



For Better Understanding on
**China–Pakistan and
CPEC**
Gleanings from the
National & Chinese Press

June 16-30, 2023

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June 16, 2023

Business Recorder

Seizing SEZ investments

Pakistan badly needs investments in productive sectors– both from within and outside. And the urgency could not be greater given the unsustainable balance of payments situation today. One way to do so is by establishing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) where special treatment is given to investors based on certain criteria.

However, Pakistani SEZs have failed to attract FDI compared to India & Bangladesh. 60 percent of SEZ land in Pakistan is still unoccupied after 11 years of SEZ Act 2012. Investors are not willing to trust 10-year tax holiday as FBR applies 1.25 percent minimum turnover tax on SEZ enterprises. The government must take notice of this.

Over the last 10 years, the turnover tax is equivalent to 29 percent tax on net income. Investors call it “Deceptive Marketing” by Board of Investment (BOI). This is hindering the foreign capital and investment in the manufacturing sector, especially via CPEC Phase II, which is the key to solving our balance of payment woes and won’t happen without clear & decisive policy incentives. There are no two ways about it.

The buzz is that Shandong Province of China is thinking to relocate its industries to Pakistan, as most industries are labour intensive such as Cement, Fish farming, Agriculture, solar panels, Citric acid, etc. Sources in touch with Chinese investors say that over 100 projects have potential and interest to relocate to Pakistan.

SEZ incentives are a key to attract such relocations which will bring jobs to the country and a large portion of the output would be exported back to China. That is to help transfer the technology and skillset to Pakistan and help to create much needed value chains. However, that is not likely to happen without the said incentives to be implemented. And turnover tax is one big impediment.

The issue was highlighted with the government last year when a foreign investors delegation met the PM to raise the issue of unfair applicability of minimum turnover tax on SEZ enterprises and explained to him how its constraining their investment in Pakistan. The PM formed a committee comprising of BOI and FBR representatives, and that came up with a recommendation to continue with exemption of minimum turnover tax in SEZs which is inline with the SEZs Act.

However, there is nothing on it in the recently announced budget. FBR perhaps fears potential loss of revenues; but that might not be the case, as it would be more than compensated for by the 18 percent sales tax paid by these new SEZ enterprises when they are set up in SEZ.

The main idea behind SEZs is to encourage domestic and international investors for promotion of industrial infrastructure. And the fiscal benefits are provided in this regard. One such fiscal incentive was ‘exemption from all taxes on income’ given to zone enterprises under Section 37 of the SEZ Act.

This exemption from tax on income was one of the critical bases of the investments made in the SEZs across the country since 2016. However, the FBR is not willing to extend exemption from minimum tax on turnover. This is despite the plain language in both the SEZ Act and Income tax Ordinance, 2001.

The intention of FBR to deny exemption from minimum turnover tax would frustrate the provisions of the SEZ Act. It will not only create dissatisfaction among already invested zone enterprises but would also deter new foreign & domestic investors from establishing factories in SEZs.

This contrasts with the practices in other developing countries, especially China, Vietnam, India and Bangladesh that have used the SEZs as a valuable tool to attract foreign capital to develop their industrial infrastructure.

To date, Pakistan SEZs have performed poorly compared with its regional peers. Credibility and sanctity of the commitments made by the Pakistan's Parliament and its Government are critical to compete in attracting investments in our SEZs and attracting the much-needed foreign capital in manufacturing sector.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/16/2-page/965201-news.html>

Daily Times

UCP celebrates 72nd Anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic ties

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences marked the 72nd anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China at University of Central Punjab (UCP) Lahore in Webinar Hall. The Chinese Consul General, His Excellency Zhao Shiren graced the event as the Chief Guest. The event shed light on the 72 years journey of friendship between two neighbouring countries. A special video was prepared and shown to the audience regarding the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1951; emphasizing on how Pakistan and China supported each other in the times of need. Excellency Shiren gave a speech by shedding light on the strategic importance of Pakistan-China relations. He particularly attached importance to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which can be a game-changer not only for Pakistan but for the region. His Excellency opined that people-to-people connection should be enhanced to new level in terms of various exchange programmes. In pursuit of this, he announced five scholarships for UCP Lahore particularly for the students of Department of Political Science and IR for their post-graduate degrees in China. Not only that, he discussed various avenues for faculty and student exchange programmes between UCP and Chinese universities. In the end, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Dr Khalid Manzoor Butt thanked the Guest Speaker and presented a souvenir as a token of remembrance and thanks.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1103790/ucp-celebrates-72nd-anniversary-of-pak-china-diplomatic-ties/>

Week-long CPEC celebrations conclude

Week-long celebrations in connection with the 10th anniversary of Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) concluded at the University of Sargodha (UoS), here on Thursday.

The events were jointly organised by the Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS), Confucius Institute UoS, Department of Politics and International Relations and the Institute of Art & Design. UoS Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qaisar Abbas was the chief guest at the prize distribution ceremony, held at the main Hall of the university. He distributed cash prizes and certificates among the position holders, who took part in events including essay writing, Chinese art and craft exhibition, a quiz competition, documentary contests, and an art exhibition.

Prof. Qaisar Abbas, speaking at the ceremony, appreciated students, who participation in the competitions to deepen their understanding of Pakistan-China relations. He emphasised the importance of benefits from the CPEC projects and shared plans for exports and educational collaboration with China. He cited the example of establishing a citrus processing unit in Sargodha for enhanced exports. He also highlighted the unique educational model where students receive practical education in China, contributing to a successful academic project.

PICS Director Dr Fazlur Rahman emphasised the significance of raising awareness among students about the importance of Pakistan and China relations. He highlighted how the competitions provide the students with opportunities to have better understanding of various aspects of Pak-China relations and CPEC. Moreover, he emphasised the initiatives which would serve as a catalyst, inspiring students to actively engage in global initiatives.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1103725/week-long-cpec-celebrations-conclude/>

Gwadar University to set up CPEC study center

The University of Gwadar's third syndicate meeting was held at the higher education commission regional centre Quetta with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Abdul Razzaq Sabir in the chair, a handout said on Thursday.

The syndicate besides a few new teaching departments decided to establish a CPEC study center and a Center for Marine Affairs and Marine Sciences.

The meeting among others was attended by syndicate members including UG's Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr Syed Manzoor Ahmed, Secretary Colleges & Higher and Technical Education Balochistan, Hafiz Abdul Majid Bohair, Registrar Dolat Khan, Director Finance Shafi Muhammad, acting Dean faculty of Management Sciences, Commerce and Social Sciences Prof. Dr Jan Muhammad and acting controller Examination Dr Kambar Farooq. The UG's registrar presented the agenda of the meeting before the house for deliberation and decisions. The August forum discussed each agenda in detail and decided on important matters such as launching new programs and granting approval to regularize the services of contract employees who have fulfilled all recruitment procedures and completed their probation periods.

The members deliberated and resolved all the immediate issues related to the academic, administrative, and finances of the university. The house confirmed the minutes of the 1st

meeting of the Syndicate, the 3rd meeting of the academic council, the 3rd meeting of the Finance and Planning Committee for the Budget Estimates of FY 2023-24, and the Annual Report of the University for the year 2023. In terms of teaching, Gwadar University is counted among the emerging higher education institutions of the province. The Vice-Chancellor appreciated the unparalleled contribution and services of the members of the constituent bodies of the University in the efforts of rapid development of the University in a short period.

They expressed their satisfaction that the important academic and administrative matters of the institution are being resolved by the decisions of the concerned institutions, prioritizing the interest and stability of the University, which will open new avenues for further development. Finally, the Vice Chancellor thanked all the members for their valuable contribution to the meeting and presented them with commemorative shields.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1103727/gwadar-university-to-set-up-cpec-study-center/>

CPEC's Role in Airways

Yasir Habib Khan

CPEC means connectivity. With roadways and seaways, the airways corridor connects the people of Pakistan and China. In a watershed moment, China Southern Airline played its part by resuming the air route from Lahore, an economic hub in Punjab to Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang (China).

First direct flight has finally been resumed after an aeroplane of China Southern Airline took off from Allama Iqbal International Airport at 9:50 am on June 13.

The Urumqi-Lahore route was suspended on January 24, 2020, in the wake of Covid-19 curbs on the aviation sector. The activity marked a defining moment for the resumption of flights after more than three years. The flights are scheduled weekly, specifically on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.

To celebrate the first Lahore-Urumqi flight, a special cake-cutting ceremony was held at Allama Iqbal International Airport. Chinese Consul General Lahore Zhao Shiren cut the festive cake in the presence of dignitaries including Ms Zhang Xingru, G M of Lahore Office, China Southern Airlines, Nazir Ahmed Khan, COO of Allama Iqbal International Airport, Muhammad Rashid, Additional Director of Airport Security, Safdar Wattoo, Additional Director Special Protection Unit and Chinese diplomats.

Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren said that after more than a three-year suspension due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the inaugural passenger aircraft of the China Southern Airlines has arrived at Allama Iqbal Intl and begun its resumption flight from Lahore to Urumqi. "It is a big event, and it is also good news for all," he added. "Lahore, as well as the Punjab at large, plays a very significant role in Pakistan, in terms of the population, economic output and cultural heritage. It has built up a strong partnership and close cooperation with areas and regions of China. Therefore, the direct flight operation is the need of the hour, and will inject a new momentum to further strengthening people-to-people exchanges, trade and investment, between China and Punjab," he added.

Lahore, as an emerging economic hub in Punjab, deserves to be a prime destination for Chinese airlines.

He went off saying, “It will also facilitate the business tour for the traders, travellers, students and tourists of both sides by providing them time-saving and cost-effective flight services.”

There is a tremendous market potential in Punjab, he said and added that he was confident that, with the resumption of the operations, more Lahorites and Punjabis will take the flight for China. The Consulate General was ready to do its best to accommodate in this regard, he asserted.

He hailed festive celebrations of the resumption of direct flights between Urumqi and Lahore. He also paid homage to the Airport Authority, civil aviation authority, Airport security, the SPU and all the relevant stakeholders for making this happen. “I hope there will be more direct flights between Lahore and the Chinese cities in the near future. I wish China Southern Airlines’ noble endeavour great success. I wish every one of you present here today in best health and high spirits,” he concluded.

When contacted by Gwadar Pro, China Southern Airline’s official statement revealed that the reopening of the Urumqi-Lahore route will help to strengthen the connection and cooperation between China and Pakistan and facilitate the exchange and interaction between the two peoples. Furthermore, the resumption of flights will also promote cooperation in economic, cultural and other aspects between the two regions, which is beneficial for the residents and business community and has a positive significance.

Various organizations, including the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, traders’ bodies, and associations, warmly welcomed the resumption of flights. They expressed that Lahore, as an emerging economic hub in Punjab, deserves to be a prime destination for Chinese airlines. Iqbal Haider, a Lahore-based electronic trader gave a big shoutout to the upcoming development. “It will save our time, travelling budget and energy,” he said.

China Southern Airlines possesses the largest fleet and the most developed route network and offers the largest passenger capacity among any airline in the People’s Republic of China.

Currently, China Southern Airlines operates more than 850 passenger and cargo transport aircraft, including Boeing B787, B777, B747 and B737, as well as Airbus A330, A321, A320, A319 and ARJ21. The airline’s fleet ranks 1st in Asia (Data source: IATA, in terms of fleet size).

With continued efforts to establish itself as a network-oriented world-class airline with Chinese characteristics, China Southern Airlines has formed an extensive network across China that links Europe and Oceania and radiates throughout North America, the Middle East, and Africa from Asia.

China Southern operates more than 3,000 daily flights to 224 destinations in 40 countries and regions across the world. For years China Southern has been committed to building up the Canton Route to turn Guangzhou into an international air hub. Now Guangzhou is becoming the No.1 gateway from China mainland to Australasia and Southeast Asia. In 2011, China Southern Airlines earned its Four-Star status from SKYTRAX, the world’s most prestigious

airline performance evaluation organization. In 2016, China Southern was listed among the Top 500 corporations in China by FORTUNE China with the highest ranking among companies in the transportation industry. In 2017, China Southern was named among the most valuable airline brands by Brand Finance, a famous international consultancy, ranking 1st in China and 6th globally.

Underpinned by BRI and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the era of the Air Silk Road has come into being with the spectacular roll-out of China Southern Airlines (CSA) flight resumption from Lahore to Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang autonomous region in far northeast of China. It will set off ripple effects on Sino-Pak profound and immersive relations.

The inception of the Air Silk Road has set in motion deep and synergic aviation integration between Pakistan and China. After the onset of CSA flights from Lahore to Urumqi, air trips between both countries are highly likely to swell as Lahore, the hub of business and trade activities, is the capital of Punjab, the biggest province of Pakistan hosting more than 100 million populations.

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

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1103810/cpecs-role-in-airways/>

The Express Tribune

China approves export of Pakistani beef

Meat industry can earn additional \$15 billion in exports, say experts

LAHORE: The decision of the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) to permit Pakistani meat exporters to export beef to China has been warmly received by the business community.

Central Leader of the Progressive Group and Executive Member of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Muhammad Ejaz Tanveer along with representative of Pakistan Meat Processors and Exporters, Mian Abdul Hannan, issued a joint statement expressing their satisfaction with the long-awaited decision. They highlighted that this development was a significant achievement for members of their group, particularly those involved in meat processing and exports.

The populous country of China, with its strong purchasing power, presents a highly lucrative market for Pakistani beef and other meat exports. Tanveer and Hannan urged the government to collaborate with meat exporters to devise an effective strategy for tapping into other foreign markets as well.

The recent decision by China will enable Pakistani exporters to earn millions of dollars by exporting beef to Chinese importers. However, the exporters were reminded to adhere to the guidelines issued by Chinese authorities regarding meat exports from Pakistan.

Exporters believe that with well-crafted government policies, Pakistan has the potential to earn an additional \$15 billion in annual export revenue from the meat industry. Currently,

Pakistan's annual meat exports amount to a modest \$334 million, while the global Halal meat market is valued at a staggering \$3 trillion, according to Tanveer.

Highlighting Pakistan's agricultural potential, Tanveer and Hannan stressed the need to promote value addition in agricultural, livestock, and aquaculture products to generate vital foreign exchange. They recommended establishing processing industries for agricultural and livestock products in rural areas to alleviate poverty and stimulate development.

While welcoming the government's intent to develop the agricultural sector in the proposed budget for 2023-24, they emphasised the importance of taking concrete actions instead of mere rhetoric to translate these intentions into tangible progress.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2421970/china-approves-export-of-pakistani-beef>

The Nation

PM greets Chinese President Xi Jinping on his birthday

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday extended his greetings to Chinese President Xi Jinping on his birthday. "It is my great pleasure to extend heartiest felicitations to H.E. President Xi Jinping on his birthday," the prime minister, who is currently on a two-day visit to Azerbaijan, wrote on Twitter. He said under the dynamic leadership of President Xi, China had emerged as a global leader advancing international solidarity, peace and cooperation. He said the "iron brotherhood" between China and Pakistan entered a new era of enhanced cooperation since his visit to Pakistan in 2015 and had been going from strength to strength ever since.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-16/page-12/detail-0>

Express News

چین کو ادا کیا گیا ایک ارب ڈالر قرض آج یا پھر تک واپس مل جائیگا، وزیر خزانہ

وزیر خزانہ اسحاق ڈار نے کہا ہے کہ چین کو ادا کیا گیا ایک ارب ڈالر قرض آج یا پھر تک واپس مل جائے گا۔ اسلام آباد

قومی اسمبلی کی قائمہ کمیٹی برائے خزانہ کو بریفنگ کے دوران اسحاق ڈار نے کہا کہ ہم نے جو قرض واپس کیا، وہ دوبارہ مل رہا ہے۔ چین سے ایک ارب ڈالر آج یا پھر کو آجائیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ ایک ارب ڈالر پر گفت و شنید مکمل ہو چکی ہے جب کہ بینک آف چائنا کے ساتھ بھی 30 کروڑ ڈالر پر بات چیت چل رہی ہے۔ چین کے سواپ معاہدے کے تحت بھی ڈالرز آئیں گے۔

وزیر خزانہ نے کہا کہ بجٹ اسٹریٹیجی پیپر میں تاخیر کی وجہ عالمی مالیاتی ادارے (آئی ایم ایف) کے ساتھ بات چیت میں تاخیر تھی۔ آئی ایم ایف نے بیرونی فنانشنگ کی شرائط رکھی ہے، جسے پورا کر رہے ہیں۔ تالی دونوں ہاتھوں سے بنتی ہے، تمام انتظامات کر دیے گئے ہیں۔ ایک گیس پائپ لائن کا اثاثہ 50 ارب ڈالر کا پاکستان کے پاس ہے جب کہ ریکوڈک سے 6 ہزار ارب ڈالر حاصل کیے جاسکتے ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ الیکشن نہ بھی ہوتا تب بھی بجٹ ایسا ہی پیش کرتے۔ بجٹ میں 223 ارب روپے کے ٹیکس اقدامات کیے گئے ہیں، جس میں آئی ٹی سیکٹر اور ایس ایم ایز پر توجہ دی ہے۔ سی پی آئی 29 فیصد اور کورا نفلیشن 20 فیصد کے لگ بھگ ہے۔

وزیر خزانہ کا کہنا تھا کہ سرکاری ملازمین سب سے زیادہ پسا ہوا طبقہ ہے۔ موجودہ ٹیکس دہندگان پر کم سے کم بوجھ ڈالنے کی کوشش کی ہے۔ نان فائلر پر 0.6 فیصد و ہولڈنگ ٹیکس معیشت کو دستاویزی کرنے کے لیے لگایا گیا ہے۔ 3.5 شرح نمو حاصل کی جاسکتی ہے، مہنگائی اور شرح نمو کے حساب سے ٹیکس کا ٹارگٹ رکھا جاتا ہے۔ اسحاق ڈار نے کہا کہ کراچی پورٹ پر کنٹینرز کی کلیئرنس میں تاخیر پر چیز مین ایف بی آر سے رپورٹ طلب کر لی ہے۔ اسمگلنگ کی روک تھام کے لیے اقدامات کیے ہیں۔ اسمگلنگ کم ضرور ہوئی ہے مگر ابھی ختم نہیں ہوئی۔ اسمگلنگ کی روک تھام کے لیے ایکشن لے رہے ہیں۔ 5 ارب روپے مالیت کی چینی قبضے میں لی گئی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ غیر معمولی منافع پر ٹیکس سے متعلق ترمیم کی گئی ہے۔ وفاقی حکومت نے اس پر قانون شامل کیا ہے اور وہی تناسب کا فیصلہ کرے گی۔ 99 ڈی کے قانون کے تحت 50 فیصد تک ٹیکس غیر معمولی منافع پر لیا جائے گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2499096/6/>

June 17, 2023

Business Recorder

Reserves, IMF term

RIZWAN BHATTI

\$1bn Chinese loan received

KARACHI: Pakistan on Friday night received \$1 billion inflows from China as loan to build the depleting foreign exchange reserves.

Pakistan recently requested China for the fast-track refinancing of maturing commercial loans of \$1.3 billion not only to build the country's foreign exchange reserves but also meet the IMF's condition of \$ 6 billion financing for release of the next loan tranche. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, recently in a meeting with Pang Chunxue, the Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan raised the issue of refinancing as two Chinese commercial loans worth \$1.3 billion are maturing in June. As per schedule, Pakistan was required to make a debt repayment of \$300 million to the Bank of China and \$1 billion to the China Development Bank this month.

During the meeting, Chinese authorities assured refinancing of both the loans.

Sources said that Pakistan has paid \$ 1 billion to China Development Bank during this week and as per commitment, the loan has been refinanced by China. An official of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has also confirmed that some \$ 1 billion have been received as loan. For the last one year, Pakistan is facing a serious crisis of foreign exchange as foreign inflows are insufficient to meet the external debt servicing. Pakistan is making efforts to get the next tranche of IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program, however, the loan tranche is still pending as the IMF has asked Pakistan to arrange \$6 billion financing for the release of IMF funds.

Before the release of China's \$1 billion inflows on Friday, Pakistan had arranged \$4 billion and with the arrival of this amount the total arrangement is \$5 billion. The Federal Minister Finance is confident that a staff level agreement with the IMF will be materialized very soon. Cumulative, Pakistan's financing requirements for this fiscal year (FY23) were \$33 billion including \$10 billion of current account deficit and \$ 23 billion of external debt. Despite a

lower current account deficit, the country's foreign exchange reserves are gradually depleting due to massive external debt payments and lower foreign inflows.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/17/1-page/965275-news.html>

CPEC turns 10; commemorations next month

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: The government has decided to commemorate decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) early next month both in Pakistan and Beijing, well-informed sources told Business Recorder.

China has invested billions of dollars in the CPEC projects in first phase across the country, especially in power sector and infrastructure.

The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PD&SI) has prepared a number of functions to celebrate the event to be attended by key personalities of both countries. The sources said, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, CEPC Secretariat have been directed to confirm participation from Chinese side during a meeting between Pakistan ambassador with Director General National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).

The modalities on execution of CPEC Summit, including "Plan of the Day," as presented is to be further firmed up between the CPEC Secretariat and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). Program for 5th July 2023 is to include participation of Chief Ministers. The sources said three to five minute videos on sectoral achievements would be made by Ministries of Energy, Communication/NHA, Aviation/PCAA, Board of Investment, government of Balochistan/GDA, Ministry of Maritime Affairs/GPA and Higher Education Commission.

An exhibition will be held in coordination with NDRC by Pakistan Mission in Beijing to showcase achievements of CPEC by Chinese companies and government agencies. Invitations are being extended for ministerial level attendance of exhibition to be coordinated by Pak Mission in Beijing. Board of Investment is to organize a Business Conference. Concept Note for the business conference has already been shared with BoI and Planning Division. Necessary publicity material for projecting Business Conference in print and electronic and social media is to be developed by DevCom and shared with BoI. The sources said BoI will invite local and Chinese businesses working in Pakistan whereas Pakistan embassy in China will extend invitation to prospective businesses from China and share their final lists with CPEC Secretariat for perusal of Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives. The BoI to periodically update on status of online registration form of interest to CPEC Secretariat.

Government of Balochistan/Gwadar Port Authority has shared proposed plan for various activities to be held at Gwadar. The GoB/GDA is to provide firmed up timelines along with designation of chief guest for each activity. The Ministry of Maritime Affairs/GPA has shared non-paper proposed plan for various activities to be held at Gwadar. The MoMA/GPA is to provide firmed up timelines along with designation of chief guest for each activity. Issue related to non-inclusion of China Expo Centre Gwadar (in list of projects to be inaugurated)

is to be included in Minister PD&SI's talking points for meeting with Charge d' Affaires. For the CPEC International Conference, program of the day (along with list of invitees/attendees and all other arrangements) to be finalized and processed for approval of Planning Minister. Papers, as cleared by Scientific Commission, are to be processed for perusal of Minister for PD&SI.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/17/1-page/965262-news.html>

Daily Times

China gives \$1 bn loan to Pakistan

Pakistan has successfully received a substantial sum of \$1 billion from China as a commercial loan. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has officially confirmed the receipt of the funds, which have already been deposited into the designated account. This infusion of funds is expected to provide a much-needed boost to Pakistan's economy, supporting various sectors and facilitating economic growth. Last week, Pakistan took a significant step by making an advance payment to the Chinese Development Bank. The advance payment served as a precursor to the full disbursement of the \$1 billion loan.

SBP spokesperson said that the received amount of \$1 billion from China is specifically classified as a commercial loan, meaning that the funds are intended for commercial purposes and will be utilised strategically to support various developmental projects and initiatives in Pakistan.

The payment was received as Finance Minister Ishaq Dar announced the expected roll over. He further mentioned that the government is also in talks with the Bank of China for an amount of \$300 million.

Earlier this year, the country's central bank received \$500 million from the Commercial Bank of China as part of a \$1.3 billion rollover facility. Pakistan's strategic partner China continued to help crisis-hit country meet crucial debt repayments by providing fresh funds, a move which help South Asian country avert debt default as local governments relied on global lenders like IMF and friendly nations China to finance its budget deficit. The federal government is also making several changes in tax collection but fiercely resisted some of the measures demanded by the IMF, like cuts on subsidies and amnesties.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1104180/china-gives-1-bn-loan-to-pakistan/>

Dawn News

Report on cause of death of Chinese teachers in KU blast still awaited, ATC told

Naeem Sahoutara

KARACHI: An antiterrorism court was informed that despite lapse of around 14 months the chemical examination reports of three Chinese teachers killed in the April 2022 suicide bombing in Karachi University were still awaited to determine actual cause of their deaths.

Three Chinese teachers and their local driver were killed when a female suicide bomber, Shari Hayat Baloch alias Brimash, blew herself up at the entrance of the Confucius Institute on the premises of KU in April 26, 2022.

A lone accused, Dad Bux, has been charged with carrying out surveillance and reconnaissance of the varsity at the behest of the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA).

When the matter came up before the ATC-XVI judge for hearing, the prosecution produced three female medico-legal officers and two male medico-legal officers in court to record their testimonies about the medico-legal procedures performed on the foreign and local victims.

Defence grills five MLOs who conducted autopsies of victims in 2022 suicide bombing

The witnesses deposed that they worked as MLOs at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) on the day of the incident they had separately performed medico-legal procedures on the bodies of the Chinese teachers and their driver and prepared their post-mortem reports.

The MLOs deposed that they had collected samples sent the same to the laboratory for a chemical analysis to determine the actual cause of their death.

The witnesses were cross-examined by defence counsel Shaukat Hayat. Upon grilling, the witnesses said the chemical reports about the actual cause of deaths were still awaited.

However, they produced documents related to the medico-legal procedures performed by them at the JPMC.

After recording their testimonies and cross-examination, the judge summoned other witnesses to testify on the next date.

The judge fixed the matter for July 4 for recording testimonies of other witnesses.

NBWs reissued

The judge also reissued non-bailable warrants for arrest of six absconders belonging to the outlawed outfit BLA —husband of the female suicide bomber Haibatun Basheer, Basheer Zaib, Rehman Gul, Khalil Ahmed Moosa alias Waja and Mir Safeer Ahmed — after the investigating officer submitted a report regarding non-execution of previous arrest warrants.

The IO, Inspector Sanauallah Cheema, was told to execute warrants on the six absconders, arrest and produce them in court by July 4.

According to the prosecution, suicide bomber Shari Baloch had targeted the Chinese nationals on the directives of the outlawed BLA, whose leadership is said to be hiding in neighbouring Afghanistan.

A case was registered under Sections 302 (premeditated murder), 109 (abetment), 324 (attempted murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Pakistan Penal Code read with Sections 11-F (membership, support and meetings relating to a proscribed organisation), 6 (terrorist act) and 7 (punishment for acts of terrorism) of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1760205#:~:text=KARACHI%3A%20An%20antiterrorism%20court%20was,actual%20cause%20of%20their%20deaths.>

The Nation

CPEC and airways

Yasir Habib Khan

CPEC means connectivity. With roadways and seaways, the air corridor connects the people of Pakistan and China. In a watershed moment, China Southern Airline played its part by resuming air routes from Lahore, an economic hub in Punjab to Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang (China). The first direct flight has finally been resumed from Lahore to Urumqi after an aeroplane from China Southern Airline took off from Allama Iqbal International Airport at 9:50 am in the morning on June 13.

The Urumqi-Lahore route was suspended on January 24, 2020, in the wake of Covid-19 curbs on the aviation sector. The activity marked a defining moment of the resumption of flights after more than 3 years. The flights are scheduled on a weekly basis, specifically on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. In order to celebrate the 1st Lahore-Urumqi resumption flight, a special ceremony was held at Allama Iqbal International Airport.

Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren said that after more than three-year suspensions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the inaugural passenger aircraft of the China Southern Airlines has arrived at Allama Iqbal Intl and begun its resumption flight from Lahore to Urumqi. There is tremendous market potential in Punjab, he said.

When contacted by Gwadar Pro, China Southern Airlines official statement revealed that the reopening of the Urumqi-Lahore route will help to strengthen the connection and cooperation between China and Pakistan and facilitate the exchange and interaction between the two peoples. Furthermore, the resumption of flights will also promote cooperation in economic, cultural and other aspects between the two regions, which is beneficial for the local residents and business community and has a positive significance.

China Southern Airlines possesses the largest fleet and the most developed route network and offers the largest passenger capacity among any airline in the People's Republic of China. Currently, China Southern Airlines operates more than 850 passenger and cargo transport aircraft, including Boeing B787, B777, B747 and B737, as well as Airbus A330, A321, A320, A319 and ARJ21. The airline's fleet ranks 1st in Asia (Data source: IATA, in terms of fleet size).

With continued efforts to establish itself as a network-oriented world-class airline with Chinese characteristics, China Southern Airlines has formed an extensive network across China that links Europe and Oceania and radiates throughout North America, the Middle East, and Africa from Asia.

China Southern operates more than 3,000 daily flights to 224 destinations in 40 countries and regions across the world. For years China Southern has been committed to building up the Canton Route to turn Guangzhou into an international air hub. Now Guangzhou is becoming the No.1 gateway from mainland China to Australasia and Southeast Asia. In 2011, China

Southern Airlines earned its Four-Star status from SKYTRAX, the world's most prestigious airline performance evaluation organization.

In 2016, China Southern was listed among the Top 500 corporations in China by FORTUNE China with the highest ranking among companies in the transportation industry. In 2017, China Southern was named among the most valuable airline brands by Brand Finance, a famous international consultancy, ranking 1st in China and 6th globally. Underpinned by BRI and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the era of the Air Silk Road has come into being with the spectacular roll-out of China Southern Airlines (CSA) flight resumption from Lahore to Urumqi, capital of Xinjiang autonomous region in far northeast of China. It will set off ripple effects on Sino-Pak profound and immersive relations.

The inception of the Air Silk Road has set in motion deep and synergic aviation integration between Pakistan and China. After the onset of CSA flights from Lahore to Urumqi, air trips between both countries are highly likely to swell as Lahore, the hub of business and trade activities, is the capital of Punjab, the biggest province of Pakistan hosting more than 100 million populations.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-17/page-6/detail-2>

The News

\$1bn received from China: SBP

Mehtab Haider & Erum Zaidi

ISLAMABAD / KARACHI: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said Friday that China has refinanced a recently paid-back \$1 billion commercial loan.

A State Bank of Pakistan spokesman has also confirmed they received the Chinese loan Friday night.

Earlier, while briefing the National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance here at the Parliament House on Friday, Ishaq Dar said: "Within a day or two, Pakistan would get re-financing of a \$1 billion commercial loan from China, which was paid back a few days ago."

Pakistan on Friday got \$1 billion inflows from China as refinancing of a loan that was paid earlier this week, a respite for the country that is teetering on a debt default as the stalled International Monetary Fund bailout programme nears expiry. "\$1 billion has been received from China," the State Bank of Pakistan confirmed via a text message. As the government on Tuesday had the first high-level virtual conference with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its final effort to receive a \$1.2 billion tranche, Pakistan paid off a \$1 billion commercial loan from China on Monday.

