



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

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Table of Contents

01: February 01, 2022.....	03
02: February 02, 2022.....	12
03: February 03, 2022.....	26
04: February 04, 2022.....	47
05: February 05, 2022.....	62
06: February 06, 2022.....	88
07: February 07, 2022.....	112
08: February 08, 2022.....	146
09: February 09, 2022.....	172
10: February 10, 2022.....	188
11: February 11, 2022.....	201
12: February 12, 2022.....	209
13: February 13, 2022.....	214
14: February 14, 2022.....	224
15: February 15, 2022.....	238

Data collected and compiled by Rabeeha Safdar, Alishba Aslam and Zohaib Sultan

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February 01, 2022

Business Recorder

Overdue receivables, rising coal rates

IPPs under CPEC may default, warns CPECA

ISLAMABAD: The China Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority (CPECA) has urged the Central Power Purchasing Agency-Guaranteed (CPPA-G) to pay overdue receivables of IPPs established under CPEC, warning that the plants may go in default because of rising prices of coal in international market, well informed sources told Business Recorder. The issues of CPEC projects are amongst the key agendas of Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to China, commencing from February 3, 2022.

The CPEC Authority, in its presentation, has raised the following major issues of CPEC energy cooperation: (i) overdue/ receivables of Rs 250 billion;(ii) IPPs may go in default because of rising prices of coal in international market; and (iii) IPPs may suspend the operations of power plants as per suspension clauses of Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

In December 2021, CPEC Authority proposed that overdue payments need to be made to the IPPs urgently as with pending claims, Sinosure, could not support new projects in Pakistan anymore.

Talking about Revolving Account (RA) for CPEC IPPs, the sources said, CPPA-G has signed opening of RA and Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) has signed Supplementary Agreement (SA) with the CPEC IPPs. However, RA has not been set up as yet.

Lenders have put their dividends stopper on IPPs because establishment of the RA is part of financing documents.

In 2014, the government of Pakistan (GoP) and Government of China signed an agreement on CPEC energy project cooperation. Article 5 of the agreement provides that "the Pakistani Party agrees that a revolving account shall be opened with 30 days of commercial operation of the respective project, into which the money, no less than the 22 per cent of the monthly payments for the respective power project under the agreement shall be deposited to provide cover for the shortfall in power bill recoveries from the date of power generation of the said projects agreements subject to the condition that the additional direct and indirect expenses incurred in maintaining the revolving account would be compensated by the producers through a discount arrangement to be mutually agreed."

Subsequently, Finance Division, in consultation with Power Division finalized a mechanism for RA with the approval of Finance Minister in a letter of June 22, 2015.

Later in September 2017, Power Division forwarded draft Revolving Account Agreement (RAA) to be signed between CPPA-G and power producer(s) to Finance Division. CPPA-G has executed the finalized draft of RAA with multiple CPEC IPPs till date. The GoP has also

guaranteed the funding obligations of the CPPA in respect of PAA, through the Supplemental Implementation Agreements signed between the GoP through PPIB and the respective IPPs. The sources said that the expected amount required to be funded to meet the obligations will be in the range of Rs 100-150 billion.

The options to fund the RA are as follows: (I) MoF to provide guarantee to CPPA-G to arrange commercial loans from local financial institutions;(ii) amount to be arranged from multilaterals like Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (AIIB), etc., through an existing unutilized facilities or securing a new facility;(iii) the obligation should be funded in subsequent years by improving recovery by Discos and other efficiency measures; and (iii) CPPA-G and IPPs to deliberate on the reasonable costs relating to account opening, operation and maintenance (e.g. account agent, etc.) of the RA in the light of RAAs and Supplemental Implementation Agreements. Another issue is the Withholding Tax (WHT) on shareholders' dividends which was increased from 7.5 per cent to 25 per cent in Finance Act 2018 and 2020 as fixed and final liability of IPPs'.

This matter was discussed in the 3rd Pak-China Relationship Steering Committee meeting on October 20, 2021 and Power Division was directed to move the summary next week for ECC. CPEC Authority maintains that Power Division and Federal Board of Revenue need to expedite the submission to ECC for reversal of WHT to the previous position.

This correspondent sought comments of SAPM on CPEC, Khalid Masoor, for an update on opening of revolving account for CPEC IPPs but received no response till the filing of this report.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/01/1-page/917183-news.html>

Daily Times

Beijing Olympics 2022: A Symbol of Undividedness

Yasir Habib Khan

Given daunting challenges, when the world desperately needs a true spirit of “global oneness” “global togetherness” and “global co-existence,” Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 is a lucky charm to make things happen.

Promoting the narrative of “United We Stand and Divided We Fall,” the mega stage of Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 will provide an epic opportunity of togetherness to thousands of athletics that hail from 91 Nations.

Indeed, sports has no colour, no race and no language. It also has no shade of politics, vested interests and corporate ambitions. Sports mean sports: aimed to uphold the supremacy of games giving no regard to geo-strategic, geo-political and geo-economic tenets.

Under the umbrella of the Olympic International Committee (OIC), many flags will be hoisted but international multi-sports will instil only one sense, which will be solid rock undividedness.

Since unity and togetherness have their own particular strengths so when doomsayers tried to demonise Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 with a vicious politicisation spark, global sagacious voices came to rescue.

Sports has no colour, no race and no language. It also has no shade of politics, vested interests and corporate ambitions

Neither on the international landscape nor the IOC platform, an obnoxious political agenda, under the guise of sham human rights issues against China, was allowed to subvert the iconic games. As positivity remained overwhelming high, anti-Olympic countries, including the US, Australia, the UK, New Zealand, Lithuania and Japan had to limit their venomous propagation to diplomatic boycott. They refrained from extending the boycott to players. So all these countries' athletes have been participating in the event as usual.

Winter Olympic Games 2022 is a politically neutral event as Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter states that "no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites."

IOC president Thomas Bach said well in a recent briefing that the Olympics are about diversity and unity, not politics and profit. "Boycotts don't work," he added.

"Participating in the Olympic Games is an incredible experience for every athlete. But it is also humbling when you realise that you are part of something bigger. You are part of an event that unites the world. In the Olympic Games, we are all equal. Everyone respects the same rules, irrespective of social background, gender, race, sexual orientation or political belief," he explained.

Thomas Bach says politics must be kept at an arm's length or "the Games will descend into a marketplace of demonstrations of all kinds."

"The Olympic Games are firstly about sport. The athletes personify the values of excellence, solidarity and peace."

He believed that the Olympic Games cannot prevent wars and conflicts. "Nor can they address all the political and social challenges in our world. But they can set an example for a world where everyone respects the same rules and one another. They can inspire us to solve problems in friendship and solidarity. They can build bridges leading to better understanding among people. In this way, they can open the door to peace," he elaborated.

China's Foreign Ministry has also pushed back the boycott misadventure. During the regular briefing, spokesman Wang Wenbin condemned the "politicisation of sports," stating that all attempts to boycott "will not succeed."

"China firmly opposes the politicization of sports and the interference in other countries' internal affairs by using human rights issues as a pretext," Wang said. "Attempts to disrupt, obstruct and sabotage the preparation and convening of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games out of political

motivation have been met with strong opposition from all sectors of the international community,” he added.

It is mesmerising that Olympics preparations are in full swing; never succumbing to malicious voices of dissent and maligning protests by miscreants. Manifesting a high spirit of professionalism and broadmindedness, China is just focused on facilitating the OIC nations in terms of visa, stay, food and the virus-free environment with Chinese hospitality.

Without festering any iota of animosity, China is awarding visas to US athletes and officials. Zhao Lijian, the spokesperson of China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said at last Wednesday briefing that China has granted visas to some of the US officials. He also confirmed that many of those officials are from the US Department of State or other government bodies. Zhao said he hopes the US can work with China to create a good atmosphere for the Winter Olympics. The South China Morning Post cited sources that the US has expanded a list of officials to the Beijing Winter Olympics from 18 to 46, and most work for the Department of State. the US expanded a list of officials to the Beijing Winter Olympics from 18 to 46, and most work for the Department of State.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, also warmed the hearts when he said paying a visit to the site of the games to inspect preparations and progress that “we are fully confident and able to present a brilliant, exceptional and excellent Olympic games to the world.” He added: “We promise to host green, inclusive, open and corruption-free Olympics.”

Recently, the Chinese Association of International Understanding hosted in Beijing the second Dialogue on Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilisations. Some 260 delegates from over forty countries attended the event in person and scores of others attended online. Participants lauded China’s preparations for the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics and expressed full confidence that the games will be a success.

The 2022 Winter Olympics, officially the XXIV Olympic Winter Games and commonly known as Beijing 2022, are an upcoming international winter multi-sport event scheduled to take place from February 4 to February 20, 2022, in Beijing and the neighbouring Hebei province in the People’s Republic of China.

The writer is a senior Journalist. He is also President of Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/878088/beijing-olympics-2022-a-symbol-of-undividedness/>

Hopes on the Tiger Year

Munir Ahmed

Enemies are kitting new nets of cold war strategies against China while it will be entering the Tiger Year on February 1, 2022, with traditional great celebrations. Here begins the Chinese New Year or the Lunar Year with great fervour and renewed hopes of peace and prosperity.

Happy new year to all Chinese across the globe, and their friends and partners. Enjoy the celebrations and New Year vacations. All Pakistanis across the globe share all the happiness, joy and success with its 'Iron Brother'. It is all set to celebrate the Tiger Year traditionally for 16 days under strict Covid-19 SOPs. Celebrations for the last two years were not the same. This might not be the high-end this year too. But we wish to see the same zeal and vigour, the fragrance of happiness and colours of joy in the festivities closing down with the Lantern Festival on February 15.

Chinese New Year is thought to date back to the 14th century BC when the Shang dynasty ruled. Its origins are steeped in legend. One story says that a monster named Nian (Year) attacked villagers at the start of every year. Nian was afraid of loud noises, bright lights and the red colour. People used these things to chase the beast away. Since the dragon is a Chinese symbol of power and good fortune, many areas of the country have dragon dancing, during which a long, colourful dragon puppet is paraded through the streets, as the highlight of festivities.

Chinese New Year is the time of celebration equal to Christmas or Eid. It is also the time when people clean their homes thoroughly to get rid of any bad luck left over from the old year. There are family banquets and outdoor spectacles featuring firecrackers, fireworks and often dancing dragons. Over 400 million people will travel across China – sometimes, thousands of miles – to celebrate with their families. People decorate their houses with red for good luck, and children are given money in bright red envelopes.

From Friday, the Beijing Winter Olympics torch will be lit to give a bright future to winter sports in China.

2022 will be the year of the Tiger. Tigers are courageous and active people who love a good challenge and adventure in life. Like their eponymous zodiac animal, people born in the years of the Tiger are vigorous and ambitious, daring and courageous, enthusiastic and generous, self-confident with a sense of justice and a commitment to help others for the greater good. The Tiger is the third of the 12 animal signs of the Chinese zodiac. The zodiac also cycles through five inanimate elements: wood, fire, earth, metal, water; so 2022 will specifically be the Year of the Metal Tiger.

The new Chinese year has to unfold many more challenges to confront by a very resilient nation – China. The brave nation has already been facing many unduly imposed situations. The US led a strong lobby of nations that has already assembled against the economic strength of China. But they are licking their wounds of defeat on many fronts. The economy of the US and its close aides have bowed down to their Covid-19 policies while China kept on advancing. The US strategic measures could not provoke countries against China except for some chaotic situations at the high altitude borders. The strong stance against Iran could not stop the country from having a strategic partnership signed with China. Iran is on the way to having Russia on its side.

From Friday, February 4, the Beijing Winter Olympics torch will be lit to give a bright future to winter sports in China. A new sector to engage the sporting people for global sports diplomacy.

The US boycott will damage nothing of China but its credibility in the comity of winter sporting nations. Chinese sportspersons are not well-prepared for the winter Olympics, even though China is in high spirits.

Despite the different messaging around these Olympics, Chinese President Xi Jinping has said this week that he “doesn’t care,” how many gold medals China wins. Nevertheless, the country’s sporting authorities have still used every effort to make sure that they are as competitive as possible. China hopes to make significant progress based on home track advantage, which is hugely important in this sport.

President Xi Jinping has noted: “From the beginning to the end of the last year, the Chinese people have been hard at work in the fields, enterprises, communities, schools, hospitals, barracks and research institutes, among other places. Throughout the year, we have put in our efforts, contributed our part, and received much in return.”

Over time, we have seen and experienced a resilient and dynamic China, a country with its amicable and respectable people, a country developing rapidly with each passing day, and a country making continual progress in all its undertakings. All the Chinese would continue to do so across the globe.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/878087/hopes-on-the-tiger-year/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan rejects reports of seeking loan from China, Russia and Kazakhstan

ISLAMABAD – The federal government has rejected media reports that it is planning to get loans worth \$5 billion from three countries, including China, in a bid to stabilise country’s foreign exchange reserves.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Economic Affairs said, “This is to clarify that no such proposal is under process in the Economic Affairs Division for obtaining \$3 billion loan from China and \$2 billion loan from Russia & Kazakhstan”.

Earlier, reports claimed that that the PTI-led government will borrow \$3 billion from China and \$2 billion from Russia and Kazakhstan.

Reports further said that the Ministry of Finance has finalised a plan in this regard as Prime Minister Imran Khan is likely to sign the loan agreement during his visit to China in February.

The premier will pay a three-day visit to China from February 3 to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics Games, Beijing 2022 in show of solidarity with Beijing as West has announced diplomatic boycott of the event.

The media reports said that \$3 billion will be channeled into foreign reserves to make them stable while the remaining \$2 billion will be spent on the ML-1 Railways project.

Meanwhile, Economic Affairs Division (EAD) has denied the government was planning to secure \$5 billion from China, Russia and Kazakhstan.

Reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) declined by \$562 million to \$17.03bn in the week ending on Jan 14.

The central bank used its foreign exchange reserves to repay its international debt.

The reports emerged as Islamabad is making efforts to revive the \$6 billion loan programme of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as all the prior conditions regarding the autonomy of the central bank and others have been implemented.

The IMF's Executive Board is scheduled to meet on February 02.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-rejects-reports-of-seeking-loan-from-china-russia-and-kazakhstan/>

Flyovers in Pak named after Beijing underpass, Shanghai underpass

As a symbol of immortal friendship between China and Pakistan, out of many flyovers and underpasses sprawled in the length and breadth of Pakistan, two underpasses have been named after the name of two mega cities of China.

These underpasses are called “Beijing Underpass” and “Shanghai Underpass”. Beijing Underpass is located in Lahore, a metropolitan of Punjab gaining fame as an emerging economic hub of Pakistan. Shanghai Underpass is situated in Okara, a city of crop and dairy development.

The 1.3-kilometer-long Beijing underpass, completed at a cost of Rs 3.6 billion, links Dharampura to Mughalpura, one of the most busy main arteries of Lahore. Earlier it was called Chubacha Underpass.

The project had been renamed in order to commemorate China's contribution to the development of projects in Pakistan.

Former CM Punjab Shahbaz Sharif termed the Beijing Underpass as a masterpiece of construction and an emblem of Pak-China friendship. Shanghai Underpass, 600 meters long, was inaugurated by the acting consul general of Lahore Mr. Peng Zhengwu accompanied by Chinese consulate staffers and the Chinese business community.

Civil society, local community, politicians chanted the slogan of Pak-China friendship and desired to rename more underpasses and flyovers on the name of other Chinese cities. With the unvailing of “Shanghai Underpass” in downtown Okara, the Municipal Corporations office presented Mr. Peng the “Key of City.”

<https://pakobserver.net/flyovers-in-pak-named-after-beijing-underpass-shanghai-underpass/>

The Nation

PM to leave for China on Feb 3, says Sh Rashid

Israr Ahmad

RAWALPINDI - Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed has said that Prime Minister Imran Khan will embark on China visit from February 3 that would reinforce the strategic ties between the two countries besides bringing betterment in political, economy and other issues of the continent.

Speaking to media persons here on Monday after paying a visit to the Mother Child Hospital, Sh Rashid said the PM's visit will reinforce the all-weather strategic partnership between the two countries, and further advance the objective of building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era.

About the IMF loan, the minister said that the government will have to approach the Fund to strengthen the economy adding that nobody goes to IMF happily.

He also said that the Opposition is facing defeat on all stages.

Commenting of the Opposition's proposed long march, the interior minister said all the parties are having knowledge about bad weather condition as well as outbreak of coronavirus in the country. "Only Maulana Fazl Ur Rehman desires to launch long march and we will welcome him," he said.

Sh Rashid mentioned that Bilawal Bhutto had predicted that the weather of Islamabad would be harsh during march and said Bilawal should come to Islamabad in the evening on March 23.

Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed claimed the incidents of terrorism surged in the country adding that UBN and BLA had formed BNA. "Balochistan is facing worst terrorism where 10 military men were martyred," he said.

He said more than 70000 personnel of armed forces have sacrificed their lives to eliminate terrorism from the country.

He said the whole nation is united to defeat nefarious designs of BNA and TTP.

The minister said bad economic condition of Afghanistan is not in favour of peace and stability of South Asia and the international community should join hands to steer Afghanistan out of the economic crisis.

Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said that the Kashmir Solidarity Day would be marked on February 5 with fervour and zeal.

To a query, the interior minister said Pakistan will have diplomatic ties with USA and China on equality basis. He said China has no objection over Pakistan's going to IMF for loan advance the objective of building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. About the IMF loan, the minister said that the government will have to approach the Fund to

strengthen the economy adding that nobody goes to IMF happily. He also said that the Opposition is facing defeat on all stages. Commenting of the Opposition's proposed long march, the interior minister said all the parties are having knowledge about bad weather condition as well as outbreak of coronavirus in the country. "Only Maulana Fazl Ur Rehman desires to launch long march and we will welcome him," he said. Sh Rashid mentioned that Bilawal Bhutto had predicted that the weather of Islamabad would be harsh during march and said Bilawal should come to Islamabad in the evening on March 23. Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed claimed the incidents of terrorism surged in the country adding that UBN and BLA had formed BNA.

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<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-01/page-1/detail-2>

Yunnan province cooperates with Pakistan to boost wheat production

BEIJING - The production of wheat, Pakistan's most important crop, is expected to rise with Sino-Pak cooperation this year, according to China's Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences (YAAS).

Yunnan and Pakistan have similarities in climate, wheat variety characteristics, cultivation conditions, meanwhile confronted with shared challenges including stripe rust, drought, high temperature, etc. Therefore, both wheat varieties and technologies can be directly applied to each other, Luo Yanjie, Head of YAAS International Cooperation Division, told CEN. Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences (YAAS) and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) started cooperation in 2014. They have been closely cooperating in food crop, cash crop, plant protection, biotechnology and socio-economic development for more than seven years.

In 2016, two among fourteen Chinese wheat DH varieties introduced to Pakistan entered the country's regional test. Simultaneously, ten Pakistani wheat varieties were brought to China, among which three anti-stripe rust varieties were selected. Especially, in 2017, via China National Seed Group Co., Ltd., Yunnan Hybrid Wheat No. 12 variety was grown in Pakistan on a trial basis. Results showed a 32% increase in production compared with local varieties.

Academically, through cooperative research, the two sides have jointly published four SCI papers and publications on drought relief, rust disease, and hybrid wheat, etc. The exchanges of agricultural experts between Yunnan and Pakistan also have been playing an important role in enhancing agricultural cooperation. So far, 10 Pakistani scientists from PARC and University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, etc. came to Yunnan for joint agricultural research.

After they returned to Pakistan, they have been continuously contributing to Pakistan's agricultural development and Sino-Pak agricultural cooperation. This year, three Pakistani young scientists will arrive in Yunnan later for further research, which comprises nearly one third of the total overseas scientists who have been approved to come to YAAS. Next, by establishing joint laboratory and joint research center, the two sides will further strengthen advanced Chinese wheat breeding technology, wheat disease prevention and control technology's application in Pakistan to help improve mutual food security.

Through fully tap and utilize both China and Pakistan's wheat gene characteristics, we will further consolidate the joint research of wheat breeding especially resistance breeding such as disease resistance, insect resistance, drought resistance and lodging resistance, high-yield breeding, and multi-functional breeding, etc., Luo said.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-01/page-9/detail-6>

February 02, 2022

Daily Times

Beijing Winter Olympics Unveiling New China

Shakeel Ramay

Beijing Winter Olympics will commence on 4 February with a huge pump and show. Malicious propaganda and threats of diplomatic boycott could not deter the confidence and resolve of Chinese nations to organize a successful event. President Xi Jinping put all horses in motion to make it successful venture. He led the preparations from beginning and kept inspecting the progress incessantly. President Xi's engagement elevated the spirit of workers, which gave a huge boost to work. President Xi focused on four areas in accordance with Beijing Sustainability Plan. He aspired and guided his nation to achieve goals of 1)- green, 2)- open, 3)- shared and 4)- clean Olympics. It is part of sustainable framework for the Olympics. China has shown great resolve to fulfill its commitments under the sustainability framework.

First goal is to ensure the green Olympics, which has minimum impact on the environment. For ensuring green Olympics, China has deployed technology at multiple fronts. Trans-critical CO2 refrigerator technology will be used to facilitate the events. It is the first time that this technology is being used at such huge scale. It will help protect the environment by reducing emissions. It has been estimated that the application of this technology will reduce emissions equivalent to emission generated by 3900 vehicles for whole year. It is a big contribution, as we know how

carbon is one of the main contributors to global climate change. Second, China has committed to ensure 100 percent use of green energy. For that purpose, China has established wind farms in Zhangjiakou, which is one of the regional hubs for Olympics. The farms will produce 14 million kilowatts of electricity. Mountain faces are also covered with solar panels, which are expected to produce million kilowatts of clean energy. A dedicated grid station for renewable energy has established to ensure uninterrupted electricity. China is also using cross regional energy trading mechanisms to ensure supply according to the demand.

The New China has graduated from a world factory to a world laboratory.

Third, China has also used renewable and recyclable material in the construction of different facilities. It has dual advantage. On one hand, it will bring raw material, which has minimum environmental impacts. On the other hand, the material can be used for other purposes after the event. Fourth, to protect native flora and environment, China had planted native trees at the massive scale. It is different from the past practices. As world had witnessed many times that host country cut the trees.

Fifth, transportation facilities have been designed according to green standards. It has been indicated that 80 per cent transport facilities will consist of either energy saving or clean energy vehicles. China will also be deploying high speed train in use to facilitate fast movement. Further, 655 hydrogen fueled busses will also be used. Organizers also claimed that 85 per cent busses will be run by electricity or hydrogen fuel. By keeping in mind the flux of transport, it will help reduce big amount of emissions. Sixth, China is working with households to shift them on clean source of energy. For example, in Northern China, 25 million households were shifted to electric or gas heating system from coal heating system. So, China has extended the dividend of Olympics to common people. It will help fulfill the commitment of social development under the sustainability plan. Seventh, it has been highlighted that the snow production will be without any chemicals. So, on melting water will go into soil without any hurdle or harm.

Second, to ensure openness, China adopted a comprehensive framework for engaging local and international community. First, China structured the organizing committee by engaging people from different parts of the world. 57 experts were made a part of committee from 18 countries and regions. Second, China invited media groups from all over the world to witness different activities related to event. It was pointed out that till November 2021, almost 179 media groups attended different events. Engagement of global media has special relevance, if we look at the shared goal of the event.

Third, to ensure the goal of a “shared” event, China mobilized people at huge scale. During the period, China mobilized 346 million people across the country, which participated in diverse activities. China, in 2018-19, organized 75 winter sports related events to expand the winter sports base in country. It helped mobilise people at a large scale. China also established 2062 schools with winter sport facilities. In 2021, total number of registered winter sports related organizations were 792. Ski resorts and ice rinks also established in big numbers and exhibited growth rate of 317 and 41 per cent. The establishment of infrastructure also helped create jobs

for people, which has a positive impact on the living standards of people. Again, it contributed to social development of people.

Fourth, President Xi Jinping has made it his prime goal that Beijing Olympics will be clean, and no corruption will be tolerated. There will be zero tolerance for doping or any other illegal activity. It is according to standards of President Xi Jinping, which he is striving to implement at home. Doping is also one form of corruption, which would be countered with full force at all levels.

In a nutshell, China will establish new benchmarks for the rest world. Apart from these innovative steps, Beijing Winter Olympics will also present glimpse of new China to world. New China will astonish the world due to its marvellous development during the last two decades. It has graduated from a world factory to world laboratory. It is emerging as new technological hub, which is driven by innovation. Society is moving towards automation and digital payment system has become new normal. Entrepreneurship is new buzzword among the youth, which is leading the drive for the innovation.

The most important experience would be to learn about the governance system and role of Community Party of China. It will provide opportunity to world to understand the working of Community Party of China and its leadership. I believe uniqueness of system is based on the principle of society driven wellbeing and welfare. It is apparent from the decision making and implementation. Leadership of the Communist Party always keeps people at the center. Rather, leadership has made development, welfare and happiness of people as basic human right.

In conclusion, new China will help people understand why people of China stick with Community Party of China and its leadership. The close bond between people and Party leadership is assisting in steering the country to achieve marvels in every field. Beijing Winter Olympics will provide another opportunities for world to see real China, which is different from propaganda movies or news.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/878729/beijing-winter-olympics-unveiling-new-china/>

Chinese firms bring advanced technologies in Pakistan's power sector

The massive energy projects executed by Chinese firms not only ended power outages in Pakistan, but also introduced the most advanced technologies in the country's power sector.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report on Tuesday, these include the underground hydropower projects as well as the ultra-supercritical coal-fired power plants.

In 2018, China Gezhouba Group Corp. (CGGC) completed construction of first-ever underground powerhouse in Pakistan, Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The 969-megawatt run of river project was a construction challenge due to caverns and tunnels in the not so solid and ever active Himalayan mountains range.

The project was completed after 10 years of unprecedented engineering efforts in the toughest geological and geotechnical environments, according to a joint study of Hanyang University, Korea and five Pakistani universities.

The CGGC is also building the 884 MW Suki Kinari hydropower project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative, involving the same engineering design. CGGC has also signed a contract with the government of KP province for construction of the 300 MW Balakot HPP with the same design.

“The project will provide us with a chance to work on tunnel excavation and installation of underground power plants, as earlier such projects were at federal government level to which we had no exposure,” a senior official of KP’s energy development arm, PEDO, told Gwadar Pro.

In addition, China Three Gorges Corp. (CTGC) has also built a similar hydropower facility in Karot area of Punjab province. The 720 MW project is nearing completion and expected to commence commercial operations in mid-2022.

Three other such projects in North Pakistan are at different stages of implementation. Moreover, in coal energy sector, Shanghai Electric Group is building a 1,320 MW ultra-supercritical power plant in Tharparkar area of Sindh province.

This technology has never been used before in Pakistan, an official of the Thar Coal Block 1 Power Generation Co. told Gwadar Pro. The company is a special-purpose vehicle registered in Pakistan for execution of the project. The ultra-critical technology, which has been developed by Shanghai Electric, has higher thermal efficiency level resulting in lesser emissions per unit of the electricity generated, the official explained.

“The project will utilise the indigenous Thar coal and produce low-cost energy with lesser or no environmental hazards,” he said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/878754/chinese-firms-bring-advanced-technologies-in-pakistans-power-sector/>

Dunya News

China visit will help take strong ties between two countries to new heights: PM Imran

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Wednesday his visit to China would be helpful in taking the strong relations between the two countries to new heights.

He said this in a high-level meeting in Islamabad on Wednesday. Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Adviser on National Security Dr Moeed Yusuf, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry, Minister for Planning, Development, Reforms and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak

Dawood and Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the prime minister was given a detailed briefing on the progress being made on ongoing concrete projects between Pakistan and China to enhance cooperation in the fields of CPEC, Special Economic Zones, Investment, Trade, Information Technology and Agriculture.

In a detailed briefing on industrial zones, it was informed that 600 acres of land has been made available for setting up of industries in M3 economic zone and work on infrastructure is in full swing after power supply.

The meeting was also apprised of the steps taken by the Board of Investment to facilitate the establishment of industries for local and foreign investors.

On the occasion, PM Imran said that his visit to China would be instrumental in taking the strong relations between the two countries to new heights, adding that Pakistan values fraternal relations with China.

The premier issued instructions to ensure timely completion of all measures.

He said that business-friendly policies of the government have made Pakistan as the most attractive destination in the region for investment in industries, adding that foreign investment in industries will not only increase employment and exports but also enable technology transfer.

Imran Khan said that government is ensuring the system of SEZs on priority basis on the Plug and Play model. He said appointment of the Board of Governors and the management of SEZs are being made in view of upholding meritocracy and non-conflict of interest.

China visit

It is pertinent to mention here that the PM, at the special invitation of the Chinese leadership, will leave for China tomorrow (Thursday) on a four-day visit to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games.

He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including members of the Cabinet and senior government officials. As a global event, the Olympic Games foster mutual understanding, inclusivity and friendship among the peoples of the world.

Beijing will soon become the first city to host both summer and winter editions of the Olympic Games. During the visit, the Prime Minister will hold bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang.

The leaders will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation including CPEC. They will also have wide-ranging exchange of views on major regional and international issues.

It would thus renew the bilateral commitment to taking the iron-clad partnership between Pakistan and China to new heights and add impetus to cooperation across multiple domains. A number of MoUs and Agreements would be concluded during the visit.

While in Beijing, he would also meet prominent business leaders of China and representatives of leading Chinese think-tanks, academia and the media. He will also have other bilateral interactions on the sidelines.

The prime minister's visit would mark the culmination of celebrations commemorating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, with more than 140 events organized to showcase the resilience of the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the unfolding international situation.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/639505-China-visit-strong-ties-between-two-countries-new-heights-PM-Imran-CPEC>

Pakistan Observer

China leading green development across the globe

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

CHINA, the 2nd largest economy and largest trading nation of the world having the largest foreign exchange reserves with the pledges of achieving carbon neutrality by the middle of this century has gained the attention of international community in the field of global development governance.

China's commitment of assisting the development strategies across the globe has been continuously strengthening international political and economic arenas as well as the global governance system.

China as one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, a member of BRICS and an important member of G20 has stepped forward in opening the development window of opportunity for other countries in the sphere of South-South Cooperation.

Most importantly, with the advancement of Belt and Road Cooperation (BRI) China is making the greater contribution in green and sustainable development.

The smooth and rapid process of green development under BRI is pushing forward the ideas in aspects like eco-civilization and environmental conservation strategy by forming the green value chain.

The successful implementation of green development initiatives by China based on mutual consultations like BRI is rapidly getting international recognition and promoting the bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

So far, the steady implementation of green development strategy of BRI has attracted more than 147 countries and 32 international organizations by signing more than 200 cooperative documents.

The number of countries joining BRI is a strong vote of confidence on Chinese wisdom of wellbeing for international community that is providing economic assistance gratis, interest-free loans and concessional loans.

According to the data 1,350 Belt and Road projects worth of 1.7 trillion dollars started from 2013 to 2019 include around 100 clean energy-related projects worth \$104.95 billion, covering such areas as green infrastructure projects, natural gas pipelines, hydropower, wind power, nuclear power and wastewater treatment. It is to be noted that strong action is needed to decarbonize more than \$12 trillion in expected infrastructure investment in the countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative to ensure that the Paris Agreement climate goals are met.

Green development has emerged as one of the common development pursuits in the modern era and China has always developed green and sustainable agendas for the future development of itself and its partner countries.

The perspective of green development strategy along the BRI route has been pushing forward the great opportunity of economic growth and new development of scientific and technological innovation.

By having an eye on the development plans of Chinese government across the globe, it can easily be stated that under the visionary leadership of President Xi Jinping, China is leading the green development in many ways by undertaking various sustainable low carbon/green/eco/initiatives towards the pathway of durable development.

It has been widely recognized that China has been successfully shifting its policy paradigms by exploring the ways for achieving sustainable development actively.

Chinese companies green investment in regions and countries involved in the BRI has substantially mitigated their capital shortage and greatly promoted the green, low-carbon transformation of their economies and energy systems.

As per one of the reports, In the meantime, development-oriented financial institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Silk Road Fund and the BRICS New Development Bank as well as Chinese policy banks are vigorously promoting green finance related to the initiative.

It added that so far 39 global financial institutions including Chinese State-owned commercial banks and policy banks as well as Standard Chartered and Deutsche Bank, whose assets under management total \$48 trillion have signed up for the Belt and Road Initiative's Green Investment Principles.

Chinese companies are setting an example in strengthening green management, green development strategies and evaluation over production and operation, scaling up green capital investment, improving the green compliance system and selecting green projects suited to local development conditions, especially those small-scale environmental projects that require less investment, bear fruit soon and deliver good returns

Various projects under BRI are making the successful strides in member countries, however, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has cultivated the mega achievements since its launch as far as the green development is concerned.

CPEC has attracted direct investment totaling 25.4 billion U.S. dollars in Pakistan over the past eight years by also generating more than 80,000 jobs for the local people. Other than this, the concept of green development introduced under CPEC by China in Pakistan aims to enable future generations to have a sustainable green environment.

Nature conservation and by practicing the idea of BRI to promote high quality development of CPEC have shown that both Pakistani and Chinese governments have been supporting each other in green development.

The development of power plants in Pakistan that successfully tackled the energy crisis of the country under CPEC got certifications for being eco-friendly and kept emissions under control to meet the world and local standards.

The recent announcement of China about not to build new coal-fired power projects abroad shows the commitment of Chinese government towards its pledges of helping partner countries in achieving carbon neutrality.

By such measures, China is helping the international community to meet the requirements of Sustainable Development Goals as well by demonstrating its sense of responsibility as a major country.

The BRI infrastructural projects are stretching across the continents that are developing the green value chain by generating the green benefits for the people along the route.

We have witnessed that the pledge of China to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060 is speaking louder than its words with the implementation of commitments.

— The author is an award winning journalist and media fellow of China Public Diplomacy Association.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-leading-green-development-across-the-globe-by-muhammad-zamir-assadi/>

Beijing Winter Olympics: PM Imran kicks off China visit tomorrow

ISLAMABAD – Prime Minister Imran Khan will leave for China on a four-day-long visit, starting from 3-6 February 2022, to attend the Opening Ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games.

The premier is visiting the all-weather friend national at the special invitation of the Chinese leadership. The visit also aims at showing solidarity with China at a time when several Western countries have announced a diplomatic boycott of the Olympic games being held in Beijing.

PM Imran Khan will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including members of the Cabinet and senior government officials.

As a global event, the Olympic Games foster mutual understanding, inclusivity and friendship among the peoples of the world, said an official statement.

Beijing will soon become the first city to host both summer and winter editions of the Olympic Games, it added.

It is highly admirable that the Chinese government has made meticulous arrangements for holding the Winter Olympic Games despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the visit, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation including CPEC.

They will also have wide-ranging exchange of views on major regional and international issues.

The Prime Minister's visit would mark the culmination of celebrations commemorating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, with more than 140 events organized to showcase the resilience of the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the unfolding international situation.

It would thus renew the bilateral commitment to taking the iron-clad partnership between Pakistan and China to new heights and add impetus to cooperation across multiple domains. A number of MoUs and Agreements would be concluded during the visit.

While in Beijing, the Prime Minister would also meet prominent business leaders of China and representatives of leading Chinese think-tanks, academia and the media. The Prime Minister will also have other bilateral interactions on the sidelines.

<https://pakobserver.net/beijing-winter-olympics-pm-imran-kicks-off-china-visit-tomorrow/>

CPEC after the Sino-Iranian strategic partnership

Ayaz Ahmed

THE US drawdown from the Pak-Afghan region has brought forth considerable geo-economic space for China in the region. Beijing has recently forged a long-term strategic partnership with Iran. This partnership bodes well for the security and timely completion of CPEC.

After considering the long-term feasibility and effectiveness of CPEC, Iran has repeatedly displayed its inclination to join the grand economic corridor. If CPEC is converted into the China-Pakistan-Iran Economic Corridor (CPIEC), it will make the corridor a greater and safer game-changer in terms of regional trade and connectivity.

After the Sino-Iranian strategic partnership, both Pakistan and China should give serious consideration to the Iranian request of joining CPEC to make the grand project a prodigious success by minimising its security threats. As the Biden Administration is making efforts to

rejoin the Iran-P5+1 nuclear deal, energy-rich Iran is once again set to become a major regional economic and military power in the foreseeable future.

Iran's exceptional geostrategic and geo-economic location, potential energy resources and developing economy will presumably make CPEC more effective, less perilous and more efficient for Pakistan and China to reap richer dividends.

CPEC will greatly help Pakistan and Iran make the Gwadar and Chabahar ports supplementary rather than disruptively competitive. Iran will likely provide China with a greater role in completing the remaining construction works of the strategically important Chabahar Port, thus lessening Indian engagement with the port. After making both the ports fully operational, Pakistan and Iran may formally determine their shares of Central Asian exports and imports, thereby dispelling the impression of projected competition and a zero-sum game.

Second, Iran's partnership in the grand economic corridor will immensely assist in the better security of CPEC. Having a stake in the corridor, Iran will not permit regional powers – India – to use its soil for fomenting militancy and insurgency in Balochistan. The clandestine networks of RAW reportedly based in southern and eastern Iran could be easily dismantled.

More importantly, certain quarters within the Iranian security establishment have been secretly funnelling substantial money and sophisticated arms to some sectarian, militant and insurgent groups based in the bordering and central areas of Balochistan. After becoming a member of the project, Iran could be persuaded to sternly rein in these disruptive elements to safeguard Balochistan from insurgency and sectarianism.

Furthermore, Pakistan can seek all-out Iranian assistance to block the burgeoning cross-border smuggling of cheap Iranian oil and drugs to Balochistan. Narcotics and oil smuggling have made non-state actors financially sound to continue their troublesome shenanigans in the province. Proper regulation of oil black-marketing will help both countries earn substantial revenue.

Third, after connecting Iran to China via Pakistan through CPEC, bilateral trade between Iran and Pakistan and Iran and China will increase manifold. Both Pakistan and Iran have already decided to increase annual trade volume between the two countries to \$5bn. Closer economic ties will also help Pakistan import a great amount of cheap Iranian electricity to industrialise the city of Gwadar and decrease hours of outages plaguing other parts of the country.

Closer economic ties with Iran will facilitate Pakistan and China to import more and more Iranian oil and gas. The Iran-Pakistan (IP) pipeline could be expanded to include China as a member. With financial and technical support from China, Pakistan will be able to construct its portion of 785 km of IP pipeline in the shortest period. Therefore, Iran will gain the much-needed revenue to revive its sanctions-hit economy, while Pakistan and China will import enough Iranian gas to meet their ever-increasing requirements of natural gas.

Lastly, greater cooperation between Pakistan and Iran will be instrumental in bringing political stability to Afghanistan. With all-out Pak-Iranian support, the Afghan Taliban will be in a

stronger position to dismantle the organizational structure of Daesh in Afghanistan. Moreover, for the security of CPEC, Pakistan and Iran can also crank up the pressure on Afghanistan into taking stringent actions against TTP fugitives hiding in eastern Afghanistan.

However, Pakistan and China should not forget that a longer corridor entails more risks and threats to be tackled. After finding Iran on this regional bandwagon, the new American president could think of tightening economic sanctions around the nose of Iran. Moreover, the Indo-American bloc could expedite hectic efforts to foment terrorism and militancy in Pakistan's tribal areas and shepherd ragtag insurgents in Balochistan. In this regard, any broad-brush and blinkered approach to the security of CPEC is unlikely to dampen the obstructive effects of geopolitics on the corridor.

Therefore, it is imperative to warily craft some needed counterterrorism, counter-militancy and counter-sectarianism measures to protect CPEC from regional terrorism and hegemonic designs of the US and India. Both Pakistan and China should stand with Iran diplomatically – especially during the process of negotiations on the Iranian nuclear deal – with the intent to make CPEC fall through amid the disruptive geopolitics of the region.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-after-the-sino-iranian-strategic-partnership-by-ayaz-ahmed/>

BRI: Central Asia and India

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Since its inception in 2013, One Belt and One Road Initiative (BRI) succeeded to change the economic outlook of double landlocked geographies of Central Asian Republics (CARs) in terms of investment, infrastructural development, greater regional connectivity, immense socio-economic integration and last but not the least, poverty eradication. China has been pouring substantial funds to transform macro-economies of the CARs which are now breaking the orbit of natural disadvantages.

The recent unexpected turmoil in Kazakhstan has rattled policy makers of Beijing because it is the birthplace of BRI and has even high stakes in the foreign policy of China. Moreover, China-Iran strategic partnership spoiled Indian outreach to CARs which is now in search of new means and justifications to form a strategic partnership with all the CARs.

Kazakhstan has a critical transit role in China's pivot to Europe. For Central Asia, BRI projects look highly promising, allowing regional countries to increase connectivity, expand regional trade and modernize their transport infrastructure. Moreover, the BRI is the successful model to deliver public goods, promote global connectivity and portray itself as a responsible stakeholder.

According to the latest data (January 2022), under the flagship project of BRI since 2013, China has injected \$17 billion in Kazakhstan, \$4 billion each in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and \$710 million in Tajikistan, with minerals, energy, industrial parks becoming the main directions of cooperation in helping the region achieve industrialization. Overall Chinese investment in Kazakhstan has reached \$33 billion.

China's cooperation with the CARs is creating vast opportunities under the flagship project of BRI which has increasingly become an important booster turning the region into a major trade hub connecting the East and the West.

In addition to this, the trade volume between China and the five Central Asian countries increased from \$460 million to \$46.34 billion, an increase of 100 times since 1992. Chinese-sponsored projects such as transportation networks, customs procedures and e-commerce platforms have further increased inflow of imports & exports between China and CARs.

President Xi during the recent virtual summit marking the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and the five Central Asian countries praised the great achievements between China and the regional countries while highlighting the core progress in the multilateral cooperation in the region.

President Xi highlighted that both parties have a common pursuit of development due to which the two-way trade and investment has enhanced over a hundred times while several big projects of strategic significance successfully completed, including the China-Central Asia natural gas pipeline, the China-Kazakhstan crude oil pipeline, the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan highway and the China-Tajikistan Expressway.

In this connection, China's focus in the BRI cooperation in the region has shifted from large infrastructure projects to helping Central Asian economies, particularly Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, toward industrialization and sustainable growth.

In Kyrgyzstan, China Road & Bridge Corporation and Bishkek Municipal Infrastructure Construction Authority signed a commercial contract for the local road network improvement project (Phase II) on September 17, 2020.

The Power Construction Corporation of China (PowerChina) also has long participated in the regional development. It attaches great importance to developing the Central Asian market under the close guidelines of the BRI and has established permanent offices in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia in the Central Asian region.

The energy company has successfully implemented 39 BRI projects in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan by means of investment and contracting, among which 24 have been completed and 15 are under construction, according to the company.

In the past 10 years, Central Asian countries have become major logistics hubs for China and the West, with around 80 percent of the China-Europe freight trains passing through Kazakhstan. Furthermore, noteworthy achievements have been made in regional cooperation, more service-oriented cooperation would be the focus in the future.

President Xi Jinping put forward five proposals to magnify the exemplary role of good neighborly friendship, to build a cooperation belt for high-quality development, to strengthen the shield for defending peace, to build a family with diverse interactions and to protect the global village that enjoys peace and development.

To conclude, the five Central Asian countries share a border of more than 3,300 kilometers with China. Today, China has become one of the most important trade and investment partners of the five countries.

A large number of major projects involving transportation, agriculture, water conservation, electric power, textile, machinery, manufacturing and other fields have been pursued in these countries.

Right from the beginning, CARs have been experiencing the US strategic encroachment on the plea of a new power vacuum to fill. In recent years, the US has increased its input in the region, in terms of military deployment and sponsored color revolution into Central Asia, trying to disrupt the region to achieve the strategic attempt to contain China and Russia at the same time, but these tactics could not achieve any success. The US dissemination propaganda to instigate China-Russia “competition” in Central Asia is another failed attempt.

It seems that after its strategic defeat in Afghanistan, India is now in search of new comfort zones. Most recently, India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted a virtual summit with leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Modi and the five leaders agreed to set up another joint working group to develop Chabahar port in Iran to provide sea access to landlocked countries.

India is keen to make Chabahar, Iran’s closest sea link to the Indian Ocean, some 80km (50 miles) away across the border in Pakistan which Pakistan has been building with Chinese investment. India recently committed up to \$500m for the development of Chabahar port along with associated roads and rail lines.

India also has provided a \$450m credit line to Uzbekistan for developing roads, a sewerage system and the information technology sector. In 2020, India announced a \$1bn credit to five Central Asian countries to pursue priority projects in connectivity, energy, IT and healthcare. Thus India is trying to contain China’s presence in CARs and pledges to make investment in these countries.

According to reliable diplomatic sources President Shavkat Mirziyoyev will be visiting Pakistan in March this year. Policy makers of Pakistan should chalk out a comprehensive road-map for the further strengthening of bilateral relations with all the CARs, especially Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan. Pakistan-Uzbekistan trans-regional railway project, Pakistan-Kazakhstan QTTA protocol, dream gas pipeline TAPI, CASA-1000 and energy exports from other Central Asian countries should be further streamlined and implemented as soon as possible.

In this connection, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) may be further connected with all the Central Asian countries through mega projects of transportation, blue economy, virtual connectivity and, above all, befitting joint ventures.

Economic prosperity is always anti-riot and pro-development and BRI stands for positivity, productivity and participatory orientations. BRI would be a giant step towards materializing Euro-Asian century in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-central-asia-and-india-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

PM's China trip to draw investment in power sector

Bilateral talks also expected to focus on revival of steel mill, relocation of industries

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan's upcoming visit to China is likely to help enhance investment in the power sector, revive Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) and accelerate the relocation of industries to the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The primary aim of the visit is to seek \$3 billion in loan to stabilise Pakistan's dwindling foreign currency reserves and boost investment in various sectors of the economy. The premier may also ask his Chinese counterpart to roll over the loans taken by Pakistan for different projects including the energy sector under CPEC. The government of Pakistan has already settled its issues with the independent power producers (IPPs) by reducing the rate of return.

The present government believes that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) leadership had awarded energy projects to China at a high rate of return. Pakistan took up the matter with China through diplomatic channels, however, Beijing refused to reduce the rate of return. Earlier, Chinese President Xi Jinping was scheduled to visit Pakistan, during which the government had planned to discuss the issue.

However, he has not yet arrived. In addition to these issues, PM Khan's visit has also significant importance for Pakistan and China in the wake of instability in Afghanistan. According to the Foreign Office, the three-day trip will reinforce strategic ties between the two neighbours and further advance the objective of bringing both of them closer for mutual benefit. Imran Khan will also discuss future plans to enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of investment, trade, information technology and exports. Besides showing solidarity with China at a time when its ties with the US and other Western countries are severely strained, Khan will look forward to expediting progress on CPEC including road, connectivity and power projects.

However, sources said that Pakistan would particularly seek support of China to ramp up investment in the energy space. "Seemingly, it is a good opportunity to advance the discussion on Shanghai Electric Power (SEP)'s interest in acquiring K-Electric as the deal has been at a standstill since 2016," an official said. It is comparatively easier for the government to discuss matters pertaining to the power sector as it has made considerable progress on the lingering issue of Rs230 billion withheld payments to the Chinese power producers. So far, it has paid Rs50 billion while another Rs50 billion is expected to be paid next month.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2341512/pms-china-trip-to-draw-investment-in-power-sector>

February 03, 2022

Business Recorder

PM fine-tunes his China visit agenda

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Wednesday held consultations with industrialists and businessmen before his visit to China.

The prime minister during the meeting said on Wednesday that the government is pursuing a long-term policy to promote industries and to increase exports and it was important to consult with the business community before visiting China. The government will discuss enhancing ties between Pakistani and Chinese industrialists and setting up joint ventures, he added. The premier also expressed gratitude to the industrialists and businessmen for increasing the salaries of the employees on his request as the government is aware of inflation in the world market and the consequent burden on the people and steps are being taken to protect the common man from the effects of inflation.

The government and prominent industrialists have agreed to increase the minimum monthly wage on Wednesday.

The premier said that the industrialists and businessmen should work with the government to provide relief to the common man.

He further stated that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had included IT and textile export policy in its party's manifesto even before it came to power, the fruits of which are now clearly visible.

The country's 10 largest companies made a profit of Rs929 billion last year due to business-friendly policies of the government.

He said that exports of the textile sector reached a record level and are expected to increase significantly during the ongoing fiscal year and the government focus is now on IT and textiles as well as defense manufacturing and engineering. According to the Prime Minister's Office, the Chief of Army Staff said that there are vast opportunities in the defense manufacturing sector that can be exploited through public-private partnerships. He said that for the development of the country will fully support the implementation of government policies.

The prime minister said that the government is focusing on promoting small and medium enterprises which will improve the economic conditions of the middle and poor class. There are ample opportunities in IT, agriculture, livestock, machinery and textile sectors to increase exports, he added

The industrialists said that they fully supported the government's business-friendly policies and passed on the benefits of increasing profits to the lower classes. They made suggestions for

increasing exports, promoting small and medium enterprises, improving the tax system and visiting China.

Leading industrialists Saqib Shirazi (Honda Atlas), Ali Asghar Jamali (Indus Motors), Ghiasuddin Khan (Engro), Sikandar Mustafa (Millat Tractor), Hamid Zaman (Sefam) Shahid Abdullah (Sapphire), Khurram Mukhtar (Pakistan Textile Exporters) Association), Zahid Bashir (Gul Ahmed), Azam Farooq (Charat Cement), Khalil Sattar (K&N), Abdul Rahim and Gohar Ijaz (APTMA).

Also present were federal ministers, Shaukat Tarin, Asad Umar, Hamad Azhar, Khusro Bakhtyar, Fawad Chaudhry, Trade Adviser Abdul Razzak Dawood, Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Minister of State Farrukh Habib, Special Assistant Dr Shahbaz Gul, and senior officers.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/03/1-page/917471-news.html>

CPEC-IPPs contracts

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is set to float proposals to Chinese government for renegotiation on contracts of power projects established under CPEC on the pattern of other IPPs or to purchase 1200-MW electricity from Pakistan for onward supply to Afghanistan, well informed sources in CPEC Authority told Business Recorder.

These proposals will be presented to Chinese top leadership during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China commencing from Thursday (today).

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CPEC, Khalid Mansoor has finalised all the proposals with respect to issues of CPEC projects, their resolution mechanism and future cooperation in different sectors.

According to CEPC Authority, over-dues/ receivables of CPEC IPPs are now Rs 200 billion, and IPPs may default because of rising prices of coal in the international market. IPPs may also suspend the operations of power plants as per suspension clauses of the signed Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).

“Prime Minister will draw attention of Chinese top brass to the exceptional rise in capacity payments because of near simultaneous arrival of new capacity from projects undertaken under CPEC,” the sources added.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has been informed that if the pacts with the CPEC IPPs are similarly re-negotiated, an initial working suggests that Pakistan can save \$ 14.29 billion over the life of these projects which comes to an average of \$0.48billion per year for average project life of 30 years.

According to sources, when initial inquiries were made with the Chinese officials to explore the possibility of seeking a similar support from CPEC-IPPs, it was indicated that doing so would

not be in line with the spirit of CPEC as it would seriously affect the sanctity of contracts signed under CPEC framework agreement.

The sources maintained that it was further said that the Chinese government would not view favourably the underlying fact that such a demand may be coming at the behest of the IFIs and other western lenders.

An alternate option to offset the cost i.e. \$ 0.47 billion per year can be to sell power to China for further provision of electricity to Afghanistan, the sources said, adding that Pakistan can offer China to consider provision of electricity to Afghanistan through Pakistan for 30 years as part of their development assistance to Afghanistan. China through a contract may buy power from Pakistan and provide it to Afghanistan either at cost or at reduced rates as per its political terms. Pakistan can allocate power from its power pool to China, the sources said, adding that China can also offer to lay transmission line connecting Pakistan grid to the nearest point in Afghanistan and invest in their grid.

The power balance of Pakistan till 2030 shows that Pakistan has a surplus power of at least 3,970 MW, which will increase over time.

Pakistan will supply power on its power purchase basket price on the basis of energy transfer rate and capacity transfer rate already in place for transfer pricing of power generation cost to the Discos and KE which is currently Rs 12/ Unit approximately.

The sources said through sale of 1200MW to China, Pakistan will earn approx Rs 100 billion (\$0.57 billion) per year from the year of supply of power and for 30 years the savings will be to the tune of Rs 3,000 billion at current prices.

Meanwhile, sources in Commerce Ministry told Business Recorder that Prime Minister will also seek support from Chinese leadership to increase exports by \$3 billion per annum. Commerce Ministry has shared its talking points with the Prime Minister, who is also Minister Incharge Commerce. Pakistan will request China to enhance the rice quota.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/03/1-page/917473-news.html>

PM's visit to take Pakistan-China ties to new heights: FO

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office hoped that Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China from February 3-6, 2022, will renew the bilateral commitment to taking the iron-clad partnership between the two countries to new heights and add impetus to cooperation across multiple domains.

In a statement, the Foreign Office said that after receiving the special invitation of the Chinese leadership, Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit China from February 3-6, 2022 to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games.

The prime minister will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, comprising Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry, Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar, Minister for Finance Shaukat Tarin, National

Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CPEC Khalid Masoor, and senior government officials.

During the visit, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang.

The leaders will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). They will also have wide-ranging exchange of views on major regional and international issues, according to the statement.

The prime minister's visit would mark the culmination of celebrations commemorating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, with more than 140 events organised to showcase the resilience of the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership amid the Covid-19 pandemic and the unfolding international situation. "It would thus renew the bilateral commitment to taking the iron-clad partnership between Pakistan and China to new heights and add impetus to cooperation across multiple domains," it stated, adding that a number of MoUs and agreements would be concluded during the visit. As a global event, the Olympic Games foster mutual understanding, inclusivity and friendship among the peoples of the world. Beijing will soon become the first city to host both summer and winter editions of the Olympic Games.

"It is highly admirable that the Chinese government has made meticulous arrangements for holding the Winter Olympic Games despite the Covid-19 pandemic," the statement added. While in Beijing, the statement added that the prime minister would also meet prominent business leaders of China and representatives of leading Chinese think-tanks, academia, and the media. The prime minister will also have other bilateral interactions on the sidelines, it added.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/03/2-page/917482-news.html>

Daily Times

PM leaves for four-day visit to China today

Prime Minister Imran Khan will be leaving for China today (Thursday) on a four-day visit during which he will attend the Winter Olympics 2022 in Beijing and meet with President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang.

According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office (FO), Imran's Feb 3-6 visit has been scheduled on the Chinese leadership's special invitation and he will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including members of the Cabinet and senior government officials. The statement said in meetings between the premier and the Chinese leadership, the entire gamut of bilateral relations would be reviewed, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

“They will also have wide-ranging exchange of views on major regional and international issues,” the statement added. The prime minister’s visit is taking place after nearly two years and it will mark the culmination of celebrations commemorating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, according to the FO.

In this regard, the statement said, more than 140 events had been organized to “showcase the resilience of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership amidst the Covid-19 pandemic and the unfolding international situation”. “It (the visit) would thus renew the bilateral commitment to taking the iron-clad partnership between Pakistan and China to new heights and add impetus to cooperation across multiple domains.”

According to the FO statement, a number of memoranda of understanding and agreements would be concluded during the visit, and the prime minister would also meet prominent business leaders of China and representatives of leading Chinese think-tanks, academia and the media.

“The prime minister will also have other bilateral interactions on the sidelines,” the statement said. The statement also highlighted the importance of the Olympics, describing the global event as a means to “foster mutual understanding, inclusivity and friendship among the peoples of the world”.

“Beijing will soon become the first city to host both summer and winter editions of the Olympic Games. It is highly admirable that the Chinese government has made meticulous arrangements for holding the Winter Olympic Games despite the Covid-19 pandemic,” the statement read. Prime Minister Imran Khan Wednesday expressed the confidence that his visit to China would take the strong bilateral relations to new heights. He expressed these views while chairing a high-level meeting ahead of his upcoming visit.

The prime minister was given a detailed briefing on projects related to China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Special Economic Zones, trade, information technology and agriculture.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers including Shaukat Tareen, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Asad Umar and Hammad Azhar, Commerce Adviser Abdul Razak Dawood, State Minister Farrukh Habib, National security Adviser Dr Moeed Yousaf, Special Assistant Shahbaz Gill and Khalid Mansoor. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan strongly condemned a recent attempted missile attack by the Houthi rebels against the UAE in a telephone call with Abu Dhabi’s Crown Prince Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. In a series of tweets, the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) said the prime minister had a telephone call with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

“The prime minister strongly condemned the recent attempted missile attack by Houthis against the UAE on January 30. He commended the timely and effective air defence response of the UAE that saved valuable precious lives,” said the tweets. The PMO said the premier “expressed abiding solidarity” with the UAE’s leadership, government and people, says a news report.

“He expressed deep concern over the recent escalation in attacks that have seriously threatened regional peace and security. The prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan’s abiding support for efforts to protect and promote regional peace and security through dialogue and diplomacy,” said the PMO. Apart from the recent attack, the two leaders also “discussed bilateral cooperation and issues of mutual interest”.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/879402/pm-leaves-for-four-day-visit-to-china-today/>

Shanghai Electric unearths first seam in Thar Block-I

Shanghai Electric celebrated discovery of the first seam in its 7.8-million-ton per annum open-pit coal mining project in Tharparkar district, Sindh, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

The 145-metre deep coal seam has an estimated reserve of 3 billion tons of coal deposits, according to the company. The Sino-Sindh Resources Ltd. (SSRL) Coal Mine Project is part of the Thar Coal Block-I Integrated Coal Mining and Power Project sponsored by Shanghai Electric under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The over \$3 billion integrated project also includes a 1,320 megawatts coal-fired power project, which is also near completion. The project is most awaited in Pakistan for being a major source of reliable and affordable indigenous coal-based electricity.

An official of the media wing of Shanghai Electric’s Pakistan operations told Gwadar Pro that a ceremony was held to celebrate unearthing of the first coal layer, which was attended by the Chinese and Pakistani staff members of the company. The official also shared a picture of the ceremony, with the mine workers gathered at the site where the first coal layer was unearthed, and holding out a banner inscribed as, “Warmly celebrate disclosure of Coal Seam A of Pakistan’s Thar Coal Mine Project”.

Ziarat Khan, a senior mining engineer, told Gwadar Pro that it was a breakthrough achievement for Shanghai Electric. The relatively lesser depth of the first seam indicates that the site has vast reserves of coal, he said. This success means that the company is ready to start commercial operations in near future, he elaborated.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/879348/shanghai-electric-unearths-first-seam-in-thar-block-i/>

Latest facilities at Winter Olympics impress Pakistani ski player

Pakistani ski player Muhammad Karim voiced on his enthusiasm and excitement about his upcoming participation in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics scheduled from February 4 to 20. “I’m very excited and fully prepared to participate in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. I heard that they used the very latest technologies on ski slopes and the world’s best sports facilities there. I can’t wait to see all these things,” the Pakistani giant slalom skier Muhammad Karim told China Economic Net.

Muhammad Karim, the only skier from Pakistan who is from Naltar, a village in Gilgit-Baltistan, said participating in the Winter Olympics is a great chance to put Pakistan on the map of

international sports. “I am confident to give my best performance in Beijing and win the hearts of the Pakistani people,” he added. Muhammad Karim is the only Pakistani skier to have participated in two Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, and Pyeongchang, South Korea.

“I want to congratulate China on holding Olympics despite the difficult situation of COVID-19 and the good measures been taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. I wish a great success of the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics,” he remarked. Karim will take to the slopes on 16th February at the China National Alpine Skiing Center, Yangqing District, Beijing.

“For the last three years, I have been preparing for these Olympics and my biggest dream is to participate in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics and give historical performance,” Karim mentioned. It is worth mentioning that the 26-year-old Muhammad Karim is a young skier who started skiing at the age of four under the guidance of his father and elder brother, despite the lack of facilities in this sport. Pakistan’s delegation will reach Beijing on 2 February; Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination, Dr. Fahmida Mirza will lead the Pakistani delegation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/879337/latest-facilities-at-winter-olympics-impress-pakistani-ski-player/>

Dawn News

Govt hoping PM Imran’s China trip can reinvigorate CPEC

Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: The government hopes that Prime Minister Imran Khan’s four-day trip to China, which starts on Thursday (today), will reinvigorate the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

“Twenty-one different sectors have been identified to be discussed with the Chinese leadership,” Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry told Dawn on Wednesday after attending a series of meetings chaired by Mr Khan at the Prime Minister House.

The sectors to be discussed during the PM’s visit are related to the Special Economic Zones created under CPEC, trade, information technology, agriculture and the relocation of massive Chinese industries to Pakistan.

In a statement, the Foreign Office said PM Khan would hold bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang.

Officials say govt hopes to open up 21 new sectors under the project, including trade, IT and agriculture

“The leaders will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation including CPEC,” the statement said.

The FO also said that the prime minister was visiting China on the invitation of the Chinese leadership.

There has been a general impression that CPEC had slowed down ever since the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) came to power three years ago. However, the government expects the PM's upcoming visit would be a boost for projects that are either being executed or have yet to be launched under the ambit of CPEC.

Prime Minister Khan has repeatedly said that his government had changed the focus of CPEC from road infrastructure to industrialisation, energy and agriculture.

PM's Special Assistant on CPEC Khalid Mansoor told Dawn that this time around, they were better prepared and had done a comparative analysis of the opportunities Pakistan could provide to Chinese investors.

He said there were 10 different sectors that both countries discussed bilaterally in joint working group meetings, but said that meetings had been arranged with influential Chinese industrialists, who will meet the PM during his visit.

According to the Foreign Office, the prime minister will be meeting with prominent business leaders, representatives of leading Chinese think-tanks, academia and the media during his stay in Beijing.

Meanwhile, chairing a high level meeting ahead of his upcoming visit to China, the prime minister on Wednesday expressed confidence that his trip would take the strong bilateral ties that already existed between the two countries, to new heights.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers including Shaukat Tareen, Fawad Chaudhry, Asad Umer and Hammad Azhar as well as Commerce Adviser Abdul Razak Dawood, State Minister Farrukh Habib, National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yousuf and Special Assistant Shahbaz Gill along with Khalid Mansoor.

In addition to meetings on CPEC, PM Khan will also attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games during his visit to China.

"It is highly admirable that the Chinese government has made meticulous arrangements for holding the Winter Olympic Games despite the COVID-19 pandemic," the FO statement.

The prime minister's visit will mark the culmination of celebrations commemorating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, with more than 140 events organized to showcase the resilience of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic and the unfolding international situation.

"It would thus renew the bilateral commitment to taking the iron-clad partnership between Pakistan and China to new heights and add impetus to cooperation across multiple domains," the FO statement said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1673006/govt-hoping-pm-imrans-china-trip-can-reinvigorate-cpec>

Without structural reforms, CPEC won't yield results, says ADB

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan can harness its strategic geopolitical potential, improve regional and international economic connectivity and become an economic hub for Asia if the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is implemented successfully, but without structural reforms the country will not be able to achieve optimal benefits.

This was stated by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in a fresh report released on Wednesday. The study “Economic Corridor Development in Pakistan: Concept, Framework, and Case Studies” coincided with Prime Minister Imran Khan’s three-day visit to China along with a high-level delegation of cabinet members and government officials.

“If CPEC is successfully implemented, Pakistan can harness its strategic geopolitical location, improve its regional and international economic connectivity, enhance industrial development, and become an economic hub for Central, South, and West Asia,” observed the ADB.

“However, the CPEC alone will not bring optimal results. Structural reforms for private sector development are needed as well. Also, tax reforms are essential to broaden the tax base and enhance the perceived fairness of the tax system. Infrastructure built under the CPEC should be fully utilised to expand trade and regional cooperation,” the study observed.

Study says Pakistan should transform its economy through export-led growth

The report blamed poor export performance largely on low productivity and a lack of competitiveness, but said an unfavourable trade policy environment also played a key role.

An overvalued exchange rate and escalation of tariff on imported raw materials and intermediate goods could have contributed to a fall in exports, resulting in a consistently large trade deficit, which stood at \$32.8 billion in FY2019.

The study said exporters had often faced a liquidity crunch due to non-payment of sales tax refunds and duty drawbacks.

The increase in interest rates to 13.25pc in 2019 had substantially raised the cost of capital to firms, which may further dampen investment and exports.

“Through market reforms, Pakistan needs to transform its economy into an export-led growth trajectory. In addition to improving the economy’s competitiveness and productivity with a vibrant private sector, it is critical to attracting domestic and foreign investments to support this transformation,” it added.

The Manila-based lending agency advised the government to “expedite the development of the nine special economic zones (SEZs) planned along the CPEC routes” as it noted that urban development and economic corridor development (ECD) were inextricably linked, with urban

centres being the focus of labour, capital, technology, knowledge, innovation and structural transformation. “Therefore, a successful ECD strategy should aim to harmonise industry development and urbanisation,” it said.

“As cities become urbanised and industrialised, addressing challenges such as infrastructure deficits, overstretched public services, and environmental stress will be crucial. While cities in Pakistan are still vibrant, they are becoming increasingly disorderly, complex and congested, making it imperative to identify and address the constraints on building well-performing urban centres and integrating infrastructure public service systems,” the study noted.

The government, it said, implicitly treated urbanisation and industrialisation as separate processes and had designated different governance systems to manage them. Furthermore, local government units generally do not consider local economic development as part of their mandate and, therefore, do not actively promote industrialisation.

The ADB advised the government to develop an evidence-based targeted strategy for delivering affordable and reliable public services, including the public transport system, water supply and sanitation facilities, solid waste management, education and skills development.

Second, it should ensure access to affordable housing for factory workers and the low-income labour force. Third, the roles and responsibilities of the federal, provincial and local governments need to be streamlined, and vertical governance imbalances in revenue generation should be reduced. In this way, essential public services like education and health can be fully provided. Also, adopting a public-private partnership strategy could fill the gap for fiscal space.

Fourth, SEZs should be fully utilised as a spatial economic unit to create synergy between urban and industrial development processes.

The SEZ-based industrial and urban development has become one mode of expanding urban spaces in several countries.

The study said the international experience suggests that economic corridors succeed on the basis of latent economic potential and prospects as the corridor thrives and rides on the inherent economic potential of a region to attract private investment.

The starting point is selecting and prioritising a geographic area based on identified and bankable existing and future economic potential-based robust economic and technical analysis to build on economic potential and develop strategies to prioritise the most productive way to allocate scarce resources to create business opportunities, infrastructure needs and policy and regulatory requirements.

On top of that, political commitment at the highest levels of the government and coordination among the diverse government agencies are essential to incorporate ECD in a country’s overall economic plan.

“Based on the framework presented in this study, successful ECD planning and implementation in Pakistan must focus on the three pillars — infrastructure development, urban development and

industrial development — and the four key drivers: economic potential, institution and regulation, sustainability and inclusiveness and external factors as described above,” the study concluded.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1673012>

Dunya News

Pak-China relations higher than Himalayas, deeper than oceans: Fawad

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhary Fawad Hussain has expressed the confidence that the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Beijing will further expand Pakistan-China relations.

Briefing the media persons in Islamabad today (Thursday) ahead of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s visit, he said Pakistan-China relations are higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans.

The Information Minister said Prime Minister Imran Khan will hold meetings with the Chinese President and the Chinese Premier. In addition, he said the Prime Minister is scheduled to meet the Chinese investors and businessmen.

He said more Chinese businessmen will come and shift their industries to Pakistan after the visit of the Prime Minister.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/639613-Pakistan-China-relations-higher-than-Himalayas-deeper-than-oceans-Fawad>

The Express Tribune

IK’s visit to China proves ‘uniqueness’ of Pak-China ties

Pakistan’s stance of supporting Beijing Winter Olympics highlights the uniqueness of China-Pakistan relationship

On January 13, Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced that Prime Minister Imran Khan would visit China to attend the opening ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. At a time when many western political forces are trying to politicise this sporting event, Pakistan’s prompt and clear stance of supporting Beijing Winter Olympics shows a critical attitude toward the politicisation of sports, and highlights the uniqueness of China-Pakistan relationship.

The China-Pakistan relationship is unique. Over the 70 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the strategic friendship has been rock-solid despite the changing international situation. When facing various difficulties, both sides help each other at first hand. Since Imran Khan became Prime Minister in 2018, he has continued this good momentum and enriched the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan, which is “higher than the mountains, deeper than the seas, and sweeter than honey”, firmly supported

each other on issues regarding their respective core interests. After the Covid-19 outbreak, Pakistan's President Arif Alvi visited China in March 2020, showing the world that China was a safe place and doing a good job in addressing the pandemic situation.

Moreover, when holding international events, both sides congratulate each other like relatives. In November 2018, soon after he became PM, Imran Khan attended the First China International Import Expo as the guest of honour to show his support. In April 2019, PM Imran attended the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF), and paid a visit to China in October the same year while attending the closing ceremony of the International Horticultural Exhibition 2019 in Beijing. It is fair to say that the leaders of both countries visit each other really like relatives.

The Covid outbreak has hampered the physical visits between China and Pakistan, but not the strategic friendship between the two countries. China has not only supported Pakistan to fight against the pandemic, but also overcome difficulties to timely complete a series of major projects under CPEC with joint efforts, providing a strong long-lasting impetus for Pakistan's economic recovery and development after the pandemic.

The pandemic has intensified the strategic rivalry between the US and China. The Trump administration inaugurated a foreign policy of containment of China, and the subsequent Biden administration continued and intensified this rivalry with Beijing. In the process, Pakistan has repeatedly voiced its opposition to approaches that could lead the world back to group confrontation, by rejecting US pressure to set up military bases in Pakistan after its withdrawal from Afghanistan, and refusing to participate in the so-called Summit for Democracy cobbled together by the US. Pakistan made clear its desire to serve as a bridge that brings countries together. PM Imran understands pretty well the US foreign policy towards Pakistan, and believes that Pakistan will only be "considered useful" if it can help the US deal with the "mess" in Afghanistan. Moreover, he clearly pointed out, "I think that the Americans have decided that India is their strategic partner now, and I think that's why there's a different way of treating Pakistan now."

The all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan went through thick and thin. It withstood the attacks done by some terrorist forces against Chinese personnel and projects. It also faced challenges posed by some Western media which always try to "sow discord" by quoting some "deviants" in Pakistan to amplify the negative comments about the bilateral friendship, and make many people beguiled due to lack of information. The New York Times recently published an article, pretending to be serious about cautioning Pakistan not to "put all its eggs in one basket", and that CPEC entrapped the country. While the truth is that for the past 70 years or so, it has been the West, especially the US and the UK, that have entrapped Pakistan. They never think seriously on how to help Pakistan develop its economy.

Prime Minister Imran's visit shows that despite different voices, his government's choice is to further deepen China-Pakistan relations, which will remain rock-solid.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2341650/iks-visit-to-china-proves-uniqueness-of-pak-china-ties>

Khan's Beijing visit and Pak-US relations

China must also figure out how to reorient Pakistan's governance in favour of quick decision-making and execution

Prime Minister Imran Khan's Beijing visit will most likely take the Sino-Pakistan relations to new levels. And there is a whole context to it.

Over a year into President Biden's presidency, the Chinese leadership has anxiously watched how his administration has continued to snub Pakistan in the context of bilateral relations, literally downgraded official contacts — as of now — to the level of Wendy Sherman, the Deputy Secretary of State. Islamabad has been without a full-time ambassador since Richard Olson left. The delay in the agreement over ambassador-designate Masood Khan since November is perhaps another sign of the 'pause' in relations.

Even secret diplomacy shuttles between Islamabad and Washington yielded little and could not elicit a phone call to the Prime Minister — either by Foreign Secretary Anthony Blinken or the President himself. Such cold-shouldering entails consequences.

Let us look back to some of the events around Pakistan-US relations and why Khan's Beijing visit could turn a substantially new leave to the context of new geo-political realities.

On September 14 (2021) Blinken had told the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee that Pakistan has a "multiplicity of interests, [with] some that are in conflict with ours".

