



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

November 1-15, 2019

A pilot project of PICS

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November 01, 2019

Business Recorder

Govt to include provinces new projects in CPEC

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to incorporate new infrastructure and socioeconomic development projects in Punjab and Sindh into the upcoming joint coordination committee (JCC) of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, the planning minister said on Thursday.

Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Khusro Bakhtiar said this during separate meetings with the provincial ministers.

The ninth JCC is scheduled to be held on November 6 in Islamabad as the CPEC is entering into a next stage of development with additional projects and new areas being included into the framework. A number of power projects and road networks have been completed under the \$60 billion CPEC framework in the past six years. Industrial hubs and socioeconomic developments were envisaged to be next priority areas after the completion of early harvest projects.

Minister Bakhtiar discussed the project financing for Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) during a meeting with the Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah. The planning minister assured the provincial chief minister of support for the KCR revival.

“The project will be supported. However, a workable model needs to be articulated to make the project viable for financing,” an official statement quoted him as saying.

Various other infrastructure, water and transport projects of Sindh also came under discussion during the meeting. In a separate meeting on the proposed Punjab’s projects to be taken up in the upcoming joint cooperation committee, minister for planning said the second phase of CPEC would emphasis on socioeconomic development projects.

“Under socioeconomic framework, projects of welfare nature will be executed across the country for the betterment of the people,” he said.” Projects will be recommended based on economic viability and after due diligence under CPEC plans.”

The planning minister also met with Punjab Minister for Finance Hashim Jawan Bakht and Minister for Industries Mian Aslam. The meeting deliberated upon various socioeconomic, industrial, infrastructure, and energy projects’ proposals recommended by the Punjab government.

Various priority areas to be taken up in the upcoming JCC were deliberated upon at the meeting. Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Jehanzeb Khan, Secretary Planning Zafar Hasan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment Chairman Hassan Daud and senior officials of the ministry were also present.

Dawn News

Pakistan, China held Kashmir bifurcation

Pakistan and China on Thursday rejected bifurcation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, saying Indian action was illegal and void.

The statements from Islamabad and Beijing came as India put into effect the bifurcation of occupied Kashmir into Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and the lieutenant governors for the new territories took the oath of office in Srinagar and Leh.

The division has been done under “The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019” that was introduced in Indian parliament simultaneously with the abolition of Article 370 through a presidential order on Aug 5. The legislation splitting held Kashmir into two new UTs received Indian president’s assent on Aug 9, after both houses of Indian parliament passed it. It, however, took effect from Oct 31.

Term Indian action illegal and void; Islamabad says move violates UN Security Council’s resolutions, bilateral agreements

Pakistan’s Foreign Office in its reaction said the bifurcation of the occupied region did not alter its disputed status as it had been split in violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements, including Shimla accord.

The Chinese foreign ministry said Indian action was “not effective in any way”.

Both Pakistan and China had in August rejected the annulment of Article 370 and the announcement to divide the occupied region.

The FO in its statement on the latest development said that “Pakistan rejects the bifurcation of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories” as occupied valley was an internationally recognized disputed territory. “No step by the government of India can change this. These changes are illegal and void as per the relevant UNSC resolutions, and do not prejudice the right to self-determination of the people of occupied Jammu & Kashmir,” it further said.

The FO noted that the measures announced by the Indian government on Aug 5 regarding the revocation of Article 370 and bifurcation of occupied Jammu and Kashmir had been imposed on the Kashmiris through “the barrel of gun”.

It recalled that India had reinforced its troop’s deployment in the world’s most militarized zone, taking their numbers to over 900,000 and imposed a lockdown on the occupied valley with curfews, communication blockade and arrests of thousands of political leaders and civil society members to suppress opposition to its actions by the local population.

Most of those restrictions remain in place despite passage of nearly three months.

“An iron curtain remains in place on more than eight million Kashmiri people, snapping their communications with the outside world. Curfew remains imposed and movement of people

restricted. Many people, especially women and children, are being continuously abused and tortured by Indian occupation forces,” the FO said.

Rejecting Indian contention that Kashmir-related moves were its internal matter, the FO said that “the illegal and unilateral changes effected by India are in no way an internal matter as the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains on the agenda of the Security Council”. It said the intention behind the India’s Kashmir-related moves was neither development of the region nor welfare of the Kashmiri people; rather they were for altering the demographic structure of the Muslim majority region in pursuance of the extremist “Hindutva” ideology.

The FO urged the world to take note of the transfer of civilian population from outside into the occupied valley in “grave” violation of the international laws, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention. Pakistan, it reaffirmed, would continue to extend its full moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmir cause until the realization of the inalienable right to self-determination, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang, in a news briefing in Beijing, said the newly established Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh included some of the Chinese territory. “China deplors and firmly opposes this. India is challenging China’s sovereign rights and interests by unilaterally revising domestic law and administrative division. This is illegal, null and void. It will neither change the fact that the relevant region is under China’s actual control nor produce any effect,” he added.

He said China was urging India to respect the former’s territorial sovereignty, abide by bilateral agreements and safeguard peace and tranquility in the border region with concrete actions to create conditions for a proper settlement of the border issue with China.

The Nation

Pak-China JWG on Agriculture Cooperation visits PARC

ISLAMABAD - A delegation of Pak-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture Cooperation here on Thursday visited Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC). The delegation met PARC Chairman Dr Muhammad Azeem Khan and discussed ways and means to enhance bilateral cooperation in agriculture sectors between both the countries, a press release said.

On the occasion, Dr Muhammad Azeem acknowledged the support of China in various projects of PARC and gave a detailed presentation about the council, its mission and vision to achieve sustainable food security and poverty alleviation through knowledge and innovation.

In the meeting, Pak-China experts also exchanged the agricultural information and discussed the areas of mutual interest to accelerate the development of agriculture sector in Pakistan.

The Chinese delegation discussed the mutual priorities for development in agriculture sector under Pak-China joint Working Group.

The Chinese delegation was of the view that this meeting would prove fruitful to further strengthen existing collaboration between the both countries.

They also said China intends to provide help in different agriculture research projects being carried out at NARC. The Chinese delegation also made a visit at National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) where the agriculture research is being carried out by PARC agri-scientists.

Fatima Group signs MoU with leading Chinese companies

LAHORE - The Fatima Group has signed a strategic memorandum of understanding (MoU) with renowned Chinese companies, China Machinery Engineering Cooperation (CMEC), specialized in construction and engineering, and Xinjiang Tianye Group, a leading Chinese enterprise specialized in high efficient irrigation and water saving drip irrigation technologies, at the ‘Pak-China Agricultural Cooperation Forum’, held in Islamabad on October 30.

The high profile Forum was graced by President Dr Arif Alvi and the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing, as well as top ranking government officials from both sides and heads of leading private sector companies from both countries working in the field of agriculture.

‘CPEC is an important pillar of Pakistan’s economic structure’

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Khusro Bakhtiar on Friday termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project as ‘an important pillar’ of the economic structure of Pakistan.

Khusro Bakhtiar, in his latest statement, said that the federal government is taking the mega economic project to its new height as it is an important pillar of the country’s economic structure.

“ML-1 project will make the Pakistan Railways compatible with the modern requirements. We will complete CPEC’s western route from Islamabad to Quetta, whereas, the development work on Gwadar airport is continued in full pace. The government is taking solid steps for meeting energy requirements.”

“In the next three years, the authorities will complete the construction of Islamabad-Quetta Motorway and Gwadar master plan will be filed on November 6.”

“Special plans are being considered for the promotion of tourism in Pakistan.” He further said that the government will complete the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project on a priority basis. He added that the projects initiated for the development of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Balochistan are also among the priorities of the present government.

The minister said that a joint forum has been constituted by Pakistan and China for the enhancement of the industrial sector which would be made functional soon.

The Express Tribune

Building momentum on CPEC

A narrative built on negativity sells quicker than the one built on positive indicators and reflections. This is what is precisely happening to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the negativity haunts the multibillion dollar mega project since the time it had been conceived and implemented. The chatter in Islamabad about CPEC is loud and it says that CPEC is going slower than intended. Ill-founded views like CPEC being held up or stalled draws audience, as both the detractor and hopefuls of CPEC look at it from their standpoint though for their own reasons. The detractors have a biased assessment that CPEC has gone out of focus of the current government and has been pushed down the list of priorities, whereas hopefuls pin their hopes to it as a window of opportunity for the revitalization of the economy and prosperity of the country.

Consequent to the general impression in a section of the press that the latest visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan was aimed at ‘revival of stalled CPEC projects’, someone no less than the Prime Minister himself had to reiterate that the timely completion of CPEC projects remains the top priority of his government though he also, in the same breath, admitted that there are certain ‘bottlenecks’ towards the implementations of the CPEC framework. Perhaps no clearer reassurance could have come from the Prime Minister while he was flying for his third official visit to China in a span of one year.

There is unanimity of views among most segments of society as to what CPEC has in store for us. It’s a massive opportunity that can potentially do wonders to address our core issues. CPEC offers enormously in terms of Pakistan’s economic revival through a framework that assured investment and development in the most crucial sectors such as energy, infrastructure and industrialisation. China has also been unswerving in its support, either financially or in terms of expertise, besides offering great development model to emulate. Of the key components of the CPEC framework, we are largely nearing the mark by meeting the set objectives for phase one. Energy and infrastructure were major issues that Pakistan confronted around the time when serious work on CPEC began in 2014. We are now over with the phase of energy and infrastructure and have entered into the phase of industrialisation. This significant phase has schemes of joint ventures and relocations of industries with the objective of building Pakistan’s export capacity, in turn adding to foreign exchange earnings and improving Pakistan’s financial state. Based mainly on the success of the industrialisation phase, certain experts in CPEC planning quarters expect the creation of 1.2 million jobs by 2030. This entails exciting possibilities for those who wish to invest and look for joint ventures. It offers enormous opportunities for job seekers in the host of industry related sectors.

Caught between myth and reality, CPEC was confronted with challenges from planning to implementation. There were errors of foresight during the planning stage and there are capacity and performance issues at the execution stage. Pacing up with the Chinese government that holds

centralized assertive implementation mechanism remains a challenge. Expecting deliverable with feeble governance structure that we have at home is hard to justify. Admittedly, there was a huge gap between what was expected of CPEC and what has been carried out on ground.

Five years down the road, an appraisal of planning and implementation would reveal that there were challenges to demonstrate matching response to what was required of such a mega venture that could be attributed to the lack of foresight and the lack of coordination among key stakeholders like industrialists, traders, entrepreneurs, officials and political leaders. With regard to deficiency, four factors appeared prominently: incapacities of most stakeholders, absence of an appropriate regulatory authority, decentralization at the cost of effectiveness, and lack of mechanism for mid-course correction.

As referred above, Prime Minister Imran Khan does have the political will to carry out the CPEC project as a top priority and has, on a number of occasions, reiterated to push it as far as possible. CPEC is not only an economic venture but it marks the special relationship that Pakistan and China have built over a period of time. Many analysts still cite the call from Prime Minister's adviser on commerce, textiles, industries and investment's for "putting everything [regarding CPEC] on hold" in order to undermine the will of the current government to carry on with the project. Moreover, the government's occupation with other issues of serious nature such as India's unconstitutional step to annex Jammu and Kashmir followed by hot confrontations on the Line of Control has also pushed CPEC out of every day's gossip. There may be few instances of falling short on enthusiasm but nothing is likely to deter Pakistan from undertaking consensus economic ventures.

With a view to building momentum on CPEC, we need to carry out an honest appraisal of the project. We should carry out course correction and devise strategies to attain set objectives. For coordination and swift action, one-window CPEC authority is an apt initiative that will essentially be an implementing body whereas all the stakeholders who may include representative of the federal government down to the residents of Gwadar will form part of an advisory body. Most important is that we embrace ownership of CPEC. It's a project that serves our national interest and has promise of our well-being and prosperity. It is 'we' who have to make it a success. CPEC is a silver lining on the grim horizon of Pakistan and we can take a huge advantage of it, if we do it right.

November 02, 2019

Business Recorder

Mega projects under CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Khusro Bakhtyar Friday said that financing terms and conditions of mega projects relating to railway, oil and gas, industrial zones and energy under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would be

discussed in the upcoming 9th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting, scheduled in Islamabad on November 6.

While addressing a news conference after a meeting of Cabinet Committee on CPEC, the minister said, “We are going to inaugurate power plant project of 300 MW in Gwadar. We will discuss the financing terms and conditions of ML-I railway project, master plan of Gwadar, Western Route, Islamabad-Quetta link road and construction of road section from DI Khan to Zhob, investment of Chinese companies in Pakistan Steel Mills, projects relating to capacity building of oil refinery and establishment of storage system of gas, mineral projects, construction of housing, and Karachi Circular Railway project etc.”

Federal Minister for Railway Sheikh Rashid, Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan, Advisor on Petroleum Nadeem Babar and Adviser to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Firdous Ashiq Awan were also present on this occasion.

Khusro Bakhtyar said that a draft of incentives package for national and international investors has been prepared which would be presented in the 9th JCC meeting.

He said that ML-I railway project of \$ 8.5 billion to \$ 9 billion would bring improvement in Pakistan Railway system and play a pivotal role to improve Gross Domestic Production (GDP) of the country. He said that progress and development of Pakistan is directly linked to ports and coastal belts, hence special focus is being given to develop these areas.

He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government had uplifted the CPEC to new heights as there has been multifold increase in its volume to promote development and progress of the country. He said that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) would be signed for joint venture for the projects of Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

He said that a financing committee comprising the representatives of both sides of the governments of China and Pakistan will negotiate the terms and conditions of financing of ML-I Railway project. He said that necessary infrastructure for oil and gas and projects about energy sector would be discussed in the JCC meeting. He said, “We prioritized some development projects of all provinces, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan which would also be discussed in the JCC meeting.”

The minister said, “We are bringing industrialists of both countries for industrial cooperation and business to business framework.”

Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said that ML-I Railway project would consist of 1872 Km without any railway crossing, and train would run with the speed of 160 km per hour. He said that one hundred and thousand people would get job with this project.

About Karachi Circular Railway project, he said, “The project consists of 43 km land out of which we have got 38 km land vacated while remaining would be regained.” He said that Pakistan Railways is also ready to provide the land to the affected people if Supreme Court allows the department and the provincial government promises to construct homes for the affected people

there.

Rashid said Main Line-I (ML-I) project between Karachi to Peshawar is the backbone of the CPEC which would bring revolution not only in Pakistan Railways but in the history of the country.

He said after 14 years in the country's history, the dream of ML-I is going to become a reality. About the recent fire incident in Tezgam Express, Rashid said Pakistan Railways has announced compensation of Rs 1.5 million each for those died. Besides this, the families of the dead passengers would also be given Rs 500,000 each on behalf of the Prime Minister, he added.

He said, "Nullah Lai and ML-I projects are my dream and after the completion of these two projects, I'm ready to retire."

Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan said that energy sector depends on imported oil and LNG. He said, "Cost of our 60 to 70 imports are spent on importing fuel." He said, "We want 80 percent energy mix in renewable resources, including 30 percent hydropower, 10 percent Thar coal, 30 percent wind power and 10 percent nuclear power by 2030." He said that the government wants to reduce Current Account Deficit by achieving this goal. He said, "We would discuss with China projects to produce diesel from coal in Thar."

Special Assistant to Prime Minister Nadeem Babar said the government is going to auction of 35 oil and gas blocks in next 12 months. He said, "In the first phase we are going to auction 10 to 12 blocks for exploration of oil and gas."

He said that road shows in this regard have been held in Europe, Russia and Middle East to attract investors to invest in oil and gas blocks. He said during the JCC, Chinese side will be asked to invest in up-gradation of oil refineries as well as construction of new ones to increase refining capacity of the country. He said, "We would discuss SN Pipeline project with China."

Special Assistant on Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan said all economic indicators of the country are moving in positive direction due to prudent decisions made by incumbent government. She said that economy of the country is on the right track due to hardworking of the Prime Minister and his team while the corrupt are criticizing the policies of the government for petty political gains.

She said the statement of President of World Bank about Pakistan is an eye opener for the opposition as he said economy of the country is moving in right direction.

Meanwhile, according to a handout issued by the Ministry of Planning, the Cabinet Committee on CPEC decides to commence financing discussion over ML-1 project with China. A Draft Act of CPEC Authority would also be presented to federal cabinet for approval. During the meeting, ML-1 railway project was discussed in detail including formation of a high-level financing expert group to deliberate on loan modalities.

Daily Times

CPEC- A Road towards Prosperity

The economic corridor (CPEC), a part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is a 3000km linkage of roads, pipelines, and railways to transport goods from Gawadar port to Kashgar in Xinjiang. With an investment of 62 billion dollars, CPEC is a "flagship project" which can change the destiny of the country explicitly due to its strategic position. Pakistan is located at the juncture of energy proficient to the energy-deficient countries which would transform the country into a transit corridor.

With the four phases of the CPEC project; each focusing on transport, infrastructure, agriculture, and industry, it has been anticipated that if CPEC utilized properly, it would assist in revamping the ailing economy of Pakistan. In the first phase, the emphasis was laid on refining the transport sector of the country. The number of roads and railways has been constructed as a part of this plan.

Next come the energy sector where 34 billion dollars have been invested for the refurbishment of the outdated energy sector of Pakistan. The establishment of Quaid-e-Azam solar, Port Qasim, Sachal wind and Sahiwal Coal have been completed while other 3 to 4 projects will be finalized very soon that would add about 7500 MW to the national grid of the country. It is no wrong to say that Pakistan has been able to overcome acute energy cries solely due to the installation of these energy rich projects by China.

China-Pakistan friendship dubbed as "higher than the Himalayas and sweeter than honey" further strengthened with the announcement of the CPEC project on 20th April 2015.

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say that Pakistan has been able to overcome acute energy crises solely due to the installation of these energy rich projects by China.

Besides, the 11 billion dollars investment has spent on the infrastructure development in Pakistan under the CPEC project which envisages an extensive overhaul of the existing transportation infrastructure in Pakistan and laying out of new routes for easing the transit trade and enhancement of market accessibility. Also, the chief achievement has been the up-gradation of Pakistan's digital Infrastructure in the form of construction of 44 million dollars Optical Fiber that runs from Khunjrab to Islamabad to amplify the source of data connectivity.

In the agriculture sector, the efforts are underway for boosting yields in the crop sector, reducing losses from harvest and transportation and engaging with life stocks and dairy. Moreover, as a part of the Long Term Plan (LTP), China has already started cultivating Hybrid rice in Pakistan. The usage of China's expertise and modern technology would also aid in rebuilding the agriculture sector of the country.

The current focus as a part of the fourth phase has been made on the industrial development of Pakistan. New SEZ has been set up and Chinese investors are invited to acquire stakes and do investments in various sectors of the country. The first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) comprising of 20 factories is being set up in KPK. In the next stage, China is planning of planting heavy industry SEZ in Sindh. Keeping in view the importance of these zones for both China and Pakistan, president Xi at the aftermath of SCO meeting 2019 said:

“We must expand and enrich the construction of the CPEC with a new focus on industrial parks, agriculture and people's livelihood”.

Not only has this but the number of experts also predicted that China's investment could potentially stimulate an 8-10% increase in Pakistan's GDP by 2020. Moreover, in 2018, the Chinese embassy while lauding the successful execution of projects enunciated that there was a growth of 2.11 percent in Pakistan's GDP due to China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

New industries and Business would in return bring new jobs which would ultimately solve the employment crises in Pakistan. As per International labor organization (ILO), CPEC is estimated to create 400,000 jobs to the country while another source from Applied Economic Research Centre (AERC) has estimated that mega Initiatives would produce around 700,000 direct jobs in Pakistan. This means that our country will soon replete with a skillful and talented labor force that would contribute positively towards the development of the country.

