplomatic channels is the only solution to this protracted conflict which is crucial for the peace and stability of the region.

In brief, the ambassador was shown various galleries of the cultural centre which includes literature and photo galleries and was briefed about CPEC and Pak-China friendship wall.

Pakistan Observer

CPEC will not be influenced by Kashmir's status changes: Hashmi

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative, will not be influenced by India cancelling the Kashmir's special status and Pakistan, in close cooperation with China, was making every effort to complete the project, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Naghmana Alamgir Hashmi said on Thursday. 'Pakistan will continue to work closely with China to fully promote the completion of the project,' she said in an exclusive interview with the Global Times.

Ambassador Hashmi said that the CPEC will not be affected by withdrawal of status because 'both Pakistan and China are fully determined to let this project reach its potential' for benefit of the region politically, economically and socially. The infrastructure and energy sectors of the CPEC have been completed, and other projects are progressing in an orderly manner, she added. To a question, she remarked that unless India withdraws its constitutional amendments to Kashmir's status and its troops, Pakistan will not return to the negotiating table.

While commenting on reinforcement of troops deployed in Indian Occupied Kashmir, she said that India's recent dispatch of troops to Indian Occupied Kashmir and the implementation of martial law in the local area were 'to trap the local 8 million people in prison.' 'Kashmir is bleeding and in this case, we cannot open a dialogue with India.' Ambassador Hashmi said that unless India withdraws relevant laws, withdraws troops to Kashmir, cancels local curfews and resumes communications.

Chinese prefab factory joins PM's Naya Pakistan project for faster, inexpensive housing

Terming housing and agriculture as key areas, Prime Minister Imran Khan Wednesday said his government would welcome foreign investment with modern technology to bring improvement in the lives of common man.

Addressing at the groundbreaking ceremony of a plant for Easy Prefabricated Homes by a leading Chinese company Henan D.R. Construction Group in Faisalabad, held at PM House, he said prefab construction was the best option for low-cost and quicker housing set-up. The Chinese Group during an earlier meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan during his official visit to Beijing had decided to invest in Pakistan and transfer the technology to manufacture prefab houses in the country to meet export and domestic demands.

The prime minister said the cost of prefabricated houses was typically cheaper and faster than the traditional construction and mentioned that similar projects were a success in Turkey and India. He said prefabricated houses would be constructed in big cities like Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad to provide the population cheaper accommodation and would also help replace shanties in slums.

The prime minister mentioned that construction of prefabricated houses and flats takes only a few months as compared to the cemented construction that usually takes up to four years. The Prime Minister said besides housing, the agriculture was another priority for the government as 25 percent of the GDP was connected with this sector.

He said increasing productivity of agriculture through modern techniques would help address poverty in rural areas. He said Board of Investment, the Ministry of Commerce and other relevant departments were taking steps to facilitate foreign businessmen to encourage investment.

The prime minister lauded the efforts of Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing towards strengthening Sino-Pak relations, particularly for encouraging Chinese investors to explore Pakistan's diverse areas.

China's ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing said China would continue facilitating the Pakistan government in areas related to economic development.

He said in view of Prime Minister Imran Khan's people-centric vision, the Chinese government had decided to provide assistance to his development projects of Naya Pakistan. Chairman Henan D.R. Construction Group Huang Daoyuan said his company would set up factory of building prefabricated material in Faisalabad's Special Economic Zone. He said the manufacture of pre-fab houses in Pakistan would help Pakistan earn foreign exchange through export of construction material and would also meet the domestic demands. Chairman China Machinery Engineering (CMEC) Zhang Chun said the company would prepare the building material which could be purchased by local and international construction companies.

The News

CPEC shelved?

KARACHI: The \$50 billion worth China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects launched amidst lot of fanfare by the PML-N government and they soon became so expedient that practically all political parties lined to take its credit.

Some analysts laid credit of the CPEC projects with the former dictator Gen (ret'd) Pervez Musharraf and the military leadership. It became so sacrosanct afterwards that mere objecting to the project would invite the label of treachery against the country. But then the pendulum swung the other way. After the inauguration of the PTI's government into the office, the projects came under scathing criticism of Minister for Trade Razaq Daud and then Minister for Communication Murad Saeed who accused PML-N's Ahsan Iqbal of involvement in misappropriations in some CPEC projects.

Now it has become a foregone conclusion that the CPEC projects have been shelved for all practical purposes. The former spokesman of Balochistan government's Jan Muhammad Buledi told Deutsche Welle the incumbent government does not accord any priority to CPEC. Buledi said no progress was witnessed on the CPEC projects for Balochistan in the last one year adding the projects have seemingly been frozen. No development has been undertaken on the land acquired for Gwadar Airport, he said and added same goes with the 300MW electricity generation plant in Gwadar that was to be built by China for which land was also acquired but the development work is yet to start. Gwadar Port remains similarly frozen.

Various circles feel the Chinese leadership is upset with the corruption allegations of the incumbent government. One of the government officials on condition of anonymity told Deutsche Welle (DW) the Chinese have practically stopped funding for the project, especially after Ministers Razak Dawood and Murad Saeed leveled charges of corruption. He said previously the Chinese used to release loans first and later would ask for procurements, but now they first demand procurement and there is no certainty if any funding would be released for it. And how could the government undertake procurement when they do not have funds. This shows that the CPEC projects are practically over and if at all there is any forward movement worth the name it will be extremely slow.

Some politicians believe that while the allegations of corruption did frustrate the Chinese but some of them believe that certain external powers want the CPEC projects to be slowed or altogether scrapped. PPP's leader and Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwala said when the PPP started these projects they faced immense international pressure against launching them but it did not abandon them. Mandviwala said the former president Asif Ali Zardari visited China on 13 occasions and developed trust and confidence with the leadership. He said the incumbent government is trying to keep both US and China happy which is impossible. The incompetency of the PTI government has given China more reason to be dismayed and in this situation the remaining projects would continue to remain on the back burner.

Many analysts also similarly believe the external pressures are playing a major role in Pakistan back pedaling over the CPEC projects. Suhail Chaudhry, a columnist from Lahore, thinks the CPEC projects would miss deadlines primarily due to stern conditionality's of the IMF, World Bank and the US. America and the other western powers do not want Pakistan to complete the CPEC projects. Pakistan's plight is compounded by the financial crunch and the IMF package. If Islamabad is unable to achieve the revenue targets the IMF would not release its next tranche

sending Pakistan to desperately seek the US help for the IMF funding. At this stage Washington would invoke the CPEC conditions forcing Pakistan with no other option but to slow down the projects, but Pakistan cannot afford to scrap these projects, he said.

An official source in the Ministry of Communications confided to DW that several important projects have been put on hold. Development work has stopped on the Karachi-Sukkur motorway. Similarly the Dera Ismail Khan to Balochistan Wester Route has also been abandoned. Work on several critical motorway projects including the Orange Lines and Green Lines project has also been stopped, causing Pakistan to miss its chance of major development, China in the situation is not overly hurt, he said.

Another prevailing popular perception is that the PTI has sacrificed CPEC at the altar of the US regional policies to cultivate Washington on its side. Senior PTI leader Ishaq Khakwani rejected the perception and cited the example of Malaysia. He said negotiations do take place following change of governments on the format of payments and other relevant areas but it is unthinkable that the PTI government would drop the CPEC projects altogether.

Express News

سی پیک: حکومت کا آئندہ ماہ گواڈر میں 300 میگاواٹ پاور پلانٹ کے افتتاح کا فیصلہ

اسلام آباد: وفاقی حکومت نے آئندہ ماہ سی پیک کے تحت گواڈر میں 300 میگاواٹ کے پاور پلانٹ کی تعمیر کے منصوبے کا افتتاح کرنے کا اصولی فیصلہ کیا ہے۔

وفاقی حکومت نے آئندہ ماہ (اکتوبر) سی پیک کے تحت گواڈر میں 54 کروڑ ڈالر سے زائد مالیت کے 300 میگاواٹ کے پاور پلانٹ کی تعمیر کے منصوبے کا افتتاح کرنے کا اصولی

فیصلہ کیا ہے جبکہ گواڈر میں 300 میگاواٹ کے پاور پلانٹ کیلئے ٹیرف کا تنازع حل کرنے کیلئے خصوصی ایپٹ ٹریبونل قائم کرنے کا بھی فیصلہ کیا ہے۔

اس ضمن میں ”ایکسپریس“ کو دستیاب دستاویز کے مطابق کابینہ کی کمیٹی برائے سی پیک نے حالیہ اجلاس بارے منٹس جاری کر دیے

Jang News

کیا سی پیک ختم ہو گیا؟ معروف جرمن نشریاتی ادارہ

کراچی (جنگ نیوز) جرمن نشریاتی ادارے کا کہنا ہے کہ چند برس قبل جوش و خروش سے شروع کی جانے والی پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری پر کام کی رفتار بہت کم ہوتی جا رہی ہے

کئی حلقوں کی رائے میں آنے والے وقتوں میں اس منصوبے پر مکمل جمود طاری ہو جائے گا یا پھر اسے ختم کر دیا جائے گا۔

پٹی آئی کے بارے میں یہ تاثر ہے کہ وہ واشنگٹن کو خوش کرنے کے لیے سی پیک کی قربانی دے رہی ہے۔ لیکن پارٹی کے ایک رہنما اسحاق خاکنانی اس تاثر کو غلط قرار دیتے ہیں۔ وہ کہتے ہیں، سوال ہی پیدا نہیں ہوتا کہ ہم اس پروجیکٹ کو ترک کر دیں۔ حکومتیں تبدیل ہونے کے بعد بات چیت ہوتی ہے، جیسا کہ ملائیشیا میں بھی ہوا۔ تو اس منصوبے پر ممکنہ طور پر بات چیت اور ادائیگیوں کے طریقہ کار پر بھی گفتگو ہو رہی ہوگی۔

September 20, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Chinese envoy, KP Governor discuss bilateral cooperation

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Yao Chang Thursday called on Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shah Farman here at the Governor House. They discussed bilateral cooperation in different sectors and investment opportunities in Pakistan during the meeting. The Governor on the occasion termed China as best neighbor and friendly country of Pakistan and offered investment proposal and assistance in sectors of olive fields and fruits production in tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Governor told Chinese Ambassador that the land of tribal districts was much suitable for production of olive and fruits.

The News

CPEC projects picking up pace

ISLAMABAD: Apropos news item titled ‘‘CPEC Shelved?’’ published in The News in its edition of September 19, 2019 wherein it has been erroneously reported that the work on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project is being scrapped or frozen. Rather than being shelved, the pace of the flagship project between the two friendly countries has picked up after the incumbent government came into power. The Ministry of Planning, Development & Reform in a statement clarified that:- CPEC was planned to be completed in three phases. The first phase of CPEC was to remove key economic bottlenecks namely energy and infrastructure. The current phase is about industrialization, socio-economic and agricultural cooperation and promoting business and consolidating developments.

In the first stage substantial work has been done. For instance, in the road category, a total of 1544 km have been constructed and 1456 km are under construction. In the energy sector, 5320MW of electricity has been added to the national grid while work on 7 projects with 4170MW power projects is nearing completion. Additional projects of 2844MW are planned. Also, cross border optical fiber project which stretches over 820 km linking Khunjab to Rawalpindi has already been completed. Regarding development in Gwadar, 10 projects in infrastructure and social sector development have either been completed or under construction. Among the completed projects, Gwadar port is functional. Most importantly, the Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan for the integrated development of the city has been approved on 23

August, 2019 and ready for implementation. Moreover, tax concessions and investment incentives issue which was lingering since 2016 has been resolved which will enhance economic activity in Gwadar. The country's largest airport, the New Gwadar International Airport groundbreaking was held on March 29, 2019 by the Prime Minister.

Currently the focus is on industrialization, socio-economic development, agriculture modernization, blue economy and tourism promotion. Framework Agreements on Industrial cooperation, Agriculture and socio-economic development have been signed in November 2018. Development of three special SEZs is on the priority namely; Rashakai, M3 Faisalabad and Dhabeji Thatta. Concession Agreement with CRBC for the Rashakai SEZ was signed in April 2019 and its groundbreaking of the zone is expected in early October. As the major obstacle in the establishment of these SEZs was to provide utilities to the Zone, the current government has agreed to provide the utilities at zero point through its own resources.

In the social sector development, 27 projects in the area of education, health, agriculture, poverty alleviation, agriculture and water supply have been identified of which 17 are on priority list and will be completed in this phase. For the MLI project, financing committee has been constituted to expedite work on the ML1 Project. Negotiations for petro chemical plant, refinery and gas pipeline are also ongoing.

It is evident that CPEC is on track and enjoying the full backing of the two countries. The roll back or slowing down of this flagship initiative is mere propaganda which is not based on ground reality and facts. Therefore, the news item is not based on facts and lacks veracity. Further, such baseless news also carries the risk of creating ambiguities and confusion regarding this all important framework between the two friendly countries.

September 21, 2019

Pakistan Observer

CPEC to help increase FDI, boost regional progress

Speakers at a seminar here said that completion of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and exploration of Pakistan's natural resources would enhance the foreign direct investment into Pakistan, hence increase regional progress.

The seminar titled "Pak-Cooperation and Future of Regional Prosperity" was organized by the Muslim Institute with an objective to highlight the regional cooperation for shared prosperity. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Muslim Institute, Sahibzada Sultan Ahmed Ali, said that CPEC was a gateway to the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia and Europe, saying that it would help promote peace and prosperity in the region.

However, he said that political stability in Afghanistan was imperative adding that India was creating hurdles as it had never accepted "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI) or CPEC and even categorically rejected these cooperative projects.

He said that India was the only Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member that did not endorse the BRI projects in the Qingdao Declaration while it had also been trying to disrupt the CPEC through anti-state activities since the inception of this project.

He stressed the need for frequent exchange of views on regional and international developments as well as exchange of high level visits to further strengthen sustainable strategic partnership. On the Occasion, Dean Social Science, Air University, Islamabad Dr Waseema Shahzad said that China-Pakistan cooperation and CPEC did not only focus on trade and economics but were also helping in promoting cultural and educational relations.

Speaking on the occasion, former foreign secretary of Pakistan, Ambassador (Retd) Riaz Mohammad Khan highlighted the importance of promoting regional connectivity what would be beneficial for the whole region.

Brig (R) Abdul Rahman Bilal also spoke on the occasion and focused on the measures for increasing utility of CPEC, optimizing security and enhancing prosperity on the occasion, the panelists observed that time-tested Pakistan-China all-weather cooperative partnership was an anchor for peace and stability in the region and beyond.

The Nation

Naval Chief, China envoy hold talks

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing called on Naval Chief Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi at Naval Headquarters here on Friday.

During the meeting, matters relating to maritime security of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and regional security situation came under discussion.

The Naval Chief also highlighted the role of Pakistan Navy in maintaining maritime security of the region. The Chinese Ambassador appreciated the role of Pakistan Navy for regional peace and stability.

Nawaiwaqt

سی پیک موضوع پر گول میز کانفرنس، شرکا کا منصوبوں پر عدم پیشرفت پر شدید تشویش کا اظہار

اسلام آباد / سٹاف رپورٹر / ماہرین نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے بارے میں پاکستان کے پاس واضح حکمت عملی کا فقدان ہے جس کے نتیجے میں منصوبوں کی مجموعی پیشرفت میں سست روی کا سامنا کرنا پڑتا ہے۔ پاکستان انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف کنٹیکٹ اینڈ سیکورٹی سٹڈیز کے زیر اہتمام اس موضوع پر منعقدہ گول میز کانفرنس میں ان خیالات کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ راجہ عامر اقبال، سابق صدر راولپنڈی جیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری اس گول میز مرکزی اسپیکر تھے جبکہ اقتصادی اور اسٹریٹجک ماہرین، تاجروں، اکیڈمیہ، صحافیوں، بین الاقوامی تعلقات کے ماہرین، محققین بھی شریک تھے۔ ادارے کے چیئرمین میجر جنرل (ر) سعد خٹک، ڈاکٹر اظہار احمد، ہیڈ پارٹنمنٹ انٹرنیشنل ریلیشنز بحریہ نیورسٹی، بریگیڈ۔ (ر) سیف

ملک، ہیڈ آف ڈیپارٹمنٹ انٹرنیشنل ریلیشنز مسلم یونیورسٹی، ڈاکٹر طلعت شہیر ڈائریکٹر چائنا پاکستان اسٹڈی سنٹر (سی پی ایس سی) آئی ایس ایس آئی، بریگیڈ (ر) سعد محمد اسٹریٹجک تجزیہ کار، بریگیڈ (ر) احتشام دفاعی تجزیہ کار، عبداللہ خان ٹیچنگ ڈائریکٹر پی آئی سی ایس ایس، وجیہہ بٹ، سیاسی تجزیہ کار اور دیگر نے اس بحث میں حصہ لیا۔ شرکا نے سی پیک کے منصوبوں پر عدم پیشرفت پر شدید تشویش کا اظہار کیا۔ راجہ عامر اقبال نے کہا کہ ایسا لگتا ہے کہ پاکستان کو سی پی ای سی کے حوالے سے میں واضح حکمت عملی کا فقدان ہے۔ شرکائی میں سے بیشتر نے اس خیال سے اتفاق کیا۔ ایک سوال یہ اٹھایا گیا کہ کیا واضح حکمت عملی میں کوتاہی ہے یا جان بوجھ کر یہ سب کیا جا رہا ہے۔ راجہ عامر اقبال نے کہا کہ معاملات 2018 تک صحیح سمت میں گامزن تھے لیکن پھر معاملات بدل گئے اور صورتحال تعطل کا شکار ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک ہماری ضرورت ہے اور ہمیں ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ کے بارے میں سوچنے اور محض ٹول ٹیکس جمع کرنے کے بجائے صنعت کاری پر توجہ دینے کی ضرورت ہے۔ بریگیڈ (ر) سعد محمد نے کہا کہ چینی چاہتے ہیں کہ ہم تنازعات سے گریز اور ترقی کریں لیکن بد قسمتی سے ہم پاکستان کی تشکیل کے بعد سے تنازعات کا شکار ہیں۔ راجہ عامر اقبال نے پاکستان کی موجودہ معاشی صورتحال اور معیشت کے فروغ کے لیے پاکستان کے مختلف حلقوں میں ترقی پسندانہ اقدامات اور واضح حکمت عملی کو اپنانے پر زور دیا۔ سی پیک کے حوالے سے سب سے اہم رکاوٹ چینوں اور پاکستانی ہم منصبوں کے مابین کاروباری اخلاقیات کا فرق ہے۔ تاہم، ہم پاکستان میں چینی کاروباری اخلاقیات کو نافذ نہیں کر سکتے ہیں کیونکہ ہمیں پاکستان کے حالات کے مطابق دیکھ کے چلنا ہے۔ گول میز کانفرنس شراکین نے سی پیک کا فائدہ حاصل کرنے کے لئے پاکستان کے سیاسی اور معاشی میدان میں ساختی اصلاحات لانے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔ ماہرین نے یہ بھی کہا کہ آئی ایم ایف سے صرف 6 بلین امریکی ڈالر کے لئے پاکستان عملاً 23 ارب ڈالر ضائع کر چکا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ آئی ایم ایف کے وجہ سے سی پیک سست روی کا شکار ہے، عابد امام نے کہا کہ پاکستان کو آئی ایم ایف پیکیج کی ضرورت نہیں تھی اور پاکستان کو جلد سے جلد اس سے چھٹکارہ حاصل کرنا چاہیے تاہم راجہ عامر نے اس کی تردید کیا اور کہا کہ ان کے مطابق پاکستان کو ستمبر 2018 میں آئی ایم ایف کے پاس جانا چاہئے تھا۔ شرکاء نے اس بیلت روڈ انیشی ایٹو کے نتیجے میں مقامی صنعتکاروں کی پریشانیوں اور ان کی صلاحیتوں پر بھی سوال اٹھایا ہے۔ میجر جنرل (ر) سعد حنیک نے اختتامی کلمات دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاور کو ریڈورز میں ایسے افراد موجود ہیں جن کے اپنے ذاتی مفادات ہیں جو پاک چین تعلقات کو اچھی نظر سے نہیں دیکھتے اور ایسے لوگوں کی موجودگی میں سی پیک سے فائدہ حاصل کرنا بہت مشکل ہو سکتا ہے۔

September 22, 2019

Business Recorder

Proposed ML-1 project

Chinese team inspects Railways infrastructure

KARACHI: An 8-member delegation of M/s CREEC Locomotives and Rolling Stock Design Engineers of China concluded its week-long visit of Karachi Division Saturday by holding a meeting with the Divisional Superintendent (DC), Pakistan Railways Karachi Syed Mazhar Ali Shah.