"It is one that is involved hedging its bets constantly about the future of Afghanistan, it's one that's involved harbouring members of the Taliban [...] It is one that's also involved in different points [of] cooperation with us on counterterrorism," Blinken had said in a stage-setting remark.

Then came the shocker from Wendy Sherman on October 8, and that too in New Delhi.

"We [US] don't see ourselves building our broad relationship with Pakistan and we have no interest in returning to the days of a hyphenated India, Pakistan," she said, adding that her trip to Pakistan was aimed at accomplishing a "specific and narrow purpose [Afghanistan]".

No hyphenation with Pakistan anymore, Sherman underlined and then went on to explain the strategic alignment with India. "We all need to make sure that we have the capabilities that we need to ensure everybody's security, including India's, of course. So I am going to have some very specific conversations, continuing conversations that Secretary [Antony] Blinken has had [with Pakistan]."

The diplomatic bombshell she dropped in the context of Indo-US security concerns was: "I will share information from my trip to Islamabad with [friends in] New Delhi."

And hence, Sherman's Islamabad visit the same day turned out to be a damp squib.

The Democracy Summit that President Biden hosted on December 9 and 10 caused further fissures in relations: PM Khan was placed in an insignificant session and offered to participate only via a three-minute, pre-recorded speech.

Khan and his advisers politely declined because they saw this as another expression of Washington's arrogance and humiliation of a country it had relied on for two of its Afghan wars and the cooperation in the massive evacuation of tens of thousands of Americans from Afghanistan in August-September last year.

Had PM Khan's 'Absolutely Not' in an interview in response to the possibility of military basis bruised the American ego beyond redemption? Some quarters within the civil-military power structures had expressed displeasure over Khan's 'undiplomatic' remarks. They also tried — apparently in vain — to romp the wavering relations back on track.

And here we are in February 2022; Imran Khan is back in Beijing with a loaded agenda and number of sideline meetings with top Chinese leaders including, of course, President Xi Jinping.

Does this Winter Olympics-related meeting mark a new era in the Pak-China relations to the context of how the US has treated Pakistan?

Both Pakistan and China are already tied in the CPEC strategic relationship which they can now take to a new level through a win-win ever closer cooperation. It will, nevertheless, require a much stronger Chinese support in view of Pakistan's financial woes, which are weighing it down.

Chinese leadership meanwhile also experienced the administrative and technical limitations of Pakistan's tardy governance system that is hostage to the British-era governance mindset such as: a) the labyrinth of administrative barriers; b) multiple layers of approvals; and c) considerable head-winds i.e. anti-China lobbies within the system that have worked to stall or slow-down projects wherever possible.

Beside more cash infusion, the Chinese must also figure out as to how to reorient Pakistan's governance in favour of quick decision-making and execution. Special Economic Zones, for instance, bear zero value if Pakistani governments put them through the normal procedures. The lingering Rashakai SEZ is one glaring example of lost time and opportunities.

The SEZs in China came about with the central government declaring them as state enterprise and hence allowed no legal or administrative bottlenecks to stop or slow implementation.

A similar solid advice to Pakistan would not be out of place; a SEZ requires undiluted, unqualified and swift execution with the authority of the state of Pakistan and cannot be thrown at the mercy of provincial governments and their sleepy allied departments.

The Beijing date certainly offers both countries to review their relative strengths and weaknesses in order to help each other to the context of deepening geopolitical divisions across the globe.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2341654/khans-beijing-visit-and-pak-us-relations>

The Nation

Pakistan to look at joint ventures as PM leaves for China today

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan Wednesday said the government was promoting small and medium businesses to improve the financial conditions of middle and poor segments of the society.

He said the government was also implementing a long-term policy to promote industries and boost exports.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with the delegation of prominent industrialists and businessmen. He said the government was cognizant of the impacts of global price hike upon the people and was taking all steps to save them. He also stressed upon the industrialists and businessmen to support the government in its efforts to provide relief to the common man. During the meeting, it was agreed to increase the minimum monthly wages of the workers.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa, federal ministers including Shaukat Tarin, Asad Umar, Hammad Azhar, Khusru Bakhtyar, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Adviser on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood, Minister of State Farrukh Habib, Special Assistant Shahbaz Gill and other senior officials were also present during the meeting, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

The industrialists who attended the meeting included Saqib Shirazi (Honda Atlas), Ali Asghar Jamali (Indus Motors), Ghayyas-ud-din Khan (Engro), Sikandar Mustafa (Millat Tractors), Hamid Zaman (SEFAM), Shahid Abdullah (Sapphire), Khurram Mukhtar (Pakistan Textile Exporters Association), Zahid Bashir (Gul Ahmad), Azam Farooq (Chirat Cement), Khalil Sattar (K&N), and Abdul Raheem and Gohar Ejaz (APTMA).

The prime minister further observed that the textile exports policy had been a part and parcel of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's manifesto, prior to coming into the government and now its impacts were being apparently felt.

Due to the business friendly policies of its government, ten top companies of the country had posted a profit of Rs 929 billion last year, he said, adding the PTI's government had taken historic steps for the promotion of investment and businesses, which had never been introduced by any past government.

PM also observed that trickle down effects of such record profit should also reach to the labour community.

“The textile sector exports have reached the historic level of \$21 billion and it is expected to touch \$26 billion in the next year,” a press release in Urdu language quoted the prime minister as saying. The prime minister said Pakistan had become the fourth largest motorcycle manufacturing country in the world.

The production of tractors witnessed an increase of 10 per cent whereas its 90 per cent parts were being locally manufactured.

He underlined the need to further focus on defence production and engineering sectors, besides promotion of information technology and textile. The prime minister also thanked the industrialists and traders who had increased wages of their employees on his appeal.

He said he was holding consultations with the business community ahead of his visit to China. The government would stress upon joint ventures between the Pakistani and Chinese industrialists, he added.

The prime minister observed that huge opportunities existed in the IT, agriculture, livestock, machinery and textile sectors to further increase the country's exports.

During the meeting, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa referring to huge opportunities in the defence production sector underlined the importance of public-private partnership collaboration. He also assured to fully support the government's policies for the progress of country.

The industrialists also extended full support to the government's business friendly policies and assured to pass on the impacts of their profit earning to the lower tier. On the occasion, the delegation presented certain suggestions over increase in exports, promotion of small and medium entrepreneurs, and improvement in the tax system and the prime minister's upcoming visit to China.

'Taking bilateral ties to new heights'

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday expressed the confidence that his visit to China on Thursday would take the strong bilateral relations between the two countries to new heights.

He expressed these views while chairing a high-level meeting ahead of his upcoming four-day visit to China.

The prime minister was given a detailed briefing on projects related to China Pakistan Economic Corridor, Special Economic Zones, trade, information technology and agriculture.

The meeting was attended by federal ministers including Shaukat Tarin, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Asad Umar and Hammad Azhar, Commerce Adviser Abdul Razak Dawood, State Minister Farrukh Habib, National security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf, Special Assistant Shahbaz Gill and Khalid Mansoor.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, on the special invitation of the Chinese leadership, is visiting China from February 3 to 6, the Foreign Office said Wednesday.

"Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit China from February 3-6 to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games," the Foreign Office said in a statement issued ahead of the visit.

The prime minister will be accompanied by a high-level delegation including members of the cabinet and senior government officials.

As a global event, the Olympic Games foster mutual understanding, inclusivity and friendship among the peoples of the world. Beijing will soon become the first city to host both summer and winter editions of the Olympic Games.

“It is highly admirable that the Chinese government has made meticulous arrangements for holding the Winter Olympic Games despite the COVID-19 pandemic,” according to the statement.

The FO said during the visit, the prime minister would hold bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang.

“The leaders will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation including CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor),” it said.

A number of Memoranda of Understanding and Agreements will be concluded during the visit.

In Beijing, the prime minister will also meet prominent business leaders of China and representatives of leading Chinese think-tanks, academia and the media.

He will also have other bilateral interactions on the sidelines.

The two sides will also hold wide-ranging exchange of views on major regional and international issues.

The prime minister’s visit will mark the culmination of celebrations commemorating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, with more than 140 events organized to showcase the resilience of the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the unfolding international situation.

“It would thus renew the bilateral commitment to taking the iron-clad partnership between Pakistan and China to new heights and add impetus to cooperation across multiple domains,” the FO statement said.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-03/page-1/detail-0>

Beijing Olympics 2022

Yasir Habib Khan

The world has few sources of inspiration. The Beijing Winter Olympics 2022, given the plethora of challenges, is a new source. The credit for this goes to the Communist Party of China (CPC), its top leadership and President Xi Jinping for the XXIV Olympics Winter Games, ready to be held on February 4 with great fanfare.

There were attempts to politicise the mega sports event in the grab of human rights issues. Amnesty International pressed hard on the international community not to allow China to use the Winter Olympics in Beijing as a “sports washing opportunity”. In order to vilify China, obnoxious voices were raised pressuring UN human rights officials to release a report on

Xinjiang—where Washington accuses China of perpetrating a genocide against minority Uyghur Muslims—before the onset of the Olympics.

However, with a congenial strategy instead of adversarial, first Beijing took the world in confidence by stating that Xinjiang is thriving and claims with credence that Xinjiang contains no concentration camps rather camps are “vocational training centres” that are operational to support employment and fight religious extremism. Now there are reports that China has agreed to allow United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) Michelle Bachelet to visit Xinjiang in the first half of 2022 after the Beijing Winter Olympic Games.

From the Chinese side, all emphasis is on keeping the winter Olympics aloof from geo-political and geo-strategic dynamics. Indeed, the Olympics is a sport arena which welcomes solely games and athletes all over the world beyond any interests, tenets and affiliations.

Ensuring a zero Covid policy for the event, strict new COVID-19 restrictions have come into force in Beijing. All visitors to the capital must now show a negative COVID test result from the past 48 hours, while flights from higher risk areas within China will be cancelled or limited to one a day at reduced capacity. And the estimated 2,900 athletes must be fully vaccinated or face 21 days’ quarantine upon arrival. They will also be tested daily.

Notwithstanding the stern zero-covid strategy, the Chinese government has not tried to downplay the truth about the threat of the spread of Omicron. The Deputy Director of Epidemic Prevention and Control Office of Beijing, Winter Olympic Organising Committee, Huang Chun, said that China is fully prepared for possible Covid-19 infections inside the games bubble.

China has promised to deliver a “green and clean” Winter Olympics event, which gets underway on February 4. Organisers say they have prioritised protecting native species, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and cutting down on resources used.

The Olympics are hosted across three sites, and Yanqing will host the popular Alpine ski events. But the ski runs have been constructed in the middle of the Songshan nature reserve in Yanqing—over an area bigger than a thousand football pitches. The construction required removing more than 20,000 trees, which was done during the last few years.

The Beijing Olympics Committee (BOC) pledged to transplant the trees—along with 81 hectares (over 200 acres) of topsoil—to another location in the mountains north of the city. It worked closely with Beijing Forestry University, and claims that more than 90 percent of the trees have survived the move.

The organisers plan the Beijing Winter Olympics as the “first carbon-neutral games”. China has set an ambitious goal of delivering the games using 100 percent renewable energy. Over six years, the organisers have been constructing new wind and solar projects to deliver enough clean energy, not just for the Games, but for the whole of Beijing.

The authorities have also announced restrictions in the Beijing area on vehicles and industries that emit the most CO₂. The organizers have incidentally managed to reduce travel emissions by

deciding not to let in foreign spectators for Covid safety reasons—with only local spectators allowed.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-03/page-6/detail-3>

Jang News

چین سے تجارت کے مختلف امور پر گفتگو ہوگی: مشیر تجارت

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد کا کہنا ہے کہ چین کے ساتھ تجارت سے متعلق مختلف امور پر گفتگو کریں گے۔

یہ بات وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے دورہ چین سے قبل میڈیا سے گفتگو کے دوران کہی۔

ان کا کہنا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا دورہ چین انتہائی اہم ہے، چین کے ساتھ آزاد تجارتی معاہدے میں بہتری لائیں گے، اس کے ساتھ ایف ٹی اے کے تحت چند شعبوں میں بہتری لانی ہے۔

مشیر تجارت نے یہ بھی کہا کہ چاول، سینٹ، پھل اور سبزیوں سمیت زراعت کو ترجیح ہے، مخصوص شعبوں میں ترقی سے برآمدات میں اضافہ ہوگا، چین سے زرعی شعبے کے لیے ٹیکنالوجی حاصل کریں گے۔

واضح رہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان آج کچھ دیر بعد چین کے 4 روزہ دورے پر روانہ ہو رہے ہیں۔

وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات فواد چوہدری، وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ محمود قریشی، وزیر خزانہ شوکت ترین، وزیر منصوبہ بندی اسد عمر، مشیر قومی سلامتی معید یوسف، مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد اور معاون خصوصی برائے سی پیک خالد مصطفیٰ بھی ان کے ہمراہ ہوں گے۔

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی چینی وزیر اعظم لی کی چیانگ سے ہفتے کو جبکہ چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ سے اتوار کو ملاقات طے ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1045641>

Nawaiwaqt News

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا چینی قیادت کی خصوصی دعوت پر دورہ

عبدالستار چوہدری

وفاقی دارالحکومت کا درجہ حرارت تیزی سے بلند ہونا شروع ہو گیا ہے، سینٹ میں حکومت کا ترمیمی بل منظور ہونے کے بعد اپوزیشن کی ناکامی کے ذمہ دار ارکان سینٹ اور ایوان بالا میں اپوزیشن لیڈر ابھی تک تنقید کا ہدف بنے چلے آ رہے ہیں۔ دوسری جانب سپریم کورٹ بار ایسو سی ایشن کی جانب سے نواز شریف اور جہانگیر خان ترین کی تاحیات نااہلی کے خلاف عدالت عظمیٰ میں دائر کی گئی درخواست اعتراض لگا کر واپس کر دیا گیا ہے۔ اس درخواست میں صدر سپریم کورٹ بار احسن بیون کی جانب سے پیشین میں سپریم کورٹ کے 5 رکنی لارجر بینچ کے 62 ویں ایف کے تحت فیصلے کو چیلنج کیا گیا ہے۔ پی ڈی ایم میں شامل جماعتوں اور پیپلز پارٹی کی قیادت میں پڑنے والی دراڑ کی وجوہات اپنی جگہ اہم ہیں لیکن یہی تقسیم "کمزور" حکومت کی طاقت بنی ہوئی ہے، اپوزیشن جماعتوں کے حکومت مخالف احتجاج کو حد سے زیادہ بڑھتی ہوئی مہنگائی کی وجہ سے عوام میں بھی پذیرائی مل رہی ہے۔ حکومت کے خلاف صف آراء اپوزیشن جماعتوں کا اتحاد اگرچہ منقسم ہے لیکن پھر بھی آنے والے دنوں میں حکومت کے لئے معیشت جیسے مسائل کافی پریشانیوں

پیدا کرنے کا سبب بن سکتے ہیں۔ کیونکہ مولانا فضل الرحمان کی سربراہی میں پاکستان ڈیموکریٹک موومنٹ (پی ڈی ایم) نے 23 مارچ کو حکومت کے خلاف دھرنے کا اعلان کر رکھا ہے جب کہ پیپلز پارٹی نے ایک قدم آگے بڑھتے ہوئے حکومت کو گھر بھیجنے کا اعلان کرتے ہوئے 27 فروری کو لانگ مارچ کا اعلان بھی کر رکھا ہے۔

حکومت نے اگر بڑھتی ہوئی مہنگائی کو کم کرنے کے لئے فوری طور پر اقدامات نہ اٹھائے اور آئی ایم ایف سے حاصل کردہ پروگرام کے مطابق نیکسز کا نفاذ جاری رکھا تو حکومت کے خلاف یہ حالیہ اپوزیشن احتجاج نتیجہ خیز بھی ہو سکتا ہے۔ اپوزیشن سیاسی جماعتیں جہاں سیاسی طور پر حکومت کے لئے بے پناہ مشکلات پیدا کر رہی ہیں وہیں منقسم اپوزیشن ایوان بالا میں حکومت کے لئے باعثِ رحمت بھی ثابت ہوئی ہے بصورتِ دیگر اکثریت رکھنے والی اپوزیشن کی موجودگی میں سینیٹ سے حکومت سٹیٹ بینک ترمیمی بل کیسے منظور کروا سکتی تھی۔ اس بل کی سینیٹ سے منظوری کے بعد پیپلز پارٹی کے سینیٹ میں قائد حزب اختلاف یوسف رضا گیلانی کو اپنا عہدہ چھوڑنا پڑا اور پیپلز پارٹی اور دیگر اپوزیشن جماعتوں کے مابین کشیدگی میں اضافہ ہونے کے علاوہ حکومتی وزراء کو بھی اپوزیشن کو تنقید کرنے کا موقع ملا۔ وزراء کا کہنا تھا کہ عمران خان کے سامنے ساری اپوزیشن زیرِ وہ ہے۔ سینیٹ سے بل سٹیٹ بینک ترمیمی بل کی منظوری کے بعد اب حکومت کے لئے آئی ایم ایف پروگرام کی راہ میں حائل تمام رکاوٹیں دور ہو چکی ہیں اور معاشی مسائل کے حل میں حکومت کو کسی حد تک ریلیف مل چکا ہے۔

دوسری جانب وزیر اعظم عمران خان چینی قیادت کی خصوصی دعوت پر تین سے چھ فروری تک چین کا دورہ کر رہے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم کے ہمراہ کابینہ کے ارکان اور اعلیٰ سرکاری حکام سمیت اعلیٰ سطح کا وفد بھی چین کا دورہ کرے گا۔ تین روزہ دورے کے دوران وزیر اعظم عمران خان، چینی صدر شی جن پنگ اور چینی وزیر اعظم لی چیانگ سے ملاقاتیں بھی کریں گے۔ پاکستان اور چینی رہنما ملاقاتوں میں سی پیک سمیت مستحکم تجارتی اور بالخصوص اقتصادی تعاون سمیت دو طرفہ تعلقات کے تمام پہلوؤں کا جائزہ لیں گے۔ وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین سے قبل وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے مسلح افواج کے سربراہان سے ملاقاتیں کر چکے ہیں اور ان ملاقاتوں میں بھی وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین کے ساتھ ساتھ سی پیک کے پراجیکٹس پر بھی بات چیت ہوئی۔ وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین کے دوران پاکستانی اور چینی رہنما اہم علاقائی اور بین الاقوامی امور پر بھی وسیع پیمانے پر تبادلہ خیال کریں گے۔ وزیر اعظم بیجنگ میں چین کے ممتاز کاروباری رہنماؤں اور چین کے سرکردہ ٹیکنیکس، تعلیمی اداروں اور میڈیا کے نمائندوں سے بھی ملاقات کریں گے۔ صدر سپریم کورٹ بار کی سیاسی رہنماؤں کی تاحیات نااہلی کے خلاف پٹیشن کو وفاقی دارالحکومت کے بعض سیاسی حلقوں میں مسلم لیگ نواز اور اسٹیبلشمنٹ کے مابین ڈیل کے طور پر بھی دیکھا جا رہا ہے کیونکہ ان حلقوں کا ماننا ہے کہ پاکستان تحریک انصاف کی اتحادی حکومت عوام کو ریلیف دینے میں ناکام ہو چکی ہے اور گزشتہ ساڑھے تین سالوں میں حکومت کوئی ایسا کام نہیں کر سکی جس کو اس کریڈٹ میں دیکھا جاسکے۔ اب حلقوں کے مطابق اسٹیبلشمنٹ اب یہ محسوس کر رہی ہے کہ ملکی معیشت کی بحالی اس وقت سب سے بڑا چیلنج ہے اور معیشت کی بحالی سیاسی استحکام سے جڑی ہوئی ہے۔ جب کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان لیگ کی قیادت کے حوالے سے کسی بھی قسم کی چپک دکھانے کو تیار نہیں اور وفاق میں احتساب کے نئے مشیر کا تقرر بھی اسی سلسلے کی کڑی سمجھا جا رہا ہے۔ ادھر سپریم کورٹ کے سینئر ترین جج جسٹس عمر عطا بندیال نے 28 ویں چیف جسٹس آف پاکستان کے طور اپنے عہدے کا حلف اٹھالیا ہے۔ ایوان صدر میں منعقدہ پروکار تقریب میں صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی نے ان سے حلف لیا جب کہ تقریب میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے خصوصی طور پر شرکت کی۔ تقریب کے دیگر شرکاء میں سپیکر قومی اسمبلی اسد قیصر، ڈپٹی سپیکر قاسم خان سوری، وفاقی وزیر برائے اطلاعات و نشریات چوہدری فواد حسین، وزیر خارجہ محمود شاہ محمود قریشی، وفاقی وزیر برائے قانون و انصاف بیرسٹر ڈاکٹر نسیم فروغ سمیت دیگر وفاقی وزراء، وزرائے مملکت، ارکان پارلیمنٹ، جج صاحبان، وکلاء تنظیموں خصوصی توجہ سے کام لینا ہوگا۔ مندرجہ کے عہدیداروں اور سول و فوجی حکام شامل تھے۔ موجودہ حالات میں احتساب کا عمل کس رفتار سے مکمل ہوگا، عدلیہ کو بھی اس کیلئے بالاسطور کی اشاعت تک حکومت اور آئی ایم ایف کے مابین پروگرام کی بحالی کے لئے مذاکرات ہو رہے ہوں گے اور حکومت کو ایک ارب ڈالر کا فوری ریلیف مل سکتا ہے، یہ پروگرام تین سالہ مدت کا پروگرام تھا جو ستمبر میں مکمل ہو رہا ہے اور اگر یہ پروگرام اپنی مدت پوری کرتا ہے تو یہ پاکستان کی تاریخ میں دوسرا بڑا پروگرام ہوگا جو مکمل ہوگا۔ اس سے قبل سابق وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار کے دور میں آئی ایم ایف کے ساتھ پہلا پروگرام تکمیل تک پہنچا تھا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-03/page-9/detail-2>

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا دورہ چین، امیدیں اور توقعات

وزیر اعظم عمران خان آج عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے تین روزہ دورے پر روانہ ہو رہے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم کے وفد میں پانچ وفاقی وزراء بھی شامل ہوں گے۔ اپنے تین روزہ دورے میں وزیر اعظم چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ اور وزیر اعظم لی کی چیانگ سے ملاقاتیں کریں گے اور سرمایہ اور لمپس کی افتتاحی تقریب میں بھی شرکت کریں گے۔ وزیر اعظم اس موقع پر چین سے تین ملین ڈالر قرض کے حوالے سے بھی مذاکرات کریں گے۔ خطے میں بدلتی صورتحال اور پاکستان کے داخلی اور خارجی امور کے تناظر میں وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین کو سفارتی حلقوں میں غیر معمولی اہمیت کا حامل قرار دیا جا رہا ہے جس سے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دوستانہ تعلقات میں نہ صرف اضافہ ہو گا بلکہ خطے پر اسکے دور رس اثرات بھی مرتب ہوں گے۔

چین پاکستان سے ایک سال بعد آزاد ہوا لیکن اپنے رہنماؤں کی زیر قیادت آج ملک کو ترقی کی ان منازل پر پہنچا دیا ہے کہ جس کا تصور بھی نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔ ابتداء میں اسے بھی پاکستان کی طرح بہت سے داخلی مسائل کا سامنا رہا۔ بھوک، افلاس اسکے بنیادی چیلنجز تھے جبکہ خارجی سطح پر اس سے کوئی دوسرا ملک سفارتی تعلقات کرنے پر آمادہ نہیں تھا لیکن چین کے انقلابی رہنماؤں ماوزے تنگ اور چو این لائی نے ان چیلنجز کو قبول کیا اور اس ملک کو معاشی طور پر اپنے پیروں پر کھڑا کرنے کیلئے بہت سے انقلابی اقدامات کئے۔ ایک سوشلسٹ معیشت ہونے کی وجہ سے مغربی ممالک بھی اسے قبول کرنے سے گریزاں تھے جبکہ سرمایہ داری نظام کے پروردہ امریکہ اور اسکے حامی ممالک بھی چین سے دوستی کو تیار نہیں تھے۔ اس عالمی تنہائی کے باوجود چین کی قیادت نے ہمت نہیں ہاری اور اپنے ملک کو داخلی استحکام دینے میں جت لگائی۔ پاکستان وہ ملک تھا جس نے ابتدا ہی میں چین کے ساتھ دوستی کا ہاتھ بڑھایا۔ ایوب خان کے دور میں یہ دوستی مزید پروان چڑھی اور ذوالفقار علی بھٹو کے دور میں زیادہ مستحکم ہوئی۔ دونوں ممالک کی اعلیٰ قیادتوں نے باہمی دورے کئے۔ مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کے معاہدے کئے۔ یہ دوستی درحقیقت دو ملکوں کے درمیان نہیں بلکہ دونوں ملکوں کے عوام کے درمیان تھی۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ پاکستان میں آج تک جتنی بھی حکومتیں آئیں اور ادھر چین میں جو بھی حکمران آیا یہ دوستی کسی رکاوٹ کے بغیر پھلتی پھولتی رہی۔ یہاں تک کہ جب چین عالمی سطح پر تنہائی کا شکار تھا پاکستان نے چین کے امریکہ کے ساتھ تعلقات میں کلیدی کردار ادا کیا۔ جو دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات میں سنگ میل کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ چنانچہ پوری دنیا میں پاک چین دوستی ایک مثال بن کر سامنے آئی اور یہ جملہ زبان زد عام ہو گیا کہ پاک چین دوستی ہمالیہ سے بلند، سمندر سے گہری اور شہد سے میٹھی ہے۔ چین آج صدر شی جن پنگ کی مدبرانہ قیادت میں ترقی اور خوشحالی کی منازل تیزی سے عبور کرتا جا رہا ہے۔ چین کی یہ ترقی ہمہ جہت ہے۔ پاکستان کا قابل بھروسہ دوست ہونے کی بناء پر چین کی یہ ترقی و خوشحالی پاکستان کے حوالے سے بھی خوش آئند ہے کہ اسکے ثمرات پاکستان تک بھی پہنچ رہے ہیں۔

آج اس دوستی کی ہی کا ثمر ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین معاشی، سماجی، دفاعی، تعلیمی، صحت اور دیگر شعبوں میں ایک دوسرے کے گہرے شراکت دار بن چکے ہیں۔ پاکستان کے ساتھ ترقیاتی پارٹنرشپ کے باعث چین ہمارا دفاعی حصار بن چکا ہے۔ اس نے روڈ اینڈ بیلٹ کے نام سے جس عظیم الشان منصوبے کا آغاز کر رکھا ہے اس میں پاکستان کا بھی ایک حصہ ہے۔ اسی منصوبے کے تحت چائنا پاک اکنامک کارڈور (سی پیک) کے تحت پاکستان چین کے ساتھ منسلک ہے جس کے تحت بہت سے منصوبے زیر عمل ہیں اور اربوں روپے کی سرمایہ کاری کی گئی ہے۔ چین پاکستان کے راستے وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں کے ساتھ منسلک ہو رہا ہے۔ گوادر پورٹ بھی پاک چین دوستی کی نادر مثال ہے۔

جہاں تک پاکستان کا تعلق ہے، بین الاقوامی سطح پر اسے بعض سنجیدہ مسائل کا سامنا ہے۔ امریکہ کے پاکستان کے ساتھ تعلقات سرد مہری کا شکار ہیں۔ صدر جو بائیڈن کے اقتدار سنبھالنے کے بعد سے آج تک دونوں ممالک کے اعلیٰ عہدیداران کے درمیان رابطے اور تعلقات کا فقدان ہونے کی وجہ سے ایک کھپانوں کی کیفیت پائی جاتی ہے۔ افغانستان میں امریکہ کی حمایت یافتہ حکومت کے خاتمے اور طالبان کے اقتدار سنبھالنے کے موقع پر جس شرمناک انداز سے امریکی اور نیٹو ممالک کی اتحادی افواج کو افغانستان سے نکلنا پڑا،

امریکی قیادت اپنی اس خفت اور سبکی کا ذمہ دار پاکستان کو ٹھہراتی ہے۔ یہ الگ بات ہے کہ پاکستان نے امریکی فوجیوں کو بحفاظت نکالنے میں جو کردار ادا کیا، وہ اس امر کا متقاضی تھا کہ امریکہ پاکستان کا ممنون ہوتا لیکن اس کا رویہ بدستور غیر دوستانہ رہا۔ وہ پاکستان کے چین کی جانب جھکاؤ کو پسند نہیں کرتا، وہ سمجھتا ہے کہ پاکستان چین دوستی امریکی مفادات کو نقصان پہنچانے کا سبب بن رہی ہے۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ اس نے بھارت کے ساتھ تعلقات میں گرم جوشی کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہوئے اس سے دفاعی نوعیت کے متعدد معاہدے کر رکھے ہیں۔ امریکہ میں گزشتہ برس دسمبر میں ہونیوالی جمہوری ملکوں کی کانفرنس میں بھی پاکستان کی عدم شرکت پر اسے سخت غصہ ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں پاکستان افغانستان کی عبوری حکومت کو تسلیم کرنے اور اسکی انسانی بنیادوں پر امداد و اعانت کرنے کے بارے میں جس غیر معمولی دلچسپی کا مظاہرہ کرتا چلا آ رہا ہے اس سے بھی امریکہ کو اختلاف ہے اور وہ ہماری اس پالیسی کو اچھی نظر سے نہیں دیکھتا جس کا سب سے بڑا ثبوت آئی ایم ایف سے ڈیل اور ایف اے ٹی ایف کے حوالے سے اس کا پاکستان کے ساتھ انتقامی رویہ ہے۔ وہ پاکستان کو مالی اور معاشی طور پر پریشان کرنے کا کوئی موقع ہاتھ سے نہیں جانے دے رہا۔ سوان حالات میں پاکستان کے وزیر اعظم کا دورہ چین نہ صرف پاکستان بلکہ عالمی سطح پر بھی غیر معمولی اہمیت کا حامل قرار دیا جاسکتا ہے۔ پاکستان معاشی طور پر اس وقت جس بحران سے دوچار ہے۔ اس میں بہتری لانے کے لیے اسے غیر ملکی قرضوں کا سہارا لینا پڑ رہا ہے۔ عالمی مالیاتی ادارے (آئی ایم ایف) کے دروازے پر دستک دینا اور اس سے قرضے کی بھیک مانگنا اسکی جمہوری بن چکا ہے۔ مالی بحران سے نکلنے کیلئے پہلے پاکستان کو اپنے دوست ممالک سے رجوع کرنا پڑا۔ چنانچہ سعودی عرب، متحدہ عرب امارات کے علاوہ چین ہی وہ ملک ہے جس نے اس مشکل گھڑی میں ہمارا ساتھ دیا اور پاکستان کی غیر مشروط مدد کی ہے یہی وجہ ہے کہ بہت سے عالمی ایجنٹوں پر پاکستان اور چین کا موقف یکساں ہے۔ کشمیر کے معاملے میں چین نے جس طرح ہماری مدد کی، وہ کسی بھی اسلامی ملک سے زیادہ ہے۔ پاکستان نے چین کو اقوام متحدہ کی رکنیت دلانے اور پھر اسے سلامتی کونسل کا رکن بنوانے میں جو کردار ادا کیا تھا، چین اس کو ہمیشہ قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتا ہے۔

اب وزیر اعظم عمران خان چینی قیادت سے جو مذاکرات کریں گے، ان میں چین سے تین ملین ڈالر قرضہ کا حصول خاص طور پر قابل ذکر ہے جبکہ چین کو رونا و باہ سے عہدہ برآ ہونے کیلئے پاکستان کو پہلے ہی خاطر خواہ بیل آؤٹ پیکیج دے چکا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان آج بلاشبہ پاکستان کے ایک مخلص اور بے لوث دوست کے پاس جا رہے ہیں جس نے کبھی ہمیں مایوس نہیں کیا۔ اسکے دورہ چین سے باہم مل کر آگے بڑھنے کے جذبات کو مہینز ملے گی اور خطے پر بھی اسکے خوشگوار اثرات مرتب ہوں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-03/page-10/detail-10>

February 04, 2022

Business Recorder

Panel for enhanced role of provinces in CPEC security regime

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Committee on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has recommended to the Ministry of Interior that the dashboard on security should be linked with the provinces to bridge the gaps in the security regime of the CPEC.

The committee also recommended ensuring foolproof security to enhance the confidence of the investors and the overall security milieu in the country.

The Parliamentary Committee on CPEC met (in-camera) with MNA Sher Arbab in the chair at Parliament House, on Thursday.

The committee meeting was attended by the secretary, Ministry of Defence, secretary, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, additional secretary, Ministry of Defence,

additional secretary, Ministry of Interior, additional secretary, Home Department (Punjab), additional secretary, Home Department (Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa), Commandant, Special Protection Unit, Punjab Police and Commandant, Special Combat Unit, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Police.

The Committee discussed single-point agenda on the security of the CPEC.

The Committee was comprehensively briefed by representatives of the Ministry of Defence on the concept of security, the CPEC security challenges, initiatives taken by the government of Pakistan, and category of the CPEC projects, and its link with security arrangements and law enforcement agencies at the federal, provincial and regional levels.

Committee Chairman Sher Arbab said while highlighting the lacunas in coordination at various levels among ministries/ divisions responsible for the security of the CPEC recommended that meeting of the Joint Working Group on Security of the CPEC from Pakistan side be held regularly and its minutes be shared with the Committee.

At the outset, the Committee appreciated the sacrifices rendered by Pakistan Army for the defence of Pakistan and offered Fateha for the martyred soldiers in recent attacks at Punjgur and Noshki.

The Committee was of the view that most of the burden of security was being shouldered by the Pak Army. However, police and other stakeholders should also play their active role in dispensation of security mechanism.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/04/2-page/917602-news.html>

Minister says 100,000 tons of phosphate urea to be imported from China

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister for Food Security and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam has said that 100,000 ton phosphate urea would be imported from China in next few weeks. He was talking to media here on Thursday at Agriculture Institute (ARI) Tarnab before briefing on the Prime Minister's National Agriculture Emergency Programme and progress on Agriculture Transformation Plan.

He said that the government has provided Rs 8 billion to the provinces for giving subsidy on urea and the production of urea commodity had swelled to 6.3 million. He said that use of latest technology in agriculture research was imperative to achieve self-sufficiency in food services. The minister said that China had made rapid progress because of the use of modern technology and Pakistan had the potential to achieve new heights of economic development and achieve autarky in food by using latest techniques, innovations, mechanization and modern technology especially in agriculture and livestock sectors to earn maximum capital.

He said the country needed more scientists and new researches in agricultural development, adding that the great responsibilities rest on our scientists and PhD scholars of agriculture universities and colleges to prepare students for modern day challenges.

Fakhar Imam said he had held constructive meetings with Chinese agricultural scientists and invited them to visit the country's agriculture educational and research institutes to deliver lectures so that the students and young scholars could get more knowledge from their rich experiences.

The minister said agriculture was backbone of the country's economy and the government was making efforts to make modern agriculture technology part of the existing educational curriculum to broaden knowledge of students and get maximum agriculture, livestock and fisheries production.

Asked about KP's share in Agriculture Transformation Plan, the minister said that special projects were launched for increasing value addition of corps, fruits, vegetables, livestock and fisheries besides promoting floriculture.

The minister said US, Brazil and Argentina were leading exporters of edible oil while soyabean production of China and India has touched 240 million tons while Pakistan despite having great potential was spending huge amount on its imports.

A record production of wheat, rice, maize and sugarcane was witnessed last year and Pakistan was moving to achieve self-sufficiency in sugarcane this year, he added.

He said that 40,000 tons flour was being provided in the markets across the country per day including 6000 tons to 7000 tons in KP.

The government is providing subsidized wheat to flour mills to keep stability in prices of flour and minimize the burden on common man.

Later, during a presentation given by KP Secretary Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Dr Muhammad Israr about agriculture projects, the minister underlined the need for paying special focus on manufacturing, standardization and mechanization to increase agriculture productivity. He said Pakistan could earn substantial revenue by increasing cotton production. Mohibullah Khan, Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries said that prior to PTI government, the budget of the department was only Rs 2 billion that had now increased to record Rs 129 billion.

He said that 11 mega projects in agriculture, livestock and fisheries worth Rs 44,672.654 million had been launched in KP under the Prime Minister's National Agriculture Program that would bring green revolution in the province upon completion.

Secretary Agriculture, Dr Muhammad Israr briefed the minister about performance of the agriculture department including agriculture transformation plan, Kisan Cards, upgradation of research institutes of Tarnab Peshawar and Mingora Swat, tele-farming and digital services, establishment of seed industries, genetic improvement of cattle and introduction of 9211 services.

He said Rs 10,594.31 million were being spent on projects launched under Agriculture

Transformation Plan. About one lakh Kisan Cards were issued to the farmers and a subsidy to the tune of Rs 475 million were disbursed.

Earlier, the minister visited different sections and laboratories of ARI Tarnab and inquired about facilities being offered to farmers and research services.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/04/18-page/917703-news.html>

Daily Times

Red carpet rolled out as Imran lands in Beijing

Prime Minister Imran Khan arrived in Beijing Thursday evening for a four-day official visit that will include attending the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics and meetings with the Chinese leadership.

Imran will attend the event to express solidarity with Beijing as some countries have boycotted the forthcoming Winter Olympic Games being held in the Chinese capital. According to the PM Office, the premier was “accorded a red carpet welcome” upon his arrival at the Beijing Capital International Airport.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin, Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar, Information Minister Chaudhry Fawad, National Security Advisor Dr Moeed Yusuf, Advisor on Commerce Abdul Razzaq Dawood and Special Assistant on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Khalid Mansoor are accompanying him.

Besides attending the ceremony of the Beijing Olympics, the prime minister is scheduled to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang to discuss wide-ranging issues.

During the visit, a book titled “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor – Investment Opportunities in Pakistan,” will be presented to Chinese President Xi Jinping, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and businessmen.

Prior to departure, the accompanying ministers termed the prime minister’s visit to China of great significance.

Qureshi said PM Imran’s meeting with the Chinese leadership would focus on bilateral strategic partnership, regional matters, and peace and security in South Asia. On the other hand, Finance Minister Tarin said that the PM would propose to the Chinese leadership to relocate their industry in Pakistan’s Special Economic Zones for a win-win situation besides extending assistance in agriculture.

NSA Moeed Yousaf said the visit would provide an opportunity to discuss ways to improve peace in Afghanistan to end terrorism.

He said Pakistan and China collaboration on Afghanistan would play key role in averting a serious humanitarian crisis after the withdrawal of US forces.

In his video message on the recent visit of the Prime Minister to China where the NSA will also join the visiting delegation, he said it was a very important visit of the Prime Minister to China as both the dignitaries did not have any interaction since COVID-19 outbreak. Moeed said, “There will also be a broader discussion between the Pakistani and Chinese leadership on Afghanistan.” He added it was not important rather imperative for Pakistan to ensure stabilisation in Afghanistan.

“Peaceful and stable Afghanistan is of utmost importance to Pakistan after withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan,” said Dr Moeed Yusuf.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/879976/red-carpet-rolled-out-as-imran-lands-in-beijing/>

ICCI urges for learning from Chinese model to improve economy

The Business community on Thursday urged the government for learning from the Chinese model to cope with poverty and improve its economy as China had reportedly uplifted over 700 million poor people from poverty since its reform.

Besides opening up in the late 1970s, it had become the second-largest economy in the world in a short span of time, said Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

While addressing as chief guest an event organized by prominent businessman Muhammad Saleem Mughal to celebrate Chinese New Year, Shakeel Munir said that Chinese annual imports were around \$246 billion in December 2021, but Pakistan’s share in them was less than \$3 billion, which was quite negligible.

He urged the Pakistan business community to fully capitalize on the revised FTA with China to promote exports to this huge market of over 1.4 billion people.

The ICCI President said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was leaving for China on a four-day visit, during which he would attend the Winter Olympics 2022 in Beijing besides holding bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang.

He said that the prime minister would also meet with prominent business leaders of China and hoped that this visit would contribute towards further strengthening the bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries. Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year 2022 or Spring Festival fell on February 1st, 2022, starting the year of the Tiger.

The date of Chinese New Year changes every year, but it always falls between January 21st and February 20th.

The date is decided by the Chinese Lunar Calendar, which is based on cycles of the moon and sun and is generally 21–51 days behind the Gregorian (internationally used) calendar. In addition to China, many countries around the world issue zodiac stamps during the Spring Festival to express their blessings for the Chinese New Year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/879865/icci-urges-for-learning-from-chinese-model-to-improve-economy/>

Pakistan Observer

Reinvigoration of CPEC

GIVEN the unique nature of Pakistan-China relationship, any visit by high level dignitary to each other's country always assumes great significance.

The visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Beijing is being seen as an important one to fast track the multibillion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, the flagship project of BRI.

In an interview on Wednesday, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Fawad Chaudhry, said that twenty one different sectors have been identified to be discussed with the Chinese leadership during Prime Minister Imran Khan's China tour, which he expressed the confidence will help reinvigorate CPEC project.

This very friendship is blossoming into the hearts of the peoples of two countries and the CPEC has turned this relationship into a strategic economic partnership.

Indeed this is a win-win project for the two countries which carry immense benefits for the region in terms of trade and economic integration.

A state-of-the-art road infrastructure has been developed in Pakistan under the CPEC which has improved connectivity and facilitating both the farmers and industrialists to transport their products to the markets in a most secured and swift manner.

However, as we have been emphasizing in these columns, there is a need to fully operationalize the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the CPEC.

For this, the very meetings of Prime Minister Imran Khan in Beijing with the Chinese leadership as well as the businessmen will be important one as their investment and that too in big numbers is what Pakistan looking for to populate the SEZs and realize the long cherished dream of taking the country towards rapid industrialization.

This will create job opportunities for our youths in abundance and also contribute to the economic growth.

Both the countries have always stood by each other in difficult times and we are confident that the Chinese leadership and investors will be more forthcoming to help Pakistan tread the path of industrial and technological revolution which is the only way through which we can achieve self-reliance and get rid of dependence on foreign loans.

We will also suggest PM Khan to take up with the Chinese leadership the upgradation of ML-1 as this project is very vital not only to lift Pakistan Railways out of current dire straits but also reap the true dividends of connectivity in the region.

<https://pakobserver.net/reinvigoration-of-cpec/>

CPEC enhances job opportunities in Pakistan

While the job market due to the corona pandemic has shrunk around the world, projects related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have enhanced jobs opportunities in Pakistan.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Industrial Cooperation Development Project (CPEC-ICDP) has announced jobs for both experienced and fresh graduates. CPEC-ICDP is part of the Prime Minister's Office Pakistan Board of Investment (BOI).

The positions offered include manager projects, business analysts, assistant director admin, research associates, marketing officers, and drivers etc.

The maximum salary offered is Rs. 250,000 per month while the lowest salary is Rs. 16,000 per month. Higher qualifications will be given preference.

With the execution of CPEC connectivity projects, highway and road networks are multiplying. The National Highway and Motorway Police (NH&MP) is responsible for safety on motorways and highways through effective enforcement and provision of assistance to road users.

NH&MP besides regulating and controlling traffic, acts as an advisory body to the National Highway Authority (NHA).

NH&MP has announced the recruitment of non-uniformed staff and hiring 440 people, including some disabled people. The positions include dispatch riders, plumbers, electricians, helpers, cooks, gardeners, barbers, guards and sweepers.

Razzaq Ahmed, a fresh graduate from Rawalpindi is applying for a post in CPEC-ICDP. "I have applied for a position and am hopeful I will get the job; many fresh graduates like me are optimistic to get jobs in CPEC projects," he told Gwadar Pro.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-enhances-job-opportunities-in-pakistan/>

The Express Tribune

PM Imran's China trip to give fresh fillip to CPEC

Five-year industrial framework agreement vital to develop SEZs

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are scheduled to sign a five-year Industrial Cooperation Framework Agreement to reenergize the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Moreover, Islamabad would also seek rollover of \$4 billion Chinese loans and increase in size of \$4.5 billion trade finance facility

The broad-based discussions will be held in Beijing as Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday began a four-day official visit to China. During the visit, he would join other world leaders at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics scheduled to be held on Friday.

According to the text of the framework agreement, Pakistan has agreed to take responsibility of the Chinese lives and property, in addition to providing “special beneficial support for water and power supply which are necessary to develop SEZs (special economic zones), and provide efficient and favourable policy support for Chinese enterprises which are intending to invest or have already invested in the Pakistani SEZs”.

During PM Imran’s visit, Pakistani authorities will seek bigger fiscal package, including contribution in a new fund – the China-Pakistan Industrial Cooperation Fund – to facilitate relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan, according to sources and draft of the agreement.

On the fiscal side, the government is seeking rollover of \$4 billion loans and increasing the size of trade finance facility from the current \$4.5 billion to around \$10 billion, they added.

But the final decision would depend on a meeting between Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese President Xi Jinping, the sources said.

“The federal cabinet on Thursday granted approval to the industrial framework agreement, which would be signed during the PM’s visit,” Board of Investment (BoI) Secretary Fareena confirmed to The Express Tribune.

The cabinet approved the draft agreement on the day PM Imran left for Beijing with an agenda to bring both the countries economically and commercially more closer to each other.

Just before leaving for Beijing, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin removed yet another irritant in bilateral relations by agreeing to open a revolving bank account that would have balance equal to 22% of the power purchase payments to be made to the Chinese power plants. This was a major Chinese demand to save its investors from the circular debt cycle.

The government also agreed to release another Rs50 billion to the Chinese power plants to lower their dues towards the government. It has already approved to make \$11.6 million payments to Chinese nationals who died or were injured in a terrorist attack.

“The progress on CPEC has been greatly affected during the International Monetary Fund programme that put many checks by placing limits on the government’s primary budget deficit and issuing sovereign guarantees,” sources told The Express Tribune.

Framework Agreement

The signing of the Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC is seen as a first “serious” step by the government during the past three-and-a-half years to put the multibillion initiative of President Xi back on track. Pakistan was trying to get the deal done during the past over two years.

The framework agreement will be signed by BoI Chairman Muhammad Azfar Ahsan and the chairman of China’s the National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC).

The agreement will be effective for five years and is extendable automatically if no party notifies the other not to extend it at least three months before the expiration date.

According to the draft agreement, China has advantages in experience, technology, financing, and industrial capacity, while Pakistan enjoys favourable conditions in natural resources adequate labour, manpower, quality infrastructure, access to the international markets and optimal policies for industrial development.

The main objective of the framework agreement is to enhance the industrial competitiveness of Pakistan by encouraging Chinese enterprises to build factories and set up businesses in the country. The focus of the partnership is to improve skills development, enhance labour productivity and encourage joint research and development.

The principle of the partnership is to respect the enterprises as responsible entities on market-oriented guidelines and to follow the business rules and international practices.

The two countries will also discuss establishing the China-Pakistan Industrial Cooperation Fund to support projects under industrial cooperation and in other relevant areas.

Pakistan would not be required to create a new fund management structure and instead use the existing Pak-China Investment Company to regulate the industrial fund, former BOI chairman Haroon Sharif said.

He said the purpose of the newly proposed fund was to provide long-term financing to the Chinese industries relocating in Pakistan since commercial banks did not have such appetite.

Sharif said there was also a need to develop a one-window solution to the Chinese investors like the DIFC financial center offered to the investors in Dubai.

China will help promote industrialisation, development and population of the economic zones, enhancement of service sector competitiveness, forecasting perspective demand for human resources, ensuring requisite training of workforce; and for the initiation, planning, execution and monitoring of the projects, according to the text of the agreement.

Importantly, both countries have agreed to attach high importance and give priority to the development of nine prioritised SEZs under CPEC, whereby three SEZs are at an advance stage of development, namely, Rashakai SEZ, Allama Iqbal (M-3) SEZ, and Dhabeji SEZ.

Both the countries will research on the prioritised development of Bostan SEZ and will also formulate joint strategies to attract third party participation under the industrial cooperation.

China will encourage its enterprises to establish industries in the SEZs for export-led growth and industrial concentration, while utilising local raw material and manpower, including labour, as well as professionals.

Pakistan will facilitate the Chinese businesses in an efficient manner in accordance with the domestic law. It will also improve the domestic business environment, provide policy support for Gwadar Free Zone, Rashakai SEZ and other SEZs, guard the safety of enterprises and employees investing in the country, provide special beneficial support for water and power supply which are

necessary to develop the SEZs, and provide efficient and favourable policy support for Chinese enterprises which are intending to invest or have already invested in the SEZs.

China has agreed to bring its advantages in equipment, technology, management and finance into play to support industry development in Pakistan, besides having special focus on the development of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector.

Similar arrangements shall also be made in other sectors (pharmaceutical, engineering, agriculture, light manufacturing, home appliances and construction materials) mentioned in the long-term plan or any other areas mutually agreed, according to the text of the deal.

Financial Support

Pakistan is also seeking \$4 billion rollover of Chinese loans that are maturing in next few months, including \$2 billion in late March, sources said.

In addition, the main thrust will be augmenting size of currency swap facility from \$4.5 billion to \$10 billion. The net additional financial support that the government could request is roughly \$5.5 billion, sources added.

The Currency Swap Agreement is a Chinese trade finance facility that Pakistan has been using since 2011 to repay foreign debt and keep its gross foreign currency reserves at comfortable levels instead for trade related purposes.

The benefit of this arrangement is that the additional Chinese loan will not reflect on the book of the federal government and will not be treated as part of Pakistan's external public debt.

To a question, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Dr Reza Baqir on Thursday said that the \$4.5 billion financing under the Chinese foreign currency swap agreement was the liability of the SBP.

To another question about increasing the size during the PM's visit, the SBP governor maintained that only the premier's spokesman could reply in this regard.

In the last fiscal year, China had increased the overall limit from \$3 billion facility to \$4.5 billion for a period of three more years against the rupee with the maturity buckets of three months to one year.

Pakistan had paid Rs26.1 billion interest on the outstanding balance at agreed rates.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2341914/pm-imrans-china-trip-to-give-fresh-fillip-to-cpec>

The Nation

Pakistan, China to sign agreement on industrial cooperation today

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China will sign framework agreement on industrial cooperation (IC) under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) today.

Pakistan and China have agreed to elevate the MoU on industrial cooperation into a framework agreement. The Industrial Cooperation Framework Agreement is focusing on SEZs development and B2B joint ventures as core elements.

“The framework agreement on industrial cooperation under CPEC to be signed virtually on February 4 between BOI and Chinese Counterpart,” said a statement issued here. Prime Minister Imran Khan will also be present in the meeting virtually.

The signing of Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation (IC) under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would realise the vision of special economic zones’ development, ultimately leading to a prosperous and industrial country Pakistan, the Board of Investment said.

The framework agreement calls for enhanced role of industrialists, the private sector, and the business community, while the government’s role would only be that of a facilitator by devising effective policies, laws, and efficient infrastructure, to facilitate B2B and people to people linkages, it said.

Meanwhile official source said that the list of dozens of Chinese companies have been finalised and their meetings will be arranged with the visiting Pakistani delegation headed by the Prime Minister. During the ongoing PM’s meeting to China, these companies will be pursued for the relocations of Chinese Industries to Pakistan, the source said.

Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation is being aligned with the long-term framework of CPEC. The framework is developed with a special focus to enhance industrial competitiveness of Pakistan, ensure technology transfer, relocate Chinese businesses and skill development and labour productivity.

As per BOI, the modus operandi of the cooperation would likely enhance business to business (B2B) and project to project (P2P) ties ensuring projectised mode of Industrial Cooperation (Medium & Long-Term Projects), balance and modernise existing industry, make joint efforts to expedite SEZs development and its promotion, seek technical and financial assistance from China, enhance production capacity, facilitate businesses by financial institutions from both sides and ensure joint marketing and media efforts to promote IC and SEZs.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-04/page-4/detail-7>

Moonis worried over slow progress of land acquisition for Dasu Hydropower Project

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - The federal minister for water resources has shown his concern over slow progress of land acquisition for Dasu Hydropower Project, delay in payments to the affectees and hurdles in the supply of electricity to the project areas and directed for early resolution of these issues.

While presiding over the meeting of the Project Steering Committee of Dasu Hydropower Project, Federal Minister for Water Resources, Moonis Elahi conveyed concern on delay in making payments to those affectees of the project who qualified for enhanced self managed resettlement package announced by Wapda as Rs 3.5 million per household. The meeting was attended by the Secretary Ministry of Water Resources, Chairman WAPDA, Member (Water) WAPDA, Senior Member Board of Revenue KP, Secretary Energy KP, and other senior officials of federal and provincial governments. Representatives of World Bank were also invited in the meeting.

Dasu Hydropower project is located on river Indus, around 240km upstream from Tarbela dam, in the Kohistan area of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The project is being funded by World Bank and the funds were approved in 2014. Dasu Hydropower project will have total installed capacity of 4,320 megawatts of electricity. The project will have 12 units of 360MW each and in the first phase 2160MW electricity will be generated and the same quantity will be generated during second phase. The 1st phase of the project was started in June 2017 and will be completed in 2023, he said, adding that the next phase will be started in 2023.

While reviewing the update, the federal minister conveyed his concern on slow progress on acquisition of remaining 700 acres of land by the District Administration KP. He highlighted the importance of the expeditious acquisition of the remaining 700 acres land to complete the relocation of KKH. Of total 9875 acres of land required for Dasu Hydropower project so far 80pc land has been acquired, and of the remaining land 700 acres is of utmost importance as it is located in the dam area and the area reserved for KKH relocation, said the source. Out of total 9875 acres required for the project, 866 acres are required for main civil works, 1121 acres for preparatory work and 7888 acres for reservoir area.

While reviewing the progress of the task assigned to the Commissioner Hazara Division, the federal minister for water resources showed disappointment on no headway made after a passage of one month regarding finalization of negotiation with the locals of Pattan area for resolving their long standing demands by exploring all possible options. The minister drew attention of the representatives of the KP Govt that due to delay in resolution of issues being raised by the locals of Pattan area, construction of much needed transmission line from Pattan to Dasu is getting delayed since long. While concluding the meeting, he urged the Govt of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to make all our efforts at the highest level to ensure expeditious acquisition of remaining 700 acres land latest by 30 June 2022. He also emphasized the KP Govt to complete all the formalities and make resettlement dues to affected of Dasu Hydropower Project within three months. Similarly, Moonis Elahi impressed upon the KP administration to actively engage with the locals of Pattan area for expeditious resolution of delay in transmission line required to supply electricity for construction activities on Dasu hydropower project. The representative of KP Govt assured to meet the targets.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-04/page-8/detail-2>

The News

Chinese company to work with Sindh govt for solid waste management system

ISLAMABAD: Chinese company GANSU has made best offer for new Solid Waste Management system in Pakistan.

All details from this company have been determined in accordance with the prevailing international regulations, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

The report says, one of the major challenges facing developing countries, including Pakistan in providing local amenities is the provision of proper sanitation facilities to its citizens. One of the problems is that the flow of wastewater should be managed.

At the same time, it is important to have a system for proper disposal of the garbage that accumulates on a daily basis. The Government of Sindh has recently taken a big and positive step in this regard in Larkana. Leading Chinese company "GANSU" will now work with the Sindh government in this regard and a formal plan has been prepared.

The problem of garbage and its proper disposal is not limited to the city of Larkana but it is a problem that affects every city, town and village in Pakistan. Pakistan's big and more developed cities are struggling with the problem in the same way that other smaller cities are struggling.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=53200>

Express News

ہم چین سے مدد طلب کرنے کیلئے جارہے ہیں، وزیر خزانہ

وزیر خزانہ شوکت ترین کا کہنا ہے کہ ہم چین سے مدد طلب کرنے کے لیے جارہے ہیں جہاں ہم کہیں گے کہ آپ اپنی صنعتیں بیرون ملک لے جارہے ہیں اپنی صنعتیں پاکستان میں بھی لائیں۔

چین روانگی سے قبل اپنے ایک ویڈیو بیان میں وزیر خزانہ شوکت ترین کا کہنا تھا کہ آئی ایم ایف کی جانب سے پاکستان کے لیے قرضے کی چھٹی قسط کی منظوری ملکی معیشت کے لیے خوش آئند ہے، اس سے ناصرف ملکی معیشت بلکہ کرنسی میں استحکام آئے گا، قسط کی منظوری کا مطلب ہے کہ آئی ایم ایف پاکستان کی اقتصادی حکمت عملی سے متفق ہے۔ شوکت ترین نے کہا کہ اب ہم چین کے دورے پر جارہے ہیں، یہ دورہ ہمارے لیے سیاسی و معاشی لحاظ سے انتہائی اہم ہے، ہم چین سے مدد کرنے کے لیے کہنے جارہے ہیں اور کہیں گے کہ آپ اپنی صنعتیں بیرون ملک لے جارہے ہیں اپنی انڈسٹری پاکستان میں بھی لائیں، پاکستان میں اسپیشل اکنامک زون اب تیار ہیں، اگر چین اسپیشل اکنامک زونز میں اپنی انڈسٹری منتقل کرتا ہے تو یہ دونوں کے لیے بہترین ثابت ہوگا۔

وزیر خزانہ کا کہنا تھا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان چین سے ایگریکلچر ٹرانسپارٹیشن پلان میں بھی چین سے مدد فراہم کرنے کا کہیں گے، زراعت ہماری معیشت کا اہم جزو ہے، زراعت سے ہی ہماری معیشت ترقی کرتی ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2280012/1/>

پاکستان اور چین کا سی پیک کے تحت صنعتی زون کے قیام پر اتفاق

پاکستان اور چین نے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے تحت صنعتی زون کے قیام پر اتفاق کر کے آجی تعاون کے معاہدے پر دستخط کر دیے۔

سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کی جانب سے جاری کردہ اعلامیہ کے مطابق معاہدے پر وزیر مملکت اور چیئر مین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ محمد ظفر احسن اور چیئر مین نیشنل ڈویلپمنٹ اینڈ ریفرم کمیشن بی بی فنگ نے دستخط کیے۔

معاہدے کے تحت صنعتی تعاون پر مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ (جے ڈبلیو جی) قائم کیا جائے گا، جس کا مقصد سی پیک منصوبے کے لیے براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کار کو راغب کرنا، صنعت کاری اور اقتصادی زونز کی ترقی کو فروغ دینا اور عوامی و نجی شعبے دونوں منصوبوں کی شروعات، منصوبہ بندی، عمل درآمد اور نگرانی کرنا ہے۔

جے ڈبلیو جی کے تحت چین کے ساتھ پاکستان میں پیداواری، صنعتی میدان، برآمدات میں اضافہ کرنا ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ 2018 میں سی پیک کے 8 ویں جے سی ای اجلاس میں دونوں فریقوں نے ایک مفہمی یادداشت پر دستخط کیے تھے جس میں صنعتی تعاون کے دائرہ کار اور مستقبل کے حوالے سے لائحہ عمل طے کیا گیا تھا۔

سی پیک اب دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو چکا ہے جس میں خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کی ترقی اور صنعت کاری کو فروغ کے علاوہ توانائی اور بنیادی ڈھانچے سمیت دیگر شامل ہیں۔

سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کی مسلسل کوششوں سے دونوں فریقین نے 2020 میں موجودہ مفہمت نامے کو ایک فریم ورک معاہدے میں تبدیل کرنے پر اتفاق کیا تھا، جس کے تحت وسیع مشاورت اور وزیر اعظم کی منظوری کے بعد سرمایہ کاری بورڈ نے نومبر 2020 میں این ڈی آر سی کے ساتھ ڈرافٹ فریم ورک کا تبادلہ بھی کیا تھا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2280676/6/>

Jang News

چین: وزیر اعظم کا سرمایہ کاروں کی ویڈیو کانفرنس سے خطاب

وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات فواد چوہدری کا کہنا ہے کہ چین میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دن کا آغاز آج پرائیویٹ سرمایہ کاروں سے ویڈیو کانفرنس کے ذریعے خطاب سے ہوا۔

یہ بات انہوں نے سماجی رابطے کی ویب سائٹ ٹویٹر پر جاری کیے گئے ایک بیان کے ذریعے بتائی ہے۔

وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات فواد چوہدری نے بتایا کہ 18 سیکٹرز میں چین کے صنعت کار پاکستان سے تعاون کریں گے۔

انہوں نے مزید بتایا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان آج سرمائی اولمپکس کی افتتاحی تقریب میں شرکت کے لیے اولمپک ویلج جائیں گے۔

وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات فواد چوہدری کا یہ بھی کہنا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم کے ہمراہ وزراء کا وفد بھی سرمائی اولمپک کی افتتاحی تقریب میں شریک ہوگا۔

واضح رہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان گزشتہ روز 4 روزہ دورے پر چین پہنچے ہیں۔

وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات فواد چوہدری، وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ محمود قریشی، وزیر خزانہ شوکت ترین، وزیر منصوبہ بندی اسد عمر، مشیر قومی سلامتی معیاد یوسف، مشیر تجارت

عبدالرزاق داؤد اور معاون خصوصی برائے سی پیک خالد مصطفیٰ بھی ان کے ہمراہ ہیں۔

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی چینی وزیر اعظم لی کی چیانگ سے ہفتے کو جبکہ چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ سے اتوار کو ملاقات طے ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1046011>

K2 Daily News

بیتنا 39
بھارت کو جی ٹی وی سے گفتگو کرنے والے
وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ دوسرا واقعہ
بھارتوں ناک تھا اور کچھ توڑوں کو سی پیک نہیں
بھارتیہ پالیسی کا سرخشاہدہ قرار دیتے ہیں۔ اس
ی نے انہیں بھارتی فوجوں کی تھیلیوں کی کھلی اور
پاک چین تعلقات متاثر نہیں ہونگے۔ وزیر خارجہ
نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور روس کے تعلقات میں بھی
خوشگوار موڈ اپنا ہے جب کہ افغانستان کی صورتحال
کی بھاری میں چین بھی کردار ادا کر سکتا ہے۔ انہوں
نے یہ بھی بتا دیا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی چین میں
صدر اور وزیر اعظم سمیت اہم طاقتوں کا دورہ ہوگا۔
روسی صدر بھی وہاں موجود ہونگے۔ افغانستان سے
مطابق وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ چین اور
پاکستان کا پڑوسی ملک افغانستان ہے اور ہماری
خوابوں سے کہیں اس کا حکم ہو۔

چین تعلقا مثالی سی پیک کا تیز ہوگا خارجہ
پاک چین تعلقات دہشت گرد کارروائیوں سے متاثر نہیں ہونگے، روس سے رابطوں میں خوشگوار موڈ آچکا
افغانستان میں امن چاہتے ہیں، جی ٹی وی سے گفتگو، آبی قلت پر اقدامات کرنا ہونگے، اجلاس سے خطاب
اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات اور چین ہی پیک کے فیصلوں پر نظر ہائی نہیں کریں گے، افغانستان کی صورتحال کی بھاری میں چین
دہشت گرد کارروائیوں سے متاثر نہیں ہونگے، جی ٹی وی سے گفتگو، آبی قلت پر اقدامات کرنا ہونگے، اجلاس سے خطاب

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان سٹریٹجک پارٹنر امریکہ یا چین میں سے ایک کا انتخاب ضروری نہیں امریکی محکمہ خارجہ

نیویارک + واشنگٹن (نوائے وقت رپورٹ + شہنشاہ) امریکہ محکمہ خارجہ کے ترجمان نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان ہمارا سٹریٹجک پارٹنر ہے اور اس سے تعلقات کو اہمیت دیتے ہیں۔ محکمہ
خارجہ کے ترجمان نیڈ پرائس نے میڈیا بریفنگ کے دوران بتایا کہ پاکستان ہمارا سٹریٹجک پارٹنر ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کے کئی شعبوں پر محیط ہیں۔ میڈیا بریفنگ کے دوران پاکستان
اور چین کے حوالے سے سوال کے جواب میں امریکی محکمہ خارجہ کے ترجمان نے کہا کہ کسی ملک کے لئے ضروری نہیں کہ وہ تعلقات رکھنے کے لئے امریکہ یا چین میں سے کسی
ایک کا انتخاب کرے۔ چین کے قریبی تعلقات کے بارے میں ان دونوں ممالک کو یہی بات کرنا چاہیے۔ ترجمان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ امریکہ سے تعلقات رکھنا کسی بھی ملک کے لئے
زیادہ فائدہ مند ہوتے ہیں۔ دنیا کے ہر ملک کے آپس میں تعلقات کے کچھ فائدے اور کچھ نقصانات ہوتے ہیں۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ سعودی عرب اور متحدہ عرب امارات کا دفاع
مضبوط بنانے کے لئے پر عزم ہیں۔ دونوں ممالک کے ساتھ سیوریٹی تعاون ہے اور ملکر کام کر رہے ہیں۔ علاوہ ازیں وائٹ ہاؤس کی پریس سیکرٹری نے کہا ہے کہ امریکی صدر
جو بائیڈن کا آمدہ اولیٰ لیکس سرمانی کھیل بیچنگ 2022ء دیکھنے کا ارادہ ہے۔ ہم اس کے اور مقابلہ میں حصہ لینے والے اپنے امریکی کھلاڑیوں کی حوصلہ افزائی کے منتظر ہیں۔

امریکی ترجمان

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-04/page-1/detail-18>

پاکستان میں چین کے سفارتخانے کے اشتراک سے فلم کی نمائش، فرخ حبیب کی شرکت

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی) وزارت اطلاعات و نشریات اور پاکستان میں چین کے سفارت خانے کے اشتراک سے فلم ”دی شیڈو“ کی نمائش جمعرات کو ہوئی جس میں وزیر مملکت اطلاعات و نشریات فرخ حبیب نے مہمان خصوصی کی حیثیت سے شرکت کی۔ وزیر مملکت فرخ حبیب نے کہا کہ پاکستان چین تعلقات 70 سالوں پر محیط ہیں۔ دونوں ممالک کے عوام کے مابین تعلقات کو مزید وسعت دی جا رہی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین ثقافتی و فوڈ اور فلموں کے تبادلے خوش آئند ہیں۔ چینی سفارتخانہ کی ڈپٹی ہیڈ آف مشن نے کہا کہ آج فلم دی شیڈو کی نمائش پر دونوں ممالک کے منتظمین مبارکباد کے مستحق ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-04/page-8/detail-33>

چین کے ساتھ تجارت سے خسارہ کم ہوگا: ناصر حمید

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاکستان انڈسٹریل اینڈ ٹریڈرز ایسوسی ایشنز فرنٹ (بیاف) کے سینئر وائس چیئرمین بیاف ناصر حمید خان نے وائس چیئرمین بیاف جاوید اقبال صدیقی کے ہمراہ تاجروں و صنعتکاروں کے وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ تجارتی خسارہ کم کرنے کیلئے چین کے ساتھ تجارت از حد ضروری ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کی ڈالر کی بجائے مقامی کرنسی میں تجارت کی لین دین کی جائے جس سے ملکی معیشت پر مثبت اثرات مرتب ہونگے اور روپے کی قدر میں بھی اضافہ ہوگا۔ چین کے ساتھ پاکستان کو تقریباً دس ارب ڈالر سے زائد تجارتی خسارے کا سامنا ہے جسے کم کرنے کا واحد طریقہ چین کے ساتھ تجارت کا فروغ ہے۔ سینئر وائس چیئرمین بیاف ناصر حمید خان نے کہا حکومت معیشت کی بحالی کے لئے آئی ایم ایف پر انحصار کرنے کی بجائے دوست ممالک سے تجارتی معاہدوں اور نرم شرائط پر قرضوں کی بدولت ملک کو بحران سے نکالنے کی کوششیں قابل تعریف ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-04/page-12/detail-14>

February 05, 2022

Business Recorder

China says it's 'firmly' committed to CPEC progress

BEIJING: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday terming the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) of strategic significance for both the countries said the project was delivering tangible benefits.

The prime minister expressed these views in a virtual meeting with He Lifeng, Chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in Beijing.

The prime minister noted with satisfaction that CPEC's early-harvest projects had transformed Pakistan's economic landscape, thus laying a solid foundation for sustainable economic growth. Reaffirming the commitment of two sides to timely completion of CPEC and its high-quality development, the prime minister said that both sides would continue expediting efforts to achieve Gwadar's potential as a hub of regional commerce and industry while also prioritizing preparatory work on the ML-1 and other key energy projects.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed the progress of ongoing CPEC projects and discussed the preparations for future initiatives.

The prime minister was accompanied by cabinet ministers and senior officials for the meeting while He Lifeng was accompanied by Vice Chairmen Ning Jizhe and Tang Dengjie and other senior officials of the NDRC.

In his remarks, the prime minister said Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership was time-tested and timeless.

Despite Covid-19 pandemic, work on all CPEC projects progressed steadily due to joint cooperation of both sides.

The prime minister appreciated efforts of the NDRC and relevant authorities of both sides in this regard.

NDRC Chairman said that China attached immense significance to CPEC and was firmly committed to its steady progress and development.

He noted that China has become Pakistan's largest investment and trade partner in last seven years and both sides were keen to maintain the momentum of overall economic and trade ties in future as well.

The chairman added that NDRC and all relevant Chinese institutions would continue their efforts to encourage Chinese state-owned and private enterprises for investment in CPEC projects. In this regard, both sides had decided to establish new green, digital, health, trade and industry corridors, which would enhance sector-wise cooperation in these areas.

Thanking the prime minister for his firm support, He Lifeng expressed China's readiness to assist Pakistan in the areas of industrialization, agricultural modernization, science and technology and socioeconomic development.

During the meeting, both sides welcomed the signing of the Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation between the Board of Investment (BOI) and the NDRC which would, inter alia, facilitate relocation of China's industrial units to CPEC SEZs and accelerate investment from China and elsewhere.

Both sides also signed the minutes of the 6th JWG meeting on Gwadar which was held on 30 December 2021.

The minutes were signed by Planning Minister Asad Umar and Vice Chairman NRDC Ning Jizhe.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/05/1-page/917716-news.html>

PM invites Chinese firms to invest in SEZs

BEIJING: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday invited the Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan and benefit from the business-friendly policies of the government.

The prime minister, who held a series of meetings with the executives of Chinese State-owned and private corporate sectors, said Pakistan was offering conducive environment for investment in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

In his remarks, the prime minister appreciated the keen interest of the Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan.

The executives who met the prime minister included leadership of China Communication Construction Company (CCCC), Huazhong Technology, Zhejiang Seaport Group, Challenge Apparel, Hunan Sunwalk Group, Royal Group, China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), Zhengbang Group and China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC). The corporate leaders briefed the prime minister on the progress of their on-going projects in Pakistan. They evinced keen interest in expanding investments in Pakistan in projects related to recycling of metals and paper, energy, textile, fibre-optics networks, housing, dairy and water management.

The CCCC is a leading global construction and infrastructure development company; Huazhong Technology, specialises in integrated papermaking equipment; Zhejiang Seaport Group is one of China's largest port operators; Challenge Fashions is a leading textile company; Hunan Sunwalk's core business is in communications, 3D printing and construction; Royal Group is China's largest buffalo milk producer; CRBC focuses in civil engineering and construction projects; Zhengbang Group is Jiangxi Province's largest agricultural enterprise; and CMEC is one of Chinese top agro-industrial machinery company.

The prime minister was joined in the meetings by federal ministers, advisers and senior officials.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/05/1-page/917718-news.html>

100MW solar project

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: The China Three Gorges, South Asia Investment Ltd has urged Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) to reinstate Letter of Intent (LoI) of its previously proposed solar project of 100MW.

In a letter to the CEO AEDB, Company's CEO Yao Feixiong has given the reference of the Company's letter submitted to AEDB on June 4, 2021, wherein it was requested by the company to reinstate the LoI of the 100MW Solar PV Grid Hybrid Power Generation Project at the site of 3 X 49.5MW Three Gorges first, second and third wind farms in Sindh, as during the 49th meeting of AEDB Board held on January 15, 2020 the validity period of LoI issued to China Three Gorges South Asia investment Ltd or the company for development of a 100MW solar Grid Hybrid Power Project was not extended.