Keeping in view the significance of this mega initiative for the betterment of Pakistan, there is a need to design investment-friendly policies on an immediate basis to make this project a success story. Moreover, knee-jerk reactions are required to resolve the confronted hurdles; be it external or internal as CPEC is not only a game-changer for China and Pakistan but for the whole South Asian region.

Dawn News

Pakistan to take up projects for Chinese funding in JGC talks

Pakistan will take up new projects for Chinese financing and investment to expand the \$46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) when officials of the two countries meet here on Nov 6 as part of the Joint Cooperation Committee's (JCC) annual consultations.

Speaking at a joint news conference along with Energy Minister Omar Ayub Khan, Railway Minister Shaikh Rashid Ahmad and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Petroleum Nadeem Babar, Minister for Planning and Development Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar said that Pakistan for the first time would formally engage with Chinese authorities during the JCC meetings to start negotiations on \$9bn Main Railway Line (ML-1) and D.I. Khan to Zhob Motorway project of the CPEC's western route.

The road project was now the only missing link in the Islamabad to Quetta motorway network which would be completed in about three years, Mr Bakhtyar said.

He said the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project would now witness progress as it had been put among the prioritised projects. He said the progress on all these projects suggested that the opposition's allegations of slowing down the CPEC were incorrect.

The other two ministers and the PM's special assistant also spoke about their respective projects in minerals, electricity, petroleum exploration and refining sector.

Ministers explain plans to be discussed with Chinese officials during Joint Cooperation Committee's annual consultations

Mr Bakhtyar said the vice chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China would be taken to Gwadar on Nov 4 soon after his arrival for the inauguration of a 300MW power plant.

He said the CPEC had become a key pillar of Pakistan's economic structure that would be taken to new heights after the upcoming JCC. He parried a question relating to number of additional projects and their estimated costs or the revised size of the CPEC.

In this respect, he said, ML-1 would now become the most important project of the CPEC to replace the obsolete railway track of 1,872km from Karachi to Peshawar. There would be progress in financing commitments on this during the JCC meeting, he added.

On a question whether the internal disagreements among various government stakeholders about cost estimates and various phases of the railway project had been settled, Mr Bakhtyar said the project costs would be finalised after a study to be completed by yet to be appointed international consultant while the sequencing of the project would be made keeping in mind the country's debt to GDP levels. The project would be completed in about seven years and its completion would in fact contribute to GDP and hence its loan would hopefully maintain the debt to GDP ratio, he added.

Mr Bakhtyar said the railway ministry had submitted its feasibility study of the ML-1 project and an international consultant would be engaged while its execution and financing would be

discussed during the upcoming JCC. He said there would be a joint (China-Pakistan) committee on financing of the project.

Rolling stock

Shaikh Rashid said the ML-1 project would almost double the railway speed to 160km per hour after the obsolete track of 1861 would be replaced by China. He said the project would include rolling stock and other equipment and generate about 100,000 jobs.

He said Pakistan Railways had cleared 38km area of the KCR, adding that the remaining 5km could not be cleared without full support of the provincial government. He said the federal government was ready to provide alternate land, but the provincial government would have to take responsibility for construction of housing facilities for to be displaced persons.

Mr Rashid said the approval of the Gwadar Master Plan would be ‘another deliverable’ of the JCC that would also set the dates for the inauguration of a few special economic/industrial zones. He said investments by Chinese and other investors in these zones had been under discussions during the tenure of the previous government and they would now be further advanced.

The planning minister said during the JCC meetings the two sides would also hold discussions about inclusion of Pakistan Steel Mills and other investments in the steel sector besides housing, mineral development, agriculture and tourism in the CPEC’s Long-Term Plan until 2030.

Energy Minister Omar Ayub said the two sides were jointly undertaking a market survey for increasing the share of power plants on domestic fuels in Pakistan and discussions would be held during the JCC as to the location of renewable energy projects and their evacuation through transmission lines to load centres.

In this context, he said, projects like Mahl Hydropower Project, Azad Pattan Hydro project, a series of hydro projects on the Indus Cascade and Taunsa Hydropower, would be offered to the Chinese side. He said Pakistan was targeting to have 70-80 per cent of its energy needs to be met through domestic sources by 2030 and Chinese companies would be key player in this respect. He said 30pc share each for renewable sources (solar and wind) and hydropower and 10pc each for Thar coal and nuclear energy was being targeted for 2030.

Nadeem Babar said four key areas in the petroleum sector would be presented to the JCC. These include South-North gas pipeline, upgradation of Pakistan Refinery and setting up of new petrochemical complexes besides coal to liquid transformation of Thar deposit to produce diesel.

In addition, a total of 35 fresh exploration blocks were being auctioned before December next year and Chinese investors were also being asked to take benefit of these auctions. He said China was also being requested for investment in development of gas storage as Pakistan had developed a gas network of about 5 billion cubic feet per day that was expected to go up to 7BCFD in about three years.

Steel- Cutting of two navy warships held in China

The steel-cutting ceremony of two warships of Type 054 A/P Frigates Project being built for Pakistan Navy was held at Hudong Zhonghua (HZ) Shipyard, China, on Friday.

According to a press release, Chief Naval Overseer (CNO) China, Commodore Azfar Humayun of Pakistan Navy and president of the China Shipbuilding Trading Company (CSTC) jointly performed the steel cutting of the two of the frigates.

Type-054 A/P ships are the state of the art frigates equipped with modern surface, subsurface and anti-air weapons and sensors. Once constructed, these ships will be the most technologically advanced platforms of Pakistan Navy that will strengthen its capability to meet future challenges and maintain peace, stability and power equilibrium in the Indian Ocean region.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest highlighted that this programme was yet another manifestation of the time tested and ever growing Pak-China friendship. He also acknowledged the commitment and dedication of the CSTC team.

The ceremony was also attended by officers of Pakistan Navy and representatives/officials of the CSTC and Hudong Zhonghua shipyard.

Pakistan Observer

China holds int'l moot on CPEC

An Int'l Conference on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) held in the Chinese city of Wuhan this week discussed ways and means to promote construction and development of this mega project. It was co-organized by the China University of Geosciences (Wuhan)'s China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Research Center, School of Public Administration and the Silk Road Institute.

According to China Economic Net, during the two-day conference, scholars, experts and other guests from China and Pakistan discussed about the investment, employment, poverty alleviation, special economic zones and the China-Pakistan education cooperation and so on.

The conference was addressed among others by Abdul Samie, a senior official from the Pakistani Prime Minister's Office, who highlighted Pakistan's focus on CPEC for its smooth functioning. The present government regards the CPEC as a gateway for progress and prosperity, which offers abundant opportunities. The government has made commitment to try their best to make CPEC a real trade and economic corridor. According to MrSamie, the government thinks that China's commitment plays an important role in Gwadar Port's development. The projects under CPEC in Gwadar not only boost the local economy but also create jobs for the youth.

As for the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), they will be developed by the investment in infrastructures or carrying on China's labor-intensive industries. Pakistan will further improve business environment to attract more investments and expand goods and service exports to China. Tang Mengsheng, Director of Pakistan Research Center, Peking University, delivers at an international conference on the construction and development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor held on Oct. 30-31 in Wuhan.

The Nation

JCC on CPEC to kick start formal negotiations on ML-1

ISLAMABA; Federal Planning Minister Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar yesterday said that the upcoming Joint cooperation committee (JCC) on CPEC would start formal negotiations on ML-1.

The 9th CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) will be held on November 6 where Western Route of the corridor, agriculture, energy, housing and tourism projects will be deliberated, said the federal minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar addressing a press conference here.

Khusro Bakhtyar was speaking at joint news conference with Energy Minister Omar Ayub Khan, Railway Minister Shaikh Rashid Ahmad and Special Assistants on Petroleum and information Nadeem Babar and Firdous Ashiq Awan.

Mr Bakhtyar said the vice chairman of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China would be taken to Gwadar on November 4 soon after his arrival for inauguration of 300 MW power plant and to speed up progress on free trade zone and airport at Gwadar on which concession agreements had been signed.

He said CPEC had become a key pillar of Pakistan's economic structure that would be taken to the new heights after the upcoming JCC.

Regarding ML-1 the minister said that the project would now become the most important project of the CPEC to replace obsolete railway track of 1872 km from Karachi to Peshawar. The planning minister said that formal negotiations on ML-1 would take place during the next week JCC meeting. He said the railway ministry had submitted its feasibility study of the ML-1 project. However he said that estimated cost of ML-1 has yet to be finalized as the government will hire an International consultant for firming up the final cost estimation of the project. The execution and financing of the project would be discussed during the upcoming JCC. ML-I project would be completed in about 7 years and claimed that its completion would contribute to the GDP, Mr Bakhtyar said.

He said in JCC the financial requirement of Islamabad to Quetta section of CPEC western route will be discussed. The DI Khan to Zhob road project would connect Islamabad to Quetta through Motorway network and will be completed in about 3 years. He said the Karachi Circular Railway project will also now witness progress as it had been put among the prioritized projects.

While talking about Karachi Circular Railway project, Shaikh Rasheed said that 38-km area of the KCR have been cleared adding that the remaining 5-km could not be cleared without the support of the provincial government. The railway minister said the federal government was ready to provide alternate land but the provincial government would have to take responsibility for construction of housing facilities for the to be displaced persons.

The planning minister said the approval of Gwadar Master Plan would be ‘another deliverable’ of the JCC that would also set the dates for the inauguration of a few Special Economic/Industrial Zones. He said the investments by Chinese and other investors in these zones had been under discussions since the previous government and these would be further advanced now.

The News

China promises technology transfer for crop processing

ISLAMABAD: China on Friday agreed to transfer technology of date and potato processing and packaging to Pakistan in a major move to increase agriculture cooperation between the two countries.

China expressed the decision during the first meeting of China-Pakistan Joint Working Group (JWG) between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of China and the Ministry of National Food Security and Research of Pakistan. Secretary of National Food Security and Research Hashim Popalzai presided over the meeting, which was attended by Chinese and Pakistani agricultural researchers, scientists and senior officials.

An official told The News that Pakistani officials requested financial support from China for developing intelligent greenhouse farming in the country and establishing foot and mouth disease (FMD) free zone to increase halal meat exports. The world halal food market has crossed \$3 trillion.

While Chinese side agreed to deliberate upon the request, it promised to enhance agriculture cooperation through knowledge and technology transfer and various other interventions in already identified areas for increasing crops yield in Pakistan, the official said.

“Chinese side agreed to provide technical assistance to Pakistan on dates processing and packaging technology, potato processing, including potato flakes, flour, and starch and modified starch,” a statement said. “In the meeting it was also agreed, on the basis of cooperation in protection and control of animal epidemics, to enhance the regional management of animal epidemics and FMD free zone with the technical support of experts.” The secretary told the meeting that Pakistan made a visible progress towards entering next stage of FMD free zones and both the countries could work on it for mutual trade benefits.

Both the parties agreed that Pakistan-China agricultural cooperation would focus on the vertical increase in productivity of existing crops, transfer of knowledge and technologies, protection of germ plasm resources in order to increase the production of agricultural products for food security and export to other countries.

Both the parties also agreed to promote and expand cooperation in the identified areas based on mutual understanding, focused on capacity building, germ plasm resources, agricultural product processing, technology extension, fisheries, FMD construction and market information.

Chinese side agreed to extend the ripened techniques and system of dry-land, deserts and coastal land agriculture in Pakistan. The under mulch drip irrigation techniques would be applied in main cotton plantation of Pakistan. It was agreed that techniques including sprinkle irrigation, micro sprinkle irrigation, and drip irrigation would be extended in the demonstration areas of water saving irrigation.

The two sides agreed to establish technical linkages between research institutes for accreditation, certification and supervision through exchange and visits. It was agreed that collaboration could be initiated for bilateral exchange of plant and animal (both terrestrial and aquatic) genetic resources for crop improvement and food security.

Pakistani side proposed the establishment of centre of excellence for livestock and fisheries research at National Agriculture Research Centre, Islamabad and Centre of Excellence on Cotton Research at Central Cotton Research Centre, Multan, in collaboration with the Chinese agro scientists and researchers as it has a strong hold on agriculture research.

Pakistani side offered to organize joint workshops and seminars with mutual support to enhance exchange and training on agricultural technology between two sides. The meeting was told that the agriculture of Pakistan offers great potential for bilateral cooperation in germ plasm exchange. It was told that major challenges faced by Pakistan include comparatively low productivity of crops, climatic stress and soil degradation. Exchange of germ plasm could enlarge the quantity of gene resources and genetic diversity, and facilitate agricultural research institutes in both sides to develop high yielding varieties of various crops. Both sides signed the agreement and resolved to follow the decisions/proposals made in this first meeting of JWG, and also meet second time within six months in China.

November 03, 2019

Business Recorder

Pakistan to learn from China's agri research: VC Sargodha varsity

BEIJING: Vice-Chancellor, University of Sargodha, Ishtiaq Ahmed said that cooperation in the agriculture sector is very important between Pakistan and China and Pakistani universities which can benefit from Chinese research and technology in this vital field.

Talking to China Economic Net (CEN) over prospects of agricultural cooperation between the all-weather friends and strategic cooperative partners, he said that in the areas of cooperation between China and Pakistan, the most important thing is agriculture.

Ishtiaq Ahmad said he has proposed many directions for cooperation between the universities of two countries. In the current phase of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), agriculture cooperation is identified as a very important area over which the two countries should strive to develop.

The VC said China offers a lot of opportunities because of its exceptional progress in agriculture, we can learn from China in term of viable seed production to have a greater per acre yield, he added.

Pakistan, he said, is lagging behind in seed, pesticide and other forms of agricultural research. In fact, the world is way behind China and it is a great opportunity for Pakistani universities particularly those who specialized in agriculture to learn from what the Chinese have accomplished.

He said Chinese academy of agricultural science is known for advanced research and technology. “It is our great desire that apart from our other Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with other Chinese institutions, we are focusing on our cooperation with Chinese academy of agricultural sciences in the future,” he added.

It may be mentioned that Pakistan and China have decided to expedite their bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The cooperation is being extended with a special focus on boosting cooperation in the areas of climate change, desertification control, desalination, water management, and ecological restoration, wetland protection and restoration, wildlife protection, forestry industry development, disaster management and risk reduction and other areas of mutual interest.

Dunya News

Upto 35 Pakistani companies to attend China Import Expo in Shanghai

BEIJING (APP) – Over 35 Pakistani companies will participate and showcase their products including top textile, leather, and sports goods, surgical equipment, home furnishing and other products at the 2nd China International Import Expo (CIIE) scheduled to be held in Shanghai from November 5 to 10.

Advisor on Commerce, Textile, Industry and Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood will lead the Pakistani delegation. Pakistan’s top business executives will attend.

“As many as 35 top export-oriented Pakistani companies will display textile, leather and sports goods, surgical equipment, home furnishing and other products at their stalls set up at the expo in an effort to enhance exports to China,” Badaruz Zaman, Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing confirmed here on Sunday.

The companies included: From Karachi, M/s Garib Sons, Marhaba Laboratories, Sarmco International, Continental Traders, Al-Hamra Handicrafts, Indus Marbles, Pak Products, Chadyala Art, Ansari Brothers, Hamdan Traders, FB Enterprises, H. Rehman & Sons, MJ Traders, ARI Traders, AJ Traders, Dewan Enterprises, Saleem Associates, Rana Co (Exports), American Safety Power Tool, Peena Carpets Industries, Shahid Nazir Carpet Centre, from Lahore, WBM Pvt. Ltd, Starlet Innovations, Al Rasheed Traders, Pak Shalimar Carpets, Fateh

Woolen Mills, Sheikh Carpets, Splendor & Souvenir Carpets, from Sialkot, Green Hill Corporation, Fraz Enterprises, ABRO Group, H. Skill Sports and Fircos Shoes.

These companies export rice, textile, garments, leather products, carpet, handicrafts, wood furniture, sports and natural herbal products and are set to look at opportunities in the Chinese market to enhance exports from Pakistan, he added.

The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) will also set up a stall to show Pakistani products, he added. The advisor will also talk to media on trade and investment opportunities in Pakistan during the expo.

The advisor will attend the ministerial meeting of WTO and hold a bilateral meeting with Chinese Minister of Commerce in Beijing. It may be mentioned that Pakistan had also participated in the last year's expo in Shanghai where many Pakistani companies showcased their products.

According to a senior official of China's Ministry of Commerce, so far 63 countries have registered for the exhibition and over 3,000 businesses from more than 150 countries and regions will be attending the business exhibition, exceeding the number at the first CIIE. This year's expo will involve two key exhibition categories: country exhibitions and business exhibitions.

As for business exhibitions, they will cover more than 300,000 square meters of floor space, and over 3,000 enterprises from about 150 countries and regions will participate in the exhibitions. In addition, registration for the business exhibition of the third CIIE has begun, and overseas enterprises can register on the official website of the CIIE.

A total of 172 countries, regions and international organizations and more than 3,600 enterprises participated in the first CIIE, held from Nov. 5 to 10 in Shanghai last year. It was the world's first import-themed national-level expo.

Pakistan Observer

RCCI welcomes Chinese statement on FATF

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has welcomed the Chinese statement on Financial Action Task Force (FATF) where China has categorically announced that they did not want the "forum to be politicized as some countries were pursuing their political agenda in a bid to blacklist Pakistan". Referring to the statement of Yao Wen, Deputy Director General for Policy Planning of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of Asian Affairs, RCCI President Saboor Malik said that business community appreciated Chinese support and stand for Pakistan at different platforms, including FATF. He said that China always stood with Pakistan and expressed hope that it will block any attempt to include Pakistan in the blacklist. RCCI president said that Pakistan was effectively pursuing its National Action Plan, and China would also help Pakistan in capacity building to handle issues related to terror financing. He said that the FATF member countries should assist Pakistan to improve its system rather pressurizing it to meet the goals. The FATF in its October meeting expressed satisfaction over the initiatives

taken by Pakistan and its progress in various areas, he added. He said China and Pakistan are strategic partners, with close cooperation in multiple fields and our relationship based on mutual respect. The business community and the people of Pakistan has lauded Chinese support and stance on Kashmir, he added.

The News

Pakistan, China deepening ties in banking sector

BEIJING: Pakistan and China see bright prospects strengthening their bilateral ties in the financial and banking sectors, with the smooth functioning of the economic corridor project, the CPEC.

There has been more spark and encouraging outcomes in these two sectors in the recent years, said a report published by Gwadar Pro media net.

Multiple reports show, both the Chinese and Pakistani banks are playing vital role in accomplishing the common goals, set by the political leadership of both the countries since the launching of CPEC,

The China's leading development financial institutions: BOC, ICBC, EXIM and CDB, have made "strategic deployments" to expand their businesses and supporting Chinese companies to scale up investment and cooperation in Pakistan.

Such deployments have stimulated not only economic development but also have increased bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation between the public and private banks of two strategic cooperative partners.

Pakistan's SBP, HBL, UBL, Allied and UFONE have expanded diverse financial cooperation with Chinese partners that includes opening up of bank branches in Chinese cities, Urumqi and Beijing, currency agreement, and RMB transactions.

To achieve the stipulated goals in the financial sector, Chinese banks are seen not only supporting Pakistan's economic managers in boosting development initiatives but also lowering their worries amid widening current account deficit and slipping foreign exchange reserves. These facts indicate that leading Chinese financial organizations are contributing in Pakistan's economy and making the country a crucial hub of China's Belt and Road initiative (BRI).

