



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

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November 01-15, 2020

A pilot project of PICS

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**November 01, 2020**

**Pakistan Observer**

**Corona: China delivers online training to Pakistani medics**

Islamabad: Over 50 health professionals from eight countries including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia participated in third Virtual Training Courses on rational use of medicines for health professionals in South and Southeast Asia. The course, held successfully in Kunming, was co-sponsored by Department of Commerce of Yunnan, China and Kunming Medical University (KMU), China.

The course was broadcast live online in both Chinese and English language. Thousands of audience watched live broadcast via open link, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Saturday. According to the event organizer KMU, five Pakistanis were among these health professionals. Dr. Somia Iqtadar, Associate Professor of Medicine at King Edward Medical University, Lahore and also General Secretary of Pakistan Society of Internal Medicine, expressed her thanks to KMU for hosting such a wonderful training session for everyone. She added that she learned a lot about principles of antimicrobial use, drug use in special population, ways to minimize drug use errors, national laws and regulations to improve AMS specifications, and rational use of medicine amid COVID-19. ‘We invited eight leading experts from the Sixth People’s Hospital Affiliated to Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

<https://pakobserver.net/corona-china-delivers-online-training-to-pakistani-medics/>

**The Express Tribune**

**Pakistan to seek China loan rollover**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to seek rollover of a \$3 billion Chinese trade finance facility that it has actually used to repay maturing debt and is not in a financial position to return the money when the facility expires after six months.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has fully tapped the \$3 billion or 20 billion Chinese Yuan in the additional trade finance facility available under the China-Pakistan currency swap arrangement, showed financial accounts of the SBP for fiscal year 2019-20.

Sources said Pakistan largely utilized the Chinese trade finance facility to repay foreign debt and keep its gross foreign currency reserves at comfortable levels.

The bilateral currency swap agreement (CSA) was reached by the SBP and the Peoples Bank of China (PBOC) in December 2011 “in order to promote bilateral trade, finance direct investment and provide short-term liquidity support”, according to the central bank.

The original agreement had been renewed in December 2014 for a period of three years with overall limit of 10 billion Yuan or \$1.5 billion. It was further extended in May 2018 for a period

of three years, with the amount being increased to 20 billion Yuan or \$3 billion. The agreement is now going to expire in May next year.

“The (State) Bank purchased and utilized CNY 20,000 million (Rs475 billion) during the year with the maturity buckets of three months to one year,” said the SBP’s financial statement.

“We plan to roll over the CSA (currency swap agreement) for another three years in 2021,” said a spokesman for the central bank.

The trade facility, originally meant to promote bilateral trade in respective local currencies, has been instead used for paying foreign debt.

The \$3 billion money is part of the current \$12.1 billion in foreign currency reserves held by the central bank.

“Proceeds of the CSA of RMB 20 billion are part of the SBP reserves,” the central bank spokesman confirmed to The Express Tribune.

Pakistan paid Rs20.5 billion in interest to China on using the \$3 billion trade finance facility in the last fiscal year, showed the central bank’s financial statement. China has become Pakistan’s largest creditor for the past few years.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, like its predecessor, has failed to tap non-debt creating inflows, which has exposed the country to various risks.

The existing \$12.1 billion worth of official foreign currency reserves have largely been built through borrowing, including from private commercial banks.

The currency swap arrangement was originally directed at facilitating traders of the two countries, but Pakistan is using this window to inflate its foreign currency reserves.

If China does not extend the facility on its expiry, the central bank will have to arrange 20 billion Yuan or \$3 billion to return the Chinese loan. It will then use the dollars it holds to buy Chinese Yuan from the market, which will have a direct impact on the reserves.

As of September this year, the central bank borrowed \$5.8 billion from commercial banks under the forward and currency swap arrangements, according to the SBP data.

Just six months ago, in February 2020 when Pakistan was implementing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan programme, the SBP’s borrowing under the swap and future contracts was \$2.9 billion, including \$1.6 billion in long-term contracts.

Before the start of IMF programme in July last year, the SBP’s short-term borrowing had jumped to \$7.8 billion, which the central bank started curtailing under an IMF condition.

The SBP’s decision to tap the Chinese trade facility for debt payment has provided temporary relief and the government will have to find sustainable long-term avenues to meet external financial needs.

Another \$4 billion in short-term loan is maturing in the next few months that Pakistan borrowed from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, said the sources.

Although the government expects that the Gulf countries will extend these loans for another year, it will have to make concerted efforts to make sure it actually happens.

The government has also not been able to get the suspended \$6 billion IMF programme restored. The IMF is not bending on two conditions of introducing a mini-budget and increasing electricity tariffs, which has complicated matters for Prime Minister Imran Khan whose government is already facing criticism for a constantly high inflation.

Sources said the delay in restoring the IMF programme could undermine programme loans from the other two multilateral creditors, which were critical to return \$10.6 billion in maturing loans in the current fiscal year.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2270589/pakistan-to-seek-china-loan-rollover>

## **The News**

### **It's a system based on meritocracy: Imran fancies Chinese model**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan says he wants to replicate the Chinese model in Pakistan that lifted 700 million people out of poverty within a short period of 40 years.

In an interview with the German magazine Der Spiegel on Friday, Imran said despite not having electoral politics, the Chinese were good at bringing the best people to the top.

“It's a system based on meritocracy.”

Imran admired the Chinese model saying, “How the Communist Party sort of sifts through all the talent and brings it to the top.”

“Furthermore, in the past seven years, China has put 450 ministerial level officials in jail on corruption charges. Countries aren't poor because of a lack of resources. It's because of corruption among the leadership,” he continued.

“As we know from the Panama Papers, the same is true for Pakistani politicians. Millions of dollars went into properties in the most expensive areas in London, siphoned off from this country,” he continued.

Expressing concern over India's antics in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K), he warned that the region was a hotspot that could “flare up anytime”, urging the United States to treat it in an “evenhanded” manner.

Imran said the US was under the impression that India could limit China's influence in the region, but it was a completely flawed premise.

“India is a threat to its neighbours, to China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and to us. It has the most extremist racist government in the subcontinent. It is a fascist state inspired by the Nazis in the 1920s and ‘30s,” said the premier.

Imran said Islamabad expected an evenhanded treatment from the US with respect to India “especially with the dispute in Kashmir”.

“The region is a hotspot. It can flare up anytime. That’s why we expect the US, as the strongest country in the world, to be evenhanded, whoever becomes the president.”

Explaining the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party’s (BJP) anti-Islam manifesto, the premier said: “Read the writings of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the intellectual forerunner of PM Narendra Modi’s party. They openly admired Hitler. The Nazis wanted to get rid of the Jews. The RSS wanted to rid India of the Muslims.”

Responding to a question about the US elections, Imran noted that Joe Biden was in front in the opinion polls but “Donald Trump is very unpredictable because he’s not like normal politicians.”

“He plays by his own rules,” said the premier with a hint of admiration that did not go unnoticed by his interviewer.

The prime minister reminisced that “as a politician who started his own party and then built it up into the biggest party in Pakistan over 22 years, I also had to do a lot of out-of-the-box-thinking”.

“We were the first to rely on the social media and the first to attract the youth to our rallies. We had to be very unorthodox, and in some ways, Donald Trump does that too.”

Explaining Pakistan’s role in the Afghan peace deal, Imran dismissed the perception of Islamabad’s close ties with the Taliban.

“With 2.7 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, we have a certain amount of leverage, which we used to the utmost,” he explained. “I am very pleased that we succeeded.”

The premier observed that Pakistan had nothing to do with the 9/11 terror attacks and reiterated that the country should not have gotten involved in the war in Afghanistan.

“I opposed it from day one. The US put pressure on us, and the military dictator Pervez Musharraf succumbed to that pressure.”

Imran reminded the interviewer that Osama bin Laden was a hero in the 1980s.

“He supported the Mujahideen against the Soviets in Afghanistan, and he was backed by both the CIA and Pakistan.”

“It was Pakistan’s right to recognize the Taliban, but Pakistan had no control over them. When Pakistan asked the Taliban to hand over Osama Bin Laden to the Americans, they refused. No one can predict which way things will go in Afghanistan right now,” he said.



“What I can say is that after Afghanistan, the country that wants peace most is Pakistan. We have lost 70,000 people in this conflict, and our tribal areas adjacent to the Afghan border have been devastated in the last 15 years.”

“Half of the people in these areas have become internally displaced, about 1.5 million of them [have become] victims of the conflict between the Pakistan Taliban and the army.”

Imran said his government, from day one, had been fostering dialogue. He said he spoke to Afghanistan’s High Council for National Reconciliation lead Dr Abdullah Abdullah prior to meeting with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

“We have no favorites in Afghanistan. Our only interest is that the future government in Kabul does not allow India to operate from there against Pakistan,” he asserted, stressing that Hekmatyar not only accepts the constitution in Afghanistan, but also participated in the elections.

Regretting the “double game” image given to Islamabad, PM Imran said it started in the 1980s, after the Iranian revolution.

“Many in the West began looking at Muslim countries as if there was a divide between liberals and fundamentalists — a very artificial assessment,” he reflected.

“Muslim countries are no different from other communities. All communities are divided into moderates, which make up the majority, and the extremists.”

Stressing his push for peace, PM Imran said he offered mediation in the Yemen conflict as soon as he came into power. “Such a colossal human rights disaster is going on there.”

The premier said he spoke with Iran and Saudi Arabia’s Mohammad bin Salman. “But you can’t force anybody to agree on peace talks if they don’t want to.”

Imran noted that a Saudi-Iran war “would be a disaster” and “devastating for countries all over the world, especially the poor, and the price of oil would shoot up”.

Discussing Middle East’s growing ties with Israel, Imran reiterated Pakistan’s position.

“Every country has its own foreign policy priorities. They have to think about their own people, and it’s their decision.”

“As for Pakistan, the founder of the nation, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, a brilliant man, spoke in the 1940s about the Palestinian situation as a huge violation of human rights. Pakistan still takes this view,” he asserted. “Unless there’s a just settlement, we cannot recognize Israel.”

The premier said he was undeterred by the opposition uniting against him, terming the movement a blackmail to get rid of corruption cases.

“But there’s no way I will ever relent,” he stressed.

“Look, we are facing the biggest trade gap in our history. Pakistan’s imports are \$60 billion, but exports are only \$20 billion. The rupee is falling and there’s inflation because we import fuel. Everything is getting more and more expensive, even electricity,” he admitted.

“We have to raise our revenues, so we have to increase our tax base. We’re going through these painful reforms and all these guys from the opposition get together. They are worried that once we stabilize things, they will all end up in jail because of huge corruption cases.”

As leader of a country with one of the lowest COVID-19 tallies, Imran explained his government decided to impose smart lockdowns keeping in view that almost half of the population lived on daily and weekly wages.

“We only restricted areas if we found that there was an outbreak, and we did not stop our supply lines. We did not stop the agriculture sector and quickly reopened the construction sector, because that’s what employs the most people in the urban areas.”

“That saved us,” he reflected. “India instead restricted people to their homes in poor areas - a complete lockdown. They have a lot of poverty now; same in Iran.”

Imran said around 180,000 to 200,000 people are getting tested every week as the national coordination team looks at multiple statistics with a clear composite picture of the epidemic.

“From peak numbers in June, we saw a steady decline in cases, positivity and deaths across the country until late August. Now, we’re hoping to survive the second wave.”

“Only a fool doesn’t talk about everything with his wife,” said the premier.

“She has great wisdom. I discuss everything with her, also problems I face in government, dealing with complex situations. She is my soul mate. She is my companion. I would not have survived without her.”

When asked about the new law prohibiting the media to report on the military, the prime minister said there would be “another way of dealing with security forces — not through the media but through the government”.

“I will speak to the army chief if I think there’s something wrong. There are always human rights violations in military operations and sometimes we speak about it when it happens. But this should not be done in public.”

“When soldiers are risking their lives, you cannot demoralize them in public,” he explained.

The premier, once again, insisted that Pakistan enjoyed “more freedom of speech than almost any Western country”.

“And I use the word freedom very carefully, after having spent almost two decades of my life in England, where they have very strong laws on slander,” he stressed.

“There was a defamation case between me and an English cricket star that I won, because defamation laws are very strong there. But such slander laws don’t exist in Pakistan. I have been wrongly slandered as prime minister, here and gone to court, but even as prime minister, I haven’t been able to get justice.”



When the interviewer pointed out that the new law only protected the security apparatus, the premier insisted that “as long as criticism is based on truth and facts, it will be accepted.”

“Every day, our security forces lose people in battle. Every country protects its institutions, not when they do something wrong, but when they’re being attacked,” he concluded.

Meanwhile, addressing the conclusion session of the National Rehmatul Lil Aalameen Conference in Islamabad, Imran said the Muslims also believed in the freedom of expression but hurting sentiments of over 1.25 billion Muslims was no freedom of expression.

He emphasized that it was imperative for the heads of Islamic nations to convey to the West and the United Nations that the Muslims also believed in the freedom of expression but hurting sentiments of others was not such freedom.

“To make sketches under the garb of freedom of expression is not permissible. The West has no understanding of our religious sensitivities and what our bond is with Holy Prophet PBHU, it above everything,” he maintained.

He insisted, “I believe that anything that hurts any community, must not be done”.

He said Pakistan would take the lead in engaging with the leaders of the Muslim world to effectively counter the surge of Islamophobia in the Western world, sensitizing the European nations to how important it was to desist from hurting others’ sentiments.

He recalled to have spoken on these matters in the UN General Assembly and during his interaction with the OIC leaders.

He contended that it was the responsibility of the Muslim leaders to get them understood as to how much deep love we had for our Holy Prophet (PBHU) and would never like any of the prophets to be disrespected.

Imran Khan noted that he had already written letters to the heads of Muslim countries and he would personally contact them to evolve a common strategy against Islamophobia.

He said the Jewish community was very small in number but they were very organized adding that they were very powerful in the media and no media or politician could dare talk against the Holocaust.

“Rather, there are four countries, where if someone talks that two million and not six million Jews were killed, he is put in jail. None has the right to hurt others’ sentiments. The Jews with unity in their ranks launched a very effective campaign and today because of that no one can talk on this subject,” he emphasized.

While Muslims, he argued, were 1.25 billion in population across the globe but they couldn’t do that. I have to say it that unfortunately it was our leadership’s failure that we did not do that.

“I assure you that God willing, we will do our best and launch a campaign and contact others as well. If we can make them understand that lakhs of Muslims were killed in the last 30 years in

Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq and it did hurt us but when someone commits blasphemy of our beloved Holy Prophet (PBUH), the injury is unmatched,” he noted.

Imran was sure that they would be able to convince the West on this matter.

“Because we are sitting and we don’t suffer. But those lakhs of Muslims, who live in the Western countries, when such incident happens, they suffer massively. Attacks are unleashed on the mosques, people are thrown out of jobs and women with veil are ridiculed on roads. And with this Islamophobia increases,” he explained.

He recalled when he first visited the Europe at the age of 18 as a cricketer, he found there funny movies on the life of Prophet Essa (PBUH), as they did not consider it bad for they did not love their prophets, and there was no as such reaction in the West. But on the contrary, he said, the Muslims had deep love and respect for all prophets, including Hazrat Essa (PBUH) and Prophet Musa (PBUH) and they never even think of disrespecting any of them, what to talk of Holy Prophet (Peace be Upon Him).

Imran said when Rushdie wrote a book 30 years back, which was against Islam, there was a valid outcry in the Muslim world and Rushdie also knew it for he was born in a Muslim family in India but the West could not understand it what had happened to the Islamic world.

He noted that majority of the people in the West had become atheist and a very small number of people followed religion. But the majority in the West, he pointed out, viewed the Muslims as narrow-minded and against democracy and their values.

Taking advantage of this, the prime minister noted, a small section of the society in the West ran a campaign against Islam and wanted it to be viewed as bad and for this it was doing a propaganda against Islam.

The Muslim leaders, he emphasized, should have raised this matter with the United Nations and the Europeans that hurting sentiments in the name of freedom of expression should not be allowed and a small section of their society should not be permitted to hurt them, which wanted to paint a bad picture of them and this campaign was very dangerous.

Imran Khan said Pakistan was carved out with the vision to build it on the principles of State of Madina.

He said, “We are confronting problems today because unfortunately we deviated from the ideology of our founding fathers. But things will improve gradually, as Pakistan will move towards its principles of being an Islamic welfare state”.

He announced a law would be passed making it compulsory for the students of class seven, eight and nine to study the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBHU).

He said the Holy Prophet (PHBU) made unparalleled accomplishments, which no other person could achieve.

He emphasized that the study of Seerat-un-Nabi (PHBU) (blessed life) would help the students better understand the personality of the Holy Prophet (PBHU) as well as the teachings of Islam.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/737405-it-s-a-system-based-on-meritocracy-imran-fancies-chinese-model>

## **November 02, 2020**

### **Business Recorder**

#### **Metro train is symbol of Pak-China friendship: minister**

LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Transport Jahanzeb Khan Khichi has said that metro train is the symbol of Pak-China friendship.

He was talking to the passengers during his travelling along with the delegation of overseas Pakistanis on Orange Line Metro Train, here Sunday. The Minister also reviewed the arrangements and directed the administration to further improve the cleanliness condition. He said that transport facilities of international standard are being made available to the people of the provincial metropolis.

He said that PTI government is continuously struggling to provide quality, honourable and environment friendly transport facilities to the people. The minister further disclosed that more than 4000 people have got employment opportunities from the project of Orange Line Metro Train. This project will help to decrease the traffic pressure in Lahore and environment pollution will be significantly reduced gradually.

He said that all possible resources will be provided to ensure the best possible transport, education and health facilities to the people of the province.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/11/02/9-page/856757-news.html>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **China's Electric Enterprise reinforces Pakistan's energy grid**

Beijing: Recently, the design of Pakistan Binjiasheng Phase III project undertaken by Harbin Electric International (HEI) has entered the sprint stage, procurement has been basically completed, equipment delivery about to enter the peak period, and the on-site construction fully opened.

According to Gwadar Pro on Sunday, the project team is coordinating the design, production, manufacturing supervision, logistics, construction, commissioning and other participating parties to move forward in accordance with the plan.

When completed, the project will provide electricity security for Karachi, Pakistan's largest city. This is the first F-class Single-Shaft Combined-Cycle Power Plant project of HEI, which fills up

blank of Single-Shaft Combined Cycle project performance and plays an important role in developing joint cycle power station market of the company.

Binjiasheng is a typical Brownfield project, which involves a large number of old plant interface and transformation work in addition to the new power plant.

HEI contacts other partners to participate in the construction, not only integrates large Chinese SOEs and private enterprises, but also cooperates with foreign companies such as Siemens of Germany and ABB of Switzerland. The temporary transfer of the project is expected to be completed on December 26, 2021.

Following the Binjiasheng Phase II 560MW Combined-Cycle Power Plant project, HEI and KE once again cooperated with Binjiasheng Phase III, which fully reflects the trust and recognition of the owners in the strength of HEI and is a good testimony of the friendship between China and Pakistan.

Jamshoro Project and Binjiasheng Phase III Project are currently two key construction projects of HEI in Pakistan, which are of great significance in alleviating the shortage of power supply in Pakistan.

The Jamshoro project is the latest clean coal-fired project undertaken by Siemens and HEI in Pakistan for the first time under the name of consortium.

At present, the project is making stable progress. The main equipment, such as boilers and steam turbines, has arrived at the site. It is expected to be completed in May 2022. In 1983, HEI selected Pakistan as its first destination to expand the international market by undertaking the construction of the Pakistan's Guddu Combined-Cycle Power Plant, which was hailed as the pioneering work of its "going out".

The 1,180 MW Bhikki Combined-Cycle Power Plant is China's first H-class Combined-Cycle project with the largest overseas installed capacity, and is the first batch of power plants to adopt this model worldwide.

Similar to this achievement in Pakistan's heavy gas turbine construction history also includes 1,223 MW Balloki Combined-Cycle Power Plant project.

Relevant personnel of HEI told Gwadar Pro that the Pakistani government always attaches great importance to and supports its epidemic prevention. A joint prevention mechanism with HEI at the beginning of the outbreak of Covid-19 was established as on-site epidemic prevention facilities, improve personnel awareness and reserve protective materials which have made great contributions to keeping the corona virus out of the project gate.

During the epidemic, project department of HEI donated a total of 2,000 N95 masks, 2,000 pairs of protective gloves, 1,000 protective masks, and 600 protective clothing.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-electric-enterprise-reinforces-pakistans-energy-grid/>

## The Express Tribune

### **SEZs development: challenges abound**

LAHORE: Management companies responsible for developing the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across Pakistan have been irked by the way different regulatory institutions associated with the process are handling matters.

A majority of officers of such companies are from the private sector, who want to streamline things in a bid to attract investors to these zones, no matter domestic or foreign. However, on the other hand, there is duplication of roles of inefficient state agencies in the management of SEZs, which make processes lengthy.

For instance, these enterprises have to go through a lengthy process for getting approval for an SEZ unit under the SEZ Act and have to pass through the SEZ committee, provincial SEZ authority, the Board of Investment (BOI), district administration and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), to name a few.

Officials of all the above-mentioned agencies are part of the SEZ committee, still one has to pass through all the federal and provincial departments, which is not encouraging and undermines the country's slogan of increased ease of doing business for investors. Pakistan's economic managers and private sector experts believe the nine SEZs, which are to be established under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), can help the country's shrinking manufacturing base to start expanding once again. Nevertheless, there are many issues which have to be resolved first.

SEZs have been identified globally as an inclusive economic growth instrument. Policymakers across developing economies are implementing different forms of SEZ programmers, with objectives ranging from creating jobs, increasing household incomes and overall economic activity in lagging regions to enabling export diversification and economic transformation.

According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), in developing Asia, the foreign direct investment (FDI) attracted by economies that do not have SEZs is 82.4% lower than those with SEZs.

China, with a relatively regulated economy, has successfully used this strategy to pursue market liberalization in its designated SEZs and has created 30 million employment opportunities with approximately 60% of exports and 22% of the country's income.

China wants Pakistan to follow in its footsteps and is offering joint ventures in different sectors by relocating its units to such economic zones. However, this could only be done once such zones are fully established with all facilities and the promised tax break.

