



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

October 01-15, 2020

A pilot project of PICS

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October 01, 2020**Daily Times****China-Pakistan journey of friendship**

- 1951** The two countries establish diplomatic relations
- 1955** Visit of Vice President Madam Song Ching Ling to Pakistan
- 1956** Visit of Prime Minister HS Suhrawardy to China
- 1963** Visit of Foreign Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to China
- 1963** Pakistan and China concludes boundary agreement
- 1964** PIA starts flights to Beijing, becoming the first non-communist country airline to fly from Beijing
- 1965** Agreement on Cultural Cooperation signed
- 1970** Pakistan facilitates first visit by US President Nixon to China
- 1976** Agreement on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation signed
- 1978** The Karakoram Highway, a construction miracle, linking the Northern Pakistan with Western China officially opens
- 1983** Pakistan and China sign MoU on Educational Exchanges
- 1989** Agreement signed on Reciprocal Encouragement and Protection of Investments
- 1995** Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto visits China as a special guest
- 1999** Contract to jointly develop and produce JF-17 signed
- 2001** Premier Zhu Rongji visits Pakistan on 50 years of establishment of Diplomatic Relations
- 2001** China and Pakistan sign agreement on Tourism Cooperation
- 2003** Preferential Trade Agreement is signed between two countries
- 2005** Bilateral MoU on Cooperation in Information Technology signed
- 2005** Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visits Pakistan
- 2005** Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, Good Neighborly Relations signed
- 2006** Chinese President Hu Jintao pays an official visit to Pakistan
- 2006** China and Pakistan sign Free Trade Agreement
- 2008** Pakistan welcomes the Chinese Olympic Torch in Islamabad
- 2010** Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao visits Pakistan

- 2010** JF-17 inducted in Pakistan Air Force
- 2013** Premier Li Keqiang visits Pakistan in May
- 2013** Pakistan and China sign MoU on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor
- 2013** Pakistan awards contract for construction of Gwadar Port to China
- 2013** Both countries sign MoU on CPEC Long-term Plan and Action
- 2014** Pakistan, China agree to construct Orange Line Metro Train in Lahore
- 2015** Chinese President Xi Jinping visits Pakistan
- 2015** Two countries celebrate 2015 as Year of Friendly Exchanges
- 2015** Two countries celebrate 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations
- 2016** China-Pakistan unveils Long-term Plan of CPEC
- 2018** Prime Minister Imran Khan pays historic visit China
- 2018** CPEC enters in Second Phase
- 2018** Phase-II of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement signed
- 2018** Prime Minister Imran Khan attends First CIIE in Shanghai
- 2018** Groundbreaking of Rashakai Special Economic Zone
- 2018** Pakistan launches Remote Sensing Satellite-1 from China
- 2019** Groundbreaking of Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Faisalabad
- 2019** PM Imran Khan visits China to attend Second Belt and Road Forum
- 2019** JWG on International Coordination and Cooperation launched
- 2019** Visit of Chinese Vice President to Pakistan in May
- 2019** Two sides celebrate 2019 as year of sister-city/province
- 2019** Visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China in October
- 2019** CPEC Authority set up to coordinate and monitor progress on projects
- 2019** 9th JCC took place in Islamabad in November
- 2020** CPFTA-II became operational from 1st January
- 2020** Extensive coordination in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic
- 2020** Visit of President Dr Arif Alvi to China in March

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/672872/china-pakistan-journey-of-friendship/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese experts working round the clock on BRT buses, route

A team of Chinese experts from the company which provided buses for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Peshawar, was busy in detailed inspection of the buses and route after the service was halted in the wake of four fire incidents on BRT vehicles. Spokesman for Trans Peshawar, the company that runs BRT said experts from the bus company were taking round the clock detailed assessment of the buses from all aspects. After a complete checkup of the buses and rectification of the shortcomings, he said the BRT service will resume. He said all the buses of BRT were in warranty and to make them more travel worthy and reliable and avert recurrence of fire incidents, some state of the art parts.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-experts-working-round-the-clock-on-brt-buses-route/>

The Express Tribune

K-P to set up economic zone in Chitral

The provincial government has decided to set up an economic zone in Chitral as part of its efforts to uplift the remote region. Called the 'Chitral Economic Zone' it will be spread over 140 acres and will be available for commercial launching by the end of next month.

This was disclosed during a meeting on a three-year industrial roadmap on Tuesday which was chaired by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Mahmood Khan.

The chief minister was informed that the master plan for the 89 acres Ghazi Economic Zone has been completed. The project will be ready for a commercial launch in December this year.

It was further said that a tender had been floated for the establishment of 3,125 acres of the Daraban Economic Zone which would be the largest economic zone of the province.

Daraban Economic Zone is situated just two kilometres from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route, which was an ideal location for international investors. Expected investment through this project is Rs56 billion, with over five million direct and indirect employment opportunities. The project would have four hundred industrial units, the meeting was informed.

CM Mahmood said the incumbent government is focusing on creating an investment-friendly environment for industrialists.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2266429/k-p-to-set-up-economic-zone-in-chitral>

October 02, 2020

Dawn News

CM woos foreign investors

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan on Thursday asked investors from China and other countries to benefit from the tremendous investment opportunities in the province and said his government would provide them with all-out support.

He was addressing a ceremony held at China's Cultural Centre, China Window, here to mark the 71st National Day of People's Republic of China, said an official statement.

The chief minister praised China for always standing by Pakistan in difficult times and said the establishment of China Window in Peshawar was a great initiative on part of China.

He said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was a good example of Sino-Pak friendship and it would have great impact not only on the bilateral relations but also on the overall socio-economic development of the region.

Chinese national day celebrated

Mr. Mahmood said CPEC was not just a route and instead, multiple projects were being carried out under its umbrella.

He said development projects in agriculture, tourism, industries, energy and social welfare sectors were also part of the CPEC developmental portfolio.

"In the context of the CPEC, we are moving forward under a workable plan," he said.

The chief minister said the government, in order to benefits from CPEC in real sense, was according a special focus to the improvement of communication network and development of industrial infrastructure in the province.

He said development agreement on Rashakai Special Economic Zone had been signed and work on the project would begin soon. Mr. Mahmood said his government was working on a number of economic zones in the province.

He said the Draban Economic Zone over 3,125 acres of land would be proposed for inclusion in the CPEC projects in the upcoming meeting of the joint working committee.

"This will be the largest economic zone of the province, which is to help boost the local economy by creating employment opportunities," he said.

Highlighting the ongoing projects in the communication sector, the chief minister said Phase-I of the Swat Motorway Project had been completed, whereas work on Phase-II of the project would begin by January next year.

He said the construction of the Dir-Chitral Expressway was also part of the plan, while work on the Khyber Pass Economic Corridor would begin soon.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1582764/cm-woos-foreign-investors>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC to revolutionize every sector of economy: Governor

Governor Sindh Imran Ismail has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a game changer in real sense for Pakistan as it would revolutionize each and every sector of country's economy. He was talking to Special Assistant to Prime Minister and Chairman CPEC Authority Lt. General (Retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa here on Thursday at Governor House. CPEC projects in Sindh, their early completion, Karachi Circular Railways, electricity generation from Thar coal, Chinese investment in this regard and other matters of mutual interests were discussed during the meeting. The Governor Sindh said that CPEC is another proof of deep-rooted and everlasting relationship between Pakistan and China. After completion of CPEC projects, Pakistan's economic infrastructure would be completely transformed, he added. UK Council team meets Governor. An 11-member delegation of International Professional Council UK, led by Chairman Amjad Ali Syed, called on Sindh Governor Imran Ismail at the Governor House. The other council members included Mustafa Humayun Sheikh, Amir Chora, Sheikh Mudassir Rafiq Magoon, Ali Baloch, Tanveer Ahmed and Muhammad Akram Khan. The role of Pakistani-origin experts from various fields in the development of the UK, the involvement of Pakistanis abroad in the development of social projects in the province and other important issues were discussed. On the occasion, the Governor of Sindh said that people of Pakistani descent residing in the United Kingdom were playing an important role in strengthening the bilateral relations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom, especially the experts working in various fields in the United Kingdom. He said that the cooperation of Pakistani-origin experts based in the UK for the development of various sectors of the province was a clear demonstration of the spirit of patriotism and love of their brothers which was a welcome development. He said that the present government was ensuring comprehensive measures for the welfare of the people in which education, health, employment and economic development were among the top priorities as the present government believed that a prosperous society was not possible without improving the living standards of the people. -Later, the governor met the residents of the building affected by the fire in Hijrat Colony area and assured them of all possible help. MNA Aftab Siddiqui, MPA Khurram Sher Zaman, Shehzad Qureshi, Dr Seema and Adiba Hassan also accompanied him. Imran Ismail said that the incident of arson was unfortunate and the affected family would not be left alone.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-to-revolutionize-every-sector-of-economy-governor/>

The Nation

CPEC best example of Pak-China friendship: KP CM

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan on Thursday extended his heartfelt felicitations to the government and people of China on its national day and said that Pak-China everlasting friendship has set an example to the rest of the world.

Addressing a ceremony organized to mark 71st National Day of People's Republic of China here at China's Cultural Centre "China Window" Peshawar, he said, "China always stands by Pakistan in every difficult time and Pakistan also didn't disappoint its time-tested friend," he said.

Secretary Information Arshad Khan, Commandant FC Moazam Jan Ansari, administrator China Window Amjad Aziz and other high ups were also present on the occasion.

The Chief Minister said that establishment of China Window in Peshawar was undoubtedly a great initiative. He said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a good example of our friendship which would have great impact not only on the mutual relations between both countries but on the overall socio-economic development of the region. He said the CPEC was not just a route as there were multiple projects under its umbrella.

Development projects in agriculture, tourism, industries, energy and social welfare etc were also part of the developmental portfolio of CPEC. He said in context of the CPEC, the provincial government was moving forward under workable plan adding that progress on various development projects under CPEC was in progress.

In order to get benefits of CPEC in real sense, special focus was being given to the improvement of communication network and development of industrial infrastructure in the province. "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has excellent strategic location and tremendous natural resources which would emerge as hub of trade & economic activities in coming few years," he added.

Talking about the CPEC projects in the province, Mahmood Khan said development agreement on Rashakai Special Economic Zone had been signed and work on the project would be started soon. Under the project, huge investment of \$1.9 billion and some two million direct and indirect employment opportunities are expected.

He asked Chinese and other investors to come forward and make investment to get the tremendous investment opportunities of the province and assured that the provincial government would extend all-out support to this effect. He made it clear that provincial government was already working on a number of economic zones in the province.

Draban Economic Zone comprising 3125 acres of land would be proposed for inclusion into CPEC projects in the upcoming meeting of joint working committee. This would be the largest economic zone of the province which would help to boost the local economy by creating

employment opportunities highlighting the ongoing projects in communication sector, Mahmood Khan.

<https://nation.com.pk/02-Oct-2020/cpec-best-example-of-pak-china-friendship-kp-cm>

330MW Thar coal-based project under CPEC achieves financial close

Thar coal based 330MW power generation project under the banner of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) programme Thursday achieved financial close.

Financial closing documents for the 330MW mine mouth lignite coal power project at Thar Block-II were signed by Shah Jahan Mirza, Managing Director PPIB, and Saleemullah Memon, Chief Executive Officer of M/s Thal Limited, while senior officials of PPIB and the company witnessed the signing ceremony.

The project is being sponsored by M/s Thal Limited, M/s Novatex Limited and M/s Descon Engineering Limited under the banner of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) programme. Total cost of the project is US\$497 million while China Development Bank (CDB) is the lead arranger for the foreign financing from China and Habib Bank Limited is the lead arranger for the local financing.

The plant will be fuelled by coal extracted from Thar Block II by the Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company and it will utilize 1.9 million tons of coal to generate 2236 GWh per annum. The sponsors have already started construction activities ahead of financial closing and are very keen to complete this project by March 2021, said a spokesman of PPIB. After start of commercial operation of this project, billions of rupees would be saved per year on account of foreign exchange and this saving will further escalate when all Thar coal based projects of 5,000 MW would be operational thus drastically reducing the tariff due to use of indigenous coal, the sponsor claimed.

The plant will be connected with the Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line for transmission of electricity. Being developed on state of the art coal technology, the project complies with all international as well as federal and provincial environmental standards. The development of this project will also contribute in socio-economic uplift of backward Tharparkar area which is now emerging as the energy capital of Pakistan.

PPIB in addition to Thar coal based power generation is also handling 14 hydropower projects (HPPs) of 6,175 MW in the private sector. These HPPs are at different stages of implementation. By 2022, PPIB is targeting to fetch another 5,500 MW through completion of ten projects majority of which are based on Thar coal and hydro. PPIB is also implementing Pakistan's first private sector +660 kV Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line Project which is also the first HVDC project aiming to transmit electricity from coal projects in the southern zone to the load centers. This project is also under construction and targeted to be completed by March 2021.

<https://nation.com.pk/02-Oct-2020/330mw-thar-coal-based-project-under-cpec-achieves-financial-close>

October 03, 2020

Business Recorder

CPEC projects: ‘stalled progress’ irks special body

ISLAMABAD: The Special Committee on the project of China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) expressed serious concerns and resentment over stalled progress on development projects under the CPEC.

The Committee met with Senator Sherry Rehman in the chair at the Parliament House on Friday.

The Committee discussed on-going power projects of Gwadar city and establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the CPEC.

The Committee members expressed serious concerns and also strongly protested when the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, and the Ministry of Energy, could not give satisfactory response to the members.

They said the progress on the development projects was only on tweets and WhatsApp but nothing on the ground.

The Committee directed the secretary of the ministry to priorities umbrella projects specified for Baluchistan.

Members of the committee were of the view that no tangible progress had been achieved during the last few years, and despite recommendations, provision of gas and electricity supply in Bostan area of Baluchistan and its development as a SEZ seems a farce.

Member (Energy) Planning Commission Waqas bin Najib told the Committee that one and a half years had passed, a issue of tariff between inverter and the NEPRA had been hanging about 300MW Coal Power Plant at Gwadar city.

He said that this issue would be solved in an Appellate Tribunal of the NEPRA but it was not established so far. He said the project could suffer if tariff was not satisfied for investor.

He said Chinese company was installing coal power plant. On the development of SEZ Bostan in Baluchistan, the additional secretary of the Ministry of Planning told the Committee that the Bostan economic zone was to be developed on 200 acres and PC-1 of Rs110 million was to be submitted but it was not done so far.

He said that Rs712 million had been allocated for utilities including electricity.

When the Committee members raised questions about the development on Bostan, the secretary planning said this agenda item of the Committee should be deferred, and “we will provide its detail in the next meeting”.

Committee Chairperson Senator Sherry Rehman said, “Whey we defer this agenda, you should answers the questions of the members. It is not the way to respond to the Parliament. If the

ministries are working in such a way then [forget about] work been done on CPEC. The seriousness of the ministries showed in the meeting that there is no progress on the CPEC projects.”