The gross official currency reserves fell below \$3 billion as a result of the loan repayment. The loan had a June 29 due date. Islamabad chose to pay in advance in order to get the money back before the fiscal year's deadline of June 30. Along with the government's efforts to secure foreign currency from all possible sources, a repayment has also been made.

“This is a positive sign as Pakistan’s reserves dropped below \$3 billion after the commercial loan payment to China,” said Fahad Rauf, the head of research at Ismail Iqbal Securities. “It is a sigh of relief that China has quickly refinanced the loan,” Rauf added.

In the week ending June 9, Pakistan’s central bank’s foreign exchange reserves rose by \$107 million to \$4.0 billion. However, with the receiving of fresh inflows, the reserves held by the SBP have increased to \$5 billion.

Pakistan could default without an IMF programme due to its extremely low reserves, according to international rating agencies and economists.

For the fiscal year that begins in July, the South Asian country will have to make payments on its external debt of around \$23 billion.

Pakistan’s government liquidity and external positions remain fragile. The budget projects Rs6.35 trillion (\$21 billion) of loans from external sources, including \$1.5 billion from Eurobond issuances, \$4.6 billion from commercial banks, \$2.4 billion from the IMF and another \$2.7 billion from other multilateral partners, said Moody’s Investors Service in a report.

The government expects most of the remaining sums to come from other bilateral partners, including China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates,” it added.

“Pakistan is unlikely to access market financing at affordable costs, either from Eurobonds or commercial banks, in the foreseeable future. The country’s external debt repayment will remain high for the next few years, with about \$25 billion of repayments (principal and interest) due in fiscal 2024,” it noted.

It is relevant to mention that Pakistan required the rollover of SAFE deposits of \$1 billion and the re-financing of \$1.3 billion in commercial loans within the ongoing month. Pakistan had dispatched its official request to China for the granting of rollovers of \$1 billion in deposits and the re-financing of \$1 billion in commercial loans. So far, Islamabad had not paid back the remaining \$300 million, and there was an understanding that the remaining amount would also be refinanced when it was paid back in the coming days.

Sources said that the re-financing of commercial banks would also help the government get a rupee component equivalent to \$1.3 billion, which was quite crucial for keeping the cash balance in surplus. Although the finance ministry had raised hefty amounts through auctions of T-bills and PIBs, the scarcity of dollar inflows made it hard for the government to keep its domestic rupee balance in surplus at a time when there was a widening gap between total revenues and total expenditures in the outgoing fiscal year.

While briefing parliamentarians belonging to the NA Standing Committee on Finance, Dar said that politics was taking its toll on Pakistan and mentioned that an all-out effort had been made to accomplish the ninth review of the IMF programme.

“We cannot clap with one hand,” he commented, referring to the incomplete status of the ninth review of the Fund programme.

He expressed a strong belief that Allah had created this country and would safeguard it. He said that Pakistan possessed trillions of dollars in assets, so there was no need to worry. However, he acknowledged that the country was currently facing a dollar liquidity crunch.

He said that the budget strategy paper got delayed because of the IMF, and it was finalised just a couple of days ahead of the announcement of the budget. He said the government did not make the budget keeping in mind the upcoming elections, but it was made to cater to the needs of the country. He said that the government had fixed an FBR tax collection target of Rs9,200 billion for the next fiscal year 2023-24 against the revised estimates of Rs7200 billion for the outgoing fiscal year. The FBR's collection target of Rs9,200 billion was envisaged on a scientific basis.

Earlier, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance voiced its concerns regarding the sustainability of the proposed budget. Amidst the current economic situation in Pakistan, the Committee questioned the feasibility of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar's ambitious budget proposals.

The minister presented the statistical evidence backing the revenue targets for the upcoming financial year, projecting a growth rate of 3.5% with the aid of the proposed budget. He underlined Pakistan's commitment to meeting all its sovereign liabilities in a timely manner to avoid any risk of default.

He urged them to refrain from spreading panic within the business community, which could negatively impact the market and destabilise the dollar's exchange rate. He further assured the committee of a future increase in Pakistan's foreign reserves, supported by policies designed to enhance remittances and boost exports. The minister's reassurances underscore the government's focus on maintaining economic stability while progressing towards a prosperous future.

In response to concerns over the imposition of a 0.6% tax, both the FBR chairman and the finance minister affirmed the tax as a move towards documenting and digitalising the economy. This two-pronged approach aims to enhance revenue, accurately track transactions, and impose penalties as needed. There are concerns, however, that the current tax rate could discourage the use of banking channels, leading to a preference for cash transactions and potentially incentivising smuggling.

As a response, the chairman of the standing committee has proposed a reduction in the tax rate from 0.6% to 0.2%. The Lahore Chamber of Commerce further suggested that the definition of 'smugglers' be revised. The FBR was criticised for increasing the withholding tax by 1% and for the delays in releasing refunds.

The committee has recommended an equitable tax regime for raw material traders, regardless of their company's financial standing.

Recognising the benefits of government subsidies to the fertiliser industry, the committee highlighted that these have led to the production of internationally competitive fertilisers.

To reduce pressure on existing taxpayers, the committee urged the government to increase the tax net by incentivising new filers, a move that the FBR reported has already resulted in over 900,000 new filers in the previous financial year.

The committee raised serious concerns about the \$3 billion released by the previous government at minimal interest rates, which has not been optimally utilised.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=211967>

June 18, 2023

Business Recorder

China can help Pakistan develop SME sector: CG

KARACHI: Consul General of China Yang Yundong, while responding to President Karachi Chamber's suggestion, stated that China's Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) account for 70 to 80 percent of GDP so it was in a perfect position to help Pakistan develop its SME Sector.

In addition to developing the SME sector, a host of other areas also exist where the business communities of the two countries can collaborate with each other for furthering the existing trade and investment relations but in order to attract more and more Chinese companies to Pakistan, security, as well as, political situation has to be improved, he added while exchanging views with Karachi Chamber's delegation led by its President Mohammed Tariq Yousuf at a meeting held at Chinese Consulate in Karachi.

KCCI delegation also comprised of Senior Vice President Touseef Ahmed, Vice President Mohammad Haris Agar and Chairman Diplomatic Relations & Embassies Liaison Subcommittee Zia ul Arfeen.

Chinese Consul General, while highlighting the bustling activities under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), stated that this project was making significant contributions to promoting Pakistan's economic and social development, enhancing people's well-being, and deepening people-to-people affinity and regional connectivity between China and Pakistan.

Vowing to expand comprehensive cooperation and deepening China-Pakistan friendship, he assured to broaden the scope of cooperation and continuously enhance cooperation in industries, agriculture, maritime, science and technology.

He informed that for the first time, Pakistani seafood was recently transported via land along the CPEC to Kashgar, Xinjiang and Chinese companies have actively carried out cooperation in chilli peppers and canola in Sindh Province.

While welcoming KCCI's suggestion pertaining to sending trade delegations to China, the Envoy assured full support and cooperation to businessmen and industrialists looking forward to enhancing trade and investment ties with their Chinese counterparts.

President KCCI Tariq Yousuf, in his remarks, underscored the need for having some kind of collaboration between Pakistan and China for the development of SMEs in Pakistan. "It has been observed that the Government-to-Government interactions between the two

neighbouring countries usually remain confined to mega projects only; hence, it is very important to pay equal attention to the SME sector as well which plays the role of a backbone in any economy.”

He also sought China’s assistance in further improving manufacturing capabilities of Pakistan’s engineering sector and the agricultural yield. “China should help Pakistan adopt latest techniques and also share the agricultural know-how which would certainly help us in improving our per acre production by at least five times.”

Highlighting the huge potential for joint ventures in solar energy sector, he opined that keeping in view the rising energy prices, the business communities of the two countries can collaborate with each other for the production of solar panel and allied equipment in Pakistan. “With a population of 240 million, of which a sizeable portion represents the middleclass, Pakistan is an important market having the appetite of swallowing anything which is produced through joint ventures in Pakistan”, he added.

While underscoring the need for value-addition in the textile sector, he stressed that the Chinese companies can also join hands with Pakistani textile producers for adding value to textile products as the country has not been able to add much value to its products which, if done, would certainly fetch more foreign exchange through greater exports.

Tariq Yousuf, while highlighting the need for technology transfer, said “We have been importing huge quantities of spare parts, particularly those being used in motorbikes; hence, Chinese businesses from the engineering sector should look into setting up their units in Pakistan which would be more profitable keeping in view the widespread use of motorbikes all around Pakistan.”

He was of the opinion that although Pakistan and China have been enjoying excellent relations since many decades but the same was not reflecting in trade. He said thus collective efforts and interactions have to be intensified so that the existing trade volume between the two countries could be taken to new heights.

President KCCI further requested Chinese Consul General to look into the possibility of providing small pavilions to Pakistani exhibitors in various trade fairs and exhibitions taking place in China so that Pakistani made products could be exposed to the world through these fairs regularly taking place in China.

While warmly welcoming Chinese projects in Gwadar under CPEC, President KCCI invited Chinese companies to take interest in Dhabeji Special Economic Zone near Karachi which would prove more feasible for their businesses because of its location near Karachi which is the financial, industrial and commercial hub of Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/18/2-page/965355-news.html>

Daily Times

China emerges as major player in Pakistan’s telecom sector: report

As the telecom sector remained a significant source of revenue generation for the country, the sector contributed Rs 378 billion (provisional) to the national exchequer in the form of

general sales tax, withholding tax, regulatory fees, initial and annual license fees, and other taxes during July to December FY2023, Gwadar Pro reported quoting Pakistan Economic Survey (PES) 2022-23. According to PES, the telecom sector drew over \$ 6.3 billion in investments in Pakistan during 2018 to 2022. Telecom investments reported by telecom operators in FY2022 reached a significant amount of \$ 2,073 million due to spectrum acquisition and network expansion, however, it remained low at \$ 422.0 million (provisional) during the first two quarters of FY2023.

China Mobiles' Zong 4G (CMPAK) is one of the main players in Pakistan's telecom sector with its quality services and a growing number of subscribers, contributing revenue to the national exchequer. At the end of March 2023, the total telecom subscriptions (mobile and fixed) in the country were 197 million with total teledensity of 83.2 percent, according to PES 2022-23. Zong 4G, which is the pioneer of 4G services in Pakistan, currently holds 24.07% of the total market shares. During the first ten months of FY 2022-23, the market share of Zong 4G has increased from 22.71% to 24.07%, according to statistics available on the official website of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA). As per PTA's statistics, by April 2023, Zong 4G has 44.19 million subscribers in the four provinces of Pakistan and 1.5 million subscribers in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB).

As 5G is a transformative technology, allowing communities to avail socio-economic benefits of an advanced and data-intensive digital economy, PTA and Frequency Allocation Board (FAB) and MoITT, are synergizing for the successful launch of 5G in Pakistan. FAB has already identified the available spectrum in the maximum bandwidth. Zong 4G has successfully conducted trials in Pakistan and has become the first and only operator to officially test the 5G services in the country. Zong with 5G services will bring more profound and long-term changes to Pakistan's economic transformation, social progress, and people's livelihood improvement in the future. It is also expected that 5G will have an impact on health care, agriculture, and education.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1104400/china-emerges-as-major-player-in-pakistans-telecom-sector-report/>

Pakistani industrial ecology to provide endless opportunities

“Today's Pakistan is in line with “good timing, geographical convenience and great human relations” from the traditional Chinese perspective”, noted Wang Jianxun, Senior Advisor of Pakistan National Science and Technology Park. Addressing as a key speaker at the SCO International Investment and Trade Expo co-hosted by China Study Center, National University of Science and Technology, Pakistan (NUST) held in Qingdao, a scenic coastal city in Shandong Province, Wang emphasized the environment of “blue ocean” in Pakistan, with the theme of Opportunities and Challenges of Pakistan's Industrial Ecological Chain under the New World Situation. When technological productivity lacks sufficient capacity to meet national demand, the trade deficit has been increasingly emerging. Pakistan's current trade deficit has soared to a record high of USD 48.66 billion from USD 30.96 billion a year ago, driven by a sharper-than-expected 57 percent jump in imports. Not only that, Pakistan's trade deficit widened 32 percent year-on-year to USD 4.84 billion in June as imports grew

almost twice as fast as exports. Such an astonishing demand for imports means that Pakistan's domestic industrial structure needs to be optimized urgently, as well as scientific and technological productivity needs to be greatly improved. Just like the two sides of a coin, today's status quo also means unlimited opportunities for global companies. "So far, initial diversified cooperation in various industries in Pakistan has begun to emerge. The special economic zone represented by the National Science and Technology Park (NSTP) has created a spiral development model of "industry + academic + government + public society". Regarding e-commerce, in NSTP, we will form a two-way interactive simulcast video sales platform in cooperation with China's Ningbo live broadcast e-commerce base, vigorously promoting Pakistani specialties; The NUST has formed an effective cooperation mechanism with many top universities in China, such as Tsinghua University, Harbin Institute of Technology, China University of Geosciences, Southwest Petroleum University, etc. In addition, due to Pakistan's vigorous opening of NFT and other related digital currency technologies, as well as AI and IoT tools, there is also huge room for digital improvement, as a global hot spot," Wang told China Economic Net. Leapfrog of science and technology is inseparable from the support of the talent pool, as Pakistan's population under the age of 23 accounts for 76 percent of the country's total population, it enjoys prominent advantages in labor resources. At present, China's domestic labor cost is three times that of Pakistan's. In industries such as biopharmaceuticals, IT, forging and textiles, Pakistan could be described as rich in talent. Back to Pakistan itself, this country is also blessed with unique conditions which should not be ignored by anyone. As a traffic springboard linking the trinity of Asia, Europe and Africa, it has trade routes leading to a total of 68 countries around the world.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1104579/pakistani-industrial-ecology-to-provide-endless-opportunities/>

The Express Tribune

SEZs along CPEC are potential game-changers, says envoy

Poised to attract foreign direct investment with attractive incentives

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque highlighted the significant benefits Pakistan has gained through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), calling it the flagship project of the BRI. Speaking at the 13th China Overseas Investment Fair, Haque emphasised the importance of the BRI for partner countries. This year also marks the 10th anniversary of CPEC.

Over the past decade, CPEC has achieved notable milestones in Pakistan. According to China Economic Net (CEN), Haque said that, "Over the past decade, 888 km of the road network has been laid, and over 8000 additional MWs of energy have been added to Pakistan's national grid with the commissioning of 13 new energy projects. A new 878km transmission line has been built to evacuate 4000MW electricity. An 820 km long cross-border optical fibre cable has been laid, and over 200,000 new jobs have been created. Various estimates have pointed out to an increase in 1-2% of the GDP of Pakistan."

Haque emphasised that the BRI has successfully bridged the gaps of suspicion and doubt among the international community, connecting them through trade, commerce, and cultural cooperation based on the principles of win-win cooperation and mutual benefit. It has transcended barriers of race, religion, and nationality, uniting the international community around shared dreams and common ideals.

CPEC, as a comprehensive and long-term project, has significantly transformed Pakistan's economic landscape and laid a solid foundation for future growth and development, he said. The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) established under CPEC are expected to be a game-changer not only for Pakistan but also for the entire region. With attractive incentives, these SEZs are poised to attract foreign direct investment, while the upgraded infrastructure and strategic location of Gwadar Port further enhance Pakistan's appeal as an investment destination.

As CPEC enters its vital phase of facilitating industrialisation in Pakistan, the ambassador expressed optimism about its future impact. The tangible benefits achieved so far and the potential of the SEZs demonstrate the concrete progress and the promising trajectory of CPEC, contributing to Pakistan's socio-economic development agenda.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2422331/sezs-along-cpec-are-potential-game-changers-says-envoy>

The Nation

BRI provides tangible benefits to Pakistan through CPEC: Pak envoy

BEIJING - Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is providing tangible benefits to Pakistan through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is the flagship project of the BRI.

Addressing as a key speaker at the 13th China Overseas Investment Fair, the ambassador mentioned that BRI holds great significance for Belt and Road Initiative's partner countries. This year, Pakistan is also celebrating 10th anniversary of CPEC, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. "Over the past decade, 888 km of the road network has been laid, and over 8000 additional MWs of energy have been added to Pakistan's national grid with the commissioning of 13 new energy projects. A new 878-KM transmission line has been built to evacuate 4000MW electricity. An 820 km long cross-border optical fibre cable has been laid, and over 200,000 new jobs have been created. Various estimates have pointed out to an increase in 1-2% of the GDP of Pakistan", he added. Ambassador Moin ul Haque said that BRI has been successful in bringing down the walls of suspicions and doubts among the members of the international community and instead connected them with bridges of trade, commerce and cultural cooperation on the principles of win-win cooperation and mutual benefit.

It thus transcends the artificial divides of race, religion and nationality and rallies the international community around shared dreams and common ideals. "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was envisaged as a comprehensive and long-term project with key objectives to upgrade transport and communication infrastructure, enhance connectivity,

ensure energy security, promote industrialization, modernize agriculture and thus contribute to national socio-economic development agenda”. He further stated that CPEC has transformed Pakistan’s economic landscape providing a solid foundation for future growth and development. Various statistics are evidence of the concrete, substantive and tangible benefits of CPEC for Pakistan.

“CPEC has now entered its vital phase of facilitating the industrialization process in Pakistan. The Special Economic Zones under CPEC have the potential to be a game-changer not only for Pakistan but for the entire region. With attractive incentives, these SEZs will be the mainstay of FDI in Pakistan. Gwadar Port with its infrastructure upgrade and strategic location augments these SEZs, adding to Pakistan’s stature as an attractive investment destination”, the ambassador added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-18/page-1/detail-12>

Pakistan needs to follow Chinese model for SMEs uplift

ISLAMABAD-A Planning Commission member has emphasised the need to follow the Chinese methodology for development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan.

Speaking at a seminar on ‘study of existing income tax regime for SMEs’ organised by the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), Asim Saeed pointed out that reduction in taxes, simplification of administrative licensing procedures and commercial registration system had made notable contributions to China’s economic progress. “These reforms have expanded China’s domestic demand, stabilised prices of raw material, improved the confidence of market players and enhanced exports,” he added. Addressing the seminar, Parliamentary Secretary for Industries and Production Dr Syeda Shahida Rehmani said SMEs were playing a vital role in the local economy, contributing significantly to the country’s GDP and employment. She stressed the need to realise SMEs’ full potential by providing supportive measures.

President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Kashif Anwar said that SMEs were a noteworthy driver of employment, poverty alleviation, sustainable industrialisation, and economic promotion across the world. “Taking cues from China’s achievements, Pakistan should gradually reduce import tariffs, simplify customs procedures, embrace technology, and focus on aligning its standards with international norms,” the LCCI president said.

On the occasion, Farhan Aziz Khawaja, Chief Executive Officer of Smeda, said SMEs were an important source of economic activity. “However, these enterprises are facing a range of challenges such as lack of capital, loans with high-interest rates, unavailability of modern technology and low investment opportunities.” Sharing major issues of SMEs, former member of Policy Federal Board of Revenue Hamid Ateeq Sarwar said there was a strong need to address the concerns of SMEs through targeted incentives, prudent trade policies, and public-private partnerships. “By nurturing these enterprises, a strong foundation for sustainable economic growth can be laid down.”

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-18/page-9/detail-5>

June 19, 2023

Daily Times

Pakistan, China agree to deepen cultural exchanges via publication

The first batch of classic works under the MoU on mutual translation and publication of classics between China and Pakistan was released at the 2023 Beijing International Book Fair held in Beijing. As per the Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Translation and Publication of Classic Works signed by both countries, the first batch of 10 classic works includes “I Can Still Live Like the Wind: An Anthology of Pakistani Women’s Writing, “Zeenat” and so on, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday. “I Can Still Live Like the Wind: An Anthology of Pakistani Women’s Writing” brings together short stories and poems by more than 60 Pakistani female writers, fully demonstrating the rich achievements of contemporary Pakistani women. “Zeenat” tells the story of a well-educated lady Zeenat, who bravely tackles challenges to reunite with her husband and children. On the occasion, these classic works were gifted to Pakistani students studying in China. “Pakistan and China enjoy a proud history of linkages between our writers and intellectuals.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1104778/pakistan-china-agree-to-deepen-cultural-exchanges-via-publication/>

The Nation

Pak-China joint exhibition now digitally accessible

ISLAMABAD - In a groundbreaking collaboration between Pakistan and China, the ‘Gandhara Heritage along the Silk Road: A Pakistan-China Joint Exhibition’ took place at the esteemed Hall of Literary Brilliance (Wenhua Dian) in the Palace Museum this week in Beijing.

This extraordinary exhibition, featuring a total of 203 artifacts, including 173 items from Pakistan and 30 from the Palace Museum, marked a momentous occasion in cultural exchange between the two nations, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

Now, even after its physical conclusion on June 15, this remarkable showcase of history and art can be virtually accessed worldwide through <https://gugongzhanlan.dpm.org.cn/exhibitShare/160> and the Palace Museum’s official app.

The joint exhibition, the first of its kind, served as a platform for the digitisation of these historically significant artifacts, enabling a broader audience to explore the treasures of Gandhara heritage. Individuals from around the globe can embark on a virtual journey to discover captivating artifacts from the comfort of their own homes.

The Pakistani artifacts featured in the exhibition were renowned Gandhara stone carvings, early Buddhist bodhisattva sculptures, Buddha stories, Jataka tales, stupa architectural components, as well as intricate gold and silverware and jewellery.

Each artifact showcased the diverse styles and alluring charm of Gandhara art, offering insight into the historical context of multicultural integration.

The Palace Museum contributed 30 artifacts which played a pivotal role in shaping the gold and copper sculpture styles and art of the ancient Guge Kingdom.

Their presence underscores the profound cultural and artistic exchanges between China and Pakistan throughout history.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-19/page-3/detail-3>

China's JD.com invited to explore Pakistani market for e-commerce, logistics business

BEIJING-Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has met with Vice President of JD.com Yao Yanzhong and invited him to explore the Pakistani market for its e-commerce and logistics business. In the meeting, he also felicitated the vice president of the company on the 20th anniversary of JD and its stellar growth.

"Glad to participate in the 20th anniversary of JD. com, a global leader in e-commerce. Pakistan's online National Pavilion on JD is a popular place to buy a variety of Pakistani products," he said. He thanked the company for its support in establishing the Pakistan Pavilion on JD.com. established in December 2021. Pakistan Pavilion is now offering a variety of Pakistani products to Chinese buyers. Later, Ambassador Haque attended the celebratory event of making the 20th anniversary of JD.com, China's famous e-commerce platform and lauded the remarkable success of JD.com over the last two decades, becoming one of the leading global e-commerce platforms with a ranking in the top 50 of Fortune 500 Companies.

He noted that with the finalization of the recent protocols for exports of Pakistani cooked meat and cherries, these products would also be available through the Pakistan Pavilion. Ambassador also invited JD.com to set up an e-commerce platform in Pakistan which was a fast-growing consumer market.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-19/page-8/detail-4>

Tang Pakistan orchestrates dragon boat festival, fostering bilateral cultural integration

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD-Tang Pakistan, a distinguished ed-tech SAAS company rooted in China, yesterday organized the Dragon Boat Festival that captivated attendees with its profound display of Chinese culture seamlessly interwoven with the spirit of friendship and compassion between Pakistan and China.

This awe-inspiring event took place on 17th June 2023 in Islamabad, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of those in attendance.

Gracing the occasion as the esteemed chief guest was Engineer Liaquat Ali Jamro, from Sindh TEVTA, whose presence served as a testament to the significance of this cultural

exchange. Furthermore, the event was graced by the Director of the Nust China Study Center, Ms. Xiangyang, who delivered a succinct and enlightening introduction to the historical origins of the Dragon Boat Festival, offering attendees a glimpse into its rich heritage.

Adding an enchanting melodic charm to the festivities, Max Ma and Yasir Zoraiz delighted the audience with their stunning performances, showcasing beautiful songs in Chinese and Urdu. Their soulful renditions promoted friendship between Pakistan and China and embodied the harmonious symphony that arises when two cultures intertwine.

The talented ensemble from the Rang Music and Art School performed stirring Pakistani Classical music, illuminating Pakistani culture's profound depths to our esteemed Chinese friends.

The festival exemplified the power of cultural exchange, transcending boundaries through a remarkable amalgamation of delectable cuisine, exquisite art, soul-stirring music, and inspiring speeches. Attendees were left with lasting memories, cherishing the beautiful camaraderie forged between the Pakistani and Chinese communities.

Tang Pakistan takes immense pride in fostering such a vibrant cultural exchange, creating awareness of the rich tapestry of Chinese heritage and facilitating a deep understanding between nations. This Dragon Boat Festival stood as a testament to the enduring spirit of friendship and compassion that binds Pakistan and China together.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-19/page-14/detail-8>

Jang News

پاکستان کو بینک آف چائنا سے 30 کروڑ ڈالر آج موصول ہوں گے، ذرائع

پاکستان کو بینک آف چائنا سے 30 کروڑ ڈالر آج موصول ہو جائیں گے، بینک آف چائنا کی طرف سے سوئفٹ کوڈ پاکستان کو موصول ہو گیا ہے۔

ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ یہ رقم رول اوور سہولت کے تحت پاکستان کو فراہم کی جائے گی، کمرشل قرض کے تحت 30 کروڑ ڈالر پاکستان کو موصول ہوں گے، یہ رقم آج اسٹیٹ بینک کو موصول ہو جائے گی۔

کی تھی۔ چین سے 1 ارب ڈالر ملنے کی تصدیق واضح رہے کہ گزشتہ روز اسٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان (ایس بی پی) نے پاکستان کو

ایس بی پی اعلیٰ میں کہا گیا تھا کہ چین سے 1 ارب ڈالر ملنے سے پاکستان کے زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر میں اضافہ ہو گیا ہے۔

ایس بی پی کے مطابق پاکستان کو چین سے 1 ارب ڈالر کمرشل قرض کی مد میں ملے ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1238754>

June 20, 2023

Daily Times

NCGSA, Deqing China organize summer school on RS&GISc

Five-day Summer School on Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Science (RS &GISc) commenced on Monday at Institute of Space Technology (IST) with participation of maximum number of students and professionals.

The summer school is being organized by The National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA), a project of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan in collaboration with the Deqing Association for Geospatial Information Professionals, China.

The program is being supported under the framework of The Belt and Road International Geospatial Information Training Center, China.

The Summer School, being held from June 19-23, offers an immersive and enriching experience for both students and professionals alike through special sessions thoughtfully curated by a panel of national and international experts.

The Summer School on RSGISc aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the fundamental concepts and practical applications of remote sensing and GIS technology.

This intermediate-level school is specifically designed for researchers, academics, professionals, and students working in the areas of Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Science, seeking to advance their skills and deepen their understanding of the subject matter. The participants will have the opportunity to learn from esteemed subject matter experts from Pakistan and China.

The 5-day summer school will cover a diverse range of topics, including the principles of remote sensing, digital image classification, spatial analysis, geodatabases, cartographic design, mapping, and more.

In addition, the participants will be introduced to cutting-edge advancements in the field, such as Google Earth Engine analysis, Microwave Remote Sensing techniques and applications, and Machine Learning and AI in Remote Sensing and GIS.

The opening day of the summer school featured distinguished speakers who shed light on various aspects of remote sensing and geographic information science.

Mr. Han Ni and Dr. Najam Abbas Naqvi, Chairman of the National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA), delivered the opening session, setting the tone for an exciting and knowledge-packed week ahead.

Dr. Saleem Ullah from IST provided insights into the fundamentals of remote sensing and its applications, while Dr. Muhammad Shakir from IST discussed the fundamentals of Geographic Information Science and its applications.

Moreover, Dr. Najam Abbas Naqvi explored the fundamentals of Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) and their applications.

Lastly, the participants were enlightened with an introduction to Microwave Remote Sensing and its applications by Prof. Dr. Keren Dai from Chengdu University of Technology, China, who joined the program in an online session.

Dr. Sajid Ghaffar from IST concluded the day with a discussion on the fundamentals of Photogrammetry and its applications.

The Summer School on Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Science is set to deliver an enriching experience, comprising engaging lectures, hands-on exercises, and stimulating group discussions.

With the participation of over 100 professionals and students, this educational journey will provide practical skills and theoretical knowledge to enhance their proficiency in the field.

Supported by a team of 20 esteemed resource persons from Pakistan and China, this collaborative learning environment promises to empower participants with valuable insights and expertise in Remote Sensing and GISc.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1105044/ncgsa-deqing-china-organize-summer-school-on-rsgisc/>

PCJCCI keen to boost Pakistan's dairy sector with China's help

Cooperation between China and Pakistan on dairy industry and multifarious demands for high-quality dairy products in China would provide a contemporary path of development for Pakistan's domestic dairy sector.

Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki stated this in a think-tank session, held here at PCJCCI Secretariat on Monday. He said that Pakistan was among the world's top five largest milk producers with over 60 million tonnes of milk production each year. Such ventures and exports could definitely add value to Pakistan's economy.

He added that China learned that Pakistan was the most important exporter and producer of dairy products in South Asia. "Chinese technologies are low-priced, and if we adopt the techniques and technology, used by China, the country can flourish in this industry," he suggested.

PCJCCI Senior Vice President Fang Yulong shared his views by saying, "We are willing to explore more about Pakistani dairy industry to see if we have the opportunity to be part of it." From 2011 to 2023, China's dairy imports rose at a compound annual growth of 12.3 per cent, and the demand was still expanding. Milk powder, liquid milk, high value-added dairy products such as whey, cheese, butter and cream were also in high demand in the Chinese market, he added.

PCJCCI Vice President Hamza Khalid said that currently China's dairy imports mainly come from New Zealand (40.44 per cent), the Netherlands (17.15pc) and Australia (7.38pc). "Our government should support this industry to boost export and domestic production, especially to control the adulteration of loose milk." He asserted that local farmers were facing many problems such as a lack of education, latest storage facilities, transfer of milk and cold

storage, and to get rid of these, the government should come forward to train and educate farmers about modern technology.

Joint chamber's Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif added that animal husbandry was one of the pillar industries in Pakistan, specifically Balochistan where Gwadar Port under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was located. Balochistan had the unique advantages of breeding beef cattle and dairy cows and if the industrial chain of China could be extended to Pakistan, it was expected to achieve win-win outcomes for the dairy industry of both countries, he concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1105247/pcjcci-keen-to-boost-pakistans-dairy-sector-with-chinas-help/>

Dunya News

PM terms Chashma nuke plant MoU between China, Pakistan 'great step'

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Tuesday the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for 1200 Megawatt Chashma-V Nuclear Power Plant was a great step forward of economic cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Addressing the MoU signing ceremony in the federal capital, he said the project would be started without any further delay.

He said under difficult economic situation, Pakistan was up again for an investment of \$4.8 billion from China in this project, which has sent message that Pakistan is a place where Chinese companies and investors continue to show their trust and faith.

He said the Chinese companies gave massive concession of Rs30 billion to Pakistan in two phases in implementation of this project.

He said the neighbouring country came to help Pakistan when it was facing dire economic challenges amid talks with the IMF for finalization of the 9th review for revival of the loan programme.

Mr Sharif also lauded great brotherly countries Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar for extending help to Pakistan.