According to some of the SEZ developing companies, under the SEZ Act, a 10-year income tax holiday was available to such enterprises that would start commercial production by June 30, 2020. The tax break will be reduced to five years if the enterprises go into commercial

production after the deadline, even though most of the SEZs are currently under the development phase.

On the flip side, despite giving the tax break, 1.5% turnover tax has been imposed, which proves high for the enterprises. Minimum tax, withholding tax on imports of raw material and supply of goods, advance tax on electricity consumption and quarterly advance tax are some other levies that the enterprises have to pay despite the 10-year tax break, which is against the spirit of the SEZ Act.

In the SEZs, all the industries do not require benefits as some are already exempted from taxes, especially the major export-focused industries, pioneer and green-field projects.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the cottage industry usually prefer domestically assembled plant and machinery, thus they are not required to pay tax on the import of plant and machinery. The most recent issue is a letter issued by the BOI on October 10, where the SEZ developers have been directed to stop the sale of plots till the finalization of a policy in this regard.

The move comes in a bid to halt speculative real estate activities, but at the same time the bar on developers means they will have insufficient funds for development work in the industrial estates.

Among scores of issues, connectivity, allocation of funds and provision of all utilities are a few major challenges.

All such factors are not favorable for a smooth development of the nine SEZs within the set time frame. The SEZ Act needs to be revisited, and if not, then all the authorities must give a free hand to the developers.

Unnecessary involvement of different regulatory institutions has not brought desired results in the past and with the same practice, the goal to turn Pakistan into an export base may not be met.

Regional countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam may be the next venues under the global shift for different companies trying to relocate from China. Many Pakistani exporters are already anticipating this great miss by the country due to stringent policies and regulations.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2270668/sezs-development-challenges-abound>

**November 03, 2020**

**Daily Times**

### **CPEC continues to progress amid pandemic**

A second wave of the novel corona virus has begun. Already the public health crisis has had a huge impact on the global economy. One of the few bright spots is China's economy is rapidly recovering after it took decisive action in its battle against the virus. China's exports climbed by



9.5 percent during August and this bears testimony to the huge trust countries have in China's unbreakable supply chains. This has been of particular importance to those countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative, as China's economic recovery has meant cooperation under the framework of the initiative has been sustained.

A manifestation of the close-knit cooperation between Pakistan and China, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is the crown of their economic ties and it has been progressing at a steady pace despite the pandemic.

Pakistan-China strategic partnership, based on mutual interests, has stood up to all the tests of the times. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the biggest joint venture, is a collection of infrastructures being built to enhance the geographical linkages connecting China's Xinjiang to Arabian Sea, through Pakistan, giving it a way out to the sea at Gwadar, for their trade with the Far East and the West. Besides China and Pakistan, the project will also have positive impact on Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asian Republics and even India. Improved road, rail and air transport systems with free exchanges of growth/people to people contact, enhanced understanding through academic, cultural and regional knowledge and smooth flow of trade and businesses through a win-win model is likely to result in a well-connected integrated region of shared destiny, harmony and development.

For Pakistan, CPEC is intended to rapidly upgrade the required infrastructure and strengthen its economy by construction of modern transport network, numerous energy projects and Special Economic Zones. Despite all the resistance from the adversaries, construction is successfully on its way to a timely completion.

Resistance and criticism of the CPEC by the US and its allies is quite understandable. However, their policy of a stick and carrot through continuous warnings to Pakistan on the project, facilitating/encouraging anti-state nationalist elements for their anti-CPEC rhetoric at home and abroad and offering new business opportunities to Pakistan, have not made any impact on the project.

It is important to note that the CPEC remains the largest and one of the most active of all the Belt and Road programs and it is contributing toward the realization of the vision and mission to create a modern Silk Road that is based on connectivity, togetherness and a community with a shared future. It is also important to note the CPEC projects remain safe from the virus even though there are hundreds of thousands of nationals working in both Pakistan and in China. Currently the people-centric second phase is ongoing with the focus on agriculture cooperation, industrial cooperation and socioeconomic development.

The CPEC is helping to alleviate poverty and improving people's lives. Pakistan is expected to build an economic development environment that can offer more than 2.3 million employment opportunities. The pandemic has been a severe test for all countries. But Pakistan and China have been steadfast in their support for each other. In March, Pakistani President Arif Alvi was one of the first heads of state to visit Beijing and meet with President Xi Jinping after the outbreak of

the virus. On Aug 21, in a message to President Alvi, President Xi stressed the importance of the CPEC to deepening the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and building an even closer community with a shared future between the two countries.

Contrary to negative speculation, China has not withdrawn engineers working on CPEC projects nor laid off Pakistani workers since the outbreak of covid-19 in Pakistan. Currently, CPEC hosts nearly 7000 Chinese and 40,000 Pakistani employees. Over 40,000 Pakistani families are directly supported by the CPEC projects.

The energy sector under CPEC continues to provide power. Transportation projects facilitate the transportation of medical materials. The Special Economic Zones (SEZ)s under CPEC exhibit economic vitality. The social sector under CPEC provides relief to the public.

It is heartening that, owing to concerted precautions for preventing COVID-19, no infection occurred at any of the CPEC projects. The Chinese companies attach great importance to the protection of both Chinese and Pakistani employees. Some companies are planning to send medical teams to Pakistan to better protect the projects and the joint interests of the two peoples.

Despite the black clouds of covid-19 hovering, CPEC endeavors in the backdrop of the pandemic are providing social, industrial and economic support to Pakistan

During the pandemic, China has provided material support to Pakistan, including masks, ventilators, medicines and all kinds of supplies. And when China was struggling against the virus, Pakistan immediately expressed its solidarity and offered donations and assistance despite its own difficulties. Both countries committed to continue cooperation on the CPEC, and the work on CPEC projects has continued with the same vigor as before. Precautionary measures of all kinds and revised standard operating procedures were adopted but progress on the projects neither stopped nor slowed.

The Orange Line Metro Train, an early harvest project under the CPEC, was inaugurated in Lahore on Oct 25. The subway is considered one of the most advanced railway transport projects in South Asia. Two major hydroelectric power projects, Diamir Bhasha Dam and Azad Pattan Hydel Power Project, have also been inaugurated. In all, nine energy projects of the CPEC have been completed with eight more under construction. These energy projects are helping diverse sectors including agriculture, industry and energy.

The sharing of technology expertise and best practices in agriculture between China and Pakistan is also underway. Recently, we have witnessed the collaboration of Pakistan and China in relation to the plagues of locust in various parts of Pakistan. The CPEC is attracting investment and building the confidence on Pakistan from across the world. All these developments refute the negative narratives about the CPEC.

Apart from this, the CPEC is also helping to contribute toward the building of a Health Silk Road and a Digital Silk Road. Being an important artery of the Belt and Road Initiative, the CPEC is

diversifying its approach and scope through strong communications, trade and infrastructure and business development opportunities.

The CPEC has helped Pakistan to cope with the challenges resulting from the pandemic. Through stability at the economic level due to the CPEC, Pakistan has been able to recover faster from the challenges posed by the public health crisis. And not only has Pakistan benefited from the Health Silk Road but also the dividends that have been shared across the world through the networks and cooperation forged under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

With the world struggling to cope with the global shortage of medical supplies, China has been helping the world as a result of the connectivity fostered by the Belt and Road Initiative. This is true for Pakistan too where the equipment and protective supplies helped to ensure the country's effective response to the virus.

Throughout the pandemic, collaboration between China and Pakistan has continued on all levels, including the state level, regional level and local level. Leading Chinese enterprises are also showing a keen interest in Pakistani market.

Although the challenges are great, the tireless efforts of both sides mean the friendship and trust between Pakistan and China is beyond any challenge and divide. And both sides believe that the CPEC will not only benefit both countries, but also produce substantial economic and social benefits for the region.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/684932/cpec-continues-to-progress-amid-pandemic/>

## **The Nation**

### **OLMT a blend of Chinese hi-tech and Pakistani culture**

ISLAMABAD - The Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT) is winding through Lahore city like a shining ribbon as the color of the Orange Line was inspired by the national flower of Pakistan, frangipani, which is lively, vibrant and gives people a warm feeling.

“The Orange Line's whole design was a result of the cooperation between the Chinese and Pakistani companies,” said Yuan Jun, President of NORINCO International, in an interview to the China Economic Net (CEN) yesterday.

“Bearing in mind that Lahore is a historical city honored with rich culture, we took the style of local architectures, religions, and customs into consideration, hoping that the design could meet the requirements for functional use as well as improve the urban landscape,” he said. As an early harvest project under the CPEC, the Orange Line was constructed by China State Railway Group Co., Ltd. and China North Industries Corporation and was operated by Guangzhou Metro Group, NORINCO International and Daewoo Pakistan Express Bus Service. The Orange Line is the first metro line in Pakistan. It covers a total of 27 km distance and has 26 stations including 24 elevated stops and two underground stations. The opening of Orange Line, now a new landmark

of the city, has enabled Pakistan to have the most advanced urban rail transit operating system in South Asia.

“As the constructor of the program, we have adopted the most advanced technologies for the Orange Line. For example, the Communication Based Train Control System (CBTC), which is the most superior of its kinds by far, can transmit data via wireless network and monitor the location of the train in real-time, ensuring the security and efficiency of operation,” Yuan explained.

“Furthermore, to adapt to the high temperature and the capacity for power supply in Lahore, designers of the project have enhanced overall equipment in the electricity system and equipped emergency shutoff system to improve the endurance and security of the facilities as well as the ability to deal with emergent situations,” he introduced.

Yuan said, “It’s difficult to employ a large number of local employee’s offline during the epidemic, so we adjusted our strategy in time and interviewed thousands of applicants by video to ensure the supply of personnel.”

At the most critical stage of the project, we chartered a group of skilled Chinese drivers to Pakistan to ensure the operation and maintenance of the Orange Line, he added.

Statistics show that commuting time from the first station to the last station of Orange Line has been shortened from 2.5 hours to 45 minutes.

<https://nation.com.pk/03-Nov-2020/olmt-a-blend-of-chinese-hi-tech-and-pakistani-culture>

### **Pakistan committed to Pak-China ‘All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership’**

LAHORE - China’s Ambassador-designate Nong Rong called on Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood in Islamabad on Monday. The Foreign Secretary reaffirmed strong commitment to Pakistan-China ‘All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership’ and hoped China Pakistan Economic Corridor projects would be fast-tracked. He lauded Ambassador-designate Nong Rong's experience and extended best wishes to him for successful term.

<https://nation.com.pk/03-Nov-2020/pakistan-committed-to-pak-china-all-weather-strategic-cooperative-partnership>

**November 04, 2020**

**Daily Times**

**China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in New Era**

*Nong Rong*

I am honored to be the 18th Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

A few days ago, I departed from Beijing, flew over the towering Karakorum Mountains and arrived in the beautiful city of Islamabad with joy. Although this is my first visit to this country, Pakistan is not at all unfamiliar to me. China and Pakistan are closely interdependent neighbors linked by mountains and rivers. Coming here is just like visiting my brother's home. The Chinese people have created a unique name for Pakistan: Iron Brother to describe the preciousness of the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan.

Over the past 69 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan, no matter how the international situation changed, our two countries have always stood with each other, sharing joy and sorrow, understanding and supporting each other's core interests. China-Pakistan relations have stood at the forefront of the times and been the model of state-to-state friendly coexistence.

In 2015, President Xi Jinping paid a historic state visit to Pakistan. The leaders of the two countries upgraded China-Pakistan relations to the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, rendering China-Pakistan traditional friendship new connotations and bringing China-Pakistan relations to a new height. Prime Minister Imran Khan's thrice visits to China and four meetings with President Xi Jinping after assumed office further consolidated political trust between the two countries. In aligning Belt and Road Initiative with the development strategy of "Naya Pakistan", the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is progressing smoothly. The exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in fields such as trade and investment, science and technology, culture and education, defense and security have deepened continuously and benefited the two peoples. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic this year, China and Pakistan have firmly supported and generously helped each other, and set a model for international cooperation against the pandemic. As President Xi Jinping said to President Dr. Arif Alvi, China and Pakistan are true friends who go through thick and thin together, and good brothers who share weal and woe.

Over the past 69 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan, no matter how the international situation changed, our two countries have always stood with each other, sharing joy and sorrow, understanding and supporting each other's core interests. China-Pakistan relations have stood at the forefront of the times and been the model of state-to-state friendly coexistence

China always views China-Pakistan relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, and gives priority to Pakistan in its neighboring diplomacy. The recent Fifth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China confirmed a set of long-range objectives to basically achieve socialist modernization by 2035 and the major goals of economic and social development during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025). In particular, the session pointed out that China should actively foster a “dual circulation” development pattern in which domestic economic cycle plays a leading role while international economic cycle remains its extension and supplement. That means China will not only build a strong domestic market, but also implement a high-level opening up with the high quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative. China’s diplomacy will continue to uphold the principles of peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit, and promote the building of a new type of international relations and a Community with a Shared Future for the Mankind. We are ready to work with Pakistan to seize the new opportunities brought by China’s development and inject new impetus into bilateral cooperation.

President Xi Jinping pointed out that China-Pakistan relations should become a model of neighbourhood friendship, a pillar of regional peace and stability, and a benchmark for the Belt and Road international cooperation. The year 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China and the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. We should take this opportunity to work together to build a Closer China-Pakistan Community of Shared Future in the New Era.

China is committed to maintaining the momentum of high-level exchanges with Pakistan, and deepening China-Pakistan strategic cooperation. We should earnestly implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, strengthen the exchanges of experience in governance, bring synergy in the development strategies, continue to support each other on issues involving the core interests and major concerns of both sides, and firmly safeguard national sovereignty, territorial integrity and national dignity.

China is committed to expanding all-round practical cooperation with Pakistan to achieve mutually beneficial results. We should promote the high quality construction of the CPEC, focusing more on the cooperation in industrial development, agriculture, science and technology, information, and livelihood-related sectors, so that the dividends of the CPEC can benefit more people of both countries. The two sides should also continue to engage in cooperation of fighting COVID-19, including vaccine cooperation, to create a community of common health for mankind.

China is committed to working with Pakistan to uphold multilateralism and promoting the democratization of international relations. China-Pakistan relations must be at the forefront of promoting the building of a community of a shared future for mankind. Both sides should adhere to the path of openness, inclusiveness, mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, jointly safeguard peace and security, defend international fairness and justice, and oppose hegemonies, unilateralism, and protectionism.



China is committed to enhancing people-to-people bonds with Pakistan and consolidating friendship for generations. The Pakistani film Parwaaz Hai Junoon will be released in China this month, and the Chinese audience is eagerly looking forward to it. Next year, China and Pakistan will jointly commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations; strengthen party-to-party exchanges, and advance exchanges and cooperation in various fields. We would like to encourage people from different walks of life in the two countries to carry out a variety of celebration activities, so that the friendship between China and Pakistan will reach deeper into the hearts of the two peoples, and play a new chapter of harmonious exchanges and mutual learning between different civilizations.

It is both a glorious mission and heavy responsibility for me to assume office at this important juncture. I will stay true to my original aspiration, fulfill my duties, implement the consensus reached by the leaders of our two countries, work closely with all sectors of Pakistani society and make my own contribution to the goal of building a Closer China-Pakistan Community with a Shared Future in the New Era. I have full confidence in the bright prospect of China-Pakistan relations in the future!

Chin-Pak Dosti Zindabad!

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/684992/china-pakistan-community-of-shared-future-in-new-era/>

## **2+2: 2 (USA & India) Against 2 (China & Pakistan)**

*Shakeel Ahmad Ramay*

Old habits die hard. United States of America (USA) is back to business to develop alliances on the basis of self-assumed threats to world peace and freedom. World is being used as proxy to pursue objectives of USA. The war on terror is not over yet as USA has started to build new narratives for conflicts. China is the new obsession for USA and ruling elite of USA is sparing no moment to malign China on one pretext or another. They are leaving no stone unturned in their quest for allies to oppose and undermine China. In this context, India is a match made in heaven for USA in South Asian region. There are multiple reasons for this but the Indian obsession to establish its dominance in the region coupled with anti-Pakistan sentiments makes this deal most favorable for them. They have joined hands against China and Pakistan and trying to sabotage the interests of both countries. Although they have limited success however, they are not giving up. The joint statement of 2+2 meeting is perfect example of such obsession of both states. Although, the meeting was scheduled for deliberation on USA and India's bilateral relation, but it turned into bickering forum against China and Pakistan. USA was busy in convincing India to stand against China while India was asking to circle Pakistan at any cost. In a nutshell, USA tried hard to undermine China and India was hell bent to malign Pakistan no matter what. It seems that the meeting was 2 (USA and India) against 2 (China and Pakistan), not 2+2.

The analysis of joint statement shows that Pakistan and China need to be careful. It seems that USA and India are fixated on the idea of damaging both countries

Joint statement started with focusing on South China Sea at the name of freedom of navigation and rule of law. In reality it is an attempt to undermine the rights of China and hinder development of region. They want to control the flow of traffic in the name of freedom of navigation. The QUAD is a practical attempt to create barriers. It is also evident from the inclusion of Australia in Naval exercise in India, which now will be jointly held by India, USA, Japan and Australia. Experts believe it is an endeavor to create barriers in South China Sea to hinder the free movement of traffic. Howbeit, ASEAN countries, which are real stakeholders of South China Sea, are not convinced of the definition provided by USA. Additionally, USA has also offered India to provide support in standoff with China who will also remain engaged with African Command of US army for future cooperation. It would be interesting to watch, as it seems that US and India want to enhance influence in African region to counter Chinese investment in the region.

During media interaction, Pompeo spent much time maligning China and Communist Party of China (CPC). He tried to impress by declaring that USA will stand by India if any conflict aggravated between China and India. He also blamed China for COVID-19. It is very interesting to note that USA and India failed miserably to counter COVID-19 at domestic level but they keep blaming China. Instead of doing something to protect their people, they prefer to waste time in blaming China. However, both Pakistan and China, in their diplomatic wisdom, avoided to adopt this strategy of blame game in joint statement and focused on building cooperation in the fight against COVID-19.

The establishment of US International Development Cooperation (USIDFC) office in India was considered a major step for enhancing economic cooperation. Joint statement applauded the initiative. However, the underneath objective of establishing USIDFC is to counter Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It is an open secret that USIDFC has been created by US to counter BRI of China. Through BUILD Act in 2018, USA is trying to advance its model of BRI through USIDFC. Thus, it is another attempt to oppose China and topple its historic economic rise. India has been lured through this office to not join BRI. Although, many sane voices from India are asking India to join the BRI because USIDFC has no comparison with BRI. USIDFC has only US\$ 60 billion against BRI which has already have pledged trillions of US dollars.

Howbeit, India preferred to join USIDFC due to its assumed self-greatness. It considers that BRI is a barrier to achieve the major power status in Asia. India is also trying to counter BRI on behalf of USA in other countries by different means. For example, India in collaboration with Japan launched Asia-Africa Growth Corridor and presenting it as alternative of China in African region. It has no comparison with China investment and development assistance to the region. India also offered US\$ 1 billion credit line to Central Asia States for investment in development projects in the areas of connectivity, IT, Energy and others. Again, it is an attempt to present herself as an alternative to China.

Furthermore, joint statement did not forget to mention Pakistan and levy blame on Pakistan on the basis of baseless assumptions. Although, India itself is involved in terrorism and terror

financing but it wants to shift blame on Pakistan. The recent Fin CEN leaks also highlighted the role of India in terror financing. It has mentioned that many big banks of India are involved in money laundering. Recently, a report by international magazine also pointed out role of India in terrorism. It is astonishing to note that USA remained silent on it and started to malign Pakistan on Indian behalf.

Another strange aspect of this alliance is that, on one hand, USA is admiring role of Pakistan against terrorism but on other hand USA has joined India to malign Pakistan. We can understand the position of India, as Indian politics and politicians cannot survive without Pakistan bashing but why USA joined hand with India is beyond apprehension. It is also against the international norms to mention third country without any reason. It seems that USA adopted the statement to appease India for securing its support against China and securing defence deals. It seems that China's obsession has undermined the thinking ability of USA completely. Some experts also believe that USA did it to pressurize Pakistan to get its objectives including roll back of CPEC and China-Pakistan relation, more active role in Afghan peace process etc.

The analysis of joint statement shows that Pakistan and China need to be careful. It seems that USA and India are fixated on the idea of damaging both countries. Although, they talk about the rule of law but in reality, USA and India are violating rule of law on every forum. The actions of India and silence of USA on Kashmir issues is biggest example of this hypocrisy. Besides, both countries are interested to inflate conflicts to divert attention of their people from bad performance of their respective governments on economic and development fronts.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/684990/22-2-usa-india-against-2-china-pakistan/>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **Pakistan-China knowledge sharing move**

OVER the course of time, the world has seen various changes from physical attributes to spiritual growth and political warfare to economic welfare. China's research and development work has bewildered the world for its achievements in all spheres of life; especially the economic development enriched with the modern industrial technology has made China a super economic power at international level. Fortunately China, besides being our neighbor is also an all-weather friend; be it the war or peace, China has been extending material and moral support to Pakistan. The climax of such friendly relations has resulted into the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. This corridor has opened up a number of new vistas for development of trade, industry and investment for Pakistan.

Although, the government and local trade bodies are working hard to get maximum outcome of the given opportunities, yet we, the businessmen, having prior experience of collaboration with Chinese business community gathered in the leadership of renowned businessman Mr. Shah Faisal Afridi to gear up the game changer mega project of CPEC in the wider and equal interest of both the nations. Our reasoning brought Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (PCJCCI) on ground. Immediately after setting up PCJCCI, we realized that the heavy waives of business opportunities emerging from CPEC in favor of Pakistan were not being conceived because of the language barrier. So, a series of Chinese language classes were organized at PCJCCI on an emergent basis to remove this basic fence. The same problem was also identified by Chinese businessmen. They, too, launched a move to promote Urdu language learning in China. Such efforts made at both ends have helped a lot to remove the language barrier between Pakistan and China and now both the nations are at equal ease to explore the business and investment opportunities.