Minister for Narcotics Control Azam Khan Swati said, “The government is facing embarrassment, the ministries should give proper answers to the members.”

Board of Investment (BOI) Secretary Fareena Mazhar told the Committee that it was decided that one Special Economic Zone would be established in each province.

She said that Bostan economic zone was to be established in Balochistan but Bostan was given status of industrial zone on March 4.

She informed that BOI solicited the rational for the plot pricing in Rashakai SEZ from the relevant authority of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, however, the reply was awaited.

The Committee was also informed about the status of progress report on provision of gas and electricity supply to the SEZs.

The Committee rejected the stance of the ministry and decided to postpone the meeting in protest as the information provided was insufficient.

Earlier, Senator Usman Khan Kakar said that there was nothing on the ground and it was unfortunate that 132KV grid station at Bostan could not be constructed due to non-availability of required funds.

He demanded early completion of the project with an aim to provide relief to the people.

According to documents placed in the meeting, “no funds allocated for Bostan SEZ in federal PSDP-2020-21.”

Senator Dr Asad Ashraf said, “There is only progress of CPEC projects at the Twitter and WhatsApp. All the relevant departments are answerable before the Parliament.”

The members of the Committee said that a professional, experienced and technical person should be appointed as chairperson of the CPEC Authority for the development projects under the CPEC.

Senator Mir Kabir Ahmed Muhammad Shahi said that there was no progress on mega projects of Gwadar under the CPEC including international airport, drinking water, and power plants. Committee Chairperson and Parliamentary Leader of the PPP in the Senate, Senator Sherry Rehman said, “Briefing given by the ministry and its various allied departments is insufficient and lacks details on many aspects. The departments are shifting responsibility on one another and there seems to be no institutional collaboration,” she said. Speaking on the Gwadar power plant issue, she said “Two projects from Baluchistan have been discussed; SEZ and provision of energy to Gwadar. Federal government is misrepresenting the facts on projects on Baluchistan, including the SEZs, as well as the power project for Gwadar, which has been caught in the NEPRA tariff forest since 2017 and has still not cranked up”.

“SEZ at Bostan has received no PSDP funding and hence no progress could be achieved. The Planning Division’s unprofessional approach towards the CPEC and its various umbrella projects with special reference to development of the Special Economic Zones in Balochistan and other parts of the country is disappointing. We have decided that the Planning Minister will address the agenda on Baluchistan himself,” Senator Rehman added.

“Questions were raised on the lapsed CPEC Authority and how it will proceed further. What coordination has been done since there is no clarity,” said Senator Rehman.

Senator Sherry Rehman concluded by saying that, “We are still standing where we were one year ago. Parliament needs to be respected and taken seriously.”

The Committee meeting was attended by senators Muhammad Ali Khan Saif, Dr Sikandar Mandhro, Dr Ghous Muhammad Khan Niazi, Dr Asad Ashraf, Nuzhat Sadiq, Muhammad Usman Khan Kakar, Muhammad Akram, Muhammad Azam Khan Swati, Mir Kabeer Ahmad Muhammad Shahi, Sitara Ayaz, and Muhammad Javed Abbasi besides secretary, Ministry of Planning and senior officers of the relevant departments.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/10/03/14-page/853704-news.html>

The News

China’s maize-soybean strip intercropping technology yields inspiring results

ISLAMABAD: Maize-soybean strip intercropping technology, a mature advanced agricultural technology introduced from China’s Sichuan Agricultural University has yielded inspiring results.

This was noted during the visit of Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi, Punjab Agriculture Minister to maize-soybean strip intercropping demonstration plots at the Research Farm of PMAS-Arid Agriculture University in Koont, Rawalpindi.

According to Gwadar Pro on Friday, the Minister admired this technology’s local development and showed willingness to support its future popularization in Pakistan.

The technology introduced from the Sichuan Agricultural University showed positive results at multiple demonstration plots across Pakistan.

With serious interest in this intercropping technology, Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi investigated the plot and felt amazed to see its progress in Pakistan.

The idea of developing maize-soybean intercropping technology in Pakistan is appreciated by the Agriculture Minister.

He thinks the maize and soybean under intercropping system are much healthier than those of sole cropping. “China’s experience may provide meaningful insights for Pakistan especially in relation to crop production,” the Minister said.

Under the intercropping system, farmers can harvest soybean without reducing the current cultivation area of maize to stimulate local soybean production and then increase the supply of edible oil and soybean meal for poultry and livestock.

This August in rained conditions relying on rainfall rather than irrigation, the yields of maize and soybean reached 7065 kg/ha and 1167 kg/ha respectively at the Koont Research Farm.

By using high-yielding soybean varieties, machinery, pesticides and weedicides from China, the yields for next season are expected to be raised to an even higher level.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/724002-china-s-maize-soybean-strip-intercropping-technology-yields-inspiring-results>

October 04, 2020

Business Recorder

China, Pakistan to boost health corridor, share technology

BEIJING: China and Pakistan have agreed to step up the latest eye's technology in Pakistan and make efforts to boost the health corridor.

According to Gwadar Pro, under the joint promotion of the Liaoning Provincial Development and Reform Commission and the Pakistan Embassy in China, a signing ceremony of the cooperation was held here.

The launch of the comprehensive project of eye health for children and adolescents in Pakistan by the He's Eye Group and Pakistan's DEA Group has added a new chapter for the deepening of China-Pakistan eye health cooperation.

Wang Zhuoming, deputy director of the Liaoning Provincial Development and Reform Commission, said that the "Liaoning Silk Road Health Cooperation" is a precise practice of Liaoning's participation in promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

The Provincial Development and Reform Commission targeted Liaoning's development in medical technology, medical equipment, medical products, and training of medical personnel.

"The Liaoning Health Silk Road Action Adolescents Eye Health Comprehensive Project in Pakistan have launched this time and it is an important public health cooperation project serving Pakistan's society and people's livelihood," he mentioned.

Ahmed Farooq, Deputy Chief of Mission at Pakistan's Embassy in Beijing, said that the project plans to conduct eye health screening through smart medical methods and establish electronic eye health files for students, which will benefit 2 million children and adolescents.

The project will also train a local ‘eyes team’ in Pakistan, and improve the eye health management level of Pakistani children and adolescents through basic equipment upgrades, medical technology introduction, and ophthalmology personnel training programs.

He further said that Eye Health Project for Children and Adolescents in Pakistan will boost our cooperation with China in the field of eye health, and help the Liaoning Health Silk Road Action to move forward to a high level of open cooperation. He further said Pakistan fully supports the Belt and Road initiatives.

Participants emphasize that BRI is a road of cooperation that unites and meets challenges, a healthy corridor to safeguard people’s health and safety.

The joint progress of cooperation and public health undertakings will benefit more people’s livelihoods in countries along the route.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/10/04/3-page/853725-news.html>

October 05, 2020

Daily Times

Regional Connectivity through QTTA and CPEC

Regional connectivity has evolved as a defining feature of modern economy in the 21st century. It is reflected in increasing demand for resources to be invested in linking communities, economies and countries through physical and virtual infrastructure. Opportunities like enhanced access to market, increased economic growth and productivity are associated with the regional connectivity.

Keeping in view the ground realities and geo-strategic circumstances, different options of regional connectivity are available to the stakeholders. Likewise among other alternatives, Quadrilateral Traffic and Transit Agreement (QTTA) among Pakistan, China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan provide an effective connectivity network between Central Asia and Gwadar port of Pakistan in Arabian Sea under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The QTTA was signed on March 09, 1995 in Islamabad to facilitate transit traffic and trade among the member countries.

The route followed under QTTA: Karachi-Rawalpindi-Hassan Abdal-Gilgit-Khunjrab (Pak/China Border)-Kashgar -Torugart (China/Kyrgyzstan Border)-Bishkek-Akjol-Kordai (Kyrgyzstan/ Kazakhstan Border)-Almaty (Kazakhstan) = Length – about 3710 Km

The QTTA has been designed to give China and Central Asian Republics (CARs) an overland access to the Pakistani ports of Gwadar and Karachi in Balochistan. The landlocked CARs eye lucrative prospects of exports to South-East Asian and other markets in Africa and Australasia through the warm waters of Pakistani ports.

The strategic importance of QTTA project was enhanced when Afghanistan insisted on Pakistan to include India in Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA), a bilateral trade agreement. Pakistan's access to Central Asia through Afghanistan was stipulated with the inclusion of India in APTTA. Such arrangement has not been acceptable to Pakistan due to continuous tensions with India.

Therefore, QTTA affords Pakistan an alternative gateway to Central Asia by circumnavigating Afghanistan. The QTTA would use Karakoram Highway that connects northern Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan area to Xinxiang Province in China which is linked with Central Asian states.

In 2017, Tajikistan approached Pakistan to join QTTA that was supported. Pakistan and Tajikistan are separated by a narrow land strip of 13 KM of Wakhan Corridor in north-east of Afghanistan. Both countries share common membership in OIC, ECO, SCO, CAREC and Heart of Asia. Under CASA-1000, Pakistan will import 1300 MW hydroelectricity from Tajikistan. Pakistan also exports foodstuffs and animal products to Tajikistan and imports cotton and aluminum from it. Tajikistan inclusion in QTTA would boost regional connectivity and economic prosperity. Tajikistan would connect to deep seaport of Gwadar through three routes i.e. (i) Peshawar-Kabul-Dushanbe (ii) Gilgit-Chitral-Kashgar-Eshkhahim-Dushanbe (iii) Gilgit-Chitral-Kashgar-Erkeshtam-Dushanbe.

Then in May this year, Uzbekistan has also sought support of Pakistan to get accession to QTTA that would enable Uzbekistan to carry out its trade operations in the Middle East market through Pakistani seaports. There is a potential for Pakistani pharmaceutical exports to Uzbekistan and import of oil, gas, minerals, cotton and cottonseeds from there. Pakistan is also keen in trade of leather, textile and agricultural products with Uzbekistan. In next 5-6 years, both countries have the potential to enhance bilateral trade up to US\$ 1 billion. So, the induction of Uzbekistan in QTTA would a lucrative prospect.

Pakistan has a key role to play in QTTA because of its geostrategic location with Bin Qasim and Gwadar ports that provide the shortest land route distance to maritime trade of Central Asian states. Hence the linking of QTTA with the infrastructure of US\$ 62 billion CPEC project, would position Pakistan as global player in international trade. Movements of transit goods without duties between the member countries and with uniform custom procedures would certainly prosper regional trade in a great way. Since the peace and stability in Afghanistan is still uncertain despite the start of intra-Afghan power sharing negotiations under Doha Accord, the QTTA must be strengthened with the participation of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The connectivity of CPEC and QTTA would go a long way in realizing the dream of regional economic integration and sustainable growth.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/674284/regional-connectivity-through-qtta-and-cpec/>

Pakistan Observer

US-China trade war provides opportunity for Pakistanis to tap Chinese market under CPEC: Jawad

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Secretary General - Federal, Ahmad Jawad including businessmen Panel Sunday said Pakistan must increase the barely production for export purpose especially for China, as they have a large consumption scale of barley, even the domestic supply was only around one million tons per year, which leads to high import dependence. In 2019, barley production for Pakistan was only 63 thousand tones. Though Pakistan barley production fluctuated substantially in recent years, it tended to decrease through 1970 – 2019 period ending at 63 thousand tones in 2019, said a press release issued here. Jawad said recently China had halted its import of barley from Australia's largest barley exporter in the midst of the US-China trade war, as the latter has shown its inclination towards the USA by sending its ships to the South China Sea for joint naval exercises with the USA and India. The suspension was brought into action on the basis of pest contamination in the imported stuff. It has not only put the credibility of Australia's barley exports at risk but also has shrunk the graph of barley export as China had been importing barley on a large scale, which was not less than \$500 million per annum. The tussle had already started when China imposed 80 percent tariffs on Australia's barley export. The need of the hour is that Pakistan should capitalize from the present condition by mounting a production of barley on a massive scale to export barley to its all-weather friend, i.e., China, as it will not only help Pakistan to exploit China's enormous market but also will help China to reduce transportation costs, which it had been consuming on cargo ships.

To grow more barley does not include any rocket science process and Pakistani soil is also suitable for the production of barley. The only need is to make people realize how much they can gain after growing barley. It may also assist in doing away with unemployment. According to a report which was published by Japan, the US-China trade war could lead to countries like Chile, Vietnam, Malaysia, and other countries to fill the vacuum, but what about Pakistan? It may prove itself a dark horse of this race. Undoubtedly, India is a massive market. Had there been no stand-off in Laddakh region, India would have massively capitalized on China's farewell to Australia's barley exports. It will be a disgraceful and extreme level of inefficiency if Pakistan still does not learn to exploit the US-China trade war. Pakistan has been hapless in exploiting its own resources owing to a lack of proper technique, as well as of good governance. Without any doubt, Pakistan is a country also abundant in salt. It contains one of the world's largest salt mines. Himalayan Pink salt, which has become national pride for Pakistan, is sold at very cheap rates to countries like India.

Interestingly, the introduction of technology in the agriculture sector has the part of the agenda list of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which can be manipulated to improve barley production in Pakistan. Technological advancement has become so vital that we can't escape this very fact that Third World countries are leading the world on

the basis of this sole factor. Jawad also said China is a massive market. Once Pakistan will start exploring it, it alone is sufficient to absorb the exports of Pakistan and to reduce the prevailing deficit in the Pak-China trade. Both countries must take CPEC also for trading purposes.

<https://pakobserver.net/us-china-trade-war-provides-opportunity-for-pakistanis-to-tap-chinese-market-under-cpec-jawad/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC SEZs: gearing up

Hasaan Khawar

Although the initial round of CPEC investments focused on energy and connectivity, the real promise of this flagship BRI corridor is industrial cooperation. A number of special economic zones (SEZs) planned under CPEC are meant to attract Chinese investors, who would relocate their manufacturing establishments to Pakistan to move closer to the growing Pakistani middle-class urban consumer base and the thriving export markets of Middle East and North Africa. In return, Pakistan would get investments and jobs, ushering in a new era of industrialisation.

Yet the progress on this front had been minimal. But since the last few months, the SEZs are back in business, with significant developments.

Apart from Gwadar Free Zone, a total of nine SEZs are planned under CPEC, including the three priority SEZs in Sindh, Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa: Dhabeji SEZ, Allama Iqbal Industrial City, and Rashakai Economic Zone.

Under the SEZ Act 2012, while the federal government is responsible for according approvals and providing utilities, the provincial governments are responsible for developing the zones. The three provincial governments have adopted different approaches for their respective SEZs.

Punjab is developing the 3,000-acre Allama Iqbal Industrial City through the government-owned Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company. The government is also planning a 200-acre medical city within the zone, to target medical equipment manufacturing industries for import substitution. Earlier this year, the groundbreaking of the project took place. The biggest advantage for this SEZ is its proximity to the already functional M3 Industrial City, where a number of large enterprises are already operating.

