



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

January 16-31, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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January 16, 2021

Daily Times

First Gwadar project gets power from national grid under CPEC

Under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, two mega housing projects have been connected with the national grid in Gwadar.

Electricity connections have been approved and installed at CPIC's projects International Port City and China Pak Golf Estates in Gwadar. These are the first residential communities in Gwadar's private sector where power connections have been successfully installed and are being dubbed a milestone in the development of the city.

CPIC a leading international developer who are at the forefront of real estate development in Gwadar and promotion of the city globally are the first developer in the history of the city to complete their societies and handover plots to the buyers.

Commenting on the achievement, Chief Engineer Waqas Moazzam said that this is another great milestone we have delivered in Gwadar by powering up our projects. "Now not only is our internal infrastructure complete but the projects are key ready for people to live in. We have injected Billions of rupees into Gwadar's economy which can be seen on the ground and in the coming years as Gwadar continues to develop CPIC's projects will be the only choice for both local and international professionals looking for high quality living within a secure gated community," he added.

CPIC had completed development works on the first two phases of their mega project International Port City in 2019 with all internal infrastructure works complete, together with parks and recreational facilities. A show home is also currently being built on site.

Moazzam continued that our vision from day one which has come from the top management down is to develop world class societies that are not only prepared for but will augment the growth of Gwadar. "For the city to develop to its true potential and attract leading local and international talent high quality integrated residential communities within a secure environment are essential".

CPIC had launched two major societies in Gwadar and the company has been recognized as a leader and pioneer in the city. The company won the Best Real Estate Development of the Year award in 2018 at the Shenzhen International Property Awards held in Shenzhen, China and Best International Real Estate Developer of the Year from the Governor of Sindh.

Moazzam asserted that when we started these projects, no developer in Gwadar had commenced any significant development works on their projects. "However, with our experienced international team, China based consultants, drive, determination and perseverance we have achieved this milestone and added another Gwadar's first accolade to our decorum".

Recently CPIC inaugurated the golf course at their flagship China Pak Golf Estates project which is located on the main N10 CPEC Highway. The feature 9-hole golf course will be Gwadar's first golf course and is expected to be a key catalyst in the development of golf tourism in Gwadar which is valued at over \$22 Billion per annum.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/714007/first-gwadar-project-gets-power-from-national-grid-under-cpec/>

Gwadar Port, CPEC to promote regional connectivity: Alvi

President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday said with the promotion of regional connectivity due to Gwadar Deep Seaport, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would benefit the regional countries, especially Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics (CARs).

He was presiding over a meeting regarding the development activities at Gwadar Port.

Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi, Advisor to the PM on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood and CPEC Authority Chairman Lt Gen ® Asim Saleem Bajwa were in attendance.

The president said the Gwadar Port would help make Pakistan the hub of transit trade in the region. Besides creating ample employment opportunities, its completion would also bring about socio-economic prosperity for the people of Balochistan, he added.

Meanwhile, President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday said Pakistan wanted to further expand cooperation with Mexico in fields including trade, investment, culture, tourism and education.

Talking to Pakistan's ambassador-designate to Mexico Dr Aman Rashid here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President said Pakistan attached great importance to its relations with Mexico.

President Alvi highlighted that the government was focusing on increasing trade and investment with all countries and stressed the need for increasing bilateral trade volume with Mexico.

He also underscored the need for initiating high-level visits between the two countries, which would further enhance bilateral relations.

He asked the envoy-designate to work for the image-building of the country as well as expose the atrocities and human rights violations being committed by India in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The President expressed the hope that the new envoy would work to further cement bilateral ties between Pakistan and Mexico.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/713730/gwadar-port-cpec-to-promote-regional-connectivity-alvi/>

Dawn News

Chinese firm to setup first steel plant in Rashakai

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese iron and steel conglomerate has become the first foreign enterprise to establish its plant in the Rashakai Special Economic Zone under CPEC with a planned investment of \$50 million.

The SEZ Committee of Rashakai Special Economic Zone at its meeting on Friday allocated 40 acres to Century Steel Ltd owned by Fuzhou Julitaihe International Company of China, which owns steel mills in Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia and Ethiopia with a net capacity of 3,000 million tons of iron and steel products.

The Board of Investment (BoI) in a press release stated the Chinese company has mobilized its engineers and personnel who have started setting up a site office to execute the plant establishment expeditiously.

The Rashakai SEZ comes under the CPEC umbrella and is the first industrial cooperation project between China and Pakistan. The 1,000-acre zone will create 200,000 direct and indirect jobs and is expected to attract Rs347 billion of investment.

Having the capacity to produce 0.25 million tons of steel products per annum at the proposed plant in Rashakai, the project will consume 45MW of electricity and create job opportunities for 1,000 employees directly or indirectly.

The BoI said 10MW of electricity at the economic zone had already been arranged through 11kV feeder, while work was in progress on the 160MW, 132 kV grid station. Due to its location on the motorway and proximity to the Torkham border and Central Asia, the Rashakai SEZ is expected to be the game-changer for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1601766>

The News

Pak, China universities to build center of excellence in mineral resources

BEIJING: The Center of Excellence in Mineral Resources Engineering is going to be jointly built by China University of Mining and Technology (CUMT) and Pakistan-Austria Fachhochschule: Institute of Applied Sciences & Technology (PAF-IAST).

In this connection, the two universities held an online agreement signing ceremony, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

“The signing of this agreement is not only the first major international event of CUMT in 2021, but also a tribute to the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations.

“We believe the Center will provide strong talent and scientific support for the development of PAF-IAST, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt & Road Initiative (BRI),” CUMT President Song Xuefeng addressed the ceremony.

CUMT President Song Xuefeng is signing the agreement on the Center of Excellence in Mineral Resources Engineering.

Since 2018, the two universities have held rounds of consultations on the Center’s establishment. Focusing on mineral resources engineering, the Center will launch varied cooperation in talent cultivation, scientific and technological research and development, and technology transformation.

Specifically, the two universities will carry out joint master’s degree and PhD program of mining engineering as well as mineral processing engineering in the future.

“Mineral resource cooperation is one of the top priorities identified by Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan. We sincerely hope to cooperate with CUMT in teaching and scientific research related to this area.

“We look forward to resuming exchange visits as soon as possible after the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Prof. Atta-ur Rahman, Chairman of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s Task Force on Science and Technology at the ceremony.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/775062-pak-china-universities-to-build-center-of-excellence-in-mineral-resources>

January 17, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan, China agree to enhance tourism, culture cooperation

China and Pakistan have agreed to organize cultural and tourism activities, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

According to Gwadar Pro, Pakistani Ambassador Moin ul Haque held a meeting with Zhang Xu, Vice-Minister of Culture and Tourism at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed on-going cooperation in the fields of culture, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges and vowed to further deepen their bilateral engagements in the future.

Expressing satisfaction with the steady development of bilateral cultural ties, both sides noted that the all-weather friendship between Pakistan and China provided a strong foundation for further enhancing bilateral engagements in domains of culture, media cooperation, and heritage protection. They agreed that both countries should make optimum use of existing linkages to deepen bilateral cultural exchanges and also institutionalize new mechanisms for coordinated and wide-ranging development of ties in relevant fields.

In this regard, the expansion of bilateral tourism could become a new area of cooperation between Pakistan and China. Zhang Xu said that China is willing to work with Pakistan to successfully organize cultural and tourism activities for the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations under the background of the COVID-19 epidemic, further implement the bilateral cultural and tourism cooperation agreement, and give full play to the role of Pakistan's Chinese Cultural Center.

He further said that the all-weather strategic partnership between China and Pakistan has maintained a high level of development and has become a model for building a community with a shared future for mankind. He added that the two countries have achieved fruitful results in mutually beneficial cooperation in cultural, art, and people-to-people exchanges.

The ambassador briefed Zhang Xu about Pakistan's history, diverse cultural heritages, cuisine, beautiful landscapes, and monuments which could attract a large number of Chinese tourists in the future. He updated the Vice Minister about the Government of Pakistan's special initiatives for attracting international tourists to the country.

Haque also informed him about the Embassy's Tourism Initiative, under which a new tourism website in the Chinese language has been developed and would be launched soon. Both sides also discussed the celebratory events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties in 2021. They agreed that relevant departments of the two governments should make the best preparations for anniversary celebrations and celebrate it as befitting the rich history of the Pakistan-China friendship. In this regard, Vice-Minister Zhang assured the Ambassador complete support and assistance of the Chinese Ministry of Culture and its relevant departments.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/714113/pakistan-china-agree-to-enhance-tourism-culture-cooperation/>

January 18, 2021

Business Recorder

Tariff cut win-win for China, Pakistan: Liu Baocheng

BEIJING: China has reduced, cancelled import tariffs for 2021 and it would be win-win for China and related countries including its iron-clad brother Pakistan.

This was stated by Liu Baocheng, Dean of Centre for International Business Ethics (CIBE), University of International Business and Economics (UIBE), China, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

China adjusted import tariffs on a range of products starting from January 1, 2021 to support fostering the new development paradigm and promoting high-quality development, and lowered parts of conventional tariff rates and most-favoured-nation rates in 2021, as stated by the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council.

As per Liu Baocheng, since its accession to World Trade Organization, China has comprehensively fulfilled its commitments to WTO, substantially reducing import tariffs. By reducing import costs to boost trade,

China has delivered mutually beneficial and win-win outcomes on a wider scale and has shared its development dividend and growing markets with the rest of the world.

Provisional import tariffs that are lower than the most-favoured-nation (MFN) rates will be levied on 883 commodities, including some anti-cancer drugs and raw materials for infant formulas. As Liu put it, this shows that “Put the people first” is the bedrock of all policies and governmental undertakings in China.

On top of that, “China is to focus on quality growth in the new development pattern for the 14th Five-Year-Plan (FYP) period,” hence, it needs to import aviation equipment such as fuel pumps for aircraft engines and parts of integrated circuits equipment, parts and raw materials needed for production and so on, which represents a lucrative opportunity for countries rich in quality raw materials.

Also, as China plays a significant role in global trade, an increased import of raw materials would definitely benefit distributors and importers all over the world. “A lower cost makes room for the efficiency in R&D, and that eventually will benefit global end-customers,” Liu noted. According to the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council, further tariff reduction will be made under the free trade agreements China has separately signed with countries including New Zealand, Peru, Costa Rica, Switzerland, Iceland, Pakistan, Chile, Australia, the Republic of Korea, Georgia, as well as the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement.

“The latest tariff cut means that China’s imports from Pakistan would show a reasonable increase and reduce the cost of exports for Pakistani companies in the coming year. Also, China will reciprocate Pakistan with technology and goods it needs. Therefore, the tariff reduction helps both countries reach common development,” he explained.

Last but not the least, he further mentioned, the tariff cut on medical equipment, medical raw materials reflects that China has taken on the responsibility to share the COVID-19 vaccine with the rest of the world - especially developing countries that are struggling to combat the virus - rather than using any vaccine as a private asset.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/01/18/12-page/866233-news.html>

First Pakistani receives Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine in Shanghai

BEIJING: Zahid Iqbal has become the first Pakistani citizen to receive Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine in Shanghai, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

Zahid, about 44 years of age got second dose of vaccine this week and felt excited.

Talking to CEN, he said that he is very satisfied that the Chinese company developed this vaccine and China is also working to provide this vaccine to Pakistan in a couple of weeks. He has been working in an international school as head of Curriculum and Sciences in Shanghai

for the last 18 years. Sharing his vaccination experience he said, “2020 was a very tough year for all of us, in one way or other all of us suffered, families of many of us got stuck back in Pakistan, and we stuck in China. And now we have entered 2021”.

“At the end of December, when we heard the news that we’re going to have the vaccination, it was a little bit scary. We had to decide on one or two days. I did some research myself and talked to friends and finally, I made up my mind that I should go for it. It’s going to be good for us,” he mentioned.

He further said that after entering his information, he got his QR code. When he arrived at the vaccination center, he was very surprised to see a large number of people, and the way the administration organized all the people. The queue was pretty long, but it was very smooth going forward. He added that he was a little bit nervous in the beginning, but later on, he was okay. “After going through different steps for vaccination, I got vaccinated but didn’t feel any pain. It was normal. Everybody has gone through the vaccination at an early age, and it was the same as that.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/01/18/12-page/866241-news.html>

CPEC — the engine of our growth

Fifty one memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with an initial 46 billion dollar envisaged investment were signed in April 2015 during Chinese President Xi’s visit to Pakistan when Nawaz Sharif was the Prime Minister; and ever since then China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) remains a major engine of growth for the country’s beleaguered economy.

Sadly, while the Chinese have worked with three Pakistani administrations amicably, in spite of some irritants, reflective of their sustained commitment to CPEC - defined domestically as a Chinese initiative to improve/strengthen Pakistan’s deficient infrastructure – as well as a vital component of President Xi’s Belt Initiative Road (BRI), those heading the three administrations have not been so forthcoming in acknowledging the contribution of their predecessors. Former President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari in the first week of January 2017, claimed that Pakistan Peoples’ Party was the ‘pioneer of the idea of the multi-billion dollar CPEC and is not concerned who takes credit for the project by placing advertisements in the media.’ This was confirmed by Lijian Zhao, Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister Counselor at Chinese Embassy, Islamabad, during a seminar end-June 2018 titled CPEC & Role of Media – Separating Facts from Misconceptions. And reconfirmed by the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing in September 2020 when he called on the former President to inquire about his health by publicly acknowledging that former President Zardari is the founder of CPEC. This was not recognized by Nawaz Sharif or any member of his cabinet during his premiership (2013-17); and notwithstanding the two national parties ongoing cooperation under the umbrella of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) today there has been no statement from any PML-N leader acknowledging the role played by Asif Ali Zardari in CPEC’s launch.

On 25 May 2017 Nawaz Sharif while addressing a BRI forum in Beijing highlighted CPEC's relevance to our economy succinctly: "we are striving to leverage geography for economic prosperity, we are also trying to build a peaceful, connected and caring neighborhood. CPEC is owned and nurtured by all Pakistan" – a sentiment not shared by Imran Khan at the time. Before taking oath in August 2018 as the country's Prime Minister Imran Khan opposed CPEC projects for multiple reasons ranging from maintaining that the road route approved and the location of the special economic zones injudiciously bypassed poor areas and lamenting the lack of focus on social (health, education) sectors. In the following month Prime Minister's Advisor on Commerce Razzak Dawood in an interview to the Financial Times stated that all 57 billion dollar CPEC projects could be eligible for suspension in a review to be conducted under Prime Minister's orders, adding that "I think we should put everything on hold for a year, so we can get our act together ...perhaps we can stretch CPEC out for another five years....Chinese companies received tax breaks, many breaks and have an undue advantage in Pakistan; this is one of the things we are looking at because it's not fair that Pakistani companies should be disadvantaged." Pakistan's stock exchange fell by 0.4 percent in response to this statement and Dawood was forced to retract his statement a day later.

Such publicly expressed sentiments led to Prime Minister Khan receiving at best a lukewarm reception during his first visit to China in November 2018, prompting the opposition to maintain that the new leadership's injudicious remarks on CPEC, and the offer to Saudi Arabia and the UAE (as well as others) to join CPEC projects made by Prime Minister Khan after the assistance pledged by Saudi Arabia (3 billion dollar loan and 3.2 million dollar deferred oil facility) and the UAE (three billion dollar pledged but one billion dollar disbursed to date), had not gone down well in China.

By 2019 the Prime Minister was fully on board on the criticality of CPEC projects to our economic development no doubt realizing that China – public and private sector – was, contrary to any other foreign private company/government, willing to invest billions of dollars in Pakistan. On 12 May 2019 Imran Khan's new economic team leaders – Dr Hafeez Sheikh and Dr Reza Baqir – signed off on Pakistan's 23rd International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme with the guarantee (the first time ever in our long history of going on IMF programmes) to ensure that the loans acquired from China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE would not be recalled during the duration of the programme because, "financing support from Pakistan's international partners will be critical to support the authorities' adjustment efforts and ensure that the medium-term program objectives can be achieved" - the usual assumption in previous Fund loans was that once a country is on a Fund programme concessional funding becomes readily available from other multilaterals/bilaterals. China has not only kept its pledge but also met the shortfall due to recall of loans by Saudi Arabia (two billion dollars to date) though some concerns over our ability to repay are reportedly surfacing.

A couple of weeks later, on 26 May 2019 Imran Khan with Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan witnessed the signing of several MoUS for cooperation in different sectors as per the official

website and two projects that began during the tenure of PML-N with a progress update were identified: (i) Matiari-Lahore 660kV HVDC transmission line project with an agreement signed between PPIB and State Grid of China on May 2018 which achieved financial close on 27 February 2019 with an expected COD in March 2021; and (ii) 300 MW imported coal-based project at Gwadar with a No Objection Certificate issued by Balochistan Environment Protection Agency in August 2018 with groundbreaking on 4 November 2019. Three projects signed during the tenure of the Khan administration that were highlighted included: (i) Kohala Hydel project agreement signed on 25 June 2020; (ii) Cacho 50 MW wind power project and Western Energy 50 MW - both in LoI stage; and (iii) Azad Pattan Hydel project agreement signed on 6 July 2020. On 8 October 2019 President Alvi promulgated two ordinances – one to set up CPEC authority, headed by Lt-General Asim Saleem Bajwa (retd) (former DG ISPR 2012-16) on the eve of Prime Minister's second visit to China and, two, granting tax concessions to Gwadar and its free zone. The appointment was seen as providing a safety comfort level to Chinese staff engaged in CPEC projects.

