



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

October 1-15, 2019

A pilot project of PICS

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October 01, 2019

Daily Times

Pak-China one nation, have brotherly relations: Yao Jing

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing has said that Pakistan and China are one nation as “we not only share the physical boundaries but also have brotherly relations”.

He was speaking during his visit to Peak Montessori and High School Rawalpindi on Tuesday where a ceremony was organised in connection with the 70th National Day of China. The students presented beautiful Cultural performances in the Honor of China’s Ambassador and also cut a cake. Ambassador Yao Jing said that we are having many trade projects contributing in the mutual development of Pakistan and China.

He expressed the importance of CPEC by claiming that around 20,000 students can go to China for higher studies annually. He focused on the importance of education and he said that students must pay attention to their studies, as they are the bright future of not only the Pakistan, but also the world.

Principal Muhammad Ibraheem said that the Chinese government is bearing all kind of expenses of almost 216 Ex- Chinese students, studying at Peak Montessori and High School. He talked about importance of Chinese language and said that his school is teaching Chinese language as well.

They both believed that relationship of Pakistan and China will become stronger in future. At the end Principal Muhammad Ibraheem paid his gratitude to the ambassador for visiting the school.

Abdul Rahim Khan Chairman Ex-Chinese Association, President Nasir Khan and Senior Vice President Ehsan Qadir Pasha also thanked the Ambassador for his efforts for Ex-Chinese Community.

Dawn

Senate panel assails govt for delay in CPEC western projects

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Communications noted on Monday that a ‘callous’ attitude adopted by the government was giving an impression that it was shelving western corridor projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The committee meeting held at the Parliament House discussed various development projects including progress on Yarik-Hakla 292.50 kilometre long section that was facing delay because of financial constraints.

Senator Ahmed Khan criticized the finance ministry and the planning division for what he called their mismanaged approach. “The problem is that we are leaving no stone unturned to prove that the western corridor of the CPEC has been shelved,” Senator Khan said.

He added: “This is not giving a good impression to anyone, especially to the people of Balochistan.” Officials of National Highways Authority complain of inadequate fund allocation. He suggested ways to continue the work at the small portion of the CPEC’s western route.

“Fund has been released so far and the second quarter of the financial year is starting from October and, therefore, the major allocation is likely to be released in the quarter starting from January 2020; when do we expect the project to be completed,” Senator Khan asked. The committee was informed by National Highways Authority (NHA) officials that the remaining work on the projects needed Rs51 billion for completion, but only Rs11bn had been allocated in the development budget of the current fiscal year. The incomplete projects included bridges which were high-cost segments of the project.

The chairman of the committee, Senator Hidayatullah, inquired about the point of view of the finance ministry and the planning division over delays in the release of funds for the projects.

It was decided that officials of the finance ministry and the planning division would be called in the next meeting to ascertain their position on the issue. The committee was given a detailed briefing on the western and eastern routes of the CPEC.

NHA chairman retired captain Sikander Qayyum informed the committee that more than 88 per cent work was in progress at 118.05 kilometer long Havellian-Thahkot sections, while its expressway section including Havellian-Mansehra was 95.94pc complete. He said the expressway section would be opened for traffic by the mid of October.

Work at the Class-II highway section of Mansehra-Thahkot was also under progress, he added. The committee was informed that a three-kilometer section of the link road was to be completed by the provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The meeting was attended by Senators Behramand Tangi, Fida Mohammad, Maula Bakhsh Chandio, Ateeq Shaikh, retired Lt. Gen Salahuddin Tirmzi, Dr Jehanzeb Jamaldini, Liaquat Taraqai, Yousuf Badini, Dr Ashok Kumar, Ahmed Khan and Mr Gianchand.

China at 70

THE rise and transformation of China over the last seven decades — from an ideological state to an economic powerhouse — has been both complex and impressive. It has indeed taken much blood and toil, and the journey to transform an authoritarian, largely isolated state into one of the world’s major powers has not always been a smooth one.

Today as Beijing observes the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the People’s Republic. Though its achievements should be celebrated, there should also be a critical review to see what can be improved internally to create greater social harmony and freedom, paired with economic prosperity.

The People's Republic was born in the aftermath of the Second World War, when the first shots of the Cold War were being fired. Led by Mao Zedong, the socialist revolutionaries defeated the nationalists and laid the groundwork for modern China. Mao, along with being the founding father of modern China, was a giant on the world stage, though his era was far from harmonious as the ravages of the Cultural Revolution showed.

This was an era of ideological zeal, when the socialist and capitalist blocs were locked in a global battle for influence. However, the modern financial strength of the PRC — the country is today the world's second biggest economy — is largely the handiwork of Deng Xiaoping, who oversaw great changes in the economic structure of his country and promoted the development of 'socialism with Chinese characteristics'.

Today, China is socialist in all but name, though there has been a renewed focus by the state on Marxism under the helms man ship of Xi Jinping. The current Chinese president has also been pushing economic growth, the Belt and Road Initiative being his signature project. Under the BRI, China is seeking to link continents in a web of trade and commerce, with Pakistan also benefiting in the shape of CPEC.

While the PRC's journey has been a success story, especially where economic growth and military strength are concerned, there are legitimate concerns about the state of human rights within China. For example, numerous foreign media outlets have highlighted the situation in Xinjiang, particularly with respect to the Muslim Uighur ethnic group. There have been claims that the Turkic Uighurs is being forced by Beijing to abandon their religious and cultural practices, though the state denies this. The unrest in Hong Kong also refuses to die down, as protesters have been taking to the streets in the former British colony for several months now.

It is easy to brush aside these criticisms, but if China is to truly reap the harvest of its economic achievements, there must be internal harmony, with all nationalities given their due rights under the law, and greater freedoms for the Chinese people. Looking ahead, these would be worthy goals for leaders of the PRC to pursue.

The Express Tribune

Chinese firm renews intention to buy K-Electric

KARACHI: China's state-owned Shanghai Electric Power Company Limited on Monday renewed the intention for the fifth time in past three years to acquire a majority stake in K-Electric from the financial crisis hit Abraaj Group.

The submission of new public announcement for the acquisition of shareholding by Shanghai Electric has once again given it a nine month extension for meeting all regulatory requirements.

Shanghai Electric had agreed with Dubai based Abraaj Group on acquiring a majority stake in K-Electric for \$1.77 billion in October 2016. However, it has now become uncertain whether the business deal will still be executed at the agreed price or will be renegotiated.

K-Electric has received a fresh public announcement of intention from Shanghai Electric Power Company to acquire up to 66.04% voting shares in K-Electric Limited,” K-Electric Chief People Officer and Company Secretary Muhammad Rizwan Dalia said in a notification to the PSX on Monday.

K-Electric’s share price dropped 2.2%, or Rs0.08, to Rs3.55 with trading in 55.56 million shares at the PSX.

A high official of K-Electric told The Express Tribune in June that the Chinese firm was expected to acquire the power producer sometime in September or October 2019 as the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) had revised the power tariff upwards for end consumers up to Rs3.63 per unit.

“This (revised tariff) is a major breakthrough in the execution of the business deal,” he remarked.

Nawaiwaqt

چائنہ ریڈ کر اس کامیر پور زلزلہ متاثرین کیلئے ایک لاکھ ڈالر کا امدادی چیک

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نمائندہ) چینی سفارتخانہ کی منسٹر قونسلر پینگ چینگزو ہو اور ڈائریکٹر پولیٹیکل اینڈ پریس سیکشن باؤزونگ نے گزشتہ روز ہلال احمر کا دورہ کیا۔ انہوں نے چائنہ ریڈ کر اس کی جانب سے متاثرین زلزلہ کی امداد کیلئے ایک لاکھ ڈالر کا امدادی چیک سیکرٹری جنرل ہلال احمر جناب خالد بن مجید کے حوالے کیا۔ اس موقع پر ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر فنانس راشد گل بھی موجود تھے۔ خالد بن مجید کا کہنا تھا کہ چین اور پاکستان کا تعاون مثالی ہے۔ دونوں ممالک اور دونوں ممالک کے انسانی خدمت کے ادارے باہمی تعاون اور اشتراک کو ہمیشہ اولیت دیتے ہیں۔ خالد بن مجید نے امدادی چیک دینے پر چائنہ ریڈ کر اس کا شاندار الفاظ میں خیر مقدم کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چائنہ ریڈ کر اس اور ہلال احمر کا باہمی تعاون پوری دنیا کے موومنٹ پارٹنرز کیلئے قابل رشک ہے۔

October 02, 2019

Daily Times

China at 70 (Part-II)

Apart from the other important steps during the reform periods, one of the innovative ways were establishment of the Special Economic Zones in different parts of the country keeping in view the strengths of the region in terms of agriculture or industrial outputs. These zones were the economic laboratories where a controlled environment was provided to conduct the economic progressive experiments might be conducted without fear of losing. As a result of these experiments and bold decision making, the SEZs across China became the drivers of the economic growth creating unprecedented development. Small towns, with bare minimum contributions towards growth potential of the country, became leading global contributors. This pragmatic solution worked. The entire development, reform and opening period was designed keeping in view the indigenous requirements and models intact rather than borrowing foreign design without keeping in view the country’s own requirements. One of the most important

events of the new millennium was the China entry into the World Trade Organization which has been considered as most transformative events as those of the 9/11 incidents in 2001. This has entry of China in WTO had far reaching implications for the world financial, political and economic ecosystem The leadership from Deng Zioping till president Xi Jinping has stood with one value i.e. to take the country to the new heights of glory with its unique socialism with Chinese Characteristics.

The glorious path multiplied with the new era under President Xi Jinping's leadership at the beginning of the 2012. In 2013, President Xi Jinping announced in Kazakhstan about the One Belt and One Road later renamed Belt and Road Initiative a dream to connect the world through road and construction of largest communication networks with projects. BRI has now turned itself into China's global strategy and influence through economic and soft diplomacy with having far reaching implications on international relations. President Xi made "dare to dream, work assiduously to fulfill the dreams and contribute to the revitalization of the nation" is the new Chinese motto. The idea for this is to call the nation to work passionately towards the development of not only his country but also global stability and development.

The higher than Himalaya and sweeter than honey relationship has took a beautiful and outstanding turn when China Pakistan Economic Corridor was announced as important benchmark of the larger Belt and Road Initiative. Currently CPEC has entered its next phase of industrial development and establishment of Special Economic Zones is on the way to completion

This year as well Pakistan and China are also celebrating the year of Friendship year and Sister Cities. The higher than Himalaya and sweeter than honey relationship has took a beautiful and outstanding turn when China Pakistan Economic Corridor was announced as important benchmark of the larger Belt and Road Initiative. Currently CPEC has entered its next phase of industrial development and establishment of Special Economic Zones is on the way to completion.

World is still ignorant about China's peaceful development ambitions in the region and beyond. Haters and nay Sayers will continue to do so but as they say " height by great men reached and kept, is not attained by sudden flight, for they while their companion slept, were toiling upward in the night", China will continue to rise and is rising peacefully. China has a surprising and outstanding trends and position at the eve of the 70th anniversary at the global stage by achieving the number 1 status in various categories, according to reliable and authentic global data, for instance China is first in GDP growth, contribution towards global GDP growth, steel, cement, aluminium production, exports, manufacturing in value added goods, conventional cars, hi-tech industry, agriculture products, foreign exchange reserves, as a trade partner, holder of US debt, middle class population in the country, poverty alleviation, online commerce and retail, international tourism spending, e-commerce, smart phones manufacturing and consumption, number of billionaires, internet users and many other important landmark global economic, social and stability trends. At 70, with such amazing numbers and world standing, China has

made example to the world and other developing countries like Pakistan that with the hard work, dedication, honesty and exemplary leadership, destiny of prosperity and development is possible to achieve.

Pakistan Observer

China and Pakistan: The Unique All-weather and All-Dimensional Strategic Cooperative Partners

This year 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). In the past seven decades, the world has witnessed tremendous progress in China's economic and social development and it has become the second largest economy in the world since 2010, with its total GDP of 13.6 trillion US dollar last year, approximately one-sixth of the entire global GDP. Over the same period, significant achievements have also been made in China's diplomatic work with its independent foreign policy and the path of peaceful development and now China's friends and partners are all over the world, especially Pakistan, China's 'iron brother.'

Both China and Pakistan are countries with ancient civilizations and their traditional friendship can be traced back 2000 years ago. Shortly after the PR's foundation, Pakistan was among the first countries to recognize it and established diplomatic relations with China in 1951. Since then, thanks to the joint efforts by both governments and peoples, the two countries have become the unique all weather and all dimensional strategic cooperative partners in the contemporary international community. The so called 'all weather' refers to that China and Pakistan have always understood, sympathized, trusted, helped and supported each other on issues concerning their respective core interests, no matter how changing and complicated the international situation is, withstanding the test of time and history. With regard to the 'all dimensional', it means close and comprehensive cooperation exists between the governments, political parties and all other sectors of the community. Therefore, China-Pakistan relations and their cooperation has become the fine model of friendly coexistence between the two countries with different social systems and cultural backgrounds.

Since entering the new century, China-Pakistan ties have entered a new development stage, with a number of important cooperative agreements signed by the two countries, including the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good Neighborly Relations in 2005 and China- Pakistan Free Trade Agreement in 2006 and 2009. Most important of all, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, during his first visit to Pakistan in May 2013 after assuming office, initiated the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and then the two sides signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for the Long-Term Plan on CPEC. Later, President Xi Jinping respectively put forward the initiative of jointly building the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road and described the CPEC as 'a major project of the Belt and Road initiative (BRI)'. The construction of CPEC, linking Kashgar in China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region and Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan region, is a milestone in the

development of China-Pakistan relations. It plays an important role in Pakistan's economic and social development and is transforming Pakistan into a geo-economic hub.

China and Pakistan are making more efforts to advance the strategic cooperation in regional and international affairs.

Meanwhile, located at a juncture where the Belt and Road meet, it also plays the irreplaceable key roles in the construction of BRI, making it essential to the latter's success. Moreover, by becoming a flagship project of the BRI and a leading model of interregional connectivity, CPEC is destined to forward the construction of BRI. Therefore, great importance has been attached to the position and roles of the Corridor in building BRI. In fact, remarkable progress has been made in building CPEC. Over 20 early harvest projects, involved in the Gwadar Port, energy, industrial and transportation infrastructure, started to construct, while nearly half of which have been completed during the past few years. After 5 years' construction, CPEC is entering a new stage of enrichment and extension with a focus on cooperative projects such as livelihood, industrial gardens, education, science and technology, culture, people-to-people exchanges, poverty relief, anti-corruption and so on, in accordance with Pakistan's economic and social development priorities and the needs of the public. However, the world today is facing profound changes of a kind unseen in a century. There are some unstable and uncertain factors in the international situations, such as setbacks in economic globalization, challenges to multilateralism, shocks in the international financial market, the US economic and trade frictions with a large number of countries, and the latest escalation of tension in Kashmir. Therefore, China and Pakistan are making more efforts to advance the strategic cooperation in regional and international affairs, such as maintaining sound cooperation on Afghanistan related issues. No matter how international and regional situations change, Pakistan continues to support China's position on Taiwan, Tibet and other issues, while China supports Pakistan in safeguarding its legitimate rights and interests, combating terrorists and extremist forces, and is playing a constructive role in international and regional affairs. China stands for a proper and peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue, based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreement and with no unilateral actions.

In a word, China-Pakistan traditional friendship, as described by the Pakistani people, is higher than the mountains, deeper than the sea, and sweeter than honey. Now, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC, a series of celebratory activities organized by China and Pakistan will inject new vigor and vitality into their traditional friendship and further promote their strategic coordination and practical cooperation. Looking to the future, China, committed to the construction of a new type of international relations and the community of shared future for mankind, will work together with Pakistan to build the China-Pakistan community of common destiny first.

In general, deeply rooted in the hearts of the two people and withstanding the test of time and changes in the international arena, China-Pakistan strategic cooperative partnership has a broad, deep and solid foundation, and their bilateral ties with vast potential for greater development

have grown from strength to strength, which will deepen with the years and continue from generation to generation.

GOING GLOBAL Management of risk from a global perspective ‘One Belt One Road’

1. Introduction

If I had an option to define rape as a willing, desirable and welcome indulgence I would refer to it as the economic order of the day that the world upholds!