The group visited maintenance and rolling stock facilities within the Karachi division, extending

from Karachi to Tando Adam, that entailed locomotive workshop and Shed, MYP and Port Qasim, C&W shops Hyderabad, Sick Lines in Kotri, Coaching, Washing and goods sick lines, a press release said here.

The CPEC- based ML-1 project would enhance the traffic capacity by 5 times to that of the current capacity thereby highlighting the need of upgrading the existing maintenance capacity. The ML-1, being defined as the life blood of Pakistan Railways in the coming years, requires a holistic modernization of railways infrastructure, automation wherever required, so that synchronization could take place between the CPEC-based project and railway infrastructure.

The new outlook of Pakistan Railways under the ML-1 project would be expected to ramp up the responsibility of carrying the number of passengers and tonnes of freight per day. The DS Railways gave an overview of the Pakistan Railways priorities which are envisioned under up-gradation in view of ML-1.—APP

The Nation

Pakistan, China continue to be strategic cooperative partners: Envoy

BEIJING - Expressing her faith in Pak-China relationship, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Naghmana Hashmi said she is looking forward to deeper cooperation between the two countries through the Belt and Road Initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

In an exclusive interview with China Focus published on Saturday, Ambassador Hashmi expressed the confidence that Pakistan and China would continue to be strategic cooperative partners, working together for development, peace and harmony.

She said the strength of friendship between the two countries was beyond words. The China-Pakistan friendship has evolved over the past seven decades from good neighbors and friends into strategic partners based on practical cooperation. “We have developed a well-rounded relationship based on mutual trust and respect,” she added.

“In the coming decades, our strong bilateral ties will continue to synergize with emerging regional and global trends for sustainable development and lasting peace,” she added.

Regarding benefits for two friendly countries from Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), she termed the BRI and AIIB initiatives as significant milestones of the new globalism.

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an extension of BRI. It is inspired by President Xi’s vision of regional connectivity and people centric development model which fully resonates with Prime Minister Imran Khan’s vision of ‘Naya Pakistan’, who firmly believes that CPEC is a ‘game changer’ not only for Pakistan but the entire region,” she added. She said connecting Gwadar Port to China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, through a network of highways, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas, presents enormous opportunities to people of two countries from Gwadar to Kashgar. About importance of CPEC, she said this

corridor is a revival of the ancient Silk route and has become a hallmark of deep friendship between Pakistan and China from 1951 to date.

With CPEC and BRI, Pakistan and China have started a new chapter of friendship that has great potential to contribute to regionalism. “Together, we envisage creating an enabling environment for collective prosperity to promote regional economic integration and cooperation with this mega project,” she added. Ambassador Hashmi observed in past 70 years, China has tremendously transformed from a poor developing country to the world’s second largest economy.

In the process of opening-up and reform, China has lifted 800 million people out of poverty. It has restored the dignity of its people with provision of basic needs such as clean drinking water, decent work, housing and education. Moreover, it has become a center of research and development, innovation and tech-advancement going towards high-quality products. It is the global champion of “the peoples and the planet” with its leadership in UN’s climate change agenda and South-South cooperation. “As one of the five permanent members of UN Security Council, we highly appreciate China’s continued efforts for an equitable and just rule-based global system,” she added.

She said China is leading collective efforts to protect and promote multilateralism and the UN charter and the UN’s peace, security and development agenda. She added that its efforts for regional economic interdependence were likely to overcome geographical constraints for sustainable socio-economic growth and stability for the world. On President Xi Jinping’s concept of “building a community with a shared future for mankind and its meaning for Pakistan, she said President Xi is a great “thought-leader” of present times.

“BRI and CPEC are a testament to our resolve of ‘leaving no one behind’. It is an agenda to promote human dignity and prosperity through development, to build a ‘community with a shared future for mankind’ ”, she added.

Ambassador Hashmi said it has also made Pakistan and China viable economic partners for cooperative regional integration with opportunities for South and Central Asia’s rejuvenation. It would open new avenues for economic activity and a trade pathway from China and the Middle East and Africa at large, ultimately benefitting people.

Regarding China’s role for combating protectionism and unilateralism, she opined these were two big challenges the world face today. The stratagem of trade wars, military posturing and regional rivalries were threatening global peace and economic growth. The geopolitical, geo-economic, geostrategic outlooks and 4th Industrial revolution were transforming our globe.

In this context, China was making great contribution for regional development as well as multilateralism. All countries – big or small, developed or developing, must adhere to the principles of cooperation against confrontation. The only way to resolve these problems was through dialogue and China has a great tradition of consultation for fostering understanding, she added.

The News

Daniyal represents Pakistan at global symposium in China

BEIJING: The Chinese Ministry of Finance hosted the “National Governance and Comprehensive Performance-Based Budget Management in the New Era” global symposium here on 19th and 20th September.

Daniyal Aziz, who had previously won a presidential award for his work on designing and implementing Pakistan’s provincial inter-governmental finance system and led the taxation and fiscal management research project for South Asia on behalf of IDRC Canada, was the only economist nominated from Pakistan to speak at the forum, says a press release. The Chinese minister of finance gave the keynote speech and the other speakers from China included the heads of the co-organizers The China Development Research Foundation, The Chinese Academy for Fiscal Sciences and The Development Research Center of the State Council. The symposium was also attended by the top professionals of the International Monetary Fund, The World Bank, The Asian Development Bank, The OECD as well as professors and heads of audit and finance department from Australia, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands as well as Chinese Universities and think tanks. The symposium focused on international best practices as an important tool for governments to respond to fiscal pressures and promote transformation of government functions related to finance.

Nawaiwaqt

چین کیساتھ تعاون مزید مستحکم کرنے کے خواہاں ہیں: پاکستانی سفیر

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین میں پاکستانی سفیر نعمانہ ہاشمی نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ (بی آر آئی) اقدام اور انیشیٹو انفراسٹرکچر بینک (اے آئی آئی بی) کے ذریعے چین کے ساتھ تعاون مزید مستحکم کرنے کا خواہاں ہے، دونوں ملکوں کا سٹریٹجک پارٹنرشپ کا رشتہ جاری رہے گا اور مل کر خطے میں ہم آہنگی، امن اور ترقی کیلئے کام کریں گے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انھوں نے ہفتے کے روز چینی میڈیا کو انٹرویو کے دوران کیا۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان مستحکم دوستی کو الفاظ میں بیان نہیں کیا جاسکتا، یہ دوستی 7 دہائیوں پر محیط اور باہمی اعتماد و احترام کی بنیادوں پر استوار ہے۔ نعمانہ ہاشمی نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین صحیح معنوں میں سدا بہار دوست اور سٹریٹجک شراکت دار ہیں، آنے والی دہائیوں میں پاک چین دوستی مزید مستحکم ہوگی۔ بی آر آئی اور اے آئی آئی بی کے فوائد سے متعلق ایک سوال کا جواب دیتے ہوئے نعمانہ ہاشمی نے بی آر آئی کو نئی عالمگیریت کا اہم سنگ میل قرار دیا۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ موجودہ حکومت اس بات پر یقین رکھتی ہے کہ سی پیک نہ صرف پاکستان بلکہ پورے خطے کیلئے گیم چینجر ہے۔ دوسری طرف بیجنگ میں پاکستانی سفارت خانے کے زیر اہتمام میوم دفاع پاکستان کے موقع پر 1965 کی جنگ کے شہد اکو زبردست خراج عقیدت پیش کیا گیا۔ چین کے وائس چیف آف سٹاف لیفٹیننٹ جنرل شایو آن منگ اور جو انٹ سٹاف ڈیپارٹمنٹ پی ایل اے اس موقع پر مہمان خصوصی تھے۔ پاکستانی سفیر نعمانہ عالمگیر ہاشمی اور دفاعی اتاشی بریگیڈیئر شاہد عامر افسر نے اس

موقع پر کیک کاٹا۔ پاکستانی سفیر ہاشمی نے مہمانوں کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ 6 ستمبر پاکستان کی تاریخ کا اہم دن ہے، 1965 میں اس دن پاکستان کی مسلح افواج اور عوام نے بے مثال جرات اور بہادری کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہوئے دشمن کے مذموم عزائم کو خاک میں ملادیا تھا۔

September 23, 2019

Business Recorder

CPEC 2nd phase to help reviving industrialization in Pakistan

Zafar Hassan said the government officials should work hard for public welfare stressing the officers to ensure discipline as only through discipline they could achieve successes in institutions.

ISLAMABAD: China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has entered into its second phase where representation from the private sector will accelerate the pace of industrialization in the country, Planning Developing and Reform Secretary Zafar Hasan Monday said.

He said the scope of CPEC has been expanded with a focus on industrial and agriculture cooperation, socioeconomic development, trade and market access.

He was chairing a meeting with the Senior Civil Officers of 111th National Management Course during their visit to the Ministry of Planning Development and Reform.

Zafar Hassan said the government officials should work hard for public welfare stressing the officers to ensure discipline as only through discipline they could achieve successes in institutions.

He said being backbone of the state, bureaucracy had an immense responsibility to deliver and come up to the expectations of the nation.

Welcoming the senior civil officers, the secretary said bureaucrats needed to maintain a healthy balance between public needs, technical compulsions and administrative imperatives.

Giving a detailed briefing about the Planning Commission and its administrative and financial affairs as well as an overview of development projects currently under implementation in different parts of the country, he said efforts to regain macroeconomic stability and steer the growth to high and sustained level, achieving fiscal consolidation achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); all have close linkage with the role of Planning Commission.

Pakistan Observer

Chinese taxi service announces 10pc discounts

Chinese taxi service “Buraq” has offered the 10 percent discount for students, teachers, doctors, senior citizens, security personnel, lawyers and journalists. The company has also offered discounts for people, who are traveling to education institution and health centers including schools and universes, hospitals and also to the marriage halls, Chief Executive Officer of the company Donald Li told APP here Sunday.

All private companies, organizations and government departments can also get 10 percent discount for their employees through using Timesaco Group feature, Donald said. He said under a platform of modern hi-tech service company ‘Timesco’, we have all sets to provide five special services in different sectors including transportation, logistic, and advertising. The company would provide a rapid services platform to citizens by launching five special services including the Taxi Service (Buraq), City Freight (Cargo+), Instant Delivery (Fema), and vehicle media (AdWheel), under the umbrella of ‘Timesco’, he said.

Replying to a question, he said that Timesaco has taken thousands of drivers onboard from across the country and now they are available on roads to provide their services to the customers. He said that Timesaco is all sets to build Public Transportation Infrastructure Network with Internet and IOT Technology, to support the government to provide Public Transportation Service for people and also to provide more and more convenient, Secured and Smart Travel Services

Timesaco hold its First Captains’ Representatives Conference (CRC) at Islamabad on Tuesday. Timesaco has already started its online taxi service in 10 main cities including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Abbottabad, Lahore, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Multan, and Karachi. In its First Captains’ Representative Conference Timesaco had invited representatives of drives associations and unions of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. —APP

BOI Chairman welcomes relocation of Chinese manufacturing units to Pakistan

Chairman, Board of Investment (BOI), Zubair Gilani, Sunday, welcomed the decision of Relocating Chinese manufacturing industry into Pakistan, saying it would bring about revolution in manufacturing sector and boost exports.

“The relocation of Chinese manufacturing units into our Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will not only enhance the industrial growth but will also Help increase Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which effects the local employment rate as well,” Chairman BOI told APP in an exclusive interview here.

He said that a number of the Chinese companies had expressed willingness to shift and relocate their industrial units to Pakistan in second phase of industrialization under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He informed that during the first wave of relocation, the Chinese

Industrial units were mostly shifted in South East Asian Countries, in 2006 including Vietnam and Malaysia, now these countries were leading in whole region in their exports and economic growth.

Replying to a question, he said that Chinese manufacturing units of textile, leather, engineering and electronics good would also be relocated in major industrial cities of the Pakistan including Faisalabad and Karachi. He said that after the second phase of relocation of Chinese industrial units, the local industrialist can go for Joint Ventures (JVs) with them to shares their expertise in manufacturing to growth of the local industries.

He said that this wave of the relocation would turn around the local industrial units also and help create huge job opportunities for local youth. Replying to question, he said the government was also focusing on textile garments for further value addition to provide comparativeness of textile items in International market. Chairman BOI said that Knowledge based business and economy would be priority of the government to compete with developed economies.

He informed that through knowledge based business and exports “we can promote Pakistan’s hi tech and innovative exports items in competitive international market. Replying to another question, he said the government had plan to develop tourism zones for bringing foreign investment in local tourist resorts in different potential areas including Northern areas, Galiyat, Gilgit Baltistan and all four provinces.

He informed that “we want do not only promote the conventional tourism but we also aim at working to promote Religion faith tourism, medical tourism and adventure tourism through foreign investment in these sector for growth in local economy. Replying to question regarding the World Bank ,”Ease of Doing Business” he informed that the government was working on the all indicators of EODB for improving the business environment of local and foreign investors. Chairman BOI expected that Pakistan’s WB ranking in EODB would improve more and go down 22 points from 136 to 114 out of 180 countries because of special initiative taken by the government to provide conducive environment for local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). He said the Prime Minister, Imran Khan had already taken step to establish “Better Business Regulatory Initiatives” to improve the regulation and regulatory system on modern lines.—APP

The Express Tribune

Fixing infrastructure - lessons from four years of CPEC

ISLAMABAD: With the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) entering its fifth year soon, the era of infrastructure-led growth seems to be over.

Faced with an economic crunch, a majority of megaprojects such as Karachi-Sukkur motorway, Gwadar airport, Orange Lines and Green Lines have been put on the back burner for an indefinite period.

Apparently, Pakistan's fiscal woes have led to an economic and political reckoning: what lessons have we learnt from the grand CPEC experiment and how should that impact economic policy in the next phase?

It is observed that CPEC investments have boosted growth in the short term but at the expense of unsustainable public debt that Islamabad owes to official and quasi-official Chinese creditors.

With a reduced fiscal space for funding infrastructure projects under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) after the 18th Constitutional Amendment, key economic indicators remain weak and middle-class incomes remain stagnant. Now lately, Beijing has unveiled a debt sustainability framework, identical to the one used by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) for determining lending limits for participant countries.

Unlike the multilateral nature of Bretton Woods institutions' sustainability framework, the Belt and Road's debt framework will be solely controlled by China, especially when it comes to making key macroeconomic assumptions. This explains reluctance on the part of Beijing in issuing fresh infrastructure debt to Pakistan as the framework has led to tighter lending standards.

China Development Bank and Exim Bank are, however, closely monitoring Pakistan's home-grown reforms agenda as well as its commitments to the IMF programme. Even in these times of austerity, Islamabad should decline to acquire any Chinese loans that breach Negative Pledge Clauses by seeking unrelated assets or revenue streams as collateral. Pakistan's free trade agreement (FTA) with China in the past decade has fueled CPEC trade but it has also heavily tilted the trade balance in favour of China. It was expected that in the long run, the FTA will make the domestic industry more competitive – incentivizing innovation and boosting productivity. However, to the contrary, the demand for locally produced goods has continued to decline while demand for imported machinery and raw material has increased.

Pakistan subsidized CPEC imports by artificially keeping the rupee stronger, which ate up its foreign currency reserves quickly. Moreover, we have yet to see the fruits of regional integration but this is not possible unless Pakistan signs trade agreements with other neighboring countries including Iran and Afghanistan.

Trade policies remain very strict in general and labour mobility is a burning issue to date. The positive spillover from CPEC and Chinese FTA has not happened due to closed procurement processes, lack of transparency in infrastructure projects and favoritism for state-owned enterprises.

Though the energy situation has clearly improved, the country has yet to fully escape the gravitational pull of recurring load shedding problem.