“We are deeply obliged to President XI Jinping, and the Chinese leadership for their generous help to Pakistan,” the premier said.

He also appreciated the efforts made by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and other ministers for this project, besides thanking the military leadership.

The premier called the project a proof that civil and military leadership is on the same page. He said, “I would like to pay tribute to Nawaz Sharif as he had first signed the nuclear power plant project in 1990”. He also thanked the Chinese company for not revising the price of the project despite lapse of six years.

Minister for Energy Khurram Dastgir, Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal, the Chinese Charge d'affaires Ms Pang Chunxue representative of Chinese companies and other higher authorities of Pakistan and China attended the ceremony.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/733453-PM-terms-Chasma-nuke-plant-MoU-between-China-Pakistan-great-step>

The Nation

Pakistani products attract visitors at SCO expo

BEIJING - Visitors flocked to the Pakistan National Pavilion at the 2023 SCO International Investment and Trade Expo held from June 15 to June 18, where more than 20 Pakistani merchants displayed their goods. The Permanent Pakistan National Pavilion at the SCODA Pearl International Expo Center, authorized by the Embassy of Pakistan in China and operated by the Pakistan China Center at the SCO Demonstration Area, displays and sells nearly 200 Pakistani specialties, including food (biscuits, spices), tea, wooden crafts, onyx, bedding, hand-woven tapestries, silk scarves, leather bags, and salt lamps, etc, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday. In addition to displaying and selling Pakistani products on the first floor, the Pakistan Pavilion also undertakes the tasks of China-Pakistan cultural and tourism exchange and serves as an e-commerce platform for Pakistani products. With an area of 512 square meters, the second floor of the pavilion is for livestreaming and e-commerce. Muhammad Kamil, Managing Director of Pak Link Enterprises, one of the resident merchants of the Pakistan Pavilion, expressed his “100 percent delight” at the platform for promoting Pakistani handicrafts. “This highly anticipated exhibition has brought us new opportunities for international trade cooperation”, he said. Wang Zihai, Pakistani Honorable Investment Counsellor highlighted that the expo has had a significant positive effect on the promotion of Pakistani products and culture. Besides the significant increase in turnover, a steady stream of visitors keep showing their interests in further understanding all aspects of the country. “Pakistan shares with SCO and its members deep-rooted historical and cultural links and strong economic and strategic complementarities. By working together, the stakeholders can address issues and lead to innovation and development of new technologies,” Wang added that, “holding expos like this will go a long way for B2B cooperation amongst the member states.” Coordinator FPCCI Head Office Karachi Sheikh Sultan Rehman underlined that the cooperation among SCO countries would boost not only trade and investment but also tourism and culture. “We call on more Pakistani enterprises to come to the Pakistan National Pavilion to display their products and expand exports”, he concluded.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/20-Jun-2023/pakistani-products-attract-visitors-at-sco-expo#>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین سے دوستی پر فخر، مضبوط تجارتی تعاون، سرمایہ کاری بھی ضروری، پاکستانی سفیر

دونوں اطراف کی قیادت کا اتفاق رائے ہے، خاص کر نومبر 2022ء میں وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے دورہ چین کے دوران دونوں ممالک کی قیادت نے ایم ایل ون منصوبے پر جلد از جلد عملدرآمد کے عمل کو آگے بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا۔ یہ بات انہوں نے نوائے وقت ودی نیشن کو خصوصی انٹرویو میں کہی۔ جے سی سی میٹنگ میں توانائی، ٹرانسپورٹ، انفراسٹرکچر، صنعت، زراعت اور آئی ٹی کے شعبوں میں بہت سے اہم منصوبوں پر تبادلہ خیال اور حتمی شکل دی جائے گی۔ دونوں فریق اس سال 12 ویں سیشن کے انعقاد کے انتظامات کر رہے ہیں۔ رواں سال سی پیک کی ایک دہائی مکمل ہو رہی ہے۔ سفیر نے کہا کہ چین میں ’بانائی‘ (آئرن برادر) کا لفظ صرف پاکستان

کے لیے مخصوص ہے۔ جیسا کہ ہم پاکستان میں اسے پہاڑوں سے بلند، سمندروں سے گہرا، شہد سے میٹھا سمجھتے ہیں۔ درحقیقت پاکستان کو چین کے ساتھ اپنی خصوصی دوستی پر فخر ہے جو ہر آزمائش میں پوری اتری اور لازوال ہے۔ یہ تعلق بین الریاستی تعلقات کے معمول کے اصولوں سے بالاتر ہے اور اپنی نوعیت کی انفرادیت کا حامل ہے۔

چین کے ساتھ ہمارے تعلقات مضبوط سیاسی حمایت، ترقیاتی اعتماد اور عملی تعاون پر مبنی ہیں۔ چین نے حال ہی میں کوویڈ سے متعلق سفری پابندیوں کو ختم کیا ہے اور بین الاقوامی سفر کو کھول دیا ہے۔ اس کے قدرتی طور پر تجارت اور سیاحت سمیت چینی معیشت کے مختلف شعبوں پر مثبت اثرات مرتب ہوئے ہیں۔ چین دوبارہ کھلنے کے نتیجے میں ہمارے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان باہمی روابط میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ پچھلے چند مہینوں میں کئی دورے ہوئے۔ دفاعی شعبے کے کئی ہائی پروفائل وفد بھی چین آئے ہیں، جن میں چیف آف آرمی سٹاف اور چیف آف نیول سٹاف شامل ہیں۔ معین الحق نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان مضبوط تجارتی اور سرمایہ کاری تعاون بھی ہے جو پاکستان کی معیشت کے لیے بہت ضروری ہے۔ ہمارے سب سے بڑے تجارتی شراکت دار کے طور پر، چین پاکستانی مصنوعات کی ایک بڑی برآمدی منڈی ہے، اور ہم چینی منڈیوں کے غیر استعمال شدہ شعبوں تک پاکستانی مصنوعات کی رسائی کو مزید بڑھانے کے لیے مل کر کام کر رہے ہیں۔ کوویڈ-19 وبائی مرض کے دوران، چین نے ہمیں خاص طور پر 160 ملین سے زیادہ ویکسین کی خوراک کی فراہمی میں اہم مدد فراہم کی۔ چین پچھلے سال کے تباہ کن سیلاب کے بعد فراخ دلی سے امداد فراہم کرنے والا سرفہرست ملک تھا۔ سفیر نے پاکستانی طلباء کے بارے میں بات کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین پاکستانی طلباء کے لئے ایک مقبول اور سب سے بڑی منزل ہے۔ کوویڈ سے پہلے چین میں زیر تعلیم طلباء کی تعداد 28000 ریکارڈ کی گئی۔ اپنے پیشہ ورانہ کیریئر اور چین میں کوویڈ کے دوران اقدامات کے بارے میں بات کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ میرا پاکستان کی فارن سروس میں ساڑھے تین دہائیوں سے زیادہ کا کیریئر رہا ہے۔ اس دوران مجھے ہیڈ کوارٹر اور بیرون ملک مشنر میں متعدد اسائنمنٹس ملیں۔ اگست 2020ء میں چین میں اپنی تقرری سے پہلے فرانس میں پاکستان کے سفیر کے طور پر خدمات انجام دے رہا تھا۔ جب بیجنگ آیا تو کوویڈ کی وجہ سے کمیونٹی کے ساتھ آمنے سامنے بات چیت کرنا قدرے مشکل تھا۔ تاہم ہم نے طلباء اور دیگر پاکستانیوں کے ساتھ آن لائن میٹنگز کے ذریعے رابطے برقرار رکھے اور اپنی کمیونٹی کے لئے باقاعدہ مختلف اقدامات شروع کئے۔ پہلی ترجیح پاکستانی طلباء کی چین واپسی تھی، ایک اور اہم مقصد کمیونٹی کی سفارت خانے تک رسائی کو یقینی بنانا تھا، جس کے لئے ہم نے ڈیجیٹل رجسٹریشن کا نظام متعارف کرایا۔ ہم نے ایک پرمزور پروموشنل فورم بھی شروع کیا، جو پاکستانی پیشہ ور افراد کے لئے ایک اہم پلیٹ فارم ہے جس میں چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان تعاون بڑھانے کے لئے بات چیت اور تجاویز پیش کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ تیسرا، ہم نے پاکستانی طلباء اور پیشہ ور افراد کے لئے ایک آن لائن پورٹل شروع کیا جہاں وہ چین اور پاکستان میں اپنی ملازمت کی تلاش کے لئے اپنی کامیابیوں، تجربات اور نیٹ ورک سے رابطہ کر سکتے ہیں۔ طلباء اور خواہشمند پیشہ ور افراد اپنے سی وی کا اشتراک کر سکتے ہیں اور روزگار کے ممکنہ مواقع تلاش کر سکتے ہیں۔ چین اور پاکستان نے 2023ء کو چین پاکستان سیاحت کے تبادلے کے سال کے طور پر منانے کا فیصلہ کیا۔ اس سال دونوں ممالک اپنی دوستی کا جشن منانے، ایک دوسرے کی سیاحت کی صلاحیت کے بارے میں بیداری پیدا کرنے اور ایک دوسرے کے ممالک سے آنے والے سیاحوں کو خوش آمدید کہنے کے لیے متعدد سرگرمیاں کریں گے۔ ہم نے ٹارگٹ مارکیٹنگ کمپنیوں کے ساتھ چینی سوشل میڈیا پلیٹ فارمز پر پاکستانی سیاحتی مناظر کی نمائش میں اضافہ کیا ہے۔ ہم نے چینی زبان کی ایک خصوصی ویب سائٹ اور پاکستانی سیاحت کا بھی آغاز کیا، جو خاص طور پر چینی سامعین کے لیے ڈیزائن کیا گیا ہے۔ ہم نے صوبہ میں بھی ”ہفتہ پاکستان“ منایا اور روابط و عملی تعاون کو مضبوط بنانے کے لئے مری کے ساتھ ایک (Dujinaguan) سیچوان میں چین کے مشہور سیاحتی شہر ڈو جینا گوان ”سسٹرسٹی“ کے معاہدے پر بھی دستخط کیے۔ آنے والے ہفتوں میں چینی سیاحوں کو معلومات اور سہولت فراہم کرنے کے لئے سفارت خانے میں ایک تفصیلی سیاحتی دفتر قائم کیا جائے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-20/page-1/detail-23>

سی بیگ اور بی آر آئی سے متعلق 4 اداروں میں مفاہمتی یادداشت پر دستخط

لاہور (این این آئی) سینٹر فار بی آر آئی اینڈ جوائنٹ اسٹڈیز، انسٹیٹیوٹ آف پیس اینڈ ڈیولپمنٹ اسٹڈیز، سینٹر فار چائنا پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور اور کاشی یونیورسٹی کے درمیان ایک مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کیے گئے ہیں جس کے ذریعے سی بی آر آئی سی ایس اور سی پی ای سی مشترکہ تحقیقی منصوبوں، کانفرنسوں، سیمینارز اور ورکشاپس کے

انعتاد کما جائے گا۔ یہ تعاون فیکٹی اور طلبہ کے تبادلے کے پروگراموں میں بھی سہولت فراہم کرے گا جس سے دونوں اداروں کے درمیان خیالات، تجربات اور ثقافتی تفہیم کے تبادلے کو ممکن بنا یا جائے گا۔ سی بی آر آئی سی ایس اور سی سی پی ای سی کے درمیان تعاون کا مقصد چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری اور بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو اسٹریٹج کے میدان میں علمی تعاون، علم کے تبادلے اور مشترکہ تحقیقی کوششوں کو فروغ دینا ہے۔ شراکت داری سی پیک کے ارد گرد اقتصادی، سماجی، اور جغرافیائی اور علاقائی روابط، پائیدار ترقی اور امن کے لیے اس کے مضمرات پر سوچ بچار کرے گی۔ دونوں اداروں کی مہارت اور وسائل کو بروئے کار لاتے ہوئے یہ تعاون سی پیک اور وسیع تر بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو سے متعلق علمی گفتگو، پالیسی سازی، اور اسٹریٹجک سوچ میں حصہ ڈالنے کا ارادہ رکھتا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-20/page-3/detail-16>

June 21, 2023

Business Recorder

China came to rescue amid IMF dithering: PM

ZAHEER ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that China renewed Pakistan's commercial and sovereign loans in recent months and weeks which is an example of everlasting Chinese friendship with Pakistan.

Speaking after witnessing the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony of 1,200 MW nuclear energy power project C-5, the prime minister said that of late, when Pakistan faced economic challenges it is engaged with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) trying to finalise 9th review and Pakistan met all the prior condition required by the IMF.

He said that following an inordinate delay of IMF's 9th review, China once again came to help and rescue Pakistan and this simply shows that a "friend in need is a friend indeed". China always stood by Pakistan in difficult times, he added.

He said that this is a great occasion and a great moment between the two great friends, China and Pakistan for witnessing the signing ceremony of 1,200 MW nuclear energy power project C-5 worth \$4.8 billion.

The premier said that is a step forward in economic cooperation between China and Pakistan and added that a few months ago, he inaugurated K-3 at Karachi and now Chashma Nuclear Power Plant (C-5). He expressed the hope that the project would be started without any further delay and the investment of \$4.8 billion from China sends a message that Pakistan is a place where Chinese companies investment continue to show their trust and faith in Pakistan.

He said that brother countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and others have also been helping Pakistan and at this point in time, Chinese financial support has been outstanding and he does not have words to explain how much thankful he was to the Chinese leadership.

The prime minister said that he also wanted to congratulate the Pakistani nation that an agreement has been signed between the Chinese company "China National Nuclear

Cooperation” and the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission for the construction of a 1,200 MW nuclear plant Chashma (C-5).

Shehbaz Sharif also thanked the military leadership and stated that this is a beautiful combination of military and civilian leadership of being on one page. He said that although the inflation has increased compared to 2018, the Chinese company has not increased the price of the project; instead it provided Rs30 billion discount.

The prime minister also inaugurated Margalla Avenue after witnessing the signing ceremony of Chashma nuclear C-5 power plant.

He added that this road will connect with GT Road.

The prime minister said that the government has launched Rs20 billion project for the development and prosperity of Islamabad and its adjacent areas. He said that Rs20 billion development projects and coaches for sweet home are meant for the development of the rural areas of the federal capital. He also came down hard on the opposition, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/21/1-page/965599-news.html>

Pakistan, China sign \$4.8bn N-power plant deal

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China signed a \$4.8 billion deal on Tuesday to build a 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said, hailing the investment by a country that Pakistan views as its most dependable ally.

Work on the Chashma 5 project would begin immediately, Sharif said on state-run news channel PTV following the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between China National Nuclear Cooperation and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission. “Investment from China in this project to the tune of \$4.8 billion sends a message loud and clear that Pakistan is a place where Chinese companies and investors continue to show their trust and faith,” Sharif said.

The Chashma 5 project will be built in the central province of Punjab. China’s support will help Pakistan make the transition away from reliance on fossil fuels.

Pakistan’s total nuclear energy production capacity rose to 1,400 mw, when the country’s sixth nuclear power plant opened two years ago. Located in the southern port city of Karachi, that 1,100 mw plant was also constructed with Chinese assistance.

Sharif, whose government is desperately struggling to stave off a balance of payments crisis, thanked the Chinese partners for offering a \$100-million discount for the latest project.

It is unclear whether the new investment is part of the \$65 billion that China has pledged in infrastructure building for Pakistan under its Belt and Road Initiative.

The new project was originally planned to start a couple of years ago, and Sharif expressed thanks to the Chinese side for not rescheduling costs despite the long delay. Instead, he said, the Chinese had disbursed an initial 30 billion Pakistani rupees (\$104.53 million) to start the project.—Reuter

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/21/1-page/965601-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan-China enjoy close cooperation in arts, literature: Pak Cultural Counselor

The first “Midsummer Literature Night” activity, sponsored by China National Publications Import & Export (Group), was held in Beijing.

Guests included officials of China National Publications and the China Writers Association, diplomats from Pakistan, Turkiye and Canada, Chinese writers and over 30 overseas sinologists and publishers, China Daily reported.

Lin Liying, general manager of China National Publications, said in her speech the Beijing International Book Fair is a platform for writers, translators and publishers from all over the world to communicate and share insights, and literature is a bridge to connect different cultures.

“The Midsummer Literary Night is intended to pay tribute to the writers and translators who pass on culture from generation to generation through books and stories, so we can better understand each other and continue to innovate”, she said.

Nasreen Fatima, cultural counselor at the Pakistani embassy in China, said literature helped strengthen communication and ties between different ethnic groups.

In recent years, she added, China and Pakistan had enjoyed increasingly close cooperation in the fields of art, literature and publishing.

At this year’s Beijing International Book Fair the launch of the Chinese version of four Pakistani literary works was held at the National Convention Center.

In the spirit of sincere cooperation, Fatima said, the two countries will continue to strengthen literary exchanges and promote mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples in the future.

Chinese poet Xichuan, British sinologist Shen Rufeng, Turkish sinologist Ji Lai and Polish sinologist Ni Kexian gave poetry recitations in their respective languages.

With literature as a link, the activity brought guests from different countries closer in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1105558/pakistan-china-enjoy-close-cooperation-in-arts-literature-pak-cultural-counselor/>

Pakistani exporters get big opportunity to tap \$15bn Chinese boiled beef market

In a significant development in China-Pakistan bilateral trade, the Chinese customs has allowed the export of Pakistan’s boiled beef to China providing a big opportunity for Pakistani exporters to tap \$15 billion Chinese market, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said in a statement.

In a landmark decision, the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) has granted access to Pakistani boiled beef to enter the Chinese market.

The imported Pakistani beef must originate from cattle younger than 30 months, and the meat must be boneless, having undergone a stringent heat treatment process.

The center of the meat should reach a temperature of at least 70 degrees Celsius for a minimum of 30 minutes.

The production enterprises of heat-treated beef have to be located in Pakistan and operate under Pakistani official supervision, adhering to the veterinary health and public health regulations of both China and Pakistan.

Before exporting heat-treated beef to China, the producer must be registered with China, and only the heat-treated beef produced after the registration date is allowed for export.

The announcement also details extensive requirements about animal disease management, processing conditions, storage, certification, packaging, transportation, and labelling.

Talking to APP, Commercial Counselor, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Ghulam Qadir said that with a huge potential to export beef, Pakistan is likely to start exporting boiled meat to the Chinese market in the near future.

China had agreed to import meat from Pakistan during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Beijing in November last. Both sides were in the process of exchanging documents.

Giving further details, he said that beef will be boiled up to 70 degrees centigrade to make it foot and mouth disease (FMD) free before its export to China.

Three processing plants having good reputations and capacity have already been approved by the concerned authorities of China.

About the current potential of meat export, he said that the country could export about 66,000 tons of meat annually but the Chinese market's demand is huge.

"One Chinese company has a plan to import 50,000 tons of meat from Pakistan. But, we have to maintain supply for the demand of our own consumers in Pakistan".

The export of meat would play a key role in achieving Pakistan's export target of US\$10 billion to China in the future, he opined.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1105713/pakistani-exporters-get-big-opportunity-to-tap-15bn-chinese-boiled-beef-market/>

Pakistani beef export to China to drive related industrial development

"The export of Pakistani beef to China is expected to increase Pakistan's foreign exchange income and drive the development of Pakistan's related industries including breeding and processing," said Dr. Gu Wenliang, Agricultural Commissioner of Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.

He was commenting on the great benefit of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC) granting Pakistani heated beef access to the Chinese market, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

According to Pakistan Economic Survey 2022-23, the cattle stock of Pakistan in FY 2022-23 is estimated to be 55.5 million, buffalo stock is estimated to be 45 million and beef production is projected to reach 2.544 million tons.

During the same period, Pakistan's export of meat and meat preparation is expected to reach \$302 million with a quantity of 69,072 tons.

These figures show that Pakistan has huge potential to be tapped in the export of meat and its products, including beef.

In recent years, China's beef imports have shown rapid growth driven by the upgraded consumption of Chinese residents. Due to its proximity to China, the logistics and transportation costs of Pakistan's beef to be exported can be reduced considerably. Dr. Gu pointed out that heat-treated beef is expected to open up segmented markets such as snacks and pre-made dishes.

To promote more exports of Pakistani beef to China, Dr. Gu pointed out the need to speed up the construction of foot-and-mouth disease-free zones in Pakistan.

Although Pakistan's animal husbandry sector is not underdeveloped, it still needs advanced technologies for industrial upgrading and extension of the industrial chain. "China has rich experience in forage cultivation, cattle breeding, cattle farm construction and management, waste treatment and utilization, veterinary drugs and animal vaccines, beef treatment and processing, meat product storage and refrigerated transportation, etc," Dr. Gu added, "Both sides can introduce Chinese advanced technology and equipment to Pakistan in the production of meat products that meet Chinese and international standards." In November 2021, China and Pakistan have signed 5 protocols on agricultural products exported to China, including onions, buffalo embryos, Rhodes grass, fresh cherries and heated beef. The two countries are currently conducting risk analysis on the exports of agricultural products such as dried chillies, potatoes, dairy products and donkey meat to China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1105703/pakistani-beef-export-to-china-to-drive-related-industrial-development/>

Pakistan Observer

BRI: New Decade, New Investment and New Development

Dr MehmoodUl Hassan Khan

The Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has completed its ten years and now entered into next decade of development, connectivity and multiculturalism. Since its inception in 2013 the BRI has successfully transformed Xi's vision of greater regional connectivity through massive investments in member countries.

Moreover, Xi recently announced Global Development Initiative (GDI), Global Security Initiative (GSI) and Global Civilizational Initiative (GCI) have become supplemental to the further growth of BRI in all the participating countries which is good omen.

The BRI has now become iconic platform for socio-economic development and infrastructure growth in all the member countries. According to OECD report more than 151 countries have

joined the BRI. More than 35 international organizations have been registered with the BRI. Moreover, the member countries of the BRI represents 75 percent of the world population and 50 percent of global GDP and its popularity is getting more momentum after the announcement of the Xi's opening-up and modernization of Chinese economy.

Moreover, during last ten years, China signed more than 200 Belt and Road cooperation documents forming more than 3,000 cooperation projects showing its global outreach and regional strategic significance.

Furthermore, the BRI initiative has stimulated an investment scale of over \$1 trillion, created 420,000 jobs for countries along the route, and lifted more than 40 million people out of poverty.

Interestingly, in the past 10 years under the BRI, Pakistan has laid 880 kilometers of road networks, 13 new energy projects have been put into operation, and more than 8,000 megawatts of electricity have been added to the national grid.

According to the Department of Regional Opening-Up under National Development and Reform Commission in 2021, China's trade in goods with BRI countries totaled 11.6 trillion yuan (\$1.67 trillion), accounting for nearly 30 percent of China's total foreign trade,. As of July 2022, China had signed more than 200 BRI cooperation agreements with 149 countries and 32 international organizations.

The BRI is a unique international initiative. It has brought a lot of benefits to African countries in terms of developing the local economy and making the region more sustainable economically,

The West's slanders about debt-traps are just groundless accusations against China because all African countries know that the BRI has truly helped African countries to develop without pre-conditions.

In this regard, China's recent agreements with the Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Algeria, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and many African countries on regional cooperation during 2023 vividly reflects its strong commitment to bring new development opportunities to the world in the new decade.

The BRI has been an expansive global venture aiming at fostering economic cooperation and regional connectivity through infrastructure development. It also fosters integrated, interactive and coordinated development activities in promoting cross-cultural exchange, health, green living, and modern technology and last but not least human capital development in all the member countries.

The BRI's primary was started to construct an extensive network of infrastructure development including mega projects in transportation, energy and mining sectors, building of railways, highways, ports, airports, and pipelines, connecting China to numerous countries in Asia, Europe, and Africa.

By virtue of the Xi vision of community with shared future, the BRI has succeeded to develop a more extensive and mutually reliant marketplace and is now promoting culture of

digitalized economy, e-commerce and last but not least Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the member countries.

In the last decade BRI has established to outstanding mega projects namely, the China-Europe express railway and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). According to many published reports, the China-Europe freight train achieved a milestone in 2021 with 15,000 trips a remarkable increase of 22 percent from 2020. The transportation service delivered an impressive volume of goods amounting to 1.46 million TEU containers reflecting an outstanding growth rate of 29 percent.

It spans across European cities with 78 operational lines, making it easier for over fifty thousand types of products to be transported efficiently. With this well-established logistics distribution system in place throughout Eurasia, several other infrastructure projects, such as Hungary-Serbia railway and China-Laos railway are going to become strategic expansion in the BRI network.

The CPEC framework aims paradigm shift in policy making of Pakistan encouraging moving towards Geo-Economics brightening the prospects of connecting with Central Asian Countries through energy projects, transport infrastructure, the port of Gwadar and the development of industrial cooperation. It hopes that the CPEC would help the latter in strengthening national development and, most importantly, benefiting local people.

The research studies of BRI's last decade confirms geopolitical struggle of the US and the west against China. The Obama administration's 'Pivot to Asia' and the Trump administration's 'BUILD Act' were primarily focused on infrastructure development and cooperation among low-income countries, thus started a counter-BRI grand policy. In 2021, President Joe Biden launched the 'Build Back Better World Initiative (B3W)', along with G7 member nations, as a program for investment in infrastructure aimed at competing against BRI. Moreover, the EU also announced its own version of BRI namely Global Gateway Project (GGP) mainly in Africa to counter the Chinese increasing economic cooperation.

Thus the US and the west geopolitical gaming remained active during the last decade to slow-down the BRI however, with the passage of time more and more countries and organizations joined it and rejected borrowed wisdom and weaponizing notions.

In summary, the BRI has brought numerous socio-economic benefits to the member countries and regions building a broad path for common development. It has attracted the participation of more than three-fourths of the countries in the world and 32 international organizations.

Frankly speaking, the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, and supply chain shocks remained the main hurdles during the last ten years which should be now resolved with the BRI spirits of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefit.

To conclude, the BRI has become hope of economic stability, sustainability, socio-economic prosperity, infrastructure development, economic diplomacy, service to humanity, symbolism of poverty eradication and last but not least, regional connectivity in the world.

It has successfully laid down the foundations of multiculturalism, health care, green transformation, economic corridors, integrated transport systems and last but not least, qualitative life in all the member countries.

It hopes that next decade would be more productive in terms of human capital, digitalization, e-commerce, electrical automobile, modernization, environment's friendly industrialization, innovations, financial integration, energy & food security and last but not least sustainable industrial supplies chains.

It predicts that caravans of socio-economic prosperity and greater regional connectivity between South Asia and Central Asia would be further strengthened under the flagship of CPEC Phase-II in Pakistan which would be good omen for all the regional economies, societies and political systems in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-new-decade-new-investment-and-new-development-by-dr-mehmoodul-hassan-khan/>

The News

Pakistan, China sign deal for 1,200 MW nuclear power project

By Shakeel Anjum

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan was facing economic challenges and was engaged with the IMF to finalize the 9th Review but there was an inordinate delay and it was at that critical juncture that China came to Pakistan's rescue.

The prime minister was addressing the ceremony to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Pakistan and China for a 1,200 MW Chashma-5 (C-5) nuclear power project worth \$3.48 billion here. President of China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas Ltd and Member Power and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) Muhammad Saeedur Rehman signed the MoU.

Federal Minister for Finance Senator Ishaq Dar, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir, Pang Chunxue, Chargé D'affaires of China and Shen Yanfeng, Vice President of China National Nuclear Corporation, were also present on the occasion.

Shehbaz Sharif said that Pakistan had met all the conditions of the IMF three months ago, but there has been an inordinate delay. The prime minister pointed out that other than China, Pakistan had also great friends such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar that had been and still supporting the country. However, he said at this critical juncture, Chinese support was outstanding and Pakistan was deeply obliged to President Xi and Chinese leadership. During the last few months, China also renewed commercial and sovereign loans, which reflected unparallel friendship between the two countries. Shehbaz Sharif said the nuclear power project was a great step forward towards economic cooperation between the two countries. He recalled that the decision to start the same project had been taken and the main conditions were agreed upon during the previous government of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif but the successive government put this project in cold storage. Keeping in view higher international inflation, the project cost would have been much higher than that determined in

2017-18 but the Chinese government not only did not raise the cost accordingly but also gave a discount of around Rs30 billion.

The prime minister said under the difficult economic situation, investment from China in this project to the tune of \$4.8 billion sent a clear message that Pakistan was a place where Chinese companies and investors continued to show their trust and faith. “This reflects the famous quote that our friendship is higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the deepest ocean, sweeter than sugar and honey, and stronger than iron and steel,” Sharif reiterated adding that President Xi Jinping had called this friendship that of iron brothers. He also mentioned that recently he also inaugurated the K-3 nuclear project in Karachi. Shehbaz also thanked the new military leadership for taking an interest in this project. “This is a beautiful combination that all political parties and military leadership are on one page,” he said.

In his tweets, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif declared the signing of the addendum to the contract on Chashma V as a major step forward towards the construction of the project that will add 1,200 MW of clean, affordable and reliable nuclear power to the system. He said this project was part of our energy security plan to diversify the energy mix with a focus on ensuring the provision of cheap electricity to the industry and relief to the common man. “Can’t thank Chinese leadership enough for their continued trust in Pakistan & the prosperous future of our people,” the PM said adding the project will be built with Chinese investment of \$4.8 billion.

The prime minister claimed that despite the inflation since being signed in 2017, China National Nuclear Cooperation did not increase the project cost. Rather, it gave a discount of 750 million RMB (Rs30 billion) on his request. “Pakistan-China Iron Brotherhood continues to deepen and this vital project will add a new facet to this multilayered cooperative strategic partnership,” Shehbaz concluded.

Later, addressing a ceremony of police martyrs at the Islamabad Police Lines, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the government is determined to strengthen the professionalism of police by boosting their skills and capacity to fight against wrongdoings in society.

“The government is focused on providing all facilities to our force and their families,” the PM maintained and added that every recommendation in this regard would be fulfilled despite economic constraints. “The police martyrs are our pride, who sacrificed their lives for our protection,” he maintained, adding, it is our duty to remember the families of the martyrs. “I salute Islamabad Police.” He said the salaries of the Islamabad police had been equalized with the salaries of the Punjab Police. The prime minister also unveiled plaques for the Dolphin Force and Special Protection Unit (SPU) Headquarters and an educational institute for the families of police officers.

The prime minister said that the plan for the establishment of the Dolphin Force in Islamabad should be immediately prepared on the pattern he had introduced in Punjab with the assistance of Turkiye. Instructors from Turkiye would be brought to impart training and a comprehensive programme in this regard would be introduced, he added. Shehbaz Sharif said that a hospital for the police force and their families in Islamabad should have been

constructed in the past. Now, the police force and their families would be provided with the latest health and educational facilities.

“It is the remarkable job of the Islamabad Police Chief that they inducted about 2,000 jawans strictly on merit which should be the standard emulated across the society,” the prime minister maintained.