The LoI performance guarantee submitted by the Company to AEDB was duly returned, thereby resulting in cessation of development rights extended to the company for implementation of proposed projects.

According to the letter, the company opted for developing a 100MW Solar Hybrid Project at the site occupied by the Three Gorges first, second and third wind Farms already commissioned by the Company.

The Company was issued the LoI under the provisions of the Renewable Energy Policy 2006 (RE Policy 2006) for development of the project. A bankable feasibility study was conducted by the Company and submitted to AEDB for approval, following which, a meeting of the Panel of Experts (POE) was convened by the AEDB to review the feasibility study in accordance with the performance related milestones of the LoI.

However, at the time the Company was informed that the RE Policy 2006 is no longer in practice and the work on finalization of a new Renewable Energy Policy has commenced and further processing of the projects will be done after issuance of new comprehensive Renewable Energy Policy, which has since been approved following the meeting of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) held on August 6, 2020 regarding approval of Alternative & Renewable Energy Policy 2019 (ARE Policy 2019).

The Company has claimed that it had spent considerable time and resources on the development of the project, however due to lack of clarity regarding applicable regime and related incentive mechanism on offer the AEDB stalled the approval process for the feasibility and ultimately cancelled the LoI due to no fault or default of any Performance Obligation of the Company.

The Company is of the view that upon issuance of the applicable AER Policy 2019 the LoI previously issued to the Company may be re-instated and Company may be allowed to the project on the basis of the justifications: (i) the Project will be developed at the site of 3 X 49.5MW Three Gorges first, second and third wind farms in Sindh. The second and third wind farms are developed under CPEC framework. In this regard, when read with the applicable provisions of the ARE Policy 2019, Project's LoI can be reinstated under categorization of the project as a "G2G" project as the project will be located on the Site of the projects which are already developed under CPEC (G2G) framework;(ii) the feasibility study had been issued pursuant to detailed discussions and comments provided by AEDB and is unlikely to be used by any other entity for any other project; and (iii) the framework for implementing new projects will be finalized by a "steering committee" to be formed following the recent approval of the IGCEP which will determine the way forward. Possible options include implementing the RE projects (including solar hybrid projects) under a competitive bidding model whereby companies offering a competitively low tariff may be offered the option to implement the Project in locations identified by the implementing body while complying with the "least-cost generation" principles laid out under IGCEP and the applicable ARE Policy.

The company has emphasized that it is committed to contributing to the development of clean renewable energy resources of Pakistan under principles of the CPEC China Three Gorges portfolio in Pakistan that include six projects of capacity 2,630 plus MW out of which four projects are under CPEC framework. The project portfolio comprising 3x50 MW Wind power plants (including 2 x 50 MW Three Gorges Second and Third Wind Farm that have achieved COD during the year 2018 with support from AEDB are already in operation, alongside 1,124MW Kohala, 720MW Karot and 6-40MW Mahl Hydropower projects along Jhelum River which bear testimonial to company's commitment of providing clean energy on a sustainable basis.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/05/1-page/917719-news.html>

Daily Times

Multi-billion dollar deals agreed with Chinese firms

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday held meetings with a number of representatives of major Chinese companies, paving the way for billions of dollars worth of Chinese investment into the country.

As per the official handout, China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), a subsidiary of Sinomach, will set up Pakistan-China Agricultural Science and Technology Transferring Centre on government to government aid basis. It said that the Centre will offer agricultural mechanisation cooperation for improving the yield of various crops and quality of seeds. The company has also expressed interest in establishing an onshore LNG storage facility with a regasification terminal.

It said that a low carbon recycling park for steel metal and paper processing for export purposes will be established at Gwadar Free Zone, having a capacity of 13.4MT per annum. The handout said that the targeted investment under the project is \$4.5 billion and is expected to get implemented in two to three years. The project will also generate 40,000 jobs. It said that the Zhengbang Group has signed an MoU with Fauji Fertilisers Company (FFC) for the production of pesticides and cattle and poultry feed, adding that the group also plans to jointly develop corporate farming for growing corn and soya beans for export purposes.

According to the statement Royal Group plans to set up Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) free dairy buffalo farm project with an investment of \$50 million. The group envisages developing four large scale buffalo farms with 8,000 heads for 16 million litres annual milk production capacity.

They also plan to construct a buffalo milk deep processing plant with an investment of \$30 million. "The proposed project will produce value-added dairy products such as milk powder, cheese and packaged milk for local market and export purposes." The statement added that a buffalo embryos laboratory will also be established to improve Pakistani buffalos' genetics for increasing their milk yield. Providing further details, the statement said that Challenge Fashion

has purchased 100-acre additional land to establish a special economic zone of world standards value-added apparel including cluster of supply chains with an investment of \$250 million. The proposed project would produce exports of \$400 million annually and will employ 20,000 people.

It said that China Road and Bridge Construction Company (CRBC) in collaboration with the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) will develop Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ).

With an investment of \$3.5 billion, the proposed project will be developed and constructed in an area of 9.3 square kilometres and will be built in the functional blocks including Binhai, Ecological Bay, Knowledge City and Global Blue Diamonds Island.

“The project will create thousands of new jobs and would emerge as a hub for tourism, IT, fashion, media, finance, ports and shipping services.”

The statement said that Neusoft Medical Systems plans to focus on upgrading Medical Diagnostic Equipment (MDE), AI, academic and national service network setups with an investment of \$30 million in Phase-I. “Neusoft will further set up assembly plant of MDE in SEZ and STZ with an investment of \$170 million.” According to the statement, Hunan SunWalk Construction Group has signed an MoU with a private telecommunication company to lay an optical fibre cable network of around 100,000 kilometres in all major cities of Pakistan with an investment of \$2 billion.

It said that Flourishtech has signed an MoU with STZA and plans to set up a research lab for mobile phone parts, manufacturing and assembly in STZA, Islamabad for OPPO, RealMe, VIVO and OnePlus.

The handout stated that Global Semiconductor Group plans to establish a semiconductor testing facility in addition to a research and development and skills development training centre with an investment of \$40 million. The project is expected to employ 100,000 IT professionals.

Letin Autos NAV E-vehicles (Pvt) limited intends to establish a production plant for electrical vehicles including manufacturing, fabrication and assembly in Rashakai Industrial Zone, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated Pakistan’s stance that the key driver in international politics should be cooperation, rather than confrontation as the world did not need another Cold War.

“In view of myriad global challenges, the world does not need another Cold War. Divisions can result in mounting sufferings and prevent common benefits. Pakistan is, therefore, of the belief that the key driver in international politics should be cooperation, rather than confrontation,” he said.

The prime minister, in an exclusive session with the heads and representatives of leading Chinese think tanks, universities and Pakistan Study Centers during his four-day China visit,

recalled that Pakistan in the past had played a role in building bridges and remained ready to do so again.

Referring to Pakistan's National Security Policy, Imran Khan stressed that his government put economic security at its core. This vision was built upon connectivity and development partnership for which China remained an indispensable partner for Pakistan, he added.

During the session, the prime minister emphasized the importance of Pakistan-China relationship, and ensuring regional stability and prosperity.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/880529/multi-billion-dollar-deals-agreed-with-chinese-firms/>

PM joins world leaders at Beijing Winter Olympics

Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday joined the world leaders at Beijing's National Stadium as the spectacular Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 kicked off here. Also known as the Bird's Nest stadium, the venue of Olympics featured a show of ice-cool blue lasers as President Xi Jinping inaugurated the international sports event.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, who also arrived in Beijing Thursday, also attended the colorful event along with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Information Minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain and Planning Minister Asad Umar. The ceremony began shortly after President Xi Jinping and International Olympic Committee Chairperson Thomas Bach entered National Stadium. According to media reports, around 3,000 athletes from 91 nations would compete across 109 medal events. The athletes paraded at the opening ceremony including Muhammad Karim from Gilgit-Baltistan who would represent Pakistan in Alpine Skiing.

A four-member contingent will be representing the country at the Winter Olympics, the Pakistan Olympic Association announced on Tuesday. Besides Karim, it includes Syed Noman Ali as the chef de mission, Nadeem Ajmal Khan as the team leader and Mirza Mohammad Qamar as the Covid-19 liaison and the coach.

Prime Minister Imran Khan and his delegation arose from their seats to join the spectators for welcoming Pakistan's squad passing through the venue waving the national flag. The athletes made their way into the stadium through a spectacular entrance which has been described as "Gate of China" and "Window of China." The 'Gate of China' symbolizes that China opens its doors to welcome the world to the Olympic Winter Games.

Held on the first day of Spring by the Chinese calendar, the ceremony saw an opening act by dancers waving glowing green stalks to convey the vitality of the season, followed by an explosion of white and green fireworks that spelled the word "Spring". That was followed by the traditional "parade of nations", with each of the 91 delegations preceded by a woman carrying a placard in the shape of a snowflake resembling a Chinese knot.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/880528/pm-joins-world-leaders-at-beijing-winter-olympics/>

Winter Olympics, Polarity Games and Indian Roulette

Abid Latif Sindhu

That the world is changing is hardly news. The information age has so abruptly transformed into the digital age that even Moore's law is unable to grasp. The spreadsheet of rare earth metals or the meteors beyond the goldilocks zones of space is now all in the calculus of both powers of Thucydides trap: China, and the US. These developments have added the domains and the zones for a very new type of competition.

Old literature on the subject is adding to the strategic complexities because of the technological disruptions, which are so huge and gigantic that Gulliver is almost daily lost in some new wonderland. A new invention, a strange missile, a humane robot, a synthetic microorganism, a new metal, an alloy, or a mineral. These have converted strategic competition way beyond global commons to that of scientific Tran-frontiers. Chinese growth on this trajectory in just three decades is very impressive. There are very few countries on this path, the coming strategic competition will be amongst and between these eight countries and a collective region. This is almost the west and the rest equation except emerging three Asian powers. The rest of the world is so eager to follow either of the two bandwagons.

One thing is still universal, i.e., geography. That is the only template that technology can not destroy, sans bend a little till the rivals are categorized in alphas and bravos. This piece will therefore confine to the lesser climes of geography in defining the strategic competition of these two powers. Two areas of interest for the west are, one the Beijing winter Olympics and second the SCS (South China sea) along with the ESC (East China sea). BRI overall is a Chinese attempt to reinvent Marcopolo's footsteps in West Asia and Europe. CPEC is the silk route segment of the BRI. That is how CPEC is the most important piece of the complete picture. With the start of the winter Olympics and Pakistan's prime minister's visit to China, the new end game has just begun in Balochistan.

BLF, BRA, and BLA are now playing in the hands of foreign masters, which honed their diabolical skills in the last ten years in the name of helping the Afghan people.

Indian proxies from both Afghanistan and Iran are converging at sub-national fault lines on one hand and attacking the army's posts on the other. Kech, Noshqi, and Panjgur was the message of chaos and instability, which Indian modern Chanakya (half-fox and half-monkey) wanted to give to the likely meet of regional leaders in Beijing. BLF, BRA, and BLA are now playing in the hands of foreign masters, which honed their diabolical skills in the last ten years in the name of helping the Afghan people. Indians utilized that time in building inroads amongst all these dissident groups, calling it an insurgency, whereas it is sheer terrorism. The Baluchi youth is the target of Indian propaganda and cyber warfare. Seems just gibberish, no sir just a few years back, the complete surplus education corps of the Indian army was converted into cyber warriors, with 5000 keyboards directed towards Pakistan with Pakistani and Baluchi names, at one of the

facilities at Delhi, under the direct supervision of Indian modern day Chanakya. India is playing polarity games in Baluchistan while trying to raise the temperatures above 2 degrees Celsius at the Beijing Winter Olympics.

The Winter Olympics have already taken an interesting turn when five western powers or countries, if one may say, have decided to boycott the games diplomatically. They will send the teams but not the diplomatic delegates. The US cites Xinjiang Uighur province as the reason, other countries are citing the artificial ice as the reason to boycott, as it will be detrimental to climate. Chinese have clarified that they are not using synthetic ice, which is plastic-based and the artificial ice is water-based at sub frozen platforms. Few are even saying that how the same city, Beijing, can have summer and winter Olympics, how can you be a part of tundra and prairie at the same time.

China has made it known for the last year that these Olympics will be clean, green, inclusive, and carbon-friendly. Chinese Olympic administration has also assured security and secrecy to all participants, so they can come without cheap burner phones. This was just the dark comedy part of the facts surrounding the winter Olympics. But despite this, the winter Olympics is a go. Pakistani prime minister is likely to meet all senior leadership of China, Russia, and a few central Asian countries. The main agenda will be economic cooperation. So, in every meeting for the coming three days in Beijing, Baluchistan will be the centre stage. From polarity games to the Olympics, the Pakistani side has to prove their dexterity in diplomatic skiing, cause the rink and the slope can both be a little tricky. These games are seen the world over as defining moments for the emerging world power.

The western quarters are more concentrated on the sidelines and outer edges of the ice rinks where leaders will share hot drinks with pine nuts. Back home it is being asserted by the response of the army to the terrorists that Baluchistan is much a bigger thing than CPEC, the territorial congruity of Pakistan depends upon Baluchistan, an inch of it is as sanctified as that of Lahore, Sialkot, Khem Kharan or Runn of Kutch. South block and cyber warriors are beating the war drums, ensconced at the comforts of Delhi's Victorian buildings while having Gujrati peanuts. Things will soon cross mere lines of speech acts and into the acts of war. Chanakya's avatar is pushing the halyard too far too soon.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/880407/winter-olympics-polarity-games-and-indian-roulette/>

Dawn News

Accord signed with China for industrial cooperation

Amin Ahmed

- Framework will facilitate global investment, industries relocation to special economic zones
- PM meets Chinese corporate leaders, NDRC chairman
- Imran says CPEC delivering tangible benefits

- Chinese firms ready to set up \$3.5bn Gwadar reprocessing park, \$350m textile cluster near Lahore

ISLAMABAD / BEIJING: Pakistan's Board of Investment (BoI) and China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) on Friday signed the much-needed 'Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation' that will inter alia facilitate relocation of industries as well as investment from China and other parts of the world to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Pakistan.

The milestone was achieved a day after the arrival of Prime Minister Imran Khan in Beijing on a four-day tour. He held a series of meetings on Friday with executives of China's leading state-owned and private companies, interacted with NDRC chairman He Lifeng to deliberate on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, and also joined world leaders at the National Stadium as the spectacular Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 kicked off.

The corporate leaders from China Communication Construction Company (leading global construction and infrastructure development company), Huazhong Technology (specialises in integrated papermaking equipment), Zhejiang Seaport Group (one of China's largest port operators), Challenge Apparel (leading textile company), Hunan Sunwalk Group (dealing in communications, 3D printing and construction), Royal Group (China's largest buffalo milk producer), China Road and Bridge Corporation (civil engineering and construction business), Zhengbang Group (Jiangxi Province's largest agricultural enterprise) and China Machinery Engineering Corporation (agro-industrial machinery company) discussed the ongoing and future projects related to recycling of metals and paper, energy, textile, fibre-optics networks, housing, agriculture, dairy and water management. The companies expressed the desire to establish a \$3.5 billion reprocessing park in Gwadar within two to three years and a \$350 million textile cluster over 100 acres of land on Lahore-Kasur Road, PM's aide on CPEC Khalid Mansoor told the media.

In his meeting with NDRC chairman and Chinese Peoples Political Consultative Conference vice chairman, the prime minister said the CPEC having a strategic significance for both countries was delivering tangible benefits. Mr Khan noted with satisfaction that CPEC's early-harvest projects had transformed Pakistan's economic landscape, thus laying a solid foundation for sustainable economic growth.

Reaffirming the commitment of two sides to timely completion of CPEC and its high-quality development, the premier said both sides would continue to expedite efforts to achieve Gwadar's potential as a 'hub of regional commerce and industry' while also prioritising preparatory work on the railway's Main Line-1 (ML-1) and key energy projects.

The NDRC chairman said China attached immense significance to CPEC and was firmly committed to its steady progress and development. He noted that China had become Pakistan's largest investment and trade partner in last seven years and both sides were keen to maintain the momentum of overall economic and trade ties in future as well.

The chairman added that NDRC and all relevant Chinese institutions would continue their efforts to encourage Chinese state-owned and private enterprises for investment in CPEC projects.

In this regard, both sides also decided to establish new green, digital, health, trade and industry corridors to enhance sector-wise cooperation.

Thanking the prime minister for his firm support, the NDRC expressed China's readiness to assist Pakistan in the areas of industrialization, agricultural modernization, science and technology and socioeconomic development.

On the occasion, federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar and NRDC vice chairman Ning Jizhe also signed the minutes of the Sixth JWG meeting on Gwadar held on December 30, 2021.

During the meeting, both sides welcomed the signing of the Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation which was signed by Minister of State and Board of Investment of Pakistan (BoI) Chairman Mohammad Azfar Ahsan and China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Chairman He Lifeng on behalf of their respective governments.

The agreement holds a paramount significance for the second phase of CPEC and its future course of action. Industrial cooperation is one of the 10 joint working groups established under CPEC in 2016 for which both BOI and NDRC were assigned as the lead agencies by their respective governments. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the two organisations in 2018. As CPEC entered its second phase, the need for a comprehensive framework agreement became imperative and both countries reached the consensus on MoU's elevation into a Framework Agreement in 2020, whereby BOI took the lead by sharing the draft agreement with its Chinese counterpart to kick-start the negotiations.

Industrial Cooperation, which will go beyond 2030, comes under the long-term projects of CPEC and is envisaged to be the core deliverable of CPEC. Energy and infrastructure projects of CPEC were executed under the first phase to lay the foundation for industrial cooperation, according to the BOI.

The joint working group on industrial cooperation is also spearheading the development of SEZs, relocation of Chinese industries and B2B joint ventures of Pakistani and Chinese companies.

Mr Ahsan said the signing of the framework agreement marked the beginning of enhanced Pak-China industrial cooperation and this would be a quantum leap for CPEC. Concrete commitments have been formalised through the agreement whereby the Pakistan government will ensure concerted efforts for a conducive business environment and timely development of the SEZs.

The agreement reaffirms prioritized development and operations of the nine special economic zones, with primary focus on the early completion of Rashakai SEZ in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Punjab, Dhabeji SEZ in Sindh and Bostan SEZ in Balochistan.

For colonization of these SEZs, emphasis was laid on business-to-business matchmaking mechanism of Pakistani and Chinese enterprises.

BOI Chairman Azfar Ahsan and Secretary Fareena Mazhar strongly believed tangible outcomes would be achieved under the ambit of CPEC Industrial Cooperation. Mr Ahsan said the Chinese government showed keen interest in signing the document during the prime minister's visit that was testimony to the diligent efforts of both countries to foster industrial cooperation.

In a series of meetings with leaders of the Chinese companies which expressed the desire to establish a \$3.5bn reprocessing park in Gwadar and a \$350m textile cluster near Lahore, the prime minister appreciated their keen interest to invest in Pakistan and encouraged them to benefit from business-friendly policies for investment in CPEC's SEZs, adds APP.

The prime minister was accompanied in the meetings by federal ministers, advisers and senior officials.

PM's aide on CPEC Khalid Mansoor, who is accompanying the prime minister during his four-day China visit, told the media that a consortium of three Chinese companies expressed willingness to build a metal and paper re-processing park in Gwadar within two to three years.

To improve yield and seed quality in Pakistan, he said, three major agricultural firms expressed the desire to establish a modernization research lab and a demonstration plot on the Chinese pattern. Also, Chinese fertilizer companies wanted to invest in the export-oriented growth of corn and soybeans, while another company expressed its interest in the dairy sector to enhance the export of milk and other dairy products, he added.

A Chinese textile firm, reputed for high export-quality apparel, also planned to build a textile cluster over 100 acres of land on Lahore-Kasur Road by investing \$350 million, which would also create around 20,000 jobs, he said, while expressing the hope that Pakistan would be able to get commitment from a variety of sectors and major companies of Fortune 500.

Building bridges

In an exclusive session with the representatives of leading Chinese think tanks, varsities and Pakistan Study Centres, PM Khan said the world did not need another Cold War and Pakistan believe the key driver in international politics should be cooperation, rather than confrontation.

Pakistan in the past had played a role in building bridges and remained ready to do so again, he remarked.

Referring to Pakistan's National Security Policy, Mr Khan said the vision to put economic security at its core was built upon connectivity and development partnership for which China remained an indispensable partner for Pakistan.

The prime minister also thanked China for its unwavering support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and spoke about importance of Pakistan-China ties in ensuring regional stability and prosperity.

Referring to India's aggressive behaviour and the prevailing Hindutva ideology as a threat to regional peace and a cause of lingering instability of region, the PM said the world must pay attention to India's continued atrocities and oppression against the people in the India-held Kashmir.

He underlined the importance of Pakistan and China working with Afghanistan to advance shared objectives of peace, development and connectivity and called on the international community that Afghans should not be left alone in the time of need.

He also emphasized on the need for greater efforts for joint research and intellectual dialogue to better appreciate the common threats and opportunities facing the two countries.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Finance Minister Shaukat Fayaz Tarin, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry, Planning Minister Asad Umar, Commerce Adviser Abdul Razak Dawood, National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yousaf, PM's aide on CPEC and senior officials attended the session.

Imran rises from seat to welcome Pakistani athletes

Prime Minister Imran Khan also attended the inauguration of spectacular Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 at the national stadium, better known as the Birds Nest stadium, featuring a show of ice-cool blue lasers.

Chinese President Xi Jinping inaugurated the sports event that brought together around 3,000 athletes from 91 nations to compete across 109 medal games.

As the athletes including Mohammad Karim, who would represent Pakistan in Alpine Skiing, paraded at the opening ceremony, the prime minister and his delegation arose from their seats to welcome Pakistan's squad passing through the venue waving the national flag.

Starting from February 4, the games will continue till February 20.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1673411>

Dunya News

PM Imran, Chinese premier agree to advance multifaceted strategic ties

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is on four-day official visit to China, met with Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang on Saturday.

In his latest tweet, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Fawad Chaudhary said that Kashmir and Afghanistan were important topics of discussion in the meeting.

He said China has always played an important role as Pakistan's political, economic and strategic partner.

The minister said that Kashmir and Afghanistan was the mainstay of Prime Minister Imran Khan's meetings with both the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

China, as a political, economic and strategic partner of Pakistan, had always played a critical role, the minister added to his tweet.

PM Imran was accompanied by the Minister for Finance; Minister for Planning, Reform and Special Initiatives; Minister for Information and Broadcasting and senior officials.

Congratulating Premier Li for organizing Beijing Winter Olympics, the Prime Minister highlighted that strategic ties between Pakistan and China served the fundamental interests of the two countries and were a factor of peace and stability in the region. He added that successful celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations held last year injected a new impetus to bilateral friendship.

The prime minister thanked the Chinese government for support and assistance to Pakistan in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and timely supply of vaccines.

Imran Khan appreciated the transformational impact of CPEC on Pakistan's infrastructure, energy, socio-economic development and improvement in livelihoods of the people. He underlined that Pakistan was committed to high quality development of CPEC through its mutually reinforcing industrial, trade, health, digital and green corridors.

He shared with Premier Li the measures taken by the government to provide policy guidance and support for enhanced Chinese investments in the CPEC SEZs and Special Technology Zones, and for safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan.

Exchanging views on the regional security situation, the Prime Minister highlighted the serious situation in IIOJK as well as the importance of urgent action by the international community to alleviate sufferings of the Kashmiri people. He also underscored the importance of Pakistan and China working together to promote shared objectives of peace, stability and development in Afghanistan and regional connectivity.

The two leaders agreed to work closely on further deepening bilateral economic engagement and reaffirmed their commitment to further advance the multifaceted strategic cooperative ties and building the Pakistan-China Community of Shared Future in the New Era.

The premier also held meetings with business leaders of China's top state-owned and private enterprises. The executives who met the PM included Chairmen of China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC), China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC), Power China, East Sea Group, China Railway Group Limited (CREC), China Metallurgical Group Corporation (MCC), Beijing Century Industrial Development Co. Ltd (CENTINCO) and the CHINAMEX Group.

During the meetings, the Chinese businesspersons briefed the Prime Minister on the progress of their on-going projects in Pakistan and future investment plans worth billions of US dollars in

the fields of energy, refining, petrochemical, infrastructure development, water management, information and communication technology (ICT), and housing.

PM Imran Khan while appreciating the interest of Chinese companies for enhancing business ties with Pakistan, highlighted that government of Pakistan had offered many incentives to foreign enterprises especially from China for investment in Pakistan Special Economic Zones.

He assured that Pakistan would continue to support and facilitate the Chinese companies for their expanded footprints in Pakistan.

The premier was accompanied in the meetings by the members of cabinet and senior officials.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/639944-PM-Imran-holds-important-meetings-with-Chinese-Qatri-Egyptian-leaders>

Pakistan Observer

China visit: PM Imran attends Xi Jinping's luncheon, meets world leaders

KARACHI – Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday attended a luncheon hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping for world leaders at the Great Hall of People.

Federal Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said that the premier will hold bilateral meeting with Chinese president tomorrow (Sunday).

He said that PM Imran Khan held a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang in Beijing on Saturday.

In a tweet, Fawad said that Kashmir and Afghanistan were important topics of discussion in both the meetings. He said China has always played an important role as Pakistan's political, economic and strategic partner.

Per details shared by PTI on Twitter, the premier also held discussion with the President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. A day earlier, Pm Imran Khan joined the world leaders at the colorful opening ceremony of Beijing Winter Olympics 2022.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-visit-pm-imran-attends-xi-jinpings-luncheon-meets-world-leaders/>

Economics of Beijing Winter Olympics 2022

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

CHINESE President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics (BWO) and declared the games open at the National Stadium yesterday.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, Russian President Putin and Kazakhstan President Tokayev also attended the opening ceremony and showed solidarity with China and its sports diplomacy.

It was indeed moral victory of China and its policy makers over exaggerated hue and cry of the West mass media about so-called wild spread of virus in China and exploitation of natural resources for BWO.

It was also political and diplomatic success of China and its visionary leader Xi who succeeded to hold BWO despite boycott of various countries including the US, Canada, UK etc.

President Xi delivered a video address to the opening ceremony of the 139th International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session, extending a warm welcome to IOC President Thomas Bach and other IOC members who have gathered in Beijing, the first city in the world to host both the summer and winter Olympic Games.

While addressing the opening ceremony President Xi termed pandemic as a new period of turbulence and transformation with multiple challenges.

He thanked the IOC for its active contribution to the development of sports in China over the past years and for its strong support and guidance for China's bid and preparations for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games.

President Xi showcased tremendous socio-economic development of China by saying that from "One World, One Dream" in 2008 to "Together for a Shared Future" in 2022, China has taken an active part in the Olympic Movement and consistently championed the Olympic spirit.

China is committed to pursuing the Olympic ideal with concrete actions. President Xi promised to deliver to world "streamlined, safe and splendid" Games, while trying to realize "Faster, Higher, Stronger Together".

The Beijing Winter Olympic Games (BWOGs) were held at a special time, as the world faces numerous interlinked changes and challenges because of deadly pandemic in the world.

However, the theme of the BWOGs, "Together for a Shared Future" vividly reflects that China has firm belief in universal cooperation, togetherness, shared prosperity, community development, equal & equitable world, dialogue, diplomacy and engagement which have further demonstrated its holistic spirits towards humanity, peace and harmony.

Chinese athletes like the first Chinese Winter Olympic Games medal winner Ye Qiaobo, first Chinese Winter Olympic Games gold winner Yang Yang, and Wang Meng, the Chinese speed skater who won three gold medals in 2010 in Vancouver, also participated in opening ceremony and are among leading candidates.

Interestingly, a new and innovative method was used to ignite the cauldron that "has not appeared in the more than 100-year history of the modern Olympic Games.

It clearly reflected the concept of low carbon environmental protection. The idea was supported by the Organizing Committee of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games and the IOC.

In contrast to the four-hour-long ceremony with 15,000 performers used in the 2008, the opening ceremony for the 2022 Winter Olympics was relied on high technology instead of the previous “huge crowd” strategy and lasted less than 100 minutes and feature about 3,000 performers.

Interestingly, the BWOs had achieved 98 percent of its sustainable development commitments as of September 30, 2021, with carbon emissions during the Games set to be fully neutralized, debunking the Western media’s stepped-up hype over the environmental costs of the event and the alleged difficulty in verifying commitments.

The BWOs not only carries special weight in showcasing China’s green pledges, as international society has prioritized carbon peaking and neutrality as development goals, but would lead to greener sports events.

According to the report, titled “Sustainable Development (Pre-competition),” China has delivered significant results on its sustainable development commitment, including all stadiums reaching green architecture standards, and the average PM2.5 concentration in Beijing in 2022 will be 45 percent lower than in 2012.

The report, outlined China’s sustainable commitments, its plans are being carried out, and the latest developments in areas including ecological protection, regional development and social progress.

“The BWO has strictly carried out low-carbon management. The four ice stadiums for the Games are using new types of carbon dioxide refrigerants, and all stadiums will run entirely on green electricity.

It is estimated that 400 million kilowatt-hours of green electricity will be consumed across Olympic venues in Beijing.

That is equivalent to cutting burning 128,000 tons of standard coal and reducing emissions of 320,000 tons of carbon dioxide.

China also rolls out a low-carbon transportation system, under which energy-efficient and clean-energy vehicles account for more than 80 percent of the vehicles used during the Games.

Using carbon dioxide to make ice for the entire process, it produces almost zero carbon emissions, and improves energy efficiency by more than 20 percent compared with conventional ice-making systems, the Global Times previously learned from the venue staffer.

It seems that Beijing has organized and coordinated the whole process to guarantee a timely delivery of its green goals, a model that could serve as a benchmark for other hosts of sports galas in the post-Olympic era.

It has a long-term strategic sustainable plan that detailed 119 measures on three fronts: a positive impact on environment, new regional development and making life better.

While some Western critics cast doubt over a system for artificial snow, which they touted as a waste of water resources, officials stressed that all international games use man-made snow to ensure snow quality and the actual use of water for generating snow is limited.

Contrarily, the water consumption for making snow represents 1.6 percent of local water consumption in Yanqing district, and in Zhangjiakou's Chongli district, the ratio is 9.8 percent," and such consumption would not affect regional water safety or the environment.

To conclude, Beijing Winter Olympics has generated 600,000 new jobs in Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei region in sports, culture and tourism sectors.

Stocks of digital Yuan, hydrogen energy, 5G, ice and snow industry, and other associated subsectors have been favoured by the capital markets.

It would further enhance Beijing GDP up to 5 percent till 2025. It would further promote footwear and ice sport and clothing up to 598.9 billion yuan till 2025 and along with 15 billion yuna in ski equipment in 2022.

The Chinese government invested \$1.51 billion in hardware equipment, food & beverage and other areas. About 3000 hydrogen fuelled buses have been deployed in the competition zones which will reduce 35400 tons of CO2 which is a significant achievement.

Moreover, in the first time in the history of Olympics it has been completely fuelled with green energy and total Artificial Intelligence operated in all zones.

Humanity is suffering from deadly pandemic and the so-called civilized world of the West is heavily indulged in horrendous discrimination even in the easy and smooth supply of vaccines, especially to developing countries.

Chinese global drive of vaccine is the hope of the last resort and successful inauguration of BWO is the sign of hope, unity and equal world.

—The writer is Director, Geopolitics/Economics, Regional Expert, China, CPEC & BRI, Member Board of Experts. The Centre for South Asia and International Studies, Islamabad.

<https://pakobserver.net/economics-of-beijing-winter-olympics-2022-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Nation

Islamabad brims with hope, excitement over PM's visit to China

ISLAMABAD - Islamabad brims with hope and excitement over PM Imran Khan's visit to China, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

Analysts hoped that the visit will take strategic and economic ties between the two iron brothers to new heights.

PM Khan's visit to Beijing has both symbolic and practical importance, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayyed, senior politician and former chairman of Parliamentary Committee on CPEC, told Gwadar Pro.

The visit underlines that Pakistan rejects the western campaign against China and stands with its all-weather strategic partner, he said.

The visit will also bring multiple benefits for Pakistan, as it will boost economic and industrial cooperation as well as trade ties between the two nations, he added.

The visit is also significant as leaders of the two countries will have such high-level interaction after more than two years, he said.

Prime Minister Khan during his visit to China from 3-6 February will hold bilateral meetings with Chinese leaders to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, with a particular focus on stronger trade and economic cooperation including the CPEC initiative, the foreign office further said. PM Khan last visited China on October 8-9, 2019.

CEO KP Board of Investment and Trade Dr Hassan Daud Butt said that PM Khan's visit will prove vital for materialising industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan under the second phase of CPEC.

"We have finalised all policies in this regard and we are now ready for implementation of the second phase of CPEC," Butt told Gwadar Pro. The PM received briefings from officials of the Board of Investment and relevant ministers a day ahead of his visit on progress CPEC special economic zones in a bid to attract the Chinese investors, he said.

"We are highly optimistic about outcomes of the PM's visit as both sides will sign several agreements on bilateral cooperation," he added.

Sheraz Paracha, an expert on regional affairs, said that Imran Khan's visit will not only reinforce China-Pakistan economic relations but also renew excitement regarding CPEC, especially its second phase of industrial and agricultural cooperation. Pakistan needs to speed up the development of CPEC SEZs to fully capitalise on this historic occasion, he urged.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-05/page-4/detail-6>

PM Imran first head of state from Pakistan invited to Olympics: Fawad

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan is the first head of state from Pakistan invited to the Olympics, said Minister for Information Fawad Chaudhry on Friday. The premier is attending the opening ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games 2022 being held in Beijing. Over 20 heads of state are attending the opening ceremony. In a video statement, the information minister said that the premier held successful video conferences with Chinese industrialists from more than 18 sectors, asking them to cooperate with Pakistan. Fawad added that the prime minister will also give an interview to China Global Television Network (CGTN), the largest television network in China. The visit, which is not officially a bilateral one, is also being used as

an opportunity by Islamabad to discuss some pressing bilateral issues, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Prior to the visit, several preparatory meetings took place in Islamabad to fine-tune the agenda, which focused on enhancing trade, seeking investment and transfer of industries from China to Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-05/page-5/detail-1>

The News

Balochistan terror attacks timed to derail PM's China visit

ISLAMABAD: Troops battled militants in Balochistan for a third day on Friday, with a security official saying attackers timed their assaults to derail Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China. Three, including two described as high-value terrorists, were killed in the mop-up operation in Kech, taking their death toll to 16 on the third day of action.

The Naushki assault was quashed on Thursday, but a senior security official said Friday an operation was still underway in Panjgur. He said the attacks were timed to "malign Pakistan" during the premier's ongoing visit to China for the Winter Olympic Games. Khan and Chinese President Xi Jinping are due to discuss CPEC during his visit and the attack was carried out to raise questions "about the security situation", the official said. "The attacks were aimed at sabotaging the visit," he added. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project has inflamed grievances and the Baloch separatists have frequently targeted Chinese interests.

The ISPR reported killing of three more terrorists, including two high-value targets at Balgatar, Kech, in a follow-up clearance operation conducted on a makeshift terrorist hideout linked with recent terrorist activities in Panjgur. The terrorists hideout was surrounded following a major intelligence tip-off and in an intense exchange of fire killed all the three terrorists hiding there. They included terrorist commander Summair alias Bahar, terrorist commander Altaf alias Lalik and terrorist commander Phailan Baloch, who remained involved in terrorist activities against security forces in Hoshab, Panjgur and other areas. They also carried out several terrorist actions in other parts of the province. Cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the hideout. According to AFP, the BLA claimed holding a security camp in Panjgur, 40 hours after the initial assault. But the Pakistan security official insisted the situation was "well under control", and that the ongoing operation was only "to hunt down the remnants" from the attack.

Also in Chaman, six including two Levies personnel, were injured following a grenade explosion. The grenade was lobbed at the Levies check-post near a railways level crossing that left two personnel of the tribal force injured, besides four others, including a child. Balochistan Chief Minister Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo condemned the attack and expressed the resolve that his government would ensure public security. Investigations were under way, while the injured were shifted to district headquarter hospital. The incident that damaged the Leveis check-post led to an alert being declared across the city.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=53580>

BRT-Peshawar to be recognised as one of three cities in the world next week

ISLAMABAD: Peshawar will be one of the three cities in the world being recognized at the 2022 Sustainable Transport Award ceremony in Washington DC, USA next week.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report on Friday, the BRT-Peshawar is recognised as sustainable transport system in the World:

At the ceremony, the BTR will be declared as “new state of the art gender and environment-friendly bus rapid transport system”.

The northwestern city of Peshawar is amongst those three cities of the world that are transforming their streets, prioritizing sustainability, and expanding access and mobility for all residents.

Three cities including Tartu, Peshawar, and Bogota have been honored for transforming their streets, prioritizing sustainability, and expanding access and mobility for all residents.

Mobilize, which is the annual sustainable transport summit of the Institute for Transportation and Development (ITDP) and the Sustainable Transport Award Committee (STAC) organize the event on February 9.

“Peshawar, Pakistan received our second honorable mention for their new gold-standard BRT system that cuts through emissions and travel times, while providing dedicated access for women and passengers with disabilities,” according to STAC.

BRT, a flagship project of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was launched on August 13, 2020. The project was completed at a cost of Rs. 69 billion.

The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) imported buses from China for the BRT project. With the last import of 30 buses from China in February 2021, the BRT bus fleet reached 158. Besides buses, all the machinery running the system has been imported from China.

Trans Peshawar also imported cycles for ‘Zu Bicycle’ a cycle sharing service of BRT from China.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=53566>

During PM visit: Pakistan, China all set to sign \$10-15bn pacts

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are all set to sign different agreements worth \$10-15 billion during the ongoing visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan including rollover of \$4 billion deposits, fresh loan of \$4 billion, and other projects.

However, both sides have so far been unable to make progress on the much-delayed multibillion-dollar project of Mainline-1 (ML-1) despite making of efforts, as the financing agreement has not yet been firmed up.

Pakistan's federal cabinet also granted approval for signing of much-awaited industrial cooperation between the two countries under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“Pakistani authorities are expecting that the ongoing visit of PM Imran Khan will pave the way for boosting bilateral relations and minimum size of cooperation will be over \$10 billion,” official sources confirmed to The News on Friday.

While the parties are proactively promoting, facilitating and executing the long-term industrial development plan, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a framework of regional connectivity, infrastructure development, and industrial cooperation which will not only benefit the parties but also have a positive impact in the region.

The success of the early harvest projects pertaining to energy and infrastructure has set the foundation for CPEC to enter the pragmatic phase of an enhanced level of industrial cooperation, leading to substantial investment and financing from Chinese government and Chinese private enterprises with reciprocal efforts by the Pakistani government, to provide an encouraging business environment and achieve mutual success as envisaged in the long-term plan of CPEC, signed in 2017 and the MoU on industrial cooperation under CPEC, signed in 2018; the parties hereby agree, as mentioned in the following Articles of the Framework Agreement.

Article 1: As envisaged in the long-term plan, the main objective of the framework agreement is to enhance industrial competitiveness of Pakistan through encouraging Chinese enterprises to build factories and set up business in Pakistan. The focus of the partnership is to improve skill development, enhance labour productivity and encourage joint research and development. The principle of the partnership is to respect the enterprises as responsible entities on market-oriented guidelines, and to follow the business rules and international practices.

Article 2 : The joint Working Group (WG) on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC of the parties will provide guidelines to attract high-quality FM through encouragement of export-oriented high-tech industries, promoting industrialisation, development and population of the economic zones, enhancement of service sector competitiveness, forecasting perspective demand for human resources, ensuring requisite training of workforce; and for the initiation, planning, execution and monitoring of the projects (public as well as private sector) within the ambit agreed between the two countries.

China has advantages and expertise in technology, financing, and industrial capacity, while Pakistan enjoys favourable conditions in natural resources, adequate labour manpower, quality infrastructure, access to the international markets and optimal policies for industrial development.

(iii) By carrying out industrial cooperation, the parties shall achieve mutually beneficial outcomes in the form of dose business-to-business (B2B), people-to-people (P2P), and institution-to-institution (I2I) ties under the government-to-government (G2G) framework, whereby a conducive and sustainable business environment will be created through mutual collaboration between the parties.

Article 3: (i) The parties attach high importance and give priority to the development of the nine prioritised special economic zones (SEZs) under CPEC, whereby three SEZs are at an advance stage of development, namely, Rashakai SEZ, Allama Iqbal (M-3) SEZ, and Dhabeji SEZ. The parties will research on the prioritised development of Boston SEZ. The parties shall also make co-efforts to expedite the development of the SEZs, to promote them globally and locally, including the Gwadar Free Zone.

The parties shall also formulate joint strategies to attract third party participation under CPEC industrial cooperation. (ii) The Chinese side shall encourage its enterprises to establish industries in the SEZs for export-led growth and industrial concentration, while utilising local raw material and manpower, including labour, as well as professionals. The parties will support SEZs to establish sector-specific Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions/centres of excellence, in order to fulfil the requirements of the skilled human resource within each SEZ. The Pakistani side reaffirms its commitment to facilitate the Chinese businesses in an efficient manner, in accordance with the domestic law. (iii) The Pakistani side will improve the domestic business environment, provide policy support for Gwadar Free Zone, Rashakai SEZ and other SEZs, guard the safety of enterprises and employees investing in Pakistan, provide special beneficial support for water and power supply which are necessary to develop the SEZs, and provide efficient and favourable policy support for Chinese enterprises which are intending to invest or have already invested in Pakistani SEZs.

Article 4: The Chinese side shall bring its advantages in equipment, technology, management and finance into play to support industry development in Pakistan, besides having special focus on the development of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector. Similar arrangements shall also be made in the other sectors (pharmaceutical, engineering, agriculture, light manufacturing, home appliances and construction materials) mentioned in the long-term plan or the sectors that shall be jointly prioritised between the parties, considering the necessity to cater to the demands of industrial cooperation.

Article 5: The parties may constitute industrial sector or SEZ site-specific Sub-Working Groups (SWGs) under the joint Working Group on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC, for the identified priority sectors under the Framework Agreement or any other mutually agreed sectors and/or sites, to identify ways and methods to promote and strengthen investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Article 6: To uplift the Industrial Cooperation under CPEC, the JWG will be responsible for the functions listed below, in an expository but not in a limitative manner: a. Identifying the priority areas for Industrial Cooperation between the Parties; b. Coordinating and promoting the priority projects of Industrial Cooperation; c. Studying the ways and measures to develop the cooperation on the areas mentioned, including proposal of policies and suggestions on the promotion of Industrial Cooperation, such as reciprocal visa arrangements for personnel participating in developing Industrial Cooperation; d. Organising joint activities including project promotion; e. Encouraging investment and financing activities for companies and financial institutions of the

parties; 1. Supervising the effective implementation of the projects under this Framework Agreement; g. Encouraging private sector in each other's country to explore and expand commercial ties and joint production, for B2B matchmaking possibilities.

Article 7: The parties shall discuss to establish China-Pakistan Industrial Cooperation Fund (I.O Fund) to support projects under Industrial Cooperation and in other relevant areas between China and Pakistan.

Article 8: The Chinese side will continue to provide intellectual and technical support to Pakistani industry and SEZs development. Based on the professional suggestions provided by the Chinese side, Chinese management and technology experts will follow the procedure of field-investigation — diagnosis—technological services —following feedback to research relevant existing industries in order to accelerate the development of priority industries, with a special focus on iron and steel, textile, petro chemicals and mines & minerals and any other mutually-agreed sectors as perceived from time to time. (ii) The parties may formulate Joint Expert Teams to conduct industrial diagnostic studies in Pakistan for the identification of key challenges, followed by an Action Plan to overcome the same and also conduct joint studies of possible industrial relocation from China, in the light of available opportunities In the SEZs or other agreed sites/areas. Similarly, to provide first-hand experience of the successful industrial models in China, the Chinese side will facilitate the field visits of the Expert Teams from Pakistan.

Article 9: (i) The execution, coordination, implementation, and supervision of this Agreement shall be carried out by the National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC) of the People's Republic of China from Chinese side and the Board of Investment (BoI) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from Pakistani side.

(ii) In case of any alteration to any of the above-mentioned authorities, either of the parties shall notify the other party in writing through diplomatic channels. (iii) The parties shall meet on actual needs to review the progress of industrial cooperation under the Framework Agreement.

Article 10: Any difference or disagreement shall be resolved through mutual consultation, within the JWG on industrial cooperation.

(ii) This Agreement shall enter into effect on the date of signing and will be effective for 5 years.

(iii) This Agreement is extended automatically if no party notify the other party not to wend this Agreement at least three months before expiration date. This Agreement can be modified/ altered/ amended through the mutual consent of the parties.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=53594>

Express News

وزیراعظم کی چینی سرمایہ کاروں سے ملاقات، کراچی اور فیصل آباد کے پانی منصوبوں پر گفتگو

وزیراعظم عمران خان کی چینی سرمایہ کاروں سے ملاقات میں کراچی اور فیصل آباد میں پانی کے منصوبوں پر گفتگو ہوئی۔

وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات چوہدری نواز حسین نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین کے حوالے سے اہم گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے ساتھ چین میں سرمایہ کاروں کی ملاقاتیں ہوئیں، جن میں کراچی اور فیصل آباد میں پانی کے منصوبوں کے حوالے سے گفتگو ہوئی، کراچی میں کے فور منصوبہ، جبکہ فیصل آباد میں واٹر ٹریٹمنٹ پلانٹ کے حوالے سے بات ہوئی۔

نواز چوہدری نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم آج چین کے صدر کی جانب سے سربراہان مملکت کے اعزاز میں دیئے گئے ظہرانے میں شرکت کریں گے، وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی آج شام کو اقوام متحدہ کے سیکریٹری جنرل، ازبکستان کے صدر اور چین کے وزیر اعظم سے ملاقات ہوگی۔

وزیر اطلاعات نے کہا کہ چین کے سرمائی اولمپکس میں پاکستان کی ٹیم پہلی مرتبہ شریک ہوئی، پاکستان کی ٹیم کا چین کے عوام کی جانب سے واہانہ خیر مقدم کیا گیا، پاک چین دوستی دونوں ملکوں کے عوام کی ایک دوسرے کے لئے محبت کے اظہار پر مبنی ہے۔

نواز چوہدری نے بتایا کہ چینی سرمایہ کار پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی کا اظہار کر رہے ہیں، وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی تھنک ٹینکس سے بھی ملاقات ہوئی، وزیر اعظم نے زور دیا کہ دنیا ایک اور سرد جنگ کی متحمل نہیں ہو سکتی، امریکہ اور چین کے درمیان تنازعہ کو حل کرنے میں پاکستان اپنا کردار ادا کرنے کو تیار ہے۔

انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ وزیر اعظم کی چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ سے ون آن ون ملاقات ہوگی، جس میں پاکستان کے تعلقات کے حوالے سے مزید گفتگو ہوگی، آج وزیر اعظم سے پاکستان کے اقتصادی تعلقات کے حوالے سے تبادلہ خیال ہوگا۔

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Nawaiwaqt News

بھارت امن کیلئے خطرہ، دنیا کشمیریوں پر مظالم رکوائے: عمران

اسلام آباد + بیجنگ (خبرنگار خصوصی + نمائندہ خصوصی + نوائے وقت رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ بھارت کا جارحانہ رویہ علاقائی امن کے لیے خطرہ ہے، موجودہ بھارتی رجیم خطے کے دیرپا عدم استحکام کا سبب بن رہی ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے چینی معروف تھنک ٹینکس، یونیورسٹیوں اور پاکستان سٹڈی سینٹرز کے سربراہان اور نمائندوں سے ملاقات کی، اور پاک چین تعلقات کی اہمیت اور علاقائی استحکام اور خوشحالی کو یقینی بنانے پر زور دیتے ہوئے مسئلہ کشمیر پر چین کی غیر متزلزل حمایت پر بھی شکر یہ ادا کیا۔ ملاقات میں علاقائی استحکام اور خوشحالی کو یقینی بنانے میں پاک چین تعلقات کی اہمیت پر بھی بات چیت کی گئی۔ عمران خان کا کہنا تھا کہ بھارت کا جارحانہ رویہ اور ہندو تو انظریہ علاقائی امن کے لئے خطرہ ہیں، موجودہ بھارتی رجیم خطے کے دیرپا عدم استحکام کا سبب بن رہی ہے، بھارت کے غیر قانونی قبضے والے کشمیر میں مسلسل مظالم جاری ہیں، دنیا کو کشمیریوں پر بھارتی مظالم کا نوٹس لینا چاہئے۔ وزیر اعظم نے صدر شی جن پنگ کے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو کو خطے کی ترقی کیلئے اہم قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ سی پیک اہم منصوبہ ہے۔ سی پیک کا پہلا مرحلہ بنیادی ڈھانچے کی ترقی اور رابطے پر مرکوز تھا، اگلے مرحلے میں صنعت کاری، انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی میں تعاون اور زرعی تبدیلی پر توجہ دی جائے گی، پاکستان سرمایہ کاری کے لیے زبردست مروجہاتی پیشکش فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ بے شمار عالمی چینلوں کے پیش نظر دنیا ایک اور سرد جنگ کی متحمل نہیں ہو سکتی۔ پاکستان کا نظریہ ہے کہ بین الاقوامی سیاست میں تصادم کے بجائے تعاون ہونا چاہیے، پاکستان نے ماضی میں بھی پل کا کردار ادا کیا تھا اور دوبارہ ایسا کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے۔ قومی سلامتی کی پالیسی کا بھی ذکر کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ میری حکومت نے اقتصادی سلامتی کو بنیادی اہمیت دی ہے، یہ وژن روابط اور ترقیاتی شراکت داری پر مبنی ہے جس کے لیے پاک چین شراکت داری ناگزیر ہے۔ امن، ترقی کے لیے پاکستان اور چین کی افغانستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کی اہمیت پر زور دیتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ افغانستان میں امن و سلامتی کو

یقینی بنانے میں تعاون پاکستان اور چین کے باہمی مفاد میں ہے۔ عالمی برادری افغانوں کو اس مشکل وقت میں تہانہ چھوڑے۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیر اعظم نے چین کے قومی ترقی و اصلاحاتی کمیشن کے چیئرمین ہی لی پنگ سے ورچوئل ملاقات کی ہے۔ اس موقع پر وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان آرموڈ دوست ہیں، پاکستان اور چین کے تعاون پر برہنہ ترقی و ترقی شراکت داری ہر آزمائش پر پورا اترتی ہے، چین کے قومی ترقی اور اصلاحات کمیشن کا تعاون قابل تحسین ہے، سی پیک سے دونوں ملکوں کے عوام مستفید ہو رہے ہیں، سی پیک کے جلد مکمل ہونے والے منصوبوں سے پاکستانی معیشت پر مثبت اثرات مرتب ہوئے ہیں۔ ملاقات میں چین کے سیاسی مشاورتی کونسل کے وائس چیئرمین بھی موجود تھے۔ ملاقات میں سی پیک کے جاری منصوبے اور مستقبل کے اقدامات کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ کرونا کے باوجود دونوں ملکوں کے تعاون کے باعث سی پیک منصوبوں پر کام جاری رہا۔ سی پیک، ہیلتھ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو بی آر آئی منصوبے کا ایک اہم جزو ہے۔ سی پیک بی آر آئی کا فلنگ شیپ منصوبہ ہے اس سے دونوں ملکوں کے عوام کو فائدہ حاصل ہوں گے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ دونوں فریق گوادر کو خطے کا معاشی مرکز بنانے کے لئے اپنی کوششیں جاری رکھیں گے۔ ایم ایل ون اور دوسرے اہم توانائی منصوبوں کو ترجیح کے طور پر لیا جائے گا۔ اس موقع پر چین کے قومی ترقی و اصلاحاتی کمیشن کے چیئرمین ہی لی پنگ نے کہا کہ چین سی پیک منصوبوں کو انتہائی اہمیت دیتا ہے اور چین سی پیک منصوبوں پر تیز رفتار پیشرفت کے لئے پرعزم ہے۔ گزشتہ 7 سالوں میں چین پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا تجارتی شراکت دار ہے۔ ملاقات کے دوران دونوں فریقین نے سرمایہ کاری بورڈ اور این ڈی آر سی کے درمیان صنعتی تعاون کے فریم ورک کے معاہدے پر دستخط کا خیر مقدم کیا۔ دونوں فریقین نے گوادر پر 16 ویں جوائنٹ ورکنگ گروپ اجلاس کے منٹس پر دستخط کئے۔ دریں اثناء چین میں 24 ویں ونٹراؤ لپکس کامیلہ سچ گیا۔ چین پہلی بار ونٹراؤ لپکس کی میزبانی کر رہا ہے۔ سرمائی اولمپکس میں 91 ممالک سے تقریباً 2900 ایتھلیٹس شرکت کر رہے ہیں۔ 15 کھیلوں میں مختلف طرز کے 109 مقابلے ہوں گے۔ بیجنگ میں ونٹراؤ لپکس 4 سے 20 فروری تک جاری رہیں گے۔ چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ، وزیر اعظم عمران خان اور روس کے صدر ولادیمیر پوٹن سمیت دنیا بھر کے 20 سے زائد سربراہان مملکت نے افتتاحی تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ امریکا سمیت متعدد ممالک نے انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزی کے الزامات عائد کرتے ہوئے سفارتی بائیکاٹ کا اعلان کر دیا تھا۔ سفارتی بائیکاٹ کرتے ہوئے جن ممالک نے افتتاحی تقریب میں شرکت کے لیے اپنے سرکاری نمائندے نہیں بھیجے، ان میں امریکا، برطانیہ اور آسٹریلیا سرفہرست ہیں۔ پاکستانی وفد میں شامل فواد چودھری نے تقریب سے متعلق ٹویٹ میں لکھا کہ درجنوں ٹیمیں آئیں لیکن سٹیڈیم میں اگر چین کے بعد کسی ٹیم کیلئے تالی بجی تو وہ پاکستان کی ٹیم تھی، عام چینی پاکستان سے محبت کرتا ہے۔ کراچی میں تعینات چین کے قونصل جنرل نے بھی پاکستانی دستے کے میدان میں آنے کو موضوع بنایا۔ سرمائی اولمپکس کی افتتاحی تقریب میں وزیر اعظم کے ساتھ وزیر اطلاعات فواد چودھری، وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی اور وفاقی وزیر اسد عمر بھی موجود تھے۔ وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات چودھری فواد حسین نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم نے 18 سے زائد سیکٹرز میں ویڈیو کانفرنسز کیں۔ دریں اثناء وزیر اعظم کے دورہ کے دوران پاکستان اور چین نے گزشتہ روز ”سی پیک“ کے تحت صنعتی تعاون کے فریم ورک معاہدے پر دستخط کر دیئے ہیں۔ معاہدے پر وزیر مملکت اور چیئرمین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ محمد ظفر احسن اور چیئرمین نیشنل ڈویلپمنٹ اینڈ ریفرم کمیشن ہی لی پنگ نے دستخط کیے ہیں۔ صنعتی تعاون پر مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ (جے ڈبلیو جی) کا مقصد براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کو راغب کرنا، صنعت کاری اور اقتصادی زونز کی ترقی کو فروغ دینا اور عوامی اور نجی شعبے دونوں میں منصوبوں کی شروعات، منصوبہ بندی، عمل درآمد اور نگرانی کرنا ہے۔ جے ڈبلیو جی کے تحت چین کے ساتھ پاکستان میں پیداواری، صنعتی میدان، برآمدات میں اضافہ کرنا ہے۔ مزید برآں چین کے سب سے بڑے چینل سی جی ٹی این کو انٹرویو میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے چینی عوام کو شاندار سرمائی اولمپکس کے انعقاد اور ان کے نئے سال کی مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ سرمائی اولمپکس کی افتتاحی تقریب میں شرکت میرے لئے باعث مسرت ہے، بین الاقوامی کرکٹ میں زندگی کے 20 سال گزارے ہیں اور وزیر اعظم بننے کے بعد بھی سپورٹس میں دلچسپی ہے۔ مزید برآں وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین کے دوران چینی کمپنیوں کے ساتھ اربوں ڈالرز کے معاہدے طے پا گئے۔ گوادر میں سیٹل ری سائیکلنگ کے لیے ساڑھے 4 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کا معاہدہ طے پایا، زرعی ٹیکنالوجی ٹرانسفر کرنے کے لیے چائنا مشینری انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن ایک سنٹر قائم کرے گی۔ سی ایم ای سی نے کراچی میں 2 لاکھ میٹرک ٹن ایل این جی سٹورج میں بھی دلچسپی دکھائی۔ 50 ملین ڈالرز عی ٹیکنالوجی اور 500 ملین ڈالرز ایل این جی سٹورج پر سرمایہ کاری ہو

گی۔ چین کی ایک اور کمپنی نے فوجی فرٹیلائزر کے ساتھ متعدد ایم او یو پر دستخط کر دیئے۔ رائل گروپ بفلوفارم کے قیام کے لیے 50 ملین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کرے گا۔ رائل گروپ دودھ کی پراسسنگ میں بھی 30 ملین ڈالر سرمایہ کاری کا ارادہ رکھتا ہے۔ چینج فیشن نے 250 ملین ڈالر کی لاگت سے فری اکنامک زون کے لیے مزید 100 ایکڑ زمین خرید لی۔ اس سرمایہ کاری سے برآمدات میں سالانہ 400 ملین اضافہ ہو گا اور 20 ہزار نوکریاں پیدا ہوں گی۔ سی آر بی سی کراچی پورٹ ٹرسٹ کی شراکت سے ساڑھے 3 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کرے گی۔ دونوں گروپوں کے اشتراک سے کراچی کوسٹل ڈویلپمنٹ زون قائم کیا جائے گا۔ نیوسوفٹ میڈیکل سسٹم میڈیکل کے میدان میں مصنوعی ذہانت پر 30 ملین ڈالر سرمایہ کاری کرے گا۔ نیوسوفٹ مزید 170 ملین ڈالر کی لاگت سے مختلف منصوبوں پر کام کرنے کا ارادہ رکھتی ہے۔ ہنان سن واک کنسٹرکشن گروپ 2 ارب ڈالر کی لاگت سے 1 لاکھ کلو میٹر لمبی فائبر آپٹکس کیبل بچھائے گا، گلوبل سی سی کنڈکٹر گروپ 40 ملین ڈالر کی لاگت سے سکڑ ڈویلپمنٹ سنٹر قائم کرے گا۔ اس سرمایہ کاری سے ایک لاکھ سے زائد نوکری کے مواقع میسر آئیں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-05/page-1/detail-8>

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Daily Times

Pakistan, China to protect each other's 'core interests'

Prime Minister Imran Khan held wide-ranging talks with Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, on Saturday and the two leaders reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties including discussions on the bilateral economic and trade relations, onward march of CPEC and important issues of regional and global concern.

He was accompanied by foreign minister, minister for finance, minister for planning, reform and special initiatives, minister for information and broadcasting and senior officials. The interaction between the two leaders was marked by traditional sentiments of warmth, deep mutual trust and understanding.

The two sides reaffirmed the centrality of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and reiterated support for each other's issues of core interest.

Congratulating Premier Li for organizing Beijing Winter Olympics, the prime minister highlighted that strategic ties between Pakistan and China served the fundamental interests of the two countries and were a factor of peace and stability in the region. He added that successful celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations held last year injected a new impetus to bilateral friendship.

The Prime Minister thanked the Chinese government for support and assistance to Pakistan in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and timely supply of vaccines.

The Prime Minister appreciated the transformational impact of CPEC on Pakistan's infrastructure, energy, socio-economic development and improvement in livelihoods of the people. He underlined that Pakistan was committed to high quality development of CPEC through its mutually reinforcing industrial, trade, health, digital and green corridors.

The Prime Minister shared with Premier Li the measures taken by the government to provide policy guidance and support for enhanced Chinese investments in the CPEC SEZs and Special Technology Zones, and for safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan. The two leaders agreed to work closely on further deepening bilateral economic engagement and reaffirmed their commitment to further advance the multifaceted strategic cooperative ties and building the Pakistan-China Community of Shared Future in the New Era.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan while appreciating the interest of Chinese companies for enhancing business ties with Pakistan, highlighted that government of Pakistan had offered many incentives to foreign enterprises especially from China for investment in Pakistan Special Economic Zones.

The Prime Minister stated this during his second day of meetings with business leaders of China's top state-owned and private enterprises here on Saturday. The executives who met the Prime Minister included Chairmen of China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC), China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC), Power China, East Sea Group, China Railway Group Limited (CREC), China Metallurgical Group Corporation (MCC), Beijing Century Industrial Development Co. Ltd (CENTINCO) and the CHINAMEX Group.

During the meetings, the Chinese businesspersons briefed the Prime Minister on the progress of their on-going projects in Pakistan and future investment plans worth billions of US dollars in the fields of energy, refining, petrochemical, infrastructure development, water management, information and communication technology (ICT), and housing.

The prime minister assured that Pakistan would continue to support and facilitate the Chinese companies for their expanded footprints in Pakistan. The Prime Minister was accompanied in the meetings by the members of cabinet and senior officials. Separately, Prime Minister Imran Khan Saturday held an online meeting with Chairman China Energy and Engineering Corporation Dr. Song Hailiang and Chairman Power China Dr. Ding Yanzhang.

The meeting was about increasing investment in Pakistan's energy sector including renewable energy and improvement in irrigation infrastructure, PM Office Media wing said in a press release

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Finance Minister Shaukat Fayyaz Tarin, Information Minister Ch Fawad Hussain, Planning Minister Asad Umar, Advisor on Commerce Abdul Razzak Dawood, Special Assistant to PM on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor, National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf and senior officials concerned attended the meeting.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/880972/pakistan-china-to-protect-each-others-core-interests/>

Pakistan's Sesamum seeds export to China achieves historic figure

Pakistan and China trade was significantly higher last year and Pakistan's export of Sesamum seeds to China achieved a historical figure of \$120.44 million in the year 2021. China imported 92516.55 tons in 2021 and was one of the main destinations for Sesamum seeds exports from

Pakistan, while in 2020 it was only 38000 kilograms, according to the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Niger with 297255 tons founded the country with the largest volume of Sesamum seeds exported to China, followed by Togo and Sudan in terms of volume and value. Pakistan ranked sixth in terms of volume and shared around 3.3 percent of total exports to China in 2021.

It is worth mentioning that Pakistan's export to China increased 68.9pc in 2021, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. Commercial Counsellor of Pakistan in China Badar U Zaman said that normally there is a trend of cultivating traditional crops like wheat and rice but now the Pakistani farmers are also getting knowledge of the high-end and high-priced products like Sesamum seed.

Similarly, he said the seed is also available in Pakistan's cultivation methods, they are also learning, so hopefully Pakistan is going to be the top exporter of Sesamum seeds to China in the coming years.

"After the signing of phase-2 of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, we got access to Sesamum seeds in the Chinese market. Our exporters are very active. Many new exporters have been added to the General Administration of Customs of China list that increased the scale, but still, we have a big potential, and the Pakistani farmers also understand the varieties and the types of the sesame seed that is popular in China", Badar mentioned.

He said that Pakistan is collaborating in the agriculture sector with China. There have been specialists from China who are also guiding the Pakistani farmers on how to grow this crop. Similarly, many agriculture machinery suppliers, are also providing high-end technical machines like sorting machines to the Pakistani processors of these Sesamum seeds and the packaging has also improved.

Rakesh Pal Khamuani from Kanwal Trading Company Private Limited (Pakistan) said that Sesame seeds have been a very important trade recently in Pakistan. On average, Pakistan produces 100K tons of sesame seeds from which 85pc is exported and the rest during the winter is used in the local areas for bakery and sweets. Rakesh said that two bordering countries with over 70 years of relationship, unfortunately, do not have sesame seeds trade. Whereas Pakistan should be the priority for China to import sesame seeds because of the quick transit time.

He further said that when the new Free Trade Agreement (FTA) 2020 was launched that brought an opportunity for both countries to add sesame seeds to the list of 313 items and that helped duty from previously 10pc zero.

"Previously Pakistan majorly exported to countries like Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, Europe, and the USA. After the waive of duty in China of Pakistan origin in the last 2 years majorly, China is the biggest importer for Pakistan Sesame Seeds. The crop year of 2020-2021 was recorded highest exports in numbers from Pakistan out of which 54pc of the total exports were to China", he marked.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/881089/pakistans-sesamum-seeds-export-to-china-achieves-historic-figure-2/>

Chinese assistance in govt's Agriculture Transformation Plan vital for food security: PBF

The Business Community has urged the government to take concrete measures to bring down the cost of agriculture production, besides prioritizing the agri sector in its economic plan and ensuring food security through enhanced per acre yield.

At present we need to increase our yield per acre in all major crops including cotton, rice, wheat, and maize he said and added “without value addition in the agriculture sector and development of Agro-industries we would not be able to develop our economy better” said Pakistan Businesses Forum (PBF) Vice President, Ahmad Jawad.

He suggested nanotechnology for high-efficacy agriculture will promote traditional agriculture on the road of high-quality connotative development. It can effectively promote farmers' increase in production and income and solve problems such as abandoned farmland and the adverse effects caused by excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers.

In this regard, the Ministry of National Food and Security should talk with China to extend its achievements to iron-brother Pakistan in the field of nanotechnology to promote high-yield agriculture.

As the results of nanotechnology for High-yield Agriculture projects will not only benefit Pakistani farmers but also open a new way for China's agricultural science and technology to reach the world.

Similarly, “we must seek Chinese cooperation in the development of crop varieties, animal breed improvement, collaboration in further development of agricultural machinery and improvement of capacity development and training”.

He maintained that lack of investment in agriculture research, climate change, poor governance, and bad planning in the past has resulted in the shortage of wheat, sugar, and cotton in the country.

According to documents, cotton arrivals in Punjab were recorded at 3.5 million till 2021, as compared to five million bales last year. On the other hand, Sindh generated just 2.1 million bales, which was 38.52pc less when compared with the last year's production.

Jawad noted that the country was producing 26.7 million tonnes of wheat on 9.2 million hectares a few years ago. “But yield has now declined to 24 million tonnes while production area has reduced to 8.8 million hectares.” Similarly, the cotton production area shrank to 2.5 million hectares in Pakistan, with the yield at 618kg per hecter. In comparison, India was producing 29.4 million cotton bales, and China 27.5 million bales, and sugarcane production was recorded at 75.5 million tonnes on 1.2 million hectares last.

“Despite 11.5pc increase in cultivated land, along with 187pc surge in wheat production, 171pc in cotton production and 162pc in sugarcane production during the last 45 years, the country is struggling to meet its demands mainly due to continuous increase in the country’s population, which has reached 222.1 million with a growth rate of 1.9pc”.

“Keeping the above in mind, the government must reduce the cost of production through direct support to farmers in purchase of machinery, fertilizers, pesticides, and other inputs, while infrastructure should also be developed to ensure farm-to-market access. Besides, the government should formulate sustainable agriculture policy to ensure food security in the country,” he added.

“After the 18th amendment, agriculture is a provincial subject but unfortunately it looks that provincial governments are not serious in increasing the production as they had not taken any positive steps in this regard so far,” he lamented. “Negligence in the agriculture sector could lead the country towards severe food security while a shortage of essential food items would increase inflation.” He further pointed out, “Seed is the basic input for the agriculture sector and has an imperative role in enhancing agriculture productivity. The world has now focused on the use of certified seed for enhancing agriculture productivity owing to its better profitability coupled with the application of internationally acceptable quality parameters.”

Ahmad Jawad opined that technology and farm mechanization could accelerate the growth of the agriculture sector. “Since all economic indicators are moving in the positive direction, the government should now divert its full attention to share the benefits of this movement with the masses,” he concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/881105/chinese-assistance-in-govts-agriculture-transformation-plan-vital-for-food-security-pbf/>

Dunya News

FM Qureshi thanks Chinese counterpart for China's firm support to Pakistan

BEIJING (Dunya News) - Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a meeting with China’s State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday in Beijing.

The Foreign Minister congratulated his Chinese counterpart on the successful hosting of the Winter Olympics and conveyed his best wishes on the Chinese Lunar New Year.

Foreign Minister thanked his counterpart for China’s firm support to Pakistan’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national development, and reaffirmed Pakistan’s full support to China on all issues of its core interest.

The two Foreign Ministers also discussed the evolving situation in the region and beyond, in particular grave humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

It was agreed to maintain closer coordination to promote the shared objectives of peace, stability and development in Afghanistan and regional connectivity.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/639984-FM-Qureshi-thanks-Chinese-counterpart-for-China-firm-support-to-Pakistan>

PM Imran, Chinese President discuss matters of mutual interest

BEIJING (Dunya News) – Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday held a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry, in a tweet, said that PM Imran Khan discussed bilateral ties as well as global developments.

A day earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan also met with Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang on Saturday.

PM Imran was accompanied by the Minister for Finance; Minister for Planning, Reform and Special Initiatives; Minister for Information and Broadcasting and senior officials.

Congratulating Premier Li for organizing Beijing Winter Olympics, the Prime Minister highlighted that strategic ties between Pakistan and China served the fundamental interests of the two countries and were a factor of peace and stability in the region. He added that successful celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations held last year injected a new impetus to bilateral friendship.

The prime minister thanked the Chinese government for support and assistance to Pakistan in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and timely supply of vaccines.

Imran Khan appreciated the transformational impact of CPEC on Pakistan's infrastructure, energy, socio-economic development and improvement in livelihoods of the people. He underlined that Pakistan was committed to high quality development of CPEC through its mutually reinforcing industrial, trade, health, digital and green corridors.

He shared with Premier Li the measures taken by the government to provide policy guidance and support for enhanced Chinese investments in the CPEC SEZs and Special Technology Zones, and for safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/639981-PM-Imran-Chinese-President-discuss-matters-of-mutual-interest>

Pakistan, China will hold meeting to discuss Afghan situation during March: FM Qureshi

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Sunday said that Pakistan and China have agreed to hold a meeting to discuss the situation in Afghanistan at the end of March.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin and National Security Adviser were also present on the occasion.

The Foreign Minister said Afghanistan will also be invited for the meeting in China. He said China acknowledges Pakistan's efforts for peace in Afghanistan. He said another meeting will be held on Afghanistan comprising of all its neighbor countries.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi said during meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang matters pertaining to economy, investment and China Pakistan Economic Corridor were discussed.

He said Prime Minister also held meetings with public and private companies of China.

The Foreign Minister said during meetings Pakistan and China expressed their concerns about plight of minorities in India.

He said four member contingent of Pakistani athletes was welcomed warmly. Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said government will bring a complete framework to introduce winter sports in the country. He regretted that Pakistan despite having beautiful landscape of Northern areas is far behind in winter Olympics.

Commenting on recent political developments, he said meeting of Pakistan Peoples Party and PML-N's leadership was to protect their own vested interests. He said opposition parties had already announced several long marches but it has always failed.

FM Qureshi thanks Chinese counterpart for China's firm support to Pakistan Earlier on Sunday, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a meeting with China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing.

The Foreign Minister congratulated his Chinese counterpart on the successful hosting of the Winter Olympics and conveyed his best wishes on the Chinese Lunar New Year.

Foreign Minister thanked his counterpart for China's firm support to Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national development, and reaffirmed Pakistan's full support to China on all issues of its core interest.

The two Foreign Ministers also discussed the evolving situation in the region and beyond, in particular grave humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. It was agreed to maintain closer coordination to promote the shared objectives of peace, stability and development in Afghanistan and regional connectivity.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/640012-Pakistan-China-will-hold-meeting-to-discuss-Afghan-situation-during-Mar>

Pakistan Observer

Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China

Rashid Ahmad Chaudhry

PRIME Minister Imran Khan's visit to China is going to mark a watershed in the history of good relations between the two neighbours.

Not only that Pakistan did not follow the USA and Europe to boycott the International Sports event in China but also turned into a bilateral visit.