Prime Minister Khan thence began extolling the successes of the Chinese government in ending poverty and improving farm output through reforms though inexplicably he continued to espouse a right wing formula for Pakistan notably that the private sector must be allowed to create wealth and thereby to jump start the economy. While addressing the Country Strategy Dialogue on Pakistan organized by the World Economic Forum in November 2020 Imran Khan stated that “this is the first government in Pakistan since the 1960s which has made it a point that we want to make profit-making easy for people ... and investors.” These sentiments were in parallel with Imran Khan's frequent denouncement of mafias (read collusion to set a price higher than the market rate), smugglers and middlemen determining prices through promoting market imperfections. In this context one would hope that the issuance of licenses to a select few private companies to import RLNG, with the objective of ensuring timely imports and improving efficiency, does not lead to collusion.

CPEC projects have also been subjected to considerable international criticism. Alice Wells, a former Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, in a seminar in November 2019 argued that Pakistan's indebtedness had increased manifold due to CPEC. Geng Shuang (Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson) rejected these claims as “mere repetition of old slanders against China, the CPEC and BRI” as did the Planning Minister Asad Umer who stated that Pakistan's mounting debt crisis had nothing to do with China.

In 2019-20 95.73 billion rupees was budgeted for CPEC projects (as counterpart funds) and while the Planning Commission claims it released the entire budgeted amount actual disbursement was 57.44 billion or 60 percent of the total budgeted amount. In 2020-21 the government has budgeted 77.33 billion rupees for CPEC projects (a decline of nearly 20 percent from the year before) and by July-December 2020 the release was 40 billion rupees though the actual disbursed data is not yet available.

China as well as Middle Eastern countries including particularly Saudi Arabia and the UAE are reluctant to publicly announce total amount and terms of investment/loans/grants to a third country including special incentives by the recipient country to the pledged inflows. The Khan administration was injudicious in highlighting the pledges of assistance that were later not realized which provided fodder to CPEC critics, local and foreign.

One major lesson learned therefore should be information sharing with relevant documentation with members of the opposition in parliament – be it in-camera or not - to ensure that subsequent governments do not roll back the process to the country's detriment. Pakistan has paid hundreds of millions of dollars in penalties in arbitration and courts for renegeing on contracts signed off by previous governments – the Broadsheet case is just the most recent example.

Disturbingly, Prime Minister Imran Khan refuses to engage with the opposition but would hope that an institutional measure that seeks to share information be put in place to ensure that all are on board with respect to any foreign, public or private sector, contract. Failure to do so may compromise his long-term pet projects including the Ravi City project and development on the islands off the coast of Sindh.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/01/18/14-page/866194-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC: 2nd phase swiftly exploiting immense potential in industrial cooperation

In terms of geo-economic growth, regional connectivity and development, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has emerged extensively as the largest bilateral investment project as a boon for Pakistan, China and other regional countries in south Asia.

Pakistan and China are tied in multidimensional cordial relations on the basis of good friendship, mutual trust and understanding.

Though both countries, from time to time have been making policy adjustments in the light and need of global transformations, yet their mutual ties are continued to be in best coordination and harmony. World has witnessed that Pakistan and China are time tested friends and depend on each other deeply for the fulfillment of their strategic interests.

In Past, whenever Pakistan confronted any internal or external pressure or threat to its interests or security, China has immediately extended its full support to Pakistan by giving its air space, supporting its nuclear programme and protecting its economy from external threats or pressures.

China has significantly supported Pakistan on various international fronts like the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the G-20 and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). The year 2015 is marked as the big boost in both countries' relations reaching at climax as the initiative of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) agreement worth \$ 46 billion was announced.

The first phase of CPEC has successfully achieved its target on completing energy and road infrastructure development in Pakistan, while the second phase is to envision industrial cooperation, which has started bearing fruits and would further yield beneficial gains for the development of the economy of Pakistan.

CPEC project has brought forth many resources and opportunities for both the countries and has promoted their profits and interests respectively, but the mega project is viewed negatively by our neighboring India and US, who are trying to sabotage it for promoting their agenda in South Asia. China, an emerging global super power, has the great potential and willingness to promote and support Pakistan, more than any other country or power in the world.

In the ongoing second phase of CPEC, according to the Pak-China Free Trade Agreement's (FTA) segment-II, China would help open-up to 90 percent of its markets for Pakistani products and exports in a cooperation and effort to address trade imbalance between the two countries. On December 1, 2019, the Protocol to Amend the Free Trade Agreement between China and Pakistan entered into new shape and force, to make substantial revisions to the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) which was first signed in November 2006.

According to the Amended Protocol document which is also known as CPFTA Phase-II, it would help deepen trade ties between Pakistan and China through increasing relaxation and liberalization of trade in goods, protecting and safeguarding mechanisms for domestic industry of Pakistan.

CPEC Project Director Dr. Liaquat Ali Shah told APP that the incumbent government of PTI was achieving immediate results from CPEC at a fast pace, adding that despite challenges on economic front and COVID-19 pandemic, immense unemployed youth were being provided internship opportunities, whereas the skilled professionals were already doing jobs under this project. To a query Shah said that the work on the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Phase-II was going on a fast pace, adding defeating the debunkers who had been trying to malign the incumbent authority on account of slow-down in CPEC activities; It was a great achievement, he added.

Giving the details of the projects under Phase two, he said that the groundbreaking of two mega hydel power projects worth \$11 billion, materializing special economic zones, talks with the Chinese side on financial matters of \$7.2 billion ML-1 railway project, speedy construction and development of the Gwadar port city, and expanding the scope of CPEC by including science, agro-technology and tourism sectors show the outcome that work on the game-changer project was in full swing.

The CPEC under its second phase was moving forward in a result oriented direction without any delay. The incumbent government was working swiftly according to the CPEC Authority Bill-2020 to facilitate the local and foreign investors, while ensuring smooth execution of industrial projects being carried out under phase two, he informed. Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FPCCI) president Mian Nasser Hyatt Magoo told APP that in the

second phase of CPEC, setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and developing the industrial sectors would bring industrial revolution in the country.

He lauded the incumbent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government for setting up mega industrial projects under the 2nd phase of CPEC. After becoming fully operational, the Gwadar port would become a harbinger of massive export-import activity and a new industry gateway to both the Central Asian and Persian Gulf countries, he added.

Magoo, while replying to a query said that the energy and goods transportation would engage the economic partnership of around 64 countries of Europe, Asia and the Middle East. CPEC was a tower of economic success and a hope of the people of the whole region, having the scope of an advanced future to strengthen a digital economy based upon peace and prosperity, he said.

Under phase two of the CPEC, the newly established Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), has started creating employment opportunities for the local youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), which would further help contribute to the socio-economic development of all the provinces of the country, he asserted.

For example, he said, any item produced at Rashakai SEZ, which was being developed in a public-private partnership, would easily be exported to the neighboring Afghanistan and Central Asian Republics (CARs), due to its proximity to Torkham (Pak-Afghan) Border.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/714399/cpec-2nd-phase-swiftly-exploiting-immense-potential-in-industrial-cooperation/>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China Partnership Vital for National & Regional Security

Experts while participating in a webinar on Pakistan-China relations said that Pak-China interdependence had grown many times in the region's geopolitical situation. Interests of both countries are intertwined now whether they are about human security in the era of pandemic, socio-economic or strategic alliance or countering the increasing US-Indian collaboration against China.

Taking over the lead position on the two UN Security Council committees namely Taliban sanctions and Terrorism, India will be having more space to fiddle around the geopolitical situation in the region.

The webinar titled "Pakistan-China partnership for National Security" was organized by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) on Sunday. Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and Lt. General (Retd) Talat Masood were the keynote speakers.

A senior journalist from Washington Anwar Iqbal, Executive Director Devcom-Pakistan Munir Ahmed, Prof Sarwat Kazmi and development expert Azhar Qureshi also spoke on the occasion.

They said that Pakistan and China have to be more efficient and vigilant about the emerging situation and act more wisely in the coming days. Both countries might be having more difficult situations as India is expected to have hegemonic interventions in the region including undue interference in Afghanistan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said with India as chair of the UNSC Taliban Sanctions Committee, the conflict in the region is feared to rise up. Pakistan needs to take China along with Iran on board very sincerely on the Afghanistan peace process where the Taliban has to be given due share in the governance for the sustainability of peace in the region. At the moment, The US is supporting India by all means at the moment as it is for the love of India but to strengthen a new proxy war agent against China. The strength of the region lies in unity beyond pity differences and conflicts.

Senator Mushahid said President Donald Trump's policies have weakened the US economic streams, and same is the case with the western countries. Now, the balance of power is shifting to the east, and we the countries in Asia including central and south need to act smartly and stand united. The stronger countries have to lead the alliance whether it is form or informal in nature. In the emerging situation, Pak-China both needs each other more than any time in the past. They need to increase their collaboration in all fields sooner than later.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-partnership-vital-for-national-regional-security/>

The Nation

China's Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine usage approved in Pak

The Drug Regulatory Authority (DRAP) on Monday authorized China's Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use in Pakistan, making it the second vaccine to get local approval, citing sources.

According to the sources, the permission was given in the DRAP registration board meeting after China's Sinopharm sought permission from Pakistan for the emergency use of its COVID-19 vaccine in the country.

Sinopharm, a state-run Chinese firm, is developing two COVID-19 vaccines. Pakistan will purchase 1.2 million doses of the corona vaccine from China.

Pakistan is also running phase III clinical trials of another Chinese vaccine from Can Sino Biologics', led by the National Institute of Health.

Pakistan, which is seeing rising numbers of corona virus infections, granted permission on Saturday to use Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine (AZD1222) in an emergency situation.

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) had given the approval for urgent-use of the British COVID-19 vaccine.

AstraZeneca has been a British-Sweden joint multinational pharmacy company, which has produced the vaccine in collaboration with Oxford University.

Moreover, the vaccine, approved by the British Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority, is said to be effective for people of all age groups and could be stored in home refrigerators.

Pakistan, which is seeing rising numbers of corona virus infections, said its vaccines would be procured from multiple sources.

Pakistan has reported 46 more corona virus-related deaths in past 24 hours, surging the overall death toll to 10,977.

According to the latest statistics of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) the COVID-19 has claimed 46 more lives and 1,920 fresh infections were reported.

In the past 24 hours, as many as 1,589 patients have recovered from the virus in a day and 2,348 patients are in critical condition.

The total count of active cases is 34,986.

<https://nation.com.pk/18-Jan-2021/china-s-sinopharm-covid-19-vaccine-usage-approved-in-pak>

January 19, 2021

Business Recorder

Pakistan, China to multiply agricultural cooperation under CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have reiterated to multiply agricultural cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong and Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam agreed that there was a huge potential in the agriculture sector when they met here a day before.

It was a meaningful and productive meeting. Exchanged views on enhancing Agricultural Cooperation under CPEC,” the Chinese envoy Nong Rong tweeted after the meeting.

The second phase of CPEC would focus on industrial cooperation, agriculture, science and technology, tourism, and other areas.

Pakistani government is keen to promote agricultural cooperation under CPEC. The government believes that enhanced cooperation with China in corporate and joint farming would bring a green revolution in Pakistan.

Minister Syed Fakhar Imam said agriculture is the major avenue where Pakistan and China may cooperate to expand and multiply their economic relations. Imam said China has established its agricultural universities on modern lines with international research standards that were producing significant number of experts and scientists every year.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/01/19/18-page/866400-news.html>

Dunya News

Projects under CPEC heading in right direction: Chinese Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong says the projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor are heading in right direction and would continue to progress on expedited pace.

Talking to Secretary Planning and Development Mathar Niaz Rana in Islamabad today (Tuesday), the envoy said CPEC is the flagship project that manifests the longstanding friendship between China and Pakistan.

He said CPEC is a product of vision of two brotherly countries that goes beyond traditional business dealings reflecting decade's old strong bonds of bilateral cooperation and shared goals with win-win situation for all.

During the meeting, matters related to bilateral relations, projects under CPEC and progress of upcoming 10th Joint Coordination Committee on CPEC came under discussion.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/583858-Projects-under-CPEC-heading-in-right-direction-Chinese-Ambassador>

January 20, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan-China cooperation program on cotton improvement in progress

Pakistan-China cooperation program on cotton improvement is underway, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

“While Pakistan is still struggling to cope with the problems of insect pests, diseases, fiber quality and yield in the cotton industry, China has already made a significant breakthrough to overcome these problems long ago, said agriculture scientist Muhammad Shahid Iqbal.

Shahid is currently working as a Ph.D. scholar on the program initiated by Cotton Research Institute (CRI), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) in collaboration with Cotton Research Institute Multan, Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, and several Pakistani agriculture universities. He is part of the Pakistan-China joint research program aimed at cotton improvement especially for fiber quality and yield, which is beneficial to both countries.

Since the last few years, especially with the introduction of CPEC, China and Pakistan have developed many collaborative activities and joint projects in the agricultural sector where the scientific staff of both countries can work together. “It’s beneficial for both sides because the geological proximity and similar weather conditions in some parts of the countries mean more convenience and efficiency in conducting field experiments,” Shahid said.

Pakistan has seen a lower production of cotton for the past several years because of frequent extreme weathers, the scourge of insect pests, and insufficient technological investment in the

cotton industry. “So the objective of the program I’m working on is to crossbreed a new variety of cotton that may have better performance for yield, quality, and resistance across diverse environments,” Shahid said in an interview with CEN.

For textile usage, there are three major types of cotton in a broad sense. They include: Egyptian cotton (*G. barb dense*), known as extra-long staple cotton, is highly sensitive to environment and mostly cultivated in Egypt and a few other areas American upland cotton (*G. hirsute*), making up about 90 percent of the world’s cotton crop, is comprised of relatively shorter fibers and widely used in a variety of consumer products where manufacturers are looking for quality and purity in an all-natural fiber.

Asiatic Cotton (*G. arboretum*), existed since prehistory and have been under cultivation mostly in China, India, and Pakistan, has a lot of good qualities including resistance to diseases and tolerance to extreme weathers but has coarse fiber and very low yield. There are also landraces that have grown hundreds of years to adapt to local conditions. For example, Pakistan’s Asiatic Cotton has evolved with the quality of high resistance to heat, drought, saline-alkali, and Cotton Leaf Curl Virus (CLCV), while China’s land cotton takes an edge in yield, quality, and precocity. “Based on previous studies and extensive research activities a huge diversity has been found in Germplasm collection from China and Pakistan, which can possibly be used for the development of varieties with a blend of characters to get highly acceptable cotton for the fiber sector of both countries.

So a program has been initiated by our group to cross varieties from China and Pakistan for Asian cotton as well as American Cotton,” Shaid said.

So far, substantial achievements have been attained with 1000 new crosses of shared parentage having many desirable characters are currently under screening at the experiment field in Anyang city, Henan Province of Central China. “Selected lines from these crosses will be further evaluated across various locations of China and Pakistan to choose the best varieties having the ability to grow well with high yield and fiber quality under diverse climatic conditions of China and Pakistan,” Shahid noted.

Entering into the next phase of the research, Shaid will bring the latest research findings and outcomes, a bag of crosses with desirable characters from varieties of both countries, to Cotton Research Institute Multan, Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Pakistan as he finishes his Ph.D. study and returns to Pakistan in July this year. “We will continue further evaluation by growing these seeds in different locations of Pakistan and see how it ends.”