November 04, 2019

Daily Times

Pakistan China give a deadly blow to India worth billions of dollars

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and China has dented India's cotton yarn exports after Indian cotton exports declined by a massive 38.8 percent during the first six months of the current fiscal year that ended in September 2019.

According to a report, cotton yarn exports between April and September this year were recorded at 422 million kgs, valued at \$1.27 billion as compared to 654 million kgs valued at \$2.08 billion recorded in the same period last year.

The report states that the FTA between China and Pakistan has been the major factor behind India's cotton yarn decline, as India cotton yarn exports to China dropped after the second phase of China-Pakistan FTA came into effect. The FTA was signed in April on goods worth \$64 billion that mostly pertained to textile products including cotton yarn.

K V Srinivasan, Chairman of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council informed that there is an import duty ranging from 3.5pc to 5pc on cotton yarns imported from India into major markets like China, EU, Turkey and South Korea as against imports from competing countries like Pakistan that enjoys zero percent import duty in these markets.

Under the new FTA, China would open up 90 percent of its market for Pakistani goods whereas Pakistan would share 65pc of its market with Chinese exports.

Dawn News

China keen to invest in Halal meat industry

Leader of a Chinese delegation Zhu Maa has shown interest in investing in Halal meat industry in Pakistan and exporting it to China and Middle Eastern countries.

Mr Zhu said this during a meeting with Minister for States & Frontier Regions and Narcotics Control Shehryar Khan Afridi.

According to a statement issued by the ministry on Sunday, the delegation from Sichuan Province has also a number of Muslims.

Saying China has good equipment and services, Mr Zhu vowed to showcase Pakistani products and Halal food in Chinese markets.

“I have visited Pakistan around half a dozen times and each time it was a great experience. People of both countries are very friendly. There is a need to project opportunities for investment in Pakistan to Chinese people,” he said.

Minister says one-window service for foreign investors has been introduced

The minister said that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has created opportunities for the underdeveloped countries to rise like China.

“Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision will benefit the underdeveloped countries to join the world and they will rise with help from BRI,” he said.

Mr Afridi said the PTI government had launched a reforms process in Pakistan so it could be open for foreign investors.

“China and its people live in our hearts. Chinese people stood for Pakistan since day one. It gives me immense delight that I am meeting Muslims of China who believe in one God and faith.”

He said that China's unprecedented rise reflects that a strong nation can get all parts of the country along and this is how President Xi has done wonders with his poverty alleviation campaign.

"We salute and cherish the way the Chinese government has got 800 million people out of poverty. Today China is an inspiration for the entire globe," he added.

The minister said that Pakistan provided firm support to China during Ping Pong diplomacy and helped it become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and it (Pakistan) is still with China when it has become a great world leader.

"It is unfortunate that Pakistan's image has been replicated negatively. I hope after watching Pakistan closely you would become ambassadors of Pakistan and tell Chinese nation how peaceful and loving Pakistanis are," he said.

Mr Afridi said that due to Chairman Mao Zedong leadership and Deng Xiaoping's reform agenda, China has become one of the greatest economic giants of the world.

"Entrepreneurship is the way of Sunnah of Holy prophets. Pakistan is blessed with all resources. We have all seasons and we are blessed with our youths and we have rich mineral resources and fertile lands. Return on investment is much higher in Pakistan in the entire region and our government has opened Pakistan for international investors to come and invest here," he said.

The minister said that Pakistan has rich resources of religious tourism and it has most out of 14 top mountains.

"Kohat is oil and gas producing district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Our manpower is doing wonders across the globe. One window service for foreign investors has been introduced and the World Bank has declared Pakistan top country in Asia in Ease of Doing Business policy," he said.

"Every single penny you invest here will be taken care of by Pakistan government. More people in Pakistan are now learning Chinese and inter-marriages are taking place," the minister said.

Pakistan Observer

PCJCCI President Stresses Chinese Model of Rural Tourism in Pakistan

Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Zarak Khan on Sunday called for promoting Chinese model of 'Rural Tourism' in Pakistan.

He told the media here that Pakistan was known as a tourist paradise and a special interest destination for world tourists. Pakistan's main attractions included adventure tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan, cultural and archaeological tourism, but there was a need to highlight rural tourism, which would definitely prove to be a high score for Pakistan economy, he said, adding that villages of northern areas of Pakistan were rich in culture and tourism resources, which could be upgraded by developing better accommodation, food, shopping markets and infrastructure facilities.

He mentioned that he also floated the proposal regarding promotion of rural tourism in the PCJCCI think tank meeting, which also observed that income gap between farmers and urban workers had become a major problem in the country.

The meeting, he added, also suggested the government should develop a long term strategy to promote rural tourism in order to maintain living standard in rural areas of Pakistan.

The meeting was also briefed about rural tourism being practiced in various agricultural countries of the world. In Finland, he said, it usually denoted rented cottages and catering services in the country; in Hungary it was about low-priced accommodation in villages and in Slovenia. It implied tourism on family farms, with guests living with the farmer's family or in a guesthouse and visiting the farm for meals and tours. He was confident that rural tourism in Pakistan would also prove to be extremely successful.

"We should provide a chance to the citizens of urban areas as well as foreigners from other countries to learn about our rural culture and heritage which will definitely benefit the national economy," he concluded.

Afridi says BRI provides best opportunities for underdeveloped nations to rise like China

Federal Minister for Narcotics Control and States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) Shehryar Khan Afridi has said that Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision will benefit the underdeveloped countries to join world and they will rise with help from Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). These views were expressed by him on Sunday while speaking to a visiting delegation of entrepreneurs from China's Sichuan Province led by Mr Zhu Maa. Shehryar Afridi said that PTI government had launched opening up and reforms process in Pakistan so it could be open for foreign investors. "China and its people love in our hearts. Chinese people stood for Pakistan since day one. It gives me immense delight that I am meeting Muslims of China who believe in one God and faith. Our objective is to love respect humanity," he said. The Minister SAFRON said that China's unprecedented rose reflects that a strong nation can get all parts of the country along and this is how President Xi has done wonders with his poverty alleviation campaign. "We salute and cherish the way the Chinese government has got 800 million people out of poverty. Today China is an inspiration for the entire globe," he added. Shehryar Afridi said that Pakistan provided firm support to China during Ping Pong diplomacy and helped it become a UN permanent member and we are still with China when it has become a great world leader. "It is unfortunate that Pakistan's image has been replicated negatively while our social fabric and I hope after watching Pakistan closely you would become Ambassadors of Pakistan and tell Chinese nation how peaceful and loving Pakistanis are," he said. Afridi said that due to Chairman Mao Zedong leadership and Deng Xiaopeng's reform agenda, China has today become one of greatest economic giant of the world. "Entrepreneurship is the way of Sunnah of holy prophets. Pakistan is blessed with all resources. We have all seasons and we are blessed with our youth and we have rich mineral resources and fertile lands.

Return on investment is much higher in Pakistan in entire region and our government has initiated a visa policy and we have opened Pakistan for world investors to come and invest here".

The minister said that Pakistan has rich resources of religious tourism and we have most out of 14 top mountains. Now we have a dynamic tourism policy, he added. “Kohat is oil and gas producing district in KP province. Our manpower is doing wonders in across the globe. One window service for foreign investors has been introduced and World Bank has declared Pakistan top country in Asia in ease of doing business policy,” he said. “Every single penny you invest here will be taken care of by Pakistan government. More people in Pakistan are now learning Chinese and inter marriages are taking place,” the minister said. Mr Zhu Maa said he has been bringing five six delegations to Pakistan and each time it’s a great experience. “Two countries people are very friendly. Delegates are Muslims and non-muslims but feeling is the same. We feel Pakistan provides best opportunities for investment. There is a need to project opportunities for investment in Pakistan to Chinese people”. He vowed to showcase Pakistani products and halal food in Chinese markets. “We plan to invest in Halal meat and export it to China and Middle Eastern countries. China has good equipment and services,” he concluded.

November 05, 2019

Business Recorder

WTO’s meeting: Razak seeks additional quota for rice, sugar with China

Prime Minister's Advisor on Commerce, Textile, Industries and Production, Abdul Razak Dawood is in China to seek further cooperation in trade and investment including more quotas for rice and sugar, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

Dawood who is scheduled to attend WTO's mini ministerial meeting in Shanghai to discuss the multilateral trading system amongst the member countries, will also meet Chinese Minister Trade to discuss implementation on second phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA), commencing from December 1, 2019.

According to sources Razak Dawood will request Chinese Trade Minister for allocation of special quota for Pakistani rice and sugar.

Previously, China granted special quota of \$1 billion for import of cotton yarn, rice and sugar.

The previous package covered sugar, rice and cotton yarn export to China. Under the package 300,000 metric tons of rice, 200,000 MT of sugar and 350,000 metric tons of cotton yarn was to be exported to China. However, Pakistan did not utilize the quota of cotton yarn due to increase in price of yarn in the domestic market.

Razak Dawood is also expected to update Chinese authorities about the incentives being given in the Special Economic Zones (EPZs) and Gwadar Port and SEZ. The sources said, Abdul Razak Dawood would urge Chinese companies to relocate in Pakistan's SEZ's where substantial incentives have been offered to foreign investors.

Pakistan Observer

Gwadar gateway to progress, prosperity of region

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Monday said that Gwadar was gateway to progress and prosperity of not only Pakistan but the whole region. He expressed these views while addressing participants of opening ceremony of different projects including Gwadar Port Authority Commercial project and expansion of government Faqeer Colony Middle school project.

He said that Pakistan and China had been making tremendous progress in forging regional partnership towards achieving the shared ideals of peace, stability and development. He observed that Gwadar Port Authority Commercial Complex would turn into a business hub for all commercial activity in the region. Calling himself a native of province of Balochistan, he said that seeing Gwadar turning into a major port city of the future gave him immense pride and satisfaction and even more heartening was the fact that the numerous projects under CPEC will continue to attract investment and development in Gwadar for many years to come. Inaugurating the projects including Pakistan China Government Faqeer Colony Middle School Expansion Project, Gwadar 300 MW Coal-based Power Project and the Gwadar Port Authority Commercial Complex Project, he said that The Faqir Colony Primary School was developed with help from China, and thus laid the foundation of providing quality education to the local children. He observed that 300 MW coal power plant in Gwadar was another achievement by China and Pakistan and the power plant would provide the much needed energy resource required for development in Gwadar. He also said these three achievements were only a beginning of a long series of planned and ongoing projects that would complement the CPEC. This will grant Pakistan and China the opportunity for sustainable and long-term economic development. He said that the 4000 solar energy facilities being donated by China would prove to be very beneficial for the Gwadar district and would be instrumental in meeting its energy needs. He appreciated the joint efforts for the socio-economic prosperity of the region.

Dialogue on ‘CPEC as Catalyst for Geo-Political Change’ China-Pakistan relations not for money

Pak-China relations are not based on dollars and cents but they are very historical and strategic as China has always stood by side with Pakistan in toughest times. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has also won a national consensus of Pakistani nation. Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said this at the Seminar on “CPEC as a catalyst for geo-political change” organized by the Karachi Council on Foreign Relations (KCFR), Sunday MNA Shezra Mansab Ali Khan Kharral, Senator KeshoBai (Krishna Kohli), Senator Lt. Gen. Retd. Abdul Qayyum, Senator Nauman Wazir Khattak, Senator Dr Sikandar Mandhro and Senator Rukhsana Zuberi were present. Chairman KCFR Ikram Sehgal, Senior Vice Chairman Mustafa Jamal, Secretary General Commodore (retd.) Sadeed A. Malik also spoke. Senator Syed further said that no country was willing to invest in Pakistan except China when CPEC project was initiated. CPEC is a success story. We are proud to have brotherly relations with one of world powers China, he admired.

China has always helped Pakistan in its toughest times as they helped us in United Nations on

Kashmir and FATF which helped us escape from being a black listed country. CPEC is a great example of China trust in Pakistan and we will greatly be benefited from each other, he mentioned.

He said Thar coal project is also a successful part of CPEC. CPEC is a great project of belt and road initiative. Peaceful development of China is encouraging for countries like Pakistan and this has also reduced influence of USA in this region, he added. Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar are now also interested to invest in CPEC. This project is very much on its track. We have greatly overcome on terrorism and power crisis here in country, he concluded. Senator Lt. Gen. Retd. Abdul Qayyum said that Pakistan will reap more benefits from CPEC and all negative theories must be ended now. However, we will have to take care of governance and development of Gwadar. We will have to take ML one on its track again, he added. Senator Rukhsana Zuberi said that CPEC is helping empower Pakistani women. Senator Nauman Khattak appreciated China support for Pakistan and said that CPEC will greatly help our economy to grow at fast pace.

Chairman KCFR Ikram Sehgal said that Pakistan will be developed soon with this CPEC project and everyone should play its positive role for its success.

The Nation

Industrial, Economic Zones to be established in GB under CPEC

ISLAMABAD - Industrial and Economics Zones would be established in Gilgit-Baltistan under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project to uplift the area and bring it at par with developed parts of the country. Due to tax exemptions, the zones would be more beneficial for the whole country especially locals, a senior official of Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan told APP.

He said work on the Babusar top tunnel would be started during next financial year, adding the federal government was determined to remove the 72 years deprivation of the local people.

To a question, he said despite financial crunch, the Gilgit Baltistan had been provided development funds. Commenting on new water reservoirs, he expressed the hope that Diamer-Bhasha Dam would bring prosperity in the area. Besides, the government has allocated Rs 400 million for construction of 250-bed hospital in Skardu to provide best health facilities to local people. He said that 50-bed cardiac hospital Phase-I was under construction at Gilgit Baltistan with the cost of Rs1.5 billion. While, Rs 300 million have been allocated in the current Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for completion of the cardiac hospital. He said latest machineries would also be provided at local hospitals to ensure provision of better health facilities there.

The Express Tribune

CPEC: Road map for economic cooperation

The 9th meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) is expected to rekindle progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The government is preparing a laundry list of projects that will be tabled for financing in the upcoming meeting. These include ML-1 upgradation, DI Khan-Zhob road, Karachi Circular Railway and many more. Although there has been some mention of industrial cooperation also, it seems more of a secondary consideration to the fancy repertoire of mega infrastructure projects, indicating that we have somehow lost the plot.

It would be extremely difficult for Pakistan to undertake such mega projects in the present conditions, due to the IMF programme and its conditions. Moreover, CPEC was hailed as a game changer for Pakistan, not because it would provide yet another avenue for financing its infrastructure ambitions but because it offered an opportunity to integrate with the world's industrial powerhouse. It promised opportunities for industrial transformation, increased exports and better employment. Filling the infrastructure gaps was just the first piece of the puzzle.

The real challenge is to put this infrastructure to use. But the policymakers seem unclear about this aspect, while their idea of industrial cooperation remains limited to flawed understanding of special economic zones. If Pakistan is serious about using CPEC as a stimulus for its economy, it needs a robust economic cooperation framework.

Firstly, there is a need to fix the SEZs and that would mean providing quality infrastructure and investor-friendly regulations. Only then can the investors be enticed with investment incentives.

Unfortunately, however, we have turned this approach upside down. The government is mulling over incentives for investors, while the new SEZs remain incomplete and the existing ones continue to wrestle with basic issues like utilities, land titles and complicated regulations hidden behind the façade of one-windows.

These SEZs, if fixed, can make Pakistan the choicest destination for relocating industries from China. Due to increased labour costs, over capacity and environmental factors, China is gradually exiting from industries like garments, textiles, cement, papermaking, light engineering, etc. There is no reason why Pakistan cannot join the league of Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia and Bangladesh to house these industries.

Besides fixing SEZs, there is also a need to undertake complementary reforms to fully benefit from the BRI investments. A World Bank study on BRI economics highlights that because of infrastructure and policy gaps, the BRI economies under trade by 30% and fall short of their potential FDI by 70%. But with corridors like CPEC lowering travel times, this can change. It is estimated that reducing travel time by one day would potentially increase BRI trade by 5.2%

and the countries with comparative advantage in time-sensitive sectors like perishable agriculture products can benefit the most from this.

Xinjiang is the gateway to CPEC, and its imports have been growing exponentially. Only within the current year, they have risen by 62%. Agriculture products form a major part of these imports and this is where Pakistan has a comparative advantage, due to its large agricultural base and its location right next to Xinjiang.

But the same World Bank study also cautions that border delays and trade restrictions can wipe off most of these advantages. And this is exactly where Pakistan is lacking. The World Economic Forum's Enabling Trade Index ranks Pakistan at 122 amongst 136 countries. Pakistan scores below South Asia on all but the two pillars of transport infrastructure and services. This means that we need to look beyond infrastructure and improve on dimensions like efficiency and transparency of border administration.

If we can get the economic cooperation right, CPEC may be the answer to our economic woes. If not, we are only going to see unfulfilled promises of more infrastructures.

November 06, 2019

Business Recorder

Fazl accuses govt of 'damaging' Chinese investment

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Uleam-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Emir Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Tuesday accused Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government of "damaging" billions of dollars Chinese investment made through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Addressing his party's charged crowd here at H-9, as his anti-government sit-in entered sixth day, Fazl said that ruling PTI not only spoiled country's relations with Iran and other brotherly countries but also damaged the Sino-Pak relations.

"The all-time tested friend like China is no more ready to trust us and this is the reason they are not going to make any further investment in the country," he claimed.

He said that so called accountability has thrown a spanner in the bureaucracy's works, adding that 'political victimization' under the pretext of 'so-called' accountability is not acceptable. Criticizing the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), the JUI-F cleric said that 'everyone is now afraid if they sign a project, they will be forced to stand in court.'

Rehman said that the "country's economy is on a downward spiral and debts are accumulating on a daily basis".

"For the first time in Pakistan's history, three budgets were presented. And despite that, they could not meet tax collection targets."

The JUI-F chief said that the government's recommendation for the formation of a judicial commission to probe rigging in the July 2018 election has been rejected.

“We reject every proposal for the formation of a commission and maintain our demand for fresh elections. There can be no change in the matter,” he added.

“Now it's up to you. The sooner you decide on this, the sooner we can see this matter resolved. If you think this crowd should disperse, go ahead and give the call,” he warned.

The JUI-F chief also spoke about the missing persons' issue, and said: “So many people have been picked up under the pretext of terrorism and they are still missing”.

“Is it justified for the state institutions to pick up someone on mere suspicion or on the basis of their own report?” he questioned.

He said such people remain missing for 12 to 15 years. “And if they are criminals, why are they not brought before the court?” he questioned.

“Why no one objected over 126-day sit-in of PTI in 2014, and why are they raising objections over us today, as they [PTI] were alone then and even alone today. The opposition parties were united in 2014 and they are together today as well,” he said.

He stopped his followers when they chanted ‘D-Chowk’ slogans, indicating that they are ready to move to D-Chowk, where Prime Minister Imran Khan had held his 126-day sit-in.

National anthem was also played before Maulana Rehman started his speech atop a shipping container from where he regularly addresses protesters at about 9:00pm since the sit-in began.

JUI-F Secretary General Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri called upon “institutions” to allow his party to fight, what he refers to as a “political battle” with Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Addressing participants of the ‘Azadi March’, he alleged that Prime Minister Khan during his visit to the US had said that “al Qaeda members were trained by Pakistan” and that in Tehran the Premier said that “terrorism in Iran is carried out from Pakistan”. Haideri further alleged that Imran also talked about “dividing Kashmir into three parts”.

He questioned why the state and state institutions remained silent on these statements. “Our battle with Imran Khan is political and institutions should let us fight this battle,” he said in an indirect message to military.