CPEC projects have added thousands of megawatts to the generation capacity of Pakistan with a significant improvement in the energy mix as well. However, undue priority has been given to solar projects with utter disregard to the hidden costs of cleaning these large solar farms.

Onshore wind power should have had a higher proportion in the energy mix but there is no doubt that investment in coal fired power plants, being base load power providers, has been justified. But when it comes to financing, the 34% return on equity and not the commercial loan rate of Libor plus 4.5% leaves a lot to be desired.

The main lesson here is that in future Pakistani authorities need to negotiate better when it comes to energy tariffs, capital expenditure determination and guaranteed returns on equity.

Only the private sector and multilateral participation can sustain CPEC in the long run. Fracturing geopolitics in South Asia has put the future of Belt and Road in doubt and it has, in a way, turbocharged today's populist surge.

Transparency and fair procurement practices are falling out of fashion – not to mention due diligence in infrastructure project financing. The Planning Commission should consider funding those projects which are less commercial but have a high development impact.

Projects with good commercial potential should be awarded through open competition with a regulatory environment conducive for public-private partnerships (PPP). The government should, in particular, avoid engineering state-owned special purpose vehicles for awarding operation and maintenance contracts under the disguise of PPP contracts.

Express News

سی پیک کے تحت گوادر میں پہلا نجی ریزارٹ تیار

سی پیک کے تحت گوادر میں پہلا نجی ریزارٹ تیار کر اچی: پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری سیاحت کے فروغ کا ذریعہ بن رہی ہے، اسی ضمن میں سی پیک کے پہلے نجی ریزارٹ کی تعمیر مکمل کر لی گئی جو گوادر کے خوبصورت ساحل پر واقع ہے۔ یہ منصوبہ گوادر بیچ ریزارٹ کے نام سے اے ایم ٹائیٹل نائن گروپ نے تعمیر کیا ہے جس میں (Resort) بیرون ملک پاکستانیوں نے بھاری سرمایہ کاری کی ہے۔

گوادر بیچ ریزارٹ اینڈ کلب 50 ایکڑ سے زائد رقبے پر محیط ایک کثیر جہتی منصوبہ ہے۔ اس پر اجیکٹ کو گوادر سے خنجراب تک سی پیک کے روٹ پر پہلا منظم اور جدید سیاحتی منصوبہ ہونے کا اعزاز حاصل ہے۔ پر اجیکٹ میں فائیو اسٹار ہوٹل، ٹریڈ سینٹر، ایکسپو سینٹر اور اپارٹمنٹس شامل ہیں۔ ملٹی بلین منصوبے کو 2016 میں این او اسی ملا اور مختصر عرصے میں منصوبے کا پہلا مرحلہ گوادر بیچ ریزارٹ کلب کی شکل میں مکمل کر لیا گیا جو 30 رہائشی کمروں اور گلٹری اپارٹمنٹس پر مشتمل ہے۔ یہ پورا پر اجیکٹ مکمل طور پر شمسی توانائی سے چلایا جاتا ہے اس لیے اسے گوادر کے سب سے بڑا سولر پاور پر اجیکٹ کا اعزاز بھی حاصل ہے۔

یہ منصوبہ گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ کی مجوزہ اراضی کے عین سامنے واقع ہے۔ منصوبے کا ڈیزائن ملائیشیا کے ماہرین کی رہنمائی میں تیار کیا گیا۔ گوادر کلب اینڈ بیچ ریزارٹ کی ایک خصوصیت اس میں قائم انٹارکٹیکا لاؤنج ہے، اسے یہ نام اس لیے دیا گیا کہ لاؤنج کے سامنے تاحد نگاہ پھیلے سمندر کے دوسرے کنارے تک خشکی کا کوئی حصہ واقع نہیں بلکہ

برفانی قطب انٹارکٹیکا واقع ہے۔ گوادر کلب اینڈ بیچ ریزارٹ پر صحت مند سرگرمیوں کے لیے ہیلتھ ٹریک، سائیکلنگ ٹریک، ریسٹ ایریا، بچوں کے جھولے، ڈائمنگ ایریا بھی بنائے گئے ہیں۔ پاکستان کا پہلا فٹبال گالف کورس بھی تعمیر کیا گیا ہے جبکہ ایک مصنوعی کھیل اور سبزہ زار اس مقام کو سیاحوں کے لیے دلکش بناتے ہیں۔

گروپ کے چیئرمین بریگیڈیئر (ر) آصف محمود نے ایکسپریس کو بتایا کہ ان کے گروپ کا کاروبار روس، ملائیشیا اور آسٹریلیا اور دبئی تک پھیلا AM99 ریزارٹ تعمیر کرنے والے ہوا ہے جس میں زیادہ تر اور سبز پاکستانیوں کی سرمایہ کاری ہے۔ آصف محمود بلوچستان ڈیولپمنٹ اتھارٹی کے ایڈوائزر اور ڈائریکٹر جوائنٹ ویٹنچرز بھی ہیں اور سرمایہ کاری کے منصوبوں کے لیے ان کی مشاورت سے بلوچستان حکومت فائدہ اٹھا رہی ہے۔

بریگیڈیئر آصف محمود کے مطابق اس منصوبے کا بنیادی مقصد کراچی حیدرآباد اور ملک کے دیگر شہروں سے گوادر میں تفریح کے لیے آنے والوں کو جدید طرز کی سہولت فراہم کرنا ہے۔ یہ سہولت گوادر میں سیاحت کے شعبہ میں پائے جانے والے امکانات کو اجاگر کرنے کا ذریعہ بنے گی۔

بریگیڈیئر ریٹائرڈ آصف محمود نے بلوچستان حکومت اور وفاقی حکومت کو تجویز دی کہ گوادر کو ٹورازم سٹی قرار دیا جائے تاکہ گوادر اور بلوچستان کی ترقی کے ساتھ ملک کے دیگر شہروں کے عوام غیر ملکی سیاحوں کو گوادر کی قدرتی خوبصورتی کی جانب راغب کیا جاسکے۔ سی پیک کے روٹ پر تعمیر ہونے والا یہ جدید بیچ ریزارٹ ایک سے ڈیڑھ ماہ میں مکمل طور پر آپریشنل کر دیا جائے گا اور کراچی سمیت دیگر شہروں سے گوادر سیاحت کے لیے جانے والے شہری اس جدید سہولت سے استفادہ کر سکیں گے۔ گوادر بیچ ریزارٹ کے تحت پاکستان کا پہلا فٹبال گالف ٹورنامنٹ بھی منعقد کیا جائے گا جس میں پاکستان بھر سے ٹیمیں شرکت کریں گی۔

Express News

کشمیر کی تشویشناک صورتحال پر چین کا تعاون قابل تحسین ہے، وزیر خارجہ

وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ بھارت کے یکطرفہ اقدام اور مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر کی تشویشناک صورت حال کے حوالے سے چین کا تعاون قابل تحسین ہے۔

وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے چینی ہم منصب وانگ ٹی سے ملاقات کی جس میں مقبوضہ کشمیر کی صورتحال، باہمی دلچسپی کے امور، خطے اور عالمی صورتحال پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

ملاقات کے دوران شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ بھارت کی طرف سے مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر میں مسلسل کرفیو کی آڑ میں انسانی حقوق کی سنگین خلاف ورزیوں کا سلسلہ جاری ہے جب کہ بھارت کے یکطرفہ اقدام اور مقبوضہ جموں و کشمیر کی تشویشناک صورت حال کے حوالے سے چین کا تعاون قابل تحسین ہے۔

وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ تعلقات پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی کا اہم ترین جزو ہیں۔ دونوں وزرائے خارجہ نے خطے کے امن و استحکام کے لئے قریبی تعاون جاری رکھنے کے عزم کا اعادہ بھی کیا۔

K2 News

بھارتی اہلکاروں کی ذہانت کا مظاہرہ کر رہے ہیں؟
بھارتی اہلکاروں کی طرف سے چند خاص اقدامات
کے حوالے سے وعدے کرنا اور ان پر عمل کو
تاریخیں دینا اور بھارت پر عمل نہ کر پانا، کہاں کو
حکومتی ہوئی؟ اور اگر جواب نااہلی ہے تو یہ
آئی ڈی سی یا کاکی کی طرح دیگر شعبوں میں بھی
صاف واضح دکھائی دیتی ہے، تو یہ سلسلہ بھی ظاہر
ہے کہ بڑا وعدہ پر تک نہیں چل سکتا۔

آئی ایم ایف پروگرام کے ساتھ ہی یہی معاملہ
ہے۔ پورے پروگرام پر ہر گرام ایک بھارتی روپے
دف اور فیرنگی زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر اکٹھا کرنے
کے مشکل ہدف کی بنیاد پر کھڑا کیا گیا ہے۔ دیگر
تمام معاملات ثانوی حیثیت کے ہیں۔ اس
پروگرام پر عمل درآمد میں مسئلہ یہ ہے کہ ہر گرام کی
شہریوں پر بھارتی روپے سے جس کی وجہ سے نی ڈی
آئی حکومت کی مہم میں توجہ نہ دینے کو نہیں چھوڑ
ہے۔ یعنی قیمتوں کو کم ہونے لگا تو اس اور آمد
کے مواقع میں کسی کے خلاف شدہ بھارتی روپے
اقتدار میں شامل افراد کو سامنا کرنا پڑتا ہے۔ لوگ
ناپ تول کر نہیں بیٹھتے، مسئلہ وہ نہیں کہتے کہ
خبر ہے تو کر تشریح حکومت کا بیدار کروا دیا ہے،
بلکہ لوگ ایک دوسرے سے صرف یہ کہتے ہیں کہ
اقتدار میں جو لوگ پہلے تھے ان کے وقت میں
ملاقات بہتر تھے۔ اور ان کا جملہ نہیں ہے ہی ختم
ہو جاتا ہے۔ اقتدار میں بیٹھے افراد کو اس قسم کی
ساکھ کو پیدا کرنے والی سیاست کو سنبھالنے کے
نتیجہ کا سامنا بھی ہے۔

موجودہ حکومت میں شامل افراد کے لیے سب سے بڑا
وہ صلاحیتیں ہیں جو اس قسم کے سیاسی فیصلوں کے
لیے درکار ہوتی ہیں۔ عملی میدان میں صلاحیتوں
کے مظاہرے کا وقت اب آچکا ہے، اور ایسی جگہ پر
عظیم عمران خان پر بیٹھنا اور گھبراہٹ کا شکار نظر
آتے ہیں، جس کا اعزاز وہ ریٹائرڈ کے اجراء،
ممیٹ پر روزانہ کی بنیاد پر ہونے والی طاقتور
سے لگایا جا سکتا ہے۔ اس نتیجہ کو سمجھ کر
لیے صرف شعلہ جانی اور ناکافی نہیں ہوگی۔



ایڈروڈ کا فرنس کے سلسلے میں بیٹنگ گئے تھے جب
سے لے کر آج تک وہ کی بار اس قسم کے اعانات
کر چکے ہیں۔ مثلاً، کا فرنس کے دوران وہوں
مکوں کی حکومتوں نے سی پیک کے دوسرے
مرحلے کے تحت پلان شدہ نو میں سے ایک
راشیا کی خصوصی اقتصادی زون کی تعمیر کے حوالے
سے رعایتی معاہدے پر دستخط کیے۔ اس کے بعد
غیر بہت دور تو آگیا کہ زون ڈیولپمنٹ اینڈ جینٹ
کنٹری نے اعلان کیا کہ وزیر اعظم جلد ہی خصوصی
اقتصادی زون کے تعمیراتی کام کا افتتاح کریں
گے۔ یہ اعلان سی کے پہلے سلسلے میں کیا گیا تھا مگر
اس کے بعد تعمیراتی کام کے افتتاح سے جڑی کسی
تقریب تک نہیں کوئی ذکر نہیں ملتا۔

سی پیک کی ویب سائٹ پر صرف اتنا لکھا نظر آتا
ہے کہ منصوبے کے لیے زمین حاصل کر لی
ہے۔ صرف راشیا کی منصوبے کا کام ہی تاخیر کا
ظہار نہیں بلکہ ایم ایل 1 ریڈیو لائن کی اپ
گریڈیشن کے منصوبے کی بنیاد میں کوئی اہم
پوش رفت نہیں ہوئی ہے۔ حتیٰ کہ سی پیک پورٹ
فیلڈ میں شامل تمام تر معاہدوں اور حکومتوں میں
سے پیش کی سی پیک پروگرام آگے بڑھا ہے اور چینی
اس بات کا فرنس لے رہے ہیں۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ
اب نئی لوگ یہ سوال پوچھ رہے ہیں کہ سی پیک
کے حوالے سے غیر معمولی تاخیر کیوں ہو رہی ہے؟
کیا اس کی وجہ حکومت کی عدم دلچسپی تو نہیں؟ یا پھر
اس کی وجہ نااہلی ہے؟ کیونکہ موجودہ صورتی اور
وقتی حکومتوں میں جن لوگوں کو شامل کیا گیا ہے وہ
کام کو پورا کرنے کی کچھ خاص صلاحیتیں
نہیں رکھتے، کم از کم عمومی کاموں کے تناظر میں تو
بالکل بھی نہیں اور یہ بات پتلاور کے نی آر ٹی
منصوبے پر نظر دوڑانے پر ہی ثابت ہو جاتی
ہے۔ تو کیا یہی ذہانت کا مظاہرہ کر رہے ہیں یا

کچھ تبدیل ہوا ہے؟ آئی ایم ایف پروگرام پر عمل
درآمد کا آغاز ہوا اور ایک کے بعد ایک چین سے
آنے والے مہمانوں کا گزرا اسلام آباد سے ہوتا
ہوا دکھائی دیتا ہے، جو حکومت پر زور ڈال رہے ہیں
کہ سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے پر کام شروع کیا
جائے، جو تا حال رکا ہوا ہے۔ چینی مہمان شہ
سرٹیوں میں سہانے سہانے کامیاب فی الحال نہیں
ہیں۔ لیکن جس طرح چینی ڈیور، جن میں
سے کچھ کی سربراہی سینئر افسران کر رہے ہیں، کی
جانب سے حکومت پر دباؤ ڈالا جا رہا ہے، اور جس
طرح حکومت کے مختلف سلسلے بھی بار بار یہ
اعانات کر رہے ہیں کہ حکومت سی پیک کے لیے
پر عزم ہے اور صورتوں پر عمل درآمد کو تیز کر دیا
جائے گا، اس سے یہ ثابت ہوتا ہے کہ کوئی نہ کوئی
اہم معاملہ تو ضرور چل رہا ہے۔ ہاشمی میں احسن
اقبال کے پاس رہنے والی وزارت برائے ترقی و
منصوبہ بندی کے موجودہ سارا ضرور چلنے والے تو
ایک موقع پر بذاتہ خود یہ اعلان کیا تھا کہ حکومت
دوسرے مرحلے پر عمل درآمد کی گرانے کے لیے
جانتی سی پیک اقتصادی تشکیل دینے کے لیے تیار
ہے۔ ایسا ہی ایک اعلان چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ
ڈی کے حالیہ دورہ اسلام آباد کے موقع پر کیا گیا۔
چینی وزیر خارجہ سے ملاقات کے بعد وزیر اعظم
عمران خان نے کہا کہ پاکستان سی پیک کو لے کر
پر عزم ہے۔ انہوں نے ایک بار پھر سی پیک
اقتدار کے قیام کے خیال پر زور دیا اور سی پیک
منصوبوں پر عمل درآمد میں تیزی کی اہمیت
ابھار کر کی اور یہ بتایا کہ ایک بار زیادہ سے زیادہ چینی
کہنیں نے پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کرنا شروع
کر دی تو اس کے پاکستان کو کیا کچھ فوائد حاصل
ہوں گے۔ اپنی نوعیت کا یہ کوئی پہلا اعلان نہیں
ہے بلکہ اپریل میں جب عمران خان سالانہ خط

ہم میں سے وہ لوگ جن کے مفادات عسوق
پالیسی سے جڑے ہیں یا پھر وہ افراد جو کسی برسوں
سے پالیسی سازی اور اس پر عمل درآمد پر نظر رکھے
ہوتے ہیں، انہیں تو اس بات کا بخوبی اعزاز ہوا
چلا تھا مگر اب تو دیگر لوگوں کو بھی یہ بات سمجھ میں
آنے لگی ہے۔ لہذا جلد یا بدیر اس ملک کے اقتدار
تو ایسے ہی لوگوں کی ضرورت ہوگی جو معاملات کو
حقیقی معنوں میں سنبھالنا جانتے ہوں۔ گزشتہ
ایک برس سے ہمیں پالیسی کے نام پر سلسلہ فٹاں
خفاہت، فیرنگی اور فیرنگی اور فیرنگی صورت
ہی دینے کے ہیں۔ ایک سال تک یہ خیال قاب
رہا کہ پاکستان کو ایک ایسے شخص کی ضرورت ہے
جو اقتدار کی باگ ڈور سنبھالے اور ایک کہوت
ہے تاکہ چینی اپنے سر سے زور شروع ہوتی ہے
(یعنی قیادت اچھی ہوگی تو ملک اچھا ہوگا) میں اتنی
قیادت سے ملک میں بیٹے تک چینی سزوں دور
ہو جائے گی اور تمام مسائل حل ہو جائیں
گے۔ ایک سال سے اس عقیدے کا اظہار کیا گیا کہ
ہمیں صرف نئے لوگوں کو ایک طرف کرنا ہے،
لوگوں کو اچھا نہیں کی دعوت دینی ہے، یوں
خبردارے ختم ہو جائیں گے اور گورنمنٹ کا پیرا ایک
بار پھر بیٹے لگے گا۔

ڈیم فنڈ، پاکستان نواز شعلیت، وزیر اعظم ہاٹ
لائن اور موہاٹ ایپ پر چینی حکمتی نظام اور جٹ
تین کیے جانے کے بعد آئی رات تو کم سے کیے
جانے والے خطاب کے پیچھے بھی سوچ کا فرما
تھی جس میں چائین سے انتظام اور سخت سے سخت
سزا میں دینے کا وعدہ کیا گیا تھا۔ چند بات کی
چائنی اور اس میں لوگوں کے اذہان کو ابھی طرح
گھما گھما کر جو کڑا اور شہرہ تیار ہوا ہے، وہی گزرا
ہوا سال ہے۔ مگر اب یہ حالات بدل رہے
ہیں۔ ایسا محسوس ہوتا ہے کہ اب کسی کو اوپر سے یہ
اشارہ مل رہا ہے کہ معاملات ایسے نہیں سنبھالے
جائے۔ ملک کو خبر نہیں چلے گا، اور جگہ یہ ہے کہ
چینی سر سے نہیں بلکہ اندر سزا شروع ہوتی ہے۔
خبر ضرب ایشیا کا استعمال اب بہت ہوا۔ تو کیا

September 24, 2019

Daily Times

Pakistan, China jointly working for shared prosperity: Firdous

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan on Monday said China and Pakistan were long term strategic partners and were persistently working together for peace and shared economic prosperity.