K-P has partnered with a Chinese state-owned developer, China Road and Bridge Corporation, for developing the Rashakai Economic Zone. The concession was awarded last year, and the development agreement was signed last month, paving the way for construction. The groundbreaking was supposed to happen during the planned visit of the Chinese President, which has now been postponed. But this is not likely to delay the project. The 1000-acre SEZ is located right next to the M1 Motorway but despite its great location, it is expected to face some competition from other SEZs in Punjab and Sindh.

For Dhabeji, Sindh is undertaking a competitive procurement under its public-private partnership law. Reportedly, China Harbour Engineering Company has won the bid, but the contract is yet to be awarded. Notwithstanding the fact that Dhabeji is lagging behind the other two priority SEZs, its proximity to the port is expected to provide it a distinct advantage. The longstanding issue of electricity provision to Dhabeji SEZ was also resolved recently and the National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC) would be developing the 220KV grid station for the zone.

Interestingly, these CPEC SEZs are no different than other special economic zones. There are no special incentives, other than those provided in the SEZ law, and no exclusivity rights for Chinese investors. This provides a level playing field to Pakistani and international investors. The only benefit that CPEC brings to these SEZs is that these will be pitched to Chinese investors and are likely to get the spotlight. But this also means that there is no assured investment inflow by China and the ultimate success of these SEZs would hinge upon the commercial opportunities and overall business environment.

It's no secret that Pakistan does not have a stellar track record when it comes to foreign direct investment (FDI). Historically, the annual FDI inflows have hovered around \$1-2 billion, and this is not likely to change merely by building new SEZs. While the government should keep up the momentum for completing these SEZs as soon as possible, the real game changer would be to come up with an investor-friendly business environment for these zones, attracting high value investments, leading to technology transfer and broadening of our industrial base.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2267075/cpec-sezs-gearing-up>

The Nation

Powering Gwadar for the future

Kahuda Babar

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is poised to reshape the economic landscape of Pakistan in addition to opening multiple avenues for foreign direct investment. In this regard, Gwadar holds a pivotal importance. The development of Gwadar is sine qua non for Pakistan's development.

Ever since the materialization of CPEC, Gwadar has been able to gain significant importance in Pakistan's political landscape. The representatives of Balochistan in Parliament have been raising a number of local issues out of which those related to Gwadar have either been resolved or are in the process of getting addressed. The ongoing construction of an international airport will not only help in providing access to potential investors or businesspersons but will serve as a gateway for tourism as well. Furthermore, the drinking water issue is in the process of getting resolved. In the meantime, the construction of a desalination plant has been catering to the increased demand for drinking water.

However, the city, often termed as the ‘Future of Pakistan’, faces a considerable power shortfall despite the inception of CPEC more than five years ago. The existing shortfall is going to act as an impediment for months and years to come with the increase in economic activities in the city. By 2030, the actual power demand will reach 778 MW against the current power supply of 142.5 MW. Therefore, it is important that Gwadar becomes self-sufficient in power generation to cater to not only its present and future energy needs but is also able to compensate for any power shortfalls across Balochistan through a national grid system.

Currently, the existing power supply to the Makran region is 142.5 MW. A large chunk of the power supply, approximately 104 MW, is imported from Iran. However, Iran’s power supply is not optimally available due to its own accelerating energy demand. The average supply from Iran hovers around 40-70 MW. Additionally, 30 MW is generated by captive or domestic generators and 8.5 MW by generators at the Gwadar Free Zone. This heavy reliance on Iran as the supplier for Gwadar’s power demands is strategically unreliable in addition to being a technical mismatch as well as incurring a high tariff.

Due to technical issues, Gwadar’s electricity network is different from the national grid system. It feeds Gwadar, Turbat and Panjgur with a meagre 35 MW. Consequently, 12-14 hours of load shedding is common in the area. On the other hand, if the Makran region, which includes Gwadar, is connected to Pakistan’s national grid system, it will not only be able to compensate for power shortfalls in Gwadar but will be able to contribute in satisfying existing power shortfall in all of Balochistan as well. Meanwhile, the current demand in the Gwadar region is about 247 MW.

In November 2017, the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting on CPEC proposed to review the Gwadar plan in order to deal with the power issue. Additionally, a separate high-level meeting occurred on the development of Gwadar’s 300MW coal power project which would satisfy power demands from Gwadar and Makran region. CIHC, as a leading industry investor, was tasked with creating this plant by both the governments. By September 2020, the CPEC Authority decided to finalize all pending matters for the signing of the Power Purchase Agreement for this project. It was mutually agreed that all matters related to the agreement shall be resolved internally, at the Power Division level, within a week. However, the progress on the project remains at a slow pace.

The availability of sustainable electricity is the main demand of industrialists who wish to establish themselves in Gwadar. However, the unavailability of power has forced several industrialists to abandon their planned investments in the region depriving it of losses amounting to millions of rupees if not billions.

The Gwadar Port and Free Zone operation totally relies on China Overseas Ports Holding Company’s (COPHC) generators due to a lack of power supply. This has not only increased the operational cost of the project but has also negatively affected the functionality of the port and free zone development. It is already estimated that around 242 MW will be required for the Gwadar Free Zone. It is not possible to provide such an amount of power to the industries by

COPHC's generators by that time. Thus, in other words, the Port and Free Zone development is dependent on the schedule of the proposed coal power project.

The availability of power will usher economic activities in the region and consequently, generate job opportunities. The delay in the production of the Gwadar power plant is delaying the progress of Gwadar as a whole since potential investors await the availability of sufficient power supply in the region and ultimately fail to see value in such elongated investments without any benefit. Therefore, concerned authorities should priorities this issue and take the necessary measures.

<https://nation.com.pk/05-Oct-2020/powering-gwadar-for-the-future>

Asim Bajwa discusses CPEC future projects with KPK CM

Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa Monday called on Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan in Peshawar and discussed progress of projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the province.

During the meeting, they also discussed future projects that would be presented in the upcoming meeting of Pak-China Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of CPEC for approval for inclusion in the mega project.

Meanwhile in his tweet, Asim Bajwa who is also Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting, termed the meeting with the CM and his team very productive, saying the way the KP team was working with keenness, was highly commendable.

He also recalled the dark days of terrorism in the area and said "I recall the dark days of terrorism in and around the city few years back,

it was Pak Army, together with people of this area, who eliminated savage terrorists and cleansed the area for us to propel this region to development to its potential."

<https://nation.com.pk/05-Oct-2020/asim-bajwa-discusses-cpec-future-projects-with-kpk-cm>

The News

Pakistan, China enhance cotton trade as competitive partners

BEIJING: Pakistan and China are actively engaged in strengthening their bilateral trade in textile sector, as competitive partner, says China Economic Net (CEN).

A team of CEN's reporting cell in its survey conducted during 2020 Autumn Joint Exhibition of China National Textile and Apparel Council in Shanghai noted that there was substantial growth of Pakistan's cotton yarn export to China in the recent months.

Moreover, both sides were found eager to improve the existing arrangements to compete with each other for having better benefits for the cotton's growers and the traders.

It was noted that Pakistan exported 54.613 million US dollars of cotton yarn in August, registering a year-on-year decline of 51.36%.

As data from China's General Administration of Customs shows, China imported 41.836 million dollars worth of cotton yarn from Pakistan in August, which is 4.36 times the 9.592 million dollars in the same period last year, with a year-on-year increase of 336 percent.

Pakistan mainly produces low-count siro spun yarns, such as those of 8s or 10s, generally below 21s, which are mostly imported to south China's Guangdong province to be made into denim, said Huang Xifeng, sales executive of import and export department at Litai Xingshi (Taicang) Holding Co. Ltd.

"We imported about 1,000 tons of cotton yarns from Pakistan every year. Our denim fabric is made of thick and low-count yarns, which are basically 10s or 8s, no more than 12s." Yang Bin, director of Seazon Textile and Apparel Co., Ltd in Foshan, China, said in an interview with CEN.

Yang added that he has cooperated with Pakistan's cotton yarn manufacturers for 10 years. "As for Pakistan's cotton yarn, we only imported it from Explorer, a Pakistani manufacturer, with which we have cooperated for more than ten years. Produced locally in Pakistan with American and Australian cotton as raw materials, it boasts the best quality of all. And yet, most of the other Pakistani producers adopt locally grown cotton, which may save RMB hundreds per ton. Although Pakistani cotton is somewhat of inferior quality to that in America, Australia, and China, it can be made into denim," Yang said. Pakistani cotton yarn RMB 3,000 cheaper per ton than that of China with zero tariff

The main reason for the surge in import lies in the fact that Pakistan's yarn export to China enjoys zero tariffs, thus having a greater competitive advantage internationally.

That's why we prefer Pakistani cotton yarn even when offered the same price," said Ke Jiangwei, general manager of Xiamen Naseem Trade Co., Ltd, which has been importing Pakistani yarn for many years in China.

"It is not just tariffs, but the price that attracts us," said Yang, adding that "as Pakistani yarn is much cheaper than the Chinese one, the largest gap reached RMB 2,000 to 3,000 per ton in the last two years, with a price gap of about 10%. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic this year, domestic cotton yarn cannot sell well in China, thus narrowing the price gap to about RMB 1,000." "The sirospun of 8s in Pakistan was RMB 17,000 or RMB 18,000 per ton before, and now it has dropped to about RMB 16,000 per ton.

At present, the price of Pakistani yarn in China's domestic market has rebounded. It has risen by more than ten percent compared with the price in May and June. It may have been sold for RMB 15,000 per ton before, and now RMB 16,500, or even RMB 17,000.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/724824-pakistan-china-enhance-cotton-trade-as-competitive-partners>

October 06, 2020

Daily Times

Meeting reviews preparations for upcoming JCC meeting of CPEC

A meeting to review preparations for the upcoming 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was held at Chief Minister's Secretariat here Monday with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan in the chair.

The meeting was also attended by the Chairman CPEC Authority Lt. General (Rtd) Asim Saleem Bajwa.

The meeting discussed in detail the proposed mega projects of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in energy & power, tourism, agriculture, road, industry and social sectors to be presented to the 10th JCC meeting for consideration.

These proposed projects include Peshawar to D.I.Khan Motorway, Chashma Right Bank Canal, Swat Expressway Phase 2, Dir Expressway, Chakdara to Chitral Expressway, Chitral to Shandoor Road, Kumrat Cable Car, Peshawar Circular Rail, Daraban Economic Zone, Mori Kari Hydel Power Project, 500 KV transmission line from Chital to Chakdara etc.

On this occasion, it was informed that all the necessary arrangements had been completed for the ground breaking of Rashakai Economic Zone under CPEC, and so far 700 applications have been received for setting up industries in the said economic zone.

Talking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that province government, through its wheeling system, was working to provide its own generated electricity to the local industries on incentivized rates to boost industries in the province with the aim to promote economic activities and generate maximum employment opportunities in the province.

He termed the Rashakai Economic Zone as a flagship project of the present government and said that with the establishment of Rashakai Economic Zone, a new era of industrial development will usher in the province. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan will perform ground breaking ceremony of the project soon.

Chairman, CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa said that beside, projects of energy, industry, road and tourism sectors mega projects for the development agricultural sector in the province would also be proposed in the 10th JCC meeting for consideration so that the province could be made self-sufficient in agricultural products.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/674487/meeting-reviews-preparations-for-upcoming-jcc-meeting-of-cpec/>

Eco-civilization, biodiversity summit and future of CPEC

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

President Xi Jinping in his address at UN summit on biodiversity highlighted the importance of slogan “Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth” for COP-15. He advocated for the urgent actions, which must be devised by keeping nature at heart and looking harmony between human and nature. He emphasized that beautiful nature is essential for beautiful life. The biodiversity, which is on losing end, must be prioritized in national and global planning and execution of plans. He put forwarded four proposals, to achieve the goal of eco-civilization and the beautiful world.

First, world need to adhere to eco-civilization, as it will provide basis for the beautiful world on sustainable basis. He was point of view that industrial civilization, no doubt created huge wealth but it also impacted the biodiversity and created problems of environmental degradation and climate change. Second, he asked to stick to multilateralism, as it will provide footing to fight the challenges. There is need to cooperate, as problems are huge and no country can fight it alone, more specifically, no country has resources to fight it alone. Convention on Biodiversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Paris Agreement provides us ground to collaborate and combat the challenges untidily. He reiterated the importance of UN and its centrality for future.

Third, green development should be promoted. We need to work on it, especially in post-COVID-19 era. He said that “our solutions are in nature”. We have to balance the development in such a manner that nature and development moves hand in hand. Fourth, he reiterated that there is need to take strong actions. World should move from just talking and focus on actions but the principle of differentiated responsibility must be applied. As, every country has different resources and capabilities, so the responsibility should be assigned according to these indicators. He also highlighted the actions being taken by China, especially in the field of forestation and efforts to transform the economy. He also ensured world that China will take all necessary actions to combat the challenges of environment, biodiversity and climate change in a holistic manner.

This is not first time that President Xi advocated for the econ-civilization, green development and multilateral cooperation to achieve the goal of prosper and peaceful world. China has started to work from the start of the 21st century but it has accelerated the process after the President Xi becoming the Secretary General and President. He started his journey as President by presenting a clear vision for environment and green development by saying “We will never again seek economic growth at cost of the environment”. China is backing advocacy by practical actions. For example, it has launched multiple initiative for green development and protection of environment after the launch of Belt and Road Initiative. The list of initiatives includes Green Development Coalition, Silk Route Environment Program, Green Silk Road Envoy program, Green Investment Fund and Green Investment Principles along others. The programs cover wide range of areas work which include real time investments, capacity building and facilitation.

It is heartening to know that Pakistan is member of all initiatives being the iron brother and host of flagship project of BRI, the CPEC. It provides a unique opportunity to Pakistan to make CPEC a pilot project of Eco-civilization and the vision of prosperity and better living. Although Pakistan and China have taken some initiatives for green development like renewable energy projects and eco-tourism but both countries can turn CPEC into pilot project of eco-civilization. For that purpose, they need to redesign or design new initiatives in accordance with principles of eco-civilization, which emphasize on resource efficiency, environmental considerations and prioritization and prosperity for everyone without any discrimination.

First, both countries can work together to make agriculture cooperation environment friendly and climate smart. They should work on creating new breeds of animals which emit less methane. The other area of work would be to look for varieties of rice which minimize the GHG emission. Agricultural practices should be introduced which minimize the use of chemical inputs like fertilizers or pesticides etc. Pakistan can learn it from its experience of Green Revolution. The energy for different practices can be generated from renewable sources like solar pumps or solar engines for other machinery. It is good to note that both countries are already working on these dimension, especially minimum use of chemicals and enhanced use of renewable energy sources. By enhancing efforts both countries can turn it into a model for other countries.

Second, Pakistan and China are going to start the implementation of ML-1. It provides a good opportunity to experiment the principles of eco-civilization on transport infrastructure projects. Both countries can promote green industry for the provision of raw material for ML-1. They can venture in the area of renewable energy for machinery, where it is possible, which will be engaged in construction work. The land use strategy can also be developed on the basis of the principles of eco-civilization.