Late in the evening, a worker of the party whose name could not be ascertained died due to heart failure.

CPEC project Pakistan's top priority: PM

- He reiterated China's commitment to further deepening the Pakistan-China partnership in all fields.
- The prime minister was talking to National Development and Reform Commission (NDRD) Vice Chairman Ning Jizhe.

- Lauding the steps taken by Pakistan to enhance coordination and accelerate completion of CPEC projects.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday underscored that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project was Pakistan's top priority as it was pivotal for its economic transformation as well as for further fortifying the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries.

The prime minister was talking to National Development and Reform Commission (NDRD) Vice Chairman Ning Jizhe, who called on him here at the PM Office.

He noted that the NDRD vice chairman's visit was of great significance as it would help consolidate the gains made during the first phase of CPEC and accelerate the implementation of the second phase.

Recalling his recent visit to China, the prime minister deeply appreciated the support extended by the Chinese leadership to Pakistan on all issues.

Among other things, he emphasized the importance of ML-1 for modernizing Pakistan's railway system and also invited the NDRC vice chairman to explore opportunities in steel industry, copper and gold mining, and increased agricultural productivity.

The new projects would impart a strong impetus to the second phase of CPEC and usher in a new era of cooperation between the two countries for the benefit of the people of Pakistan, he added.

The NDRC vice chairman expressed gratitude for the warm welcome accorded to him and conveyed cordial greetings of President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang for Prime Minister Imran Khan.

He reiterated China's commitment to further deepening the Pakistan-China partnership in all fields.

Lauding the steps taken by Pakistan to enhance coordination and accelerate completion of CPEC projects, he expressed the hope that CPEC through early harvest projects would provide practical benefits to the people of Pakistan.

NDRC Vice Chairman Ning Jizhe is visiting Pakistan along with his delegation to co-chair the 9th Meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC.

Daily Times

Is CPEC a game-changer for Balochs?

The One Belt One Road (OBOR) is kind of a revival of the centuries old silk route that connected the world to the centre of the globe (areas surrounding the Mediterranean and the Caspian Sea). This was once a hub of linguistics, culture, commerce, trade and religious activities.

Balochistan is Pakistan's largest province in terms of landmass and enjoys an important geostrategic position because of its proximity with the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia and the Indian Ocean. With the recent developments ahead in sight of the CPEC, major world powers are shifting their focus to Gwadar, which is the central piece, or in my words, Koh-e-Noor, of the whole CPEC project. It is, geographically speaking, quite close to the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 per cent of the total global oil production passes through. The likely CPEC network of roads and rails would provide China with an easy and much shorter trade route to the markets of Europe, Gulf and Africa.

Given the significance of Gwadar and Balochistan province, several analysts and researchers have questioned about the welfare of the locals residing in the region. Interestingly, the state narrative is all praises for the CPEC while the counter-state narrative (concerning the Balochs) is loaded with concerns about how much Balochs will get out of this multi-billion dollar project, being termed a "game-changer."

One major chunk of the experts and intelligentsia in Pakistan believes that CPEC will definitely bear its fruits in the future as the Western route will open up the backward districts of Balochistan and southern KPK and integrate them with the national markets. This would bring opportunities for employment and small businesses to the masses of the least developed areas in the country. The opposite school of thought has gone to the extent of calling it neo-colonization on the pattern of East India Company's takeover of the subcontinent.

'The state narrative is all praises for the CPEC while the counter-state narrative is loaded with concerns about how much Balochs will get out of this multi-billion dollar project'

Balochistan and Gwadar are very crucial to the development of CPEC even if the Western route is not developed at all. Without Gwadar, there is no CPEC. So this is plain common sense that to complete the CPEC and achieve its desired aims, the trust deficit between the (civil and security) establishment and the Balochs needs to be bridged up. The Federal Government and the Security Forces need to make a serious effort to resolve the conflict, not just manage it through force or coercion. Rather, this time, co-option, engagement and dialogue should be a strategy. The first step to achieve this is to be less secretive about the projects under the CPEC and the share of each province in the jobs and revenue. To make it a real game-changer, we need to engage people, especially the ones who have high stakes in it, for example, the Balochs, particularly those living in Gwadar and the areas adjacent to it.

The government of Pakistan should de-centralize the programme of development and train locals through proper vocational training. The CPEC should be introduced as a part of the curriculum in different universities within Balochistan (and other areas) to develop local expertise on the topic and, hence, prepare them for the future challenges as well as opportunities.

Dawn News

Pakistan seeks \$9bn Chinese loan for ML-1, commits to border fencing

Committing complete fencing of Afghan and Iran borders on priority to ensure peace and security, Pakistan on Tuesday asked China to finance \$9 billion Main Railway Line (ML-1) and other road and infrastructure projects to expand the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

At the conclusion of ninth Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting of CPEC here, the two sides also approved Gwadar Smart City Master Plan and signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) for cooperation in the field of health and trade. They also signed minutes of the meeting and inaugurated 392km Multan-Sukkur Motorway completed with Chinese funding of Rs294bn.

The JCC was co-chaired by Planning Minister Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar and China's National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC) Vice Chairman Ning Jizhe. It formed a joint project financing group to formally engage in project financing arrangements on ML-1, said Bakhtyar, adding the groundbreaking ceremony for the multi-billion dollar plan was targeted within the next six months.

He said the government had decided to take ML-1 loan and ensure its repayment because of the limitations of Pakistan Railways. Responding to a question, he said a project loan would not affect the country's debt to GDP situation because it would be completed in about five-six years and contribute also to the GDP size as well.

Responding to another question, Bakhtyar said the two sides also decided to hold discussions on modalities of Chinese financing in Renminbi as it was one of the six major currencies in the International Monetary Fund basket. For this, an expert group at the central bank level and other experts would examine as to how to move forward.

He lamented that CPEC was previously viewed as replacement to Public Sector Development Programme while its true potential lied in the economic expansion and industrial growth for which the new government was setting a fresh direction.

The minister claimed China would also provide Rs70bn financing for Zhob-DI Khan Motorway to connect Islamabad-Quetta through motorway while Pakistan would finance Sukkur-Hyderabad motorway through public-private financing where Chinese would be welcome to participate through open competition.

According to Bakhtyar, security on Pak-Afghan border was a challenge given its 2400km length and its fencing should have been done 10 years ago. He said now it will be completed by 2020 and the same pace would be ensured on the Iran border as well.

“Pakistan's security situation could not be 100pc in our hands until these borders remain porous. This is the most import security project that would also help achieve law and order and the military and civil authorities have jointly controlled the security situation to a great extent,” he added.

He said the JCC reviewed \$12bn of energy sector project portfolio and noted that \$4.2bn worth of them had been completed or would be by 2021. It also expressed satisfaction over 6390MW of remaining plans to be finished by 2025 or 2030 keeping in mind Pakistan's energy plan.

The country was also looking at \$8-10bn of investment in refineries, petrochemicals and oil and gas sector in 2-3 projects, the minister said, adding Chinese side was expected to enter the steel that would help reverse Pakistan's \$4bn steel imports.

The two sides also agreed to make progress on mines and mineral sectors, particularly in copper and gold excavation and evacuation where China had great experience and was importing copper from across the world. He said the two sides indicated to expedite completion of social sector development for which China had promised \$1bn grant.

Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing said the two countries focused last six years on energy, infrastructure, Gwadar port and this JCC sets a new direction for future projects, mostly in industrial cooperation, agriculture, affordable housing and minerals.

The MoUs signed during the meeting related to All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) and Ministry of Planning for further strengthening the worker exchanges and healthcare between Ministry of Health and Research Development International (RDI) for testing of cervical cancer.

"We made steady progress in resolution of matters regarding finalization of tariffs for the completed energy projects, Gwadar port concession agreement and Kohala hydropower project," said the minister. The chiefs of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan also attended the JCC.

Bakhtyar said the remaining portion of the eastern corridor from Sukkur to Hyderabad (M6) will be completed in build-operate-transfer mode under the umbrella of public private partnership and urged Chinese companies to take active part in the bidding process.

He told the guests that Pakistan had established CPEC Authority to work as a one window for all related issues to enhance the pace of the projects implementation.

Jizhe said the Chinese delegation to this JCC was the biggest to date which shows commitment to take cooperation with Pakistan to new heights. He stated that high consideration will be given to socioeconomic and industrial cooperation in the second phase of CPEC.

Dawn News

Pakistan to feature in Belt and Road China Open

Pakistan will participate in the Belt and Road China Open International Taekwondo Championship being held from Nov 6 to 10 in Xian, it was announced on Tuesday.

According to an announcement of the Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (PTF), Rab Nawaz, Jabran Asad J Khan, Mohammad Owais and Mohammad Zahid will feature in the said event.

Syed Sadaqat Hussain will be the head of the national team while Mohammad Farooq will act as coach, the PTF announcement added.

The PTF added that participation in the said event will give useful experience and exposure to the Pakistani taekwondo athletes for next month's South Asian Games scheduled to be staged from Dec 1-10.

The athletes participating in the Xian event will also earn ranking points which will help them improve their ranking.

November 07, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Expansion of CPEC scope

CHINA and Pakistan have agreed to further their cooperation in different fields under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during the ninth Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting of CPEC. Working groups in energy, transportation infrastructure, industrial cooperation, Gwadar Port and social-economic sectors presented reports about progress so far made in these areas and the two sides reached a series of agreements.

The understanding reached to set a new direction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for future cooperation in high economic impact areas by largely shifting away from infrastructure projects, except the \$9 billion Mainline-1 projects is welcome in that it represents firm commitment of the two countries to continue implementation of the mega project despite external pressure and conspiracies. The decision to expand the scope of CPEC to copper, gold, oil and gas sectors is understandable as proper exploitation of these resources has the potential to address financial and economic woes of Pakistan both on short and long term bases. However, shifting of focus from infrastructure projects would not be a wiser option as creation, up gradation and modernization of infrastructure has deep relevance to economic growth and development.

No meaningful increase in industrial and agricultural activities is feasible without ensuring quality infrastructure to prospective investors. It is good that Mainline-I project aimed at up gradation and modernization of railway system is now seeing light of the day after four years delay but other ongoing projects should also be completed with speed as delays and stoppage of work and funds is increasing their cost. There should also be greater focus on fast-paced establishment of special economic zones especially when the Chinese are willing to consider proposals for shifting of their industries to these zones. The Prime Minister may like to personally monitor progress on setting up of these zones and remove bottlenecks so that the country could reap the benefits of rapid industrialization.

The Express Tribune

K-P CM directs handover of land for CPEC City to FWO

PESHAWAR: A day after Chief Minister Mahmood Khan told a CPEC Joint Cooperation Meeting how the province was opening its doors to its immense natural resources and scenic sites, he directed officials to hand over possession of land to build a CPEC City in Nowshera to the FWO.

He further warned that no further extensions will be provided in completing the Swat Motorway and sought monthly progress reports on the project.

These directions were issued on Wednesday as Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Chief Minister Mahmood Khan chaired a meeting to review the progress of key developmental projects initiated by the Frontier Works Organization (FWO) in the province at Chief Minister House in Peshawar.

Noting that the speedy completion of ongoing mega development projects in the province is a priority for his administration, Mahmood asked about the progress on constructing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) City in Nowshera. The meeting was briefed that FWO has deployed its unit to start work on CPEC City. However, work will only start after FWO takes full possession of the requisite land.

He directed to hand over land for the project to the FWO within two weeks so that civil work can begin.

The meeting was told that around 80 per cent of work has been completed on the Nowshera Medical College (NCM) while 90 per cent of work on the Kabul River Bridge has been completed. Mahmood directed to ensure the provision of all necessary resources for completing construction of the two projects.

The chief minister directed the relevant authorities to present detailed progress reports on the construction of an oil refinery and a cement plant in Haripur apart from progress on construction of hydropower projects in the province.

He was told that work on other small-scale projects, such as Regi Model Town in Peshawar, is in progress and are expected to be completed within the given timeline.

The meeting was further briefed about the progress made in completing civil works for the first phase of the Swat Motorway, from Rashakai to Chakradra. To complete civil work in time, officials briefed that work is being carried out in three shifts.

With the province seeing the first snowfall of winter the night before, Mahmood pointed out that no further extensions in the given timeline of the project will be tolerated. He added that monthly progress and detailed activity reports with timelines should be submitted to his office.

“The project will serve as a gateway to the rapid promotion of trade and tourism in the region, especially for international tourism,” he said, stressing that all available resources must be utilized to ensure that the project is completed on time.

He further directed to take pragmatic measures to deploy officers of the National Highways and Motorways Police on the Swat Motorway to better manage traffic and enforce rules.

To build the Ghallanai-Mamadgat Road in the Mohmand Tribal District as soon as possible, he directed to procure land in time.

He assured that the provincial government will provide all support for the early completion of developmental projects.

Chief Minister also directed the concerned authorities to call the next meeting after 20 days, wherein detailed progress reports on the construction of the oil refinery, cement plant in Haripur, hydropower projects in Chitral and progress made on the construction of a bypass road in Abbottabad.

K-P Assembly Speaker Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani, K-P Communications and Works Minister Akbar Ayub Khan, Advisor to Chief Minister on Merged Districts Ajmal Khan Wazir, Principal Secretary to CM Shahab Ali Shah, administrative secretaries of the concerned departments, and senior officials of FWO, Peshawar Development Authority (PDA), K-P Highway Authority (K-PHA) and others attended the meeting.

Nawaiwaqat

چین تیرا شکر یہ

چین پاکستان کے مخلص دوستوں میں نمایاں اور نمبروں کی فہرست میں شامل ہے۔ چین کی دوستی پاکستان کے لیے بہت اہمیت کی حامل ہے۔ چینی قوم کا اپنا ایک مزاج اور روایات ہیں جس کی لمبی تاریخ ہے۔ دوستی نبھانا بھی چین کی قومی روایات کا ایک روشن پہلو ہے۔ چینی جب کوئی بات کسی سے طے کر لیتے ہیں تو پھر اس پر ڈٹ جاتے ہیں اور طے شدہ بات یا معاہدے کا دفاع بھی کرتے ہیں اور اُسے نبھاتے بھی ہیں۔

اس کی تازہ مثال چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ڈائریکٹر برائے پالیسی اینڈ پلاننگ یا نووین کا بیجنگ میں چند روز قبل اخبار نویسوں کے ساتھ گفتگو میں یہ گھلا اور دو ٹوک اعلان ہے کہ پاکستان کے خلاف ایف اے، ٹی۔ ایف کا سیاسی استعمال نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ بعض ممالک ایف۔ اے ٹی ایف کا سیاسی مقاصد کے لیے استعمال کرتے ہوئے پاکستان کو ”بلیک لسٹ“ کرانا چاہتے ہیں۔ انٹرنیشنل میڈیا اور ہمارے قومی پرنٹ میڈیا نے چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ڈائریکٹر برائے پالیسی اینڈ پلاننگ مسٹر یا نووین کے جو الفاظ رپورٹ کئے ہیں وہ نہایت قابل داد اور چین کی پاکستان کے ساتھ بے مثال دوستی کے مظہر ہیں۔

مسٹر یا نووین نے کہا کہ ہم نے امریکہ اور انڈیا پر واضح کر دیا ہے ایسا نہیں ہونا چاہئے کیونکہ یہ ایف۔ اے۔ ٹی۔ ایف کے قیام کے مقاصد کے منافی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا ایف۔ اے۔ ٹی۔ ایف کسی ملک کو ”بلیک لسٹ“ میں ڈالنے کے لیے نہیں بلکہ ٹیرر فنانسنگ کیخلاف ایکشن کرنے میں اس کی مدد کے لیے ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان مستعدی سے

نیشنل ایکشن پلان پر مؤثر طور پر عمل کر رہا ہے اور چین نے دہشت گردوں کے خلاف کارروائی کے لئے پاکستان کی حوصلہ افزائی کی۔ انہوں نے کہا چین نے پہلے بھی پاکستان کو بلیک لسٹ میں ڈالنے کی کوشش کر دکھا۔

! مسٹریٹوین نے مزید کہا کہ چین انصاف پر یقین رکھتا ہے۔ چین آپ کا شکر یہ

یقیناً پاکستان اس وقت مشکل صورتحال سے دوچار ہے۔ انڈیا پاکستان کے خلاف جس تیزی سے آگے بڑھ رہا ہے اور یکطرفہ طور پر جو کارروائیاں کر رہا ہے اس کا آخری نتیجہ اور انجام انڈیا کے لیے بہت خطرناک اور تباہ کن ہو گا۔

چین نے پاکستان کو بلیک لسٹ میں ڈالنے کی انڈین کوششوں کو پہلے بھی ناکام بنا یا اور آئندہ بھی ناکام بناتا رہے گا۔ چین کی پاکستان سے دوستی نے ہر موقع پر انڈیا اور مودی کی سازشوں کو ناکام بنایا ہے۔ حالیہ دنوں انڈیا کی طرف سے پاکستان کے خلاف اقدامات میں بہت تیزی آئی ہے۔ انڈیا پاکستان کے خلاف عالمی سطح پر جعلی اور جھوٹی کہانیاں پیش کر کے ایف۔ اے۔ ٹی ایف کے ذریعے پاکستان کو بلیک لسٹ کروا کر معاشی طور پر شدید نقصان پہنچانا چاہتا ہے۔ چین انڈیا کی اس سازش کے خلاف ڈٹ کر اور کھل کر سامنے آ گیا ہے۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ڈائریکٹر یائو وین کے مطابق چین نے انڈیا اور امریکہ دونوں پر واضح کر دیا ہے کہ ایف۔ اے۔ ٹی ایف کا سیاسی استعمال نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔ یہ چین کی پاکستان کے ساتھ کھلی محبت اور زبردست سیاسی حمایت اور تعاون ہے۔ چین اپنی روایات اور کٹمنٹ پر ڈٹ جانے والا ملک ہے۔ چین نے ہمیشہ پاکستان کے ساتھ فراخدلی سے کھلا تعاون کیا ہے۔ موجودہ چینی قیادت نے عالمی سطح پر پاکستان کے مفادات کا ہمیشہ تحفظ کیا ہے۔ پاکستان میں متعین عزت مآب چینی سفیر نے سی پیک کی کامیابی کے لیے بھرپور کردار ادا کیا ہے۔

وزیر اعظم عمران خان اور چیف آف آرمی سٹاف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ کی چینی قیادت کے ساتھ مسلسل ملاقاتیں اور چین کے یکے بعد دیگرے دورے، پاکستانی تاجروں کے کامیاب تجارتی دورے، مختلف شعبہ ہائے زندگی کے افراد کے لیے چین کے سفر کو آسان بنانا اور سہولتیں مہیا کرنا عزت مآب چینی سفیر کی پاکستان کے ساتھ محبت اور پاک چائنہ دوستی کو مضبوط سے مضبوط تر بنانے کی دلیل ہے۔ زربندر مودی نے مقبوضہ کشمیر کو انڈیا میں شامل کرنے کے لیے جو ظالمانہ اور وحشیانہ اقدامات کئے ہیں چین نے ان تمام اقدامات کو مسترد کرتے ہوئے پاکستان کو بھرپور سیاسی اور سفارتی سپورٹ مہیا کی ہے اور ہر فورم پر پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا ہے۔ پاکستان کو معاشی و اقتصادی بحران سے نکالنے کے لیے چینی قیادت نے فراخدلی کے ساتھ ایک بھاری رقم پاکستان کو بطور قرض دی ہے۔ دفاعی شعبہ جات میں بھی چین پاکستان کے ساتھ بھرپور تعاون کر رہا ہے۔ سی پیک کی کامیابی کے لیے پاکستان کی بہترین کوششوں کو چینی قیادت نے فراخدلی کے ساتھ خراج تحسین پیش کیا ہے۔ سی پیک کے خلاف مودی اور انڈیا کی سازشوں کو ناکام بنانے میں چین پاکستان کے قدم بقدم چل رہا ہے۔ مزید برآں چین نے عالمی سطح پر زربندر مودی اور انڈیا کی سازشوں کو ناکام بنایا ہے اور سی پیک کے خلاف اقوام عالم کو انڈیا جس طرح اُبھار رہا تھا اور عالمی سطح پر سی پیک کے خلاف اور پاکستان کے خلاف جو جعلی اور من گھڑت پروپیگنڈہ کر رہا تھا وہ دم توڑ چکا ہے۔ متعدد ممالک نے انڈین پروپیگنڈے کو مسترد کرتے ہوئے سی

پیک (ڈان بیلٹ ڈان روڈ) منصوبے کو سراہتے ہوئے اس میں شمولیت کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ یہ ایک بڑی کامیابی ہے کہ عالمی سطح پر سی پیک منصوبے کو پاکستان کے خلاف استعمال کرنے میں انڈیا بڑی طرح ناکام ہو چکا ہے۔

ہر آنے والادن پاک چین دوستی کو مضبوط بنا رہا ہے۔ ہر آنے والادن مودی کو رسوائی اور مزید ناکامی کا پیغام سن رہا ہے۔ پاکستان کو ایف۔ اے۔ ٹی ایف کے ذریعے بلیک لسٹ میں ڈلوانے کی مودی کی ناکامی اور نامرادی کا پیغام پوری دنیا کو چین پوری مضبوطی اور دلیری سے سن رہا ہے۔ ”چین تیرا شکر یہ پاکستان زندہ باد، پاک چین دوستی زندہ باد“

November 08, 2019

Business Recorder

Pakistan to connect New Silk Road Initiative with Gulf Cooperation Council

- Pakistan's Gwadar Port is becoming the core seaport for the entire BRI, says China Pakistan Economic Corridor Business chairman.
- He added the major connectivity of Islamic countries in the region starts from Gwadar Port.