She was speaking as a chief guest at an event to celebrate 70 years of the founding of People's Republic of China, here at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). Dr Firdous said China had supported Pakistan on its core issues, including the Kashmir dispute, and that support continued after India revoked the special status of held Kashmir. "China will stand with Pakistan on vital issues as a strategic partner." She said China helped Pakistan in overcoming the economic challenges last year. Pakistan adhered to one China policy and supported China on the issues of Taiwan, Hong Kong and South China Sea, she added.

Expressing her feelings on behalf of people of Pakistan, she said as regional friend and international supporter, China stood with Pakistan through thick and thin. "China is a friend in need and partner in strategic, economic social, defence and cultural matters," she said, adding the ties between Pakistan and China were not confined to their governments but were based on people to people and generation-to-generation contacts. China was helping Pakistan in capacity building, training and empowerment of its youth. "Friendship of China and Pakistan is higher than Himalayas, deeper than oceans and sweeter than honey. Silk Road is the symbol of Pakistan-China friendship. We are one nation residing in two territories and having shared aims."

Dr Firdous said the way the project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was making progress, Pakistan would one day rise as an economic power. She quoted the saying of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that one should seek knowledge even if one has to go to China ,and said China was leading the world in avenues of education, health, economy, technology and poverty alleviation.

The special assistant said China was celebrating 70 years of its founding and during the long period, the Chinese people emerged as a resilient nation that continued on the path of progress against all odds with untiring efforts and under a committed leadership.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan said the Chinese community in Pakistan was a special link between Pakistan and China. He said the relations between the two countries dated back even before the creation of Pakistan. In ancient times, the Chinese traded with the territory now in Pakistan through the ancient Silk route.

Pakistan and China had close friendship and had cooperated with each other on important projects, he added. He criticized India for its hegemonic designs and tyranny in the occupied Kashmir and for its extremist RSS and Hindutva ideology.

He said Narendra Modi had buried the secular face of India and acted with barbarity in the occupied Kashmir by imposing curfew, and denying food and medicines to the Kashmiris living under siege. The minister said the new era of development in the world would rise from the East. China was a big economic power sending a message to the world that by keeping one's head down and pursuing education, technological advancement and institutional reform a country could make huge progress, he said, adding Pakistan and other countries should follow the path set by China.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing acknowledged the special link that was formed between the two countries by the Chinese community living in Pakistan. “The overseas Chinese community in Pakistan will bring the two countries together.”

On behalf of the Chinese government, he thanked the Chinese community for development of China, Sino-Pak friendship and for taking forward the project of CPEC.

He said China-Pakistan friendship had developed for 70 years. Pakistan was the first country to recognize China and the first Islamic country to establish diplomatic relations with its neighbor, he recalled. The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was the first airline to start flights to Shanghai and Beijing and trained Chinese pilots, he added.

The relationship of China with Pakistan, he said, had entered new a phase and both were working for peace and stability of the world and region. “The two countries will stand firmly for peace and progress of the region.” The envoy said the CPEC project under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan had entered the stage of industrial and economic cooperation.

“The friendship of Pakistan and China will grow from strength to strength.”

The speeches were followed by a colorful cultural show. The artists performed Sindhi Jhoomer dance while Xinjiang Uyghur dance was performed by Nazish Farooq and Kashmiri dance by another Pakistani performer.

Iraq to join China’s Belt and Road project

BEIJING: Iraq will join China’s signature “Belt and Road” infrastructure investment project, the country’s prime minister said Monday in Beijing.

Adel Abdel Mahdi made the announcement in a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a state visit. “Iraq has gone through war and civil strife and is grateful to China for its valuable support,” said Mahdi, in comments broadcast on Chinese state media outlet CCTV.

“Iraq is willing to work together in the ‘One Belt, One Road’ framework,” he added. Xi said that the two countries would cooperate on oil and infrastructure projects. “China would like, from a new starting point together with Iraq, to push forward the China-Iraq strategic partnership,” said Xi. Trade last year between China and Iraq was more than \$30 billion, according to state news agency Xinhua. Beijing is Baghdad’s biggest trade partner, while Iraq is China’s second biggest oil supplier.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a massive global network of ports, railways, roads and industrial parks spanning Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe, which will see trillions invested in new infrastructure. It has faced criticism for swaddling poor nations with crippling debt and been eyed with suspicion by Washington, which sees it as an attempt by China to grow its influence in the region.

Long live CPEC

We started with the cliché “game changer” for CPEC. Within few years we came to conclude that CPEC was in fact a Trojan horse. Then our analysts gradually started to tell nation that CPEC was a failure and has already drowned between the gulf of mistrust between China and Pakistan. Then they added that this gulf was probably widening every single day due to terrorism and diplomatic advances made by Islamabad towards Washington. Soon media started to negatively discuss CPEC unraveling stories of corruption and mismanagement in some projects while courts in Pakistan were seen summoning Chinese companies for clarifications. It was like a deliberately designed plan manifesting itself as a campaign against CPEC. Unfortunately those advising the government in Pakistan also started to believe in such narratives. Soon it was declared that CPEC was dead.

The reality was quite different beyond the cursory view of arm chair economists and policy makers. It was simple, CPEC which was a regional test project as part of Chinese BRI (Bridge and Road initiative) which actually had not even started as yet in Pakistan. Our habit and cravings for short time gains made us to put 2017 as dead line for completion of CPEC projects. CPEC became premature delivered front loaded contract structure instead of a long term weaved strategic plan. Over optimistic planning with quick wins became the root cause for confusion.

President Xi Jinping’s visit to Pakistan in April 2015 gave a turbo charge to the Sino-Pak mutual motivation to push the projects already initiated. Nevertheless, but the acute economic needs of Islamabad soon swayed Pakistan to turn towards International monetary institutions, forcing it to advance a step or two towards Washington. As always, US promises came in a mix bag of carrot and sticks forcing Islamabad to dig deeper into CPEC goldmine.

Government was now realizing that CPEC was not just a road passage or a port development scheme but actually an environment enabler for long term Chinese OBOR initiative. As the realization started to set in, Pakistan and China once again decided to formally open up with a Long Term Plan (LTP) for CPEC.

On 21 Nov 2017, an agreement was formally signed on CPEC Long Term Plan between National Development and Reform Commission of the People’s Republic of China and Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform of the Government of Pakistan. The Plan was termed as a “national plan” which has formal approval of both Chinese and Pakistani governments. This national plan came to be known as LPT 2017-2030.

As per the agreed plan, short-term projects included were to be considered up to 2020; medium-term projects up to 2025; and long-term projects up to 2030. By 2020, both the governments agreed to give CPEC its initial shape while Pakistan would strive to address major challenges faced on economic and social development front. The economic growth would be indicator for success of CPEC up till 2025 which government of Pakistan formally announced as its “Vision 2025”.

In next phase i.e. by 2025, CPEC is expected to see a near completion industrial system, a more balanced economic development and improvement of people's livelihood. In last five years of LTP i.e. by end of year 2030, CPEC is anticipated to witness a fully accomplished and functional mechanism for sustainable economic radiating its positive vibes in the region thus stimulating economic growth in Central and South Asia. By this time CPEC would transform the region into an international economic zone.

Biological engineering for good breeding, disease prevention, land development to increasing production, water resources utilization could be few to develop local agricultural economy which will further help to reduce poverty.

LPT not only rejected the idea that CPEC was dead or dysfunctional but it also infused fresh blood in CPEC concept. Thanks to lukewarm response from Washington which forced Islamabad to realize that it cannot expect to improve its economy by mere banking on US promises of economic support. Islamabad repented its mood swings of putting CPEC on back-burner.

The CPEC LPT is affording Pakistan another chance to seize opportunities presented by China's economic development, transformation and joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative. Pakistan's market, demographic dividend and geographical imperatives seemed important advantages available to be leveraged to receive benefit from China's industrial, capital, and institutional advantages.

Pakistan and China through LPT are exploring the ways and means to boost information connectivity. Construction and operation of local communication networks and broadcast networks, development of road and rail infrastructure, upgrading of Pakistan's network facilities, promote the ICT-enabled Pakistan are avenues of cooperation in this regard. Besides, LPT focuses at strengthening cooperation in the fields of energy generation, oil and gas, electricity and power grids, and focus on promoting the construction of major projects of thermal power, hydropower, coal gas caution and renewable power generation. China is also looking at joint ventures to actively promote river planning and preparatory work of major projects to accelerate the hydropower development process. With enough available energy and power generation capacity, Pakistan should be looking at expansion, enhancing both quantity and quality and value addition of the textile and garment industry. The 2017-2030 plan includes enhancing cooperation in sectors such as: chemical & pharmaceutical, engineering goods, iron & steel, light manufacturing & home appliances and construction materials not only to meet the demands of Pakistan's local markets but further export it in the region as well as international market. Agriculture would be yet another important sector for cooperation. Biological engineering for good breeding, disease prevention, land development to increasing production, water resources utilization could be few to develop local agricultural economy which will further help to reduce poverty. Promoting monetary cooperation between the central banks of both countries is also on cards which will ensure establishment of nancial institutions in each other's countries to support the nancing for the projects.

China and Pakistan are blessed with different gifts, and are at different stages of economic development. Pakistan possess a geo-strategic location, rich human and natural resources while China has advantage in technology for infrastructure construction and generating huge nances for investment. This collaboration and galvanization of combined advantages are the actual benefits from CPEC. LPT 2017-2030 would not be an easy plan. Unstable geopolitical environment, disruptive factors such as security risks, restraints of natural and geographical factors, economic challenges particularly for Pakistan are few to be managed for success of this long term prospective cooperation.

The Express Tribune

China inaugurates visa facilitation centre in Lahore

LAHORE: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing has emphasized that advocating ease of doing business and hard work by Pakistani authorities for regional connectivity, peace and prosperity is a good omen.

“China and Pakistan right now are reaching a new stage of cooperation and we put economic development and cooperation as a priority,” Yao said while speaking at an inaugural ceremony of the third Chinese Visa Application Service Centre in Lahore.

The visa facilitation service, provided by Gerry’s Visa, offers a comfortable environment, additional value-added services and absolute safety and security to the applicants. In addition to visa applications for mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau, the visa centre will also cater to the applicants desiring to get their documents attested by Chinese missions from Punjab.

“It is our third centre and was long overdue; every year according to our calculations business visa applications are rising and almost 60% of businessmen and traders out of the total applicants are from Punjab,” the ambassador said, adding “Punjab and Lahore are the hubs of our bilateral trade and such a facility should have been here earlier.”

Yao pointed out that it was now a global trend for governments to encourage and facilitate commercial activities and people-to-people contact. “This visa centre is an extension of the ease of doing business and people-to-people contact.”

For the Chinese envoy, Lahore is a special city as far as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was concerned. “Most of the Chinese investors’ first destination is Lahore and I think the Punjab government has developed very active and vibrant business communities, a pro-business environment and has a vast resource base for future development,” he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Chief Secretary Yousuf Naseem Khokhar voiced hope that Pakistan’s global ranking in the ease of doing business would improve in future as the Punjab government had done extensive work in that connection over the past six months.

“This is just the beginning of work by us and we have to carry this process forward and learn from Chinese economic development and sound planning,” he suggested.

Khokhar said CPEC perhaps was the first step in the visionary direction of the Chinese president, but for Pakistan, the challenge was to take advantage of emerging economic opportunities in order to capitalize on Chinese investment and provide investors an enabling environment in Punjab.

“We are privileged to have more and more interest shown by Chinese investors in this part of the world instead of other places,” Khokhar said, adding “I assure you that the Punjab government and its business community will open up further avenues for Chinese investment.”

Gerry’s Group Managing Director Akram Wali Muhammad said the new Chinese Visa Application Centre brought the application process closer to residents of Punjab.

September 25, 2019

Business Recorder

On CPEC discourse

Discourse on the once-shiny CPEC initiative has arguably become dismal in Pakistan the last one year. As with rest of the economic discourse among the public, the current somber mood on CPEC is most likely an overreaction. Just as it was a cheerful exaggeration when CPEC was being championed some years ago as the magic tonic for all that ails this country.

It’s not all gloom and doom, though. CPEC is neither a Trojan horse now; nor was it a messiah circa 2016. Broadly, the initiative seems to be on track. Step one was plugging energy and infrastructure gaps – there is some notable progress in those two bottlenecks. Many of these projects are completed and some are under completion. There is, however, a visible slowdown in fresh Chinese financing.

But the slowdown is likely linked more to Pakistan’s project financing and import capacity than its new government’s past soft criticisms over CPEC last year. The PTI government is now eager to start the next phase anyway. That will take CPEC towards industrial cooperation (mainly SEZs) and market access (including the revised Pak-China FTA). This phase will require time to level up, and it is taking time.

For one, Pakistan itself is undergoing a tough phase of economic stabilization; there has to be progress on the structural reforms that are needed to avoid the boom-bust cycles in the future. And CPEC cannot thrive in a sputtering economy. In addition, China also seems to be calibrating its development approach in line with the early experience of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in different countries.

However, both countries seem committed to commence the phase-2 as early as possible. The Chinese foreign minister was in Pakistan earlier this month where he underscored CPEC’s leading role in the BRI plan. The dignitary received assurances from the top leadership that CPEC projects would finish on time. PM Khan underlined the need for Chinese companies to bring investments in the industrial sector.

For its part, the government is addressing outstanding issues. For instance, the ECC recently approved amendments in clauses relating to income tax, sales tax and customs duties so that exemptions contained in the Gwadar Port Concession Agreement can be made into law. These exemptions, which will reportedly last until 2039, will be legalized either through an ordinance or an act of parliament.

After some gap, a CPEC Review meeting was held in Islamabad two weeks ago where Chinese ambassador reportedly said that CPEC was heading in right direction. Pakistan reportedly assured China of progress in areas like tariff approval for Gwadar 300MW power project, new master plan for Gwadar city, expedited work on Gwadar Eastbay Expressway, and inauguration of Multan-Sukkur Motorway.

Meanwhile, the federal government looks committed to the idea of forming a CPEC Authority. Currently, the proposal is reportedly going through administrative structuring and legal vetting. This proposal has received its share of criticism from internal and external stakeholders. But the need to streamline the projects, policies and bilateral exchanges that mark various aspects of CPEC cannot be denied.

Based on recent developments, it appears that both sides are trying to invoke some rigor into this bilateral cooperation of significance. There are, however, challenges related to local financing and timely implementation. For that, much depends on how CPEC is modeled from here on. In that context, an informed discourse on CPEC would avoid amplifying the slowdown that is visible to all.

Pakistan Observer

CPEC: A health corridor between China and Pakistan

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a framework of geographical connectivity linked through the Belt and Road Initiative, which is not just for the benefit of China and Pakistan but for all the countries involved in the initiative. CPEC will provide regional development, economic growth and peace through a win-win model. CPEC is a long-term project which was initiated in 2014 and is planned to be completed by 2030. A total investment of \$62 billion has been allocated for the Corridor. CPEC is linking Kashgar in northwest China with Gwadar Port on Arabian Sea coastline in Pakistan. The package includes building infrastructure, that is road, rail, pipeline links, hospitals and much more, between the Arabian Sea and China's northwest. There are three routes of CPEC passing through Pakistan namely eastern route, central route and western route. Through CPEC, the current distance for China to reach the Arabian Sea will be shortened from 16,000 km to less than 5,000 km. Although, CPEC is advantageous in a number of fields for both Pakistan and China, but the writer will focus majorly on medical field.

Pakistan has the seventh-largest pool of scientists and engineers, second-least expensive country and the manufacturer of 50 per cent of all soccer balls in the world. However, much more has to be done on health sector in Pakistan. Statistical data from 2014-2015 showed that population per

doctor and population per bed did not improve much over than previous years. Access to healthcare services remains inadequate because of insufficient human resources and medical infrastructure. Recent pharmaceutical industrial data of Pakistan shows that both national and multinational companies have contributed in growth of pharmaceutical industries. Domestic companies fulfilled 58 per cent of the local demand and multinational manufacturers fulfilled the rest.

The healthcare system of China assures the provision of basic facilities to each individual through healthcare insurance. Out of top 25 pharmaceutical manufacturers in China, 22 are domestic companies. CPEC could play a key role in mutual cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani pharmaceutical industries. Availability of cheaper raw material to manufacturers in Pakistan can be of mutual benefit for both countries.

More than 200,000 students from 64 countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative were studying in China last year. More than 10,000 medical students have already graduated and are working in respective fields. Currently, Pakistan has risen to top four in number of students in China. There is an intense need to construct state-of-the-art hospitals and pharmacies at the port city of Gwadar where such students along with Chinese professionals might continue their practice.

Currently, 90-95 per cent of all the big machines for pharmaceutical industries in Pakistan and raw material are imported. CPEC and Belt and Road Initiative can help in the development of this sector, as 42 per cent of the total local demand of finished medicines is met by multinational companies in Pakistan. Thus, it can be a breakthrough for both Pakistani and Chinese manufacturers to get collaborative trade benefits through mutual cooperation. Through CPEC, Pakistan's pharmaceutical industrialists will get quick access to China, Middle East and Europe. Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is a vast field of treating all ailments. Effectiveness and utility of TCM can be exported to the world through the initiative and CPEC.

Other than hospital and pharmaceutical industries, there is a need to build medical colleges and universities, state-of-the-art research laboratories, drug stores and pharmacies along the CPEC. In order to polish the medical skills of the personnel, the doctors, pharmacists and other medical staff exchange programs can be initiated. For health and knowledge corridor, experts from both China and Pakistan will be needed to bring revolutionary changes in health sector. Health corridor will bring drastic changes which in turn will improve the basic health facilities in Pakistan. Once the project completed successfully people of even rural areas will be able to get quality treatment without traveling to major cities.