Third, both countries can also look into to convert Orange tarin in Lahore on renewable energy sources. Solar energy can be tested, if possible. We are cognizant of the fact that the required investment would be huge, but in long run Pakistan can look into this option. Both countries should also look for new initiatives which can help to reduce individual car use and promote mass transport system based on the principle of eco-civilization and run by renewable energy. The idea can be tested in Balochistan, where both countries are working to develop mass transport infrastructure.

Fourth, green skills must be promoted through the cooperation and efforts should be made to provide green skills. It is good to note that China is already working with Pakistan under the social development cooperation, for skill development on mass scale. However, the focus is on traditional job skills. Hence, it is suggested that both countries should also introduce green skills in addition to traditional skill development. Green skills will play a key role to introduce green industry, especially the renewable energy sector and green jobs in Pakistan in long run. It will also promote renewable industry in future, as Pakistan will have the base of required skills. The skills can also be imparted for agriculture sector to promote environment friendly and climate smart practices.

Fifth, Special Economic Zones can be used to promote the green development. For that purpose, both countries will have to offer special incentives for green industry. Pakistan can start the process by declaring a certain area in every SEZ as green industrial area and provide required infrastructure for green development. By doing so, good examples can be created and it can also inspire other industrialists and the investors to follow the suit.

Lastly, these initiatives will not only create good case study for the other countries but it will also help to mitigate the propaganda. As, we know China, BRI and CPEC are being criticized on the basis of environment, which is quite unfair. By adopting these practices in CPEC, both countries can counter the propaganda and portray real image of the China, BRI and CPEC, which is quite positive.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/674839/eco-civilization-biodiversity-summit-and-future-of-cpec/>

October 07, 2020

Business Recorder

Powering Gwadar for future

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is poised to reshape the economic landscape of Pakistan in addition to opening multiple avenues for foreign direct investment. In this regard, Gwadar holds a pivotal importance. The development of Gwadar is a sine qua non for Pakistan's development.

Ever since the materialization of the CPEC, Gwadar was able to gain a significant importance in Pakistan's political landscape. The representatives from Baluchistan in Parliament have been raising local issues. In this regard, a number of issues related to Gwadar have been resolved or are in the process of getting addressed. The ongoing construction of an international airport in the area will not only allow access to potential investors or businesspersons but will serve as a gateway for tourism. The drinking water issue is in the process of getting resolved. The construction of desalination plant has been contributing towards increasing drinking water demand.

However, the city, often described as 'future of Pakistan', faces a considerable power shortfall despite the inception of the CPEC more than five years ago. The existing deficit is going to act as an impediment in months and years to come with the increase in economic activities in the city. By 2030, the actual power demand will reach 778 MW against the current power supply of 142.5 MW. Therefore, it is important that Gwadar becomes self-sufficient in power generation to cater not only its present and future energy needs but is also able to compensate power shortfall across Baluchistan through a national grid system.

Currently, the existing power supply to the Makran region is 142.5 MW. A large chunk of power supply (104 MW) is imported from Iran. However, Iran's power supply is not optimally available due to Iran's own energy demand. The average supply from Iran hovers around 40-70

MW. Additionally, 30 MW is generated by captive/domestic generators and 8.5 MW by generators at Gwadar Free Zone. The heavy reliance on Iran for Gwadar's power demand is strategically unstable and unreliable in addition to technical mismatch and high tariff.

Due to technical issues, Gwadar electricity network is different from the national grid system. The former is feeding Gwadar, Turbat and Panjgur with a meagre 35 MW. Consequently, 12-14 hours of load shedding is common in the area. On the other hand, if the Makran region which includes Gwadar is connected to Pakistan's national grid, it will not only be able to compensate power shortfall in Gwadar but will be able to contribute in satisfying existing power shortfall in Baluchistan. Meanwhile, the current demand of Gwadar region is about 247 MW.

In November 2017, Joint Coordination Committee meeting on the CPEC proposed to review the Gwadar plan in order to deal with the power shortage issue. Additionally, a separate high-level meeting occurred on the development of Gwadar coal power project. It was proposed that a 300 MW coal power project should be constructed to satisfy power demands from Gwadar and Makran region. A leading industry investor was tasked with implementing this plant by both the governments.

In September 2020, CPEC Authority in a meeting decided to finalize the pending matters for the signing of the Power Purchase Agreement for the coal power project. It was mutually agreed during the meeting that pending matters related to Power Purchase Agreement shall be resolved internally at Power Division level within a week. However, the progress on the project remains at a slow pace.

Availability of sustainable electricity is the main demand of industrialists who wish to build industries in Gwadar. However, the unavailability of power has forced several industrialists to not go along with their planned investments in the region, which has already deprived the region of losses amounting to millions of rupees if not billions.

The Gwadar Port and Free Zone operation totally relies on China Overseas Ports Holding Company Pakistan's (COPHC) generators in the past years due to lack of power supply. This has not only increased the operation cost of the operator but also negatively affect the operation of the port and free zone development. It is already estimated that around 242 MW will be required for Gwadar Free Zone. Therefore, it is not possible to provide such amount of power to the industries by COPHC's generators by that time. In other words, the Port and Free Zone development is dependent on the schedule of the proposed coal power project.

The availability of power will usher in economic activities in the region and consequently generate job opportunities. The delay in the production of Gwadar power plant is delaying the progress of Gwadar Port City as potential investors await the availability of sufficient power supply in the region. Therefore, concerned authorities should prioritize this issue and take the necessary measures.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/10/07/20-page/854039-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

NHA Chairman hails Chinese assistance for combating Covid-19

Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA), Capt. (R) Sikander Qayyum has said that Pak-China friendship is time tested and China has extended all the possible help to Pakistan to cope with Covid -19 in Pakistan. He stated this during a meeting with a six-member delegation of China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) that visited NHA HQ here on Tuesday.

A simple but graceful ceremony was held at NHA auditorium in which the CSCEC Chief Representative Mr. Xiao Hua handed over COVID-19 protective equipment's to Chairman National Highway Authority Capt. (R) Sikander Qayyum, which included 3002 surgical masks, 1000 goggles, 2016 sanitizers and 1000 protective clothes/coveralls. Senior officers of NHA were also present on this occasion. Capt. (R) Sikander Qayyum thanked the visiting delegation for providing urgently needed safety supplies from corona virus. He also added that long standing ties between the two countries are based on solid foundation and with the passage of time this friendship will certainly strengthen as China has extended significant relief assistance to Pakistan to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. He said, in this time of trial China's timely help is encouraging for Pakistan to cope with the Corona virus. China is also supporting Pakistan to build Motorways in the country. He assured that this safety gear provided by China will be used in the best possible way. Speaking on this occasion Mr. Xiao Hua said, China and Pakistan are all weather strategic cooperation partners.

<https://pakobserver.net/nha-chairman-hails-chinese-assistance-for-combating-covid-19/>

CPEC's blessings & ill designs of forces of darkness

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

CHINA-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a blessing for both the countries but regional countries especially, India is all out to topple its ongoing march towards socio-economic prosperity, massive industrialization, job generation and last but not the least poverty eradication. India has been rigorously trying to create various stumbling blocks in the development and execution of this mega project which is the custodian of the nation's economy, stability, sustainability and prosperity.

Jugglers of regional anti-Sino-Pak forces out of their frustration are now directly targeting the CPEC and termed it a total failure and magnetic force of debts which is totally baseless, speculative and unreal. In this context, various published reports of the World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have strongly rejected self-defined and self-inserted definitions of India, USA and the West about so-called debts.

All the regional countries, especially India, should understand that the CPEC is meant for economic stability and sustainability and not for wagging any political war so please come out of your state of denial and fear. The CPEC is primarily designed, developed and executed for

achieving greater regional connectivity. In this connection, CPEC should not be prey of regional politics because it is meant for development not destruction. It stands for regional harmony not horrendous schemes. It also stands for service of humanity not anti-human deeds.

CPEC is the icon of socio-economic prosperity, massive industrialization, agricultural revolution, health & housing development and above all energy generation which may bring radical changes in the life of common people. So please stop disseminating propaganda against the CPEC for which India would be ultimate losers because there is no match between prosperity, progress and productive channels and Indian propaganda media campaigns and secretive activities in the country.

The CPEC is a blessing for achieving goals of a smarter economy and society in the country which should not be besieged of dirty blame game and foggy regional hegemonic power politics. On the other hand, it guarantees national economic sovereignty and regional country, especially India, should not try to sabotage caravans of socio-economic prosperity. As Aristotle said, politics is the biggest “leveller” but in case of greater regional connectivity, energy and food security, Pakistan, sustainable socio-economic prosperity should not be a specific target of Indian ill designs.

Moreover, Indian hawks should not forget that human civilization depends heavily on economic prosperity and self-reliance. On its part, the Chinese government, its various organizations, banks, private sector and multinational companies gear-up the CPEC into its phase-II in the country in which preference will be given to social development, health, housing, agriculture, formation of economic free zones and above all job generation.

The CPEC is a blessing but due to achieving certain anti-China-Pak ill designs, India has been creating serious doubts about the CPEC which should be negated at every level in the country. A retired major of the Indian Army, named Gaurav Arya, is notorious for misinformation campaigns on social media. He has also indulged in propaganda against the CPEC.

He recently claimed that the entire venture of the CPEC is a failure. He also claimed that the Chinese are seeking a way out of this agreement. Arya often makes these claims without any evidence to back them. All his big claims are “baseless”, “speculative” and “untrue”. He is a “conspiratorial” person. In this context, the government of Pakistan has categorically rejected India’s malicious propaganda against China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, terming it another manifestation of desperate Indian attempts to mislead the world community because “lies have legs but cannot walk”.

Moreover, the CPEC Authority is the “bridge” among many governmental organizations and organs. It is meant for streamlining CPEC’s functionality, its further development and implementation mechanism. Moreover, it is devised for institutionalizing spirits of transparency, impartiality, checks and balances and last but not the least, promotion of public-private partnership (basis of modern day corporate governance & survival) in the projects of the CPEC.

It is also not a military barrage as propagated in regional as well as international media outlets; rather it is a connecting bridge of different but innovative ideas, personalities, programs, policies and presentations. CPEC Authority has now become a “value-addition” for the further development and implementation of its phase-II in the country. In his recent interview, Chairman of the CPEC Authority Lt. Gen.(R) Asim Saleem Bajwa, highlighted expansion of the CPEC and urged uniformity among all provinces and the federal government for the further development and implementation of the CPEC. He suggested a mechanism of “One Window” facility for streamlining the different projects of the CPEC. He shared that CPEC Authority promoted and succeeded to establish a “fast-track” mechanism in which every Chinese company, every official of the embassy are more than welcome and their proposals are processed and implemented in an expeditious manner.

Being a regional expert of CPEC & BRI, I predict that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will remain “relevant” and “valid” for the future socio-economic development of Pakistan. It will provide important “variables” of “prompt industrialization”, “higher agricultural yields”, much needed “health capacity building”, booming of tourism and last but not the least, formation of a network of economic free zones (EFzs) in the country. To conclude, I share that CPEC should not be easy prey of regional blame game and dirty power politics because it is meant for people’s prosperity and job generation of youth in which regional hegemonic agenda should not have any place and space in the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpecs-blessings-ill-designs-of-forces-of-darkness/>

One belt one road initiative enemies: Fiction, lies and propaganda

Muhammad Ehsan

IN recent years, Chinese Government under the leadership of President Xi Jinping has taken big leaps to safeguard the economy and poverty alleviation strategy to uplift the living standards of people. China has pulled 754 million people out of poverty. Incidence of poverty has dropped from 10.2% to 0.4%.

While China was winning the war against the Covid-19 in the past few months, there have been some noises by Western media. Some attacked the training center as “prisons” or “concentration camps”. In this regard, some of the Chinese nationals who have been brain washed and have fled China for personal benefit and spreading false propaganda in the western media. One example of the defamation and false propaganda of this whole scenario is a publication named “Uighurs for Sale”. The book is a collection of false and one-sided collection of information to support the anti-China propaganda. The publication authored by Vicky Xiuzhong Xu with Danielle Cave, Dr James lei bold, Kelsey Munro and Nathan Ruser emphasized on the Uighurs life and tried to prove that the education and vocational training and working places are concentration camps and Uighurs are forced to re-education’, forced labor and surveillance is carried out in different places of China beyond Xinjiang.

In the beginning of this publication the authors and publisher admit that this publication is designed to provide information in relation to the subject matter and no person should rely on the contents of this publication without first obtaining advice from a qualified professional.

In early May of this year, while searching foreign literature, I accidentally found a research report by the Australian Institute of Strategic Policy, “Trafficking Uyghur Labor: “Re-education”, Forced labor and Surveillance Beyond Xinjiang”, which involves the labor transfer and poverty alleviation issues of local governments in Xinjiang, China. I have been in China studying social sciences in Xinjiang for last one decade and based on my research and personal experience I can say that the report is full of malicious intent. I am almost certain that many of the “facts” mentioned in the report are very doubtful. Later, some American media and politicians hyped up the report and used it as evidence to attack and discredit the Chinese government’s policies and human rights in Xinjiang, in an attempt to legislate against companies that hire ethnic minorities from Xinjiang. The use of such a politically offensive report full of factual errors will not only make the already severe Sino-US relations worse, but also seriously affect the employment rights of Xinjiang ethnic minorities who are already employed and forced to resign.

Judging from its content, the author of the report tried to demonstrate an untenable conclusion by using inferior techniques such as shifting out of context, taking out of context, and distorting facts. The report is distortion of the facts to demonstrate the desired motives to attack on the Chinese government, the purpose of the research institution and the author can only be interpreted as malicious smearing of China, and can only be a comprehensive stigmatization of the Chinese government’s Xinjiang policies.

In this report the so-called “evidences” are full of logical loopholes and cannot stand scrutiny. Specifically, the report has the following characteristics in the use of evidence materials:

1. Secretly exchange concepts, malicious interpretations, lack of accuracy. This clumsy technique shows that the author is deliberately taking advantage of the differences in Chinese and English expressions, malicious interpretations, and typical secret exchange of concepts.

In addition, the “ASPI Report” mentioned in many places that the Chinese government “prohibited participation in religious ceremonies” and “prohibited religious activities”, but did not provide any factual basis. The original intention of the cited article is to guide migrant workers to stay away from illegal religious activities and extremist ideas. The same article was also used to prove that “participation in religious ceremonies is prohibited” In fact, considering that most Uighurs have relatively low Chinese proficiency and communication barriers, relevant units have been equipped with management cadres in order to better serve Xinjiang migrant workers in daily life and communication.

2. Subjective speculation, lack of objectivity. The proportion of the transferred labor in the report calculated lacks the reliability and has no factual data available. The author has no explanation for this. Obviously, this calculation is also just a speculation of the author.

What needs to be pointed out is that in China, the Chinese government is a government that serves the people and is responsible for ordinary people. Unlike the governments of Western countries, they do not consider whether the poor are lifted out of poverty and whether they have jobs. If the Chinese government wants to get rid of poverty all over the country, the key to poverty alleviation in poor frontier areas is to promote employment. This is not a policy specific to the Xinjiang Autonomous Region, but a corresponding incentive policy throughout the country; this is not a special policy for the transfer of employment of Uyghur labor, but a policy for the transfer of employment of all surplus rural labor in China.