The easy communication and coordination spurred the exchange of frequent delegations between the two countries, which highlighted the significance of knowledge that had helped lay down a strong foundation for Chinese economic development. We found that China had formulated its all development strategies on the basis of solid scientific as well as economic research. Such research has led China to be the richest knowledge reservoir of the world. We, being highly impressed of the Chinese knowledge, formed a think tank at PCJCCI and started discussing Chinese models of development in agriculture, industry, energy, food, infrastructure, technology and even the education system. We sent our students and youth delegations last year to study Chinese model of development. The youth delegations, returning from Chinese study tours gave the feedback that special initiatives must be taken to transfer the knowledge gained by China through extensive research. Basing upon the feedback, we suggested the Government of Pakistan to form a knowledge corridor in collaboration with Chinese universities and research organizations. But, prevailing Corona crisis diverted the attention of our government from development to safety of lives. But, this is encouraging that our government is sharing experiments on the Corona preventive vaccination prepared by China, which can be considered as an initial knowledge and research sharing initiative that will lead to a systematic and sustainable coloration towards knowledge sharing between China and Pakistan.

We are opportune to be on top of the friendship list of China. The Chinese government is very open towards sharing its development, knowledge and expertise in all spheres of life. But, we believe that it is not the mere responsibility of government to do good for the nation. The nation itself should also be pro-active for taking initiatives for larger interest of the country. Therefore, we have created our very own “Knowledge Portal” between the two friendly states. As the name suggests, this portal is very dynamic and especially designed to address the problems and issues regarding import and export. The sole purpose for this step was to enhance the relations between the two nations and to exchange expert knowledge and opinions. Regarding Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR). PCJCCI aims to provide speedy and accurate resolution of disputes through online commercial courts. This will surely lead to better opportunities and connections between the trade of Pakistan and China.

The vision that we hold is to bring China’s research and adequate economic knowledge to Pakistan. This will not only lead us to a better tomorrow but also open up new job opportunities for the young blood. The first step of this knowledge portal is the China-Pakistan Economic

Corridor (CPEC) and Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR). Different laws related to banking, immigration and SECP will be shared and highlighted through this portal. Not only that, this portal will allow the usual public of both the nations to share and explore scope of import and export. The list of top ten exporters and importers will be shared on a regular basis through this knowledge portal. The people of Pakistan and China will be able to post various job opportunities on this portal simultaneously.

The Knowledge Portal is aptly named such for various reasons that are intended to help the region expand, having a world-class talent development system to match its industries, colleges, universities, companies and hospitals. Along with this, the governments of both the nations will also be able to interact with the people on a platform. Just like the Chinese governments' official web portal and the Pakistan's PM portal, this portal will have all the necessary information regarding both the nations. Indeed, portals like these are not only a viable asset to a country but are also a great way for the officials and citizens of a country to interact on a mutual platform. Keeping that in mind, this is one of the most contemporary initiatives taken by the Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

If the few steps for keeping this portal working are taken care of graciously, the portal will be a very fruitful platform. This portal could be the future of Pakistan, if it runs the way it is designed for. The very essence of it can only stay alive when both the friendly nations will put in equal attention and work into this initiative. In a world of technological transformations and changes occurring every day, this portal is definitely a breakthrough for a country like Pakistan. It is time for us to move along with this changing world and to attain new heights of triumph. The PCJCCI community is proud of this step and is more than enthused to take it to its conclusion.

—The writer is President Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-knowledge-sharing-move/>

### **CPEC's protection & qualitative expansion**

THE China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has the mutual political will and trust of both the countries. It also enjoys economic viability, planning relevancy and futuristic cashable value for both the countries. Right from the beginning it has been standing for development, diplomacy and dialogue due to which despite regional “unsound” jealousy, enmity and global “arm-twisting” approach and “mantra” to “stay-away” from China and “slow-down” the caravans of the CPEC is on the way of further strengthening of bilateral relations in terms of high volumes of trade and commerce, inflows of FDIs, energy generation, national and regional connectivity, poverty reduction, job generation and last but not the least, massive industrialization and diversification of economy etc.

Most recently, the government of Pakistan has introduced ‘The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority Bill, 2020’ in National Assembly which has great significance. It hopes that it would speed up various CPEC projects in the country. It provides essential “legal” and “administrative” protection to its authorities to act in good faith in accordance with law to “gear-



up” diversified but integrated activities of CPEC projects in the country. It removes all rumours against the CPECA. It upholds that “no suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall file/report against the CPECA, the chairperson, member, executive director operations, executive director research, employees, officers, experts, consultants or advisors of the authority, in respect of anything done or purported to be done in good faith, under the provisions of this Act or the rules and regulations. It is indeed a “valuation-addition” in the overall performance, productivity and protection of the Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority (PECA).

It also says that “the PECA would be responsible for planning, facilitating, coordination, monitoring and evaluating to ensure implementation of all activates related to the CPEC, ensuring inter-provincial and inter-ministerial coordination, organizing and coordinating meetings and joint cooperation committee and joint working groups, conducting sectoral research for informed decision-making and a long-term planning; monitoring and evaluation and to ensure implementation besides narrative building and communication of CPEC and other related activities from time to time. It hopes that after this legislation CPEC projects and CPECA would be in more “comfort zone” to establish economic free zones, energy production and “operationalization” and “channelization” of its projects in the country. Legal protection will definitely further strengthen PECA strategic orientation, professional capabilities, planning abilities and above all supervisory role in the implementation and execution of the CPEC projects.

Most recently, the CPEC Joint Working Group on Transport Infrastructure held its eighth meeting through a video link at the Ministry of Communications during which it was decided to propose inclusion of Chitral to Chakdara Highway (N-45) that links Swat Motorway as a part of the western route of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. All main stakeholders and officials of Foreign Office, Ministry of Railways, CPEC Authority, Sindh Government, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Balochistan Government, Civil Aviation Authority, and the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Government attended the said meeting. Ultimately, the conference approved the motorway construction plan stretching from Peshawar to D.I. Khan (320KM), Swat Expressway from Chakdara to Fatehpur Phase-II (182KM) and Dir Expressway (30KM).

Secretary Communications briefed about the CPEC’s common vision that marked the friendship of two great countries. He suggested the inclusion of Chitral to Chakdara Highway (N-45) linking Swat Motorway (Chakdara to Karnal Sher Khan Interchange on Motorway M-1) as part of the western route of CPEC which would further strengthen communication “connectivity” and also boost local economies in the days to come. On its part, the Chinese vice Minister of Transport Dai Dongchang, while addressing the meeting termed Pakistan and China’s relationship higher than mountains and improving day by day. He labeled mutual cooperation between the two nations in the construction sector as progressive, productive and expanded which would result in an improved development rate in Pakistan.

He termed the said video link meeting result-oriented and purposeful before appreciating Pakistan’s efforts and commitments on CPEC projects. Additionally, he also announced that



China intends to broaden the scope of CPEC by including further projects. Chairman National Highway Authority stated that the Sukkur-Multan Motorway and Havelian-Thakot Motorway plans have been successfully concluded in a record time frame with high-quality construction. He said that the Thakot-Raikot sector of Karakoram Highway that extends to over 136 KM is a vital link and will play a significant part in the country's development. He emphasized the requirement for a 210 km up-gradation of the D.I.Khan-Zhob Section on a priority basis.

Pakistan is now rigorously planning to take benefits of CPEC projects. China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Limited (CSAIL) is seriously planning to list its subsidiary, renewable energy company Three Gorges First (TGF) Wind Farm Private (Pvt.) Limited on the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) by the second quarter of 2021. It hopes that the listing will have a great impact on the economy as it will set viable option and befitting propositions for future listings. Moreover, it will boost the investors' confidence and bring stability to the market. It will further attract more and more Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPIs) in the country. It would be the first listing by Chinese Company on the PSX.

The CSAIL is an investment holding company formed by state-owned China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG) the largest Chinese clean energy group and the world's largest hydropower group in terms of owned and equity-based installed capacity worldwide and CTG's subsidiary China Three Gorges International Corporation (CTGI). CSAIL had been formed to invest in clean energy projects in the South Asian region with a current focus on Pakistan. The CSAIL has six standalone energy projects in Pakistan, four under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and two independent [non-CPEC]. The CPEC projects of the company include two large hydropower projects, the 1,100MW Kohala Hydropower Project and the 720MW Karot Hydropower Project, both located on Jhelum River, and two wind power projects that include 100MW Three Gorges Second and Third Wind Power Projects. The listing will convey a message that China is willing to share benefits of the projects with the people of the countries it is investing in.

Therefore, the listing is not going to be an IPO to raise funds from the public, but an offer-for-sale (OFS) to make the general public [of Pakistan] shareholders in the project and enable them to earn stable returns. Being a prominent regional expert of CPEC & BRI, I personally estimate that listing of Chinese companies' shares would promote sentiments of positivity in the markets which would further strengthen infrastructural development in the country. It will increase the breadth and options of the stock market. It will strengthen investor confidence. <https://pakobserver.net/cpecs-protection-qualitative-expansion/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **'Value addition key to boosting exports to China'**

Business and industrial communities will have to focus on value addition in an effort to increase Pakistan's exports to China, said Pakistan's Consul General in Shanghai Hussain Haider.

Speaking at a webinar organized by the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) on Tuesday, Haider noted that raw material and less value added products were currently being exported to China while there was immense potential for export of value added products as well. He added that in 2019, the top two products exported to China were copper and related articles, and cotton yarn and similar fabrics, which fetched \$551.2 million and \$351.95 million respectively for the national exchequer.

On the other hand, exports of value added products such as knitted apparel and woven apparel stood at \$47.49 million and \$31.38 million respectively, which clearly indicated that Pakistan's exporters were primarily exporting raw material instead of value added products, he highlighted.

He told webinar participants that the Yangtze River Delta region in China, which comprised Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui areas, was the most technologically advanced region with the highest per capita income as well as gigantic contribution to the Chinese gross domestic product (GDP).

“This is the region where Pakistani exporters must look for avenues of enhancing trade by focusing on value addition,” he said. “At the same time, attention must be paid to digitization because digitalization for business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) modes has increased in the Yangtze River Delta region.”

He highlighted that Pakistani Consulate in Shanghai had identified numerous sectors that Pakistani manufacturers could tap because they already had the expertise and were expected to capture a sizeable share in the Chinese market.

These sectors included textile and clothing, value added textile, garments, medical and surgical equipment, sports goods and leather apparel.

He pointed out that the sister city status for Karachi and Shanghai could also provide a basis for economic cooperation. “To further strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties, cooperation between Karachi and Shanghai is required,” he said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2270942/value-addition-key-to-boosting-exports-to-china>

### **CPEC has attracted \$25 billion investments in Pakistan**

BEIJING: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has achieved major progress since its launch seven years ago, bringing a total of \$25 billion of direct investments to the country, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

During his regular briefing in Beijing, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin noted that many projects has been started or completed under CPEC, a dynamic project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) launched by President Xi Jinping.

He particularly mentioned the completion of Orange Line Metro Line (OLMT) in Lahore, Pakistan's first electric-powered public transport project. “Last month as an early harvest project,

the Orange Line, was made operational, marking the beginning of the subway era for Pakistan,” he said.

Wang said that projects completed under CPEC, had enhanced infrastructure and power supply in Pakistan and created employment opportunities for the locals and contributed towards the growth of gross domestic product (GDP).

“These projects enhanced infrastructure and electricity supply in the country and created more than 70,000 direct positions and contributed 1 to 2 percentage points of the country’s GDP growth,” the spokesperson added.

Giving example of Afghanistan which was importing food and other essential items through the Gwadar port, Wang noted that CPEC had not only promoted development in the two countries but also helped regional connectivity and prosperity.

“Gwadar port, since first half of this year, started shipping cargo, weighing about 20,000 tones that carried wheat, sugar and fertilizers to Afghanistan, the spokesperson told reporters. “This created about 1,000 jobs,” he added.

Reiterating support to the flagship project, which was launched after the consensus of the leaderships of the two countries, he said, China’s support to CPEC would continue as the two countries “will work together to implement our leaders’ consensus”.

“The existing programmers are focusing more on cooperation in livelihood, industry and agriculture to change CPEC into a demonstration project of high quality BRI development and to bring more benefits to our two countries and the region,” he added.

Appreciating the positive remarks made by Pakistan’s top leaderships towards the CPEC projects, Wang said: “We have noted the remarks about CPEC which is an important pilot project and flagship projects of China-Pakistan cooperation and BRI development.”

In response to a question about third party and other countries’ participation in CPEC, he said that the Chinese side would welcome interested countries to join the project and other projects of BRI to jointly contribute to regional and global stability and prosperity.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2271041/cpec-has-attracted-25-billion-investments-in-pakistan>

## The Nations

### **Muslims in China deny ‘forceful demolition of mosques’ in Xinjiang**

BEIJING - Western accusations of "forceful demolition of mosques," "persecution of religious leaders," and "restrictions of religious freedom" in Xinjiang are "ridiculous" and "groundless," and the lies and slandering have deeply offended the feelings of Xinjiang people and tarnished the true picture of Xinjiang, Xinjiang Islamic Association said on Tuesday.

To provide safer and better-equipped places for religious people to pray, the local government had helped renovate some dilapidated religious sites or built new ones in relocation sites at the

requests of local Muslims, China Global Television Network (CGTN) quoted the association saying in a statement.

The Xinjiang Islamic Association said under the protection of Chinese law, the freedom of religious belief of Uygur ethnic minorities was fully guaranteed in the region and local people's cultural and religious traditions from festivities to wedding and funeral rituals were all respected.

"As religious extremism has been effectively curbed, religious activities are carried out in an orderly manner in the region. And in recent years, religious scholars and students in Xinjiang have also participated in steady academic exchanges with other international religious organizations on the basis of mutual respect, equality and friendship.

"Xinjiang people will continue to stand guard against extremism and will expose lies with concrete and righteous deeds," the association said.

In recent years, China has strengthened its efforts to fight against terrorism and poverty in Xinjiang. Under China's nationwide poverty alleviation project, tens of millions of Chinese have been lifted out of penury, including people in Xinjiang, where a large population lives below the poverty line.

Part of the project is relocation, meaning moving people from poor mountainous villages to places with abundant resources, like towns and cities, where companies supported by the government can help them land a job or start small businesses due to the centralization.

Ethnic minorities, who voluntarily moved to new relocation sites or factories away from their homes, were viewed by some Western countries as "forced laborers". Chinese spokesperson Zhao Lijian said Xinjiang's prosperity and stability would not be interrupted, and China's development and progress would not be stopped.

<https://nation.com.pk/04-Nov-2020/muslims-in-china-deny-forceful-demolition-of-mosques-in-xinjiang>

**November 05, 2020**

**Dawn News**

### **Projects for third phase under CPEC discussed**

ISLAMABAD: The second meeting of Joint Working Group on socio-economic development under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor framework on Wednesday decided to prepare projects for the third phase, and the Chinese government was asked to send experts for the implementation of priority projects.

The meeting via video link discussed and reviewed the projects under \$1 billion Chinese grant, and expressed satisfaction over the pace of progress of projects under the joint working group in key areas of agriculture, education, health, poverty and vocational training.

The joint working group decided to prepare documents for signing as deliverables of the forthcoming 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting which will discuss implementation of the second phase of CPEC. The pandemic situation had delayed the holding of JCC meeting.

The fast-track and priority projects specifically reviewed by the working group were agriculture technology laboratories, provision of equipment and tools and demonstration stations in the agriculture sector, smart classroom project and overseas student scholarship programme in the education sector, Pakistan Vocational Schools Equipment and solarisation project in Balochistan in addition to drinking water supply project for AJK and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

Moreover, Pak-China Friendship Hospital, Vocational Technical School and desalination plant in Gwadar were also discussed, and two sides reiterated to implement these ongoing projects as per the decided timelines.

The meeting was co-chaired by Vice Chairman, China International Development and Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), Boqing, Vice Chairman Secretary Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Mathar Niaz Rana.

The Pakistan side appreciated the assistance provided by the Chinese government for socio-economic uplift of the country and also acknowledged the support extended during Covid-19 pandemic; especially the medical equipment and supplies.

The Pakistani delegation emphasized to expedite technical education projects including cooperative project with Pak-Austria Fachhochschule: Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology in KP and Punjab Tianjin University of Technology.

It was also suggested to carry out the Burn Centre projects in all provinces and regions on priority.

Furthermore, the Pakistani side also discussed the poverty alleviation research project with Chinese side and desired to learn from Chinese experience in this area.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1588694/projects-for-third-phase-under-cpec-discussed>

### **Dunya News**

#### **Steps afoot to ensure fast implementation of 2nd phase of CPEC: FM**

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said steps are afoot to ensure fast track implementation of the second phase of CPEC related projects.

He was talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong in Islamabad on Thursday.

The Foreign Minister said both Pakistan and China have always supported in each other difficult times.

He expressed his gratitude to China for extending timely assistance to Pakistan to cope with Corona virus.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the entire world knows the exemplary and everlasting friendship that exists between Pakistan and China.

The Chinese Ambassador assured to make all out efforts to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/571974-Steps-afoot-to-ensure-fast-implementation-of-2nd-phase-of-CPEC-FM>

### **China remains top importer, trades products over \$2763 million to Pakistan**

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – China topped the list of countries from where Pakistan imported different products during the first quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year (2020-21), followed by United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore.

The total imports from China during July-September (2020-21) were recorded at \$2763.528 million against the \$2292.749 million during July-September (2019-20), showing an increase of 20.53 percent during the period, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by UAE, where from Pakistan imported goods worth \$1742.533 million against the imports of \$1858.772 million last year, showing negative growth of 6.25 percent.

Singapore was the at third top country from where Pakistan imported products worth \$592.925 million against the imports of \$553.288 million last year, showing growth of 30.72 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani imports from Saudi Arabia stood at \$441.924 million against \$393.214 million during last year, showing growth of 12.39 percent while the imports from United State of America (USA) were recorded at \$440.388 million against \$336.882 million last year, showing increase of 30.72 percent, the data revealed.

The imports from Switzerland were recorded at \$283.064 million against \$123.075 million whereas the imports from Malaysia were recorded at \$270.700 million against \$217.293 million last year.

During July-September, the imports from Indonesia were recorded at \$240.848 million against \$256.684 million whereas the imports from South Korea at \$231.023 million against \$176.834 million.

Pakistan's imports from Kuwait were recorded at \$227.633 million against \$284.515 million whereas the imports from Japan stood at \$190.055 million against \$322.207 million.

Similarly, the imports from Thailand during the period under review were recorded at \$174.988 million against \$198.812 million while the imports from UK stood at \$174.733 million against \$184.207 million.

Pakistan's imports from Oman were recorded at \$148.029 million during the current fiscal year compared to \$86.888 million last year, whereas the imports from Qatar stood at \$137.509 million against \$561.502 million.



[https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/571985-China-remains-top-importer-trades-products-over-\\$2763-million-Pakistan](https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/571985-China-remains-top-importer-trades-products-over-$2763-million-Pakistan)

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Chinese help sought for fruit export**

LAHORE: The Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) has planned to invite multiple Chinese trade delegations with particular focus on export of fresh, processed and dry fruits from Pakistan.

Speaking at a session, PCJCCI President SM Naveed said, “Pakistan and China can collaborate for setting up fruit quality enhancement centers, processing units, dehydration plants and cold storage chains in order to process Pakistani fruits in line with international standards for export.”

Naveed stressed that Pakistan’s fruit sector had enormous export potential that could be beneficial for both countries. In that regard, he suggested the constitution of a preliminary research team in order to put ideas into action.

“We will soon invite Chinese delegations to Pakistan with focus on promoting export of fresh, processed and dry fruits from Pakistan, which will be re-exported to the rest of the world after value addition through the Chinese processing and packaging technology,” he revealed.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Daud Ahmed stated that Pakistan produced a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, with annual production estimated at 9 million tons.

“This includes 990,000 tons of citrus fruit, 439,000 tons of mangoes, 526,000 tons of apples, 127,000 tons of guavas, 1.914 million tons of apricots and other fruits - bananas, grapes, pomegranates, pears and dates.”

He pointed out that unfortunately due to the lack of advanced processing and packaging techniques, nearly 50% of the total fruit production was being lost during harvesting, transportation, preservation and storage.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2271060/chinese-help-sought-for-fruit-export>

#### **'China's position on the Kashmir issue consistent, clear'**

China has said issues regarding Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) should be resolved peacefully and properly according to the UN charter, relevant UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and bilateral agreements.

Chinese Foreign Ministry’s Spokesperson Wang Wenbin reiterated that China’s position on IIOJK was 'consistent and clear'.

Spokesperson Wenbin also rejected the notion, when asked in a question, of China not having a neutral position over the recently given provisional provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B).

On November 2, Pakistan categorically rejected Indian Ministry of External Affairs' irresponsible and unwarranted statement regarding Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B), saying that India has no locus stand whatsoever on the issue — legal, moral or historical.

Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri had said in a statement that for more than 73 years, India had been in illegal and forcible occupation of parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

“Regurgitation of false and fabricated claims by India can neither change the facts nor divert attention from India’s illegal actions and continuing humanitarian crisis resulting from the perpetration of the worst human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK),” it said.

“Pakistan’s position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains firmly anchored in the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions. The final resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is only possible through the exercise of the Kashmiris’ right to self-determination by holding a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations.”

The statement had come hours after the Indian external affairs ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said that India opposed any “material changes” in Gilgit-Baltistan, claiming it to be a part of Indian Territory.

Chaudhri had added that administrative, political and economic reforms were a long-standing demand of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan, adding that the envisaged provisional reforms reflected the aspirations of the indigenous populace of the region.

“Pakistan calls upon India to immediately end its illegal and forcible occupation of pans of Jammu and Kashmir and comply with its international obligations by allowing the Kashmiris to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination through a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2271136/chinas-position-on-the-kashmir-issue-consistent-clear>

## **The Nations**

### **China rejects Indian statement over provisional provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan**

BEIJING - China on Wednesday rejected Indian statement over the provisional provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and called for resolution of Kashmir issue peacefully and properly in accordance with the United Nations Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements between Pakistan and India.

“I have noted relevant reports. China’s position on the Kashmir issue is consistent and clear. It is an issue left over from history between India and Pakistan,” Chinese Foreign Ministry’s Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing when asked to comment on Pakistan’s decision to accord provisional provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan region.

He said that the Kashmir issue should be resolved peacefully and properly according to the UN charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

Responding to a question, he dismissed the impression that China did not have a neutral approach on the issue saying, “I don’t think that is a valid statement.” The spokesperson reiterated that China’s position on the Kashmir issue was consistent and clear.