Being the major player of China's ambitious New Silk Road Initiative, Pakistan has said it would connect the Chinese initiative towards the entire Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

“Pakistan is basically the main corridor for China. That's why Gwadar Port is becoming the core seaport for the entire BRI [Belt and Road Initiative] and Pakistan is going to connect the New Silk Road Initiative towards all GCC,” said Samiullah Vohra, Chairman of China Pakistan Economic Corridor Business, quoted Qatar's daily The Peninsula.

Vohra was one of the exhibitors at the Silk Road Exhibition organised at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Centre (DECC). The GCC is a political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern countries – Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Speaking about BRI, Vohra said Pakistan's Gwadar Port would provide the major connectivity to Islamic countries in GCC and Middle East. “The trade activities by the Belt and Road Initiative are very huge. The route starts from Xinjiang province to Europe and covers the entire GCC. The major connectivity of the Islamic countries in the region starts from Gwadar Port. This port connects the entire GCC and Middle Eastern countries,” he said.

Over 100 countries and international organizations have given the green signal to be part of the new Silk Road.

Inclusion in CPEC list

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Joint Working Group (JWG) has approved 700MW Azad Pattan hydropower project for inclusion in the CPEC list.

This will assist to reach early financial close, start construction next year and also arrange the project's financing in RMB - Chinese currency. The project will also be able to avail other facilities available to CPEC projects which will expedite the project and bring down the tariff, it was reported.

Azad Pattan hydropower project is a 700MW run-of-the-river pondage scheme on the River Jhelum, in the AJ&K, with capability of 4 hours daily peaking. The project will be located near the Azad Pattan Bridge, upstream of 720MW Karot hydropower project and downstream of 640 MW Mahal hydropower project and will be a part of the River Jhelum hydel cascade.

The project will deliver approximately 3.3 billion units of clean and renewable energy into the national grid after its completion in 2026. Being developed under the 2002 Power Policy, the project will be transferred free of cost to the government after the term. The tariff approved by NEPRA at US ¢ 7.1/ kWh is the lowest hydel tariff in Pakistan to date. The tariff will fall to around US ¢ 4/kWh after the debt payment period (12 years), and to around US ¢ 1/ kWh after the concession term (30 years) throughout its long life remaining useful life of over 70 years; off course all subject to indexation as allowed under the power policies.

The River Jhelum cascade is developing the potential of the flowing river water with (upstream to downstream) 1,124MW Kohala, 640 MW Mahl, 700 MW Azad Pattan and 720 MW Karot – a total of 3,184 MW and generating some 15 billion kWh annually; approximately 10% of Pakistan's total electricity generation.

The river cascade development enables the maximum and most efficient use of the river water. In addition to energy generation, the cascade will store water and reduce the silt going into the Mangla Reservoir thus increasing life of Mangla Dam water storage.

The Express Tribune

China setting up 19 factories in Gwadar: envoy

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing has announced that China is setting up 19 factories in Gwadar, saying that the measure will help create job opportunities for Balochistan's youth.

“China seeks to contribute to the development of Balochistan's mining, agriculture, fisheries and water sectors while the Chinese consulate is easing visa procedure for the provincial business community,” said Jing while talking to journalists in Quetta.

The Chinese ambassador was accompanied by MRDL Saindak Company Chairman Ro Ping, Mines and Minerals Secretary Ghulam Ali Baloch and MRDL Senior Vice President Humayun Mehmood.

“Up to 200 Pakistani students are studying in China on scholarships,” said the Chinese envoy.

He rebuffed speculations regarding the Chinese government's lack of interest in progress of development projects in Balochistan, saying that the Pakistani government should address the issues of some key departments which were causing hurdles in the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

“Following the demographic importance of Balochistan, China has many development projects for the province which will be beneficial for both the Chinese and the Pakistani governments,” the ambassador added.

“CPEC will provide economic fortune not only to Balochistan but Afghanistan and Central Asian countries as well, though Balochistan doesn't link with China but all our projects will lead through Pakistan,” said the envoy, expressing optimism regarding development and prosperity of Balochistan.

He pointed out that the provincial fisheries; agriculture, mineral and livestock sectors had room for development which would help end poverty in the province.

“The Chinese companies have been working on the provincial irrigation sector in order to help Balochistan which is marred by water crisis while 50 vocational centres are being established to polish skills of the provincial youth,” said Jing.

To a query regarding scholarships for Balochistan students, Jing stressed upon provincial students to apply through Higher Education Commission.

On the 9th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), the ambassador said positive decisions had been taken in the meeting to address the issues of both the sides.

“China will invest in expansion of Zhob-DI Khan highway which is being considered as vital for CPEC,” he added.

The Nation

Pakistan, China agree to bolster co-op

ISLAMABAD -China and Pakistan have agreed to bolster cooperation in matters pertaining to economy, politics, accountability, climate change as well as the ongoing smog crisis. All these matters were discussed in a meeting of Chairperson of the Senate Special Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor Senator Sherry Rehman with representatives of Bureau-I (South and Southeast Asian Affairs), International Department Central Committee of Chinese People's Congress.

Sherry Rehman observed that Pakistan is very keen to take the CPEC projects forward expeditiously and further enhance and improve upon the bilateral relations. She said that the equilibrium between the bilateral relationships should never be disturbed and that the Chinese side should be facilitated as much as possible. Representatives of the Bureau-I told Senator Sherry Rehman about the upcoming JCC meeting to be held in Islamabad in the second quarter of the next year. They said that the event will be attended by high profile dignitaries from the Chinese side and same from the Pakistani side will be welcomed. Senator Sherry Rehman said

that JCC is one of the most pivotal exercises conducted by the Chinese government as it leads to more discussions and agreements, propelling positive developments on CPEC among other mutual projects. She also stressed upon the need for doing more homework by the Pakistani side at federal and provincial levels to make the most out of such interactions.

Senator Sherry Rehman observed that the Senate Special Committee on CPEC will be soon visiting Gwadar to oversee the ongoing progress and infrastructural development as well as to play its part in integrating the local population with the projects. She said that Chinese initiatives aimed at more than just energy and infrastructure, adding that the welfare and inclusion of the local community were substantial developments.

Matters pertaining to the economic and political situation, accountability, climate change as well as the ongoing smog crisis also came under focus. Both sides agreed to bolster cooperation in order to tackle these challenges.

Talking to Chairman of the supervisory Board Huawei Li Jie in Islamabad on Thursday who called on him along with his delegation, Prime Minister Imran Khan urged the company chairman to involve brilliant young minds of Pakistan working in technical fields.

He said that Pakistan has inexpensive labour and this competent and enterprising youth potential of the country would help the foreign countries to further grow. He also highlighted attractive incentive package, being offered by the government to the potential relocating industries. The possibility of relocation of manufacturing units to Pakistan also came under discussion.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Li Jie informed the Prime Minister about the progress being made by the company in the network domain and said that they have successfully established a new ecosystem so as to become independent of reliance on companies enjoying the monopoly in the field.

He said that the delegation was really impressed with the intellect of the Pakistani students. He said that they were running a Program of merit awards to the students of NAMAL.

Chairman Board of Investment Syed Zubair Haider Gillani, Secretary Commerce Sardar Ahmed Nawaz Sukhera, and Secretary IT Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui were also present during the meeting.

The News

CPEC includes Kashmir hydropower project

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China have agreed to include 700 megawatts of Azad Pattan hydropower project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. This project would be financed through Chinese currency.

According to the details, meetings for CPEC in October and November approved the project for inclusion in the CPEC list. This will assist the project to reach early financial close, start

construction next year and also arrange its financing in Chinese currency. This also means other facilities available to CPEC projects, which would expedite the project and bring down the tariff.

Azad Pattan hydropower project is a run of the river pondage scheme on the River Jhelum, in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir, with capability of four hours of daily peaking.

The project would be located near the Azad Pattan Bridge upstream of 720 MW Karot hydropower project and downstream of 640 MW Mahal hydropower project and would be part of the River Jhelum hydel cascade.

The project would deliver approximately 3.3 billion units of clean, renewable energy in the grid after its completion in 2026. Being developed under the 2002 power policy, the project would be transferred free of cost to the government after the term.

National Electric Power Regulatory Authority approved tariff of US cent 7.1/kilowatt-hour (kWh), the lowest one for hydropower to date. The tariff would fall to around US cent 4/kWh after the debt payment period of 12 years, and to around US cent 1/ kWh after the concession term (30 years) throughout its remaining life.

All are subject to indexation as allowed under the power policies. The River Jhelum cascade is developing the potential of the flowing river water with (upstream to downstream). The projects include 1,124 MW (Kohala), 640 MW (Mahl), 700 MW (Azad Pattan) and 720 MW (Karot) – a total of 3,184 MW and generating some 15 billion kWh annually. The power output accounts for approximately 10 percent of the country's total electricity generation. River cascade development enables the maximum and most efficient use of the river water.

November 09, 2019

Daily Times

Pak-China friendship is infallible, Ch Shujaat tells Chinese envoy

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing called on Pakistan Muslim League (PML) President and former Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain at his residence in Islamabad on Monday and inquired about his welfare. They also exchanged views about other matters of mutual interest. On this occasion, MNA Ch Salik Hussain was also present. Shujaat Hussain said that Pakistan-China friendship is infallible. The Chinese ambassador appreciated the sentiments and said that Shujaat Hussain considers China his second home.

CPEC: over to Phase II?

A good four years have passed since the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), whose investment portfolio is estimated to be around USD 60 billion. The latest reports are that most of the 22 projects, worth USD 19 billion, have been completed or are reaching completion. These projects were envisaged under Phase I of the project, aimed primarily at

alleviating the shortage of power supply and enhancing/improving the transportation infrastructure of the country.

Over this time, there has been criticism over CPEC, coming from certain quarters, because huge expenditures have been made in these two sectors. Little has been done to give a boost to Pakistan's economy, transfer technology and create employment for the locals. Recently, there were apprehensions that CPEC was no more a priority area for Pakistan's new PTI government. This perception did gain strength from some statements about the proposal to halt this project for some time and conduct an audit of its components. Anyhow, the new political setup soon realized such statements coming from its representatives could be counterproductive and advised them to be careful in future.

The author once asked this question from a senior Chinese diplomat based in Islamabad. He did not take much time to respond and said the perception of China unilaterally deciding about the areas for investment in Pakistan was wrong. He clarified it was the government of Pakistan that wanted investment in the power sector and road infrastructure first and then in other sectors, which depended on these. Without developing energy and transportation infrastructure sectors, both Pakistan and China could not think about developing other sectors, such as industry, mining, agriculture and cargo handling. Parking investment in these sectors right away would be like putting the trolley before the horse, he added.

The CPEC Phase II will provide a window for industrial cooperation, help establish many SEZs in Pakistan create opportunities for Joint Ventures (JVs) and offer employment opportunities to the locals

Having said this, one must realize the time has come to raise this question once again. With Phase I of the CPEC almost complete, the question about what lies in store for Pakistan and its people during Phase II becomes pertinent. It is the phase during which the country expects the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan because of certain advantages this option offers, technology transfer, creation of employment opportunities, increase in country's exports to China and other parts of the world, etc. Significant investment in the social sector and welfare projects is also expected in this phase.

So, the challenge here is the government of Pakistan must be aware of this fact and alert while negotiating with China on the form and details of new projects under Phase II.

But before looking into the future, let us see whether the investments in Phase I of the CPEC have yielded the expected results. If yes, to what extent and if not, why? The projects carried out during this face include Dawood Wind Farm (50 MW), Pakistan Jhimpir UEP Wind Farm (100MW), Three Gorges Second Wind Power Project & Three Gorges Third Wind Power Project (50 MW), Quaid e Azam Solar Park (300MW), Bahawalpur, Port Qasim Coal Power Plant (2×660MW), Sahiwal Coal Power Plant (2×660MW), Engro Thar Coal Power Plant (4×30MW), Thar Mining Field Block II, China Red Cross Society's Emergency Care Center, Gawadar, China Pakistan Faqeer Primary School Project, Gawadar, 820-kilometer Cross Border

Optical Fiber Project, Multan-Sukkur Motorway M5 and China Power Hub Generation Company (CPHGC) Coal Power Plant (2×660MW), Hub, Balochistan.

There are different opinions about the benefits or drawbacks of these projects. Some people term these a burden on Pakistan's economy because they think Pakistan will find it hard to pay back the debts. However, others believe these sectors are engines of economic growth and will help generate enough resources to pay back debts as well as earn good profits. They say the country now has surplus energy and world-class transportation infrastructure, which were just a dream a couple of years ago. Again, their emphasis is on the fact that Pakistan must play smart and negotiate in a way that there is a win-win situation for both the countries in this phase.

The CPEC Phase II envisages 27 projects that will start shortly. It is expected this phase will provide a window for industrial cooperation, which will help establish many SEZs in Pakistan, create opportunities for Joint Ventures (JVs) between businessmen of the two countries, offer employment opportunities to the locals and so on. Development of agricultural and tourism sectors are also an expected outcome.

During the research work for this write-up, the author took up this issue with the Deputy Counsel General at the Chinese Consulate Lahore and other Chinese officials there. They responded with a claim that Phase II will not only bring benefits for Pakistan but the dividends of Phase I project will also contribute a lot to the country's economy and the well-being of its people. Their point was that the already built CPEC Phase I project will give taxes worth billions to the country every year. They added the implementation of the revised China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement would open 90 per cent of the Chinese market for Pakistani products. They also mentioned that around 28,000 Pakistani students were currently studying in China and 20,000 scholarships will be offered to Pakistani students by China over the next three years.

The Chinese diplomats hoped that SEZs would be the locomotive of industrialisation and modernization of Pakistan. Following continuous investment and development, Gwadar Port will become Pakistan's Shenzhen. Besides, they said, CPEC Phase II will bring a more balanced development of Pakistan. More and more projects will be rooted in the western part of the country to give benefit to the populations living there as well. Modern industry and advanced agriculture will offer new job opportunities and solar electrical facilities and comfortable housing. Better education will create more convenience and happiness to rural people.

The clarity with which the diplomats dwelled on the issue hints at the fact that China is ready to help Pakistan overcome its economic and social sector woes and take it along in the journey to progress. The onus now is on Pakistan to get the maximum from this opportunity. Good news is that the sitting PTI government has shown its seriousness towards CPEC by deciding to fence the border of Pakistan and Iran to make the region secure. It is a difficult decision but the government has taken it to give a safe and conducive environment to the Chinese people companies coming here. Pakistan has also asked the Chinese to relocate their industries, especially the textile industry, here and use Gwadar Port for exports. If this happens, it will be a huge step on the path to the economic revival of the country.

Dawn News

China to establish 19 factories in Gwadar: envoy

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing on Friday said that his government was going to establish 19 factories in Gwadar to create job opportunities for the youth of Balochistan.

“China seeks to contribute to the overall development of Balochistan’s mining, agriculture, fisheries and water sectors. The Chinese consulate is easing the visa procedure for the businessman community,” Yao Jing said while talking to journalists here.

He said that 200 students from Pakistan had received scholarship in China. He denied speculations regarding the Chinese government’s lack of interest in development projects in Balochistan.

“CPEC would change the economic fortune of not only Balochistan, but also Afghanistan and other Central Asian countries and all projects would go through Pakistan,” he said.

The Chinese envoy said that the provincial fisheries, agriculture, mineral and livestock sectors had room for development, which could end poverty in Balochistan.

“Chinese companies are working to strengthen the provincial irrigation sector while 50 vocational centres are being established for enhancing skills of young generation of the province,” he said.

“China will invest in expansion of the Zhob-D.I. Khan highway considered vital for CPEC,” he added.

Pakistan Observer

CPFTA-II implementation to spur Pak-Sino trade

Adviser to the PM on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood Friday said bilateral trade would enhance significantly after the execution of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement-II (CPFTA-II) by Dec 1. He said after the implementation of the CPFTA–II by December 1, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), including Business-to-Business relations, would enhance rapidly in days ahead.

Addressing a press conference on his post-China visit at Ministry’s conference room, Abdul Razak Dawood said that China International Import Expo (CIIE) Shanghai provided good opportunity to Pakistani exporters to showcase their products in the second largest import market of China. He said that during his visit, he attended the inauguration ceremony of China International Import Expo (CIIE) Shanghai, inaugurated by Chinese President Xi Jinping. The Adviser said that he held meetings with Suzhou Water Purification Equipment Company that has been working with Nestle and Pepsi and was one of renowned Water Desalination Plants manufacturer, Anhui Easy Business Digital Technology Company that provides E-Government, E-ports and digitalization services to Chinese Ministry of Commerce and General Administration of China Customs, Northern Heavy Industries Group, the largest equipment supplier to Cement,

Steel and Mining. He said that that around 63 countries had registered for the exhibition and over 3,000 businesses from more than 150 countries, attended the China International Import Expo. This year's expo included two key categories i.e. country pavilions and business stalls. Around 35 exporters from Pakistan displayed had their products in the Expo, he added. Abdul Razak said he also spoke at the Informal World Trade Organization (WTO) Mini-Ministerial Meeting, hosted by China in Shanghai. The Adviser highlighted the importance of strengthening a rules based Multilateral Trading System under the WTO by safeguarding its fundamental principles of non-discrimination, consensus based decisions and Special and Differential Treatment in all negotiations for developing countries like Pakistan. He expressed concern over the recent developments in global trade relations which may put the multilateral system at risk.