The report has been fabricated and lacks authenticity as in Western countries; they will not understand China's government responsibility for serving the people, because Western governments do not need to be responsible for the people's employment at such a large scale.

As it is understood that academic research reports should be scientifically rigorous, cite norms, use accurate words and have logical conclusions and arguments. The arguments should be true, not forged or fabricated. The arguments cited in the "ASPI Report" report are all processed and fabricated, and some are just out of context, deliberate distortion, subjective conjecture and even malicious smearing of news reports, government work reports, and basic facts. In short, the arguments used in the report are false. If the argument is false, the conclusion must be false! In short, the "ASPI Report" is a research report full of lies, purely an "anti-China tool" concocted to maliciously discredit the facts. Western countries, especially the US, want to take advantage of the heist against China by making false propaganda. On the occasion of 75th United Nations General Assembly Session President Xi reaffirmed China's stance that China does not want hot or cold war and want to enhance international solidarity to fight and beat Coronavirus.

<https://pakobserver.net/one-belt-one-road-initiative-enemies-fiction-lies-and-propaganda/>

October 08, 2020

Dawn News

Pakistan leads 55-nation group supporting China on Hong Kong

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan made a joint statement on behalf of 55 countries at the United Nations on Tuesday evening, declaring Hong Kong an inalienable part of China and urging foreign forces not to interfere in Beijing's internal affairs.

Cuba, too, made a joint statement on behalf of 45 countries in support of China's counter-terrorism measures in Xinjiang. Kuwait made a similar statement supporting China on behalf of three Arab nations.

"The Hong Kong special administrative region is an inalienable part of China, and Hong Kong affairs are China's internal affairs that brook no interference by foreign forces," Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Munir Akram, told the General Assembly's Third Committee.

Earlier on Tuesday, Germany led a group of 39 countries in the UN that condemned China's policies in Xinjiang, Hong Kong and demanded "immediate, meaningful and unfettered access" to Xinjiang to probe charges of human rights violations in the region.

The United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand also signed this joint statement that expressed deep concerns about the political situation in Hong Kong as well. In 2019, a similar text drafted by Britain secured only 23 signatures.

The decision not to ask a Muslim country to lead the support group on Xinjiang reflects Beijing's awareness of the sensitivities associated with this issue. It would have been embarrassing for Muslim nations to take a public position on a Muslim majority region.

Other Muslim countries that supported China's position on Hong Kong include Iran, Iraq, Bangladesh, Algeria, Afghanistan, Egypt, Bahrain, Eritrea, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Russia, Syria, North Korea and Venezuela signed both statements, drafted by Pakistan and Cuba.

Pakistan's statement reminded UN members that non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states was an important principle enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the basic norm of international relations.

"We support China's implementation of 'one country, two systems' in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In any country the legislative power on national security issues rests with the state," said Ambassador Akram while reading the statement on behalf of 54 other member states.

The statement noted that the enactment of China's law on safeguarding national security in Hong Kong was a legitimate measure which "ensures that one country, two systems go steady and enduring and that Hong Kong enjoys long-term prosperity and stability".

Ambassador Akram said that "legitimate rights and freedoms of Hong Kong residents can be better exercised in a safe environment".

Germany's UN Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, however, said the countries that signed his statement were "gravely concerned about the human rights situation in Xinjiang and the recent developments in Hong Kong".

Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the UN, on Monday made a joint statement on behalf of 26 countries, criticizing the US and other Western countries for violating human rights, calling for the complete and immediate lifting of unilateral sanctions, and expressing grave concern over systematic racial discrimination.

In Beijing, the Chinese foreign ministry said that about 70 states had supported its policies on Hong Kong and Xinjiang at the Third Committee of the 75th UN General Assembly.

"China is firmly opposed to anyone, any country or any force creating instability, secessionism or unrest in China," the ministry's spokesperson Hua Chunying said on Wednesday. "We also

are firmly opposed to political manipulation on issues related to Hong Kong and Xinjiang and interference in China's internal affairs.”

She said that China was ready to work with all parties to “carry out constructive dialogue and cooperation based on the principle of equality and mutual respect”.

APP adds: Mr. Akram, while highlighting Prime Minister Imran Khan's debt relief appeal at the UN, said on Wednesday it was one of the quickest ways to create fiscal space for developing countries to recover from the grave crisis set off by the coronavirus pandemic,

“With adequate financial and technological support, developing countries can build sustainable economic models without sacrificing growth,” the ambassador told the General Assembly's Second Committee, which deals with economic and financial matters.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1583884/pakistan-leads-55-nation-group-supporting-china-on-hong-kong>

The Nation

President lauds Pak Navy's role in defending CPEC sea routes

President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said Pakistan Navy played a vital role in defending the maritime frontiers as well as securing the economic interests of the country by providing security to Gwadar Port and CPEC sea routes.

The President stated in a meeting with the newly appointed Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, who called on him here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

He congratulated Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan on assuming the office of naval chief and expressed hope that Pakistan Navy under his leadership, would successfully overcome the maritime challenges.

<https://nation.com.pk/08-Oct-2020/president-lauds-pak-navy-s-role-in-defending-cpec-sea-routes>

The News

China's Communist Party donates masks, PPEs to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: China has generously sent surgical masks and Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) to Pakistan's parliament, ministries and political parties amid the fears of a second wave of the coronavirus, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

The Central Communist Party of China donated 54,000 protection masks to Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) Advisor for Communist Party of China Bayazeed Kanshi handed over the masks to Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi here.

The foreign minister thanked the Central Communist Party of China for donating these masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. The masks and PPEs were handed over to Prime Minister Imran Khan and Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani last week. Earlier, the International

Department of Communist Party of China (IDCPC) donated 500,400 masks and 2100 Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to a number of political parties in Pakistan.

The other recipients include the Senate of Pakistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, government of Balochistan and Pakistan's Embassy in China. The announcement for donations was made during the second Conference CPEC Joint Consultation Mechanism (JCM) of political Parties held in Beijing on August 20, 2020. The IDCPC had nominated Bayazeed Kasi, to take charge of the delivery of materials to the designated recipients.

The donated items were airlifted to Pakistan via the National Disaster Management Authority's special flight planned on September 10, 2020.

At the recently concluded Second Conference of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor Joint Consultation Mechanism, the CPC had announced the donation of medical supplies to Pakistan Political parties and institutions including 500,400 surgical masks - 278 cartons, each contains 1,800 masks - and 2100 PPEs.

Pakistan and China's cooperation in fighting the coronavirus is only a small part of the historic brotherhood between all-weather friends. China has always supported Pakistan through thick and thin. Pakistan also tries to do its bit within its resources, the report added.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/726319-china-s-communist-party-donates-masks-ppes-to-pakistan>

3 SEZs approved: PM chairs meeting of BOA for SEZs

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Approvals (BOA) for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in its 6th meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan in chair here on Wednesday approved three new zones, including National Science & Technology Park, Islamabad, JW-SEZ China-Pakistan SEZ, Raiwind, Punjab and Dhabeji SEZ, Sindh, taking the total number of SEZs to 20.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Industries, advisors on Commerce and Finance, Board of Investment chairman, chief ministers of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (through video link) and Gilgit-Baltistan, federal and provincial officials, and others.

It was informed about various incentives available for the developers, co-developers and zone enterprises in the SEZs, a press release issued by the PM Media Office here said.

About SEZ Zone Enterprise Admission and Sale of Plot Regulations 2020, it was decided that further consultation would be completed within one month and the proposal would be brought before the next meeting.

The meeting also approved a proposal regarding the selection of two members from the private sector for inclusion in the Approvals Committee and appointment of two members from the private sector to be included in the composition of BOA of SEZs. The prime minister directed that the provision of utilities such as gas and electricity in the SEZs should be accorded the

foremost priority by the departments concerned. He also directed that a report indicating availability of required facilities at existing SEZs be furnished.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/726328-3-sezs-approved-pm-chairs-meeting-of-boa-for-sezs>

October 09, 2020

Daily Times

Pakistan fully eliminates desert locust with China's assistance

With prompt and massive assistance from China, Pakistan has averted the worst-ever swarms of desert locusts and eliminated the insects, said official sources and farmers in hard-hit Bahawalpur, Mirpurkhas and Layyah regions, according to Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

It was not possible without support from our all-weather friend, said a senior official of Pakistan's National Locust Control Centre while commenting on a recent report of the NLCC, which revealed that no locusts were reported from Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Punjab provinces of the country.

Kishore Togani, who comes from Mirpurkhas division in Sindh province, narrated that Tharparkar division of the province, which served as breeding ground for the desert locust along the Indian border, was flourishing after rains as the swarms were successfully eliminated.

A widespread effort by the Sindh government with the pesticides and equipment provided by China saved our lands from the locust onslaught, Togani said, adding that the locust would have not spared any green plant in the division if it was not effectively controlled.

Shahid Malik, who collects honey from areas in Bahawalpur division of Punjab, complained that powerful landlords in their areas influenced the officials to conduct anti-locust operation in their lands on a priority basis. Anyhow, our areas are now safe from locust, he said.

Zahid, who owns agricultural lands in Layyah district of Punjab, said that in July and August, 20-30 percent of their crops were destroyed by the locust swarms. He also complained of authorities having ignored small stretches of land in anti-locust operation but said that the threat had now been eliminated. He explained that desert locust hit their areas badly during the past three years. He called for a comprehensive research-based strategy to combat the swarming insects.

The NLCC in the report said that anti-locust operations have been completed in 1,131,865 hectares across the affected districts and eliminated the pest completely from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Punjab.

China provided 300,000 litres of required pesticides, 12 drone sprayers and 30 other spraying equipment, with a total worth of US\$5 million, to help Pakistan get rid of an existential threat. Pakistani officials and farmers have expressed gratitude for China's decisive aid against desert locust. China also provided the Department of Plant Protection of Pakistan with 200 protective

suits, 4550 face masks, 200 goggles and 50 pairs of long shoes to make the anti-locust operation a success.

The NLCC official said that they were still surveying affected areas for leftover swarms to avoid future threat. The official said that without the support of China, Pakistan had less resources to fight against the worst locust attack in the history of the country. Owais Leghari, who is doing PHD in agriculture from Beijing University, said that locust issues in future will be a big threat to the world food basket. He said that China was going through every length to help Pakistan in the agriculture sector to ensure its food security.

Ahmad Sultan, a senior official in Sindh agriculture department said that Chinese locust control technology and experience was fully utilised to get rid of the locusts.

He said that China was actively cooperating with Pakistan in the fields of agriculture technology, pesticide equipment, personnel training, advance prevention, and control appliances as well as establishment of monitoring and early warning platforms which will help the country to avoid any long-term damage to the agriculture sector.

According to Pakistani official figures, the locust swarms have affected around 40 million acres of land in the country during the last 13 months.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/675659/pakistan-fully-eliminates-desert-locust-with-chinas-assistance/>

CPEC projects to strengthen national economy, bring development: Buzdar

Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar chaired an important meeting at CPEC Authority office in Islamabad on Thursday. Advisor to CM Salman Shah and others also attended the meeting.

Chairman CPEC Authority Lt Gen (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa gave a detailed briefing to the participants and stated the speed of work on CPEC projects has been further accelerated while this initiative has given a new dimension to Pakistan-China relations.

Addressing the meeting, the CM stated that China is a trustworthy friend of Pakistan while CPEC is a momentous multi-billion dollars initiative of development and prosperity. This trailblazing project will strengthen the national economy, he added. The CM remarked the CPEC would bring remarkable improvements in the industrial and agriculture sectors of the province. China's marvelous development is a role model for us and the Pakistani economy will also be developed by benefitting from Chinese technology, he said. The CM announced that model dairy farms will be established in Mianwali, Sahiwal and DG Khan besides setting up technology parks in different economic zones in Punjab.

The chief minister also appreciated the efforts put forth by Asim Bajwa and his team for speedy completion of different projects.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has taken notice of the agitation of students of the University of Home Economics and sought a report from the minister and secretary of the higher education department.

In a statement, the CM directed that those responsible for inordinate delay in students' exams be identified adding that timely holding of exams was the responsibility of the university admin after reopening of the educational institutions. Holding of exams be ensured without any further delay and the report be submitted to the CM Office after the resolution of students' dubiety, the chief minister further directed.

Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has sought a report from RPO Bahawalpur about rape-cum-murder of a child in the precinct of PS Saddar Khanpur in Rahim Yar Khan and directed legal action against the arrested culprit. He also assured the bereaved heirs of the provision of justice. Meanwhile, the offender namely Pervez has confessed to his felony.

Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has appealed to the citizens to avoid going to overcrowded places and follow anti-corona SOPs to remain safe from this virus.

In a statement, the CM asserted that timely decisions helped in overcoming the pandemic and anti-corona steps of the Pakistan government have also been acknowledged at the global level.

While issuing details about the corona situation in the province, he said the total number of active corona patients is 1521 while 96506 have been recovered. Similarly, two corona patients have died and 124 new cases have been reported during the last 24 hours in Punjab. Meanwhile, 10712 were tested during the last 24 hours and 2247 have died of corona in the province, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/675660/cpec-projects-to-strengthen-national-economy-bring-development-buzdar/>

Pakistan Observer

COMSATS University has largest pool of Chinese PhD Alumni: Afzal

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal, Rector, COMSATS University Islamabad on Tuesday chaired a meeting of Alumni of Chinese Universities currently working in COMSATS University Islamabad on faculty positions under the aegis of the CUI China Study Centre. CUI currently employs over 170 faculty members who are alumni of Chinese universities working full time in CUI. In addition, more than 140 faculty members from CUI are presently pursuing PhDs in various top ranked universities of China. Ali Tawab Balouch, Head CSC informed that over 500 more scholars are expected to travel to China from COMSATS University in the next 5 years for their Masters or PhD. CUI was pioneer in establishing a China Study Centre in Islamabad, which has been instrumental in building linkages with Chinese Universities and enhancing interest of Study in China among faculty members and students said Mr. Tawab. Faculty members from all seven campuses of CUI were connected remotely through video link

and expressed the status of their research. Prof. Afzal opined that China is a strategic partner of Pakistan and the support of the Chinese Government has been instrumental in meeting the human resource development needs of COMSATS University. While sharing his vision Prof. Afzal said alumni of Chinese Universities should work in partnership with their Chinese counterparts and tap their Chinese collaborators for joint research opportunities on projects that are pertinent to the global development agenda, while addressing local needs. Prof. Afzal encouraged faculty members to develop cross cutting proposals on biomedical materials, engineering and technology and architecture and help improve understanding of the Chinese culture among students. He said that the COMSATS University being the largest employer of Chinese PhD graduates in Pakistan would like to be a leading think tank of the government on CPEC. Prof. Afzal also expressed satisfaction over the research productivity and teaching performance of Chinese graduates.