If we are not here to address global concerns that inflict the global population such that it can make and manage money and opportunity equitably then what the hell are we doing here!

A. The economic history of the world is a tale of usurpation of the basic factors of production. Land, Labor, Capital and Enterprise that are all tied down to a biased World Order that governs the freedom of managing the Natural Resources of the planet equitably for the Human Resource that exists on it, and owns it.

B. This article summarizes the features I hope to address:

1. The ideal model for interfacing Natural Resources with and for the benefit of the Human Resource on the planet;
2. The ‘Counter Balance Mechanism’ to the inequity in the Economic Order of the World;
3. The definition, control and regulation of money as a medium of exchange, once tied to the volume of labor and assetization of Natural Resources; and
4. Viewing from the above periscope, the assumption of risk, as it ought to be, for the near largest economy of the world – making ‘Going Global’ perhaps elusively contained.

II. First. Taking lessons from history and viewing the global population of 7.5 Billion plus; the disparity is in the basic standards of sustenance; and the assuming of risk by standards of assessment that nail revenue streams (based on a volatile printed paper currency) in a captive direction like a monopoly, for the benefit of one beneficiary, warrants re-visiting the economic world order for all its features. From Empires to Nation States was a transition to only meet ‘administrative objectives’. The monetary controls were never decentralized or made autonomous. Global legislation backed by military supremacy retains that order to date. Land, Labor, Capital and Enterprise are all subject to a set of Rules determined by ‘debt’ in perpetuity.

This is an order where parity between nations for all aspects of material justice is denied with a disparity pegged to respective currencies. The reserve currencies model for the world is, by design that retains forcefully colonialism for the benefit of some chosen few and not others. The bottom line ironically remains the same, where a primitive order of force and military power determine the laws and their applicability all over the world. Going Global warrants greater civility, equity, material justice and human welfare rights equally applicable across the board.

This statement is for the benefit of the Government of China more so than any other country because they are the biggest producers and innovators of raw material on the planet.

III. Next, in a scenario like this, 'fiscal decentralization' empowering populations to meet their sustenance levels, in very small economic constituencies, is perhaps the remedial way to adopt. (A sample of this is available in the thesis presented by me, available on www.liverostrum.com as a Reforms Package for Pakistan).

I speak here of Municipal Companies managing populations quoted on the stock exchanges and the rest of the land in Nation States divided for corporate ownership only, for activities like industrial production, agriculture, mining and tourism.

IV. The Counter Balance Mechanism essentially evolve around the management of money. Now, this is not a commodity as is manifest. It is a measure of labor. By the most judicious yard stick the volume, value and controls all rest on the definition of what the Medium of Exchange ought to be, meeting with the demands of material justice and global equity. In a transition, which is a given, for the economic managers changing hands, the re-definition of money is at the crux of change as all economic ailments and woes that inflict the globe stem from the present order. I dwell on this subject here as it is at the root of risk assessment and consequently the crying need of our times to prompt the Peoples Republic of China to introduce fresh thought into a decadent economic order of subservience. Political Risks and others like terrorism and those that stem from abject poverty are concerns that need a strong leadership and deliberate well intended political will. We need to climb out of stagnation and like civilization let the monetary order also evolve. The medium of exchange between Nation States has to be based on something tangible like gold in place of paper currencies.

V. I am encouraged here to walk with you through some statistics that matter to the underwriting world so that you can assess for yourselves where we are located and where we need to go and how: We will assume the population of the world at 7.4 billion divided over 198 countries/territories owning assets worth zero (as value is relative) insured at 4.7 trillion USD in premium (2014) and then reinsured. The reinsurance market is however receding for monetary size from 158 billion USD (2013) to 156 billion USD (2014). The known underwriters are 8,600 and final carriers or markets are 200. These players are governed by an un-written law of the industry where they need to get rated and regulated by a yardstick exclusive to a world (set of players) that define the rules of the game inducing the flow of money to themselves. This is economic apartheid, otherwise argued as the earthworm phenomenon where the head moves forward and the body catches on. This is the challenge that needs to be addressed in meeting a desire to Going Global. I must add here that CIRC, Dagong, China Chengxin, Sinosure and Jiangtai all in their individual right and collectively will need to address this. Tangible Securities, Rating Standards and decentralized economic units all contained within Nation States is the basic template. The cross-border investments are about the only exposures that warrant cross-border risk coverage. I may be shooting my foot in suggesting this and for China but friends the order that rules the industry globally is an unacceptable heist.

‘One Belt One Road’ as it has unfolded and moving forward comes with a distinction of developing the global infrastructure and this is a radical departure from the captive hold over ‘client states’ as is. This is a paradigm shift from neo colonialism to live-and-let-live, based on each-to-his-own based on labor input. Pakistan is no exception to the quality of risk exposures as would be in any territory or region that is inflicted with ‘debt’ and acquired poverty. It is in the interest of the world to substitute armaments as a commodity of trade to a global legislation, seeking compulsively a common, minimum level of sustenance for all populations within Nation States. This legislation must address drinking water, education and health care at the least. We as bastion of human welfare, we the underwriters, through the said legislation will find a yardstick of securitization for man-made perils and disasters that stem from terrorism, war and war based economies that thrive on such economic models for their global validity. This is our obligation and should be our collective goal.

I wish the People’s Republic of China greater prosperity on this National Day Celebration with a hope that they will make the world a better place to live.

BRI will continue to drive global economy

The China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will continue to be key economic driver with the expected global economic slowdown, Malaysian International Trade and Industry Deputy Minister Ong Kian Ming said.

Speaking at the World Bank’s launch of a report on BRI in Malaysia, Ong explained the ongoing U.S.-China trade tensions would move China to seek new markets.

“This could have positive consequences from a global trade and investment standpoint, especially with the predicted slowdown in the global economy. China will want to seek new markets, new economic opportunities and new supply chains for its companies,” he said. Ong also said there is a need for countries participating in the BRI to gain a greater understanding of the initiative and to identify and benefit from the opportunities presented by it as it goes beyond just the scope of infrastructure development.

“The common understanding BRI projects have to do with the infrastructure sector – roads, rails, ports and energy. But these projects also pave the way for other investments from Chinese companies, for example state owned-enterprises in the manufacturing sector as well as privately owned-enterprises in the services and construction sector, just to give a few examples,” he said. World Bank Group (WBG) representative to Malaysia and country manager Dr Firas Raad said the BRI and its associated economic corridors, have the potential to substantially boost trade, increase foreign investment, and improve living conditions for citizens in participating countries.—APP

CPEC sign of Pak-China friendship: PM Optimistic of further boosting of bilateral ties in upcoming China visit

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said his upcoming visit to China and the talks with its leadership would prove to be a milestone in further promoting and strengthening bilateral relations.

The prime minister stated this while chairing a high-level meeting to review the progress on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), at the PM Office.

Expressing firm commitment to ensure timely completion of CPEC related projects, he said removing impediments in this regard was the priority of his government. Imran Khan termed the CPEC a manifestation of Pakistan-China friendship and added that the mega project would usher in a new chapter of development in Pakistan. Minister for Science and Technology Chaudhry Fawad said there exist an immense potential in cooperation with China in fields including digital payment, battery storage research, manufacturing of agricultural tools, drone technology, solar cell manufacturing and research on flora and fauna. Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhtiar briefed the meeting about the ongoing CPEC projects and the measures to fast-track their implementation. Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmad briefed the meeting about the ML-1 project and its benefits for the country.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Power Umer Ayub Khan, Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Zaidi, Commerce Adviser Abdul Razak Dawood, Special Assistant on Petroleum Nadeem Babar, Chairman Board of Investment Zubair Gilani and senior officials.

The Nation

China desires to expand CPEC scope

BEIJING - China wishes to expand the scope of CPEC to support the government in its efforts, improving the living conditions of their people.

Through mutual consultation, China will actively help Pakistan carrying out projects in the field of people's livelihood, said Cheng Xizhong, a visiting professor of Southwest University of Political Science and Law.

According to Xizhong, the construction of the CPEC is progressing smoothly. 22 projects with a total investment of dollar 19 billion in the first phase have been completed or are close to completion. This has alleviated Pakistan's energy shortage and partially built transportation infrastructure, thus laying a good foundation for Pakistan's future comprehensive social-economic development.

Now, the CPEC construction has entered the second stage, focusing on industrial cooperation, agricultural cooperation, Gwadar Port construction and socio economic development, of which 27 new projects will be launched within this year. Cheng Xizhong who is also special commentator of China Economic Net, pointed out that Prime Minister Imran Khan has recently acknowledged that China has provided Pakistan with tremendous opportunities for development.

China and Pakistan are all weather strategic partners. They have always trusted, understood and supported each other. The friendship between the two countries is unbreakable.

October 03, 2019

Daily Times

Exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and Pakistan's economic prospects

The sea covers 71 per cent of the earth's surface. Ex-Soviet Navy, Admiral Gorshkov, who is considered the architect of their modern Navy said, "Our seas, oceans and inland waterways are of huge importance in terms of resources, the environment and conservation, trade and industry, marine sciences and leisure activity."

The oceans have vast resources, but their potential has not yet been exploited to the full extent. The marine study is being given a lot of importance by the maritime nations. The present emphasis is on the use of desalination plants to get fresh water, exploration of minerals under the sea like oil, gas, undersea mining of sulphur and dredging for manganese nodules, marine life and use of plankton and krill as sources of protein. New methods of fishing, using acoustic devices such as sonars, are being used, especially in deeper waters.

To harness the marine resources, technology is being modernized rapidly.

A nation's internal waters cover all water and waterways such as rivers and canals, and sometimes the water within small bays on the landward side of the baseline from which a nation's territorial waters are defined. According to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UN CLOS), 1982, a coastal nation is free to set laws, regulate any use, and use any resource. Foreign vessels have no right of passage within internal waters, and this lack of right to innocent passage is the key difference between internal waters and territorial waters. The territorial waters, as defined by the UN CLOS of 1982, are a belt of coastal waters extending at the most, 12 Nautical Miles (NM) or 22.2 km from the baseline of a coastal state. An Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is a concept adopted at the third UN CLOS of 1982, whereby a coastal state assumes jurisdiction over the exploration and exploitation of marine resources in its adjacent section of the continental shelf, taken to be a band extending 200 nautical miles (370 km). It includes conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters superjacent to the seabed and the seabed and its subsoil, and about other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds. However, naval activities are allowed in the EEZ by the other nations.

Pakistan is blessed with approximately 990 km-long coast, starting from Sir Creek in the South East (the disputed area not yet demarcated with India) up to Jiwani in the west with the border of Iran. The EEZ extends up to 200 NM (370 km) from the baseline with a total area of 240,000 square km, which has been available to Pakistan since 1982. Article 76 of the UN CLOS allows coastal states to extend their continental shelf beyond 200NM. The project to extend Pakistan's

continental shelf was started jointly in 2005 by Pakistan Navy (PN) and National Institute of Oceanography (NIO).

According to PN press release issued in July 2018, after gigantic efforts, the UN Commission on Limits of Continental Shelf (UN CLCS) accepted Pakistan's claim for the extension of its continental shelf from 200 to 350NM. In this way, additional 50,000 square km area (total 290,000 square km) is available to Pakistan to explore and utilize for economic activities. Pakistan has not been able to utilize this vast area except for carrying out fishing and as a means of transportation. Oil and gas exploration has been attempted but unfortunately without success. The ocean resources are enormous, which are found on the sea bed. Nodules are typically the size and shape of potatoes. Another important item available is phosphorite nodules, mostly found on the continental shelf, in comparatively shallow waters. These are marine deposits of phosphorous compounds. Phosphorite is an important fertilizer for agriculture use. These are irregular in shape and found on the sea bed, varying from small pebbles to slabs up to one meter in length. Moreover, sand and gravels are also accessible from the sea bed in abundance. These can be extracted by normal dredging process, which is usually used for earth filling for the extension of seashores and as a building material. These are being utilized to build artificial islands for various purposes. Pakistan needs to exploit the huge sea area at its disposal. Initially, the EEZ is required to be surveyed for the items already mentioned. Later, suitable technologies are to be employed to extract minerals or other items discovered. New technological developments in maritime survey sector are in the field of sensing and surveying in the maritime environments, to locate, map and assess the extent of marine resources. Surveying and sensing techniques are concerned with location while others are required for mapping of the sea bed topography. Another aspect of the conversion of seawater to potable water is being used by most of the countries.

The Express Tribune

China gifts equipment to Gwadar fishermen

QUETTA: Realizing the economic hardship of Gwadar's fishermen, the Karachi Consulate General of the People's Republic of China, on behalf of the Chinese people and government, has gifted goods worth 200,000 US dollars including boat power engines, solar handy lights, a small home solar system, fishing nets etc. It has also said that it hoped the gifts would help the local population gain some relief from their day-to-day difficulties. The goods are expected to support a substantial number of fishermen. The Chinese government has also pledged further aid for Balochistan, including for the Gwadar Port City, under the socio-economic development phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which addresses the issues that people are facing.

The People's Republic of China's Karachi Consul General Wang Yu presented the goods at a simple ceremony in Karachi to Gwadar Fishermen Alliance Chairman Khudadad Wajo and fishermen's representatives. Also present on the occasion were Balochistan Economic Forum

President Sardar Shoukat Popalzai and prominent city leader and former Gwadar Nazim Baboo Gulab.

In his remarks, the Consul General said the Pakistan-China relationship could best be described as promising, flourishing and a success story, adding that, over the years, the unique friendship had evolved into a strong strategic partnership featuring robust economic cooperation and increasing people to people contacts.

He termed Pakistan-China strategic ties as being on an upward trajectory, with an increased thrust on economic interaction, after CPEC's initiation. He further said that CPEC would also address the economic backwardness of the province of Balochistan, thus enabling the province's people to progress economically and enjoy the fruits of development.

The province's natural resources would also be explored which would further enhance the strategic significance of Balochistan, adding that CPEC would also provide job opportunities for Balochistan's youth and equip them with modern innovative skills.

The Nation

PM reaffirms timely completion of CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan has reaffirmed the commitment for timely completion of CPEC related projects. Presiding over a meeting here on Wednesday to review progress on the corridor projects and cooperation with China in other sectors of the economy, the prime minister said the CPEC was manifestation of Pakistan-China friendship. The Prime Minister expressed the confidence that his upcoming visit to China and talks with the Chinese leadership would prove to be vital to further promote and strengthen relations between the two countries. On the occasion Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhtiar briefed the meeting about the ongoing CPEC projects and the measures being taken to fast track of implementation. Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmad briefed the meeting about the ML-1 project and its benefits for the country.

October 04, 2019

The News

Germany, China keen to invest in Punjab

LAHORE: Punjab Transport Minister Jahanzaib Khan Khichi has said that benefits will be taken from international experiences for the development of transport sector in Punjab.

Germany, Czechoslovakia and China have shown interest to invest in transport sector, said the minister on Thursday while chairing a meeting held to review progress on purchase of new buses for providing comfortable and environment-friendly transport facilities to people of the provincial metropolis.

The meeting was informed that the delegations of Germany, Czechoslovakia and China would soon visit Punjab. The Lahore Transport Company presented various recommendations for solution to the traffic problems and procurement of new buses.

LTC CEO Marriyam Khawar gave briefing about the strategy of urban routes in Lahore. Matters regarding rapid increase in population and related traffic problems in Lahore were discussed. Transport Secretary Asad-ur-Rahman Gillani, LTC CEO Marriyam Khawar and officers from other departments concerned were also present.

The Nation

Reviving CPEC

The Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan will be in China on 7-8 October. The main agenda of Khan's visit will be discussing China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with the Chinese authorities. Since Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) has come to power, all the enthusiasm surrounding CPEC has died down. Things were going at a fast pace until the previous government of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) was overseeing the project. However, the PTI government, facing an economic crisis as soon as it came to power, decided to slow down the economy to get out of the financial crunch. But is it correct to say that it was only natural that the government's decision of slowing down the economy would have an impact on the pace of CPEC projects?

Ideally, the government should not have allowed the CPEC projects to suffer from its reforms and decisions that it made to boost up its economy. The government should have thought of a financial arrangement that could ensure carrying of the CPEC projects. If one can ask, then it is pertinent to ask what will change now in the government's policies to revive the stalled projects of the economic corridor? All local news reports inform one that the government is holding one meeting after another on gauging the progress of the commercial corridor ventures. But the outcome of all such meetings is nothing but vows of "accelerating work on the stalled projects."