It may be mentioned here that Pakistan has already categorically rejected Indian government’s statement on Gilgit-Baltistan terming the administrative, political and economic reforms as a longstanding demand of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan. And the envisaged provisional reforms reflected the aspirations of the indigenous populace of Gilgit-Baltistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/05-Nov-2020/china-rejects-indian-statement-over-provisional-provincial-status-to-gilgit-baltistan>

### **The News**

#### **No legal proceedings, prosecution can be done against executives, officers, consultants, advisers**

Islamabad: The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority and its executives, employees and staff have been given indemnity from any suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings by any agency.

Section 23 of the CPEC Authority Ordinance tabled in the National Assembly says: “No suit, prosecution or legal proceedings will be carried out against the CPEC Authority, its chairperson, member, executive directors of operations and research, employees, officers, experts, consultants or advisers in respect of anything done or purported to be done in good faith under the proposed law or rules or regulations.”

A somewhat truncated indemnity or immunity clause existed in the original ordinance that was promulgated the day the prime minister embarked on his first China visit in October 2019. This emerged when the two documents were juxtaposed. However, the present ordinance has been significantly expanded in many respects with the addition of some new clauses.

Section 27, which is a new provision, reads: “All actions duly taken under the ordinance will be deemed to have been validly taken and done and will be deemed to have been so taken or done. Any licence, order, agreement, directive, instruction or other instrument, issued, or executed under the CPEC ordinance will be deemed to have been issued under this ordinance and will continue to be in force until it expires or is cancelled or withdrawn by the competent authority.”

The ordinance further states that CPEC will report to the prime minister through the division concerned (which is not defined but it is believed that it refers to the Planning Development and Special Initiatives ministry). Among others, CPEC will implement decisions taken from time to time at meetings of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC). The function of planning will follow the existing arrangement being adopted by the Pakistan Planning Commission.

The JCC refers to the committee jointly headed by the minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives of Pakistan and the vice chairperson of the National Development and Reform Commission of China.

The CPEC authority will perform any other task which is necessary for the discharge of its functions under this ordinance with the prime minister's approval.

The CPEC chairperson is to be appointed by the federal government for four years on such terms and conditions determined by it and will be eligible for reappointment for one additional term of four years.

The prime minister or any person so designated by him may after conducting an inquiry remove the chairman from his office on grounds of inefficiency, incapacity or misconduct.

The ordinance also says no person will be appointed the CPEC authority chairman, member, executive director, or in the operations and research section if he or his dependents have any direct or indirect financial interest in or have any connection which might reasonably be viewed as giving rise to a conflict of interest with any person, institution or body involved in any CPEC project or initiative.

Furthermore, no person appointed as chairman, member, or executive director will during his term in office have or maintain any direct or indirect financial interest with any person involved in any CPEC project or initiative. They will not at any time during their terms engage themselves in any other service, business, vocation or employment.

The CPEC chairman, executive directors, other employee experts, consultants or advisers employed, hired, or engaged from time to time will be governed by terms and conditions of their appointment and will not be deemed to be civil servants within the meaning of the Civil Servants Act 1073. However, if a civil servant is appointed to a post in the CPEC authority on deputation he will be governed by this act.

The statement of objects and reasons of the ordinance states: "The legislation seeks to establish the CPEC authority to further accelerate the pace of CPEC related activities. It aims to find new drivers of economic growth, unlock the potential or interlinked production network and global value chains through regional and global connectivity. It would develop sound and implementable public policy by integrating advice of stakeholders in the decision making process and utilization of all available resources to achieve optimal results and for effective and efficient management in line with the memorandum of understanding between China's National Development and Reform Commission and Pakistan's Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives on the Outline of Long Term Plan of CPEC signed in Beijing on Nov 8, 2014."

CPEC would be responsible for planning, facilitating, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating to ensure the implementation of all activities related to CPEC, ensuring inter-provincial and inter-ministerial coordination, organising and coordinating meetings of JCC and Joint Working

Groups, conducting sectoral research for informed decision making and long term planning, monitoring and evaluation and to ensure implementation besides narrative building and communication of CPEC and other activities from time to time.

The ordinance has been extended by the National Assembly once as it was not passed by parliament within its original 120-day life and later expired. Five days ago, a modified ordinance was extended for four months in the hope that it would be approved by the legislature within this period.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/739255-no-legal-proceedings-prosecution-can-be-done-against-executives-officers-consultants-advisers>

**November 06, 2020**

**Business Recorder**

### **Qureshi for speeding up completion of CPEC projects in Gwadar**

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has stressed the need for speeding up completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects at Gwadar to enable the port to achieve its potential.

The foreign minister was speaking to China's newly-appointed Ambassador Nong Rong who called on him here on Thursday, the Foreign Office said.

Qureshi underlined that Pakistan and China were "all-weather strategic cooperative partners" and both countries supported each other on the issues of their core interest.

He thanked China for its steadfast support to Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, including at the United Nations.

The foreign minister maintained that the CPEC was a transformational project, and hoped that the ambassador, with his experience in trade and infrastructure development, would fast track the CPEC projects and promote industrialisation in Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Qureshi emphasised that Pakistan and China should deepen and expand co-operation in the agriculture sector, providing opportunities for Pakistan to export its agricultural products to the Chinese market.

The foreign minister hoped that the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) would be fruitful and mutually beneficial, and would lead to inclusion of mega projects in the CPEC.

He also emphasized the importance Pakistan attached to the ML-1 project.

It was particularly underscored by the foreign minister that the leadership and people of Pakistan were looking forward to welcoming President Xi Jinping, and that the 70th anniversary of establishment of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations must be celebrated in a befitting manner.

Lauding his experience and strong credentials, the foreign minister congratulated the ambassador on his appointment to Pakistan and hoped that Pakistan-China ties would further deepen and strengthen during his term.

During the meeting, Pakistan-China bilateral relations, cooperation in fighting Covid-19, the CPEC and matters of regional and international interests were discussed.

Ambassador Nong thanked the foreign minister for the good wishes conveyed by him and maintained that Pakistan was his second home. He emphasised that Pakistan-China relationship was anchor for peace, security and development in the region. He expressed his determination that China would firmly support timely completion of the CPEC, making it a High-Quality Demonstration Project of the BRI.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/11/06/3-page/857196-news.html>

### **‘CPEC provides opportunity to become logistic, economic hub’**

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser Thursday said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has provided opportunity to Pakistan to become a logistic and economic hub for South Asia, Central and Western Asia, Middle East and Western China. The National Assembly speaker expressed these views in a meeting with Chairman of Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Sefik Dzaferovic in Islamabad on Thursday. Matters relating to enhancing bilateral engagement and cooperation came under discussion. Mentioning the immense economic opportunities created under the umbrella of CPEC, Asad Qaiser said that the CPEC had provided opportunity for Pakistan to become a logistic and economic hub for South Asia.

He said that immense economic opportunities welcome foreign investors to take advantage of immense economic potential in Pakistan.

He said that Bosnian investors could invest in energy, manufacturing and trade sectors. He further remarked that trade between Pakistan and Bosnia did not commensurate the economic activities on both sides, for which measures needed to be initiated.

The speaker said that Pakistan shared religious, cultural and brotherly affinities with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and relations between the two countries were manifested by mutual support at times of need.

He said that political and parliamentary engagement between both the countries would further solidify the relations and open new vistas of mutual cooperation.

Referring to the establishment of Pakistan-Bosnia Parliamentary Friendship Group in the National Assembly, the speaker said that bilateral engagement at level of friendship groups would help explore new areas of mutual cooperation in diverse sectors.

The speaker proposed a parliamentary moot in Islamabad to ponder upon areas of possible cooperation.



He said that Bosnian Mission in Islamabad and Pakistani Mission in Sarajevo could play an apt role in that regard.

It was also agreed to frequent bilateral parliamentary exchanges.

Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina Sefik Dzaferovic said that the trade between Bosnia and Pakistan stood at Euros 4.5 million for which measures needed to be taken to improve the volume of trade and expand cooperation in various fields.

He said agreements signed between both the sides during his instant visit would soon be materialised and trade and economic cooperation would increase in every field.

He expressed his gratitude to warm hospitality accorded to him during his visit to Islamabad. He said that his country attached importance to its relations with Pakistan since Pakistan was one of the few countries to extend assistance to his country, after it came into being and later during the stabilisation process.

He said that his country also strongly desired to cement its bilateral relations with Pakistan. The Chairman Presidency agreed that the interaction between the parliamentarians would further pave the way for enhancing cooperation in diverse sectors.

He said that Bosnia had been subjected to worst human crises in the past; however, due to concerted efforts of the consecutive governments and with the cooperation of the people, the country had been led on the path of progress.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/11/06/15-page/857293-news.html>

### **SEZs to attract investment from China, rest of the world: Alvi**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi said that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) were being established in Pakistan to attract investment from China and the rest of the world.

Addressing the third China International Import Expo ceremony held at Shanghai through a special video message, the president said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative was forging ahead successfully.

The president said that in the first phase, it focused on energy and infrastructure sectors development, while in the second phase, development of social sector, agriculture and establishment of industry were at its core.

The president appreciated Chinese people, who under the leadership of President Xi Jinping, have successfully dealt with the Covid-9 pandemic.

The president said the third phase trial of Covid-19 vaccine was being conducted in Pakistan with Chinese collaboration, and the vaccine would not only benefit Pakistan but the world at large.

The third China International Import Expo in Shanghai brings together around 2,600 businesses

from over 120 countries and regions, and has already registered about 400,000 professional buyers. The China International Import Expo is a trade fair held in autumn annually since 2018 in Shanghai, China.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/11/06/15-page/857295-news.html>

### **Daily Times**

#### **BOI to hold CPEC industrial cooperation investment conference on November 25**

The Board of Investment (BOI), Pakistan is planning to organize ‘China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Industrial Cooperation Business to Business (B2B) Investment Conference on November 25. The BOI, would organize a CPEC, Industrial Cooperation Business to Business (B2B) Investment Conference in Peshawar in collaboration with the KPBOIT, said in a press release issued here on Thursday.

The Project Director of PMU, CPEC Industrial Cooperation, BOI, and Asim Ayub said that this B2B Investment Conference would focus on CPEC priority sectors, to facilitate cooperation and linkages between Pakistani and foreign businessmen and entrepreneurs.

He said that the conference also focused on academia with special focus on tourism, food processing, mines and minerals, construction (Infrastructure development) and others. It was a platform where the BOI would facilitate matchmaking and handholding of Chinese and foreign companies with their Pakistani counterparts, he added.

He said that it was agreed that 9 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) would be established across Pakistan.

He informed that the PM’s Office, Board of Investment (BOI) and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China were assigned the task to further the process of bilateral cooperation under CPEC, with the objective of transforming CPEC into a true economic corridor by establishing special economic zones (SEZs) and business ventures in different sectors.

Asim Ayub said the conference would also focus on marketing sectoral investment opportunities in KP under the ambit of Industrial cooperation under CPEC, to exhibit ready to launch products in different sectors.

The SEZs and other Industrial Parks of KP will also be brought into the spotlight.

He said that “We are committed to create awareness about Pakistan’s investment framework and role of BOI being the convener of Joint Working Group of Industrial Cooperation under CPEC.”

The Project Director of PMU said that the government would facilitate interaction by providing a suitable platform to foreign and local businessmen and entrepreneurs under the auspices of CPEC. He said that the conference would exhibit KP potentials in different sectors including ready to launch projects for JVs and B2B cooperation.

Asim Ayub said that “We are also to explore possibilities of relocation of Chinese Industries into Pakistan.”

The conference also supports to address the issues faced by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan. He said that the day long B2B forum would cover different aspects but its main focus would remain on exploration of Pakistan sectoral potentials.

The participating firms would be selected on the basis of the aspects under Pakistan’s Industrial Cooperation Journey through CPEC, he informed.

He said the conference also explores the opportunities in KP potential investment sectors in collaboration with KP government and relevant public and private stakeholders.

Asim said the government also invited foreign companies and Chinese to invest in Pakistan through Public Private Partnerships for business prospects. Over 250 participants for the conference would be selected based on the themes of the conference and the keenness shown to invest in Pakistan, and interest in collaborating with their counterparts, he informed. He directed interested local and foreign businesses/ Investors to register themselves through the link given below. He said that video conference options would also be made available for those who could not physically attend the event.

The conference will be designed to foster interaction, learning and ‘matchmaking’ of concrete investment opportunities in KP potential investment sectors. With a view of achieving its objectives, the conference will be structured to include plenary context setting and sessions around priority sectors and SEZs with high level speakers from the public and private sectors and B2B meetings.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/686039/boi-to-hold-cpec-industrial-cooperation-investment-conference-on-november-25/>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **Broad prospects for China-Pakistan service trade cooperation: Cheng**

Beijing: There are broad prospects for China-Pakistan service trade cooperation, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday quoting Chinese scholar Prof. Cheng Xizhong. According to Prof. Cheng last September, China International Fair for Trade in Services 2020 was successfully held in Beijing, which shows that China attaches great importance to service trade.

Since China joined WTO in 2001, the total import and export volume of China’s service trade increased from 71.9 billion U.S. dollars to 743.4 billion U.S. dollars in 2019, that is to say, it has increased 10 times in the past 20 years. In 2019, the added value of China’s service industry accounts for 53.9% of its total GDP, and will continue to increase. In the future, the structure of China’s service trade will gradually upgrade, and the export of

service trade will gradually tend to the areas with obvious “scale economy effect”, such as R&D, design, brand, etc.

Now, world trade in services accounts for 25% of the total world trade. WTO predicts that the proportion of service trade will be higher and higher, and it will increase to 50% by 2040. Analysts believe that the higher the proportion of service industry in a country, the more developed its economy will be. In 2019, the American service industry reached 17.36 trillion U.S. dollars, accounting for 81% of its total GDP.

The American economic structure has already completed the transformation to service industry. Its real advantages lie in its strong service economic foundation, advanced information technology infrastructure, standardized and flexible business system and good innovation environment.

Pakistan’s service export fell by over 16.79 percent year-on-year to 352.92 million U.S. dollars in the second month of the current fiscal year. Service export has fallen since March after the Pakistani government imposed a lockdown across the country to contain the pandemic. However, the service sector emerged as the main driver of economic growth with its share in the GDP increasing from 56 percent in 2005-2006 to 61.4 percent in 2019-2020.

<https://pakobserver.net/broad-prospects-for-china-pakistan-service-trade-cooperation-cheng/>

### **China: Our position on Kashmir issue clear, consistent**

Beijing: China has said issues regarding Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) should be resolved peacefully and properly according to the UN charter, relevant UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and bilateral agreements.

Chinese Foreign Ministry’s Spokesperson Wang Wenbin reiterated that China’s position on IIOJK was ‘consistent and clear’.

Spokesperson Wenbin also rejected the notion, when asked in a question, of China not having a neutral position over the recently given provisional provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). On November 2, Pakistan categorically rejected Indian Ministry of External Affairs’ irresponsible and unwarranted statement regarding Gilgit-Baltistan saying that India has no locus stand whatsoever on the issue — legal, moral or historical.

Foreign Office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri had said in a statement that for more than 73 years, India had been in illegal and forcible occupation of parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-our-position-on-kashmir-issue-clear-consistent/>

## Nawaiwaqt News

### چین پاکستان سروس ٹریڈ تعاون کے وسیع امکانات ہیں۔ چینی سکالر

سلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چینی اسکالر پروفیسر چیگ نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان سروس ٹریڈ تعاون کے وسیع امکانات ہیں۔ چاہے اکنامک نیٹ کے مطابق پروفیسر چیگ نے کہا ہے کہ گذشتہ ستمبر میں چین بین الاقوامی میلہ برائے تجارت 2020 کا بیجنگ میں کامیابی کے ساتھ انعقاد کیا گیا، اس سے ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ چین سروس ٹریڈ کو بہت اہمیت دیتا ہے۔ چونکہ 2001 میں چین نے ڈیپٹی او میں شمولیت اختیار کی تھی، چین کی سروس ٹریڈ کی درآمد اور برآمد کا حجم 2019 میں 71.9 بلین امریکی ڈالر سے بڑھ کر 743.4 بلین امریکی ڈالر ہو گیا، یعنی پچھلے 20 سالوں میں اس میں 10 گنا اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ 2019 میں، چین کی سروس انڈسٹری کی اضافی قیمت اس کے کل جی ڈی پی کا 53.9 فیصد تھی جس میں اضافہ جاری رہے گا۔ مستقبل میں چین کی سروس ٹریڈ کا ڈھانچہ آہستہ آہستہ اپ گریڈ ہو گا، اور اس کی برآمد آہستہ آہستہ واضح "پیمانے کی معیشت کے اثر" والے علاقوں جیسے آر اینڈ ڈی، ڈیزائن، برانڈ، وغیرہ کی طرف مائل ہوگی۔ اب خدمات کی عالمی تجارت کا مجموعی عالمی تجارت میں حصہ 25 فیصد ہے۔ ڈیپٹی او نے پیش گوئی کی ہے کہ سروس ٹریڈ کا تناسب زیادہ اور زیادہ ہو گا اور 2040 تک یہ بڑھ کر 50 فیصد ہو جائے گا۔ تجزیہ کاروں کا خیال ہے کہ کسی ملک میں سروس کی صنعت کا تناسب جتنا زیادہ ہو گا اس کی معیشت اتنی ہی ترقی یافتہ ہوگی۔ 2019 میں، امریکی سروس انڈسٹری 17.36 ٹریلین امریکی ڈالر تک پہنچ گئی، جو اس کی کل جی ڈی پی کا 81 فیصد ہے۔ امریکی معاشی ڈھانچے نے سروس کی صنعت میں تبدیلی پہلے ہی مکمل کر لی ہے۔ اس کے حقیقی فوائد اس کی مضبوط سروس معاشی فاؤنڈیشن، جدید انفارمیشن ٹکنالوجی انفراسٹرکچر، معیاری اور چکلدار کاروباری نظام اور اچھے جدت ماحول میں ہیں۔ پاکستان کی سروس ایکسپورٹ رواں مالی سال کے دوسرے مہینے میں 16.79 فیصد سے کم ہو کر 352.92 بلین امریکی ڈالر رہ گئی ہے۔ مارچ کے بعد جب سے پاکستانی حکومت نے اس وبائی مرض پر قابو پانے کے لئے ملک بھر میں لاک ڈاؤن نافذ کیا ہے اس کے بعد سروس ایکسپورٹ میں کمی واقع ہوئی ہے۔ تاہم سروس کا شعبہ معاشی نمو کے مرکزی محرک کے طور پر ابھر رہا ہے اور جی ڈی پی میں اس کا حصہ 2005-2006 میں 56 فیصد سے بڑھ کر 2019-2020 میں 61.4 فیصد ہو گیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-11-06/page-10/detail-20>

## The Express Tribune

### Officials discuss bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan bilateral relationship is an epitome of enduring friendship and brotherhood, said Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong. His comments came during a meeting with Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance Dr Abdul Hafeez Sheikh on Thursday. While discussing progress on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, the envoy said collaboration between people and governments of two countries would continue to expand and strengthen for achieving common objectives and guarantee prosperous future for both nations. Sheikh briefed him on enhancement of economic cooperation under the umbrella of CPEC, the fragile economy inherited by the government and the economic stability achieved during pre Covid-19 period especially in the external sector. He also discussed the adverse socio-economic impact of Covid-19 pandemic and the fiscal relief initiatives undertaken by the government during the corona virus crisis.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2271205/officials-discuss-bilateral-ties>

### **China's new envoy vows to make CPEC high quality model project of BRI**

ISLAMABAD: The newly-appointed Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong on Friday said Beijing wanted to build the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a high quality model project of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The Chinese envoy called on CPEC Authority Chairman Lieutenant General (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa in Islamabad to exchange in-depth views on China-Pakistan relations and the construction of CPEC projects.

Minister Counselor Pang Chunxue and Chief Executive Officer of Corridor Affairs Authority Ali Shah were also present on the occasion, a statement issued by the Chinese embassy said.

The chairman warmly welcomed Ambassador Nong to take up his new post, saying that the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people and will grow stronger over time.

"The CPEC is an important project to change the destiny of Pakistan, and it has received the heartfelt support of the Pakistani government and people."

Bajwa said, "the CPEC Authority is committed to providing a windowed one-stop service for the corridor project, and is willing to further strengthen communication and coordination with China to jointly promote new progress in cooperation in important areas such as Gwadar Port, infrastructure, industry, agriculture, social-economy, and will effectively protect the safety of CPEC projects and personnel so that the corridor can exert greater economic and social benefits and better benefit the people of the two countries".

The Chinese envoy appreciated the chairman's firm support for China-Pakistan relations, and thanked him and the CPEC Authority for their work.

Nong said China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners, and the CPEC is a pilot project of all-round cooperation between the two countries. "With the care and support of the top leaders of the two countries, the construction of the CPEC has continuously achieved positive results."

The embassy in Pakistan, he said, is willing to strengthen communication and cooperation with the authority, further implement the consensus of the leaders of the two countries, actively prepare for the 10th JCC, deepen and expand cooperation in the areas of industrial parks, agriculture, and social-economy under CPEC.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2271313/chinas-new-envoy-vows-to-make-cpec-high-quality-model-project-of-bri>

### **The News**

#### **Broad prospects for China-Pakistan service trade cooperation**

BEIJING: There are broad prospects for China-Pakistan service trade cooperation, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday quoting Chinese scholar Prof. Cheng Xizhong.



According to Prof. Cheng last September, China International Fair for Trade in Services 2020 was successfully held in Beijing, which shows that China attaches great importance to service trade. Since China joined WTO in 2001, the total import and export volume of China's service trade increased from 71.9 billion U.S. dollars to 743.4 billion U.S. dollars in 2019, that is to say, it has increased 10 times in the past 20 years. In 2019, the added value of China's service industry accounts for 53.9% of its total GDP, and will continue to increase. In the future, the structure of China's service trade will gradually upgrade, and the export of service trade will gradually tend to the areas with obvious "scale economy effect", such as R&D, design, brand, etc.