<https://pakobserver.net/comsats-university-has-largest-pool-of-chinese-phd-alumni-afzal/>

The Nation

Approving New SEZs

Approving three new Special Economic Zones (SEZs) during a meeting of the Board of Approval (BOA) means that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is moving forward with promise. Establishing new SEZs will ensure ease of doing business and provide a favourable environment to the business community in the country. Given the significance of CPEC for international trade, the SEZs across Pakistan can become hubs of production. With our performance in production lagging, operational SEZs stand to improve capabilities and eventually increase exports as well.

Additionally, these SEZs can enhance the urgently required economic activity in the country, provided the government provides incentives to investors, both domestic and foreign. No one can deny the importance of SEZs for a country like Pakistan that has an important strategic location and is still undergoing development.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) understands too well the significance of such zones for creating employment opportunities to the youth of the country that is 64 percent of the total population. Despite recent improvements, the surrounding business environment in Pakistan is still less than optimal. However, the real task is not approving such industrial hubs. The actual challenge before the state will be to make these zones success stories.

For this, the government must work closely with potential investors and remain attentive to their needs. Also, Pakistan must provide the firms with productivity benefits rather than offers of tax holidays. Experts on SEZs believe that tax exemptions are often among the least important of any firm's consideration. The government must use the private sector where possible to speed things up and encourage more investment. But before anything else, the authorities must ensure that the progress on the approved zones is consistent and they start operating as per schedule.

<https://nation.com.pk/09-Oct-2020/approving-new-sezs>

October 10, 2020

Pakistan Observer

FPCCI to avail benefits of CPEC

FPCCI is committed to avail the benefits of CPEC for the entire country and will tap and utilize every resource for those areas which earlier could not be explored and Hazara Division is gateway of the CPEC. This was said by Khalid Tawab, candidate for the presidentship of forthcoming election of FPCCI while addressing as chief guest at the function arranged by the Chinar Group of Companies in the honor of newly elected office bearers of Abbottabad chamber of commerce and Industry here. Khalid Tawab former provincial minister and renowned industrialist from Karachi was accompanied by Hanif Gohar, former office bearer of FPCCI said that RCD was a unique example of joint co-operation in the past by the Iran-Pakistan and Turkey.

<https://pakobserver.net/fpcci-to-avail-benefits-of-cpec/>

The Nation

CPEC and Human development: Opportunities for Pakistan

China's Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) aims to connect Asia, Europe and Africa through a network of infrastructure and regional free trade areas. BRI covers 68 countries, with roughly two-third of the world's population, over 40 per cent of world GDP and three-fourth of global energy reserves.

As part of the BRI, China and Pakistan have started China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In turn, CPEC provides unique opportunity for Pakistan to boost its strategic and economic position. It has the potential to transform Pakistan into a regional hub for trade and investment. It can also help Pakistan to join the ranks of 'top ten' economies in the world by 2050. However, in order to benefit from this unique opportunity Pakistan must transform itself as a knowledge economy and develop its human resource.

The knowledge economy refers to the use of knowledge to create goods and services. More particularly, it means producing highly skilled workers in the country. For the development of its human resource, Pakistan should invest in equipping its youth with the highly technical skills. Currently, 64 per cent of the nation is younger than 30 years of age, while 29 per cent of Pakistan's population is between 15 and 29. This abundant human resource can be developed as an asset if the country can provide them with the right skills and training.

As part of the CPEC, the infrastructure development, creating the special industrial zones and the development of service sector will require highly skilled workers. Currently, Pakistan lags behind other countries in terms of providing technical education to its youth. Similarly, the

literacy rate in Pakistan is also very low compared to other developing countries. According to the UN estimates, over 50 per cent of the country aged 15 year and above are illiterate.

In order to catch up with its regional partners and to reap real benefits from the CPEC, Pakistan should start training its youth by building large infrastructure of technical education and training centers. This will not happen without making education top priority and increase its budget. Presently, Pakistan has one of the lowest education budgets in the world, spending just 2 per cent of its national GDP on education.

<https://nation.com.pk/10-Oct-2020/cpec-and-human-development-opportunities-for-pakistan>

The News

Zhijing Cup China-Pakistan Friendship contest unveiled in Thar

ISLAMABAD: First “Zhijing Cup” China-Pakistan Welder Friendship Contest unveiled in Thar, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

In the contest hosted by the management team of the Thar Integrated Coal Mine and Power Project in Pakistan, eight welders from the two countries demonstrated their professional expertise according to operating instructions.

Under the guidance of “Zhijing” spirit, which means the pursuit of perfection in Chinese, all the participants geared themselves with personal protective equipment and devoted their meticulous to every single crack by repositioning their torch with varied welding intensity, using overhead or horizontal position.

The friendship contest is a flagship activity during the 2020 Quality Priority Month of Shanghai Electric Group, which aims at highlighting the pursuit of quality in the company and making the project an excellent one while displaying the techniques of welders from two countries so as to further China-Pakistan friendship. This contest mainly tested hands-on operations.

In the contest, eight contestants were required to finish switching a welding machine on/off, commissioning, plate welding, and vertical welding, etc. within 40 minutes, and they were marked by the judging panel based on 12 indicators including weld appearance, reinforcement, width difference, and angular distortion, etc. according to international conventions.

The contest finally concluded, with the top three won by one welder from China and two from Pakistan.

“I’m so delight to participate in the China-Pakistan Welder Friendship Contest and win the second prize. I was enjoying the whole process.

Also, I improved myself by learning new skills from an experienced Chinese welder. I aspire to make my due contributions to the building of Thar Power Station. Long live China-Pakistan friendship!” Mobeen, a Pakistani welder and second-prize winner, said excitedly after the contest.

Chinese and Pakistani welders differ in their training and operating habits.

Specifically, Pakistani welders are not accustomed to the acid electrode and most of them are incapable of welding using their left hands, which prevents them from operating in certain construction scenarios.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/727369-zhijing-cup-china-pakistan-friendship-contest-unveiled-in-thar>

Powering Gwadar for future

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is poised to reshape the economic landscape of Pakistan in addition to opening multiple avenues for foreign direct investment. In this regard, Gwadar holds a pivotal importance. The development of Gwadar is sine qua non for Pakistan's development.

Ever since the materialization of CPEC, Gwadar was able to gain significant importance in Pakistan's political landscape. The representatives from Balochistan in Parliament have been raising the local issues. In this regard, a number of issues related to Gwadar have been resolved or are in the process of getting addressed. The ongoing construction of international airport here will not only allow access to potential investors or businesspersons but will serve as a gateway for tourism. The drinking water issue is in the process of getting resolved. The construction of desalination plant has been catering to increase drinking water demand.

However, the city, often termed as 'future of Pakistan', face considerable power shortfall despite the inception of CPEC more than five years ago. The existing shortfall is going to act as an impediment in months and years to come with the increase in economic activities in the city. By 2030, the actual power demand will reach 778 MW against the current power supply of 142.5 MW. Therefore, it is important that Gwadar become self-sufficient in power generation to cater not only its present and future energy needs but is also able to compensate power shortfall across Balochistan through a national grid system.

Currently, the existing power supply to Makran region is 142.5 MW. A large chunk of power supply (104 MW) is imported from Iran. However, Iran's power supply is not optimally available due to Iran's own energy demand. The average supply from Iran hovers around 40-70 MW. Additionally, 30 MW is generated by captive/domestic generators and 8.5 MW by generators at Gwadar Free Zone. The heavy reliance on Iran for Gwadar's power demands is strategically unstable and unreliable in addition to technical mismatch and high tariff.

Due to technical issues, Gwadar electricity network is different from the national grid system. The former is feeding Gwadar, Turbat and Panjgur with meager 35 MW. Consequently, 12-14 hours of load shedding is common in the area. On the other hand, if Makran region which include Gwadar is connected to Pakistan's national grid system, it will not only be able to compensate power shortfall in Gwadar but will be able to contribute in satisfying existing power shortfall in Balochistan. Meanwhile, the current demand of Gwadar region is about 247 MW.

In November 2017, Joint Coordination Committee meeting on CPEC proposed to review the Gwadar plan in order to deal with the power shortage issue. Additionally, a separate high-level meeting occurred on the development of Gwadar coal power project. It was proposed that a 300 MW coal power project should be constructed to satisfy power demands from Gwadar and Makran region. CIHC, as a leading industry investor was tasked with implementing this plant by both the governments.

In September 2020, CPEC Authority in a meeting decided to finalize the pending matters for the signing of the Power Purchase Agreement for the coal power project. It was mutually agreed during the meeting that pending matters related to PPA shall be resolved internally at Power Division level within a week. However, the progress on the project remains at a slow pace.

Availability of sustainable electricity is the main demand of industrialists who wish to build industries in Gwadar. However, the unavailability of power has forced several industrialists to not go along with their planned investments in the region, which has already deprived the region of losses amounting to millions of rupees if not billions.

The Gwadar Port and Free Zone operation totally relies on China Overseas Ports Holding Company Pakistan's (COPHC) generators in the past years due to lack of power supply. This has not only increased the operation cost of the operator but also negatively affect the operation of the port and free zone development. It is already estimated that around 242 MW will be required for Gwadar Free Zone. Therefore, it is not possible to provide such amount of power to the industries by COPHC's generators by that time. In other words, the Port and Free Zone development are dependent on the schedule of the proposed coal power project.

The availability of power will usher economic activities in the region and consequently generate job opportunities. The delay in the production of Gwadar power plant is delaying the progress of Gwadar Port City as potential investors await the availability of sufficient power supply in the region. Therefore, concerned authorities should priorities this issue and take the necessary measures.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/727249-powering-gwadar-for-future>

October 11, 2020

Business Recorder

China praises Pakistan's support on HK issue

BEIJING: China praised Pakistan for its "strong support" on its position on the Hong Kong problem during a debate at the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee.

Speaking at a regular briefing in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying said Pakistan and Cuba represented the relevant countries and delivered speeches, highlighting

that China's implementation of Hong Kong National Security Law is good for the steady implementation of the one country, two systems.

She pointed out that Pakistan also supported China's measures in Xinjiang to protect people's rights, and opposed politicization and double standards on the human rights issue.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/10/11/1-page/854405-news.html>

Dawn News

Chinese drowns in sea near Gwadar

GWADAR: A Chinese engineer is said to have committed suicide by jumping into Arabian Sea in Gwadar, police said on Saturday.

Police said that according to the CCTV footage from a camera at the Gwadar port, the Chinese engineer, who was identified as Lu Youyu, committed suicide late last night. They said that after finding him missing from his residence they watched the CCTV footage. "Mr. Lu Youyu can be clearly seen jumping into the sea in the footage," the police said.

However, Chinese officials posted at the port claimed that their colleague did not commit suicide but slipped into the sea while walking along the port.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1584431/chinese-drowns-in-sea-near-gwadar>

Pakistan Observer

13 SEZs to bring about revolution in Punjab: CM Links South Punjab uplift with promotion of industry, trade

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Sunday said that the establishment of 13 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) will bring about industrial revolution in Punjab and will generate employment opportunities. "The dream of development and prosperity in South Punjab can be materialized through the promotion of industrial sector as there is huge potential for industry and trade."

Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar was talking to former president Multan Chamber of Commerce and Industries and newly-elected President of DG Khan Chamber of Commerce and Industries Kh. Jalaluddin Roomi called on him. Matters regarding promotion of industries and trade in Southern Punjab were came under discussion during the meeting. The chief minister greeted Kh. Jalaluddin Roomi for electing as President D.G. Khan Chamber of Commerce and Industries. The CM said that a business friendly environment has been provided for the business and industrial community. He said that plans have been chalked out to establish a largest industrial zone of the country in Muzaffargarh which will change the economic destiny of the region. The Chief Minister further stated that land would be provided for the building of Chamber of Commerce and Industries in D.G. Khan and Punjab Small Industries Corporation will soon be inaugurated in the region as well. Backward areas will bring at par with the

developed ones through Small and Medium industries. President D.G. Khan Chamber of Commerce and Industries Kh. Jalaluddin Roomi lauded the vision and efforts of the Punjab government for the promotion of industries and trade. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar strongly condemned the death of renowned religious scholar Maulana Dr Adil Khan who was shot dead in Karachi. Usman Buzdar expressed deep sense of sorrow and grief over this incident and extended heartfelt sympathies and condolences with the bereaved family members. On the other hand, Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar said that precautionary measures are utmost necessary to deal with corona virus. He appealed people to follow the restrictions of wearing masks on public places besides maintaining social distance. He said that Covid-19 Virus can again attack back if we do not follow the SOPs. He said that violation of anti-corona SOPs at educational institutes, offices and crowded public places will not be tolerated. He said that during the last 24 hours 11185 corona diagnostics tests were conducted in Punjab. In the last 24 hours, 5 corona patients have died whereas 203 people have been reported corona affected.

<https://pakobserver.net/13-sezs-to-bring-about-revolution-in-punjab-cm-links-south-punjab-uplift-with-promotion-of-industry-trade/>

October 12, 2020

Daily Times

Pakistan hails socio-economic development in Xinjiang

Jan Achakzai, a geopolitical analyst and a politician from Balochistan, appreciates the development by Iron Brother China in Xinjiang.

According to Gwadar Pro on Sunday, he regretted that Western media hardly reports great strides of China's success in development, grass root transformation and poverty alleviation of its once most underdeveloped Xinjiang. "China has done marvels over the last decades by reducing poverty lifting over 100 million people out of misery. The governance has delivered in terms of creating an enabling environment through special focus on infrastructure development, energy self-sufficiency, and human development. And it matters for Pakistan," he said.

He added, "For Pakistan, particularly Balochistan, the Chinese success in poverty alleviation and improving under developed areas is a role model. Being the poorest of Pakistan's provinces, Balochistan's poverty level, according to UNDP estimates, is around 70%.

As Islamabad is prioritizing fundamental pillars of the economic take off, investment in infrastructure, energy and human development, a development-led governance model should be adopted in smaller provinces like Balochistan." He said another field where Pakistan can learn from the Chinese experience in Xinjiang was tourism promotion. "Tourism could be lucrative for Balochistan as it boasts best places to attract tourists from the world. China has particularly focused on this sector in Xinjiang," he remarked.

Overall statistics show that China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has seen a positive trend in economic development and people's livelihoods have significantly improved. Noting that development is an important foundation for lasting peace and stability in Xinjiang, Chinese President Xi Jinping recently at the third central symposium on work related to Xinjiang underlined the need to fully and faithfully implement the CPC's policies on governing Xinjiang for the new era.

Xi demanded law-based governance and long-term efforts to develop Xinjiang into a region that is united, harmonious, prosperous, and culturally advanced, with healthy ecosystems and people living and working in contentment. Xinjiang's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has increased from less than \$147 billion in 2014 to \$205 billion by 2019, with an average yearly increase of 7.2 percent.