Apart from variety, Shahid pointed out management is equally important, including appropriate fertilizer, chemical control, advanced machines, etc., and that’s also what Pakistan needs to learn from China. About his expectations for the experiment, Shahid said, “As a Scientist, I don’t work for myself or a specific interest group, but for our nations as well as humanity in all. So I also hope the results of the experiment can not only bring benefits to the two countries but also the world.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/715024/pakistan-china-cooperation-program-on-cotton-improvement-in-progress/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کے شہر چنگڈاو میں پاکستان، چائے سنٹر کا افتتاح

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت نیوز) چین کے شہر چنگڈاو میں پاکستان-چائے سنٹر کا افتتاح کر دیا گیا۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق چین میں تعینات پاکستان کے سفیر معین الحق اور چنگڈاو شہر کے ضلع جائی ژو میں پارٹی سیکرٹری اور شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم ڈیمونسٹریشن ایریا کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل لیو جیان جون نے سنٹر کا مشترکہ افتتاح کیا۔ اس سنٹر کا مقصد پاکستان کے چین سمیت دیگر ایس سی او ممالک کے ساتھ مختلف شعبوں میں روابط کا فروغ ہے۔ اس موقع پر اپنے خطاب میں پاکستانی سفیر نے کہا کہ 2017 میں ایس سی او کارکن بننے کے بعد پاکستان مشترکہ مقاصد کے حصول کے لیے تنظیم کے دیگر رکن ممالک کے ساتھ قریبی مشاورت کر رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے پاکستان اور تنظیم کے دیگر رکن ممالک کے درمیان تجارت، سرمایہ کاری، کھیل، سیاحت اور افرادی تبادلوں کو فروغ دینے کے لیے سنٹر کے قیام کو انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل قرار دیا۔ انہوں نے اس موقع پر سنٹر کے قیام میں چنگڈاو کی حکومت کا بھی شکریہ ادا کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-01-20/page-10/detail-32>

چینی سفارتکار کا غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے خصوصی خدمات مہیا کرنے کا مطالبہ

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) لاہور میں چین کے ڈپٹی گورنر جنرل پنگ پنگ نے چینی کاروباری اداروں سمیت غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کے لئے خصوصی خدمات کی ضرورت پر زور دیا ہے تاکہ پنجاب میں بین الاقوامی سرمایہ کاری کے دائرہ کو بڑھایا جاسکے۔ گوادری پروکے مطابق پنگ نے کہا کہ اس طرح کے مراعات سے کاروباری ماحول کو بہتر بنانے کی بڑی صلاحیت ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا واقعی یہ وقت کا تقاضا ہے۔ پینگ نے کہا کہ پنجاب اور چینی صوبوں کے مابین تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ دینا لاہور میں پی آر سی کے تفصیل جنرل کے اہم کاموں میں سے ایک ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ انہیں ساہیوال کوئلہ سے چلنے والا پاور پلانٹ، بہاولپور سولر پاور پراجیکٹ، لاہور اور نچ لائن، موٹروے اور میٹرو لاہور ٹرانسمیشن لائن پر فخر ہے، جو سی پیک کے اہم منصوبے ہیں اور پاکستانی عوام کی خدمت کر رہے ہیں۔ اس بنیادی ڈھانچے کے آغاز کے ساتھ M-3 ہی، پنجاب میں لوگوں کی روزمرہ زندگی بنیادی تبدیلی سے گزر رہی ہے۔ گذشتہ برسوں کے دوران، چاول اور پھلوں کی پاکستان برآمدات میں بھی مسلسل اضافہ ہوا۔ پنگ نے کہا کہ فریم ورک میں حکومت پنجاب کے ساتھ مزید منصوبوں پر تبادلہ خیال کریں گے اور آگے بڑھیں گے۔ پینگ نے کہا کہ باہمی گفتگو II کہا کہ 2021 میں وہ سی پیک فیئر کے عمل میں تعاون کی تفصیلات جاری ہیں۔ انہوں نے نشاندہی کی کہ سال 2021 دونوں فریقوں کے لئے اہم ہے کیونکہ یہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کا موقع ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ کوویڈ-19 کی وجہ سے پیش آنے والی مشکلات کے باوجود یادگاری اور بہت سارے مثبت کاموں کی توقع ہے۔ پینگ نے کہا کہ پنجاب حکومت نے واقعی اس معاملے میں اہم کام کیا ہے اور یہاں پر چینی کاروباری اداروں سمیت غیر ملکی کاروباری اداروں کو راغب کیا ہے۔ بیشتر چینی کمپنیاں اور تاجر اس سروس سے مطمئن ہیں۔ یہ اچھی بات ہوگی۔ اگر غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں اور سیاحیوں کیلئے خصوصی دوکانیں اور سروسز مقامی طور پر مہیا کی جائیں تاکہ ان کو گھر جیسا ماحول دستیاب ہو سکے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-01-20/page-10/detail-39>

January 21, 2021

Daily Times

Sweden invited to invest in CPEC, special economic zones in Pakistan

Federation of Pakistan Chambers and Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Chairman Qurban Ali on Wednesday urged for increasing the bilateral economic and trade relation between Pakistan and Sweden and also to increase the business to business connectivity among the business communities of the two sides.

The Chairman FPCCI also invited Swedish investors to join the grand mega project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and CPEC related Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in different regions of the country. He was presiding over a meeting with the Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan Henrik Person along with senior business leaders including Coordinator Capital House, FPCCI Mirza Abdur Reham and others here in FPCCI Capital Office.

Qurban Ali also proposed the Ambassador to bring investment in the potential areas of Hydel Power, Tourism, Mines minerals, Transport and Housing sector to enhance the cooperation between both of the countries.

The business leader said that CPEC related Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Special economic Zone (SEZ) and others would increase the business and industrial cooperation between the business sector of Sweden and Pakistan.

He said that Swedish investors and businessmen can invest and start Joint Ventures with local industrialists in Gilgit Baltistan, SEZ in value addition on agriculture, livestock, mines and minerals and milk products.

He said that the GB region is a gateway for CPEC to provide opportunities to the Swedish business people to connect with China as well as regional countries including Central Asian Republics (CARs) to get benefits from their economies.

While he said that in Gilgit Baltistan, there is huge potential of hydro power, which also supports any foreign investor for available cheap energy to the industrial sector and provides secure business opportunity.

Qurban Ali also said that GB region has a huge potential of tourism and livestock as the region owns the 8 biggest mountains of the world including any raw material for the Industrial sector and agro- industries.

He said that Pakistan is now an emerging economy, including the grand project of CPEC would not only provide economic and trade integration to the South and Central Asian region but also connect the future engine of the growth Asian Countries with potential markets of European Union and other trade routes of the world.

He said that deep sea port Gwadar also offers a huge opportunity to the whole world including the EU countries and Scandinavian region to connect with the whole region through this port to achieve their economic and trade targets.

Meanwhile the Swedish side also agreed to start investment and business cooperation in these areas and showed interest cooperation in hydel power, tourism, mines and minerals, housing sector, telecom sector, information technology, renewable energy, education, academia, business development and environmental protection to investment in these potential sectors.

While sharing his views, Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan Henrik Person said that Pakistan and Sweden have history of diplomatic, economic and trade ties and also similarities in different areas Cooperation.

The Ambassador said that Sweden and Pakistan have completed the 16 rounds of economic and trade consultation and enhance cooperation with regional countries through Pakistan.

He said the two sides have discussed the entire range of bilateral relations, including political, economic, trade, investment and education.

“We offered cooperation in investment friendly policies of the government and highlighted opportunities in the information technology, enhancing water and waste management, tourism and hospitality sectors and hoped that Swedish companies would take advantage by investing in these sectors, he said.

The Swedish envoy agreed on the proposal presented by the senior leadership of the FPCCI and said “We are committed to enhance the cooperation between the business community of the both sides for increasing economic and trade ties”.

The Ambassador also appreciated the improved ranking of Pakistan in World Bank, Ease of Doing Business (EODB) and said that “we would benefits from this opportunity.”

In future Business communities of the both sides would get more opportunity to connect and start bilateral negotiation on trade and investment, he said.

While the senior business leader and Coordinator FPCCI capital office, Mirza Abdul Rehman briefs the Ambassador about the working and structure of the FPCCI.

Former Vice President FPCCI Muhammad Ali Quaid, President Hunza CCI Mehboob Rabani, President ICSTSI Malik Zaheer, President Mandi Bahauddin CCI Haider Raza Naqvi, Vice President Mian Zahid Patiala EC Member FPCCI Hassan Abbas were also present in the meeting.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/715399/sweden-invited-to-invest-in-cpec-special-economic-zones-in-pakistan/>

Pak-China international cooperation yields results

Pak-China international cooperation yielded fruitful result in 2020, says a White Paper issued here. According to Gwadar Pro, the State Council Information Office of China published a White

Paper on “China’s International Development Cooperation in the New Era”. The White Paper includes multi-field international cooperation and frequently mentions Pak-China cooperation in 2020. The paper summarizes China’s recent engagement in providing development assistance and lays out China’s strategy and areas of future development assistance.

The respects which are also closely concerned by Pakistan, such as debt relief, poverty reduction, infrastructure improvement, energy transformation, and food crisis alleviation, were emphasized in the paper. As per the White Paper, in 2020, China has continued a steady increase in the scale of its international development cooperation, giving high priority to the least developed countries in Asia and Africa and developing countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative.

China has held over 4,000 training sessions for officials from participating countries on Belt and Road. For example, on the conference of Pakistan’s vision of a new Pakistan, participants of the programs discussed and planned jointly on ways to link CPEC with regional and national initiatives. In terms of infrastructure, China supports Belt and Road participants in infrastructure connectivity projects to revive the ancient Silk Road.

To support CPEC and promote overland trade between the two countries, China participated in the upgrading and expansion of the Peshawar-Karachi Motorway and the Karakoram Highway. To meet the increasing needs of air transport, China has assisted Pakistan in upgrading and expanding our airports, thereby improving operational capacity and safety, increasing the passenger and cargo throughput, promoting local tourism, facilitating cross-border passenger and trade flow, and bringing more opportunities for their integration with the Belt and Road Initiative.

To improve people’s lives, CPEC provided over 2,000 free cataract surgeries in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Youth exchange and talent training under CPEC also were praised in the White Paper. In order to improve agro-productivity, China provided timely aid during locust plagues to help restore agricultural production in Pakistan and cultivate agricultural research and technical personnel for our nation.

The White Paper concluded that the future of China closely relates to the fortunes of other countries, and China binds the interests of the Chinese people to the common interests of all people. China will stay true to its original principles regarding international development cooperation. It pointed out that China has always demonstrated a spirit of internationalism and humanitarianism, and promised development based on shared interests, mutual benefits and inclusiveness. Without a doubt – the world needs more of that,” says Christophe Nedopil, Director Green Belt and Road Initiative Center at International Institute for Green Finance, the paper added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/715298/pak-china-international-cooperation-yields-results/>

Pakistan Observer

China to gift Pakistan 0.5 million COVID-19 vaccine doses by Jan 31: Qureshi

ISLAMABAD – Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Thursday said China will provide 0.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to by January 31, China.

“as a goodwill gesture, has pledged to handover the batch of vaccine free of cost,” the Foreign Minister told media, following his telephonic conversation with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi this afternoon.

He said the Chinese Foreign Minister informed him that Pakistan could send the cargo plane to airlift the batch of vaccine.

“It is absolutely good news for Pakistan, amid corona virus situation we have received from our friend China,” he said.

Qureshi said as Pakistan would need another 1.1 million doses for its frontline population, for which Chinese FM Wang Yi today agreed to handover the required vaccine by the end of February.

“In view of the strong strategic relations, China has considered Pakistan as the first country to be supplied with the COVID-19 vaccine,” he said.

The Foreign Minister said Pakistan had successfully fought the challenges of corona virus and lauded the performance of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in this regard.

He mentioned that the trials of COVID-19 vaccines were effectively being carried out in the country, with an objective to launch production at later stages.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-to-gift-pakistan-0-5-mln-covid-19-vaccine-doses-by-jan-31-qureshi/>

January 22, 2021

Daily Times

FBR issues draft customs rules to introduce CPEC chapter

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has issued draft customs rules for the introduction of a separate chapter on procedures for activities related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In this regard the FBR issued SRO 47(I)/2021 to make amendment to the Customs Rules, 2001. Gwadar Tax Free Zone Rules have been introduced as a sub-chapter. According to these rules, an investor is required registration to operate under customs computerized system.

The FBR said that goods imported into a free zone shall be examined and assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Customs Act, 1969 and rules made there under. The exemption granted under the act and ordinance shall be applicable to plant, machinery, equipment,

apparatus and materials to be used solely within the limits of a free zone and to goods imported into the zone by the investors.

The FBR further said that entry of goods imported for free zone shall not be refused except when the goods are liable to restrictions or prohibitions imposed on grounds of public morality or order, public security, hygiene or health or for sanitary or phyto-sanitary considerations, or relating to the protection of patents, trademarks, or intellectual property rights as envisaged in import policy order.

Hazardous goods may be allowed to be admitted to a free zone only when a safe area specially designed for its storage has been made available within the free zone to the satisfaction of the licensing authority and customs as well as such conditions under relevant national laws have been complied with.

The FBR said that duty and tax free vehicles shall be allowed to be imported by the concession holder and its operating company for construction, development and operating of Gwadar Port and free zone area under the regulatory mechanism. The regulatory mechanism for such vehicles, including the number and types importable, shall be devised by the ministry of Port and Shipping and FBR, in consultation with the provincial government if so required, and shall be notified by the FBR.

The FBR further said that goods, excluding petty items, from the tariff area shall be admitted into the zone upon completion of export formalities which are observed for export to foreign countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/715756/fbr-issues-draft-customs-rules-to-introduce-cpec-chapter/>

Civil engineering work at Gwadar Vocational Institute complete

The civil engineering construction of Gwadar Technical and Vocational Institute's main structure has been completed, which lays a solid foundation for the project's delivery as scheduled in August 2021.

According to Gwadar Pro, this institute's total floor area is 7,350 square meters, which includes the teaching building, training workshop, multi-function hall and dormitories for students and faculty. The construction of the institute project kicked off at the end of 2019. Despite of the impact of the COVID-19, the project construction went smoothly. It is estimated to be completed and accepted by the end of August 2021.

This China-aid Institute is a key project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Upon completion, it will become the first vocational institute in Pakistan that takes port and shipping as the mainstay and other technologies fields as the supplementary.

According to Naseer Khan Kashani, some 800 students will be trained annually in multiple disciplines in the institute. And then, they will take part in different projects at the port and the free zones. When attending the groundbreaking ceremony of the institute and a hospital also donated by China, Wang Zhihua, Economic and Commercial Counselor of Chinese Embassy in

Pakistan, said the Chinese government, on the basis of the urgent needs of the local people, donated the two projects in order to promote the sustainable development of Gwadar.

The projects would provide high-quality technical and vocational education and advanced medical equipment and sites of diagnosis and treat for people in Gwadar and surrounding areas. Also at the ceremony, Zhang Baozhong, Chairman of the China Overseas Ports Holding Company Pakistan, the operator of Gwadar Port, said, “We always try to increase local employment. But sometimes, our efforts face hurdles due to lack of education and technical training of the local population.”

Zhang hoped that the China-aid education project will increase the employment chances for the local people. Besides Gwadar Technical and Vocational Institute, a China-Pakistan Friendship School had been established here in Sept 2016, which accommodates around 500 students. This school is located in a less-developed area in dire need of school services.

China is also providing a large number of scholarships to Pakistani students, and around 25,000 are currently studying in China. Both countries have also established links in science, technology and education.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/715776/civil-engineering-work-at-gwadar-vocational-institute-complete/>

The Express Tribune

Walkout in Senate over CPEC queries

ISLAMABAD: Opposition parties on Friday staged a walkout from the upper house of the parliament due to the government’s alleged failure to give proper answers to their queries with regard to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority ordinance.

Responding to various questions during the Question Hour, Minister for Industries Hammad Azhar earlier informed the Senate that the CPEC Authority Ordinance has lapsed and currently the Ministry of Planning is looking after affairs of the CPEC projects.

“The government will soon bring legislation to give legal cover to the authority,” he said.

According to Azhar, nine special economic zones (SEZs) would be constructed under the CPEC project with an estimated cost of \$ 1.5 billion. “Out of total nine SEZs, construction work on three SEZs is under way on a fast track,” he said.

To another question, the minister said as many as 11 projects worth \$ 1.7 billion were specified for Gwadar under CPEC. Two projects have already been completed while seven projects worth \$1.2 billion are in the execution phase, he added.

State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan told the house that bringing reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) is part of the ruling PTI’s election manifesto. “Record revenues have been collected during the PTI tenure,” he said.

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Dr Babar Awan said the government has set up an inquiry committee to investigate the Broadsheet scandal and determine responsibility.

He said the government does not believe in sweeping issues under the carpet. He said the inquiry committee has been formed as it was the demand of the house and people of the country.

Dr Awan said the government wants to probe how General (retired) Pervez Musharraf hired the firm for search of foreign assets of Pakistan. He said the PTI government has a track record to investigate all irregularities and public its findings.

He said no one could even think about going after the sugar mafia but the government did that. "It is imperative to launch an investigation into the Broadsheet case and to determine the responsibility on basis of the inquiry," he added.

Taking the floor, Leader of the House Dr Shahzad Wasim said the federal and provincial governments should jointly provide health facilities to people of the country. "Providing health facilities should not be politicized," he added.

Nine reports were also presented in the house. Dr Awan also moved a motion to discuss the president's address to the joint session of the parliament. On the request of Dr Awan, it was decided to start debate on the president's address from Monday.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2280991/walkout-in-senate-over-cpec-queries>

ECNEC approves nine schemes worth Rs251b

ISLAMABAD: The government on Thursday approved nine mega-development schemes worth Rs251 billion, including an umbrella project worth Rs70 billion to improve its response to the corona virus pandemic and other calamities.

Finance Minister Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh chaired the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec), which also approved Rs38 billion Pak-China optical fiber cable scheme for fast communication between the two nations.

The Covid-19 response and other natural calamities control programme were approved by the Ecneec at a cost of Rs70 billion as a federal share, according to the statement issued by the finance ministry. The project includes National Health up-gradation programme, National programme for Water and Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Covid-19 interventions for less developed areas, it added.

The PC-1 of the project would facilitate the national programme to improve district and tehsil headquarters' hospitals on a 50:50 basis financial support to all provinces. Furthermore, it will improve public health surveillance separately for humans and animals and also assist in upgrading water sanitation and hygiene and local infrastructure. Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan will also be covered under the project financing.

Under the plan, projects costing up to Rs50 million and of short gestation period of up to one year will be initiated. The gestation period will be up to a maximum of two years except for the

schemes meant for systemic improvements. The less developed areas and community and youth-related projects will be funded on priority basis. Projects having a provincial share in funding will be approved with their consent while the federal government will have full freedom to approve fully-funded projects.

An amount of Rs45 billion has been approved for the national programme to improve health facilities at district and tehsil headquarters. Another sum of Rs7 billion has been allocated for public health surveillance, Rs12.5 billion for a national programme of water sanitation and hygiene, Rs5 billion for the improvement in local livelihood infrastructure and Rs500 million has been earmarked for establishment cost of the project.

The Ecneec also approved phase-II of the Pak-China Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) project for the establishment of cross-border cable network between Khunjerab and Karachi along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route. The total cost of the project is Rs37.9 billion, which will provide an alternate path for international connectivity through northern border of Pakistan with China and would transform Pakistan as a digital gateway of regional connectivity, claimed the finance ministry.

The Ecneec approved a summary regarding the construction of Gwadar-Ratodero Road Project (M-8) sponsored by the Ministry of Communication and executed by the National Highway Authority (NHA) at a rationalized cost of Rs38 billion. The Ecneec approved the project given its strategic importance as it will facilitate connectivity for CPEC projects through improved road linkages, said the ministry.