Official reports indicate that as many as 21 new sectors would be opened up under the CPEC during the visit putting a shut-up call to circles harbouring and promoting the misperception that CPEC under Prime Minister Imran Khan (PMIK) government was put in the cold storage to avoid offending the US and Europe.

Even before the visit, one Arif Rafiq contributed an op-ed piece in the New York Times International Edition circulated in Pakistan as well on Monday (January 24, 2022) under the title, 'Pakistan's Army wants a do-over with America'.

This reminded me the words of John Swinton, former Chief of Staff of The New York Times.

When asked to give a toast to the "free press" at the New York Press Club, he stated: "There is no such thing, at this date of the world's history, in America, as an independent press.

You know it and I know it. There is not one of you who dares to write your honest opinions, and if you did, you know beforehand that it would never appear in print.

I am paid weekly for keeping my honest opinion out of the paper I am connected with.

Others of you are paid similar salaries for similar things, and any of you who would be so foolish as to write honest opinions would be out on the streets looking for another job.

If I allowed my honest opinions to appear in one issue of my paper, before twenty-four hours my occupation would be gone.

The business of the journalists is to destroy the truth; to lie outright; to pervert; to vilify; to fawn at the feet of mammon, and to sell his country and his race for his daily bread.

You know it and I know it and what folly is this toasting an independent press?

We are the tools and vassals of rich men behind the scenes. We are the jumping jacks; they pull the strings and we dance.

Our talents, our possibilities and our lives are all the property of other men. We are intellectual prostitutes."

With this stark reality in view, let me make some apt comments on Pakistan-China relations in the context of Goebbels' tactics employed by Arif Rafiq in his article.

The affiliation of Arif Rafiq with a political risk advisory firm specializing in the Middle East and South Asia makes it obvious that he works for creating a media perception to jeopardize Pakistan-China relations at a very crucial time when PMIK is visiting China after shameful exit of the US and its allied NATO forces from Afghanistan.

I have the apprehension that a certain lobby represented by the likes-of Arif Rafiq would trump-up this theme in the media in the days to come to eclipse the anticipated encouraging outcome of the visit.

Let's see the sarcasm latent in Arif Rafiq's comment that Pakistan and China's leadership have described their relationship as "sweeter than honey".

Adding the concocted insinuation that "Pakistan Army's view of relationship with China appears to be soaring- and diverging from the political leadership".

The conclusions drawn by Arif Rafiq are purportedly based on assessment of a TV anchor, Kamran Khan who is hardly believed to be an expert on international relations in general and Pak-China ties in particular.

His specialty in media is political commentary and not the international or regional arena.

Media circles in Pakistan would seriously question the objective assessment of such a naïve Media Anchor on issues like Pakistan's relations with China, India and the United States.

I tend to disagree with Arif Rafiq that media in Pakistan is a grey area. Compared to its immediate neighbour, India, where the media hardly reports anything unless cleared by the South Block, Pakistan media is completely free reporting whatever it likes without any clearance or permission from the State institutions.

The argument put forth by Arif Rafiq that Pakistan Army "fears getting trapped in a cul-de-sac with Beijing" is contrary to reality.

Whenever Pakistan Army needed state of the art defence equipment, the US and its allies declined to oblige Pakistan due to India factor.

Conversely, China has been a reliable source of supplies to Pakistan and even entering into several joint ventures for defence production.

Pakistan's dependence on Chinese armament is the only reliable source for its traditional requirement of defense equipment.

Arif Rafiq failed to mention oft-repeated stance of the Pakistan leadership-both civilian and the defence forces — that we would keep a balance in international relations with all countries.

While the general perception in Pakistan is that the Chinese leadership and Pakistan military leadership are more in comfort with each other than any previous governments, Arif Rafiq tried to sell the new hypothesis.

Of course, it is his overt mandate to confound facts with fiction and try to create a wedge between the two state organs of Pakistan and vitiate the outcome of PMIK's visit to China.

Quoting a lone analyst and using his words to formulate hypothesis is a common media gimmickry.

Arif Rafiq has indeed used this trick skilfully. In the days to come, his comments would be used by his like-minded influencers in Pakistan media.

Let me admit frankly that foreign advertisement flow in Pakistan is a very important factor in shaping media perception.

The influence of foreign advertisement tycoons in Pakistan is pervasive and total. No government including that of PMIK can withstand the impact of this influence.

The foreign media perceptions are readily adapted to blast Pakistan and its institutions. As long as China is an economic threat to the interests of the erstwhile solo world superpower, United States of America, they would continue to use their proxies in Pakistan media to spread negative perception about the key institutions of Pakistan like the Army.

Many a times, questions are raised about secrecy of agreements between China and Pakistan under CPEC and unfounded allegations of wrong doing against Pakistan interest and ultimate alleged colonization of Pakistan by China are dished out in Pakistan media.

The subject needs a comprehensive debate.—The writer is a former Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Chairman, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority.

<https://pakobserver.net/prime-minister-imran-khans-visit-to-china-by-rashid-ahmad-chaudhry/>

Chinese assistance in ATP vital for our food security: Ahmad

The Business Community has urged the government to take concrete measures to bring down the cost of agriculture production, besides prioritizing the agri sector in its economic plan, and ensuring food security through enhanced per acre yield.

At present we need to increase our yield per acre in all major crops including cotton, rice, wheat and maize he said and added “without value addition in the agriculture sector and development of agro-industries we would not be able to develop our economy better” said Pakistan Businesses Forum (PBF) Vice President, Ahmad Jawad.

He suggested nanotechnology for high-efficacy agriculture will promote traditional agriculture on the road of high-quality connotative development. It can effectively promote farmers increase in production and income and solve problems such as abandoned farmland and the adverse effects caused by excessive use of pesticides and fertilizers.

In this regard Ministry of National Food and Security should talk with China to extend its achievements to the iron-brother Pakistan in the field of nanotechnology to promote high-yield agriculture.

As the results of nanotechnology for High-yield Agriculture projects will not only benefit Pakistani farmers, but also open a new way for China agricultural science and technology to reach the world.

Similarly “we must seek Chinese cooperation in the development of crop varieties, animal breed improvement, collaboration in further development of agricultural machinery and improvement of capacity development and training”.

He maintained that lack of investment in agriculture research, climate change, poor governance and bad planning in the past has resulted in the shortage of wheat, sugar and cotton in the country.

According to documents, cotton arrivals in Punjab were recorded at 3.5 million till 2021, as compared to 5 million bales last year. On the other hand, Sindh generated just 2.1 million bales, which was 38.52pc less when compared with the last year's production.

Jawad noted that the country was producing 26.7 million tonnes of wheat on 9.2 million hectares a few years ago. "But yield has now declined to 24 million tonnes while production area has reduced to 8.8 million hectares."

Similarly, cotton production area shrank to 2.5 million hectares in Pakistan, with yield at 618kg per hectare. In comparison, India was producing 29.4 million cotton bales, and China 27.5 million bales and sugarcane production was recorded at 75.5 million tonnes on 1.2 million hectares last.

"Despite 11.5pc increase in cultivated land, along with 187pc surge in wheat production, 171pc in cotton production and 162pc in sugarcane production during the last 45 years, the country is struggling meet its demands mainly due to continuous increase in the country's population, which has reached 222.1 million with a growth rate of 1.9pc".

"Keeping the above in mind, the government must reduce the cost of production through direct support to farmers in purchase of machinery, fertilisers, pesticides and other inputs, while infrastructure should also be developed to ensure farm-to-market access. Besides, the government should formulate sustainable agriculture policy to ensure food security in the country," he added.

"After the 18th amendment, agriculture is a provincial subject but unfortunately it looks that provincial governments are not serious in increasing the production as they had not taken any positive steps in this regard so far," he lamented. "Negligence in agriculture sector could lead the country towards severe food security while shortage of essential food items would increase inflation."

He further pointed out, "Seed is the basic input for agriculture sector and has an imperative role in enhancing agriculture productivity. The world has now focused on the use of certified seed for enhancing agriculture productivity owing to its better profitability coupled with the application of internationally acceptable quality parameters."

Ahmad Jawad opined that technology and farm mechanization could accelerate the growth of agriculture sector. "Since all economic indicators are moving in the positive direction, the government should now divert its full attention to share the benefits of this movement with the masses," he concluded.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-assistance-in-atp-vital-for-our-food-security-ahmad/>

'Look China' pays back

THE commitments made by a number of Chinese companies to make substantial investment in different sectors of Pakistan's economy on the very first day of Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Beijing put a seal on demands for 'Look China' policy, which are made, time and again, by the ardent supporters of Pakistan-China friendship.

Though the visit of the Prime Minister was necessarily in connection with the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics, being hosted by China, his meetings with heads and representatives of a number of prominent Chinese companies blossomed into concrete commitments about much-needed investment.

It is mainly because of the economic dimensions of the China-Pak relationship that some foreign powers conspired to stir up trouble in Balochistan with the help of some local collaborators as part of their designs to scuttle the path of progress and development chosen by people of Pakistan.

However, undeterred by the latest developments, the Chinese companies expressed their enthusiasm for undertaking different projects in Pakistan and the significance of the understanding can be gauged by the fact that only one project – low carbon recycling park for steel metal and paper processing for export purposes at Gwadar Free Zone – envisages an investment of \$4.5 billion in two to three years, generating 40,000 job opportunities.

China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), a subsidiary of Sinomach, will set up Pakistan-China Agricultural Science and Technology Transferring Centre on a government-to-government aid basis, which will offer agricultural mechanization cooperation for improving the yield of various crops and quality of seeds.

The company has also expressed interest in establishing an onshore LNG storage facility with a re-gasification terminal that is expected to go a long way in addressing the growing shortage of gas in the country.

There seems to be a major thrust on investment in the food and agriculture sector as per the vision of the leadership of the two countries to intensify collaboration in the field under the second phase of the CPEC.

Zhengbang Group has signed an MoU with Fauji Fertilisers Company (FFC) for the production of pesticides and cattle and poultry feed besides plan to jointly develop corporate farming for growing corn and soya beans for export purposes.

Royal Group plans to set up a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) free dairy buffalo farm project with an investment of \$50 million.

The group envisages developing four large scale buffalo farms for 16 million litres annual milk production capacity and a buffalo milk deep processing plant with an investment of \$30 million.

A company would establish a special economic zone of world standards value-added apparel including a cluster of supply chains with an investment of \$250 million that would produce exports of \$400 million annually and employ 20,000 people.

At an investment of \$3.5 billion, Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) would create thousands of job opportunities and emerge as a hub for tourism, IT, fashion, media, finance, ports and shipping services.

Another important project that is expected to play a critical role in the economic development of the country seeks to lay an optical fibre cable network of around 100,000 kilometres in all major cities of Pakistan with an investment of \$2 billion.

The Global Semiconductor Group plans to establish a semiconductor testing facility in addition to a research and development and skills development training centre with an investment of \$40 million which is expected to employ 100,000 IT professionals.

All this show “sky is the limit” when it comes to expansion of Pakistan-China economic collaboration.

These are not paper dreams as Chinese have the demonstrated capability and resolve to deliver on their promises and commitments as we have witnessed in the case of fast-pace implementation of a number of energy and infrastructure projects under the first phase of the CPEC that have started contributing their share to the national economy.

It is because of the huge benefits of cooperative relationship with China for people of Pakistan that the enemy is trying to derail the process.

The opportunity is definitely there to embark on a fast track path of progress and prosperity but it depends on the level of political commitment and our capability and capacity to translate these plans into actual projects.

There is also need to take foolproof and comprehensive measures to boost security of foreign investors and their projects in the backdrop of intensified wave of foreign-sponsored terrorism.

<https://pakobserver.net/look-china-pays-back/>

Chinese companies to be facilitated for investment in Pakistan: PM

Prime Minister Imran Khan while appreciating the interest of Chinese companies for enhancing busi-ness ties with Pakistan, highlighted that government of Pakistan had offered many incentives to foreign enterprises especially from China for investment in Pakistan Special Economic Zones.

The prime minister stated this during his second day of meetings with business leaders of China’s top state-owned and private enterprises here on Saturday.

The executives who met the prime minister included Chairmen of China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC), China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC), Power China, East Sea Group, China Railway Group Limited (CREC), China Metallurgical Group Corporation (MCC), Beijing Century Industrial Development Co. Ltd (CENTINCO) and the CHINAMEX Group.

During the meetings, the Chinese businesspersons briefed the prime minister on the progress of their on-going projects in Pakistan and future investment plans worth billions of US dollars in the fields of energy, refining, petrochemical, infrastructure development, water management, information and communication technology (ICT), and housing.

China Energy is a Fortune 500 conglomerate operating in the fields of energy, water management, transportation and construction; CSCEC's major areas of focus are communications and engineering; Power China provides services in the energy & water sectors; East Sea Group is an international energy and chemical trading company; CREC focuses on engineering, real estate development, Railways and mining sectors; MCC is the world's largest metallurgical construction contractor; CENTINCO specializes in industrial, infrastructure refining and petrochemical projects.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/imran-xi-jinping-review-pak-china-bilateral-coop/>

The Express Tribune

‘We received warmth more than our expectations’: Qureshi on China visit

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that Prime Minister Imran Khan held very comprehensive meetings with the Chinese leadership and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties during his just concluded visit to Beijing.

“We are encouraged and received warmth more than our expectations. China has a clear direction in which Pakistan has a prominent position,” he said while addressing the media in Islamabad after his return from China.

FM Qureshi was a part of the high-level delegation led by PM Imran that visited China to attend the Beijing Winter Olympic games at the special invitation of the Chinese leadership.

During these high-level meetings, leadership of the two countries discussed future prospects of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CEPC), economic integration, and the next phase of CPEC.

The foreign minister said, “Without any hesitation, I want to say that these meetings were held extensively and with much clarity.”

Over Afghanistan, both the countries shared unanimous opinion. Pakistan's contributions towards Afghan humanitarian assistance were acknowledged by China, he said, adding that the Chinese leadership viewed the holding of the extraordinary meeting of OIC on Afghanistan as a successful one.

The foreign minister informed that during the meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, they agreed to meet again in Beijing in March. The immediate neighbours of Afghanistan would be invited to a meeting including Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and others.

He said Pakistan, China and Afghanistan were members of a trilateral forum which would be further strengthened for coordination over Afghanistan.

Referring to India, the foreign minister said that they were concerned over treatment of minorities, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Dalits as their human rights were being trampled.

China and Pakistan shared same opinion and there was no ambiguity over the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) issue, he maintained.

During the delegation-level talks, and meeting with Premier Li, they discussed ways and means to move on the economic front, enhance market access, bridge the trade imbalance and increase Chinese investment in different areas.

Qureshi said Pakistan had identified areas where the Chinese companies could get benefits through investment. “These are the win-win projects”, and they had conveyed such economic prospects to the Chinese companies through a well-prepared booklet, he added.

The prime minister, he said, held meetings with about twenty prominent state and private companies in which their authorities had identified interests over investment in key areas of Pakistan.

The prime minister also shared Pakistan’s perspective over a host of issues during his interaction with the renowned think tanks in China, he added.

The foreign minister said during the splendid opening ceremony of Beijing Winter Olympics, the Pakistani athletes were warmly received by the Chinese people which reflected that this friendship was people-centric, as people in both countries regarded each other as brothers and friends.

The foreign minister further said that to advance the shared objectives of economic progress and prosperity and bilateral cooperation, they had also devised a follow-up mechanism.

Speaking on the occasion, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said that the Chinese leadership had appreciated government’s economic reforms and fiscal discipline.

Terming the prime minister’s visit to China as ‘highly successful’, he expressed the confidence that it would bring further stability in the country’s economy.

The ties between Pakistan and China were not only changing the regional situation but also changing the economic situation, he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2342283/we-received-warmth-more-than-our-expectations-qureshi-on-china-visit>

The Nation

Pak-China strategic ties ‘factor of peace in region’

BEIJING - Prime Minister Imran Khan held wide ranging talks with his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang in Beijing on Saturday.

In a tweet, Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Chaudhary Fawad Hussain said that Kashmir and Afghanistan were important topics of discussion during the meeting. He said China has always played an important role as Pakistan’s political, economic and strategic partner. According to officials, PM Imran Khan was accompanied by the Foreign Minister; Minister for

Finance; Minister for Planning, Reform and Special Initiatives; Minister for Information and Broadcasting and senior officials.

The interaction between the two leaders was marked by traditional sentiments of warmth, deep mutual trust and understanding. During the meeting, they reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties including discussions on the bilateral economic and trade relations, onward march of CPEC and important issues of regional and global concern. The two sides reaffirmed the centrality of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and reiterated support on each other's issues of core interest.

Congratulating Premier Li for organizing Beijing Winter Olympics, the Prime Minister highlighted that strategic ties between Pakistan and China served the fundamental interests of the two countries and were a factor of peace and stability in the region. He added that successful celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations held last year injected a new impetus to bilateral friendship. The Prime Minister thanked the Chinese government for support and assistance to Pakistan in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and timely supply of vaccines.

The Prime Minister appreciated the transformational impact of CPEC on Pakistan's infrastructure, energy, socioeconomic development and improvement in livelihoods of the people. He underlined that Pakistan was committed to high quality development of CPEC through its mutually reinforcing industrial, trade, health, digital and green corridors.

The Prime Minister shared with Premier Li the measures taken by the government to provide policy guidance and support for enhanced Chinese investments in the CPEC SEZs and Special Technology Zones, and for safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan.

Exchanging views on the regional security situation, the Prime Minister highlighted the serious situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as well as the importance of urgent action by the international community to alleviate sufferings of the Kashmiri people. He also underscored the importance of Pakistan and China working together to promote shared objectives of peace, stability and development in Afghanistan and regional connectivity.

The two leaders agreed to work closely on further deepening bilateral economic engagement and reaffirmed their commitment to further advance the multifaceted strategic cooperative ties and building the Pakistan-China community of shared future in the new era.

'Renewable energy, irrigation'

Also, Prime Minister Imran Khan concluded his second day of meetings with business leaders of mega China's top state owned and private enterprises in Beijing on Saturday.

The executives who met the Prime Minister included Chairmen of China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC), China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC), Power China, East Sea Group, China Railway Group Limited (CREC), China Metallurgical Group

Corporation (MCC), Beijing Century Industrial Development Co. Ltd (CENTINCO) and the CHINAMEX Group.

During the meetings, the Chinese businesspersons briefed the Prime Minister on the progress of their ongoing projects in Pakistan and future investment plans worth billions of US dollars in the fields of energy, Refining, Petrochemical, infrastructure development, wa-ter management, information and communication technology (ICT), and housing.

China Energy is a Fortune 500 conglomerate operating in the fields of energy, water management, transportation and construction; CSCEC's major areas of focus are communications and engineering; Power China provides services in the energy & water sectors; East Sea Group is an international energy and chemical trading company; CREC focuses on engineering, real estate development, Railways and mining sectors; MCC is the world's largest metallurgical construction contractor; CENTINCO specializes in industrial, infrastructure refining & petrochemical projects; and CHINAMEX Group has carried out urban development projects in several countries.

Appreciating the interests of Chinese companies for enhancing business ties with Pakistan, the Prime Minister highlighted that government of Pakistan had offered many incentives to foreign enterprises especially from China for investment in Pakistan Special Economic Zones. He assured that Pakistan would continue to support and facilitate the Chinese companies for their expanded footprints in Pakistan. The Prime Minister was accompanied in the meetings by the members of cabinet and senior officials.

PAKISTAN, UZBEKISTAN FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

Pakistan and Uzbekistan have underlined the need of global efforts to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan to avoid economic crisis in the war torn country.

The resolve came during a meeting between Prime Minis-ter Imran Khan and President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony in Beijing today.

The two leaders agreed that a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan is vital for regional stability as well as for realization of infrastructure and connectivity projects.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-06/page-1/detail-0>

KKH and the Jaglot-Skardu road

Masud Ahmad Khan

After the liberation of Gilgit-Baltistan, the region was accessible by air (flights subject to weather) and by road through the Babusar Valley Road crossing over the Babusar Top (13700 feet) to Chilas and Gilgit. Chilas was occupied by the British after a fierce battle in 1893 and its position on the flank of the Gilgit-Kashmir road made it a place of military importance. This Babusar road was developed by the British to connect the region with Frontier (KP) and Punjab

and also to ensure protection of its exposed flank. This road remained open for four months in summers only. After partition, a plan was conceived to connect Chilas with Swat via Besham through a 250-kilometre road to be known as Indus Valley Road and it was also decided to widen the existing 90 miles narrow track between Chilas and Gilgit which was assigned to PWD.

Plans for the construction of Karakoram Highway were drawn up in 1958/1959 and work commenced in 1960. On the ground, there was no track to follow, just a narrow footpath even difficult for animals to negotiate. According to veterans who worked on the project, all the supplies including explosives had to be carried by the soldiers on their backs. Most of the equipment was dismantled and then carried to the next camp to be reassembled. In 1965, some 140 kilometres of the planned 155 had been completed. During the 1965 war, construction work was stopped. After the war, work resumed and it was decided to expand the road up to the Chinese border (Khunjerab Top) and accordingly, an agreement was signed with China in 1966.

In 1967, simultaneous construction started from Thakot-Chilas to Gilgit and also from Khunjerab. According to the agreement, China undertook the construction work to build a similar road on its side of the border. Work on both sides started in 1966 and the same year Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) was created. At the peak of construction some 15000 people worked on the project from Pakistan's side and China employed a work force between 9000 to 11000.

The road was completed in 15 years which passes through some of rugged, toughest and most picturesque terrain in the world. KKH covers 100 miles through Kohistan district, 75 miles through district Chilas and from Danyor to Khunjerab covers a 165 miles distance along Hunza river. The 500-mile (847 kilometers) road starts from Havelian, winds through Abbottabad, Mansehra, Battagram, Thakot, Besham, Shatial, Chilas, Gilgit, Hunza, Khunjerab and enters China. KKH at Khunjerab top (15400 feet), the northern gate at the roof of the world crosses to enter China and Mintaka pass lie astride an ancient silk route that led from Europe to Asia. In the past, the link between Hunza and China was across the Kilik-Mintaka passes over the opening of Misgar village and onwards to Hunza. Mintaka was an opening towards the Chinese empire on the East and Russia on the north-west whereas the British were to the south.

Today, much of KKH follows the old silk route which was opened during the Han dynasty some 200 years before the birth of Christ. The road which has now replaced the silk route is KKH, known as the eighth wonder of the world. 810 Pakistani soldiers and 82 Chinese workers lost their lives during the construction. The army engineers pioneered the KKH before China joined them in a big way. The present road which has been re-carpeted and widened is like an expressway and will not be an exaggeration if it is called the silk route. In the past, the Skardu region was connected with Gilgit through a jeep able track via the Deosai plains (15000 feet), which was covered in 8 days. There was another foot track along the Indus River from Gilgit to Skardu used during winters and 12 days were taken to reach Skardu.

The Jaglot-Skardu road, which is 164 kilometers long, has recently been upgraded/expanded which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Imran Khan in December last year. The width of

the road has been expanded from 3.6 to 7.3 meters and sharp curves have been smoothed. The strategic Jaglot-Skardu road connects KKH from Jaglot (40 kilometers short of Gilgit) with Skardu (7300 feet). In the 80s, while serving at Siachen glacier, I travelled on the old Jaglot-Skardu road frequently which took 8 hours. With the upgrade, the travel time has been reduced from 9 hours to 3. Jaglot-Skardu road is vital from a defence point of view. The road is a major supply route to troops deployed at Siachen, Shyok valley, Indus valley and the Kargil sector. The entire Baltistan division for all logistics supplies is dependent on this road. KKH and Jaglot-Skardu road will certainly bring prosperity to the region; tourism will flourish, which will also increase economic activities.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-06/page-6/detail-0>

The News

PM holds talks with Chinese PM, Uzbek president

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday held wide-ranging talks with Li Keqiang, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, in Beijing. He was accompanied by the foreign minister, minister for Finance, minister for Planning, Reform and Special Initiatives', minister for Information & Broadcasting besides senior officials.

The two leaders agreed to work closely on further deepening bilateral economic engagement and reaffirmed their commitment to further advance the multifaceted strategic cooperative ties and building the Pakistan-China Community of Shared Future in the new era.

The interaction between the two leaders was marked by traditional sentiments of warmth, deep mutual trust and understanding. During the meeting, they reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties, including discussions on the bilateral economic and trade relations, onward march of CPEC and important issues of regional and global concern.

The two sides reaffirmed the centrality of the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and reiterated support on each other's issues of core interest.

Congratulating Premier Li for organising Beijing Winter Olympics, Prime Minister Imran Khan highlighted that strategic ties between Pakistan and China serving the fundamental interests of the two countries and a factor of peace and stability in the region. He added that successful celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations held last year injected a new impetus to bilateral friendship.

The prime minister thanked the Chinese government for support and assistance to Pakistan in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and timely supply of vaccines.

The prime minister appreciated the transformational impact of CPEC on Pakistan's infrastructure, energy, socio-economic development and improvement in livelihoods of the people. He underlined that Pakistan is committed to high quality development of CPEC through its mutually reinforcing industrial, trade, health, digital and green corridors.

The prime minister shared with Premier Li the measures taken by the government to provide policy guidance and support for enhanced Chinese investments in the CPEC SEZs and Special Technology Zones, and for safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan.

Exchanging views on the regional security situation, the prime minister highlighted the serious situation in IIOJK as well as the importance of urgent action by the international community to alleviate sufferings of the Kashmiri people.

He also underscored the importance of Pakistan and China working together to promote shared objectives of peace, stability and development in Afghanistan and regional connectivity.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan met with President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of the Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony in Beijing. The two leaders exchanged views in detail on the entire gamut of bilateral relations based on shared bonds of faith, history and culture and marked by cordiality and close cooperation.

The two leaders reaffirmed their resolve to comprehensively upgrade Pakistan-Uzbekistan partnership across the broad spectrum and continue taking practical steps for implementation of the key projects.

Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored the importance of enhanced trade and economic cooperation, particularly through operationalising the landmark bilateral Transit Trade Agreement (UPTTA) and finalising the Preferential Trade Agreement. He also reiterated Pakistan's full support to the Trans-Afghan railway project and exchanged views on next steps in taking it forward over the coming months. To further improve connectivity and people-to-people contacts, the prime minister underlined the need to enhance tourism, take steps for resuming direct flights, strengthen banking links, and facilitate visas procedures.

The two leaders also discussed cooperation in education and culture and recognised progress on joint research and media ventures, including joint film on Baburi heritage and dubbing of Pakistani dramas in Uzbek language. They also exchanged views on issues of regional peace and stability.

The two sides stressed the need for continuing economic and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan by the international community to avoid any further deterioration of the situation. Stressing the need for practical engagement, the two leaders agreed that a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan is vital for regional stability as well as for the realisation of infrastructure and connectivity projects.

Prime Minister Imran Khan said the people of Pakistan were looking forward to welcoming President Mirziyoyev on his visit to Pakistan. The two sides agreed to work closely to ensure concrete outcome of the visit.

In a related development, Prime Minister Imran Khan concluded his second day of meetings with business leaders of mega China's top state-owned and private enterprises in Beijing. The

executives who met the prime minister included Chairmen of China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC), China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC), Power China, East Sea Group, China Railway Group Limited (CREC), China Metallurgical Group Corporation (MCC), Beijing Century Industrial Development Co Ltd (CENTINCO) and the CHINAMEX Group.

During the meetings, the Chinese businesspersons briefed the prime minister on the progress of their ongoing projects in Pakistan and future investment plans worth billions of US dollars in the fields of energy, refining, petrochemical, infrastructure development, water management, information and communication technology (ICT), and housing.

China Energy is a Fortune 500 conglomerate operating in the fields of energy, water management, transportation and construction; CSCEC's major areas of focus are communications and engineering; Power China provides services in the energy & water sectors; East Sea Group is an international energy and chemical trading company; CREC focuses on engineering, real estate development, railways and mining sectors; MCC is the world's largest metallurgical construction contractor; CENTINCO specialises in industrial, infrastructure refining & petrochemical projects; and CHINAMEX Group has carried out urban development projects in several countries.

Appreciating the interests of Chinese companies for enhancing business ties with Pakistan, the prime minister highlighted that the government of Pakistan had offered many incentives to foreign enterprises, especially from China, for investment in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones.

He assured that Pakistan would continue to support and facilitate the Chinese companies for their expanded footprints in Pakistan. The prime minister was accompanied in the meetings by the members of cabinet and senior officials.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=53819>

Fawad says PM offers role in resolving US, China dispute

BEIJING: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Saturday while quoting Prime Minister Imran Khan as saying that Pakistan was ready to play its role in resolving the dispute between the United States and China.

The prime minister, he added, would have a one-on-one meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping tomorrow (Sunday).

During meetings with the Chinese leadership, the bilateral relations between the two countries would be discussed, he added.

He said water projects in Karachi and Faisalabad were discussed during Prime Minister Imran Khan's meetings with Chinese investors.

"The water supply project for Karachi (K-4), Hub Canal and water treatment plant in Faisalabad came under discussion in the meetings," he said in a media talk. He would also meet United

Nations Secretary General António Guterres, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang in the evening, Fawad added. The minister said the Pakistani sportsmen were participating in the Chinese Winter Olympics for the first time. The Pakistani contingent was warmly welcomed by the people of China on its entry in the stadium, which was manifestation of the deep-rooted bilateral relations between the two countries.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=53823>

Stocks seen upbeat amid Chinese support bets

Shahid Shah

Stocks are expected to be buoyant next week amid bets that Prime Minister Imran Khan is likely to bring home some meaningful economic support from China, while strong earnings announcements may also prove buying triggers, traders said.

The market closed at 45,910 points, gaining 832 points (up by 1.85 percent) week-on-week. Average volumes hit 289 million shares, up 54 percent week-on-week, while average traded value jumped 43 percent to \$55 million over the last week.

“A number of positive announcements are expected during Prime Minister Imran Khan’s visit to Beijing which is likely to see some agreements being signed,” brokerage Arif Habib Ltd said in its weekly market review.

“Pakistan may be able to secure some investment in textile, IT, defence manufacturing, and engineering sectors along with some balance of payment support from China, which will bode well for bourse going forward.”

The market, it said, would closely watch corporate results announcements and strong earnings growth coupled with attractive dividend payouts might trigger a buying spree.

“Bullish momentum is expedited to last, banking on optimism with respect to forthcoming healthy corporate results,” the report said.

According to analysts, oil prices, hovering at 7-year high, kept some interest alive in the exploration sector throughout the week. However, bears broke the three day gaining streak of the bourse on the second last day of the week because of general profit-taking.

In the outgoing week, foreign selling hit \$4.42 million compared to a net sell of \$4.0 million last week. Major selling was witnessed in technology (\$2.0 million) and commercial banks (\$1.7 million). On the local front, buying was reported by other organisations (\$3.9 million) followed by mutual funds (\$3.0 million).

Sectors that supported the index included commercial banks (189 points), fertilisers (132 points), oil & gas exploration companies (127 points), oil & gas marketing companies (92 points), and textile composite (69 points). Stocks that reinforced the index were HBL (60 points), FFC (52 points), BAHF (51 points), OGDC (51 points), and PSO (50 points).

Sectors that dented the index included technology & communication (26 points), power generation & distribution (5 points), and automobile assembler (4 points). The major losing stocks were TRG (-18 points), SYS (-17 points), and HUBC (-12 points).

Other important events that had an impact on the market during the week were: trade deficit for the month of January 2022 declined 30 percent month-on-month to \$3.36 billion mainly on account of decline in imports, Pakistan received \$1 billion from recently issued international sukuk, while federal government decided to keep prices of petroleum product unchanged for another fortnight.

Other major events during the outgoing week were: January CPI clocked in at 13 percent year-on-year, Prime Minister visit to China Pakistan is set to float proposals to Beijing for renegotiation on contracts of power projects established under CPEC on the pattern of other IPPs, cement dispatches for January fell 16 percent month-on-month to 3.95 million tonnes, reportedly \$1.2 billion Saudi oil facility remains nonoperational due to legal and procedural delays, and foreign exchange reserves held by SBP dropped \$463 million to \$15.73 billion as of Jan 28, 2022.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=53632>

Jang News

چین افغانستان میں پاکستان کے کردار کا معترف ہے، شاہ محمود قریشی

وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ چین افغانستان میں پاکستان کے کردار کا معترف ہے۔

وفاقی وزراء کے ہمراہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین سے متعلق بریفنگ دیتے ہوئے وزیر خارجہ کا کہنا تھا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی چینی صدر کے ساتھ تفصیلی گفتگو ہوئی۔

شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ ہم اس بار مکمل تیاری کر کے گئے تھے، ہم نے انہیں بتایا چین کو سرمایہ کاری کرنے سے فائدہ ہوگا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ دورہ چین میں سی پیک منصوبوں پر تفصیلی گفتگو ہوئی، چین کی نمایاں کمپنیوں کے ساتھ وزیر اعظم کی نشستیں ہوئی ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے ہمیں بتایا کہ وہ پاکستان میں کہاں انوسٹمنٹ کا ارادہ رکھتے ہیں، مختلف تھنک ٹینکس کو دعوت دی گئی تھی۔ وزیر خارجہ نے بتایا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے پاکستان کا وژن شیئر کیا اور بہت اچھی نشست رہی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مقبوضہ کشمیر پر پاکستان کے موقف سے متعلق کوئی ابہام نہیں۔

وزیر خارجہ کا کہنا تھا کہ ونٹرا اوپیکس کا ایونٹ قابل دید تھا، پاکستان کے اٹھلیٹس کے گروپ کی اسٹیڈیم میں داخلے پر تالیاں بجنیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی عوام کے دلوں میں پاکستان کے لیے محبت بھی ہے اور عزت بھی۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ ہر آڑے وقت میں ہم ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ کھڑے ہیں اور رہیں گے۔

انہوں نے بتایا کہ بیجنگ میں افغانستان کے تمام ہمسایہ ممالک کا اجلاس ہوگا، مارچ کے آخری ہفتے میں وہ چین کا دورہ کریں گے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1046897>

سی بیک کا تیسرا مرحلہ سرمایہ کاری کا ہے، فواد چوہدری

وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات فواد چوہدری نے کہا ہے کہ سی بیک کے تین بنیادی حصے ہیں، تیسرا مرحلہ سرمایہ کاری کا ہے۔ جیونیوز کے پروگرام جیو پاکستان میں گفتگو کے دوران فواد چوہدری نے کہا کہ سی بیک سب سے پہلے پرویز مشرف کے دور میں شروع ہوا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں لیبر کاسٹ دیگر ممالک کی نسبت سستی ہے، سی بیک کا تیسرا مرحلہ سرمایہ کاری کا ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات نے مزید کہا کہ کورونا کی صورت حال کے باعث سرمایہ کاروں سے وڈیولنک پر ملاقاتیں ہوئیں۔ اُن کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان اور چین کی شراکت داری میں مزید وسعت پیدا ہوگی، چین کے 21 شعبے پاکستان آکر سرمایہ کاری کریں گے۔ فواد چوہدری نے یہ بھی کہا کہ دھاتوں کو پگھلانے کا پراجیکٹ گوادری میں لگے گا، پاکستان میں 15 سے 20 ملین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری آئے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم ایک ماہ میں اسپیشل اکنامک زونز سے متعلق 4 مینٹلز کر چکے ہیں، ایکسپورٹس بڑھا کر کرنٹ اکاؤنٹ خسار کم کر پائیں گے۔ وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات نے کہا کہ چاہتے ہیں کہ چین پاکستان سے چاول خریدے، چین کے دورے میں افغانستان کے معاملے پر بھی تفصیلی بات چیت ہوئی۔ اُن کا کہنا تھا کہ افغانستان کے معاملے پر ازبکستان کے صدر سے بھی تفصیلی بات ہوئی۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1046937>

Nawaiwaqt News

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی چین میں مصروفیات

وزیر اعظم عمران خان ان دنوں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے دورے پر ہیں۔ وزیر خارجہ، وزیر خزانہ، پلاننگ اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ کے وزیر، وزیر اطلاعات، مشیر قومی سلامتی، مشیر تجارت اور سی بیک کے لیے وزیر اعظم کی معاون خصوصی پر مشتمل اعلیٰ سطحی وفد بھی ان کے ساتھ ہے۔ چین میں انہوں نے اب تک چینی ٹھک ٹیکنیکس اور مختلف اداروں کے سربراہوں سے ملاقاتیں کی ہیں جن میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان مختلف شعبہ جات میں تعاون اور سرمایہ کاری کے حوالے سے ہونے والی پیش رفت کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے این ڈی آر سی کے چیئرمین ہی لی فننگ سمیت چین کی سرکردہ سرکاری و نجی کمپنیوں کے رہنماؤں سے ملاقات کی۔ کارپوریٹ رہنماؤں نے دھاتوں اور کاغذ کی ری سائیکلنگ، توانائی، ٹیکسٹائل، فائبر آپٹکس نیٹ ورکس، ہاؤسنگ، ڈیری اور واٹر مینجمنٹ سے متعلق منصوبوں میں پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری بڑھانے میں گہری دلچسپی ظاہر کی۔ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ (بی او آئی) پاکستان اور نیشنل ڈویلپمنٹ اینڈ ریفارم کمیشن (این ڈی آر سی) چین نے سی بیک کے تحت صنعتی تعاون سے متعلق فریم ورک معاہدے پر دستخط کئے، مجموعی طور پر اربوں ڈالر کے 18 معاہدے کیے گئے۔ وزیر اعظم نے دیگر عالمی رہنماؤں کے ہمراہ بیجنگ سرمایہ اوپننگ 2022ء کی افتتاحی تقریب میں بھی شرکت کی۔

وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین کے حوالے سے ملکی اور بین الاقوامی سطح پر تذکرے اور تبصرے کئے جا رہے ہیں اور عالمی صورت حال اور خصوصاً افغانستان، بھارت، امریکہ اور ایران کے درمیان پاک چین تعلقات کے پس منظر میں اس دورے کو خصوصی اہمیت دی جا رہی ہے۔ چین پاکستان کا قابل اعتماد دوست ہے۔ بہت سے عالمی البٹوز پر ہمارے موقف میں یکسانیت پائی جاتی ہے۔ باہمی دوستی اور تعاون پر مبنی تزویراتی شراکت داری ہر آزمائش میں پوری اتری ہے۔ سی بیک سے دونوں ملکوں کے عوام مستفید ہو رہے ہیں اور اس کے تحت جاری منصوبے جلد مکمل کرنے کی کوششیں کی جا رہی ہیں کیونکہ ان منصوبوں نے پائیدار معاشی ترقی کی ٹھوس بنیاد فراہم کر دی ہے اور اس کے نتیجے میں پاکستان کے اقتصادی منظر نامے میں خوشگوار تبدیلی واقع ہوگی۔ سوا صورت حال میں مختلف حلقوں کی جانب سے یہ توقع ظاہر کی جا رہی ہے کہ وزیر اعظم کی چینی قیادت سے ملاقات مثبت اور دور رس اثرات کی حامل ہوگی۔ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات میں مزید گرم جوشی اور استحکام پیدا ہوگا جس کا فائدہ دونوں ممالک کے عوام کو حاصل ہوگا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-06/page-10/detail-8>

February 07, 2022

Business Recorder

CPEC under renewed China focus

ISLAMABAD: Expressing strong determination to safeguard CPEC from all threats and negative propaganda, Pakistan and China have agreed to task the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to strengthen cooperation across all areas including in the fields of trade, infrastructure, industrial development, agriculture modernization, scientific and technological cooperation and socio-economic wellbeing of local people.

The commitment was made during Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Beijing from 3 to 6 February 2022 to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games 2022.

At the conclusion of the visit, a joint statement was issued on Sunday both in Islamabad and Beijing, in which Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to making all-out efforts for the security of all Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan and the Chinese side expressed its appreciation for the measures taken by Pakistan in this regard.

During the visit, the Prime Minister held talks with President Xi Jinping, and Premier Li Keqiang. During their interactions, the leaders of the two countries held in-depth exchange of views on the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, as well as, regional situation and international political landscape.

“The meetings were marked by traditional warmth, strategic mutual trust and commonality of views that characterize the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership,” according to the joint communiqué.

The leaders reaffirmed that close strategic ties and deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and China are time-tested and timeless. The bilateral relationship served the interest of both countries and was the historic choice of both peoples.

The Pakistan side underscored that Pakistan-China relationship is the cornerstone of its foreign policy and that closest friendship with China enjoys the abiding support of the people of Pakistan.

Both sides reiterated their support on issues concerning each other's core interests. The Pakistan side expressed its commitment to One-China Policy and support for China on Taiwan, South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet. The Chinese side reaffirmed its support for Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and security, as well as, promoting its socio-economic development and prosperity.

Both sides reviewed with satisfaction the outcome of three sessions of Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue and agreed to hold its next meeting at an early time.

Commending President Xi's visionary Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored that as the flagship project of BRI, CPEC has significantly contributed to

Pakistan's economic and social development, in line with its shift to geo-economics and the economic security agenda of promoting trade, investments, and connectivity.

Both sides acknowledged the major contribution of CPEC projects, particularly in the areas of energy and transport infrastructure, in strengthening Pakistan's key role in regional connectivity while modernizing its economic base.

"The leaders reaffirmed their support to CPEC's high-quality development and the commitment to ensuring the smooth operation of completed projects and the timely completion of projects under construction," according to the statement.

It added that the leaders took note of the signing of a Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation and agreed to further leverage the private sectors and entrepreneurs of both countries to contribute to Pakistan's industrialization in an all round way.

The Chinese side appreciated the Prime Minister's launch of the Pakistan-China Business and Investment Forum, and will enhance B2B cooperation between the business sectors of both countries.

The leaders agreed to task the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to strengthen cooperation across all areas including in the fields of trade, infrastructure, industrial development, agriculture modernization, scientific and technological cooperation and socioeconomic wellbeing of local people. Noting close bilateral cooperation in the areas of health, environment and ICT, the two sides agreed to launch the China-Pakistan health, industry, trade, green and digital corridors.

The two sides highlighted the significance of Gwadar as a central pillar of CPEC and important node in regional connectivity. According to the "1 + 4" layout, the two sides agreed to jointly accelerate the construction and operation of Gwadar Port and build Gwadar low-carbon circular industry zone. They agreed to build high-quality livelihood projects for the socioeconomic development of Gwadar city and its residents.

Both sides expressed their strong determination to safeguard CPEC from all threats and negative propaganda. Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to making all-out efforts for the security of all Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan and the Chinese side expressed its appreciation for the measures taken by Pakistan in this regard.

Both sides observed that CPEC was a win-win enterprise and pivotal for regional prosperity and enhanced connectivity. As an open and inclusive initiative, third parties were welcome to benefit from investment opportunities in CPEC SEZs.

The two sides reviewed with satisfaction bilateral cooperation and mutual support after the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked Chinese leadership for provision of COVID-19 vaccines to Pakistan which have been a mainstay of national mass vaccination drive.

Both leaders agreed that their mutual support, cooperation and solidarity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic was in keeping with the time-honored traditions of Pakistan-China friendship and that both sides would continue supporting efforts to overcome the pandemic.

The two sides reaffirmed their resolve to continue and enhance their existing cooperation for developing emergency response systems, public health infrastructure and joint ventures for development of pharmaceutical industry in Pakistan to tackle similar challenges in future. The two sides noted with satisfaction the record increase in bilateral trade volume in 2021. They agreed to further consolidate and expand bilateral trade relations by fully utilizing the 2nd Phase of Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement. The Chinese side welcomes more of Pakistan's high-quality food and agricultural products to the Chinese market.

Welcoming the establishment of Pakistan's pavilions on Chinese e-commerce platforms, the two sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation in e-commerce, setting up online payment systems and cooperating in logistics, warehousing and customs facilitation.

The two sides noted with satisfaction the successful holding of the 15th Session of Pakistan-China Joint Committee on Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Cooperation in December 2021. They agreed to leverage this important mechanism to further enhance overall bilateral economic engagement between the two countries.

The Pakistan side appreciated China's unrivalled achievement of lifting 770 million people out of absolute poverty and wished the Chinese Government and people greater success in achieving the goals of socialist modernization and national rejuvenation. The Chinese side appreciated Pakistan's Ehsaas Programme for poverty alleviation and reiterated its resolve to support Pakistan for infrastructure development in several fields including agriculture, education, health, safe drinking water and vocational training.

Both sides noted with satisfaction robust cooperation between Pakistan and China in education sector, and committed to further enhance cooperation between the educational institutions of the two countries. Pakistan side highlighted that China has become a popular education destination. While ensuring safety against COVID-19, China will arrange for Pakistani students to return to China and resume classes in a prudent manner.

Both sides reiterated the importance of people-to-people contacts, tourism cooperation and cultural exchanges for strong bilateral relations. Building on the MoU on Tourism Exchanges and Cooperation signed in November last year, the two sides agreed to celebrate Pakistan-China Year of Tourism Exchanges in 2023 and to establish strong linkages between the tourism promotion agencies and private enterprises of the two countries. The two sides agreed to make all possible efforts in support of greater civilizational exchanges between Pakistan and China and further expand cooperation for the conservation and presentation of heritage and artefacts of the two countries. The leaders welcomed the organizing of a Gandhara Art Exhibition at Palace Museum in Beijing in 2022.

Both sides agreed to continue the momentum in defence cooperation at various levels between the armed forces of Pakistan and China. They underscored that stronger defence and security cooperation between Pakistan and China was an important factor of peace and stability in the region.

China recognized Pakistan's sacrifices and efforts in the fight against terrorism. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Both sides reiterated that a peaceful and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties. They emphasized the importance of pursuit of dialogue and resolution of all outstanding disputes to promote regional cooperation and advance the goals of lasting peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region.

The Pakistan side briefed the Chinese side on the latest developments on the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, including its concerns, position and pressing issues at the moment. The Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir issue was a dispute left from history, and should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. China opposes any unilateral actions that complicate the situation.

On Afghanistan, the two sides agreed that a peaceful, stable, united, safe, and secure Afghanistan is fundamental for prosperity and progress in the region. They expressed satisfaction with the outcome of two Foreign Ministers' meetings of the six neighbouring countries on Afghanistan and looked forward to its next meeting to be held in China. They are ready to discuss with Afghanistan the holding of the China-Pakistan-Afghanistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Dialogue.

The two sides underscored the need to expedite humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and its people to avert the looming crisis and called upon the international community to provide continued and enhanced assistance and support to Afghanistan including through unfreezing of Afghanistan's financial assets.

The two sides are ready to discuss with Afghanistan the extension of CPEC to Afghanistan. The Chinese side appreciated Pakistan for hosting the 17th Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on Afghanistan on 19 December 2021. The two sides agreed to continue their close cooperation on Afghanistan in the future.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the close cooperation at multilateral fora and resolved to further deepen strategic coordination, consultation and communication. They reaffirmed their commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and support for multilateralism and win-win cooperation.

Prime Minister Imran Khan welcomed and reiterated support for the Global Development Initiative (GDI) proposed by President Xi Jinping, which aims to promote international cooperation and accelerate the implementation of UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening development partnership under the GDI.

Prime Minister Khan thanked the leadership and people of China for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to him and expressed his best wishes for China's continued development and prosperity.

The two sides signed or concluded a number of agreements/ MoUs, covering bilateral cooperation in areas of economic and technical, industry, investment, infrastructure, space, vaccine, digitalization, standardization, disaster management, culture, sports and vocational education.

On behalf of Pakistan, the Prime Minister reiterated his invitation to President Xi Jinping to pay a state visit to Pakistan and stated that the people of Pakistan looked forward to welcoming him at an early date. The two sides reaffirmed their intention to undertake the visit at a mutually convenient time.

The leadership from both sides was pleased to observe that the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations celebrated last year marked an important milestone in the diplomatic history of the two countries. Taking note of more than 140 celebratory activities organized by the two countries, both sides agreed that the celebrations had reinvigorated the friendship between the peoples of Pakistan and China with indelible impressions to inspire future generations.

Reiterating his felicitations on the centenary of the Communist Party of China, Prime Minister Imran Khan lauded the role of CPC leadership with President Xi Jinping at its core for China's growth and prosperity and appreciated President Xi for his personal contribution to promoting the enduring Pakistan-China partnership.

The Prime Minister appreciated the Chinese Government for excellent and meticulous arrangements and congratulated China for hosting the games in a streamlined, safe and splendid manner.

The two sides agreed that Olympic Games were a global event that fostered mutual understanding, inclusivity and friendship among the peoples of the world. The Chinese leadership appreciated Prime Minister Imran Khan's participation in the Winter Olympic Games as a mark of iron brotherhood and solidarity between Pakistan and China. Both sides agreed to maintain high-level exchanges and strengthen institutional linkages at all levels.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/07/1-page/917913-news.html>

Qureshi holds meeting with Chinese FM

BEIJING: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a meeting with State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi today in Beijing. The Foreign Minister is accompanying the Prime Minister on a visit to China to attend the 24th Olympic Winter Games.

The Foreign Minister congratulated his Chinese counterpart on the successful hosting of the Winter Olympics and conveyed his best wishes on the Chinese Lunar New Year. Recalling their last meeting in Chengdu for the 3rd round of Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue, the Foreign

Minister appreciated the measures taken by the two sides to strengthen the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China. He thanked his counterpart for China's firm support to Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national development, and reaffirmed Pakistan's full support to China on all issues of its core interest.

The Foreign Minister underlined that the Prime Minister's face-to-face meetings with the Chinese leadership would provide fresh momentum to the bilateral strategic cooperative partnership, add new avenues to practical cooperation, spur high quality development of CPEC including industrial development, and develop greater synergies between the visions of geo-economics and Global Development Initiative.

The two Foreign Ministers also discussed the evolving situation in the region and beyond, in particular the grave humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed State Councillor Wang on the gross human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and systemic assaults on the freedoms of minorities in India.

On Afghanistan, both sides appreciated the important role played by the meeting of the six neighbouring countries in evolving regional consensus and looked forward to its third meeting to be held in China. It was agreed to maintain closer coordination to promote the shared objectives of peace, stability and development in Afghanistan and regional connectivity.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/07/3-page/917934-news.html>

Pakistan, China agree to reactivate trilateral forum

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sunday said that Pakistan and China have agreed to hold a meeting of the Afghanistan's neighbours in Beijing at the end of March, besides deciding to reactivate the trilateral forum of Pakistan, China and Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister, along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry, was talking to journalists at Nur Khan Airbase at the conclusion of Prime Minister Imran Khan's China visit. Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin, Adviser on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood and National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf were also present.

The Foreign Minister said that Prime Minister Khan held "very comprehensive" meetings with the Chinese leadership and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, besides discussing future prospects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CEPC), economic integration, and the next phase of the CPEC.

"Without any hesitation, I must say that the meetings were held extensively and with much clarity," he maintained.

During the delegation-level talks, and meeting with Chinese premier Li, he added, they discussed ways and means to move on the economic front, enhance market access, bridge the trade imbalance and increase Chinese investment in different areas in the country.

He said that they have identified areas where the Chinese companies could get benefits through investment. “These are the win-win projects”, he maintained, adding that they have conveyed the economic prospects to the Chinese companies through a well-prepared booklet.

He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan also held meetings with around 20 prominent state-owned and private companies in which their authorities identified interests over investment in key areas of Pakistan.

Qureshi said that the Prime Minister also shared Pakistan’s perspective over a host of issues during his interaction with the renowned think tanks in China.

To advance the shared objectives of economic progress and prosperity and bilateral cooperation, he added that the two sides also devised a follow-up mechanism. “We have received greetings and warmth more than our expectations. China has a clear direction in which Pakistan has a prominent position,” Qureshi further maintained.

On Afghanistan, he said that both the countries shared unanimous opinion and Pakistan’s contributions towards Afghan humanitarian assistance were acknowledged by China.

He said that the Chinese leadership described the holding of the extraordinary session of OIC on Afghanistan in Islamabad on December 19, 2021 as a successful one.

During his meeting with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, Qureshi said that they agreed to meet again in Beijing in March, adding that the immediate neighbours of Afghanistan would also be invited to a meeting including Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, etc.

He said that the two sides also decided to reactivate the trilateral forum of Pakistan, China and Afghanistan which would be further strengthened for coordination over Afghanistan.

The Foreign Minister said Afghan interim foreign minister Amir Khan Mutaqi will also be invited to the meeting so that he could present his government’s perspective of the situations in Afghanistan.

He said that Pakistan is concerned over India’s treatment of minorities, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Dalits as their human rights were being trampled.

He said that Pakistan and China shared same opinion and there was no ambiguity over the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) issue in the talks.

During the splendid opening ceremony of Beijing Winter Olympics, he said that the Pakistani athletes were warmly received by the Chinese people, which reflected that ‘this friendship was people-centric, as people in both countries regarded each other as brothers and friends.’ In his remarks, Fawad Chaudhry said that the government will bring a complete framework to introduce winter sports in the country. He regretted that Pakistan despite having beautiful landscape of Northern areas is far behind in the winter Olympics.

Referring to political developments, he said meeting of Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership in Lahore on Saturday was aimed at

protecting their own “vested interests”, adding that the opposition parties had held several long marches in the past, ‘but they have always failed.’

He maintained that during the meetings between Pakistan and Chinese leaderships, the Chinese side appreciated government’s economic reforms and fiscal discipline.—ALI HUSSAIN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/07/12-page/917996-news.html>

Olympic diplomacy blitz nets Argentina for China’s Belt and Road

BEIJING: China welcomed Argentina into its global Belt and Road Initiative Sunday as President Xi Jinping capped a weekend of frenetic diplomatic activity on the sidelines of the Winter Olympics.

Xi has not left his country since the coronavirus first emerged in the city of Wuhan, with China now the only major economy still pursuing a strict zero-Covid strategy. But the Beijing Games have allowed Xi to hold a flurry of face-to-face meetings with fellow world leaders for the first time in nearly two years.

On Sunday, state broadcaster CCTV said China and Argentina inked an agreement on “jointly promoting the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road”, marking Argentina’s entry into the initiative.

China’s BRI is a trillion-dollar push to improve trade links across the globe by building landmark infrastructure, and the inclusion of Argentina is a major win for Beijing in Latin America.

Chinese companies invested more than \$20 billion in non-financial direct investment on projects in BRI countries in 2021, according to China’s commerce ministry. The deal came as Argentine President Alberto Fernandez made a three-day visit to China during which both sides also said they would continue to support each other on issues concerning sovereign interests.

The statement backed each other’s territorial claims — the Falkland Islands for Argentina and China’s dispute over Taiwan.

Xi also met with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday, shortly after Pakistan’s army said troops had put an end to four days of assaults by separatists in Balochistan province.

China has invested significantly in the region where separatists have waged an insurgency for years, fuelled by anger that its abundant reserves of natural resources are not relieving citizens from crushing poverty.

During the meeting, Xi stressed that “the Chinese side firmly supports Pakistan in safeguarding its national independence, sovereignty and dignity, as well as in combating terrorism”, according to state media. He added that China is willing to work with Pakistan in “aligning development strategies”. Xi also met with Polish President Andrzej Duda and Singaporean President Halimah Yacob on Sunday.—AFP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/07/12-page/917997-news.html>

Daily Times

Imran Khan, Xi Jinping agree to 'fast-track' CPEC second phase

Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday said he had a great meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping and they agreed to further enhance strategic and economic relations of Pakistan and China and to fast-track the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In a tweet on social media platform Twitter, he said, "Had a great meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping today. We agreed to further enhance our strategic and economic relations; and to fast track the second phase of CPEC."

Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese President Xi Jinping reviewed the entire gamut of Pakistan-China bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

Both leaders held a meeting at the Great Hall of People. This was the first meeting of the two leaders since the prime minister's visit to China in October 2019.

The prime minister underscored that China was Pakistan's steadfast partner, staunch supporter and 'Iron Brother'. The all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China had withstood the tests of times and the two nations firmly stood side by side in realizing their visions and shared aspirations of peace, stability, development and prosperity, he added.

The prime minister briefed president Xi on people-centered geo-economics vision and his government's policies for Pakistan's sustained growth, industrial development, agricultural modernization, and regional connectivity. He lauded China's continued support and assistance to Pakistan's socio-economic development which had greatly benefited from the high-quality development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Prime Minister Khan welcomed increased Chinese investments in CPEC's Phase-II which centered on industrialization and improving people's livelihoods.

He shared his views with President Xi on growing polarization in the world which threatened unraveling of global developmental gains, and posed serious risks to the developing countries.

He highlighted that insurmountable challenges like climate change, health pandemics and growing inequalities could only be tackled through unqualified cooperation of all nations in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

In this regard, he lauded President Xi's visionary Belt and Road and Global Development Initiatives, which called for collective action for sustainable development and win-win outcomes. Prime minister Khan highlighted that partnership between Pakistan and China was an anchor for peace and stability in the region and thanked China for its unwavering support to Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national development.

He also reaffirmed Pakistan's full support to China on all issues of its core interest. Both leaders acknowledged that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan would promote economic development and

connectivity in the region and called on the international community to promptly assist the Afghan people in averting a humanitarian catastrophe.

Both leaders appreciated the signing of a number of agreements covering industrial cooperation, space cooperation, and vaccine cooperation.

The two leaders reaffirmed their resolve to building of the Pakistan-China community for shared future in the new era.

Prime minister Imran Khan congratulated the leadership and people of China on successful hosting of the 24th Olympic Winter Games in Beijing and extended his best wishes on the Chinese Lunar New Year. He also renewed his invitation to President Xi Jinping to undertake a visit to Pakistan at his early convenience.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/881409/imran-khan-xi-jinping-agree-to-fast-track-cpec-second-phase/>

Eminent economist says PM's China visit is of immense economic significance

Eminent economist Dr Ashfaq Hussain says China's sincerity and loyalty to Pakistan is above board, as it is at Pakistan's beck and call for any kind of support and assistance in any sector. WealthPK quoting his TV's interview stated on Sunday that the renowned economist said during the last three years, he had been advising that Pakistan should not frustrate its Chinese friends [with its policies].

He said the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China was of immense importance to Pakistan. Apart from international politics, this visit is economically too important for Pakistan, and I pray for success of the prime minister's visit, he said.

Dr Ashfaq said for quite some time a lot of debate had been going on in Pakistan about China, but there was no realization at the government level. This realization, he added, only dawned upon the current government. He said China's friendship with Pakistan was rooted in decades.

"China's friendship is not based on any quid pro quo rather it stands firmly with Pakistan [without any conditions]. It is willing to accomplish anything Pakistan wants it to do. Who else could be more sincere and loyal to Pakistan than China?" he remarked.

Answering a question, Dr Ashfaq said he begged to differ with Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin's viewpoint that Pakistan needed 5-6 percent growth to say good-bye to the next plan of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said Pakistan had a decent way out [to get rid of the IMF] but not the way Mr Tarin was suggesting.

"There is no such condition that unless we achieve 5-6pc growth, we won't be able to get rid of the IMF. I don't believe in this type of thing.

There are 190 countries in the world, which are the IMF members. Just have a look and see if the growth level of countries which do not approach the IMF for bailout is above 5pc or below 4pc. This has no link with it. Look, we just make such political statements for political consumption.”

When told that the IMF had expressed confidence in the economic policies of the government, Dr Ashfaq said if somebody asked any Pakistani about the IMF, hardly five percent people would praise it, while 95 percent [people] would abuse it. Quoting Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he said ‘when an enemy praises you, you should be alarmed’. “Look, we have pleased them too much for just USD1 billion. We have given them too much. Why won’t they praise us? They patted on our back, as they still have much more to achieve. We should try to understand these things.” Dr Ashfaq agreed with the IMF’s prediction of 4 percent growth of Pakistan’s economy this fiscal. He once again quoted the Quaid that one should be alarmed when praised by an enemy.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/881362/eminant-economist-says-pms-china-visit-is-of-immense-economic-significance/>

Pakistan to learn from China to develop, promote winter sports: Fawad

Pakistan is ready to learn from the Chinese experience to develop and promote winter sports in its scenic northern areas, said Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain.

Pakistan and China have good economic and strategic bonds and now converting into sports ties. Chinese media and culture are not known as much as western media in Pakistan but now we are working on these areas, he said in interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

“Prime Minister Imran Khan invited the Chinese companies to set up winter sports venues and facilities in Pakistan. I believe now Pakistan and China have culture, sports, and media interaction more often,” Chaudhry Fawad added.

The Information Minister expressed that the way Chinese played with lights was mesmerizing, and added that the stadium and lights were combinations of science and art and the Chinese created beautiful effects with lights that are something the world must learn from.

“Pakistan’s northern area is double than Switzerland in terms of size and having the world’s highest peaks that are suitable for winter sports, but our winter sports are not up to the mark. I hope China would help us by setting up a framework for winter sports in that region and we will be able to produce top athletes for winter sports,” he added.

Pakistani athlete Muhammad Karim from Naltar, a village in Gilgit-Baltistan is the only skier participating in the Beijing Winter Olympics and also is the only Pakistani skier to have participated in two Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia and Pyeongchang, South Korea.

“The Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) is very keen to set up winter sports facilities in GB to make the northern areas a hub of winter sports in Pakistan and China can help us by setting up these ski and winter sports facilities,” the Information Minister mentioned.

Pakistan’s athlete delegation reached Beijing on February 2 and Muhammad Karim will take to the slopes on February 16 in the Yangling District at the China National Alpine Skiing Center.

Earlier Pakistani giant slalom skier Muhammad Karim told China Economic Net that “I’m very excited and fully prepared to participate in Beijing Winter Olympics. I heard that they used the latest technologies on ski slopes and the world’s best sports facilities there. I can’t wait to see all these things.” •

Chaudhry Fawad said that when the Pakistani contingent entered the National Stadium received applause and a very warm welcome from spectators in the stadium that showed respect and love for Pakistan. It is worth mentioning that Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain along with other Federal Ministers attended the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics on February 4th at the National Stadium in Beijing. The National Stadium, also known as the Bird’s Nest, is the only venue in the world that hosted both the Winter and Summer Olympics. The 2008 Summer Olympics were hosted in the same venue here.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/881340/pakistan-to-learn-from-china-to-develop-promote-winter-sports-fawad/>

After Beijing

The official handout released by the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) after PM Imran Khan met Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing was full of customary good-will greetings and exchange of pleasantries, as per norm, so it’s too soon to tell what really become of some of the more contentious issues that were also up for discussion. But the meeting did put to rest rumours that the Chinese president would not meet the Pakistani PM during the visit because of some unhappiness with the pace of CPEC, the security situation, etc. But Information Minister Fawad Chaudhary should still be more careful as he tries to play up the PM’s activities in his tweets, because when he said that PM Khan would be the first head of state to meet the Chinese president in more than two years, President Jinping had already sat down with his Russian counterpart.

Considering the international situation, though, it was far more significant for the PM to offer “Pakistan’s full support to China on all issues of its core interest”. Since he also lamented the “growing polarisation in the world”, surely he understands the nature of the conflict building between Beijing and Washington, with the latter leading a western boycott of China’s winter Olympics. Getting close to one means greater distance with the other, so the PM’s words also imply that Islamabad has clearly decided which camp to choose as things heat up. It was also no coincidence that Russian President made sure to attend despite the threat of war with Ukraine,

and subsequent backlash from Nato, because China and Russia are bracing themselves for a fresh confrontation with the US and EU.

Pakistan's core interests determine its alliances, like all other countries. So let's not forget that opting out of the US camp will also make future interaction with international financial institutions (IFIs) like IMF increasingly difficult. And since China cannot really provide the kind of loans that Pakistan needs to function from day to day, and also pay back interest on old debt, so it's difficult to understand the prime minister's long term plans.

Before we try and stand in line to play with the big boys, it must be clarified how we intend to ensure future loans that we need for everything, including the country's very survival. *

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/881284/after-beijing/>

Chinese scholar terms PM's visit to China highly productive

Chinese scholar Prof. Cheng Xizhong termed the PM Imran Khan's visit to China as highly successful, as it yielded fruitful results, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.

He noted that PM Imran Khan held a series of important meetings with the Chinese authorities, business circles, academia and media, which were very sincere, friendly and pragmatic, and achieved fruitful results, leaving a deep impression on the Chinese people that Pakistan is indeed a good friend. He believes that the fruitful results are mainly reflected in the three aspects:

“First, China and Pakistan signed a series of important cooperation documents, especially the Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation between the Board of Investment (BOI) of Pakistan and the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China will facilitate the relocation of China's industrial units to CPEC Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and accelerate China's investment and industrial and technological scale transfer to Pakistan so that large-scale production and export of modern industrial products can be quickly formed in Pakistan.”

Second, PM Imran Khan and his delegation had extensive interactions with the executives of Chinese state-owned and private corporate sectors, offering a conducive environment for investment in SEZs, having greatly stimulated the enthusiasm of Chinese enterprises to invest in Pakistan. Many Chinese companies immediately expressed that they were keen to expand investment in Pakistan in projects related to energy, textile, fiber-optics networks, housing, dairy, water management and recycling of metals and paper, etc. while some other enterprises expressed their desire to establish a \$3.5 billion reprocessing park in Gwadar and a \$350 million textile cluster near Lahore.

The Chinese textile firm, reputed for high export quality apparel, planned to build a textile cluster on over 100 acres of land near Lahore, which would create around 20,000 jobs. The representatives of three major agricultural firms wanted to jointly establish a modernization

research lab and a demonstration plot to improve yield and seed quality in Pakistan. The Chinese fertilizer companies desired to invest in the export oriented growth of corn and soybeans. Third, PM Imran Khan has visited China many times and is an old friend very familiar to the Chinese people, which is closely related to his emphasis on interaction with academia and the media.

The academic and media circles of both countries play a crucial role in promoting the development of friendly relations between the two countries, enhancing people-to-people understanding and perception, and consolidating the people-to-people foundation of bilateral relations. This time, PM Imran Khan was interviewed by China Global Television Network (CGTN) and interacted with the media, leaving a deep impression on the Chinese people that he is a firm, resolute, friendly, and people oriented leader.

After attending the opening ceremony of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games, the leaders of China and Pakistan held talks on the further development of bilateral relations and important international and regional issues.

Prof. Cheng firmly believed that broad consensus is reached, to point out the direction for the further development of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/881309/chinese-scholar-terms-pms-visit-to-china-highly-productive/>

Pakistan and China discuss Afghan humanitarian crisis

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Sunday discussed the evolving situation in the region and beyond, particularly the grave humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

The foreign minister held a meeting with his Chinese counterpart. The foreign minister is accompanying the Prime Minister on a visit to China to attend the 24th Olympic Winter games.

About Afghanistan, both sides appreciated the important role played by the meeting of the 10 neighbouring countries in evolving regional consensus and looked forward to its third meeting to be held in China. It was agreed to maintain closer coordination to promote the shared objectives of peace, stability and development in Afghanistan and regional connectivity, a press release said.

The foreign minister underlined that Prime Minister Imran Khan's meetings with the Chinese leadership would provide fresh momentum to the bilateral strategic cooperative partnership, add new avenues to practical cooperation, spur high quality development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) including industrial development, and develop greater synergies between the visions of geo-economics and the Global Development Initiative.

Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed State Councilor Wang on the gross human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and systemic assaults on the freedoms of minorities in India. Recalling their last meeting in Chengdu for the 3rd round of Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue, the foreign minister appreciated the measures taken by the two sides to

strengthen the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China. He thanked his counterpart for China's firm support to Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national development, and reaffirmed Pakistan's full support to China on all issues of its core interest.

Qureshi also congratulated his Chinese counterpart on the successful hosting of the Winter Olympics and conveyed his best wishes on the Chinese Lunar New Year.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sunday inaugurated a portal to facilitate the Pakistani students and professionals. During the launching ceremony, Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moeen-ul-Haque also accompanied the foreign minister, a press release said.

The foreign minister, on the occasion, said that the portal would enhance technical linkages between the Pakistani students and the Chinese experts and serve as a vital platform between them.

The portal would provide support with regard to the latest innovative research and inventions, Qureshi said, adding that the portal would also highlight the contributions of Pakistani students and professionals in the relevant fields. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sunday said that Prime Minister Imran Khan held very comprehensive meetings with the Chinese leadership and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties. During these high-level meetings, leadership of the two countries discussed future prospects of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CEPC), economic integration, and the next phase of CPEC. The Foreign Minister was talking to media after his return from China. Foreign Minister Qureshi was a part of the high-level delegation led by Prime Minister Imran Khan that visited China to attend the Beijing Winter Olympic games on the special invitation of the Chinese leadership.

The Foreign Minister said "Without any hesitation, I want to say that these meetings were held extensively and with much clarity." Over Afghanistan, both the countries shared unanimous opinion. Pakistan's contributions towards Afghan humanitarian assistance were acknowledged by China, he said, adding, the Chinese leadership viewed the holding of extraordinary meeting of OIC on Afghanistan as a successful one.

The Foreign Minister informed that during his meeting with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, they agreed to meet again in Beijing in March. He said that the immediate neighbours of Afghanistan would be invited to a meeting including Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan etc. He said that Pakistan, China and Afghanistan were members of a trilateral forum which would be further strengthened for coordination over Afghanistan.

Referring to India, the Foreign Minister said that they were concerned over treatment of minorities, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Dalits as their human rights were being trampled. China and Pakistan shared same opinion and there was no ambiguity over the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) issue, he maintained.

During the delegation level talks, and meeting with premier Li, they discussed ways and means to move on the economic front, enhance market access, bridge the trade imbalance and increase Chinese investment in different areas, he told.

Qureshi said that they had identified areas where the Chinese companies could get benefits through investment. “These are the win-win projects”, and they had conveyed such economic prospects to the Chinese companies through a well-prepared booklet, he added. The Prime Minister, he said, held meetings with about twenty prominent state and private companies in which their authorities had identified interests over investment in key areas of Pakistan. The Prime Minister also shared Pakistan’s perspective over a host of issues during his interaction with the renowned think tanks in China, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/881386/pakistan-and-china-discuss-afghan-humanitarian-crisis/>

Dawn News

Islamabad, Beijing vow to boost links at all levels

Syed Irfan Raza

- Pakistan, China ask world community to promptly help Afghanistan
- Imran, Xi agree to launch health, industry, trade, green and digital corridors

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday agreed to strengthen institutional links at all levels, cementing mutual strategic, diplomatic and economic ties between the two countries.

While exchanging views on the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, regional situation and international political landscape, the two leaders appreciated the finalisation of a number of agreements and memorandum of understanding in the fields of trade, infrastructure, industrial development, agriculture modernisation, science and technology and socio-economic well-being of local people.

The meeting held at the Great Hall of People was the last leg of PM Khan’s four-day trip to China. During the visit, he attended the opening ceremony of Beijing Winter Olympics and met the Chinese premier, leaders of several countries and chairman of the China’s National Development and Reform Commission. Mr Khan also had detailed discussions with corporate leaders and investors besides attending the luncheon hosted by Mr Xi in the honour of visiting heads of the states.

President Xi and PM Khan met for the first time since October 2019 when the latter visited China.

After completing the tour, the prime minister, along with his delegation, returned to Islamabad.

Later, in a tweet, PM Khan said he had a “great meeting” with the Chinese president. “We agreed to further enhance our strategic and economic relations and to fast track the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC),” he said.

According to the Prime Minister Office (PMO), Mr Khan and Mr Xi reviewed the entire gamut of Pakistan-China bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

The two leaders appreciated the signing of a number of agreements covering industrial, space and vaccine cooperation.

Both leaders also acknowledged that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan would promote economic development and connectivity in the region and called on the international community to promptly assist the Afghan people in averting a humanitarian catastrophe.

PM Khan briefed President Xi on people-centered vision of geo-economics and his government’s policies for Pakistan’s sustainable growth and regional connectivity. He lauded China’s continued support to Pakistan’s socio-economic development that had greatly benefitted from the high-quality development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Mr Khan welcomed increased Chinese investments in second phase of CPEC that centered on industrialization and improving people’s livelihoods.

Sharing his views with President Xi on growing polarization in the world that threatened unraveling of global developmental gains and posed serious risks to the developing countries, Mr Khan highlighted that insurmountable challenges of climate change and growing inequalities could only be tackled through unqualified cooperation of all nations in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. The PM lauded President Xi’s visionary Belt and Road Initiative and Global Development Initiative (GDI) that called for collective action for sustainable development aimed at win-win outcomes.