In mid-September, China's State Council Information Office published a white paper titled "Employment and Labor Rights in Xinjiang", which said that through proactive labour and employment policies, Xinjiang had continuously improved people's lives and guaranteed and developed their human rights in every field.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/676937/pakistan-hails-socio-economic-development-in-xinjiang/>

Dawn News

Indian defence minister's 'insinuations' that Pakistan, China create border conflicts rejected by FO

The Foreign Office on Monday rejected Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh's "unfounded insinuations" that Pakistan and China were deliberately creating border disputes with India.

"It is India that not only creates disputes with neighbors but also runs away from peacefully resolving them," an FO press release said.

The FO further said that Singh's remarks "demonstrate an inexcusable lack of self-awareness of RSS-BJP regime's self-serving narrative".

"[Singh's statement is] another manifestation of the Indian government's incurable obsession with Pakistan," the FO press release stated.

It also slammed the "malicious Indian propaganda" against Pakistan and China's friendship and said: "It is preposterous for a country that is compulsively expansionist and a brazen practitioner of state-terrorism, to level charges against others."

The FO advised the Indian government to "seriously consider course correction by giving up its aggressive agenda and peacefully resolving disputes with neighbors".

Earlier today, Singh had alleged that Pakistan and China were working to "create" border disputes with India "under a mission", multiple Indian media outlets reported.

Singh made these remarks in a virtual event arranged for the inauguration of 44 bridges built in areas near India's borders with Pakistan and China, including occupied Kashmir, Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Indian Punjab.

The bridges are meant to facilitate the movement of troops and transporting weapons, according to *NDTV*. Singh also launched the Nechiphu tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh.

"You are well aware of the situation created along our northern and eastern borders," Singh said in his virtual address.

"First Pakistan, and now also by China, as if a border dispute is being created under a mission. We have a border of about 7,000 kilometers with these countries, where the tension remains."

Singh insisted that India had been able to cope with the challenges along its borders under the "visionary" leadership of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and "was bringing major and historical changes", *NDTV* said in its report.

"Our armed forces personnel are deployed in large numbers in areas where transport is not available throughout the year," Singh said, while explaining the significance of the newly built bridges. "These roads are not only for strategic needs, but they also reflect equal participation of all stakeholders in the development of the nation."

The inauguration of the bridges comes weeks after Modi opened a Himalayan tunnel that traverses India's northern Himachal Pradesh state and lies on one of two main routes for troops headed to border areas in Ladakh. The tunnel would drastically reduce the time needed to rush troops to the country's remote Chinese border as tensions persist between the Asian neighbors.

India has been engaged in a fresh border conflict with China along their disputed border in the Ladakh region.

The latest deadlock began in May and in June escalated to the deadliest violence between the sides in decades — a clash between soldiers using clubs, stones and their fists. Twenty Indian soldiers were killed and dozens of others injured. China is believed to have also suffered casualties but has not given any details.

Meanwhile, the Indian army has committed at least 2,340 ceasefire violations along the Line of Control so far this year, resulting in martyrdom of 18 people and serious injuries to 187 others, according to data provided by the Foreign Office.

Pakistan has lodged protests against Indian aggression several times but the violations continue.

India's tensions with both Pakistan and China took a new turn when India unilaterally declared Ladakh a federal territory and separated it from Kashmir in August 2019, ending the region's semi-autonomous status. Kashmir, which has been an internationally recognized territorial dispute for decades, is controlled in part by Pakistan and India but claimed in full by both.

India has also vowed to take back the Chinese-controlled Aksai Chin plateau, which New Delhi says is part of Ladakh.

Both China and Pakistan were among the first countries to strongly condemn India's annexation of the disputed region, raising it at international forums including the United Nations Security Council.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1584681/indian-defence-ministers-insinuations-that-pakistan-china-create-border-conflicts-rejected-by-fo>

October 13, 2020

Daily Times

Pak-China plastic and packaging virtual exhibition on Oct 26

Pak-China 18th International Plastics and Packaging Industry Virtual Exhibition will be held in Pakistan from October 26th to 29th, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. It is being organized exclusively for Pakistan by the Department of Commerce of China's Zhejiang Province in collaboration with Zhejiang Times International Exhibition Service Co., Ltd. and CMEC International Exhibition Co., Ltd. Supported by Obortunity Consulting in Pakistan, the expo will see top manufacturers from Zhejiang province showcasing their latest range of products to buyers from Pakistan. There will be more than 50 exhibitors from multiple segments of plastics and packaging industry. The expo targets the plastics and packaging industry of Pakistan. The broad segments are: food industry, building and construction materials industry, and auto Parts and components industry. According to the organizers, the range of products has been selected keeping in mind the requirements of the Pakistani market. The pandemic has created an environment where business needs to be innovative to meet the challenges of the new normal. Online exhibitions and buyer-seller meeting platforms have emerged as the go-to destinations for those who want to expand and diversify in the changed scenario of current times.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/677303/pak-china-plastic-and-packaging-virtual-exhibition-on-oct-26/>

Preparations underway for launch of Orange Line Metro Rail

The Orange Line Metro Rail under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) started trial operations under the management of a Joint Venture (Norinco International Cooperation-Guangzhou Metro Group (GMG)-Daewoo Pakistan Express) led by Norinco International. While progressing smoothly, the preparatory work has entered the final stage with commercial operation expected to start soon after.

In February 2020, Norinco International, as the leading Company, joined hands with Guangzhou Metro Group (GMG) and Pakistan Daewoo Company to form a joint venture team, which successfully won the contract for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of Orange Line for the next eight years.

After the O&M contract was signed, the joint operation and maintenance team carried out various forms of recruitment and skill trainings. The Chinese mentors imparted professional rail

transit knowledge to the local students, and both sides have established a deep friendship between the teachers and trainees. So far, the joint team has completed recruitment, skills training, joint survey, and re-test, and is well prepared for the opening.

With the launch of Orange Line, it is estimated that nearly 250,000 passengers will be facilitated with this service every day and the commuting time through the northern and southern urban areas of the city will be significantly reduced from 2.5 hours to 45 minutes. Concurrently, the Orange Line subway had created more than 7000 local jobs during its construction period and now generated nearly 2000 jobs during the O&M period for the residents of Lahore, greatly upgrading the employment scenario of the city. The Orange Line will not only be prominently improving the travel efficiency of citizens and promoting the socio-economic development level in Lahore but will also be introducing a new momentum into the development of urban modernization. In compliance with the laws of urban green development in Lahore and Pakistan's National Development Strategy, Pakistan will officially enter the subway era with the launch of Orange Line Metro Rail Transit System.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/677113/preparations-underway-for-launch-of-orange-line-metro-rail/>

The Express Tribune

Gwadar International Airport project okayed

The government on Monday approved, in principle, the New Gwadar International Airport project at a cost of Rs55.4 billion, about 147% higher than the first revision, and also sanctioned a reduction in the scope of an important Gwadar road scheme.

The decisions were taken by the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) - a body having mandate to scrutinize and approve development schemes and refer the mega ones for final ratification of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec). Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Jehanzeb Khan chaired the CDWP meeting.

The CDWP took up the New Gwadar International Airport project, which would be built with the help of Pakistan government funds and Chinese grant of 1.52 billion yuan or Rs34 billion. Total cost of the project is Rs55.4 billion.

The new Gwadar airport is considered important for the development of Gwadar Port and its free zone. The Ministry of Planning is now gradually taking back the control of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) after the CPEC Authority law lapsed four months ago.

The government has also brought back Hassan Dawood Butt to handle affairs in the next CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting. JCC is scheduled to meet this month and will take important decisions on future roadmap of the multibillion-dollar strategic bilateral initiative.

Butt had earlier been the deputy project director of the CPEC support project but moved to Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment.

The original Gwadar airport project had been approved at a cost of Rs7.5 billion in 2010 and the revised one was cleared in 2015 at a cost of Rs22.2 billion. The CDWP approved the second revision on Monday with a cost of Rs55.4 billion, higher by Rs33 billion or 147% than the 2015 cost.

A key reason behind the increase in cost was that the new plan was based on a detailed design of the project.

The CDWP directed the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to review the possibility of cutting the construction cost of buildings to be used by the Airport Security Force (ASF) and the CAA. For the ASF camp, Rs9.9 billion, and for the CAA Residential Complex, Rs2.7 billion, have been included in the project construction cost. In the current fiscal year's Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), the government has allocated only Rs519 million for the construction of the project.

At the time of approval of the original PC-I in January 2010, the dollar was at Rs85 against the rupee. The PML-N government made the first revision in January 2015 as part of the CPEC project and then the dollar strengthened to Rs100. Now, the PTI government has proposed the second revision and the dollar value jumped to Rs155.1 in May this year when documents were submitted in the Planning Commission for scrutiny.

Oman is giving a \$17.5 million grant while China is providing a grant of 1.67 billion yuan. The share of Chinese grant in total construction cost is 63.3%.

The existing airport is capable of handling only small aircraft while the new airport is being designed to cater to needs of large Airbus A-380 aircraft. In total, the CDWP approved eight projects worth Rs36 billion and recommended another eight of Rs288 billion to Ecneec.

The CDWP cleared the construction of Gwadar-Ratodero Road worth Rs38 billion, according to a Ministry of Planning statement. It also recommended the upgrading, widening and construction of Surab-Hoshab Road N-85 worth Rs28.8 billion to Ecneec for approval.

The Gwadar-Ratodero project, originally approved in 1999, had been presented by the last PML-N government as the "western route". The project involves construction of a 484.7km road, which will be a two-lane single carriageway.

The original PC-I had been approved for construction of a 891.7km road but the scope has now been reduced to 484.7 km. The CDWP recommended the Sindh Resilience Project worth Rs15.3 billion to Ecneec. Project objective is to enhance resilience to natural disasters, including public health emergency response and resource management during public health emergencies.

The Solid Waste Emergency and Efficiency Project worth Rs17.7 billion was referred to Ecneec. The project will finance intervention that will be implemented in two phases.

The construction of a new building of the Supreme Court Branch registry in Karachi costing Rs4.4 billion was approved in the meeting. The CDWP also approved the construction of Dirgi

Shahbozai-Tounsa Sharif Road worth Rs9 billion. It sent the Flood Protection Sector Project worth Rs96 billion to Ecnec for approval.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2268119/gwadar-international-airport-project-okayed>

Dawn News

CPEC Authority defunct for months, says PPP

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has questioned the functioning of the China-Pakistan Economic Authority months after the lapse of the ordinance under which it had been established last year, saying the government does not seem serious about carrying forward the CPEC project.

Talking to *Dawn* after addressing a news conference on the country's current political situation at the party's Media Office here on Tuesday, PPP Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar said the opposition would forcefully raise the issue on the floor of parliament.

Besides, the opposition party was weighing various options, including a legal challenge, to take up the matter as it would consult lawyers and legal experts on the matter, said Mr. Khokhar, who is also official spokesperson for PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari.

Mr. Khokhar said he considered that the CPEC Authority had become a defunct body and, therefore, its chairman and other officials could no more enjoy the financial perks and privileges.

Opposition party mulling various options, including legal challenge

He said the government was not serious about carrying forward the CPEC project, which was evident from the fact that it never made any effort to bring the CPEC Authority legislation to the National Assembly or the Senate to make it an act of parliament.

The senator said the government could have brought the legislation when it was pressing for the passage of the Financial Action Task Force-related laws and even convened a joint sitting of parliament.

He said it seemed that CPEC was not the priority of this government. When asked if the PPP would support the legislation, he said they would make a decision when the government would bring it to parliament.

U-turn on resignation

Earlier, speaking at the news conference, Senator Khokhar also objected to the decision of retired Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa to continue to hold the office of chairman of the CPEC Authority while stepping down as special assistant to the prime minister on information and broadcasting in the wake of the allegations regarding his family's assets and offshore businesses.

He wondered how "a person with suspicious credibility" could be allowed to head such a crucial body and run mega projects. "How can a person, who has resigned from one position, can run the

mega project like CPEC? People have the right to know why he resigned or was he forced to resign,” Mr. Khokhar said.

Prime Minister Imran Khan had on Monday allowed retired Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa to relinquish the additional charge of SAPM on information and accepted the resignation he had submitted last month.

“I requested the honorable prime minister to relinquish me from the additional portfolio of SAPM on Info and broadcasting. He very kindly approved my request,” Mr. Bajwa wrote on his official account on Twitter.

Earlier, the prime minister had refused to accept the resignation and directed Mr. Bajwa to continue working as his aide.

The official PTI Twitter account had quoted the premier as saying that he was satisfied with the evidence provided by Mr. Bajwa about his family’s assets.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1584947/cpec-authority-defunct-for-months-says-ppp>

October 14, 2020

Dawn News

PMTA takes over metro train project from Chinese firm

LAHORE: The Punjab Mass Transit Authority (PMTA) has taken over the Lahore Orange Line Metro Train Project (OLMTP) from the Chinese contractor CR—Norinco through the National Engineering Services Pakistan (Nespak), the project consultant. It is now completing the task to hand over the project to another joint venture of some international firms this week for its operation and maintenance. The project is all set to start its commercial operation from Oct 25.

“After the takeover of the project, we have also placed our people at all stations, yards/depots, premises etc. from Dera Gujran to Ali Razabad (Raiwind Road),” a senior PMTA official told Dawn on Tuesday.

According to CR-Norinco, the project has been successfully handed over to the PMTA after its completion.

“The project is the first officially launched urban mass transit project under the CPEC for the One Belt, One Road initiative and also the first metro transit project of Pakistan. The agreement for this project was signed in April 2015 in the presence of Chinese President Xi Jinping, marking its great significance for both China and Pakistan,” said a spokesperson for the company in a press release.

He said the CR-Norinco as a joint venture between the China Railway (CR) and China North Industries Corporation (NORINCO) undertook the project and assumed responsibility for its specific implementation. The conceptual and detailed engineering and mechanical (E&M) work

design were completed by CR Design Corporation whereas the soft loan was provided by the Exim Bank of China.

The press release acknowledges that with the combined efforts of project teams from both the countries, the CR-Norinco had successfully completed the project and employed and trained 2,000 Pakistani staff members. Through this project, the CR-Norinco has not only played its role in spurring local employment and economic growth effectively but also actively fulfilled its social responsibilities by making significant donations to a local primary school.

It is pertinent to mention the commercial operation date of the project was earlier set as June 11 this year. But the joint venture of three companies, including two Chinese firms, requested the PMTA to extend this date since the entire international flight operations in the world, including China, were suspended due to the coronavirus and the Chinese engineers, who needed to come from China to Pakistan, were unable to travel. Taking the situation into consideration, the government extended the project operation date till Oct 25.

The international tenders were floated on Jan 29, 2014. Later, during a meeting between the then President of Pakistan and the Chinese premier held on Feb 19 in Beijing, it was announced that the project would be funded under the CPEC.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1584907/pmta-takes-over-metro-train-project-from-chinese-firm>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC-A Road to Economic Independence of Pakistan

Col ® Muhammad Hanif

The weaker countries, which are economically reliant on stronger countries, remain vulnerable to the stronger countries' significant control over their economic and political policies. To free a country from such pressures, it is important to build an independent national economy, which is free from dependence on others and which stands on its own feet. The economic independence of a country is achieved by developing its industrial, agricultural and services' capacity that increases economic growth, trade, foreign exchange earnings and employment which enhances individual incomes and prosperity. The economic self-reliance thus achieved enhances a country's economic and military power, and makes it more sovereign in conducting its domestic, foreign and defense policies.