China considers CPEC the flagship project of its ambitious One Road One Belt (OBOR) mega project. Many have thought of the flagship project as a game-changer for the region. Both China and Pakistan believe that the project is a win-win endeavor not only for Beijing and Islamabad but also for the whole region. PM Khan will be in China to persuade the Chinese authorities regarding Pakistan's commitment to do all that is necessary to complete the CPEC projects. However, the real challenge before the PM will be to remove the bottlenecks that are causing delays in CPEC projects, as he has conceded himself.

That said, PM Khan must reissue directions to all concerned with the economic corridor to live up to Chinese expectations. Needless to say that timely completion of CPEC is a practical test for the incumbent government that claims that it will attract foreign investments by focusing on "ease of doing business". So far, the government has failed in bringing private Chinese investment leave alone thinking of foreign direct investment from other countries.

October 05, 2019

Daily Times

CPEC's Narrative conundrum

Public discourse is maneuvered by the powerful interest groups in the nation states therefore lobbyists find themselves in a heaven erecting their own narratives. The Public opinion is a construction: of media and of everyday discourse influenced by media and the governments .It is therefore acknowledged and treated as though it were an objective reality to be discovered by taking account of assumed beliefs and expressed beliefs about public policy.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has lately become the object of nefarious designs at the helm of those furnishing narratives in the country. CPEC is the flagship project of China's gigantic strategic project of OBOR (One Belt One Road) offering development and growth opportunities for both countries on multiple grounds. The flagship project promises peace, prosperity and development not only for the two neighboring countries alone but for the region as a whole. Being labeled as a harbinger of prosperity and a fate changer for the region, it has turned into an exorbitantly germane tool for domestic and foreign policy of both Pakistan and China- predicting a win-win solution for both states.

Anti-CPEC propaganda has become an advertent ambition of both the mainstream agenda driving forces and those meddling into the discourse in the country. Ever since the inauguration of the project it has been labeled as neo-imperialist design and another East India by many sections of the media creating an anti-CPEC narrative in the minds of the Pakistani populace. The agenda making machines convincingly projected China as an imperialist power bent on exploiting "our natural resources for the gargantuan appetite of economic growth", the fact is that China is blessed with huge deposits of natural resources, including some rare earth elements.

The major element of discourse on CPEC became the word of mouth for the populace was that the Chinese labour and workers (mainly Chinese prisoners) will replace Pakistani workers rendering them jobless, whereas the fact is there is more than plenty of work in China and 10,000 Chinese nationals living in several camps will return to their native country as soon as the CPEC projects are completed.

Creating doubts and sowing fear and misconceptions, a lot of traction has already been gained by the cynics of CPEC reporting factually incorrect information. Albeit the government has been trying to debunk misconceptions, it has fallen woefully short. In recent past International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff report following the approval of a three-year \$6bn bailout programme, the IMF mentions the repayment of \$14.68bn due for \$21.8bn bilateral and commercial loans that Pakistan owes to China. This is almost 24pc of the country's total \$85.8bn external debt and liabilities. The document states that the Chinese commercial debt will be fully retired by the end of the programme in 2022 while the bilateral debt (\$15.5bn) will be almost half of what the country owes at this point to \$7.9bn.

The mention of Chinese related debt came in the spectrum of the United States' explicit dismay over the possibility that Pakistan could use the bailout package to pay back Chinese loans. The US stance frustrated the anxieties surrounding the multibillion-dollar China's investment plan. The CPEC did propel the growth and motivated economic drivers by removing infrastructure bottlenecks. To date, 22 projects worth US \$28 billion are in various stages of implementation, of which US \$22 billion worth are private sector energy project. The Government of Pakistan's financial liability is only to the tune of US \$5.8 billion comprising of low interest loans and grants in infrastructure projects spread over 20 to 25 years payback period.

Section of international media published an article on CPEC "IMF won't Stop China from Turning Pakistan into the Next Sri Lanka" creating a myth and false narrative of a "debt trap". Debunking the perception, Ministry of Planning, Development & Reforms clarified that the analysis was evidently misguiding and factually flawed since energy projects are being executed purely in the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) mode and finances are mainly taken by the private companies against their own balance sheets. Therefore, debt would be borne by the investors instead of any obligation on part of the Government of Pakistan. Therefore; the impression of debt burden falling on the Government of Pakistan is based on incorrect analysis. "Under CPEC, development of Gwadar (mostly through grant / interest free loans) projects would ensure strengthening of maritime sector. The development of Gwadar port project is on BOT mode and cannot be compared with any port project being developed on foreign funding/loans."

Moving beyond the political undertones currently defining (and re-defining) CPEC, it is also worth noting that the entire initiative is gearing towards its second phase of development. Whereas, the preceding phase was characterized largely by massive state led infrastructure projects, the following phase is more geared towards setting up the right conditions for building a long-term industrial base on the back of key private public partnerships.

The external and internal forces may have their own vested interests to thrust CPEC into failure since the Chinese rise on the global stage as strategic and economic competitor to the hegemonic United States hasn't settled well with the stakeholders in the region and on the global map. In the midst the narratives may shift to alter public discourse on CPEC, however, when those conspiring under the impression of wielding support from their instigators as their ambiguous cloaks are faded, they will face the music. Yet, as Shakespeare's Hotspur once asked of spirits: "Will they come when you do call for them?"

The Nation

Pak-China FTA to become operational shortly: Ambassador Hashmi

BEIJING - Pakistan's Ambassador to China Naghmana Alamgir Hashmi has said that free trade agreement (FTA) signed between Pakistan and China would become operational in a few months. "Actually the free trade agreement will hopefully be implemented shortly, because it's still going through the internal processes of being ratified. We hope that in the next few months,

it will become operational,” she said in an exclusive interview to China Economic Net (CEN) here on Friday.

Ambassador Hashmi said, “On our side all the procedures have been completed. On the Chinese side, there are a few procedures which are left. So we think it is going to be sooner rather than later. We just need to wait a little more, because governmental procedures have to take. But I think it will be very shortly very, very shortly.” While commenting on increase in Pakistani export to China, she said with the FTA becoming operational, the prices will in any way go down, because the import duties will not apply then.

“Secondly, we are just now in the process of completing the first phase of CPEC and the second phase of CPEC has now started, which is actually the establishment of special economic zones in various parts of the country. So with the establishment of these special economic zones and with the increasing number of agreements and cooperation in the agricultural sector, which is a priority both with President Xi and with Prime Minister Imran Khan, I think this is one area where there is huge potential of both investments, growth and then re-export of those value added products to China,” she added.

Commenting on export potential, she said there are certain products which have traditionally come to China, which are very much appreciated here. “We export a lot of rice to China that’s called 86. It’s the small glutinous rice. Then sugar is increasingly being imported in China. And sugar is very good quality. And yarn, we produce a lot of cotton and you have a huge textile industry. So yarn comes to China,” she added. Ambassador Hashmi said the Balochistan province is the only area in the world that produces onyx. Then a lot of gold and copper is being exported to China. Pakistan has a lot of potential both in minerals and in gemstones but do not have that advanced technology to polish and create them. So that is another area where Pakistan is looking for potential joint ventures.

Pakistan, she said, exports a number of leather products which are very good in quality and the area that has the most potential and again the area that has the focus of the leadership of both countries is agricultural products, development of farms, research in hybrid seeds, research and cooperation in the area that you put in the ground for cultivation.

“Then there is a huge prospect of cooperation in drip irrigation, because we are now trying to go to drip irrigation because of the shortage of water,” she added. She said that China is one of the leading countries that have really made very good use of drip irrigation and opined that agriculture is one area where there is a huge potential of further cooperation and joint ventures and investments, adding, “And then, of course, export of the materials to China and beyond China also.”

While dispelling the impression about delay of operation of Sukkur-Multan motorway, she said the actual project itself has been completed. But along with this highway, there are certain other things that need to be established, adding, “For example, the barriers along the road have to be

put in place. That work is ongoing. The lights have to be put. The police force for that particular highway is being raised. So those little things are left.”

Ambassador Hashmi reiterated all China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (PEC) projects have absolute and full support of the government of Pakistan, of the people of Pakistan, of all the political parties across the political divide. So there is no confusion or no controversy on either the importance of CPEC or the importance of completing the projects in time. And some of the projects have been completed even before time. About visa policy for Chinese citizens, she said for Chinese, Pakistan has on arrival visa policy and now there is also online visa.

“One of the first countries with which we’ve liberalized visa regime is China. There is so much work going on. There’s so much people to people contact. There’s so much political contact,” she added. Pakistan, she said, liberalized the visa regime for 94 countries. Pakistan is an open country. “We have nothing to hide. We’re not like the Indian occupied Kashmir, where people can’t go. You can go anywhere in Pakistan. You’re very welcome.” On registration of cell phone at Pakistani airport, she said in Pakistan, a lot of people who were misusing this particularly when there was a lot of terrorism going on. So in order to control that, the authorities have made a policy. Every foreigner who comes to visit Pakistan and even Pakistanis, it’s not only for foreigners, any traveler who’s living abroad and is coming home, at the airport, he needs to register his phone. “And that takes five minutes. So if your phone is registered at the airport and you only have to do once, nobody will stop you. But if your phone is not registered, then it becomes a problem,” she added.

Ambassador Hashmi asked all the Chinese going to Pakistan that there are big booths at the airport where they should register phone. “So if your phone is registered, your SIM will work. There’s absolutely no problem.” “So if you have a phone that you’re using, you register it, you bring it. They know that you’re going back. You’re not leaving the phone here. But if you have new phones, so in one year, one visitor can only bring one new phone,” she added.

On export of sugar to China for next year, she said, “I think next year also, because for our growers, exporters and manufacturers of sugar, it’s a product that we have introduced in Chinese market. Once the word goes around that this was a successful venture, I am sure next year you’ll get more and the year after you might even get more.” Regarding a chain, from Pakistan, China, South Korea, and export to European countries, she said that Pakistan have always had very good relations with South Korea and a very good export trade with that country.

“So I think it’s a very good idea that you pick up one expertise from one country, another from another country, and one advantage of a third country join together. I think this is very, very good. Our world is progressing and the three are friendly countries, there should not be a problem,” she added. About recently held Mango festival, she said this was the third mango festival that was organized in Beijing, which was so successful.

A very large number of Chinese attended the festival to taste mango, to taste the various mango products and we hope to see Pakistani mangoes being sold in supermarkets and markets all over China.

Ambassador Hashmi said with the completion of CPEC and the establishment of cold chains, lot of projects can then be transported by road and they won't have to be airlifted.

“Mangoes cannot be shipped up to now, because it has very short shelf life and by road with a cold chain is also necessary for fisheries and other agricultural products, so that is another area where a lot of Chinese investors have an opportunity to do business in Pakistan, which would be mutually beneficial to the importers and the exporters, and is a nice way of introducing good Pakistani agricultural products at reasonable prices here in China,” she added.

October 06, 2019

Pakistan Observer

China to supply two power plants of 900 and 700MW for Port Qasim: KE chief

Chairman, K-Electric Ikram Sehgal revealed on Friday that China has agreed to supply two power plants of 900 and 700 megawatts, and the Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing re-assured that CPEC was not only beneficial for Pakistan but for entire region.

The disclosures or the announcements were made at a periodical session of Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR) Friday afternoon.

Soft spoken, clear headed, and exemplary in approach and attitude, the envoy posted to Islamabad, was in Karachi on a visit, and delivered a very knowledgeable and informative speech, removing miss-conception about fudging of trade figures, and the emphasis on agriculture, education, vocational training, setting up a university, and investment prospects in an hour long discourse.

He was candid, open and coolly reflected on Pak-China ties, titled “CPEC and Beyond” making it clear that both his country and Pakistan should accommodate Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, for it will be a very healthy development. With the change of government in Pakistan after 2018 elections, Chinese foreign minister was in Islamabad, and the new administration of prime minister Imran khan, presented its vision, strategy, priorities in negotiations which indeed were balanced one,

Projects already in progress are going apace, but a new agriculture university, has been promised for Pakistan, like educational expansion, growth in industrial promotion, social sector development, all aimed at broadening the cooperation in different fields.

Agriculture was very important for Pakistan, for which Beijing will lend a helping hand in technological field, through establishing a joint working group, the envoy said.

China will also help Pakistan in poverty alleviation, for being far more experienced in uplifting its 700 million poor from below poverty line. Even Prime Minister Imran Khan acknowledges that, and seems eager to follow Chinese formula to achieve that target, his dream rather, for his own countrymen.

Yao Jing also announced that while 30 hospitals in Pakistan will be upgraded for better medical facilities to Pakistanis, some 20,000 scholarships have been lined up for Pakistani students. This is a major step in educational aspect of a country, with poor literacy rate. State of Art Institutions will be set up in Pakistan. Scholarships are also part of the welfare list. Some 50 schools will be donated all over Pakistan, said the envoy smiling and with a sense of pride.

He said his country being the second largest economy of the world, despite odds and challenges, is determined to forge ahead, for regional and global peace. It will play its role dutifully. Tracing the history of Gwadar, he said, it dated back to 80s, but despite several brainstorming sessions, it was considered economically unviable, till General Pervez Musharraf's attention, helped it attract few ships, but now Gwadar has finally been picked as focal point for development of sea trade. Clean water project of 5,000 tons of fresh water plant, and new power plants will help solve teething problem for the Balochistan port city, from where a railroad to Kandhar in Afghanistan will be multi-purpose projects,

He erased impression that Chinese exports were 16 billion US dollars, whereas Pakistan's exports to People's Republic were only above 2 billion us dollars. Charges that 4 billion dollars were money laundered in Dubai, and only 12 billion dollars exports were correct, he said his government never really released that figure. The Pakistani businessmen spoke about that. Mr Ikram Sehgal, chairman KCFR acknowledged that the envoy's speech was very knowledgeable and informative and invitees to the function must have benefitted from his discourse enormously.

The News

PM to offer handing over PSM to China

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has decided to offer handing over Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) to China through government to government deal and exploring options to finance multi-billion dollars railways Mainline (ML-1) during his upcoming visit of Beijing. Pakistan's top leadership will give assurances to Chinese side that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would not slow down, but its next phase would be pursued with zeal and vigor despite passing through under the IMF programme. In his upcoming scheduled visit of China from October 07, 2019, the prime minister has decided to take up five issues for enhancing economic cooperation under CPEC. Pakistan will offer China to get PSM, finalise deal on modernization of ML-1, financing of Bunji hydropower project, agriculture and social sectors-related projects in and outside the ambit of CPEC.

“Yes, the government will seek assistance for construction of Bunji dam,” top official sources told The News here Saturday.

The Chinese side wants to see progress for establishment of CPEC Authority so the government intends to go ahead with promulgation of presidential ordinance anytime around the upcoming visit of Imran Khan to China.

On the other side, the parliamentarians have asked the government to avoid path of promulgation of ordinance as it would undermine the Parliament. Now it is yet to be seen how the government finally decides to move ahead on CPEC Authority as the Chinese side does not want to make things related to CPEC controversial. Another ordinance is also on the cards where Gwadar Port will become enabled to deal transit trade. The FBR has agreed to grant taxation concessions to Gwadar Port and presidential ordinance will be issued anytime.

On issue of cash bleeding PSM, official sources said that the premier got worried in the wake of continuous and uninterrupted losses on monthly as overall accumulated losses went up to Rs220 billion. The Privatization Commission has sought application for financial adviser in order to explore options to revive the PSM and then run it on professional lines.

“The government is exploring different options including G2G deal with China as the government cannot absorb losses on consistent basis,” said sources, and added that the premier decided to offer China to handover PSM with full management control to revive this sick unit.

Financing of ML-1 for modernization of rail line from Peshawar to Karachi will be another agenda item of the premier during his upcoming visit as both the countries so far failed to finalise financing deal of this much awaited project. “Pakistan is finding it quite hard to finalise loan deal when the country is running under the IMF programme,” said the official sources.

The premier will make last ditch effort to find out solution to this problem and both sides might explore option to construct this multi-billion dollars project on BOT basis, but Pakistan will have to give total management control of rail line to Chinese side.

For construction of Bunji dam, the sources said, Pakistan would seek financial assistance from China to move ahead on this project on fast track basis. The agriculture related projects would also come under discussion. Social sector projects, especially scholarship for Pakistani students, would also be materialized.