The News

Pak-China FTA to get effective from Dec

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would get effective from December 1, 2019, which would boost Pakistani products' exports to China and also reduce trade deficit with the friendly country.

China has approved the premature activation of the free trade agreement with Pakistan. This is the second phase of FTA with china that was signed in Beijing in April 2019.

"Now, it is start of CPEC Plus business to business [ties] with China," Adviser to Prime Minister for Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood announced this here on Friday. Pakistan hopes to increase trade with China following functioning of the second phase of FTA china

He said that it usually takes a year to make such an agreement operational, but due to special relationship with Pakistan, the China has agreed to make the FTA operational before time.

He informed about the negotiations held with Chinese side to export agriculture products during a recent visit to China. He said that he had taken up that matter with Chinese side to give market access to Pakistan agriculture products.

China has agreed to import fruits and vegetable from Pakistan for western part. However, he said that the Ministry of National Food Security did not have required capacity to address issues of quarantine. He said that matter had been taken up with Chinese side to train Pakistani officials. China agreed to give training to officials of Ministry of National Food Security and Research on quarantine issues.

He said that an international conference on textiles is being held in Lahore on Monday and around 35 Chinese companies will be attending the conference. He said the security situation stands improved in the country and we are ready to give tax benefits to the investors to invest in Pakistan.

During meeting with Chinese Commerce Minister, he has requested for additional quota of 0.5 million tons of rice from the last years quota of 250,000 tons. I have also requested Chinese commerce minister to give special quota of 300,000 tons of sugar for this year as the crushing is starting soon. He, however, made it clear that if the prices are increased due to export to China, export will be banned. China has also been requested to import tobacco and cigarette from Pakistan.

He further stated that during WTO's ministerial summit, a group of developing countries and some other countries demanded that rule based multilateral system should continue , adding that China played good leadership role. He said, the next WTO moot will be held on June 8, 2020 in Kazakhstan.

Commerce adviser expressed his anger for not having Pavilion to be established by Pakistan in China International Import Expo in Shanghai held in November 5-10, 2019. Abdul Razak Dawood said that he has discussed this issue with the Chief Executive TDAP and told them this next year this shouldn't happen.

He said, Pakistan has requested China to allocate land for Pakistan's' Pavilion for next year and they have agreed. Pakistan has to deposit required by next month. To a question regarding resumption of trade with India, Razak Dawood did not comment on it.

‘Motorway of Friendship’ completed!

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Sukkur-Multan Section) has been inaugurated here at a ceremony at a local hotel.

Constructed by China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd. (CSCEC), it is the largest infrastructure project under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Ning Jizhe, Deputy General Director of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China, Murad Saeed, Minister of Communication of Pakistan, Yao Jing, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Wang Zhihua, Economic and Commercial Counselor of China Embassy, Zheng Xuexuan, Director of CSCEC, Sikander Qayum, Chairman of National Highway Authority (NHA) of Pakistan and Mansoor Sirohey, Vice Chairman of NHA, Shan Hongjun, Deputy Head of International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Transport of China, and Jiang Juhua, Board Secretary of China EXIM Bank.

The Pakistan Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Sukkur-Multan Section) has a total length of 392Km with a designed speed of 120Km/h. It is the first bi-directional six-lane motorway with intelligent transportation function in Pakistan. Its contract value is about USD 2.899 billion.

The completed Project will reduce the traveling time between Sukkur and Multan from 11 hours to less than 4 hours, thus expediting the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the exchanges between China and Pakistan.

Based on the QA and QC system, a multi-level and all-round quality control network incorporating design and construction was established to build the most advanced intelligent motorway in Pakistan with innovation and ingenuity.

To adapt to the local high temperature and heavy load situation, the new anti-rutting technological standard was applied to use asphalt pavement mixtures that can withstand the high temperature of 80. SBS modified bitumen was applied to ensure the road formation quality. The UAV aerial photo grammar technology was used in Pakistan for the first time to obtain accurate data. The Hydro physical Model was adopted to optimize the design of cross-river bridges. The difficulty in erecting small skew bridges was successfully overcome. For the first time, the deflection testing technology was applied to control the quality of sub grade and pavement.

The standard of Intelligent Transportation System in Pakistan was improved by the entirely electronic and automatic toll system and signal management. The optical cables laid along the whole alignment can transmit real-time surveillance videos and other information to the control center to have a full control of traffic situations and ensure traffic safety.

During the peak construction period, more than 28,900 local workers, equipment operators and management personnel were employed.

The vocational training organization in Karachi was specially invited to the Project to provide standardized training to local employees. Local farmers have been trained to be skilled technicians. Dozens of asphalt pavers, road rollers and dump trucks working around were almost exclusively operated by skillful Pakistani employees.

CPEC helps enhance Pak economic ranking

BEIJING: The successful construction of the first phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) played a fundamental role in improving the economic ranking of Pakistan at the international level, said Cheng Xizhong, the visiting professor at Southwest University of Political Science.

At the domestic front, the CPEC has eased the power shortage, partially developed the express highway network, and greatly improved the infrastructure. It showed to the world that Pakistan is becoming an important platform for regional connectivity.

Cheng in his comments published by the China Economic Net on Friday, noted that Pakistan's ranking has recently jumped from 136 out of 190 countries in the previous year to 108 this year, and Pakistan ranks among the top ten economies with the most significant improvement in business environment.

This economic rise of Pakistan, according to Cheng is also because China is the largest emerging economy in the world and Pakistan is a friendly neighbor of China.

Jung News

پاک چین آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدہ قبل از وقت فعال ہو جائے گا، مشیر تجارت

اسلام آباد (جنگ نیوز) مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے کہا ہے کہ چین نے پاکستان کیساتھ آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے کو قبل از وقت فعال بنانے کی منظوری دیدی ہے۔ مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے چین کے سرمایہ کاروں کے وفد سے ملاقات کی جس میں ناروے، یورپی یونین اور دیگر کئی ممالک کے نمائندے بھی موجود تھے۔ ملاقات کے حوالے سے انہوں نے پریس کانفرنس کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ چین نے آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے کو قبل از وقت فعال کرنے کی منظوری دے دی ہے جو یکم دسمبر سے فعال ہو جائے گا، چین ہماری وزارت نوڈ سیکورٹی کو تربیت فراہم کریگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہماری وزارت نوڈ سیکورٹی میں صلاحیت کی کمی ہے اور چین ہماری وزارت نوڈ سیکورٹی کو تربیت فراہم کرنے کیلئے تیار ہے

November 10, 2019

Dawn News

Moot on language policy vis-a-vis CPEC

Lahore School of Economics hosted its first International Conference on Language Policy in International Agreements: The Asian Experience with Special Focus on CPEC here on Saturday.

A collation of three groundbreaking studies were presented at the conference with the fundamental objective to explore the implications of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on the language practices of stakeholders as there is no formal mutual language policy for the project between China and Pakistan; hence a high uncertainty exists about the roles of English, Urdu, Mandarin and local languages.

The conference comprised four sessions, which were attended by international and local delegates who presented their comments pertinent to its fundamental theme. LSE Pro-Rector Dr Azam Chaudhry said one of the key problems in Pakistan, especially related to CPEC, is lack of language policy framework.

In the first session, DrSabiha Mansoor, the principal researcher, and MaiydaShahid presented their research with the objective to explore the implications of industries and multinational companies operating in special economic zones (SEZs) under the umbrella of CPEC on the language practices of both Chinese and Pakistani people.

Dr Shahid Siddique said freedom of language use was very significant as it was an important identity marker but unfortunately, there was lack of proper language progress.

Dr Tariq Rahman said CPEC was a much needed project and in future also we would be seeing several new Chinese projects in Pakistan, hence it's mandatory to talk about possible language policies in Pakistan.

Sohail Lashari said the rule of thumb was that foreigners learn local languages and not vice versa.

In the second session, principal researcher Dr Fareeha Zafar highlighted how CPEC infrastructure development had impacted the class structure of Pakistan through formal and informal language practices.

Dr Seyfed dinipur appreciated the study and said local researchers were conducting this study in lieu of foreigners.

Dr Fauzia Shamim said it was important to consider the language ideology because “language policies are not mutual documents (exchanged between two countries) but they are shaped by language politics of the country”.

In the third session, Shanzay Kamran and Munaza Hassan presented their research which examined the attitudes and motivations of policy planners, teachers and students towards Mandarin.

Dunya News

Gwadar New International Airport Project's construction progressing in orderly manner

The construction of Gwadar New International Airport Project (GNIAP), a key project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, has officially been launched and at present, the construction work is progressing in an orderly manner.

The China Railway Engineering Bureau's Airport Engineering Branch is constructing the largest foreign aid project. At present, the living area of the project has been basically in place, site has been cleared and completed in an orderly manner according to the construction plan, according to a report published by Guangming News, a Chinese language newspaper.

The NGIAP project is located about 26 kilometers northeast of Gwadar city, just off the Makran Coastal Highway. The airport site is spread over an area of 43 acres. It covers an area of about 18 square kilometres and main runway is 3,658 meters and a modern terminal covers an area of 14,000 square meters.

There will be common supporting facilities including water supply, power supply, HVAC, etc. and necessary air traffic control projects including weather, communication, navigation, etc., and construction of corresponding hospitals, schools, family areas and other facilities, the flight zone level is the highest level 4F, Take off and landing A380, B747.

The design and construction of the new airport are in line with the International Civil Aviation Organization (CIAO) standards. It is the project with the largest amount of funds since the founding of the People's Republic of China, with a total investment of nearly 1.7 billion yuan.

“The project is one of the key projects under the Belt and Road Initiative and one of the key projects under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It is a great honor to participate in the construction of the project in a foreign country.

“We understand that responsibility is great. Under the guidance of the project consortium management organization, adhering to the corporate spirit of China Railway’s ‘bringing ahead and pursuing excellence’, the quality and quantity will complete the construction task as scheduled, and the Gwadar new airport will be built into the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework,” Mao Guoqi, deputy general manager of the Airport Engineering Branch of China Railway Engineering Bureau in Gwadar, said.

After the completion of the Gwadar New International Airport, it will become a landmark building for the modernization of the Gwadar region.

It has important strategic significance for the development of Gwadar city, and is an important transportation infrastructure that benefits Gwadar and connects other cities.

The future development of the city will lay a better foundation, further enhance China-Pakistan economic and trade cooperation, and further enhance China-Pakistan friendship.

It may be mentioned here that Prime Minister Imran Khan had performed the groundbreaking of New Gwadar International Airport (NGIAP) along with Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing in a prestigious and simple ceremony held on March 29, this year.

The NGIAP project is part of overall infrastructure development of Balochistan province. The airport will be developed as a green-field airport with all modern facilities for safe operation, passengers comfort and convenience.

Pakistan Observer

China keen for AJK’s dev as well under CPEC

China is equally interested in the development of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, in Pakistan’s territory, under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Chinese government has already agreed to develop 700 megawatts Azad Pattan hydropower project under the CPEC’s framework. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro Net on Saturday, officials of the two countries at their recent meetings decided to include this project in the list of CPEC’s approved projects. The construction work on this project will be started early next year, with financing in Chinese currency. Azad Pattan hydropower project is a run of the river pondage scheme on the River Jhelum, in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir, with capability of four hours of daily peaking.

It is located near the Azad Pattan bridge upstream of 720 MW Karot hydropower project and downstream of 640 MW Mahal hydropower project. It is part of the River Jhelum hydel cascade.

The project will deliver approximately 3.3 billion units of clean, renewable energy in the grid upon its completion in 2026. Being developed under the 2002 power policy, the project will be transferred free of cost to the government after the term. Another two hydropower stations under CPEC framework will generate 1,620MW electricity and are likely to start commercial operation in next three years. The under construction Karot Hydropower station with an installed capacity

of 760 MW at river Jhelum at a juncture of Azad Kashmir and Punjab province is expected to start commercial operation by December 2021. While Suki Kinari Hydropower Station with an installed capacity of 870 MW being constructed at River Kunhar, Naran in Mansehra District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is likely to start commercial operation by December 2022.

Earlier this year International hydropower Association (IHA) ranked Pakistan 3rd in the world for newly installed hydropower capacity. IHA also stated in its report that Pakistan manages to add 2487 MW of environment friendly hydel electricity in 2018 following China and Brazil that added 8540 MW and 3866 MW to their systems respectively, report added.

November 12, 2019

Business Recorder

CPEC projects

Pakistan, China agree to enhance security system.

KARACHI: Pakistan and China have agreed to enhance cooperation to put in place a more effective security system for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects with Gwadar Port as pilot project in this regard.

Both countries reached the consensus in recently concluded 9th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC. Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Khusro Bakhtyar and Vice Chairman of National Development & Reform Commission Ning Ji Zhe led Pakistani and Chinese sides, respectively during the meeting.

According to official documents concerning the proceedings of the JCC, the two sides reaffirmed that security is of utmost importance to the development of CPEC.

Both sides agreed that they should be highly vigilant to the threats of terrorist attacks. Chinese side appreciated dedicated security being provided by Government of Pakistan to CPEC projects and agreed that raising of Special Security Division (SSD) North and South has further enhanced security of CPEC.

Pakistan said that country will take all necessary measures to ensure the security of Chinese personnel and CPEC projects.

Whereas, Chinese side assured that it would make best efforts to work with Pakistani side to mitigate all threats to CPEC. The Chinese side will also continue to provide support for capacity building of Pakistani side to the best of its ability, documents revealed.

Both sides agreed that the wide application of technology will further improve the efficiency of security work of CPEC, and the two sides will further enhance cooperation to establish a more effective security system with Gwadar port as pilot project. The two sides agreed to enhance joint cooperation on security of CPEC in all domains, the documents indicated.

CPEC energy projects

China for maintaining stability in taxes, power tariffs

KARACHI: China proposed Pakistan to maintain stability in taxes and power tariffs for CPEC energy projects while establishing a better regulated and more efficient power market.

China suggested this during the meeting of 9th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC, held recently in Islamabad. Federal Minister Planning, Development & Reform Khusro Bakhtiar and vice chairman of National Development & Reform Commission Ning Ji Zhe led Pakistani and Chinese sides respectively during the meeting.

According to official documents available with Business Recorder, both sides agreed on the need to ensure CPEC policy stability for sustainable development of projects.

The two sides agreed that all CPEC projects had been strictly reviewed and granted approvals by the Pakistani side on a case by case basis. These projects are consistent with and fall within the policy and regulatory framework of Pakistan.

The current CPEC policies and agreements shall be jointly executed by both the Chinese and the Pakistani side, documents suggest and revealed the Chinese side proposed that the Pakistani side maintains stability in its taxes and power tariffs.

The two sides shall enhance communication and coordination, analyze the impact of changing policies on CPEC projects, and be aware of potential risks so as to ensure sustainable development of CPEC energy, both China and Pakistan agreed.

According to documents, as to tariff payment, currency depreciation and other affairs, the Pakistani side stated that the delay of tariff payment is being improved.

The Chinese side also noticed that the Pakistani side was taking various measures to balance and coordinate various factors and hoped that the Pakistani side could continue its high attention to related issues, ensure successful project execution and proceed to resolve issues brought by delay of tariff payment and currency depreciation.

Documents disclosed that Chinese side also paid attention to the coordinated development between power generation and power evacuation arrangements and appreciated the efforts made by the Pakistani side on the construction of power transmission system supporting CPEC projects.

About advanced metering system (AMI) system for Pakistani distribution companies, Pakistan proposed inclusion of this project into CPEC framework on a priority basis by both sides.

China acknowledged Pakistan's inspiration to develop AMI system and supports Chinese companies to offer capacity building and technical apparatus based on commercial principles.

During the meeting, both sides noted that the joint expert panel reached consensus on the Report of Joint Study on Power Market in Pakistan (finalized on November 3, 2019) which indicates that the power supply demand will be basically balanced in Pakistan from 2019 to 2030.

After 2025, apart from minor surplus in specific years due to concentrated commissioning of power generation projects, Pakistan may enjoy balance generally in all the other years. Both sides agreed in principle that the project list may be reviewed and adjusted based on the supplementary protocol to agreement on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Energy Projects Cooperation between the two countries (signed on February 3, 2016) and the recommendations by expert panels with regard to the project list adjustment in line with Report of Joint Study on Power Market in Pakistan.

Then the outcome of the adjustment shall be endorsed in the form of the signed agreement between China National Energy Administration and Pakistan Ministry of Energy (Power Division), both concluded.

Official documents revealed that Chinese and Pakistani leaders have recently reached an agreement on advancing CPEC development with high standards and building CPEC projects into model projects of “Belt and Road” high-quality development.

In the spirit of their instructions and for a sound, orderly and sustainable CPEC energy cooperation, the joint expert team has drafted the Guiding Principles for CPEC Energy Cooperation Projects.

During JCC meeting, both sides agreed that the draft and launch of the Guiding Principles at the current stage is an important step taken to ensure long and steady progress of CPEC as well as the construction of high-quality BRI model projects.

The two sides also agreed to revise and improve the terms of the guiding principles and strive to launch the document within this year.

Dawn News

Chinese commander discusses ties with Bajwa

Lt Gen You Haitao, deputy commander of Chinese People’s Liberation Army, called on Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa at GHQ on Monday. Matters of mutual interest and army-to-army staff talks came under discussion during the meeting, according to a press release of the Inter-Services Public Relations.

Meanwhile, notables of the Tableeghi Jamaat also met the army chief.

Gen Bajwa offered fateha for those who died in the Tezgam train incident. He prayed for the early recovery of the injured.

CPEC in renewed focus

The decisions made at the 9th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting in Islamabad last week indicate a significant shift in the dynamics of the ongoing cooperation between Pakistan and China around the multibillion dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative.

The JCC has worked out a programme to expand the scope of the future bilateral economic cooperation beyond large infrastructure projects to copper and gold mining, oil and gas

exploration, agriculture, affordable housing, social sector and steel production. Its focus was on energy and transport infrastructure in the last five years. More significantly, the JCC agreed to give a stronger push to the bilateral industrial cooperation to help Chinese firms relocate their manufacturing facilities to Pakistan for boosting exports, substituting imports and creating jobs.

Additionally, the two sides decided to begin or speed up work on different new and stalled transport and energy infrastructure schemes like the \$9.2 billion ML-I project to upgrade the railway line from Peshawar to Karachi, construction of highways to complete eastern and western routes of CPEC, fencing of borders with Afghanistan and Iran to secure CPEC projects and so on.

The JCC meeting was fruitful, discussions were successful and the agreed framework is promising, Yao Jing, China's ambassador to Pakistan, declared after the meeting. "The JCC has set a new direction for CPEC. The discussions also took place to shift Chinese manufacturing units to Pakistan and provide Chinese financing facilities for future projects."

Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhtiar pointed out that Pakistan could attract Chinese investment of about \$8-10bn in the next three years in the oil and gas sector alone while the revival of Pakistan Steel would save it \$4bn in imports every year. He sought to dispel the general impression that work on CPEC-related initiatives had either slowed down or stalled. He listed actions that the government undertook in the last one year to remove the bottlenecks in the efficient implementation of projects like Gwadar Port and Gwadar Free Zone. The government also tackled the energy tariff issues, formed a CPEC Authority to serve as one-window shop for all CPEC-related issues and increased the release of funds for CPEC-related development projects from the federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP).

The JCC meeting is projected to break the 'inertia' that was stalling or slowing down work on several projects around the corridor initiative for the last one year and is likely to give stronger impetus to bilateral economic cooperation in the second phase called CPEC 2.0. Pakistan could see billions of dollars flowing from China into its economy and the Chinese industry relocating here over the next several years, enhancing exports, substituting imports and creating jobs if the plan is implemented, according to officials like CPEC Project Director Hassan Daud Butt that this correspondent spoke to.