Earlier, Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah referred to the payment of arrears to families of Shuhada and said over Rs1 billion rupees were paid within three days under the direction of the prime minister. He informed that deserving children of the deceased police force were given jobs on merit. Sanaullah informed that salaries of the Capital Territory Islamabad were made equal to those of the Punjab police. He said that the Dolphin Force, Special Protection Unit and Anti-terrorism Force would be soon made operational in Islamabad.

The prime minister also performed a formal opening of the newly constructed and much-awaited Margalla Avenue which starts from GT Road (leading to Peshawar) to Islamabad (near sector D-12). Later, he also performed the groundbreaking of 7.5 kilometres long Sikandar-e-Azam Road which would be connected with Khanpur Dam and Haripur district. He called upon the nation and all political parties to work together for bringing the country out of crisis and taking it to new heights of development. He said due to the past government’s criminal negligence, the citizens of the federal capital had to wait for years to enjoy their due facilities. Although it was a difficult task but not impossible to bring the country out of the crisis, he said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to undertake an official visit to France to participate in the New Global Financing Pact Summit, being held in Paris from June 22-23. The prime minister is visiting Paris, at the invitation of President of France Emmanuel Macron, according to Foreign Office.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has strongly condemned the Israeli expansion plan to build over 4,500 new settlements inside Occupied West Bank.

In a tweet, he said this made the universally-accepted goal of achieving a Two-state Solution even more distant & sows the seeds of renewed & perpetual instability and violence. The unprovoked, illegal & unethical Israeli actions continue to undermine peace with no regard for international law, and the UN resolutions, he added. “Pakistan is committed to supporting the Palestinians’ just struggle for an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital,” he concluded. Meanwhile, Shehbaz congratulated Saifullah Solangi for winning four medals in Special Olympics.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=213268>

Jang News

چین نے ساجد میر کو عالمی دستاورد قرار دینے کا اقدام روک دیا

کراچی (نیوز ڈیسک) چین نے اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل میں بھارت اور امریکا کی جانب سے لشکر طیبہ کے کارکن ساجد میر کو عالمی دستاورد قرار دینے کے اقدام کو روک دیا جو 2008 کے ممبئی حملوں کے سلسلے میں مطلوب تھا۔ امریکہ اور بھارت نے 1267 القاعدہ سینکٹرز کمیٹی کے تحت میر کی فہرست طلب کی تھی تاکہ ان کے

اٹائے منجمد، سفری پابندی اور ہتھیاروں کی پابندی لگائی جائے۔ اس معاملے سے واقف لوگوں کا کہنا ہے کہ چین کی جانب سے یہ رکاوٹ پچھلے سال بھارت اور امریکہ کے اسی طرح کے اقدام کو روکنے کے لیے ”تکنیکی ہولڈ“ کے استعمال کے بعد ہے۔ میر کو بھارت اور امریکہ کے قوانین کے تحت پہلے ہی دہشت گرد نامزد کیا جا چکا ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1239268>

K2 Daily

بفجہ 6

جدید میں خواتین کو شمال کے بغیر معاشرے کی ترقی و خوشحالی کا تصور نہیں کیا جا سکتا اس مقدمہ کیلئے گلگت بلتستان رول سپورٹ پروگرام کڑھ کر لیا گیا ہے۔ خواتین کو بلا سو قرضے فراہم کر رہا ہے جبکہ خواتین کو ترقی میں شامل کرنے کیلئے دیگر پروگرام کا آغاز بھی کیا جا رہا ہے۔ جی ٹی آر ایس ٹی کیونٹی ڈیولپمنٹ خواتین سیکشن کے ذریعہ اقدامات تکمیل گلگت کی خواتین کیلئے جدید تجارتی و کاروباری طریقوں سے آگاہی کے حوالے سے مشورہ ایک روزہ تربیتی سیشن کے اختتامی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے عبداللطیف نے کہا کہ گلگت بلتستان میں خواتین کی ترقی کیلئے ہمیں ریورس سٹریٹجی کا قیام بھی عمل لایا گیا ہے جہاں نہ صرف مقامی کڑھائی کھائی جائیگی بلکہ ای کامرس اور آن لائن بزنس کا بھی آغاز کیا جائیگا۔ اس اقدام سے معاشرے کی پرامیں گھسی خواتین کو پیش قدمی روزگار کما سکیں گی۔ چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر عبداللطیف نے تربیت حاصل کرنے والی خواتین میں انسداد بھی تقسیم کئے اس موقع پر خواتین تنظیمات کی ذمہ داران نے گلگت بلتستان رول سپورٹ پروگرام کی خدمات کو سراہا۔ جی ٹی آر ایس ٹی کیونٹی ڈیولپمنٹ خواتین سیکشن کی ماہر خواتین نے تنظیمات کی تنظیمات کی ذمہ دار خواتین کو بک کیبک، حساب نمئی، لین دین اور کاروبار کے جدید طریقوں سے آگاہی دی۔

چین کی ٹیکنالوجی سے استفادہ کیلئے خورشید

دو روزہ سیمینار کے موقع پر مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کے حوالے سے مفادمتنی یادداشتوں پر دستخط موقع ہیں

کا شرفیٹیوئل میں گلگت بلتستان کی ثقافت کو اجاگر کرنے سے سیاحت کو فروغ ملے گا

گلگت (پ ر) وزیر اعلیٰ گلگت بلتستان خالد خورشید نے دورہ کا شرف کے موقع پر پاکستان کے سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ دورہ سیمینار کے موقع پر قارن آفس کے نمائندوں، چار برادری اور مختلف مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون (باقی صفحہ 7 بجیہ نمبر 8)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Date=2023-06-21

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بفجہ 16

سبح کے علاقوں سے 1 ہزار 400 سے زائد کاروباری ادارے حرکت کر رہے ہیں۔ ہارین کی شہری شہ سے بنگ پان نے بتایا کہ ایسی مصنوعات شادہ ذوری نظر آتی ہیں۔

پاکستانی تاجر چینی منڈی سے مزید فوائد سمیٹنے کیلئے پر عزم

تجارتی میلے میں پاکستانی خصوصیات کی حامل پینل کی دستکاریاں پیش

پینل کے برتن بہترین شکل و صورت اور عظیم فنکارانہ قدر کے حامل ہیں، تاجر عباس

ہارین (شہر) پاکستانی کاروباری شخصیت عباس ان ڈورن شدہ تصاویر کا شمار میں جس کی وجہ ان کے مسائل پر کا کون کارڈ ہے۔ چینی شہری ان کی مصنوعات میں بہت دلچسپی لے رہے ہیں۔ گلگت بلتستان کی عوامی اقتصادی اور تجارتی میلے کا پہلی بار انعقاد نے پاکستانی خصوصیات کی حامل پینل کی دستکاریاں پیش کی ہیں۔ عباس نے بتایا کہ پینل سے سب سے بہترین شکل و صورت اور عظیم فنکارانہ قدر کے حامل ہیں۔ عباس کی میلے میں پہلی شرکت نہیں ہے وہ اس رٹش کے عادی ہیں۔ عباس نے بتایا کہ وہ 2014 میں دنیا کے 38 ممالک اور شہروں کے علاوہ چین سے اس تجارتی میلے کے ساتھ ساتھ چین کے دیگر

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News&Date=2023-06-21

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-06-21

بقیہ 41

دیا گیا کسی بیک کو چیلنج نہیں دینا، پی ڈی ایم جپ سے آئی ہے۔ چودنی تعلقات بحال ہونے، معاملات لائی گئی ہیں اور سی بیک کو مکمل فعال کیا گیا ہے، سی بیک کا سب سے پہلے تصور مولانا فضل الرحمان نے دیا، دونوں ٹیٹ دن روز سے جہازت کا باپ کھولنے کا تصور ہم نے دیا تھا۔ پاکستان کی انسانی و معاشی ترقی سی بیک سے جڑی ہے، سی بیک سے توانائی، مواصلاتی اور معاشی ترقی ممکن ہے۔ چینی دہتی لارول ہے جو ہر مشکل گھڑی میں جاری رہی ہے، چین نے مسلمانوں سمیت مختلف مذاہب کا کردار ریاست سے مخم کر دیا ہے تو کیا پاکستان کو بھی ایسا کرنا چاہیے؟ عالمی ایشیاء نے ہاشی میں سی بیک کو روکا، مولانا اختر حسین سمیت اور اپنی قہتر میں کے ش کی حمایت کرتے ہیں۔ جہتر میں، اپنی قہتر میں سمیت کی مراعات کے حوالے سے پاس کردہ قانون کا قومی بجٹ پر یو جہتس پاسے گا۔ جہتر میں سمیت کی مراعات کے حوالے سے قومی خزانے کو نقصان نہیں ہوگا۔ جہتر میں سمیت نے ہمیں اس حوالے سے یقین دہانی کرائی ہے۔

سی بیک سے ہی ملک میں معاشی ترقی ممکن، غنفور حیدری

عالمی ایشیاء نے سی بیک کو روکا، پراجیکٹ کا تصور سب سے پہلے فضل الرحمان نے دیا تھا

جہتر میں سمیت کی مراعات کے حوالے سے پاس کردہ بل کا قومی بجٹ پر یو جہتس پڑیگا

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) بہت علمائے میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا، گنہت پارٹی کی اسلام کے سکرٹری جنرل مولانا مہد غنفور حیدری دعوت پر چین کے دورے کے حوالے نے کہا ہے کہ عالمی ایشیاء نے ہاشی میں سی بیک کو روکا، جہتر میں پی ڈی ایم نے لہجائی ہو گئے، ہی سے قوم کو آگاہ کرنا چاہتا ہوں، ہی بیک کی اس سالہ تخریبات منائی جاری ہیں، بدھتسی سے پارسل بیک کا سب سے پہلے تصور مولانا فضل الرحمان نے عالمی ایشیاء کی حکومت ہم پر مسلط چینی کیا، دون بیک دور کا ہم نے تصور دیا، ان قومی بدھتسی سے ہم پر پارسل ایسی کو تسلط رکھی خیالات کا اظہار مشکل کے روز پارلیمنٹ ہاؤس میں گئی، جس کو ہدف (ہائی سنٹر 6) بجہتر نمبر 41

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Gilgit%20Baltistan%20News&Date=2023-06-21

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-06-21

June 22, 2023

Daily Times

CJCSC calls on his Chinese counterpart

Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) General Sahir Shamshad Mirza on Wednesday reviewed mutual defence cooperation between China and Pakistan. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), CJCSC is on a four-day visit to China starting from June 18 to June 22. He is leading a Pakistani delegation reviewing defence and security negotiations between the two countries. The CJCSC also called on his Chinese counterpart Liu Zhenli. "Pakistan highly regards her friendship with China," the ISPR quoted him as saying. Both leaders were determined to foster deep defence and strategic ties, the military's media wing stated.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1105927/cjscsc-calls-on-his-chinese-counterpart/>

Russian oil payment in yuan based on Sino-Pak mutual trust: ambassador

The transaction of Pakistan's first government-to-government import of discounted Russian crude oil in Chinese yuan is in line with Pakistan's practical and broad-based economic

partnership with China and is based on our strong mutual trust and win-win cooperation, said Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque.

Ambassador Haque told the Global Times in an exclusive interview that with growing economic ties and the new projects being launched under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China and Pakistan have agreed to the use of the Chinese yuan and Pakistani rupees for financial transactions. Analysts pointed out that this transaction of oil in the Chinese yuan marks a significant shift away from the traditional use of the US dollar for international transactions. The move is also viewed by observers as a way for Pakistan to reduce its reliance on the US dollar and strengthen its ties with China and Russia. It is also expected to boost trade among the three countries.

The first-ever shipment of Russian oil recently arrived in Pakistan after undergoing a prudent process of procurement. This transaction is aimed to bring benefits to the people of Pakistan amid rising fuel prices all over the world, as well as Pakistan's difficult economic situation, energy shortages, and dependence on expensive imported petroleum, Haque told the Global Times. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Twitter on June 11 when the crude oil cargo arrived in the country that today is a transformative day. We are moving one step at a time toward prosperity, economic growth, energy security and affordability.? This is the first ever [consignment of] Russian oil cargo to Pakistan and the beginning of a new relationship between Pakistan and the Russian Federation. I commend all those who remained part of this national endeavour and contributed to translating the promise of a Russian oil import into reality, he said.

Pakistan's first government-to-government deal with Russia consisted of a 100,000-ton crude oil consignment, according to media reports. Ambassador Haque noted that this transaction in Chinese yuan is based on win-win cooperation and Pakistan's broad-based economic partnership with China. According to the Pakistani diplomat, China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and one of the biggest sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow into Pakistan.

The economic and financial ties between China and Pakistan have been further fortified since the inception of CPEC in 2013 which became the mainstay of the bilateral economic relationship. Pakistan is also a priority partner for developmental cooperation under the Global Development Initiative (GDI). China and Pakistan have a currency swap agreement to facilitate trade in local currencies. As bilateral trade between the two countries grows and new projects are launched under the CPEC, the two countries have agreed to the use of yuan and Pakistani rupees for financial transactions, he said. In a previous interview with the Global Times, Ambassador Haque said that CPEC is a flagship project and a major corridor under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Fully aligned with the national development agenda of Pakistan, CPEC has been the key to the countries' socioeconomic development.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1106096/russian-oil-payment-in-yuan-based-on-sino-pak-mutual-trust-ambassador/>

Chinese, Pakistani universities to launch dual diploma in livestock management

The Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (FVAS), MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, and Xinjiang Agricultural Vocational Technical College, China, held an online meeting to launch Sino-Pak dual diploma program in livestock management at FVAS.

Under the dual diploma program, students will study initial two years in Pakistan and one year in Xinjiang Agricultural Vocational Technical College, according to an update by the FVAS.

The two institutions had signed an MoU in February 2023 for the purpose, Gwadar Pro reported. A Faculty Exchange Program will also be funded in addition to online training of animal husbandry and veterinary science teachers of FVAS.

Furthermore, Xinjiang Agricultural Vocational Technical College will establish modern agriculture and animal husbandry demonstration training centre at MNS University to organize trainings for Pakistani veterinary professionals, technical personnel and industrial partners.

Vice Chancellor Dr Asif Ali said on the occasion that this partnership will not only benefit students but also contribute to the development of livestock industry in Pakistan.

Dr Asif Raza, Dean FVAS, said that aim of the program will provide the students with a diverse and enriching learning experience to develop their skills in livestock management and animal care in a multicultural environment.

Prof. Yang Guiquan, Principal of Xinjiang Agricultural Vocational Technical College; Guo Qinghe, Deputy Director of Animal Science and Technology Institute; Jiang Xiaoxin, Dean Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine and Ma Wenjing, Dean of Int'l Cooperative Office from Xinjiang Agricultural Vocational Technical College, attended the meeting.

Max Ma, Director and Executive President of Tang Pakistan was also present during the online meeting, among others.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1106081/chinese-pakistani-universities-to-launch-dual-diploma-in-livestock-management/>

Dawn News

Pakistan won't be pushed to choose between China, US: Khar

Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has enough problems of its own and does not want the added headache of a new Cold War between China and the United States, says Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar.

In an interview with Washington-based news outlet Politico this week, Ms Khar insisted that Islamabad had no appetite to pick a side in the growing global rivalry between Washington and Beijing.

The interview was recorded before US President Joe Biden called his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping a dictator at a political event in California on Tuesday. The comment earned a swift and angry response from Beijing which said the remarks “seriously contradict basic facts, seriously violate diplomatic etiquette, and seriously infringe on China’s political dignity”.

Political analysts in Washington warn that Mr Biden’s remarks, and Beijing’s response, would make it more difficult for countries like Pakistan to maintain ties with both China and the United States.

Minister says splitting of world into two blocs ‘threatening’ for Islamabad

In its report on Ms Khar’s interview, Politico too highlighted the problems countries like Pakistan face in maintaining good ties with both Beijing and Washington.

“As a nuclear-armed heavyweight of 250 million people, Pakistan is one of the most closely watched front-line states in the contest for strategic influence in Asia,” the newspaper commented.

“While Pakistan’s old Cold War partner Washington is increasingly turning its focus to cooperation with Islamabad’s arch-foe India, China has swooped in to extend its sway in Pakistan — particularly through giant infrastructure projects.”

Ms Khar, however, insisted that an all-out rupture between the US and China would present Pakistan with an unpalatably binary strategic choice. “We are highly threatened by this notion of splitting the world into two blocs. We are very concerned about this decoupling ... anything that splits the world further,” she said.

“We have a history of being in a close, collaborative mode with the US. We have no intention of leaving that. Pakistan also has the reality of being in a close, collaborative mode with China, and until China suddenly came to everyone’s threat perception, that was always the case.”

Politico recalled that Ms Khar grabbed headlines in April when a leaked memo appeared in The Wall Street Journal in which she was cited as warning that Pakistan’s instinct to preserve its partnership with the US would harm what she deemed the country’s “real strategic” partnership with China.

She declined to comment on that leak, but took a more bullish line on continued American power in her interview in Brussels, saying the US was unnecessarily fearful and defensive about being toppled from its plinth of global leadership, which she argued remained vital in areas such as healthcare, technology, trade and combating climate change.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1761069/pakistan-wont-be-pushed-to-choose-between-china-us-khar>

Pakistan-China cooperation in agriculture contributing to growth: speakers

ISLAMABAD: Agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is thriving, showcasing remarkable

developments and innovative practices that have led to increased yields, disease-free crops and capacity building of agricultural institutions and system in Pakistan.

These views were expressed by speakers at a webinar titled ‘China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation under CPEC: Achievements and Challenges’, organised by the Centre for BRI and China Studies at the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies on Wednesday.

They said in the face of formidable challenges, including climate change, energy crises and security issues, both nations remained steadfast in their commitment to fostering agricultural collaboration in the years ahead.

The speakers shed light on the progress of their respective companies in Pakistan, addressing fundamental challenges and presenting viable solutions to drive further growth.

Dr Farhat Asif from the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies emphasised the significance of the agriculture sector for Pakistan.

Senior agronomist Julie Zhu Xiaobo shared about her firm Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed Company’s contribution and latest development in the progress of various agriculture products like hybrid rice and canola technology for Pakistan’s agriculture sector.

China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) Executive Director Alan Xi highlighted the role played by CMEC in modernising Pakistan’s agriculture sector through digital farming and export-oriented food deep-processing zones.

Senior Scientist at China’s Hunan University Dr M. Rizwan Hamid stressed the need to enhance research and development collaboration between China and Pakistan to foster innovation in the agriculture sector.

Peter Huang, Commercial Head, LTEC International Agriculture Development Company, proposed a comprehensive framework to facilitate the global branding of Pakistani companies, enabling them to export Halal food products to the Middle East and other regions.

Associate Professor Dr Tahir Usman College of Veterinary Sciences, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, shed light on the challenges posed by stunted growth in Pakistan, contributing to lower economic development and a sluggish GDP.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1761046>

The Express Tribune

Khar backs ‘balanced’ ties with the West, China

Minister says GSP Plus not only benefits Pakistan but also enhances EU’s trade

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar on Wednesday underlined the need for the world community to work together to find out solutions to growing global problems like climate change and refugees.

In an interview with Voice of America (VoA Urdu), the minister said that Pakistan had close contacts with the Western world, including institutional linkages, whether they were with the US or the Europe Union (EU).

But at the same time, Pakistan also enjoyed close strategic ties with China spanning over decades, she added.

Replying to a question regarding US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's recent visit to China, she said, "Look at Pakistan, Pakistan has good relations with both. It is every sovereign country's right to pursue its rights, our interest is in having balanced and good relations with all the countries."

She further said that if the atmosphere of competition was intensified in the world, it would be a very good example for other countries how to preserve such relationships and encourage them.

Khar said that the world was facing increasing issues like refugees' influx and climate change problems.

"We all the US, China, EU, Pakistan or India, have to sit together to find out a solution to these issues. With different blocks, these problems cannot be resolved," she stressed.

About the Indian prime minister's visit to the US, Khar said that Pakistan would always look positively to bilateral ties between sovereign countries and would not look negatively. There was no need to look at anything negatively, she added.

But on the other hand, she maintained, Pakistan had a very belligerent neighbour who indulged in military adventurism by sending jets in 2019 which was unprecedented and unthinkable.

She said that the world must look into this factor as well, whether those being propagated for their role in regional security deserved it.

"The world have to see whether there was conflict preservation instead conflict resolution due to them (India), then it did not augur well for the region. We hope that nothing would go wrong for the region and Pakistan," she opined.

About ties with the EU, she said that GSP Plus status only could not define Pakistan's relations with them as their bilateral engagements were wider and broader at all levels, including business contacts, institutional linkages, IT sector growth, etc.

She also said the GSP Plus not only benefited Pakistan but also enhanced the EU's trade with Pakistan, adding that Pakistan and the EU countries were engaged at different multilateral fora.

The MoS further stressed that such relations should not be looked through the GSP Plus lens but in fact, their interactions were much broader.

About her recent visits to different Scandinavian countries, she elaborated that certain countries had aging populations and they required a young population for different sectors.

She said that opening legal migration of skilled labour to these countries was their big objective as Pakistan and these countries did not want to promote illegal migration.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2422999/khar-backs-balanced-ties-with-the-west-china>

Pakistan invites China, Europe to set up LNG plants

Desires to make Gwadar international energy hub

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is eyeing Central Asia as its energy trade partner, especially Turkmenistan, and is seeking gas supplies for Gwadar in an effort to make it an international energy hub by encouraging China and European countries to establish liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants and export the fuel.

“We want to be a trading partner of Central Asia as it is the capital of energy. We have given proposals for bringing gas through a pipeline to Pakistan,” State Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik said while talking to media on Wednesday, adding that there were huge gas reserves in Turkmenistan, almost equivalent to those of Qatar.

“We offer to the world, especially China and Europe, to come and establish LNG plants in Gwadar and export gas to other countries,” the minister said.

He dismissed the notion doing rounds in social media that the Russian crude oil supply to Pakistan came from India.

The state minister, however, emphasised that Pakistan needed to strike short and long-term LNG supply deals as there were expectations that if Ukraine war ended, an energy glut would emerge and more and more LNG would be in the pipeline for the next few years.

Azerbaijan LNG deal to end gas crisis

Separately, while talking to a private news channel, Malik announced that an LNG purchase agreement framework with Azerbaijan will resolve Pakistan’s gas crisis and ensure no shortage for domestic consumers in the upcoming winter season.

He revealed that Azerbaijan will supply a monthly LNG cargo to Pakistan at a more affordable price. He added that the long-term agreement between Pakistan and Azerbaijan will result in the establishment of 9 to 10 cargo factories in the country this year. Through cooperation in the oil and gas sectors, Azerbaijan will help Pakistan meet its energy needs.

Addressing concerns about gas shortages, Malik assured that the government would be able to control the shortage during the winter season. He acknowledged infrastructure issues in specific areas of Karachi and emphasised that resolving these problems is a priority.

He also highlighted the government’s plan to attract investment from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as part of the Economic Revival Plan. He expressed optimism that the influx of billions of dollars in investments would generate employment opportunities for youth and women.

Regarding the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Malik said that Pakistan has fulfilled all the conditions for a staff-level agreement, and the government remains hopeful that the IMF programme will materialise soon.

In response to questions about additional benefits for the Senate chairman, Malik strongly condemned the privileges and allowances granted, considering the country’s severe financial crunch. As a senator, he pledged to play his role in objecting to these special privileges.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2422950/pakistan-invites-china-europe-to-set-up-lng-plants>

The Nation

Pakistan, China will continue to forge deeper strategic ties

ISLAMABAD - General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), is on an official visit to China from 18-22 June 2023 as head of delegation for the Pakistan-China defence and security talks. According to the ISPR, during the visit, the CJCSC met Chinese Chief of Joint Staff Department, General Liu Zhenli. During the meeting, both sides reviewed ongoing bilateral defence cooperation between China and Pakistan.

He reiterated that the Pakistan-China friendship is highly valued and deeply rooted in the hearts and minds of Pakistani people. He also said that not only have the military relations of the two countries withstood test of time, but also high-level cooperation in defence and training has progressed well. The CJCSC also held wide-ranging bilateral meetings with high ranking civil and military dignitaries including Mr Qin Gang, Chinese State Councillor, Foreign Minister, Mr. Chen Wenqing and other key military and government officials.

Both the sides reaffirmed commitment that being “Iron Brothers” and “All Weather Friends”, Pakistan and China would continue to forge deeper strategic ties, the ISPR concluded.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-22/page-4/detail-3>

Pakistan, China likely to sign 4 protocols

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD-Pakistan and China are likely to sign four protocols for the export of hides of donkey, dried chilies, heated meat and dairy products from the former to the later. The Prime Minister of Pakistan has approved the placement of summary before the Federal Cabinet through circulation, official source told The Nation.

The source said that the General Administration of Customs of the Peoples’ Republic of China has proposed the four protocols for signature between the General Administration of Customs of China and the Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR) of Pakistan. The protocols are related to the export of dried chilies, hides of donkey, dairy products and heated meat from Pakistan to China. Hides of donkey for processing purpose will be exported to China. It is worth mentioning here that as per the recent economic survey, the population of donkeys in Pakistan has increased by approximately 100,000 to 5.8 million as compared to the previous year.

Protocol for inspection, quarantine and sanitary requirements for heated beef has been proposed. The protocols aim to regulate export of dried chilies, hides of donkey, dairy products and heated beef from Pakistan to China. This shall be in compliance with all applicable Chinese phytosanitary laws and regulations, health and safety standards and quarantine requirements. The concerned Departments have supported the draft protocols. The Ministry of National Food Security & Research moved a summary to Prime Minister, for

authorization to obtain the approval of the federal cabinet through circulation in terms of Rule-17(1) (b) of the Rules of Business, 1973, the source said.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-22/page-8/detail-7>

Pakistani cherries to be available in Chinese market soon: Pak envoy

BEIJING-After the signing of the China-Pakistan protocol for cherries exports and the visit of the trade delegation to Gilgit-Baltistan, soon Pakistani cherries will be available in the Chinese market, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said.

“Cherries of Gilgit-Baltistan are sweet and juicy. After the signing of the China-Pakistan Protocol for cherries exports and the visit of a trade delegation to GB, soon they will be available in Chinese markets, he said in a statement.

China and Pakistan signed a cooperation protocol during Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to Beijing in November last year. Under the protocol, China will not only import cherries from Pakistan but also help local growers to enhance production.

Last month, a 15-member Chinese delegation travelled to the picturesque Gilgit-Baltistan region to explore options for buying and importing cherries from Pakistan.

The Chinese buyers hailing from Xinjiang, Zhejiang and Shandong provinces as well as the Weifang area visited in the region – home to cherry orchards in Pakistan, from May15-19. They met local farmers, relevant officials and visited cherry orchards and inspected the quality of the exotic fruit.

As per official sources, cherry production in Gilgit-Baltistan is around 5,000 metric tons per season. And since local consumption is limited, the growers export the fruit.

Cherry is an easily perishable fruit – with little shelf life – so Pakistan has been looking for nearby destinations to export cherry. And China, being a next-door neighbor with an ever-growing appetite for the fruit, is the most viable option.

To meet the increasing demand in the Chinese market, it is very important for the growers in Gilgit-Baltistan to improve farming practices by using the latest and modern technology. The processing and packaging facilities are important to increase the shelf life of the fruit and make its transportation easy and viable.

Doulat Karim, a Kashgar-based Pakistani logistics trader, who is ready to import Pakistani cherries this year told the media: “The cherry in the Pakistani market is too cheap...So if we have this opportunity to export our cherries to China, then we and the orchard owners, they can earn much more”. •

Karim said the cherries to be exported would come from Gilgit-Balochistan, a major producer of cherries in Pakistan and noted that despite the presence of local cherry varieties in China, Pakistani cherries would still be able to carve out a niche in the Chinese market, particularly due to their organic nature.

Karim revealed that the primary market for Pakistani cherries would be China’s Xinjiang, given the proximity and ease of access, and then they planned to gradually expand to other regions of China.

China has an annual demand of around 350,000 metric tons and currently imports the bulk of its cherries from South American countries.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-22/page-8/detail-4>

K2 Daily



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2023-06-22

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2023-06-22

June 23, 2023

Business Recorder

Pakistan receives another \$300m from China

RIZWAN BHATTI

KARACHI: The country's total liquid foreign exchange reserves fell by \$515 million during the last week, mainly due to external debt servicing. However, Pakistan has received another inflow amounting to \$ 300 million from China.

According to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the total liquid foreign exchange reserves held by the country stood at \$ 8.864 billion as of June 16, 2023 compared to \$ 9.378 billion on June 6, 2023.

During the week under review, the SBP's foreign exchange reserves decreased by \$ 482 million to \$ 3.537 billion down from \$ 4.0187 billion due to external debt payment. Similarly, net forex reserves held by commercial banks also declined by \$32.6 million to reach \$ 5.327 billion during the last week.

The country paid external debt worth \$ 1.3 billion to China during the last two weeks, however as per commitment with Pakistan, China had refinanced it with Pakistan to build the sliding foreign exchange reserves and avoid default.

Chinese commercial loans worth \$1.3 billion were due in June. As per schedule, Pakistan made debt repayment of \$1 billion to the China Development Bank and \$300 million to the Bank of China during the last two weeks.

On the request of Pakistan for the fast track refinancing of maturing commercial loans of \$1.3 billion, China has refinanced it and out of total amount, some \$ 1 billion was received during the last week, while \$300 arrived during this week.

The SBP has also confirmed that it has received \$ 300 million proceeds of government of Pakistan commercial loan. However, these inflows will be incorporated in the reserves position to be published as of Jun 23, 2023.

Chinese inflows will help build the country's foreign exchange reserves but also meet the International Monetary Fund's condition of \$ 6 billion financing for release of the next loan tranche.

The government of Pakistan is continually making efforts for the release of IMF loan tranche worth \$ 1 billion and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met IMF Managing Director Georgieva, on the sidelines of the New Global Financing Pact Summit in Paris on Thursday and highlighted economic challenges. He also requested for the release of the Extended Fund Facility tranche.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/23/1-page/965761-news.html>

10-year celebrations

ZAHEER ABBASI

Planning minister spells out CPEC achievements

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has stated that so far, 13 power generation projects with a total installed capacity of 8,020 MW and one HVDC transmission line with an evacuation capacity of 4,000 MW have achieved commercial operation.

Speaking on the occasion to mark 10-year celebrations of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the upcoming 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) on Thursday, he said that this year marks the successful decade of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its flagship CPEC project. He added that when China launched its transcontinental enterprise, BRI, it chose Pakistan for its flagship project named, CPEC.

Over the decade, he said the two countries have developed strong bonds in diverse fields and call themselves "iron brothers". He said that mega projects worth billions of rupees had been completed in one year which indicated the commitment of the incumbent government under the vision of the prime minister.

The people of Pakistan would never forget the contribution of the Chinese to make the CPEC successful, he added while appreciating the contribution of Chinese officials and workers to execute the CPEC from 2013 onward.

The minister said the Chinese president gave the concept of the CPEC during his visit to Pakistan and subsequently, a memorandum of understanding was signed to implement it. He

said China had asked Pakistan to make a roadmap. China became the largest investor in Pakistan after three years, he added.