A summary was presented before Ecneec regarding the provision of Advanced Skills Development through International Scholarship phase-1 for Masters and PhD programmes to be executed by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The project is part of a Prime Minister Knowledge-Economy Task Force Initiative which will enable the youth to access higher education opportunities in well-reputed international universities. Ecneec approved the project at a rationalized cost of Rs13.4 billion.

The Greater Karachi Water Supply Scheme (K-IV) 260 MGD (phase-1) was also presented before Ecneec. The project would provide additional 260 MGD water to Karachi at the total cost of Rs25.5 billion. The expected period of completion is four years.

The Solid Waste Emergency and Efficiency Project (SWEEP) was approved for Rs16.8 billion including a World Bank loan of Rs16 billion. The project is designed to mitigate the risk of widespread flooding caused by inadequate solid and liquid waste management during monsoon season and to improve the Solid Waste Management (SWM) infrastructure and service delivery to transform Karachi into an eco-friendly city in the long run.

The Ecneec also approved the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Human Capital Investment Project at Rs18.9 billion. The project has been financed by the World Bank-International Development Association (IDA). The project is envisioned to upgrade basic education infrastructure in the districts of Peshawar, Haripur, Noshera and Swabi of the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

The project for the construction of 23 small dams in Balochistan was also approved by Ecneec at a total cost of Rs13.5 billion. The irrigation department of government of Balochistan will execute the project and it will be completed within three years.

The Ecneec also approved the dualisation and improvement project of Old Bannu road at the cost of Rs17.2 billion.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2280876/ecneec-approves-nine-schemes-worth-rs251b>

Jang News

پاکستانی سفیر معین الحق کی چینی نائب وزیر ایشیائی امور سے ملاقات معیشت کی تیزتر بحالی پر اتفاق

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) چین میں پاکستانی سفیر معین الحق نے چین کے نائب وزیر برائے ایشیائی امور لووژا کوئی سے ملاقات کی جس میں کورونا وائرس کے بعد معیشت کی تیزتر بحالی کیلئے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری اور ویکسین پر رابطوں میں استحکام پیدا کرنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/875359>

January 23, 2021

Business Recorder

Encroachment on Railways land

TAHIR AMIN

Islamabad: The Cabinet Committee on Institutional Reforms has observed that the whole Main Line-1 (ML-1) mega project of Pakistan Railways under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) may be jeopardized, if the issue of encroached land is not timely resolved. Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture Shafqat Mahmood presided over the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Institutional Reforms. The committee reviewed progress of Pakistan Railways restructuring plan. The Secretary Pakistan Railways, Habib-ur-Rehman Gilani, briefed the committee on governance reforms, operational reforms, financial reforms, automation reforms and human resource and capacity building in Pakistan Railways.

The Chairman of the Committee, Mahmood, has shown his serious concern over the encroachment of Pakistan Railways land from Karachi to Peshawar. He has noted that the people have established their settlement, facilities like electricity and gas has been installed, link roads and streets being developed on Railways land.

If the issue is not timely resolved, it may jeopardise the whole ML-1 mega project of Pakistan Railways, he added.

The committee has suggested the Pakistan Railways to hire consultants and to set up a separate Directorate of Pakistan Railways to deal with the issue of encroachment on a priority basis. Out of 164,000 acres land, almost 8,000 acres land of Pakistan Railways is encroached.

Defence Minister Pervaiz Khattak has advised Pakistan Railways to resolve the issue of unmanned crossings at various points in the country before the beginning of work on ML-1.

Sources said that around 90,326 acres Railways land is in Punjab, 39,428 acres in Sindh, 28,228 acres in Balochistan, and 9,708 acres in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

However, land worth billions of rupees is still under encroachment.

Railways land has four types of encroachment: commercial, residential, agriculture; and also under unauthorised occupation by other government departments.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) survey had also been conducted under a project regarding computerisation of railways land records, in which all the encroachments and leases had been recorded in the Pakistan Railways Land Management Information System (PRLMS) software.

The chairperson of the committee has also remarked, by setting preference to motorways, the massive transportation Railways was neglected and ruined by the previous regimes. He also has reiterated that the government is determined to turn Pakistan Railways into a profit-making entity.

Defence Minister Pervaiz Khattak, SAPM on Petroleum Nadeem Babar, Advisor to PM on Institutional Reforms and Austerity Dr Ishrat Hussain, and Secretary Establishment Division Ijaz were also present in the meeting.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/01/23/2-page/866861-news.html>

Daily Times

China can help promote tea industry along CPEC's route

China has a big role to play in promoting Pakistan's tea industry, as potential suitable sites and land for tea cultivation is located alongside the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), says a report published by Gwadar Pro, quoting experts.

Pakistan has identified 64,000 hectares of area as suitable for tea cultivation along the CPEC's route, according to Dr. Abdul Waheed, Director of the National Tea and High Value Crops Research Institute (NTHRI). However, tea is currently cultivated on around 200 acres of land only. The area of Shinkiari in Mansehra alone produces seven to eight tons of tea annually. "If we grow tea on 64,000 hectares of land, Pakistan will not only be self-sufficient in tea but will also export tea products to other countries," said Dr. Abdul Waheed.

Some farmers have already planted tea at various acreage but mostly very low percentage as the market demand for green tea leaf from farmers is very low. No regulatory or management agency is involved to promote tea plantation by farmers. Thus, the progress so far is very slow. The Planning Commission of Pakistan has recently completed the Tea cluster study under Agriculture Transformation initiative for commercialization of tea in Hazara and Malakand with

a view to reduce the ever-increasing tea imports bill and loss of foreign currency drained on tea import.

According to experts, besides reducing soil erosion and forest degradation, the bushy plants of tea can reduce global warming and can help promote eco-tourism in northwestern part of Pakistan. The rise in tea plantation can also lead to large-scale job opportunities in agriculture and industrial sectors. As potential suitable sites and land for tea cultivation is located alongside CPEC, China has a big role to play in promoting tea on a commercial scale through joint ventures and technical and financial support, they added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/716216/china-can-help-promote-tea-industry-along-cpecs-route/>

China moves to accelerate export of Covid vaccine to Pakistan

China on Friday asked its pharmaceutical companies to accelerate export of corona virus vaccine to Pakistan after Chinese State Councilor Wang Yi assured Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi to provide half a million doses of corona virus vaccine to Pakistan. “Since outbreak, China and Pakistan have worked together to go through the difficulties in order to support our brothers and sisters in Pakistan. We decided to offer vaccine assistance to Pakistan and ask our companies to accelerate exports of vaccines to the country,” Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying said during her regular briefing in response to a question about provision of corona virus vaccine to Pakistan. She informed that in the phone call between State Councilor Wang Yi and his Pakistani counterpart yesterday, the Chinese side has already notified the Pakistani side about it.

Hua Chunying remarked that as the Councilor Wang Yi mentioned, the China-Pakistan friendship is solid as a stone and “it is our precious strategic asset and we will continue to carry out such momentum.” She said, as China and Pakistan are marking 70th anniversary, both the countries will conduct the strategic cooperation on a higher level and in greater width and depth to deliver more benefits to the two peoples and a forge a closer community of shared future. Pakistan is an all-weather strategic partnership with China; she said and added, “We have the tradition of mutual assistance. And we always lend each other firm support when in need.”

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday announced that China has promised to provide half a million doses of Corona virus vaccine to Pakistan by January 31. These vaccines would be provided as grant assistance and “China will not charge for them”. Shah Mahmood Qureshi termed the development as a very “happy news” and he added, “Many lives would be saved via this (vaccine)”.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/716125/china-moves-to-accelerate-export-of-covid-vaccine-to-pakistan/>

Pakistan China Center launched in Shandong

The Pakistan China Center (PCC) was officially launched in China-Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Local Economic and Trade Cooperation Demonstration Area in Qingdao, Shandong province.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), Pakistani Ambassador Moin ul Haque and Liu Jianjun, an official of Qingdao, Shandong province, China attended the launching ceremony. As a national level cooperation platform, PCC, affiliated to the Pakistani Embassy to China, undertakes the function of the Embassy's Commercial Liaison Office. The PCC aims to strengthen Pak-China industrial cooperation, expand the bilateral trade volume and promote the two-way investment and the people-to-people exchanges.

Wang Zihai, the Deputy Head of PCC said, "With the help of this platform, Qingdao and Pakistan have more communications and exchanges, witnessing a rise of two-way investment at the same time.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-center-launched-in-shandong/>

The News

Pakistan sticks to Chinese collaboration in agriculture sector

LAHORE: Pakistan is preparing a plan to include agriculture sector projects in the Chinese-funded corridor building framework, it was learnt on Friday.

Ministry of food security initiated the preparation of the plan as part of the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, according to an official document available with The News.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority (CPECA) has already emphasised the need to prepare agriculture plan under the CPEC framework.

The plan should be approved by the federal cabinet and should cover technology transfer/import package of seed and agriculture mechanization, anticipated investment from China and capacity development of agriculture scientists, Asim Saleem Bajwa, chairman of CPECA said during a meeting of Punjab Agriculture Committee in Islamabad earlier this month.

Governor Punjab, food security and provincial agriculture ministers attended the meeting. The CPEC Authority is focusing on second phase of economic cooperation between China and Pakistan after successful completion of the first phase of CPEC that contributes to the energy and infrastructure development in the country. The second phase of CPEC would focus on industrial cooperation, agriculture, science & technology, tourism, and other areas. The CPEC is said to be a \$62 billion framework as part of Belt and Road Initiative of China that aims to improve connection of China in the region and with Africa and Europe through a network of highways, rail lines and sea lanes. The CPEC connects the Chinese city of Kashgar with Pakistan up to Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a report, said the CPEC long term plan envisages significant development of the agriculture sector of Pakistan – an often-overlooked area amidst the developments being made in the energy, infrastructure, and industrial sectors of the country. In the crop sector, there is a focus on increasing the use of modern machinery and synthetic fertilizers to enhance the yields, while food storage and processing zones would be constructed to reduce significant post-harvest losses.

Similarly, the building of cold storage stations and meat processing plants is also being planned to enhance productivity of livestock and fisheries sectors besides making their output more competitive in the international market. These developments hold the potential to not only boost the agriculture output of the country, but also to narrow the trade imbalance between China and Pakistan by expanding food exports to the former.

There are 10 agro-ecological zones in the country where as many as 20 types of value-added agricultural commodities can be produced, according to the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/778389-pakistan-sticks-to-chinese-collaboration-in-agriculture-sector>

January 24, 2021

Daily Times

ECNEC approves Rs 37.9bn second phase of Pak-China Optical Fiber Cable Project

Pakistan's key decision-making body, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC), approved Rs 37.9 billion worth Pak-China Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) Project Phase II.

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro, the project will pave the way for establishment of Cross-Border OFC Network (Khunjerab-Karachi) Along China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) routes. The project will provide alternate path for international connectivity through Northern Border of Pakistan with China and would transform Pakistan as a Digital Gateway of regional connectivity.

The Covid-19 response and other Natural Calamities Control Program were approved by the ECNEC at the cost of Rs 70 billion as federal share. The project includes National Health up gradation program, National program for Water and Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), COVID-19 interventions for less developed areas.

The ECNEC also approved the Project for "Dualisation and Improvement of Old Bannu Road" at the total cost of Rs 17,230 million from federal Public Sector Development Programme (2020-21). The project envisages dualisation of existing 02-lane old Bannu road measuring 83 km in

length from Gandhi Chowk to Sarai Naurang (8km) and Domail to Krapa on N-55 (75-kilometre) to 4 lanes, with 7.3 meters wide carriageway on either side.

The scope of work also includes extension of existing culverts & bridges, construction of retaining walls along with drainage / erosion works and allied facilities. NHA shall execute the project. ECNEC considered and approved a summary regarding construction of Gwadar-Ratodero Road Project (M-8) sponsored by the Ministry of Communication and executed by National Highway Authority (NHA) at a rationalized cost of Rs 38,026.28 million. It also approved the project in view of its strategic importance as it will facilitate connectivity for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects through improved road linkages.

A summary was presented before ECNEC regarding provision of Advanced Skills Development through International Scholarship Phase-1 for Master and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programs to be executed by the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The project is part of a Prime Minister Knowledge Economy Task Force Initiative which will enable our youth to access higher education opportunities in well-reputed international universities. ECNEC approved the project at a rationalized cost of Rs. 13.361 billion.

A summary regarding Greater Karachi Water Supply Scheme (K-IV) 260 Million Gallon a Day (phase-1) was presented before ECNEC. The project would provide additional 260 MGD water to Karachi at the total cost of Rs. 25,551.77 million. The expected period of completion is 04 years. ECNEC approved the project for provision of environment friendly water sanitation and waste management infrastructure / facilities to residents of Karachi.

Similarly, a project titled ‘Solid Waste Emergency and Efficiency Project (SWEEP)’ was presented before the Committee sponsored by the Local government, Housing and Town Planning Department, Government of Sindh with total cost of Rs 16,800 million including International Bank for Reconstruction and Development-World Bank loan of Rs 16,000 million.

The project is designed to mitigate the risk of widespread flooding caused by inadequate solid and liquid waste management during monsoon season and to improve the Solid Waste Management (SWM) infrastructure and service delivery with a view to transform Karachi into an eco-friendly city in the long run.

It has been financed by the World Bank/IDA. The Project is envisioned to upgrade basic education infrastructure in the districts of Peshawar, Haripur, Noshera and Swabi of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. The project for the “Construction of 100 Dams in Balochistan- Package IV (23 Dams)” was approved by ECNEC at the total cost of Rs 13,512.725 million. Irrigation Department, government of Balochistan will execute the project and it will be completed in three years.

Realizing the water scarcity in the Province of Balochistan, the project is designed to harness flood flows for direct irrigation, ground water recharge and agricultural development through construction of small dams throughout the country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/716538/ecnec-approves-rs-37-9bn-second-phase-of-pak-china-optical-fiber-cable-project/>

CPEC to prove game changer for Balochistan, region: Suri

Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Khan Suri has said the present government is taking steps to bring the people of Balochistan into the national mainstream and fast track the completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related projects.

Addressing a ceremony on Saturday, the deputy speaker NA said, “Under prudent policies of Prime Minister Imran Khan, we have accelerated the process of development in Balochistan.”

He said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has worked hard for the accomplishment of the western route of CPEC. He said that CPEC will not only change the destiny of Balochistan but will also be proved to be a game changer for the region.

Appreciating the role of Rural Support Programme in Balochistan, he said that work is also underway on more than one hundred development projects in the province.

He said that considering the development needs of the province, an integrated development programme has been formulated. This package will not only lead to the development of Balochistan but also to the development of the country. “The present government is taking steps to develop all areas on priority,” he said.

About the proposed projects and financing plan under the South Balochistan Development Programme, he said that 119 projects have been prepared under the package. He said out of 53 priority projects under the Federal Annual Development Programme the provincial government has prepared 26 out of 28 projects for PC-1 and PC-2.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/716373/cpec-to-prove-game-changer-for-balochistan-region-suri/>

Pakistan Observer

Covid-19 advisory issued to Pak students in China

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) on Saturday issued an advisory for Pakistani students enrolled in China’s universities on behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad. In the advisory, it was mentioned that the second wave of Covid-19 and further mutation of corona virus had increased the spread of the pandemic during the last two months. Since the students are already enrolled in Chinese universities and taking online classes, they are advised to continue to attend online classes of their respective programmes and keep close contact with their respective Chinese institutions, the advisory said. “The Chinese government will make proper arrangements depending upon the actual evaluation of the pandemic situation for the return of Pakistani students to respective Chinese institutions,” it said.

<https://pakobserver.net/covid-19-advisory-issued-to-pak-students-in-china/>

The News

China to ensure fast track export of vaccines to Pakistan

BEIJING: China has said that it will provide a “batch of vaccines” to Pakistan as “aid” and assured that it will direct Chinese companies to “speed up the export of vaccines to Pakistan”.

“In order to support our brothers and sisters in Pakistan, the Chinese government has decided to provide a batch of vaccines as aid and will actively coordinate with the relevant Chinese enterprise to speed up export of vaccines to Pakistan,” said Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying during a briefing.

The spokesperson shared that the Chinese State Councilor Wang Yi had informed Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi of the decision made by the Chinese government. Read more: Pakistan to get Chinese COVID-19 vaccine by early February, says Dr Faisal Sultan

Hua said Islamabad and Beijing are “all-weather strategic cooperative partner”. She added that both countries also had a “fine tradition of mutual support and assistance”. “One can always count on a ready helping hand from the other in times of need,” said the Chinese official. She added that China and Pakistan have been working together to overcome difficulties since the outbreak of the pandemic.

The spokesperson also reminded the reporters that this year both the countries will be observing the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties. “As the two foreign ministers said in the phone call, our time-tested rock solid friendship has become the most valuable strategic asset to both sides. No matter how the international landscape evolves, China-Pakistan friendly cooperation will continue moving forward,” said Hua.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/779048-china-to-ensure-fast-track-export-of-vaccines-to-pakistan>

January 25, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan attaches great importance to CPEC, ready to pay any price for its success: Bajwa

Chairman CPEC Authority, Gen (r) Asim Saleem Bajwa has said that Pakistan attaches great importance to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a national project, and is ready to pay any price for its success.

He stated this while talking to a delegation of senior officials and researchers of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) at the CPEC Authority’s Secretariat.

The IPS delegation comprised its Executive President Khalid Rahman, GM Operations Naufil Shahrukh, senior associates Amanullah Khan, Mirza Hamid Hasan, Dr Maliha Zeba Khan, Ambassador (r) Tajammul Altaf, Brigadier (r) Said Nazir Mohmand, and members of the

Institute's research and outreach team including Shafaq Sarfraz, Asim Ehsan, Kulsoom Belal, Wali Farooqi, Hafiz Inamullah Khan, Shahid Afzal and Maimoona Mahmood.