"Cooperation in the agriculture sector can fetch us \$2-5bn a year in export revenues," Mr Butt said. On industrial cooperation, he asserted: "We are going to start developing three of the nine special economic zones (SEZs) — Rashakai in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dhabeji in Sindh and Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Punjab — between Nov 29 and Dec 30. We expect to finish development work in one year to enable Chinese investors start relocating their manufacturing units here."

But many are still wary of attaching too many hopes to this initiative at the moment. Even the planning minister expressed his optimism with a caveat. "If we could put all energies together and provide an enabling environment, the newly agreed framework has the potential to transform Pakistan from a low income to a middle income country in the next five to eight years," he said at the post-JCC presser.

However, a Punjab government official, who frequently interacts with Chinese and other foreign investors interested in investment in the province, says Pakistan needs to do a lot to inspire confidence in Chinese firms. “Development of economic zones is just one factor that is impeding Chinese investment in Pakistan. There are several other issues that we need to tackle before Chinese companies can start relocating their units here.”

According to him, a wide trust gap exists among Chinese firms. “We must remember the fact that Chinese firms are excessively pampered by their government and they expect similar treatment from our side for bringing their capital here.”

By way of example, he pointed out that a majority of Chinese companies is not interested in fixed investment in land and building. “They come here looking for plug-and-play facilities. When we cannot offer them this facility, they move on to other countries. Take the example of Chinese garment industry. We promised them similar facilities at the proposed apparel park on the Lahore-Islamabad Motorway five years ago and have yet not delivered on it. So they have relocated their units in eight other Asian and African countries. Pakistan is still not on their radars in spite of increasing bilateral economic cooperation under CPEC.”

In addition to the absence of industrial space with plug-and-play facilities, Chinese companies are also worried about frequent economic and fiscal policy changes, high level of political instability, high rates of taxes, poor road and energy connectivity and so on. Similar concerns were raised by the Chinese ambassador during his interaction with Lahore-based businessmen some months back.

“These are systematic issues that we need to deal with on an urgent basis. We need to proactively engage with Chinese investors and authorities on these issues and improve people-to-people cultural bonds to narrow the trust deficit if we desire to take advantage of the shift in the focus of economic cooperation with China,” the Punjab government official concluded.

Pakistan Observer

CPEC extension to ME, FE to greatly benefit Pakistan

Azad Jammu Kashmir President Sardar Masood Khan has said the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would not only turn Pakistan into a global economic hub but the extension of this gigantic project up to Middle East and Far East countries, may greatly benefit Pakistan in socio-economic terms. Addressing an international business conference held here under the auspices of Pakistan-South East Asia Business Forum, he said that if 120 to 130 million youth of 212 million population of Pakistan are properly trained, they can take Pakistan in a takeoff position within a few years, AJK Presidential Secretariat later said in a press statement issued. Terming youth population as an asset for Pakistan, Sardar Masood Khan said that the proper utilization of youth’s skill can change the fate of country and the nation.

“The Pakistani youth in their individual capacity, had excelled in different sectors of life in different countries of the world, and have brought laurels for Pakistan,” he added. The AJK president said that if a Khan, Chaudhry or Raja can become a successful businessman, best physician and a competent engineer in New York, Houston and Texas, there is no reason that he

cannot demonstrate such capabilities in his own motherland. However, he maintained that the country needs leadership which imbibes the youth with the spirit of patriotism, and focuses on development of human capital with determination to take the country forward. The state president said that instead of looking toward the west, we will have to see towards South East and Far East for the improvement of our economy. “The Middle East and Far East countries have a soft corner for Pakistan, that is why Pakistani business community is making investment there,” he added. While touching upon the situation of occupied Kashmir, Sardar Masood Khan thanked the ASEAN member states particularly Malaysia for expressing solidarity with the Kashmiri people and boldly supporting Pakistan’s stand on Kashmir.

A Malaysian parliamentary delegation during its recent visit to Muzaffarabad, had informed that Kashmir advocacy groups were being set up in the parliaments of ASEAN states, while an awareness campaign on Kashmir was being launched in Malaysia and other countries, he added. Sardar Masood Khan said that what is happening at the hands of Indian troops in Kashmir, is under the international laws, genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and the crimes against humanity, but unfortunately, due reaction has not been expressed by the world against this barbarity. Although think tanks of several countries, and the parliaments of Europe and North America are speaking in favor of right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people, but the governments of only four of 193 UN member states have raised their voice against the Indian brutalities against the Kashmiri people, which is not less than a tragedy, he regretted.

The AJK president said that India’s threats of attack on Pakistan and occupation of Azad Kashmir were fast pushing the situation towards a terrible war, and this war, if broke out, would affect not only Pakistan and India but the whole world as well. Therefore, he added, “this is the responsibility of the international community to immediately intervene, and play its role in resolving Kashmir conflict in the light of UN resolutions and the wishes of Kashmiri people.”

ks and the bail granted shall stand revoked/cancelled.” Sharif was sentenced to seven years in prison in the Al-Azizia Steel Mills corruption reference on 24 December 2018. Rs1.5 billion and US \$25 million fine, a disqualification of 10 years from holding any public office was part of the sentences awarded to the former premier.

Chinese commitment for Gwadar

CHINESE Ambassador Yao Jing has announced that his country is going to establish 19 factories in Gwadar, and it will boost the job market opportunities for the youth of Balochistan. Speaking to journalists in Quetta, the envoy remarked that China is eager to develop Balochistan’s mining, agriculture, fisheries and water sectors. The announcement has effectively negated the propaganda unleashed by some vested interests about lack of interest by Chinese government in the development of Balochistan. The fact remains that whatever obstacles there might be these are due to failure on the part of federal and provincial governments that have miserably failed to do the spadework required for speedy execution of projects and plans for welfare of the people under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. That is why the Ambassador urged the Pakistan Government to address the issues of some key departments which were causing hurdles in the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The sincerity of China is evident from the fact that its consulate is easing visa procedure for the provincial

business community, Chinese companies have been working on the provincial irrigation sector in order to help Balochistan which is marred by water crisis while 50 vocational centres are being established to impart latest skills to the youth so that they could benefit from the emerging job opportunities. Establishment of 19 factories would prove to be a milestone in the development of Gwadar as apart from provision of employment opportunities it would help attract investment from other potential investors as well. Plans for proper utilization of the port, establishment of a world class airport, projects for resolution of water problem for the city and network of roads to link Gwadar with rest of the province and beyond all speak of the Chinese commitment to harness potential of the port to accelerate socio-economic development of Balochistan and contribute to the overall economic growth of the country.

China welcomes opening of Kartarpur Corridor

China on Monday welcomed the opening of Kartarpur corridor, stating it is a good gesture on the part of Pakistan for promoting friendly ties with India. While commenting on this important development, a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Geng Shuang said, “We have noticed relevant reports and welcomed the positive interaction between India and Pakistan. Both India and Pakistan, he added, are important countries in South Asia. It is in the fundamental interests of both sides to live in harmony with each other and is also the common expectation of the international community. We hope that the two sides will continue to interpret goodwill and move in the same direction, properly handle differences through dialogue, improve relations, and jointly safeguard regional peace and stability. Replying to a question about the recently held internal meetings between the governments of China and Afghanistan in Beijing, the spokesperson said, China firmly supports the process of broad and inclusive peace and reconciliation of “Afghan-dominated and Afghan-owned” and supports constructive dialogue between the Afghan parties, including the Afghan government and the Taliban.

November 13, 2019

Business Recorder

Chinese envoy calls on NAB Chairman

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing on Tuesday called on the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Javed Iqbal.

According to a press release issued by the NAB, the bureau’s chairman along with a six-member delegation met the Chinese envoy and Director-General Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) Chen Guomeng at the NAB Headquarters.

During the meeting, the matters of bilateral interest including mutual legal assistance, extradition, United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and training need assistance for the capacity building came under discussion.

The NAB Chairman also elaborated the Chinese delegation on the role played by the accountability watchdog for the eradication of corruption from Pakistan by adopting

“accountability for all” policy, which were lauded by reputable national and global organizations.

The Chinese delegation appreciated the efforts and firm resolve of NAB under the leadership of Javed Iqbal in order to eradicate corruption from the country.

Moreover, both sides reiterated cooperation in all areas to eradicate corruption in the future.—
INP

Pakistan to export pine nut to China

BEIJING: Chinese snack company, Bestore, signed a deal with Pakistan pine nut provider worth 300 million yuan (\$42 million) as the company furthers overseas efforts with opportunities brought by the Belt and Road Initiative.

According to China Daily, with the new move, Halo Foods, Pakistan's largest pine nut purchase and processing firm, will continue to offer pine nuts to the Chinese firm following their cooperation for over ten years.

Hand-peeled pine nuts is now one of the most expensive nut products for Bestore, but both demand and output has grown rapidly with an annual increase of 20 percent, according to Yang Yinfen, CEO and president of Bestore.

"For Halo Foods, such cooperation will help the Pakistan firm to further explore the potential of the Chinese market," said Shahbaz Siddique, financial head of Halo Foods.

The deal was signed during the second China International Import Expo, which held in Shanghai last week.

"Globalization has been one of our key strengths. Currently, over 25 percent of our raw material comes from overseas," Yang from Bestore told China Daily.

Among overseas purchases, Belt and Road economies including Malaysia and the Philippines as well as Turkey are some of the major sources.

"We are also considering and exploring some emerging markets, such as African market," Yang revealed.

An earlier report pointed out that Chinese people consume around 2 trillion yuan of snack food every year following the country's booming internet wave accelerating the growth.-INP

Daily Times

Pakistan's hidden gem: the Wakhan Corridor

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan plays a key role in South and Central Asian Geopolitics, reasons for which can be drawn from its ever-growing enormous population, varying and unique geo-climate riddled with a large plethora of natural resources, weaponized nuclear state and much more. On the whole Pakistan is an important country on the world map in terms of its location and the natural resources that it possesses. However, much of its energies and resources

are focused on deterrence of Indian aggression and countering Indian influence in every sphere possible. This has rendered Pakistan's own foreign policy tools ineffective in the sense that Pakistan has failed to assert its own hegemony in the region, in the Muslim world, and in the wider world.

In the changing dynamics of global architecture, hiding in plain sight," The Wakhan Corridor" is one such region which if properly developed and administered by mutual cooperation between its players can work wonders for Pakistan as a transit economy, generating multitude of jobs, bringing in foreign revenue and most importantly improving the infrastructure development in the specified regions.

The Durand Line agreement of 1893 between Sir Motmir Durand and Charles Napier, marked the boundary between British India and Afghanistan, leaving a narrow strip of land ruled by Afghanistan as a buffer between the two empires, which became known as the Wakhan Corridor. Inhabited by almost 12000 people, the geography of the region is mostly characterized by rugged and steep mountains, with a semi-arid climate, cut off from all the developments and events of the modern world due to the lack of technology and infrastructure

So how is such a barren, inhospitable and rugged region of any use to Pakistan or its neighbors? The answer lies in geo-strategical analysis of this location. With its border with China and the landlocked, mineral rich Central Asian regions, Wakhan can act as the perfect transit route for the trade of those resources, maneuvering through Pakistan and China. According to recent statistics CAR's and Azerbaijan possess 7.5 trillion cubic meters of gas, Kazakhstan holds 22 million barrels of oil while Turkmenistan alone holds 37 billion of oil and 60-80 billion cubic meters of gas in its arsenal.

Furthermore, Afghanistan itself is among one of the largest gas and copper producers in the global market.

The purpose of OPEC is to "coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its Member Countries and ensure the stabilization of oil markets in order to secure an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a steady income to producers and a fair return on capital for those investing in the petroleum industry."

Much like the OPEC, the unification of all major South-Asian players through development of such strategic corridors could massively influence the economic, social and political outlook of not only the participating players but also the global world, as a multitude of natural resources would now be imported and exported through one major hub.

Therefore, the Wakhan region, if properly utilized along with the opening of the Wakhjir pass could possibly open an era of progress and prosperity.

The foremost advantage of connecting the bordering countries and facilitating economic integration through better infrastructure would lead to more stability and security in the region.

Better customs controls and the deployment of border guards, as well as control of the illegal cross-border trafficking, would encourage legal exchange and cooperation.

Indirectly, the integration of the border areas would strengthen local development and lead to an increase in the economic well-being of the local population, which would lead to more secure and stabilized border regions.

Secondly, the trade routes constructed through Wakhan ,if connected to CPEC and the Karakorum Highway would provide a much cheaper and easier trade route for Pakistan to access the mineral rich Central Asian regions, traversing Afghanistan through the shortest possible route whilst allowing Tajikistan to access Pakistan's seaports in Karachi and Gwadar, thus creating not only a north-south corridor but also an east- west corridor and will be the least costly trade route between China, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan compared to the current alternatives, should the four countries agree to transform this land buffer into a bridge between them. This will also allow Pakistan to join the China-Eurasian economic corridor, thus transforming the economic outlook of the entire region.

With the inauguration of the Kartarpur Corridor by Prime Minister Imran Khan, a positive step towards reconciliation and peace amidst the region has been taken. Different foreign strategies could be implemented to make this area functional, but Pakistan has other pressing issues at hand that require immediate attention.

Until then, it should primarily focus on improving bilateral trade relations with China, generate employment and revenue to attract investors and multi-nationals, bring an end to wide spread corruption and tax evasion and lastly stabilize its political system by strengthening its judiciary to promote a positive image to uplift its international position.

All the three sides should freely encourage each other to point out their red lines. If these red lines or concerns are not logical, they should be discussed. Some red lines are not negotiable but others stem from miscommunication or misunderstanding rather than reality. Until these doors open and all such misconceptions resolved, the Wakhan and its people will probably remain cloistered in their world of wind and ice, as they have for centuries. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.

Pakistan Observer

KP to launch 150 science clubs in schools Pak-China RARL opens at UET

University of Engineering Technology (UET) Peshawar and the Shandong Academy of Sciences, China inaugurated the 'Pak-China Robotics and Automation Research Laboratory' (RARL) here at the Department of Mechatronics Engineering, UET Peshawar on Tuesday. UET Peshawar Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Iftikhar Hussain and Cultural Counselor of Embassy of China Zhang Heqing unveiled the plaque in the presence of Chinese diplomats and senior officials. Zhang Heqing, in his address as Chief Guest, said agriculture was the backbone of Pakistan's economy. The laboratory will efficiently use the highly skilled researchers and scientists of robotics and

automation from Shandong Academy of Sciences and UET Peshawar to generate agriculture resources that would help in transforming Pakistan into one of the technologically advanced nations in agriculture, he added. He said, at present, 28000 Pakistani students were studying in Chinese universities and more than 8000 scholarships had been awarded to the talented youth. Prof. Dr. Zhang Dong, Director Institute of Automation, Shandong Academy of Sciences said, besides automation in Agriculture, the experts of both institutions would work in Under-water robotics as well. Meanwhile, Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Science and Information Technology Kamran Bangash Tuesday while highlighting the importance of information technology said government would construct more than 150 science clubs in government schools. Addressing a ceremony to mark Science Day held at Govt. Girls High School Gulbahar here, he said that present era is the era of science and IT and every department could improve its performance by adopting digitization.

SDC provides trained people in context of CPEC: Daroo Skill Development

Council has trained 35,000 people

The President of Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Engr. Daroo Khan Achakzai, has said that the Skill Development Council is providing a shipment of trained persons in the context of China Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is providing services to economic zones throughout Pakistan. Achakzai expressed these views addressing the concluding and certificates distribution ceremony of a three-week ‘Oracle DBA organized by the Skill Development Council Islamabad, in which 20 participants from the Air Headquarters completed the training. Engineer Daroo Khan Achakzai said that the process of imparting training to the personnel of the government agencies, especially the Pakistan Air Force, is an honour which is exemplary one. He said that the services of the chairman of Skill Development Council M Akram Farid have been acknowledged by private as well as the government sector. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Skill Development Council M Akram Farid said that so far the Council had trained more than 35,000 people, including 5,000 women and 1,000 disabled persons who are performing their services both internally and abroad. He said that the courses are tailored to suit market demands, including construction, tourism, hoteling, airline ticketing, safety, oil and gas, IT related courses, transportation, etc. In this regard, the private sector offers its specialized industry labs and equipment to the participants of Skill Development Council Islamabad. Participants receive practical training along with academic curriculum as well. M Akram Farid said that their aim was to identify, develop and arrange vocational, professional and IT training programmes. President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Saboor Malik said that with the skill and technical training the young generation can start their work and employment and this venture will expand Rawalpindi Chamber as well. Vice President of FPCCI and In-charge Capital office Sheikh Abdul Waheed while addressing the participants said that the Skill Development Council Islamabad was making concerted efforts to promote technical education which has led to the increase in the rate of technical education. Former President ICCI and SDC member Board Zahid Maqbool said that Courses introduced in the Oil and Gas sector of the Development Council are in line with modern times and market demand. Meanwhile, Vice President FPCCI Ijaz Abbasi, former Vice President Karim Aziz Malik, Khurshid Barlas and

ICCI's senior Vice President Tahir Abbasi also addressed the audience and gave them important guidelines.

CPEC: Social impact

CHINA-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is critically important for both countries. Pakistan needs it to overcome its economic woes, social and energy problems while China needs it to expand its periphery of influence, consolidate its global presence and securing future supply routes of energy and trade. Since Pakistan has a unique strategic position in the region, CPEC projects are being developed as part of strategic partnership between the two countries which is a long-term plan having a time frame of 2014 – 2030, with its two necessary conditions of the Corridor – development of the port at Gwadar and creating surface transport connectivity between the city of Gwadar in southwest. Three phases programme was planned – short-term programs would be completed by 2020, medium-term programs to be completed by 2025 while the long-term projects will be completed by 2030.

Pakistan remained confronted with the problem of unemployment since long. Its rapidly growing population has been exerting increasing pressure on limited resources of the country. Employment is fundamental in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. The situation demanded to expand the economic activities and generate job opportunities. Pakistan economy could not flourish to provide sufficient job opportunities to unemployed. Every year more than one million youths add in labour force and building up pressure of unemployment. CPEC projects are filling the gap and providing opportunities to Pakistani youth to get engaged economically active. To promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all is considered to be the key to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, which is recognized as one of the 'Sustainable Development Goals'.

Pakistan is facing another problem of regional disparity. There is huge disparity across the districts of Pakistan. Most of the districts of Balochistan are placed in low ranking i.e. Chagai, Qila Abdullah and Dera Bugti. In terms of wellbeing Balochistan ranked as the most deprived province where 62 per cent population is placed in the category of bad quality of life. Some of the other districts of Pakistan are also vulnerable in terms of wellbeing, i.e., Rajanpur, Thatta, D.G Khan and Umerkot, etc. It was predicted that the CPEC investment would have a significant direct and indirect impact on the economy of Pakistan by lifting the GDP growth beyond six per cent for the fiscal years 2016-18 but the targets couldn't achieved. It was further predicted that indirect impact will be much higher than the direct impact due to the bulk of the investment in energy and infrastructure sectors that have the potential to give a boost to current industry of Pakistan and attract the private investors. These targets unfortunately couldn't be achieved in time due to inconsistency in priorities however expected to bring the big change in the social life of many remote areas. There are three routes of the CPEC and all routes are touching mostly remote areas i-e Gwadar-Turbat-Panjgur-Khuzdar-Ratodero-Kashmore-Rajanpur-Dera Ghazi Khan- Dera Ismail Khan – Bannu – Kohat – Kalat –Quetta-Zhob. It is expected that completion of these routes will have a great impact on social welfare and it will bring a visible change in social vulnerable areas of Pakistan.