The achievements of CPEC are numerous and so were misconceptions and doubts about the CPEC were cleared. He said the CPEC played an important role in the development of Pakistan and there was a need to give hope to the nation again.

The minister said that under CPEC, 11,000 MW electricity was added to the system in four years of previous PML-N tenure, and Multan and Hazara Motorway was completed. The minister added that Chinese investors came to Pakistan when local investors were not ready either.

Iqbal said the government had completed the water supply for Gwadar and signed a contract of 100 MW electricity with Iran for the supply of electricity to Gwadar. He added that a lot of work had been done by the Chinese and Pakistani authorities for the success of the CPEC and common people also got employment in the CPEC projects: CPEC is the most successful project of China's Belt and Road Initiative, added the minister.

He said when the government came into power in April last year, the CPEC had been revived and several projects of power, infrastructure, water, and others had been completed in Gwadar, which were ready for the groundbreaking.

According to Planning Ministry, Secretary Ministry of Planning Development Syed Zafar Ali Shah, while speaking on the occasion, stated that despite challenges the incumbent government successfully completed the CPEC projects in one year. This showed the strong commitment of the prime minister, he remarked.

Chief Economist of Pakistan, Dr Nadeem Javaid, who is also Project Director of CPEC, highlighted the key achievements of CPEC, emphasising the immense strides made in sectors such as energy, transportation, trade facilitation, and socio-economic development. He further recognised the valuable partnership between China and Pakistan that had enabled the successful implementation of the CPEC projects and underscored the importance of continued collaboration to sustain the momentum.

Charge de' Affair Pang Chunxue emphasised that the China-Pakistan relationship had profound historical roots, solid public support, and strong practical needs. Under the strong leadership of President Xi Jinping, China was steadfastly advancing the process of Chinese modernisation, she added. "China will provide new opportunities for the development of countries including Pakistan, with new accomplishments in Chinese modernisation," remarked Pang.

She further stated that "this year marks the 10th anniversary of the BRI proposed by President Xi Jinping, and the 10th anniversary of the launch of the CPEC. With the joint efforts of both sides, CPEC has achieved fruitful outcomes covering areas of industry, agriculture, IT, disaster prevention and mitigation, etc., which made significant contributions to promoting Pakistan's economic and social development, upgrading Pakistan's infrastructure, improving Pakistani people's well-being, enhancing people to people contact and deepening regional connectivity."

The event was informed, according to the Ministry of Planning so far 13 power generation projects with a total installed capacity of 8,020 MW and one HVDC transmission line with an evacuation capacity of 4,000 MW have achieved their commercial operation, while one energy project namely 884 MW Sukki-Kinari HPP is expected to be completed in July 2024. In addition, 700.7 MW Azad Pattan Hydro Power projects, 1,124 MW Kohala, and 300 MW Gwadar Coal Power Project are in pipeline. The CPEC effectively helped Pakistan in improving the major transport networks from north to south and laid the foundation for a resilient infrastructure including ports, airports, roads and railway lines.

In the early harvest projects of CPEC, six mega infrastructure projects were completed including, Havelian-Thakot section of KKH, Multan-Sukkur (M-5) Motorway, Hakla-D I Khan Motorway, Optical Fiber Cable, Eastbay Expressway and Orange Line Metro Train. Furthermore, on western alignment of the CPEC, work on different sections is under implementation which will be completed by 2024. Since most of these highways pass through the far-flung areas of Pakistan, it has opened those areas for business which will bring prosperity.

According to the statistics, approximately 200,000 direct jobs have been created in the first phase of the CPEC development for locals including engineers. To modernise the Pakistan Railway system under CPEC, the Main Line-1 (ML-1) project is in final negotiation. This project will help in the upgradation and dualisation of 1,733 km of railway track from Peshawar to Karachi.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/23/1-page/965754-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan receives \$26.6m in FDI from China in May

Pakistan received \$26.6 million in FDI from China in May, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday. According to the latest statistics from the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Pakistan received \$26.6 million in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from China in May 2023, contributing to a total FDI inflow of \$149.6 million for the same month. The inflow from China in May amounted to \$28.1 million, but there were \$1.5 million in outflows, resulting in a net FDI of \$26.6 million from China. This accounted for 17.1% of Pakistan's total FDI for the month. In April 2023, Pakistan received \$28.5 million from China, which made up 22.12% of the country's total FDI of \$128.9 million for that month. From July 2022 to May 2023, Pakistan accumulated \$374.3 million in FDI from China. Additionally, Pakistan received \$0.5 million in Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) from China, bringing the overall investment to \$374.8 million during the 11-month period. Apart from mainland China, Pakistan also obtained \$13.2 million in FDI from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in May 2023. From July 2022 to May 2023, FDI from Hong Kong reached \$90 million. During the July-May FY 2023 period, the total FDI in Pakistan amounted to \$1.32 billion, with 28.4% of that coming from China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1106486/pakistan-receives-26-6m-in-fdi-from-china-in-may/>

Mega projects of CPEC completed in record one year: Minister

To mark 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the upcoming 12th Joint Cooperation Committee, a curtain raiser event was held at the Planning Ministry on Thursday.

Under the 10-year celebrations, several events are being conducted by the CPEC Secretariat in collaboration with the Planning Ministry. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal said this year marks a successful decade of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and its flagship project, CPEC. The minister said when China launched its transcontinental enterprise BRI, it chose Pakistan for its flagship project CPEC.

“Over the decade, the two countries have developed strong bonds in diverse fields and called themselves ‘iron brothers’,” said the minister, who was declared Mr CPEC by the Chinese authorities in May when he visited China.

Mega projects worth billions of rupees have been completed in one year, which indicates the commitment of the incumbent government under the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, said Ahsan Iqbal while criticizing the previous government that he said deliberately delayed the CPEC projects.

“The people of Pakistan will never forget the contribution of the Chinese to make the CPEC successful,” he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Planning Secretary Syed Zafar Ali Shah applauded the CPEC achievements from 2015-2023.

Despite challenges, the incumbent government successfully completed the CPEC projects in a year, remarked Shah, who believed the CPEC is based on strategic partnership between the countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1106510/mega-projects-of-cpec-completed-in-record-one-year-minister/>

China, Pakistan joining hands to introduce more high-yielding crop varieties

China, Pakistan joining hands to introduce more high-yielding crop varieties to Pakistan, according to China Economic Net (CEN).

On the testing field of Multan, chili, sorghum, cotton, and soybeans are growing exuberantly on a trial basis.

“For the first time in our testing field, we grow jalapeno, or Mexican chili pepper. From each acre, we yield over 2.5 tons of dried jalapeno, far exceeding the local average of less than 1.5 tons”, Mr. Xi Jianlong, Manager of China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation project from China Machinery Engineering Corporation, the sponsor of the testing field, told China Economic Net.

Exceptional high yield is also realized with sorghum for brewing purpose, which is also being cultivated on trial base for the first time. Grain from one ear, after being dried, weighs over 470 grams, at least five folds of the local variety.

“Early sowing, moderate temperature, and cutting-edge technologies contribute to the expected high harvest”, Mr. Xi Jianlong said.

Such trial bases can also be found in Sahiwal and the vicinity of Lahore.

With an aim to select superior strains, fine varieties will be promoted on a large scale after the trial planting, as has already done with chili.

This year, red chilli was planted on 750 acres of land in Pakistan, with a whole set of technologies in seeding, sapling, fertilization, ploughing, irrigation, etc. brought from China. Currently, they are being picked and sundried with an estimated output of over 1,500 tons, CEN learns from Mr. Xi Jianlong. Apart from selection of varieties with better performance and transfer of agricultural technologies, the agricultural cooperation has also facilitated the extension of Pakistan’s industrial chain.

“We aim to ship the jalapeno back to China for processing after harvest in future”, Mr. Xi Jianlong said. In this way, the farm produce can move up the value chain and earn foreign exchanges for Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1106511/china-pakistan-joining-hands-to-introduce-more-high-yielding-crop-varieties/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese firm shows interest in setting up electric vehicles’ plant in Sindh

A delegation from the Chinese company China Power called on Sindh Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon at the Archives Complex in Karachi. The meeting was attended by Qasim Naveed Qamar, special assistant to the chief minister, Managing Director Sindh Mass Transit Authority Kamal Dayo, Cheng Qiang, the representative from China Power, Umar Adil Jaffer and others.

During the meeting, the Chinese company expressed its interest in establishing an electric vehicle manufacturing industry in Sindh. Memon warmly welcomed the company’s desire and assured it of full support in its endeavours.

He emphasized that the government remained committed to supporting investors and industrialists. He mentioned that the government was prepared to provide land to industrialists and offer subsidies as part of its efforts to facilitate their ventures.

The transport minister highlighted that the establishment of a plant in Sindh would bring significant benefits to both the country and its people. He emphasized that it would create new employment opportunities, contributing to economic growth and prosperity for the nation.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-firm-shows-interest-in-setting-up-electric-vehicles-plant-in-sindh/>

The Nation

Pakistan will never forget Chinese role in making CPEC successful: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD - To mark the 10- year celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and upcoming 12th Joint Coop-eration Committee JCC, a curtain raiser event was held on Thursday here.

The event was attended by Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal, Secretary Planning Commission Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Chief Economist of Pakistan who is also Executive Director of CPEC Dr Nadeem Javaid, Chinese Charge d' Affaires to Pakistan Pang Chunxue, Chinese state-owned enterprises' representatives and representatives from various ministries.

The CPEC enters a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional connectivity. Under the 10-year celebrations, several events are being conducted by the CPEC Secretariat in collaboration with the planning ministry which include international conferences, academic sessions, cultural shows and others across the country.

Speaking at the occasion, Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that this year marks the successful decade of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) & its flagship CPEC project.

Mega projects worth billions of rupees have been completed in one year, said Ahsan Iqbal, while criticizing the previous government which delicately delayed the CPEC projects, as a result, Pakistan faced problems.

“The people of Pakistan will never forget the contribution of the Chinese to make the CPEC successful,” he added, while appreciating the contribution of Chinese officials, workers to execute the CPEC during this whole journey which started in 2013 and still continues.

Chinese Charge d'Affaires Pang Chunxue, emphasized in her speech that the China-Pakistan relationship has profound historical roots, solid public support, and strong practical needs. Under the strong leadership of President Xi Jinping, China is steadfastly advancing the process of Chinese modernization. China will provide new opportunities for the development of countries including Pakistan, with new accomplishments in Chinese modernization, she remarked.

She further stated that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the BRI proposed by President Xi Jinping, and the 10th anniversary of the launch of the CPEC. With the joint efforts of both sides, CPEC has achieved fruitful outcomes, covering areas of industry, agriculture, IT, disaster prevention and mitigation made significant contributions to promoting Pakistan's economic and social development, upgrading Pakistan's infrastructure, improving Pakistani people's well-being, enhancing people to people contact and deepening regional connectivity etc.

It is noted that so far 13 power generation projects with a total installed capacity of 8,020 MW & one HVDC transmission line with evacuation capacity of 4,000 MW have achieved their commercial operation.

One energy project namely 884 MW Sukki-Kinari HPP which is expected to be completed in July 2024. In addition, 700.7 MW Azad Pattan Hydro Power projects, 1,124 MW Kohala, and 300 MW Gwadar Coal Power Project are in pipeline.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-06-23/page-12/detail-2>

The News

Success of CPEC lies in increasing capacity

Rasheed Khalid

Islamabad: Naghmana Hashmi, former ambassador to China, has said that increasing capacity for the success of the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is more crucial to put our industrialization on track.

Ms. Naghmana was speaking at a Roundtable Discussion on ‘CPEC: an analysis’ organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here Wednesday to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the flagship project of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Ms Naghmana said that Pakistan should own this project as it is the gift for the country. While commenting on the western criticism of the project, she noted that CPEC is the only North-South corridor of BRI. The first phase of the CPEC has been done sufficiently, she added.

She noted that partnership with China heralds back to the period when even both entities had not emerged. She went on to say that Mr. Jinnah while holding an office of the All India Muslim League sent a delegation to show the importance of China as a neighbour in the region. She also said that the idea of CPEC was not new in 2013. Its traces can be found 50 years back when the Karakoram Highway was laid. Speaking from his experience at CPEC projects, Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, CEO, of the KP Board of Investment & Trade, noted that Pakistan is facing dire challenges such as the rise of population and limited jobs. In his analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT), he proposed a “Risk Mitigation Plan” to cope with the challenges faced by Pakistan. He suggested that Pakistan should mitigate the threats and challenges to reap benefits from CPEC.

Research analyst Shakeel Ahmad Ramay opened up by saying Pakistan should understand China rather than knowing it. He highlighted some key challenges related to the chain of command, buck-passing, inefficient proposals, and layers of institutions. He also noted that CPEC had been facing critical challenges of scattered work, security, and the wrong person for the right job.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=213989>

Govt approves 8 SEZs, to attract Rs507bn investment

Israr Khan

ISLAMABAD: The government Thursday gave approval to eight special economic zones (SEZs), with three being sole enterprises SEZs, predominantly located in the Punjab and Sindh provinces. These SEZs have the potential to attract an investment of Rs507 billion, and create 74,000 direct jobs, according to financial experts.

The Approvals Committee of SEZs, convened under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for the Board of Investment and Special Initiatives Chaudhary Salik Hussain, granted the approval. The decision would now be circulated among the members of the Board of Approval (BoA) for their consideration, as they typically endorse such projects, an official of the Board of Investment (BoI) said.

Among the approved SEZs are two multi-industry proposals from Sindh and three from Punjab. The approved SEZs include Dhabeji SEZ Thatta, SITE Larkana, DWP Innovation Park (sponsored by DWP Group) in Kasur, Smart SEZ (a project of Habib Rafiq Group) in Sheikhupura, and Sundar Green SEZ (sponsored by Bin Arif Industries) in Lahore.

Furthermore, the committee granted approval for three Sole Enterprise SEZ proposals, one from Sindh for Armstrong ZE Tyres SESEZ in Thatta, and two from Punjab for Ombre SESEZ (Outfitters) in Lahore and Sapphire Chemicals Limited SESEZ in Khushab.

The committee consisted of members from federal ministries, provincial governments, provincial Board of Investments (BoIs), private sectors, and senior officers, including Secretary BoI Asad Rehman Gilani. They were all present during the meeting.

Three of the SEZs will be established in underdeveloped districts. Except for Dhabeji SEZ and SITE Larkana, all the projects will be developed in the private sector.

The committee also approved establishment of SEZ committees for the newly-approved zones, aiming to facilitate their operationalisation promptly. Secretary BoI commended the provincial SEZAs for their efforts in developing these proposals to promote industrial growth in the current economic conditions. He emphasised the BoI's role is to support the SEZAs and facilitate investment in the country.

Qassim Naveed Qamar, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister of Sindh on Investment and Public-Private Partnership, also attended the meeting. He expressed the commitment of the Sindh government to prioritise industrialisation over revenue generation through plot sales. He hoped that the Dhabeji SEZ, the first public-private partnership SEZ project in Sindh, would serve as a role model for the province.

The chairperson acknowledged the efforts of government officials in facilitating investments in Special Economic Zones and emphasised the importance of establishing a robust enforcement mechanism to ensure that commitments made by promoters are fulfilled within the specified timeframes.

Additionally, approval was granted for Zone Regulations for Challenge Fashion SEZ, and a standardised template of the development agreement, to be signed by zone developers and provincial and federal governments. The meeting also discussed the need for establishing a dedicated Secretariat for SEZs in BoI and recommended presenting the case before the Board of Approvals. Khashihur Rehman, Additional Secretary BoI, informed the attendees that the BoI, as the custodian of all SEZs, is responsible for governing SEZs at the national level consistently. The BoI is working to support provincial SEZAs in efficiently carrying out their delegated roles in SEZ governance through consultation and standardization. The standardised template for development agreements enables SEZAs to negotiate on their own terms while adhering to SEZ laws.

The Special Economic Zone Authorities (SEZAs) concerned provided an update on the colonisation and infrastructure development of the existing SEZs, revealing substantial progress following the digitization of SEZ approvals. This digitisation has effectively eradicated real estate activities that previously impeded realisation of genuine investments.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=213881>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کے ساتھ 1200 میگاواٹ چشمہ کی یادداشت پر دستخط کئے: خرم دستگیر

گوجرانوالہ (نمائندہ خصوصی) وفاقی وزیر توانائی انجینئر خرم دستگیر خاں نے کہا ہے کہ چین کے ساتھ 12 سو میگاواٹ چشمہ کی یادداشت پر دستخط کئے ہیں، آئندہ بننے والے بجلی کے پلانٹ داخلی ایندھن سے بنیں گے۔ گیسکو بورڈ آف ڈائریکٹرز کو گیسکو کے گریڈ ایک سے 15 تک کے ملازمین کو کارکردگی کی بنیاد پر ایک ماہ کی بنیادی تنخواہ کے برابر بونس کی ادائیگی کی ہدایات بھی دیں ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے گیسکو ہیڈ کوارٹرز میں میڈیا نمائندگان کے ساتھ بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انجینئر خرم دستگیر خاں نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم پاکستان میاں محمد شہباز شریف کی قیادت میں گذشتہ ایک سال کے عرصہ میں 5 ہزار میگاواٹ بجلی سسٹم میں شامل کی گئی ہے جبکہ بجلی کی مزید پیداوار اور استحکام کے لئے کام کر رہے ہیں، چینی کمپنی پاکستان میں ساڑھے 3 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کرے گی، چینی سرمایہ کاری سے نیوکلیر کے شعبے کو فروغ حاصل ہو گا۔ وفاقی وزیر نے کہا کہ پاکستان کو ایٹمی طاقت بنانے کا اعلان بھی اللہ تعالیٰ نے نواز شریف سے کروایا پاکستان کی نیوکلیر انرجی پر میاں نواز شریف اور میاں شہباز شریف کے گہرے نقوش ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-23/page-3/detail-0>

June 24, 2023

Business Recorder

Shehbaz, Li agree to celebrate 'decade of CPEC' in a big way

PARIS: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met Chinese Premier Li Qiang here wherein the two sides agreed to celebrate the decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) this year to showcase its success. The meeting was held here on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact.

It was the first in-person meeting between the two leaders since Premier Li assumed office in March this year.

Expressing satisfaction at the steady development of CPEC projects in Pakistan, the two sides agreed on CPEC's centrality for Pakistan's socio-economic development and expressed their firm commitment to continue working together for realizing its shared objectives for the two countries.

The conversation was marked by traditional warmth and cordiality that has been the hallmark of Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership.

During the meeting, the two leaders held an in-depth discussion on the entire gamut of bilateral relationship, including CPEC as well as economic cooperation.

Reiterating support to China on its core issues, the prime minister appreciated China's unflinching support to Pakistan's territorial integrity, sovereignty and socio-economic

development.

He noted that China's firm opposition to holding any G20 meeting in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir was a vivid reflection of China's principled stance for upholding international law and the United Nations resolutions.

In his remarks, Premier Li said the Pakistan-China friendship was unique and had withstood the vicissitude of time due to deep fraternal ties between the peoples of the two nations.

He added that as a close neighbour and iron-brother, Pakistan occupied a special position in China's neighbourhood diplomacy and that China would continue its efforts for safeguarding Pakistan's core interests and for the economic development and prosperity of its people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz and Premier Li agreed to continue the momentum of high level exchanges between Pakistan and China.

The prime minister invited the Chinese premier to undertake a visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience which the latter accepted.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/24/1-page/965843-news.html>

Daily Times

10 years on: BRI's Globalisation v/s Western Globalisation

Yasir Habib Khan

The world is abuzz with 10 years' saga of the Belt and Road Initiative offering insight that how President Xi's epic "BRI" from 2013 to 2023 is reshaping a new wave of globalization utterly different from Western-led globalization.

Having evolved into a comprehensive framework encompassing infrastructure development, trade facilitation, financial cooperation, and cultural exchanges across Asia, Europe, Africa, and beyond, BRI has established a new code of multilateralism that has nothing to do with "Economic World Order" practised by the US and its Western allies in the international arena. The BRI growth model centres on people's interests instead of tycoons' interests. It anchors on equity-based wealth distribution in the face of wealth concentration paradigms. It champions fair competitiveness instead of market hostility. It advocates meritocracy instead of monopolization. It spreads global harmony instead of hegemonic insidiousness. It promotes new regionalism that lies in economic corridors and belts in contrast to conventional economic unions and zones. It leads to global integration instead fragmentation. It empowers the world to jointly fight to overcome international challenges like high-tech modernization, economic depression and inflation instead of protectionism.

These aren't rhetorical observations either. For instance, the practitioners of Western-led globalization have a track record of attaching political strings to the economic and financial support that they extend to Global nations. China, by contrast, has never done such a thing. It's renegotiated certain BRI deals with some of its partners in response to the extraneous circumstances that the latter have experienced. This responsible approach debunked the "debt trap" disinformation narrative.

As we reflect on its journey so far, it becomes evident that the BRI carries both regional and international inevitability, with the potential to anchor economic miracles, adapt to challenges, and contribute to sustainable development.

The BRI growth model centres on people's interests instead of tycoons' interests.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative. Since then, China has signed 200 BRI collaboration agreements with 151 countries and 32 international organizations, according to Bai Chunli, president of the Alliance of International Science Organizations, a nonprofit, nongovernmental science organization to promote shared, sustainable development among BRI countries.

The initiative has provided new platforms for international trade and investment. Data showed that the cumulative value of trade in goods between China and countries along the BRI routes reached nearly \$11 trillion from 2013 to 2021, while the two-way investment hit more than \$230 billion. BRI's Proven Worth at Regional and International Levels

Chinese engagement through construction and investment activities in BRI countries in 2022 surpassed non-BRI countries by USD50 billion. BRI countries outperformed non-BRI countries by USD21 billion in investment deals and by USD30 billion in construction engagement. East Asia experienced strong growth, with a 151 per cent increase in Chinese investments and a 76 per cent increase in construction contracts, making it the dominant recipient of Chinese engagement, accounting for 34 per cent of the total. Middle Eastern countries also expanded their cooperation with China, receiving approximately 23 per cent of Chinese BRI engagement (up from 16.5%) and 21 per cent of Chinese investment volume, twice the share of 2021.

The BRI carries both regional and international inevitability due to its potential to reshape the global economic landscape. Regionally, the initiative connects countries along the Silk Road routes, stimulating trade, infrastructure development, and cultural exchanges. It promotes regional integration, cooperation, and stability, fostering a sense of shared destiny among participating nations. Moreover, the BRI provides a platform for emerging economies to accelerate their development and bridge infrastructure gaps.

A Decade of BRI: Conspiracies and Reality

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has not been without its critics and challenges. One of the major concerns raised is the issue of debt sustainability. Critics argue that some participating countries may face difficulties in repaying the loans obtained for BRI projects, potentially leading to a debt trap. The concept of the "Chinese debt trap" theory, often raised by Western media and critics, is a subject of debate in development discussions. China's involvement in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) through investments and lending has been accused of burdening developing countries with excessive debt. However, a closer look reveals that China's role in creating debt traps is often exaggerated.

In the case of Sri Lanka, for example, China is blamed for the majority of the country's debt burden. However, reports indicate that China only accounts for 10 per cent of Sri Lanka's debt, with the rest coming from other sources such as international currency markets, the Asian Development Bank, and Japan. While China has been accused of being a "neo-colonial

power,” little is mentioned in Western media about China’s debt relief efforts. Over the years, China has written off approximately \$9.8 billion of debt to other countries, particularly in Africa. China has also extended debt relief to poor countries under the G20 framework. The China International Development Cooperation Agency and the Export-Import Bank of China have suspended debt service payments from 23 countries, amounting to \$1.353 billion. Notable examples of debt forgiveness include Cuba (\$6 billion), Pakistan (\$500 million), and Cambodia (\$490 million).

There are significant differences between Chinese debt relief and that of the US and its controlled global financial institutions. China does not interfere in the internal political mechanisms of borrowing countries. In contrast, the US and its institutions often influence the political and economic policies of aid-seeking nations. China’s lending policy follows the principles of consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, emphasizing win-win outcomes for developing countries.

Rather than colonialism, China promotes solidarity among developing countries. Its financed infrastructure projects offer an alternative to US-dominated institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, which makes them appealing to many developing nations. The narrative of the “China debt trap” is often used as a geopolitical tool. In reality, Chinese loans provide significant benefits to impoverished and developing countries, but this initiative is not always welcomed by the Western world. Environmental impact is another area of concern. As the BRI involves massive infrastructure development, there are concerns about its potential negative effects on the environment and sustainability. China released a set of “Opinions” in March 2022 to promote green development in its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a trillion-dollar infrastructure funding strategy across 100 countries. The “Opinions” aim to develop the green capabilities of overseas enterprises and encourage domestic renewable energy companies to expand globally. The move aligns with China’s goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2060 and addressing concerns about the environmental impact of BRI projects.

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<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1106864/10-years-on-bris-globalisation-v-s-western-globalisation/>

Pakistan Observer

Try the Chinese model once

Khawar Abbas Sandhu

Chinese civilization has gone through this practice over and over again on how to deal with new challenges. The People’s Republic of China, which emerged from the struggle of the Communist Party, has now established a multi-party cooperation system. China’s political system is very interesting. The economies, technology and even tourism of the states that accuse the one-party system of China’s democratic system of government have lagged behind compared to China, but their propaganda is not ending. The Communist Party runs the government in China with the support of eight different parties the Revolutionary Committee

of the Chinese Kuomintang, the China Democratic League, the China National Democratic Construction Association, the China Association for Promoting Democracy, the Chinese Peasants and Workers Democratic Party, China Zhi Gong Party, Jiusan Society, Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League that run and advise on state affairs.

China is an interesting country in terms of its history and present times. Its history spans centuries and is influenced by social evolution and many revolutions. Currently, China is the only country in the world that has announced the eradication of poverty ahead of schedule.

Despite this, the western media, subject to the interests of the imperialist powers, has set up a plan to make China a mystery and distort the facts in order to maintain the supremacy of the only superpower in the world under the propaganda campaign. But according to the ground reality, no one is ready to believe this propaganda. If we talk about trade, education, business, technology or tourism, the trend of the world towards China is continuously increasing.

A few days ago in Beijing, a journalist of China International Radio, whose Pakistani name is Tabasum, talked about tourism, and the city of lively people, Lahore, was mentioned. I said that one thing is famous about Lahore, so she immediately said that yes, she is born. I smiled and asked if there is any such fame in China like Lahore that he who has not seen Lahore is not born, she said yes, Great Wall. He who has not seen the Great Wall, is not brave.

According to statistics, 70,000 daily and more than 20 million annually, tourists visit the Great Wall. And it is the most visited tourist place in the world. The People's Republic of China is the only country where most tourists visit. In 2019, international arrivals in China amounted to approximately 145.3 million, up from 141.2 million in the previous year.

Whatever the reasons behind tourism, the attraction of tourists to places about which something is known is lively. And liveliness reflects living societies.

In the successful political model of the People's Republic of China, every sector including tourism has developed.

Another interesting thing was seen in China. There is competition between cities in development. The leadership of each city is trying to outdo other cities. Jiangsu province has the most cities listed as Top 100 city economies in 2022, Yicai.com reported. All 13 cities of the coastal province made it into the Top 100 GDP list, with each producing more than 400 billion yuan (\$58.3 billion).

The country now has 24 cities whose GDPs exceed 1 trillion yuan. Shanghai, which ranked first in the Top 100 list, had a GDP of more than 4.46 trillion yuan (US\$664 billion).

Beijing ranked second with a GDP of over 4.16 trillion yuan (US\$624.5 billion) in 2022.

The total economic aggregate of the top 100 Chinese cities with the largest GDPs in 2022 reached 85.1 trillion yuan, accounting for 70.3 percent of the country's total.

The Top 10 Chinese city economies with the largest GDP in 2022 were Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Suzhou, Chengdu, Wuhan, Hangzhou and Nanjing.

The provinces with the lowest nominal GDP were Tibet (RMB 213.3 billion; approx. US\$31.7 billion).

In the Chinese system, every citizen has equal opportunities to advance. Wealth did not go into a few hands. On the other hand, Western democracy has not been able to give the world anything more than the power of elites, the protection of group interests and the division of the class system. In the democracy and free economy practiced by the West, only a few hundred people own 98% of the world's wealth, while more than 70% of the world's population is still suffering from poverty. Third world countries are the most exploited in the name of democracy, personal freedom, human rights and free trade.

Today, China's democratic centralized political system has become a strong example in front of the world of complete eradication of poverty, economic development and prosperity. In just a few years, China lifted 800 million people out of poverty and set a great example to the world that not only democracy, but a controlled system built on the basis of fairness, participation and equality can eradicate poverty from the world.

—The writer is Researcher BRI,CPEC, senior Vice President PUJ.

<https://pakobserver.net/try-the-chinese-model-once-by-khawar-abbas-sandhu/>

The Express Tribune

Chinese carmaker solves supply chain issues

GWM VC says at the beginning of current year, Pakistan encountered challenges in the automotive industry

BEIJING: Great Wall Motors (GWM) has announced that it will continue vehicle production in Pakistan as it has overcome shortage of auto parts and addressed supply chain issues.

GWM Vice President Shi Qingke said that at the beginning of current year, Pakistan encountered challenges in the automotive industry. Similarly, his company, like most of the other automotive companies, also faced car parts shortages.

However, “the problem has been considerably mitigated, and we have no issues with the supply chain.”

Last year in Lahore, Chinese carmaker GWM's first factory officially commenced production in Pakistan with annual production capacity of 20,000 units.

On November 17, the GWM-assembled Haval H6 HEV made its official debut in Lahore. The event signified several ground-breaking achievements in the industry, with GWM rolling out the first locally assembled hybrid vehicle in Pakistan, surpassing even Japanese brands, Shi told the China Economic Net.

Moving forward, GWM has planned to introduce plug-in hybrids and fully electric models, bringing the latest energy technology to Pakistan and facilitating the country's transition from traditional fuel-powered vehicles to new energy vehicles.

Since the implementation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan, with its immense market potential and economic vitality driven by a population of 220 million, has attracted the attention of numerous foreign investors.

With the continuous improvement of infrastructure, Chinese automotive companies have not only provided a wider range of products for Pakistani consumers but have also established assembly plants, ambitiously striving to become industry leaders despite the economic turbulences.

Pakistan has a vehicle ownership rate of less than 20 per 1,000 people. In contrast, China reached the rate of 230 vehicles per 1,000 people in 2022.

“This demonstrates that Pakistan holds unlimited market potential,” said the GWM vice president.

“Currently, we are overbooking,” Mian Muhammad Ali Hameed, COO of Sazgar Engineering Works Limited, GWM’s partner, remarked, adding that earlier Pakistan’s auto sector was dominated by Japanese vehicles.

To tackle the dominance of Japanese brands in the light vehicle sector, some local manufacturers have been seeking breakthroughs.