The sources said that it was not known how the government wanted to move on establishment of special economic zones (SEZs) as it’s a critical area where Pakistan can attract Chinese companies for relocation and could become part of international supply chains for boosting up its exports in months and years ahead.

The Nation

PM due in China next week on official visit

BEIJING - Prime Minister Imran Khan will arrive here in the Chinese capital early next week on an official visit to China. During his visit, the PM will hold separate meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang and discuss issues of regional and bilateral significance.

He will also discuss with the Chinese hosts the expansion of projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework besides cooperation in agriculture, industrial and socio-economic sectors. PM Imran is also likely to address the China Pakistan Business Forum to be held here to further promote economic and trade relations between the two countries.

He will also meet with the Chinese entrepreneurs and heads of different companies during the visit. According to sources, the two sides will discuss immediate execution of Phase-II of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) signed between the two strategic partners to further enhance bilateral business and trade.

They will also examine the abolition of quota for all Pakistani agro products like rice, wheat, corn, soya bean, sugar and tobacco as Pakistan will prove to be a food basket for China. There will be talks for the zero rating of copper, aluminum, and lead ingots and sesame seed being basic raw materials for the value added industry of China.

There is a strong possibility of the announcement of strong financing support to China's agro and livestock companies so that they could utilize vast fertile land and crops to manufacture highly value-added items. It may be mentioned here that it will be Imran's third visit to China in a year after being sworn in as prime minister. Imran had had paid the first official visit to China and attended the first China International Import Expo held in Shanghai in November last year.

In April this year, Imran Khan visited China and participated in the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) in Beijing.

October 07, 2019

Business Recorder

Khusro vows for early completion of CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Ministry of Planning Development and Reform Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar vowed for on time completion of all China Pakistan energy projects including energy, Infrastructure and Gwadar port for development and prosperity.

He said that current CPEC project is continuing their work on the all major project including eastern and western corridor all complete in given time.

He said the country has gone through the economic stability, “We want to achieve the strong foundation for sustainable economic growth and over the year economy growth would on strong foundation, he said while addressing the press conference in Press Information Department (PID) here Sunday.

The Minister said that CPEC play huge role for Pakistan's economic stability and the upcoming new phase of the country's economic growth in next couple of years will enhance the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to 5 percent.

Khusro said Prime Minister Imran Khan's upcoming visit to China would further bolster bilateral trade and economic ties between the two friendly neighbors.

He said during the visit expansion of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework including cooperation in agriculture, industrial and socioeconomic sectors would be discussed.

Khusro Bakhtyar said China was a close and strategic partner of Pakistan and bilateral partnership between the two countries would continue to touch new heights in future.

It is in this backdrop that Prime Minister Imran Khan is visiting China to further promote bilateral trade and commerce exchange, he said.

The Minister said that during the Prime Minister's visit to the China, both side will deliberate on agriculture and live stock cooperation to see more prospects for future.

He said CPEC offers enormous potential to boost national economy and reduce poverty and adding that the pace of projects under the CPEC had accelerated after the incumbent government came into power.

He said that 43, 00 MW of new electricity project was in pipe line and currently, 2500 MG power project are underway to be completed in given period of time. The government has all focused on prime project of Gwadar port and the matter for providing of 300 MG electricity in city has also been resolved, he said.

He said that Gwadar master plan was also been approved in this government by the cooperation of provincial Baluchistan government. The Minister said that now 19 Chinese companies are ready for investment in Gwadar in different sector, which also would enhance the cooperation between both sides.

For industrial growth, the industrial sector of Pakistan needs cheap energy sources for provide competitiveness to the local industry to increase country's exports, he expressed.

The minister said that on recent relocation of Chinese industrial Units, the government has evolved strategy for completing the Special Economic Zones on priority basis to provide conducive business environment to the foreign investors. He said that CPEC authority also been approved by the cabinet to expedite the work on the all major projects of national significance.

He said next areas of focus for the government is transfer of technology and human resource, where China gives us better option as they have expertise in reverse engineering and capacity

building of workers. He said the government also wants to increase the production of steel at local level and in this regard further cooperation has also sought from China.

Khusro Bahkhtiar said that our government would follow the Chinese model for poverty alleviation at larger scale and added, "We want to follow the Chinese strategy as they alleviated the 700 million people from poverty in past few decades".

He said the government has also planned to initiate the project of 30 new hospitals in and institutional up gradation in the country.

The Minister said that mega project of CPEC was joint venture between the China and Pakistan which provide not only connectivity within region but also connect Pakistan with Central Asian States and Russia.

Pak-China ties: a strong consonance

The ascendancy of the Confucian philosophy, as exemplified by the expanding Sino-centric world order, has greatly impacted and transformed China into postmodern civilization. Since the inception of diplomatic hands, Pakistan and China have seen moving on with the converging mutual interests and shared threat perception. In the geometry of relations, both the countries have enjoyed bolstering ties signified over the years at the breaking pace. Emerging affairs have unveiled a new paradigm of prosperity, encapsulating regional cooperation for development as strategic stability remains the cornerstone.

Having multidimensional relations continued with policy adjustments turned into the potential of shaping dynamics of our times in the wake of globalization, encompassed by the technological, intellectual and economic prowess. Pak-China cordial relations came into the picture in the 1950s. It depicts a time tested bond structured on a sustainable period of effective engagements. The journey of engagement started with the recognition of China immediate after its independence. The relations alleviated when Pakistan served as a bridge between the US and China that led to the establishment of their official contact.

Significantly, China has supported Pakistan for the anti-terrorism campaign and in enhancing its economic capacity by addressing the common concern issues. The CPEC came forth as an opportunity to promote mutual interest and for building concentric circles of peace, stability and development in our region and beyond. The shifting geopolitical paradigm from west to the Asia Pacific is evolving strategic realignments. The emergence of China as an economic giant is unfolding a vision of cooperation and development in Eurasia. Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an exclusive concept of global partnerships for development and win-win cooperation. China is a responsible stakeholder in the international community. It is, therefore, delineating CPEC-plus vision for converting the region into a playing field for all where vulnerabilities are being overcome and converted into strength. Chinese premier's visit to Pakistan in 2015 further took the relations to the new heights of strategic cooperation, building a closer community of shared destiny. As of today, the paradigm change is on its move. The relations between the two sides

are, therefore, of utmost importance. The economic interregional initiatives in bilateral relations are focused on BRI.

Pakistan Observer

False propaganda against CPEC

THERE is no letup in the propaganda campaign unleashed by the western world especially its media against the multibillion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Notwithstanding the fact that the BRI Initiative of the Chinese Government including its pivotal component CPEC has been acknowledged as unprecedented mega-economic undertaking at the global level, the western world and India is persistently trying to create misgivings and apprehensions about them, more so about CPEC.

It is, however, really heartening to note that the Chinese side has always been forthcoming to not only expressing its commitment to the CPEC but also removing any misperceptions about it. At a dialogue on CPEC hosted by Karachi Council on Foreign Affairs, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing once again rejected the impression and false narrative that his country wanted to achieve military or strategic designs in Pakistan through the CPEC. He said the corridor project in fact is the essence of the bilateral long-term relationship between both the countries.

Indeed it is so, and aimed at accruing economic benefits by promoting connectivity within the region. If the European countries can connect through road and rail network which have brought revolution in their economies, then we really fail to understand as to why the West are opposing the BRI Initiative of Chinese President Xi Jinping who in fact has introduced the concept of shared prosperity. The very posture of the western world towards the corridor project implies that they do not want to see the third world countries making headway on the economic front.

Anyway, the only answer to this propaganda is that both Pakistan and China expedite work on the early realization of all the CPEC related projects rather further expand its scope in other areas. Addressing the ceremony, the Chinese Ambassador also referred to the future projects that his country will undertake especially in Gwadar. He said China will launch about 19 projects alone in Gwadar after Pakistan announces its free zone policy. As Beijing is willing to come with more investment, we need to fully facilitate the Chinese businessmen and remove all the hurdles in the way of special economic zones in order to strengthen industrialization and manufacturing sector which definitely will change the economic landscape of Pakistan and ensure sustainable growth. Instead of pointing fingers, it is also for the West to become of this mega project and take advantage of the strategic location of Pakistan.

Nawaiwaqt

چین امریکہ کشمکش پاکستانی تجارتی حجم میں اضافہ کیلئے بہترین موقع ہے: ماہرین

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) بین الاقوامی معاشی ماہرین نے چین اور امریکہ کے مابین تجارتی کشمکش کو پاکستانی تجارتی حجم میں اضافہ کیلئے بہترین موقع قرار دیا۔ معروف چینی میڈیا گروپ چائنا ایکنامک نیٹ کی رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پاکستان دنیا کے 2 تجارتی شرکت داروں کے مابین ہونے والی تجارتی کشمکش سے بھرپور فائدہ حاصل کر سکتا ہے۔ پاکستان کو اس تجارتی تنازع سے فائدہ حاصل کرنے کیلئے راہیں تلاش کرنا ہوں گی۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے مشیر عبدالرزاق داؤد بھیہ موقف بیان کر چکے ہیں کہ چین اور امریکہ مابین تجارتی تنازع بڑھ رہا ہے جبکہ تجارتی مصنوعات کی طلبی میں بھی کمی نہیں آ رہی۔ پاکستان کیلئے 3 آپشنز ایسے ہیں جن کے ذریعے پاکستان اس تجارتی تنازعہ کے مابین بین الاقوامی معیشت کیلئے ایک اہم ملک کے طور پر ابھر سکتا ہے۔ امریکہ میں چینی مصنوعات پر اضافی ٹیکس عائد ہونے کے بعد پاکستانی مصنوعات کیلئے امریکہ منڈیوں میں مقابلے کی فضاء میں بہتری آئی ہے۔ اضافی ٹیکسز نے چینی سستی مصنوعات کو امریکی خریداروں کیلئے مہنگا کر دیا ہے۔ چینی مصنوعات کی قیمتوں میں اضافہ سے ان کی طلبی میں کمی ریکارڈ کی گئی ہے اس خلاء کو پاکستان پر کر سکتا ہے۔ انجینئرنگ، ٹیکسٹائل، جراحی آلات، کھیلوں کے سامان، پلاسٹک مصنوعات، فرنیچر اور دیگر مختلف شعبوں میں پاکستان کو امریکی منڈیوں میں فائدہ حاصل ہو سکتے ہیں۔

October 08, 2019

The News

CPEC Authority established thru ordinance

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan arrived in Beijing late at night on Monday as he will embark on two day official of China on Tuesday as President Dr Arif Alvi promulgated an Ordinance to provide for establishment of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority.

The Ordinance promulgated by the president on October 5 in exercise of his powers under clause (1) of Article 89 of the Constitution and issued here on Monday, may be called as the China Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority Ordinance 2019.

The Ordinance extends to the whole of Pakistan.

Section 1 of the Ordinance shall come into force at once and other provisions shall come into force on such date or dates as the prime minister may, by notification in the official gazette, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different provisions.

The establishment of CPEC Authority was aimed at accelerating the pace of CPEC related activities, find new drivers of growth, unlock the potential of interlinked production network and global value chains through regional and global connectivity.

Prime Minister Imran Khan embarks today (Tuesday) on an extremely important two-day visit to China at the invitation of Premier of the State Council of the Peoples' Republic of China Li Keqiang.

“The Chief of Army Staff will join the Prime Minister’s meetings with Premier Li Keqiang and President Xi Jinping”, announced the Foreign Office on Monday.

The situation inside Occupied Jammu and Kashmir will form an important part of the discussion at a time when Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to be meeting Prime Minister Modi at Maha bali puram on October 11-12, although India has yet to formally announce the dates and the venue for the meeting.

The prime minister would have meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang will separately host banquets in honour of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

A number of agreements/MoUs are expected to be signed at a ceremony to be witnessed by the two prime ministers.

“The visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan is in continuation of the long-established tradition of the leadership of the two countries meeting regularly and consulting closely on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. The prime minister will exchange views on regional developments including the state of peace and security in South Asia arising from the situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir since August 5, 2019”, says the Foreign Office.

Prime Minister Imran Khan will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Minister for Railways Shaikh Rashid Ahmed, Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Khusro Bakhtyar, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Petroleum, Chairman BOI and senior officials.

“The visit will be instrumental in further cementing Pakistan’s economic, investment and strategic ties with China. Among other things, the prime minister will apprise the Chinese leadership of the government’s recent landmark decisions to speed up implementation of ongoing CPEC projects as well as efforts to project CPEC as a High Quality Demonstration Project of BRI”, added the Foreign Office.

There will be interaction with senior representatives of the Chinese business and corporate sector for deepening bilateral trade, commercial and investment partnership. The prime minister will also be participating in the closing ceremony of the Beijing International Horticulture Expo, as a chief guest, where Premier Li Keqiang will be the host.

“Pakistan and China are close friends, staunch partners and ‘iron brothers’. The two countries are joined together in an “All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership”. This time-tested friendship between the two countries is based on unparalleled mutual trust, understanding and commonality of interests. The leadership of both countries is fully committed to building closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era”, says the Foreign Office.

Muhammad Anis adds: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa arrived in China on an official visit on Monday. The COAS will accompany Prime Minister Imran Khan in

his meetings with President and Prime Minister of China, DG ISPR Major General AsifGhafoor on Twitter said.

Prime Minister Imran Khan will leave for China on two-day official visit on Tuesday (today). General Bajwa will meet Chinese military leadership including Commander of People's Liberation Army, Vice Chairman of Central Military Commission and Commander Southern Theater Command.

The News

Dispute on Nashpa LPG plant: Sanity prevails as OGDCL, Chinese firm show flexibility

ISLAMABAD: At last sanity prevailed as both the parties -- OGDCL and Chinese firm HBP which earlier refused to budge from their hard stances on Nashpa LPG plant ultimately showed flexibility here on Monday apparently because of the intervention from governments of Pakistan and China.

The Chinese company HBP that closed down on September 26 the Nashpa gas processing and LPG recovery plant on account of modification in the plant and was supposed to run the plant on September 30, but it closed all the operations and shut down the plant arguing unless and until its demands are met, it will not run the plant. HBP had put the charter of demands asking for immediate payments of over \$100 million (\$51.06 million because of breaches by OGDCL of its obligations under contract and \$31 million as pending payments and \$14.8 million in the head of Advance Bank Guarantee and \$3.7 million as Advance Bank Guarantee for supplying of items). It also demanded from OGDCL the grant of an extension of time for completion of project till October 31, 2019 and strictly compliance of all its obligations under contract to ensure that no further delays are caused in the completion of the project and also asked OGDCL to issue the Performance Acceptance Certificate for the project.

However, OGDCL top management got irritated and in return detained Chinese experts in the camp at the site and also deployed the security forces around the camp. More importantly, it started the process to en-cash performance guarantee of HBP amounting to \$14.8 million. This step by OGDCL has virtually attracted the attention of the Petroleum Division and Chinese government after the follow up story published in The News on Monday over the situation emerged out of closure of LPG plant by HBP.

Petroleum Division, which cannot afford any kind of shortage of LPG in the market particularly at a time when the winter season has begun in northern part of Pakistan including KP province, played vital role in resolving the issue. Omar Ayub Khan, Petroleum Minister said that issue between the Chinese firm and OGDCL has almost been resolved as he had given the task to his additional secretary to look into the matter and resolve it on emergent basis. Secretary Petroleum Division confirmed to The News saying issue has been now resolved.

Meanwhile, top official of OGDCL said that the ice melted here on Monday between the two parties when Chinese firm wrote a letter to General Manager Project of OGDCL requesting to have access to the operational site of the project to run the plant.

The letter written by Vice President of HBP Xiao Rong of which copy is exclusively available with The News with the subject, “Request to access the site for resumption of LPG plant start-up and other activities against contract No PROC-FC/CB/PROJ/1247/768156/2015 for Nashpa LPG processing plant.”

The letter mentions saying, “When the completion of the project is very close and plant is about to be handed over after modification, we would like to convey our sincere approach to OGDCL for start-up of plant from October 7, 2019. In this regard, we would request OGDCL to allow HHGTL’s project team to access the site and to perform the start-up of plant and other activities. Considering the sensitivity of the plant, it could lead towards a disaster if any third party interrupts the project activity. Moreover, we would request OGDCL to withdraw encashment notice of \$14.8 million performance bank guarantee.”