The prime minister observed that persecution of minorities in India and the atrocities in India-held Kashmir was a threat to regional peace and stability and pointed out that rapid militarisation of India was undermining regional stability. He noted that partnership between Pakistan and China was an anchor for peace and stability in the region and thanked China for its unwavering support to Pakistan’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national development.

While the Chinese side reaffirmed its support for Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and security, as well as promoting its socio-economic development and prosperity, the Pakistani side expressed its commitment to One-China Policy and support for China on Taiwan, South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet, according to a joint statement issued on the occasion.

Mr Khan congratulated the leadership and people of China on successful hosting of the Beijing Winter Olympics, extended his best wishes on the Chinese Lunar New Year and renewed his invitation to President Xi to undertake a visit to Pakistan at his early convenience.

The Chinese side appreciated the PM's launch of the Pakistan-China Business and Investment Forum, and vowed to enhance B2B cooperation between the business sectors of both countries.

Noting close bilateral cooperation in the areas of health, environment and information and communication technology, the two sides agreed to launch the China-Pakistan health, industry, trade, green and digital corridors.

Highlighting the significance of Gwadar as a central pillar of CPEC and important node in regional connectivity, they expressed determination to safeguard CPEC from all threats and negative propaganda. According to the '1+4' layout, the two sides agreed to jointly accelerate the construction and operation of Gwadar Port and build Gwadar low carbon circular industry zone. They agreed to build high-quality livelihood projects for the socio-economic development of Gwadar city and its residents.

They also decided to expand bilateral trade relations by fully utilizing the second phase of Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement. The Chinese side welcomed more of Pakistan's high-quality food and agricultural products to the Chinese market.

Hailing the establishment of Pakistan's pavilions on Chinese e-commerce platforms, the two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in e-commerce, setting up online payment systems and cooperating in logistics, warehousing and customs facilitation.

The two sides agreed to celebrate Pakistan-China Year of Tourism Exchanges in 2023 and to establish strong linkages between the tourism promotion agencies and private enterprises of the two countries. They agreed to make all-out efforts in support of greater civilisational exchanges between Pakistan and China and further expand cooperation for the conservation of heritage. The leaders welcomed the organizing of a Gandhara art exhibition at Palace Museum in Beijing in 2022.

Both sides agreed to continue the momentum in defence cooperation at various levels between the armed forces of Pakistan and China. They underscored that stronger defence and security cooperation between Pakistan and China was an important factor of peace and stability in the region. China recognized Pakistan's sacrifices and efforts in the fight against terrorism. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

They reiterated that a peaceful and prosperous South Asia was in the common interest of all parties and emphasized the importance of pursuit of dialogue and resolution of all outstanding disputes to promote regional cooperation.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1673740/islamabad-beijing-vow-to-boost-links-at-all-levels>

CPEC stalled under PTI govt, says Shahid Khaqan Abbasi

Mohammad Hussain Khan

HYDERABAD: Former prime minister and PML-N's senior vice president Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is currently stalled and dismissed PTI government's claim that the project was a debt burden.

Speaking to journalists at the residence of PML-N leader Anwar Soomro on Sunday before leaving for Sanghar, Mr Abbasi said CPEC projects were planned, executed and completed during PML-N government's term three years after PTI's dharna of 2014. In comparison, no project was completed and funding to the ongoing ones stopped during the current government's tenure.

Mr Abbasi — accompanied by other party leaders, including Miftah Ismail, Mr Soomro and MNA Kesoo Mal Kheeral Das — touched upon several subjects during his talk, including the local government, gas shortage, and opposition's efforts to oust the current government.

He stressed the need for a powerful local government that is not subservient to parliamentarians and the provincial government and called for handing over gas distribution to provinces.

He said if the pace of projects seen under the PML-N's government was maintained, it would contribute immensely to the country's development. He dispelled the impression given by the ruling party that CPEC was a debt burden and said only three coal projects under it could help the country pay back loans and still save money.

Provinces and gas distribution

He said it was unfortunate that despite being a gas-producing province, Sindh was faced with gas load shedding and that this was mainly because of government's incompetence.

“The Constitution says gas belongs to the province where it is produced. Therefore, its distribution should be given to provinces otherwise problems in gas distribution will increase manifold. People will be deprived of it as a result,” he said.

He said gas related affairs should be resolved considering the prevailing circumstances.

He said the biggest project to unite the country was the motorway. He regretted that the Sukkur-Hyderabad motorway could not be launched and stated that this project would also be completed by the PML-N government.

Mr Abbasi said the Karachi-Hyderabad motorway should have additional lanes or a new motorway should be built between the two cities.

He also stated that the previous government increased provinces' share under the National Finance Commission Award from 2013 to 2018.

He said the PML-N's government doubled the share of provinces and Sindh had never enjoyed a bigger share before and after that period.

Local government

Mr Abbasi said cities needed a powerful local government system that is truly representative of the masses. "A local government system subservient to parliamentarians and provincial governments can't deliver. We have done experiments in the past," he said.

Local bodies' powers needed to be defined, with Article 140-A of the Constitution being a guiding principle for legislation in this regard. For instance, the provincial governments could neither dissolve local governments nor could they take away their independence and financial authority.

"Local governments can't function unless their powers are not separated from the provincial governments'," he said, adding that the ruling PTI government was designing three different local government systems for Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad.

Opposition's efforts

On the opposition's efforts to remove the incumbent administration, Mr Abbasi said the opposition should utilise parliamentary traditions and oust the PTI government to ensure transparent elections. "The quicker the government is sent packing, the better," he said.

He said the PTI government could not even talk to the International Monetary Fund. Under the new money bill, a Rs700 billion burden and Rs160bn income taxes would be borne by the salaried class, whereas the State Bank of Pakistan would be restructured that would paralyse the government and result in a higher power tariff.

He said if the 'crutches' of the government were removed, a no-confidence motion would be successful in hours. He said 22 PTI MNAs were in touch with the PML-N and they conceded that they could not face their electorates with a PTI ticket.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1673733/cpec-stalled-under-pti-govt-says-shahid-khaqan-abbasi>

Dunya News

China assures expeditious development of CPEC Phase-II: Khalid

ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) - Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor says China has given the assurance of high quality and expeditious development of second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Beijing.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad on Monday, he said the leadership of Chinese companies during meetings with Prime Minister Imran Khan appreciated the environment and facilitation being provided by Pakistan to the Chinese investors.

Khalid Mansoor pointed out that Prime Minister Imran Khan held twenty back to back meetings in Beijing during which the Chinese companies showed interest for investment in different sectors including industries, agriculture, Information Technology, infrastructure, housing and construction mining and oil refinery.

The Special Assistant said it will now be our effort to give a practical shape to their interest in the shortest possible time.

The Special Assistant said that a consortium comprising of three Chinese companies have submitted a proposal to establish a low carbon recycle plant at Gwadar with an estimated investment of four point five billion dollars. He said the park will process and export the high value metals. This will generate forty thousand job opportunities.

The Special Assistant said that China will establish a center for training of farmers in agricultural mechanization.

Khalid Mansoor said one Chinese company has entered into a joint venture with Fauji Fertilizer Company for production of Soybean and Corn. He said a Chinese Company Royal Group has submitted a proposal to establish four large scale buffalo farms in Pakistan where it will process milk and prepare value added products.

The Special Assistant said that a big Chinese company has also decided to establish a textile cluster on one hundred acres of land.

Khalid Mansoor said that China has also reaffirmed the commitment to the construction of Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone with an investment of 3.5 billion dollars.

The Special Assistant said a Chinese company involved in manufacturing of medical diagnostic equipment has expressed interest to invest two hundred million dollars.

Khalid Mansoor said that a Pakistan cellular company has reached an agreement with a Chinese company to lay fiber optic at an area of one hundred thousand kilometers. This will help connect our big cities with the optical fiber.

He said China also wants to establish a LNG storage facility at Karachi port with an investment of five hundred million dollars.

He said local manufacturing and assembly of mobiles will also be started by China in the Science and Technology zone.

He said Power China will develop Karachi hub water canal.

The Special Assistant was confident that the country will now head towards industrialization which will benefit the economy and provide job opportunities to the youth.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/640123-China-gives-assurance-of-high-expeditious-development-of-CPEC-Phase-II->

Pakistan Observer

Imran, Xi Jinping review Pak-China bilateral coop

Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese President Xi Jinping during their ‘historic meeting’ on Sunday, held at the Great Hall of People in Beijing, reviewed the entire gamut of Pakistan-China bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest “in a warm and cordial atmosphere”.

Imran Khan underscored that the Pakistan-China relationship was “the cornerstone of its foreign policy” as both sides reiterated their support on issues “concerning each other’s core interests”.

According to a joint statement released after the meeting of Imran Khan with Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Pakistan side expressed its “commitment to One-China Policy and support for China on Taiwan, South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet”.

“The Chinese side reaffirmed its support for Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and security, as well as promoting its socioeconomic development and prosperity,” it added.

As per the statement: “The leaders of the two countries held in-depth exchange of views on the entire spectrum of bilateral relations as well as the regional situation and international political landscape.”

Imran Khan also lauded Xi for his Belt and Road Initiative, saying the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor significantly contributed to Pakistan’s economic and social development.

“Both sides acknowledged the major contribution of CPEC projects, particularly in the areas of energy and transport infrastructure, in strengthening Pakistan’s key role in regional connectivity while modernising its economic base.”

They also reaffirmed their support for timely completion of the CPEC projects while agreeing to further “leverage the private sectors and entrepreneurs” to contribute to Pakistan’s industrialization.

“Both sides expressed their strong determination to safeguard CPEC from all threats and negative propaganda,” the statement added.

The Chinese side appreciated the launch of the Pakistan-China Business and Investment Forum, it said.

“The leaders agreed to task the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee to strengthen cooperation across all areas,” it said.

The two sides high-lighted the significance of Gwadar as a central pillar of CPEC and important node in regional connectivity, it said, adding, “according to the “1 + 4” layout, the two sides agreed to jointly accelerate the construction and operation of Gwadar Port and build Gwadar low-carbon circular industry zone.”

The statement said that the Pakistan and Chinese leaders agreed to develop Gwadar for the socioeconomic benefit of its residents.

During the interaction, Pakistan also reaffirmed its commitment to the security of all Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan.

“Both sides observed that [the] CPEC was a win-win enterprise and pivotal for regional prosperity and enhanced connectivity.

As an open and inclusive initiative, third parties were welcome to benefit from investment opportunities in CPEC SEZs,” the statement added.

The two sides reviewed with satisfaction bi-lateral cooperation and mutual support after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the statement said, adding that it was also decided to enhance existing cooperation for developing emergency response systems, public health infrastructure and joint ventures for the development of the pharmaceutical industry in Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/imran-xi-jinping-review-pak-china-bilateral-coop/>

Revisiting Pak-China relationship

Dr Muhammad Khan

THE Pakistan-China relationship has a unique history of exceptional cooperation and coordination with numerous converging interests.

The four-day visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China is being viewed as a significant step towards furtherance of this traditional relationship.

Although, the visit is being carried out in connection with Winter Olympics-2022. Nevertheless, there are many economic and strategic aspects which have been debated between the leadership of both countries.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one such aspect which came under discussion with a view to complete it well within the already agreed time limits.

According to Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the visit of Pakistani delegation to China has two objectives; one, expressing a sense of solidarity with China since US and European Union has boycotted the Winter Olympics-2022 and two, furtherance in the economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.

There are prospects that, Pakistan will negotiate a loan of \$3 billion from China to support its falling economy.

Besides, Pakistan is looking forward for the Chinese investment and cooperation in several sectors like; textiles, footwear, pharmaceuticals, furniture, agriculture, automobile and information technology.

In this regard, 75 Chinese companies are being facilitated for investment in Pakistan and their access for trade routes to the Middle East, Africa

Other aspects include opportunities for more Chinese investment in Pakistan. In the same context, Prime Minister of Pakistan was being accompanied by some key ministers of his cabinet during the visit.

Earlier in October 2019, President Xi Jinping avowed during his meeting with PM Imran Khan that, “China is ready to work with Pakistan to forge a closer China-Pakistan ‘community of shared future’ in the new era”.

Pakistan and China have already completed seven decades of harmonious relationship, ever since both commenced this journey soon after People’s Republic of China came into being in October 1949.

There are very solid foundations of this harmonious Pak-China relationship, focusing on all aspects; political, economic and strategic.

Based on this strong and ever green relationship President Xi Jinping stated in 2019 that, the friendship between Pakistan and China is “unbreakable and rock solid”.

This highly farsighted and well-conceived concept of China-Pakistan ‘community of shared future’ in the most challenging time has lot of prospects in the bilateral relationship of both countries.

An insight analysis of this concept would reveal that, the last seven decades of Pakistan-China relations were centred on formal and official linkages between Islamabad and Beijing.

With the advent of a new era where globalization has become the order of the day, this formal state to state relationship must take the people on board.

Indeed, the people to people relationship has been a grey area in the last seven decades of Pak-China all weather friendship.

There has been increase in the people to people contact and collaboration between business and academic community of both countries.

In real terms, this is a new framework of China, for the promotion of international relations and improvement of global governance.

Since Chinese model of good governance and international relations has been a success story, therefore extension of this model to Pakistan for forging a closer China-Pakistan ‘community of shared future’ is most desired under the changing geopolitical environment.

Indeed, there is dire need that, harmonious relationship between Pakistan and China must spread over to the communities, the societies and the wider academic circles of both friendly states.

In order to accrue the real benefits of these relationship Pak-China communities with common interests and societies with harmonious future will have to collaborate, cooperate and progress together in the coming years.

After the episode of Ladakh where after a brief clash between Chinese and Indian militaries in 2020/21, China captured huge territory of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir (from Indian occupation), a hope was created that, China will play a role towards permanent solution of Kashmir dispute.

In this regard, there is a need that, Pakistan and China cooperate and resolve the Kashmir dispute, since China is party to this dispute having over 9000 square kilometres of Aksai Chin.

China had great concerns about Kashmir, once India illegally annexed the occupied part of Jammu and Kashmir as union territories.

For a long-term peace in the South Asia, there is a need that China should take into confidence the other four members of UN Security Council for the resolution of long-standing Kashmir dispute.

Such an act will further raise the status of China regionally as well as globally with a support from Pakistan and all deprived nations of the world.

Kashmir is an issue of common concern both for Pakistan and China. Therefore, Beijing considers “that the Kashmir issue is a dispute left from history, and should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant UN Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements.

” The four-day visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China is indeed, a reiteration that, China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners.

“No matter how the international and regional situation changes, the friendship between China and Pakistan has always been unbreakable and rock-solid, and China-Pakistan cooperation has always maintained strong vitality.

” This visit will strengthen the traditional and all-weather strategic cooperation between the two countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/revisiting-pak-china-relationship-by-dr-muhammad-khan/>

Techno-CMC-ACC consortium declared lowest bidder for CPEC M-6 motorway

The National Highway Authority (NHA) declared a consortium of two local and one Italian firm as the ‘most advantageous’ bidder for the construction of Hyderabad-Sukkur Motorway (M-6), Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

The 306-kilometer long 6-lane access-controlled greenfield motorway is the last section of the Western alignment of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative. The key connectivity project will be executed on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. NHA will provide land for the construction of the motorway free of cost.

The government had approved Rs 43 billion as capital viability gap fund (VGF) during the construction period and Rs 7 billion per year as operational VGF during the first seven years after completion of the motorway for ensuring the financial viability of the project.

According to the final evaluation report of NHA, the Techno-CMC-ACC consortium offered to build the missing link in the Karachi-Peshawar motorway at a cost of Rs 307.7 billion.

The consortium demanded Rs 9.5 billion as capital VGF during the construction period, against the Rs 37 billion sought by rival firm Zahir Khan and Brothers (ZKB). The consortium demanded zero operational VGF while the lone competitor ZKB sought Rs143 billion under the head. NHA had announced to provide net toll revenue from the M-5 motorway as operational VGF for the first 7 years of construction of the M-6 motorway. Also, Techno-CMC-ACC offered an Rs 73.6 billion share to NHA in revenue against Rs 20 billion offered by ZKB. Statistics suggest that the government will save over Rs 82 billion in project costs by awarding the contract to the Techno-CMC-ACC consortium, and also earn Rs 73.5 billion in revenues..—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/techno-cmc-acc-consortium-declared-lowest-bidder-for-cpec-m-6-motorway/>

Imran's visit to China to further strengthen economic cooperation

Chairman UK Pakistan Business Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said that ongoing visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China will further strengthen economic cooperation and impetus to flow of uninterrupted Chinese investment in various projects of national importance.

Commenting on the visit of Prime Minister to China, he said Pakistan signed a new agreement with China to kick off the \$60b second phase of flagship gigantic fate changer CPEC project having strategic significance for both countries and delivering tangible benefits to the people. He said another signed framework agreement on industrial cooperation is aimed at attracting foreign direct investment, promote industrialization, development of economic zones, execute projects in private and public sectors.

He said Chinese cooperation with Pakistan has reached economic high points with substantial Chinese investment in Pakistani infrastructural expansion including the deep water port of Gawdar and both countries are also enjoying the ongoing free trade agreement. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan has invited Chinese companies to further invest in Pakistan and take benefits from business-friendly policies of PTI led government.

Mian Kashif Ashfaq who is also former Chairman Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) said China, The world's second largest economy after the United States, has already pumped billions of dollars in various sectors. He said scores of Chinese entrepreneurs availing ten years tax holidays have already established their factories and plants in FIEDMC under the policy of substituting industries which will save billions of dollars foreign exchange.

He said China has also consistent record of fully supporting Pakistan in regional issues and both countries have placed considerable importance on the maintaining extremely closer and supportive special relationship and the two countries high level visits resulted into a variety of agreements. He said Imran Khan visit would reinforce the all-weather strategic cooperation partnership between the two countries in addition to advancing the objectives of building a closer China Pakistan bonds of brother-hood with a renewed shared future.

<https://pakobserver.net/imrans-visit-to-china-to-further-strengthen-economic-cooperation/>

The News

Pakistan, China pledge to maintain defence cooperation momentum

Mariana Baabar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China agreed on Sunday to continue the momentum in defence cooperation at various levels between the armed forces of the two countries.

They underscored that stronger defence and security cooperation between Pakistan and China was an important factor of peace and stability in the region.

Both sides also reiterated their support on issues concerning each other's core interests. The Chinese side reaffirmed its support for Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and security, as well as promoting its socio-economic development and prosperity, while Pakistan expressed its commitment to One-China Policy and support for China on Taiwan, South China Sea, Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet.

The cooperation between Islamabad and Beijing was mentioned in the 33-point joint statement at the conclusion of Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China where he held talks with President Xi Jinping, and Premier Li Keqiang.

Khan met Xi after nearly two years as Covid-19 kept physical meetings at a minimum. Both leaders reaffirmed that close strategic ties and deep-rooted friendship between Pakistan and China were time-tested and timeless and the bilateral relationship served the interests of both countries and was the historic choice of both peoples, with Pakistan adding that Pakistan-China relationship was the cornerstone of its foreign policy and that closest friendship with China enjoyed the abiding support of the people of Pakistan.

During their interactions, the leaders of the two countries held in-depth exchange of views on the entire spectrum of bilateral relations as well as regional situation and international political landscape. The meetings were marked by traditional warmth, strategic mutual trust and commonality of views that characterise the Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, said the joint statement.

China, paying tribute to Pakistan's fight against terrorism, said it recognised Pakistan's sacrifices and efforts in the fight against terrorism. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Afghanistan and Kashmir were also included in the joint statement with both sides reiterating that a peaceful and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties, with dialogue and resolution of all outstanding disputes to promote regional cooperation and advance the goals of lasting peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region.

“The Pakistan side briefed the Chinese side on the latest developments on the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, including its concerns, position and pressing issues at the moment.

“The Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir issue was a dispute left from history, and should be properly and peacefully resolved based on the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. China opposes any unilateral actions that complicate the situation,” said the statement.

On Afghanistan, the two sides agreed that a peaceful, stable, united, safe, and secure Afghanistan is fundamental for prosperity and progress in the region. They expressed satisfaction with the outcome of two foreign ministers’ meetings of the six neighbouring countries on Afghanistan and looked forward to its next meeting to be held in China. They are ready to discuss with Afghanistan the holding of the China-Pakistan-Afghanistan trilateral foreign ministers’ dialogue.

“Both sides said there was need to expedite humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and its people to avert the looming crisis and called upon the international community to provide continued and enhanced assistance and support to Afghanistan including through unfreezing of Afghanistan’s financial assets”.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was discussed threadbare during the delegation-level talks and both sides expressed their strong determination to safeguard the project from all threats and negative propaganda.

Pakistan reaffirmed its commitment to making all-out efforts for the security of all Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan and the Chinese side expressed its appreciation for the measures taken by Pakistan in this regard.

The two sides said they were ready to discuss with Kabul the extension of CPEC to Afghanistan.

Both sides acknowledged the major contribution of CPEC projects, particularly in the areas of energy and transport infrastructure, in strengthening Pakistan’s key role in regional connectivity while modernising its economic base.

The leaders reaffirmed their support to CPEC’s high-quality development and the commitment to ensuring the smooth operation of completed projects and the timely completion of projects under construction. The leaders took note of the signing of a Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation and agreed to further leverage the private sectors and entrepreneurs of both countries to contribute to Pakistan’s industrialisation in an all-round way.

The Chinese side appreciated Prime Minister’s launch of the Pakistan-China Business and Investment Forum, which will enhance B2B cooperation between the business sectors of both countries.

The leaders agreed to task the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to strengthen cooperation across all areas including in the fields of trade, infrastructure, industrial development, agriculture modernisation, scientific and technological cooperation and socio-economic well-being of people.

Noting close bilateral cooperation in the areas of health, environment and ICT, the two sides agreed to launch the China-Pakistan health, industry, trade, green and digital corridors.

According to the “1 + 4” layout, the two sides agreed to jointly accelerate the construction and operation of Gwadar Port and build Gwadar low-carbon circular industry zone. They agreed to build high-quality livelihood projects for the socio-economic development of Gwadar city and its residents.

The Chinese side appreciated Pakistan’s Ehsaas Programme for poverty alleviation and reiterated its resolve to support Pakistan for infrastructure development in several fields including agriculture, education, health, safe drinking water and vocational training.

As Pakistani students have been demanding a return to their educational institutions in China, the statement said that while ensuring safety against COVID-19, China will arrange for Pakistani students to return to China and resume classes in a prudent manner.

President Xi is expected to pay a state visit to Pakistan at a mutually convenient time.

Our correspondent adds: Prime Minister Imran Khan and China’s President Xi Jinping Sunday reaffirmed their resolve to build Pakistan-China community for shared future in the new era and appreciated the signing of a number of agreements covering cooperation in the fields of industrial and space sectors as well as Covid-19 vaccination.

Prime Minister Imran Khan met President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of People in Beijing. He congratulated the leadership and people of China on successful hosting of the 24th Olympic Winter Games in Beijing and extended his best wishes on the Chinese Lunar New Year.

He briefed President Xi on people-centered geo-economics vision and his government’s policies for Pakistan’s sustained growth, industrial development, agricultural modernisation, and regional connectivity. He lauded China’s continued support and assistance to Pakistan’s socio-economic development which had greatly benefitted from the high quality development of CPEC.

The PM welcomed increased Chinese investments in CPEC phase-II, which centred on industrialisation and improving people’s livelihoods. The PM shared his views with President Xi on growing polarisation in the world which threatened unravelling of global developmental gains, and posed serious risks to the developing countries.

He highlighted that insurmountable challenges like climate change, health pandemics and growing inequalities could only be tackled through unqualified cooperation of all nations in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

In this regard, he lauded President Xi's visionary Belt and Road and Global Development Initiatives which called for collective action for sustainable development and win-win outcomes.

The PM highlighted that atrocities being perpetrated in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and the persecution of minorities in India in advancing the Hindutva mindset of RSS-BJP, was a threat to regional peace and stability. He added that rapid militarisation of India was undermining regional stability.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=54213>

Pak-China Relations and US

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

Pakistan-China relationship is anchored on the principles of mutual respects, win-win cooperation and acknowledgement of each other's concerns and interests. It is not rhetoric but a time-tested fact. China and Pakistan have always proved themselves dependable friends. There are many distinguish characteristics which make China-Pakistan relationship unique in comparison with the West. Western countries tried to build cooperation by adopting policy of dependency and used technology and market power to achieve the goal.

On the contrary, China always assisted Pakistan in achieving the goal of self-sufficiency. China abetted Pakistan to learn the art of fishing. China extended cooperation to build the Ordnance Factory, Heavy Mechanical Complex Taxila (HMCT), Aeronautical Complex and Heavy Forge Factory, Al-Khalid Tank and JF-17s etc. The HMCT facilitated Pakistan to build production base for quality weaponry. Civil nuclear cooperation is another hallmark. On the economic side, CPEC is a sign of ultimate trust and friendship. It started at a time when no one was willing to invest in Pakistan. The CPEC is helping Pakistan build industrial base and revolutionise economy. Ingredients of fourth industrial revolution make it a perfect venture. The strong bond of friendship, rather brotherhood, always helped steer the relationship in a smooth manner. Unfortunately, it also attracted negative propaganda and CPEC is the latest victim. Without realising the importance of CPEC for Pakistan, the West, especially US is pressurising Pakistan to come out of this cooperation. The US considers it a strategic initiative, which has no rational or evidence. It is economic initiative, which is contributing to revive economy. Pakistan's commitment to CPEC has antagonised the US and its allies like India. They have initiated smear campaigns against both countries and are busy to spread fake information about the CPEC and Xinjiang.

The analysis of facts and global politics indicates that there is nothing wrong with the CPEC, Xinjiang or Pakistan-China relationship. The real problem is unprecedented growth and development of China and fears of US. The US wants to contain China and is busy to convince countries to limit working with China. Pakistan being brother of China is the prime target. Pakistan has refused to listen to this demand of US. Howbeit, the situation is becoming more complicated and smear campaign has been further accelerated. The US has forged strong strategic and economic relationship with India in the region to counter China and Pakistan.

Through this strategic partnership, the US is trying to further pressurise China and Pakistan. It is expected that the efforts will be enhanced in the coming months and years. Global institution will also be deputed to achieve the objective. It has been rather deputed like FATF, IMF etc. In this context, neutrality will not be an option and circumstances will compel Pakistan to make a decision, which must protect interests of Pakistan and brotherhood with China.

In the light of facts and global politics, it is crystal clear that US will not be happy with Pakistan. The reasons behind this assumption are quite clear. First, the US has launched Build Back Better World (B3W) in collaboration with its allies. B3W is pitched as alternative to BRI. The US is asking Pakistan to join the initiative and leave the BRI and CPEC. It is impossible, as Pakistan cannot leave the BRI. Pakistan will be happy to join B3W but without compromising on CPEC, BRI and brotherhood with China. The US and allies will not accept it.

Second, let's assume for a moment. If Pakistan abandons CPEC and China will US stand with Pakistan? No, US will stand with India, no matter what's Pakistan does. The assumption has been developed on the basis of strong economic rational. The US needs India due to the size of its market to compete with China. China is an economy of 1.4 billion consumers. China has a potential to graduate around 600 million people into middle class through Vision 2035. A study by HSBC advocated that the process has been started and China will graduate 160 million till 2025 and the middle class will be comprised of 500 million people. It is anticipated that through Vision 2035 300-400 million will graduate to upper class.

So, 1000 million people will be changing their class, which will give enormous boost to China's GDP and economy. Experts have pointed out that an increase of \$20 in spending of middle class will generate consumption economy of \$1.1 trillion in China on per year basis. Thus, it is predicted that domestic economy would be enough for China to sustain the high growth rate and counter the global challenges. Further, the enhanced consumption will also help China become centre of gravity by enhancing imports to meet the rising demand of people.

On the other hand, US market only consists of 334 million people, which has no match with China. The US would be in need to look for international markets to compensate this difference. Europe, which is a traditional ally of US, will not be able to offer such market. Europe has population of 780 million and is a saturated market. Europe itself is looking for new avenues of investment and economic cooperation. Lastly, in the past, US utilised its power of innovation and technological development to outpace other countries. However, this time China is outpacing US.

In this context, India is a natural and essential choice for US and America will try to build relationship with India. It is happening already in the form of QUAD, 2+2 partnership etc. It is expected that the relationship will be further strengthened. Pakistan will not have any space in this relationship until it abandons CPEC and relationship with China, which is not possible.

Thus, on the basis of above discussion, it can be inferred that China and Pakistan need to work more closely otherwise, US and Indian alliance will pose serious threats to peace, security of region and interests of both the countries.

Lastly, Pakistan should realise that neutrality will not serve the interest of Pakistan. So, Pakistan should refine its policy of international relations by keeping in mind this key observation.

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PM's China visit will boost mutual ties: Farrukh

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Sunday expressed the confidence that Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China would further strengthen Pakistan relations with the brotherly country.

"Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China was a complete success and would prove to be a milestone in further strengthening relations of Pakistan and China," the minister tweeted.

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K2 Daily News

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وزیر اعظم کا دورہ چین اور معاشی معاہدے

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین کے حوالے سے وفاقی وزراء کے ہمراہ پریس کانفرنس کرتے ہوئے وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا دورہ چین تو قعات سے زیادہ کامیاب رہا، ان کی چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ سے تفصیلی ملاقات ہوئی جس میں باہمی تعلقات اور سی پیک منصوبوں پر مفصل گفتگو ہوئی جبکہ ان کی صدر شی جن پنگ کے ساتھ اتنی جامع اور مفصل ملاقات پہلے نہیں ہوئی۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم کا دورہ چین تو قعات سے زیادہ کامیاب رہا، چین اور پاکستان ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ کھڑے تھے اور کھڑے رہیں گے اور متوفہ شمشیر کے حوالے سے چین اور پاکستان کی سوچ میں یکسانیت ہے۔ انہوں نے چینی ہم منصب وانگ آئی کے ساتھ ملاقات کا احوال بتاتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ طے ہوا ہے کہ افغان صورتحال کے حوالے سے مارچ کے آخری ہفتے میں چین کا دورہ کروں گا اور افغان معاملے پر لائحہ عمل طے کرنے کی غرض سے بیجنگ میں افغانستان کے تمام قریبی ممالک کا بھی اہم اجلاس ہوگا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ متوفہ شمشیر کے حوالے سے چین اور پاکستان کی سوچ میں یکسانیت ہے۔ وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ پاکستانی کے مختصر دستے کا بیجنگ سمائی اوپیکس میں اسٹیڈیم آف پریچینی عوام نے جس طرح استقبال کیا اس کی مثال نہیں ملتی۔ وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات کا کہنا تھا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا دورہ چین انتہائی کامیاب رہا، جو جیت اور گرجی چین کی قیادت اور عوام نے پاکستان کے لیے دکھائی ہے وہ فقید المثال تھی۔ کچھ لوگوں نے اس دورے پر بے جا تنقید کی، ایسے لوگوں کو باہمی دوروں اور کثیرالجہتی دوروں کے سبب تک نہیں آتے لیکن بد قسمتی سے آج وہ خارجہ امور کے ماہر بنے بیٹھے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی بیجنگ آمد کے بعد پاکستان اور چین نے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری سی پیک کے تحت صنعتی تعاون کے فریم ورک معاہدے پر دستخط کر دیے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان سمائی اوپیکس کی افتتاحی تقریب میں شرکت اور چینی قیادت سے ملاقات کے لیے چار روزہ دورے پر چین میں موجود ہیں۔ وزیر مملکت اور چیئر مین بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ محمد ظفر احسن اور چیئر مین نیشنل ڈیولپمنٹ اینڈ ریفرم کمیشن این آر ڈی سی ای لیفنگ نے معاہدے پر دستخط کیے۔ صنعتی تعاون کے لیے مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ سے ڈبلیو جی کا مقصد براہ راست فیکٹری سرمایہ کاری کو راغب کرنا، صنعت کاری اور اقتصادی زونز کی ترقی کو فروغ دینا اور عوامی سرکاری اور نجی دونوں طرح کے منصوبوں کا آغاز منسویہ بندی، عمل درآمد اور ان کی نگرانی کرنا ہے۔ بے ڈبلیو جی میں چین کے ساتھ شمولیت کا مقصد پاکستان میں لیبر کی پیداواری صلاحیت اور صنعتی مسابقت کو بڑھانے، برآمدات میں اضافہ کرنے اور اس میں تنوع کو برقرار رکھنے کے لیے ہے۔ 2018 میں منعقدہ سی پیک کی مشترکہ تعاون کمیٹی کے آٹھویں اجلاس کے دوران دونوں فریقین نے ایک مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کیے تھے جو فریقین کے درمیان صنعتی تعاون کے حوالے سے مستقبل کی مصروفیات کی وجہ بنا سکی ایک اپنے دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو چکا ہے جس کا مرکز خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کی ترقی اور صنعت کاری ہے، اس صورتحال میں ایک جامع فریم ورک معاہدے کی ضرورت ناگزیر ہو گئی تھی۔ توانائی اور انفراسٹرکچر کے حوالے سے سی پیک کے اربوں ہارویٹ منصوبوں کے لیے بھی اسی طرح کے معاہدوں پر دستخط کیے گئے ہیں۔ بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ کی مسلسل کوششوں سے دونوں فریقین 2020 میں موجودہ مفاہمتی یادداشت کو ایک فریم ورک معاہدے میں تبدیل کرنے پر اتفاق کیا تھا۔ فریقین کی طویل مشاورت اور وزیر اعظم کی منظوری کے بعد ہی او آئی نے نومبر 2020 میں این ڈی ڈی آر سی کے ساتھ اس فریم ورک کا مسودہ شیئر کیا جسے سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کی ضروریات کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے تیار کیا گیا۔ فریم ورک معاہدے پر دستخط کی تقریب وزیر اعظم کے دورے کا ایک اہم نتیجہ ہے اور چین کی جانب سے اس کا ناپ ایجنڈا ہوتا سی پیک میں ان کی دلچسپی کا ثبوت ہے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا چین کے قومی ترقی اور اصلاحاتی کمیشن کے چیئر مین ہی لانگنگ کے ساتھ ورچوئل اجلاس منعقد ہوا۔ اجلاس میں سی پیک کے تحت جاری منصوبوں کی پیش رفت کا جائزہ لیا گیا اور مستقبل کے اقدامات کی تیاریوں پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ پاک چین آل ویدر

اسٹریٹجک کوآپریٹو پارٹنرشپ مضبوط اور لازوال ہے۔ کورونا وبا کے باوجود پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری سی پیک کے تمام منصوبوں پر کام بند رینج آگے بڑھا، یہ منصوبہ دونوں ممالک کے عوام کو خوش فائدہ بنیاد بنا رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے اس سلسلے میں چین کے قومی ترقی اور اصلاحاتی کمیشن اور دونوں اطراف کے متعلقہ حکام کی کوششوں کو سراہا۔ وزیر اعظم نے سی پیک کے اربوں ہارویٹ منصوبوں پر اطمینان کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ان منصوبوں نے پاکستان کے معاشی منظر نامے کو تبدیل کر دیا ہے اور پائیدار اقتصادی ترقی کی مضبوط بنیاد رکھی ہے۔ انہوں نے گوادار کو علاقائی تجارت اور صنعت کا مرکز بنانے کی کوششیں جاری رکھنے اور ایم ایل ون اور توانائی کے دیگر اہم منصوبوں پر جاری کام کو ترجیح دینے کا عزم ظاہر کیا۔ اس موقع پر چینی کمیشن کے چیئر مین نے کہا کہ چین گزشتہ سات سالوں میں پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا سرمایہ کاری اور تجارتی پارٹنر بن گیا ہے اور دونوں فریقین مستقبل میں بھی مجموعی اقتصادی اور تجارتی تعلقات کو برقرار رکھنے کے خواہاں ہیں۔ چینی کمیشن کے چیئر مین نے صنعت کاری، جدید زراعت، سائنس، ٹیکنالوجی اور سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کے شعبوں میں پاکستان کی مدد کے لیے چین کی آمادگی کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ تمام متعلقہ چینی ادارے سی پیک منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کے لیے چین کے سرکاری اور نجی اداروں کو ترغیب دینے کی کوششیں جاری رکھیں گے۔ اس حوالے سے دونوں فریقین نے نئے گرین، ڈیجیٹل، صحت، تجارت اور صنعتی کوریڈور قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا جس سے ان شعبوں کے ذیلی سیکٹرز کے لیے سلسلہ وار تعاون میں اضافہ ہوگا۔ اجلاس کے دوران دونوں فریقین نے پاکستان کے بورڈ آف انویسٹمنٹ اور چین کے این ڈی ڈی آر سی کے درمیان صنعتی تعاون کے فریم ورک معاہدے پر دستخط کا بھی خیر مقدم کیا جس کے تحت چین کے صنعتی پیش قدمی کے خصوصی اقتصادی زونز میں تبدیل کرنے اور چین اور دیگر ممالکوں سے سرمایہ کاری میں تیزی لانے کے لیے سہولت فراہم کی جا سکے گی۔ دورے سے متعلق بات کرتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات فواد چوہدری کا کہنا تھا کہ 21 مختلف شعبہ جات کی نشاندہی کی گئی ہے جن پر وزیر اعظم عمران خان چینی قیادت سے گفتگو کریں گے۔ وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین کے دوران زیر بحث آنے والے شعبہ جات میں سی پیک کے تحت قائم کیے جانے والے خصوصی اقتصادی زونز، تجارت، انفراسٹرکچر، ٹیکنالوجی، زراعت اور بڑی پیمانے پر چینی صنعتوں کی پاکستان منتقلی شامل ہیں۔ ملاقاتوں میں دونوں ممالک کے سربراہان دوطرفہ تعلقات کا مکمل جائزہ لیں گے، جس میں سی پیک سمیت تجارت اور اقتصادی تعاون پر خصوصی توجہ دی جائے گی۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات کو کوئی بھی چیز تبدیل نہیں کر سکتی اور امریکا سمیت مغربی طاقتوں کا چین سے تعلقات میں کمی کے لیے پاکستان پر دباؤ ڈالنا نا انصافی ہے۔ چین کے سرکاری وی ڈی سی ٹی این کو خصوصی انٹرویو دیتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم نے دونوں ممالک کے مابین گہرے تعلقات کا تفصیلی ذکر کرتے ہوئے کہا تھا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے دوستانہ تعلقات ستر سال سے زیادہ عرصے پر محیط ہیں اور ان دیرینہ تعلقات کو کوئی بھی چیز تبدیل نہیں کر سکتی۔ جو کچھ بھی ہو، چاہے ہم پر جو بھی دباؤ ڈالا جائے لیکن پاکستان اور چین کے مابین تعلقات کو تبدیل نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔ خطے میں ایک عجیب اور زبردست طاقت کا مقابلہ جاری ہے جسے ہر کوئی جانتا ہے، امریکا نے کواڈ کے نام سے ایک علاقائی اتحاد تشکیل دیا جس میں بھارت اور چند دیگر ممالک شامل ہیں لہذا اس نقطہ نظر سے پاکستان کا ماننا ہے کہ امریکا اور دیگر مغربی طاقتوں کا یہ توقع رکھنا نا انصافی ہے کہ پاکستان جیسے ممالک کسی کی طرف داری کریں گے، ہم کسی کی طرف داری کیوں کریں، ہم تمام ممالک سے ایسے تعلقات رکھنا چاہتے ہیں۔ خطے میں ایک عجیب گھٹکھل چل رہی ہے جو سب کے علم میں ہے، آپ دیکھتے ہیں کہ چین، امریکا کے حوالے سے محتاط ہے، جس طرح سے امریکا اور چین ایک دوسرے کی طرف دیکھ رہے ہیں وہ پریشان کن ہے کیونکہ امریکا نے ایک علاقائی اتحاد تشکیل دیا ہے جو کواڈ کہلاتا ہے جس میں امریکا، ہندوستان اور دیگر دو ممالک شامل ہیں۔ عمران خان نے واضح کیا کہ اگر پاکستان پر چین سے تعلقات میں تبدیلی یا اس میں کمی کے لیے دباؤ ڈالا جاتا ہے تو ایسا نہیں ہوگا۔

Nawaiwaqt News

عمران خان کا دورہ چین ہر لحاظ سے کامیاب رہا: عبدالوحید بٹ

گھڑ منڈی (نامہ نگار) وزیر اعظم پاکستان عمران خان کا ہمسایہ دوست ملک چین کا دورہ ہر لحاظ سے کامیاب رہا کیوں کہ یہ دورہ ملک کے لیے ترقی و خوشحالی کی نئی راہیں کھولے گا، چین کے صنعت کاروں سے کیے گئے معاہدوں سے ملک میں بیروزگاری کا خاتمہ اور ملکی ترقی و خوشحالی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی ان خیالات کا اظہار تحریک انصاف کے راہنماوں عبدالوحید بٹ اور شہریار لیاقت علی بلارانہ نے کیا انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم کی مدبرانہ قیادت نے اپنے دیرینہ ہمسایہ دوست ملک چین کے دورہ کو اولیت دے کر یہ ثابت کر دیا ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان کی دوستی لازوال ہے اب چین کی سرمایہ دار کمپنیاں پاکستان میں سرمایہ لگائیں گی جس سے صنعت سازی میں اضافہ ہو گا اور سی بیک جیسے اہم قومی منصوبہ کی تکمیل بھی جلد مکمل ہو جائے گی انہوں نے کہا کہ سابقہ حکومتوں نے امریکہ سے تعلقات کو اولیت دی لیکن امریکہ نے پاکستان کی بجائے ہمیشہ ہندوستان سے تعاون بڑھایا جبکہ چین نے ہمیشہ پاکستان اور اس کے عوام سے دوستی نبھائی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-07/page-9/detail-17>

پاک چین دوستی لازوال، کوئی دشمن ملک ختم نہیں کر سکتا: سیٹھ عبدالرب

کاموکی (نمائندہ خصوصی) پاک چین دوستی لازوال، جسے کوئی دشمن ملک ختم نہیں کر سکتا۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار پاکستان تحریک انصاف کے راہنما سیٹھ عبدالرب عدنان نے اپنے بیان میں کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ امن ہو یا جنگ یا پھر کوئی ناگہانی صورتحال چین اپنے سچے دوست پاکستان کیساتھ ہمہ وقت تیار کھڑا ہے جس پر تمام محب وطن پاکستانی قوم کو ہمیشہ فخر رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ اپوزیشن جماعتیں بلاوجہ احتجاجی شور شرابا کر رہی ہیں، بجائے اپنی غلطیوں اور کوتاہیوں سمیت قومی خزانہ لوٹنے کی تلاشی کریں۔ بلاوجہ احتجاجی ہنگامہ آرائی سے گریز کرنا چاہیے۔ بلکہ ملکی ترقی و خوشحالی اور عوام کی بنیادی ضروریات کی سہولت کیلئے اپوزیشن کو اچھے کاموں میں حکومت کا ساتھ دینا چاہیے۔ کیونکہ سچائی پر مبنی جذبہ حب الوطنی کا یہی تقاضا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-07/page-9/detail-9>

وزیر اعظم کا دورہ چین: دو طرفہ اقتصادی تعاون بڑھے گا: میاں کاشف اشفاق

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) یو کے پاکستان بزنس کونسل کے چیئرمین میاں کاشف اشفاق نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین سے دو طرفہ اقتصادی تعاون کو تقویت چینی سرمایہ کاری کو فروغ ملے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کیساتھ پاکستان کے نئے معاہدے کے تحت 60 بلین ڈالر کے سی بیک منصوبے کے دوسرے مرحلے کا آغاز ہو گیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سرمایہ کاری سے پاکستان کیساتھ چین کا تعاون مزید بڑھ گیا اور دونوں ممالک آزادانہ تجارت کے معاہدے سے بھی مستفید ہو رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دس سال کی ٹیکس چھوٹ کے باعث چینی سرمایہ کار فیڈ مک میں اپنی فیکٹریاں اور پلانٹس قائم کر چکے ہیں جس سے اربوں ڈالر کا زر مبادلہ بچایا جاسکے گا۔ چین علاقائی مسائل پر بھی پاکستان کی مکمل حمایت کرتا آ رہا ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کا اپنے مشترکہ مفادات کے تحفظ اور حصول کیلئے مل کر کام کرنا نکلے میں خوشحالی اور ترقی کیلئے بھی بے حد ضروری ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-07/page-10/detail-3>

February 08, 2022

Business Recorder

SAPM explains China's approach to 2nd phase of CPEC

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs, Khalid Mansoor said that China has given the assurance of high quality and expeditious development of multi-billion-dollar second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Beijing. Addressing a news conference here on Monday, the Special Assistant to the PM said that the leadership of Chinese companies during meetings with Prime Minister Imran Khan appreciated the environment and facilitation being provided by Pakistan to the Chinese investors.

He said that during the visit of China, the prime minister held 20 meetings in two days with leadership of various Chinese companies relating to various sectors.

He said that during the meetings, the Chinese companies showed interest for investment in various sectors including industries, agriculture, Information Technology, infrastructure, housing and construction, and mining and oil refinery.

The special assistant said it will now be our effort to give a practical shape to their interest in the shortest possible time.

“Chinese investors were told that the Economic Coordination Committee had approved Rs100 billion for CPEC projects, Independent Power Producers (IPPs), out of which, Rs50 billion has already been disbursed against outstanding payables to CPEC operational companies, while the remaining amount of Rs50 billion will be provided to them this month,” he said. He said that the second issue raised by the Chinese investors during the meeting was the delay in the establishment of a revolving account. He said that the prime minister gave the approval for it, prior to the trip to China, which was communicated to the Chinese delegation.

He said that the Chinese companies were concerned regarding the number of approvals needed to conduct an investment, which causes delay.

The Special Assistant to PM on CPEC Affairs said that in this regard, the Pakistan government, weeks before the trip, introduced a landmark legislation, in which, the approval regime has become a compliance regime, and now the investor would provide an undertaking that they would comply with certain things as per the law of the land, whereas, its enforcement will be undertaken through an audit regime.

He said that the facilitation centre at the CPEC Authority is up and running, which acts as a single-window operation to resolve issues of the Chinese investors.

He said that China has also reaffirmed the commitment to the construction of Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone with an investment of \$3.5 billion.

He said that a consortium comprising of three Chinese companies have submitted a proposal to establish a low carbon recycle plant at Gwadar with an estimated investment of \$ 4.5 billion. He said the plant will process and export the high value metals. This will generate 40,000 job opportunities.

Khalid Mansoor said one Chinese company has entered into a joint venture with Fauji Fertilizer Company for production of Soybean and Corn.

He said a Chinese Company, Royal Group, has submitted a proposal to establish four large scale buffalo farms in Pakistan where it will process milk and prepare value-added products.

He said that China will establish a center for training of farmers in agricultural mechanization. He said that \$50 million would be spent for training of famers. He said that Royal Group plans to set up Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) free dairy buffalo farm project with an investment of \$50 million.

The group envisages developing four large scale buffalo farms with 8,000 heads for 16 million litres annual milk production capacity, he said.

Pertaining to the textile sector, a Chinese company called Textile Fashion has purchased 100 acres of land at Lahore–Kasur Road, in which the company would set up an entire textile cluster at an investment of \$250 million.

He said that a Chinese company involved in manufacturing of medical diagnostic equipment has expressed interest to invest \$200 million.

Khalid Mansoor said that a Pakistan's telecom Jazz company has reached an agreement with a Chinese company, Hunan Sunwalk to lay fiber optic at an area of one hundred thousand kilometers.

This will help connect our big cities with the optical fiber, he said.

He said that Hunan SunWalk Construction Group has signed an MoU with a private telecommunication company to lay an optical fibre cable network of around 100,000 kilometers in all major cities of Pakistan with an investment of \$2 billion.

About housing, he said that China company signed an MoU with Pakistan Housing Authority to build 5,000 houses in Pakistan.

He said China also wants to establish a LNG storage facility at Karachi port with an investment of \$500 million.

He said that Chinese companies also showed interest in steel.

He said that China companies also determined to participate in the privatisation of Pakistan Steel Mills.

The special assistant said that local manufacturing and assembly of mobiles will also be started by China in the Science and Technology zone.

He said Power China will develop Karachi hub water canal.

He was confident that the country will now head towards industrialization, which will benefit the economy and provide job opportunities to the youth.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/08/1-page/918012-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC entered into next phase after PM's China visit: Awan

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on CDA Affairs Ali Nawaz Awan Monday said China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has entered into next phase after successful visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China. In a news release, the SAPM termed recent visit of the premier a welcoming step which would further strengthen bilateral relations between both the friendly countries. He said Pakistan and China has signed different agreements of billions of rupees during prime minister's visit which shows the strong friendship between the two countries. Rejecting baseless propaganda by some analyst, he said the entire world was well aware of the deep ties between Pakistan and China. Awan said the country's economy was moving on the right direction under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan as he has developed historical relations with all friendly countries including China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/881966/cpec-entered-into-next-phase-after-pms-china-visit-awan/>

China, Pakistan to discuss extension of CPEC with Afghanistan

While agreeing to pursue closer cooperation on Afghanistan in future, China and Pakistan have shown readiness to discuss with Kabul the extension of CPEC to Afghanistan. According to Gwadar Pro on Monday, this was decided during the three-day visit of Prime Minister Imran to Beijing at the invitation of the Chinese leadership. Besides attending the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games 2022, Imran Khan held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

According to the joint statement between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the two sides highlighted the significance of Gwadar Port as a central pillar of CPEC and important node in "regional connectivity".

"On Afghanistan, the two sides agreed that a peaceful, stable, united, safe, and secure Afghanistan is fundamental for prosperity and progress in the region," reads the joint statement.

The leadership of China and Pakistan also expressed satisfaction with the outcome of two Foreign Ministers' meetings of the six neighbouring countries in Afghanistan and looked forward to its next meeting to be held in China. "They are ready to discuss with Afghanistan the holding of the China-Pakistan-Afghanistan Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Dialogue," read the statement, adding the Chinese side appreciated Pakistan for hosting the 17th Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on Afghanistan on 19 December 2021.

The two sides underscored the need to expedite humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and its people to avert the looming crisis and called upon the international community to provide continued and

enhanced assistance and support to Afghanistan including through unfreezing of Afghanistan's financial assets.

“Both sides observed that CPEC was a win-win enterprise and pivotal for regional prosperity and enhanced connectivity. As an open and inclusive initiative, third parties were welcome to benefit from investment opportunities in CPEC SEZs,” reads the joint statement. Afghan leaders have shown interest to become part of CPEC, which could turn the landlocked country into an international business hub.

Afghanistan has already started benefiting from Gwadar Port and the country received the first consignment of bulk cargo from the United Arab Emirates in July 2020. Ghulam Khan crossing, at Pak-Afghan border point, is the shortest route connecting CPEC's western route with Afghanistan, Central Asian States and beyond.

The provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has also approved Chitral-Shandor CPEC Route, connecting the district with Gilgit and China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/882003/china-pakistan-to-discuss-extension-of-cpec-with-afghanistan/>

China-Pakistan relations to get closer and stronger: PM

Prime Minister, Imran Khan has said that China-Pakistan ties would get stronger and stronger in the future, because of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which connects Pakistan and China and is part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of President Xi Jinping.

“CPEC is not just going to connect us, not just about road connectivity, but about cooperation, industrialization, agriculture and tourism, so the relationship between the two countries will just get closer and stronger,” the prime minister said in an interview with Global Times during his four-day visit to China.

About potential development of the CPEC in current year, PM Khan said that the first phase of CPEC was connectivity. As CPEC moved into the second phase it means special economic industrial zones, agriculture, which is Pakistan's backbone. The main employer in Pakistan was agriculture.

“We expect China to help us increase our productivity in agriculture, then in information, technology and IT. Technology is the future. We are inviting Chinese companies to come to Special Technology Zones, and operate these technology zones. Apart from that, tourism is going to be the future because of interaction between people of the two countries and the connectivity,” he added.

Responding to a question regarding his expectation for the future of China-Pakistan relations, the PM Khan said that Pakistan and China not only saw each other as iron brothers, but they also thought that China and Pakistan relationship was as high as the Himalayas.

“It’s the people-to-people relationship. When you have people to people relationship, it means governments can come and go, but the relationship will always stay because it’s embedded in the people of the two countries,” he added.

The prime minister said that China and Pakistan relationship went back 70 years, and it was an all-weather relationship. “We have stood with each other throughout the 70 years. With other countries, sometimes we’ve had good relationships, and have periods of not so good relationships with them, but with China it’s been consistent for 70 years,” he added.?

He said that when the Pakistan contingent was walking in, there was applause in the stadium. Apart from China that received the biggest applause, Pakistan was among the countries that got probably the next biggest applause in the stadium, he said,? adding, “We were all very impressed and pleased by that.”

About holding of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics in China, PM Khan said that he had played almost 20 years of international sport, but since he became the prime minister, he hardly had any time to watch any international sports.

“So being invited to watch the Winter Olympics was a great pleasure for me. I must say the event was so impressive. I’ve never seen an event like that, those fireworks and especially the effect of lighting. It was just out of this world,” he added.?

He remarked that when a country was going up, when it had self-belief, it could reach out to everyone. Only that sort of country could produce the spectacular event he went to last night.

“This is my fourth visit to Beijing as a prime minister. Many years ago, I came when I was just a politician, a member of parliament. China changes every two years. You can’t recognize it. When you come here, you think you’re in a different country. I’ve never seen a country change so quickly in terms of infrastructure,” he added.

He said that t hold Olympics during the pandemic was one of the most difficult things to do. The only way that one country could do it was that it must have incredible discipline. Regarding collaboration and exchanges between Pakistan and China in field of winter sports, he said that in Pakistan, there was no tradition of winter sports. “Now we are paying attention to winter sports for the first time”, he added.

He said that the main place where both countries could exchange winter sports was in remote northern areas that neighbors China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. It was China that had helped Pakistan to build the Karakoram Highway which linked northern areas to other parts of Pakistan, he said, adding some of the top 10 highest mountains were in Pakistan.

“We have high mountains with great skiing slopes. Skardu is right in the northern areas with an international airport. So now, we will have people coming from all over the world,” he added.

PM Khan said that everyone would be watching live the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics in Pakistan and added, “We have a Pakistani competing in this Olympics; we’re coming here to also promote the Olympics in Pakistan.”?

About achievements of the Communist Party of China (CPC) for China and the world, he opined that CPC had achieved the greatest achievements in the history of mankind.

CPC had lifted more than 700 million people out of poverty in the last 30 to 40 years. Last year Xi announced the end of extreme poverty in China. There could be no greater achievement than this. This had to be the greatest achievement of any civilization.

“This is where, certainly we in Pakistan, want to learn from China. We’re already learning, we are trying to follow the Chinese model. How do we get people out of poverty? For me, the biggest challenge of a government is to take care of the people who are at the bottom of the social structure. Civilizations are not judged by how the rich people live, it’s how the poor people live,” he added.

PM Khan mentioning the other thing about China, said that it was the culture of meritocracy. “Party School of CPC explained to me how they bring their best people and utilize their talents. That is a very, very impressive thing about China. Any society that has meritocracy will beat those societies which do not have it,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/882039/china-pakistan-relations-to-get-closer-and-stronger-pm/>

CPEC phase-2 involves multi-billion dollar investments

Advisor to Prime Minister on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Khalid Mansoor said here Monday that the phase-2 of the corridor involved multi-billion dollar investments in Pakistan as most of Chinese companies had shown their interest to investment in country.

Addressing a press conference, he said that during his two-day historic visit to China, Prime Minister Imran Khan held around 20 back-to-back meetings with representatives of around 500 companies to help bring investment into the country.

He said the Prime Minister listened to the representatives of these companies patiently and assured them of full cooperation of his government for investing in the country. The advisor said that the PM presented a pitch book to Chinese leading companies which included detailed information and investment opportunity in various sectors of economy including textile, pharmaceutical, footwear, information technology, agriculture, cottage industry.

He said that it had been thoroughly elaborated in the book why Chinese investors should prefer Pakistan for investment over other regional countries adding that Pakistan offered win-win situation for the benefit of the country as well as investors. He said that 65pc population of Pakistan was under 40 years of age and Pakistan had skilled labor force and cheaper as compared to China.

The adviser said that the Chinese companies had been facilitated with compliance regime and they were not required to obtain NOCs from 37 different departments before launching any investment project in the special economic zones. He said the CPEC Authority provided one-

window facility to the Chinese investors adding that if there issues still remain unresolved, then PM house was there to address the issues.

He said that under the Phase-2, Chinese companies would support in setting up Steel and Metal Recycling Plant in Gwadar within three years, which would produce metals worth \$4.5 billion for exports besides creating 40000 jobs. He said that Chinese companies would also help develop agriculture of the country on modern lines to enhance per acre yield and seed quality.

Meanwhile, some companies were interested to grow maize and soybean in Pakistan, he noted. He said a Chinese company would invest in building LNG storage at Karachi port whereas a factory for value added products would be set up on Lahore-Kasur road in the textile sector.

The adviser said that another Chinese company Royal Guru was interested to invest \$50 million in auto-sector of the country. Chinese companies want to invest \$200 million in making medical devices whereas as investment of \$2 billion by the Chinese companies would be made for laying optical fiber.

He said that Chinese companies wanted to invest in science and technology zone and were also interested in supporting bidding for privatization of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM). He said both the countries China and Pakistan had agreed to move forward with the second phase of CPEC, adding that during the Phase-I of CPEC, out of \$53 billion investments of \$25 billion were materialize whereas \$28 billion were under consideration.

He stated fresh steps were being taken for rehabilitation of industries and industrial development in Pakistan. He informed the journalists that ECC had approved refunds Rs 100 billion to CPEC IPPs, Out of which Rs 50 billion had already been paid while remaining Rs 50 billion would be paid soon.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/881950/cpec-phase-2-involves-multi-billion-dollar-investments/>

Pakistan looks to set up semiconductors zone with China's help: Chaudhry Fawad

Pakistan has proposed an ambitious plan to build the semiconductors zone with the help of China, converting Pakistan to self-sufficiency in modern gadgets and opening new avenues for development.

This was stated by Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain in an interview.

He said that during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan, they discussed the shifting of the semiconductors industry to Pakistan and the role of this technology was very important not only for Pakistan but also for China, the China Economic Net reported.

” We want Chinese tech companies to come to Pakistan and make Pakistan a hub of semiconductors manufacturing,” the minister added.

It is to be noted that Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting also served as a Federal Minister for Science and Technology and during that tenure, he signed many MOUs and agreements on semiconductors technology and also collaborated with China to train Pakistanis in semiconductors skills.

“We will also like to start semiconductor designing in Pakistan. I am very happy to tell you that Chinese investors are very keen to join hands with Pakistan and the technology zone will be converted into a semiconductor zone,” he mentioned.

Chaudhry Fawad further said that there was a huge area in science and technology where both countries could cooperate, adding that mobile phones were now assembled in Pakistan but they would like to take a step further and start full-fledged manufacturing of mobile phones in Pakistan.

He said that bilateral cooperation increased in the area of health-related types of equipment, which was also very important, and in the first few months of Covid-19, they were importing everything related to this area but now Pakistan is a major exporter of health material.

“This is a landmark that we have achieved within a short period and now the health sector is open to collaboration. Pakistan has skilled labour, cheaper labour, and a huge market. We hope that Chinese tech companies will join hands with Pakistan to join our technology zone, and we will be able to come up with bigger cooperation in these sectors,” he mentioned.

He hoped many Chinese technologies companies would come to Pakistan after the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan because Semi-Conductor was a core element of every technology, which would help bring value addition to the local manufacturing products.

It is worth mentioning that during his visit, Prime Minister Imran Khan held a series of meetings with leaders of China’s leading technology companies, and both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in software development, information and communication technology, medical diagnostic, and other related sectors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/881931/pakistan-looks-to-set-up-semiconductors-zone-with-chinas-help-chaudhry-fawad/>

Dawn News

Chinese investors exempted from project approvals

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: In a major shift from the investment regime, Pakistan has decided to exempt Chinese investors from about 37 approvals for investment projects, besides completing prior actions like payments of dues to power producers and creating a revolving fund for future interest payments to the existing investors to perk up investments in phase-II of the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

This was the crux of “the highest level communication” Prime Minister Imran Khan had with the Chinese political and business leadership during his four-day visit to Beijing on the eve of Winter Olympics 2022, according to Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on CPEC Khalid Mansoor.

SAPM says Beijing has promised to consider request for debt rollover, extension in currency swap, additional financial support

Responding to a question at a news conference about Pakistan’s request for \$4 billion debt rollover, extension in currency swap from \$4.5bn to \$10bn and additional financial support of \$5.5bn, he said the Chinese leadership took note of these requests and promised to consider and then communicate their decision accordingly.

The SAPM said he would be unable to quantify the investment commitments for the second phase of CPEC for the fact that it was an initial pitching stage, but it would be safely in multi-billion dollars provided the relevant authorities and the nation as a whole worked together in materialising the future Chinese investment at a later stage.

“We have shared with President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang a pitch book of competitive advantages for their investments and relocation of industries in comparison with other investment destinations that they would now consider and get back with investment proposals,” he added.

Mr Mansoor said the Chinese president was also invited to Pakistan that he had acknowledged and would respond later. However, the two sides would remain engaged at the foreign ministers’ level to review the progress on about 20 meetings held during the recent visit as well as investment proposals. Some companies have also come up with investment proposals.

“We have taken a historic decision a few days ago to shift their investment proposals to compliance regime”, instead of arrangement that required about 37 federal and provincial approvals, Mr Mansoor said, adding that it would now be responsibility of the Chinese investors to comply with the law of the land. “We have legally empowered them to invest in SEZs (special economic zones) without prior approval”.

The investments so made would be subject to audit and violations of the law would entail penalties and other fallouts, he said, adding that the change in investment regime would be made through amendments to the Special Economic Zone Act.

This was necessitated to provide ‘plug & play’ facility to the investors through a single focal point for which a facilitation centre has already been created at the CPEC Authority where experts have been dedicated for every sector.

On top of this, the prime minister made a personal commitment to the Chinese side that he stood by these arrangements and would himself immediately address any problem that the Chinese investors may come across on top of the institutional arrangements like the CPEC Authority, Cabinet Committee on CPEC and Steering Committee on CPEC.

The SAPM said this was “the most important communication” at a formal session with the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) chairman, presided over by Prime Minister Khan.

He said the two most important and outstanding issues concerning the Chinese side were outstanding payments to independent power producers (IPPS) and revolving fund for automatic payments to financial institutions on account of debt and interest payment. “Before going to China, we made Rs50bn payment to nine Chinese IPPs, including coal-based projects like Engro and Port Qasim. Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin has also assured that another Rs50bn would be cleared before the end of the current month.”

The Chinese investors had been demanding creation of a revolving fund under their agreements to cover 22 per cent of their payments to financial institutions for debt servicing. This had long been delayed but with the support of the finance minister and energy minister, this revolving account had been approved which was also shared with the Chinese by the prime minister.

The Chinese “acknowledged this progress and are very happy”, the SAPM said, adding that all these steps were very important for confidence building of the existing investors and convincing them and others on the CPEC’s phase-II.

The CPEC framework agreement envisaged an investment of \$53bn in phase-I under which \$25bn had already been materialised in the power sector as 5300MW projects were up and running and 3500MW projects would be completed in six-nine months. The remaining \$28bn infrastructure projects were under various stages of implementation and financial close, Mr Mansoor said.

Responding to question, he said that based on the resolution of outstanding issues, the prime minister also highlighted that insurance cover for starting key hydropower projects had been held back by China and desired that insurance firm Sinasure underwrite political and commercial risk to cover financing of hydropower projects.

Regarding the main railway line from Karachi to Peshawar (ML-1), the SAPM said it was declared a strategic project at the last meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) of CPEC for which the Chinese had come up with an estimated financial cost. The Pakistani side has completed a feasibility study and offered them to go for competitive bidding because of a price difference on the basis of which “we can update PC-1”, he added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1673852/chinese-investors-exempted-from-project-approvals>

CPEC concerns

PRIME MINISTER Imran Khan has concluded a four-day visit to China at a time when ties with Beijing are poised at a delicate juncture. Mr Khan had important meetings with the Chinese leadership including President Xi Jinping, and according to an official press release, he discussed a wide range of issues with him.

Although the main reason for the prime minister's visit was to witness the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics, he utilised the opportunity to interact with prominent world leaders in attendance and to take stock of the various strands of the Islamabad-Beijing relationship. One key component of bilateral ties is the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Reports suggest that during the last few years, CPEC has lost some of its original pace and this has led to anxiety that the projects may not have received the kind of focused attention that had been envisioned.

In the days running up to Mr Khan's China visit, various cabinet ministers had stated that matters related to CPEC would constitute a high priority during the visit. It has been reported that the prime minister and his entourage reviewed the progress with Chinese officials and some headway was made to keep it on track.

If that is the case then it is a positive sign considering that CPEC holds a central place in this country's efforts towards economic revitalisation including job creation and infrastructure development. At one point, CPEC was allowed to become a source of public controversy, with some government politicians issuing rather irresponsible statements. The Pakistani leadership needs to ensure that the multibillion-dollar venture does not fall victim to petty politics and that special care is taken to avoid spreading misperceptions.

In pursuing the project, each side has its own national interest to think of and if any reservations or disputes arise, it is best for the two countries to settle them in private. It is also important to not let red tape and bureaucratic inertia become an obstacle in meeting deadlines and finishing CPEC projects on time. That said, the standards of transparency have kept to be kept in mind at all times. There have been genuine concerns about CPEC and the state can only allay these by engaging with the stakeholders and giving them an accurate picture of the actual costs, the work done on each project, the audits carried out and similar information. Only then can we reap the dividends.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1673951/cpec-concerns>

‘Pakistan seeks tech cooperation with China’

Kalbe Ali

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan seeks cooperation in the technological sector with China, not only to promote enterprises but improve the academic side too.

The Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) of Pakistan and the Zhongguancun Belt and Road Industrial Promotion Association of China (ZBRA) signed a letter of intent (LoI) at a virtual ceremony for promotion of science and technological exchanges between the two countries.

The letter was signed by Zhang Xiaodong, president of ZBRA, and Amer Hashmi, chairman of STZA in the presence of Moinul Haque, Pakistan's ambassador to the People's Republic of China, and Khalid Mansoor, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Under the agreement, cooperation among academic institutions, research and development centres, industries and technological enterprises of the two countries will be enhanced.

The STZA aims to initiate collaboration with ZBRA to promote scientific and technological exchanges between China and Pakistan including development of a complete ecosystem, new and emerging technologies, and construction and management of technology zones.

Both parties aim to facilitate exchanges between tech enterprises of both countries in the areas of semiconductors, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, robotics, fin tech, block chain, and biotech.

The Zhongguancun Science Park, also known as Z-Park, was established in 1988 as one of the first science parks and first national innovation centres in China. Also known today as the Silicon Valley of China, covering an area of 488 square kilometres, the park is home to nearly 22,000 tech companies.

Over 200 branches and research centres of the world's top 500 companies have offices in the park.

The aim of creating this collaboration is to transform Pakistan's tech sector through sharing of the right kind of information about emerging technology and so on.

The ZBRA is an organisation headquartered in Beijing, China and legally registered with the Beijing Civil Affairs Bureau.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1673925/pakistan-seeks-tech-cooperation-with-china>

Pakistan Observer

Opening ceremony of Beijing Olympics 2022 wowed Pak audience

The Opening Ceremony of Beijing Olympics 2022 has wowed a great number of Pakistani audiences. The ceremony, which was attended by Prime Minister Imran Khan and other world leaders, was widely seen across the country, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

It was noticed that the spectacular ceremony has further enhanced the image of China as one of the most dominating nations in the field of sports and connectivity.

While talking with the cross section of the people including athletes, businessmen and media personnel, it was observed that the Opening Ceremony of the Olympics left a good global impact and it was hoped that China's role as a friendly and supporting country in various fields will be further increase.

A large number of Pakistani youth were impressed by how the Chinese managed everything so perfectly especially during the difficult COVID times. A group of students from a renowned university in Islamabad commented that China has made so much effort to bring the world together, and made people smile.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/opening-ceremony-of-beijing-olympics-2022-wowed-pak-audience/>

Gwadar Port can help Bangladesh boost trade

Gwadar Port can help Bangladesh boost trade, says a report published by WealthPK on Monday. The strategically positioned Gwadar Port has potential to promote regional and international trade and commerce connectivity.

The development of the deep-sea port through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is going to provide a new dimension to trade relations among the countries. Like other countries of the region, Bangladesh, one of the fastest-growing economies in South Asia, also stands to benefit a lot from the Gwadar Port as it will provide Dhaka with the shortest route to some of its trading partners.

Thanks mainly to its flourishing clothing sector, Bangladesh, with its GDP of \$324.2 billion in 2020, is a significant exporter of ready-made garments worldwide, WealthPK reported. As Dhaka largely relies on China for its cotton imports and also exports a variety of goods to Beijing across the Malacca Straits, it has to rely on the port of Singapore, which is prohibitively costly for cotton imports from western China.

Besides, the country also imports cotton from Pakistan and Central Asian countries, which costs it heavily in the absence of direct connections or shipping lines with these countries. So, the Gwadar Port can help the country save the heavy transportation costs incurred on shipment of goods. Probably, the time has arrived for Dhaka to take advantage of this opportunity.

There are many positive reasons for Bangladesh to use Gwadar Port to expand its commercial and trading relations with Afghanistan, Central Asia, West Asia and as far as the Eurasia. The Gwadar Port has the potential to establish connections between the free trade zones of Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which can greatly benefit Bangladesh, which is a member of SAARC.

Bangladesh may readily access Central Asian countries for its imports of oil and gas by using the Gwadar Port, which links with Kashgar region in China's Xinjiang and onwards to CARs through a 2,442 kilometres route, WealthPK reported. Moreover, the country would be able to cash in on its position in the Asian markets for exports of its apparel, leather, frozen meals, jute, pharmaceuticals products, mangoes and potatoes.

As Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh are active participants of China's Belt and Road Initiative, Dhaka can also connect through the Sri Lanka ports with rest of the countries.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-port-can-help-bangladesh-boost-trade/>

Pak-China fraternal relations

Sehrish Khan

THE fraternal relations between Pakistan and China are not news, nor is it something that will shock any person or country.

It is a friendship based on decades and its maintenance is not conditional on any government as it is the friendship of the people with the people which is maintained by the governments of both the countries.

China came into being a year after Pakistan but it has done what almost every country in the world can only wish for.

China has lifted millions of people out of poverty, proving that if a person works hard, an individual changes, but if it is done collectively, a society or a country changes.

In the case of China, the world has seen a poor country succeed in joining the list of the most powerful countries in the world in a few years.

As Prime Minister Imran Khan has just concluded (successful) his visit to China, where he was invited to the opening ceremony of Beijing Olympics.

It is being said or analyzed that his visit will take Pak-China relations to a new height.

There is a whole perspective to this analysis. China has been watching the US Administration continue to wall off Pakistan in the context of bilateral relations for the past one year since the administration of US President Biden.

Pakistan is not a country which can be ignored. Geographical, religious and military status or power in South Asia distinguishes Pakistan from many other countries.

The consequences of ignoring or walling off such a country are obvious. Let us mention some of the recent developments in the context of US-Pakistan relations that have given rise to the argument that the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Pakistan-China relations is a new development.

On September 14, 2021, US Secretary of State Blinken told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that Pakistan has many interests, but there are also some interests that are in conflict with our (US) interests.

According to him, that is why Pakistan is constantly setting its own conditions for the future of Afghanistan.

These are, he said, the interests for which he is harboring members of the Taliban, as well as various points of cooperation with us (US) in the fight against terrorism.

Then on October 8, a new and surprising thing came out of Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman in Delhi.

He said that we, the United States, do not see broad-based relations being formed with Pakistan and the purpose of his visit to Pakistan is only the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan and nothing else.