“The world is shifting towards new energy sources and I believe Pakistan will catch up. Our partner has a strong presence in the new energy sector, which is why we chose to collaborate and jointly explore the new energy market,” Hameed said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2423316/chinese-carmaker-solves-supply-chain-issues>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک کی دس سالہ تقریبات

چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کی 10 سالہ تقریبات کا باقاعدہ آغاز کر دیا گیا ہے۔ اس حوالے سے متعدد تقریبات منعقد کی جا رہی ہیں جن میں ملک بھر میں بین الاقوامی کانفرنسیں، تعلیمی سیشنز، ثقافتی شوز اور دیگر پروگرام شامل ہیں۔ اس سلسلے کی پہلی تقریب وزارت منصوبہ بندی میں منعقد کی گئی جس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و خصوصی اقدامات احسن اقبال نے کہا کہ آج کا دن ان کے لیے انتہائی خوشی کا دن ہے کہ جو سفر 2013ء میں شروع ہوا تھا اس کے 10 سال آج مکمل ہوئے۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے وژن کے مطابق حکومت ان منصوبوں کو آگے لے کر چل رہی ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ سابقہ حکومت نے سی پیک منصوبوں کو تباہ کیا جس کے نتیجے میں پاکستان کو مشکلات کا سامنا کرنا پڑا۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے سیکرٹری وزارت منصوبہ بندی سید ظفر علی شاہ نے کہا کہ چینجوں کے باوجود موجودہ حکومت نے ایک سال میں سی پیک کے منصوبوں کو کامیابی سے مکمل کیا۔ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے پاکستان میں چینی ناظم الامور پینگ چنکسو نے چین پاکستان تعلقات کی گہری تاریخی جڑیں، ٹھوس عوامی حمایت اور مضبوط عملی ضرورتیں پر روشنی ڈالی۔ انھوں نے کہا کہ صدر شئی جن پنگ کی مضبوط قیادت میں چین چینی جدیدیت کے عمل کو ثابت قدمی سے آگے بڑھا رہا ہے جبکہ چین جدیدیت میں نئی کامیابیوں کے ساتھ پاکستان سمیت دیگر ممالک کو بھی ترقی کے نئے مواقع فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ سی پیک منصوبہ واقعی بہت اہمیت کا حامل ہے اور خطے میں یہ ایک گیم چینجر کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے اسی لیے بھارت اور امریکا کو یہ منصوبہ ایک آنکھ نہیں بھاتا اور وہ مسلسل اس کوشش میں لگے ہوئے ہیں کہ کسی بھی طرح اس منصوبے کو آگے بڑھنے سے روکا جاسکے لیکن ان کی یہ کوششیں ناکام ہی ہوتی رہیں گی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-24/page-5/detail-10>

سی پیک، پاکستان کے زرعی شعبے میں قابل ذکر ترقی لانے میں مدد فراہم کی: ماہرین

اہور (این این آئی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت چین کے زرعی تعاون نے پاکستان کو اس شعبے میں قابل ذکر ترقی لانے میں مدد فراہم کی جس سے پیداوار میں اضافہ، بیماریوں سے پاک فصلوں اور استعداد کار میں اضافہ شامل ہے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان زراعت اور خوراک کے شعبوں میں تعاون کو بڑھانے کی اشد ضرورت ہے۔ چین کی مہارت اور پاکستان کے وافر وسائل دونوں ممالک کو باہمی طور پر فائدہ پہنچا سکتے ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار ماہرین نے انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف پیس اینڈ ڈیولپمنٹ سٹڈیز کے زیر اہتمام ”سی پی ای سی کے تحت چین پاکستان زرعی تعاون، کامیابیاں اور چیلنجز“ کے موضوع پر ویڈیو سیمینار سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ ماہرین نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان زرعی تعاون نے پاکستان میں جدید طرز عمل کا آغاز کیا جس سے زرعی شعبے میں بہتری آئی۔ ملک کا زرعی نظام موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں، توانائی کے بحرانوں اور سلامتی کے مسائل سمیت سنگین چیلنجز پر غور کرتے ہوئے شرکاء نے اس بات پر روشنی ڈالی کہ کس طرح دونوں ممالک آئندہ نسلوں کیلئے زرعی تعاون کو فروغ دینے کے اپنے عزم میں ثابت قدم رہے۔ آئی پی ڈی ایس کی صدر فرحت آصف نے بڑھتی ہوئی آبادی اور ملک پر گلوبل وارمنگ کے اثرات کے پیش نظر پاکستان کیلئے زرعی شعبے کی اہمیت پر زور دیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-24/page-6/detail-15>

K2 Daily

بفجہ 3

بھروسہ کیا ہے اور ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ بھروسہ اور کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ چین قومی خود بخاری، قومی آزادی اور علاقائی سلامت کے تحفظ کے لیے پاکستان کی بحری حمایت جاری رکھے گا۔ اپنے قومی حالات کے مطابق ترقی کے راستے پر گامزن ہونے میں پاکستان کی حمایت جاری رکھے گا۔ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر چین پاکستان چاروں موسموں کے اسٹریٹجک شراکت داری پر مبنی تعاون کو فروغ دینے اور اسے عہد میں چین پاک ہم نصاب سٹریٹجی کی تعمیر کو فروغ دینے کے لیے کوشاں رہے گا۔ لی چیواٹک نے نشاندہی کی کہ اس سال صدر شی جن پینگ کے ”ہیٹ اینڈ روڈ“ پالیسی کی 10 ویں سالگرہ اور چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے آغاز کی 10 ویں سالگرہ ہے۔ چین ”ہیٹ اینڈ روڈ“ کی مشن کو بحری میں پاکستان کے ساتھ تعاون کو مضبوط بنانے کے لیے تیار ہے۔ شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین سدا بہار دوست اور بھائی بھائی ہیں اور دونوں ممالک کی دوستانہ اور ملوث ہے۔ پاکستان دن چانکا پالیسی کی پاسداری کرتا ہے، پاکستان چین کو روکنے اور دبانے کی کسی بھی کوشش کی مخالفت کرتا ہے اور کثیرالجہتی امور میں چین کے ساتھ مشابہتی سے ایک دوسرے کی حمایت کرے گا۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے جرمن چانسلر اولاف شولز سے بھی ملاقات کی جس میں دو طرفہ تعلقات سمیت اگلی امور زیر غور آئے۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کی یورپی کمیشن کی سربراہ ارسلا ڈون ڈرلین سے ملاقات ہوئی۔ ملاقات میں ایس پی ٹی کی اہمیت اور مضبوط سیاسی عزم کا اعادہ کیا گیا۔

شہباز شریف کی چینی مہربانیاں

پاکستان تعلقاً مزید بہتر بنانے کے لیے

پاکستان چین کو روکنے اور دبانے کی کسی بھی کوشش کی مخالفت کرتا ہے، شہباز شریف کی گفتگو وزیر اعظم کی جرمن چانسلر اور یورپی کمیشن کی سربراہ سے بھی ملاقاتیں تجارت کے فروغ کا عزم

چین (این این آئی) چین کے وزیر اعظم لی شیچن سے ملاقات کی۔ جس کے روزگتی میڈیا ہیڈ لائن ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ تمام تعلقات رکھے چھٹا گ نے چین میں پاکستانی وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے مطابق چھٹا گ نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان نے ”ایک دوسرے پر (پانی سطر 7 جہیز نمبر 3)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Date=2023-06-24

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2023-06-24

June 25, 2023

Daily Times

Chinese scientific experts visit Pakistan for increased cooperation

A team of Chinese experts headed by Prof. Dr. Jiang Tong of Nanjing University of Information Sciences and Technology (NUIST) along with his team and Dr Salman Atif of National University of Sciences and Technology Pakistan (NUST) called on Chairman Water Environment Forum Pakistan, former federal minister and Senator, Nisar A. Memon here on Saturday.

Prof. Jiang briefed Senator Memon of Chinese scientific collaboration with scientific and academic institutions of Pakistan specifically with NUST under an MoU signed between NUIST and NUST to foster collaboration in scientific research and student and faculty exchanges, a news release said.

The Senator was pleased to learn of Chinese delegation expanding its collaboration with other universities such as: Quaid-e-Azam University, University of Peshawar, Bacha Khan University Charsadda, COMSATS University Islamabad as well as institutions like: National Agricultural Research Centre and Pakistan Meteorological Department.

Senator Memon appreciated the much-needed collaboration in joint scientific research and was impressed that efforts must be expedited to meet the continued climate change challenges and shortages in Indus River Basin. He congratulated NUIST and NUST for winning United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Chinese National Science Foundation (NSFC) project to serve Pakistan. Prof. Jiang assured that while the project teams were working, they plan to meet next in China in November 2023 to accelerate the project.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1107227/chinese-scientific-experts-visit-pakistan-for-increased-cooperation/>

Pakistan Observer

Commitment to CPEC

PAKISTAN and China have, once again, expressed their commitment to take their mutual cooperation to new heights under the historic initiative of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which has immensely contributed to the cause of progress and prosperity and has the potential to put the country on an accelerated path of development and growth. Speaking at a ceremony to mark the 10 year celebrations of the CPEC and 12th meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and Chinese Charge d’Affaires Pang Chunxue enumerated the benefits of CPEC to Pakistan’s economy and vowed to pursue it with renewed zeal in view of the peculiar conditions of the country.

It has rightly been pointed out from day one by the proponents of this collaborative venture that it has the potential to help overcome economic woes of Pakistan but unfortunately the initiative remained the target of malicious propaganda campaigns both by some internal elements and some foreign powers. In this backdrop, Ahsan Iqbal, who remained closely associated with the planning and execution of the CPEC, deserves appreciation for meticulously drawing an elaborate schedule of activities including international conferences, academic sessions and cultural shows in connection with ten-year celebrations that would go a long way in rebutting the false propaganda and putting things in the right perspective. This is important as the country suffered hugely because of the ill-advised decision of the PTI Government to put CPEC projects on the backburner throughout its four-year term. As against this, the incumbent Government revived the CPEC and its progress can be judged by the fact that projects worth billions of rupee have been completed during the last one year. As the present Government, especially visionary Planning Minister, is fully aware of the role that infrastructure projects play in augmenting economic development, several ongoing projects in Gwadar that remained dormant during the rule of PTI, have been completed in just six months, which would help exploit the full potential of the deep sea port. It is also pleasing to hear from the Minister that CPEC enters a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, infrastructure development and regional connectivity. Similarly, Pang Chunxue rightly pointed out that CPEC has achieved fruitful outcomes covering areas of industry, agriculture, IT, disaster prevention and mitigation which made a significant contribution to promote Pakistan's economic and social development, upgrading Pakistan's infrastructure, improving Pakistani people's wellbeing, enhancing people-to-people contact and deepening regional connectivity. As Pakistan is seeking more investment for which a high level Investment Facilitation Council has been formed, it is but natural that the country participates in the next JCC meeting with full preparations to attract investment from China in the priority areas.

<https://pakobserver.net/commitment-to-cpec/>

June 26, 2023

Business Recorder

Business delegation visits China's province Hunan

BEIJING: A delegation of Pakistani business representatives visited Hunan, China for exchanges and connections with government institutions, business associations and relevant enterprises.

The visit was organized and coordinated by the International Environmental Special Fund of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF), China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

The Pakistani business delegation, consisting of eight members, was led by Senator and General Abdul Qayyum, along with Sheikh Ejaz Asghar, Vice Chairman of the Pakistan-China Business Forum, Khalid Mahmood, CEO of Pakistan Green Energy Company, and Ms. Wang Lihua, General Manager of Pakistan Woda Limited.

The business areas for connections covered new energy, automobiles, steel, household appliances, building materials, electronic products, food processing, and agricultural products.

On June 18, the delegation held forums with more than 60 Hunan enterprises. Representatives from the Hunan Provincial Department of Commerce introduced the overall situation of Hunan's industries and the current status of trade with Pakistan.

They highlighted the prospects and opportunities that Hunan's industrial capabilities, particularly in engineering machinery, new energy, IT technology, and e-commerce, can bring to the upgrading and competitiveness of Pakistan's industries.

The representatives of the Pakistani business delegation stated that Pakistan has a population of over 200 million and is currently at the initial stage of rapid development with a relatively low overall economic level. Due to the longstanding friendly relations, the government attaches great importance to trade connections and cooperation with China.

They view China as a role model for development and expressed the urgent need for Chinese technology and products in the fields of communications, building materials, aviation, new energy, transportation, food processing, electronic products, agriculture, and household appliances.

Following the introduction, representatives from Hunan enterprises engaged in information exchange and preliminary connections with the Pakistani business delegation.

During the visit, the delegation split into two teams. One team visited CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive Co., Ltd., while the other visited Lianyuan Iron and Steel Group. At CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive, the delegation toured the manufacturing center and held discussions with the leaders of Zhuzhou CRRC Times Electric, Times New Material, and International Marketing Center.

General Abdul Qayyum highly praised the leading technologies of CRRC Zhuzhou Locomotive in locomotive manufacturing, rail transit, and new energy fields. He considered these technologies as urgently needed by Pakistan and expressed willingness to help CRRC open up the Pakistani market. At Lianyuan Iron and Steel Group, Vice Chairman Sheikh Ejaz Asghar obtained detailed information about Lianyuan's main products, visited the production line, and acknowledged the excellent quality of Lianyuan's products.

He mentioned that there are several products that Pakistani manufacturers are currently seeking, expressing their intention for procurement.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/26/7-page/966008-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan's export of broken rice to China has increased: Haider

A B2B webinar on the promotion of Pakistani rice to China was jointly held here by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai, and the Pakistan Trade and Development Authority.

Nawab Ali Rahoojo, Deputy Consul of the Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai addressed the session. He highlighted the potential of Pakistani rice in Chinese market, according to Gwadar Pro.

According to Chinese customs data, Pakistan's exports of rice to China in 2021 and 2022 amounted to US\$399 million and US\$455 million, respectively.

Pakistan's export of broken rice to China has increased substantially, reaching US\$48 million in 2019 and reaching US\$243 million in 2022, aligning with the overall increase in the use of broken rice in China.

China's high-end rice consumption market is expected to reach Rmb60 billion, which is close to US\$9 billion by 2023.

The Consul General, Mr. Hussain Haider, noted that Chinese rice is not only used for direct consumption but also for industrial production, such as making rice wine or rice noodles, and other value-added products, providing opportunities for Pakistani enterprises.

The Consul General is confident that Pakistani milled rice, especially Basmati, renowned in the world for its unique aroma and nutritional content, has huge potential to enter Shanghai and other Chinese metropolises.

The Consul General also welcomed Chinese companies to visit the upcoming 1st International Food and Agriculture Expo in Karachi in August to experience more Pakistani-friendly products on-site and interact with local and international buyers.

Twelve Pakistani vendors eligible to export rice to China presented themselves to twelve Chinese importers.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-export-of-broken-rice-to-china-has-increased-haider/>

BRI tones up new pattern of globalization in its 10 years journey

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is marking its first decade with flying colors by toning up a new pattern of global connectivity and economic development.

Launched in 2013, BRI has evolved into a comprehensive framework encompassing infrastructure development, trade facilitation, financial cooperation, and cultural exchanges across Asia, Europe, Africa, and beyond.

As we reflect on its journey so far, it becomes evident that BRI carries both regional and international indispensability, with the potential to anchor economic miracles, adapt to challenges, and contribute to sustainable development.

China has inked more than 200 BRI cooperation agreements with 151 countries and 32 international organizations.

As economic globalization is reeling with unseen upheavals and global economic recovery is in deep water, BRI's global aura becomes a silver lining showing a more important role in boosting the economic growth of relevant countries and regions.

BRI plays a crucial role in advancing world progress by fostering economic development, promoting trade, and enhancing cultural understanding. Through massive investments in

infrastructure projects, including roads, railways, ports, and energy facilities, BRI creates new opportunities for economic growth and job creation. By improving connectivity and reducing logistical bottlenecks, the initiative facilitates the movement of goods and services, enabling businesses to expand their reach and access new markets.

A research report released by the World Bank in 2019 showed that transportation infrastructure projects under BRI, if fully implemented, would generate \$1.6 trillion in benefits annually in global revenue by 2030 — accounting for 1.3 percent of global GDP. BRI was proposed by China, yet it generates opportunities and benefits for the entire world.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-tones-up-new-pattern-of-globalization-in-its-10-years-journey/>

The News

Punjab to control animal diseases with Chinese help

LAHORE: Punjab Livestock Department and a Chinese company have agreed on joining hands in controlling animal diseases in province.

In this connection, a Chinese delegation met with Livestock Minister Ibrahim Murad, who was accompanied by Livestock Secretary Masood Anwar. Chinese company Royal Group expressed interest in importing fresh meat from Pakistan. They want to work on mechanism to protect cattle from diseases before importation. Royal Group is one of the big companies in China. The head of the Chinese delegation, Thang Suchen, welcomed the cooperation of China in the preparation of vaccines for other diseases, including foot-and-mouth disease.

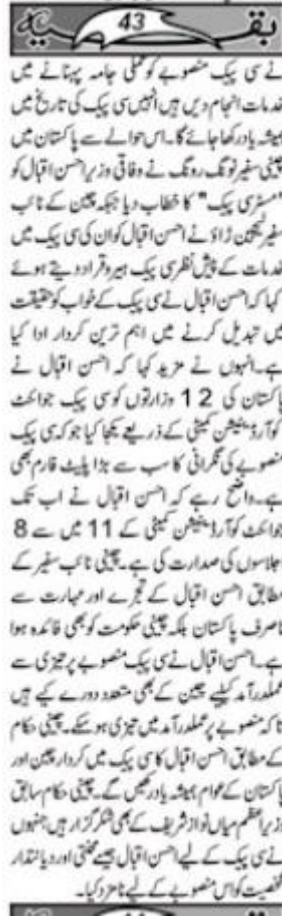
<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=214964>

K2 Daily



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International%20/%20Local%20News&Date=2023-06-26





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Nawaiwaqt News

ہائی ٹیک انڈسٹری میں پاک چین تعاون سے معیشت کو فروغ ملے گا: ماہرین

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ہائی ٹیک انڈسٹری میں تعاون پاکستان کی مقامی معیشت کو نمایاں طور پر فروغ دے گا۔ ماہرین نے کہا کہ یہ تعاون تکنیکی ترقی، صنعتی ترقی کو فروغ دینے اور روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کرنے کیلئے دونوں ممالک کی طاقتوں اور وسائل کو اکٹھا کرتا ہے۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو اور چین پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور کے تحت پاکستان اور چین جدت طرازی اور انٹر پرائیور شپ کو فروغ دینے، عوامی تبادلے کی حوصلہ افزائی، مشترکہ تحقیقی لیبارٹریوں کے قیام اور ٹیکنالوجی میں تعاون پر توجہ دے رہے ہیں۔ سٹیبل ٹیکنالوجی زونز اتھارٹی میں سٹریٹجک پلاننگ کے ڈائریکٹر حمزہ سعید اور کزنٹی نے کہا کہ چین نے خود کو عالمی ٹیکنالوجی لیڈر کے طور پر پیش کیا ہے اور دونوں ممالک کے پاس کام کرنے کے بہت سے مواقع ہیں۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ ہمارے ادارے نے پاکستان کے خصوصی اقتصادی زونز میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے والی چینی ٹیکنالوجی کمپنیوں اور بڑے پیمانے پر کاروباری اداروں کی مدد کیلئے ایک مخصوص ڈیسک قائم کیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-26/page-6/detail-6>

پاکستانی چاول کی چین کو برآمد کر کے فائدہ اٹھایا جائے: تو نصل جنرل شنگھائی

شنگھائی (آئی این پی) شنگھائی میں پاکستان کے تو نصل جنرل نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستانی چاول کی چین کو برآمدی صلاحیت سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھایا جائے۔ پاکستانی چاول کے برآمد کنندگان رواں سال اپنی برآمدات میں نمایاں اضافہ کریں گے۔ بین الاقوامی ہیلتھ فورمز پر باسستی کی نمائش کریں گے اور خوردہ فروخت کے ذریعے اعلیٰ درجے کے صحت کے شعبے میں چینی مارکیٹ کو وسعت دیں گے۔ شنگھائی میں پاکستان کے تو نصل جنرل اور پاکستان ٹریڈ اینڈ ویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی نے چین میں پاکستانی چاول کے فروغ کے حوالے سے مشترکہ طور پر ایک بی ٹی وی ویسینار کا انعقاد کیا۔ اس کی صدارت شنگھائی میں پاکستان کے ڈپٹی تو نصل جنرل نے نواب علی راہو جو نے کی۔ چینی کسٹمز کے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق 2021 اور 2022 میں پاکستان کی چین کو چاول کی برآمدات بالترتیب 399 ملین امریکی ڈالر اور 455 ملین امریکی ڈالر تھیں۔ پاکستان کی چین کو ٹوٹا چاول کی برآمد میں خاطر خواہ اضافہ ہوا ہے جو 2019 میں 48 ملین امریکی ڈالر اور 2022 میں 243 ملین امریکی ڈالر تک پہنچ گیا جو چین میں ٹوٹا چاول کے استعمال میں مجموعی طور پر اضافے سے مطابقت رکھتا ہے۔ تو نصل جنرل حسین حیدر نے کہا کہ چینی چاول نہ صرف براہ راست استعمال بلکہ صنعتی پیداوار کیلئے بھی استعمال ہوتے ہیں جیسے کہ چاول کی شراب یا چاول کے نوڈلز، اور دیگر ویلیو ایڈڈ مصنوعات، جو پاکستانی کاروباری اداروں کیلئے مواقع فراہم کرتے ہیں۔ چین کی اعلیٰ درجے کے چاول کی کھپت کی مارکیٹ 2023 تک 60 ارب آر ایم پی تک پہنچنے کی توقع ہے جو کہ 2023 تک 9 بلین امریکی ڈالر کے قریب ہے۔ تو نصل جنرل کو یقین ہے کہ پاکستانی ملڈ چاول، خاص طور پر باسستی، جو اپنی منفرد خوشبو اور غذائیت کی وجہ سے دنیا میں مشہور ہے۔ شنگھائی اور دیگر چینی شہروں میں داخل ہونے کی بڑی صلاحیت ہے۔ تو نصل جنرل نے چینی کمپنیوں کو اگست میں کراچی میں ہونے والی پہلی بین الاقوامی نوڈ اینڈ ایگریکلچر ایکسپو کا دورہ کرنے کا بھی خیر مقدم کیا تاکہ سائٹ پر مزید پاکستانی دوستانہ مصنوعات کا تجربہ کیا جاسکے اور مقامی اور بین الاقوامی خریداروں سے بات چیت کی جاسکے۔ چین کو چاول برآمد کرنے کے اہل بارہ پاکستانی دکانداروں نے خود کو بارہ چینی درآمد کنندگان کے سامنے پیش کیا۔ انہوں نے اپنے موجودہ کاروبار کو بڑھانے اور نئے مواقع تلاش کرنے کیلئے چینی کمپنیوں کے ساتھ کام کرنے کے اپنے بھرپور تجربے کا اشتراک کرتے ہوئے چینی مارکیٹ میں پاکستانی چاول کی مقبولیت کو اجاگر کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-26/page-6/detail-18>

چینی تہذیب کو اسلامی، بدھ مت اور مغربی تہذیب کے ساتھ تعامل سے مالا مال کیا، مشاہد حسین

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چینی تہذیب کو دیگر تہذیبوں کے ساتھ تعاملات جیسے اسلامی تہذیب، بدھ مت اور مغربی تہذیب کے ساتھ تعامل سے مالا مال کیا گیا ہے۔ یہ بات سینیٹر مشاہد حسین سید نے اسلام آباد میں باشا قدیم چٹانوں کے نقش و نگار کے بارے میں آثار قدیمہ کے مشترکہ تحقیقی اجلاس میں کہی۔ گوادر پروکے مطابق پاکستان چائنہ انسٹی ٹیوٹ (پی سی آئی) نے چینی اور پاکستانی ماہرین آثار قدیمہ کی شرکت سے اس اجلاس کا اہتمام کیا۔ نامور چینی اسکالر پروفیسر لی زیگوانگ نے اس اجلاس کی صدارت کی جس میں 16 ویں صدی عیسوی تک تھری ڈی سکیننگ، دستاویزات، نقل، اور نقل مکانی کے ذریعے 16 ویں صدی عیسوی تک تھری ڈی سکیننگ، دستاویزات، نقل، اور نقل مکانی کے ذریعے 7 ویں صدی قبل مسیح کے باشا میں اہم چٹانوں کے نقش و نگار اور نوشتہ جات کے تحفظ اور تحفظ کے طریقوں پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ سید کے مطابق اس خطے میں رابطے کی پہلی مثال 2000 سال قبل شاہراہ ریشم تھی جو کہ عالمگیریت کی حقیقی مثال تھی، جس میں چین آگے تھا۔ ہمیں بہت خوشی ہے کہ اب بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو کے ذریعے شاہراہ ریشم کو بحال کیا گیا ہے جو کہ 21 ویں صدی کا سب سے اہم سفارتی اور ترقیاتی اقدام ہے۔ گوادر پروکے مطابق سید نے کہا کہ پروفیسر لی زیگوانگ کی ٹیم اور پی سی آئی کی کوششوں سے وہ اس تاریخی ورثے کو دوبارہ حاصل کرنے کے لیے مستقل مزاجی سے کام کر رہے ہیں جو چین کو پاکستان اور وسیع تر خطے کے ساتھ متحد کرتا ہے۔ گوادر پروکے مطابق قائد اعظم یونیورسٹی اسلام آباد کے پروفیسر غنی الرحمان نے دریائے سندھ کے بالائی علاقوں میں بدھسٹ راک آرٹ اور نوشتہ جات کے تحفظ کے لیے ممکنہ تجاویز پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چٹانوں کے نقش و نگار کے تحفظ سے نہ صرف سماجی، ثقافتی اختلافات اور سیاسی روایات کے ساتھ ساتھ مذہبی عقائد رکھنے والے مختلف لوگوں کی تاریخ کی ایک جھلک ملے گی بلکہ یہ خطے کے لیے ترویجی اہمیت کے حامل بھی ہیں۔ گوادر پروکے مطابق

ماہرین نے رکاوٹوں، اسکرینوں، اشارے، بریکنگ وغیرہ کے ذریعے سائٹ پر حفاظتی تخفیف کے علاوہ پانی کے ذخائر میں اہم نقش شدہ چٹان کی سطحوں کے لیے لاگو کیے جانے والے حفاظتی علاج پر بھی تبادلہ خیال کیا۔

مشاہد حسین سید

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-26/page-10/detail-19>

June 27, 2023

Daily Times

CPEC liberates Pakistan from burden of geopolitics: Ahsan Iqbal

During the inaugural ceremony of the 10th anniversary celebrations of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, the Minister of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, said that Pakistan had previously been trapped in the clutches of global geopolitics and forced to assume the role of a pawn in regional conflicts.

However, he emphasized that the construction of CPEC has proven to be a game-changer, propelling Pakistan onto a new developmental trajectory that prioritizes geoeconomics.

On June 22, 2023, the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives hosted the inaugural ceremony of CPEC's 10th anniversary celebrations. Mr. Iqbal, the Minister of Planning, attended the event and delivered a speech. Mr. Pang Chunxue, Acting Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, along with Secretary Planning Mr. Syed Zafar Ali Shah attended the event, as did representatives from China's and Pakistan's media and business sectors.

“The historical influence on Pakistan's decision-making has veered predominantly towards geopolitical considerations, while overlooking the significance of geoeconomics.

This disposition has consistently cast Pakistan in the role of a tool for war, burdened by substantial military expenditures, and unable to fully explore the entirety of its potential in fostering amicable relations with other nations.

CPEC proved to be a game-changing shift for Pakistan, liberating it from the shackles of geopolitics and propelling the country into the realm of geo-economics.” the minister said.

Over the past decade, China and Pakistan have achieved fruitful outcomes in key areas such as Gwadar, energy, infrastructure development, and industrial cooperation in Pakistan. “Before CPEC, this country struggled to maintain uninterrupted power supply for more than 16-18 hours. People used to say that Pakistan was regressing to the Stone Ages”, the minister stated. Thanks to the energy projects under the CPEC, many remote areas have bid farewell to candles. Nowadays, the energy projects have cumulatively provided one-third of the national electricity supply in Pakistan.

However, the construction of CPEC has not always been a smooth journey, as various forces have sought to interfere since its beginning. The minister recalled that initially, several lobbies became active in making CPEC controversial within Pakistan, with a particular focus

on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. “So, while we conducted economic planning, we also made a concerted effort in effective communication to convey the true facts to the people”, the minister said, then extended his gratitude to the security personnel who have been ensuring the safety of CPEC.

Mr. Iqbal further stated that China’s Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative have provided new avenues for development in various countries, including Pakistan. CPEC is a project for Pakistan that will serve as a source of peace and prosperity, not only within the nation itself but throughout the entire region, reaping its abundant rewards, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1108119/cpec-liberates-pakistan-from-burden-of-geopolitics-ahsan-iqbal/>

New Gwadar International Airport set to go green

The New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) is all set to go green in the backdrop of fresh decision to set in motion “Green Coverage Initiative”, fulfilling commitment of BRI’s global greener practices. Decision in this regard has been taken during comprehensive meeting among the Civil Aviation Authority, the Gwadar Development Authority, the China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) on June 23. In first phase, according to Gwadar Pro on Monday, trees will be planted on more than 3 kilo meters long incoming and outgoing roads of the NGIA. In second phase, tree plants on designated patches of Airport will be grown to bolster the green ecosystem in an area of 4,300 acres of the NGIA. According to an official of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), most plants will be taken from Plant Tissue Culture Lab and Green House, integral parts of the Belt and Road Engineering Research Center for Tropical Arid Non-Wood Forest built and being run in cooperation with the Central South University of Forestry and Technology, the China Overseas Port Holding Company Limited and the Yulin Holding Company Limited in the premises of the Gwadar Port Free Zone area. The official said that Gwadar has a hot desert climate, characterized by little precipitation and high variation between summer and winter temperatures. Serious soil salinization has led to a low survival rate of plants. “Keeping in view the local ecological challenges, we will plant tropical economic tree species that can adapt to high temperature, salt and alkali, wind and sand, and draught,” he added. Now, the NGIA is being built at the cost of Rs. 60.208 billion. The entire scope of work of it, involving civil work, structural work, mechanical work and engineering work has been completed. State of art more than 6 kilo meter “Runway”, centerpiece of the NGIA, has already completed all its phases meeting international standardization. It is ready for test flight at any time. It will have the capacity to accommodate narrow-body aircraft such as ATR 72 and Boeing B-737, as well as wide-body aircraft such as Airbus A-380 and Boeing B-747 for domestic and international routes. The airport will be operated under open sky policy and will be developed under the guidance of the CAA.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1108096/new-gwadar-international-airport-set-to-go-green/>

Pakistan Observer

Promotion of blue economy on priority: Ahsan Iqbal

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, on Monday said that the blue economy possesses enormous potential for sustainable financial stability and development of Pakistan and the incumbent government has placed it in its futuristic agenda of national growth.