A large number of entrepreneurs from Pakistan and China have already invested and showed their huge satisfaction in CPEC. Multinational investors are also showing their interest to invest in Pakistan now, thanks to CPEC. Currently, many Chinese companies are working in Pakistan and more are thinking to work in future because of more trade benefits in Pakistan as compared to China. There is a need to encourage and assist investors from China and Pakistan to invest in medical sector.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan in one of his speeches said that CPEC has brought many positive changes in Pakistan's economy, adding that direct involvement in the construction and operations of various projects under the CPEC framework has opened a lot of opportunities for a large portion of the population. In the future, the CPEC will receive wide support from all sectors of Pakistani society. (Courtesy China Daily)

CPEC and SA-CARS

Economic integration between South Asia and Central Asia has been a cherished dream of countries located in the two regions. The process has, however remained a dream due to a host of reasons. The \$900 billion plus Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), whose one component is China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has created a situation, which if adeptly managed, could be instrumental in the economic integration of South Asia and Central Asia. Central Asia has proven oil reserves between 15.30 billion barrels and 7.0 percent of world's gas reserves. Central Asia, once the hub of ancient Silk Route, used to link China and South Asia with Europe and West Asia. While South Asia is no match to the huge oil and natural gas deposits of Central Asian Republics (CARs), it is nearly 28.23 per cent larger than Central Asia in terms of area and is home to the world's largest concentration of human population and has huge economic potential.

Economic integration of Central Asia and South Asia can benefit all the countries in these regions. 'National interests' overlooking strategic advantages and the potential for human development, undemocratic regimes in CARs, policies of great powers and the conflict in Afghanistan have been the main stumbling blocks to integration between Central Asia and South Asia.

China's BRI aims at integrating the Afro-Eurasian landmass. This economic integration would help at least 60 countries benefit from the BRI primarily due to unprecedented increase in economic activity. Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Nepal would greatly benefit due to their location vis a vis the China border.

Central Asian and South Asian neighbours of Afghanistan have been pursuing their respective interests in Afghanistan — a country which lies at the junction of both the regions. The interests of Afghanistan's neighbours have been different in most cases and have prevented Afghanistan from having peace and stability. Now, the potential of economic benefits of integration through the BRI are enormous. Thus, the BRI has changed the complexion of geopolitics in both South Asia and Central Asia.

Countries of the two regions, which have been taking keen interest in the crises created by a power vacuum in Afghanistan, refugees and terrorism, would like to see a stable and peaceful Afghanistan. Afghanistan can serve as a bridge for inter-regional connectivity.

China's growing presence in the region and investment in Afghanistan since 2014 corroborate a change in the approach of Afghanistan's neighbours. China has taken measures to include

Afghanistan in the BRI. In September 2016, the first direct freight train from China reached the Afghan border town of Hairatan. An air corridor linking Kabul and the Chinese city of Urumqi has also been launched under the BRI.

In May 2017, the Afghan officials attended the massive Belt and Road Forum in China. In October that year, Afghanistan joined the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which funds the BRI projects. As BRI is the cornerstone of President Xi Jinping's foreign policy and CPEC is a key component of the BRI, China would do its utmost to pave the way for improved relations between Kabul and Islamabad.

In the past, Afghanistan was seen by many as a destabilizing factor for its Central Asian and South Asian neighbours. Afghanistan is still facing grave security issues. Some of the Afghan leaders still share anti-Pakistan sentiments. India's role in Afghanistan is factor in this. Therefore, there is still a question mark on Afghanistan take full advantage of the BRI and the CPEC.

In 2013, China offered Afghanistan to become a part of the CPEC. In fact, the press release which the Chinese Foreign Ministry issued on the eve of the signing of CPEC agreement between Pakistan and China in 2013 mentioned that Beijing would like to ultimately see westward extension (towards Afghanistan and beyond) of the CPEC. However, Afghanistan remained uninterested apparently because of strong anti-Pakistani feelings.

The US and China have cooperated on Afghanistan in the past. It is hoped that if Beijing increases its efforts to develop infrastructure in Afghanistan, Washington would not object to it and would rather facilitate the endeavors.

The talks between Washington and Taliban have entered a decisive phase. Peace in Afghanistan would give a great boost to the north-south connectivity and economic integration.

India may still be against the BRI and CPEC because it would catapult its regional rival Beijing to an unassailable economic advantage. However, China is India's largest trading partner. The two countries have a bilateral trade worth around \$80 billion. More importantly, India could benefit the most from economic integration of Central Asia and South Asia as it has the biggest economy and could increase its exports to all the countries.

Delhi has always desired access to the Central Asian markets to import energy for its fast-growing economy. However, Pakistan, which separates India from Central Asia, has been hesitant in giving India the opportunity to reach out to the Central Asian markets.

The BRI has changed the situation substantially and if India does not make herself part of the regional economic integration it would stand to lose excessively and have difficulty sustaining its high GDP growth because regional countries will join the BRI and trade more with countries of other regions than India. The scenario would force Delhi to have second thoughts about the success of the BRI, the CPEC and peace and stability in Afghanistan. Peace can help Delhi realize its dream of reaching the Central Asian markets.

The objective conditions globally and regionally are quite conducive for economic integration between Central Asia and South Asia. It is up to the leadership of these countries to move forward and benefit the people of these regions.

The Nation

Pak-China relations unbreakable: Malik

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan People's Party leader Senator Rehman Malik yesterday said that the Pak-China relations were unbreakable.

In a meeting with Pang Chunxue, Deputy Chief of Mission of China and Minister Counselor in Pakistan, the PPP leader that said the Bhutto family had laid the foundation of the every growing Pak-China friendship.

He said that former President Asif Ali Zardari took the Pak-China ties to new heights. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor, he said, was a great achievement of the PPP as the party worked hard on the project with China.

Both discussed in detail the bilateral relations, regional current situation and progress on CPEC and reiterated that China and Pakistan stand committed to successful completion of the mega project.

Senator Malik thanked China for the help and support to Pakistan in difficult moments and termed China as 'all weathers friend of Pakistan.'

The PPP lawmaker said that CPEC guarantees progress, peace, stability and prosperity for the entire region and both the countries are committed towards the successful completion of CPEC.

He said that the first phase of CPEC was already completed and wished for the smooth completion of next phases.

They expressed that CPEC was playing an exemplary role in expanding the people-to-people contact and enhancing the Sino-Pak multi-sector cooperation. Senator Malik welcomed Pang Chunxue and extended his best wishes on her appointment as Deputy Chief of Mission of China and Minister Counselor in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, a 24-member delegation of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Tuesday left for China to participate in an event being convened by the Communist Party of China.

A statement issued by PTI's Central Media Department said that the delegation, before leaving for China, met with PTI Secretary General Aamir Mahmood Kayani and got detailed instructions from him regarding the visit to China. Zahid Hussain Kazmi, the Vice President of PTI, was also present in the meeting.

Kayani said on the occasion that China was a loyal friend of Pakistan and cooperation between the Communist Party of China and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was entering into a new era.

He said that the Chinese Communist Party was a good example of a modern political party about which the delegates should learn.

“We are grateful to the leadership of the Communist Party especially the Chinese ambassador for designing a special programme for PTI”, he said adding that learning from Chinese experience they should devise ways and means to political development.

The 24-member delegation led by Qazi Ahmad Akbar will stay in China for 15 days.

During stay in China, the delegation will be briefed on the political, administrative and economic experiences of the Chinese with special focus on Belt and Road Initiative.

Benefits of CPEC

China and Pakistan had formed partnership to complete China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under “One-Road, One-Belt” vision. The project has great importance for both the countries. CPEC has potential to transform the socio-economic landscape of Pakistan. According to the estimates, the ‘One-Belt One-Road’ would establish close land and maritime connections between/among 60-plus countries across Asia and Europe. Neither the economic stability of Pakistan is acceptable to its regional competitors, nor China’s emergence as a global power is tolerable to many states. China is the central point of mechanism to the West and Pakistan’s central point of mechanism to the Central, West, and South Asia bothers regional and global aspiring is a supreme leader.

CPEC is road to success of economic development of China and Pakistan. According to some internal sources, there is also negative propaganda against CPEC project that entrance of Chinese products in the Pakistani market may cause unemployment and destruction of local manufacturing industries.

The American strategic community considers China as an emerging strategic competitor in the current geo-political landscape of the world. Hence, Asia Pacific region has become a geostrategic priority for the Pentagon. During Obama’s Administration, pivot or rebalance strategy in Asia Pacific was designed in 2011-12 to contain China. In this context, the CPEC reduces Chinese dependence on the South China Sea trade route. Subsequently, it would facilitate China to take firm actions while pursuing its strategic objectives in Asia-Pacific. Beijing has been developing powerful forces capable of deterring and defeating aggression of any state, including United States, in South China Sea. It has been observed that since 2015, Chinese have been conveying that in South China Sea, they would not accept external actor’s interference. It seems determined to monitor the navigation operations in the South China Sea and continue developing bases on its Islands in the Sea. India is neighborhood country to Pakistan and China.

Pakistan and China have border dispute with India. India feels that if CPEC gets success, both Pakistan and China would get stronger. India is showing emotional attitude towards CPEC. At the present, India aliens with US and Israel. Since decade India is trying to destroy internal

security of Pakistan. The Indians are cognizant to the fact that once CPEC is completed; it would change the face of Pakistani province of Balochistan. The Indian intelligence agency RAW crafted a network in Balochistan to obstruct the construction of CPEC infrastructure. Kulbhushan Yadav was arrested from Balochistan and admitted that he was on mission to handle terror activities in Balochistan. We all know that CPEC project would be transforming the global geo-economic landscape. China and Pakistan would be the primary beneficiary of the project. CPEC is encountered by the anti-CPEC regional and global challenges. During the development of Gwadar, Chinese engineers have been killed. China has invested to build the Gwadar port and Gwadar city. Gwadar is Pakistan's flagship for the future. Globalization may get a great boost from CPEC. The concept of Share Wealth, Share Peace, Share Future could be conceived anywhere in the world. CPEC is the route to friendship and economic growth and it will open doors to the prosperous world of tomorrow.

USA, China, UK top 3 export destinations of Pak products: SBP

ISLAMABAD - The United States of America (USA) remained the top export destinations of the Pakistani products during first two months of current the financial year (2019-20), followed by China and United Kingdom (UK).

The total exports to the USA during July-August (2019-20) were recorded at \$714.570 million against the exports of \$689.963 million during July-August (2018-19), showing an increase of 3.56 percent during the period under review, according to latest data issued by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$293.431 million against the exports of \$290.668 million last year, showing growth of 0.95 percent. UK was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth \$285.943 million during the current financial year against the exports of \$301.184 million during last fiscal year, showing decrease of 5.06 percent, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to United Arab Emirates (UAE) stood at \$272.572 million against \$239.644 million during last year, showing increase of 13.74 percent while the exports to Germany were recorded at \$220.766 million against \$233.935 million last year, the data revealed.

During the first two months of current financial year, the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$166.515 million against \$240.475 million whereas the exports to Spain stood at \$156.303 million against \$144.756 million.

Pakistan's exports to Bangladesh were recorded at \$123.322 million against \$106.337 million last year where as the exports to Italy stood at \$131.856 million against \$133.984 million.

Similarly, the exports to Belgium during the current financial year were recorded at \$94.571 million against \$101.911 million while the exports to France stood at \$ 73.949 million against \$80.033 million.

Pakistan's exports to India were recorded at \$8.033 million during the current financial year compared to \$76.830 million last year whereas, the exports to Singapore stood at \$45.961 million against \$34.437 million, to Indonesia \$11.409 million against \$90.445 million whereas the exports to Japan stood at \$36.809 million during the financial year against \$35.087 million during last year.

September 26, 2019

Dawn

Laws for special economic zones under CPEC being revisited

ISLAMABAD: The government is revisiting laws pertaining to special economic zones (SEZs) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to fix deficiencies, Chairman Board of Investment Zubair Gilani told a parliamentary body meeting on Wednesday.

“There was no harmony between legislation and ground challenges at the time China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was conceived. The SEZ Act is being revisited to give special economic zones concrete legal backing and enhanced incentives and benefits,” Gilani said while briefing the Senate Special Committee on CPEC.

The committee discussed in detail SMEs and SEZs, uninterrupted power supply along CPEC routes, delaying of tariff determination by Nepra for coal-based energy project in Gwadar besides second phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Gilani told the meeting that amendments in laws governing SEZs would help reduce current account deficit which has increased considerably in the last few years and will be beneficial to both Pakistan and China. Amendment in laws would encourage exports, he said.

The senior official claimed of unprecedented progress under CPEC in three SEZs – Rashakai, Nowshera in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Faisalabad and Dhabeji SEZ in Thatta — in the last year months.

Secretary Planning, Development and Reform Zafar Hasan said that there are nine locations identified by the provincial governments to be developed as SEZs.

“Prior to initiating industrial cooperation this government had already begun working with the Chinese on the types of benefits and concessions they would require. We did a comparative study with other countries in the region. We want to give more incentives for all SEZs because the government is targeting long term benefits,” Hasan said in his briefing.

However, the committee interpreted amendments in the law pertaining to SEZs another ‘U-turn’ of the government.

“There is very little confidence. The first thing that a business is predicated on is a certain amount of predictability of the business environment, on the tax environment and other

infrastructural requirements. We are signaling no capacity to even build consistency to attract the Chinese and other investors,” chairperson of the committee, PPP Senator Sherry Rehman said.

PMLN Senator Javed Abbasi feared that all efforts of the past on CPEC projects would be rendered useless with the new amendments and described the ‘U-turn’ as troubling.

The committee also discussed the bill to set up a monitoring authority for CPEC projects. The committee was unanimous not to support any such document without approval of the parliament. Senator Rehman demanded that terms of references of the CPEC authority be shared with the members.

She said, “The Senate will oppose formation of CPEC authority through Presidential ordinance, it can only be formed by an act of the parliament and with the consensus of the provinces.”

She repeatedly stressed that the authority proposed was to enhance provincial coordination, not to centralize a faltering planning process.

“It should have provincial representation to be meaningful and seek approval of Parliament, not land in the Houses as an ordinance”, she said.

The committee showed concern regarding delay in projects under CPEC, the proposed ‘Authority’, as portrayed by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms is being set to ensure timely completion of CPEC projects.

The committee took serious notice of Balochistan’s Bostan Industrial Zone for not being included in the list of prioritized SEZs.

The Nation

Pakistan policy for US, China

Given the new evolving realignments on the international chessboard, Pakistan has to strike a balance in the core relationship between United States and China to weather fresh geo-economic and geostrategic challenges.

A see-saw situation and policy of preferring China to US and vice versa will weigh heavy on future of country. Pakistan cannot afford any fumble as such laxity may let it plunge into a bottomless pit.

A clear cut and resilient foreign policy is the order of day. It should unleash a strong message to both influential nations that keeping Pakistan interest first, US administration and Beijing administration will be treated on equal footed basis.

Both the US and China have long and close friendship ties with Pakistan. On many occasions, both have their own specific dynamics of congeniality offering desired favors and assistances to Pakistan through thick and thin.

Embroiled into internal economic chaos, political anarchy, CPEC and Kashmir dispute, Pakistan needs both of them. Particularly on “Kashmir Mission”, US president Donald Trump had offered mediation in clear term. China has also put a complete weight behind the stance of Pakistan on Kashmir conflict.

It is true that international scenario is very complex. Clash of interests is a looming threat to world peace. Multilateralism and unilateralism are the two options that are to be opted to keep pace with the world powers. New strategic policies on South Asia, Central Asia, Afghanistan and Iran have included new considerations into the mix.

With close ties with America and simultaneous traditional and religious relations with Iran, Pakistan has to make each and every moment with utmost cautiousness. Currently, US imposed many economic sanctions after terminating 2015 nuclear deal in May 2018. Tensions are running high enveloping many countries especially European Union, major stakeholder in the deal.

Showing defiance, Iran has been pushing the EU to seek economic solace. Iran desires that its move to re-initiate enrichment of uranium may be undone if France and other European countries come up with oil compensatory package. This month France presented a proposal for a \$15 billion line of credit, secured by future oil shipments, so as to heel American sanctions. But US secretary of state Pompeo Twitted that “We are confident that the UK, France and Germany — indeed, all civilized nations — will take decisive actions to stop Iran’s nuclear extortion.”

Unambiguously, Europeans want to keep engaging Iran to prevent utter debacle of deal contending that US president Trump botched by nullifying the agreement. Russia and China have also been making some ways to ease out Iran on the issue.

Gravity of situation deepened after Iran was suspected to have attacked oil facilities in Saudi Arabia some days back and when US President Donald Trump tweeted that America was “locked and loaded” to respond. Iran dismissed claims by the US that it was to blame and said it was ready for “fully-fledged war”.

From Pakistan’s point of view, the scenario is full of hazards. US, Saudia Arabia and Iran are all friends of Pakistan. All of them have their unique value and status. None of them can be given preference on one another. US remained strong ally to Pakistan. Over the past 15 years, Pakistan received roughly \$15 billion in Coalition Support Funds meant to reimburse support for U.S. operations; roughly \$4 billion in Foreign Military Financing funds used to purchase American equipment; about \$1.4 billion in the Pakistan Counterinsurgency Capability Fund to build Pakistan’s counterinsurgency capability; and approximately \$52 million in International Military Education and Training funds.

In 1947, the United States was one of the first countries to recognize an independent Pakistan and to extend considerable assistance for the establishment of key institutions. With U.S. support, Pakistan was able to undertake many notable development projects, such as the Institute for Business Administration, Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center, the Indus Basin Project,

Faisalabad Agricultural Institute, and a variety of other efforts that laid the path for Pakistan's Green Revolution.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the United States was a major donor for the construction of the Mangla and Tarbela dams, which at the time of their completion accounted for 70 percent of the country's power output. In the 1980s and early 1990s, the United States helped build the Guddu Power Station in Sindh and the Lahore University for Management Sciences, which is now considered to be one of the nation's top business schools.