At the time of its independence in 1947, being short of the economic and defense resources, Pakistan became a part of the US-led cold war alliance, and hence it started getting the required economic and defense aid/loans from the World Bank, IMF, ADB and the US. In the Ayub Khan's era, 1958 to 1968, through intensive industrialization and modernization of the agriculture sector, the government was able to achieve and maintain above six percent economic growth for six to eight years. That is why, in the 1960s, Pakistan was economically much ahead of the present Asian economic tigers.

Then, from 1969 to March 2018, all the successive Pakistani governments have failed to utilize the foreign aid/loans for attaining and maintaining a high economic growth rate to free the country from the foreign dependency. The governments also failed to control the wastage of the foreign money due to their lavish non-developmental spending and by failing to control nepotism and widespread corruption. These faulty policies of the governments also resulted into amassing of the foreign debt.

For example, according to the News and the Tribune dated 11 October 2020, while at the end of December 1969, the external debt of Pakistan was US \$ 3 billion, by March 2018, Pakistan's total foreign debt had mounted to US \$ 91.7 billion. Whereas in 1977 (last year of Z. A. Bhutto's government) the total debt was US \$ 6.3 billion, in 1999, (end of the Nawaz Sharif 2nd government) the total debt had risen to US \$ 36.5 billion. At the end of June 2007, (last year of Gen. Musharraf's government), the loans had soared to \$40.5 billion.

By June 2013 (the last year of the PPP government), the debt had risen to US \$ 61 billion. By end March 2018 [the last year of the PML (N) government] the foreign debt had surged to US\$ 91.7 billion. In the overall perspective, whereas the foreign debt had increased by US \$ 4 billion in Gen. Musharraf's time (1999-2008), during PPPs time (2008 -2013) the debt rose by US \$ 20 billion and in PML (N)'s time (2014 to 2018) the debt had increased by US \$ 30 billion.

In view of the above dismal economic scenario, in July 2018, when the PTI took over the government, Pakistan was required to pay back the US \$ 7 billion per year as the instalment of the loan. For this purpose, the government had to take loans from the friendly countries and it had to go to the IMF also to get additional loans to run the government affairs. The situation made the government realize that while an economically weaker Pakistan was vulnerable to the foreign political blackmailing, India was getting encouraged to militarily threaten Pakistan.

Therefore, it is being felt by the Pakistani decision makers that Pakistan should attain economic self-sufficiency and independence within a minimum possible time to be able to become an economically and defense-wise a strong and independent country to exercise its sovereignty and to ensure the economic welfare of its people. In this context, the CPEC- based economic development is being considered as a grand opportunity to attain economic independence in a major way within the shortest possible time frame.

As the Chinese-financed CPEC would be a network of roads, railways, ports, power plants, pipelines, industrial zones and cooperation in agriculture, its development is going to accrue many advantages related to the economic development of Pakistan, that will help it in achieving an economic independence to the required degree, although in this globalized world, becoming totally independent of foreign influences may not be possible. Thus, the CPEC can facilitate Pakistan in attaining economic self-reliance in the following ways.

The CPEC energy projects and gas pipelines/transmission lines will be a source of ending Pakistan's energy shortages, as these have already added about 4000MW to the national grid and another 7000 MW will be added soon. The availability of energy will generate a lot of economic

activity, which will increase Pakistan's economic growth. The CPEC- related industrial zones will add to the industrial growth, which will increase Pakistan's exports and foreign exchange earnings. The network of roads, railways, ports and fiber optic loaded communications will facilitate Pakistan's domestic/foreign trade and will also earn freight income for it. Pakistan's cooperation with China in industry and agriculture will modernize these fields with the increased production and transfer of technology.

The CPEC is likely to increase Pakistan's economic growth and employment opportunities on a large scale which will help Pakistan in multiplying its foreign exchange earnings thus enabling it to pay back its existing loans easily, and it will also not require to take any more foreign loans. The CPEC-related high and sustainable economic growth and employment opportunities will also enable Pakistan to kill poverty and achieve prosperity. Therefore, it looks imperative for Pakistan to complete the construction of the CPEC in time.

[The writer is a former Consultant and Research Fellow of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), and an Ex Senior Research Fellow of Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), Islamabad].

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-a-road-to-economic-independence-of-pakistan/>

CPEC & TAPI pipeline strategic partnership

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

INITIALLY, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was devised to enhance regional connectivity, energy and food security by sharing prosperity. It was also designed to pull out the struggling people from the blind alley of poverty and deprivation through further enhancing of communication connectivity, infrastructural development, capacity building measures and above all job generation.

Now CPEC has become one of the vital components of the rise of Asian Century in which regional energy resources may play a contributory role in achieving massive industrialization, socio-economic prosperity, optimal levels of de-carbonization and last but not the least greater access to regional markets. In this context, Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline may play a central role in the days to come. Rapidly changing geopolitical and geostrategic trends lead towards revival of regionalism instead of declining globalization. So amalgamation of the CPEC & TPAI is must for greater regional connectivity.

Greater regional connectivity through the noble concept of "shared prosperity" is being carried out in the world through different mega projects/regional corporations/economic corridors in different continents. The CPEC and TAPI are the prime examples of regional energy corridors in Central Asia and Asian regions. Turkmenistan is also the part of China's global initiative i.e. One Belt & One Road (BRI) and the CPEC is the flagship project of the BRI too, so "consent of interest" is there to move forward for the early execution of the long awaited gas pipeline of the TAPI.

Moreover, ongoing peace process between Taliban and the Afghan government and the US immediate imposition of severe economic and banking sanctions on Iran has once again brightened the prospects of China's support for the further development of the TAPI in the region which may be completed even in the ongoing projects of the CPEC. In the past even China showed great interest to start its own version of the TAPI gas pipeline to be connected with its various regions for the easy and smooth supplies of the energy resources. In near past, China formally approached the Pakistani authorities and submitted a proposal for a China-Turkmenistan pipeline that had to cross several Central Asian mountain ranges. It would be cheaper and easier for China to build desired gas pipeline from Pakistan's territory to cross the Karakoram ranges to its western border. Consequently, the government of Pakistan shared Chinese proposal with Turkmenistan where it is currently passing through an evaluation process.

On its part, Pakistan has already signed the host country agreement to allow formally the laying and passing of the TAPI gas pipeline through its territory and facilitating India to connect it near the Fazilka district. Both the countries are now facing tremendous pressure for the early completion of the TAPI gas pipeline. Financial constraint has become one the most important factors in its delays. The only way-out is joining of the CPEC which will provide win-win and befitting propositions for all the countries especially Turkmenistan, China and Pakistan. It would be a wise decision of both the countries to approach Chinese authorities to include the TAPI gas pipeline in the ongoing project of the CPEC which is indeed a workable proposition. The 1,800km-long pipeline, which begins from the Galkynysh gas field in Turkmenistan, passes through Herat and Kandahar in Afghanistan, moves through Pakistan via Quetta and Multan and concludes at Fazilka in India would be part of the CPEC.

Pakistan has completed the entire preparatory works (survey, mapping, soil tests, land acquisition etc.) required ahead of launching the civil work for laying the pipeline. China has serious concerns about the likelihood of interruptions in the smooth transportation of oil and gas shipping tankers towards China from Africa and the Gulf region through the Strait of Malacca in relation to attacks by the pirates or terrorists, as 80 percent of oil used in China goes through shipping lines of the Strait of Malacca. China desires for reduction of its dependency on the Strait of Malacca and has been making efforts for the development of alternative transit routes. In this connection, Pakistan has been in the position of bridging the gap by making available the possible shortest transit route for the shipping of energy. China has been looking for alternate prospects to safeguard its energy supplies. In this regard, Chinese participation in the TAPI gas pipeline and optimal utility of Gwadar may help monitor the Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs) and further enhance bilateral trade between the two countries. Moreover, the government of Turkmenistan has also shown keen interest to join the CPEC.

CPEC & TAPI gas pipelines are game and fate changer for the region as well as all the participating countries. The ideal combination of both will enhance energy as well as food security in the regions. TAPI 1800km has now entered into a new phase after arriving in Afghanistan. The pipeline will link the regions of Central Asia and South Asia and transport up

to 33 bcm of natural gas. Turkmen gas will help cover the growing need for blue fuel in Pakistan, where by 2030 the needs could jump up by half. The pipeline will also reduce the constant shortage of energy resources in transit Afghanistan.

CPEC & TAPI have strategic importance, utilities, productivities and durability to achieve greater regional peace and prosperity in the days to come. Successful completion of both mega projects would provide crucial inputs to achieve a stable and sustainable growth patterns for all the participatory countries. CPEC & TAPI would boost the regional economies and open up unlimited avenues of prosperity. It would be a win-win situation for the entire region. Being a prominent regional expert of CPEC & BRI, I would like to suggest that Chinese government should think out of the box to facilitate early completion of the TAPI gas pipeline as its sustainable partner. Most of the development of the TAPI has been completed but inclusion of China will definitely boost its strategic orientation and optimal utility in the days to come.

Moreover, working relations between the CPEC & TAPI would be an ideal combination for future regional connectivity, socio-economic prosperity, energy & food security, massive industrialization, new job generation and above all trustworthy political understanding in the days to come. To conclude CPEC & TAPI future cooperation, coordination and collaboration is the way forward for achieving dreams of a qualitative life in the days to come. Moreover, combination of CPEC & TAPI would give a comparative advantage to China as well as Pakistan to further inroads to socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic orbits of the Central Asia Region (CAR).

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-tapi-pipeline-strategic-partnership/>

The Express Tribune

Orange Line trial operations start

The Orange Line Metro Train, under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has started trial operations under the management of a joint venture led by Norinco International.

While progressing smoothly, the preparatory work has entered the final stage with commercial operation expected to start soon.

In February, Norinco International, as the leading company, joined hands with Guangzhou Metro Group (GMG) and Pakistan Daewoo Company to form a joint venture, which won the contract for the operation and maintenance (O&M) of Orange Line for the next eight years.

After the O&M contract was signed, the joint operation and maintenance team carried out recruitment and skill trainings.

The Chinese mentors gave professional rail transit training to the local students, and a deep friendship was established between the teachers and trainees.

So far, the joint team has completed recruitment, skills training, joint survey and re-test, and is well prepared for the opening.

With the launch of Orange Line, it is estimated that nearly 250,000 passengers will be facilitated with the service every day and the commuting time through the northern and southern urban areas of the city will be significantly reduced from 2.5 hours to 45 minutes.

Concurrently, the Orange Line project created more than 7,000 local jobs during its construction period and now has generated nearly 2,000 jobs during the O&M period for the residents of Lahore, upgrading the employment scenario of the city.

The Orange Line is likely not only to prominently improve the travel efficiency of citizens and promote the socio-economic development level in Lahore but will also be introducing a new momentum into the development of urban modernization.

In compliance with the laws of urban green development in Lahore and Pakistan's national development strategy, the country will officially enter the subway era with the launch of Orange Line Metro Rail Transit System.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2268262/orange-line-trial-operations-start>

‘CPEC has changed future of Pakistan’

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has changed the future of Pakistan, by creating lots of business opportunities, said Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Nasir Mirza.

In an interview to the China Economic Net, Mirza said China is a time-tested friend of Pakistan and both countries are enjoying brotherly relations. He said road infrastructure under CPEC is one of the great achievements in Pakistan as it has reduced the distance between cities, which is essential and beneficial for business activities.

Talking about the Rashakai Economic Zone, the RCCI president said once the economic zone is functional, everyone will see the boom in commercial activities in this region. He said the business community has started looking for new ventures even before the completion of the Special Economic Zone.

This article originally appeared on china economic net.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2268236/cpec-has-changed-future-of-pakistan>

October 15, 2020

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China ‘Rapid Response System’ countering disinformation, propaganda against CPEC

Renowned former Russian World Chess Champion, writer and political activist Garry Kasparov had said, “the point of modern propaganda isn’t only to misinform or push an agenda. It is to exhaust your critical thinking, to annihilate truth.” Pakistan had time and again categorically

rejected India's malicious propaganda against China Pakistan Economic Corridor, terming it another manifestation of desperate Indian attempts to mislead the world community. Indian media, through subversive propaganda against Pakistan and CPEC is trying to sabotage the project by throwing dust in the eyes of the world community, just to cover up the worst failure of Modi government. India had reportedly established a special cell at a cost of \$500 million to sabotage CPEC, and activities of Indian spy Kalbhushan Jhadav's and his arrest in Pakistan was clear evidence of it. The recent spate of terrorist attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Baluchistan and other parts of the country was a clear indication that anti-CPEC elements were busy in their wrong doings against the project. The self-serving Indian claims regarding Jammu and Kashmir, including the parts which were under its illegal occupation, have no basis whatsoever, Human Rights' Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) chairperson Dr. Mehdi Hasan told APP. Indian designs and contentions about Jammu and Kashmir being the so-called "integral and inalienable part" of India and an "internal affair" were a laughable fiction, totally contrary to historical and legal facts and in violation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, he asserted. He said regurgitation of false claims by India could neither change facts nor divert attention from its state-terrorism in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) and its egregious violations of human rights of Kashmiri people. Senator and Chairman Pakistan-China Institute Mushahid Hussain Syed said that Pakistan China 'Rapid Response System' was successfully countering Propaganda against Pakistan, China and CPEC in a befitting manner.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-rapid-response-system-countering-disinformation-propaganda-against-cpec/>

The News

Chinese company OPPO donates Rs6.2m to PM's COVID fund

ISLAMABAD: Chinese company, OPPO has donated Rs6.2 million to Pakistani PM's COVID-19 Pandemic Relief Fund.

According to Gwadar Pro on Wednesday, this is the first mobile phone brand to donate funds for the pandemic in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the company successfully launched the first-ever Game Show of OPPO F17 Pro.

"We are wholeheartedly committed to the sustainable development of the whole market. In the second half of 2020, in compliance with the SOPs required by the Pakistani government,.

The company will continue to bring the latest and best smart phones and smart devices to Pakistani users." said Gorge Long Company's CEO Pakistan in an interview with Gwadar Pro.

OPPO F17 Pro is now available for pre-order for Rs.51, 999. 7.48 mm ultra-sleek design, 30W VOOC charge, and 6 AI cameras experience in the new dimension of Magic Blue and Matte Black colors. "OPPO's main strategy for its products is to meet user needs.

Through a survey of the younger generation in Pakistan, we found young users' demand for smartphones is to make them stand out in the crowd, the ability to take high-quality photos and a stylish and lightweight appearance design is also the core considerations, as the F17 Pro caters to all of these preferences in addition to its other advantages.

He further mentioned that 5G has not yet landed in Pakistan currently, but OPPO has been watching the progress of 5G in the Pakistani market.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/729708-chinese-company-oppo-donates-rs6-2m-to-pm-s-covid-fund>