When contacted, OGDCL Spokesman Ahmad Hayat Lak confirmed that HBP has formally approached OGDCL and requested for allowing their team’s access to the site to undertake their activities.

He said, “HBP’s request is under consideration as OGDCL is desirous of proceeding further within the framework of the contract. OGDCL wants Performance Test to be completed by the contractor as per agreed specifications and parameters. It is expected that the matter would be dealt with in a positive spirit and contractor would discharge its contractual obligations to avoid recurrence of such incidents.”

To a question, he explained that contractor staff is free to go anywhere as per their security protocol. They were denied access to the operational area in the interest of protecting the plant and facilities in view of their earlier conduct as regards Distribution System software and passwords.

Mr Lak said in response to the letter of Chinese firm, OGDCL will also write the letter inviting responsible representatives of the contractor for providing necessary assurance as regards plant security and integrity to enable the company to allow them access and proceed further. “We expect resolution very soon. We will also ensure that HBP will not arbitrarily close down the LPG plant.” When asked about the charter of demands of HBP, spokesman responded saying that OGDCL top management has already constituted 5 member committee to look into the issues in detail, but in haste HBP took the extreme step and closed down the plant knowing the fact that its production has a reasonable share in the country’s total LPG production and it will cause the huge shortage in the availability of the product.

To a question, he said OGDCL engineers successfully managed to decode all operations and run the plant and as of today (Monday) it has started producing the 150 metric tons of LPG, but it will gain the momentum with the passage of time. However, the capacity of the plant to produce

LPG stands at 375 metric tons per day which can only be attained when HBP will conduct the performance test.

The News

CPEC projects in Azad Kashmir turn murky

LAHORE: Protracted delay in the execution of various projects sanctioned for Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) could result in their escalated costs, and hinder the state's economic development and regional connectivity, people familiar with the matter said on Monday.

Sources said four mega projects in AJ&K envisaged under CPEC framework face roadblocks due to one reason or another. The likely cost overrun and delays might provide opportunities to certain vested groups to 'politicize' such projects at the cost of economic development in the area, they said.

One of the important projects includes Mirpur–Muzaffarabad–Mansehra Motorway, which would connect the state with the main CPEC route. Amongst the eight industrial zones under the CPEC, one is to be set up in AJ&K. Moreover, 1,124 megawatts of Kohala dam and the 720 MW of Karot dam were also envisaged under the CPEC framework.

With the exception of Karot hydropower project, work on no other proposed project has been initiated as yet. This is primarily due to the withholding of funds by the federal government, the sources said. Additionally, controversies regarding the project's design and ensuing environmental effects have caused hindrances, they added.

A report, titled "CPEC in Azad Jammu & Kashmir: a gateway to regional connectivity and beyond", also expressed concern over obstacles in the proposed projects. The report, authored by Sabur Ali Sayyid and published by Islamabad-based Centre for Peace, Development and Reforms (CPDR), provides a comprehensive critique of the CPEC projects in AJ&K, including Karot and Kohala hydropower projects, construction of motorway and a special economic zone in Mirpur. CPDR is a non-governmental organization engaged in different activities related to the promotion of peace, development and institutional reforms in AJ&K.

A conservative estimate said AJ&K is expected to earn Rs2.19 billion a year after the construction of Kohala hydropower project. Similarly, construction of the special economic zone is expected to provide a strong industrial base to Kashmir and help it become an exporter, rather than a mere consumer oriented society. To complement this, the motorway M4 would interconnect different parts of AJ&K in addition to shorten the existing distance between the central Punjab and CPEC by at least 50 kilometers.

Prime Minister Imran Khan is scheduled to discuss with the Chinese leadership several matters, including progress on the CPEC coupled with regional issues, including the Kashmir dispute during a three-day visit to China on Monday. The visit by the premier comes ahead of Chinese

President Xi Jinping's tour of Nepal and India. The issues related to several CPEC components are also expected to be sorted out during the visit.

The Kashmir dedicated report recommended to the state government to initiate an open and knowledge based discussion on the need, benefits and implications, if any, of these projects and a plan to address them in a time bound manner.

It should be reminded that rising controversy on the Kohala hydropower project in view of its purported environmental implications could have far reaching political and economic implications in the days ahead.

Construction of the Karot hydropower project is expected to be completed in two years and start power generation by April 2021 as per the latest timeline. The project, with a total investment of \$1.74 billion, is expected to help in solving the power supply bottleneck and provide sustainable and stable energy support in the country. Once completed, the 720 MW project that commenced construction in 2015 is estimated to annually produce some 3.2 billion kilowatt-hours of clean power, equivalent to 10 percent of Pakistan's total energy output from hydropower stations.

Besides, the Kohala hydropower project's execution process was adversely affected as the commissioning of Neelum–Jhelum hydropower plant in 2018 reduced water flow in Neelum River downstream – the dam site in Nauseri – and triggered public outcry in Muzaffarabad, according to a report. Now water flows issues are being resolved with the stakeholders' consultation. The project envisages diversion of River Jhelum from Saran in Jhelum valley district through a tunnel with its powerhouse and outfall near Barsala village of district Muzaffarabad. The preliminary execution stage, involving identification and acquisition of land, was started by Kohala Hydropower Company two years ago.

October 09, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Technological impact of CPEC

CONTEMPORARY world would see huge impact of technological development on society and policy makers. Recent decades have seen a tremendous technological progress in computing and telecommunications. Pakistan is an important country in China's One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR). China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a collection of infrastructure projects worth US \$ 64 billion. These projects have a potential to bring significant changes to economic, social and financial levels within the country. Information technology plays an important role in reducing the distance which has potential to resolve many problems related to economic productivity, intellectual property rights, privacy, protection and affordability of and access to information. The geographical distribution of work is changing dramatically in contemporary times. For example, industries can outsource their manufacturing to other countries and telecommunications play a significant role in marketing, research and development while

technology can enable the people of the two countries to take benefit from each other in various types of work and employment.

Through the development of different industrial and information technology parks under CPEC in Pakistan, there will be more freedom to firms to locate their economic activities, creating greater competition among regions in infrastructure, labour, capital and other resource markets. Social interaction in organizations will be improved by use of computers and communication technologies. The importance of distance will be reduced by computers and communication technology also favors telecommuting and has implications for the residence patterns of the citizens. As workers find that they can do most of their work at home rather than in a centralized workplace, the demand for homes in climatically and physically attractive regions would increase. Apart from industrial sector, information technology plays a momentous role in educational sector. This can affect the craft of teaching.

The role of an instructor is a supplier of services to the students, who might be regarded as its customers but a good teacher or a supervisor of students would play a role in motivating, encouraging, evaluating and developing students. Technological progress inevitably creates dependence on technology. Indeed the creation of vital infrastructure ensures dependence on that infrastructure. The world is now dependent on its transport, telephone and other infrastructures it will be dependent on the emerging information infrastructure. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project is of great importance for both – China and Pakistan. China's government is striving to consume its supporting role to build an environment for the open economic system and logistic system under the CPEC. It is considered as the corridor of peace, prosperity and development having potential for a promising future for Pakistan.

China and Pakistan have signed an Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement as well as pledged to “China-Pakistan Joint Cotton Bio-Tech Laboratory” as part of CPEC. The two countries also pledged to establish the “China-Pakistan Joint Marine Research Centre” with State Oceanic Administration and Pakistan's Ministry of Science and Technology. As part of the CPEC agreement, Pakistan and China have agreed to cooperate in the field of space research. In February 2016, the two countries agreed to establish the “Pak-China Science, Technology, Commerce and Logistic Park” near Islamabad at an estimated cost of US \$1.5 billion. The Park will be situated on five hundred hectares, which will be provided by Pakistan to China's Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, with all investment expected to come from the Chinese side over the course of ten years. In May 2016, construction began on the US \$ 44 million 820 kilometer long Pakistan-China Fibre Optic Project, an optical fibre cable that will enhance telecommunication in the Gilgit-Baltistan region while offering Pakistan a fifth route by which to transmit telecommunication traffic.

China will build US \$1.5 billion worth National Science & Technology Park under CPEC in H-12 Islamabad near NUST. CPEC will uplift Pakistan's economy through immense investment in various sectors such as industrial, agricultural, and technological. This development would transform the standard of living of Pakistani people and bring social change to the country. The

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is predicted to be the hub of technological and economic progress in Pakistan. Before its advent, Pakistan was facing serious economic issues and technology was nowhere near advancing. Now with its arrival, Pakistan has the chance to avail massive potential arising, especially in the technological sector. The establishment of IT parks and industrial zones will reduce tariffs encouraging firms to invest which will create competition in the entire region. As a result, the country will make progress swiftly in technology. Pakistan needs to focus on the successful completion of CPEC and industrial zones along it timely. (The writer is a freelance journalist)

China's Western Development Strategy and CPEC

Forty years ago, China introduced major economic reforms, lifting hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, leading it to become the second largest economy in the world. In the last 70 years, China has adjusted its regional development strategy three times. The first stage (1949-1978) is known as Balanced Development. Its major component was to seek a balanced development. The second stage (1979-1991) was Unbalanced Development with a focus to develop regions with special advantages (eastern & coastal cities). The third stage was Coordinated Development, which concentrates to stimulate the development of underdeveloped regions to reduce regional socio-economic disparity.

In continuation of coordinated development strategy, the government invested in developing transportation, energy and communication infrastructure, irrigation systems and urban infrastructure in the interior regions to develop public services which helped to narrow the gap between west, countryside and the other regions of China. Under this strategy, a considerable amount of investment was also dedicated for the development of highly populated ethnic autonomous regions, economically poor border states and other underdeveloped regions to reduce the gap that was created during the first two stages of China's development. Although, policy environment was same for eastern and western regions but this strategy could not reap the real benefit for western part of China. The economic imbalance between them continued despite equal efforts.

To define a more focused policy that could work according to the economic situation of western regions, China in the year 2000 announced the "Western Development Strategy". This strategy aimed to address the socio-economic, ecological and security issues in order to set an environment in western China at par with eastern and central China to accelerate the development. Agenda of this strategy is to focus on six provinces (Gansu, Guizhou, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Sichuan and Yunnan), 5 autonomous regions (Guangxi, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Tibet and Xinjiang) and includes one municipality (Chongqing). China has a border with 14 countries out of which eight are sharing a 5,600 km long border with Xinjiang including Pakistan, Mongolia, India, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Russia.

The strategic location of Xingjian makes it economically viable for the investment. Xinjiang is the home of 24.4 million people with 47 ethnic groups the larger ones include Uighur, Han, Kazak, Hui, Mongolian, Kirgiz, Xibe, Tajik, Uzbek, Manchu, Daur, Tatar and Russian. The most

populous ethnic group is the Uighur, and mostly are Sunni Muslims. Tianshan Mountains divide the Xinjiang into “South Xinjiang” and “North Xinjiang”. This province is also the home of large mineral reserves including iron, copper, gold, chrome, nickel and salt minerals.

Currently, 19 Chinese provinces and municipalities pledged their financial and technical support for the development of Xinjiang. These initiatives help to minimize the intraregional disparity and to address other bottlenecks including education, poverty, health and most importantly security. Xinjiang witnessed remarkable progress in other areas including improved housing conditions, tourism, agriculture, and sanitation and poverty alleviation. The most important aspect is security situation in Xinjiang which is being combated in a unique way through rehabilitation centres/vocational and technical institutes that is exemplary for other conflict-prone areas. The outcome of this strategy is significant that from last four years Xinjiang has not faced a single incident of terrorism. On the other hand, western propaganda simply ignores all the major achievements made so far by Beijing in uplifting the socio-economic conditions of Xinjiang. In the recent past, 37 countries, including Pakistan, applaud the China’s human right achievements in Xinjiang.

Previously, Xinjiang foreign trade and economic cooperation lagged behind as compared to other regions because of delayed opening up, poor infrastructure and connectivity and other negative conditions including terrorism. With much improved economic pre-requisites, presently within the framework of western development strategy, efforts are being exerted to make this region an economic hub and an engine to uplift the other connected areas. Realizing the economic potential of Xinjiang, the central government has announced to establish two special economic zones (SEZs) in Kashgar and Khorgos after 15 years of having successful SEZs development experience in other parts of China. These economic zones were announced not only to address the socio-economic discrepancies of western China rather it will also benefit the regional countries. Last year Xinjiang’s GDP reached 1.22 trillion Yuan, more than 200 times of that in the initial years of China.

Logistics, electronics, textiles, construction material and renewable energy would be key industries in a 50 square kilometer development zone in Kashgar, whereas SEZ in Khorgos, would focus on chemicals, farm products and pharmaceuticals. The 73 square kilometer zone will also become an important point for Central Asian Republics (CARs).

To extend the trade from these economic zones to the Middle East, African and European countries, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would be a hook between these potential markets and Xinjiang and defining CPEC as a complementary tool to achieve the vision of western development strategy. Xinjiang being bordered with Gilgit-Baltistan would get benefit of approaching these markets through deep sea port of Gwadar in Balochistan and bring stability to the region. Gwadar will provide the shortest route to these giant markets.

Xinjiang is not only sharing border with Gilgit-Baltistan but also shares a long history from the era of old Silk Road. Furthermore, the two territories are crucial in rejuvenating the dream of new ‘Silk Road’. The former Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Mr. Masood Khalid, once stated

that the long-term plans include the option of instituting a trans-regional economic zone in Kashgar comprising China, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia. China is planning, and in some cases, already, modernizing trans-continental highways, railroads and telecommunication lines. The enhancement will boost the infrastructure and industrial and financial cooperation with the emerging markets that reside along the Silk Road. For instance, cross border optical fibre project to connect Islamabad and Khunjerab has been completed under CPEC. The fibre optical cable covers an area of 820 km that would help improve the telecom, ICT industry, tourism, trading opportunities in northern areas whereas it also enhances the communication security. The cultural and religious harmony between them would open another door of opportunity that would make these economic ties deepen at heart.

China and Pakistan relations are termed as ‘all weather friends’ & ‘iron brothers’. The vision of Chinese President Xi Jinping about CPEC is neither infrastructure nor energy projects whether he always emphasized to foster a closer community with a shared future for both countries. The successful implementation of western development strategy and CPEC will ultimately be beneficial for both countries in terms of poverty eradication and economic development. (The writer works at Centre of Excellence for CPEC, Islamabad).

The Nation

Ordinance on CPEC

The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government has taken the step many expected it to and used a Presidential Ordinance to establish a CPEC Authority to expedite projects under the CPEC banner and finish work on the Corridor as soon as possible. Alongside this, the President has also taken the steps to constitute the Gwadar Free Zone, with several duty waivers in play. However, now that the Presidential Ordinance has been passed, what guarantee is the government providing that projects under the CPEC banner will be treated more seriously?

With the terms of this newly established authority still unclear, it seems that the government’s answer to bureaucratic inefficiency and backlog is to add another bureaucratic body into the mix, which really would not solve anything. Unless the authority is given the power to speed up fund disbursement and work towards approving all projects under the CPEC banner – such as the ML-1 and OLMT Lahore – this body will only be yet another office the projects go through before they are initiated, let alone completed.

The timing of setting up this authority also belies the government’s real intentions; the Prime Minister’s China visit is a litmus test of the current government’s seriousness regarding the completion of CPEC. It is no wonder then that the President constituted a new authority at a time when the government needs to convince our northern neighbor of the seriousness with which we are approaching the project. The powers of this new authority are unclear so far – how will its duties differ from that of the Planning Commission or the Prime Minister’s Delivery Unit established in 2016? Will the CPEC Authority have the power to supersede decisions of the Finance Ministry when it comes to projects under the CPEC banner? In its haste to look like

work is being done, the government looks to be taking a step back from CPEC instead of actually looking to complete the various projects.

Ultimately, China will gauge Pakistan's success or failure on CPEC with specific deliverables and timelines; has the Pakistan government provided any reliable framework for completion of various projects since the ruling party came into power? The answer to this sadly, is a resounding no. There was no need for a Presidential Ordinance regarding a new authority; Pakistan's government already has the necessary bureaucratic steps in place to ensure that the CPEC projects are completed; it is up to the government to release funds, hire contractors and fulfill the other logistical requirements for completion. No matter how many new bodies are created, completing projects under CPEC will only be executed if the government is really determined to do so. For the sake of the country's economic welfare and relations with our closest ally, it is hoped that the PTI government is indeed working on CPEC in earnest.