More recently, U.S. civilian assistance to Pakistan has delivered real results on issues of greatest importance to all Pakistanis: energy, economic growth, stability, education, and health. In addition, when natural or manmade disasters threaten Pakistan, the United States has been quick to respond. Over the past decade, the United States, through USAID, has given Pakistan nearly \$7.7 billion of funding. Pakistan remains one of America's largest recipients of foreign assistance, a sign of our long term partnership and commitment.

However, Pakistan claims to have suffered over 70,000 Pakistani casualties, and over \$150 billion lost to the economy being partner to US in terror war so far.

With the inception of CPEC, an impression gained currency that Pakistan does not need America with as much intensity as it needed in the past. According to various experts neither the US was not taken into confidence on CPEC deal nor was facilitated to have partnership on CPEC projects. This led to strained relations once again. Previously, May 2 incident of Osama Bin Laden, flurry of drone attacks, NATO 2011 attack at Salala Check post had played their role to mar their ties.

However, damaged relations are again on the path of recovery. Reinstatement of military aid and call for mediation on Kashmir dispute by US president Donald Trump have helped heal the bruises in bilateral relationship. It is high time to capitalize the new pleasant turn in the relationship with the US.

At the same time China is time-tested friend. On Kashmir issue, it stands by Pakistan always. Sino-Pak diplomatic ties were established in 1950, boundary issues resolved in 1963, military assistance began in 1966, a strategic alliance was formed in 1972, and economic co-operation began in 1979. China has become Pakistan's largest supplier of arms and its third-largest trading partner. China has signed two Free Trade Agreements with Pakistan. More than \$ 50 billion mega project of CPEC, eventually, is vote of China's confidence on Pakistan.

It is matter of concern that from different quarters voices are circulating that CPEC may be slowing down. These impressions have been taking a heavy toll on Sino-Pak trust altitude and may be bothering Chinese officials. CPEC is a key to cure Pakistan ailing economy. We should not let it go waste at any cost.

Under these perilous circumstances, a preferred choice is to set up a Foreign Affairs Task Force to tune in partnership with US and China before it is too late. This Task Force should be

comprising foreign affairs experts, jurists and army personnel headed by Foreign Minister. If we succeed in innovating diplomatic strategies with US and China, Pakistan will definitely come in a strong position to safeguard its interests on both internal and external affairs.

The News

Senate body opposes setting up CPEC Authority through ordinance

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Special Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has opposed setting up CPEC Authority through Presidential Ordinance, arguing that they would not accept any proposal without being presented to Parliament for approval.

The Senate Special Committee on CPEC, in its meeting held on Wednesday discussed in detail the SMEs and Special Economic Zones (SEZs), uninterrupted power supply along CPEC routes, delaying of tariff determination by Nepra for Coal based energy project in Gwadar and second phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

In addition to all of the above the Committee also discussed the Bill to set-up a Monitoring Authority for CPEC Projects.

“The committee agreed unanimously not to support any such document without it being presented to the Parliament for approval” a decision taken by the committee. The committee also showed concern regarding delay in projects, the proposed ‘Authority’, as portrayed by the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms, is being set to ensure timely completion of CPEC projects.

The Senate panel also opposed the idea of the establishment of CPEC Authority through Presidential ordinance and recommended that it should be setup through an act of parliament.

The meeting was convened by Sherry Rehman and was attended by other senators and senior officers of the ministries concerned.

While discussing the issue of Special Economic Zones the committee was informed that certain amendments were being made to law pertaining to SEZs.

This would help reduce current account deficit which has increased considerably in the last few years and will be beneficial to both Pakistan and China. Amendment in laws would encourage exports.

The committee took serious notice of Bostan Industrial Zone, Balochistan, not being included in the list of prioritised SEZs. These were Rashakai SEZ Nowshera, Allama Iqbal Industrial City and China Special Economic Zone, Dhabeji, Thatta.

The Committee was assured that the federal government will look after the budget through PSDP.

The committee stressed that incentives must not be revoked as this would be a gross violation of rights.

While discussing delay of tariff determination by Nepra for local based Energy Project (300MW) in Gwadar, the committee was informed that the Company required increase in tariff rates, Nepra increased rates to Rs7.5 per unit; however, this was not acceptable to the company thus, the matter has been submitted to a tribunal. The committee recommended that the Tribunal must be set up immediately.

The committee raised the issue of borrowing electricity from Iran.

The committee was informed that 100MW electricity was being borrowed which was reduced to 40MW during summer.

While discussing the second stage of Free Trade Agreement, the committee recommended that a mechanism be formulated to ensure that Pakistani Industries can compete.

The committee was informed that as a result of the 2nd Phase Agreement Pakistan would regain eroded margin of preference, asymmetrical liberalization favoring Pakistan: 90 percent for China and 67 percent for Pakistan. At the end, the committee also adopted a resolution proposed by Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi. It demands of the Government of Pakistan to take immediate steps for the construction of an interchange on the Multan-Sukkur Motorway at Village Bhong, Tehsil Sadiqabad, district Rahim Yar Khan.

September 27, 2019

Daily Times

Pak-China relations growing with each passing day: ambassador

Ambassador of China Yao Jing has said that 68-year-old Pak-China diplomatic relations are getting stronger with every passing day.

Addressing a ceremony held here to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of People's Republic of China and 68 years of diplomatic relations between both countries, he said that Pak-China diplomatic ties are unique as there is no conflict on any issue between the two countries during the period of their diplomatic history.

The ambassador said that both the countries are enjoying cordial diplomatic relations and have unanimous stance on host of issues in international forums. He informed that China had started the journey of economic prosperity and social development with international assistance, adding that the country had transformed itself into a developed industrial country.

He said that the people of China wanted to share their prosperity with the world and its President had presented the concept of One-Belt One Road (OBOR) for sharing the benefits of the prosperity with rest of the world.

He termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Project as an example of trade relations and mutual confidence between Pakistan and China, adding that energy and infrastructure development projects have been completed so far.

He said that now CPEC was entering into second phase, having focus on industrial cooperation, agriculture development, infrastructure development and trade protection. He said that the common goal of both the countries was economic development and social prosperity of their people.

Speaking on the occasion Senator Mushahid Hussain Syad highlighted diplomatic, economic and cultural relations of both the countries.

He said that transformation of China into developed industrial country was remarkable adding that the three factors that contributed in this regard included course of correction and lesson learning from mistakes, ability to listen and learn from others and china was the first country which had established special economic zone.

Mushahid said that peaceful foreign policy was the other major factor which had contributed in Chinese transformation.

He said CPEC was a vote of confidence for Pakistan because when no country was ready to invest in Pakistan, China initiated multi-billion Dollar projects.

Addressing the event Senator Rahaman Malik said that CPEC was a road to friendship and road to shared prosperity.

He said that it was heart to heart link project which connects the people of both the countries. Senator Malik also called upon the diplomatic community for raising their voice against Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir.

He said that over 8 million innocent and unarmed civilians were locked in their homes for last 52 days. He called upon the world to take notice of gross human rights violations by the Indian occupation forces and their brutalities on innocent women, children and elderly people.

Nawaiwaqt

چین نے ہر مشکل میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا، صدر عارف علوی

اسلام آباد (سپیشل رپورٹ) صدر ڈاکٹر عارف علوی نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کا قابل اعتماد قریبی دوست ہے۔ چین نے ہمیشہ پاکستان کی آزادی اور خود مختاری کی حمایت کی ہے۔ صدر عارف علوی گذشتہ شام عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی 70 ویں سالگرہ پر چینی سفیر کی طرف سے دیئے گئے ایک بڑے استقبالیہ سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ صدر نے کہا کہ چین نے ہر مشکل میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا ہے۔ پاکستان کے وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے ہمیشہ کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کیلئے ایک رول ماڈل کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ چین نے 70 کروڑ سے زائد اپنے شہریوں کو غربت سے نکال کر خوشحالی سے ہمکنار کیا۔ صدر نے کہا کہ سی پیک کا منصوبہ پاکستان اور چین کی دوسری اور تعاون کا مظہر ہے۔ اس منصوبے سے نہ صرف چین اور پاکستان کو فائدہ ہو گا بلکہ پورا خطہ اس سے فائدہ اٹھائے گا۔ صدر نے کہا کہ چین بہت تیزی سے ترقی کر رہا ہے، اس نے اپنی قومی زندگی کے ہر مرحلے پر ترقی کی ہے اور وہ دنیا کی دوسری بڑی اقتصادی قوت بن گیا۔ پاکستان چین کے تجربات سے فائدہ اٹھا سکتا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے ہمیشہ کہا کہ چین کی ترقی کا ماڈل ہمارے لئے

باعث تقلید ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان دونوں نے اقتصادی، دفاعی، تعلیمی اور سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبے میں تعاون کیا ہے۔ صدر نے چین کی طرف سے کشمیریوں کے حقوق کی بھرپور حمایت پر چین کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ حالیہ بحران میں چین نے کھل کر کشمیریوں کا ساتھ دیا۔ استقبالیہ سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے چین کے سفیر یاو جنگ نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان نے ہمیشہ چین کی سلامتی، آزادی اور خود مختاری کی حمایت کی ہے۔ سی پیک کا منصوبہ دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو گیا ہے۔ سی پیک کے تحت پاکستان میں بجلی کی پیداوار کے منصوبے، گواڈرپورٹ اور دوسرے ترقیاتی منصوبے مکمل ہو رہے ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات میں مسلسل وسعت پیدا ہو رہی ہے۔

اسلام آباد (جاوید صدیق) عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے انقلاب کی 70 ویں سالگرہ پر پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یاو جنگ نے چینی سفارتخانے کے وسیع و عریض لان میں ایک شاندار استقبالیہ دیا۔ صدر علوی اس استقبالیہ کے مہمان خصوصی تھے۔ زندگی کے ہر شعبہ سے تعلق رکھنے والی پاکستانی شخصیات نے استقبالیہ میں شرکت کی۔ چیئر مین سینیٹ صادق سنجرانی، وفاقی وزیر شیخ رشید، خسر و بختیار، فخر عالم، وزیر اعظم کی معاون خصوصی فردوس عاشق اعوان کے علاوہ سابق وزیر اعظم سید سرفراز گل، سابق چیئر مین سینیٹ نیئر بخاری، سابق وزیر داخلہ رحمان ملک، پاکستان مسلم لیگ ن کے سابق وزراء احسن اقبال، مریم اورنگزیب، سینیٹر مشاہد حسین سید، سابق وزیر مملکت برائے اطلاعات اور کینیڈا میں پاکستان کے سابق ہائی کمشنر عظیم طارق، سابق سپیکر سردار ایاز صادق بھی استقبالیہ میں مدعو تھے۔ بیجنگ میں پاکستان کے سابق سفیروں ریاض محمد خان، خالد محمود نے بھی استقبالیہ میں شرکت کی۔ کسی بھی ملک کے قومی دن کے استقبالیہ میں اتنی بڑی تعداد میں لوگوں نے کم ہی شرکت کی ہے۔ عرب اور مغرب ملکوں کے سفراء بھی بڑی تعداد میں موجود تھے۔ استقبالیہ میں کشمیر کی تازہ ترین صورتحال زیر بحث رہی اور آج پاکستان کے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے جنرل اسمبلی میں خطاب اور اس کے ممکنہ اثرات پر بھی بات چیت ہوتی رہی۔ کشمیر پر پاکستان کی ڈپلومیسی اور اب تک اس سلسلے میں ہونے والی پیش رفت پر بھی بحث و تمحیث جاری رہی۔ استقبالیہ میں پاکستانی اور چینی بچوں نے دونوں ملکوں کے قومی ترانے پیش کئے۔ ایک چینی ثقافتی ٹانفہ نے چینی رقص اور موسیقی پیش کر کے حاضرین سے زبردست داد و وصول کی

September 28, 2019

Business Recorder

CPEC projects

New impetus provided to accelerate pace of CPEC projects: minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtyar has said that the incumbent government has provided new impetus to accelerate the pace and implementation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

He underlined that bottlenecks related to the CPEC projects being resolved on top priority for their timely completion. The minister was chairing a meeting to review development on decisions taken in the 58th Progress Review Meeting of CPEC projects here in Islamabad on Friday. DCPC Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, Secretary Planning Zafar Hasan, secretaries and

senior officials from relevant ministries and the provinces were also present in the meeting, says a press release issued here on Friday.

The minister said that holding of regular meetings on the CPEC portfolio was manifestation of the present government's commitment towards the mega initiative to fast track its execution. He stated that the second phase of the CPEC framework will focus on reaping socio-economic benefits for welfare of the people. The minister emphasized upon the need to further improve coordination among relevant stakeholders involved in implementation of CPEC projects noting that completion of CPEC will contribute to sustained development of Pakistan.

During the meeting, various projects of CPEC were discussed in detail one by one. The secretary power informed that the Chinese side will provide synchronized demand-supply study of the CPEC energy projects by October 2019. It was decided that the study will be presented in the upcoming Joint Working Group and will be a deliverable for upcoming JCC. NEPRA apprised that it had issued true-up tariff for Port Qasim on September 16, 2019. The Law Ministry will move a summary for establishing appellate tribunals to resolve tariff issues related to energy projects.

Regarding Orange Line project, it was informed that civil work for water and drainage facilities will be completed on time. About Gwadar Eastbay Expressway project, it was apprised that it will be on the agenda of the upcoming ECNEC meeting and the Chinese side has confirmed additional loans for it. Regarding Gwadar International Airport, Gwadar Development Authority has provided water supply of 0.25 MGD whereas Civil Aviation Authority will provide alternate supply of electricity till QESCO makes arrangements in this regard. SNGPL informed that it will start work immediately on providing gas supply to Rashakai Economic Zone. It was informed that electricity supply of required 10 mw will be made available by December 2019.

The meeting discussed the upcoming JWGs and also took stock of preparations for JCC to be held in November this year.—PR

Daily Times

Entente cordiale: an overview of Pak-China relations

An old civilization; a culture tantamount to the abundance of material and spiritual values; a nation that maintained its individuality and preserved its identity despite innovation; the civilization that takes pride in many achievements of mankind; the birthplace of gun powder, paper and book printing; the land from where the ancient silk road sprang and through which Buddhism flowed, cultivating the heavenly empire. China.

China is one of the five neighboring states that Pakistan shares its border with. It has long been acknowledged as the “time tested” friend of Pakistan. Whilst both the countries celebrate their traditional eastern cultures, their state-to-state relationship is even profoundly congealed to stabilize the geostrategic policies, influencing the geo-political landscape of the region. The

authenticity and the faithfulness of both states towards each other's national interest have also been witnessed at several platforms around the globe.

Since the onset of 68 years long strategic and diplomatic relationship, China has always acknowledged Pakistan's chronicled recognition of China's Republican transition in 1949. China avows Pakistan as an "Iron Brother," mirroring the exceptional place Pakistan has in the hearts of Chinese people. These expressions, however, are not mere adages but truly reflect the maturity and strength of a relationship constructed over 68 years while advancing into more viable collaboration.

As Chinese response to a new era is adherence to the concepts of advancements, cooperation, coordination, openness, and innovation; it will keep on advancing its coordinated development of economy, politics, society and culture. However, in this regard, it will be opening new avenues and opportunities for the friendly neighboring states like Pakistan to encourage a relation based on mutual respect and win-win cooperation.

However, the evolution of this unprecedented relationship between both nations owes its beginning to the vision of the initiative of the leadership of the two states, who put together the relationship on the core values and philosophies of peaceful coexistence and cooperation. As promising neighbours, China and Pakistan keep up close correspondence and coordination on regional and territorial issues of concerning nature.

Economically, China has turned out to be Pakistan's second-largest trading partner while Pakistan turns into China's one of the largest investment destinations

China has in every case and at every occasion immovably upheld Pakistan's development and of anti-terrorism security initiatives

Pakistan solidly underpins China on the issues of Tibet, Taiwan, Xinjiang and different core issues vis-à-vis China. Likewise, China resolutely bolsters Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Moreover, China also extends its support to Pakistan on the issue of Indian Occupied Kashmir and a plebiscite mainly in line with the UN resolutions.

Economically, China has turned out to be Pakistan's second largest trading partner while Pakistan turns into China's one of the largest investment destinations with a bilateral trade reaching almost 18 billion dollars. Whereas in the field of defence, China's helping hand is extended to all three respective forces and the nuclear boggy of Pakistan. For instance set up of the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, Heavy industries Taxila and maritime ventures for the navy and missile factories. The creation of JF-17 Thunder jet fighter Kamra stands apart as a momentous collaboration and cooperation between the two nations.

Although the deadly attacks on the twin towers quickly delayed the developments in the Pak-China ties and Pakistan was obliged to temporary fad with the US. But the ascent of the Chinese economy and the developing apprehension of American hostile pragmatists has ultimately resulted in more grounded association between the US and India. In this regard, closer Pakistan-

China ties have just turned out to be a natural occurrence. The friendship has, thus, transliterated into the brotherliness of the late and was displayed when Chinese President Xi avowed his visit to Pakistan as a “visit to brother’s home;” something the first president Zhou envisioned.

Nevertheless, as the US aid begin to decline and Washington appears to be more averse to stretch out its economic and financial favors to Pakistan following President Trump’s new ‘South Asia Policy’; China continued to expand its impressions of ‘iron brotherhood’ in the nation, especially through the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of the Chinese Belt Road Initiative (BRI).

CPEC itself is an iron project. To help Pakistan transform into a noteworthy overland route connecting western China and traversing old Mesopotamia into Europe, China planned to invest multi-billion dollars for the network of roads, railways and higher capacity ports in the aforesaid project (CPEC). The work on which is heading at a steady pace towards completion. The project will not only shorten the distances but also help Pakistan building a strong economic base.

To conclude, all the prophets of the doomsday who speculate the venture and the growing ties of Pakistan with the emerging economic power of the world, a shadow of cultural imperialism must acknowledge the fact that Pakistan already shares a history with the two cultural giants of the world since its inception i.e. India and China and a decade or so in the progress and development of a nation is merely a brink of an eye.

Dawn 28, 2019

Chinese seek suitably grand ceremony for 392km road opening

ISLAMABAD: China seeks rapid progress on a multi-billion-dollar railway line and a ‘grand inauguration’ of a 392-kilometre highway from Multan to Sukkur soon, a high-level meeting has been told.