So I am going to have some special talks and then he said that I will provide information about my visit to Pakistan to my friends in Delhi.

In addition, the Democracy Summit, hosted by US President Biden on December 9 and 10, 2021, further complicated Pak-US relations, as Prime Minister Imran Khan was kept in an extraordinary session on the one hand and participation was offered through a three-minute pre-recorded speech.

Imran Khan and his advisers refused to attend the summit because they saw such an invitation as an expression of Washington's pride and the humility of a country on which he had spent his two Afghan wars and August.

In September, the United States relied on aid for a large-scale evacuation of Afghans.

When a journalist asked Imran Khan to give the United States a possible military base against Afghanistan, he said "Absolutely Not" and hurt the American ego so much that he has not been able to get out of this grief yet.

Some of our own circles not only expressed displeasure over the remarks but also tried in vain to bring these shaky relations back on track.

And now we are in February 2022, the Prime Minister's most important visit to China, including a number of sideline meetings, as well as a definite meeting with President Xi Jinping.

Is this visit considered so important because the US did not treat Pakistan well? Is that why there is talk of China-Pakistan relations reaching new heights?

The answer to this question should definitely be "No" because Pakistan already has very good relations with China and on more than one occasion Prime Minister Imran Khan also said that future of Pakistan is connected with China.

Both Pakistan and China are engaged in the strategic relationship of CPEC which they can now take to a new level through close cooperation.

The British-era mentality, such as a host of administrative hurdles, multiple layers of approvals and an anti-China lobby within the system, has worked to thwart or slow down projects wherever possible.

Beijing's history certainly provides an opportunity for both countries to examine their respective strengths and weaknesses in order to help each other in the face of geopolitical divisions around the world.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-fraternal-relations-by-sehrish-khan/>

PM's visit of China to usher new era of development, prosperity: Hassan

Special Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab on Information and Spokesperson to the Punjab Government Hasaan Khawar has said that successful visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China and promising meetings with the Chinese top leadership is sure to usher new era of development and prosperity in Pakistan.

In a statement issued here on Monday, he said that top leaders of both brotherly neighbors have expressed the resolve to expedite the next phase of CPEC.

Hasaan Khawar said that the so-called opposition is finding it hard to digest the successful visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China.

The PDM factors had crossed all boundaries in opposition to Imran Khan even at the cost of national interests, he maintained.

He said that the corrupt opposition has been holding meetings for three and a half years to derail the smooth functioning of the government but in vain.

<https://pakobserver.net/pms-visit-of-china-to-usher-new-era-of-development-prosperity-hassan/>

PM's productive China visit

FOREIGN Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi surely had a reason to celebrate when, during his interaction with the media after the conclusion of the Prime Minister's visit to China, proudly announced that the delegation received more warmth than its expectations.

He elaborated that during meetings with the Chinese leadership the two sides discussed ways and means to move on the economic front, enhance market access, bridge the trade imbalance and increase Chinese investment in different areas.

The outcome of the visit, once again, showed that positive results can be achieved provided preparatory work is done in a proper way and concrete proposals are presented before the other side in a persuasive manner.

The most important aspect of the PM's visit was that substantive issues were discussed, understanding reached and a follow-up mechanism devised to advance the shared objectives of economic progress and prosperity and bilateral cooperation.

The Board of Investment (BoI) deserves credit for identifying areas and projects where the Chinese companies could get benefits through investment and as a consequence a number of companies not only expressed their willingness to make substantial investment in Pakistan but also some of them entered into formal understanding with Pakistani counterparts in this regard.

Prime Minister Imran Khan held meetings with about twenty prominent state and private companies in which their authorities had identified interests over investment in key areas of Pakistan's economy.

Similarly, in their meeting, Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to strengthen institutional links at all levels, cementing mutual strategic, diplomatic and economic ties between the two countries and appreciated the finalization of a number of agreements and memorandum of understanding in the fields of trade, infrastructure, industrial development, agriculture modernization, science and technology and socio-economic well-being of local people.

In the backdrop of consistent reports about slow progress in implementation of the projects under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the resolve expressed by the two leaders to fast track the second phase of the historic initiative would go a long way in bringing the two countries still closer in diverse fields.

One hopes this understanding would lead to start of practical work on the strategically important ML-I, which has the potential to accelerate socio-economic development of the country, and acceleration of work on some of the ongoing but crucial projects that are directly linked to fuller operationalization of Gwadar port.

In this regard, it is important to note that the two sides agreed to jointly accelerate the construction and operation of Gwadar Port and build Gwadar low-carbon circular industry zone.

They agreed to build high-quality livelihood projects for the socio-economic development of Gwadar city and its residents which assumes special significance in the backdrop of recent protests by local people to press for protection of their economic rights.

The Chinese President, true to his commitment of developing a comprehensive partnership with Pakistan, expressed his determination to take the relationship to new heights and the Pakistan Prime Minister welcomed increased Chinese investment in the second phase of CPEC that centred on industrialization and improving people's livelihoods.

As the CPEC is progressing ahead, a number of local and foreign hostile forces are at work to undermine the initiative and, therefore, the leadership of the two countries vowed to safeguard CPEC from all threats and negative propaganda.

The understanding to expand bilateral trade also augurs well but it is hoped that the Pakistani side, under the guidance of the seasoned Advisor on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood, would work meticulously to enable the country to benefit from the opportunities so offered by increasing competitiveness of our products and improving their quality as per international standards.

Pakistan is an unfortunate victim of nuclear and defence cooperation apartheid and with this in view people of Pakistan are thankful to the Chinese leadership for their deep commitment to strengthen defence ties with Pakistan rightly considering it as a guarantee of peace and stability in the region.

At a time when some influential countries are engaged in attempts to malign Pakistan unduly on the issue of fight against terrorism, China has recognized the country's sacrifices and efforts in counter-terrorism.

The Chinese side also reaffirmed its support for Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and security, as well as promoting its socio-economic development and prosperity, which is a source of satisfaction for people of Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/pms-productive-china-visit/>

The Express Tribune

Cementing CPEC-II

Islamabad made its geostrategic inclinations loud and clear by rallying behind Beijing

It was a new turn of leaf in Sino-Pak relations as their respective leadership huddled to foment the phase-two format of CPEC. Prime Minister Imran Khan's four-day visit to Beijing came at an opportune moment, and it simply demonstrated the importance of China in Pakistan's foreign policy. At a time, when the United States had bid adieu to the region, after a contested two decades of maneuvering in Southwest Asia, and as the world is once again sliding towards bipolarity, Islamabad made its geostrategic inclinations loud and clear by rallying behind Beijing. The generosity and forbearance exhibited by the Chinese leadership, as always, towards Pakistan is one of the greatest tangibles of bilateralism, and goes on to cement a diverse relationship in decades to come.

Prime Minister Imran's third visit to China in three years also signifies how indispensable relations with the emerging superpower are, and to what extent the Red Giant has been forthcoming to Pakistan's concerns. The meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, on the last leg, was a hint towards congeniality as both the leaders reaffirmed their principled stance on Kashmir and Afghanistan, and how essential it is to revert back to politics of institutionalisation. The role of the United Nations, cooperation among states in fighting climate change and the need for cajoling a broad-based strategy against the Covid-19 pandemic were underscored in all sincerity. This illustrated the frame of consensus on global affairs, and what role a responsible power like China can play in its humble capacity.

The articulation was resounding as PM Imran enjoyed a consensual approach on his vision of geo-economics in the region, and how effective CPEC could be in changing the lives of billions of people in the region. This incorporates policies for sustained growth, industrial development, agricultural modernisation and regional connectivity. The fact that Pakistan is open to deal with India, despite reservations on the territorial dispute over Kashmir, is a testimony of its largesse, and this aspect is appreciated in China. In fact, so is the essence of geo-economics that Islamabad is prepared for a scheduled parley with India, given that New Delhi reciprocates accordingly. Likewise, both the countries pinned their hopes in reviving an organic dispensation in Kabul so that decades of unrest and war-mongering could come to an end.

This visit will long be remembered for two reasons: one, Pakistan and China reiterated their regional and global perspective and they were on the same page; two, Pakistan took the geo-economic partnership a step ahead and jotted a blueprint of the second phase of CPEC. This is an indispensable element in their buoying relations, and will see Pakistan move towards formal industrialisation. The first phase of CPEC has laid down a network of roads and infrastructure, as well as multi-billion dollar investment in the energy sector; the second episode will harness a new lifestyle of its own for the people of the region. Furthering employment opportunities and profiling investment in the public-private sectors is the new bonanza, and the way to go. PM

Imran's four-day landmark visit has cemented the road to prosperity and cooperation in all-weather decorum for ages to come.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2342439/cementing-cpec-ii>

Chinese eye steel and metal recycling plant

Project in phase-II of CPEC to produce metals worth \$4.5b, create 40,000 jobs

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Khalid Mansoor on Monday said that phase 2 of the corridor involved multi-billion dollar investments in Pakistan.

Addressing a news conference, he said that during his visit to China, Prime Minister Imran Khan held around 20 back-to-back meetings with the representatives of around 500 companies to help bring investment to the country.

The adviser said that the Chinese companies had been facilitated with a compliance regime and they were not required to obtain NOCs from 37 different departments before launching any investment project in the special economic zones.

He said the CPEC authority provided one-window facility to the Chinese investors, adding that if there issues still remain unresolved, then the PM House was there to address the issues. He said that under Phase-2, the Chinese companies would support in setting up Steel and Metal Recycling Plant in Gwadar within three years, which would produce metals worth \$4.5 billion for exports, besides creating 40,000 jobs.

He said that the Chinese companies would also help develop agriculture of the country on modern lines to enhance per acre yield and seed quality. He said some companies were interested to grow maize and soybean in Pakistan. He said a Chinese company would invest in building LNG storage at the Karachi Port whereas a factory for value-added products would be set up on Lahore-Kasur road in the textile sector.

The adviser said that another Chinese company, Royal Guru, was interested in investing \$50 million in the auto-sector of the country. Chinese companies want to invest \$200 million in making medical devices whereas an investment of \$2 billion by the Chinese companies would be made for laying optical fiber.

He said that the Chinese companies wanted to invest in the science and technology zone and were also interested in supporting bidding for privatization of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM). He said both China and Pakistan had agreed to move forward with the second phase of CPEC.

He said fresh steps were being taken for rehabilitation of industries and industrial development in Pakistan. He informed reporters that the ECC had approved refunds of Rs100 billion to CPEC IPPs, out of which Rs50 billion had already been paid while the remaining Rs50 billion would be paid soon. He said the prime minister listened to the representatives of the companies patiently and assured them of full cooperation of his government to invest in the country.

The adviser said the prime minister presented a pitch book to leading companies in China which included detailed information and investment opportunity in various sectors of the economy including textile, pharmaceutical, footwear, information technology, agriculture, and cottage industry.

He said that it had been thoroughly elaborated in the book why Chinese investors should prefer Pakistan for investment over other regional countries, adding that Pakistan offered a win-win situation for the benefit of the country as well as investors.

He said that 65% population of Pakistan was under 40 years of age and Pakistan had skilled labour force and much cheaper as compared to China.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2342532/chinese-eye-steel-and-metal-recycling-plant>

Pakistan eyes instrumental role in bringing US, China closer: PM

Imran says Pakistan looks towards China as a role model for development

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that Pakistan has a good relationship with both China and the United States and wants to play the same ‘instrumental role of the 70s’ which had brought the two countries closer.

“We have a good relationship with the US and also an iron-brother relationship with China. We want to play the role of 1970 when Pakistan was instrumental in getting the United States and China together,” he said in an exclusive interview with Liu Xin of CGTN’s The Point.

The prime minister was referring to the historic breakthrough in China-US relations in 1971 which was made possible due to the pivotal role played by Pakistan, which also enjoyed the trust of both countries.

“The famous visit of Henry Kissinger [the US State Secretary] was organised by Pakistan, so we hope to play that [same] role,” he said.

To a question, if Pakistan could face challenges due to rising tension between China and US, he said the world did not need another Cold War between the two powers.

“The world should not go through the situation where it is divided into two camps and it does not benefit anyone,” he said. “I hope that this does not escalate into another Cold War where we have to choose sides.”

Imran said his priority in Pakistan was the uplift of 220 million people which was also linked with peace and stability.

“I will get my people out of poverty if we have economic well-being, which comes with stability and peace,” he said. “So, if you have conflicts, the first thing that gets affected is the economy and that’s the last thing we want.”

On the impact of Pakistan-China ‘all-weather strategic ties’ on the region, particularly Afghanistan, he said there was a consensus between Pakistan and China on how the two sides could cooperate in bringing stability and prosperity.

He mentioned that no other country than Pakistan had suffered in view of the Afghan conflict for 40 years, adding that for the first time, there was an opportunity of restoring peace in the war-torn country.

He said as Afghanistan faced a humanitarian crisis due to the freezing of foreign aid, Pakistan, China and other European states agreed that “somehow likes and dislikes of the Taliban government should be set aside and the only thing in minds should be the 40 million people of Afghanistan – half of them in a very precarious position of food insecurity”.

The prime minister termed as “unique” the relationship between Pakistan and China that had passed through the test of time.

Asked about the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) bringing a direct investment of over \$25 billion along with job creation in the past eight years, he said the project was significant for the economy and development of Pakistan.

Imran Khan said the Chinese investment for connectivity and power generation came at a very crucial time in Pakistan when the country faced economic problems following the war against terrorism.

He mentioned that Pakistan suffered immensely while fighting terrorism in the shape of almost 80,000 casualties and over \$100 billion loss to the economy.

Also, he said, previous tenures of the “two very corrupt governments also caused the financial crisis”.

“China came in at the most difficult time for us, which is also one of the reasons why there is such a love here for the people of China,” he said.

Khan said CPEC was entering the second stage of investment in industrial zones, information technology, and agriculture.

He said Pakistan, being an agricultural country needed investment and productivity in agriculture, adding that already Memorandum of Understanding had been signed with China.

On areas of future cooperation, he said the emphasis of his government was on geo-economics rather than the earlier geo-strategic concept and thus looked towards China as a role model of development.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2342568/pakistan-eyes-instrumental-role-in-bringing-us-china-closer-pm>

The Nation

Year 2022 a milestone in Pak-China diplomatic history: Ambassador

ISLAMABAD - Portal for Pakistani students and professionals in Beijing has been established, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

It is an initiative of the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing that is the first kind of web portal for students' engagement, communication, and a space for sharing research ideas and success stories.

It is learned that the portal seeks to build a committed cadre of principled and self-assured leaders capable to take the nation forward.

The portal also provides all necessary information on getting admission to Chinese universities & Chinese Scholarships for Pakistani students. The web portal also shares Chinese laws & regulations for higher education in China.

On the website portal, different forums have been created for discussions, debates podcasting, achievements & distinctions, and sharing academic articles and publications for students who are studying or planning to study in China.

Students can get registered on the portal and can stay updated on academic research and development.

In his message on the inauguration of web portal, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin-ul-Haque said, "I take pleasure in announcing the launch of a first-of-its-kind portal to gather Pakistani scholars, academicians, professionals and intelligentsia in general on one platform for constructive sharing of innovative thought."

"The greatest strength of any country is its people. I hope the participants will seize the opportunity to build a better community. Learning and growing in wisdom and tolerance is what being here is all about," he said.

The ambassador said, "The year 2022 marks an important milestone in the diplomatic history of Pakistan and China. Over the course of seven decades, fraternal ties between our two countries have evolved into an 'all-weather strategic cooperative partnership' thereby setting a new model for modern inter-state relations."

"I encourage the visitors to take a glimpse of the portal-a space filled with research innovations, artistic explorations, and community celebrations," Moin-ul-Haque said.

He further said that "I am confident that 2022 would provide new vigour and vitality to our bilateral ties which would not only serve the best interests of our two countries but also ensure peace, stability and prosperity for the entire region.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-08/page-4/detail-3>

Chinese firms introduce most advanced technologies in Pak power sector

BEIJING - The massive energy projects executed by Chinese firms not only ended power outages in Pakistan, but also introduced the most advanced technologies in the country's power sector. These include the underground hydropower projects as well as the ultra supercritical coal-fired power plants.

In 2018, China Gezhouba Group Corp. (CGGC) completed construction of first-ever underground powerhouse in Pakistan, Neelum-Jhelum hydropower project in Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

The 969-megawatt run of river project was a construction challenge due to caverns and tunnels in the not so solid and ever active Himalayan mountains range. The project was completed after 10 years of unprecedented engineering efforts in the toughest geological and geotechnical environments, according to a joint study of Hanyang University, Korea and five Pakistani universities. China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

The CGGC is also building the 884 MW Suki Kinari hydropower project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative, involving the same engineering design. CGGC has also signed a contract with the government of KP province for construction of the 300 MW Balakot HPP with the same design.

“The project will provide us with a chance to work on tunnel excavation and installation of underground power plants, as earlier such projects were at federal government level to which we had no exposure,” said a senior official of KP's energy development arm, PEDO.

In addition, China Three Gorges Corp. (CTGC) has also built a similar hydropower facility in Karot area of Punjab province. The 720 MW project is nearing completion and expected to commence commercial operations in mid 2022. Three other such projects in North Pakistan are at different stages of implementation.

Moreover, in coal energy sector, Shanghai Electric Group is building a 1,320 MW ultra supercritical power plant in Tharparkar area of Sindh province. This technology has never been used before in Pakistan, said an official of the Thar Coal Block 1 Power Generation Co. The company is a special-purpose vehicle registered in Pakistan for execution of the project. The ultra-critical technology, which has been developed by Shanghai Electric, has higher thermal efficiency level resulting in lesser emissions per unit of the electricity generated, the official explained. “The project will utilise the indigenous Thar coal and produce low-cost energy with lesser or no environmental hazards,” he said.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-08/page-9/detail-0>

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified

Nawaiwaqt News

وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین سے سرمایہ کاری کا نیا دور شروع ہو گا: ڈاکٹر سیمی بخاری

لاہور (لیڈی رپورٹر) پی ٹی آئی کی رکن قومی اسمبلی ڈاکٹر سیمی بخاری نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے چین کے کامیاب دورے سے پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کا نیا دور شروع ہو گا جس کے معیشت پر مثبت اثرات مرتب ہوں گے۔ چین کے ساتھ ہمارے تاریخی اور مثالی تعلقات ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی پالیسیوں کی وجہ سے ان تعلقات میں وسعت آئی اور دونوں طرف اعتماد میں اضافہ ہوا ہے جس کا فائدہ دونوں ممالک کو ہو گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-08/page-3/detail-10>

سی پیک منصوبہ تیسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو گیا ہے، علی نواز اعوان

اسلام آباد (دو قانع نگار) وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی برائے امور سی ڈی اے اور ریجنل صدر پاکستان تحریک انصاف اسلام آباد علی نواز اعوان نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کو چین کے کامیاب دورے پر مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین دوستی ہرگزرتے دن کے ساتھ مضبوط سے مضبوط تر ہوتی جا رہی ہے وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین سے ساتھ سی پیک منصوبہ تیسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو گیا ہے، دونوں ممالک کے مابین اربوں روپے کی سرمایہ کاری کی معاہدے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک عالمی برادری میں اپنے دیرینہ دوستانہ تعلقات کے حوالے سے خاص مقام رکھتے ہیں بعض حلقوں کی طرف سے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورے کے حوالے سے بے بنیاد پراپیگنڈے کو مسترد کرتے ہوئے علی نواز اعوان نے کہا کہ نام نہاد تجزیہ نگار ہر معاملے پر اپنی رائے دینا ضروری سمجھتے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-08/page-4/detail-40>

عمران خان کے دورہ چین کا اولین ایجنڈا افغانستان تھا، نور الحق قادری

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار) وزیر مذہبی امور پیر نور الحق قادری نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین کا اولین ایجنڈا افغانستان کے مسائل اور مکمل بحالی تھا پاکستان ہر مشکل وقت میں افغانستان کے ساتھ کھڑا ہے جو بھی شخص پاکستان میں افغانستان کے خلاف بات کرتا ہے وہ افغانستان کے ساتھ پاکستان کا بھی دشمن ہے پاکستان اور افغانستان کا مستقبل ایک دوسرے سے جڑا ہوا ہے مسلم بینڈز انٹرنیشنل ہر دور میں افغان عوام کیلئے دفاعی اقدامات میں پیش پیش رہا ہے مسلم بینڈز نے مسلم امہ کے دکھ کو محسوس کرتے ہوئے جنگ اور امن کے دوران اپنا کام جاری رکھا ہے مسلم بینڈز کا یہ اقدام دوسرے دفاعی اداروں کیلئے باعث ترغیب ہے ان خیالات کا اظہار وفاقی وزیر مذہبی امور پیر نور الحق نے افغانی عوام کیلئے فوڈ ریلیف پیکیج روانگی کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا اس موقع پر ایف نائن پارک میں مسلم بینڈز کی جانب سے افغان عوام کیلئے خوراک پیکیج کے 20 ٹرکوں کے قافلے روانہ کیا گیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-08/page-8/detail-30>

وزیر اعظم کی چینی صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات

پاکستان اور چین ترقی اور استحکام کے نئے دور کی بنیاد رکھنے کے لیے نہ صرف ایک دوسرے سے تعاون کر رہے ہیں بلکہ وہ خطے میں موجود دیگر ممالک کو بھی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیٹیٹی ایٹو کے ذریعے ایک ایسے سلسلے سے جوڑ رہے ہیں جو ایک طرف پورے خطے کو اقتصادی طور پر مضبوط کرے گا تو دوسری جانب اس سے اختلاف و انتشار کے بادل چھٹنے سے امن و امان کے قیام میں بھی مدد ملے گی۔ پاکستان چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی بیک) اسی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیٹیٹی ایٹو کا ایک حصہ ہے جس پر پاکستان کے مختلف علاقوں میں کام جاری ہے۔ اس منصوبے کی تکمیل سے جہاں پاکستان میں روزگار کے بہت سے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے وہیں پاکستان اور اس خطے کے مغرب پر انحصار میں بھی کمی آئے گی۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ بھارت سمیت کئی ممالک سی بیک کی راہ میں روڑے اٹکانے کے لیے سر توڑ کوشش کر رہے ہیں تاکہ اس کی وجہ سے پاکستان اور چین ترقی و خوشحالی کے سلسلے کو آگے نہ بڑھا سکیں۔ پاک چین دوستی اور تعاون ایسی ہر مذموم کوشش کو ناکام بنا رہے ہیں۔

اسی سلسلے میں اتوار کو بیجنگ کے عظیم عوامی ہال میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان اور چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کے مابین ہونے والی ملاقات باہمی تعاون اور کوششوں کو بڑھانے کے حوالے سے اہمیت کی حامل ہے۔ ملاقات کے بعد جاری ہونے والے 33 نکاتی اعلامیے میں بتایا گیا کہ ملاقات کے دوران دونوں رہنماؤں نے پاک چین دو طرفہ تعاون کا تفصیلی جائزہ لیا اور خوشگوار ماحول میں علاقائی اور عالمی اہمیت کے باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہٴ خیال کیا۔ عمران خان نے چینی صدر کو عوام کے محور پر مبنی جیو اکنامک سوچ اور ان کی حکومت کی پاکستان میں پائیدار ترقی، صنعتی ترقی، زراعت میں جدت لانے اور علاقائی رابطہ سے متعلق پالیسیوں سے آگاہ کیا۔ انھوں نے پاکستان کی اس سماجی و معاشی ترقی کے لیے چین کے تعاون اور مدد کی تعریف کی جس میں سی بیک کی اعلیٰ معیاری ترقی سے فائدہ اٹھایا گیا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے سی بیک کے دوسرے مرحلہ میں چینی سرمایہ کاری میں اضافہ کا خیر مقدم کیا جس کا محور انڈسٹریلازیشن اور عوام کے معیار زندگی میں بہتری ہے۔ عمران خان نے شی جن پنگ کو دنیا میں بڑھتی ہوئی قطبیت سے آگاہ کیا جس سے عالمی ترقیاتی اہداف کے حصول اور ترقی پذیر ممالک کے لیے سنگین خطرات پیدا ہوئے ہیں۔ انھوں نے موسمیاتی تبدیلی، صحت، قدرتی آفات اور بڑھتی ہوئی عدم مساوات جیسے چیلنجوں کو بھی اجاگر کیا جن سے صرف اقوام متحدہ کے منشور کے مقاصد اور اصولوں کے مطابق تمام ممالک کے غیر مشروط تعاون سے نمٹا جاسکتا ہے۔

اس ملاقات کے دوران ایک خوش آئند بات یہ بھی رہی کہ عمران خان نے بھارت کے حوالے سے پاکستان کے تحفظات سے بھی چینی صدر کو آگاہ کیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے بھارت کے غیر قانونی زیر تسلط جموں و کشمیر میں مسلسل مظالم اور ہندو تواذ بنیت پر مبنی راشٹریہ سویم سیوک سنگھ (آر ایس ایس) اور بھارتیہ جنتا پارٹی (بی جے پی) کے اقلیتوں کے خلاف اس ظلم و ستم کو اجاگر کیا جو علاقائی امن و استحکام کے لیے خطرہ ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ بھارت کی مسلسل فوج کشی بھی علاقائی امن کے لیے خطرے کا باعث بن رہی ہے۔ افغانستان سے متعلق بات کرتے ہوئے فریقین نے اعتراف کیا کہ پُر امن اور مستحکم افغانستان سے خطے میں معاشی ترقی اور روابط کو فروغ ملے گا۔ انھوں نے عالمی برادری پر زور دیا کہ وہ افغانستان میں انسانی بحران سے نمٹنے کے لیے فوری مدد کرے۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے نئے دور میں مشترکہ مستقبل کے لیے پاک چین کمیونٹی کی تعمیر کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔ چین کی جانب سے پاکستان کی خود مختاری و سلامتی کے تحفظ اور اقتصادی ترقی کو فروغ دینے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا گیا جبکہ پاکستان نے ون چائنا پالیسی کے لیے اپنی وابستگی اور حمایت کا اظہار اور تائیوان، جنوبی بحیرہ چین، ہانگ کانگ، سکیمیانگ اور تبت کے معاملے پر چین کے لیے اپنی حمایت کو دہرایا۔ عمران خان نے چینی صدر کو دورہ پاکستان کی دعوت بھی دی۔

پاکستان اور چین کی یہ کوششیں تو اپنی جگہ ہیں لیکن افغانستان کے عدم استحکام اور مقبوضہ کشمیر میں بھارت کی غاصب افواج کی موجودگی اور گزشتہ 918 روز سے کرفیو جیسی صورت حال نے پورے خطے میں امن و امان کے قیام اور ترقی و خوشحالی کے امکانات کو گہنا کر رکھ دیا ہے۔ اس صورتحال میں پاکستان اور چین کے لیے ایک بڑا چیلنج یہ بھی ہے کہ وہ ایک طرف عالمی برادری کو اس بات کے لیے آمادہ کریں کہ وہ افغانستان میں استحکام پیدا کرنے کے لیے کردار ادا کرے اور دوسری جانب بھارت کو تکمیل ڈالی جائے تاکہ وہ ایسے

مسائل پیدا نہ کرے جن سے خطے کا امن و استحکام خطرے میں پڑ سکتا ہے۔ اس سلسلے میں پاکستان اور چین کو مل کر عالمی اداروں میں ہم خیال ممالک کو ساتھ ملا کر آواز اٹھانی چاہیے تاکہ خطے پر سے انتشار کے خطرات بھی ٹلیں اور اقتصادی تعمیر و ترقی کے لیے راستہ بھی ہموار ہو۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-08/page-10/detail-11>

February 09, 2022

Daily Times

Beijing Winter Olympics: digital poster competition held

With the cooperation of China, Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) is organizing “Digital Poster Competition” in connection with Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 on the theme of Together for a Shared Future on February 08 (Tuesday).

Chinese Consulate General Lahore and Chinese Media Group Urdu Service (CMG) comprising China Global Television (CGTN), China Central Television (CCTV), China National Radio (CNR), and China Radio International (CRI) are in collaboration with IIRMR in holding the trailblazing digital event.

10-day Competition, set to conclude on February 18, welcome all individuals to participate from the age the group of 15 to 40 belonging to all four provinces, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan.

Acting Chinese Consul General Lahore Mr Peng Zhengwu said that by holding the games, the China has showcased an opportunity of participation and joy for all the sports lovers in the world. “Digital Poster Competition” being organized jointly by the Chinese Consulate General in Lahore and the IIRMR offers Pakistan society to celebrate the Beijing Winter Olympic Games together with the Chinese people in a way of participation..”

Chinese Consul General Karachi Li Bijian said that The 24th Winter Olympic Games has started on Feb. 4, the date when the spring begins according to the 24 solar terms. “Happy to know that the Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) is organizing a Digital Poster Competition on the theme of Together for a Shared Future. “Wish all individuals from Pakistan from age group between (15 to 40) shall actively participate and together cheer for the success of each athlete. May the competition a complete success.”

China Media Group Urdu Service (CMG) head Zhao Qiao (Ms Mehwish) said that co-hosting with IIRMR for holding Digital Poster Competition is a matter of elation. In connection with Beijing Winter Olympics attended by Pakistan PM Imran Khan as state guest, she said, joint endeavors of CMG (Urdu) and IIRMR will improve soft image of Pakistan and its friendliness with China. “We must try to encourage maximum participation of people in the “Digital Poster Competition” as such steps reflect richness and depth in Pak-China relations,” she added.

Lahore Overseas Chinese Association (LOCA) president Luo Jianxue termed the Digital Painting Competition a promising activity engaging creative minds to sensitize public about ideological splendor of Beijing Winter Olympics 2022.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/882649/beijing-winter-olympics-digital-poster-competition-held/>

The Abject Failure of China Visit

Hina Butt

If you go by the government's spin doctors, you'd be forgiven for believing that the prime minister accomplished some sort of miracle during his four-day visit to China, while the fact is that despite all the boasts and raised expectations, all that was achieved was a few photo-ops and nothing more: no tangible programs, no quantifiable deals, and definitely, not the \$3 billion in fresh loans that were sought. Of course, the Chinese would talk positively about state-to-state relations, especially CPEC, during and after formal meetings, but that doesn't wash away the reality that they have been unhappy enough with the pace of the project and, especially, security arrangements for their workers to slow the whole thing down.

The PM and his media warriors have also conveniently forgotten, and also wish for the people to just as conveniently forget, that the CPEC was initiated in the time of the previous government, the PML-N setup that they blame for everything that has gone wrong since PTI came to power but was alright before it. And it was the present ruling party, then in opposition, that did what it could to block the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to Islamabad to make the historic announcement because it thought that its so-called dharna was more important for the country.

As the PTI gains experience in government, it will also understand that when you are reduced to using hype to turn non-achievements into achievements, things are actually slipping through your fingers and you're unable to do anything to turn the tide where it matters. They tried to keep a lid on chatter before the visit, but everybody already knew that they were looking to use meetings in Beijing to remove China's doubts about Pakistan's commitment to CPEC. But once they got there, it became apparent that the only reason for the invitation, other than historic Pak-China ties, was our neighbour's own requirement to invite as many heads of state as possible to blunt the US-led western boycott of the winter Olympics.

The Chinese are very serious about whatever they do on the international stage and how they do it.

Somebody was also left with considerable egg on his face when he tweeted that PM Imran Khan was about to become the first head of state to meet the Chinese president in about two years. He, and the ruling party as well as their diminishing number of supporters, would have been spared some embarrassment if only he had checked the news because by then, President Xi was already in a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Both have bigger fish to fry because the might of the US financial and military behemoth is aimed at them at the moment. Russia has invited western fury by drawing lines around Ukraine, forbidding nato's expansion into former

Soviet client states. And China is in Washington's crosshairs because its growing economic standing threatens to overshadow the US economy sooner rather than later. It was, therefore, a strategic and political masterstroke for Presidents Putin and Jinping to leverage the Olympics to make a unified stand against a superpower bent upon throwing its weight around.

For the Pakistani prime minister to consider himself a part of this plan as far bigger pieces were being moved across the international political chessboard amounts, quite simply, to want to punch above his weight. But that didn't stop him or his team from still taking to social media and trying to show as if they were the center of all attention during those few days.

The Chinese are very serious about whatever they do on the international stage and how they do it, and this rather strange maneuvering on the part of its old friend Pakistan to try to steal the limelight would not have gone unnoticed. And it won't do the country much good if they add this to the long list of things that have made them unhappy with this government over the last three years or so.

What this government really very badly needs is a reality check, and it seems very upset that the people of Pakistan seem to have had theirs. Why else would the PM announce things like a pre-poll roadshow? Giving acts of desperation fancy names just because they are having to bend over backward to avoid a repeat of what happened in the first phase of the KP local body polls in the second round as well only smacks of opportunism typical of this party, and it will not work with the people anymore.

The PTI is welcome to live in its own fool's paradise for as long as it wishes. But it shouldn't insult the people by expecting them to continue living there as well.

The writer is a LUMS graduate and currently serves as PMLN MPA. She is a close aide of Maryam Nawaz and tweets at @hinaparvezbutt.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/882377/the-abject-failure-of-china-visit/>

CPEC to 'enhance Pakistan's manufacturing industry'

Top leaders of China and Pakistan reaffirmed their support for the high-quality development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), agreeing that the CPEC has significantly contributed to Pakistan's economic and social progress, according to a joint statement released by the two countries in Beijing.

The CPEC construction went through an extraordinary year in 2021 as the COVID-19 pandemic posed great uncertainty to the economic development of most countries and regions around the world. Nevertheless, the economic and social cooperation between China and Pakistan, represented by the CPEC, has been advancing in an orderly manner, playing a significant role in supporting and ensuring Pakistan's economic and social development, according to Global Times.

Take textiles, one of Pakistan's pillar industries, as an example. Despite the impact of the pandemic, the South Asian nation has registered a robust performance in its textile exports. During the second half of 2021, Pakistan's textile and garment exports surged 26 percent year on year to reach \$9.38 billion, according to the latest data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

The stronger export capacity in Pakistan's textile industry is primarily due to its government's enhanced efforts to attract foreign investment despite the pandemic. Moreover, increased investment Chinese textile companies made in Pakistan as well as the improved connectivity brought by the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) construction have also contributed to the development of the local textile industry.

To a certain extent, the rapid development of Pakistan's textile industry is a microcosm of China's efforts to boost the local economy and manufacturing through the CPEC.

For a long time, poor transportation conditions and energy shortage were the two major bottlenecks restricting Pakistan's economic development and societal progress. The CPEC construction has greatly improved the transportation, power supply, road communication and other infrastructure along the BRI route.

Since 2015, the CPEC has directly created more than 75,000 jobs in Pakistan. In the meantime, China has also invested heavily in various projects in the country. It is conceivable that once the CPEC construction is fully completed, more investment will be drawn to the country, which will be greatly conducive to improving Pakistan's manufacturing base.

By comparison, it is undeniable that India has a number of advantages to become a manufacturing power, but it also lacks some fundamental basis for long-term manufacturing development. Some of its most apparent weaknesses such as poor infrastructure, an undereducated labor force and trade and investment protectionism will likely be a drag on the long-term growth of the Indian manufacturing industry.

Of course, some may argue that there is still a considerable gap between India and Pakistan in terms of manufacturing strength, but with the improved BRI connectivity as well as the steadily growing investments by Chinese companies in Pakistan, the South Asian nation is well poised for a rapid facelift. And this could pose a new challenge for India as it is likely to face rising competition from Pakistan in sectors including auto parts and textiles in the near future.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/882514/cpec-to-enhance-pakistans-manufacturing-industry/>

USA, China, UK remain top 3 export destinations during last 6 months

The United States of America (USA) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the first six months of the financial year (2021-22), followed by China and United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the USA during July-December (2021-22) were recorded at \$3323.788 million against the exports of \$2277.228 million during July-December (2020-21), showing growth of 45.95 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$1332.768 million against the exports of \$837.916 million last year, showing an increase of 59.05 percent.

UK was at the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth \$1145.853 million during the months under review against the exports of \$956.524 million, showing a growth of 19.79 percent, the SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at \$869.267 million against \$697.242 million during last year, showing an increase of 24.67 percent while the exports to Germany were recorded at \$864.183 million against \$748.794 million last year, the data said.

During July-December (2021-22), the exports to Holland were recorded at \$682.459 million against \$516.107 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$488.689 million against \$355.294 million.

Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$508.334 million against the exports of US \$362.782 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$240.504 million against \$450.772 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at \$399.408 million against \$274.246 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$256.323 million against \$212.560 million while the exports to Belgium stood at \$361.983 million against \$262.101 million.

Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at \$195.688 million during the current year compared to \$244.232 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at \$194.453 million against \$143.382, to Malaysia \$188.721 million against \$85.063 million.

Overall Pakistan's exports to all other countries witnessed an increase of 28.96 percent during the months under review, from \$11.814 billion to \$15.236 billion, the SBP data revealed.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/882513/usa-china-uk-remain-top-3-export-destinations-during-last-6-months/>

Dawn News

ECC to consider extension of Saindak lease to Chinese contractors

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet will take up today an 11-point agenda that includes the extension of lease to Chinese contractors of the Saindak copper-gold project and the revival of tax concessions to Chinese power producers as part of the

efforts to attract investment to the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

To be presided over by Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin, the ECC will also consider a payment plan for public-sector power producers on the pattern of independent power producers (IPPs) as part of revised tariff agreements of 2020.

Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) and state-owned Saindak Metals Ltd (SML) signed an agreement in 2017 under which the Chinese firm kept on operating the Saindak copper-gold project for five years. The lease is set to expire on Oct 30. The two companies had originally signed in 2002 a 10-year contract, which was extended for five years in 2012. The terms of contract have been kept confidential all along.

MCC is now interested in bidding for Pakistan Steel Mills and is looking for fresh investments in special economic zones (SEZs) that are being set up under CPEC.

Likely to approve a payment plan for public-sector power producers

The deal is believed to involve the provincial government with about 25 per cent of the net profit along with royalties and duties. The terms of contract are often criticised by nationalist leaders for being unfavourable to Balochistan. The provincial government holds 35pc shares in the project while the centre owns 15pc. The remaining 50pc stakes are held by MCC. Later, the provincial government signed a separate agreement with the MCC-SML consortium that is valid until October 2027 but needs to be covered under a federal arrangement.

Sources said the ECC will also take up an alternative plan to protect 7.5pc withholding tax (WHT) on the profit to Chinese IPPs under original contracts instead of 25pc imposed in the 2019 budget under requirements of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. The increase in the tax rate on profit from 7.5pc to 25pc has irked Chinese investors. The Power Division and the CPEC Authority have been making their case for the revival of a 7.5pc WHT rate because this was a departure from CPEC commitments.

However, the Ministry of Finance and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) have pointed out that a revival of the lower tax rate was not possible because of the IMF conditions. It entailed an annual revenue impact of about Rs60 billion while the government had to go for the seventh review of the ongoing loan programme next month. This could be indirectly sorted out through amendments to the Pak-China Double Taxation Agreement. The Pak-China Steering Committee had also called for addressing the issue as the Chinese considered it a unilateral violation of the power purchase agreements on part of Pakistan.

The sources said that at the time of the revision in tariff agreements in 2020, the government had committed to payments of Rs403bn to IPPs and, on the same pattern, about Rs355bn (as of June 2020) to public-sector plants, including nuclear projects of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), hydropower plants of Wapda and LNG plants of the National Power Parks Management Company.

While the payments to four dozen IPPs stood settled in a phased manner, the payables to public-sector plants had gone beyond Rs450bn by November 2020. The Power Division has now proposed the payment of about Rs190bn, including through a supplementary grant of about Rs80bn in current year and remaining Rs110bn through subsidy allocations in the next year's budget, to address liquidity issues of PAEC, Wapda and LNG plants.

The ECC is also expected to approve about Rs6.9bn sovereign guarantees or standby letter of credit (SBLC) for the construction of the Sialkot-Kharian Motorway on a build-operate-transfer basis. Besides, it's also likely to approve changes in the Petroleum Products Ordinance of 1961 through a statutory regulatory order that will enable the sale of LNG by Pakistan LNG Ltd to K-Electric for its 900-megawatt plant.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1674110/ecc-to-consider-extension-of-saindak-lease-to-chinese-contractors>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC Future Prospects & Economic Reforms

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

PAKISTAN and China have been trying their best to stimulate the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) since its inception.

But unfortunately, some pseudo intellectuals, paid NGOs and self-centric media outlets have been playing in the hands of foreigners to pollute the real spirits of CPEC. It seems that they do not have any sense of nationalism but plenty of notorious agendas.

While Prime Minister Imran Khan and a Pakistani delegation was in China to attend the opening ceremony of Beijing Winter Olympics one of the leading media houses of the country intentionally published a report of Asian Development Bank titled "Economic Corridor Development in Pakistan: Concept, Framework and Case Studies" and thus circulated negative sentiments against CPEC, the lifeline of Pakistan's economy and guarantor of its future as described by Premier Imran Khan.

The said report indicated flaws in the country's strategic geopolitical potential and suggested improvement in regional and international economic connectivity to get any benefit from CPEC and termed structural reforms vital to achieve optimal benefits.

However, greater regional connectivity always depends upon geopolitics and CPEC stands for geo-economy.

Thus this report's assumption is not correct. It further elaborated that if CPEC is successfully implemented; Pakistan can harness its strategic geopolitical location, improve its regional and international economic connectivity, enhance industrial development and become an economic hub for Central, South and West Asia.

By saying this in complicated manners it intentionally undermined CPEC's real potential by attaching its efficiency and efficacy with structural reforms of private sector development thus purposefully created doubts about strategic orientations of CPEC.

The report observed that tax reforms are essential to broaden the tax base and enhance the perceived fairness of the tax system. Infrastructure built under the CPEC should be fully utilised to expand trade and regional cooperation.

It seems that the timing of this report and consequently its publication in the country has some close liaison among the hidden enemies of prosperity and people alike which tried to portray CPEC as an average project.

Moreover, the absurd correlation of CPEC with the domestic tax system, reforms and other segments of the national economy are rather misleading and misconceived. Thus intentionally CPEC was put in the line of fire.

The study says Pakistan should transform its economy through export-led growth. In this connection, CPEC would play a very important role in the country by establishing Special Economic Free Zones and relocating Chinese firms.

Thus CPEC has direct correlation with the export capacity building mechanism of the country because the economy works in integration not isolation. The report pinpoints many policy flaws in the macro-economy of the country which actually has nothing do with CPEC, its utility, orientation, scope and significance.

CPEC is a concept and cooperative model to stimulate different sectors of the economy. CPEC is a holistic approach to develop the national economy. Moreover, it is a platform which provides important inputs for rapid growth in the country.

CPEC has nothing to do with poor export performance of the country or low productivity and a lack of competitiveness.

It surfaced because of an unfavourable trade policy environment, wrong economic and financial assumptions and inconsistent policies of the government.

Furthermore, CPEC is not answerable to an overvalued exchange rate and escalation of tariff on imported raw material and intermediate goods that resultantly contributed to a fall in exports, resulting in a consistently large trade deficit, which stood at \$32.8 billion in FY2019. On the contrary, CPEC stimulated the energy sector and geared up infrastructural development and thus further consolidated economic conditions of the country.

It may further enhance the manufacturing capacity of Pakistan. The current economic meltdown is the result of various complicated reasons in which CPEC does not play any negative role.

In addition to this, the increase in interest rates to 13.25pc in 2019 had substantially raised the cost of capital to firms which may further dampen investment and exports. Thus CPEC does not have any role in the monetary policy of the country.

It is suggested that the government should expedite the development of the nine special economic zones (SEZs) planned along the CPEC routes and focus on labour, capital, technology, knowledge, innovation and structural transformation.

Moreover, more focus should be given to the development of the agriculture sector in CPEC phase-II so that a balanced economic policy would be implemented.

The said report indicated that urbanised and industrialised, challenges such as infrastructure deficits, overstretched public services and environmental stress should be addressed as soon as possible.

However, CPEC phase-II initiation of green projects, agriculture development, climate change engineering and ecological development would provide an ideal platform to curb these irritants of the economy in the country.

On the contrary, Pakistan and China signed a five-year Industrial Cooperation Framework Agreement (ICFA) to reenergize the CPEC during the recent visit of PM Imran Khan and thus successfully negated all misconceptions and misperceptions about CPEC.

According to the text of the ICFA, Pakistan has agreed to take responsibility of the Chinese lives and property, in addition to providing “special beneficial support for water and power supply that are necessary to develop SEZs and provide efficient and favourable policy support for Chinese enterprises which are intending to invest or have already invested in the Pakistani SEZs”.

The signing of the ICFA under CPEC is a first “serious” step by the government during the past three and a half years to put the multibillion initiative of President Xi back on track.

Pakistan will facilitate the Chinese businesses in an efficient manner in accordance with the domestic law.

It will also improve the domestic business environment, provide policy support for Gwadar Free Trade Zone, Rashakai SEZ and other SEZs, guard the safety of enterprises and employees investing in the country, provide special beneficial support for water and power supply which are necessary to develop the SEZs and provide efficient and favourable policy support for Chinese enterprises which are intending to invest or have already invested in the SEZs.

In wide-ranging talks with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored the importance of Pakistan and China working together to promote shared objectives of peace, stability and development in Afghanistan and regional connectivity.

During their meeting, the Premiers of Pakistan and China reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral ties including discussions on the bilateral economic and trade relations, onward march of CPEC and important issues of regional and global concern.

PM Khan appreciated the transformational impact of CPEC on Pakistan’s infrastructure, energy, socio-economic development and improvement in livelihoods of the people.

He underlined that Pakistan was committed to high quality development of CPEC through its mutually reinforcing industrial, trade, health, digital and green corridors.

To conclude, CPEC has become a strategic asset which badly needs a specific national narrative to mitigate all false news. Healthy contribution of the Press, not the puppetry journalists, sensible policy makers and not the pseudo intellectuals is the need of the hour.

Economic flaws, financial crunch and imbalanced spells of development may be streamlined with the successful completion of CPEC projects, especially in energy (green), agriculture, social development, AI, ICT and health. Thus national unity must be our mantra.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-future-prospects-economic-reforms-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

PM Imran Khan visit to China reinvigorating CPEC

Shazma Ali

On February 4th 2022, Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan visited China to participate in the opening ceremony of the 2022 Beijing Olympics.

During the visit, he met with the Chinese President Xi Jinping and exchanged views on multiple areas of mutual interests. This has been the “first meeting” of PM Khan with the Chinese President.

PM Khan congratulated the Chinese President on the successful holding of the event in a smooth and streamlined manner and emphasized on the efficacy of sports as the means of fostering mutual understanding and inclusivity among the people of the world. President Xi Jinping appreciated the Pakistani Premier for participating in the opening ceremony and marked it as a sign of iron brotherhood and solidarity between Pakistan and China.

Prime Minister Imran Khan emphasized that as the flagship project of BRI, CPEC contributed greatly to Pakistan’s economic and social development, in line with its shift to geo-economics and the economic security agenda of promoting trade, investments, and connectivity.

Leaders of the two countries acknowledged the major contribution of CPEC projects, particularly in the areas of energy and transport infrastructure, in bolstering Pakistan’s key role in regional connectivity while modernizing its economic base.

They also agreed to task the CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to strengthen cooperation across all areas including in the fields of trade, industrial development infrastructure, scientific and technological cooperation, agriculture modernization and socio-economic well-being of local people.

In order to improve the areas of health, environment and ICT, leadership of the two countries agreed to initiate the China-Pakistan health, industry, trade, green and digital corridors. Most importantly, Beijing and Islamabad agreed to project CPEC from all threats and negative propaganda.

Islamabad reassures Beijing over making all-out efforts for the security of all Chinese personnel, projects and institutions in Pakistan. While China was content with measures taken by Pakistan to address security concerns of China, both sides said that CPEC was a win-win enterprise and crucial for enhanced connectivity and regional prosperity.

During the meeting, the two leaders reviewed the comprehensive spectrum of bilateral relations and discussed how both countries need to enhance high-level exchanges and institutional linkages. The discussion also included the subject of regional situation as well as the international political circumstances.

The leaders of both countries mutually accentuated how the time tested cooperation between Pakistan and China had benefited the people of both the countries and remained unmoved throughout history.

The Pakistani side emphasized that the relation of the country with China serves as the bedrock of its foreign policy and the friendship enjoys the unshakeable support of the Pakistani people.

Imran Khan also invited the Chinese President to visit Pakistan. The two sides reaffirmed their intention to undertake the visit at a mutually convenient time. Both sides showed satisfaction towards the outcome of three sessions of Foreign Ministers' dialogue and also agreed to hold the next meeting at an early date.

Khan acknowledged the impact of CPEC on Pakistan's economic and social development, also cited Pakistan's shift from geo-politics to geo-economic agenda and its commitment to promote trade, investment and connectivity. Both leaders extensively discussed CPEC and its completed projects.

The leaders also showed interest in signing a framework agreement on industrial cooperation and agreed to further leverage the private sectors and entrepreneurs of both the countries to contribute to mutual development.

The Chinese side also appreciated Khan's launch of the Pakistan-China Business and Investment Forum, thereby showing willingness to enhance the business sector of both the countries.

The two countries reaffirmed the commitment to safeguarding CPEC and showed willingness to welcome any third party to benefit from the project. Pakistan thanked China for adequate supply of Covid-19 vaccines.

Henceforth, both the nations agreed to develop emergency response systems, public health infrastructure and pharmaceutical industries in Pakistan to combat any future health crisis in the future. Discussions on enhancing the spectrum of education, agriculture, vocational training and cultural exchange between the two countries also took place.

Beijing and Islamabad acknowledged the necessity of a strong defence and security system and vowed to maintain the momentum of defence cooperation between the defence forces that could prove more effective in the protection of CPEC projects in the future.

Khan also welcomed the Global Development Initiative (GDI) proposed by President Xi Jinping and stated that Pakistan was willing to further strengthen the development partnership under the GDI.

Both sides signed a number of MOU's that covered bilateral cooperation in a number of areas including economic, technical, industrial and investment. Infrastructure, space, vaccine, digitalization, standardization, culture, disaster management, sports and vocational education.

Admittedly, prior to CPEC, Pakistan was seen in the prism of terrorism and extremism by the world community. CPEC has greatly changed the perception of the world. Due to the CPEC, the image of Pakistan has improved overwhelmingly.

Foreign Direct Investment FDI in the country has improved since the initiation of CPEC. The growing convergence of interests between China and Pakistan, particularly in great power competition between China and the US proves that Islamabad will not abandon Beijing in the lurch.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-imran-khan-visit-to-china-reinvigorating-cpec-by-shazma-ali/>

CPEC to move ahead

AS was expected, the appointment of Khalid Mansoor as Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has a salutary impact on the overall progress of various projects and a visible movement towards the much-talked-about second phase.

This became evident from what the SAPM said at a news briefing on his return from China where detailed discussions were held with the Chinese leadership on different aspects of cooperation under the umbrella of CPEC.

As Khalid Mansoor has the necessary background and experience of handling Chinese entrepreneurs, his appointment was widely acclaimed and considered as a good omen for meaningful progress on otherwise slow-paced projects.

It was, therefore, a matter of satisfaction that most of the irritants that marred physical progress of different projects have been removed and one can expect the work would pick up momentum once again as originally envisaged.

On his recommendation, the Government of Pakistan has adopted a futuristic approach as for as attracting Chinese investment is concerned.

In a major policy decision, Pakistan has decided to exempt Chinese investors from about 37 approvals for investment projects, besides completing prior actions like payment of dues to power producers and creating a revolving fund for future interest payments to the existing investors to brighten the prospects of investment in phase-II of the multi-billion-dollar CPEC initiative.

According to him, the Pakistani side presented detailed proposals for investment and aid and the Chinese leadership promised to consider them and respond at a later stage.

Given the repeated commitments made by the top leadership of China to strengthen economic collaboration with Pakistan and pursue the CPEC initiative vigorously, there is no reason for further delay in execution of projects and programmes provided the Prime Minister and the Special Assistant personally monitor the progress.

Waiver of approval for Chinese investors is, indeed, unprecedented and hopefully this would have a desired impact on attracting investment including relocation of Chinese businesses to Pakistan. It is also important to note that core interests of the country would continue to be guarded religiously as investment so made would be subject to audit and violation of the law would entail penalties and other fallouts.

The seriousness of the Government is also reflected in the move to the change in investment regime through amendments to the Special Economic Zones Act.

Over and above the institutional measures aimed at facilitating investment, the Prime Minister held out a personal commitment to the Chinese side that he stood by these arrangements and would himself immediately address any problem that the Chinese investors may come across on top of the institutional arrangements like the CPEC Authority, Cabinet Committee on CPEC and Pak-China Relations Steering Committee. We hope that special attention would also be paid to investment in water reservoirs and hydel power projects as well as speedy clearance and implementation of ML-I projects that are deeply linked to the progress and development of Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-to-move-ahead/>

USA, China and UK remain top 3 destinations of Pakistani exports

The United States of America (USA) remained the top export destinations of the Pakistani products during the first six months of financial year (2021-22), followed by China and United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the USA during July-December (2021-22) were recorded at US \$3323.788 million against the exports of US \$2277.228 million during July-December (2020-21), showing growth of 45.95 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$1332.768 million against the exports of US \$837.916 million last year, showing increase of 59.05 percent. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/usa-china-and-uk-remain-top-3-destinations-of-pakistani-exports>

The News

Lessons from China

Atta-ur-Rahman

Prime Minister Imran Khan met the Chinese prime minister last week and requested him for a strong collaboration between the Pak University of Engineering and Emerging Technologies

being established in land behind the PM House and China's Tsinghua University and Beijing University. This new university is likely to add to the growing list of excellent academic institutions that are being established in Pakistan in collaboration with China, Austria, Germany, the UK and other countries under my supervision.

One recent example of my contribution to higher education is the Pak Austrian University of Applied Science and Engineering that has been set up in Haripur, Hazara in collaboration with eight foreign universities, three from Austria and five from China. The Chinese universities will be involved in training our scientists and transferring the latest technologies in areas such as artificial intelligence, bullet train (high-speed train) manufacturing, materials engineering and advanced agriculture.

My collaborations with China were initiated in 1974 and over almost 50 years, dozens of institutional collaborations have been initiated. These include the establishment of joint centres on traditional Chinese medicine, hybrid rice seed production and virology at the University of Karachi, leading to the training of thousands of young students at top Chinese universities – when I was the HEC chairperson – and, more recently, the establishment of new universities in Haripur, Islamabad and Sialkot. Through these contributions, I got the honour of being a recipient of the highest scientific award of China.

The key lesson that we need to learn from China is to develop the ability to manufacture and export high-tech (high-value) goods. For this to happen, we need to create a vibrant ecosystem with high-quality institutions in cutting-edge emerging fields of science and engineering, develop strong links between universities and the industrial sector, and support the development of high-tech industries through access to cheap loans, long-term tax holidays and transfer of technology.

Since 1978, China has recorded a truly remarkable average real annual growth rate of eight to 11 percent of its GDP. China started its huge investments in manpower development in the late 1970s and now sends about 600,000 of its brightest students each year for training its manpower at the PhD and postdoctoral level in advanced technologies to top foreign universities. With the help of this investment, China has become a world leader in innovations and entrepreneurship and in patents application.

It was in 1985 that a central committee of the Chinese Communist Party concerning the reform of the science and technology management system was established in China. This was done to integrate university and research institutes with industrial activities. Through this scheme, major additional funding was provided to research institutes, exclusively directed at the development of high technology products.

The Chinese government encouraged scientists and engineers working in government institutes to undertake their own private work and consulting services in their spare time. This made available a huge number of highly qualified scientific manpower to Chinese industry and greatly helped in the manufacture and export of high technology products. Chinese research institutes

were encouraged to establish their companies, either on their own or in partnership with the local industry.

As a result, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a public-sector institute, established a large number of spin-off enterprises in the 1990s which led to a huge increase in the export of Chinese engineering goods and other items. This initiative was supported by the Torch Programme started in 1988 that provided massive funds to such enterprises. Scientists working in institutes were also encouraged to start their companies with government funding.

Another important step taken by China was in 1992 under the leadership of Deng Xiaoping. Special efforts were initiated to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) into China with a focus on acquisition and absorption of advanced technologies. This involved two key moves. First, in 1995, there was the ‘decision on accelerating scientific and technology progress’ which emphasised the improvement of ‘indigenous technology capability’.

Then, in 1999, there was the ‘decision on strengthening technological innovation and developing high-technology and realising industrialisation’ which introduced a series of measures to encourage the development of high-tech industries. These included: (a) tax breaks to private enterprises investing in research and development; (b) tax exemption for all income derived from the transfer or development of new technologies; (c) a reduced six percent value-added tax rate for software products developed and produced in China; (d) complete VAT exemption and subsidised credit for high-tech exports, and (e) the listing of new high-technology companies on the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges.

These carefully crafted policies laid the foundations for the subsequent five-year plans in which the government continued to emphasise the improvement of research and development capabilities and the development of its indigenous technology. The government’s R&D policy was always directed at building an innovation- and knowledge-based economy by nurturing indigenous innovation capability; developing an enterprise-centred technology innovation system and promoting the innovation capabilities of Chinese institutions. These policies contributed to the development of technology-intensive industries, and increasing the export of high-tech products. High technology zones were then set up with a focus on specialised technologies.

Pakistan can learn much from these policies and our planning ministry needs to emulate the Chinese example in its efforts to uplift the economy. Roads and bridges alone will not lead to the development of a strong knowledge-based economy. We need to unleash the creative potential of our young people through investments in education, science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The writer is chairman PM National Task Force on Science and Technology, former minister, and former founding chairman of the HEC. He can be reached at: ibne_sina@hotmail.com

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=54706>

Express News

پاک چین صنعتی تعاون کیلئے فریم ورک معاہدے پر دستخط ہو گئے

پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان کے صنعتی تعاون کیلئے فریم ورک معاہدے پر دستخط ہو گئے۔

مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے اپنے بیان میں بتایا کہ وزیراعظم کے دورہ چین کے ثمرات ملنا شروع ہو گئے ہیں، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان کے صنعتی تعاون کیلئے فریم ورک معاہدے پر دستخط ہو گئے ہیں۔

مشیر تجارت کا کہنا تھا کہ فریم ورک معاہدہ سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کیلئے بریک تھر وہے، یہ معاہدہ بزنس ٹو بزنس تعاون اور صنعتوں کی منتقلی سے متعلق ہے، اس معاہدے کا بلواسطہ اور بلاواسطہ معیشت کو فائدہ ہوگا، سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کو اس اہم کامیابی پر مبارکباد دیتا ہوں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2282742/6/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین 7 شعبوں میں اربوں ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کرے گا

وزیراعظم کے معاون خصوصی برائے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) امور خالد منصور نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک فیڈ ٹو کے تحت چین 7 شعبوں میں اربوں ڈالر کی مزید سرمایہ کاری کرے گا۔ سی پیک اتھارٹی میں ون ونڈو آپریشن کا آغاز کیا گیا ہے۔ سی پیک اتھارٹی چینی سرمایہ کاروں کے تحفظات دور کر رہی ہے۔ وزیراعظم کے دورہ چین کے دوران 120 اجلاسوں کا انعقاد ہوا اور فارچیون 500 کمپنیوں کے سربراہوں سے ورچوئل ملاقاتیں بھی ہوئیں۔ سوموار کو ایک پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے خالد منصور کا کہنا تھا کہ وزیراعظم کی جانب سے باقاعدہ طور پر مسائل کے حل کی یقین دہانی کرائی گئی ہے۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ ایم ایل ون اور توانائی کے منصوبوں پر مثبت پیش رفت نظر آ رہی ہے۔ چین کی جانب سے باقاعدہ طور پر پوزیٹو پیجے گئے کہ وہ کن شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کریں گے۔ میٹل کی برآمد کے لیے تقریباً ساڑھے 4 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری متوقع ہے۔ خالد منصور نے جو مژدہ جانفزا سنا یا ہے وہ اس وقت پاکستان کے لیے بادی بہاری کی مثل ہے کیونکہ پاکستان اقتصادی عدم استحکام کے جس دور سے گزر رہا ہے اس میں اسے دوست ممالک کی طرف سے ایسے کئی منصوبوں کی ضرورت ہے جو ہمارے دلدر دور کرنے میں مدد و معاون ثابت ہوں۔ اقتصادی عدم استحکام کے باعث ہی حکومت کو بین الاقوامی مالیاتی فنڈ (آئی ایم ایف) کی وہ شرائط بھی ماننا پڑ رہی ہیں جنہیں عام حالات میں کوئی بھی ملک اقتصادی خودکشی سے تعبیر کرتے ہوئے سننے کو بھی تیار نہیں ہوگا۔ چین اس سے پہلے بھی کئی مشکل مراحل میں پاکستان کو مدد اور تعاون فراہم کر چکا ہے، اب مختلف شعبوں میں اگر واقعی اس کی طرف سے اربوں ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری ہوتی ہے تو اس سے پاکستان کو نہ صرف اقتصادی طور پر سہارا ملے گا بلکہ ایسا انفراسٹرکچر کھڑا کرنے میں بھی مدد ملے گی جو ان شعبوں میں ہونے والی سرمایہ کاری سے شروع ہونے والے منصوبوں کی بیل منڈھے چڑھانے کے لیے کام آئے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-09/page-10/detail-7>

عالمی قوتیں سی پیک کو ناکام بنانا چاہتی ہیں: رانا انتظار اسلام، احمد جمال

سرائے مغل (نامہ نگار) کرم ایجنسی میں دہشت گردی کا واقعہ قابل مذمت ہے۔ عالمی قوتیں سی پیک کو ناکام بنانا چاہتی ہیں، سازشوں کو ناکام بنانا ہوگا۔ سرائے مغل کے سیاسی و سماجی رہنماؤں تحریک انصاف کے رانا انتظار اسلام اور جے آئی یو تھ ضلع قصور کے صدر چوہدری احمد جمال نے کہا ہے کہ کرم ایجنسی میں دہشتگردوں کے حملے میں 5 فوجی

نوجوانوں کی شہادت انتہائی قابل مذمت ہے۔ دہشت گردی کے ماسور کے مکمل خاتمے تک ملک و قوم کو تحفظ فراہم نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔ ذمہ داران کو جلد گرفتار کر کے عبرت کا نشان بنایا جائے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-09/page-11/detail-7>

February 10, 2022

Daily Times

Of Sino-Pak Business and Brotherhood

Munir Ahmed

A well-worded joint statement is out after Prime Minister Imran Khan's meeting with President Xi Jinping, and the Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang. Once again, many hopes for the people of Pakistan, and many more promises by the visiting premier and eight of his top ministers. Brush aside the hopes of immediate cash aid or loan. Sorry, China is not known for cash grants but partnership-based development projects for a win-win result. Nevertheless, Pakistan's gesture of solidarity to Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 is meaningful at the moment when boycotting countries were led by the US and the UK leaderships. At least we have started learning to live with the neighbours.

The spokesmen of the Pakistan government have termed the visit 'very successful'. Yes, it may be termed so if a photo of the meeting with President Xi was the objective. Pakistan's promises to China in the meetings have surfaced. Anything for Pakistan has yet to appear. Wait and see for what comes out of the begging bowl. Unfortunately, we could not learn the difference between business and brotherhood or a link between the two. There is no brotherhood without any meaningfully significant business. States are rung on independent strategies – the outcome of a strong economy that depends on the business models we opt. Unfortunately, Pakistan has been a victim of its own leadership whether political or in uniform. CPEC has given Pakistan new hopes for stronger ties based on the business models. But we have yet to see any business models coming out of the public genius. We shall think beyond leasing out land to Chinese companies or facilitating the construction of road networks and coal-fired power plants. Don't we have any able leadership to convert the CPEC opportunities into business models?

China-Pakistan joint statement to keep up the CPEC and other economic cooperation is crucially important at a time when a new cold war is picking up in the region. Despite conspiracies hovering over China, the Chinese leadership, once again, has shown its development commitment to Pakistan – the longtime US ally. The US and NATO powers know well that Pakistan overshadows India strategically in such types of conflicts. So, they all are conscious about the stronger Sino-Pak ties. Both China and Pakistan have no option but to strengthen each other against the unreliable powers pretending to behave friendly. It's a fact that the present and future international and regional landscape depends a lot on the Sino-Pak relations. That is why

different Indian organizations and individuals keep on trying to create misunderstandings between Pakistan and China.

In a recent move, India spread a cartoon of Prime Minister Imran Khan showing its empty pockets, faking that it was published in the Chinese newspaper. The Indian social media post did not carry any link to the Chinese media where it was (said to be) published. But, many social media junkies from Pakistan played their role too in making the post become viral. The unwise friends. Even if it was published in the Chinese media, we should have underplayed it to save grace. The Indian government, their think tanks and media junkies are trying to overplay in the region. It is chiefly to cover-up and defuse its internal conflicts and criminal realities of victimization of minorities including Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir. Well-wishers of the Sino-Pak friendship strongly believe that their enemies will not succeed in creating misunderstandings between the two countries.

After the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, the economic and political landscape is on the move from Europe and the Middle East to South Asia and the South China Sea. Some major ripples in the past year or so were experienced. The uncertainty in Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover, and the tug of war between Nato and Russia are just two manifestations of economic and geographic tensions. In the given circumstances, Sino-Pak recent agreements play reinforcement of trust on each other. The joint statement inevitably spoke about the significance of CPEC. Surely and as promised, Pakistan has to take extraordinary measures to guarantee security for Chinese personnel that is genuinely a real concern for China following the recent security situation in Balochistan. As the Gwadar Port has been noted as the central emphasis of the CPEC, Pakistan has promised to carry out the development work required to ensure the timely completion according to the agreed terms of reference.

The stakeholders shall welcome the three-state dialogue, involving the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Afghanistan and China, to improve the situation in Afghanistan to continue efforts for peace in the region. Additionally, Pakistan has promised China of its support at all diplomatic levels to gain back its claimed territories including Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong, and several others. Will Pakistan be able to do so?

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/882940/of-sino-pak-business-and-brotherhood/>

Pak-China ‘iron-clad’ friendship rooted in people’s hearts: China

Amid boycott by some countries, China Wednesday “highly” appreciated Prime Minister Imran Khan for attending the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Winter Games.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian, while speaking during a regular press conference, noted that the presence of the Pakistani leadership and athletes proved that the “iron-clad friendship between China and Pakistan has taken root in people’s hearts” and these congenial relations “enjoy people’s support in both countries”.

“We also highly appreciate Prime Minister Imran Khan’s attendance at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Winter Games, Pakistani athletes’ participation in the Games, and great support of Pakistani people from all walks of life,” said Zhao.

The spokesperson said that the visit and participation “not only carries on the fine tradition of mutual support” between Islamabad and Beijing, but also “reflects Pakistan’s determination to uphold the Olympic spirit and live up to the Olympic ideal”.

“The opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Winter Games has presented China and Chinese culture to the world, fulfilled China’s commitment of hosting a ‘streamlined, safe and splendid’ Olympic Games, and demonstrated the vision that all countries form a community sharing the same future,” said the spokesperson.

The Chinese foreign ministry’s comments come days after Prime Minister Imran Khan and his high-level delegation returned to Pakistan after concluding their four-day visit.

The prime minister’s four-day visit included meetings with top Chinese leadership, the business community, the signing of several memoranda of understandings (MoUs), and attending the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics – as a sign of solidarity with Beijing.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/883023/pak-china-iron-clad-friendship-rooted-in-peoples-hearts-china/>

Dawn News

ECC extends Saindak contract to Chinese firms

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The government on Wednesday approved pricing guidelines for the supply of Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) to K-Electric along with amendments to the existing legal framework and extended agreement with Saindak Copper-Gold Project with existing Chinese contractors for another 15 years.

These decisions were taken at a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet presided over by Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin that also authorised the issuance of a sovereign guarantee or standby letter of credit (SBLC) worth Rs6.944bn as operational Viability Gas Fund for construction of Sialkot-Kharian Motorway on build-own-transfer basis.

The ECC approved a summary of the Ministry of Energy on the determination of RLNG sale price for the supply of 150 million cubic feet per day by Pakistan LNG Ltd (PLL) to KE. This removes a key hiccup to operationalisation of KE’s new 900MW power project whose first of the two units is ready for generation.

Under the decision, the ECC approved amendments to the Second Schedule of Petroleum Products (Petroleum Levy) Ordinance and policy guidelines for RLNG pricing which would now be issued as Statutory Regulatory Order also approved by the ECC.

Approves RLNG pricing guidelines for K-Electric

Now, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) would determine the sale price of RLNG on the basis of LNG delivered ex-ship price as per the contract signed by the PLL and KE as per the existing guidelines. The two sides (PLL and KE) had signed the RLNG supply contract about two years ago.

While finalising the RLNG price, Ogra would also accept PLL's LNG import-related costs, port charges at actual and PLL's margins as per the existing arrangement. All the charges under the Operation Services Agreement including but not limited to capacity charges, utilisation charges of the terminal as well as retainage and terminal management fee would also be taken at actual as per the existing guidelines.

SAINDAK: The ECC also approved a summary of the Petroleum Division for extension of the lease contract between Saindak Metals Ltd (SML) and Metallurgical Construction Corporation (MCC) of China for Saindak Copper-Gold Project for another 15 years i.e. until Nov 1, 2037. The ECC also recommended a review of the financial aspect of the project annually by the professional expert agencies.

SML is a 100pc public sector entity of the federal government responsible for managing affairs of Saindak Copper-Gold project in District Chagai, Balochistan. The project was developed for local ore exploration, mining and processing to blister copper. The centre invested about Rs30bn in the project over a long period of time since late Z. A. Bhutto's tenure and later declared an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) up till Oct 31, 2022.

The Chinese state-owned MCC has been running the project on lease since November 2001. The Musharraf administration extended the contract for 10 years with effect from Oct 1, 2002 on publicly unavailable mutually agreed terms. The contract was extended twice in 2012 and 2017 for five years each that now expires on Oct 31, 2022.

The Petroleum Division constituted another committee represented by ministries of finance, law & justice, petroleum, FBR, the provincial government, SML and ISI to negotiate the terms & conditions of the contract extension with MCC for the development of Eastern Ore Body.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1674303/ecc-extends-saindak-contract-to-chinese-firms>

Pakistan Observer

Integral Pak-China partnership and the West ?

Syed Qamar Afzal Rizvi

PM Imran Khan has been to China on a four-day official visit (Feb 3-6). By all reasonable accounts, the Pakistan-China partnership — often cited as a paragon of inter-state relationships— has profoundly emerged over the last 70 years.

The current 33 point Joint Pak-China statement is an affirmation of this belief. Unsurprisingly, this unique partnership is underpinned by the rationale — of mutual trust, common interests and a convergent outlook — based on military, diplomatic, geopolitical and geo-economic factors.

Arguably, given the emergence of Pakistan as a nascent state in a hostile environment in the “neighbourhood”, this security-cum-economic narrative became highly inevitable for Pakistan’s political and security elite. But the West, particularly the US views this partnership with a jaundiced eye.

Military dynamics: The most important aspect of China-Pakistan military relations is the Chinese commitment to strengthen Pakistan’s indigenous weapon industry in manufacturing military equipment by mutual collaboration.

In 1980, China assisted Pakistan in erecting a Heavy Rebuild Factory renamed Heavy Industries Taxila (HIT).

This Complex has manufactured and refurbished various Chinese and Western origin military components, including the al-Zarrar and al-Khalid tanks that have become front-line weapons and formed the backbone of Pakistan’s artillery (Deepak, 2006).

HIT is also working on next-generation hybrid al-Hayder tank. Hallmark of Pakistan–China joint collaboration is the Joint-Fighter 17 (JF-Thunder) (Niazi, 2006).

Development of this multi-role fighter jet started in 1999 with Chinese collaboration at Pakistan Aeronautical Complex and the Chengdu Aircraft Corporation (CAC) in China (Dawn 2015)

JF-17 has given Pakistan remarkable excellence by producing a modern battlefield fighter aircraft equipped with all offensive and defensive capabilities (Dawn 2015). Recently, the Pakistan Army inducted its first batch of Chinese-made VT-4 battle tanks.