Briefing the delegation about the progress on CPEC, Gen (r) Asim Saleem Bajwa said that work on the eastern, western and central alignments is in full swing, and the second phase of the project is just beginning. He also rubbished the claims that work on phase one has slowed down, claiming nothing was on hold.

He was of the view that underdeveloped areas, especially southern parts of Balochistan were being given importance in CPEC; a dam and desalination plant have been built in Gwadar in a bid to resolve chronic water shortages affecting the inhabitants. An airport with the biggest runway of Pakistan worth \$230 million was also being built in Gwadar.

Commenting on phase one of CPEC, the chairman of the authority said the first phase's success depends on the second phase, which involves business-to-business and people-to-people contacts. He also said synergy among all stakeholders is required to make CPEC a success. In this regard, Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry was also being revived, he informed.

Asim Saleem Bajwa stressed the need for projecting CPEC as a regional connectivity initiative to make Pakistan emerge as an economically galvanizing state instead of a security or terror-fighting state on the global spectrum. Afghan transit trade, he added, is also now being facilitated through Gwadar port.

Khalid Rahman opined that China and Pakistan both need each other to implement CPEC as the initiative's success lies in further strengthening bilateral relations. He also underlined the importance of transparency and effective perception management for the success of CPEC to counter the nefarious designs of Pakistan and China's adversaries at all levels.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/716801/pakistan-attaches-great-importance-to-cpec-ready-to-pay-any-price-for-its-success-bajwa/>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China enterprises reach consensus on trade of disinfection supplies

The Yangtze River Delta International Trade Promotion Committee and China-Europe Association for Technical and Economic Cooperation (CEATEC) initiated an online Pak-China matchmaking meeting in the medical supplies sector.

According to Gwadar Pro, a total of six government agencies and enterprises related to the medical and health industry took part in the event and shown high interest in hypochlorous acid disinfectant, an efficient advanced disinfectant recommended by the Centre for Disease Control, Shanghai (Shanghai CDC).

A couple of months back, CEATEC visited the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai and met the Consul General, Hussain Haider. On the occasion, Zhao Haofang, the Secretary-general

of CEATEC told Gwadar Pro that CEATEC previously focused on the cooperation between China and Europe and did not have much contact with the Pakistani government and enterprises. But through this meeting, they really felt the good friendship between Pakistan and China, and the two sides reached a consensus on organizing urban environment promotion activities and the business connection between enterprises of the two areas.”

According to Tammie Xu, the Secretary of vice president, CEATEC, considering Covid-19 epidemic situation has become increasingly tense recently worldwide, CEATEC finally chose this disinfectant as the first product of its Pak-China matchmaking meeting.

“The disinfectant, with affordable price and good quality, was developed and researched by a PhD team from Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) who were involved in the whole process.”

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-enterprises-reach-consensus-on-trade-of-disinfection-supplies/>

January 26, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan-China cooperation center

Sino-Pakistan Cooperation Center on Traditional Chinese Medicine (SPCCTCM) was launched respectively in Hunan University of Medicine in Huaihua China and the University of Karachi.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), the SPCCTCM will further strengthen cooperation between the iron brothers on the Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and benefit the people of the two nations. It will carry out various cooperation, including the R&D of medicines and healthy and nutritious foods, education, medical treatment, academic and cultural exchange, and industrial cooperation.

As TCM played an irreplaceable role in the fight against COVID-19, China has shared efficient TCM prescriptions and clinical experiences with over 80 countries and regions including Pakistan. Chinese government and enterprises also donated TCM products to foreign countries, for example, an enterprise from Hunan Province, China has donated medicines to University of Karachi in 2020. “We hope that SPCCTCM will promote TCM in Pakistan and bring tangible benefits to Pakistanis,” said Wang Qiong, the vice director of SPCCTCM, professor of Institute of Food Science and Technology, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, who has been engaged in China-Pakistan cooperation and exchanges on TCM for many years.

According to Wang, SPCCTCM will integrate a team of experts in the fields of traditional medicine from China and Pakistan, to carry out R&D of herbal medicines, including cultivation of medicinal plants, botanical identification, photochemistry, quality control, efficacy and safety evaluation and clinical trial. They will also promote the registration of herbal plants and herbal products in China and Pakistan.

Wang told CEN, long before the launch of SPCCTCM, Liu Xinmin, Co-Director of SPCCTCM, a professor of Institute of Medicinal Plant Development, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and a member of Expert Advisory Panel on Traditional Medicine, WHO, had cooperated with Dr. Atta-ur-Rahman, a scientist and the Chairman of the Pakistani PM's Taskforce on Science and Technology on TCM, and Prof. Iqbal, Director of ICCBS, University of Karachi.

Their cooperation included R&D and academic exchanges. During two decades' cooperation, they have gradually drawn more and more academic institutes and enterprises to join in, including Hunan University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Affiliated TCM hospital of Southwest Medical University, Institute of Food Science and Technology, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Hamdard University in Pakistan and Pakistani enterprises, etc. In December 2020, China's National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (NATCM) approved the establishment of SPCCTCM in Huaihua, a city with ample resources of TCM.

Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Health Minister of Sindh, who once visited Huaihua in 2019, said the ICCBS of University of Karachi has long-term cooperation with Chinese TCM institutes and pharmaceutical enterprises. The minister believes that the establishment of SPCCTCM will benefit both Chinese and the Pakistani people.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/717151/pakistan-china-cooperation-center-on-traditional-medicine-launched/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan-China trade in the hour of crisis

S M Naveed

PAKISTAN China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been striving hard to continue trade relations between business communities of Pakistan and China despite prevailing pandemic. Besides organizing online webinars and workshops, a mega exhibition titled as "Pakistan China Industrial Expo 2020" was also arranged last month in Royal Palm Country Club Lahore, which was open to the visitors of both the countries offline as well online.

The exhibition led the way in delivering the most exquisite opportunities for all participants in different sectors including CNC Machinery, Construction Machinery, New Energy, Building Material, Agricultural Machinery, Plastic Machinery, Hardware, Chemical, and Auto parts. Pakistan and China share close and friendly relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations in May 1951. Over the years, this relationship has blossomed into an "All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership". The two neighboring countries' bilateral relationship and trade is characterized by feelings of mutual trust, respect and goodwill toward one another. There is regular, highest-level exchange of visits between the two countries. Pakistan-China strategic cooperation has grown in the last several decades.

According to the statistics of Pakistani customs, so far, China has been Pakistan's largest trade partner and the second export destination country for 5 consecutive years, and topping the FDI

original country for 6 consecutive years. Along with the constant upward trend of the China-Pakistan trade, a rising concern on trade deficit with China has been echoing in the Pakistani business communities. Pakistan's Foreign Minister has apparently denied the idea that in the aftermath of the corona virus pandemic there will be any stopping of trade between Pakistan and China. In an interview with Global Times in Beijing, he said that amid virus outbreaks, the two great nation's maintained transport and trade ties.

He said that China had shared her experience battling the deadly corona virus, with Pakistan and had sent teams to assess the situation and provided testing kits in thousands. Just a few days after the visit of Pakistan's President to China, where he shook hands with Xi Jinping during this period of physical distancing, the Chinese government sent medical supplies that have already arrived in Karachi.

The most sought after item in many countries today is the planeload of supplies: 500,000 face masks, including 50,000 N-95 masks, donated to the provincial government. President's visit, the first by any nation to go to Beijing following the Covid-19 outbreak, was seen by diplomacy experts as a sign of Pakistan's unity at a difficult time for China.

Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Pakistani Senate, said, "Not only did we display trust in our friendship, but it was a scientifically sound decision, as there is not a single Covid-19 case coming from China in Pakistan." It appears the decision has yielded results. China is offering Pakistan preferential treatment in providing the medical supplies desperately needed. The medical equipment sent by China today and in high demand in Pakistan is on the wish-list of all doctors worldwide. By the morning of 30 March 1,593 confirmed cases of corona virus were present in the country. In Pakistan, digital marketing and trade does not have many professionals and this field is still relatively new. Pakistan-China trade is directly connecting the companies from both countries and providing them chance for business match making.

Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry, has always been on the forefront to server cross border business delegations through its special services which includes but not limited to direct interaction with top business leaders of China/Pakistan through digital meeting, business match making, offering conversational Chinese language course for removing language barrier, capacity building of local entrepreneurs with the collaboration of Chinese experts under the auspices of National Productivity Organization.

Under the prevailing global pandemic it is important to strengthen the bilateral trade between two nations. To increase the trade, many initiatives have been taken to digitally link Pakistan-China companies with Chinese enterprises of electronics, auto-spare parts, machinery, metal, industrial parts and hardware primarily to strengthen bilateral trade of industries under the promotional package of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The concept of online business interaction is to provide contemporary solutions for carrying out normal business operations by avoiding physical concentration of business people.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-trade-in-the-hour-of-crisis/>

The Express Tribune

The current state of the Chinese economy

Pakistan's relations with China would depend to a considerable degree on the latter's economic situation. The promised set of investments China has included in the CPEC investment programme would yield returns if the Chinese economy remains vibrant and dynamic. Recent data released by the authorities shows a rate of growth in GDP of 2.3% in 2020, making China the only major world economy to show positive increase during the year. The country's GDP surpassed a milestone in 2020, topping ¥100 trillion or about \$15 trillion. "In an extraordinary year, China's economy was able to record an extraordinary accomplishment," Ning Jizhe, head of the Chinese statistics bureau told journalists. 'It's a performance that is satisfactory to the people, watched by the world, and can be recorded in the annals of history.' The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences predicted this month, that China could grow 7.8% in 2021 as it fully bounced back, a pace that would be reminiscent of prior decades. But that was not guaranteed."

Whereas most other large economies suffered from the spreading Covid-19, in China, where the disease had originated the economy dipped into negative territory only once, during the first quarter of 2020. That was when authorities locked down Hubei Province and its capital Wuhan. Senior Chinese leaders including Wang Yi, its globe-trotting foreign minister, told the world that his country's fast recovery could lift the rest of the world. International trade would be a major contributor. Chinese officials said that exports hit an all-time high of \$2.6 trillion in 2020. Despite a bitter trade war with Trump's America, China's trade surplus with the United States reached a record \$13.6 billion for the year. China's share of world exports rose to a record 14.3%.

China's robust economic performance was reflected in the value of its currency, the yuan or renminbi. Through January 11, 2021, the US dollar was worth ¥6.47, compared with ¥7.16 in May 2020. Beijing has kept its currency on a tight leash; increasing its value seemed to be a part of government policy.

One of the reasons for the appreciation of the value of the Chinese currency is that its central bank has kept its interest rates at a level higher than those of other major world currencies. This has attracted foreign capital deposits into the banking system. According to one assessment, "a strong currency has benefits for China too. Chinese consumers can more ably buy imported goods, helping Beijing nurture a new generation of shoppers. It looks good to economists and policymakers who have long been pressing China to loosen up its tight control of the country's financial system."

It is not unusual for even serious economists to look at the same economy from very different angles. I was director of World Bank's China Operations when, in 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed and disintegrated. The Soviet leadership that oversaw this transition wanted to recast the Russian economy in the image of the West. Soon after the end of the USSR, Russia applied for and received membership in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. At that

time, both institutions had developed a strong belief in the sets of policies that came to be known under the broad heading of the Washington Consensus. This approach to policymaking minimized the role of the state in economic management. Private sector and the entities that functioned in it were to be left alone to find their own way in the economy. With the Washington Consensus becoming the guiding philosophy, Moscow was advised to quickly move towards this style of economic management. This quick transition was called the “big bang approach” to aligning the former socialist economies with those in the West. The magazine, *The Economist*, wrote a couple of strong editorials suggesting that Beijing should follow Moscow in adopting the big bang approach to making the transition.

I had a couple of conversations with Rupert Pennant Rea who was then the editor of the London-based magazine. I told him that I would not advise the Chinese to follow the Russian example. They should reduce the reach of the state in the lives of the people but do so gradually and bring in the private sector to perform the services it would be better at managing. Housing was a good example. We in the bank, after doing some serious economic work, convinced the authorities in China to let housing be a private sector activity. The Chinese agreed to try our model of making the transition from state ownership of housing to private ownership. This would first be done on a pilot basis in Tsingtao City near Beijing. The World Bank staff designed the pilot programme for making the transition. The Chinese watched the pilot carefully and when they were persuaded the transition would work, they brought the private sector into home ownership. I use this as an example of how Chinese state involvement can be viewed so differently by economic experts.

“China’s economy continues to power ahead with remarkable momentum, leaving other major economies, most of which are still struggling to register some semblance of growth in the dust,” said Eswar Prasad, a professor at Cornell University and former China director for the IMF. “China has cemented its position as the primary driver of what has been dismal global economic recovery.” Prasad’s comment was made after Beijing released the latest economic data. He was of the view that a stronger renminbi “will take more than currency appreciation to get the China-US relationship back on even keel, although this certainly removes one of the potential flash points,” for the new Biden administration. But some economists pointed out that China’s recovery, while impressive at first glance, belied a return to old tactics that China had hoped to shift away from; debt fueled spending on infrastructure and reliance on dirty heavy industries, including state-owned coal and steel production and retail that could help the middle class. For them although the numbers were good, the state of the economy appeared fragile. Real wages had stagnated compared to GDP. “Growth last year came from real estate and infrastructure investment which is a kind of bad growth that China for years has relied on,” said Michael Pettis, a professor of finance at Peking University. Yes, some things did turn out well, economic activity grew, and unemployment was brought down, but many other indexes performed very badly.”

Several commentators feared that the arrival of Covid-19 virus and the response to it of the Chinese authorities could have adverse economic consequences. For instance, Chinese officials

cancelled public gatherings associated with the Chinese New Year. “Reduced confidence and travel during the Chinese New Year holidays in February could hamper” first quarter, said Louis Kujis, an economist at Oxford Economics. “But for now, we think the risk of major economic impact is low, given China’s track record of containing outbreaks.” Pakistan can count on at least one economy on its borders for remaining strong and robust.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2281325/the-current-state-of-the-chinese-economy>

The Nation

Sindh CM asks Centre to allow vaccine purchase from China

KARACHI - Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah said Monday that his government IS ready to take over Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) and Sukkur Electric Power Company (SEPCO) subject to the condition that the federal government would continue its power subsidy for next five years.

The chief minister stated this while talking to reporters after inaugurating Diagnostic Complex and Dow Institute of Life Sciences at Ojha Campus. The CM was accompanied by Parliamentary Secretary on Health Qasim Siraj Soomro.

Replying to a question, the CM said that the HESCO and SEPCO were power distribution companies running in heavy losses. “I had written a letter to PM much earlier and had requested him to hand over both the companies to the Sindh government on the condition to continue the subsidy, whatever the federal government was giving to them,” he said and added he wanted the subsidy to continue for next five years so that we could bring them back to the track.

He said that a Chinese government company was in contact with the provincial government to run the HESCO and SEPCO in partnership with the Sindh government. “I don’t know what decision the federal government has taken about handing over power distribution companies to his government,” he said.

To another question about federal minister Ali Zaidi, CM Murad Ali Shah said that he was a responsible person and would not play politics on the issue in the media.

“My letter was confidential and couldn’t understand how it was leaked to the media,” he questioned. Chief Minister is not responsible to any person, including to the PM except to the provincial assembly, maintained Murad. “My answer may not be taken as negative but as a matter of fact the CM is only responsible to the provincial assembly,” he said.

Talking about COVID-19 vaccine, Mr. Shah said that he has written a letter to the federal government with the request to grant him permission to purchase the vaccine directly from China. “Being a provincial government, I am not authorized to purchase anything directly from another country,” he said.

Earlier, the CM visited the Institute of Life Saving Sciences and Diagnostic Complex just after inaugurating them. The VC Dow University of Health Sciences, Dr Saeed Qureshi in his

welcome speech said that he was short of Rs100 million to make the diagnostic facilities completely functional. At this the CM announced to provide him Rs100 million if he was going to complete the facility by June 30. Saeed Qureshi gave his consent on the matter.

<https://nation.com.pk/26-Jan-2021/sindh-cm-asks-centre-to-allow-vaccine-purchase-from-china>

The News

No CPEC project on hold, says Asim Bajwa

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Chairman Authority Lt General (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa said on Monday that no CPEC project was on hold and the work was never slowed down.

He said, “Work on the eastern western and central alignments was in full swing and the second phase of the project was just beginning. He said that underdeveloped areas, especially southern parts of Balochistan, were being given importance under CPEC.

He said a dam and a desalination plant had been built in Gwadar in a bid to resolve chronic water shortages, affecting the inhabitants. An airport, with the biggest runway of Pakistan, is also being built in Gwadar, he said.

Talking to a delegation of senior officials and researchers of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) at the CPEC Authority’s Secretariat, he said that Pakistan attached great importance to CPEC according to an official statement released here. Bajwa said CPEC was a national project and Pakistan was ready to pay any price for its success.

The IPS delegation comprised its Executive President Khalid Rahman, General Manager Operations Naufil Shahrukh, senior associates Amanullah Khan, Mirza Hamid Hasan and others.

Commenting on Phase One of CPEC the CPEC Authority’s chairman said the first phase’s success depended on the second phase, which involves business to business and people to people contacts.

He also said synergy among all stakeholders was required to make CPEC a success. In this regard Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry was also being revived, he added.