At a meeting held on Friday and presided over by Minister for Planning and Development Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtyar, progress made on projects falling under the umbrella of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was reviewed and it was decided that bottlenecks in their early completion would be removed on priority basis.

The minister told the meeting that the \$8.3 billion Railway Line Project from Karachi to Peshawar (ML-1) would be taken to the CPEC Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) at its meeting due in November. He advised the price review committee on ML-1, led by the deputy chairman of Planning Commission, to expedite its deliberations in line with the directives of the prime minister.

The price review committee was constituted recently after the railways ministry complained to the premier that the project was facing roadblocks due to reluctance on the part of top government officials to move ahead on price negotiations out of fear of accountability in future, sources said.

Minister says government wants to expedite implementation of CPEC projects

In view of the unease expressed by the Chinese officials, the prime minister had directed the committee to speedily complete its working on the project and directly report to him so that responsibility for the decisions made could be shared.

Because of the huge cost estimate of more than \$8.2bn under Chinese loans, the authorities had decided to divide the project in three phases, starting with the first phase estimated to cost about \$3bn to ensure that foreign debt remained on the lower side. The proposed first phase involves four sections of 183km, 120km, 132km and 118km, with completion target of three years.

An official statement quoted the planning and development minister as saying the government wanted a new impetus to accelerate the pace of implementation of CPEC projects.

The sources said the planning and communications ministries were coordinating for a soft opening of the Sukkur-Multan Motorway next week, but the Chinese side was insisting on a 'high-level inauguration' because the \$2.9bn project was the largest infrastructure scheme to be completed under the CPEC so far. The sources said the Chinese embassy was coordinating with the foreign ministry for a grand inauguration ceremony for the 392km project.

The meeting was also told that payments to the Chinese investors of power projects were smooth to the extent of 90 per cent and efforts were being made to ensure 100pc timely payments by December.

The meeting was attended by deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Dr Jehanzeb Khan, secretaries of various ministries and senior representatives of provincial governments.

Mr Bakhtyar directed the relevant authorities to further improve coordination among the stakeholders in the implementation of CPEC projects to ensure sustained uplift of the country, particularly through development of social sectors.

The power secretary told the meeting that the Chinese side would present a study on demand-supply of CPEC's energy projects by October. It was decided that the study would be presented at the upcoming meeting of the Joint Working Group and would be a deliverable to the upcoming JCC meeting.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority apprised the meeting that it had issued the tariff for Port Qasim on Sept 16, while the law ministry would move a summary for establishing appellate tribunals to resolve tariff issues related to the energy projects.

Regarding Lahore's Orange Line project, it was informed that civil works on water and drainage facilities would be completed on time. About the Gwadar Eastbay Expressway project, it was noted that it would be on the agenda of the upcoming Ecnec meeting and the Chinese side had confirmed additional loans for it.

Pakistan Observer

Minister concerned over bottlenecks in CPEC projects, direct their speedy resolution

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Mukhdum Khusro Bakhtiar on Friday directed the quarters concerned to remove all the bottlenecks in projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) saying the government has provided a new impetus to accelerate the pace and implementation of these projects.

Mr Khusro Bakhtiar was chairing a review meeting regarding decisions taken in the 58th Progress Review Meeting of CPEC projects. Deputy Chairman Planning Commission (DCPC) Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, Secretary Planning Zafar Hasan, Secretaries and senior officials from relevant ministries and the provinces were also present in the meeting.

The Minister said holding of regular meetings on CPEC portfolio was manifestation of the present Government's commitment towards the mega initiative to fast track its execution. He stated that the second phase of CPEC framework will focus on reaping socio-economic benefits for welfare of the people. The Minister emphasized upon the need to further improve coordination among relevant stakeholders involved in implementation of CPEC projects noting that completion of CPEC will contribute to sustained development of Pakistan.

During the meeting, various projects of CPEC were discussed in detail one by one. Secretary Power informed that the Chinese side will provide synchronized demand-supply study of CPEC energy projects by October 2019. It was decided that the study will be presented in the upcoming Joint Working Group and will be a deliverable for upcoming JCC. NEPRA apprised that it had issued true-up tariff for Port Qasim on September 16, 2019. Law Ministry will move a summary for establishing appellate tribunals to resolve tariff issues related to energy projects. Regarding Orange Line project, it was informed that civil work for water and drainage facilities will be completed on time. About Gwadar Eastbay Expressway project, it was apprised that it will be on the agenda of the upcoming ECNEC meeting and the Chinese side has confirmed additional loans for it. Regarding Gwadar International Airport, Gwadar Development Authority has provided water supply of 0.25 MGD whereas Civil Aviation Authority will provide alternate supply of electricity till QESCO makes arrangements in this regard. SNGPL informed that it will start work immediately on providing gas supply to Rashakai Economic Zone. It was informed that electricity supply of required 10 MW will be made available by December 2019.

The meeting discussed the upcoming JWGs and also took stock of preparations for JCC to be held in November this year.

Chinese Telecom firms step up 5G infrastructure efforts

Leading telecom carriers are stepping up 5G infrastructure construction activities to keep pace with the plan of rolling out 5G services in major Chinese cities by the end of this year. China Mobile, one of the leading telecom firms, said it has already made deliveries of more than 30,000

5G base stations by Sept 15, covering 318 cities in the nation. With this the firm has inched closer to its ambitious goal of building more than 50,000 5G base stations and launching 5G commercial services in over 50 cities by the end of this year. By 2020, China Mobile is planning to offer 5G services in all cities above the prefecture level in China.

The next generation high-speed 5G technology will be able to transmit data at least 10 times faster than the existing 4G system. In the 5G era, higher reliability and lower latency can be realized, making the internet of things more effective and enabling tasks that were impossible to execute in the 4G era, such as overseeing self-driving vehicles.

Xiang Ligang, Director General of the Information Consumption Alliance, a Telecom Industry Association, said telecom firms are accelerating their pace of investment in 5G construction to gain traction in the upcoming 5G era. “They are scrambling to develop 5G now. It’s hard to see robust growth in the short term. But we will witness a significant jump in the next two to three years,” Xiang said. “5G construction will bring operators opportunities and new revenue streams as well as drive the development of the whole industry.”

Earlier this month, China Telecom and China Unicom, the country’s second and third largest telecom operators, said they will jointly build and share the 5G network nationwide to reduce construction cost and improve efficiency. The central government had in June granted 5G licenses to the three major telecom operators and the State owned China Broadcasting Network Co Ltd. It has pushed for a fast rollout of the services across the nation, as it sees 5G developments as a key strategy in the transformation and up gradation of traditional industries and for boosting the emerging digital economy. China is set to become the world’s largest 5G market by 2025, with 460 million 5G users.

The country’s telecom carriers are set to spend 900 billion Yuan to 1.5 trillion Yuan (\$126 billion to \$211 billion) in total on 5G network construction from 2020 to 2025, according to a report from the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology.

Establishment of defence pacts with China

GROUND for a Great War, possibly a World War-III, is being laid very systematically by India, Israel and the western secular world. The strategic situation that has developed after the illegal Indian annexation of Kashmir and the Afghan peace talk’s failure has all the signs to escalate out of all proportions. Pakistan is being bated and trapped. Pakistan needs to tread the situation very carefully, because one false step and the consequences for Pakistan can be horrific. The geostrategic situation that Pakistan now finds her in is as follows: Indian Annexation of Kashmir – Indian blatant aggression in Kashmir through its illegal annexation are grounds enough for triggering a full scale war between India and Pakistan. But who are Indian supporters? It is quite clear that President Trump and the US probably gave a green light to India to start this confrontation that has all the markings to escalate into a catastrophic war.

Afghan Peace Talks Failure – In the Afghan peace talks, one can now surmise that the American negotiations were not sincere at all. The US was buying time to establish a stronger position in

Afghanistan while it indulged in strategic talks with the Taliban. The objective was to infiltrate Afghanistan with ISIS, or Dahesh, or Blackwater, or Boko-Haram proxy armies (all these outfits are proxy armies of the Anglo-American-Israeli alliance). Yemen War Escalation into Saudi Arabia – We are now told that highly sophisticated drones flew out from Yemen and destroyed the Saudi Oil fields, causing the Saudi oil output to drop half of its original capacity. If this is not a false flag operation, then nothing else can be. Whom are they fooling? Yemen has no drones let alone capability to fly 1000km of Saudi territory to destroy the oil fields.

Israeli Annexation Plan for West Bank – Israel has now publicly stated for the first time that it plans to annex the West Bank or parts thereof. That is initial feelers have been quietly disclosed by Israel, that the time is not far off when Israel will start its greater Israel plan, by capturing and annexing additional Arab territories. American Aircraft Carriers in the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea — Pakistan not only has to contend itself with the Indian belligerence in Kashmir and the former LoC, the IS-Daesh-Blackwater proxy armies in Afghanistan, but also the American aircraft carriers with hundreds of planes and missiles in and around the Arabian Sea. In summary, ground has been systematically laid very carefully and through great planning by India and the Anglo-American-Israeli axis how to trap Pakistan from both the western border and the eastern border. Their initial objective is to defang Pakistan and strip it of its nuclear capability. Second objective is to encircle China by depriving China and Pakistan of CPEC. Pakistan and China are fully aware, that once Pakistan loses its nuclear capability, and the CPEC Corridor is eliminated both India and Israel will play havoc with the remaining Muslim world. Israel will establish a Greater Israel by destroying any remaining remnants of the Arabs. And, India will establish its Akhund Bharat by committing its hegemony and genocide of the Muslims of South Asia and Central Asia.

In other words, Pakistan must establish defence pacts with China, Russia, Turkey, Iran, Malaysia and Indonesia at the first opportunity before tackling Indian annexation of Kashmir. Pakistan must imprison and hang all the internal enemies of Pakistan without any further delay. In this situation can we handle the serious security threat around us? What's wrong with our establishment and leadership? Not only Modi, Trump also gave a very clear signal that they will stand by India and not Pakistan. This show is not only India against Pakistan it's Hindu and Christian against Muslim. Look at the way Trump say Islamic radical terrorist and the sing of release and satisfaction on Modi's face. After this show if still the country leadership thinks they will get any help or support from US against India then only Allah can save us from disaster.

It's about time we open our eyes to the engulfing realities. Indo US collusion has taken a definite shape while we are failing to even build up on our trusted relationship with the Chinese. We have let them down on CPEC and they had to turn towards Iran. We are failing to cement our relationship with Turkey and are constantly ignoring Iran. We are not using our leverage with regard to the situation in Afghanistan. Domestically we are not taking bold steps to revive our economy and initiate a major program to generate business activity and expand employment opportunities. Poverty and desperation in the society are not just visible but those are evident. On

top of that we are not holding back on alienating the two major political forces in the country. Besides the political the social divide is emerging as the biggest threat. Dreams of national unity and harmony have faded into oblivion. And lastly poor governance is promising to take us nowhere. —The writer is former Federal Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan and currently Chairman National Democratic Foundation.

The Express Tribune

Cabinet refuses unrestricted powers to CPEC Authority

ISLAMABAD: The cabinet has turned down a plan for granting immunity to everyone on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority and unfettered powers to the authority for making regulations. Instead, the cabinet has formed a ministerial committee to examine the anomalies.

The anomalies in administrative structure of the CPEC Authority were pointed out in a recent meeting of the cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The cabinet considered recommendations of the Cabinet Committee for Disposal of Legislative Cases (CCLC) for notifying and promulgating the CPEC Authority ordinance. The ordinance is aimed at setting up the authority for monitoring CPEC projects.

The cabinet committee made the recommendations after reviewing the draft legislation.

A memorandum of understanding for the CPEC project was signed by the governments of Pakistan and China. Focal ministries of Pakistan and China for the project were the Ministry of Planning and Development and the National Development and Reform Commission respectively.

It was also agreed to hold regular meetings of the Joint Cooperation Committee and establish working groups for different sectors.

In a summary sent to the cabinet, it was highlighted that CPEC was now going to enter the next phase where it would cover new areas such as trade and market access, industrial cooperation, socio-economic development, poverty alleviation, agriculture, Gwadar development, blue economy and regional connectivity. Under CPEC, now third parties will also be allowed to participate in the programme.

Earlier in a meeting held on May 20, 2019 and chaired by PM Imran, it was decided to establish the CPEC Authority. The National Development Council has approved the constitution of the authority in a bid to ensure fast-track implementation of CPEC projects.

In the recent cabinet meeting held to discuss the setting up of CPEC Authority, it was pointed out that the proposed administrative structure had some anomalies such as the provision for appointing the chairman and two executive directors of the authority.

It was noticed that the provision of conflict of interest was also contradictory. It was pointed out that immunity had been extended to everyone and unfettered powers for drafting regulations had also been granted to the authority. It was, therefore, suggested that the proposal be further examined before its finalization.

The cabinet approved recommendations of the CCLC pertaining to the establishment of CPEC Authority subject to fine-tuning by a committee of the proposed legislation, especially the provisions related to the administrative structure, conflict of interest, immunity and regulation-making powers.

The committee would comprise the law minister, planning, development and reform minister, parliamentary affairs minister, railways minister, maritime affairs minister and special assistant to the prime minister on social protection and poverty alleviation.

The National Development Council had given approval for setting up the CPEC Authority in its first meeting held in Islamabad in the second week of August this year.

The meeting was informed that past neglect of Balochistan, lack of connectivity and economic integration, security challenges and under-utilization and mismanagement of resources contributed to poverty in the province. The connectivity of Balochistan through CPEC projects was considered vital in order to help in social development and ensure security in the province.

Chinese businessmen keen to invest in mines, minerals

ISLAMABAD: Chinese businessmen are expressing keen interest in investing in mines, minerals, tourism and pharmaceutical industry of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), revealed K-P Board of Investment Chief Operating Officer Hassan Daud Butt.

After his return from an investor conference in China, Butt told APP that he had talked to numerous Chinese investors on the sidelines of the conference, who were eager to exploit different sectors of Pakistan's economy.

“They expressed the willingness to establish industrial units in Pakistan under the umbrella of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC),” he said.

The official added that a Chinese business delegation would soon visit K-P Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which were being developed as part of industrial cooperation under CPEC. “The delegation will also review the potential for investment in various sectors of the economy.”

K-P offered huge opportunities of investment in various areas including agriculture, hydel electricity, renewable energy, tourism, mines and minerals and other areas, Butt stated.

He stressed the need for fast-tracking the investment process by utilizing natural resources of the province. “This will help boost the economy and create maximum employment opportunities for the youth of the province,” he said.

Butt pointed out that the provincial government was directing its focus towards creating maximum employment opportunities.

He added that the government was also working on the ease of doing business to ensure that businessmen coming from China and other countries did not face any difficulty and all barriers were removed.

“CPEC is a flagship project of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), therefore all resources will be utilized to complete the project as soon as possible,” he remarked.

Jang News

پاکستان چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ ضرور مکمل ہوگا، گورنر سندھ

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) گورنر سندھ عمران اسماعیل نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ سی پیک ضرور مکمل ہوگا اس بارے میں جو لوگ منفی باتیں اور پروپیگنڈہ کر رہے ہیں انہیں منہ کی کھانا پڑے گی، تو نصل جزل کی طرح ہمیں بھی افسوس ہے کہ تو نصل جزل کراچی میں اپنی 3 سالہ مدت پوری کر کے واپس جا رہے ہیں وہ مقامی ہوٹل میں چین کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر اظہار خیال کر رہے تھے اس موقع پر وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ سید مراد علی شاہ اور کراچی میں تعینات چین کے تو نصل جزل وانگ یونے بھی خطاب کیا۔ گورنر سندھ نے مزید کہا کہ چین وہ عظیم دوست ملک ہے جس نے روز اول سے مسئلہ کشمیر پر پاکستانی موقف کی حمایت کی ہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ سید مراد علی شاہ نے کہا کہ چین سے تعلقات کا آغاز شہید ذوالفقار علی بھٹو کے دور سے ہوا شہید بے نظیر بھٹو نے اس میں اضافہ کیا اور سابق صدر آصف علی زرداری نے اپنے 5 سالہ دور میں چین کے 20 تاریخی دورے کیے تھے انہوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ملکوں کی دوستی مثالی ہے دوستی پر پاکستان کو فخر ہے۔ تو نصل جزل نے اپنے الوداعی خطاب میں کہا کہ چین پاکستان کی دوستی صرف ملکوں تک محدود نہیں ہے بلکہ دونوں ملکوں کے عوام بھی ایک دوسرے کے قریب ہیں انہوں نے کہا کہ چین وہ عظیم ملک ہے جس نے اپنی آبادی کے 70 کروڑ لوگوں کو غربت کی لکیر سے نکال کر ان کا معیار زندگی بہتر بنایا

September 29, 2019

The News 29-09-2019

Kashmir, economic cooperation: Imran to visit China, Erdogan due in Pakistan in Oct

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit China to meet Chinese leadership before Oct 10 and President Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey will visit Pakistan in second half of October over Kashmir, Afghan & Middle East peace, business and development issues.

China and Turkey have supported resolution of Kashmir issue as per UN Resolutions straight after Aug 5th Indian annexation of Kashmir. Issues like further collaboration to bring up Kashmir issue on agenda of UN Security Council, CPEC, Afghan & Middle East peace, bilateral

trade will come up for discussions with Chinese leadership. Turkish president raised Kashmir issue in the most forceful manner during his speech at UN General Assembly and further discussions on Kashmir will be held during his upcoming visit to Pakistan. A wide ranging Strategic Economic Framework (SEF) and Plan of Action (PoA) Document will be signed during Turkish president visit to Pakistan for long term economic cooperation in almost all sectors of economy.

China repeated its position against unilateral annexation of disputed territory of Kashmir and Ladakh by India and its solution as per UN Resolutions in State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi address at UN. Wang Yi conveyed same to Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar on September 25 during their meeting on sidelines of UN General Assembly session. Earlier, Indian Foreign & Home Ministers vowed to annex parts of Kashmir region under Pakistan and Home Minister declared to annex part of Kashmir under China. Indian External Affairs Ministry in its September 10th statement asked China and Pakistan to cease work on “so called” CPEC as it passes through territory which belongs to India and is occupied by Pakistan.