Now, world trade in services accounts for 25% of the total world trade. WTO predicts that the proportion of service trade will be higher and higher, and it will increase to 50% by 2040. Analysts believe that the higher the proportion of service industry in a country, the more developed its economy will be. In 2019, the American service industry reached 17.36 trillion U.S. dollars, accounting for 81% of its total GDP.

The American economic structure has already completed the transformation to service industry. Its real advantages lie in its strong service economic foundation, advanced information technology infrastructure, standardized and flexible business system and good innovation environment. Pakistan's service export fell by over 16.79 percent year-on-year to 352.92 million U.S. dollars in the second month of the current fiscal year.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/739774-broad-prospects-for-china-pakistan-service-trade-cooperation>

**November 07, 2020**

**Business Recorder**

### **Chinese envoy, Asim Bajwa discuss CPEC projects**

ISLAMABAD: Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong called on Asim Bajwa, Chairman of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority, and exchanged in-depth views on China-Pakistan relations and the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Minister Counsellor Pang Chunxue, Chief Executive Officer of Corridor Affairs Authority Ali Sha were present.

The chairman warmly welcomes Ambassador Nong to take up his new post, saying that the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people and will grow stronger over time. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is an important project to change the destiny of Pakistan, and it has received the heartfelt support of the Pakistani government and people. The CPEC Authority is committed to providing a windowed one-stop service for the corridor project, and is willing to further strengthen communication and coordination with China to jointly promote new progress in cooperation in important areas such as Gwadar Port, infrastructure, industry, agriculture, social-economy, and will Effectively protect

the safety of CPEC projects and personnel so that the corridor can exert greater economic and social benefits and better benefit the people of the two countries.

Ambassador Nong appreciated Chairman's firm support for China-Pakistan relations, and thanked Chairman and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Affairs Authority for their work. Nong said that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a pilot project of all-round cooperation between the two countries. With the care and support of the top leaders of the two countries, the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has continuously achieved positive results. The Embassy in Pakistan is willing to strengthen communication and cooperation with the Authority, further implement the consensus of the leaders of the two countries, actively prepare for the 10th JCC, deepen and expand cooperation in the areas of industrial parks, agriculture, and social-economy under CPEC and build the CPEC into a model for high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/11/07/2-page/857323-news.html>

### **Dawn News**

#### **CPEC Central Asian conference to be held in Gawadar**

RAWALPINDI: A three-day business conference on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Central Asia organized by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) will be held in Gawadar from Nov 16 to 18; the conference has been organized to deliberate investment opportunities and trade ties with Central Asian countries.

This was stated by RCCI President Mohammad Nasir Mirza said while addressing a press conference on Friday.

CPEC is a game changer, not just for Pakistan but the entire region, and will pave the way towards creating links between Pakistan and Central Asia, he said, adding government officials including chief minister, governor of Balochistan, ministers, senior government officials, ambassadors along with business and industrial delegates will attend the conference which will include presentations about key topics and ongoing development projects.

The chamber has always taken the lead in many matters and we want the business community to play its full role, he said, adding a trade fair titled 'Build 2020' is also being organized next month in the city for the construction sector.

The fair will be held from Dec 18 till 20, he said, adding the construction sector should be developed as more than 40 allied industries are associated with it and this can contribute towards reducing unemployment in the country.

Group leader Sohail Altaf said that RCCI is in touch with ministries concerned, especially the foreign ministry so that no objection certificates (NOCs) could be issued to ambassadors soon.

PIA Chairman Arshad Malik, who visited the chamber a few days back had assured full cooperation, he added.

RCCI Senior Vice President Usman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A. Malik, former Presidents Zahid Latif Khan, Saboor Malik, Gwadar Conference Chairman Mohammad Badar Haroon, chairman of the trade fair Sardar Tanveer Sarwar along with members of the executive committee and chamber were also present on the occasion.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1589028/cpec-central-asia-conference-to-be-held-in-gwadar>

### **Pakistan to export cherries to China next year**

BEIJING: The first batch of Pakistani cherries is expected to leave for China by next year, said Li Wei, business representative of Huazhilong International Trading Private Ltd. Pakistan.

Pakistan's cherries cannot be exported to China at present. Pakistani cherries are really good, including sweetness and quality, Wei said in an interview with the CEN at the third China International Import Expo (CIIE) held in Shanghai.

Previously, export of Pakistani cherries had been hindered due to lack of cold chain management, market information system, packaging and processing facilities. In this regard, Li Wei said China can provide technical assistance to manage orchards, while Pakistan can provide workers, so that both sides can achieve win-win cooperation. He said that China will help Pakistan develop cold chain technology.

Li Wei said that there was a great business opportunity for the export of agricultural products from Pakistan to China.

Earlier, in 2018, 24 tones of mangoes were exported from Pakistan to China and sold in Xinfadi, a large wholesale market of fruits, vegetables, and meat for Beijing.

Wei said that Pakistani mangoes are comparable to those from Australia and the Philippines. Although the price is more expensive than domestic mango, Pakistani mango is better in terms of variety, appearance, and quality. The sugar content of ripe mango can reach 22.68 per cent, he added.

There is seasonal difference in the marketing of Pakistani mangoes in China. The mango season in Pakistan starts from Aug 20 to Nov 20, while there are almost no mangoes in southern China in November. Pakistani mangoes can extend the mango season by two months, Li Wei explained.

“Chinese side provides technology and sends technical staff in fields of inorganic fertilizer, bagging, picking, disinfection, transportation, while Pakistani side provides labor. Finally, through cross-border e-commerce air transportation, Chinese customers can eat fresh mango within a week after placing an order,” he added.

If the pandemic improves next year, China will import large quantities of Pakistani mangoes. On the development of high value-added mango products, he said that in the next step, they may cooperate with domestic snack manufacturers to produce dried mango products.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1589083/pakistan-to-export-cherries-to-china-next-year>

### **China committed to making CPEC a high quality model project**

ISLAMABAD: The newly appointed Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong on Friday said China wanted to build China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a high quality model project of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

During a meeting with CPEC Authority Chairman Asim Bajwa, the envoy said China and Pakistan were all-weather strategic partners, and the CPEC is a pilot project of all-round cooperation between the two countries, adding that with the care and support of the top leaders of the two countries, the construction of the CPEC has continuously achieved positive results.

“The embassy in Pakistan is willing to strengthen communication and cooperation with the authority, further implement the consensus of the leaders of the two countries, actively prepare for the 10th JCC, deepen and expand cooperation in the areas of industrial parks, agriculture, and social-economy under CPEC,” Nong added.

Bajwa said that the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan was deeply rooted in the hearts of the people and will grow stronger over time. “The CPEC is an important project to change the destiny of Pakistan, and it has received the heartfelt support of the Pakistani government and people.”

He added that the authority is committed to providing a windowed one-stop service for the corridor project, and is willing to further strengthen communication and coordination with China to jointly promote new progress in cooperation in important areas such as Gwadar Port, infrastructure, industry, agriculture, social-economy, and will effectively protect the safety of CPEC projects and personnel so that the corridor can exert greater economic and social benefits and better benefit the people of the two countries”.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1589084/china-committed-to-making-cpec-a-high-quality-model-project>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **Pakistan enjoys rich potential exporting vegetables to China**

Islamabad: The 15th episode of Pakistan Academy of Sciences Agriculture Policy Debate with the topic of “Vegetable Seed Production and Supply Chain” was held here, underlining the prospects of enhancing vegetables’ export to China.

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro, speakers and discussants from Pakistan on the occasion shared their views on the current situation, issues and solutions of vegetable seeds in Pakistan.

Participants from China also introduced the current situation and development trend of China’s vegetable industry, and mentioned that in the future Pakistan has potential to export vegetables to China.

Gu Wenliang, Agricultural Commissioner of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan? said that in the

future Pakistan has potential to export vegetables to China. In past decades, the vegetable industry of China has made great progress.

Last year, China has exported 11 million tons of vegetables, worth 15 billion dollars. Top three vegetable import countries are India, USA and Vietnam. GU further mentioned at the occasion that vegetable production in China has achieved rapid development in new varieties breeding, facility cultivation, pollution-free production, and industrialization.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-enjoys-rich-potential-exporting-vegetables-to-china/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Minister stresses learning from Chinese experience**

LAHORE: Research, knowledge and acquisition of technology should be prioritized instead of investing in projects from China under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Punjab, said Punjab Finance Minister Makhdoom Hashim Jawan Bakht.

Chairing the maiden meeting of the Cabinet Committee on CPEC projects in Punjab on Friday, the minister observed that learning from Chinese experience in industry, agriculture and advanced technology could ensure an increase in Pakistan's productivity. "Furthermore, the energy department should focus on meeting the energy needs of the province instead of national level power plants," said the provincial finance minister. "The main function of the department should be to supply electricity to industrial zones, educational institutions and hospitals at reasonable rates." He held the view that formation of a suitable platform with the federation for resolving tariff-related issues was a matter of grave urgency.

The minister called for giving representation to public health engineering in CPEC projects as well. He stressed that all departments should highlight the usefulness of the proposed schemes for CPEC. "The type of assistance needed by Punjab government from the development partners should be made clear beforehand so that projects continue uninterrupted in the future," he added. On behalf of the Planning and Development Board, Chief Economist Nabil Tahir briefed the meeting on the aims and objectives of the Cabinet Committee on CPEC Projects and pointed out that the committee has a strategy for planning, implementing and monitoring CPEC projects.

In addition, it will oversee all relevant activities of CPEC including approval of projects and their implementation, he said. The committee was given a detailed briefing on the ongoing and proposed project of departments of industries, agriculture, transport, energy and livestock. The committee unanimously approved Taunsa Hydropower Project and two projects of Communications Department aimed at construction of communication roads. While reviewing progress of ongoing projects, the minister directed the transport secretary to make a comprehensive plan to enhance the number of passengers in the Orange Line Metro train.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2271341/minister-stresses-learning-from-chinese-experience>

## The Nation

### **China signs contracts to buy commodities from 15 countries including Pakistan**

China's State Development and Investment Corp has announced that it has signed procurement contract with 20 foreign companies during the ongoing third China International Import Expo being held in Shanghai.

The purchase covers more than 20 kinds of commodities including grain, fruit, textiles and chemical products from 15 economies such as Pakistan, Cambodia, Indonesia and South Africa, according to China Daily on Saturday.

“The timely CIIE demonstrated China's determination to continue to open up to the outside world.

At the same time, it reflected confidence from the international community in the prospects of the Chinese market,” said Bai Tao, Party secretary and chairman of SDIC.

China is committed to taking initiative in the mechanism of global sharing and enabling the global cooperation to be more flexible with an open mind and measures, Bai said.

“SDIC will continue to deepen cooperation in important fields and key industries with partners both at home and abroad, so as to share opportunities brought by the CIIE, go hand in hand and contribute to the promotion of global economic development and regional economic and trade exchanges,” he added.

<https://nation.com.pk/07-Nov-2020/china-signs-contracts-to-buy-commodities-from-15-countries-including-pakistan>

### **CPFTA-II golden opportunity for exporters to penetrate in Chinese market**

KARACHI-Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and Trade and Investment Wing, Embassy and Consulate of Pakistan in China organized a webinar on 5th November, 2020 on opportunities arising from 2nd phase of China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA-II) and opening of new tariff lines. Speakers were Fahad Raza, Deputy Secretary (FT-II) Wing, Ministry of Commerce, Badar-uz-Zaman, Trade & Investment Counselor Beijing, and Muhammad Irfan, Trade & Investment Counselor Guangzhou China.

The webinar was attended by more than 80 representatives of different associations, chambers including All Pakistan Bed sheets & Upholstery Manufacturers Association (ABUMA), Bahawalpur Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Rahim Yar Khan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Vehari Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Khanewal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, PRGMEA Karachi, Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporter Associations and the leading exporters of the textile and leather sector.



The aim for holding the webinar was to apprise the Pakistani business community, particularly textile manufacturers & exporters, regarding opportunities arising from 2nd phase of China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA-II).

Fahad Raza, Deputy Secretary (FT-II), Ministry of Commerce informed the participants that CPFTA-II has been signed and it is effective from January, 2020. It gives market access on 313 high priority tariff lines which cover around 90 percent of Pakistan's export to China. Now, Pakistan is at par with ASEAN countries in terms of market access in China. It is golden opportunity for Pakistani exporters to penetrate in Chinese market.

The initiative of organizing series of webinar by TDAP was highly appreciated by the Trade & Investment Counselors and business community.

<https://nation.com.pk/07-Nov-2020/cpfta-ii-golden-opportunity-for-exporters-to-penetrate-in-chinese-market>

### Express News

سی پیک: چائنا سے تکنیکی حصول سرفہرست: وزیر خزانہ پنجاب

تونسہ بیراج، محکمہ مواصلات کے رابطہ سڑکوں کی تعمیر کے دو منصوبوں کی منظوری

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر، ایکسپریس رپورٹر) پنجاب میں پاک چائنا اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت منصوبہ جات میں چائنا سے سرمایہ کاری کی بجائے تحقیق اور تکنیک کا حصول کو سرفہرست رکھا جائے گا، صنعت اور زراعت کے شعبہ میں چین کے تجربات اور جدید ٹیکنالوجی پیداوار میں اضافے کو یقینی بنائیں گے، محکمہ توانائی قومی سطح کے پاور پلانٹس کی بجائے صوبے میں توانائی کی ضرورت کو پورا کرنے پر توجہ دے، ان خیالات کا اظہار وزیر خزانہ پنجاب مخدوم ہاشم جواں بخت نے پلاننگ اینڈ ویلپمنٹ بورڈ میں پاک چائنا اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ جات پروگرامر علی کی تشکیل کردہ کابینہ کمیٹی کے پہلے اجلاس کی صدارت کے دوران کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ صنعتی زونز، تعلیمی اداروں، ہسپتالوں اور واساز کو مناسب نرخوں پر بجلی کی فراہمی محکمے کا اصل وظیفہ ہے، بعد ازاں کمیٹی کی مشترکہ رائے سے تونسہ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ تونسہ بیراج، محکمہ مواصلات کے رابطہ سڑکوں کی تعمیر کے دو منصوبوں کی منظوری دی گئی۔

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107867662&Issue=NP\\_LHE&Date=20201107](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107867662&Issue=NP_LHE&Date=20201107)

**November 08, 2020**

**Dawn News**

**Solar power to the rescue**

The middle-class families are quietly embracing renewable solar energy from the rooftops of their homes in Lahore. The rooftops boasting rows of solar panels in the affluent localities in major cities have become a more common sight recently as the homeowners catch up with the trend.

But this shift isn't driven by the global concerns about rising greenhouse gas emissions or environmental degradation; the change is being steered purely by the increasing electricity prices and power cuts, which refuse to go away in spite of surplus generation capacity created in the country over the last five years.

"I will be very happy if it helps the environment but my major concern here is our monthly electricity bill and uninterrupted power supply," smiled Irfan Ahmed, who has a solar generation system outfitted on the rooftop of his newly-constructed house in one of the housing colonies near Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport. "I had my architect add the price of solar panels to my overall building costs before I started the construction."

Though people had started to shift to solar energy as early as the mid-2000s, as the country faced extended power cuts lasting almost half a day or more, the change was extremely slow and patchy owing to the high prices. Initially, only a few major businesses, industries and commercial concerns adopted solar power to replace their inefficient noisy generators that ran on dirty furnace oil. In the mid-2010s, more industrial, commercial and domestic consumers moved to solar power as the government pushed for on- and off-grid renewable energy.

The new alternative energy policy developed by the Alternate Energy Development Board is pushing for enhancing the share of renewable in the nation's total energy mix from existing five per cent to 20 per cent by 2025 and to 30 per cent by 2030. The AEDB data shows it is pursuing 22 solar projects with a combined capacity of 890.8 megawatts, with six schemes having capacity of 430MW already operational in the country (this is exclusive of solar capacity added by private sector and homeowners).

"The real change has come only in the last couple of years after the removal of taxes on solar capacity imports," Mohammad Ramzan, a Lahore-based vendor and contractor, explained. "In the last couple of years, the prices of the technology have come down substantially, making solar systems more affordable for the middle-class homeowners as well.

"Moreover, the technology has improved over the years and become more efficient. The rooftop solar solutions cut the net electricity bills in half and protect the homeowners from upward tariff fluctuations. That is why you see so many roofs covered with solar panels."

According to Ramzan, the real push for solar shift came only after the government made the regulatory process for the approvals of net-metering licenses, which allows the solar capacity purchasers the opportunity to sell surplus power they generate back to the national grid and, thus, save on operational costs, easier and quicker.

“This is the real breakthrough in the industry. Initially, it took months before you could get approvals from Nepra [National Electric Power Regulatory Authority] for net-metering. But now it takes a few weeks at the most and makes the electricity almost free by looping the surplus units of electricity produced during the day back into the grid.”

The data published by the AEDB on its website shows that the power regulator, Nepra, has approved 6,709 net-metering licenses for the generation capacity of 116.2MW of power across the country. Of these, 5,615 license-holders have commissioned their capacity of 87.92MW. The Nepra State of the Industry 2020 report, however, says nearly 5,000 net-metering licenses with 86MW electric power generation capacity have so far been issued.

In spite of the significant drop in the solar prices, the growth in rooftop solar in Pakistan is quite slow when compared to China, India and other countries since the upfront investment still remains daunting for an average middle-class family. Ramzan says the solar prices have fallen from Rs1.7 million per kilowatt to Rs1 million per kilowatt in recent years.

“Yet the technology remains out of the reach of a majority of ordinary people. A further drop in the solar prices for the homeowners depends largely on the government policies encouraging local manufacturing of panels or fall in the technology’s international prices since the entire capacity used here is imported. Until now, the growth in the rooftop solar is mostly driven by the commercial and industrial consumers like Emporium Mall, as well as educational institutions with large tracts of land and wide roofs like the University of Engineering and Technology, which has recently installed solar systems on one of its office buildings.”

The global solar market is burgeoning with countries like India, Germany, China, the US and the UK investing several hundred billions of dollars in the clean, renewable energy resource. As per the International Energy Agency’s World Energy Outlook 2020, solar energy is some 20-50 per cent cheaper today than its last year’s estimates, with the range depending on the policies designed by different countries to reduce the risk of renewable investments. The world’s best solar power schemes now offer the “cheapest... electricity in history” with the technology cheaper than coal and gas in most countries, according to the report.

It says solar output will increase more than 43pc by 2040 than it expected in 2018 owing to reduction in prices. With access to the most favorable policy support and finance, the IEA says solar panels can now generate electricity “at or below” \$20 per megawatt-hour. The new utility size solar projects now cost \$30-60 per megawatt-hour in the US and Europe and just \$20-40 per megawatt-hour in China and India.

“The cost of utility scale solar power has come down to \$0.035-0.040 a unit, depending on the size of investment and loan amortization period. It can further be reduced by increasing the

tenure of loans,” Almas Hyder, who has set up a small solar power project in southern Punjab, said.

The present solar electricity prices compare with \$0.17 a unit in 2015 when the Punjab government installed its first 100MW scheme in Bahawalpur.

“Given the fact that we have ample free sunshine across the country throughout the year, we can lead the world in solar power output. For that to happen the government must encourage the people to switch over to solar through policy and other incentive schemes to make the equipment needed to convert this free sunshine into the cheapest and cleanest energy,” concluded Almas.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1589190>

### **The Nation**

#### **China signs contracts to buy commodities from 15 countries including Pakistan**

BEIJING-China’s State Development and Investment Corp have announced that it has signed procurement contracts with 20 foreign companies during the ongoing third China International Import Expo being held in Shanghai.

The purchase covers more than 20 kinds of commodities including grain, fruit, textiles and chemical products from 15 economies such as Pakistan, Cambodia, Indonesia and South Africa, according to China Daily on Saturday.

“The timely CIIE demonstrated China’s determination to continue to open up to the outside world. At the same time, it reflected confidence from the international community in the prospects of the Chinese market,” said Bai Tao, Party secretary and chairman of SDIC.

China is committed to taking initiative in the mechanism of global sharing and enabling the global cooperation to be more flexible with an open mind and measures, Bai said.

“SDIC will continue to deepen cooperation in important fields and key industries with partners both at home and abroad, so as to share opportunities brought by the CIIE, go hand in hand and contribute to the promotion of global economic development and regional economic and trade exchanges,” he added.

Meanwhile, the first batch of cherries is expected to be exported from Pakistan to China next year, said Li Wei, business representative of Huazhilong International Trading Private Ltd. Pakistan.

“Pakistani cherries are really good, including sweetness and quality. China can provide technical assistance to manage orchards, while Pakistan can provide workers, so that both sides can achieve win-win cooperation,” he said in an interview with the CEN at the third China International Import Expo (CIIE) being held in east China’s Shanghai.

Previously, media reported that export of Pakistani cherries has been hindered by cold chain management, market information system, packaging and processing facilities.

Li Wei said that to tackle the problem of cherry fruit fly, 60-70 degree hot water bath treatment and the following cold storage is a solution. Now as cold chain technology lags behind in Pakistan, we will develop it and strive to solve it next year.

Referring to why he embarked on export business of agricultural products from Pakistan, Li Wei said the general manager of the company visited Pakistan by chance and found that there was a great business opportunity for the export of agricultural products from Pakistan to China.

Therefore, in the second half of 2018, 24 tons of mango were exported from Pakistan to China and sold out in Xinfadi, a large wholesale market of fruits, vegetables, and meat for Beijing. "It was the first to enter Beijing by air cargo transport from Lahore." This year, the company was officially registered in Pakistan.

According to Li Wei, Pakistani mango is comparable to those from Australia and the Philippines. Although the price is more expensive than domestic mango, Pakistani mango is better in terms of variety, appearance, and quality, among others. The sugar content of ripe mango can reach 22.68%. "It tastes best at 75% - 80% maturity," he added.

There is seasonal difference in the marketing of Pakistani mango in China. "The mango season in Pakistan starts from August 20 to November 20, while there are almost no mangoes in southern China in November. Pakistani mango can extend the mango season by two months compared with Chinese mango. It has a time advantage," Li Wei explained.

The mango orchard adopts the cooperation mode between China and Pakistan. "Chinese side provides technology and sends technical staff in fields of inorganic fertilizer, bagging, picking, disinfection, transportation, while Pakistani side provides labor. Finally, through cross-border e-commerce air transportation, Chinese customers can eat fresh mango within a week after placing an order," he added.