The News

CPEC authority

It remains a mystery why the current government continues to rule by ordinances when it has a majority in parliament. Not only does the practice of issuing ordinances through the president have questionable democratic credentials, presidential ordinances have built-in lapse dates, which is not the best thing when any permanent legislation is to be created. This is why the decision of the government to issue an ordinance to establish a CPEC Authority on the day of Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Beijing comes across as a bit hasty. There is already consensus around much of the CPEC framework in parliament.

Moreover, it is not the absence of a CPEC Authority that is responsible for the slowdown in CPEC-related projects in the country. The overall slowdown in the economy has a much bigger role to play in that. Thus, the official explanation that the authority would accelerate the pace of CPEC-related projects and unlock new production and value chain networks seems to also be a bit of a stretch.

Speaking in Beijing, the prime minister said that the authority was needed to allow CPEC projects skip being stuck on the desks of various ministries. he also emphasised that Pakistan is open for investment; reassurances have also been provided to Chinese investments. And Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhtiar has also gone on record to clarify that the pace of CPEC projects has not slowed down. During his China visit, Khan is also expected to lobby Chinese President Xi Jinping over the situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir; it will be interesting to see if the Chinese president will take up the issue with Indian Prime Minister Modi during their scheduled meeting this same week. This being his third visit to China in a single year, PM Imran Khan has shown clear intent in cementing the relationship between the two countries. What results this visit will yield will be awaited by us all.

Express News

ہانگ کانگ چین کا اندرونی معاملہ ہے کسی کو مداخلت کا اختیار نہیں، عمران خان

بیجنگ: وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ ہانگ کانگ چین کا اندرونی معاملہ ہے کسی ملک کو دوسرے ملک کے معاملات میں مداخلت کا کوئی حق نہیں۔

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین کا مشترکہ اعلامیہ جاری کیا گیا جس کے مطابق وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے ہانگ کانگ کے معاملے کو چین کا اندرونی معاملہ قرار دیا ہے اور کہا کہ کسی ملک کو دوسرے ملک کے اندرونی معاملات میں مداخلت کا اختیار نہیں۔

مشترکہ اعلامیے کے مطابق چینی قیادت نے پاکستان کی سالمیت، سیکورٹی اور علاقائی خود مختاری پر یک جہتی کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا جب کہ وزیر اعظم نے چینی قیادت کو مقبوضہ کشمیر کی صورتحال سے آگاہ کیا۔

وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے چینی قیادت کو مقبوضہ کشمیر پر پاکستانی موقف اور تحفظات سے بھی آگاہ کیا اور کہا کہ مقبوضہ کشمیر کا مسئلہ اقوام متحدہ کی قراردادوں کے مطابق حل ہونا چاہیے جس پر چینی قیادت نے کہا کہ چین کشمیر کی صورتحال مزید پیچیدہ بنانے والے کسی بھی اقدام کی مخالفت کرتا ہے۔

دیں اثنائوں ممالک کے درمیان قائم مشترکہ تعاون کی کمیٹی کا اجلاس نومبر میں اسلام آباد میں ہو گا جس میں مختلف شعبہ جات میں دو طرفہ تعاون بڑھانے پر بات چیت کی جائے گی

October 10, 2019

Dawn

Confucius Institute at UoS to acquaint students with Chinese language, culture

SARGODHA: Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese premier Li Keqiang pledged to undertake many projects one of which is about the establishment of the Confucius Institute at the University of Sargodha (UoS).

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by Pakistan's Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi on behalf of the UoS vice chancellor and the deputy director general of Hanban, the Confucius Institute headquarters in Beijing.

This will be the fifth Confucius Institute in the country; four institutes are functional at the National University of Modern Languages, the University of the Punjab, the University of Karachi and the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.

In July this year, the Sargodha varsity had signed an MoU with the Henan Normal University (HNU) under which it was decided to establish the Confucius Institute at the UoS for the study of the Chinese language and culture. The two universities then approached Hanban which gave its consent and, subsequently, the Foreign Office and the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad completed the paperwork ahead of Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China.

Under the provisions of the MoU, the Sargodha varsity will provide the premises for the CI that includes space for a library, activity room and classrooms besides logistical support to the teachers including facilitation of visas and Hanban will reciprocate by paying the salaries of their teaching staff, cost of teaching materials and other allied costs.

As a prelude to the establishment and functioning of the Confucius Institute, two from the HNU have already started the Chinese languages classes at the UoS.

In view of the progress in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the UoS has made academic and research collaborations with Chinese institutions a top priority. With the CPEC entering its second phase, in which agricultural cooperation is particularly emphasised, the university has entered a number of exchange agreements with Chinese counterparts including with Lanzhou University in dry land agriculture and with the South China Agricultural University in precision agriculture and citrus research.

For the ease of communication and having good understanding of the Chinese culture and practices, learning the Chinese language plays a crucial role. Hence, the UoS aims to build a pool of human resource which is well trained, qualified and acquainted with the Chinese language to serve the local community and add value to economic development of the country.

Last year, the Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS) was established as part of the Rs1.5 billion HEC-funded development projects, which is overseeing and steering the university's collaborative ventures with Chinese institutions.

The establishment of the Confucius Institute will expedite this mutually beneficial process, especially for the educated youth of this largely agrarian region.

PROJECTS: Deputy Commissioner Ms Asia Gull said at a meeting that public parks, toilets and filtration plants would be constructed on retrieved state land and would be given under the control of the local government institutions.

The district development committee not only extended the period for 74 schemes under the Public Health Engineering (PHE) and the local government but also approved various development schemes worth Rs40 million.

The DC claimed that work on sewerage schemes was under way and would be completed next year which would fulfill the needs of the city for the next 50 years. She said she was personally supervising all the schemes and would not compromise on quality of work.

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China finalise ML-1 railway project: Sh Rashid

Pakistan and China have finalized the multi-billion dollar Main Line-I (ML-I) project of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said here on Wednesday.

“I held a meeting with my Chinese counterpart this morning and finalized the project,” he told media at Diaoyutai State Guest House. Sheikh Rashid Ahmed is part of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s delegation currently visiting China.

While expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Imran Khan for taking great interest in the project, he said the Main Line-I, an important project for Pakistan Railways has got a real shape after 14 years. —APP

The News

The Chinese equation

Prime Minister Imran Khan is on a three-day visit to China, mainly to meet President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. Imran is probably also hoping to bring up the Kashmir issue with the Chinese and build more world support for their cause. Lately, there has been some success in this, with two American senators, including presidential nominee Bernie Sanders, speaking up for the Kashmiris and against the abrogation of Article 370, and the need to protect their rights. These small gains may build momentum. President Xi will be holding a summit with Indian Prime Minister Modi in a few days and the Pakistan team would obviously wish to influence him for this purpose.

Imran is also anxious to explore further investment with China. China has been traditionally one of the biggest investors in Pakistan in terms of roads and other infrastructure projects, but this investment has slowed down over the past year by over 70 percent. Naturally, this will be a concern for the PTI administration. What it needs most desperately now is foreign investment and economic revival. We wait to see what the prime minister can achieve during his dialogue with the Chinese.

Other areas of mutual cooperation are also being discussed. Imran has spoken at a number of forums in China about Pakistan’s desire to emulate the country. Previously he had mentioned the elimination of poverty that China had achieved over the last seven decades. This time, while addressing a trade event in Beijing, he said that he wished he had the freedom that existed in China to jail 500 politicians for corruption. We wonder if that is the best sentiment coming from a prime minister speaking at another country. On Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index, China finishes at 87th place out of a list of 180 countries. At the very top of the list is Denmark, followed by New Zealand and then Finland. It seems democracies that work well also have the greater success in countering corruption. Imran and his government need to study these nations. We certainly hope Pakistan’s delegation is successful in persuading China to pressurize India and other Asian neighbours on the matter of Kashmir. But we also hope we find many different models to emulate when dealing with an issue like corruption, which is raising more and more controversy at home.

The Nation

Xi voices support for Pakistan on Kashmir

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday he was watching the situation in Kashmir and would support Pakistan in issues related to its core interests.

President Xi told Prime Minister Imran Khan during a meeting in Beijing that the rights and wrongs of the situation were clear. “China supports Pakistan to safeguard its own legitimate rights and hopes that the relevant parties can solve their disputes through peaceful dialogue,” Xi said.

In a meeting held at the People’s Great Hall of China, the two leaders resolved to “further deepen strategic communication and strengthen all weather cooperation”.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, DG ISI Lt Gen Faiz Hameed, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Minister of Planning Khusro Bakhtiar, Minister of Railways Sheikh Raheed Ahmed, Commerce Adviser Abdul Razak Dawood, PM’s Special Assistant on Petroleum Nadeem Babar and Chairman Board of Investment Zubair Gilani and senior officials.

President Xi said China sincerely hopes to help Pakistan develop faster and better. “China and Pakistan have a fine tradition of mutual support and assistance,” he added.

Noting that Pakistan used to provide selfless help to China when China was in difficulties, Xi said now that China has developed, it sincerely hopes to help Pakistan develop faster and better.

President Xi said is ready to work with Pakistan to forge a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

Noting that China and Pakistan are all weather strategic cooperative partners, Xi said no matter how the international and regional situation changes, the friendship between China and Pakistan has always been unbreakable and rock solid, and China-Pakistan cooperation has always maintained strong vitality.

President Xi extended his country’s “unwavering support to Pakistan’s sovereignty and territorial integrity”. President Xi also expressed support “on all issues of Pakistan’s core national interest”, saying China’s relationship with Pakistan was “rock-solid and unbreakable”.

Both leaders exchanged views on a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Prime Minister Khan assured the Chinese President of speedy completion of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects treating it as ‘top priority of his government’.

He said CPEC would play a transformational role in accelerating Pakistan’s economic development and promoting regional connectivity and prosperity.

Imran underscored that China was Pakistan's steadfast ally, staunch partner and iron brother that firmly supported its national interests besides advancing economic goals. He also reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast support to China on all issues of core interest.

On Kashmir issue, Imran highlighted the continued lockdown of millions of Kashmiris for over two months that created a dire humanitarian situation in the Valley. He stressed the urgency to immediately lift curfew in Occupied Kashmir to alleviate the sufferings of Kashmiris to avert risks to peace and security in the region.

President Xi lauded agenda of Imran Khan's government of socio-economic development and people centric progress. He also lauded Pakistan's efforts to expeditiously execute CPEC projects and stressed that it would help national and regional economic development process.

He expressed confidence that the strong vibrancy between the two countries would deepen and broaden in future.

President Xi appreciated Pakistan's efforts in combating terrorism and maintained that Pakistan through institutional and economic reforms was resolutely and promisingly on the way to substantial economic development.

Both leaders agreed that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan would promote economic development and connectivity in the region and expressed the resolve to continue to support peace and reconciliation process.

The meeting agreed to keep momentum of high level exchanges between Pakistan and China as the two leaders expressed satisfaction over close cooperation at multilateral fora.

During the meeting, Imran Khan thanked the Chinese President and the government for its principled stand on Kashmir issue. He particularly mentioned Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's stand on Kashmir issue at the UN General Assembly.

The prime minister said everywhere you supported Pakistan in difficult times. He briefed the president about Pakistan's present situation and said Pakistan has come out of difficult economic situation and added, "We will never forget China's financial cooperation in this regard."

He said China has never asked anything for its support against our national interest and helped us without any conditionality. Imran said China provided Pakistan an opportunity to come out of very difficult economic situation and appreciated the Chinese support under the CPEC framework.

The prime minister congratulated president Xi on the 70th anniversary of founding of People's Republic of China.

The Chinese President lauded Prime Minister Imran Khan for speaking on China-Pakistan relations during UN General Assembly's session.

Prime Minister Imran Khan stressed that completion of CPEC was top priority of his government and hoped that its Phase-II would pave the way for further socio-economic development and livelihood opportunities for the people of Pakistan.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with National People's Congress (NPC) Chairman Li Zhanshu at the Great Hall of the People.

Imran reiterated that Pakistan and China were close friends, steadfast partners and 'iron brothers'. He underlined that China's economic transformation in the last few decades had been very impressive and worth emulating.

The prime minister particularly noted that Pakistan wanted to learn from China's experience of poverty mitigation and expressed his determination to reduce poverty in Pakistan by following China's model.

He also solicited support of China in improving Pakistan's agriculture and AI (Artificial Intelligence) sectors. He proposed that, given Pakistan's unique advantages, Chinese companies might relocate their industries to the country.

Imran underscored that India's illegal actions of August 5 had created a dire humanitarian situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K) and urged that the curfew imposed for over two months in the IOJ&K needed to be lifted immediately enabling people to have access to basic human needs.

Chairman Li Zhanshu reaffirmed Chinese leadership's commitment to support Pakistan on issues of its core national interest. Li, recognizing the promise of Pakistan with its forward looking policies, maintained that China would support Pakistan in initiatives proposed by Prime Minister Imran Khan.

He also maintained that both China and Pakistan could propose new projects that could be included in the CPEC.

October 11, 2019

The News

Cooperation with China

As has been the case for more than five decades, China continues to remain Pakistan's closest ally. At a meeting between President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Imran Khan in Beijing, China said it was willing to expand the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and that this would speed up regional development. There has been concern in Pakistan over a reported slowdown in work on CPEC, but Beijing has made it clear it remains completely committed to the promise, and will move at the faster pace to complete it. The corridor, consisting of a series of road, rail and port links could be of huge benefit to Pakistan's flagging economy. For these reasons, the Chinese president's assurance is an important one. Security concerns have also hovered

threateningly over the project and China has recently set up its own security force to defend Chinese nationals working in Pakistan. With the arrival of nationals from another country in large numbers, other problems have also surfaced, but these are of minor concern given the huge benefits CPEC could offer Pakistan if it can indeed be completed.

There has been some criticism over the control the project gives China in Pakistan, but this again is less significant than the need to bolster Pakistan's economy and generate jobs for people working along the new links. Much of these pass through the impoverished province of Balochistan to reach the Gwadar Port. Other than CPEC, the Chinese president appreciated the socio-economic development in Pakistan and its continued fight against terrorism. China has promised to support Pakistan in any way it can. PM Imran Khan of course reiterated the words of friendship and also brought up the issue of Indian-Occupied Kashmir. President Xi is due to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the next few days, and Pakistan will be hoping he can exert some pressure on the Kashmir issue.

Imran also made it clear he wishes to learn from the Chinese model on development and in combatting poverty. This may be cumbersome given that the Chinese model is deeply rooted in an ideology first developed under Chairman Mao and then altered, but not abandoned, by subsequent leaders. China is also essentially a one party state. However, Pakistan's need for friends in a hostile world is paramount to all else. China has made it clear it remains willing to cooperate in the economic sector, not only through CPEC but also in the industrial and infrastructure sectors. Educational links between the two countries were also discussed as were regional problems. The visit then has been a success and we must hope work on CPEC gets back on track as quickly as possible.

October 12, 2019

Daily Times

PM's visit to China — way forward

Upon assuming the charge of the state, one year ago, the leadership expressed its apprehensions about the way China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was planned or executed. After one year, our leadership seems to have registered that CPEC is not what previous governments had conceived. It was part of a greater, One Road One Belt initiative of the Chinese government that was going to benefit Pakistan by default. Pakistan and China are now talking about shared vision in future.

There is one huge impediment in achieving this objective, the Indian vision, part of which is aimed at full annexation of Kashmir. Ladakh is the region where the Chinese have a claim denied by India. With the abrogation of article 370 and 35{A}, there are implications for China besides Pakistan, which has a claim on the state of Kashmir as a Muslim-majority state. In the light of UN resolution, the Indian government is required to hold a plebiscite in the region under UN supervision. Unfortunately, it is now claiming to be an internal affair of India, which is a violation of UN resolution.

Besides, the state machinery is bent upon victimization of the local population, including women and children, in a manner, which is not admissible under any law. Oppression of the local Kashmiri Muslims against their free will is a crime that the Indian government is committing without examining the outcome of such behavior. In the Holy Quran, Allah cites numerous examples of the great nations of the past that achieved aggrandizement and high stature among the community of nations. However, when they did not follow the righteous path of Allah, they got doomed. Therefore, to make that progress sustainable, it is essential to follow the divine principles.