The minister talking to media persons during the visit of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) here said that more than one thousand kilometres long coastal line and over 2 million kilometres of vast exclusive economic zone offer unfathomable opportunities to the country. Pakistan being an agricultural country had relied on the green economy at the time while the volume of its blue economy was greater than the green one, he observed and noted that integration of both economies could boost the pace of the journey of development to a greater extent.

The federal minister said that PML-N led government has expedited important projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that were integrated with the global Belt and Road initiative and open new vistas of growth and prosperity of the country. He said that under the sustainable development approach, it was our responsibility to secure and efficiently monitor the country's coastal line and maritime frontiers.

The minister while lauding the services of PMSA for the protection of the borders of Pakistan said that the agency was equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and fleet and was vigilantly securing the maritime frontiers of Pakistan. Additionally, PMSA has also earned a good name for the country across the globe due to its rescue and relief operations in the deep sea, he added. Ahsan Iqbal recalled that in 2014 operational capacity of PMSA was limited to a few old boats and it lacked an effective monitoring system.

Then PML-N government vowed to modernise the agency and approved projects for the induction of 6 modern ships and boats in PMSA which had significantly improved the operational capacities of the agency, the minister said. He hoped that PMSA with its enhanced capacities would keep securing the maritime frontiers of the country and preventing the dumping of hazardous materials and elimination of illegal trade within their jurisdiction.

He further said that PMSS Kolachi was developed at the Karachi shipyard and inducted into a fleet of PMSA. The Karachi shipyard had the capability to manufacture even bigger ships that would not only further enhance the country's maritime forces but Pakistan could also earn precious foreign exchange.

Earlier, Director General PMSA Rear Admiral Imtiaz Ali, DDG Commodore Amir Iqbal Khan, Captain Shahid Sati and other officers received the federal minister on his arrival at the PMSS Kolachi and briefed him about the performance and future strategy of the agency.

<https://pakobserver.net/promotion-of-blue-economy-on-priority-ahsan-iqbal/>

Pak-China defence partnership: Addressing emerging threats

Dr Abida Rafique

THE defence partnership between Pakistan and China has emerged as a vital component of both nations' security strategies. With a longstanding friendship and a shared interest in regional stability, Pakistan and China have deepened their collaboration to effectively address emerging threats. This article explores the significance of the Pakistan-China defence partnership in countering evolving security challenges and enhancing the national security of both countries.

Pakistan and China have long-standing and close defence ties. Over the years, both countries have collaborated extensively in various areas of defence cooperation, including military training, joint exercises, defence equipment sales and technology transfer. The strategic partnership between Pakistan and China dates back to the early 1950s and has evolved into a multi-faceted relationship, with defence cooperation being a key component. Both countries share a common interest in countering regional security challenges and have often cited mutual trust and understanding as the foundation of their defence collaboration.

China has been a major supplier of defence equipment to Pakistan, including aircraft, naval vessels, missiles and other military hardware. Additionally, China has assisted Pakistan in developing its indigenous defence capabilities by providing technology transfers and joint production ventures. China has been a major supplier of military hardware to Pakistan. The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) operates several Chinese-origin aircraft, such as the JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, which are jointly produced by both countries. Additionally, Pakistan Navy has benefited from Chinese-built submarines, frigates and patrol vessels, bolstering its maritime capabilities.

Pakistan and China have collaborated on defence industry projects, leading to the co-production of military equipment. Notably, the Kamra Aviation City Complex in Pakistan serves as a hub for joint production and maintenance of aircraft, including the JF-17 Thunder. This collaboration enhances Pakistan's indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities and reduces its dependence on external sources.

Furthermore, Pakistan and China regularly conduct joint military exercises, aimed at improving interoperability and sharing best practices. These exercises involve the army, navy and air force of both countries and serve to enhance coordination and cooperation between their respective defence forces. China has played a crucial role in training and capacity building of Pakistani military personnel. Chinese institutes, such as the National Defence University in Beijing, provide specialized training programs for Pakistani officers. These programs cover a wide range of areas, including military strategy, technology and counterterrorism. Such training enhances Pakistan's military readiness and fosters professional development.

In recent years, there have been efforts to further enhance defence ties between Pakistan and China. These efforts include the signing of agreements to deepen defence industrial cooperation and promote joint research and development in defence technology. China's investment in Pakistan's infrastructure development, particularly through the China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC), has indirect implications for defence. By boosting Pakistan's economy, CPEC indirectly contributes to its defence capabilities. Moreover, defence expenditure in Pakistan has consistently accounted for a significant portion of its budget, reflecting the importance placed on national security.

Pakistan's deepening defence relationship with China can indeed be seen as a measure to help Pakistan address emerging threats. The longstanding friendship between Pakistan and China has been characterized by close cooperation in various fields, including defence and security. This partnership has provided Pakistan with valuable military and technological support over the years.

Enhancing defence relations with China can help Pakistan in several ways as China has been a major supplier of military hardware to Pakistan, including aircraft, naval vessels and missiles. This collaboration helps strengthen Pakistan's defence capabilities and modernize its defence forces. Also China provides training opportunities to Pakistani military personnel, allowing them to acquire advanced skills and knowledge. This helps Pakistan enhance its military readiness and operational capabilities.

Furthermore, Defence collaboration often involves intelligence sharing which can assist Pakistan in dealing with emerging threats. China's expertise and information can contribute to Pakistan's situational awareness and counterterrorism efforts. For regional dynamics, China's support can bolster Pakistan's position in the region and provide diplomatic backing in international forums. This can help Pakistan address emerging challenges by enhancing its geopolitical influence.

The defence partnership between Pakistan and China extends to joint research and development in defence technologies. Cooperation in areas such as missile technology, aerospace engineering and naval systems fosters innovation and allows both countries to stay ahead of emerging threats. By pooling resources and sharing technological expertise, Pakistan and China can collectively develop advanced defence capabilities that enhance their overall security.

The Pakistan-China defence partnership holds significant implications for regional security dynamics. It has helped Pakistan in countering potential threats from neighboring countries and addressing regional challenges. The cooperation between the two nations has also been viewed as a response to the growing strategic influence of other powers in the region, further solidifying their mutual security interests.

While Pakistan's alliance with China offers certain advantages, it's essential for Pakistan to maintain a balanced approach to its defence relations and consider a comprehensive national security strategy that encompasses diverse partnerships and cooperation. The Pakistan-China defence partnership plays a vital role in addressing emerging threats and bolstering national security for both nations. Through the exchange of military equipment, training, intelligence sharing and strategic alignment, Pakistan enhances its defence capabilities, readiness and ability to counter evolving security challenges effectively. Additionally, the partnership contributes to Pakistan's geopolitical influence and regional stability. As both countries

continue to collaborate in defence and security, their collective efforts will shape the future landscape of security cooperation in the region.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-defence-partnership-addressing-emerging-threats/>

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Pakistan Observer

Pak-China ties: Understanding realities & dispelling myths

Sher Ali Kakar

SINCE the formation of their diplomatic relations in May 1951, China-Pakistan relations have evolved into a strong friendship. Pakistan was one of the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China (PRC) and considers the PRC its closest friend and reliable partner. China persistently refers to Pakistan as an "Iron-brother" and supportive partner. Pakistan is at the top of China's list of diplomatic relations. The historical bond between the two countries has been cemented by cooperation in various areas. China, firmly upholding its policy of non-interference, respects Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The strategically situated Pakistan is key to China's interests in the region and beyond. Pakistan looks toward China in testing times for its support on many international and regional issues.

The two countries firmly support each other's national interests, whatever the shifts in global politics. The emerging challenges in international relations amid the Russia-Ukraine war, Beijing and Islamabad have largely aligned. China supports Pakistan's stance on Kashmir and has persistently demanded the resolution of the disputed valley through UN Resolutions. China boycotted the recent India-hosted G-20 meeting in Srinagar, reaffirming its stance on Kashmir and its firm diplomatic support for Pakistan. Likewise, Pakistan supports China's national interests and its stance over Taiwan, Xinjiang and the South China Sea. China has strictly upheld its policy of non-interference in Pakistan's internal affairs. During the political crisis that was triggered because of Imran Khan's ouster in April 2022, China avoided the temptation to play political favourites in Pakistan's domestic politics.

In November last year, Pakistan's Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, paid a visit to China and met the PRC's top leaders, including China's Premier Li Keqiang and President Xi Jinping. During the visit, the leaders of the two countries expressed satisfaction over China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) progress and the extension of the flagship project to Afghanistan was also agreed upon. China also maintains strong connections with Pakistan's military which has made great efforts to ensure the security and smooth progress of the CPEC. In times of complicated security challenges at regional as well as international levels, military cooperation between the two countries is key to their longstanding strategic partnership and mutual interests. In recent years, China and Pakistan have enhanced their military equipment and technology cooperation. Recently, Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Syed Asim Munir visited China where he met China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Commander, Gen. Zhang. Zhang, during his meeting with Pakistan's COAS, said "China always places Pakistan on priority in its neighborhood diplomacy and firmly supports Pakistan in its sovereignty, territorial integrity, development interests and national dignity.

The bilateral relations have deepened with the launch of the CPEC, the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). While China has long provided Pakistan with economic support, CPEC encompasses a variety of initiatives that are vital to strengthening Pakistan's economy. With the initiation of CPEC, bilateral trade between nations has reached new heights. China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and one of its leading investors. In the first fiscal year 2022–2023, its contribution was 23.83% (\$105 million to its FDI). Steering through a difficult economic situation characterized by low foreign exchange reserves and the growing external debt repayment crisis, China has rendered much-needed economic assistance to Pakistan. In the current economic crisis, amid delays in deals with the IMF, China has once again rescued Pakistan's economy.

The narrative wrongfully portrays Pakistan's Gwadar port, a main feature of CPEC and an entry point for the enormously lucrative trade routes, as being converted into a Chinese military base. In fact, with China's investment, Gwadar is going to emerge as an international trade hub and help Pakistan achieve sustainable economic growth goals. In addition, there is the rhetoric that China's loans to developing nations can push them into a debt trap and result in a loss of sovereignty and Pakistan might be the case. The debt is never forced on a recipient country which must avoid a debt trap. There is no instance where a country has gone bankrupt under the weight of Chinese loans.

China has emerged as an influential regional and international player that can resolve disputes rather than merely export weapons to the warring parties. China advocated greater engagement between the conflicting sides in Afghanistan to end the 20-year US War. Recently, it played a successful mediatory role in restoring diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran and is now trying its hands at resolving the Israel-Palestine conflict. China's successful mediation in global politics also opens new avenues for Pakistan to leverage its geostrategic location and promote its geo-economic interests with the help of China. As more countries get closer to China, it will provide Pakistan with opportunities to promote its national interests.

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<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-ties-understanding-realities-dispelling-myths/>

BRI & Uzbekistan's Development Strategy 2022-2026

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Chinese BRI remained the vision of greater regional connectivity, immense socio-economic prosperity, engine of global growth, stimulator of economic stability and sustainability and last but not the least, an ideal platform of eradication of poverty in the last decade.

During these ten years, the BRI has been rated as a connecting hub and bridging force between the continents, communities and corporations and interestingly Uzbekistan's special geographical status of Middle Corridor has now further geared up its ties with China and rest of the regional countries. Moreover, the proposed mega railway project among Uzbekistan,

Pakistan and Afghanistan has further strengthened prospects of BRI-CPEC trans-regional amalgamation in the days to come.

Moreover, Uzbekistan holds a key position in the further development of BRI because in the China-Central Asia-West Asia BRI Corridor, two of the BRI routes pass through Uzbekistan which will connect it to China and Iran. It is also ideally positioned in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, (Tashkent, Samarkand, Navi), and Turkmenistan Corridor, while it also keeps its key position in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan (Andijan, Pap, Tashkent, Samarkand, Navi) and Turkmenistan-Iran Corridor.

China's BRI has invested in Uzbekistan in sectors such as industries, raw material, energy, infrastructure, telecommunications, advanced technology, construction of thermal power plants and upgrading of hydroelectric power plants, development of digital and fibre optic infrastructure and 5G.

The Uzbek government has already labelled BRI as an important contribution to reaching the national GDP goal of US\$100 billion, doubling exports to more than US\$30 billion dollars by 2030 and diversifying the economy.

The government of Uzbekistan has adopted its five-year Development Strategy for 2022-2026 which consists of seven priority directions and one hundred goals Uzbekistan is willing to achieve within five years. It has a complete roadmap for achieving the desired goals of socio-economic prosperity, massive industrialization, green energy development, seeking more and more inflows of FDIs and last but not the least further economic liberalization in which BRI would play an important role in the days to come.

The Uzbek State has decided to take integrated policy measures to further economic liberalisation, privatisation in most spheres, competition, elimination of monopolisation, the attraction of more foreign investment, price stabilisation, support of the development of "driver spheres of the economy," and decentralisation that gives more authority to the regions are among many other priorities identified in the Development Strategy for 2022-2026. Critical analysis reveals that the economic transformation and modernization process of Uzbekistan has direct correlation with the institutionalization of BRI.

According to the development strategy, the Uzbek government will increase its GDP 1.6-time in the next five years and the per capita income to reach \$4,000 by 2030 by ensuring stable high growth rates in all sectors of the economy, including energy, industry, machinery, mining, agriculture and others. Moreover, maintaining macroeconomic stability and gradually reducing the annual inflation rate to 5 per cent by 2023 will also be achieved. Massive infrastructural development, formation of economic corridors and China-Uzbekistan trade volumes under the flagship project of the BRI would be a facilitator.

Furthermore, the Uzbek government will continue ensuring the stability of the national economy and increasing the share of industry in GDP by increasing the volume of industrial production by 40 per cent. In this regard, priority areas have been identified. These goals include implementing large investment projects in metallurgy, such as an increase in the production volumes of gold by 26 per cent and silver by 42 per cent, and a 2-fold increase in copper and ferrous metal products. In this connection China-Uzbekistan mutual mining

cooperation and infrastructure development under the flagship of BRI would be helpful in the future.

Production in the chemical industry will be worth \$2 billion by developing the chemical and gas chemical industries and bringing the level of natural gas processing from 8 to 20 per cent. The plan of doubling the production of building materials, growth in the leather and footwear industry by 3.2 times its current size, a three times increase in pharmaceutical industry products, and furniture products growing by 2.8 times will also be achieved in which BRI's role will be paramount.

The further development of green technologies in all areas, an increase in energy efficiency by 20 per cent, and a reduction in emissions of harmful gases into the atmosphere by 10 per cent are proposed. Furthermore, the government plans to save about 3 billion cubic meters of natural gas by bringing the share of renewable energy sources up to 25 per cent of energy production by 2026. It also desires to reduce the emission of harmful gases into the atmosphere in the amount of 8 million tons is also a priority. These targets have direct energy cooperation correlation with BRI development in Uzbekistan.

The transformation of the digital economy into the core "driver" sphere of the economy would also be geared-up. Implementing work aimed at increasing the digital economy's volume by at least 2.5 times is also a goal to strengthen the country's potential in this new sphere. In this regard, one of the key sectors of BRI is digitalization of economy and E-Commerce which would be beneficial for the Uzbek government to achieve these goals in the future.

Seeking more and more inflows of FDIs investments require an appropriate investment environment and the rule of law. Attracting the necessary \$120 billion over the next five years, including foreign investment of \$70 billion, is another crucial goal for the government to realise. Furthermore, Uzbekistan is planning to reform its capital markets. So, it is planning to increase financial resources in the economy by bringing the capital market volume from \$200 million to \$7 billion over the next five years. Rigorous economic, banking & financial integration with China would further strengthen Uzbekistan's financial assets and would further channelize in the right direction.

Completion of the transformation of the banking system, bringing the share of banking assets of private banks from 20 to 60 per cent in 2025, in general, is a goal to reform the banking sector and increase the affordability of decent banking services. China-Uzbekistan banking cooperation and swapping of national currencies would be useful to achieve these goals.

It plans to increase the country's exports by 2026 to \$30 billion to maintain sustainable economic development. Therefore, bringing the share of the private sector in exports to 60 per cent is a priority. Obviously, by improving the system of providing organisational and financial assistance to exporting enterprises, the country is willing to increase the current number of exporting enterprises from 6,500 to 15,000. Expanding the geography of exports of goods from 115 to 150 countries is also expected in which role of BRI would be instrumental.

In this connection, support to entrepreneurship, the government plans to reduce the tax burden on business entities by 2026 from 27.5 percent to 25 per cent of GDP and decrease VAT from 15 to 12 per cent, as well as reducing profit tax for telecommunications, banking and finance sectors from 20 per cent to 15 percent. Further restructuring and broadening of the national tax system should be implemented as soon as possible.

The government is planning to increase the economic potential of the regions by carrying out decentralisation reforms to support the development of the districts further. Agriculture reserves, a high volume in the state's GDP, the annual growth rate of agriculture is expected to be at least 5 per cent, which should lead to the increase of farmers' incomes by at least two times. China-Uzbekistan agriculture cooperation under the flagship of BRI would create mutually beneficial propositions for both the countries in the days to come.

In summary, further development of BRI would be beneficial for socio-economic prosperity, greater regional connectivity and human capital in the future.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-uzbekistans-development-strategy-2022-2026/>

The Nation

Gwadar to turn into economic hub with airport operationalization

ISLAMABAD-The establishment of New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) is a shining example of collaboration between China and Pakistan in the area of aviation, as Gwadar is going to turn into an economic hub and tourist destination following the expected completion of this project in September 2023, said aviation consultant Muhammad Afsar Malik. "The NGIA will be the largest airport in Pakistan after its operation," said Afsar Malik. Test flight operations were made at the NGIA in March 2023, and currently the main terminal building has been undergoing indoor mechanical and electrical equipment installation and decoration operations. Afsar said that construction work on the runway of the airport, including taxiway and service lanes, and navigational lighting system has also been completed.

Due to its modern design, and infrastructure facilities, the NGIA is estimated to be the biggest airport in Pakistan, capable of handling A380 aircraft. Highlighting the potential and capacity of the NGIA, Afsar Malik added that it will not only boost the development of Gwadar, but also act as a portal for boosting trade between Pakistan and China. This newly built airport will elevate the geopolitical status of the region. "Owing to its geographical location, the NGIA will prove as one of the leading airports not only for Pakistan but also for the region to enhance regional trade and connectivity," Afsar said while talking to WealthPK, adding that the airport will enhance connectivity and trade with Afghanistan, Iran, China, Kazakhstan, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Qatar through the nearest available airports in the region.

The NGIA has set a shining example of the mega China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project and the collaboration between China and Pakistan in the aviation sector. A senior official from Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCCA), pleading not to be named, told WealthPK that Boeing 747 and other Air Bus aircraft will be able to land at the NGIA with ease, and flights to India, Afghanistan, Iran, China, the Middle East, Central Asian countries

will be made from this airport. The official said the NGIA is built with advanced facilities as four planes will be able to get landing simultaneously at this airport, a facility which is not currently available at any other airport in the country. "For the convenience of passengers, 39 hold-and-hang baggage scanning machines are being installed, and latest security arrangements have been installed at the airport with fool-proof security arrangements," said the official. The areas adjacent to this new airport have been declared special security zones and fool-proof arrangements will be ensured. The official said that with the assistance of Chinese authorities, research is also being conducted to ensure clean and green environment in the areas of the NGIA. The length of runway is 3,658 meters, with the width of 75 meters to adjust big planes' landing at this airport.

The NGIA is also facilitated with maintenance of planes. As Gwadar is going to become a hub of world trade following the CPEC projects, all the projects are being completed as per international standards.

More than 3,000 people will get employment opportunities at the airport, and trade and economic activities will get boost along with tourism potential as Gwadar, owing to its marine landscape, has unique prominence and attraction.

The Chinese government has financed the airport as part of the CPEC project, while the Sultanate of Oman also contributed \$17.6 million for the airport project. A Chinese airport construction firm, Chinese Communication Construction Company (CCC), has been handling this project of \$246 million, and following its completion, it will be operated and managed by the PCAA.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-28/page-9/detail-4>

The News

Cabinet approves regulating donkey hides export to China

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Tuesday approved signing of four protocols with China. Four different agreements will be signed between Pakistan and China, local media reported. The protocols are aimed at regulating the export of donkey hides to China. Exports of dry chillies, beef, dairy products to China will also be regulated. Quoting sources, it said that health, safety standards and quarantine requirements will be accomplished. The protocols have already been approved by the Ministry of Law and Justice on which the Ministry of External Affairs had no objection, it added.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=215375>

Nawaiwaqt News

وفاقی کابینہ: چین کیساتھ تجارت بڑھانے، گدھوں کی کھالیں برآمد کرنے سمیت 4 پروٹوکولز کی منظوری

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) وفاقی کابینہ نے سرکولیشن کے ذریعے گدھوں کی کھالیں برآمد کرنے سمیت چین کے ساتھ 4 پروٹوکولز پر دستخط کرنے کی منظوری دیدی۔ خشک مرچیں، بیف اور ڈیری مصنوعات کے متعلق پروٹوکولز بھی اس میں شامل ہیں، پروٹوکولز کے تحت چین کے ساٹھ سینٹری قوانین اور ریگولیشنز کی تعمیل

ہوگی، صحت، حفاظتی معیارات اور کورنٹسٹریٹس پر عملدرآمد ہوگا۔ پروٹوکولز کی وزارت قانون و انصاف سے پہلے ہی توثیق کرائی جا چکی ہے جبکہ وزارت خارجہ نے بھی پروٹوکولز پر کوئی اعتراض نہیں کیا تھا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-28/page-1/detail-21>

June 29, 2023

Business Recorder

China, Pakistan sign agreement to co-build ‘Chuyi Workshop’

BEIJING: China’s Hunan Chemical Vocational Technology College (HCVTC) and Infinity School of Engineering, Pakistan have signed an agreement for co-establishment “Chuyi Workshop” to create a platform for exchange of knowledge and expertise in the field of modern chemical engineering.

President of Hunan Chemical Vocational Technology College, Ms Long Peng and President of Infinity School of Engineering, Pakistan, Abdul Razzaq Gauhar signed the agreement and also inaugurated the workshop in a ceremony held online.

On the occasion, seven Pakistani graduates of Hunan Chemical Vocational Technology College who witnessed the ceremony at Infinity School of Engineering in Pakistan were also conferred upon graduation diploma. These Pakistani students had successfully completed their studies in the college between the years 2019-2022.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Long Ping extended her sincere greetings to the leaders of Infinity School of Engineering for the co-establishment of workshop and Pakistani students for successfully completing their studies.

She said that in recent years, the college took active part in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and had long-term cooperation with schools and enterprises in Pakistan.

Ms Long Ping informed that the college had offered admissions to overseas students from countries along Belt and Road and provided skills training for local talents from enterprises and colleges.

“We have taken the lead in setting up China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Talent Exchange Center for chemical and coating in Pakistan,” she added.

The president also briefed the audience about the ongoing cooperation between Hunan Chemical Vocational Technology College and Infinity School of Engineering, Pakistan. She expressed the confidence that the co-building of Chuyi Workshop would be another starting point for cooperation between the two educational institutions.

In his speech, Vice President of the College, Wei Yongjun said that the Chuyi Workshop would serve as a center of excellence, where students, faculty and researchers from both institutions would explore cutting-edge advancements in the field of engineering.

The workshop would house state of the art facilities and equipment, allowing students from both institutions gain hands-on experience and practical skills that are essential for their future carriers, he added.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/29/3-page/966240-news.html>

CPEC: An ongoing journey

CPEC's (China Pakistan Economic Corridor's) 10-year journey has no doubt been one of game-changing infrastructure development opportunities for Pakistan, especially in regions down in the south that seemed doomed, for so many reasons, to be stuck somewhere in the last century as the rest of the country limped on. This year also marks the 10th anniversary of BRI (Belt and Road Initiative), of which CPEC is the flagship project, designed to connect the Gwadar port on Pakistan's southwestern edge with Kashgar in China's northwest Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region; erecting energy, transport and energy infrastructure on both sides of the corridor.

This rush to recreate the fabled Silk Route to trigger development and commerce in the modern era is a godsend for Pakistan. It has already laid the foundation of infrastructure up-gradation and development, energy projects and industrial zones, modernisation of agriculture and development of Gwadar port, along with many other significant achievements. Most notably, government figures show that the project has already created approximately 200,000 direct jobs in Pakistan, with ILO (International Labour Organisation) expecting that number to double in the coming years. This alone has deep implications. It's not only providing fresh employment opportunities for local youth, especially in Balochistan, but also encouraging the younger generation to pursue subjects – from engineering to economics – that will be in demand as CPEC matures further. This will create a vocationally trained workforce, especially in areas with very low literacy levels, and also bring other, wider benefits of a better educated society.

However, it's also quite natural for mega projects to face their share of pitfalls and roadblocks; and indeed this one has been no different. CPEC has occasionally suffered from irresponsible and uninformed remarks by government departments, which hurt the confidence the Chinese placed in Pakistan, and prompted senior officials to scramble to control the damage. Pakistan's economic crisis has also often threatened to derail CPEC. The historic collapse of the rupee and the unprecedented strain on forex reserves have led to missed payments, causing a lot of embarrassment to Pakistan and forcing revisions of numerous contracts. Most of all, though, CPEC has suffered on account of security problems. Pakistan's enemies have long leveraged proxy militias that litter the border areas with Afghanistan to disrupt the country's economic progress. And by targeting Chinese workers time and again, they were able to freeze a number of projects within CPEC, to the point that the Chinese threatened to withdraw from some of them altogether.

Fortunately, though, the government has been able to work around most of these problems; and the Chinese have so far been very understanding. It was also in the CPEC years that China emerged as the largest foreign investor in Pakistan. And at a time when the western bloc, headed by the US, is using institutions like the IMF (International Monetary Fund) to put the squeeze on Pakistan, it is extremely important to protect and nurture the game-changing partnership with Beijing; especially, since the Chinese are willing to invest in Pakistan when other foreign, and even local, investors are shying away.

These are also times when the international order is undergoing a profound metamorphosis. China has grown big enough to threaten America's global financial dominance, and their inevitable confrontation has already begun. This puts Pakistan in a very difficult position. It has had a long-term transactional relationship with Washington, which has been strained for the last few years. But it is also the most crucial part of the biggest, most expensive and most diverse international initiative that Beijing has ever rolled out. Therefore, Islamabad will have to chart its way through diplomatic and financial challenges, which are bound to prop up as a result of this great international rivalry, very carefully and intelligently.

And no time better than the 10th anniversary of CPEC to realise that right now, when the country is fighting with a very real threat of sovereign default itself, the best bet is to prioritise Chinese investment – especially taking the corridor to its logical conclusion – above all the birds in the bush.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/06/29/4-page/966247-news.html>

Daily Times

China-Pakistan Relationship Beyond CPEC

Rashid Mehmood

Beyond CPEC, other dimensions address the strong relationship between China and Pakistan. The bilateral ties between the two countries encompass several decades of the bilateral relations. Some critical aspects of the relationship between both countries include geopolitical interests, strategic considerations and economic cooperation. Scholars on CPEC and general relationships have produced extant literature; the intended paper covers strategic partnership, defence collaborations, training and education, diplomatic support, people-to-people exchanges and manifold relationship beyond CPEC. Both China and Pakistan have a long-standing strategic alliance driven by mutual concern over regional security. Both countries share arms sales, joint military exercises and intelligence sharing. China is one of the largest arms suppliers of Pakistan and has always played a crucial role in the defence capabilities of Pakistan.

Both countries have conducted joint training exercises and regular military exchanges occasionally. China has always provided military equipment to Pakistan. China has been a significant supplier of military hardware to Pakistan; some arms sales supplied by the Chinese government to Pakistan are fighter aircraft, armoured vehicles, submarines, surface-to-air missiles and naval vessels etc. Due to China's arms sales, Pakistan has maintained a balance of power in the region. China has also assisted Pakistan in developing its defence industry and enhancing its technological capabilities in all kinds of defence forces like the Army, Navy and Air Force. Both countries share training and educational activities with their armed forces. Chinese have offered extensive courses for Pakistani officers to attend courses and military practices, strategies and equipment. Both countries exchange armed forces for training and defence tactics. Both countries also cooperate in intelligence, particularly on counterterrorism and regional security. Both countries exchange secret information to counter common threats and challenges. Both countries collaborate on border security to combat

cross-border threats exclusively in the mountainous region of Gilgit-Baltistan to ensure stability in the border areas. This kind of cooperation involves joint patrols and intelligence sharing.

Chinese collaboration in academic exchange and scholarship programmes is remarkable for the youth of Pakistan.

Beyond CPEC, the economic domain between China and Pakistan is worth mentioning. Chinese private firms have started manifold economic projects in the development sectors of Pakistan. A few noteworthy projects are infrastructure, telecommunications, energy and agricultural projects that further cemented the relationship between the two countries. Other exemplary aspects of the relationship between the two countries are people-to-people exchanges in student exchange programmes, cultural cooperation, tourism promotions etc.

China and Pakistan have consistently defended each other on international forums like the United Nations and SCO. Chinese have always supported the Pakistani stance on Kashmir issues and regional security. When the world blamed Pakistan for terrorism, Chinese diplomats supported Pakistan; similarly, Pakistan always stood with the Chinese on human rights violence in Muslim inhabitant regions and COVID-19 when the world blamed China for this dangerous pandemic.

Both countries have solid regional cooperation at national and international levels. Chinese and Pakistani diplomats always supported each other in Shanghai and the Economic Cooperation Organizations (ECO). Both countries work together on counterterrorism efforts, infrastructure development and stability in Afghanistan.

Both China and Pakistan have strong linkages in scientific and technological collaborations, exclusively in Science, technology and space exploration. China has always supported Pakistan in technical fields. Some prominent areas of Science and technology include space and satellite technology, nuclear energy, scientific research and collaboration, technological parks and industrial zones, joint laboratories, and hi-tech research centres. China has always supported Pakistan in Space and Satellite Technology programme. The most notable project between both countries is PakSat-1R, which China designed to provide Pakistan's communication and broadcasting services. The other noteworthy projects extended by the Chinese government to Pakistan are the Nuclear Energy sectors of Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit 1, Unit 2, and Unit-3 which control the power shortage in Pakistan.

Last but not least, Chinese collaboration in academic exchange and scholarship programmes is remarkable for the youth of Pakistan. Most of our students pursue higher education in Chinese universities and gain exposure to advance their research skills to make Pakistan prominent in scientific research. In short, both Pakistan and China are reliable partners in a multifaceted approach. The relationship between the two countries has evolved and deepened over time based on their shared interest and mutual support.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1108632/china-pakistan-relationship-beyond-cpec/>

China to help Pakistan develop chemical industry

“We hope to set up chemical factories collaborating with China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). China has modern technology, and we can improve our chemical sector with it. Improved industry can generate employment as well,” said Sheikh Muhammad Nadeem, chairman of Pakistan Chemical Dyes Merchants Association (PCDMA).

Earlier this month, Chinese Consul General (CG) in Karachi, Yang Yundong, attended the tea party of PCDMA and delivered a speech. Yang appreciated the association’s contribution to Pak-China cooperation and highlighted the fruitful results of CPEC programs, according to Gwadar Pro.