If the pandemic improves next year, China will import large quantities of Pakistani mangoes. On the development of high value-added mango products, he said that in the next step, they may cooperate with domestic snack manufacturers to produce dried mango products.

Regarding the other potential agricultural products in Pakistan, Li Jinhuan, Executive Director of Huazhilong International Trading Private Ltd. Pakistan, said that besides mango, the company also exports other Pakistani agricultural products such as cotton, Morchella, rice and corn. "We have received orders for Morchella from China before. Similar to fungus, Morchella is also a kind of medicinal material. It is scarce in China, with large demand and high price. Although the Morchella output in Pakistan is low and it's difficult to buy, the price is much lower than that in China," Li Jinhuan added.

The China International Import Expo (CIIE), hailed as "an innovation in the history of global trade," opened its third edition in Shanghai on Nov.4 and will last until Nov. 10.

<https://nation.com.pk/08-Nov-2020/china-signs-contracts-to-buy-commodities-from-15-countries-including-pakistan>

### **All-cargo air service links Asean, northwest China, Pakistan**

BEIJING - An air cargo service route has been launched linking northwest China's Lanzhou, Phnom Penh of Cambodia, and Lahore in Pakistan. The first such flight carried 18 tones of dried mango to Lanzhou on Oct. 30. It left Lanzhou on the same day for Lahore carrying Chinese household products, according to the International Land Port of Gansu (Lanzhou). There are two to four flights a week for the route, according to the state media. Flights from Phnom Penh to Lanzhou will carry goods such as nuts and fresh and frozen seafood to Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province. After the unloading, the cargo plane will be reloaded with Chinese household products and agricultural products and then take off for Pakistan, according to the land port. The new air-cargo service will help Gansu further tap into the southeast and south Asian markets and facilitate trade and exchanges among them, said Yang Shipeng with the International Land Port of Gansu (Lanzhou). Gansu has been improving infrastructure and clearance efficiency to boost foreign trade in recent years.

<https://nation.com.pk/08-Nov-2020/all-cargo-air-service-links-asean-northwest-china-pakistan>

**November 09, 2020**

**Business Recorder**

### **NA speaker for extension of CPEC to Afghanistan**

PESHAWAR: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has said that they want the extension of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan to generate not only job opportunity in our neighboring country but also help abolished terrorism.

He expressed these views while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Government Primary School at Union Council Batakara, district Swabi and Pehur Hamlet Road on Sunday.

The Speaker National Assembly said that the PTI government has begun a new phase of relations with Afghanistan in which Rashakai Economic Zone will play crucial role. He said that Pakistan wants peace in Afghanistan as peace in Pakistan is also linked with our neighboring country.

Asad Qaiser said that through trade with Afghanistan, Pakistan can get access to Central Asian market that is linked with peace in Afghanistan.

Without naming Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazalur Rehman, the Speaker National Assembly said that those who are criticizing government in the name of religion, has no concern with Islam rather they are concerned of their own position.

He said that there is no threat to Islam, but these self-proclaimed leaders under compulsion for their own positions are using such tactics.



He said that till he is also no one can amend anything about religion as they the soldiers of Islam.

Asad Qaiser said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has presented the realistic idea of the Riyasat-e-Madina in Pakistan and under that vision the Seerat of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) has been included in the curriculum of Class-V to Class-IX.

He said that the period of incumbent government, all such steps have been taken that have no precedent even during the recent past reigns of the so-called religious political parties.

He said that either it was the prohibition of mark-up or the installation of solar system in mosques all such steps were taken during the PTI government. He said that the PTI government is first in the history of the country that is taking steps for the uplift of the downtrodden classes of society.

Furthermore, he said that Imran Khan is the only leader in the history of Pakistan that has raised voice against the blasphemy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on the floor of the United Nations and said that the spirit of Muslims should not hurt in the name of the freedom of expression.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/11/09/3-page/857525-news.html>

### **‘Purpose of CPEC is to promote development across Pakistan’**

BEIJING: The projects being implemented under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative would not only benefit certain areas but to promote development across Pakistan, China Radio International (CRI) Urdu commented.

“The way the CPEC projects have been implemented over the last five years and the results that have emerged show that the purpose of building CPEC is not to benefit certain areas but to promote development across Pakistan,” CRI Urdu commented on the progress made in the construction of CPEC projects. It said, infrastructure, construction of industries and elimination of energy shortages are to provide an environment for Pakistan according to its resources which will also benefit the people of Pakistan and will guarantee a bright future.

The Orange Line Metro Train in Lahore is the first electric public transport project, the launch of which has not only increased travel facilities for the people but also created new employment opportunities. In the last five years, CPEC projects have created 55,000 direct jobs in the road infrastructure sector, of which 48,000 have been created specifically for local Pakistanis. Ambassador Haque witnesses agreement signing between Pakistan and Xinjiang enterprise. According to a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, major projects with a direct investment of US\$25 billion have been completed since the inception of CPEC. The projects completed under CPEC are part of The Belt and Road.

Shipping cargo started at Gwadar port during the first six months of this year; up to 20,000 tons of goods were delivered from shipping cargo to Afghanistan. Employment opportunities were also created through shipping. There is no doubt that these projects have improved infrastructure as well as energy supply and employment opportunities.

According to economist Hollis B. Channery's proposed two-gap model, developing countries need to introduce foreign investment and stimulate exports to boost their national economies. In this regard, CPEC has been instrumental in advancing Pakistan's development. The CPEC has addressed the issue of limited investment potential. Inadequate savings and shortage of foreign exchange in Pakistan and provided a high quality axis for Pakistan's economic growth. Pakistan's GDP growth rate is significant and it has created 70,000 jobs in Pakistan.

Since its inception, CPEC has considered the elimination of energy shortages in Pakistan as an important sector of construction. Over a five-year period, energy projects under the CPEC framework added 3340 MW of electricity to Pakistan by early April 2019, accounting for 11% of the country's installed capacity. The shortage of electricity has been greatly reduced and in addition to power generation projects, China built the Matiari-Lahore an 878km-long, 660 kV HVDC transmission line project in Pakistan – the world's second HVDC transmission line to extend the life of Pakistan's power grid.

The construction of CPEC is progressing rapidly, significantly reducing Pakistan's energy problem and improving transportation infrastructure has laid a foundation for Pakistan's industrial development. In the next phase, industrial cooperation is the focus of CPEC's construction and development. Given the pace of projects, their completion and results, it can be said that CPEC is undoubtedly a new impetus for Pakistan's sustainable development.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/11/09/11-page/857589-news.html>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **China makes decisive achievements in building a moderately prosperous society**

Beijing: The recent 5th plenary session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) fully recognized China's huge economic and social progress achieved during the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) period.

Starting from the overall situation of the cause of the Party and the country, grasping the trend and laws of global development, and analyzing domestic and international situations in an in-depth manner, the session deliberated and adopted the CPC Central Committee's proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

It is a guiding document that marks the country's new journey to fully build a modern socialist country and to march toward its second centenary goal, as well as a guideline for China's

economic and social development in the next five years and even a longer period. For the present and the years to come, to implement the spirit of the session will be an important political task of the Party and country, so the decisions and requirements formulated by the proposals can be put into practice.

The 13th Five-Year Plan period marked a decisive stage for China to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects. Facing complicated international situation, as well as arduous tasks of domestic reform and development, especially the impacts from COVID-19, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core stayed true to its original aspirations.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-makes-decisive-achievements-in-building-a-moderately-prosperous-society/>

### **Pakistani jewellery shining at China import Expo**

Beijing: Pakistani jewellery shining at 3rd China International Import Expo, being held in Shanghai, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

The Expo (CIIE) grandly opened this week. As the world's first import-themed national-level expo, it connects enterprises across the globe together to tap the great potential of the Chinese market and give fresh impetus to the world economy inflicted by the corona virus pandemic. Thirteen Pakistani enterprises specialized in jewellery design and manufacturing, cross-border trade, freight transportation, furniture; artistic handicrafts, etc. attend this year's CIIE. Among all the exhibits, stunning gems and jewellery from Pakistan become a big hit with the Chinese buyers.

“This is the third time that we've attended CIIE. After attending the first CIIE as visitors, we promptly decided that we should participate as an exhibitor to showcase our products as we saw huge potential in the Chinese market,” said Faizan Ahmed from Shakeeb Gems. Although it took 14 days to put himself in quarantine, Faizan Ahmed's enthusiasm for this expo never cools down because at last year's CIIE he found targeted purchasers. “Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we've been to neither any exhibition nor other city since last year. We think China is safer than any other country in the current pandemic situation. So we come here and try to explore business opportunities,” he said. This year he brought Pakistan's tourmaline, lapis, garnet, sapphire and ruby to this expo.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-jewellery-shining-at-china-import-expo/>

### **The Express Tribune**

#### **Chinese ambassador Nong Rong meets General Qamar**

Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Monday met the newly-appointed Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong to discuss matters of mutual interest and regional security, said a statement issued by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

“The two noted exceptional relations between both countries and pledged to further improve the same,” ISPR said.

The military's media wing added that the visiting dignitary acknowledged appreciated Pakistan's contributions for conflict prevention in the region.

On November 6, Ambassador Rong said Beijing wanted to build the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a high quality model project of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The Chinese envoy called on CPEC Authority Chairman Lieutenant General (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa in Islamabad to exchange in-depth views on China-Pakistan relations and the construction of CPEC projects.

Minister Counselor Pang Chunxue and Chief Executive Officer of Corridor Affairs Authority Ali Shah were also present on the occasion, a statement issued by the Chinese embassy said.

The chairman warmly welcomed Ambassador Nong to take up his new post, saying that the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan is deeply rooted in the hearts of the people and will grow stronger over time.

"The CPEC is an important project to change the destiny of Pakistan, and it has received the heartfelt support of the Pakistani government and people."

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2271639/chinese-ambassador-nong-rong-meets-general-qamar>

**November 10, 2020**

**Daily Times**

### **Pakistan-China-Iran Trilateral Cooperation**

*Nawazish Ali*

“Economy and environment is the same thing. That is the rule of nature”. (Mollie Beattie)

The significance of financial resources is central to the possibility of economic collaboration among various countries all around the globe. However, the commercial linkages in state-to-state relations cannot be entirely independent of political and strategic environment of the region in particular and the world in broad-spectrum. Respective national interests may not always align when more than one country are involved and economic cooperation that has the potential to create a win-win situation for all the parties involved should not be neglected. China's rise, Iran's attempted economic isolation by the USA and Pakistan's crucial geostrategic location are all factors that have the capacity to bring these three countries in sync. China and Pakistan have a long history of deep friendship. The evolving China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has further created prospects for adjacent regional countries to benefit from this connectivity.

The challenges to these initiatives are many as the security situation in the region has always remained worrying. Terrorism, religious extremism, sectarian clashes and interference of extra-

regional actors are only a few challenges that stand in the way of this nexus. The internal challenges of political instability and socio-economic factors can also affect this relationship adversely. However, if the leadership, governments' policies and public opinion in these three countries remain steadfast in support of this trilateral cooperation, there is no doubt, the success of this interconnection would change the economic and regional balance of Asia forever.

China's economic rise, its status as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), its widespread global influence and connectivity initiatives make it the next world power in making as a rival to the USA. South Asia, East Asia and the Middle East are regions that occupy Centre stage in world businesses. Their cultural diversity, natural resources, maritime routes, geography and conflicts have wide ranging implications even for the day-to-day affairs of almost all countries worldwide. With such adjacent allies, Pakistan can surely achieve prominent stature in the regional and global arena.

Pakistan has been facing challenges to its national security due to the turbulent situation in Afghanistan since 1979. Iran and China also have serious security and economic concerns tied up at fag-end of global war on terror. Iran and Pakistan have not seen eye to eye on the solution to Afghan war in the past as Iran backed the Northern Alliance after the Taliban seized power in 1996 whereas Pakistan, on the other hand, recognized the Taliban government in Afghanistan. China has high stakes in Afghanistan as it seeks to link it to its grand initiative of the Belt and Road (BRI). The Chinese access to Central Asian states and their oil resources is thwarted by the constant state of turmoil in Afghanistan not to mention the fear of spillover from northern Afghanistan into Xinjiang.

China and Iran also reiterated their deep strategic cooperation ahead of the expected Saudi investment in Pakistan, which means that China does not stand opposed to either Saudi or the Iranian participation in the upcoming CPEC projects

The peaceful Afghanistan is vital and stays a point of unification for these three countries, if they wish to effectively counter the Indo-US dominance in South Asia. They need to make sure that US withdrawal from Afghanistan should not plunge the AfPak region into another civil war that would certainly upset the regional peace and any chances of further trilateral cooperation among these three countries. The significant role recently played by Pakistan in the Afghan peace process provides an opening for cooperation by Iran and China as their regional interests of keeping peace in Afghanistan align perfectly with those of Pakistan.

Iran and India enjoy a friendly relationship as the two have shared a cultural and linguistic affinity for a long time and further warmed up to each other when they signed a significant defense agreement in the year 2002. Following that, the two have engaged in several trade contracts, the most prominent of which has been the Chahbahar Free Trade Agreement. In response to the launch of Gwadar port, as the sign of friendship between China and Pakistan, India pledged to assist Iran in expediting construction of Chahbahar port.

Iran is pivotal to the realization of China's trans-continental, infrastructure-focused One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative in ways that Saudi Arabia is not. Iran's oil and gas reserves, fourth and second largest in the world, spell out a boon for China's exponentially rising energy needs. Out of the three markets that Iran's massive piped gas reserves can be sold to, the closest and most accessible is China.

Gwadar is a deep-sea port with harboring potential manifold that of the size of Chahbahar, which is only feasible for a transit trade arrangement via Afghanistan. Iran has quite tactfully declared Chahbahar a 'sister port' to Gwadar and managed to keep the option for cooperation with China open for all future ventures. Hence, it is evident from the Iranian stance that it wishes to bring its maximum resources to the CPEC for all practical purposes. Having stable economic cooperation with Pakistan, Iran can quite easily extend it further to China.

China and Iran also reiterated their deep strategic cooperation ahead of the expected Saudi investment in Pakistan, which means that China does not stand opposed to either Saudi or the Iranian participation in the upcoming CPEC projects. Rather it provides China more avenues of participation and cooperation in the Middle East and Gulf region. China as a persuasive force in the SCO will make it easier for Pakistan to link energy corridors and, if Iran's bid to join the SCO is also accepted, it will be another economic opportunity for the nexus among these three countries.

China as a rising economic power is making linkages worldwide and is offering monetary and commercial opportunities for developing countries with resources to join the wave of economic harmony. A potent economic force is expected to emerge in the foreseeable future having an anti-American agenda at heart. However, it will take serious concerted efforts from the regional players to resolve mutual differences and be determined to cooperate on economic fronts with one another to ensure regional harmony and prosperity. There are many avenues for cooperation and a huge amount of untapped potential lies in this trilateral collaboration that needs to be utilized to the maximum. Pakistan's significant geographical location stays central to this new emerging bloc.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/687236/pakistan-china-iran-trilateral-cooperation/>

### **Pakistan Observer**

#### **China's cooperation sought in reforming cotton industry**

Islamabad: In order to bring qualitative reforms in its acre per yield in Pakistan, China could help Pakistan by providing technology that can improvise seed production and promote mechanization, ex vice chairman Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) Asim Saeed said. While talking to Gwadar Pro, he stated that the current challenge facing the Pakistani cotton industry is that it cannot obtain the latest technology from local researchers, nor can it attract international companies to settle in. Technology in the seed, machinery, plantation and picking up process, and ginning of cotton are with low quality, which means Pakistan is still using 70



year-old technology in its ginning industry that leads to poor output. Despite the decline in cotton production in Pakistan, the number of cotton yarn exported to China has still increased in recent months. Asim Saeed explained that the CPEC has had a positive impact on it. “Raw materials of yarn are available in our country and Pakistani yarn is enjoying zero tariffs in the Chinese market.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-cooperation-sought-in-reforming-cotton-industry/>

## **The Express Tribune**

### **Industrial sector begins expansion**

The incentives announced by Prime Minister Imran Khan to support the construction sector are yielding desired results as the industrial sector has reported business expansion.

To minimize the impact of Covid-19, the government announced a package for the construction sector in April 2020 and later incorporated it into the Finance Bill 2020.

Tax benefits under the package such as exemption from wealth declaration under Section 111 of the Income Tax Ordinance, coupled with government’s focus on the Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme, are expected to give a boost to both public and private sector demand.

“Resultantly, the industrial sector of Pakistan has begun showing signs of expansion owing to encouraging policies coupled with investment-friendly initiatives undertaken by the current government,” said Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Mian Anjum Nisar.

Speaking to The Express Tribune, he said the construction package had started yielding positive results and the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would generate further demand for cement and steel.

The State Bank of Pakistan’s Temporary Economic Refinance Facility, aimed at incentivizing import of plant and machinery, drew an overwhelming response as Rs388 billion in loans for 372 projects were requested by businesses.

Out of this, Rs157 billion for 203 projects has been approved by commercial banks.

“This is surely a sign of industrial expansion with regard to both export-oriented and locally focused sectors,” said Nisar. “Growth in the construction sector will have a huge impact on economic development and job creation.”

He praised the government for slashing power tariff for small enterprises, which constituted almost 90% of the country’s industrial segment. The official appreciated the State Bank for boosting economic activities and providing liquidity and other kind of support to businesses during the difficult time under Covid-19.

“The central bank has taken various steps to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on economic growth,” he said. “Since the onset of pandemic-related economic decline, the State Bank has

reduced the policy rate from 13.25% to 7%, allowed one-year extension in repayment of principal amount of bank loans, rescheduled and restructured bank loans without affecting credit history of borrowers.”

He added that many other measures were also announced by the SBP to contain the impact of Covid-19 on the economy.

The official pointed out that demand in the construction sector picked up after two years of slowdown and allied sectors including steel and cement were also reporting positive growth.

Since April 2020 to date, the cement sector has recorded a modest rally at the stock market and generated a return of 60% on the KSE-100 index, according to Arif Habib Limited’s report titled “Pakistan’s cement sector”.

“Our preliminary calculations suggest that 100,000 houses under the Naya Pakistan Housing Programme can augment the demand for cement and steel by 2.3 million tons (5.8% of the current demand) and 0.29 million tons respectively,” said the AHL report.

As of May 2020, total private sector credit stood at Rs6, 259 billion, according to the report. Currently, Rs235 billion has been set aside for the sector following SBP’s directive to allocate 5% of credit flow for the housing and construction sector.

Assuming 10% growth in total private sector loans by December 2021, the banking sector is expected to allocate an additional Rs23 billion for the housing and construction segment.

Assuming consumption of 23 tons of cement for a five-marla (151-square-yard) single-storey house and steel-to-cement ratio of 1:8, 100,000 houses under the Naya Pakistan Housing Scheme could augment cement and steel demand by 2.3 million tons and 0.29 million tons respectively, it said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2271676/industrial-sector-begins-expansion>

**November 11, 2020**

**Dawn News**

### **No CPEC Authority Chairman at present, NA panel told**

ISLAMABAD: The government on Tuesday told a parliamentary panel that there was no chairman of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority at present as members of the National Assembly had challenged the legal status of the defunct agency and the functioning of its top management.

After interesting discussions and a brief break to allow senior officials of the Ministry of Planning and Development to seek clarifications, the National Assembly’s Standing Committee on Planning, Development and Special Initiatives deferred “The China Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2020” to its next meeting.

As discussion started on the bill during a meeting of the standing committee, MNA Syed Agha Rafiullah inquired as to who was chairman of the CPEC Authority. “No one,” responded Planning and Development Secretary Mathar Niaz Rana.

“Then under what law the incumbent is working,” the lawmaker asked.

The secretary said he was just coordinating as the CPEC Ordinance had lapsed on May 31, 2020.

Lawmakers question legal status, functioning of the authority after expiry of its ordinance

When the ordinance had lapsed months ago, under what law they were still working, Mr Rafiullah wondered. “Are we dummies? What kind of law making are we doing?” he asked.

MNA Imran Khattak asked the planning ministry’s officials to let the committee know who was currently chairman of the CPEC Authority. The response was again in the negative.

When MNA Naveed Dero asked the officials to clearly state as to who was the chairman of the authority at present, the official response remained unchanged.

Mr Rafiullah then demanded that the planning ministry issue a written clarification that there was no chairman of the CPEC Authority and also explain how it was functioning when the ordinance had lapsed.

Committee chairman Junaid Akbar asked if there was no chairman of the CPEC Authority at present, what was the status of the incumbent and was he drawing perks and privileges?

Many committee members also asked if any memorandum of understanding (MoU) had been signed on behalf of the CPEC Authority after its ordinance lapsed in May this year.

At this, the committee chairman said he would stop proceedings for five minutes and asked the planning and development secretary to seek guidance from the government for a clear-cut position.

Secretary Mathar Rana returned after a while and reported that Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar could not be reached as he was attending a cabinet meeting, but officers of the CPEC Authority had confirmed that neither any MoU had been signed nor the incumbent enjoyed perks after the expiry of the ordinance.

This did not satisfy the committee which desired that a clear-cut and written explanation should be issued and put on record.

The secretary assured the committee that he would take up the matter with the minister and informed him about the panel’s directives.

During the course of discussions, Secretary Rana told the committee that the post of chief executive officer of the CPEC Authority was being abolished under the proposed bill and the chairman will lead the CPEC.

In the proposed bill, the chairman will be appointed by and report to the prime minister through the division concerned, he said.

In response to questions, the panel was told that indemnity to actions taken in good faith by the CPEC Authority's top management was in line with similar provisions of other authorities, but the members had reservations over the elastic definition of 'good faith'.

The planning secretary said that on the instructions of the committee he had talked to the CPEC officers and reported their response in "good faith".

It was pointed out that the earlier ordinance on the same subject was withdrawn by the government; hence, the instant bill was introduced.

The National Assembly in a written statement said the committee asked under what law the authority was performing its functions when the ordinance was withdrawn and no more in field.

The planning and development secretary assured the committee of briefing it in the next meeting on what capacity and under what law the CPEC Authority chairman was performing his functions.

The members requested for some time to study the bill and deliberate on it. The committee unanimously decided to defer the bill till its next meeting.