The VT-4 tanks, built by the Chinese state-owned defence manufacturer, Norinco, were supplied to Pakistan starting in April 2020. Pakistan is the third country to procure the VT-4 tanks, after Thailand and Nigeria.

In December 2020, China decided to sell 50 Wing Loong II UCAVs to Pakistan, claiming that it “would be a nightmare for Indian ground formations in high-altitude areas as India’s military does not have the ability to respond to the new-age stand-off weapons.”

Diplomatic, geo economic dynamics: Pakistan has played a role in China’s rapprochement with the US and its entry into international organisations like the World Bank.

The relationship has been pertinent to the development of Beijing’s links with the Middle Eastern states as well. Currently, China’s quest for energy security via its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has placed Pakistan at the centre of its geo-economic and geopolitical strategy.

Successive leaders of Pakistan and China have invested in the relationship which is now deeply entrenched at the grassroots level.

A vision and idealism guide this relationship. Intellectuals, civil society and the media have also played an important role in consolidating the friendship.

Further, Beijing and Islamabad demonstrate not only a mutuality of interests, but also an earnest desire to further broaden this partnership.

Pakistan considers its relationship with China to be the cornerstone of its foreign policy, while China calls it as its highest priority.

The level of mutual trust is conspicuous in their support for each other on core issues of national interests. Pakistan has extended support to China on Xinjiang, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Tibet and South China Sea issues, and at the Human Rights Council.

While the parties are proactively promoting, facilitating and executing the long-term industrial development plan, the CPEC is a framework of regional connectivity, infrastructure development and industrial cooperation which will not only benefit the parties but also have a positive impact in the region.

Pakistan and China signed different agreements worth \$10-15 billion during the recent visit of Pak Prime Minister Imran Khan to China, including rollover of \$4 billion deposits, fresh loan of \$4 billion, and other projects.

Security & strategic dynamics: On its part, China is the only major power that unequivocally supports Pakistan's efforts to safeguard its independence and sovereignty.

It is willing to invest in developing a strategic partnership with Pakistan, as against ups and downs, it has witnessed in its relationship with the US.

Beijing takes a principled stand on the issue of Pakistan's membership of the Nuclear Supplier's Group (NSG), its listing in the Financial Action Task Force and sanctions.

China recognises Kashmir as a dispute between India and Pakistan and calls for a peaceful solution in line with the UN Charter, UNSC resolutions, and bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan. Thus, China opposed India's unilateral action of revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019.

The critical western role: It is argued that whilst Pakistan still values its relationship with the West, particularly, the US views Pak-China relationship with a polarized thinking —branding Pakistan as China's satellite state.

Whereas both China and the US have a common interest in economic stabilization of Pakistan, averting nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan and assuring that economic and political stability in Afghanistan is core of regional peace.

The US must avoid viewing its bilateral relationship with Pakistan exclusively through the lens of its competition with China.

Washington must be wary of Chinese-Pakistani pressure on India and focus on mediation and conflict resolution mechanisms to prevent conflict in the Himalayas from spinning out of control.

And most importantly, the Biden Administration must do more to hold India accountable for its human rights abuses in Kashmir, which remain a major source of conflict in South Asia and a major reason for Pakistan to continue deepening its strategic relationship with China.

The fact is: Balochistan Liberation Army intermittently targets the CPEC projects in Pakistan with alleged Indian support.

Washington needs to apply greater pressure on India to prevent it from similarly targeting Pakistan and its CPEC projects.

The latest terrorist attacks on Pakistan security forces in Baluchistan serve as impeccable evidence to Pakistan's security concerns.

To save South Asia from becoming a proxy arena for the US-Chinese rivalry, a revisiting of Washington's growing reliance on New Delhi to counterbalance Beijing is absolutely inevitable, especially on matters that could spoil America's longstanding relationship with Pakistan. Therefore, a meaningful reset between Pakistan-US ties is an impending order of the day.

—The writer, an independent 'IR' researcher-cum-international law analyst based in Pakistan, is member of European Consortium for Political Research Standing Group on IR, Critical Peace & Conflict Studies, also a member of Washington Foreign Law Society and European Society of International Law.

<https://pakobserver.net/integral-pak-china-partnership-and-the-west-by-syed-qamar-afzal-rizvi/>

New Gwadar Airport to prove instrumental in boosting regional trade

New Gwadar Airport to prove instrumental in boosting regional trade, WealthPK reported on Wednesday.

The report says, Pakistan is working to develop Gwadar peninsula as a significant port and trading hub, especially for trade with China.

The two countries have signed a number of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) for cooperation in various fields. The mega China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project covers the establishment of a special economic zone (SEZ), free trade zone, and export processing zone in the region for economic development.

New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) is a new greenfield airport being built in Gwadar under the framework of the CPEC.

The NGIA is an important project of the CPEC agreement, and China is investing millions of dollars for this project.

The NGIA is being developed over a 4,300-acre area, and will be the country's largest airport. This greenfield airport is necessary keeping in view the increased trade activity in the country. It will have an upgraded terminal structure connected to a cargo terminal with refrigeration capabilities for perishable commodities and a 30,000-ton-per-year handling capacity.

The NGIA will accommodate narrow-body planes such as the ATR-72 and Boeing 737-900, as well as wide-body aircraft such as the Airbus A380 and Boeing 747-400, WealthPK reported.

<https://pakobserver.net/new-gwadar-airport-to-prove-instrumental-in-boosting-regional-trade/>

The Express Tribune

Time for us to reciprocate China's spirit?

China's unflinching support to Pakistan is manifested in the Winter Olympics motto: Together For A Shared Future

A day before PM Imran Khan's take-off for Beijing, Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Nong Rong set the tone for the four-day visit that ended on Feb 6. Recalling President Xi Jinping's phone talk with PM Imran on 26 Oct 2021, the ambassador wrote in his curtain-raising article: "The world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, with more sources of turbulence and risks around the world. Under the new circumstances, the two countries should stand together even more firmly and push forward the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. Nowadays, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has entered a new stage of high-quality development, and the cooperation between our two sides will have even greater potential."

Conveying the spirit in Beijing about Pakistan, the ambassador wrote: "We will continue to unleash the positive effects of CPEC in promoting growth and improving people's well-being. China is ready to work with Pakistan to enhance multilateral coordination, practice true multilateralism and promote international fairness and justice, to safeguard the common interests of the two countries and maintain world peace and stability."

Almost every word of the 33-point joint declaration, released after the Xi-Imran meeting on Feb 6, reflected the spirit that Mr Rong had underscored in his article.

On Feb 3 itself, in a reflection of their belief in the Sino-Pak friendship, a Chinese friend sent me this moving message: "The grand opening ceremony of Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics Games themed at Together For A Shared Future will be held on 1700hrs (PKT) on February 4th. The PM of our all-weather friend will attend the opening ceremony. We would like to share our joyfulness and pride with our brothers."

Such messaging comes only from people and officials who are committed to the national cause and who proudly take ownership of the path that their leaders chart in the national interest.

The outcome of Imran's visit put to rest all the propaganda on CPEC slowdown and the reported Chinese unhappiness over outstanding payments to Chinese power companies. A few solid takeaways from the visit are:

- 1) Commitment to continue CPEC with full force and an emphasis on industrialisation to spur growth.
- 2) Reiteration to work together and coordinate on anti-terror efforts. The resolve on counterterrorism became even more relevant and stronger in the context of four deadly attacks that martyred 27 Pakistani security personnel in Balochistan and Kurram. The surge in terror

incidents stems from conflicting geopolitical interests. This should caution both China and Pakistan to try and decipher the Iranian policy towards Gwadar Port. Iran raised the Chabahar Port with India's help. Would they both be amenable to a modern and much bigger China-run Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea as an access to the Middle East?

3) Agreement to extend CPEC westwards into Afghanistan is another major takeaway. It is critical for Pakistan also because of its crippling power sector circular debt. Pakistan has now excess electricity but it cannot use or buy it. Still, it has to pay fixed capacity charges to power companies. One option is to barter Afghan coal for electricity. We understand Chinese companies have now agreed to a 500KV connectivity between Pakistan and Afghanistan. This way China will get the payment of CPEC projects. Bartering electricity for cash or coal — or a mix of this — will be a bailout both for Pakistan and Chinese investors. Though outstanding payments to investors have remained a source of negative speculation, Chinese officials call it an “unnecessarily hyped-up issue that is technical in nature and will not impact the overall relationship”.

But let us not forget what an ex-Chinese envoy told us a few years ago: “In China, if you lend money to your neighbor and the neighbor is unable to return it, our traditions bind us never to go to the neighbor to ask for the repayment.”

China's unflinching support to Pakistan and desire to help it navigate the economic and geopolitical turbulence is manifested in the Winter Olympics motto: Together For A Shared Future. And for people like myself, who know Chinese mindset for over 14 years now, this spirit stems from the long-term belief that you can only grow if your neighbour is also growing in peace. Is Pakistan ready to convert this Chinese spirit to its advantage?

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2342795/time-for-us-to-reciprocate-chinas-spirit>

The Nation

Suki Kinari power project a symbol of Pak-China strong bonds

Mateen Haider

KAGHAN VALLEY - Chinese are truly called ‘iron brothers’ of Pakistan as the way they are engaged in the gigantic construction work on Suki Kinari hydro power project to provide cheap and clean energy to Pakistan is amazing and unbelievable. The power project which is located along Kunhar River in Kaghan Valley (KP) is underway at full pace and 85 percent work is completed despite harsh weather and tough terrain for logistics of allied material required for the dam and power house construction.

A visit to the site shows that the freezing temperature is not at all a factor which could shake the will and determination of the engineers and workers of both Pakistan and China.

Pakistani and Chinese engineers and workers are working round the clock despite -10 temperature and continuous snowfall in the area and surrounding mountains.

Suki Kinari (name of the local area) is first of its kind a run of river hydro power plant located high in the Karakorum mountains, approximately 256 kilometres from the federal capital Islamabad, on Kunhar River (which is a tributary of River Jhelum) in district Mansehra.

The project commenced in 2017 by "Suki Kinari Hydro Private Limited" and a Chinese "Gezhouba Group Company Limited" under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Project to be operational by April 2023 will provide electricity to 1.3m houses across the country

The project stretched over 48 kilometres from Paras village along with the River to Palodhran in Kaghan valley. It is a diversion type hydro power project between high head and long tunnel with an installation capacity of generating power of 884 MW daily, Project Engineer Asad Bhatti told this scribe.

He said that the work on power house is also underway. The power house is located underground mountains approximately 30 kilometres downstream of the dam and the construction involves building of 30-kilometre tunnels for water flows in high mountains, which have been completed and finishing work of the tunnels is underway.

The project engineer also told the media the highly efficient Pelton turbines installed at the project will generate 3000 GWH of green electricity annually, sufficient enough to provide power to 1.3 million homes across Pakistan through the national grid. He said the power project will contribute to 14 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and will boost the regional economy by \$3 billion. The total cost of the project is approximately \$2 billion. About 83% of the construction work has been completed successfully and is likely to be operational in April 2023. "This power project and many other projects under the CPEC are provided complete security cover by the Pakistan Army through comprehensive security mechanism", GOC CPEC Security Division Maj Gen Kamran Nazir Malik told the media at the project site.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-10/page-12/detail-8>

Nawaiwaqt News

وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین سے روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے: بابرا اعوان

سرگودھا (نمائندہ خصوصی) مشیر برائے پارلمانی امور بابرا اعوان نے کہا کہ 27 فروری کو اپوزیشن کا مارچ نہیں رونادھونا ہو گا جبکہ پیٹ پھاڑنے والے شہباز شریف نے زرداری کو لاہور بلوا کر ان کا پیٹ بھر دیا اور وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین کا اثر دیکھنا ہے تو بھارتی میڈیا کی چیخیں سنیں۔ وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین سے روزگار کے نئے مواقع کھلیں گے۔ بابرا اعوان نے کہا کہ 27 فروری کو مارچ نہیں ہو گا اپوزیشن کا رونادھونا ہو گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مولوی صاحب جیسا سا تو ان مارچ اپوزیشن خوشی سے کرے اگر مارچ سے ہی حکومت جاتی ہے تو ہم پنجاب سے مارچ لے کر چلیں سندھ کی گورنمنٹ گرائیں۔

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وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا دورہ چین

عزت جعفری

سی بی کے پاکستان کے لئے لائف لائن کا درجہ رکھتا ہے، اگرچہ اس کے بارے میں بہت بار ایسی افواہیں پھیلانی گئیں کہ اس پر عمل درآمد میں تاخیر ہو رہی ہے، اس کے منصوبے سست روی کا شکار ہیں، یا اس کی وجہ سے پاکستان پھر ڈیٹ ٹریپ میں داخل رہا ہے تاہم حقائق اس کے برعکس ہیں، وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین سے اس تاثر کی تردید ہوتی ہے کہ سی بی کے پر عمل میں کوئی تاخیر ہو رہی ہے بلکہ سی بی کے منصوبہ اپنے اگلے فیڑ کے اندر داخل ہو چکا ہے، چین میں صنعتی تعاون کے فروغ اور کم معاہدہ پے دستخط کئے گئے ہیں، جس کے لئے تمام تیاری سرمایہ کاری بورڈ نے کی تھی، اسی طرح سی بی کے اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین خالد منصور نے اپنی پریس کانفرنس میں جب سی بی کے مختلف پہلو بیان کئے تو انہوں نے بتایا کہ اربوں ڈالر کی مزید سرمایہ کاری پاکستان میں آئے گی، سی بی کے کے تحت سرمایہ کاری و صنعتی کے زون پر کام آگے کی جانب بڑھا ہے، رشتگی کا سرمایہ کاری زون اب تکمیل کی جانب بڑھنا شروع ہو چکا ہے، وزیر اعظم نے چین میں سینکڑوں چینی مینوفیکچرنگ کمپنیوں کے سی ای او سے ملاقات کی اور ان کو اپنی صنعتیں پاکستان میں ریلو کیٹ کرنے کے لئے پاکستانی حکومت کے مدد کے اقدامات کے بارے میں بتایا، اسی چینی دورے کا ایک اہم پہلو یہ بھی تھا کہ اسی کے دوران پاکستان اور روس کے درمیان اعلیٰ سطح پر رابطہ ہو اور اب وزیر اعظم آئندہ ماہ روس کے دورے پر بھی جانے والے ہیں پاکستان کے لئے فوڈ سکیورٹی بہت اہم ہو چکی ہے، 22 کروڑ آبادی کے اس ملک کی دستیاب زمین کو زراعتی پیداوار کے لئے بہترین انداز میں استعمال کرنے کی ضرورت ہے اس کے لئے سی بی کے کے تحت تعاون کے راستے کھولے جا رہے ہیں تاکہ پاکستان زراعت میں چین کی جدت سے استفادہ کر سکے، درس اتنا پوزیشن کی جانب سے وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین کو لے کر تنقید کی جا رہی ہے لیکن خطے اور دنیا کے موجودہ حالات میں یہ دورہ انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل ہے، ایک طرف پاکستان میں سی بی کے کا فلگ شپ منصوبہ سی بی کے چین کے تعاون سے آگے بڑھ رہا ہے تو دوسری طرف افغانستان کی بدلتی ہوئی صورت حال میں خطے کے دو اہم ممالک پاکستان اور چین کے سربراہان کا آپس میں مل بیٹھنا خاص اہمیت رکھتا ہے وزیر اعظم اگرچہ چین میں ہونے والے سرمائی او لمپکس کی تقریب میں شرکت کے لیے چین گئے تھے لیکن چینی قیادت کے ساتھ ان کی ملاقاتوں میں دوطرفہ تعاون سمیت خطے اور عالمی حالات پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا، دونوں ملک سمجھتے ہیں کہ ان کے مضبوط تعلقات کی وجہ سے خطے میں استحکام ہے، اس وقت پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا مسئلہ اور کسی حد تک چین کا بھی مسئلہ ہے وہ بھارت ہے، دونوں ملک بھارت کے ساتھ تمام اختلافات سیاسی بات چیت سے حل کرنے کے خواہاں ہیں لیکن بد قسمتی سے بھارت میں ایک ایسی حکومت ہے جو انتہا پسند قوم پرست ہے اور آج تک کبھی بھارت میں اس طرح کی حکومت نہیں آئی۔ پاکستان اور چین کا اس بات پر اتفاق ہے کہ کسی قوم نے اتنے مسائل کا سامنا نہیں کیا جتنا افغان عوام نے کیا ہے، 40 سال سے افغانوں نے صرف جنگ دیکھی ہے اور پہلی مرتبہ امن کا موقع ہے کہ اس وقت افغانستان میں کوئی تنازع نہیں ہے لیکن مسئلہ یہ ہے کہ وہاں انسانی المیہ رونما ہو رہا ہے کیوں کہ افغانستان کا زیادہ تر انحصار بیرونی امداد پر رہا ہے۔ جب بیرونی امداد بند ہو گئی تو پوری حکومت ایک تشویشناک بحران میں ہے وہ خدمات فراہم نہیں کر سکتے کیوں کہ ان کے پاس پیسہ نہیں ہے اور ان کے زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر بھی ٹھنڈے ہیں۔ چین، پاکستان اور بھارت سے دیگر ممالک بشمول یورپی ممالک کا اس بات پر اتفاق ہے کہ طالبان حکومت کی پسندیدگی یا ناپسندیدگی کو ایک جانب رکھتے ہوئے ذہن میں صرف 4 کروڑ افغان عوام کو رکھا جائے جن میں سے نصف غذائی عدم تحفظ کی بدترین صورت حال کا سامنا کر رہے ہیں۔ ادھر پاکستان مسلم لیگ (ن) کی سینٹرل ایگزیکٹو کمیٹی (سی ای سی) کا ہونے والا اجلاس پاکستان تحریک انصاف کی حکومت کے خلاف تحریک عدم اعتماد پیش کرنے کے حوالے سے فیصلہ کرنے میں ناکام رہا اور یہ فیصلہ پارٹی قائد نواز شریف پر چھوڑ دیا کہ جب وہ مناسب سمجھیں اس کی کال دیں۔ اجلاس دوران نواز شریف نے اجلاس کے شرکاء سے کہا کہ وہ حکومت مخالف تحریک چلانے کے لیے سڑکوں پر آنے کی تیاری کریں۔ ملاقات کے بعد میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے نواز شریف نے عمران خان کی قیادت میں پاکستان کو کرپٹ ترین ملک قرار دیا، لوگوں کو شدید مشکلات کا سامنا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ آج کے سی ای سی اجلاس میں فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے کہ مسلم لیگ (ن) عمران خان کی اس جابر حکومت سے نجات دلانے کی جو کہ وقت کی اہم ضرورت ہے۔ دوسری جانب ان کی بیٹی اور مسلم لیگ (ن) کی نائب صدر مریم نواز ایک ٹوٹ میں کہا کہ عوام کی حالت زار اور حکومت کی نااہلی اور ہر شعبے میں

ناکامی کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے، پارٹی میں اتفاق رائے ہے کہ عمران خان کی حکومت کو جانا ہے۔ مسلم لیگ (ن) کے صدر شہباز شریف نے اپنے بڑے بھائی، پارٹی قائد کو پی ٹی آئی حکومت کو گھر بھیجنے کے لیے پی پی پی کی تحریک عدم اعتماد اور اسلام آباد پر مشترکہ لانگ مارچ کی تجاویز سے آگاہ کیا۔ کچھ سینئر ممبران نے بہت مختصر بات کی اور نواز شریف کو بتایا کہ پوری پارٹی ان کے ساتھ کھڑی ہے اور وہ عدم اعتماد کے اقدام پر جو بھی فیصلہ کریں گے اس پر عمل ہو گا۔ پارٹی ذرائع نے بتایا کہ نواز شریف نے شرکاسے کہا کہ وہ احتجاج کے لیے تیار ہو جائیں، ساتھ ہی سیکریٹری جنرل احسن اقبال کو ہدایت کی کہ وہ پارٹی کے اراکین اسمبلی کے لیے ورکنگ پلان تیار کریں تاکہ وہ اپنے حلقوں سے لوگوں کو سڑکوں پر لاسکیں۔ تاہم نواز شریف نے پیپلز پارٹی کی جانب سے پی ٹی آئی کے خلاف تحریک عدم اعتماد کی تجویز کے بارے میں کوئی تفصیلات طلب نہیں کیں نہ یہ کہ کیا اپوزیشن کو یہ اقدام اٹھانے کے لیے مطلوبہ اراکین اسمبلی کی حمایت حاصل ہے۔ معلوم ہوا ہے کہ مسلم لیگ (ن) پی ٹی آئی کے 20 سے زائد منحرف ایم این ایز سے رابطے میں ہے اور پیپلز پارٹ جہانگیر خان ترین گروپ کے ساتھ رابطے میں ہے جس میں مبینہ طور پر 30 رکن صوبائی اور 8 اراکین قومی اسمبلی شامل ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ، اپوزیشن حکومتی اتحادیوں مسلم لیگ (ق) اور ایم کیو ایم کو اپنی جانب متوجہ کرنے کی کوششیں کر رہی ہے۔ جبکہ مسلم لیگ (ن) کے سینئر رہنما شہباز خان عباسی کا کہنا ہے کہ انشاء اللہ تحریک عدم اعتماد آئے گی اور ماحول جلد تبدیل ہو گا۔ نام نہاد احتساب کے نام پر کیس کو چوتھا سال ہے لگی رہنما نے کہا کہ تحریک عدم اعتماد لائی جاتی ہے اور نمبر پورے ہو جائیں گے، انشاء اللہ تحریک عدم اعتماد آئے گی، تحریک عدم اعتماد کی تشہیر نہیں کی جاتی، یہ تب لائی جاتی ہے جب نمبر گیم مکمل ہوں، انشاء اللہ جلد ماحول تبدیل ہو گا۔ پیپلز پارٹی کے شریک چیئر مین سابق صدر آصف علی زرداری نے چوہدری برادران سے ملاقات کی ہے ان کی ملاقات کا مقصد پی ٹی آئی حکومت کے خلاف جاری پیپلز پارٹی کی تحریک کے حوالے سے حمایت حاصل کرنا تھا لیکن ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ چوہدریوں نے سابق صدر آصف علی زرداری کو پیغام دیا ہے کہ وہ کسی بھی سیاسی مہم جوئی کا حصہ نہیں بن سکتے، کیونکہ وہ حکمران جماعت کے اتحادی ہیں اور مسلم لیگ (ق) اور پی ایم ایل این کے درمیان اعتماد کی کمی ہے۔ آصف علی زرداری لاہور میں چوہدریوں کی رہائش گاہ پہنچے جہاں انہوں نے چوہدری شجاعت کی عیادت کی، جو کچھ عرصہ سے بیمار تھے اور چند ہفتوں پہلے ہی صحتیاب ہوئے ہیں۔ ملاقات کے دوران اسپیکر پنجاب اسمبلی پرویز الہی، وفاقی وزیر مونس الہی اور طرف بشیر چیمہ، ایم این اے چوہدری سالک حسین، شافع حسین رخصانہ بگوش بھی موجود تھے۔ آصف علی زرداری نے چوہدریوں کی رہائش گاہ پر دو گھنٹے گزارے اور عشائیہ میں بھی شرکت کی۔ چوہدری برادران سے طویل ملاقات کے دوران آصف علی زرداری، چوہدری شجاعت حسین اور چوہدری پرویز الہی کے درمیان موجودہ سیاسی حالات اور مشترکہ مفادات سے متعلق معاملات پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ آصف علی زرداری نے ق لیگ کے رہنما کو آگاہ کیا کہ وہ اپوزیشن کی حکومت کے خلاف تحریک میں شریک ہوں، کیونکہ حکومت گورننس، مہنگائی پر قابو پانے سمیت تمام محاذوں پر ناکام ہو چکی ہے اور لوگوں کو دیوار سے لگا دیا گیا ہے۔ آصف علی زرداری نے کہا کہ پیپلز پارٹی حکمران جماعت کے خلاف ابتدائی طور پر پنجاب سے عدم اعتماد تحریک چلانا چاہتی ہے اور بعد ازاں مرکز حکومت کو اختتام کی طرف دھکیلا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ پی ایم ایل (ق) حکومت کے ساتھ اپنا اتحاد ختم کرے۔ ذرائع یہ بھی کہنا تھا کہ پی ایم ایل (ق) کی جانب سے حکومت کو ہٹانے سے متعلق تجویز پر گرم جوشی کا مظاہرہ نہیں کیا گیا کیونکہ سب سے بڑی اپوزیشن جماعت پی ایم ایل این نے پی ایم ایل (ق) کی حمایت کے لیے کبھی براہ راست رابطہ نہیں کیا۔ اتحادی جماعت نے حکومت کے خلاف عدم اعتماد تحریک پر پی ایم ایل این کے رہنما کی سنجیدگی پر سوال اٹھایا، عدم اعتماد تحریک کے لیے پارلیمنٹ میں ووٹرز کی بڑی تعداد درکار ہے۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ چوہدری برادران نے آصف علی زرداری سے کہا کہ وہ جمہوریت اور ملک کو سیاسی بحران سے بچانے کے لیے روڈ میپ فراہم کریں۔ چوہدری برادران نے پیپلز پارٹی کے شریک چیئر مین سے اتفاق کیا کہ انہیں بعد میں بھی ان سے ملاقاتیں جاری رکھنی چاہیے، وہ اب لاہور میں مقیم ہیں اور پنجابی بھی سیکھ چکے ہیں۔ متحدہ قومی موومنٹ کے رہنما عامر خان اور وسیم اختر نے چوہدری شجاعت حسین کی رہائش گاہ جاکر ان کی عیادت کیا اور موجودہ ملکی سیاسی صورتحال پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ ملاقات کے بعد میڈیا سے مشترکہ گفتگو کرتے ہوئے پرویز الہی نے کہا کہ آج ایم کیو ایم کے دوست آئے ہیں، ہم حکومت کے اتحادی ہیں، مسائل پہلے آپس میں ڈسکس کرتے ہیں پھر حکومت کو پہنچاتے ہیں۔ چوہدری پرویز الہی نے کہا کہ آج کی میٹنگ بھی اسی حوالے سے تھی، کوشش ہے کہ بلدیاتی الیکشن پر اپوزیشن کو ملا کر شق و ارباب تیار کریں اور بلدیاتی الیکشن میں متفقہ طور پر اسمبلی میں جائیں

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-10/page-9/detail-2>

سی پیک: خدشات اور مستقبل

وزیراعظم عمران خان چین کے چار روزہ دورے سے واپس آگئے ہیں ان کا چین کا یہ دورہ بہت سے حوالوں سے اہمیت حامل تھا۔ وہ اس سے پہلے اکتوبر 2019ء میں چین کے دورے پر گئے تھے اس طرح وہ تقریباً اڑھائی سال بعد چین کے دورے پر گئے ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کی لازوال اور طویل دوستی کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے اتنا لمبا وقفہ ایک غیر معمولی بات ہے۔ ظاہری طور پر تو کرونا و باکو وجہ بنایا گیا ہے جس کی وجہ سے چین کا دورہ اتنے عرصے کے دوران نہ ہو سکا موجودہ حکومت سی پیک کے تحت تمام منصوبوں اور معاہدوں کی تکمیل کیلئے پر عزم ہے سی پیک پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی کو فروغ دینے کیلئے ایک اہم سنگ میل کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ لیکن کرونا کی وجہ سے سی پیک جیسے انتہائی اہمیت کے حامل منصوبے پر بھی کام سست روی کا شکار رہا ہے۔ اس صورتحال کی ایک اور وجہ کچھ غیر ذمہ دارانہ بیانات بھی ہیں جن کو چینی حکام اچھی نظر سے نہیں دیکھتے۔ کسی بھی ممالک کے باہمی تعلقات میں یہ بہت حساس معاملات ہوتے ہیں جن کا بہر حال بہت خیال رکھنا چاہیے۔ سی پیک بنیادی طور پر دونوں ممالک کے درمیان طے شدہ معاہدوں کے تحت چلنے لینا وسیع تر ملکی مفاد میں ہر حکومت کا بنیادی فرض ہے۔ وزیراعظم کا Ownership والا ایک پروگرام ہے جن کا تسلسل بہت ضروری ہے چاہے حکومت کوئی بھی ہولنڈا اسکی حالیہ دورہ بظاہر سرمائی اولمپکس کی افتتاحی تقریب میں شرکت کے حوالے سے تھا جہاں دنیا کے تقریباً 29 ممالک کے سربراہان حکومت بھی شریک تھے لہذا یہ ایک ایسا موقع تھا جہاں مختلف ممالک سے براہ راست رابطہ بھی ممکن تھا۔ اپنے چینی ہم منصب اور چینی صدر کے ساتھ ملاقات میں سی پیک سمیت مختلف امور زیر بحث آئے جن کا براہ راست تعلق پاک چین باہمی تعلقات اور تعاون سے ہے۔ چینی صدر کے ساتھ ہونیوالی ملاقات کے بعد جاری ہونیوالے سرکاری اعلامیے میں بھی اس بات کا ذکر کیا گیا ہے دونوں سربراہان کے درمیان ہونے والی ملاقات میں سی پیک پر جاری پیش رفت اور حائل رکاوٹوں کا تفصیل سے جائزہ لیا گیا اور اس بات کا بھی اعادہ کیا گیا کہ سی پیک کو جلد از جلد مطلوبہ رفتار پر واپس لایا جائے۔ پاک چین تعلقات ہماری خارجہ پالیسی کا اہم ترین جز ہیں اور یہ وقت کے تمام امتحانوں پر پورا اترے ہیں۔ پاکستان کی دفاعی، موصلاتی اور اقتصادی ترقی میں چین کا کردار بہت اہم ہے۔ سی پیک جسے حرف عام میں ایک گیم چیلنج بھی کہا جاتا ہے پاک چین اقتصادی تعاون کی ایک اہم ترین جز ہے جس کی بروقت تکمیل دونوں ممالک بالخصوص پاکستان کیلئے بہت ضروری ہے، پاکستان مخالف قوتیں جن میں ہندوستان پیش پیش ہے ہر وقت اس منصوبے کیخلاف پراپیگنڈا کرنے اور اسے سبوتاژ کرنے کے درپے رہتی ہیں۔ ایسے میں ہماری کوشش رہنی چاہیے کہ نہ صرف ان خطرات سے باخبر رہیں اور کسی بھی قسم کے غیر ذمہ دارانہ طرز عمل سے گریز کریں۔ یہ بات بھی ایک حقیقت ہے کہ پچھلی حکومت کے دور میں سی پیک پر اہم پیش رفت ہوتی تھی جسکے نتیجے میں توانائی اور موصلات کے شعبوں میں کچھ اہم منصوبے مکمل ہوئے اور کچھ پر کام شروع ہوا جو اب بھی جاری ہیں۔ ہماری آپس کی منفی سیاسی چٹپٹش نے سی پیک جیسے انتہائی اہم منصوبے کو بھی متاثر کیا ہے۔ گوارا کی بندرگاہ جو کہ اس منصوبے کا اہم ترین جز ہے اس پر بھی کام سست روی کا شکار ہوا۔ حال ہی میں بلوچستان میں بد امنی اور دہشتگردی کے واقعات میں تیزی دیکھنے میں آئی ہے جس کا ظاہر ہے سی پیک پر منفی اثر پڑیگا کیونکہ سرمایہ کاری کا تعلق براہ راست پر امن اور سازگار ماحول سے ہوتا ہے۔ ان واقعات میں بھی بلاشبہ ہندوستان کا براہ راست ہاتھ ہے تاکہ سی پیک کو روکا جاسکے۔ افغانستان میں طالبان کے دوبارہ برسر اقتدار آنے کے بعد امید کرنی چاہیے کہ وہاں کے اندرونی حالات بھی کچھ بہتر ہونگے اور سی پیک کے دوسرے مثبت اثرات افغانستان اور وسطی ایشیا تک بھی پہنچ جائینگے۔ سی پیک منصوبوں پر کام کرنا لے چینی باشندوں کی سیکورٹی بھی ایک اہم معاملہ ہے جس پر خاص توجہ دینے کی ضرورت ہے کیونکہ دہشتمنوں کی ہر وقت کوشش رہتی ہے کہ چینی باشندوں کو نشانہ بنایا جائے تاکہ وہ یہاں کام نہ کریں۔ گزشتہ سال داسو ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ پر کام کرنے والے چینی باشندوں کو نشانہ بنانا اسی سلسلے کی کڑی تھی۔ سی پیک کی پاکستان کیلئے اہمیت کسی سے ڈھکی چھپی نہیں اس لیے ہماری اولین ذمہ داری ہے کہ ہم چین کے تحفظات کو فوری طور پر دور کریں اور اس بات کو یقینی بنائیں کہ اس منصوبے پر کام بغیر کسی تعطل کے جاری رہے تاکہ تمام منصوبے مقررہ وقت پر مکمل ہوں۔ یہ ایک قومی اہم ترین معاملہ ہے جسے کسی صورت بھی آپس کی منفی سیاست کی بھینٹ نہیں چڑھایا جاسکتا۔ پہلے ہی بہت وقت ضائع ہو چکا ہے لہذا مسلسل باہمی رابطے اور قریبی تعاون سے اس بات کو یقینی بنایا جاسکتا ہے کہ سی پیک اپنے مطلوبہ

اہداف بغیر کسی رکاوٹ اور تعطل کے حاصل کرے۔ پاکستان کے وزیراعظم عمران خان نے اقتصادی راہداری کے بارے میں یہ یقین دہانی بھی کروائی ہے کہ پاکستان چین کا ساتھ ہر صورت میں دے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-10/page-11/detail-3>

February 11, 2022

Daily Times

India's comments on Pak-China joint statement 'preposterous': FO

Pakistan Thursday categorically rejected the "unwarranted and preposterous comments" made by the spokesperson for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) about the joint statement issued by Pakistan and China on February 6. According to a statement issued by the Foreign Office, Pakistan also strongly rejects India's persistent propaganda against the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), adding that Pakistan had shared an irrefutable evidence of India's sinister campaign to sabotage CPEC through its dossiers released in 2020 and 2021.

The statement said India's claim on Kashmir, saying the disputed valley was neither in the past nor would in future become India's integral part.

"New Delhi's baseless claims over Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) can neither change the facts of history nor the legal status of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute," it said.

"The IIOJK never was, and never will be India's integral part," it said in a statement issued in response to the "preposterous comments" by the spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs on the Pakistan-China Joint Statement of February 6, 2022.

The FO said the irrefutable fact remains that India was an occupation force in IIOJK in clear violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions. India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019, seeking to change the internationally recognized disputed status of IIOJK and to alter its demographic structure, have been rejected by the Kashmiris, by Pakistan, and by the international community, it said. The FO said Pakistan would continue to extend all possible support to the Kashmiris in their just struggle against India's illegal occupation.

"Rather than resorting to false and misleading assertions without success, India must vacate its illegal occupation of the disputed territory, immediately reverse its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019, and let Kashmiris exercise their inalienable right to self-determination through a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations as enshrined in the relevant UNSC Resolutions," it said. The FO also strongly rejected India's persistent propaganda against China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It said that Pakistan had shared irrefutable evidence of India's sinister campaign to sabotage CPEC through its dossiers released in 2020 and 2021. "There is strong evidence of Indian involvement in recent sinister attempts to stir up unrest in Balochistan by supporting anti-state elements," it said.

It mentioned that Naval Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav was a living and irrefutable proof of how India had been seeking to sponsor and patronize subversive activities in Pakistan and the region.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/883607/indias-comments-on-pak-china-joint-statement-preposterous-fo/>

The Express Tribune

112 BoI reforms for SEZs implemented, PM told

Imran directs streamlining of regulatory frameworks

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Thursday incentivising the rapid industrialisation in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) through massive investment was among the top government priorities, stressing that the government was focused on attracting maximum direct foreign investment (DFI).

Chairing meetings to review progress on various development initiatives of the government, Imran said that the approval of more than 70,000 housing projects worth Rs1.4 trillion so far would have an overall impact of Rs7.3 trillion on construction industry besides creating 1.2 million jobs.

PM Imran chaired a meeting on the SEZs Facilitation Model and Regulatory Guillotine for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) under the Prime Minister's Priority Sector Progress Review, said a handout issued by the Prime Minister's Office.

The prime minister was apprised that 112 out of 167 reforms identified by the Board of Investment (BoI) had been implemented to ensure ease of doing business for all potential investors in SEZs. The remaining 55 reforms would also sail through necessary regulatory approvals within a month.

The meeting was informed that all chambers of commerce and industry and the trade associations across the country had thanked the prime minister for his government's remarkable reforms for the facilitation of investors.

Imran directed all the regulatory authorities, including the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to streamline their regulatory frameworks to enable investors get their issues resolved under one roof.

He also directed the regulatory authorities to facilitate the growth of SMEs, which contributed around 25% of total exports. He also directed for notifying a five-year export policy for the all major sectors, especially the textile and the SMEs in order to lend certainty to the exporters.

Separately, the prime minister chaired the meeting of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) on Housing, Construction and Development and received a briefing on the figures regarding the total low-cost housing construction activity since 2018.

The prime minister said that applications worth Rs7 billion were being received on a weekly basis. At present, he added, projects worth Rs4 billion were being approved and Rs2 billion disbursed every week, which showed that the system was working efficiently.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2343074/112-boi-reforms-for-sezs-implemented-pm-told>

PM Imran dismisses West's suspicion about CPEC

Imran says entire US mission in Afghanistan was based on a false premise

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday dismissed the “suspicion” of the Western countries about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Gwadar port, saying that both the projects were a great opportunity for regional development.

In an interview with Dr Eric Li, Director of the Advisory Committee of the China Institute of Fudan University, the prime minister said that the projects would prove beneficial not only to Pakistan and China, but also to the entire region.

“The suspicion about CPEC and Gwadar [port] makes no sense...We invite other countries to join as well,” Imran said. He added that his top priority was the uplift of 220 million people of Pakistan and “these projects will help in poverty alleviation and wealth creation”.

Afghan situation

When asked to comment on the situation in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of US troops, Imran said that the Americans did not learn from the history of Afghans, adding that the prevailing situation there could lead to a humanitarian crisis.

“When you have no clear aims why you invaded a country, it is going to be a failure. Anyone who thinks of controlling the Afghan people, has not read their history,” Imran said. “The whole mission of the US in Afghanistan was ‘based on a false premise’,” he added.

“After 40 years, in an attempt to punish the Taliban government, a huge humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Afghanistan. If Afghanistan descends into chaos because of the [Western] sanctions, as its 75% economy depends on foreign aid, this will be the biggest man-made human disaster,” he said.

Ties with India

On relations with India, the prime minister said that normalising ties with Pakistan’s immediate neighbour was a priority of his government after assuming power. However, he added that the Kashmir dispute remained a big issue between the two countries.

He mentioned the “terrible situation” of human rights in India where the minorities suffered immensely. “The Indian government thinks that the country belongs to the Hindus, who continue to marginalise other minorities,” he said. “A great tragedy is happening in India and I hope that better sense prevails to avert any damage.”

Uyghur issue

Asked about the allegations hurled by the United States and European countries of the genocide of Uyghurs in China's Xinjiang province, Imran said that the reports received from Pakistan's envoy to China after his visit to the province were "completely different".

"Ambassador Moinul Haq was especially asked to go and have a look to find out what was actually going on in Xinjiang," he said. "The report he [envoy] gave to us was completely different that is coming out [about Uyghurs] on the Western media," the prime minister added.

"According to him [Ambassador Haq], the emphasis on development in Xinjiang is 'unprecedented'," he said, adding that the envoy, however, did mention a certain security issue because of the terror attacks by ETIM [East Turkestan Islamic Movement]."

On the bilateral relationship with China, the prime minister said that the all-weather friendship between the two countries had withstood the test of time. For 70 years, he said, the relations with China had been consistent regardless of the government in power.

Responding to another question on balancing ties between the US and China, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that Pakistan would like to replicate the role it had played in bringing the two rival blocs closer in the 1970s.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2342896/pm-imran-dismisses-wests-suspicion-about-cpec>

The Nation

Industrial-academia linkages under CPEC

Ahsan Munir

Pakistan and China signed the Framework Agreement on industrial cooperation under the CPEC—a multi-billion-dollar initiative, following the Prime Minister's recent tour to Beijing. The signing of the framework agreement has been hailed by the government as a significant outcome of the Prime Minister's visit and a top agenda from the Chinese side as a testimony to their interest in CPEC

As CPEC entered its second phase, primarily revolving around the development and industrialisation of SEZs, the need for a comprehensive framework became imperative. Through CPEC, Pakistan seeks to enhance industrial competitiveness, increase exports, and sustain diversification in the exports basket. To populate SEZs and attract Chinese investors, the PM held a series of meetings with officials from China's leading state-owned and private companies.

The framework agreement seeks to improve skill development, enhance labour productivity, and encourage joint research and development. However, the aforementioned improvements need basic infrastructure to be in place in which technology transfer and academia-linkage have an important role to play.

At present, the academia-industrial linkage is minimal, with academia having more theoretical knowledge and at a loss to apply its theoretical knowledge to industrial problems. Similarly, the

industry is more inclined to hire consultants from abroad to troubleshoot their problems than taking those problems to academia, which, generally, again struggle with the new technologies adopted by various industries. To compound the problem further, all the universities are trying their hands at everything: in every field and every technology. In the West, we have centuries-old universities which may be awarding degrees in various fields but are centres of excellence in specific fields and technologies. And, consequently, they attract the best minds from around the world in their specialties, which helps these universities increase their kernel of tacit knowledge and, over time, achieve breakthroughs in their specialist fields.

At present, new universities are being set up in all the provinces, while the existing universities are going under expansion to offer more courses and accommodate more students. However, universities need to ask how much these students' skills are aligned to industrial needs. Thus, there is a need to regulate the proliferation of universities and control the intake of students to these universities. Next, federal and provincial governments, through their respective HECs, need to ask the universities to identify their expertise, and the award of grants to these universities should be based upon the practical achievements against their intended/declared expertise.

At the graduate level, one is introduced to research, while master's level further exposes to research theories and tools. At the PhD level, comprehensive exposure is given to research theories and tools and the researcher is then required to apply a specific research theory and accompanying tools to a research problem and come out with evidence-based results and conclusions. However, merely acquiring a PhD does not make the person specialist in the field, and thus we see in the West—new PhDs doing jobs as research assistants for a few years to get the necessary training and exposure, before being appointed as regular faculty members.

In the present second phase, the governments at the federal and provincial level should identify the centres of excellence in different universities and they should cooperate with Chinese companies which are setting up industries in various SEZs. This would give our academia valuable experience, and help develop tacit knowledge in their areas of expertise. To help facilitate this cooperation between Chinese investors and our academia, our government should make academic cooperation a part of the recently signed framework agreement.

CPEC has the potential to kickstart the generation of knowledge in our local academia, which would, among other tangible benefits, help it train its students to the needs of the industry and help academia interact with the local industry in a more focused manner.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-11/page-6/detail-2>

Pakistan to become top exporter of sesame seeds to China in coming years

BEIJING - Pakistan has exported sesame seeds amounting to \$120.44 million to China in the year 2021 and hopefully, it is going to become a top exporter in the coming years, said Badar Uz Zaman, Pakistan's Commercial Counselor in Beijing.

“Normally there is a trend of cultivating traditional crops like wheat and rice in Pakistan but now the Pakistani farmers are also getting knowledge of high-end and high-priced products like sesame seeds. Similarly, they are also learning modern cultivation methods to increase production. So, hopefully Pakistan is going to be the top exporter of sesame seeds to China in coming years,” he told APP.

The counselor said after the signing of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) Phase-II, the Pakistani exporters had got access to the Chinese market for export of sesame seeds. “Our exporters are very active. A number of new exporters have been added to the General Administration of Customs of China list that increased the scale, but still we have a big potential and the Pakistani farmers also understand the varieties and the types of the sesame seed that is popular in China,” Badar mentioned. Pakistan, he said, was collaborating in the agriculture sector with China. “There have been specialists from China who are also guiding the Pakistani farmers on how to grow this crop. Similarly, many agriculture machinery suppliers are also providing high-end technical machines like sorting machines to the Pakistani processors of the sesame seeds and the packaging has also improved.” Last year, he said, Pakistan’s sesame seeds exports to China achieved a historical figure of \$120.44 million. China imported 92516.55 tons in the year 2021 and Pakistan was one of the main destinations for sesame seeds imports. In the year 2020, Pakistan exported only 38,000 kilograms of sesame seeds to China, according to the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (GACC).

According to an exporter, the launch of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in the year 2020 brought an opportunity for both Pakistan and China to include sesame seeds to the list of 313 items and that helped reduce duty from previously 10% to zero.

In the past, Pakistan mainly exported sesame seeds to countries like Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, Europe, and the United States. After the waiving of duty, China was the biggest importer for Pakistan Sesame Seeds in the last two years.

The crop in the year of 2020-2021 was recorded the highest exports in numbers from Pakistan out of which 54% of the total exports were to China.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-11/page-8/detail-3>

The News

Pakistan lauds China’s sports diplomacy for shared future

BEIJING: Speakers including those from Pakistan at a Webinar lauded China’s Sports Diplomacy for shared future, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

The Webinar on “Beijing Winter Olympics: Sports Diplomacy for Shared Future” was organized by Friends of BRI Forum. It was noted that China has ignited peace, development, and shared prosperity through sports diplomacy during the Winter Olympics 2022. As world leaders and

sports teams came together to support China's Winter Olympic Games, peace and friendship have been strengthened, and all the false politicization has been neutralized.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=55577>

Nawaiwaqt News

مدینۃ العلم، باب العلم اور علوم چین

معزز قارئین! قیام پاکستان کے بعد تقریباً ہمارے سبھی حکمران (صدر، وزرائے اعظم) عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے دورے پر جا چکے ہیں، گزشتہ دنوں وزیر اعظم پاکستان جناب عمران خان کا چار روزہ دورہ عوامی جمہوریہ چین بہت کامیاب رہا ہے، انہوں نے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ اور دوسری اہم شخصیات سے دونوں ملکوں کی دوستی کو مضبوط بنانے کے لیے پاکستان اور چین خطہ کے امن، استحکام اور ترقی کے لیے با مقصد ملاقاتیں کیں، خاص طور پر افغانستان میں انسانی بحران سے نمٹنے کے لیے عالمی برادری پر زور دینے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا۔ ان ملاقاتوں کی تفصیلات آپ الیکٹرانک اور پرنٹ میڈیا پر پڑھ چکے ہوں گے۔ دراصل ہمیں پرانی نسل کی یاد دہانی اور نئی نسل کے دل و دماغ میں عوامی جمہوریہ پاکستان کی دوستی کے آغاز کا تذکرہ کرنا ہوتا ہے۔ قائد اعظم محمد علی جناح کی قیادت میں 14 اگست 1947ء کو پاکستان قائم ہوا اور یکم اکتوبر 1949ء کو چیئرمین مائوزے تنگ کی قیادت میں عوامی جمہوریہ چین، دونوں ملکوں میں سفارتی تعلقات 1950ء میں قائم ہوئے لیکن پاکستان اور عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی دوستی اس وقت شروع اور پھر مستحکم ہونا شروع ہوئی جب 6 ستمبر 1965ء کو بھارت نے پاکستان پر جارحانہ حملہ کیا۔

پاک چین دوستی

ستمبر 1965ء کے بعد پاکستان میں حکومت کسی بھی سیاسی جماعت یا فوجی حکمران کی ہو، عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی حکومت اور عوام نے ہمیشہ دوستی کا حق ادا کیا اور پاکستان کی حکومت اور عوام نے بھی۔ ان دنوں چیئرمین مائوزے تنگ اور عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے وزیر اعظم چو این لائی کی قیادت میں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی حکومت اور عوام نے پاکستان کی بھرپور مدد کی تھی۔ پاکستان میں آج بھی عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے بانی چیئرمین مائوزے تنگ کا نام عزت و احترام سے لیا جاتا ہے اور دوسرے قائدین کا بھی۔

مدینۃ العلم

مکہ سے یثرب تک مسلمانوں نے ہجرت کا آغاز 26 صفر المظفر (9 ستمبر 622ء) کو کیا اور رسالت مآب صلی اللہ علیہ وآلہ وسلم 22 ربیع الاول (14 اکتوبر 622ء) کو وہاں منتقل ہوئے، جس کے بعد یثرب کا نام مدینۃ النبی (صلی اللہ علیہ وآلہ وسلم) کہلایا (یعنی نبی صلی اللہ علیہ وآلہ وسلم کا شہر)۔ اعلان نبوت کے بعد رحمت اللعالمین کی طرف سے احادیث کا سلسلہ تو شروع ہو ہی گیا تھا۔

باب العلم

معزز قارئین! پھر مدینۃ العلم نے حضرت علیؓ کو ان کے علم و فضل کی مناسبت سے باب العلم کا خطاب دیا (یعنی علم کا دروازہ)۔ دنیا بھر میں قرآن پاک کے بعد مسلمانوں (اور غیر مسلموں میں بھی) حضرت علیؓ کے خطبات اور فرمودات کا مجموعہ 'نوح البلاغہ' سب سے زیادہ پڑھی جاتی ہے۔

حدیث چین

پیغمبر انقلاب نے چین کا تعارف کراتے ہوئے مسلمانوں کو تلقین کی تھی کہ علم حاصل کرو، خواہ تمہیں چین ہی کیوں نہ جانا پڑے۔ درحقیقت سرور کائنات کو یہ ادراک تھا کہ اس وقت چین میں کاغذ ایجاد ہو چکا تھا اور لکڑی کے بلاکس (ٹھپوں) کے ذریعے کتابیں چھپنا شروع ہو چکی تھیں۔ علامہ اقبالؒ نے بدھ مت کے بانی کے حوالے سے اپنی ایک نظم

میں کہا تھا

دیار ہند نے جس دم میری صدائے سنی

بسایا خطہ جاپان اور ملک چین میں نے

حضرت علیؑ کا یوم ولایت

معزز قارئین! 18 ذوالحجہ 10 ہجری کو غدیر خم کے مقام پر مدینہ العلم پیغمبر انقلاب صلی اللہ علیہ وآلہ وسلم نے باب العلم حضرت علی مرتضیٰؑ کا ہاتھ پکڑ کر اپنے خطبے میں فرمایا تھا کہ جس کا میں مولا ہوں، اس کا علیؑ بھی مولا ہے۔ آپ نے پھر فرمایا، 'یا اللہ! آپ اس شخص کو دوست رکھیں جو علیؑ کو دوست رکھے اور جو علیؑ سے عداوت رکھے، آپ اس سے بھی عداوت رکھیں۔' عربی زبان میں مولا کے معنی ہیں، آقا، سردار، رفیق۔ مولا علیؑ کے پیروکار کو 'مولائی' کہا جاتا ہے۔ مصور پاکستان علامہ اقبالؒ خود کو مولائی کہتے تھے۔

آپ نے کہا:

بعض اصحاب ثلاثہ نہیں اقبالؒ کو

دق مگر اک خارجی کے آ کے مولائی ہوا

مولائی قائد اعظم

قیام پاکستان سے قبل، ایک پریس کانفرنس میں کسی صحافی نے قائد اعظمؒ سے پوچھا، 'آپ شیعہ ہیں یا سنی؟' تو آپ نے فرمایا کہ 'میں تو ایک عام مسلمان ہوں لیکن ہم سب مسلمان حضرت علی مرتضیٰؑ کا یوم ولادت اور یوم شہادت مل کر مناتے ہیں۔' معزز قارئین! میں نے 1956ء میں شاعری شروع کی تھی اور 1960ء میں مسلک صحافت اختیار کیا تھا جب میں گورنمنٹ کالج سرگودھا میں بی اے فائنل کا طالب علم تھا پھر میں نے کئی حمد ہائے باری تعالیٰ، نعت ہائے رسول مقبولؐ، آئمہ اطہارؑ اور اولیائے کرامؑ کی منقبتیں لکھیں، آج مولا علی مرتضیٰؑ کی خدمت میں پنجابی منقبت کا مطلع اور اور صرف دو بند پیش کر رہا ہوں:

نبی آکھیا سی، ولیاں دا ولیؑ مولا

جیہدا نبیؑ مولا، اوہدا علیؑ مولا

واہ نچ البلاغہ دیاں لو آں

سارے باغاں وچ اوس دیاں خوشبوواں

پھل پھل مولا، کلی کلی مولاؑ

جیہدا نبیؑ مولا، اوہدا علیؑ مولا

!لوکھی آکھدے نیں، شیر تینوں یزداں دا

!سارے نعریاں توں وڈا، نعرہ تیرے ناں دا

تیرے جیہانیں کوئی مہابلی مولا

جیہدا نبیؑ مولا، اوہدا علیؑ مولا

خدمتِ قائد اعظمؒ میں

: معزز قارئین! کئی سال پہلے میں نے حضرت قائد اعظمؒ محمد علی جناحؒ کی خدمت میں ایک نظم پیش کی تھی جس کا مطلع اور تین شعر پیش خدمت ہیں

نام محمد مصطفیٰؐ، نام علیؑ عالی مقام

کتنا بابرکت ہے، حضرت قائد اعظمؒ کا نام؟

جب مقدر کھل گیا، اسلامیان ہند کا
قائد ذی شان ابھر صورت ماہ تمام
یہ ترا احسان ہے کہ آج ہم آزاد ہیں
اے عظیم الشان قائد! تیری عظمت کو سلام

(جاری ہے)

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-11/page-10/detail-11>

بلوچستان بد امنی میں بھارت ملوث، سی پیک چین کیساتھ اعلامیہ پر پراپیگنڈا مسترد: پاکستان

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نامہ نگار، این این آئی) پاکستان نے 6 فروری 2022 کے پاکستان چین مشترکہ اعلامیہ پر بھارتی وزارت خارجہ کے بیان کو سختی سے مسترد کر دیا۔ ترجمان دفتر خارجہ عاصم افتخار نے بیان کو مضحکہ خیز، بلا جواز قرار دیتے ہوئے سختی سے مسترد کر دیا۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ ہم سی پیک کے خلاف مسلسل بھارتی پراپیگنڈے کو بھی سختی سے مسترد کرتے ہیں۔ ریاست مخالف عناصر کی مدد کر کے بلوچستان میں بد امنی پیدا کرنے کی حالیہ مذموم کوششوں میں بھارت کے ملوث ہونے کے ٹھوس ثبوت موجود ہیں۔ اسی طرح غیر قانونی طور پر بھارت کے زیر قبضہ جموں و کشمیر کے بارے میں نئی دہلی کے بے بنیاد دعووں سے تاریخی حقائق بدل سکتے ہیں اور نہ ہی تنازعہ جموں و کشمیر کی قانونی حیثیت ہی تبدیل ہو سکتی ہے۔ ترجمان دفتر خارجہ کے مطابق پاکستان سعودی عرب کے 'ابہا' کے بین الاقوامی ہوائی اڈے کو حوثیوں کی جانب سے ڈرون حملے میں نشانہ بنانے کی شدید مذمت کرتا ہے۔ سعودی عرب کے ساتھ مکمل یکجہتی اور اس کی حمایت کا اعادہ کرتے ہیں۔ پاکستان اور 'نیدر لینڈز' کے درمیان دو طرفہ سیاسی مشاورت کے نویں دور کا اجلاس اسلام آباد میں ہوا۔ ترجمان دفتر خارجہ کے مطابق سیکرٹری خارجہ سہیل محمود جبکہ نیدر لینڈز کی وزارت خارجہ کے سیکرٹری جنرل پال ہونٹس نے اپنے اپنے وفد کی قیادت کی۔ دونوں اطراف نے سیاسی، معاشی، تجارتی و سرمایہ کاری، ماحولیاتی تبدیلی، تعلیم و ثقافت سمیت متعدد شعبوں میں دو طرفہ تعاون کا جائزہ لینے کے علاوہ علاقائی امور پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ سیکرٹری خارجہ نے کہا کہ نیدر لینڈز یورپی یونین میں پاکستان کا بڑا تجارتی شراکت دار ہے۔ امید ظاہر کی کہ ڈچ کمپنیاں حکومت کی کاروبار دوست پالیسی کے نتیجے میں پاکستان میں پیدا ہونے والے سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع کا فائدہ اٹھائیں گی۔ سیکرٹری خارجہ نے 5 اگست 2019 کے بھارت کے غیر قانونی اور ایک طرفہ اقدامات اور غیر قانونی طور پر بھارت کے زیر قبضہ جموں و کشمیر میں آبادی کا تناسب تبدیل کرنے کے لئے اقدامات سے متعلق آگاہ کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-11/page-8/detail-65>

February 12, 2022

Business Recorder

China's paradigm of international relations

Dr Maqsoodul Hasan Nuri

The recent visit of PM Imran Khan to China on the occasion of opening of winter Olympics in Beijing shall hopefully highlight on appraising Pak-China relations, exchanging views on mutual perspectives on regional and global developments, especially the Afghan situation, and further fortifying the CPEC collaboration.

With one-sixth of the world population and the second biggest global economy it brings into focus the evolution and views on China's theory of international relations (IR). It is hence natural that the version of the theory and practice — a departure from the Cold War be seriously considered.

In fact, this process of change was initiated in the late 1970s-early 1980 by then enlightened leadership of Deng Xiaoping. Starting with the inauguration of “Four Modernizations” programme this started a new credo of development. In this transition period, China witnessed a broadening of perspectives and maturing of concepts in international relations and dealings with the outside world.

The trend started firstly in the academic world, when a number of Western theories were studied and translated by Chinese scholars in the US and Europe. Then it was realized that a fresh approach was warranted in formulation of a scientific theory on the new realities in business, diplomacy and aid — going beyond national, linguistic or cultural boundaries.

Yet some others advocated that as a Third World developing Asian nation China should reflect on its cultural identity which bears marked Chinese ethos and stamp without needless confrontation or conflict.

A third view however posited that it should be an amalgam of both applicable Western thoughts and experiences but with a distinctly Chinese flavor based on own heritage and experiences and ongoing failings of the US-dominated world.

Since the mid-1990s and early 2000, renewed self-consciousness amongst Chinese scholars has increased while cogitating and crafting a revised view of international relations theory. Besides, Confucian thoughts on governance, harmony and culture were given importance to be imbibed in IR theory.

The Confucian ethics of “all-under-the-heaven system” is an inclusive system that eliminates ‘self-other’ boundary. Institutions designed and established in such a system are global in a real sense. They constitute the prerequisite for establishing a globally peaceful, conflict-free inter-dependent system while solving global challenges. In other words, the world order must be based upon genuine world institutions as embodied in the Confucian world view.

Most of the Western-oriented theories of IR are based on neo-realism, and neo-liberalism — relying on the dogma of hard-core national interests, conflict, rivalries and military alliances. Also, Western developmental approach betrays high superciliousness together with cultural hauteur and believes that its model is superior to all existing ideologies. It advocates cultural homogenization that will follow globalization and liberalization from dietary habits to political aspirations in the quest for freedom and democracy.

The above thesis propounded was of the view that changes in institutions should be an extension of historical traditions, as the base of cultural root is wisdom, which does not mean possessing only material knowledge. Military might is necessary but so is ‘soft power’ as exhibited by Beijing world view and calculus.

This vision of harmony, respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs of other nations, peaceful development and win-win philosophy of inclusive development —are the hallmarks of this refurbished thinking. It makes a case for “moral realism” while shaping the tone and texture of China’s international relations theory.

The ongoing BRI and its western arm, CPEC, are reflective of this paradigm shift and greatly admired across the developing world.

(The writer has been Visiting Faculty in the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, former Adviser COMSATS, and ex-President, Islamabad Policy Research Institute)

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/12/4-page/918591-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

PM’s plain talk

TRUE to his reputation of mincing no words when it comes to highlighting national concerns and interests, Prime Minister Imran Khan, in an interview with Dr Eric Li, the Director of the Advisory Committee of the China Institute at Fudan University, gave voice to the overall thinking of the majority of Pakistani people when he spoke on the nature of Pakistan-US relations, propaganda against China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), time-tested ties with Beijing and situation in neighbouring Afghanistan.

He made people proud by declaring in unequivocal terms that his first priority was Pakistan’s 220 million people and he was determined to uphold their interests at all costs.

What the Prime Minister said about the US policy towards Pakistan holds good even in the prevailing situation as Washington is clearly dropping signals of abandoning the country once again after a dramatic turn in its Afghan project.

Imran Khan rightly pointed out that the United States has always used Pakistan for its purposes, explaining whenever the US needed us, they established relations and Pakistan became a frontline state, and then abandoned it and slapped sanctions when its purposes were served.

The entire history of Pak-US relations is dotted with instances when Washington came closer to Islamabad when it needed its services and left the country in lurch when its services were no longer required to advance regional or global agenda.

The United States ‘steadfastly’ pursued the same approach on all occasions leaving Pakistan at the mercy of circumstances.

The US mercilessly used Pakistani leverage to pursue its agenda in Afghanistan but once the Soviet forces withdrew, it left Pakistan alone to bear the burden of refugees and socio-economic consequences.

It once again sought cooperation of Pakistan when its entire military might miserably failed to dislodge the then Taliban Government in Afghanistan and fought the so-called war against terror using shoulders of Pakistan.

Both civilian and military leaders have all along been emphasizing upon the United States that there was no military solution to the problem of Afghanistan but Washington ignored the advice and tried the military option in vain.

There was no clarity of goals in Afghanistan and some of the statements and actions of the US sent a message to the world that it was all about grabbing the natural resources of the country and using its strategic location to keep a check on China, Russian, Central Asia, Pakistan and Iran.

The United States is misjudging the situation and developments in Afghanistan by making no differentiation between the Taliban government and millions of Afghans who are suffering due to the callous attitude of the outside world towards them.

It is using the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan to advance the same interests, which it failed to achieve during 20 years of occupation of Afghanistan.

It is also regrettable that the United States completely ignored huge sacrifices made by Pakistan both in terms of men and material during the long war against terrorism.

It was also because of the hard work done by Pakistan that the United States found face saving in Afghanistan.

It is a matter of concern for people of Pakistan that a country which claims to be the strategic ally leaves no opportunity of pressurizing it through multilateral institutions as well as acts of destabilization.

The intentions of the US and some other Western countries can be judged by the fact that they are opposing even the CPEC and development of Gwadar port forgetting that these offer huge economic benefits to the people of Pakistan.

The Prime Minister has, therefore, rightly dismissed their suspicions saying Pakistan sees CPEC and Gwadar as a great opportunity for geo-economics and the initiative is not exclusive to China and Pakistan and other countries are also welcome to invest in CPEC projects.

Imran Khan also spoke clearly on Sino-Pakistan relations pointing out that the two countries stood with each other through thick and thin for 70 years.

China is also being maligned by some Western circles on the issue of human rights, especially the plight of Uighurs Muslims.

In this backdrop, the Prime Minister told the interviewer that he directed Pakistan's Ambassador to China to have firsthand information on the issue and his report exposed the propaganda in this regard as the report noted 'unprecedented' focus on development in Xinjiang.

<https://pakobserver.net/pms-plain-talk/>

The Nation

Industrial-academia linkages under CPEC

Ahsan Munir

Pakistan and China signed the Framework Agreement on industrial cooperation under the CPEC—a multi-billion-dollar initiative, following the Prime Minister's recent tour to Beijing. The signing of the framework agreement has been hailed by the government as a significant outcome of the Prime Minister's visit and a top agenda from the Chinese side as a testimony to their interest in CPEC

As CPEC entered its second phase, primarily revolving around the development and industrialisation of SEZs, the need for a comprehensive framework became imperative. Through CPEC, Pakistan seeks to enhance industrial competitiveness, increase exports, and sustain diversification in the exports basket. To populate SEZs and attract Chinese investors, the PM held a series of meetings with officials from China's leading state-owned and private companies.

The framework agreement seeks to improve skill development, enhance labour productivity, and encourage joint research and development. However, the aforementioned improvements need basic infrastructure to be in place in which technology transfer and academia-linkage have an important role to play.

At present, the academia-industrial linkage is minimal, with academia having more theoretical knowledge and at a loss to apply its theoretical knowledge to industrial problems. Similarly, the industry is more inclined to hire consultants from abroad to troubleshoot their problems than taking those problems to academia, which, generally, again struggle with the new technologies adopted by various industries. To compound the problem further, all the universities are trying their hands at everything: in every field and every technology. In the West, we have centuries-old universities which may be awarding degrees in various fields but are centres of excellence in specific fields and technologies. And, consequently, they attract the best minds from around the world in their specialties, which helps these universities increase their kernel of tacit knowledge and, over time, achieve breakthroughs in their specialist fields.

At present, new universities are being set up in all the provinces, while the existing universities are going under expansion to offer more courses and accommodate more students. However, universities need to ask how much these students' skills are aligned to industrial needs. Thus, there is a need to regulate the proliferation of universities and control the intake of students to these universities. Next, federal and provincial governments, through their respective HECs, need to ask the universities to identify their expertise, and the award of grants to these universities should be based upon the practical achievements against their intended/declared expertise.

At the graduate level, one is introduced to research, while master's level further exposes to research theories and tools. At the PhD level, comprehensive exposure is given to research

theories and tools and the researcher is then required to apply a specific research theory and accompanying tools to a research problem and come out with evidence-based results and conclusions. However, merely acquiring a PhD does not make the person specialist in the field, and thus we see in the West—new PhDs doing jobs as research assistants for a few years to get the necessary training and exposure, before being appointed as regular faculty members.

In the present second phase, the governments at the federal and provincial level should identify the centres of excellence in different universities and they should cooperate with Chinese companies which are setting up industries in various SEZs. This would give our academia valuable experience, and help develop tacit knowledge in their areas of expertise. To help facilitate this cooperation between Chinese investors and our academia, our government should make academic cooperation a part of the recently signed framework agreement.

CPEC has the potential to kickstart the generation of knowledge in our local academia, which would, among other tangible benefits, help it train its students to the needs of the industry and help academia interact with the local industry in a more focused manner.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-11/page-6/detail-2>

February 13, 2022

Business Recorder

Pakistan wants to set up a ‘semiconductors zone’ with Chinese help, says Fawad

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain has said that Pakistan has proposed a plan to build a semiconductors zone with the help of China, giving Pakistan self-sufficiency in modern gadgets and opening new avenues for development. In an interview with China Economicnet, he said that during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China, they discussed the shifting of the semiconductors industry to Pakistan as the role of this technology was very important not only for Pakistan but also for China, as well.

“We want Chinese tech companies to come to Pakistan and make Pakistan a hub of semiconductors manufacturing,” he added.

Fawad also served as a Federal Minister for Science and Technology and during that tenure, he signed many MoUs and agreements on semiconductors technology and also collaborated with China to train Pakistanis in semiconductors skills.

“We would also like to start semiconductor designing in Pakistan. I’m very happy to tell you that Chinese investors are very keen to join hands with Pakistan and technology zone will be converted into semiconductor zone,” he mentioned.

Chaudhry Fawad further said that there was a huge area in science and technology where both countries can cooperate, adding that mobile phones were now being assembled in Pakistan but they would like to take a step further and start full-fledged manufacturing of mobile phones in

Pakistan.

He said that bilateral cooperation increased in the area of health-related types of equipment, which was also very important, and in the first few months of COVID-19, they were importing everything related to this area but now Pakistan is a major exporter of health material.

“This is a landmark that we have achieved within a short period and now the health sector is open to collaboration. Pakistan has skilled labour, cheaper labour, and a huge market. We hope that Chinese tech companies would join hands with Pakistan to join our technology zone, and we will be able to come up with bigger cooperation in these sectors,” he mentioned. He hoped that many Chinese technology companies would come to Pakistan after the visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan because semi-conductor was a core element of every technology, which would help bring value addition to the local manufacturing products.

It is worth mentioning that during his visit, Prime Minister Imran Khan held a series of meetings with leaders of China’s leading technology companies, and both sides agreed to enhance cooperation in software development, information and communication technology, medical diagnostic, and other related sectors.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/13/5-page/918688-news.html>

Daily Times

China-Pakistan JV steel manufacturer set to restart production

China-Pakistan JV steel manufacturer is set to restart production, it was reported on Saturday. The report says, Alhaj Asia Star Steel Co. is prepared to resume production after overcoming initial difficulties, Zubair Khan, deputy chairman of the firm, told Gwadar Pro.

Alhaj Steel is the largest private-sector joint venture in steel industry between HEBEI Xingang Iron & Steel Group of China and Alhaj Group of Pakistan. The JV has set up a high-quality 60-grade steel manufacturing unit at Gadoon Industrial Estate in Swabi district of KP province with installed capacity of 1,500 tons per day, or 0.5 million tons per year. Alhaj Steel started commercial operations in late 2020 and suspended production after a few months in early 2021.

“We faced hurdles due to specific dynamics of Pakistani market and the economic uncertainty triggered by Covid-19 pandemic, which forced us to shut the plant. However, we are all set now with a renewed marketing strategy and our Chinese partner is determined to resume production soon”, Zubair Khan said.

The JV aims to enhance the capacity up to 2 million tons per annum in the second phase to become the largest steel manufacturer in Pakistan after state-run Pakistan Steel Mills in Karachi, which is presently non-operational. The firm is the second largest private sector steel manufacturer with the present capacity after Aisha Steel Mills, which has an installed capacity of 0.7 million tons per annum.

Aisha Steel was established in 2012 as JV between Pakistan's Arif Habib Ltd. and two Japanese firms. However, Arif Habib later acquired the majority of shares.

Alhaj Steel has employed over 500 Pakistani and Chinese workers, and is regarded as a big boost for Gadoon Industrial Estate. A senior official of the Gadoon Estate said on condition of anonymity that Alhaj Steel had to cease operations due to volatility in PKR values.

However, he said while citing his conversation with the management of Alhaj Steel that the firm had finalised their arrangements for restarting steel production including procurement of raw material and calling back the staff to work.

Zubair Khan said that the Gadoon Industrial Estate could attract more Chinese investors if linked with the M-1 Motorway and the Swat Expressway. The KP government has started paperwork on the M-1 link project, which will further boost the zone, he said. The zone is spread over an area of 1,116 acres, having all necessary facilities for industrialisation, according to KP Economic Zones Development and Management Co.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/884793/china-pakistan-jv-steel-manufacturer-set-to-restart-production/>

Pakistan, China can cooperate in promoting winter games

Pakistan and China can cooperate in winter games development, said Pakistani performer of Beijing Winter Olympics, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics officially opened on 4 February, with a 'simple, safe and splendid' opening ceremony that impressed the whole world. Among the 3,000 performers, there's a Pakistani one called Muhammad Wasim Asim, who is a postgraduate at Tsinghua University.

In the interview with CEN, he shared the story of being a performer at the opening ceremony as well as living in China. Wasim performed in the 'Tribute to the People' part at the opening ceremony, in which Chinese and foreign young people walked shoulder to shoulder, with touching pictures of common people's living around the world gradually unfolding on the screen on the ground.

Simple, but meaningful, the performance conveyed the message of the Games' motto 'Together for a Shared Future'. "Our performance was not merely some pictures displayed on the screen, but in fact it was our deep heart tribute to the people around the world including those who sacrificed their life for saving our lives, like candles that burn themselves and lead the way for others," Wasim said.

"Thousands of students applied for a volunteer position when the university opened the application procedure. Everyone was hopeful and excited to be part of the Olympics. The university selected the students by interview and assigned them different volunteer positions according to their interests and abilities," he added.

According to Wasim, mostly all volunteers started rehearsal as early as in last October. Having been together for a long time, now the performers are like a ‘family’. “We come from different countries with different cultural backgrounds, but our aim was unanimous, and we became one family who shared same culture and same happiness,” he said.

To him every performer is beautiful like a snowflake. He said, as one of the few countries in the world to take a zero-COVID strategy, China’s COVID-19 pandemic prevention management for the Olympics attracted worldwide attention. Witnessed by the Pakistani performer Wasim, the organizing committee did a ‘great job’ for COVID prevention during the whole process in the Bird’s Nest National Stadium.