Bajwa stressed the need for projecting CPEC as a regional connectivity initiative to make Pakistan emerge as an economically galvanizing state, instead of a security or terror-fighting state on the global spectrum. Afghan transit trade, he added, was also now being facilitated through Gwadar port.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/780135-no-cpec-project-on-hold-says-asim-bajwa>

January 27, 2021

Business Recorder

Power plant at Gwadar: ECC's approval sought for 'unique' QPPA

ISLAMABAD: Power Division has sought approval of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet of an arguably a "unique" Quadripartite Power Purchase Agreement (QPPA) for establishment of 300MW coal-fired power plant at Gwadar, well-informed sources in PPIB told Business Recorder.

The Implementation Agreement (IA) and Supplemental Agreement (SA) of the project have yet not been cleared by the PPIB's Board of Directors (BoD).

Sharing details, sources said the government of Pakistan (GoP) and Government of China entered into a China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Energy Project Cooperation Agreement on November 8, 2014 (CPEC Agreement) pursuant to which 300 (150 x 2) MW coal-fired power generation complex, to be located at Gwadar, Balochistan, was conceived and approved. Accordingly, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on March 30, 2017 in terms of Rule 5 of PPRA Rules 2004 authorized PPIB to proceed for award of the project to M/s CIHC Pak Power Company Limited as a designated project under Power Generation Policy 2015.

Accordingly, PPIB issued a Letter of Intent (IoI) and later after its tariff determination by National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) issued a Letter of Support (LoS) to the Company. As per the terms of the Policy and the LoS, the Company is required to execute Implementation Agreement (IA) and Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) substantially as per standard drafts approved by ECC in 2015 and 2017. The standard IA provides protection against expropriation, political force majeure risks, change in law etc., and also lays down provisions of compensation amounts in case of termination of the IA due to events of default and issuance of GoP guarantee to cover payment obligations of the power purchaser under the PPA. The ECC in its decision of March 19, 2015 also authorized the Board of PPIB to negotiate and approve project specific changes in the standard draft of IA provided GoP obligations are not adversely affected.

Accordingly, the Company and PPIB after various rounds of negotiations finalized project specific IA wherein the effect of the new quadripartite regime of PPA has been introduced for the project. Furthermore, a Supplemental Agreement has also been finalized with the company that mirrors the provisions of the CPEC Agreement.

Earlier, ECC approved standard PPA for coal power projects which was meant to be executed between the IPP and the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) being power purchaser on behalf of Ex-Wapda Distribution Companies (Discos).

However, after Central Power Purchasing Agency Guarantee Limited (CPPAG) became a separate corporate entity from the NTDC, various PPAs were executed with CPPA-G with back

to back arrangement with NTDC in relation to interconnection, dispatch and other matters falling in latter's mandate. On the other hand, the Gwadar project for some initial years was to remain operative on local/ isolated grid of 132 KV to be constructed, owned and operated by Quetta Electric Supply Company Limited (QESCO) and thereafter when a new transmission line would have been constructed, it was to be connected with the National Grid owned and operated by NTDC. Furthermore, the project was to be issued dispatch instruction by the system operator commonly known as National Power Control Centre (NPCC) currently operating under the NTDC. Due to this “unique” nature of responsibilities divided amongst three public sector entities, now the project specific PPA was required to be executed amongst CPPA-G, NTDC, QESCO and the Company. Accordingly, the Company has negotiated and finalized project specific Quadripartite Power Purchase Agreement (QPPA) with the CPPA-G, the NTDC and the QESCO and their respective boards have accorded their approvals thereto.

The agreement, sources said, has not been approved by the Board of PPIB due to the resignation of the ex officio Chairman of PPIB Board, i.e. the Federal Minister for Energy. The Board of PPIB has been rendered non-functional therefore Board approval for project-specific IA and Supplemental Agreement has not been procured.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/01/27/1-page/867348-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC western route accelerates urbanization

The Hakla-DI Khan section of CPEC western route (M-14) has triggered a massive wave of real estate investments in Fateh Jang tehsil, making it a new hotspot for housing schemes adjacent to new airport, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday.

Fateh Jang is the first interchange towards D.I.Khan on CPEC western route after Hakla, which connects M-14 to M-1. This tehsil also hosts the new Islamabad international airport while the \$ 8.2 billion CPEC project of Pakistan Railways' Mail Line-1 also passes through Fateh Jang.

According to the report, as the M-14 nears completion with June 2021 as the expected timeline for inauguration, Fateh Jang has gained enormous importance for urbanization as people start relocating to areas around motorways and the CPEC route for better connectivity and future prospects including industrialization.

The planned Rawalpindi Ring Road also intersects with the CPEC route near the new Islamabad airport, a further addition to the importance of this beautiful area. With about 90% works of the 285-kilometre M-14 already done, several housing schemes have emerged near Fateh Jang interchange while the existing societies have accelerated development to attract investors.

Another interchange expected on M-14/N-80 intersection and the Hakla interchange on M-1 will provide hassle-free connectivity with Islamabad to sector D-17 of the capital and the cooperative housing societies developed by various agencies of the federal government for their employees.

Investors believe that in the years to come, M-14 is going to give birth to a third major city in Fateh Jang tehsil near Islamabad.

Haider Khan purchased a vast stretch of land 8-kilometres away from Fateh Jang interchange on M-14 and is still looking for further deals. “Though not a territorial part of the capital, but due to the M-14 section of the CPEC, Fateh Jang is fast emerging as a new sister city of Islamabad,” he said. “You can’t imagine the scale of development around Islamabad after the completion of M-14. As the Punjab government also plans to establish several industrial zones on the Rawalpindi Ring Road passing through Fateh Jang tehsil, this area is going to become a new business hub with the CPEC western route serving as the pivot,” said Saeed Shah, a construction contractor.

Sultan Abbas, a property dealer, said that it was becoming hard for ordinary citizens to own a house in a proper housing society near Islamabad due to exorbitant prices. “However, M-14 is giving new hopes to those in search of shelter near Islamabad as it has expanded the city almost 30 kilometers towards the west,” he said.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/717667/cpec-western-route-accelerates-urbanisation/>

Xi urges global cooperation in post-corona virus world

Chinese President Xi Jinping’s has urged global cooperation for the post-pandemic world and reminded everyone that the pandemic is still far from over, emphasizing that everyone must remain committed to multilateralism, international law, and embracing change.

During his special address at the World Economic Forum virtual event of the Davos Agenda, President Xi Jinping set out four tasks to achieve: macroeconomic policy coordination; abandoning ideological prejudice; lessening international developmental inequality; and coming together to tackle global challenges. In connection with those tasks, Xi proposed that the international community remain committed to the following solutions: openness and inclusiveness; international law and international rules; consultation and cooperation; and keeping up with the times. As proof that China is doing its part, he reaffirmed five of its policies: active international cooperation on Covid-19; win-win strategy and opening-up; sustainable development; scientific, technological, and innovation developments; and a new type of international relations.

“The past year was marked by the sudden onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic. Global public health faced severe threat and the world economy was mired in deep recession. Humanity encountered multiple crises rarely seen in human history,” President Xi said. “History is moving forward and the world will not go back to what it was in the past. Every choice and move we make today will shape the world of the future. It is important that we properly address the four major tasks facing people of our times,” he added.

“After decades of strenuous efforts by the Chinese people, China is on course to finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. We have made historic gains in ending extreme poverty, and have embarked on a new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country,”

President Xi said. “As China enters a new development stage, we will follow a new development philosophy and foster a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other. China will work with other countries to build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity,” he added.

“China will continue to take an active part in international cooperation on COVID-19. Containing the coronavirus is the most pressing task for the international community. This is because people and their lives must always be put before anything else. It is also what it takes to stabilize and revive the economy. Closer solidarity and cooperation, more information sharing, and a stronger global response are what we need to defeat COVID-19 across the world,” President Xi said. “It is especially important to scale up cooperation on the R&D, production and distribution of vaccines and make them public goods that are truly accessible and affordable to people in all countries,” he added.

“China will continue to implement a win-win strategy of opening-up. Economic globalization meets the need of growing social productivity and is a natural outcome of scientific and technological advancement. It serves no one’s interest to use the pandemic as an excuse to reverse globalization and go for seclusion and decoupling,” President Xi said. “As a longstanding supporter of economic globalization, China is committed to following through on its fundamental policy of opening-up. China will continue to promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, help keep the global industrial and supply chains smooth and stable, and advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation,” he added.

“China will promote institutional opening-up that covers rules, regulations, management and standards. We will foster a business environment that is based on market principles, governed by law and up to international standards, and unleash the potential of the huge China market and enormous domestic demand. We hope these efforts will bring more cooperation opportunities to other countries and give further impetus to global economic recovery and growth,” President Xi said. “China will continue to promote sustainable development. China will fully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It will do more on the ecological front, by transforming and improving its industrial structure and energy mix at a faster pace and promoting a green, low-carbon way of life and production,” he added.

“China will continue to advance science, technology and innovation. Science, technology and innovation is a key engine for human progress, a powerful weapon in tackling many global challenges, and the only way for China to foster a new development paradigm and achieve high-quality development,” President Xi said. “China will invest more in science and technology, develop an enabling system for innovation as a priority, turn breakthroughs in science and technology into actual productivity at a faster pace, and enhance intellectual property protection, all for the purpose of fostering innovation-driven, higher-quality growth. Scientific and technological advances should benefit all humanity rather than be used to curb and contain other countries’ development,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/717565/xi-urges-global-cooperation-in-post-coronavirus-world/>

Pakistan Observer

China, Pakistan launch online agro-industrial platform to boost cooperation

China and Pakistan on Tuesday launched an online program to obtain and present information and accomplishments of agricultural and industrial cooperation between the two countries, with goals for enhancing bilateral cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the two sectors.

The China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information Platform (CPAICIP) is anticipated to create business forums, business delegations and other projects to promote exchanges and collaboration in the field of agriculture and industry and advance business-to-business cooperation between the two states.

During an online launching ceremony, Chairman of the CPEC Authority in Pakistan Asim Saleem Bajwa said that the agro-industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China under CPEC will play a vital role in expanding and multiplying bilateral economic relations.

Agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan's economy which contributes some 18 per cent of the country's GDP, engages a very large number of people, and is crucial for the country's food security and export potential, Bajwa said.

"Pakistan fully realizes its agricultural potential, and the incumbent government has been making fundamental reforms in the agricultural sector," the chairman said, adding that the Chinese knowledge and experience, which is massively acknowledged worldwide, will be very helpful in adding value to Pakistan's agriculture and contribute to the prosperity of the people.

Speaking about the industrial collaboration, he said that various preferred special economic zones under CPEC are being set up in all the provinces to give purpose to industrialization in the country.

On the event, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong greeted the establishment of the platform, stating it will enhance in-depth exchanges and cooperation between scientific research institutions, associations, organizations and industrial and agricultural enterprises of the two countries.

"We stand ready to join hands with the Pakistani government and people to enhance our all-weather strategic partnership and achieve high-quality development," Nong said.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-launch-online-agro-industrial-platform-to-boost-cooperation/>

The Express Tribune

Pick up the pace of work on CPEC projects, ministries told

ISLAMABAD: A cabinet body overseeing the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Tuesday directed the ministries to remove irritants for fast-paced execution of the projects and gave them a stern warning that if the task was not completed within a week they would face the music.

The meeting of the Cabinet Committee on CPEC (CCo CPEC) was convened to review the progress ahead of the Joint Cooperation Committee meeting, but it ended sooner than planned due to pendency of many issues.

“The cabinet committee emphasized that unresolved inter-ministerial issues should be brought before the CCo CPEC directly by the respective ministries along with recommendations for their resolution,” the Ministry of Planning and Development said.

The chairman of the CCo CPEC, Asad Umar, set new deadlines for the bureaucracy to resolve matters that are lingering for quite some time and carried implications for the \$53 billion planned portfolio.

A senior government functionary told The Express Tribune that Umar asked the ministries to submit new summaries highlighting pending issues within two days. He directed that these summaries should be submitted by the weekend.

The meeting of the cabinet committee would now be held next Wednesday, according to a senior official.

Umar is said to have warned that he would bring the matter to the notice of Prime Minister Imran Khan if the bureaucracy still did not show progress.

Umar said in the meeting that the ministries were not taking their responsibility seriously, said another government official.

Asad Umar was not available for comments.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi also raised the issue of slow progress during the meeting, saying that CPEC’s progress should not affect the strategic nature of the bilateral relationship.

CPEC Authority Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa gave an overview of the CPEC projects.

The official handout by the planning ministry stated that the meeting was briefed on the overall progress of CPEC projects in industrial cooperation, energy, infrastructure, Gwadar, science and technology, socio-economic development, agriculture, transport and communications and issues faced in the implementation of these projects.

The committee noted that significant progress had been made on various projects.

“The chair stressed that the ministries/divisions should maintain the momentum of CPEC projects and follow the timelines for their early completion,” according to the planning ministry.

Umar said that the second phase of CPEC, which focuses on industrial cooperation, would significantly enhance the benefits of the multibillion-dollar project for both sides.

The portfolio of CPEC projects has grown to \$53 billion, comprising completed, ongoing and under consideration schemes. But the share of the projects that are in the pipeline is more than half at \$28 billion, the cabinet committee was informed.

So far, 17 projects worth \$13 billion have been completed while another 21 projects having an estimated cost of \$12 billion are under implementation.

The committee discussed in detail the status of the Gwadar Port and Free Zone. The first phase of the port is operational for last almost one year but many issues remained unresolved, according to the Planning Commission officials.

The cabinet committee directed the Federal Board of Revenue to notify the Gwadar Free Zone rules before the next meeting to give effect to the legislative changes introduced in the budget.

The Gwadar Free Zone policy and Customs procedures, rules and regulations have not yet been defined by the FBR. The meeting was informed that due to lack of clarity on these issues, the business activities have not commenced, according to the officials.

The government has issued 42 licenses to the potential investors but business activities have not started due to the absence of free zone policy.

The meeting was informed that the Pakistan Coast Guard and Pakistan Navy have also not yet evacuated land, which is hampering work on phase-II of the Gwadar Free Zone. There was also delay in construction of breakwater and capital dredging of berthing area.

The CPEC Authority underlined the need for increasing traffic on the Gwadar Port, including diversion of Afghan Transit Trade, and import of LNG as well as other commodities.

The meeting also discussed the status of Mainline-1 project of Pakistan Railways. The sources said that the cabinet body was told that the Chinese authorities wanted to give the loan in both Chinese and the US currencies. They said Pakistan was keen to secure loan in the US currency.

However, the sources said, the planning minister said that the issue should be resolved by the Ministry of Finance. Finance Minister Hafeez Sheikh did not attend the meeting.

The government also discussed the issue of high insurance cost that Sino sure would charge on the ML-1 loan. The Pakistani authorities were of the view that the insurance cost should only be restricted to the commercial portion of the ML-1 loan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2281519/pick-up-the-pace-of-work-on-cpec-projects-ministries-told>

The News

PML-N chief submits diplomat's letter to AC: Chinese envoy impressed by Shahbaz's devotion to CPEC

LAHORE: The outgoing Consul General of the People's Republic of China Long Dingbin in a letter to PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif said that the PML-N is always a great friend of Chinese Communist Party whether it is in power or in opposition.

The Chinese diplomat said he is impressed by Shahbaz's devotion to the construction of the CPEC while being on the position of chief minister Punjab.

The contents of the letter were shared by PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif during the hearing of a money laundering and assets beyond means reference against the Shahbaz family. Jail authorities produced Shahbaz and his son Hamza Shahbaz before the court amid tight security as heavy contingents of law-enforcement agencies had cordoned off the court premises.

During the hearing, Shahbaz sought permission from the court to present the letter. He stated that he is in custody and diplomats are writing letters to him regarding the CPEC. Shahbaz said he had received the letter from the Chinese diplomat. "It is not my respect but the respect of the country," he said.

The judge said the letter is irrelevant to the case. However, the judge allowed Shahbaz to read the letter. The letter, a copy of which is available with The News, was a farewell letter from Long Dingbin. The consul general stated in the letter that "your Excellency (Shahbaz Sharif) is an old friend of China and Chinese people". "You (Shahbaz) made the CPEC projects in Punjab realized, which not only created impressive 'Punjab Speed' but embodied the profound bilateral friendship." "I am sure that as leader of the opposition in the National Assembly, you will continue to work as always to promote the friendship between our two parties, our two nations and our two peoples. I may wish you good health, happiness and success, long live China Pakistan Friendship," Long concluded.

Shahbaz also informed the court that he has not received his medical reports yet. To which, the judge replied that the court has issued orders in this regard and he will receive the reports today (Tuesday). The court adjourned the hearing by February 2. The counsel of Shahbaz will cross-examine prosecution witness Muhammad Sharif on the next hearing.

PML-N Punjab Information Secretary Azma Bukhari and PML-N Deputy Secretary General Ataullah Tarar in a joint media talk outside the accountability court, said Shahbaz Sharif under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif made great efforts for the development of the country.

Azma said there was no justification for the rulers to remain in power. She said another person's wealth statement was presented in the court as Shahbaz's wealth statement. She alleged the so-called prime minister said that the PML-N is supporting the Qabza mafia whereas his own relative is illegally occupying a plot and a CCPO was appointed to defend that illegal occupation.

She claimed that the PTI welcomed Mansha Bomb, the biggest Qabza mafia in Lahore, into the party.

She said Shahbaz worked hard to complete several electricity projects in the province while Chief Minister Usman Buzdar worked hard to make Lahore a garbage can.

Atta Tarar said Imran has become a problem for this country and came with a team which knew nothing about running the country. He said they are running away from local body elections.