The meeting was attended by Sher Akbar Khan, Saleh Muhammad, Syed Faiz-ul-Hassan, Nawab Sher, Sardar Nasrullah Khan Dreshak, Imran Khattak, Muhammad Sajjad, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, Sardar Muhammad Irfan Dogar, Naveed Dero, Syed Agha Rafiullah and Abdul Shakoor.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1589734>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **Pakistan products attract visitors at West China logistics expo**

Beijing: Pakistani products have attracted a large number of visitors at the West China (Chengdu) International Supply Chain and Smart Logistics Expo 2020 opened in Chengdu, China.

As one of the supply chain representatives in this logistics exhibition, Sichuan Chinbreez Import and Export Company displayed Pakistani wooden furniture, carpets, and clothing, etc. "Our company was founded two years ago in Chengdu by me and my Pakistani partner Khan," said Vivian Yang, co-founder of Sichuan Chinbreez, a Chinese businesswoman. Her business partner Khan is a Pakistani living in Guangzhou, China for four years, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

"Our main products are Pakistani handicraft, furniture, traditional clothing, as well as Indian and Nepalese cashmere scarves and shawls." According to Vivian Yang, products with South Asian style patterns are especially popular among the Chinese customers. "Khan knows more about Pakistani culture, customs, and products than I do. And I can offer some ideas and suggestions from the Chinese perspective," said Vivian Yang, the cooperation of them is complementary. "As a foreigner, my negotiations with Pakistani suppliers may not be as

smooth.

With Khan's participation, we can get the best products at the lowest prices more easily. Khan, as a Pakistani, does not know much about Chinese culture and what is popular in China. We can cooperate to open the Chinese market with Pakistani products in a more effective way." —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-products-attract-visitors-at-west-china-logistics-expo/>

### **The Nation**

#### **PM Imran greets new Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan**

The Prime Minister congratulated the Ambassador on his appointment and extended best wishes for a fruitful term.

The Prime Minister affirmed the time-tested Pakistan-China "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership."

Terming CPEC as a transformational project, the Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's strong commitment to timely completion of CPEC projects.

The Prime Minister underlined the importance of SEZs, relocation of industry, and enhanced productivity in agriculture sector.

During the meeting, mutual support on issues of core national interest for Pakistan and China was reaffirmed.

Ambassador thanked the Prime Minister for receiving him and assured that China will fully support speedy completion of CPEC projects as well as industrialization in Pakistan and will deepen cooperation with Pakistan in agriculture sector.

<https://nation.com.pk/11-Nov-2020/pm-imran-greets-new-chinese-ambassador-to-pakistan>

### **The News**

#### **China's poverty alleviation strategy discussed as model for Pakistan**

Islamabad : Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) and Center for Chinese Legal Studies, Lahore University for Management Sciences (LUMS) co-hosted a virtual conference on 'Poverty Alleviation, COVID-19, and CPEC' as part of PCI's 'Friends of Silk Road' Initiative, says a press release.

The conference hosted eminent speakers from Pakistan and China and a large audience consisting of students, faculty, and researchers from all over Pakistan. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation, Dr. Sania Nishtar, was the chief guest and keynote speaker. The conference featured an insightful discussion on Pakistan's existing Poverty Alleviation Strategy, COVID-19's impact on Pakistan's fight against poverty, and CPEC's role vis-à-vis alleviating poverty in the neighboring countries. The main purpose of the conference was to explore the Poverty Alleviation Strategy of China in an attempt to understand how Pakistan can learn from

and employ China's best practices. The conference was moderated by Prof Sikandar Shah, Director of LUMS Center for Chinese Legal Studies.

In his opening remarks, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee in the Senate of Pakistan & Founding Chairman, PCI, said that there is a lot to learn from China's poverty alleviation strategy. By lifting 800 million people out of poverty, China has made history. Moreover, he said that on Coronavirus too, China had seen success due to timely measures, decisive leadership and cooperation of the people. Senator Mushahid Hussain termed the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) as the most important diplomatic and developmental initiative of the 21st Century, with CPEC as its pillar.

In her Keynote speech, Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation, briefed the participants about Pakistan's poverty alleviation strategy. She said that framing the issue of poverty with the Chinese experience is a welcome and relevant initiative. . While commenting on the importance of CPEC, she said that CPEC is a paradigm of growth and it will provide a lot of opportunities in terms of job creation helping to alleviate poverty as well. . She said that the government of Pakistan has got its own poverty alleviation strategy called "Ehsaas Program" which contains 140 actions and programs. Moreover, she said that the government has planned more action plans to be included in the Ehsaas strategy. She said due to Coronavirus, there was 18% increase in food insecurity in Pakistan.

Professor Sikandar Shah, Director LUMS Center for Chinese legal studies, offered full support to the government of Pakistan of the academia in regards to devising poverty alleviation strategies.

Prof Xia Jingjie, Professor of Economics at the prestigious Peking University, while briefing the participants about China's poverty alleviation strategy, said that hundreds of millions of rural laborers have migrated and worked in cities and hence have been lifted out of poverty. He said that in its rooting-out poverty campaign, the Chinese government adopted a simplified multidimensional poverty standard, i.e., Two-Not-Worries (not worrying about food and clothing) and Three-Guarantees (guaranteeing 9-year compulsory education for children and youth of school age, medical care and housing safety).

Professor Uzair J. Kayani, Assistant professor of law at LUMS said that there is a need to translate the Chinese experience of poverty alleviation to common law. Moreover, he said that Pakistan has a lot to learn from China. For instance, Pakistan can learn from China's experience of bureaucratic reforms to lower costs.

Masood Khalid, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Executive Director SDPI and Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute also spoke on occasion.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/742059-china-s-poverty-alleviation-strategy-discussed-as-model-for-pakistan>



**November 12, 2020**

**Pakistan Observer**

**China-Pakistan friendship nurtured a forest in the desert of Gwadar despite Covid-19, CPEC construction continues to make Progress**

During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, the Chinese port operator at Pakistan's southwest Port of Gwadar focused its attention on forest-planting, and has now successfully completed a friendship forest in a city situated in a desert climate, gifting the city its first ever green park. At the foot of the area's Koh-e-Batil Hill, the forest spreads across 60 mus (4 hectares) of land provided by the Pakistani government for free. The construction of the park was supported by the local community and the Pakistani Navy, which promptly relocated its camps and buildings in just two weeks to evacuate the land needed for forest planting.

Located in Pakistan's southwest province of Balochistan, Gwadar Port is a key project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Since its operation, the port has begun to play a new role as an economical transit stop and time-saving trade port for land-locked Afghanistan when it ships fertilizer. To build a forest in Gwadar's desert climate with almost no rain is no easy task, and the China Overseas Ports Holding Company – the port's operator – joined hands with the city government of Puyang, in Central China's Henan Province, to work toward the target of affording the local community a green park in as short a time as possible that would have low maintenance costs and be easily accessible.

The most advanced irrigation technology is applied here, a manager of the forest park's builder said, noting that the building of the forest received on-site guidance by a team of Chinese agriculture experts.

A total of 100,000 trees, shrubs and flowers that resist high-temperature, high saline-alkali soils were planted, with a 10,000-meter-long irrigation pipeline system, and a storage tanker holding up to 3,000 cubic meters of water, according to the company.

“It takes us about 10 months to complete the friendship forest, roughly coinciding with the time period of the pandemic, and we are continuing work to improve the park and the forest,” Zhang Baozhong, chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Company, told the Global Times. The fact that a forest of this size can be added to the extremely hot and dry land of Gwadar in such a short time shows how much importance China's BRI builders attach to the concept of green development – a concept also specifically implemented in China to help work toward a sustainable ecological civilization, analysts pointed out.

Xu Liping, director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, told the Global Times on Monday that while infrastructure-building lies at the core of the BRI development, the green aspects of BRI development also began to achieve

tangible results in recent years. The new feature is an important accent of BRI's sustainable approach toward development.

“Such a development approach is in accordance with UN's development goals and that of the BRI's. It marks the fact that BRI development has entered a high-quality development phase,” Xu added.

### **Green BRI**

Comprehensive measures have been taken under the green Belt and Road to advance the conservation of biodiversity, and the economic and social development of partner countries, Luo Zhaohui, China's vice minister of foreign affairs wrote in an article in June. In designing and undertaking BRI projects, Chinese enterprises have taken ecological factors into full consideration to help conserve biodiversity while contributing to local economic development, Luo said.

Chinese companies planted nearly 300,000 trees and more than 5 million square meters of grass while building the Karakoram Highway that links Pakistan and China, playing their part in greening the local environment during infrastructure construction, according to Luo. Last year, the Chinese government and more than 140 foreign and Chinese partners from 42 countries jointly launched the BRI International Green Development Coalition, under which “biodiversity and ecosystems” is identified as a special subject and a series of case studies and research projects on guidelines and standards were carried out.

China strongly supports the construction of the CPEC, and will continue to focus cooperation on people's livelihoods, industry and agriculture on the basis of the sound operation of existing projects, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on November 4.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a regular briefing that China aims to build CPEC as a high-quality demonstration project under the BRI to better benefit people of the two countries and even the people of all countries in the region.

### **CPEC progress**

Despite the pandemic's negative impact on economic activity, CPEC construction continues to make progress.

“Across seven years of construction, a large number of CPEC projects are still in process or have been completed, bringing direct investment worth more than \$25 billion to Pakistan,” said Wang. At Gwadar, the port completed the transfer of nearly 20,000 tons of goods such as wheat, sugar and fertilizers bound for Afghanistan in the first half of this year, providing nearly 1,000 jobs. In October, Pakistan's first metro train service, the Orange Line, started commercial operation in Lahore, the capital city of Punjab Province, opening a new era for the South Asian country in the public transportation sector.

On October 29, Pakistan's Information Minister Shibli Faraz said that the CPEC is a symbol of friendship between Pakistan and China that would further strengthen bilateral relations.

The minister said that all projects under the CPEC are being implemented in a timely manner as the government is cognizant of the importance of the CPEC in the country's development and prosperity, adding that the government has created a mechanism through which all the CPEC projects could be completed in a coherent manner.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-friendship-nurtured-a-forest-in-the-desert-of-gwadar-despite-covid-19-cpec-construction-continues-to-make-progress/>

### **Pakistan committed to complete CPEC projects on time: PM China to support Pak's industrialization: Envoy**

Islamabad: Nong Rong, the newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan on Wednesday assured Prime Minister Imran Khan that China will fully support the speedy completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's (CPEC) projects as well as industrialization in Pakistan. PM Imran, during a meeting congratulated the ambassador on his appointment and extended best wishes for a fruitful term.

The ambassador thanked the premier for receiving him and said that his country will deepen cooperation with Pakistan in agriculture and other sectors during his term at the office. Affirming the time-tested Pakistan-China "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership", PM Imran termed CPEC as a transformational project, and reiterated Pakistan's strong commitment to timely completion of its projects.

The premier underlined the importance of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), relocation of industry, and enhanced productivity in the agriculture sector.

During the meeting, mutual support on issues of core national interest for Pakistan and China was also reaffirmed, according to the statement.

Last week, Chinese Foreign Ministry had said that CPEC had achieved major progress since its launch seven years ago, bringing a total of \$25 billion of direct investments to the country. During his regular briefing in Beijing, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin noted that many projects had been started or completed under CPEC, a dynamic project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) launched by President Xi Jinping. He particularly mentioned the completion of the Orange Line Metro Line (OLMT) in Lahore, Pakistan's first electric-powered public transport project. Wang said that projects completed under CPEC, had enhanced infrastructure and power supply in Pakistan and created employment opportunities for the locals and contributed towards the growth of gross domestic product (GDP).

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-committed-to-complete-cpec-projects-on-time-pm-china-to-support-paks-industrialisation-envoy/>

## The Nation

### **CPEC to help Pakistan achieve economic goals: NA speaker**

Islamabad - Speaker Asad Qaiser has said that completion of CPEC would help Pakistan achieve its economic and industrial goals.

“Pakistan is proud of its all-weather unique friendship and strategic partnership with China,” said National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong. He said that present government was committed to take that exemplary relation to new heights.

Talking to the ambassador, the speaker said China and Pakistan have cherished vibrant, friendly relations spreading over decades. He said that those ties were based on regional development, mutual trust, trade and economic cooperation. He added that the cooperation between both countries was rapidly expanding.

He said that Pakistan confidently counts on Chinese support at international and regional forums. He underlined the need for cementing parliamentary contacts for further cementing those ties. He asked the Ambassador to convey his good wishes to the Chairman of the Chinese National People’s Congress and to reiterate invitation already extended to him to visit Pakistan. The Speaker also wished good luck to the Ambassador Nong Rong on his ambassadorial assignment to Pakistan.

While discussing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Speaker said CPEC was a game changer not only for both the countries but also for the whole region. He said that it would significantly contribute in bringing socio-economic development in Pakistan. He said that Parliament out rightly stands with the CPEC, therefore a series of seminars had been arranged to mobilize stakeholders, intelligentsia and other segments of society to increase effectiveness to the project. He invited Chinese Ambassador to attend a Seminar being organized by Parliamentary Committee on CPEC in Peshawar on 13th November.

Referring to the inauguration of the recently completed Rashakai Special Economic Zone project, the Speaker said that it will prove a milestone in the industrial development of the country. The Speaker informed that Prime Minister of Pakistan will inaugurate the Special Economic Zone on 21st November, 2020.

Ambassador Nong Kong said that relations between two countries were exceptional and gaining strength with the passage of time. He said that cooperation between China and Pakistan was clear depiction of the commitment of leadership of both the countries towards each other. The Ambassador said that completion of 1st phase of the CPEC would open new avenues of development for the people of the region. He informed that with the advent of 2nd Phase of the CPEC, socio-economic, industrialization, agriculture and scientific and technological sectors would be focused.

He added that the completion of CPEC would change the destiny of the region and would unleash a new era of Pak-China relations.

Later, Chinese Ambassador called on Chairman Parliamentary Committee on CPEC Mr. Sher Ali Arbab. Discussion between them mainly focused the measures to enhance cooperation between two countries. It was agreed that the suggestions put forth by the Chinese government regarding areas under collaboration would be forwarded to the concerned forums. The Ambassador apprised the Chairman of work on prioritized special economic zones in Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/12-Nov-2020/cpec-to-help-pakistan-achieve-economic-goals-na-speaker>

### **Kashmiri silk carpets popular at China expo**

Islamabad - Handmade silk carpets from Kashmir have become one of the best-selling products at the 3rd China International Import Expo, CEN report revealed yesterday.

The Chinese market now is the major focus because of the country's giant business potential.

“Unlike ordinary carpets, Kashmir carpets are an artwork worth collecting. That's the reason why I bought it almost without any hesitation despite the high price,” said a Chinese man who bought an exquisite Kashmir carpet with RMB 60,000 from Zahid Ahmad of Woven Cashmere at CIIE.

This is Zahid's third journey to CIIE. The Expo is an unparalleled high-end world event full of business opportunities for him.

“CIIE helped us a lot as our sales have got a 40% increase in China in the last three years. Our products are of superior quality, and via CIIE we have got potential customers well matched for our products,” he said.

This year Zahid Ahmad brought Kashmir carpets, scarfs and furniture with embroidery to CIIE. The carpets exhibited are made from silk rather than wool. “Wool carpets are quite heavy. Silk carpets are smoother and their life span is longer than the woolen ones,” he talked about silk carpets' unique strengths.

“Kashmir carpets are artworks. As the mechanization in Kashmir improves, handmade products definitely will be rarer.

They have a chance to gain in value. Increasingly more Chinese people are becoming interested in it because of its cultural and artistic value,” Xu Chunhua said with deep affection for Kashmir products.

<https://nation.com.pk/12-Nov-2020/kashmiri-silk-carpets-popular-at-china-expo>

**November 13, 2020**

**Dawn News**

**NA speaker calls on Imran**

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser on Thursday called on Prime Minister Imran Khan and discussed the matters related to the parliamentary affairs and legislation.

According to an official handout issued by the National Assembly Secretariat, the speaker apprised the prime minister about the regional dialogue being organized by the Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Peshawar on Friday (today) on the role of parliament in enhancing investment, trade and people to people exchanges under CPEC.

This regional dialogue is first of the series of regional dialogues which would be held in all four provincial capitals, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

The speaker also discussed with the prime minister the setting up of economic zone at Rashkai under CPEC.

The meeting took place between the prime minister and the speaker two days after the latter cancelled the parliamentary leaders' meeting which he had convened on Nov 11 for "a briefing by military officials on the current issues of national security" after the opposition parties decided to stay away from it.

The opposition parties had announced boycott of all the meetings under the speaker due to his alleged bias conduct during the joint sitting of the parliament on September 16 at the time of the passage of the bills related to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The opposition alleges that the speaker has failed to run the assembly according to rules and parliamentary traditions.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1590078/na-speaker-calls-on-imran>

**The Nation**

**Regional countries shows keen interest to become part of CPEC: Speaker NA**  
Speaker National Assembly, Asad Qaiser here on Friday said that regional countries including Afghanistan have showed keen interest to become part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Asad Qaiser said CPEC has attracted a number of countries of the region and showed strong commitment to become part of the multi-billion dollar project due to its enormous economic and trade benefits. Likewise, he added that Afghanistan Government had also expressed commitment to become a partner in the mega project.



He was addressing the dialogue titled “ Role of Parliament in promoting Investment, Trade and People to People exchange under the CPEC,” organized by National Assembly Secretariat, Islamabad here at local hotel. The function was also addressed by KP Chief Minister, Mahmood Khan, Chief of Parliamentary Committee on CPEC, Sher Ali Arbab and others speakers.

The Speaker National Assembly said CPEC project was a multifaceted project that would change the destiny of people of the region including Pakistan by ushering a new era of progress, prosperity and development.

He said KP was located in strategic position that would largely benefit from CPEC. He said solid efforts would be made on Parliament level to ensure maximum benefits from projects under the CPEC for KP. Similarly he was also playing part in getting due rights of the province including its share on account of the hydel power profit.

Asad Qaiser said administrative officers concerned were directed to expedite work on their part on cases pertaining to KP’s rights and CPEC projects and forwards it to Islamabad at earliest for further progress in this regard.

He said this region had suffered the most due to Afghanistan conflict and resultantly business and trade activities got adversely affected in the entire region including KP.

Asad Qaiser said Peshawar used to be a trade and business center in the past and constructive efforts were being made to make it again a hub of business and trade. In this regard, he added that a friendship Group had been revived with Afghanistan. He said lasting peace in Afghanistan was vital to take full advantage of CPEC by Central Asians Republics (CARs) and Kabul.

The Speaker said the government was committed to promote trade and business relations with neighboring countries including Afghanistan. Asad Qaiser added that he would be visiting Afghanistan along with a delegation in December that would help further strengthen relations between the two countries.

During the visit, the NA speaker said a gamut of issues would be discussed with Afghan officials concerned regarding trade relations and matters with regard to inclusion of Afghanistan in CPEC during his visit.

Chief of Parliamentary Committee on CPEC, Sher Ali Arbab said CPEC was a key project that would open up a new chapter of prosperity and development in the entire region including Pakistan.

In the first phase of CPEC, focus on strengthening of infrastructure was made while in the second phase the attention was being made to investment and trade.

Pakistan is looking forward to Afghanistan becoming a partner in CPEC like China. He said every part and province of the country would be visited to get people feedback on this vital project.

<https://nation.com.pk/13-Nov-2020/regional-countries-shows-keen-interest-to-become-part-of-cpec-speaker-na>

## **The News**

### **Pak-China school to promote talent for CPEC**

BEIJING: Pakistani students of North China Electric Power University (NCEPU) communicated with members of China Huaneng Group Co., Ltd. (CHNG) International Talent Training class at the Training Base.

This was aimed at initiating School-enterprise cooperation among Chinese and Pakistani students to provide talents for CPEC, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

It was reported that university and the enterprise of the two children have jointly initiated a long-term cooperation to provide Pakistani talents for CPEC.

On the occasion, CHNG staff presented the general situation of their development in the international market, analyzed several CPEC electrical engineering projects, and answered the students' questions.

Mishkat Jan, PHD of Electric Power Engineering, a Pakistani student who took part in the activity, said that Pakistan has been facing an acute shortage of electricity since 2006-07, which is considered as the worst power crisis.

Recognizing the growing energy needs of Pakistan, and to overcome the existing deficits, CPEC has allocated a major proportion of its funds to energy generation and transmission.

“Many power projects including wind, solar, hydroelectric and coal under CPEC, contribute significantly to the sustainable growth of industries and unhindered electric supply for domestic consumption in Pakistan,” Mishkat added.

Muhammad Nasir, another Pakistani student, said, “CPEC and cooperation between CHNG and NCEPU have provided lots of opportunities for Pakistani youth.

This contributes not only electricity but also intellectual talents to Pakistan. We have got a chance to devote ourselves to our country and CPEC.”

Sahiwal Project which CHNG has been involved in from construction to operation, is the first large-scale coal-fired power station under CPEC.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/743205-pak-china-school-to-promote-talent-for-cpec>

**November 14, 2020**

**Business Recorder**

**3-day Offline/Online Pak-China Industrial Expo inaugurated**

LAHORE: President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) S M Naveed on Friday inaugurated the three-day “Offline/Online Pakistan China Industrial Expo 2020” here on Friday.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, S M Naveed appreciated Chinese businessmen working in Pakistan for putting up a superb show in which companies of both countries have showcased their potentials at largesse level. China can help a lot in resolving the energy issues being faced by Pakistan and can provide the much desired relief painstakingly to the industrial, commercial and domestic sector of Pakistan, he said.

He hoped that the exhibition, as a regular annual feature, would keep the local industry abreast with the international development and trends. Moreover, the exhibition would lead the way in delivering the most exquisite opportunities for all participants in different sectors like; CNC machinery, construction machinery, new energy, building material, agricultural machinery, plastic machinery, hardware, chemical, and auto parts, he said, adding that the event is launched in innovative mode of, offline and online holding all B2B meetings online via terminal equipment which are installed on every booth.

More than 1000 participants from both countries attended the exhibition at both offline and online platforms. PCJCCI China Affair’s Chairman Wang Zihai, Senior Vice President Daud Ahmed and other office-bearers also attended the inaugural ceremony.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/11/14/3-page/858177-news.html>

**Dawn News**

**As GB votes, locals want share of Chinese investment boom**

GAHKUCH: As night falls on a remote mountain road in a northern area of Pakistan, Ijazul Haq, 22, is keeping his grocery store open longer than usual, hoping to cash in on a frenzied electoral campaign that has brought the nation’s interest upon this otherwise neglected region.