The PM appears to be in search of those principles as he mentioned in his address in China that he wanted to ensure accountability mechanism to punish the corrupt public office bearers. He went to China with Army Chief in the company, probably to emphasize security to the engineers working on CPEC and other Chinese investors/traders in Pakistan. The confidence-building is necessary to obtain Chinese investments in Pakistan. Thirdly, he emphasized on poverty alleviation as he showed keenness to study Chinese model of improving the living conditions of the common man. His objectives for taking CPEC from phase one to phase two and beyond seem to pivot in achieving the above stated objectives.

Why was this visit planned just before the visit of the Chinese president to India? It will be useful for the Chinese to analyze the situation as the Indian step seems to be threatening the Chinese Road and Belt initiative. Indian foreign minister has stated that now the negotiations with Pakistan will be on the Azad Kashmir. This is a unilateral action, which the Chinese have denounced in their declaration with Pakistan's visiting team of Prime Minister.

It appears that with the new Pivot Asia policy the Indians have been emboldened in their actions and deeds. This calls for a definite and adroit response to stop further irresponsible actions by the Indian government. I am of the view that lip service at this stage is too mild to do as the poor people of Kashmir are expecting a helping hand from their Pakistani brothers. Several attempts have been made by the protesters, doctors for humanitarian aid and even by the US senators who were turned down by the Indian government. There is a requirement to generate a tough response on atrocities being committed in the Indian occupied Kashmir. Minorities, particularly in India, are facing a tough situation. Hindu extremism is also manifesting in the Indian government actions in Assam where a large number of Muslims have been denied the citizenship of India.

After demolishing Babri Masjid, the next step is to convert it to Ram maunda. Exports of cow meat from India are also being reduced due to the religious obligations of the Hindu religion. This needs a strong diplomatic response to avail the opportunity to fill the gap created in the commercial market of beef in the gulf region. To promote exports from Pakistan, there has been a consensus to go beyond CPEC framework.

The proposed cooperation agreed by both Pakistan and China is in the fields of industrial, infrastructural, economic development, social uplift and education must be aimed at enabling Pakistan's economy to grow and ultimately get rid of IMF and World Bank. Since Pakistan has recently announced the establishment of CPEC authority for expeditious implementation of these

projects, it should also be given the mandate to oversee the progress of CPEC and report to the government on the accomplishment of above-stated objectives. Other ministries should work for hand in glove to speed up completion of phase two followed by an economic uplift plan. Pakistan government must also develop pressure on the Indian government in support of oppressed Kashmiri Muslims through steps such as mobilizing its armed forces close to the Indian border in a war prepared state. It should consider appropriate sanctions on all imports on Indian goods, deny the use of its air and water space for commercial purpose and highlight irresponsible atrocities on the minorities in India.

A high-level meeting with Chinese official should be held soon after the visit of the Chinese President to India. The joint strategy and shared future of Pakistan with China are likely to accrue favorable results for the countries. In case the Indian leadership decides to continue its policies, the shared future of Pakistan with China will emerge brighter and brighter and India as a state will be certainly doomed.

Dawn

Stalled CPEC projects to be revived

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Friday vowed to restart stalled schemes under the multi-billion dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

The decision was made during the 7th meeting of the CPEC's Joint Working Group on Transport Infrastructure. The meeting took place a day after Prime Minister Imran Khan's returned to the country following a two-day official visit to China where he met with the Chinese leadership. The two countries reaffirmed their commitments to complete under progress CPEC projects.

According to the spokesman for the Ministry of Communication, the meeting discussed ongoing and future CPEC projects.

The Chinese side was led by Chief Planner HoD China Wang Zhiqing while the Pakistani delegation was led by Secretary Communications Jawwad Rafique Malik.

The Chinese side expressed satisfaction on the quality and timely completion of CPEC projects. The delegation — comprising of Chinese ministers of transport and railways as well as Exim Bank China representatives — stressed upon the need for earlier start of future schemes.

The meeting also commended the completion of Multan-Sukkur Motorway (M-5) and Thakot-Havelian project.

It was decided that both the projects will be inaugurated in a befitting manner as they have great significance from economic point of view for Pakistan.

The meeting agreed to undertake practical steps for start D.I. Khan-Zhob project. China also assured to extend all cooperation including technical consultation and exchange of information and technology to make Highway and Research Centre (HRC) more active.

The meeting agreed for earlier start of a study on CPEC traffic to extend the range of research and training in roads sector. Improvement and rehabilitation of the Karakoram Highway (KKH), development of Gwadar Port and Lahore Orange Line Projects were also discussed in detail. The meeting also reviewed the security measures for the CPEC projects.

The meeting also discussed various aspects of upcoming schemes of Peshawar-D.I.Khan Motorway, realignment of KKH from Thakot to Raikot and Swat Expressway from Chakdara to Fatehpur.

Pakistan Observer

New impetus to Pak-China bilateral relationship

FEW relationships in the history of international relations have endured so long as that between Pakistan and China; and even fewer have been described as “higher than the mountains, deeper than the oceans”. This description of the all-weather friendship is based on shared principles and interests, and forms the foundation of cooperation in diverse fields. Indeed, Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of Pakistan’s foreign policy; and friendship with China represents national consensus and the common desire of all Pakistani people. On Thursday, China said it believed that Prime Minister Imran Khan’s recent visit to Beijing would inject a new impetus into bilateral partnership between the two all-weather friends, adding there were a lot of fruitful outcomes from his visit. Pakistan and China agreed that the implementation of the second phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would lead to more trade, economic and investment opportunities between the two countries.

During a meeting between visiting Prime Minister Imran Khan and his Chinese counterpart, Li Keqiang at the Great Hall of the People, both sides noted that frequent bilateral exchanges were contributing to taking the bilateral cooperative partnership to new heights. Prime Minister Imran and Premier Li also discussed bilateral trade and economic partnership as well as the regional security, including the serious human rights and humanitarian situation in the India-occupied Kashmir, especially during the lockdown for more than two months. Imran Khan thanked the leadership and people of China for their warm hospitality and invited Chinese leadership to visit Pakistan at a mutually convenient time. China appreciated Pakistan’s unrelenting efforts and tremendous sacrifices while countering terrorism. It also supported Pakistan in implementing National Action Plan and called on the international community to objectively recognize Pakistan’s contribution to regional peace and security through its fight against terrorism. The two leaders reviewed excellent bilateral defence cooperation and agreed to further strengthen the cooperation in the areas of military exercises, training cooperation, personnel exchanges and equipment and technology. The two sides held in-depth exchange of views on deepening bilateral cooperation in areas of trade, investment, finance, education, agriculture, social sector, people to people contacts and cultural linkages. Chinese investment in specialized Economic Zones and collaboration in Small and Medium Enterprises sector would further expand Pakistan’s industrial base and diversify its export base. Prime Minister Imran Khan

felicitated Premier Li on the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. During the talks, Prime Minister Imran informed his Chinese counterpart that expeditious completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects was the foremost priority of his government. The transformational project was pivotal to accelerating Pakistan's economic development and regional prosperity, he said.

He also apprised Premier Li of the actions taken recently by the government to fast track the CPEC projects and to push the development momentum in Gwadar. Imran Khan underscored that the cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China served the fundamental interests of the two countries and their peoples, and contributed to peace, development and stability of the region. Prime Minister Imran apprised Premier Li of the latest developments and the importance of urgent action by the international community to alleviate the sufferings of the Kashmiri people. Other areas of potential collaboration, which were discussed in the meeting, included railways, steel, oil and gas, industry and science and technology sectors. The two leaders also witnessed signing of various agreements and memorandum of understanding (MOUs) aimed at deepening Pakistan-China ties in a range of socio-economic sectors. Anyhow, Pakistan is poised to overcome economic challenges with the help of China.

According to ISPR, the Army Chief met Chinese military leadership, including PLA Army Commander, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission and Commander Southern Theater Command. General Qamar Javed Bajwa also joined the Prime Minister in meetings with Chinese Prime Minister and President. Commenting on the Prime Minister's visit and his meetings with the top Chinese leadership, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang said that Beijing attached great importance to the visit of Imran. He also reiterated that China's position on Kashmir dispute had been consistent, and China supported the principled and sane stance of Pakistan. With Prime Minister Imran Khan and COAS' visit and meetings with their counterparts would further boost already existing warm and friendly relationship, and sent a message loud and clear that both countries stand shoulder to shoulder in facing the challenges irrespective of time.

In November 2018 during his four-day visit to China, Prime Minister Imran Khan had met President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang. He had discussed matters of mutual interest and sought Beijing's assistance in tackling financial crisis. Reviewing with satisfaction the historical development of China-Pakistan relations and the great strides made both sides in the joint statement had agreed to further strengthen the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership in line with the principles set forth by the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good-neighborly Relations signed in 2005. The Chinese side had reiterated that China's relationship with Pakistan is always a matter of highest priority in its foreign policy.

China reaffirmed its support and solidarity with Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and security. Last but not the least; despite the fact that Chinese President is to visit India, yet China's leadership was candid in supporting Pakistan's stance on Kashmir.

China satisfied with quality, timely completion of CPEC projects

China has expressed satisfaction on the quality and timely completion of China Pakistan Economic Corridor projects including Multan-Sukkur (M-5) and Thakot-Havelian motorways. This was expressed by Chinese delegation led by Chief Planner HoD China, Wang Zhiqing during the 7th meeting of CPEC Joint Working Group on Transport Infrastructure held in Islamabad. Other delegates included from Chinese Ministries of Transport and Railway and Exim Bank China.

The meeting also lauded the completion of Multan-Sukkur Motorway (M-5) and Thakot-Havelian project.

It was decided that both the projects would be inaugurated in a befitting manner as both the projects possess great significance from economic point of view for Pakistan. The meeting also agreed to undertake practical steps for start of DI Khan-Zhob project. China also assured to extend all cooperation to Pakistan including technical consultation and exchange of information and technology to make Highway and Research Centre more active. The meeting agreed for earlier start of study of CPEC traffic. This would extend the range of research and training in roads sector. The meeting also reviewed the security measures for the CPEC projects.

The News

CPEC authority welcomed

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has welcomed the establishment of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority, and expressed the hope this step would prove a milestone for early completion and success of this mega project, a statement said on Friday.

LCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Senior Vice President Ali Hussam Asghar and Vice President Mian Zahid Jawaid Ahmad said that local manufacturers should be given due role in China Pakistan Economic Corridor project to provide the much needed boost to the local industries.

Local industries should be given level playing field to get benefits and should be involved in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor project, they said.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor would start a new era of progress and prosperity in the country and; therefore, it should be handled with extra care, they said, adding that Pakistan is bound to become economically strong and independent with never ending chain of investments from China.

It will only be possible if the respective private sector representatives play their due role proactively, they added.

The News

سی پیک منصوبے کے پہلے مرحلے کی تکمیل، مغربی روٹ پر کام تیز کرنے کا فیصلہ

اسلام آباد (جنگ نیوز) پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کا پہلا مرحلہ مکمل ہونے پر سی پیک جو انٹورنگ گروپ کا اعلیٰ سطح کا چینی وفد پاکستان پہنچ گیا ہے۔ چینی وزیر ٹرانسپورٹ کی قیادت میں آئے وفد نے وفاقی وزیر برائے مواصلات مراد سعید سے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات کے دوران سی پیک منصوبے کے دوسرے مرحلے میں مغربی روٹ پر کام تیز کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا۔ ملاقات میں ٹرانسپورٹ انفراسٹرکچر کے لئے مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ کی مفاہمتیادداشت پر بھی دستخط ہوئے۔ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کے دوسرے مرحلے میں مغربی روٹ پر 12 سو 70 کلومیٹر کی شاہراہیں تعمیر کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا۔ گلگت سے چترال اور ڈیرہ غازی خان سے ٹوب تک شاہراہیں تعمیر ہوں گی۔ پشاور تا ڈیرہ غازی خان، سوات ایکسپریس وے فیئر 2 سمیت قراقرم ہائی وے پر کام ہو گا۔

Jang News

چین کی جانب سے سندھ پولیس کیلئے موبائلز، کمپیوٹرز اور دیگر آلات کا عطیہ

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) حکومت چین کی جانب سے سندھ پولیس کے لیے 50 واکی ٹاکی سیٹس، 3 عدد موبائلز، 15 پرنٹرز، 2 کمپیوٹرز، 1 فوٹو کاپی مشین اور ایک عدد مانیٹرنگ آلے کا سیٹ بطور عطیہ دیا گیا اس حوالے سے سینئر پولیس آفس کراچی میں خصوصی تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا جس میں تین رکنی چینی وفد نے نائب قونصلیٹ جنرل کی سربراہی میں شرکت کی اور سامان ڈی آئی جی ٹی اینڈ ٹی ناصر آفتاب کے حوالے کیا، اس موقع پر ناصر آفتاب نے کہا کہ عوام کی جان و مال کا تحفظ اور امن کے استحکام جیسے اقدامات میں سندھ پولیس انتہائی پر عزم اور ہمہ وقت تیار و مستعد ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت چین کا سندھ پولیس کے ساتھ جاری تعاون اور جملہ امور کو تقویت دینے جیسے اقدامات لائق ستائش و تحسین ہیں، انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ مجھے قومی اُمید ہے کہ حکومت چین سندھ پولیس کیساتھ تعاون کے سلسلے کو ناصرف پائیدار بنا سکی بلکہ لاجسٹکس سپورٹ و دیگر ضروری امور جیسے اقدامات کو بھی مزید بہتر اور مثالی بنا سکی۔

Nawaiwaqt

چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو ہر ممکن سہولت، پورا تحفظ دینگے: عثمان بزدار

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) وزیر اعلیٰ سردار عثمان بزدار سے چین کے میسنگ انٹرنیشنل گروپ انویسٹمنٹ ہولڈنگ لمیٹڈ کے وفد نے ملاقات کی۔ چینی گروپ نے پنجاب کے ہاؤسنگ سیکٹر میں سرمایہ کاری میں گہری دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا۔ چینی گروپ کے وفد کے سربراہ نے کہا کہ کم آمدن والے خاندانوں کیلئے کم لاگت کے گھر تعمیر کرنے کے شعبے میں سرمایہ کاری کے خواہاں ہیں اور پنجاب میں کم لاگت کے 2 لاکھ گھر تعمیر کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے چینی سرمایہ کاروں کا ہاؤسنگ کے شعبے میں سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی کا اظہار خوش

آئندہ ہے۔ چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو ہر ممکن سہولتیں فراہم کریں گے۔ ہاؤسنگ کے شعبہ میں سرمایہ کاری کے وسیع مواقع موجود ہیں۔ پنجاب میں غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کو پورا تحفظ دیں گے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے متعلقہ محکموں کے حکام کو ہدایت کی کہ چینی سرمایہ کاروں کی تجویز کا جائزہ لے کر حتمی سفارشات پیش کریں اور متعلقہ امور جلد سے جلد طے کر کے تیز رفتاری سے مستقبل کا حتمی پلان تیار کیا جائے۔ تحریک انصاف کی حکومت نے نیا پاکستان ہاؤسنگ پروگرام جیسا انقلابی منصوبہ بنایا ہے اور اس ضمن میں تیزی سے کام جاری ہے۔ پنجاب حکومت نے ہائی راز عمارتوں کی تعمیر کی اجازت دے دی گئی ہے اور اس اقدام سے ہاؤسنگ کے شعبہ میں معاشی سرگرمیوں میں تیزی آئے گی۔ عثمان بزدار سے مختلف شہروں سے آئے لوگوں نے ملاقات کی۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے مسائل سے اور ان کے حل کیلئے موقع پر ہی احکامات جاری کئے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ فرداً فرداً شہریوں کے پاس گئے اور ان سے مصافحہ کیا۔ عثمان بزدار نے کہا کہ صوبے کے عوام کی امیدوں اور توقعات پر پورا اترنے کیلئے صرف کام پر توجہ ہے اور شہریوں کے جائز کام ترجیحی بنیادوں پر حل کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ ماضی میں صرف چند شہروں کو وسائل دیئے گئے، دور دراز علاقوں کو نظر انداز کیا گیا اور ترقی و خوشحالی کیسٹیاں پالیسی کی دھجیاں اڑائی گئیں۔ مخصوص ایجنڈے کے تحت پنجاب کے دور دراز کے شہروں کو ترقی سے محروم رکھا۔ سابق ادوار کی غلط پالیسیوں کے باعث عوام کے مسائل بڑھے اور مخصوص طبقہ امیر ہوتا گیا اور عام آدمی غریب۔ نئے پاکستان میں اس ظالمانہ نظام کی کوئی گنجائش نہیں۔ ہم باتیں نہیں کام کر کے دکھاتے ہیں۔ لوٹ مار کا دور گزر چکا ہے، قومی وسائل عوام کی امانت ہیں۔ کسی کو تبدیلی کے ایجنڈے کی راہ میں حائل نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔ تحریک انصاف کی حکومت پاکستان کی 70 برس کی خرابیوں کو ٹھیک کر رہی ہے۔ اب شفاف قیادت اور شفاف حکومت ہے اور انشاء اللہ عوام کی امیدیں پوری کریں گے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار نے بزرگ سیاستدان میر حضور بخش ڈوکی کے انتقال پر گہرے دکھ اور افسوس کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ سردار عثمان بزدار نے خانیوال کے علاقے کبیر والا میں دو بہنوں سے زیادتی کے حوالے سے میڈیا پر نشر ہونے والی خبر کا نوٹس لیتے ہوئے ڈی پی او خانیوال سے رپورٹ طلب کر لی ہے