In a statement, PML-N Information Secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb termed the letter of the Chinese consul general to Shahbaz Sharif a moment of pride for Pakistan. She said a great friend like China is testifying to Shahbaz Sharif's transparency, honesty, integrity and the hard work done under Nawaz Sharif's leadership. "At a time when every sector of the country is nose-diving, this letter is a much needed matter of pride for every Pakistani," Marriyum said.

This letter is a slap in the face of all those behind baseless and politically-motivated cases against Shahbaz, she said.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/780594-pml-n-chief-submits-diplomat-s-letter-to-ac-chinese-envoy-impressed-by-shahbaz-s-devotion-to-cpec>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چین تعاون بڑھانے کیلئے سی پیک ترجیحی منصوبہ ہے، اسد عمر

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) کابینہ کمیٹی برائے سی پیک کا اجلاس وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی ترقی اور خصوصی اقدامات اسد عمر کی زیر صدارت ہوا، کابینہ کمیٹی نے سی پیک منصوبوں سے متعلق اہم مسائل بھی پر غور کیا، اجلاس میں مختلف ورکنگ گروپوں کے تحت منصوبوں پر بھی بات چیت کی گئی، اجلاس کو گوادر متواتائی، زراعت، ٹرانسپورٹ اور دیگر شعبوں کے جاری منصوبوں کے بارے میں بریفنگ دی گئی، اجلاس نیٹ کیا کہ منصوبوں میں کافی پیشرفت ہوئی ہے، وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ پاک چین تعاون بڑھانے کیلئے سی پیک ترجیحی منصوبہ ہے، انہوں نے کہ وزارتیں منصوبوں پر کام کی رفتار کو جاری رکھیں، اور سے پیک کے دوسرے مرحلہ جو صنعتی تعاون پر مبنی ہے کی تکمیل سے سی پیک کے فوائد بہت بڑھ جائیں گے،، کمیٹی نے زور دیا کہ مختلف وزارتوں میں جو ایڈوائز ہوتے ہیں ان کو اس کمیٹی کے سامنے لایا جائے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-01-27/page-10/detail-35>

January 28, 2021

Business Recorder

Effective oversight of CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have agreed to formation of a joint parliamentary committee comprising members from Pakistan's Parliament and the National People's Congress for effective oversight of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. The decision has been taken in a meeting arranged through video link with Chairman National People's Congress Li Zhanshu, here on Wednesday. Both the presiding officers directed their

respective Secretariats to take necessary steps for constitution of joint a parliamentary committee for oversight of the CPEC.

Both the leaders agreed for enhancing parliamentary cooperation through interaction at standing committees level as well as at the Parliamentary Friendship Group.

They agreed for an interactive virtual meeting of members National Assembly and National People's Congress in commemoration of the 71st anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations. They also reiterated invitations to each other to visit Pakistan and China at their convenience.

Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser and Chairman National Peoples Congress of China agreed to formation of a joint parliamentary committee comprising members from Pakistani Parliament and the National People's Congress for effective oversight of CPEC.

They were of the opinion that enhanced economic cooperation would give impetus to the existing bilateral relations through parliamentary and economic cooperation.

During the meeting, Speaker Asad Qaiser was accompanied by Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri, chairman CPEC committee Sher Ali Arbab, Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee Ehsanullah Tiwana, Convener Pak-China Friendship Group Noor Alam Khan, and other members of the National Assembly, whereas, chairman National People's Congress (NPC) was accompanied by deputy speaker NPC and chairmen of the committees on foreign affairs and law. This virtual meeting is the first high-level contact between the two presiding officers after the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaker Asad Qaiser said that Pakistan considered China its closest friend, staunchest partner, and an iron brother. He congratulated his Chinese counterpart on the 71st anniversary of Sino-Pak diplomatic relations and Chinese New Year.

The speaker said that Pakistan strongly believed in the territorial integrity of China and fully supported One China policy. He said that Pakistan valued Chinese support on international and regional forums.

He said that Kashmir being the bleeding wound on the map of the world needed international attention for mitigation of miseries of Kashmiri people and fulfilment of international commitment. He said that China's unequivocal support on Kashmir issue was valued by people and the government of Pakistan.

Chairman National People's Congress Li Zhanshu said that China also considered Pakistan one of its brothers and closest strategic ally.

He said that China would always stand by Pakistan for its defence and maintaining territorial integrity. He said that Covid-19 was devastating for China as well as the world; however, support of Pakistan specially the parliament had boosted the Chinese moral to fight that disease. He assured the speaker that provision of Covid-19 vaccine was the top most priority of the Chinese government.

Speaker Asad Qaiser said that the CPEC was undoubtedly lifeline for economic development of Pakistan, and a mechanism had been devised for ensuring security of the CPEC projects. He said that any attempt to disrupt activity under the CPEC would not be tolerated.

He said that activity under the CPEC had gained momentum and the Rashakai Special Economic Zone would be functional soon which would generate economic activity besides providing employment particularly in the KPK province and the country in general. He said that the legislative interaction should continue virtually till the Covid-19 disease fizzled out.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/01/28/10-page/867579-news.html>

Daily Times

Learning lessons for Pakistan economy: Chinese perspective

Hassnain Javed

Pakistan's interactions with China will be greatly related to economic situation of the latter. If the Chinese market looks prosperous and innovative, the expected collection of projects China has included in the CPEC investment program will yield rewards. Latest information published by the Chinese authorities shows a GDP growth rate of 2.3% in 2020, making China the only major global economy to show a positive year-over-year rise. In 2020, the GDP of the nation reached a landmark, topping ¥100 trillion or around \$15 trillion.

” The Chinese economy was able to record an extraordinary achievement in an extraordinary year,’ Ning Jizhe, head of the Chinese statistics bureau, told journalists. The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences anticipated this month that China could grow 7.8 percent in 2021, as it fully swung back, a pace that would be reflective of previous decades. It is a performance that is adequate to the people, witnessed by the world, and can be transcribed in the annals of history. But they did not promise it.

While most other major economies struggled from the spread of Covid-19, during the first quarter of 2020, in China, where the disease emerged, the economy sunk into negative territory only once. That was when Hubei province and its capital, Wuhan, were shut down by the authorities. Chinese senior leaders, including its globe-trotting foreign minister, Wang Yi, assured the world that his country's rapid recovery could lift the rest of the globe. A significant component will be foreign trade. Chinese officials said exports in 2020 had reached an all-time high of \$2.6 trillion. China's trade surplus with the United States, amid a bitter trade war with Trump's America, hit a record \$13.6 billion for the year. China's share of world exports increased to a record 14.3% .

The strong economic success of China has been expressed in the value of its currency, the yuan or the renminbi. The US dollar was worth ¥6.47 as of January 11, 2021, compared with ¥7.16 in May 2020. Beijing kept its currency on a good trajectory; it seemed to be a part of government policy to enhance its value. These are some of the reasons for the appreciation of the Chinese currency's value is that its central bank has maintained a higher level of interest rates than other

major world currencies. This has drawn investments of international capital into the financial system. A strong currency, according to one assessment, also has advantages for China. Chinese customers will purchase imported items more easily, helping Beijing nurture a younger breed of shoppers. It looks nice to economists and policymakers who have been urging China to relax its strict control of the financial system of the country for a long time.

In order to remain strong and robust, Pakistan should rely on at least one economy within its borders. It is suggested for Pakistan to first become self-sufficient by focusing on the basic necessities that is food, shelter and clothing

Even serious economists do not find it strange to look at the same economy from many different perspectives. During the transition process in Russia, for example, the Soviet leadership that undertook this transformation needed the picture of the West to reshape the Russian economy. Russia registered for and obtained membership of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund shortly after the end of the USSR. At that time, under the broad heading of the Washington Consensus, both organizations had formed a deep confidence in the sets of policies that came to be recognized. The role of the state in economic management has been reduced by this approach to public policy. In attempt to discover their own way into the economy, the private sector and the companies that operated in it had to be left alone. Moscow was encouraged to shift rapidly into this economic management style with the Washington Consensus being the driving principle. This rapid transition to aligning the former socialist economies with those in the West was termed the “big bang approach.” The magazine, *The Economist*, wrote a few powerful editorials indicating that in pursuing the big bang approach to making the transition, Beijing should obey Moscow.

But I would not recommend the Chinese to follow the Russian example, based on the current circumstances and looking at Chinese growth and development after reform and opening up. In the experiences of humans, they should reduce the reach of the state, but do so cautiously and bring in the private sector to perform the services that it would be easier to handle. In conclusion, a number of critics have speculated that the emergence of the Covid-19 virus and the Chinese authorities’ reaction to it could have adverse economic consequences. Chinese leaders, for example, cancelled public events linked to the Chinese New Year. The first quarter was hampered by reduced confidence and travel during the Chinese New Year holidays in February. However, with better planning and management Chinese economy is efficient enough to combat with unforeseen situations. It is guiding line for Pakistan to take gradual steps just as Chinese economy has evolved over time not overnight. But for now, given China’s track record of controlling outbreaks, I believe the risk of significant economic impact is low. In order to remain strong and robust, Pakistan should rely on at least one economy within its borders. It is suggested for Pakistan to first become self-sufficient by focusing on the basic necessities that is food, shelter and clothing. It requires timely and accurate market information to avoid market failures and promote efficient supply chain. It is worth to remember that it takes the most of the project

time to develop the grey structure than the construction, installation and final finishes. Pakistan needs to develop a solid baseline to build concrete empire.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/717813/learning-lessons-for-pakistan-economy-chinese-perspective/>

Dawn News

China to help boost capability of Gwadar police: diplomat

GWADAR: The Chinese consul general at Karachi, Li Bijian, has said that Beijing will continue providing equipment, training facilities and other help for increasing the capability of the police force in Gwadar.

He was speaking at a ceremony held in the port city to hand over 40 motorcycles, 10 laptops and 10 security cabinets for check-posts to police officials.

The equipment and other assistance were provided to the Gwadar police by the Chinese government under the Chinese aid programme.

The diplomat lauded the security arrangements made by the police for the protection of Gwadar.

The chairman of the China Overseas Port Holding Company, Zhang Baozhong, SSP Gwadar Dr Farhan Zahid and other officials were present on the occasion.

The consul general inaugurated an embroidery learning centre set up by the Gwadar Women Development Organization with Chinese assistance.

Mr. Li said Pakistan and China enjoyed cordial relations and with the passage of time these ties had strengthened. He said the Chinese government was extending all assistance so that local people could learn different skills.

“The objective of establishing the embroidery centre at Gwadar is to make skilled women economically stable,” he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1604043/china-to-help-boost-capability-of-gwadar-police-diplomat#:~:text=GWADAR%3A%20The%20Chinese%20consul%20general,the%20police%20force%20in%20Gwadar.>

The Nation

Govt. completes Chinese vaccine trial, says Yasmin Rashid

Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid Thursday said the Chinese covid-19 vaccine trial is completed and its results will come in a few days. She said Prime Minister Imran Khan wants Pakistan to become a welfare state.

The health minister talked to media in Rawalpindi and said death ratio from the pandemic has decreased in Punjab. The corona virus vaccine will be administered to frontline health workers in phase one, she added.

Yasmin Rashid said, “The Punjab government has so far distributed 5.2 million health insurance cards – for the indoor facilities including neurosurgery, cardiac treatment and dialysis – amongst the most deserving families.

“Our plan is to extend the scope of the insurance scheme to the whole of the province. One health card covers treatment up to Rs 720,000. All families in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have been issued the health cards.”

<https://nation.com.pk/28-Jan-2021/results-of-chinese-covid-vaccine-trial-will-come-in-a-few-days-yasmin-rashid>

FPCCI delegation calls on Chinese ambassador

ISLAMABAD -Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong here on Wednesday assured the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) for furthering the matters related to trade and investment under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project for development and prosperity of both the countries. The ambassador also assured to address issues faced by the business community of both the countries for further promoting the bilateral trade and investment between both the countries and expediting the phase of developmental work on different projects under CPEC. A delegation of FPCCI, led by Haji Qurban Ali, Head Capital Office, met with Chinese ambassador and discussed different matters related to promotion of bilateral trade between both the countries as well as problems faced by them on Pak-China border, said a press release. The ambassador also expressed interest for developing close coordination between businessmen of both the countries in order to fully harnessing the potential of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor by using the FPCCI platform. They also discussed the establishment of special economic zones under CPEC and agreed for focusing to reduce transportation expenses, improving the conduct with businessmen on check post as well as for keeping Khunjerab Post open all the year. The ambassador also assured the delegation that he would soon visit FPCCI Capital office and meet with business community to address their issues which would help in further promoting the bilateral trade and investment relations between Pakistan and China.

<https://nation.com.pk/28-Jan-2021/fpcci-delegation-calls-on-chiness-ambassador>

The News

First information platform launched for Pakistan-China agriculture

BEIJING: The first information platform for China-Pakistan agricultural and industrial cooperation was launched, echoing the priority agenda of the second phase of CPEC, which is Pakistan’s agricultural and industrial development and improvement of social welfare. Jointly initiated by China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) and China Economic Net (CEN), the platform will serve as a bridge between Pakistani and Chinese enterprises to enhance B2B cooperation.

The platform, relying on its offline organization Pakistan-China Agriculture Corporation Exchange Center (PCACEC), will also organize forums, match-making meetings, and exchange activities for Pakistani and Chinese enterprises looking for business cooperation.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/781199-first-information-platform-launched-for-pakistan-china-agriculture>

Jang News

چین پاکستان سے 100 ڈالر ٹن زائد قیمت پر چینی خریدنے کو تیار

اسلام آباد (حنیف خالد) عوامی جمہوریہ چین نے مشکل وقت میں زر مبادلہ کی مشکلات دور کرنے کیلئے پاکستان کو پیشکش کی ہے کہ پاکستان اگر چاہے تو سالانہ 10 لاکھ ٹن تک چینی اسے فروخت کر سکتا ہے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق عوامی جمہوریہ چین اپنے ہمسایہ دوست آزموہ برادر ملک پاکستان کے عوام کے وسیع تر مفاد میں 100 ڈالر فی ٹن زیادہ قیمت بھی ادا کرنے کو تیار ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/877891>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی سفیر ٹونگ رونگ گوادر کا پہلا خصوصی دورہ کریں گے

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاکستان میں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی سفیر ٹونگ رونگ دیگر عہدیداروں کے ہمراہ گوادر کا خصوصی دورہ کریں گے۔ واضح رہے کہ گوادر بندرگاہ کو سی پیک میں مرکزی مقام حاصل ہے جو بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹیو کا ایک اہم منصوبہ ہے۔ امید ظاہر کی جا رہی ہے کہ یہ اعلیٰ سطحی دورہ سی پیک کی اعلیٰ معیاری تعمیر کو یقینی بنانے کے لئے نیک شگون ثابت ہو گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-01-28/page-1/detail-23>

January 29, 2021

Daily Times

Gwadar Port has become a shining pearl in entire region: ambassador

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong on Thursday said with joint efforts from both China and Pakistan, Gwadar Port, as the pilot project of the CPEC, has witnessed dramatic growth and become a model project for maintaining production and construction while doing a good job in epidemic prevention among all BRI projects.

Ambassador Nong Rong visited Gwadar during January 27-28, 2021. During the two-day visit, he visited all major projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Gwadar, including the New Gwadar International Airport Project, the China-Pak Friendship Hospital, China-Pak Technical and Vocational Institute in Gwadar, the Gwadar East-bay Expressway Project, Gwadar Free Zone and Gwadar Port. He met Chairman Gwadar Port Authority Naseer Kashani, DG of Gwadar Development Authority Shahzeb Kakar, Maj Gen M. Aamer Najam,

GOC SSD (South) and Rear Admiral Jawad Ahmed, Commander Pakistan Navy Western Command. He also attended the Chinese Ambassador Green Employment Scheme Launching Ceremony and Scholarship Award Ceremony for excellent students of Middle School Faqeer Colony Gwadar.

The ambassador reiterated that the Chinese side attached great importance to the development of Gwadar Port, and he had every good reason to believe that Gwadar would become a shining pearl of the region. Ambassador Nong said Gwadar would enjoy a bright future with the development of port industries, by building export processing zones based on local conditions. By developing the port, the city of Gwadar will develop as a whole, thus to become a benchmark for harmonious development, as well as a demonstration window for the success of Belt and Road Initiative.

During the field visit, Ambassador Nong extended his festive greetings to the workers at the construction site, and said “the Spring Festival is coming, but you are sticking to your posts, with a common goal to speed up the project and make the Gwadar Port a better place. We all know that the Spring Festival is a time for family reunions. You spend the Chinese New Year alone on the project site far from motherland, and make Gwadar your home. I’m so proud of you! ” The Ambassador asked the companies in Gwadar to expedite the projects and take strict prevention and protection measures for Covid-19 epidemic, and make greater contribution to China-Pakistan friendship.

While meeting Maj Gen M Aamer Najam, GOC SSD (South) and Rear Admiral Jawad Ahmed, Commander Pakistan Navy Western Command, Ambassador Nong appreciated the efforts made by the armed forces in safeguarding the CPEC projects and personnel. He underscored that safety is the premise of everything. Gwadar Safe City is an inalienable part of Gwadar Smart Port City, which portrays a brilliant future for Gwadar. I believe all the local people and the people of Pakistan are looking forward to this day coming at an earlier date. No one will hesitate to take the first step with a bright road ahead.

When attending the launching ceremony of Green Employment Scheme, Ambassador Nong said that the project was responding to the Prime Minister Imran Khan’s initiative for Clean Green Gwadar Movement, and China would work together with Pakistan to turn CPEC into a model green Belt and Road Initiative (the “BRI”) to protect and preserve natural environment in the region.