Political parties are trying to sway voters in Gilgit-Baltistan. The country’s top politicians have turned up here to stump, vowing to build multibillion-dollar infrastructure projects, and end decades of disenfranchisement.

Gilgit-Baltistan, which borders Afghanistan and China, is the gateway of the \$65 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure plan. But the region has so far reaped few rewards.

“Look at this road we have, it takes 4.5 hours to get to a decent hospital from here. If they fixed the road it would take 1.5 hours,” said Haq, who lives in Thawoos, a tiny hamlet in the district of Ghizer.

Political parties try to sway voters, vowing to build multibillion-dollar infrastructure projects in region

The local assembly, for which the Nov 15 elections are being held, has few powers. The National Assembly and Senate have no representation from Gilgit-Baltistan, and the region receives only a fraction of the national budget.

This month Prime Minister Imran Khan said he would provide provisional provincial status to Gilgit-Baltistan, giving it greater political representation, but no timeline has been given.

Mr. Khan’s plan is not the first time locals have heard promises of being granted constitutional rights: in 2016 then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif proposed to make Gilgit-Baltistan a province as well, but shelved plans afterwards.

“We’ve long said we want to be part of Pakistan, but they push us away,” said Yawar Abbas, a local leader with the Gilgit-Baltistan Awareness Forum, which seeks to alter the region’s constitutional status.

Abbas says the status of GB has left locals in limbo, unable to enjoy the same rights as other Pakistanis, but also unable to enjoy autonomy.

Broken dreams

Graves of fallen soldiers marked by Pakistani flags dot the Ghizer district, which has the country’s highest per-capita rate of military recruitment.

“There is rampant poverty here, and for many of us there is no other way to earn a living than joining the military,” said Haq, whose brother serves in the navy.

In the winter locals often have no electricity for 20 hours a day.

The CPEC project was supposed to bring development to the region, but that has not happened, a consequence, residents believe, of the lack of local representation at national levels.

New roads, two hydroelectric power plants, a fiber-optic internet line, and a special economic zone to boost industrial activities have all been proposed as part of the CPEC project, but none have been materialized so far.

The only substantial project from the much-touted China-Pakistan partnership has been the construction of the Karakoram Highway, completed decades ago.

Like most other candidates, Jamil Ahmed, have promised voters he would seek to draw more investment from China.

“CPEC is going through here, we are the gateway, and we are the door to China. So if someone opens the door for you, you should put something at the doorstep as well,” said Ahmed, a candidate with the Pakistan People’s Party.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1590295/as-gb-votes-locals-want-share-of-chinese-investment-boom>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **CIIE to promote Pakistan’s exports to China: Moin**

Beijing: Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said that China International Import Expo (CIIE) is the flagship event of China and it fully supports the exports of Pakistan’s products here.

Talking to China Economic Net (CEN), Moin ul Haque stated that he was extremely happy to represent Pakistan in the recent Third China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai. “It is very important even for Pakistan to promote and to showcase Pakistan, strengthen various sectors, and to promote Pakistan’s exports to China”, the ambassador added.

He further said that the president of Pakistan was one of the first leaders who delivered the address there.

While in the first CIIE, which was held in 2018, Pakistan’s prime minister attended the event and he was a keynote speaker and we had a large Pakistani pavilion.

President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi applauded the special and sole Pakistan-China relations and appreciated China’s efforts that had successfully dealt with Covid-19 pandemic through a special video message at the third CIIE.

Answering the question about Orange Line metro in Lahore, Mr. Moin ul Haq stated that it is a very important project under China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

It has set on a new trend and a very first project in public transport sector and it’s Pakistan’s first metro project.

<https://pakobserver.net/ciie-to-promote-pakistans-exports-to-china-moin/>

**November 15, 2020**

## **Business Recorder**

### **Dossier on terror financing unveiled**

Evidence show how India seeks to harm CPEC

- Foreign minister warns of increase in terrorist activities in G-B in particular
- DG ISPR says recent upsurge in violence is direct consequence of growing Indian engagement with the banned outfits, sub-nationalists and dissidents

ALI HUSSAIN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Saturday unveiled a dossier carrying “irrefutable evidence” of India’s state-sponsored terrorism inside the country aimed at destabilising Pakistan, disrupting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and creating unrest in Balochistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and erstwhile Fata through sub-nationalist elements. The dossier was presented at a joint news conference by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and the Director General, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar, urging the international community to exert pressure on India to stop state-sponsored terrorism against Pakistan. “The evidences presented by Pakistan provide a concrete proof of Indian financial and material sponsorship of multiple terrorist organisations, including UN-designated terrorist organisations Jammāt-ul-Ahrar (JUA), Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP),” Foreign Minister Qureshi said.

He said that Pakistan was presenting the dossier to the UN, the OIC, the P5 countries of the Security Council, and others.

“We expect the international community to play its role for peace and stability in the region, by compelling India to immediately halt its state sponsorship of terrorism inside Pakistan, and bring to justice all those responsible for supporting and financing terrorism inside Pakistan, according to relevant domestic and international laws,” he added.

He pointed out that Pakistan had shared its concerns with major international partners before. “We are now presenting irrefutable evidence to the world of Indian state’s direct sponsorship of terrorism inside Pakistan that has resulted in the deaths of innocent Pakistanis,” he said, adding that the international community could no longer turn a blind eye to this rogue behavior by a state, which refused to adhere to international laws and conventions.

“Let me be clear that India is a state sponsor of terrorism that is consistently exhibiting rogue behaviour. If the world does not take the Indian agenda to destabilise and undermine Pakistan in the region seriously, then I am afraid, peace and stability in a nuclear South Asia does not seem to be their priority,” Qureshi warned.

He said that Pakistan’s valiant law enforcement and security agencies had resolutely fought and won the war against terrorism.

“We know how to defend ourselves. India’s efforts to foment terrorism inside Pakistan will not be allowed to undermine Pakistan’s stability in any way,” he said, adding: “whether they acknowledge or not, all major powers know that India is [a] threat to the entire region”. He said the world community must act to prevent India from its continuous sponsorship of terrorism against Pakistan.

“We reserve the right to defend ourselves in every possible way,” he added.



Qureshi said the dossier revealed deepening nexus between Indian intelligence agencies and UN-designated terrorist organisations, including JuA, TTP, BLA, Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), and the Baloch Republican Army (BRA).

He said India had provided funding worth Rs22 billion to these terror outfits in the last three years, adding that it also carried evidence of Indian intelligence agencies' funding and provision of weapons, ammunition and IEDs to target ulema, notables, and police officials in a bid to destabilise Pakistan.

“The dossier contains evidence of India’s attempts to undermine the CPEC,” he said, adding that a cell under the direct supervision of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was working to sabotage the CPEC.

So far, Rs80 billion has been allocated and a militia of 700 people has been raised to disrupt the CPEC projects, he added.

He said the dossier had exposed Indian plans and attempts to create unrest in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, and erstwhile Fata through sub-nationalist elements.

Sharing the evidence carried by the dossier, the DG ISPR said that India embraced all terrorist organisations soon after they were uprooted from Pakistan, and also presented the details of Indian machinations for Pakistan’s destabilisation and economic coercion such as funding terrorism, weapons and equipment support to terrorists, terrorist training, and terrorist activities. He said the recent upsurge in violence in Pakistan was a direct consequence of India’s intensified engagements with all brands of terrorists, sub-nationalists, and dissidents operating against Pakistan.

After unification of the TTP with its breakaway factions (JuA and HuA) in August 2020, he added that India was endeavouring to establish a consortium of TTP with proscribed dissident outfits of Balochistan, BLA, BLF, and BRA, which were already united under the banner of BRAS (Baloch Raaji Aajoie Sangar) constituted in 2018.

He revealed that Indian intelligence officer named Col Rajesh, employed at Indian Embassy in Afghanistan, was the master planner, and the letter in Dari revealed that he had already held four meetings with commanders of those terrorist organisations to synergise their efforts, and upscale terrorist activities in metropolitan cities including Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar, in November and December 2020.

“It has also been revealed that Indian intelligence agencies are trying to establish Pakistan’s linkage with ISIS by creating “Daesh-e-Pakistan”, he said. Recently, he added that 30 Indian Daesh militants were relocated from India to various camps along Pakistan-Afghanistan border by two Indian intelligence agencies operatives.

These militants were handed over to Daesh Commander Shiekh Abdul Rahim alias Abdul Rehman Muslim Dost, he said.

He also unfolded the complete picture of Indian terrorism sponsorship by exposing the nexus of Indian intelligence agencies with terrorist organisations for financing, training, and perpetrating terrorist activities inside Pakistan, and the region.

### **Funding Terrorism:**

The DG ISPR stated that “un-contrivable evidence” reveals that Indian embassies and consulates operating along Pakistan’s borders have become hub of terror sponsorship against Pakistan. “We have verifiable evidence of terrorists funding by India,” he said, adding that Indian ambassadors in Afghanistan had been regularly supervising various terrorist activities. In one such instance, he added that Indian ambassador to Afghanistan and Indian consular in Jalalabad had detailed discussions with collaborators to provide financial support to TTP and dissident Baloch elements.

He said that RAW was financing its front men in third countries, adding that the RAW made two transactions to its cut-out to promote terrorism in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Both transactions have been made through Indian banks, he said, adding that \$28,000 was transferred by Punjab Bank India, and the second transaction of \$55,851 was made by Manmeet, an Indian national, from Indian Bank, New Delhi, which was received by Afghanistan International Bank.

On another occasion, he added, RAW, while using Indian Embassy in Afghanistan held a number of meetings with TTP commanders, adding that the letter in Dari language [copies of which were displayed on screen] showed that India paid \$820,000 to TTP leadership through its collaborators.

For sabotaging the CPEC, the DG ISPR said that India raised a militia of 700 persons to undertake terrorism in Balochistan, adding that a commission comprising 24 members was created, which included 10 RAW operatives, while \$60 million were dedicated for the force. “Indian Embassy had regularly been paying handsome amounts to sub-nationalists under the garb of humanitarian assistance work and Balochistan projects; corroborating evidences of four transactions of US \$23.35 million are held with us, however, one evidence is presented in which \$5 million was given to a sub-nationalist to cause unrest in Balochistan,” he further revealed. He added that confessional statement of Sarfraz Merchant and Tariq Mir revealed that Altaf Hussain Group (AHG) [MQM-London chapter] used to be funded by RAW through two Indian companies, namely JVGT and Paras Jewellery. The evidence of transfer of \$3.23 million from RAW were held, he added.

### **Weapons and equipment support to terrorists by India:**

He said that India had also been rendering support to various entities through provision of weapons, ammunition, and IEDs.

Recently, he added, a RAW-sponsored network of six terrorists had been unearthed, which had linkages with the attack on Pakistan Stock Exchange on 29 June 2020, and was also involved in

delivery of suicide jackets to various terrorists groups operating in Pakistan, besides undertaking terrorist activities.

He said that two RAW front men, Abdul Wahid and Abdul Qadir, along with four Afghan terrorists had been exposed.

He said that the network was also involved in target killing of ulema, police officials, and notables, adding that RAW was paying them handsome amounts for undertaking terrorist activities.

He said the security forces had also intercepted a huge cache of suicide jackets, IEDs, explosives, weapons, and ammunition.

“We also have the evidence of RAW providing weapons, ammunition and IEDs to TTP commanders,” he said, and also shared the letter in Dari language on the screen, which read that TTP leaders after collecting the weapons came back to their safe locations after crossing the border into Pakistan.

He said that RAW agent was found involved in motivating the tribals in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa to send fighters in Afghanistan for training and the letter in Dari reflected that RAW handler also delivered IEDs and weapons in the bordering areas of Waziristan during his visit. The DG ISPR further said that India had also been providing weapons and ammunition to Altaf Hussain Group; weapons worth \$0.62 million were provided to AHG on one such occasion, he added.

#### **Terrorists Training by India:**

He said that India had established multi-purpose base camps, which were being utilised for training, harbouring, and launching of terrorists into Pakistan. Indian intelligence agencies are managing 87 such terrorists’ camps out of which 66 are located in Afghanistan whereas, 21 are located in India, he added.

He added that former Indian ambassador and an Indian army general visited Baloch militant training camp in Haji Gak area in Afghanistan.

In another instance, he added that India paid \$30 million to establish a camp in area of Sarhad Leva Kandhar for dissidents of Balochistan, adding that RAW was responsible for provision of weapons and ammunition for which four helicopters were also utilised.

He said that Ajmal Pahari confessed that India had established four training camps for AHG militants at Deradhun, Haryana, in North and North-East India.

While the training duration varied from 15 days to four months, he added that it was confirmed that 40 AHG terrorists had received training in India, who used to travel to New Delhi through a third country.

#### **Terrorist Incidents:**

Giving details of the few terrorist incidents whose investigations have validated RAW's direct involvement, he said that BLA and BLF launched an attack at PC Hotel at Gawdar on 11 May 2019 in which four terrorists were killed whereas, five innocent people were martyred. RAW officer Anurag Singh planned the attack wherein \$0.5 million was allocated by RAW for the attack, he added.

He said that the attacker, Hamal Nawaz, used an Afghan phone no (+93794087914), and he was in contact with an Indian phone number (+916396067562), during the attack.

He further stated that the attack was masterminded by Dr Allah Nazar and Aslam Achoo, adding that both had travelled to India on fake Afghan passports.

He said that Achoo was admitted in an Indian hospital, while he travelled under the cover name of Abdul Hamid on a passport having double-entry visa stamped by India.

Nazar also travelled to India on fake documents under the cover name of Haji Nabi who is the main conduit between various BSNs and the RAW handlers.

"17 audio clips of his conversations with RAW handlers while discussing the future operations validate his undeniable connection with RAW. Nazar receives instructions from an officer of Indian intelligence agency," he added.

The investigations of attack on Agriculture University in Peshawar of 26 October of 2017 led to masterminds of the APS attack, he said, adding that RAW had hired three facilitators for planning the attack on the university including Malik Faridoon, who was also involved in the planning of APS attack.

Soon after the APS attack, he said that Faridoon went to Indian consulate in Jalalabad to celebrate, adding that Faridoon also visited India for medical treatment in 2017, where he remained admitted in Primus Hospital.

He said the attackers of Agriculture University were in contact with various Afghan numbers during the attack and live-streamed the videos to their handlers, which were uploaded from Afghan IP addresses.

While meetings of Altaf Hussain with RAW's Chief Ajit Chetorvedi and Vikram Soouthe were validated by Sarfraz Merchant as well as Muhammad Anwar in their statements, recently, he said and added that security forces have discovered RAW affiliated sleeper cell in Karachi. He said that 13 individuals of the gang had been apprehended and produced in anti-terrorist court whereas, Mehmood Siddiqui, the main accused, who was operating this network, was absconder and residing in India.

Two JITs have been constituted and investigations are underway, he added.

On 11 May 2020, he added that Peshawar police became victim of an IED attack, which resulted in injuries to two police personnel and three others.

The attack was masterminded by two RAW front men, Noor Muhammad and Zabih Ullah, who were found operating from Indian consulate in Jalalabad.

“The busting of network has averted planned future attacks on some important locations,” he said.

In June 2020, three RAW front men, namely Haji Habib Ullah, Haji Aziz Ullah, and Haji Bedar, employed by the Indian consulate in Jalalabad tasked six JuA terrorists (three Pakistanis and three Afghan nationals) in Pakistan to identify important personalities for target killings, he said.

“The network has remained involved in various target killings in Peshawar in the past as well and has linkages with the suicide attack at Mardan Judicial Complex in 2016. The investigations are under progress,” he added.

On 14 August this year, he stated that Pakistan’s intelligence agencies averted a massive terrorist attack planned by India. An Indian intelligence agency’s officer, Major Fermin Dass, operating from Kabul, was planning the attack, who had arranged transportation of mines, rockets, and explosives, which have been recovered.

He said the network had already carried out seven terrorist attacks in Hub, Mastung, Quetta, and Sohrab at RAW’s behest.

#### **Indian efforts for politicisation of FATF:**

While Pakistan remains firmly committed to the forum and our achievements for fulfilling the technical obligations remain unparalleled, he added that India had consistently been endeavouring to politicise the forum for economic coercion of Pakistan.

“Tangible evidence reflects that Indian foreign missions in FATF member countries have always been extensively lobbying with hosts prior to FATF meetings to undermine Pakistan’s achievements and create conditions for our grey/blacklisting,” the DG ISPR said. He said that evidence revealed that how extensive lobbying was done from February to April 2018 for downgrading of Pakistan’s status, which resulted into our grey-listing in June 2018. Despite India’s continuous efforts, Pakistan had come a long way, which had also been acknowledge by the international community, he said.

On the contrary, he added that India needed to be scrutinized at the FATF platform in the light of evidences presented by Pakistan as well as recent revelations made by FINCEN further reveal the fragility of Indian terror financing and money laundering regimes.

#### **Indian interference in AJK:**

He said that India was aggressively pursuing clandestine agenda of destabilising the AJK and GB, adding that tangible evidence indicated that RAW was involved in planting of IEDs in AJK to target civilians and military personnel.

He said since January 2016, 60 IEDs were planted, out of which 38 exploded resulting into casualties of 13 civilians, and 46 military personnel whereas, the remaining 22 IEDs were successfully neutralised.

Since January 2019, he stated that Indian intelligence handlers Colonel Pandit Colonel Maaz using numbers +919796840949 and +917051328325 delivered nine IEDs to the miscreants at LoC. The forensic analyses of the IEDs have confirmed use of Indian components, he added. RAW has also been attempting to establish a network for target killing of important personalities for a reward ranging between Rs50 million and 80 million, adding that a RAW officer, Brig Muneej, had transferred Rs1.8 million to the account of the individual being motivated to undertake target killings.

The money was transferred from a bank of a third country, he said.

### **RAW's destabilising interference in GB:**

The DG ISPR further stated that India had for long been endeavouring to create unrest in GB. In the context of provisional provincial GB status being discussed in Pakistan, he added that an important meeting was held in the Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi, on 28 September 2020, to deliberate upon the methodology to trigger negative reactions. He added that salient revelations of the meeting were: RAW and IB highlighted that they are contemplating subverting perceived changes in status of GB; After November 20, hostile elements will be mobilised to undertake various subversive operations in Kashmir and GB; RAW aims to exploit prevalent event by staging some terrorist attacks on large public gatherings; and assassination of a main-stream/sub-nationalist leader in AJK/GB or religious figure is being planned to arouse public anger.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/11/15/1-page/858247-news.html>

## **Pakistan Observer**

### **Pakistan-China Institute holds conference on 'Poverty Alleviation'**

Legal Studies (CCLS) at the Sheikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law, LUMS in collaboration with the Pakistan-China Institute organized a virtual conference on 'Poverty Alleviation, Covid-19 and CPEC – Connecting the Dots'.

Experts for the panel discussion included Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation; Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Chairman Foreign Affairs Committee in Senate of Pakistan; Mr. Masood Khalid, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Professor Xia Qingjie, Peking University, China; Dr. Vaqar Ahmed, Executive Director, SDPI; and Professor Uzair J. Kayani, Faculty, Sheikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law, LUMS. The moderator, Professor Sikander Ahmed Shah, Director, CCLS, engaged the panel in an insightful conversation on Pakistan's existing Poverty Alleviation Strategy, the impact of COVID-19 on Pakistan's deteriorating income poverty, and CPEC's role vis-à-vis alleviating poverty in the country. The conference also explored the Poverty Alleviation Strategy of China in an attempt to understand how Pakistan may learn from and employ China's best practices. Mr. Mustafa Hyder Syed, Executive Director, PCI, presented his closing remarks for the conference and urged the audience to also focus their energies on the small and medium



enterprises that enhance the vocational potential of our country. The conference received an active and warm feedback from the participants and served as a constructive discourse of Pakistan in its effort towards welfare reform, strong institutional governance and fighting the poverty trap.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-institute-holds-conference-on-poverty-alleviation/>

### The Express News

سی پیک دائرہ پر لگنے کا بیان ملکی مفاد کخلاف ہے، پیپلز پارٹی

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی، این این آئی) پیپلز پارٹی کی نائب صدر سینیٹر شیریں رحمان نے شیخ رشید کی پریس کانفرنس پر رد عمل کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ شیخ رشید گلگت بلتستان کے انتخابات کے نتائج کو سی پیک کے مستقبل سے جوڑنے کے بیان کی وضاحت کریں۔

[https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107885977&Issue=NP\\_ISB&Date=20201115](https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1107885977&Issue=NP_ISB&Date=20201115)

### The Nation

#### **India conspiring against CPEC to damage Pakistan's economy: FM Qureshi**

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sunday said India was hatching conspiracies to sabotage China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as it (India) desired economic instability in Pakistan.

While holding press conference at residence of PTI leader Qurban Fatima here, Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi stated, "We have to foil nefarious designs of India by maintaining unity in our ranks". He, however, added that the whole nation was united against enemies' evil intentions. The enemy is planning to create law and order insecurity in our country, stated Qureshi.

Foreign Minister said India established terrorists training camps. It was spending Rs 80 billion to damage CPEC, he added.

We have reports that India could resort to terrorism in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir. India is constantly violating UN charter, Geneva Convention and UN Security Council Resolution-1373 (2001). Qureshi thanked Prime Minister Imran Khan and President Arif Alvi for highlighting Indian state sponsored terrorism in their Tweets.

Responding to a question on any chance of atomic war between Pakistan and India, Foreign Minister observed that India was well aware of Pakistan's capabilities. He, however, urged the world to take notice of circumstances in the region. Foreign Minister reiterated that Pakistan

would continue to put evidences of India's state sponsored terrorism before the world at different forums.

About Afghanistan peace process, he stated that peace in Afghanistan was linked to peace in Pakistan and vice versa.

To another question, Qureshi stated that Pakistan did not make any delay in presenting evidences of Indian sponsored terrorism at international forums. Pakistan had also discussed evidences at diplomatic level. He, however, added that Pakistan had irrefutable evidences about involvement of India in terrorism activities.

<https://nation.com.pk/15-Nov-2020/india-conspiring-against-cpec-to-damage-pakistan-s-economy-fm-qureshi>