A meeting between India and China over border dispute scheduled for September 9 and 10 was cancelled and instead the Chinese Foreign Minister travelled to Pakistan for China Pakistan and Afghanistan dialogue. In a press conference on Sept 16, Indian foreign minister did not confirm the dates of October 11-13 which Indian media mentions for the 2nd informal summit in India between President Xi Jinping and Indian prime minister. A Chinese foreign office spokesman told The News on September 20th about the dates for Chinese president and Indian PM 2nd informal summit next month, that the two sides are in communication on high level interaction going forward and information will be released when available. The spokesman added that in April last year, President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Modi held a successful informal meeting in Wuhan and created a new model of exchange between leadership to guide bilateral relations to a new development stage.

Meanwhile, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson in a briefing on Thursday commented China-Pakistan friendship is unbreakable and we stand ready to work with Pakistan to achieve new progress in our bilateral relations. The spokesperson appreciated remarks by Pakistan prime minister in an interview on Sept 23 that China has offered Pakistan a great opportunity to grow its economy and that there have been no so called “tradeoffs” behind this economic cooperation. Chinese spokesperson added that and fruitful outcome in the development of the CPEC have produced positive socioeconomic benefits and given a strong boost to the national development of Pakistan and improvement of people’s lives. The Chinese, Turkish and Pakistani leadership interaction in October has huge significance for peace and stability in South Asia and Middle East. Both China and Turkey have major foreign policy and business relations in Middle East. Mid-east peace is likely to be one of important points of discussions between leadership of China, Turkey and Pakistan. Prime Minister Imran Khan shared this week in New York that he is playing a role to ease tensions between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Chinese Foreign Minister in his UN address called for a platform for Middle East countries to settle their issues and outside

parties should also play a role. The China, Turkey and Pakistan interaction comes at a time when UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned global leaders on Tuesday of the looming risk of the world splitting in two, with the United States and China creating rival internets, currency, trade, financial rules “and their own zero sum geopolitical and military strategies.” Accusations by President Trump on Chinese trade handling and practices in his speech at UN General Assembly was rebutted and responded strongly by Chinese Foreign Minister next day at a speech in New York. Chinese Foreign Minister stated that China was not seeking global hegemony and is still in development phase. USA has accused China of predatory Economic in garb of its BRI of which CPEC is an important part. USA has changed its Asia Pacific command name to Indo Pacific to highlight Indian new-found importance as a strategic ally which was in full display at Howdi Modi rally at Houston. Before departure for USA, Indian External Affairs Minister responded in negative to a question about India rethinking to join China’s BRI project.

The News 29-09-2019

China, Malaysia support Pak stand on IHK in UN

NEW YORK: China and Malaysia Friday supported Pakistan’s principled stand on the Indian Held Kashmir (IHK) calling for a peaceful solution to the lingering dispute in line with the UN resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) here, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Kashmir issue was a dispute left from the past and it should be peacefully and properly resolved.

He advised against taking any action that would unilaterally change the status quo.

Wang Lu said called for solving the dispute in line with the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements and opposed any unilateral actions that would complicate the situation. He expressed the hope that tensions between Pakistan and India will ebb soon, paving way for a dialogue to solve all the contentious issues between the two nuclear neighbours. In his address, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad urged India to work with Pakistan and resolve the dispute.

He warned that ignoring the United Nations would lead to other forms of disregard for the UN and the rule of law. Mahathir said despite UN resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, the Muslim majority region had been invaded and occupied. "There may be reasons for these actions. But it is still wrong," the outspoken 94-year-old leader said. “The problem must be solved by peaceful means. India should work with Pakistan to resolve this problem. Ignoring the UN will lead to other forms of disregard for the United Nations," he said.

Reacting to the open support of China and Malaysia to Pakistan on the Kashmir dispute, the Indian government conveyed its displeasure through the diplomatic channels.

The Nation

Chinese businessmen eager to invest in KP's potential sectors

ISLAMABAD - The Chinese businessmen are showing keen interest to invest in mines, minerals, tourism and pharmaceutical sectors of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Chief Operating Officer Board of Investment KP, Hassan Daud Butt said.

On his return from China after attending investors conference, Hassan Daud told APP that he had talked to numerous Chinese investors on the sideline of the conference who were eager to exploit the potential sectors of Pakistan's economy and were willing to establish industries in Pakistan under the umbrella of mega project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In this context, he said a Chinese business delegation would soon visit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) that were being developed under CPEC industrial cooperation.

"The Chinese business delegation will also review the potential of investments in various sectors of economy in the province." Daud Butt said Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province offers huge opportunities of investment in various areas including agriculture, hydel and renewable energy, tourism, mines and minerals, and other areas.

He stressed the need to fast track the investment process by taking benefit from natural resources of the province to boost economy and to create maximum employment opportunities for youth of the province.

He said the provincial government was specifically focused on creating maximum employment opportunities.

Further he stated that government was also working on ease of doing business to ensure that the businessmen coming from China and other countries should not face any difficulty and all barriers be removed. He pointed out that the CPEC was the flagship project of Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), therefore all resources would be utilized to complete this project as soon as possible.

Express News

سی پیک؛ سکی کناری ڈیم کی تعمیر میں اہم پیش رفت

بالاکوٹ: پاک چائنہ اقتصادی راہداری کے اہم منصوبے سکی کناری ڈیم کی تعمیر میں اہم پیش رفت ہوئی ہے، دریائے کنہار کا رخ تبدیل کر کے سکی کناری ڈیم میں ڈال دیا گیا۔

وادی کاغان میں تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا جس میں صوبائی وزیر خزانہ تیمور جھگڑا، وزیر سیاحت عاطف خان، وزیر بلدیات شہرام ترکئی، مقامی ایم پی اے سید احمد حسین شاہ، چیف

انجینئریس کے ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ کے علاوہ کمشنر ہزارہ، ڈی سی مانسہرہ، ڈی پی او مانسہرہ، اے سی بالاکوٹ نے شرکت کی، تقریب کا مقصد دریائے کنہار کا رخ ڈیم کی طرف

موڑنا تھا، دریا کا رخ موڑنے کے بعد پانی کی جگہ پر ڈیم کا بند تعمیر کیا جائے گا۔

ایم پی اے سید احمد حسین شاہ نے کہا کہ ڈیم کی تعمیر دسمبر 2022 تک مکمل ہو جائے گی جس کے بعد مذکورہ ڈیم سے 870 میگا واٹ بجلی کی پیداوار شروع ہو جائے گی جس سے ملک میں توانائی کے بحران پر قابو پانے میں مدد ملے گی۔

Jang News

چین کی سالگرہ کی پروکار تقریب

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی اقوام متحدہ کی جنرل اسمبلی کے 74 ویں اجلاس سے قبل پاکستان کے بہترین دوست ملک چین کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کی تقریبات اسلام آباد میں چینی سفارت خانہ اور اس سے پہلے لاہور میں منعقد ہوئیں، جن میں پاک چین دوستی کو اقتصادیات سے لے کر ہر شعبہ میں مزید مضبوط اور پائیدار بنانے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ بین الاقوامی حالات کے پس منظر میں قدرت کا نظام دیکھیں کہ مختلف اسلامی ممالک کے مقابلہ میں چین ہر عالمی اور داخلی ایشو میں پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا رہا۔ جس میں سی پیک اور کشمیر ایشوز قابل ذکر ہیں، لاہور میں مقامی ہوٹل میں منعقدہ چین کی سالگرہ تقریب کے میزبان قونصلیٹ جنرل مسٹر لانگ اور داغلی ایشو میں پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا رہا۔ جس میں ہر شعبہ زندگی کے خاص لوگ شریک ہوئے، چین کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کی سب سے بڑی تقریب 26 ستمبر کو اسلام آباد چین کے سفارت خانہ میں منعقد ہوئی، جس کے میزبان پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر مسٹر یانگ اور ان کی اہلیہ تھیں جبکہ مہمان خصوصی صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی تھے۔ اس رنگارنگ تقریب میں مختلف وفاقی وزراء سفارت کاروں اور سینئر عسکری حکام کے علاوہ زندگی کے مختلف شعبوں کی شخصیات موجود تھیں۔ اس تقریب میں پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر نے کھل کر وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی حکومت اور ان کی اقتصادی اصلاحات کو سراہا اور واضح کیا کہ چین پاکستان کا دوست ہے، دوست تھا اور دوست رہے گا۔ اس کے جواب میں صدر پاکستان ڈاکٹر عارف علوی نے عالمانہ انداز میں پاک چین دوستی کی تاریخ اور دو طرفہ تعاون پر تفصیل سے روشنی ڈالی۔ صدر پاکستان بھی بڑے جذباتی انداز میں چین کے ساتھ دوستی پر فخر کر رہے تھے۔

اس تاریخی اور یادگار تقریب سے اگلے دن وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے اقوام متحدہ کی جنرل اسمبلی سے بڑے پراعتماد انداز میں پاکستان اور کشمیر کا کیس پیش کیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے وہاں صحیح کہا کہ دنیا انسانیت پر ظلم دیکھے اور پھر سو ارب افراد کی مارکیٹ دیکھے، ہم نے انہی کالموں میں پچھلے دنوں حکومت کو یہی تجویز کیا تھا کہ اب پوری دنیا میں سیاسی تعلقات میں معاشی مفادات کو پہلے ترجیح دی جاتی ہے اور اس لئے تحریک انصاف کی حکومت بھی پہلی ترجیح کے طور پر پاکستان کو معاشی طور پر مضبوط بنانے کے اقدامات کرے۔ اس لئے کہ مضبوط معیشت کی وجہ سے اسلامی دنیا اور غیر اسلامی دنیا پاکستان سب کی ضرورت اور توجہ کا مرکز بن سکتا ہے۔ اب بھی وزیر اعظم کو پاکستان میں اس سوچ کو فروغ دینا ہو گا۔ اس سلسلہ میں محض پبلک سیکٹر پر انحصار نہیں، نجی شعبہ پر انحصار اور اعتماد کرنا ہو گا۔

September 30, 2019

Dawn

The high cost of inexperience

The development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) over the last one year could have partially cover the growth loss and provided some element of relief in the tragic story of the economy made insufferable by galloping inflation, falling investment and rising joblessness under the current government.

Privately, officers of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) establishment in the centre and the provinces accept that things have been too quiet for too long on this front. They claim that now the ball is set in motion on the directives of the prime minister.

“It is not clear if the government’s stance on CPEC changed because the noise of economic discontent is growing louder with tycoons chiming in or diplomatic quarters exerted pressure. But now the PTI seems to be getting serious about CPEC. How well the Team PTI is able to match up to the task is too early to say, but I have doubts,” a top bureaucrat told this scribe in Islamabad early this month.

“The post-election talk of mutual collaboration with China was more of gesturing without concrete follow-up actions. It is not an accident that there is a 10 month gap between 57th and 58th CPEC project review meetings, but barely a two week gap between the 58th and the 59th. The 57th review was held in November 2018 whereas the 58th review took place on Sept 14 and the 59th on Sept 27. If Sindh was excluded from the last meeting, it exposes the political immaturity of the team,” said another CPEC expert in Islamabad.

Planning and Development Minister Khusro Bakhtiar was busy and Planning Secretary Zafar Hasan forwarded the queries about the lack of progress on SEZs towards Board of Investment Chairman Zubair Gilani. “They have exact timelines, grant charts etc and are in sync with all federal and provincial stakeholders,” Mr Hasan said in a written response.

The second phase of CPEC demands a more pronounced provincial role. But analysts fear the current team can mishandle the politically sensitive issue of provincial autonomy

Efforts to reach Mr Gilani did not succeed, but his media wing emailed a long note contesting the impression of inaction on SEZs and pinning the blame on the last two elected governments for deindustrialization and import dependence that led to a huge current account deficit. The PML-N was also targeted for not holding meetings of the SEZ Board of Approvals after 2015 although Section 5(3) of the SEZ Act 2012 obligates that “The (board) shall meet as frequently as required but not less than twice a year”. Four meetings of the board were held before 2015.

Some extracts are reproduced here: "... as soon as the PTI government ascended to power, it started focusing on export led, labour intensive, industrialisation in the country, and immediately resumed the approval process of SEZ applications after a gap of four years".

It failed to mention what took the party in power a year to hold the first board meeting in August 2019.

The board contested the charge of laggard progress: "... the (board) not only kick-started the existing CPEC SEZs by expediting the process of industrialisation and ensuring provision of utilities through the PSDP (Public Sector Development Programme), but also administered firm approval of six new SEZs while six applications are also in the pipeline."

"The SEZ Act is being revisited to provide the SEZs with concrete legal backing, enhanced incentives and to rectify any existing anomalies to make it more investor friendly. Also, the (board) is in the process of formulating a lucrative incentive package to relocate the industries from China..."

A top business leader found the PTI's claims of promoting industrialisation a cruel joke. "Automakers are shutting plants, cement, pharmaceuticals, electronics even the fast-moving consumer goods multinationals are in stress. Please tell PTI leaders and their cronies to just stop meddling in the field they know nothing about," said a tycoon who actively supported Mr Khan's party in the 2018 election.

People closely watching the economic maneuvers in Islamabad lament the avoidable costly delay in the execution of the second phase of CPEC. They expressed fear that the current team could mishandle the politically sensitive issue of the provincial autonomy when this phase of CPEC demands more pronounced role of the provinces. After the 18th Amendment, the subject of industrial and social development is vested primarily with the provincial governments.

Higher-ups in Sindh, when reached for their input on the subject, were bitter. Their resentment can't be dismissed as parochial when they shared the image of the meeting notice of the 59th CPEC project review meeting. None out of the 31 invitees belonged to Sindh.

"There is this autocratic, centrist attitude that can't be condoned. We will not let them trample on our hard-earned rights," said a defiant leader from Sindh.

Commenting on the status of the Dhabeji Special Industrial Zone, Board of Investment Sindh Chairman Azeem Uqaili said: "The Sindh government is on it. The procurement package, including the request for proposals (RFP), is at an advanced stage of finalization. The Sindh government plans to roll it out through international competitive bidding in October to solicit a developer under the public-private partnership mode. The project needs better support from the federal government for the quick provision of gas and electricity."

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Planning and Development Secretary Atif Rehman were optimistic about the future of Rashakai Special Industrial Zone. "We are targeting to hold the groundbreaking

ceremony in October, but if all goes well, it will take at least a year and a half for the zone to be ready for investors,” he told Dawn by phone from Peshawar.

Dr Amanullah, a leader of the Punjab team, said that his province is proactive on SEZs and allocated resources in the annual development plan for the Allama Iqbal Special Industrial Zone in Faisalabad. He expected it to be ready for investors by June 2020.

The second phase of CPEC, which is centered on the collaboration in industrial, agricultural and social development, coincided with the installation of the new government in Pakistan after the 2018 election. Prime Minister Imran Khan’s government was handed a ready-made set of opportunities on a silver platter.

Sadly, the maiden federal government of the new party took longer than expected to settle down and did not instantly grasp the value of the CPEC’s second phase.

In the first phase of CPEC that overlapped the five year PML-N rule, the focus was on bridging the gaps of physical infrastructure and electricity through multi-billion-dollar, big-ticket projects. With the completion of most energy and road projects and the rest nearing their completion, Pakistan managed to tide over the retarding energy and transportation infrastructure deficits in record time.

The election and installation of the new government did disrupt the rhythm of mutual collaboration, but the country can make up for the lost time if the federal government stays focused, empowers the provinces and extends requisite support to move towards an industrial revival under CPEC.

The News

Chinese envoy rules out slowdown in CPEC

ISLAMABAD: There is no slowdown of CPEC as its foundation is solid and direction is set in new stage of CPEC.

This was stated by Ambassador of China Yao Jing in his key note speech at “Friends of Silk Road” Seminar organised by Pakistan-China Institute, says a press release on Sunday.

Federal Minister for Planning Development and Reform Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar was the guest of honour. Chairman Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and Chairman Pakistan China Institute, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed presided over the seminar which was packed to capacity with a diverse and distinguished gathering including scholars, students, intellectuals, former diplomats, parliamentarians, business leaders, lawyers, civil society and representatives of Chinese companies.

Ambassador Yao Jing said that in this new stage of CPEC, the Chinese government is working very closely with Pakistan government and has identified three key areas to promote CPEC. These include Special Economic Zones with focus on Rashakai and preference will be given to private sector, agriculture and a special agricultural expo will be organised later in October in

Islamabad and Lahore, with a focus on fisheries. The third area is social sector development where 27 projects in six areas are being fast tracked, courtesy the grant of \$1 billion by the Chinese government. The Chinese ambassador emphasised that “CPEC is running according to our satisfaction and there is no slowdown in CPEC”.

Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar announced that government has decided to go ahead with ML-1 mega project for Pakistan Railways which will lead to dualisation and upgradation of railway tracks from Peshawar to Karachi, the biggest modernization of Pakistan Railways since independence. He also said that CPEC is also above any political divide and there is national consensus on CPEC and eventually 80% of electricity will be generated by CPEC energy projects.

He also announced that legal framework of Gwadar Free Trade Zone is ready. Pakistan-China Business Council is being established and, to top it all, an apex body, CPEC Authority, is being established “to push CPEC forward”.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed in his introductory speech said that CPEC is a success story because of the strong and unshakeable framework of Pakistan-China relations. Recounting the benefits of CPEC, Mushahid Hussain said that CPEC has given a new hope and confidence to the people of Pakistan and improved the image of Pakistan as investment friendly destination, revived dead projects like Gwadar port and Thar Coal Project, strengthened the Federation through physical connectivity, given Pakistan strategic space both in regional and world politics and provided employment to 70,000 Pakistanis plus 20,000 new scholarships for Pakistani students are in offing for the next three years. He thanked China for supporting Kashmir at United Nations and he said, Pakistan too supports China fully on the issue of Hong Kong and rejects foreign interference as Hong Kong is an internal matter of China, pertaining to its sovereignty and territorial integrity. He said the CPEC, like Kashmir and the nuclear programme, enjoys national consensus above party lines. Presentations were made by Hassan Daud, Chief Executive Officer, Board of Investment KPK, Ms. Farheena Mazhar, Executive Director General, Board of Investment, Lv Yan, Deputy General Manager China Road and Bridge Construction Company (CRBC), Masood Khalid, former ambassador to China and a girl student from Faqeer School, Gwadar also gave presentation on China’s