“To ensure the health of all performers, we were required to do a COVID test every 48 hours, and all of the performers kept sticking to the prevention measures. Even schools make special arrangements to ensure that all performers can do the COVID test within the required time,” he said.

High-techs are also giving full play at the Games. “In the National Stadium, automatic disinfectant machines were placed in every performance hall and also all-around at different entries to ensure safety and health,” Wasim said.

“It is appreciable work done by organizing committee, and the support and coordination by everyone also guaranteed a safe and peaceful winter games for each of us,” he appraised.

Wasim has been living in China since 2016. Besides beautiful travelling experience, Chinese people’s hospitality and special love for Pakistanis impressed him a lot.

“After I came to China, I have experienced that people from both countries value the friendship that has come a long way. I’ve made many Chinese friends who have a warm heart feeling for Pak-China friendship. I am proud of my country and our friendship with China. We are true brothers. I recommend Pakistani youth to study at world-class universities of China, and here in China, they can start a bright future and become a bridge between the two countries.”

Notably, this February, the Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan visited China, which promoted the bilateral ties to a new high. “In my country, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has already played a vital role in our infrastructure and economic development. I am hopeful and believe that Sino-Pak ties will get stronger and stronger,” Wasim said.

“Now, the Pakistani alpine skier Muhammad Karim is attending the 2022 Winter Olympics. For the only athlete from Pakistan, Wasim hopes he can perform his best, and more importantly, “experience the love, affection and warm heart of the Chinese people”.

“I hope that in the future Pakistan and China can cooperate in winter games development and China can help Pakistan in training more talents of winter games,” he said. Information in this article comes from third party providers.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/884794/pakistan-china-can-cooperate-in-promoting-winter-games/>

PM's Visit to China: Time to Deliver

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

The joint statement after the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China explicitly explains the depth and strength of the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and China. Both countries showed a strong resolve to work together and protect the core interests of each other. Pakistan reiterated its commitment to the core interests of China, including One China Policy, Xinjiang, Tibet, and SouthChina Sea. China categorically assured Pakistan to stand by to protect the vital interests of Pakistan. China reaffirmed that China will continue to support Pakistan to safeguard its sovereignty, independence, and security. China will also support, to achieve the goals of socio-economic development and prosperity. These are the five areas, where Pakistan is facing challenges at present.

On the sovereignty and security side, Pakistan is combating a multifaceted war. The enemies of Pakistan have launched a hybrid war, which comprises soft and hard elements. On the hard side, the enemies have unleashed terrorists. Terrorism is being promoted in the names of religious extremism, ethnicity, subnational pride, etc. In the recent months, Pakistan witnessed a series of terrorist attacks. The most disturbing part is that sub-national groups are targeting the sovereignty and ideology of the country. Sub-national terrorists are igniting the emotions of innocent people and exploiting them. Religious extremists have their agenda and trying to exploit the religious sentiments of the common citizens. On the soft side, the enemies of Pakistan have launched negative propaganda and smear campaign against Pakistan, institutions, and core interests of the country. They are exploiting principles of freedom of speech, human rights, and freedom of media for their nefarious agenda. They have launched different so-called training programs in these areas. To counter the hybrid war, China has extended its hand of cooperation in the areas of defense and security, which has been unambiguously mentioned in the joint statement.

On the economic and development side, Pakistan is going through the worst phase of its economic history. Economic and development indicators are not encouraging at all. In addition to that, Pakistan has been entangled in a debt trap by global financial and economic institutions like the IMF, World Bank, Paris Club, ADB, etc. Now, Pakistan is struggling to find a way out. Pakistan is putting all efforts to tackle issues of domestic economy and debt trap. In these circumstances, the mCPEC is an excellent opportunity for Pakistan. It is a comprehensive program, which includes all essential ingredients of economic growth, development, and prosperity. The list of areas for cooperation is lengthy, which includes economy, infrastructure, energy, agriculture tourism, science, technology, etc. The inclusion of ingredients of the fourth industrial revolution makes it a perfect program. During the visit of PM, Chinese companies have also signed several MoUs in diverse fields including Low Carbon Recycling Park (US\$ 4.5 billion, 40000 jobs), Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (US\$ 3.8 billion), and

agriculture science and technology center, etc. To foster industrial cooperation, both countries had also signed the Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation. Joint statement stressed to further enhance cooperation under the CPEC.

Sub-national terrorists are igniting the emotions of innocent people and exploiting them.

However, to benefit from these CPEC-related opportunities, Pakistan will have to act promptly and according to the need of the time. The present setup does not allow us to move quickly. Thus, there is a need to overhaul the system of governance and business environment to exploit the full potential of CPEC. There can be many ways, but the best possible way will be to centralise CPEC-related activities in one place. For that purpose, Pakistan will have to redesign and strengthen the CPEC Authority. There is the second opinion that in the past, the CPEC Authority played a formidable role to streamline processes, and now the government is enjoying the dividend of those efforts. Despite, the fact that the CPEC Authority does not have powers to implement but it is delivered, especially during COVID-19. Building on the past success and role, it is suggested to strengthen the CPEC Authority to foster the implementation of CPEC related programs.

First of all, Pakistan should bring all work related to CPEC business or investment initiatives under the authority. Second, CPEC Authority must have decision power of the allotment of land, registration of the business company, getting services like electricity, construction permits, contract enforcement, etc. The representatives of relevant departments must be deputed under the authority to smoothen the process. Third, the tax system for the CPEC related investment must be simplified and create one window for collection. The provincial government should also place their respective staff under the CPEC Authority. Fourth, there is a need to create a dedicated window for security awareness and engagement. It would be a good idea to make the business community a partner in ensuring security.

Fifth, the government must depute a strong figure to steer the processes of the CPEC Authority. The head of Authority must be answerable to the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He must be equal to Federal Minister and have the power to make and execute decisions under the direct guidance and supervision of the Prime Minister. Moreover, the CPEC Authority must be run by the true experts of the Chinese system. The staff must have a deep understanding of the Chinese international relation theory and principles, governance and political system, development systems, and business structure and governance.

Furthermore, there must be a strong and authoritative monitoring and evaluation committee to evaluate the work of the CPEC Authority. For that purpose, a high-profile M&E committee should be constituted. According to the current situation and ground realities we suggest, the M&E committee should be comprised of heads of five major political parties, services chiefs, chief justice, and headed by Prime Minister of Pakistan. The composition of the committee has been proposed by keeping in mind the diversity of CPEC programs. M&E must meet once a year to review the progress of CPEC programs, the performance of the CPEC Authority and make required decisions. It is direly needed. It will help to solve multiple issues. For example, it will

put a full stop to political games and point-scoring. It will also help to tackle issues of propaganda comprehensively. Lastly, it will ensure the timely implementation of programs.

In the conclusion, Pakistan needs to understand and comprehend that without reforming the governance and business environment, we cannot overcome the challenges. It does not matter of choice, it is a need of the time and Pakistan must have to act now. We need to learn to move our hands by keeping silent. Pakistan must recognise that it is time to deliver on-ground not speeches at the podium.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/885222/pms-visit-to-china-time-to-deliver/>

Water supply, drainage issues being resolved in Karachi

Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KW&SB) resolved several complaints related to water supply and drainage in different areas of the city. The KWSB's staff resolved the sewerage network related problems in different areas of Lyari including Chakiwara, Nayabad and Musa Lane, said a statement on Sunday. According to Chief Engineer Sewerage AftabChandio, work is underway to resolve sewerage complaints in Baloch Para and Haji Mureed Goth here. On the instructions of Managing Director KWSB Engineer Asadullah Khan, the Board provided better water supply and drainage facilities to the citizens in all parts of the city. The Board used all its resources to improve the supply and drainage in different areas of the metropolis.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/885201/water-supply-drainage-issues-being-resolved-in-karachi/>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China joint statement and future of Pakistani students

Safdar Khokhar

PRIME Minister Imran Khan was invited by the Chinese leadership to visit Beijing from 3 to 6 February 2022 to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games 2022.

During the visit, the Prime Minister held talks with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang.

The Prime Minister appreciated the Chinese Government for excellent and meticulous arrangements and congratulated China for hosting the games in a streamlined, safe and splendid manner.

The two sides agreed that Olympic Games were a global event that fostered mutual understanding, inclusivity and friendship among the peoples of the world.

The Chinese leadership appreciated Prime Minister Imran Khan's participation in the Winter Olympic Games as a mark of iron brotherhood and solidarity between Pakistan and China. Both sides agreed to maintain high-level exchanges and strengthen institutional linkages at all levels.

Both sides noted with satisfaction robust cooperation between Pakistan and China in education sector, and committed to further enhance cooperation between the educational institutions of the two countries.

Pakistan side highlighted that China has become a popular education destination. While ensuring safety against COVID-19, China will arrange for Pakistani students to return to China and resume classes in a prudent manner.

According to the data there are 28000 Pakistani students enrolled in Chinese universities and colleges, out of which majority of them are studying clinical medicine and a large number of them is Master and PhD students on scholarship.

After the pandemic majority of students went back to Pakistan and have been waiting for China to reopen its borders for students.

Chinese Government has taken effective measures to fully control and contain the pandemic across China.

With the world most populated country, it is admirable to effectively control and contain virus in 1.4 billion people.

China has controlled the pandemic in a best way, & it is a role model for the whole world. There is no secret that China made vaccine firstly, & donated to all developing countries including Iron-Brother Pakistan.

I still remember when the pandemic outbreak happened, I was in Beijing and the families of all the students were worried and were making every effort to return to Pakistan.

Chinese Government made all possible arrangements at that time and asked the foreigners including all students if they would like to return to their countries or stay in China.

At the same time, Chinese government with the help of Pakistani Embassy established a team to provide assistance to all the students not only in Wuhan but all over China.

The recent visit by Prime Minister of Pakistan to China to attend the Beijing Winter Olympics and the joint statement at the end of visit has made it clear that China and Pakistan and all-weather brotherly countries stand together in all situation.

Chinese Government is aware of all the problems and has started the stepwise opening of border for international students.

Pakistani students return to China is priority and some universities including Shanghai Jiao tong university has already issued visa forms and allowed Pakistani students to return in March 2022 session.

Pakistani students are very glad and the joint statement has come with a hope for thousands of students to return to China and play a pivotal role for the development.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi launched “Portal for Pakistani Students and Professionals in China” on 6 February 2022 in Beijing. The Portal is a pioneer initiative of the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing.

It will provide a platform for Pakistani professionals and students and solve their issues. Again, the China and Pakistan Government has proved that the friendship between two countries is higher than Himalayas, sweeter than honey and deeper than oceans. Long live China Pakistan Friendship.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-joint-statement-and-future-of-pakistani-students-by-safdar-khokhar/>

The Nation

Social media reports about Chinese economist slapping Finance Minister 'totally baseless'

The Ministry clarified that no such meeting was held and the message in Urdu language being viral in social media with caption, "Chinese economist slaps Finance Minister over a joint session yesterday held at Islamabad" is totally baseless.

According to a press release issued here by the Ministry of Finance, "it is clarified that a same message in English was made viral in social media some four months ago to damage the repute of the Finance Minister."

The press release says that no such meeting was held and the current message in Urdu is just a replica of previous message being spread to harm the repute and prestige of the Finance Minister and create a negative impression into the minds of the masses. The ministry had approached the Federal Investigation Agency, Cyber Crime for investigation into the matter and take action against those responsible.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-13/page-12/detail-3>

The News

China-Pakistan JV steel manufacturer set to restart production

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<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=56124>

Jang News

چینی صدر سے ملاقات میں دونوں جانب سے واضح پیغامات گئے، شاہ محمود قریشی

وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی کا کہنا ہے کہ چینی صدر سے ملاقات میں دونوں جانب سے واضح پیغامات گئے، چینی صدر اور وزیر اعظم کی ملاقات میں آگے کارڈ میپ ٹے ہو گیا ہے۔

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی سابق سفارتکاروں اور تھنک ٹینک کے نمائندوں سے اسلام آباد میں گفتگو کے موقع پر شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ چین جانے سے پہلے آئی پی بی کی ادائیگیاں کی گئیں۔

وفاقی وزیر کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ سی بی کے تعطل کا تاثر دور کرنا بہت ضروری تھا، کچھ عناصر نہیں چاہتے سی بی کے منصوبہ آگے بڑھے، وہ اپنا کردار ادا کرتے رہتے ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کی سوچ میں مطابقت ہے، چینی کمپنیوں سے وزیر اعظم کے 20 کے قریب نشستیں ہوں گی۔
 ان کا کہنا تھا کہ افغانستان کے مسئلے پر پاکستان اور چین میں مکمل ہم آہنگی پائی گئی، مارچ میں ایک بار پھر چین کا دورہ کروں گا۔
 وزیر خارجہ کا یہ بھی کہنا تھا کہ چین، پاکستان اور افغانستان کے تعلقات کو آگے لے کر چلیں گے، افغانستان کو معاشی بحران سے بچانے کیلئے کوشاں ہیں، مسئلہ کشمیر پر پاکستان اور
 چین کے موقف میں یکسوئی پائی جاتی ہے۔
 شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں 22 چینی کمپنیاں سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی رکھتی ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1049806>

February 14, 2022 **Business Recorder**

PM's China visit: a visit beyond extraordinary

Andleeb Abbas

Some visits matter. Some visits matter more. The latest visit of Pakistani Prime minister to China matters most. This visit comes at a very important occasion. This visit comes at a very strategic juncture. This visit signifies a new dimension regionally and globally. That is why the Indian media is on overdrive on painting it nefarious. That is why the West is looking at it with interest. That is why its post visit actions and reactions are very important. That is why this is not just a foreign policy win, it is a national win. That is why this is an opportunity to create more opportunities. And, that is why it needs the most discussion, dialogue and discourse.

Pakistan-China friendship is exemplary and each visit further strengthens it. During this government's term, this is the fourth visit and each one went well. However, this visit expanded horizons beyond boundaries. It is called Phase-II of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) but it is a level above all phases due to the following unique happenings:

1. The most comprehensive Communiqué— Communiqués are normally routine matters expressing mutual cooperation and respect. This communiqué communicated the intent, the depth, the scale, the stance, the future. Never has the Chinese leadership gone to such detail and so emphatically outlined its commitment politically, economically and geo strategically. The 33-point statement left nothing to imagination. Starting with standing by each other on every major issue and ending on a very clear stance on Kashmir and Afghanistan, the joint statement underlined the profound nature of the old partnership in a new deeper way. This statement highlighted the growing cooperation of the two countries that reflects an even more inter-bound mutual future.

2. Emerging Power Partnership— Visits in the days of corona are more a matter of body language and signaling than the usual handshaking time or hugging. The body language of the two leaders conveyed complete confidence and trust in managing not only bilateral but regional and global issues. The fact that the Chinese President only met with two leaders— President

Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Imran Khan— speaks volumes about the new partnership forging the regional leadership troika. Pakistan has been leading the Afghanistan cause and engaging the whole of Central Asia in it. When the two leaders met, Pakistan was also representing the region on many mutual issues. This sent the message to the world that Pakistan is now the lead to regional challenges as well as the gateway to a huge market potential.

3. Planned and Targeted Sectoral Match-making— Previously, there were always complaints about lofty but impractical agreements amongst the two countries. That is why the delays and hurdles spoiled the promises made. This was the first time that complete homework was done on which sectors the Chinese were ready to invest in other similar countries and were also the need of Pakistan. This match-making exercise pre-tour really helped in focusing on projects that were beyond infrastructure. Seven sectors were chosen, including textiles, pharmaceuticals, auto, IT, footwear, furniture and agriculture. These projects were customized to investor interest. Cooperation in agri sector has the potential to revolutionize Pakistan's productivity status.

4. One-to-One Solutions— Another very important event of the tour was the one-to-one meetings held by the Prime minister with the key 20 Chinese investment organizations in Pakistan. These meetings were very intense as each problem of the investor was noted by the PM himself and solutions given. The 37 departments' permissions required to start the project were simplified through a compliance process. The investors were amazed at how a Prime Minister has personally taken upon himself to fulfil the gaps — something they had never experienced before.

5. Special Economic Zones-CPEC's perception was mainly as an infrastructure development project. The paradigm in this visit has shifted to industrial development project. For this purpose the previous government had been unable to develop any framework to materialize it. Not a single Special Economic Zone was made till 2018. Two special economic zones are already working which are now housing 28 new industrial units. This is just the beginning. With industry being the focus the manufacturing and employment model that helped China reduce record poverty will become an initiative that the PM has committed to emulate.

6. Leading and Representing Central Asia— The Prime Minister met the Central Asian leaders on the sidelines of the event. What was significant was that since the PM has heavily engaged with the Central Asian leaders on Afghanistan issue, he has emerged as the uniting factor that is now bringing the whole region together to shift the focus from conflict to peace and trade. The Chinese President did not meet the other Central Asian leaders present but discussed Afghanistan and other issues with the Pakistani premier. This itself has lifted the status of Pakistan in the region.

7. Russian Visit to Follow— Another key development was that instead of having a sideline visit with President Putin in Beijing the Prime Minister has been invited by the Russian President to visit Russia in the last week of this month. This is of huge significance. This will be the first visit of any Pakistan leader to Russia in 22 years. Coming right after China this will help further embed the idea of Pakistan being a key player in a key region. With the Prime minister thanking

the Russian head of state for taking a stand against Islamophobia this visit will have geo, socio, cultural impact too.

February has been a great month for Pakistan's rise in regional and global standing. Two big powers of the world are now needing Pakistan not just for political reasons but for economic, socio-cultural and strategic reasons. In March an OIC summit is taking place in Islamabad. The Prime minister has already done an unthinkable thing. By raising a voice at every forum on Islamophobia he has convinced Russian and Canadian leaders to raise a voice against it. The OIC summit will surely acknowledge and build upon it. From being isolated a few years ago Pakistan is now creating interest in the region and in the world. Previously, Pakistan was making headlines for all negative reasons. That has changed. Pakistan's crisis management in Covid-19 and its political management in the Palestine and Afghanistan issues have given it new respect internationally. This opportunity needs to be leveraged by some more astute diplomacy, agile execution and smart communication to establish the country as a key rising nation in the post pandemic world.

Afghan's national assets

Pakistan played key role in unfreezing: Prof Cheng

BEIJING: The United States finally announced the unfreezing of Afghanistan's national assets, which is the result of the strong appeal of all parties concerned, and Pakistan's unremitting diplomatic efforts have played the key role.

From the very beginning, Pakistan has insisted that Afghanistan's national assets held in the United States should be returned to the Afghan people and the funds are "critically needed" to revive the country's war-battered economy.

In order to stir the United States to unfreeze Afghanistan's national assets, Pakistan has consistently joined the calls of the international community as well as the senior United Nations officials to unfreeze Afghanistan's reserves. Therefore, this positive development has emerged. These views were expressed by Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor of Southwest University of Political Science and Law and Senior Fellow of the Charhar Institute in a statement on Sunday. Prof. Cheng noted that on February 11, US President Joe Biden signed an executive order to free up the Afghan government's \$7 billion now frozen in the United States.

He opined that although the White House said it wants to direct \$3.5 billion for humanitarian assistance, and the other half of the money will be paid to the families of those killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, half a loaf is better than none at all.

This is the hard-earned money of the Afghan people, and it is totally against international rules for one country to unilaterally block the national assets of another.

He insisted that the funds should not have been frozen. The frozen financial assets belong to the people of Afghanistan and they have the final say as to how the funds will be utilized.

If half of the \$7 billion Afghan assets frozen by the United States is used for humanitarian assistance and controlled by the United States itself, and the other half is paid to the families of those killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, that is, the other half is paid by the United States to Afghans who have immigrated to the United States, this is absolutely unacceptable to the Afghan people and the international community.

If the United States insists on doing so, there is no point in the United States unfreezing the Afghan assets, he added.

He further remarked that now the Afghan people are experiencing the worst humanitarian crisis. According to the UN's World Food Program, 22.8 million Afghans, which accounts for over half of the country's population, face acute food insecurity. The country is on the brink of economic collapse, with the local currency at an all-time low and food price on the rise. According to current trends, 97% of the Afghan population will fall into poverty by the middle of this year.

Therefore, the international community should jointly help Afghanistan alleviate the humanitarian crisis and stabilize the economy as the most important and urgent priority. As the most important neighbour of Afghanistan, Pakistan has made important contributions to alleviating the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and made its best efforts to provide assistance to Afghanistan, including food and materials, which should be fully recognized by the international community, he added.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/14/16-page/918864-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan will not become part of any camp: PM

Prime Minister Imran Khan has reiterated that Pakistan will maintain its neutrality and not become part of any camp, turning down speculations that Islamabad was inclined towards Beijing.

“The strategic direction of my government is very clear. We want to maintain relations with all and [we] will not become a part of any camp,” Imran Khan said during an interaction with former ambassadors and representatives of think tanks in the Federal Capital on Sunday.

The prime minister said his recent visit to China and bilateral meetings with the country's leadership had added further strength to the time-tested ties and would accelerate the pace of work on the ongoing projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. He said that his recent visit to China was “very relevant with regard to the fast-changing global political map.”

The Chinese leadership appreciated Pakistan's measures taken to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic, and the positive economic indicators, he said, adding they reaffirmed economic support to Pakistan through specific projects.

The prime minister opined that his visit further added strength to the ties between the two countries, adding that he held the meeting with President Xi Jinping after years.

About Afghanistan, the prime minister said the international community had a consensus over this issue. Europe and all the neighbouring states of Afghanistan agreed to avoid humanitarian crises there and stressed upon de-freezing of Afghanistan's assets, he said.

“The US also understood and realised the situation. All had a consensus that steps should be taken so that Afghanistan should not be descended into chaos,” the premier said.

Responding to a query, the prime minister said that after the 18th amendment, several issues had surfaced with regard to decision making, as he cited the difference in prices of wheat in Sindh and other provinces.

Referring to the functioning of the Chinese government, the prime minister said when a decision was taken there, it was implemented across the board, but in Pakistan, there was a lack of such synergy among the federal and provincial governments.

During the last three and half years, the government had navigated from “the minefield” of economic challenges, he said, adding that due to the government's prudent policies, the country was witnessing growth rate, record tax collections, revenue generation, and remittances which indicated that the country's economy had been moving in the right direction.

To another question, the prime minister opined that unless you had a two-thirds majority in the Parliament, you could not enact legislation to bring in various reforms in the society, stressing that there was a requirement for huge reforms.

These pieces of legislation, sometimes, are stuck in the National Assembly or in the Senate, he maintained.

He said in China, they had meritocracy and rule of law. About 400 ministerial-level people had been held accountable over corruption charges which had increased the popularity of President Xi, he said.

The prime minister said the global pandemic had devastated the world. “Different countries of the world including Italy, Spain, and the UK opted for complete lockdowns, but I went against such precedent for which I was bitterly criticised by my political opponents.”

Defending his decision of smart lockdowns, the prime minister said in the US, Germany, and France, people had been on the roads against lockdowns.

“We are ahead of everyone as we have not only saved our economy but also our lives,” he said, adding in India, the growth rate had been in the minus due to a blanket lockdown.

To a query, he replied that he had met Russian President Putin in Bishkek. After his tweet about the negative use of freedom of speech to hurt Muslims' feelings, they held a telephonic conversation in which the Russian president conveyed that there was no Islamophobia in Russia and a central mosque in Moscow was fully functional.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-will-not-become-part-of-any-camp-pm/>

The Express Tribune

Recent China visit to give impetus to CPEC: PM

Premier says global community has developed consensus over Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday said his recent visit to Beijing and bilateral meetings with its leadership had added further strength to the time-tested ties between the two countries and would accelerate the pace of work on the ongoing projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

During an interaction with a number of former ambassadors and think-tanks, the prime minister said his recent visit to China was very relevant in connection with the fast-changing global political map.

“The Chinese leadership has appreciated our government's steps to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic and acknowledged that the economic indicators are positive,” he said, adding it had reaffirmed economic support to Pakistan through specific projects.

Federal ministers and PM's special assistants were also present during the interaction.

The premier said he had held a meeting with President Xi Jinping after a period of two years since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“These bilateral meetings added further impetus to CPEC projects,” he said. The prime minister also completely dismissed the impression that work on these projects had slowed down.

About Afghanistan, the prime minister said the international community had developed a consensus over the issue.

“Europe and all the neighbouring states of Afghanistan have agreed to avoid the humanitarian crisis there and stressed upon de-freezing of its assets,” he claimed.

“The US has also understood and realised the situation [in Afghanistan],” he further maintained.

“All these countries have reached the consensus that steps should be taken so that Afghanistan should not descend into chaos.”

To a query, the prime minister said that after 18th amendment, issues had surfaced in connection with decision-making and cited the difference in the prices of wheat in Sindh and other provinces.

Referring to the functioning of the Chinese government, PM Imran said when a decision was made, it was implemented, but this was lacking in Pakistan, attributing the problem to differences between the federal and provincial governments.

“In China, the whole country worked for wealth creation,” he said, adding that all hurdles in the special economic zones (SEZs) would be removed.

During the Beijing Winter Olympics, the Chinese crowd warmly cheered the Pakistani contingent, reflecting how deeply rooted these ties were between the two countries, he observed.

Responding to another question, the prime minister said the strategic direction of his government was very clear.

“We want to maintain relations with all countries and would not become part of any camp.”

PM Imran claimed that during the last three and half years, the government had navigated from 'the minefield' of economic challenges, adding that due to its prudent policies, the country was witnessing growth rate, record tax collections, revenue generation, and remittances.

“All this indicates that the country's economy has been moving in the right direction.”

To another question, the prime minister replied that unless you had two-third majority in the parliament, you could not enact legislation to bring in various reforms in the society.

He maintained that there was requirement for huge reforms in the country.

“These pieces of legislation are sometimes stuck up in the National Assembly or in the Senate,” he maintained.

He said there was meritocracy and rule of law in China.

“About 400 ministerial-level people have been held accountable over corruption charges, increasing the popularity of President Xi.”

The prime minister said the global pandemic had devastated the world.

“Different countries of the world including Italy, Spain and the UK opted for complete lockdowns, but I went against such precedent for which I was bitterly criticised by my political opponents.”

He added that he had questioned the logic of imposing a complete lockdown as it would have created problems for the lower segments of society.

The prime minister defended his decision of imposing smart lockdowns.

“In the US, Germany, and France, people have taken to the streets against complete lockdowns.”

The premier claimed that the country ahead of everyone as the government had not only saved its economy but also lives.

“In India, the growth rate has been pushed back in the minus.”

To a query, he replied that he had met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Bishkek.

After his tweet about the negative use of freedom of speech to hurt Muslims' feelings, they held a telephonic conversation and in which Putin had conveyed that there was no Islamophobia in Russia and a central mosque in Moscow was fully functional.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, while speaking during the sitting, said the prime minister's meeting with President XI was marked with “great significance”.

He added that the clarity he had witnessed in such meetings had not happened in the past -- which was another encouraging sign.

The foreign minister further said the leadership of the two countries conveyed clear messages to each other over core issues.

They removed certain concerns over the CPEC projects which were not based upon facts.

“The spoilers against CPEC have been playing their negative role,” he added.

Qureshi said Pakistan and China shared the unanimous views on the Afghanistan issue, adding that there had been close coordination and collaboration between the two countries.

Furthermore, they had agreed over a future roadmap.

“A meeting of Afghanistan's immediate neighbours, besides a trilateral meeting of Pakistan, China and Afghanistan would be soon convened to expedite efforts to avert the humanitarian crisis in the neighbouring country.”

Speaking on the occasion, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin said China had helped in building infrastructure and connectivity projects under CPEC and now it would support the establishment of SEZs so that the trickle down effects could be fully reaped.

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry compared the number of CPEC projects under the incumbent governments with the previous one.

“The number of working groups has been increased to 1. Seven projects have been completed in the last three years apart from the completion of 453kms roads projects.”

He added that a further investment of \$3.45 billion had been made.

He claimed that three new projects had been added and the power generation stood at around 3,340 MW in 2018 and that had now been increased to 5,864 MW during the last three and half years.

“Not a single transmission line was added by the previous government, but we have installed 880kms of new transmission lines,” he claimed.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2343287/pm-says-recent-visit-to-china-gave-impetus-to-bilateral-ties-cpec-projects>

CPEC – a hope for boosting tea plantation

Pak-China collaboration will help reduce huge spending on tea imports

ISLAMABAD: Pakistanis have proved to be real tea lovers not only in drinking it regularly two to three times a day, but also offer it to the visiting guests as the best source of hospitality.

Pakistan is now ranked among the top tea importing and consuming countries with total tea imports valuing at \$590 million.

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) reported that Pakistan was among the top seven countries where tea consumption had increased significantly and estimated a rise in per capita consumption of 35.8% from 2007 to 2016.

Tea has emerged as a major import commodity and is draining huge foreign exchange every year, therefore, the government has proposed a tea cluster in the agricultural transformation report published by the Planning Commission in 2020.

Tea plantation and processing have already proved successful in northern Pakistan, however, its commercialisation under the market mechanism needs the attention of decision-makers.

Though the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) has established a tea estate over an area of 50 acres along with green and black tea processing units, with the technical and financial assistance of China, at Shinkiari in Mansehra, it is yet to be adopted by the private sector on a sustainable basis.

During the soil survey from 1986 to 1989, a team of tea experts from Pakistan and China tested 64 sites in Hazara and Swat, and identified an area of around 64,000 hectares for tea planting in Mansehra.

Under the Chinese technical assistance, experts from the Tea Research Institute, Hangzhou, China worked during 1986-89 in Shinkiari and established the National Tea Research Institute (NTRI).

Mandated for research only, NTRI is well equipped and staffed for managing a small tea estate spread over 50 acres as well as green and black tea processing units. NTRI is now serving as a research base for tea culture in Pakistan.

The federal government has also engaged private sector companies for experimentation and commercialisation of tea, however, the pace and quantum of commercialisation has been very slow.

Therefore, unlike other tea-growing countries, Pakistan could not see the commodity's production on a commercial scale in the past over 35 years since the establishment of NTRI and tea research stations in Shinkiari.

Commercialisation of tea is highly sustainable as it has social, economic and environmental benefits. Major social benefits include job creation for millions of unemployed youth and provision of a healthy drink loaded with antioxidants.

The economic impact includes self-sufficiency in tea production, which will not only help in resource mobilisation at the domestic level but will also reduce the import bill, thereby saving foreign currency.

Environmental benefits are increased oxygen production, controlling soil erosion in the hilly terrain suited for tea plantation, landscape and aesthetic impact on the soil surface, which will attract tourists.

Pakistan did try to commercialise tea in Mansehra, Swat and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) where suitable land was available and a project was also approved by Ecnec in 2007-08.

Under the project, the then government agreed to provide state land on lease to the interested private tea companies on a long-term lease but in the middle of project implementation, the subject of agriculture was devolved to provinces and since then the project has remained shelved.

Availability of a large piece of land spread over hundreds of acres at one place is a real challenge that the government must address as due to land fragmentation such large pieces of land are rarely available with private land owners in the hilly areas.

The options left are either to acquire a large piece of land or lease forest waste lands to the private tea growers.

Another option is cooperative tea farming, which is done in many countries, but that too requires huge support for establishing an industrial base for tea processing.

Pak-China cooperation

Now that China is fully engaged with Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan can easily benefit from the expertise and resources that Beijing possesses as all potential tea growing areas lie on both sides of CPEC route, providing an easy access to markets.

In addition, China has already established NTRI in Shinkiari and it will love to adopt it for a B2B venture in the agriculture sector. The expert, who led the Chinese team during 1986-1989, has expressed his willingness to visit Pakistan again.

At a Zoom seminar, organised by the China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information Platform on June 23, 2021, the participants from Pakistan and China emphasised the need for cooperation in the commercialisation of tea in Pakistan.

The discussion sparks hope that China is willing to support Pakistan in this area too.

The major issue in the way is not the ecological suitability of land for tea production, but the availability of required privately owned land at one place.

Land fragmentation due to successive shares in inheritance has reduced the private ownership of land to a bare minimum, which is not sufficient for establishing a commercial tea estate.

In addition, the storage of water upstream and land development require spending of a huge amount of resources that no one is ready to bear for a crop that may need investment for five years to produce leaves for plucking on a commercial scale.

Latest technology including the tea processing and blending units will also have to be imported to initiate tea processing on a commercial scale.

The way forward is that the governments of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and AJK should identify suitable pieces of waste land of the forest department for long-term lease to the potential tea-growing companies, as that arrangement had already been made under a PSDP project from 2007-08 to 2012-13.

CPEC may provide technical and financial support under B2B or any other suitable mode while the tea cluster approach proposed by the agricultural transformation plan can also be implemented.

The government of Pakistan, K-P and AJK should provide all the required support to the private tea growers, offer at least 10-year tax-free regime for the promotion of tea industry and duty-free import of raw tea for blending, tea machinery, raw material for tea blending and promote exports, which will help the industry to take off.

This way Pakistan may enjoy its home-grown tea on a commercial basis and reduce or even eliminate foreign exchange spending on tea imports.

It is quite possible, given a huge area suitable for tea plantation, to increase production to a level where Pakistan can not only meet its own requirements but can also export tea of high quality.

The writer is a PhD in natural resources management and masters in forestry besides serving as divisional forest officer in K-P

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2343330/cpec-a-hope-for-boosting-tea-plantation>

The Nation

Landmark visit to China

Ghulam Murtaza

Prime Minister Imran Khan is scheduled to visit the Beijing Winter Olympic Ceremony on February 3, 2022. The Beijing Olympics is programmed from February 4-13, 2022. However, various European countries—led by the US and United Kingdom—have imposed a diplomatic boycott due to the alleged human rights abuse in China. It is believed that the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, will also be there, and a very important meeting between the trio may upset some countries. This meeting will have all the potential to change the regional geopolitical landscape. Gwadar's One Road One Initiative (OBOR) is the treasure for which Russia is desperate to be a stockholder of. At this stage, our security agencies look congruent to give the clearance to Russia.

Time has changed to reset orders, alignments, preferences, and economic interests. Afghanistan has, mostly, cleared off all the elements that used to be stepping stones for Russia. Pakistan and Russia are already in liaison with each other on Afghanistan and have developed a basic understanding of a variety of issues. Heads of the governments of both the countries have already had two telephonic conversations. This meeting looks to be paving a path for the visit of Mr. Putin to Pakistan soon.

But this rosy picture cannot be painted unless Pakistan is bailed out financially. In the three years Imran Khan has been the PM, we have had cold relations with China, primarily on CPEC. Khan's government wanted to revisit some agreements made during the last two regimes of Zardari and Nawaz. The Commerce Advisor to the Prime Minister, Mr. Razzak Daood, had blasted a statement that the CPEC had been racked for a certain period when Khan assumed office. Later, he tried to offset the after-effects but the arrow, once shot, does not come back.

Since then, cold relations between these two time-tested friends have severely affected the mega project. The progress on the CPEC projects slowed down. The killing of 10 citizens of China on the Dasu Hydroelectric Power project further added tensions. The Chinese conveyed a strong message to Pakistan that the security of its workers could not be compromised. After the incident, Pakistan tightened the security protocols to address the concerns and compensated the families of victims with a \$11.6 million support package.

The economy of Pakistan has grounded during the last three years. Khan's government is nearing its end with an empty basket; it was its imperative to hit some big shots to remain in the game. The visit to China looks like one of them. Economic musketeers kept China quiet without showing any exasperation during this indecisive period. Still, the hand of China is on the upper side. Pakistan could not unnerve China into a bargaining position over some unsettled issues. Prime Minister Imran Khan conveyed to the Chinese counterpart that Pakistan will make all efforts to materialise the benefits associated with CPEC.

The government looks to own the agreements signed with China after the three years' tug. The PM's visit is likely to focus on CPEC, the expansion of FTA, investment by Chinese companies, relationship with India, and the role of the United States in the region. However, CPEC will remain the core of this visit. By this time, ten CPEC projects have been completed, six are under construction, and five are under consideration. Coming to the focal point of CPEC, Gwadar, the situation is still in grey. Even the 19km Eastern expressway could not be finished to link the seaport to the Coastal Highway near Surbandar. The old airport road of Gwadar is still being used for heavy cargo. The Eastern and Western routes of CPEC are still to be completed. Gwadar International Airport and 300MW Coal-Fired Power Project are also crawling. Existing investors demanded high-level parleys before the visit of Imran Khan. These exasperated investors want the ease of procedural bottlenecks and security issues.

Enthusiastic preparations for this very significant visit are on the way. The Ministry of Commerce is doing a great job of finding out the areas for inviting Chinese investors and removing bottlenecks. They got the trade bodies on board for their inputs as well. Security, the pending payment of IPPs, cooperation in agriculture, industry, trade, digital economy, green activities, logistics, health, the circular trap of existing Chinese investors, digital economy, CPEC, and regional politics are the joint interests of both in Pakistan. At the tenth meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee's meeting, the two sides decided on jointly working on the information technology industry, opening up the new venues for cooperation in this sector.

Geo-strategic issues always stand at the core of any discussion with our Chinese friends. The army chief, Qamar Javed Bajwa, also called on the Prime Minister for a briefing attended by many senior ministers and officials, including the foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi. Meanwhile, he also separately met Prime Minister Khan. Watchers say it was the first publicly shared meeting between the two, after October 26, 2021, on the issue of the appointment of DG ISI.

This could be a landmark visit to remove the deadlocks at a very critical time, especially for Imran Khan's government that desperately needs some economic oxygen. If the stalemate persists, the gulf between these two old and gold friends will widen. On the other side, we must be ready to face covert reactions from Pakistan's anti-forces.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-14/page-6/detail-5>

Following China's model

Najm us Saqib

Careful thinking followed by timely actions sometimes brings forth desirable results. In human relations, reaction to certain untoward action is mostly driven by the desire of settling scores rather than rationalising the cause and effect process objectively. Unfortunately, international relations do not provide any amenable space to any emotionalism or knee-jerk reactions particularly when it comes to safeguarding others' own national interest. Expectations based on sentiments and feelings often end up in senseless complaints. The situation becomes even more precarious when a state lacks either the institutional infrastructure or sincere leadership or competence or the right kind of response from its citizens. Most of the time, theoretical approaches that are neither coherent nor intelligible are adopted, resulting in undesirable but inevitable outcomes or with no outcome at all.

Sometimes, such a hurriedly framed policy perishes even before its formal announcement is made. Bureaucracy plays smart, calls it the 'survival game' and instead of presenting a mosaic of do-able and apt options to the leadership to choose the best course of action, deliberately or otherwise, it plays safe and often 'put up' 'aiming for the sky' kind of summaries for approval. Not all Chief Executives realise that by approving any such proposal, they take full responsibility for any good or bad consequences.

My expert in international politics friend was in full swing when he opined: Nine out of ten Pakistanis would wish Quaid-e-Azam to have lived a few more years to put the country on the right track, unconsciously forgetting that even in such an eventuality, the successive leaders had to take responsibility of running the state's affairs. For a minute, just imagine the Quaid attending any present-day parliamentary proceedings in Islamabad and witness the adoption of any money bill without the government having the required numbers. A straightforward thinker like him might have quit politics immediately if at all he had survived a heart attack in the first

place. Understanding realities and circumstances of any specific period of time brings maturity which happens to be an integral part of basic nationhood.

My friend continued: A few would argue that seventy plus years is too little time for the 220 million people of Pakistan to become a nation. Others might say that Pakistan came into being two years before China did but the latter is head and shoulder above insofar as development was concerned. Comparing Pakistan with China in any context would simply be a non-starter for any meaningful discussion.

But what made China a soon-to-be-a-superpower of the world in such a short time, I exclaimed.

Visibly excited, my friend said: Eminent experts on China could perhaps spell out a thousand reasons of China's success story. To me, six main factors made today's China a strong nation even within a span of seventy plus years. To begin with, China was already a nation even before October 1949 when Chairman Mao declared the creation of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Secondly, China's policy of non-interference in any other country's internal matters and focused inward approach allowed it to grow disproportionately. Thirdly, the remarkable consistency in timely implementing policies worked perfectly towards speedy development. Fourthly, a militarily strong China's successive leaders had strong grassroots support for its economic pursuits. It is a fact that China would not have treaded the path of development and become a strong nation had it not have the visionary leaders that it produced one after the other. However, without a receptive, conscientious and hardworking populace, even Mao Tse Tung, Deng Xiaoping and successive leaders like Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping would not have achieved the politico-military and economic milestones that today's China is proud of. Fifthly, the resilient and perseverant people of China played the crucial role in completing the equation of success.

Lighting another cigarette, my friend smiled and said: Lastly, I think, China understood itself first before understanding others and in so doing, it remained scrupulously and majestically objective. Understanding yourself in true context is the first step towards success while understanding others provides you the necessary tools of managing the intriguing dynamics of international relations. To sum up, China not only did its homework for the present properly but also meticulously anticipated the future needs and demands of the country in an intriguingly changing world.

But how can a country like Pakistan follow the Chinese model, let's say, in eliminating poverty from the country, I sounded curious.

In his typical intellectual style, my friend replied: Following China's model for any aspirant state would initially require a two-dimensional wholesome study. First, you need to evaluate your own past and present predicaments and available intellectual and material resources before understanding the domestic, regional and international environment. In so doing, the capacity, behavior and thinking of both the rulers and the ruled must consistently be kept in view. Secondly, you need to study China; its people; how the country walked through the turbulent history of mankind for thousands of years; and, what does today's China stands for.

Now he was unstoppable: The next step would be to select and evaluate the areas of interest for your country where China's experience could help achieve desirable results. Presence of a number of prerequisites would seem essential for achieving any goal worth its salt. For instance, if you want to alleviate or eliminate poverty from the country following the Chinese model, you would need, inter alia, at least ten to twenty years of unopposed one-party rule; a dedicated, sincere and corruption-free government machinery; honest and good governance; strong grassroots support; a receptive populace; a real-time across the board accountability system; an independent judiciary; no outside pressures; a terror-free atmosphere; secured borders; and, an economy to meanwhile run the day-to-day affairs of the state.

I don't think you are talking any sense anymore, I said in a tired tone. With a grin on his face, my friend quoted Camus: 'Man is the only creature who refuses to be what he is.' For me, it was time to say good bye.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-02-14/page-7/detail-5>

Nawaiwaqt News

22 چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کرنا چاہتی ہیں، وزیر خارجہ

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ 22 چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کرنا چاہتی ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے ہمراہ سابق سفیروں اور صحافیوں کے ساتھ خصوصی نشست کے دوران وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ سی پیک سے متعلق منفی تاثر پھیلا یا جارہا تھا، کچھ تو تین نہیں چاہتیں کہ سی پیک منصوبہ آگے بڑھے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کا افغانستان مسئلے پر موقف واضح ہے، افغانستان کے معاملے پر پاکستان اور چین متفق ہیں، چینی صدر سے ملاقات میں دونوں جانب سے واضح پیغام گئے۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ سی پیک سے متعلق بڑی مثبت چیزیں سامنے آئی ہیں، افغانستان پر چین سے آئندہ کاروڈ میپ طے ہو گیا، مسئلہ کشمیر پر پاکستان اور چین کے موقف میں یکسوئی پائی جاتی ہے

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-14/page-1/detail-16>

February 15, 2022

Daily Times

Pak-China Industrial Cooperation Framework and Beyond

Syed Wajahat Ali

There is a consensus that Pakistan's economy needs FDI to bounce back. Clouded in geo-strategic storms and political instability, however, attracting FDI towards Pakistan is a tough row to hoe. Nevertheless, China's massive economic explosion outwards is a tide of time, if surfed intelligently, it can galvanize the industrial transformation in Pakistan.

The challenge is to collaborate sustainably by liberating the conception of the whole process from desperate fallouts within and without. Furthermore, the operational mechanics of the partnership need expansion with a precise analysis of variables identifying stakeholders from

both countries; their needs, potentials, and terms of engagement under a liberal investment regime.

The CPEC was initiated in 2013 between Pakistan and China. The Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) is the apex decision-making body of CPEC which is led by the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Pakistan and the National, Development & Reform Commission (NDRC), China.

In 2016, the Board of Investment (BOI) was designated as the lead agency of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC from the Pakistani side and the National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC) from the Chinese side. NDRC represents the main state organ of China responsible to formulate strategies, plans and policies for utilizing foreign capital, conducting overseas investment, and achieving aggregate balance and optimizing structure; playing a leading role in implementing the Belt and Road Initiative, and undertaking and coordinating China's "go global" strategy.

In 2018, BOI initiated the process of drafting a Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation, which was hoped to be signed in the 8th JCC meeting held in the same year in Beijing. However, due to paucity of time, negotiations could not be concluded between the parties and only an MoU was signed which formed the basis for future engagements under the ambit of Industrial Cooperation.

In 2019, BOI established the Project Management Unit CPEC Industrial Cooperation Development Project (PMU-CPEC-ICDP) with PSDP funding. Due to the lack of sufficient regular BOI staff, it became imperative that a dedicated PMU may be established to spearhead BOI's Industrial Cooperation initiatives.

As the second phase of CPEC primarily revolves around Special Economic Zones (SEZs) development, industrialization, FDI generation and stronger B2B ties between both sides, with special emphasis on industrial relocation from China, the need for a comprehensive Framework Agreement became imperative for an objective-oriented roadmap. Similar agreements have also been signed for Early Harvest CPEC Projects on Energy & Infrastructure.

Resuming the BOI's efforts from 2018, the PMU-CPEC-ICDP, under the supervision of Project Director, Mr Asim Ayub who is a dedicated Civil Servant from Pakistan Administrative Service with the sapient guidance of the BOI leadership, took up the matter with NDRC to kickstart the negotiations on the Framework Agreement. The agenda was also proposed by the PMU to be included in the 4th JWG meeting on Industrial Cooperation held in October 2019. However, the Chinese side did not concur with the proposal and resultantly the matter went into abeyance once again.

With consistent efforts and by taking up the matter through the JCC forum and the diplomatic channels, the Chinese side agreed to elevate the MoU into a Framework Agreement in March 2020. PMU, while taking the initiative of drafting the Framework Agreement, started the preliminary work. In this regard, a draft was prepared after in-house deliberations and circulated

amongst the Federal and Provincial stakeholders for their valuable input. Similarly, a series of consultative forums were also organized by PMU whereby all concerned quarters were invited from the Public and Private Sectors. The idea was to devise an all-inclusive framework that should be a focused document yet encompassing all the envisaged ideas to create industrial competitiveness in Pakistan.

As the 5th JWG meeting was around the corner, PMU with the approval of the Prime Minister (being Minister-in-Charge of BOI), shared the Draft Framework with NDRC in November 2020 to kickstart the negotiations and conclude the same before the 5th JWG which was held in December 2020. The feedback was not received from NDRC till the happening of the 5th JWG, however, a breakthrough was achieved whereby the Chinese side agreed to include the agenda of Draft Framework in the 5th JWG and it was made part of the signed minutes that the Chinese side has acknowledged the Draft Framework shared by BOI which shall be finalized expeditiously.

With continuous efforts and highlighting the matter at all forums, the Chinese side reached back to BOI in January 2022, prior to the PM's visit to China with the proposition to finalize the Framework at the earliest, to ensure the signing of the same during PM's visit. In this regard, active negotiations took place between the parties and consensus was reached on the text of the Framework. Approval of the Federal Cabinet to sign the framework was sought a day before PM's departure to China on 3rd February 2022 and the Framework finally saw the light of the day, which was signed on 4th February 2022 under the witness of the PM.

The Framework Agreement is one of those documents under CPEC which has been authored by the Pakistani side and negotiated efficiently. PMU has been successful in reaching the consensus without any major amendments to the original proposed draft. Besides, during the recent visit of the PM to China, the signing of the Framework Agreement is considered to be the only tangible outcome that has also been given wide media coverage locally and internationally.

The agreement envisages the prioritized development and operations of the 9 CPEC Special Economic Zones, establishing the Industrial Cooperation Fund for win-win projects. It envisions a business-to-business matchmaking mechanism for Pakistani and Chinese enterprises to relocate manufacturing establishments and to achieve an effective operational capacity for these Special Economic Zones.

The agreed framework also anticipates an extended and multi-layered collaboration in Skill Development, FDI attraction for Pakistan, Industrial Diagnosis and Technical Assistance, Technology Transfer, joint global marketing of the multi-sectoral corporate prospects linked with SEZs, industry concentration in priority sectors: Iron & Steel, Mines & Minerals, Textile, Petrochemicals, and last but not the least, the promotion of cultural and institutional liaison between the two countries.

Undoubtedly, the document encapsulates a vast opportunity horizon both horizontally and vertically. However, the impactful execution of this framework demands four steps to be taken

without any delay. Firstly, Pakistan constitutes a devolved federal structure. The execution arms for industry regulations and policies in different sectors like minerals, tourism, revenue, land acquisition, environment, and general administration rest with provinces. The efficient coordination mechanism between BOI offices and provincial departments needs a Legislative Framework to decrease the operational frictions at functional levels.

Secondly, systematic outreach to small and large enterprises is needful to develop a sound opportunity base before fabricating the prescribed multi-sectoral investment models. For that purpose, a Strategic Incubation Cell under the PMU is required with a representation of execution departments, business experts and consultants – tasked to assist, guide, regulate and monitor local enterprises in developing business plans, feasibility studies, technical reports, surveys, market analysis, recovery, risk and profit assessment tools. The Strategic Incubation Cell will bridge the operational chasm by bringing the business capability of host enterprises at par with their foreign counterparts. The proposed cell would surely enhance the credibility and sustainability of business partnerships under the B2B model.

CPEC remained concentrated with the power and infrastructure projects during the last decade. Now as the cooperation has entered into its second phase with the signing of this framework agreement, it is imperative to devise an objective strategy to implement it with a sustainable bandwidth. The third step is to design Out-of-Box marketing initiatives pitching cooperation in the readily available areas with a larger trickle-down impact on human development by reducing unemployment and poverty. Tapping indigenous potential in agriculture, mining and tourism; skill and technology transfer in selected areas; identification and provision of cheap raw materials to attract speedy manufacturing relocations; targeted academic and cultural linkages are important steps to ensure an inclusive and progressive implementation of this framework.

Fourthly, a strategy to ensure that internal political instability and law-in-order should least interject the trajectory of cooperation. China's business model is highly pragmatic with no tolerance for uncertain profits and recoveries. The rampant political polarization and rising extremism are frictions that need to be overcome by considering all available tools. The protection of logistics and lives of foreign citizens involved in these projects conditions the success of this industrial cooperation at the very outset.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/885762/pak-china-industrial-cooperation-framework-and-beyond/>

Pakistan's Future with IMF and CPEC

Syed Ali Imran

International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a \$ 1 Billion tranche after completing its 6th review. For the approval of this latest assessment, it took several months and so many harsh unpopular measures by the government to satisfy IMF conditions. Now it paved the way to get more foreign exchange from the issuance of bonds and some grants from other international financial institutions. With this positive news and inflow of dollars, Rupee gained its value in the

open market. IMF further believes that market-driven exchange rates and good macroeconomic policies will address external account issues in long run. Governor State Bank (SBP) stated that Pakistan is now on such a growth track, which is according to economic principles and is sustainable however claimed Inflation as a global challenge. He further added that the Tax to GDP ratio needs to be increased and for such reason, several measures are undertaken. The government approved Rs 4 Billion for the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) system upgradation and asked Exchange Companies (EC), the largest source of Foreign exchange (FE), to integrate with FBR where EC to surrender 100 per cent home remittance against Rs 1 per USD benefit. Prime Minister Imran Khan, in the meantime, went to China on the inaugural session of the Winter Olympics where the Russian President was also there with a planned meet-up. Such a move of Pakistan has given a clear stance of our foreign policy where the western world has diplomatically boycotted the Winter Olympics being held in China. PM also assured China about his government's affirmation to pace up the projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and tried to renegotiate tariffs related to CPEC power projects together with trade agreements which previously were not well articulated.

Hafeez Sheikh, the then Finance Minister, was initially not in favour of raising power tariffs.

It is not the first time Pakistan went to the IMF. Initially, Pakistan, through a standby agreement, knocked on the IMF's door first time on September 22, 1959. However, the first borrowing was made on March 16, 1966, with USD 38 Million. The longer period when Pakistan stayed away from IMF was post 911 during the Musharaf era when probably due to being a part of the War on Terror as front line state, the inflow of US dollars and larger Foreign Direct Investments into the Telecom sector stabilized the external account of Pakistan for some seven years.

However, due to a restricting exchange rate, the biggest-ever borrowing agreement with IMF was made on September 30, 2011, with an agreed amount of USD 7.2 Billion with the drawn amount of USD 4.9 Billion followed by an Extended Funded Facility of USD 6 Billion agreed in July 2019 in tranches with some harsh conditions of time-bound assessments and to release facility amount in tranches after completing these assessments religiously. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the release of tranches was stopped. But the IMF released USD 1.4 Billion in April 2020 to support Pakistan, which came under supporting loans to virus-affected economies. Hafeez Sheikh, the then Finance Minister, completed the third, fourth, and fifth tranches and was replaced by Shoukat Tarin, who was initially not in favour of raising power tariffs and other harsh measures. However, due to rising external account concerns, Pakistan re-entered the IMF program and took some real harsh measures by passing the mini-budget to withdraw Rs 378 Billion tax exemptions and approving the SBP autonomy Bill. Now, the tranche is released and Pakistan is looking forward to a sizeable gain in the PKR value in the short-term unless, within the time range, it may rationalise a real effective exchange rate by controlling over-inflation and reducing the trade deficit. In this regard, the good news is from the textile industry where the sector can grab regional export orders.

The textile industry has posted an increase in export by 26 per cent in the first half of the fiscal year 2022 (1HFY22) i.e. exports reached USD 9.4 Billion. However, it is pertinent to mention here that textile exports of Bangladesh for the same period have increased by 28 per cent. This shows the orders are coming from the West where regional competitors are also well aware of and deep down relationship strategy to deploy not only private to private clientele but through diplomatic means a need of the times. Now after SBP autonomy, fears are there to the textile industry, where the sector is largely dependent on short-term and long-term subsidized financing from SBP. No matter what the outcome may be for subsidised borrowing, another challenge related to the cost of energy is there as well where either input cost is increasing in the shape of fuel or tariff is being rationalised by accounting for input cost and rising circular debt which is increasing at a pace of Rs 38 Billion per month. The present circular debt level is increased to Rs 2.476 Trillion. According to the new Rs 3.09 per unit, the increase is approved by NEPRA for DISCOs for fuel adjustment for December 2021, which will increase the further burden. Please note that due to ill-planned agreements with IPPs of then government appreciation in USD leads to more burden on Government to pay against capacity payments though the present government has successfully abled to reduce this burden to some extent however the damage has been done.

Prime Minister's visit to China will give new strength to Pak China relations where Pakistan stood with China when the western world has boycotted the Winter Olympics diplomatically. This is PM IK's fourth visit to China during his tenure of the last three years. Pakistan not only showed its concern over CPEC-based IPP agreements where overdue receivables are touching Rs 250 Billion but seek support in the shape of a soft loan to stabilise its external account. It is important to highlight here that China has already given USD 11 Billion in the shape of commercial loans and foreign exchange reserves support initiative including \$4 Billion in SAFE deposit. 21 different sectors identified with Chinese businesspeople related to Special Economic Zones under the CPEC, IT, agriculture together with the relocation of Chinese industries to Pakistan. We expect a good outcome from PM IK's visit to China where the Russian President was also there in favour of external accounts otherwise another IMF program will be awaited.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/885760/pakistans-future-with-imf-and-cpec/>

Investments pouring into GB thanks to CPEC

The economic benefits of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are beginning to emerge in a big way as overseas Pakistanis are pouring investment into Gilgit-Baltistan to cash in on the lucrative opportunities in the untapped sectors, said speakers at a webinar on Gilgit-Baltistan Invest Conference. According to Gwadar Pro, the webinar entitled "Roadshow Webinar, USA, Canada, and European countries" which was organized on Sunday night was part of the Government of GB Investment Conference 2022.

The Webinar set the spotlight on GB's unique feasibility for harnessing responsible investments into equitable economic opportunities for social prosperity while serving as an excellent

networking platform for global, national, and regional stakeholders to foster collaborations and businesses.

The speakers said that with the improvement in communication infrastructure under CPEC, construction of motorways, and opening of Karakoram Highway, domestic tourism is growing at a swift pace, triggering a wave of investment in the tourism sector of the northern regions including Gilgit-Baltistan.

Khadim Hussain, Secretary of Agriculture GB, said that in the Federal Government's special package for GB, the foremost importance has been given to road infrastructure. According to him, besides KKH, another road has been approved between Ghizer and Chitral to connect the region with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while another project is in the offing to link GB with Punjab via Azad Kashmir.

"GB will be the gateway of CPEC when it comes to operation," Mr. Hussain added. Khadim Hussain said that construction of Diamer Basha Dam was in full swing and within a few years, the project will start producing clean energy, adding there is potential to invest in hydropower projects.

GB has dynamic tourism potential and provides diverse tourism opportunities for domestic and foreign tourists across the world. Being home to the world's highest mountain, GB peaks and glaciers fascinate the attention of adventurers, mountaineers, trekkers, travelers, and explorers.

The initiative is aimed at attracting and facilitating investments across key sectors including tourism, renewable energy, minerals & mining, trade, commerce, agribusiness, and technology. Raja Nasir Ali Khan, GB Minister for Tourism, Sports and Culture, said that the government was giving special attention to the promotion of winter sports and was providing excellent facilities to tourists in the area.

"There are lots of potentials to invest in GB. The government will facilitate and solve all kinds of problems the investors face," Mr. Khan added. The GB Investment Initiative aims to mobilize private sector impact investments in the region, supporting equitable and sustainable development for the region's people and local economy while preserving a unique ecosystem.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/885785/investments-pouring-into-gb-thanks-to-cpec/>

Dunya News

Pakistan's rice exports to China increased 133% in 2021

BEIJING (APP) Pakistan's export of rice to China (HS Code 1006) crossed \$400 million in 2021, up 133 percent year on year, and in the first five months of the last year once Pakistan remained the largest rice supplier to China, according to the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Commercial Counselor of the Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Badar uz Zaman previously said that in the next few years, his target would be to achieve one million tons of rice. He desired that Pakistan would become the largest player in this market.

This year China imported about 973,000 tons of rice worth \$ 437 million from Pakistan.

The seven new Pakistan rice exporters have been added to the approved list which has risen to 53 last year, and China relaxed import restrictions on Pakistani rice which helped rice export to China.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/641308-Pakistan-rice-exports-to-China-increased-133pc-in-2021>

Pakistan Observer

PM China visit: A big diplomatic victory

Rashid A Mughal

BRAVO Imran Khan did it. Amidst opposition and boycott of USA, you showed the world and particularly the sole superpower that we will take our foreign policy decisions ourselves and will not take any dictation and will pursue a policy, best suited to our regional and international interests.

Prime Minister Imran Khan paid a three-day visit to China last week to attend the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Beijing.

The United States and several Western nations have boycotted the Games. Imran Khan's participation in the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics was an important step towards further strengthening ties between Islamabad and Beijing.

This visit was important from Pakistan's point of view as during this visit various important regional issues were not only discussed directly with the Chinese leadership but Pakistan received unequivocal support from a trusted friend on Kashmir and other issues.

Though Pakistan and China have very close relations but at the same time Pakistan wants to maintain better diplomatic and economic relations with the United States also, despite the fact that Pakistan does not agree with the US policy towards China and ongoing tension between the two countries.

Pakistan does not see China as an alternate to the United States but because of Pakistan's internal economic needs and the changing situation in the region, Pakistan needs China.

They have made big investment of over \$60 billion in CPEC under their BRI initiative and CPEC is their flagship project.

There is an impression that some projects under CPEC are slowing down and this issue was discussed during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Many analysts say that though some of the proposed important and urgent projects under CPEC, including the Karachi-Peshawar railway line project, have yet to make practical progress, the infrastructure and many energy projects have been completed.

Pakistan is seeking Chinese investment in the industries of textiles, footwear, pharmaceuticals, furniture, agriculture, automobile and information technology.

PM told major Chinese companies that it could provide access to trade routes to the Middle East, Africa and the rest of the world to them and offering greater incentives in the shape of reduction in freight costs.

Prime Minister's visit to China came at a time when the relations between US and Pakistan are rather cold and lack the traditional warmth between once — friendly countries.

Pakistan's ties with the United States were somewhat strained during the 1990s, but the country again became Washington's ally in the "war on terror" after the September 11, 2001, attacks.

However, following the US pullout from Afghanistan, Pakistan is now looking to the East for strategic alliances.

China, which now enjoys the status of a major economic power in Asia, has found a reliable and trust-worthy friend in Pakistan and invested billions of dollars to help stabilize Pakistan's shaky economy.

Pakistan is heavily dependent on China because the West did not turn out to be a reliable ally, abandoning Islamabad and instead cozying up to New Delhi, a common foe of both Pakistan and China.

While loans from the International Monetary Fund came with strings attached, China didn't put conditions on its loans.

It has already pumped billions of dollars into the CPEC but did not attach strings.

Pakistan has reciprocated by granting China access to the Indian Ocean and supporting the country at international forums.

The US has no interest in the region after pulling out from Afghanistan. As a result, Pakistan will need China's assistance to bolster its economy, stabilize Afghanistan, promote trade in the region and consolidate its defenses.

President Xi assured Prime Minister Imran Khan that "China upholds fairness and justice in international affairs and is willing to strengthen the coordination and cooperation with Pakistan in multilateral venues such as the UN and promote justice and world and regional peace."

In an interview with China Global Television Network, PM Imran Khan said "Pakistan and China enjoy a "very special relationship" spanning over 70 years and nothing could change these time-tested ties.

Talking about the evolving regional rivalry between the US and China, Khan said that “Pakistan thinks it is very unfair for the US or other powers — western powers” to pressurize “countries like us to take sides” in a conflict with China.

“Why should we take sides? We should have good relations with everyone. It is not going to happen if pressure is put on Pakistan to change its relationship or downgrade its relationship with China, it wouldn’t happen,” Khan said.

This is a very bold statement and reflects the nature and level of friendship between Pakistan and China and also at the same time a rebuff to the imperialistic and colonial thinking and set of mind, the western powers have.

He went on to say that, “In good times, everyone stands with you but in your difficult, tough times, bad times, you remember those who stood by you.

That’s why you will find that in Pakistan, people always have a special fondness for people in China,” he said.

Imran Khan also referred to the QUAD or Quadrilateral alliance consisting of the US, India, Japan and Australia which has been formed against China.

After Imran Khan and Xi Jinping meeting in the backdrop of Beijing Winter Olympic games, China declared that it opposes any “unilateral actions” in Kashmir and pledged to go ahead with CPEC, which cuts through Kashmir.

In a joint statement issued after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan held talks with the top Chinese leadership, including President Xi Jinping, in Beijing, China said the Kashmir issue was a historic dispute and should be resolved properly and peacefully.

This is a big diplomatic win for Pakistan. China has once again demonstrated that it stands with Pakistan in all situations — good or bad as mentioned by PM Imran Khan while on visit to that great country. No doubt China has proved to be an all-weather friend.

<https://pakobserver.net/pm-china-visit-a-big-diplomatic-victory-by-rashid-a-mughal/>

The Express Tribune

KEPZ investors urge government to withdraw general sales tax

KARACHI: Businessmen have urged the government to withdraw the general sales tax (GST) imposed on the industries in Karachi Export Processing Zone (KEPZ).

Talking to The Express Tribune, businessman Ahsan Ali, operating in KEPZ, underlined that all export processing zones worldwide “are duty-free zones”.

He mentioned that the government applied GST only in KEPZ, and not in any other export processing zone of the country, which “is not a balanced decision”.

He pointed out that a few businessmen were allegedly misdeclaring their imports, which led the government to slap GST.

“Customs should improve its system to catch these criminals instead of punishing everyone,” he emphasised.

Another businessman from KEPZ, Khadim Ghulam Hussain, revealed that the zone had filed a case against the government’s decision.

Currently, the companies were paying 5% GST through post-dated cheques, he said.

“The government will refund them if they win the case, otherwise businessmen will pay the remaining 12% GST,” he pointed out.

Echoing the viewpoint of Ahsan Ali, Union of Small and Medium Enterprises (Unisame) Chairman Zulfikar Thaver mentioned that a few businesses in the EPZ had allegedly indulged in smuggling of dutiable and banned items along with the permissible items in containers.

“This had led the government to impose GST on KEPZ,” he said and was of the view that the government should not penalise all business units in the zone just because of the wrongdoing of a few.

He urged the government to withdraw the notification and “prevent the majority of SMEs (small and medium enterprises) from the blockage of funds and hardships”.

Thaver noted that SMEs and entrepreneurs in the zone were badly affected by the imposition of GST, mainly due to the blocking of funds.

“There is speculation that a majority of the units will shift to Sharjah Export Processing Zone because of the GST imposition,” he underlined.

“It is not a wise decision,” he remarked, adding that the government would not benefit from it as “GST is refundable on exports of goods”.

However, about the refunds, he mentioned that the process “takes a very long time”. “Refund agents and departments keep pointing out objections and delaying the process,” Thaver lamented.

Regarding the malpractices, he emphasised the need to have a strong and strict monitoring mechanism through modern technologies like scanners, cameras, etc.

However, measures like the imposition of GST would violate the 30-year agreement offered by the government and raise doubts about good policymaking and governance in the country, he underlined.

“The repercussions will be bad,” he said, adding that it would create a trust deficit among investors about the inconsistent government policies.

“The EPZ employs almost 70,000 labourers and there are more than 200 units,” he pointed out.

Alpha Beta Core CEO Khurram Schehzad underlined that export processing zones or special economic zones “are supposed to be incentive-driven”.

Therefore, in order to attract planned investments, they should be treated in the same way, he emphasised.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2343470/kepzi-investors-urge-government-to-withdraw-general-sales-tax>

CPEC – a hope for boosting tea plantation

Pak-China collaboration will help reduce huge spending on tea imports

ISLAMABAD: Pakistanis have proved to be real tea lovers not only in drinking it regularly two to three times a day, but also offer it to the visiting guests as the best source of hospitality.

Pakistan is now ranked among the top tea importing and consuming countries with total tea imports valuing at \$590 million.

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) reported that Pakistan was among the top seven countries where tea consumption had increased significantly and estimated a rise in per capita consumption of 35.8% from 2007 to 2016.

Tea has emerged as a major import commodity and is draining huge foreign exchange every year, therefore, the government has proposed a tea cluster in the agricultural transformation report published by the Planning Commission in 2020.

Tea plantation and processing have already proved successful in northern Pakistan, however, its commercialisation under the market mechanism needs the attention of decision-makers.

Though the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) has established a tea estate over an area of 50 acres along with green and black tea processing units, with the technical and financial assistance of China, at Shinkhari in Mansehra, it is yet to be adopted by the private sector on a sustainable basis.

During the soil survey from 1986 to 1989, a team of tea experts from Pakistan and China tested 64 sites in Hazara and Swat, and identified an area of around 64,000 hectares for tea planting in Mansehra.

Under the Chinese technical assistance, experts from the Tea Research Institute, Hangzhou, China worked during 1986-89 in Shinkhari and established the National Tea Research Institute (NTRI).

Mandated for research only, NTRI is well equipped and staffed for managing a small tea estate spread over 50 acres as well as green and black tea processing units. NTRI is now serving as a research base for tea culture in Pakistan.

The federal government has also engaged private sector companies for experimentation and commercialisation of tea, however, the pace and quantum of commercialisation has been very slow.

Therefore, unlike other tea-growing countries, Pakistan could not see the commodity's production on a commercial scale in the past over 35 years since the establishment of NTRI and tea research stations in Shinkiari.

Commercialisation of tea is highly sustainable as it has social, economic and environmental benefits. Major social benefits include job creation for millions of unemployed youth and provision of a healthy drink loaded with antioxidants.

The economic impact includes self-sufficiency in tea production, which will not only help in resource mobilisation at the domestic level but will also reduce the import bill, thereby saving foreign currency.

Environmental benefits are increased oxygen production, controlling soil erosion in the hilly terrain suited for tea plantation, landscape and aesthetic impact on the soil surface, which will attract tourists.

Pakistan did try to commercialise tea in Mansehra, Swat and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) where suitable land was available and a project was also approved by Ecnec in 2007-08.

Under the project, the then government agreed to provide state land on lease to the interested private tea companies on a long-term lease but in the middle of project implementation, the subject of agriculture was devolved to provinces and since then the project has remained shelved.

Availability of a large piece of land spread over hundreds of acres at one place is a real challenge that the government must address as due to land fragmentation such large pieces of land are rarely available with private land owners in the hilly areas.

The options left are either to acquire a large piece of land or lease forest waste lands to the private tea growers.

Another option is cooperative tea farming, which is done in many countries, but that too requires huge support for establishing an industrial base for tea processing.

Pak-China cooperation

Now that China is fully engaged with Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan can easily benefit from the expertise and resources that Beijing possesses as all potential tea growing areas lie on both sides of CPEC route, providing an easy access to markets.

In addition, China has already established NTRI in Shinkiari and it will love to adopt it for a B2B venture in the agriculture sector. The expert, who led the Chinese team during 1986-1989, has expressed his willingness to visit Pakistan again.

At a Zoom seminar, organised by the China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information Platform on June 23, 2021, the participants from Pakistan and China emphasised the need for cooperation in the commercialisation of tea in Pakistan.

The discussion sparks hope that China is willing to support Pakistan in this area too.

The major issue in the way is not the ecological suitability of land for tea production, but the availability of required privately owned land at one place.

Land fragmentation due to successive shares in inheritance has reduced the private ownership of land to a bare minimum, which is not sufficient for establishing a commercial tea estate.

In addition, the storage of water upstream and land development require spending of a huge amount of resources that no one is ready to bear for a crop that may need investment for five years to produce leaves for plucking on a commercial scale.

Latest technology including the tea processing and blending units will also have to be imported to initiate tea processing on a commercial scale.

The way forward is that the governments of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) and AJK should identify suitable pieces of waste land of the forest department for long-term lease to the potential tea-growing companies, as that arrangement had already been made under a PSDP project from 2007-08 to 2012-13.

CPEC may provide technical and financial support under B2B or any other suitable mode while the tea cluster approach proposed by the agricultural transformation plan can also be implemented. The government of Pakistan, K-P and AJK should provide all the required support to the private tea growers, offer at least 10-year tax-free regime for the promotion of tea industry and duty-free import of raw tea for blending, tea machinery, raw material for tea blending and promote exports, which will help the industry to take off.

This way Pakistan may enjoy its home-grown tea on a commercial basis and reduce or even eliminate foreign exchange spending on tea imports.

It is quite possible, given a huge area suitable for tea plantation, to increase production to a level where Pakistan can not only meet its own requirements but can also export tea of high quality.

The writer is a PhD in natural resources management and masters in forestry besides serving as divisional forest officer in K-P

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2343330/cpec-a-hope-for-boosting-tea-plantation>

The News

Function arranged to mark Chinese New Year

PESHAWAR: China Window - the Chinese Cultural and Information Centre-arranged a colourful function to mark the Chinese New Year.KP Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali

Shah inaugurated the celebrations while newly elected Mayor of Peshawar, Zubair Ali, cut the New Year's cake.

A number of people from different walks of life and children were in attendance. Speaking at the gathering, the additional chief secretary said there is an everlasting bond of friendship between Pakistan and China which is getting stronger with each passing day.

He said both countries leadership reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen the Pak-China friendship during the recent visit to China by Prime Minister Imran Khan. The senior official said today the people of Peshawar are sending a message of good wishes to Chinese brothers and sisters on the occasion of the New Year.

He said the colourful events held at China Window fully reflects the role of the people of Peshawar in Pak-China friendship. The Peshawar mayor termed the celebration on the occasion of Chinese New Year very important, adding that signified the Pak-China friendship.

He said every Pakistani is proud of the way China has stood by Pakistan through thick and thin. Zubair Ali promised to make Peshawar again a city of flowers and full support would be sought from China in this regard.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=56900>