While awarding scholarship to students of Middle School Faqeer Colony Gwadar, Ambassador Nong said that 2021 marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations, and children were the future of the nation and the hope of China-Pakistan friendship. He encouraged the students to cherish the opportunity, study hard, and grow up to become talents of the country and builder of the CPEC, and carry on the time-tested friendship between China and Pakistan from generation to generation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/718373/gwadar-port-has-become-a-shining-pearl-in-entire-region-ambassador/>

Pakistan Observer

China launches advanced multi-role warship for Pakistan Navy

Shanghai: China on Friday launched the second of four naval missile warships equipped with cutting-edge features including an improved radar system and long-range missiles for Pakistan.

The launching ceremony for four Type 054A/P frigates was held at Hudong-Zhonghua Shipyard Shanghai with Commodore Azfar Humayun SI (M), Pakistan Navy Chief Naval Overseer (CNO) and Chinese officials in presence.

The modern warship's launching comes as both Pakistan and China are celebrating the completion of 70 years of diplomatic relations based on strong bond and trust. Pakistan Navy has contracted the construction of four multi-role frigates from China since 2017. The first warship was inducted in Pakistan's fleet in August 2020.

The induction of the second frigate will significantly boost the maritime defense and deterrence capabilities of Pakistan. Admiral M Amjad Khan Niazi, Chief of the Naval Staff of the Pakistan Navy in an interview with state-run Global Times said that these will be some of the most technologically advanced platforms of the Pakistan Navy Surface Fleet, equipped with modern surface, subsurface and anti-air weapons, sensors and combat management systems.

"These ships will boost [the] potency of our fleet and significantly contribute in maintaining peace and security in the region," the Pakistan Navy chief added.

Commodore Azfar Humayun remarked that event depicts the commitment of the China Shipbuilding Trading Company and Hudong-Zhonghua Shipyard to maintain the momentum of the program despite corona virus pandemic.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-launches-advanced-multi-role-warship-for-pakistan-navy/>

The Nation

CPEC Authority chairman assures LCCI of full support for moot in Gwadar

LAHORE-Chairman CPEC Authority Lt General (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa Thursday assured his full support to Lahore Chamber for its plan to hold Business Moot in Gwadar in the month of March.

He stated this while talking to president of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Mian Tariq Misbah. "I would visit LCCI soon to share upcoming business opportunities in Gwadar", Lt General (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa said.

He said that work on CPEC project is in full swing and under developed areas are being given importance.

Chairman CPEC Authority stressed upon the need for projecting CPEC as a regional connectivity initiative to make Pakistan emerge as an economically developing state.

“Prime objective of the CPEC is to improve the lives of people of Pakistan by building an economic corridor promoting bilateral connectivity, construction, explore potential bilateral investment, economic and trade, logistics and people to people contact for regional connectivity”, he said and added that this mega project included integrated transport & IT systems including road, rail, port, air and data communication channels, energy cooperation, industrial & economic zones, agricultural development, socio-economic development, tourism cooperation & people to people communication etc.

LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah congratulated both Pakistani and Chinese governments, armed forces of Pakistan, contractors, logistic companies, construction companies and every individual who has been involved in turning this dream into reality.

He said that there should be a level playing field for both the Chinese and local investors. So far, it has been observed that many products for CPEC projects are being imported at zero duties even though these products are manufactured locally.

Mian Tariq Misbah said that in order to make sure that our industrial sector and economy benefit through CPEC, local raw materials should be given preference in CPEC projects and only those raw materials which not manufactured locally should be zero rated. This will also make sure that raw materials imported from China for various CPEC projects are not being traded in local market.

“On the model of automobile industry in Pakistan, the Chinese investors should also be encouraged to develop local vendor industry in Pakistan for the supply of raw materials for the CPEC projects. This will especially help to boost the SME sector in Pakistan”, the LCCI President added.

He said that while many energy and road infrastructure projects have been completed under the CPEC, the progress on the completion of Special Economic Zones planned under CPEC is really slow. We recommend that the pace of development activities on Special Economic Zones should be really expedited.

Mian Tariq Misbah said that business community strongly feels that government should extend the same tax concessions/other incentives to local investors as it is extending to Chinese investors to provide a level playing field for entrepreneurs of both countries. He said that establishment of Joint Technical/Testing Labs in SEZs developed under CPEC to serve the needs of export industries and assistance in Chinese standards conformance and certification.

<https://nation.com.pk/29-Jan-2021/cpec-authority-chairman-assures-lcci-of-full-support-for-moot-in-gwadar>

The News

Plane to be sent for procuring first corona vaccine from China: Dr Faisal

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan said Thursday that the government would soon send a plane to China to get the first coronavirus vaccine contingent.

The development came after a meeting was held at the National Command Operation Center (NCOC) with Dr Sultan in the chair. The provinces shared their plans regarding the vaccine. "We are ready for this important step and are united for this mission," the special assistant vowed, adding that the government has "come a long way through cooperation." A day earlier, Dr Sultan reiterated that the government-backed coronavirus vaccines would be free for all the country's citizens.

Speaking during an online workshop, the PM's aide said that it is the "government's top-most priority to provide quality healthcare to people." "It is crucial that we spread awareness among the masses regarding coronavirus, he said, adding that "people should follow coronavirus SOPs just like they did during the pandemic's first wave." The special assistant said that China had donated 500,000 doses of the vaccine to Pakistan, while as many as 400,000 healthcare workers had already registered to get inoculated.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/781824-plane-to-be-sent-for-procuring-first-corona-vaccine-from-china-dr-faisal>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی کمپنی کا مسیسٹس یونیورسٹی کے ساتھ مل کر ریسرچ سنٹر قائم کریگی

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) چینی کمپنی کا مسیسٹس یونیورسٹی کے ساتھ مل کر ایل ای ڈی ریسرچ سنٹر قائم کرے گی۔ چینی سرکاری ملکیتی تین کاروباری ادارے جن میں ہیرو بوس نیکنالوجی، چائینہ گیزو باور ایل ای ڈی سینٹ شامل ہیں پر مشتمل ایک وفد نے سی یو آئی اسلام آباد کیسپس کا دورہ کیا اور ریکٹر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر تبسم افضل کے ساتھ ملاقات میں ثقافتی تبادلے اور مصنوعات پر مبنی تحقیقی پروگراموں کے علاوہ مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کو فروغ دینے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔ ایل ای ڈی سینٹ چائینہ کے عہدیدار وانگ پینگ نے کہا کہ ایل ای ڈی نیکنالوجی پر تحقیق کرنے کے لئے ان کی کمپنی یونیورسٹی کے ساتھ مل کر ایل ای ڈی ریسرچ سنٹر قائم کرنے میں دلچسپی رکھتی ہے۔ ریکٹر نے ان کی تجویز سے اتفاق کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ایسے پروگراموں کے ذریعے تحقیق کے معیار کو بہتر بنانے کی اشد ضرورت ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-01-29/page-10/detail-23>

January 30, 2021

The Nation

Pakistan, Kuwait discuss investment in CPEC-related projects

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and Kuwait yesterday discussed possible investments in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related projects.

The discussions took place at the Third Round of Bilateral Political Consultations during the four-day visit of Kuwait's Assistant Foreign Minister of Asian Affairs Ambassador Ali Suleiman Al-Saeed, a Foreign Ministry statement said.

The visit took place in the backdrop of the meeting of Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi with his Kuwaiti counterpart on the sidelines of the 47th session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Council of Foreign Ministers in Niamey, Niger, in November 2020.

The Assistant Foreign Minister held the Third Round of Bilateral Political Consultations co-chaired by Ambassador Khalid H Memon, Special Secretary (Middle East) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The political consultations centered on reviewing the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, collaboration on issues of mutual interest at regional and international forums, and possibilities for enhanced collaboration in other fields including food security, agriculture, poultry, livestock, tourism and oil exploration. In addition to his call on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the Kuwaiti Assistant Foreign Minister also met the Interior Minister, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Board of Investment Chairman, and Economic Affairs Ministry Secretary.

Pakistan and Kuwait have a long-standing fraternal relationship, marked by warmth between the leadership and abiding ties between the two peoples, rooted in shared faith, culture and traditions.

President Dr Arif Alvi visited Kuwait in October 2020 to offer condolences on the sad demise of late Emir of Kuwait.

Earlier, the Foreign Minister had visited Kuwait in May 2019.

Pakistan's cooperation with Kuwait was further solidified as the two countries cooperated intensively in health sector and food security in the wake of the global pandemic.

Kuwait is an important country of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The leadership of Kuwait played a pivotal role in facilitating the resolution of outstanding differences among the brotherly countries of the GCC through diplomatic means – a role appreciated by Pakistan as well as the wider international community.

<https://nation.com.pk/30-Jan-2021/pakistan-kuwait-discuss-investment-in-cpec-related-projects>

Express News

چین کے سفیر کو بھی نیب سے شکایت ہے، ڈپٹی چیئر مین سینیٹ

ڈپٹی چیئر مین سینیٹ سلیم ماٹھوی والانے کہا ہے کہ چین کی حکومت کے ساتھ ہونے والے معاہدوں کی پوچھ گچھ کی وجہ سے چینی سفیر نے بھی نیب کی شکایت کی ہے۔ ہفتے کو کراچی چیئر آف کامرس میں تاجروں اور صنعت کاروں سے خطاب کے دوران انہوں نے کہا کہ نیب پر تنقید اس لیے کرتا ہوں کہ نیب میں تاجر برادری کے خلاف غیر ضروری مقدمات قائم کیے جاتے ہیں۔ میرا مقصد یہ نہیں کہ نیب کرپشن کو نہ پکڑے بلکہ نیب کاروباری شعبے کو ہدف نہ بنائے۔ کاروبار میں بے قاعدگی کے کیسز ایف آئی اے سمیت دیگر ادارے جانچ کرتے ہیں۔ جو لوگ نیب کی وجہ سے ملک چھوڑ کر گئے انکی تفصیل بھی نیب کو بھیجوں گا۔

انہوں نے بتایا کہ چین کے سفیر نے بھی نیب کی شکایت کی ہے کیونکہ نیب چین حکومت کے ساتھ کیے گئے معاہدوں پر پوچھ گچھ کر رہی ہے۔

سلیم ماٹھوی والانے کہا کہ نیب کے کردار سے بینکوں کے صدور بھی تنگ ہیں۔ ٹریڈنگ اکاؤنٹ میں اگر شناخت چوری ہوئی ہے تو پکڑیں لیکن بزنس اکاؤنٹس ہولڈرز کو ہراساں کرنے کا عمل روکا جائے۔ بینک میں کھلنے والا اکاؤنٹ جعلی نہیں ہوتا۔ بینک اکاؤنٹ کھولنے میں بینک کے عملے کا بھی کردار ہوتا ہے۔ اگر بینک کھاتے میں شناخت کی چوری کی گئی تو ملوث شخص اور متعلقہ بینک عملے کے خلاف سخت کارروائی کی جائے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ سیالکوٹ کی طرح کراچی چیئر بھی شہر کو بنائے۔ سیلز ٹیکس کے معاملے پر ایس آر بی اور ایف بی آر میں تنازع ہے۔ ایف بی آر خدمات پر سیلز ٹیکس جمع کرنے کی کوشش کرتا ہے۔ ایف بی آر اور سندھ ریونیو بورڈ کے چیئر مین کو دفتر بلا کر آپ کا مسئلہ حل کروں گا۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ پارلیمنٹ میں سنجیدہ بحث اور قانون سازی ہوتی ہے اور پارلیمنٹ حکومت کی کارکردگی پر بھی نظر رکھتی ہے۔ اگر آپ میرے پاس آجائیں تو حکومت آپ کے پیچھے پڑ جائے گا۔ اس معاملے پر میں ہر جگہ بات کرتا ہوں میرے پاس آنے والی شکایات کے بارے میں چیئر مین نیب کو آگاہ کرتا رہا ہوں۔

ڈپٹی چیئر مین سینیٹ سلیم ماٹھوی والانے کہا ہے کہ حکومت نے آئینی ترمیم سینیٹ الیکشن سے ایک ماہ قبل پیش کی ہے۔ آئینی ترمیم پر طویل بحث کی جاتی ہے۔ حکومت کو چاہیے کہ وہ اگلے سینیٹ الیکشن کے لیے آئینی ترمیم پیش کرے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2136843/1/>

January 31, 2021

Dunya News

PAF plane departs for China to bring first batch of covid-19 vaccine

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – A Pakistan Air Force (PAF) plane has departed for China today (Sunday) to bring the first batch of Covid-19 vaccine comprising five hundred thousand doses. According to details, the plane will land in Pakistan with vaccine on Monday (February 1). The doses will be transported from Beijing in a special Chinese container. The authorities have confirmed that China has donated a total of 1.1 million vaccine doses to Pakistan. On the other hand, the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) deliberated over the

strategy to administer the corona virus vaccine across the country. The meeting was told that a proper storage center has been built in Islamabad for the doses.

The vaccine will be shifted to all provinces by air from the federal capital and all preparations have been finalized in this regard. A special vaccination center has been constituted at the NCOC under which all provincial and district bodies will function.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has reported 34 deaths in the last 24 hours by novel corona virus as the number of positive cases has surged to 544,813. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 11,657.

According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 1,599 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours.

Sindh remains the worst-hit province by the pandemic in terms of cases followed by Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad.

Till now 246,437 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 157,353 in Punjab, 66,953 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 41,359 in Islamabad, 18,815 in Balochistan, 8,988 in Azad Kashmir and 4,908 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Pakistan has so far conducted 7,932,196 corona virus tests and 42,455 in the last 24 hours. 499,974 corona virus patients have recovered in the country whereas 2,125 patients are in critical condition.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/585786-PAF-plane-China-bring-first-batch-covid-vaccine>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی طبی عملے کی مدد سے پاکستانی شہری کو ایک نئی زندگی مل گئی

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) شوزومیڈیکل یونیورسٹی (ایکس ایم یو) سے منسلک ہسپتال کے چینی طبی عملے کے علاج سے ایک پاکستانی شہری کو نئی زندگی مل گئی۔ چائنا کاناک نیٹ کے مطابق ہسپتال سے صحت یاب ہونے والے پاکستانی انجم اقبال نے کہا کہ چینی ڈاکٹر بہت اچھے ہیں۔ یہ عمدہ طبی مہارت رکھتے ہیں جن کے علاج سے مجھے ایک نئی زندگی ملی۔ 48 سالہ اقبال کو اگست 2017 میں ملٹی میلوما کی تشخیص ہوئی تھی، ان کی بیماری قابو میں تھی۔ تاہم اگست 2019 میں اس پر اس بیماری کا دوبارہ حملہ ہوا۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ مارچ 2020 میں، ان کی اہلیہ نے ایک اعلیٰ بین الاقوامی میڈیکل جریدے میں ایک مضمون پڑھا، جس میں اس بیماری کے علاج کے لئے ایکس ایم یو سے منسلک ہسپتال کی چیئرمان ڈاکٹر ریسپیٹری سیل امیونوتھراپی کی تازہ ترین کامیابی کے بارے میں بتایا گیا تھا۔ انہوں نے اس ہسپتال میں آنے اور ٹیکار کا علاج کرانے کا فیصلہ کیا۔ کوویڈ 19 وبائی بیماری کے اثرات کی وجہ سے، آخر کار اقبال اور ان کی اہلیہ نومبر 2020 کے آغاز میں چین آئے۔ دو ہفتوں کے قریب کے بعد اقبال کو 16 نومبر کو ایکس ایم یو کے منسلک ہسپتال میں داخل کر لیا گیا۔ یکم دسمبر کو ہسپتال میں محکمہ ہیماٹولوجی کے آؤٹ پشٹ کلینک میں ایفیرس کی گئی تھی۔ ٹیو مر بائیو تھراپی سنٹر میں ایفیرس ڈی 19 اور ایفیرس ایف اے سی آر ٹی سیل تیار کیے گئے تھے اور 16 دسمبر کو ٹرانسفر ہو گئے تھے۔ تاہم نرسنگ سپروائزر ہوٹنگ یونے مشاہدہ کیا کہ اقبال کی حالت غیر تسلی بخش ہے، اس سے نمٹنے کے لئے، ہو اور نرسنگ ساتھیوں نے اقبال کو بروقت نفسیاتی مشورے اور نگہداشت فراہم کی۔ یہاں تک کہ انہوں نے انکی شادی کی ساگرہ منانے میں بھی مدد کی، جو ان کے لئے حیرت کا باعث تھا۔ ان ساری کوششوں سے دونوں کے ذہنی تناؤ میں کمی آئی۔ جلد ہی، اقبال کے علاج کے مثبت اثرات نظر آنا شروع ہو گئے۔ 8 جنوری کی جانچ پڑتال سے پتہ

چلتا ہے کہ اس کی بیماری پر قابو پایا گیا ہے۔ اقبال پر جوش لہجے میں کہا کہ میں نے محسوس کیا کہ میرا جسم بہت بہتر ہے، اور مجھے زیادہ پر اعتماد ہوں۔ علاج کے بارے میں بات کرتے ہوئے ان کی اہلیہ متعدد بار آبدیدہ ہو گئیں۔ ابتدا میں اس نے کہا کہ ابتدائی دنوں میں مجھے لگا کہ اپنے شوہر کی دیکھ بھال کرنا سخت محنت کا باعث ہے کیونکہ وہ شدید بیمار تھے۔ یہ سب ڈاکٹروں اور نرسوں کی مدد سے ممکن ہو سکا ہے۔ انہوں نے ہسپتال کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ آپ سب کا شکریہ۔ یہ صرف آپ سب کی وجہ سے ہے جس نے ہمارے کنبے کو نئی امید دی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-01-31/page-10/detail-34>