Nawaiwaqt

پاکستان اور چین کے مابین ٹرانسپورٹ انفراسٹرکچر پر متفقہ نکات پر دستخط

اسلام آباد (پ ر) گذشتہ روز پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ٹرانسپورٹ انفراسٹرکچر پر جانٹ ورننگ گروپ کے ساتویں اجلاس کے اختتام پر متفقہ نکات پر وزارت مواصلات میں دستخط کئے گئے۔ پاکستان کی طرف سے وفاقی سیکرٹری مواصلات جو ارنیق ملک اور چین کی طرف سے چین کی وزارت ٹرانسپورٹ کے چیف پلانر وانگ زی چنگ نے دستخط کئے۔ وفاقی وزیر مواصلات و پوسٹل سروسز مراد سعید بھی اس موقع پر موجود تھے۔ چین کے وفد نے وفاقی وزیر مواصلات و پوسٹل سروسز مراد سعید سے ملاقات بھی کی۔ مراد سعید نے چین کے وفد کو خوش آمدید کہتے ہوئے جانٹ ورننگ گروپ کے فورم کی اہمیت پر روشنی ڈالی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ فورم سی پیک کے انفراسٹرکچر منصوبوں پر عملدرآمد کیلئے کلیدی حیثیت رکھتا مراد سعید نے چین کے انجینئرز اور کارکنوں کی محنت، لگن اور پیشہ دارانہ مہارت کو سراہا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک انفراسٹرکچر منصوبوں کی بروقت تکمیل کیلئے تمام اقدامات عمل میں لائے جائیں گے، جس سے نہ صرف ملازمت کے مواقع پیدا ہونگے بلکہ مقامی کاروبار میں بہتری بھی آئے گی۔

October 13, 2019

The News

Centre for Chinese Legal Studies inaugurated

LAHORE: The Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law (SAHSOL) of Lahore University of Management Sciences held a ceremony to mark the inauguration of the Centre for Chinese Legal Studies (CCLS) at the university.

The centre, a groundbreaking initiative for research in and the promotion and teaching of Chinese legal studies in Pakistan, has been established in collaboration with the School of Law, Wuhan University, China. The ceremony drew a large number of people, including prominent individuals from not only the legal field, but also from the government sector.

Honorable Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah of Supreme Court of Pakistan was the chief guest and keynote speaker on the occasion.

According to a press release, given Pakistan's increased interaction with China over the past years, the CCLS has been founded as a hub for shared legal resources and an exchange of knowledge between Pakistani academics and their Chinese counterparts. The Centre with the School of Law at Wuhan University (SLWU) will also train qualified academic staff based in Pakistan in order to create capacity for the study and teaching of Chinese law in all relevant areas of concern for Pakistan, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The CCLS will broaden the legal knowledge base and equip lawyers to work on Pak-China projects. Mutual collaboration on research projects and exchange visits will build intellectual capital for both nations. In this regard, CCLS and the School of Law at Wuhan University have commenced a short law course at SAHSOL "Introduction to Chinese Law."

In his welcoming remarks, Dr Arshad Ahmad, vice chancellor, LUMS, said, "The role of CCLS is to promote exchanges with Wuhan University to teach Chinese law courses, conduct training seminars and attend conferences and symposia on the Chinese legal system. By building academic capacity to study and teach courses in Chinese law through CCLS, both countries stand to gain as ties between both are strengthened through CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative. This important initiative must succeed for future generations not only to benefit Asia, but to benefit the world, which is increasingly looking to China for its remarkable progress in scientific research and higher education."

Dr Pervez Hassan, member of the Board of Trustees, LUMS, spoke to the audience and noted how the university was suited to spearhead this initiative. He said, "With the growing Chinese interest in the region, SAHSOL can position itself as a leading legal research hub for students and professors, particularly from Pakistan, China and other Central Asian republics."

Professor Li Fei, vice-president, Wuhan University, also spoke at the event and expressed his pleasure on the collaboration, "The establishment of this Centre will provide a good platform for

Pakistani teachers and students to study Chinese law and culture. Wuhan University will support the developments through legal personnel training, legal academic research and intellectual exchange. The Centre will become an important link, and I hope the two universities will work together to continuously develop China and Pakistan's friendship."

In his keynote address, Honorable Mr. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah stressed on the importance of mutual collaboration and the understanding of Chinese culture and said, "Unless we endeavor to understand the history, the tradition and the ethos of the Chinese people, we will not be able to understand their laws. There is much to learn from the Chinese - understanding their people and their culture goes hand in hand with legal education."

He then spoke about how the CCLS was the need of the hour, "Thanks to the visionary leadership at LUMS, we have moved in the right direction with China."

This Centre will go a long way in developing expertise to assist Chinese and Pakistani companies walking in through the economic corridor." He said the new cadre of professionals with a good sense of Chinese law and tradition would help the businesses by forging partnerships and joint business ventures with much more ease and understanding.

October 14, 2019

Pakistan Observer

New era of Pak-China friendship

During his meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan, on October 9, 2019, President Xi Jinping announced a new ingenuity between two traditional friends. He said that, "China is ready to work with Pakistan to forge a closer China-Pakistan 'community of shared future' in the new era". The concept of 'community of shared future' was an innovation of the former Chinese President, Mr Hu Jintao and has been endorsed and advanced by the current Chinese regime under President Xi Jinping. This is a great vision of Chinese leadership of all-encompassing rather a few, on the path of an optimistic and harmonious Pak-China relationship. Pakistan and China have already completed 70 years of harmonious relationship, ever since both commenced this journey soon after People's Republic of China came into being in October 1949.

There are very solid foundations of this harmonious Pak-China relationship, focusing on all aspects; political, economic and strategic. Based on this strong and ever green relationship President Xi Jinping stated during his meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan that, the friendship between Pakistan and China is "unbreakable and rock solid".

This highly farsighted and well-conceived concept of China-Pakistan 'community of shared future' in the most challenging time has lot of prospects in the bilateral relationship of both countries. An insight analysis of this concept would reveal that, the last seven decades of Pakistan-China relations were centered on formal and official linkages between Islamabad and Beijing. With the advent of a new era where globalization has become the order of the day, this

formal state to state relationship must take the people on board. Indeed, the people to people relationship has been a grey area in the last 70 years of Pak-China all weather friendship.

Development of Gwadar Port by Chinese companies and later initiation of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in 2015 could bridge the gap needed since long and brought the people of both countries together. However, it still fall short of what it has been indicated by President Xi Jinping. In real terms, this is a new framework of China, for the promotion of international relations and improvement of global governance. Since Chinese model of good governance and international relations has been a success story, therefore extension of this model to Pakistan for forging a closer China-Pakistan ‘community of shared future’ is most desired under the changing geopolitical environment.

Indeed, there is dire need that, harmonious relationship between Pakistan and China must spread over to the communities, the societies and the wider academic circles of both friendly states. In order to accrue the real benefits of these relationship Pak-China communities with common interests and societies with harmonious future will have to collaborate, cooperate and progress together in the new era. Prime Minister Imran Khan while fully endorsing the concept, wished for a long-term Pak-China friendship in all areas under the concept of shared future. On the Kashmir dispute, Prime Minister Imran Khan thoroughly briefed President Xi Jinping and thanked the Chinese principled stance, supporting the Pakistani concern, emerged after a unilateral Indian decision of ending the special status of Indian occupied Kashmir. Pakistan considers that Indian unilateral act of revoking Article 370 was unconstitutional, immoral, violations of UN resolutions and politically motivated to deprive the people of Jammu and Kashmir of their legal right of self-determination. China endorsed all Pakistani concerns, since it too has its reservations over the Indian decision of annexing the occupied parts of Kashmir into Indian Union, illegally.

As clear from the joint statement, China is paying a close attention to the situation in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmir is an issue of common concern both for Pakistan and China. Therefore, Beijing considers “that the Kashmir issue is a dispute left from history, and should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.” China has strictly opposed the unilateral Indian act like Pakistan. Indeed, both countries underlined that “a peaceful, stable, cooperative and prosperous South Asia was in common interest of all parties. Parties need to settle disputes and issues in the region through dialogue on the basis of equality and mutual respect.”

While Prime Minister was meeting the political leadership of China, the Army Chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa had parallel meetings with senior Commander of People’s Liberation Army (PLA). General Bajwa had meeting with top brass of the Chinese military. Gen Bajwa discussed the contemporary situation in IOK; arise after India imposed curfew and siege of the occupied territory. Like political leadership, the military leadership was equally concerned about the situation in IOK. During the visit of General Bajwa, more military collaborations and cooperation between armed forces of two countries was agreed in keeping in view the changing

geopolitical situation at regional and global level. General Bajwa also participated in the meeting held between Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Xi Jinping. Indeed, his participation in this top level political leadership meeting has been viewed in Delhi with lot of concerns, since Chinese President undertook a two-day visit of India, thereafter.

Presence of top level Pakistani political and military leadership at Beijing was a clear message that, irrespective of regional and global opposition, Pakistan will never compromise on the gigantic project of CPEC and its auxiliary projects, already underway. Besides, both friendly countries have common standing over the Jammu and Kashmir and are seriously concerned over the current state of affairs in IOK. The visit was a reiteration that, China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. “No matter how the international and regional situation changes, the friendship between China and Pakistan has always been unbreakable and rock-solid, and China-Pakistan cooperation has always maintained strong vitality.” Indeed, it is a new era of Pak-China friendship, forging a closer China-Pakistan ‘community of shared future’.

Express News

چینی کمپنی کی ”نیپا پاکستان ہاؤسنگ اسکیم“ میں 1 لاکھ گھربنانے میں دلچسپی

چینی کمپنی نے ”نیپا پاکستان ہاؤسنگ اسکیم“ میں ایک لاکھ گھربنانے میں دلچسپی کا اظہار کر دیا۔

وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب عثمان بزدار کے سیاسی معاون سید رفاقت علی گیلانی نے ”نیپا پاکستان ہاؤسنگ پراجیکٹ“ پر پیش رفت کے حوالے سے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے ویژن کے تحت پنجاب میں پراجیکٹ پر عمل درآمد جاری ہے، پراجیکٹ کے تحت کم آمدنی والے خاندانوں کو معیاری رہائشی سہولیات فراہم کی جائیں گی اور پنجاب میں 25 لاکھ گھر تعمیر کیے جائیں گے، کم لاگت گھروں کی تعمیر کے لیے غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کو ہر ممکن سہولیات فراہم کریں گے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے اپنے گزشتہ دورہ چین میں چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو نیپا پاکستان ہاؤسنگ پراجیکٹ میں سرمایہ کاری کی دعوت دی تھی اور چین کی کمپنی نیپا پاکستان ہاؤسنگ پراجیکٹ میں ایک لاکھ گھروں کی تعمیر میں دلچسپی رکھتی ہے، غیر ملکی اداروں کا پراجیکٹ کے لیے خدمات پیش کرنا خوش آئند ہے اور کم لاگت گھروں کی تعمیر میں غیر ملکی اداروں کے تجربات سے استفادہ کیا جائے گا جب کہ پنجاب میں پھانٹا کے زیر انتظام اراضی کے علاوہ نجی شعبے کے تحت بھی کم لاگت گھر تعمیر کیے جائیں گے۔

رفاقت گیلانی نے مزید کہا کہ پراجیکٹ کے تحت پانچ اور تین مرلہ گھروں کے علاوہ بڑے شہروں بشمول لاہور، فیصل آباد اور ملتان میں ہائی رائز بلڈنگز بھی تعمیر کی جائیں گی، کم لاگت گھروں کی تعمیر کے حوالے سے ورلڈ بینک کی تجاویز اور فنی معاونت کو خوش آمدید کہا جائے گا، نیپا پاکستان ہاؤسنگ پراجیکٹ میں گھروں کی تعمیر کے حوالے سے نجی شعبے کے اشتراک کے مختلف طریقہ کار بھی طے کیے جا رہے ہیں۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اس ضمن میں مختلف سرکاری اداروں کے بلڈنگز بائی لاز میں مجوزہ ترامیم کی گئی ہیں، نیا پاکستان ہاؤسنگ پراجیکٹ میں کم لاگت گھروں کی تعمیر کے حوالے سے فنی معاونت کے امکانات کا جائزہ لیا جا رہا ہے اور اس حوالے سے مختلف آپشنز زیر غور لائے جا رہے ہیں

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The Nation

PM takes cabinet into confidence on China visit

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday said the government was committed to playing role for regional peace and Islamabad wanted solution to all problems through talks. Chairing a federal cabinet meeting, the PM took his team into confidence regarding his recent visits to China and Iran.

In China, PM Khan said, he discussed economic, defence, social, business and people to people ties to enhance bilateral relations and improve cooperation between the two countries.

In addition, China accepted Occupied Kashmir as a controversial issue in the joint press release issued at the conclusion of the visit. The Prime Minister thanked China for taking this principled stand.

The cabinet expressed satisfaction over the dynamic developments in relation with China. The Prime Minister also took the cabinet into confidence regarding his upcoming visit to Saudi Arabia in a bid to mend fences between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Briefing journalists about the cabinet meeting, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan said that Pakistan's economic and strategic power can increase manifold when the "brotherly Muslim countries are united."

Prime Minister Imran Khan, she said, had directed the ministries concerned to take measures to make the prices of essential items stable as well as ensuring their availability in markets for the benefit of common man.

Awan said that the Prime Minister directed that strict action will be taken against profiteers and hoarders as it is main responsibility of the government to ensure provision of goods to the people.

Khan also convened a meeting of provincial chief ministers and chief secretaries on Friday next in which measures would be discussed to activate the price control committees at grass roots level.

The premier directed that a mechanism should be developed in coordination with provincial evacuee departments to take steps for land retrieval and its proper use for public service purposes. A data bank on these lands should also be prepared.

The cabinet endorsed the decisions of previous meeting of Economic Coordination Committee. Dr Awan said the cabinet was given various proposals regarding the establishment of Real Estate Regulatory Authority.

She said that the federal cabinet gave approval to the new Master Plan of Islamabad on immediate basis. For this purpose, professional architects and consultants of international repute will be hired to undertake the process.

She said that special consideration will be made for environmental challenges while drafting the new Master Plan for the federal capital.

Dr Awan said that the meeting decided to take up Sector G-6 on pilot basis to introduce reforms and develop it into a modern housing area.

The meeting decided that structural plan of high rise buildings and other infrastructure would also be revised and overlapping of work would be reduced.

She said that existing master plan of Islamabad was made in 1960s and it has not been revised so far. As a result, a mushroom growth and unplanned development was witnessed in different areas of the federal capital, putting a strain on essential services. This unplanned growth also disturbed the beauty of Islamabad.

The cabinet accorded approval to restructuring of Capital Development Authority.

The Special Assistant said that after restructuring, CDA will be transformed into a modern and vibrant development authority to ensure the delivery of services to the residents as well as improving the housing sector.

The cabinet approved a policy regarding Lungar (charity food) service of Ehsaas (care) programme. It was decided that further Lungar facilities will be set up on public private partnership basis.