Given the provincial profile, it is predicted that the present CPEC projects would have considerable impact on quality of life at all levels. The break-up of CPEC projects are: Punjab 12, Sindh 13, KP 8 and Balochistan 16. These projects would have great significance in enhancing bilateral connectivity, improving people's livelihood and fostering pragmatic economic and trade cooperation. It works on the principle of "one corridor with multiple passages" aiming at directly benefitting the socio-economic development of Pakistan, especially the western and north-western regions and providing significant importance to Gwadar port. It is expected that CPEC project of various sectors mainly; energy and infrastructure would create thousands direct and indirect jobs by 2030 and will ease poverty situation. Furthermore, transport and infrastructure projects would not only make easier access to domestic and overseas markets but also would promote inter-regional and international merchandise trade that would further surge private business investment and enhance productivity.

CPEC would have enormous social impact on all provinces and districts of Pakistan related to its three dimensions of welfare: education, health and housing. The development strength of this mega project indicates that there will be around five per cent growth in social welfare in Pakistan, up till 2020. Balochistan will be top beneficiary thereafter Sindh, KP and Punjab respectively. CPEC is a manifestation of the shared dream of unprecedented prosperity for the region.

It is difficult to assess the final impact of CPEC as long as it is not completed. CPEC project is in vicious circle of completions. Many internal and external forces are working against this project. However, there is consensus that CPEC is important for Pakistan's economy and both parties are determined to complete it in time. The implementation is partially slow down due to political nosiness or changing priorities. So it is difficult to collect the exact data and correct statistical information to predict outcome. All assessments are based on the information available through the government sources and private research work. Finally, it can be concluded that China had already invested considerable amount and 16 projects have been completed or near completion. The realization of CPEC is a manifestation of the shared dream of unprecedented prosperity for the region.

November 14, 2019

Business Recorder

Oil, gas industry uplift

China to provide guidelines under CPEC

KARACHI: China has agreed on a development plan to provide effective guidelines for the development of oil and gas industry in Pakistan under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

During 9th meeting of joint cooperation committee of CPEC in Islamabad last week, both sides expressed appreciation to the energy departments of the Pakistan and China for organizing expert panels to complete the Development plan for Pakistan Oil and Gas industry under the oil and gas

sub-working group, in order to provide effective guidance for the development of the Oil and Gas Industry in Pakistan.

Both sides support the expert panels to continue maintaining communication and regularly improving the Plan, so as to promote the healthy development of the Oil and Gas Industry in Pakistan, official documents available with Business Recorder indicated.

During the meeting, Pakistani side proposed various projects to be undertaken under this plan. These include finalization of feasibility study on South North Gas Pipeline Project; upgradation of Pakistan Refinery Ltd Karachi; Coal to Liquid Engineering Plant based on Thar Coal at Thar Sindh, and Thar Block-VI for Coal gasification to Fertilizer projects.

During the meeting, deliberation also held on industrial cooperation. Documents showed that a team of Chinese experts was sent by China International Engineering Consulting Corporation (CIECC) for an industrial diagnosis of Pakistan. The expert team provided intellectual and technical support to the industrial and SEZ development in Pakistan and their work achieved good results.

Both sides hoped that the two sides set up a long-term mechanism to deepen China-Pakistan industrial cooperation.

Both countries also gave high attention to the Rashakai Nowshera, Allama Iqbal Faisalabad and Dhabeji, Thatta SEZs, for which the development work will start soon. The Chinese side hoped the Pakistani side to install external infrastructure facilities, introduce targeted preferential policies, and provide “one-window” service in the SEZ at an early date.

The Chinese side encouraged the participation of competent Chinese companies in the bidding process of the Dhabeji SEZ that will soon be started.

Pakistani side paid high priority to the upgrade of Pakistan Steel, and the Chinese side recognized the importance of this project to the Pakistani side.

Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) and Donghua Steel have signified their willingness to participate in the project. They hoped that companies from the two sides maintain close communication for an early settlement of related issues and push for substantive progress as soon as possible.

JCC appreciated the activities of China-Pakistan Young Workers’ Seminar Camp. Four seminars have been held since the project was launched and these activities have helped to boost the technical exchanges and people-to people connectivity between Chinese and Pakistani workers.

The All-China Federation of Trade Unions and Ministry for Planning, Development & Reform of Pakistan will sign the MoU of Cooperation for Further Strengthening the Worker’s Exchanges between the two sides. Pakistan side informed that special incentive package is at final stage of preparation and will be shared soon.

Pakistan Observer

Economy is stable: PM Imran Addresses Sino-Pak tyre manufacturing joint venture signing ceremony

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said now that his economic team had “stabilized the economy”, the government is focusing on creating job opportunities and facilitating investors. Speaking at Sino-Pak Tire Manufacturing Joint Venture Signing Ceremony, the prime minister said that the government’s “next challenge” was to provide jobs to the people and, in order to create employment opportunities; the country needs investors to invest money. “As investments increase, people get jobs, we believe that our economy’s growth rate will be higher than [what has been] predicted,” he told attendees. The prime minister said that the government was focusing on the development of the construction sector and was also making efforts to facilitate foreign investors. He pointed out that Pakistan had climbed 28 spots on the World Bank’s ease of doing business index. “This is a now a daily struggle for my office Board of Investment and Ministry of Commerce that we increase our exports and brings in investors in order to [improve] our country.” Lauding the joint venture between automobile firms in Pakistan and China, Prime Minister Imran said that he was happy that tyres, which were previously being smuggled, will now be manufactured in the country, increasing exports.

K2 News

سی پیک کی ٹرانسپورٹیشن سروس ٹینگو کے حوالے کی جائے، جماعت اسلامی
 قومی ادارہ سے سینکڑوں ملازمین کا روزگار وابستہ ہے، منافع بخش ادارہ بنانا ہوگا
 ٹینگو ملازمین کے مطالبات جائز ہیں منظور کیے جائیں، مولانا عبدالسمیع کی گفتگو
 گلگت (نمائندہ خصوصی) سابق امیر جماعت اسلامی مولانا عبدالسمیع نے کہا ہے کہ ٹینگو ملازمین کے
 ہوجایاظر ہیں ان کو برآگیا جائے۔ ٹینگو قومی ادارہ ہے کہ ٹینگو ملازمین نے جو ڈیمانڈ ہیں وہ جائز ہیں
 اس کو سی پیک ٹرانسپورٹیشن میں استعمال میں لاکر منافع ملازمین ملازمین بڑھال (جائی ملز 7 جیے نمبر 19)

پہلے گئے تو گلگت بلتستان کے عوام کو اس سے تکلیف
 ہوئی عوام کو تکلیف میں ڈالنے بغیر ملازمین کے جرمی
 مسائل ہیں ان کو قوری حل کیا جائے ملازمین نے کہا کہ
 ٹینگو اس وقت سخت بد حالی کا شکار ہے جس کی بنیادی وجہ
 مستقل ایم ڈی کا نہیں ہوتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ٹینگو
 ایک قومی ادارہ ہے اس کو معاشی بحرانوں میں ڈالنے
 کے بجائے اس کو مستحکم کرنے کا واحد راستہ ہے کہ اس
 ادارے کو سی پیک کے ٹرانسپورٹیشن میں لایا جائے جس
 سے ٹینگو جیسا قومی ادارہ بھی مشروط ہوگا اور عوام کو روزگار
 بھی میسر ہوگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ٹینگو گلگت بلتستان کے
 اقدار کے بوجھ برداشت کر رہا ہے اور سینکڑوں افراد کا
 چہرہ بھل رہا ہے اس ادارے کو مزید مسائل میں ڈالنا گیا
 تو سینکڑوں ملازمین کے گھروں کے چہرے غلط سے
 ہو گئے اس لئے تمام مسائل کا اہلکار کرتے ہوئے
 چیف سیکرٹری گلگت بلتستان ان مسائل کو حل کریں۔

November 15, 2019

Business Recorder

China to be requested to finance KCR project

KARACHI: Pakistan will shortly request the Chinese authorities for financing to revive Karachi Circular Railways (KCR) project.

The decision came during the 9th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting held in Islamabad recently, where KCR project came under discussion.

The project has greater significance to ease the public transport woes of Karachi which lacks an effective and modern Mass Transit System like other mega cities of the world.

KCR was commissioned in 1964 and was highly helpful till 1984 when 104 trains were operating per day, however, due to lack of investment, the operational efficiency was marginalized thus resulting in the reduction of ridership and eventually it was closed in December 1999.

On a request by Government of Pakistan in 2004-05, Government of Japan agreed to provide Technical and Financial assistance for KCR Project. Initially pre-feasibility study was carried out by Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) for the KCR Project and the study was completed in March 2006 and was revalidated by M/s Scott Wilson UK in August 2008, with certain recommendations to be incorporated at the stage of design level feasibility study.

On May 09, 2019, the Supreme Court of Pakistan at Karachi Registry passed an order wherein it was stated, "Pakistan Railways will complete its work in fifteen days and thereafter the Sindh Government will take over the said project and run the trains both circular as well as the local. The Sindh Government shall ensure that Circular railway as well as local railway gets in operation within further one month's time."

In compliance to the above orders, local administration in association with Pakistan Railways started removal of encroachments along KCR route. A joint anti-encroachment operation was kicked off on May 15, with the PR authorities focused to clear the right of way (RoW) of the KCR, and hand it over to the provincial government in the first phase of the drive.

Officials said once the long-delayed KCR gets fully operationalise, over six hundred thousand people would benefit from this fast and economic commuter service across the metropolis.

Karachi Urban Transport Corporation (KUTC) officials told Business Recorder that around 4600 encroachments were identified after a detailed survey conducted by the KCR project management few years back. A land of 223 acre had also been allocated for the project, which affected residents in Shah Abdul Latif Town Karachi, but the settlement issue is still unresolved, causing inordinate delay in the revival of important public sector transport project.

Analysts say due to lack of political will, KCR could not see the light of day. Despite JICA's sincere efforts, the go-ahead never came from the government that forced the Japanese aid agency to left the project.

Approaching optimal SEZs - I

The government intends to pick up the pace on Special Economic Zones (SEZs). This indeed is important for infusing energy into the lackluster performance of both large-scale manufacturing and the stubbornly low and undiversified exports. Moreover, this will be important to establish a fully functional SEZ to properly engage investments under the CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor)-related projects.

With regard to SEZs, the Economic Survey of Pakistan in its most recent (2018-19) report indicated: 'The government is trying to remove the anomalies and giving tax incentives/exemptions to facilitate the local and foreign investors. Development of the Special Economic Zones is one of the main gains from CPEC. It is a driving force for economic growth and... [that]... there is huge potential for cooperation in the fields of engineering, automotive industry, information technology, chemicals, construction materials, textiles, agro-based industry, fisheries, marbles, small and medium enterprises particularly cottage industries. Under CPEC, nine sites have been identified for developing special economic zones [two each at Federal and KPK, while one each in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, AJ&K and Gilgit-Baltistan]. form new industry clusters as well as promote exports of goods and services. Focused efforts are under way to populate these industrial zones either through investment in building infrastructure or relocation of industry and it is estimated that this sector will create up to 800,000 jobs for the local population'.

Many months have passed since this enthusiasm towards establishing SEZs was documented in the Economic Survey 2018-19, not to mention since the Special Economic Zones Act, 2012 was passed and amended in 2015, yet no SEZ could be established till now. This is all the more alarming given the significance of SEZs in a) dealing with current account deficit to a sustainable level by increasing foreign exchange reserves on the back of enhancement in exports; b) boosting employment opportunities; and c) positively impacting domestic manufacturing, especially when LSM (large-scale manufacturing) has been performing so poorly for some time now. The lackluster performance of incumbent and previous governments, in establishing SEZs, is indeed indicative of their carelessness and inefficiency.

Globally, SEZs have a mixed history in terms of successful results, and sub-optimal consequences. Experiences include, firstly, an industrial estate located in a developing country, which has been fenced. There are a number of footloose and uncoordinated multinational corporations populating the area, mainly to take advantage of tax breaks and loosely bound by minimal sort of labour restrictions/responsibilities; for instance, laborers working in poor conditions in garment factories. Certainly, Pakistan would want to avoid following such a path in developing SEZs.

In a second kind of SEZ experience, focus was placed by countries in transforming a certain rural area into a thriving city, with positive impact on both manufacturing activity and the living standards of inhabitants. For example, a once small village of Shenzhen (China) was designated as a special economic zone, which in a couple of years transformed into a thriving big city. In fact, the whole experience is now remembered as the 'miracle of Shenzhen', where in 30 years; the per-capita income of the inhabitants increased a hundred-fold. Pakistan has a lot of rural base, and certain areas that appropriate in terms of initial conditions and prioritized on the basis of backwardness, should be declared as SEZs; in turn, possibly developed in the same way as Shenzhen.

Thirdly, many experiences of SEZs along coastlines have been very successful. For instance, Singapore and Dubai - port cities allowing wide-ranging basis for trade/logistics-related activities - were declared as SEZs, and developed accordingly. These serve as wonderful models for developing areas along the long coastline, especially Gwadar and the adjacent areas in Pakistan; in turn, taking much-needed further advantage from economic development already taking place under CPEC.

Although they have diverse types, SEZs have been defined broadly by T. Farole in a book titled 'Special Economic Zones in Africa: Comparing performance and learning from experience' (2011, p.23) as 'demarcated geographic areas contained within a country's national boundaries where rules of business are different from those that prevail in the national territory. These

differential rules principally deal with investment conditions, international trade and customs, taxation, and the regulatory environment; whereby the zone is given a business environment that is intended to be more liberal from a policy perspective and more effective from an administrative than that of the national territory'. Similarly, 'the Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Ordinance, 2015' defines an SEZ as "'Special Economic Zone" or "(SEZ)" means a geographically defined and delimited area which has been approved and notified by the BoA [Board of Approvals]'.

If one looks around the world, SEZs have been operating in a number of ways, which indicates a heterogeneous nature of their existence. In fact, there are more than one hundred countries which have operationalize SEZ programmers, including thousands of individual zones. It is therefore important to understand the main types of zones, as indicated in the book, 'Special Economic Zones: progress, emerging challenges, and future directions' and edited by Thomas Farole and Gokhan Akinci.

Firstly, there is the 'free-trade zone' (commercial-free zone) for instance, the 'Colon Free Zone' in Panama, with the main objective to support trade. The typical size of this has been seen to be less than 50 hectares, holding trade-related activities, and located at the port of entry. The zone mainly caters to the domestic market and re-exports.

Then there is the 'traditional EPZ' (export promotion zone), with examples including those in Bangladesh and Vietnam, among others. Here, the main objective behind developing these is to

promote export manufacturing. Typical size of a traditional EPZ is below 100 hectares, which mainly export; and their activities are largely related to manufacturing, or other processing.

A third type of zones is that of 'free enterprises' (single unit EPZ) where 'many EPZ programmers offer licenses for both EPZ industrial parks and "single unit" EPZs. Examples of their location include Dominican Republic, Honduras and Kenya'. These free enterprises zones could be located countrywide and they have no minimum size restriction. Their development objective is with regard to mostly exporting activities pertaining to manufacturing or other processing. For instance, they are located in Mauritius and Mexico.

The fourth type of zone is 'hybrid EPZ', who's development objective pertains to manufacturing for both domestic markets and for exports. Examples of their location include La Krabang in Thailand. Typically, the size is below 100 hectares, where only a part of area is EPZ.

The last type of zone, broadly speaking, is 'Freeport/EPZ', with an integrated development objective. They typically have a size of more than 1,000 hectares, where 'some multiuse SEZs, particularly those that do not include a resident population, may be smaller in scale'. Moreover, this type of zone caters to multiuse activities pertaining to internal, domestic and export markets. Examples of their location include Aqaba and Shenzhen.

Special Economic Zones are a growing phenomenon in developing countries mainly because they help provide a dedicated and focused institutional environment to help in a) attracting foreign direct investment; b) serving 'as "pressure valves" to alleviate large-scale unemployment'; c) supporting economic reform agenda on a wider scale, mainly in terms of diversifying and developing exports; and d) working 'as experimental laboratories for the application of new policies and approaches'.

Unfortunately, however, the pace of development of SEZs has remained on a slower side in Pakistan, and it is about time it gathered greater momentum to help support specifically exports, along with helping in much-needed sustained build-up of foreign exchange reserves and broadly, the overall development of the economy and in boosting unemployment, and reducing poverty. Hence, while it is important to establish SEZs - and soon - yet it is more important to build them in a way that allows them to deliver the most for the economy.

Pakistan Observer

Infrastructural connectivity to spur economic integration in SAMECA:

Khusro Bakhtiar Public-private partnership key to development, prosperity

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Makhdum Khusro Bakhtiar on Thursday said that regional connectivity through road, rail and maritime routes, would increase the trade and economic integration between South Asia, Middle East, and Central Asia (SAMECA). He said Pakistan was now working on internal connectivity through road and rail link for providing the connectivity between the far city of Peshawar to coastal city Karachi, which would lead to improving the regional connectivity as well? Makhdum Khusro Bakhtiar

was addressing the Margalla Dialogue-19 on Peace and Development in South Asia, Middle East, and Central Asia (SAMECA) here. Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing, President IPRI and foreign delegate were also present. Khusro Bakhtiar noted that the region's trade potential was vast and Pakistan could play an important role for promotion of trade linkages between Central Asia and South Asia. The Minister said that Pakistan was focusing on promoting cooperation in energy sector at regional level. He said that Pakistan was heading towards industrial development, noting that other countries were heavily investing in E-commerce and digital economy, therefore Pakistan should also pay attention towards this end. He underscored that Pakistan should also invest in research and development and promote other modern sectors on the pattern of China. Talking about China Pakistan Economic Corridors, the Minister said that under CPEC framework, other countries can become partners and make investments to the mutual benefit of all. He said that the present government has expedited the pace and implementation of CPEC projects and hurdles related to CPEC projects had largely been removed. The Minister called for initiating joint ventures with the private sector for sustained economic growth. He highlighted that a B2B forum has been formulated between the investors of Pakistan and China for the mutual benefit of both countries. Meanwhile, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh has described development of human skills, working in partnerships and allowing the private sector to work at its full potential as the three key drivers of development and prosperity for any country or nation. Hafeez Shaikh was delivering a keynote address to a well-attended session on 'Prospects of Economic Integration in SAMECA: Exploring New Vistas of Cooperation', arranged by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). The seminar was part of two-day 'Margalla Dialogue: Peace and Development in South Asia, Middle East, and Central Asia (SAMECA).

The big lesson of development history is the model presented by countries like Japan, Singapore and Scandinavia which focused on skill enhancement, technical capability and work ethics of their people," he said. Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh said that it was essential for countries and the governments to keep their people and the development of their skill-sets and capability as focus of their efforts. He also pointed out that no country achieved development and prosperity alone and the only way to bring prosperity to our people was to find a way to sell our products to others and to ensure that others partnered with us.

"This is the focal lesson of development as no country in the history has brought prosperity to its people alone, especially without its neighbours," he said, citing the example of Chinese leadership which understood this lesson and brought 700 million of its people out of poverty. The Adviser underlined the role of private sector as being the key driver in prosperity by saying that the only way to bring prosperity was to allow the private sector to perform unregulated as job of bureaucrats and government ministers was to formulate policies and act like facilitators while real action was performed by private sector people who could drive and accelerate the pace of development and progress.