“Over the past decade, CPEC has laid a solid foundation for Pakistan’s economic and social development. In the next step, the two countries will broaden the scope of cooperation and continuously enhance cooperation in industry, agriculture, culture, science and technology.”

Yang also encouraged the association to seize the opportunity to strengthen its connection with relevant Chinese industries, and the Consulate General will maintain close exchanges with Pakistani business communities to boost bilateral trade and promote the development of relevant industries.

“In Pakistan, the development of chemical industry has not received enough support. People set up the industry on their own. There are no proper labs. Private labs are there, but they are costly.

Therefore the cost of making products is expensive. That’s why we want to build connections with Chinese chemical companies.” Sheikh Muhammad Nadeem said. He also expressed gratitude to the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi for its strong support to Pak-China economic cooperation. “We hope that the interactions between enterprises of the two countries will be strengthened in the post-epidemic era to further promote the development of the industry.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1108740/china-to-help-pakistan-develop-chemical-industry/>

Dawn News

After five-year delay, PM to open Dhabeji Zone next month

Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will inaugurate a much ambitious multi-billion-rupees Dhabeji Industrial Zone (DIZ) project in Thatta in the second week of July which is believed to be one of the main sources of local and foreign investment and stabilising the crippling economy.

One of the important aspects of the project, which was a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Zone (CPEC), is that it has been given the status of a special economic zone by the Board of Investment (BoI) on June 22.

Spread on 1,550 acres, DIZ will be developed in two phases in which hundreds of industrial units will be accommodated. The project is being executed through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode as the Sindh government has provided land to the contractor/developer Zahid Khan & Brothers (ZKB) while the contractor will not only develop the zone but will pay the cost of the land to the provincial government.

“All utility services have been provided in the zone — electricity, gas and water,” said CEO of ZKB Engineer Muhammad Wasim while talking to Dawn.

He said a water pumping station has been established at Dhabeji under which 10 million gallons of water per day will be supplied to the zone.

He said some Chinese investors have also expressed eagerness to lay their industries in the zone, which gives easy access to Port Qasim, CPEC Route and N-5 Motorway. “It is also expected that Chinese giant entrepreneurs will re-locate their industries in the DIZ which will become a hub of economic activities in Sindh due to its ideal location close to two functional ports of the country—Karachi Port and Bin Qasim Port,” he added.

He said DIZ was expected to fetch a \$5 billion investment besides creating more than 200,000 jobs.

Mr Wasim said the zone was being developed as per international standards. “Around 1,000 acres have been allocated for industrial units while the rest for amenity plots like schools, hospitals, parks, and green areas,” he added.

Sindh Economic Zones Management Company (SEZMC) chief executive Abdul Azeem Uuqaily said the project was proposed to be implemented in two phases of 750 acres and 780 acres each.

Currently, four SEZs are being developed in the country. Of which three are near completion while DIZ was hit by controversies and litigation as a result it was delayed by five years.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1762241>

Pakistan Observer

SM Tanveer, Chinese CG agree to further boost bilateral ties

Provincial Minister of Industry, Trade, Energy and Agriculture SM Tanveer held a meeting with Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren at a local hotel where they reached an agreement to enhance cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, energy, environmental protection, and other sectors.

The meeting was attended by provincial secretaries of industry and commerce, agriculture, energy, and environment protection departments, as well as relevant officers. The discussion revolved around the completed projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Punjab, as well as future endeavors.

Provincial Minister SM Tanveer noted that numerous Chinese companies have made significant investments in Punjab, and the government warmly welcomes further investments from China in the sectors of agriculture, energy, and other sectors. He emphasized the pivotal

role of China's technical cooperation in driving advancements in agriculture, energy, and environmental protection. He underlined the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as a symbol of the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China, emphasizing its economic significance. The collaboration between Punjab and China will be fortified under the comprehensive framework of CPEC, he added.

Zhao Shiren acknowledged the growing interest of Chinese companies to invest in Punjab and added that more Chinese companies intend to invest in the province.

Moreover, Provincial Minister for Industries, Commerce and Energy SM Tanveer presided over a meeting to review proposals put forth by the provincial joint working group on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The meeting finalised proposals related to collaboration in the agriculture, industry, environmental protection, and energy sectors under CPEC.

It stressed fostering cooperation in agricultural research, floriculture, local production of agricultural machinery, and capacity building of agricultural scientists. Additionally, the CPEC will initiate new energy projects, including the manufacturing of solar panels. The establishment of a solar park in conjunction with the industrial estate, as well as the upgrading of Punjab Tianjin University of Technology and the Mir Chakar Khan Rind University of Technology, will be pursued with Chinese assistance.

The proposal for a solar park in M3 Industrial Estate, Allama Iqbal Industrial City Faisalabad, and Surgical City received due consideration. The meeting agreed to seek technical assistance from China to address the smog issue.

The minister underscored the economic significance of the CPEC. He suggested developing new citrus varieties through cooperation with China.

<https://pakobserver.net/sm-tanveer-chinese-cg-agree-to-further-boost-bilateral-ties/#:~:text=Provincial%20Minister%20of%20Industry%2C%20Trade%2C%20Energy%20and%20Agriculture,industry%2C%20agriculture%2C%20energy%2C%20environmental%20protection%2C%20and%20other%20sectors>

The Nation

Pakistan Pavilion inaugurated at China Int'l SME Fair in Guangzhou

BEIJING - Acting Pakistani Consul General, Sardar Muhammad inaugurated the Pakistan Pavilion at the 18th China International Small and Medium Enterprises Fair in Guangzhou.

He also represented Pakistan at the opening ceremony of the Fair and the 2nd SME International Cooperation Summit main forum, both held in Guangzhou. Sardar said that Pakistan has been allocated a significant area at the Fair where eight Pakistani companies are showcasing a variety of products including jewelry, handicrafts, and food items, he told China Economic Net (CEN).

The consul general and He Bing, the Deputy Director General of the Department of Industry and Information Technology of Guangdong, toured all the stalls and praised the exhibitors for their impressive display of Pakistani products. "We highly appreciate the People's

Government of Guangdong Province and others involved in organizing CISMEF for providing this great platform for SME promotion, which is the real engine of global inclusive sustainable economic development,” he stated.

Sardar noted that CISMEF offers valuable opportunities for SMEs, both from China and globally, to learn from each other and strengthen exchanges and cooperation. He is confident the Fair will meet its set objectives. “As per the 2022 estimates from the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA), there are over five million SMEs in Pakistan. They contribute 40% to Pakistan’s GDP and account for 25% of overall exports. After agriculture, the SME sector employs the highest percentage of the working population in the country,” he pointed out.

He emphasized that SMEs play a crucial role in shaping national growth strategies, generating employment, and fostering social cohesion by improving the standard of living for vulnerable segments of society. He acknowledged that Pakistan’s SME sector is still developing and has much to learn from China’s mature and well-developed SME sector. “There has been cooperation in many areas between the SMEs of China and Pakistan, but there’s much more that can be achieved together. The CPEC provides a tremendous opportunity for SMEs to develop and grow. There’s ample scope for joint ventures between Pakistani and Chinese SMEs,” the CG added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-29/page-8/detail-2>

US, China, UK remained top three destinations of Pakistani exports in 11 months

ISLAMABAD - The United States (US) remained the top export destination of Pakistani products during the eleven months of the current fiscal year (2022-23), followed by China and the United Kingdom (UK).

Total exports to the US during July-May (2022-23) were recorded at \$5481.385 million as opposed to exports of \$6162.991 million during July- May (2021-22), showing a decline of 11.05 percent, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$1891.949 million compared to the exports of \$2544.418 million last year, showing a decrease of 25.64 percent. UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth \$1806.385 million during the months under review against the exports of \$2011.859 million during last year, showing a decline of 10.21 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at \$1488.461 million against \$1574.850 million last year, showing a decrease of 5.48 percent, while the exports to UAE were recorded at \$1341.359 million opposed \$1632.907 million last year. During July- May (2022-23), the exports to Holland were recorded at \$1324.959 million against \$1341.035 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at \$478.342 million against \$494.8585 million.

Pakistan’s exports to Italy were recorded at \$1052.847 million against the exports of \$966.186 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at \$1270.231 million against

\$1043.231 million last year. Whereas, the exports to Bangladesh stood at \$709.049 million against \$783.574 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the period under review were recorded at \$530.213 million against \$473.127 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at \$457.113 million against \$376.485 million. Pakistan's exports to Turkiye were recorded at \$296.618 million during the current year compared to \$298.437 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at \$362.744 million against \$379.928 million, and Australia stood at \$279.629 million during the current year against \$268.041 million during last year.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-06-29/page-8/detail-4>

The News

BRI: the road to progress

Waseem Abbas Sial

China and Pakistan's iron-clad friendship and strategic partnership through thick and thin needs no introduction. In 1951, the two nations officially started diplomatic interactions. Over the subsequent 70 plus years, China and Pakistan have developed an unbreakable alliance, thanks to the dedication of successive leaders and the unwavering support of the people in both nations.

We have monuments that speak for the bond the two nations have created. Construction workers from China and Pakistan carved a highway of friendship out of the snow-covered plateau with such intrepid determination. While building the road, several Chinese workers lost their lives – at least 88 – and now rest at the Gilgit Chinese Memorial Graveyard, protecting the highway they worked so hard to build.

A true friend is someone on whom people can count. Pakistan says its friendship with China is “sweeter than honey, deeper than the sea, and taller than the mountain”. For China, Pakistan is a “good friend, good neighbour, good partner, and good brother.”

From ‘friends in need’ to ‘friends of common growth’, the two countries have always understood and supported each other throughout the last seven decades, demonstrating excellent state-to-state relations. “We are not afraid of the deep sea or the fire because we believe in the sun and the future,” Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah once declared. We are confident that the future of China-Pakistan relations is bright, and that both countries will continue to progress and thrive.

The idea of a trade corridor connecting the two countries dates back well before China's Belt and Road Initiative. The project was originally revealed in the summer of 2013 when then-prime minister Nawaz Sharif met former Chinese prime minister Li Keqiang in Beijing. The goal was to build highways, railroads, and pipelines to link China to the Pakistani port of Gwadar. Plans for implementing the projects had a five-year time frame, and the amounts involved (between \$10 and \$20 billion) were modest in light of China's current aspirations in Pakistan.

Since the BRI can trace its roots all the way back to provincial-level initiatives, it mixes bottom-up and top-down methods for policy formation and implementation. For this reason, the geopolitical aspect of this process is merely incidental. Second, participating nations mostly decide which projects get funded, showing that China does not impose its will on the table.

The groundwork for CPEC was set in the 1990s, but authorities in China and Pakistan have been working towards the creation of a multimodal economic corridor between the Karakoram highway and Pakistan's deep-water ports in the Arabian Sea for decades. The current decade saw the implementation of a double-opening plan by Xinjiang's government, which aimed to increase the province's ties with both China and its Eurasian neighbours. These connections, in their view, would boost economic growth in the province.

It is worth mentioning that opening the region to broader economic flows raised security worries for China. However, increasing the local economic activity was seen as the best strategy for addressing this issue. As a result, Beijing spent much of the 1990s pressuring Islamabad to enhance border security, after which bilateral trade expanded and deepened gradually. Beijing was heavily impacted by Xinjiang's development and security strategy, which included important Eurasian neighbours.

Critical mass was reached in the early 2000s, when Beijing combined various provincial policies, including Xinjiang's double-opening, into the national Great Western Development (GWD) policy. Central officials shared the opinion of their provincial counterparts that the GWD approach might generate economic development and hence support social stability in China's undeveloped interior and frontier regions.

At this time, Pakistan rose to prominence as a result of China's investments in enhancing the Karakoram highway and the Gwadar port. The outcome was deeper economic ties, which laid the groundwork for CPEC. As a result of Xinjiang's provincial government's efforts to strengthen ties across the border, the central government was able to become more involved in the construction of CPEC. The infrastructure and local knowledge built up over the past few decades ensured that the economic corridor would play a significant role in the BRI.

The BRI can be understood as an amalgamation of provincial projects from the 1990s aimed at establishing economic corridors. These provinces continue to have a say in the development of these corridors, exemplifying a blend of bottom-up and top-down approaches to policymaking.

Officials in Pakistan see building an economic corridor with China as a way to help their country move beyond its current state of poverty. They share the Chinese perspective that development may help stabilize society. Given the protracted nature of unrest in Balochistan, this is a particularly astute observation on the part of Pakistani officials, who see parallels between their country and Xinjiang and hold out hope that a corridor will improve economic conditions in the region and reduce social tensions. In this context, the governments of Pakistan have repeatedly tried to woo and direct Chinese investment in the nation.

The Musharraf administration (2001-2008) was the first to recognize Gwadar port's potential worth to Beijing and China's involvement in updating Pakistan's infrastructure in vital areas

such as railways, tourism, telecommunications, petroleum, and mining. Pakistani leaders realized they might affect investment choices to dampen domestic tensions. The Sharif administration (2013-2017) emphasized the importance of energy projects to China.

Fifteen energy projects were prioritized to alleviate the energy crisis that was harming the economy and people of Pakistan. A new issue emerged, however, as Pakistan's energy capacity grew – energy overproduction with 13,000 MW of extra power sitting idle. Hence, transferring and allocating this surplus capacity became the new obstacle. Thus, the Khan administration (2018-2022) advocated for investment in infrastructure to fill the void.

Officials in Pakistan envision CPEC being finished in three phases, the third of which would take place around the year 2030. This plan has three distinct phases: the immediate (2015-2020), intermediate (2021-2025), and distant (beyond 2025). In the first phase, infrastructure like roads, rails, logistical hubs, ports, and warehouses had to be built. Rules, regulations, legislation, and standardization policies are the primary concerns of the second phase. Before ratifying customs rules and regulations and finally moving Pakistan into the corridor staging (third stage) for foreign direct investment across industries, Pakistani officials seek to establish the courses as a transit hub.

The end goal is straightforward: provide landlocked nations with access to mass transit on a regional scale, with China as the hub and a series of bilateral agreements serving as the building blocks. China is preparing its western region by creating the necessary infrastructure to export goods to global markets, and the quickest and most convenient route is through Pakistan.

For instance, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan are all part of a developing commercial bloc that will provide Pakistan with a transit market. Afghanistan's inclusion in CPEC is a topic of discussion at the highest levels right now and is necessary for this to happen.

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<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=215522>

Chinese Newspapers

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Xinhuanet News

Hydropower project of CPEC to generate clean-green energy, boost socio-economic development

Once put into operation, the hydropower plant in northwestern Pakistan would help save 1.28 million tons of standard coal and 3.2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually, and generate socioeconomic impacts that align with green transition.

ISLAMABAD, June 18 (Xinhua) -- Ali Adnan, a 36-year-old engineer, inspects Suki Kinari (SK) Hydropower Project located in Western Himalayas in Pakistan's northwest Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa province almost every day to ensure that health, safety, and environment protection protocols are followed properly.

Adnan, a health, safety, and environmental engineer at SK, who has been part of this biggest hydropower project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework since the beginning of the construction in 2017, said the work has been completed at a faster pace than standard time despite uncountable odds.

SK is a diversion-type hydropower project featuring a high head and long tunnel. The main structures of the project include a dam, spillway, power intake, headrace tunnel, surge shaft, penstock, underground powerhouse, tailrace tunnel, and access tunnel.

The project is equipped with four pelton turbine generator units with a capacity of 221 megawatts each, together with a total installed capacity of 873.5 megawatts.

The state-of-the-art infrastructure has been designed to ensure maximum safety, cost-effectiveness and generation of clean-green energy.

For the first time in Pakistan, a rockfill dam has been built using local boulders and mud, said Jafar Kazmi, a site engineer at the dam. This technology has significantly helped in reducing the overall cost while enhancing safety, he added.

In a concrete dam, the water stoppers have to be put which generally creates seepage. However, he said a drainage body in a rockfill dam in the downstream area serves as a safety wall.

"If any seepage or a crack appears, that may enter the control section and asphalt. It's not going to affect the dam because if any water flows from them, it would go into the drainage body area," according to Kazmi.

The project is expected to generate 3.212 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. Once put into operation, it would help save 1.28 million tons of standard coal and 3.2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

Apart from building a hydropower plant for clean-green energy, the Chinese company has been planting a lot of trees in the surrounding area and taking special measures to ensure that the project remains environment-friendly, which is a core component of the Green CPEC.

To prevent the contamination of river water, sedimentation tanks were installed at the batching plants, and filtration plants on the crush plants, Adnan said, adding that "the filtration plant is of the latest technology which has never been used in Pakistan before."

He said the Chinese company is collaborating with the local authorities in tree plantation, especially for preserving wildlife and species. They have also been developing fish ponds for marine life.

The Chinese company aims to plant 100,000 trees by the end of the project's construction.

On top of everything, SK has made an important contribution to the socio-economic development of the local area and the entire country. It will provide affordable and clean-green energy to over 1 million Pakistani families.

At the peak of its construction, it had provided employment to more than 6,000 locals.

Tauqeer, a 24-year-old local who works as a laborer at the dam site, said that the project benefited the local people a lot. He said those who were unemployed earlier in this area got jobs from it.

"Chinese are good teachers, and they have taught us the technical skills required for work," he added.

The SK has also substantially contributed to the development of small and medium-sized businesses, particularly in the area's tourism industry.

The dam's construction boosted the tourism industry here by providing accessibility through roads and other infrastructure, Kashan Ali, who works in the administration department of SK, told Xinhua.

Earlier, for about four months, there used to be no accessibility due to heavy snowfall. "But the construction of this dam site has given access to the tourists to visit this place even into the winters and enjoy this snowfall," Ali added.

Furthermore, like all other CPEC projects, SK also pays a lot of emphasis on corporate social responsibility.

Ali said events were also organized in the local schools, where the students were given free books and stationery items. Additionally, the locals were provided with water pipelines through different schemes.

Last year, in the wake of unprecedented floods in the country, "some of the bridges, roads, and other infrastructure got damaged in the area were repaired by the Chinese company using their machinery," said Ali.

<https://english.news.cn/20230618/ab30f67a2e2941f0b91bb4ecd958bc58/c.html>

June 20, 2023

Global Times

Payment of Russian crude oil in yuan in line with Pakistan's economic partnership with China, based on mutual trust: ambassador

By Xie Wenting

The transaction of Pakistan's first government-to-government import of discounted Russian crude oil in Chinese yuan is in line with Pakistan's practical and broad-based economic partnership with China and is based on our strong mutual trust and win-win cooperation, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque told the Global Times in an exclusive interview on Monday.

Ambassador Haque told the Global Times that with growing economic ties and the new projects being launched under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China and Pakistan have agreed to the use of the Chinese yuan and Pakistani rupees for financial transactions.

The first cargo of discounted Russian crude oil arrived in Karachi on June 11. In an interview with Reuters, Pakistan's Petroleum Minister Musadik Malik revealed that the "payment (was) made in RMB."

Analysts pointed out that this transaction of oil in Chinese yuan marks a significant shift away from the traditional use of the US dollar for international transactions. The move is also viewed by observers as a way for Pakistan to reduce its reliance on the US dollar and strengthen its ties with China and Russia. It is also expected to boost trade among the three countries.

"The first ever shipment of Russian oil recently arrived in Pakistan after undergoing a prudent process of procurement. This transaction is aimed to bring benefits to the people of Pakistan amid rising fuel prices all over the world, as well as Pakistan's difficult economic situation, energy shortages, and dependence on expensive imported petroleum," Haque told the Global Times.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Twitter on June 11 when the crude oil cargo arrived in the country that "today is a transformative day. We are moving one step at a time toward prosperity, economic growth, and energy security and affordability."

"This is the first ever [consignment of] Russian oil cargo to Pakistan and the beginning of a new relationship between Pakistan and the Russian Federation. I commend all those who remained part of this national endeavor and contributed to translating the promise of a Russian oil import into reality," he said.

Pakistan's first government-to-government deal with Russia consisted of 100,000-ton crude oil consignment, according to media reports.

Ambassador Haque noted to the Global Times that this transaction in Chinese yuan is based on win-win cooperation and Pakistan's broad-based economic partnership with China.

According to the Pakistani diplomat, China is Pakistan's largest trading partner and one of the biggest sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow into Pakistan. The economic and financial ties between China and Pakistan have been further fortified since the inception of CPEC in 2013 which became the mainstay of the bilateral economic relationship. Pakistan is also a priority partner for developmental cooperation under the Global Development Initiative (GDI).

"China and Pakistan have a currency swap agreement to facilitate trade in local currencies. As bilateral trade between the two countries grows and new projects are launched under the CPEC, the two countries have agreed to the use of yuan and Pakistani rupees for financial transactions," he said.

In a previous interview with the Global Times, Ambassador Haque said that CPEC is a flagship project and a major corridor under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Fully aligned with the national development agenda of Pakistan, CPEC has been the key to the countries' socio-economic development.

In its first phase, CPEC aimed to develop major transport infrastructure and address the country's essential energy needs. In the next phase, CPEC will focus more on socio-economic development, agricultural cooperation, and industrialization.

The use of the Chinese yuan in international transactions has increased in recent years. Pakistan is among a list of countries that now settle trade with China in Chinese yuan. Iraq's Central Bank announced in February that it plans to use Chinese yuan to improve its access to foreign currency. In March, the China National Offshore Oil Corp and France's TotalEnergies completed China's first yuan-settled liquefied natural gas trade using cross-border yuan settlement, according to the Xinhua News Agency.

Meanwhile, a de-dollarization trend has been gaining momentum in the world in recent years as more countries seek to reduce their dependence on the US dollar and diversify their foreign exchange reserves.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1292889.shtml>

GT investigates: How Indian media fabricates think tanks, journalists to churn out anti-China, Pakistan news

A recent report by a European organization investigating fake narratives of Indian media went viral on Chinese social media platforms recently, drawing wide attention to India's supposedly vast smear campaign against China and Pakistan.

Following reports in 2019 and 2020, the latest investigation report by independent non-profit organization EU DisinfoLab, published in February 2023, exposes more details and evidences to prove that Asian News International (ANI), an Indian news agency, has been quoting a number of non-existent organizations, journalists and bloggers to spread disinformation that attacks and smears China and Pakistan. The report further uncovered that India has long been building a huge anti-China and anti-Pakistan disinformation network and that Indian media outlets have built a sophisticated assembly line of fake anti-China and anti-Pakistan news.

On the one hand, the Indian media produces and spreads false narratives about China, and on the other hand, the Indian government restricts Chinese journalists' access to India and deny their rights of reporting a real India, by treating Chinese journalists in an unfair and discriminatory manner during their posting in India and visa application process.

Chinese experts said the investigation report exposes a deliberate effort by India or Indian media to shape negative narratives against China and Pakistan. The presence of such disinformation campaign aligns with India's strained relations with both countries. They pointed out that the production of fake news by Indian media can incite nationalist sentiment within the country and distract people from the real problems of the country and the poor performance of its government.

Within the complex geopolitical context of South Asia, such disinformation campaigns can have far-reaching consequences, which can exacerbate tensions, strain diplomatic relations, and hinder regional cooperation efforts, observers warned.

Bad sources

The investigation report titled "Bad Sources - How Indian news agency ANI quoted sources that do not exist," published by EU DisinfoLab, unveils "its latest investigation into anti-Pakistan/China influence operations," according to the organization.

The report said ANI is an Indian news agency that plays a relevant role in the country's information ecosystem, providing content for many well-established media across India, such as The Print and Business Standard. With this network, ANI acts as a purveyor of news to millions of Indians.

In the report, researchers write that ANI has been repeatedly quoting articles and reports issued by a think tank named the International Forum for Rights and Security (IFFRAS). The think tank was previously chaired by Mario Silva, a former Canadian Member of Parliament (MP), and dissolved in 2014, according to public information provided on a Canadian government website.

However, when they checked IFFRAS' official website, the researchers found that it has kept updating information, including articles, news, books and even conferences, and that ANI has kept quoting information from the think tank's website.

For example, on December 27, 2022, IFFRAS published an article titled "Pakistan's persecution of minorities under scanner again," and on the same day, the article was quoted by ANI in a piece of news headlined "Pakistan's ill-treatment of minorities under scanner after UK sanctions Sindhi cleric," with most of the contents coming from the IFFRAS article.

ANI has quoted IFFRAS more than 200 times from May 2021 to January 2023, and "in most instances, it was not only quoting but using the IFFRAS 'reports' as the backbone of the articles," said the report.

News reports produced by ANI quoting IFFRAS can possibly get republished or reported on by other media outlets. For example, in April 14, 2022, an ANI report quoting IFFRAS was reproduced by The Statesman, an Indian daily newspaper, allowing the ANI report to reach a wider audience.

In addition, researchers of EU DisinfoLab further investigated whether the conference attendees at the think tank quoted in the articles actually exist.

To find out who was attending conferences held by IFFRAS, researchers contacted attendees of a session discussing the "Increasing presence of Muslim Brotherhood." But two of the attendees mentioned by IFFRAS responded that they had never attended such a conference and that the Muslim Brotherhood "had nothing (to do) with their field of expertise."

The investigation report also pointed out that more than 70 speakers mentioned in the fake conferences of IFFRAS did not exist at all.

Another interesting finding is that, in contrast to the frequent updates on its website, IFFRAS' Twitter account has not posted any content since 2021. Therefore, the researchers assumed that "the sole purpose of IFFRAS is to produce content that can be covered by ANI and then republished widely throughout the Indian press."

ANI's editor Smita Prakash responded to the report on Twitter on February 24, dubbing it "defamatory and false."

The Global Times has tried to contact ANI through the email address provided on its website, wanting to get a response on whether the news agency was aware that IFFRAS had been disbanded in 2014 and does not exist now. However, as of the publication of this report, there was no response from ANI.

Apart from IFFRAS, the researchers also looked into another think tank frequently quoted by ANI, the Policy Research Group (POREG), in which the researchers found no sign of the existence of three new members who had reportedly joined the group in the last two years.

For example, one of them is James Duglous Crickton, a misspelling of James Douglas Crickton, who wrote an article claiming that former Pakistan president Pervez Musharraf held a secret bank account in Switzerland, which was later covered by ANI.

The researchers said that they have tried to get in touch with the three people through POREG, but have received no response. However, the three people had been quoted by ANI numerous times on topics such as Pakistan's army doctrines and China's "wolf warrior diplomacy," according to the investigation report.

The researchers also tried to get contact with Philippe Jeune, a claimed "Paris-based investigative journo with more than 10 years' experience" and sometimes a claimed "Brussels-based freelance journalist," who was quoted by ANI in a piece of news entitled "European Parliament to withdraw Pakistan's GSP+ status over abuse of blasphemy laws" - a withdrawal that did not happen, and efforts to do so again failed.

Asif Noor, founder of the Friends of BRI Forum, a Pakistan-based think tank, told the Global Times that in the investigation, ANI has been found to quote non-existent organizations, presenting them as credible sources of information. The expert noted that by attributing statements and opinions to these fictional entities, ANI creates a false impression of legitimacy and credibility for the disinformation being spread.

These fabricated figures are used as experts to provide opinions and analysis to further mislead readers and reinforce the false narratives. ANI's articles, containing the disseminated disinformation, are reproduced and shared across various well-established media outlets in India, Asif noted. "This amplification of the false narratives through multiple platforms increases their reach and potential impact, potentially influencing a wider audience and shaping public opinion."

Vast network

The IFFRAS think tank mentioned in the lab report was also found to be linked to the Srivastava Group, as the researchers found that IFFRAS has been registered by using a well-known email address from the Srivastava Group.

The latter is a notorious Indian shell corporation, and the EU DisinfoLab pointed out in its 2020 report that nominally, the group's main business is news media, with offices in Brussels and Geneva, and registrations of more than 750 media, think tanks and more than 550 domain names in 116 countries and regions around the world.

However, the researchers investigated and found that there was no profitable business under the Srivastava Group, and the media and think tanks related to the group basically only had a name but no actual business. For example, the researchers uncovered EU Chronicle, a fake media with fake journalists supposedly covering European affairs, which was actually serving as a platform for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to sign pro-Indian articles.

In fact, the group is a representative of the disinformation war launched by India against China. Under the lead of the Srivastava Group, which is based overseas in Geneva and Brussels, an information warfare network has been woven, with a number of fake media, think tanks and NGOs all over the world.

The fake news produced by the fake media under the group is also published and reprinted by some Indian media websites such as ANI which increases the reach of the disinformation.

For example, on September 17, 2020, an article was published in the EU Chronicle about a letter sent by several MEPs to the President of the European Council Charles Michel, asking for taking strong actions on China's Human Rights atrocities at the EU-China Summit. The article was titled "Meaningful address and strong action needed against China's human rights atrocities." In its coverage of the news, ANI changed the headline as "Members of the European Parliament urge EU to take strong action on China for Human Rights Violation." But then the coverage of ANI was distorted by the Srivastava Group's other fake media, which ran it under the headline: "EU to take strong action on China."

In the end, a simple request by individual MEPs, who are free to send any letter they want to send, was ultimately presented as an official position of the EU on China.

Represented by the EU Chronicle, fake media of India published a large number of discrediting articles on China and Pakistan in an attempt to damage the reputation of the countries internationally and win more support for India from institutions such as the EU and UN.

In addition, according to the lab's investigation, under India's vast network of fake narratives, many organizations created by the group are active in cities which host headquarters of international organizations, such as Geneva, Brussels and New York. These organizations include "South Asia Peace Forum," the "Baloch Forum" and "Friends of Gilgit-Baltistan."

In order to increase the official element and credibility of their organizations, they even paid some MEPs to make pro-India, anti-Pakistan and anti-China remarks, and organized trips for MEPs to Kashmir, Bangladesh and the Maldives. The researchers noted that "some of these trips led to much institutional controversy, as the delegations of MEPs were often presented as official EU delegations when they were in fact not travelling on behalf of the Parliament."

Responsible dissemination of accurate and verified information is crucial in fostering informed public discourse and upholding journalistic ethics, Asif noted. But India lacks the ability and is using it in favor of its own motivations, the expert said.

Experts noted that China and Pakistan have long been targets of India's disinformation campaign.

Topics related to the China-India border region, including the China-India border issue and China's border negotiation with Bhutan, are a major focus of the India's fabrication and smearing on China.

In addition, discrediting China's Belt and Road Initiative and the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and smearing on China's policies in Xinjiang and Xizang regions in terms of ethnic, religious, human rights and other issues are also the top agenda items set by some forces in India in the disinformation war against China, Sun Xihui, an associate research fellow with the National Institute of International Strategy at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times.

With the help of these fake reports, the Indian media not only discredit China, but also try to raise the image of its own government in its community. By building the image of China with social chaos and oppression of people domestically, and deceiving internationally, the India media aimed to beautify India's image of democracy at home and friendship with its neighbors internationally, Sun noted.

The international community's perception of Pakistan and China may be swayed by the misinformation disseminated by India, affecting how these nations are viewed in terms of their policies, actions, and intentions. This can lead to biased judgments and misconceptions about Pakistan and China's contributions to regional and global affairs, Asif said.

To counter false narrative campaigns of India, experts noted that there should be a multifaceted approach involving various strategies. "It is important that China and Pakistan should promote media literacy to educate the public about identifying and evaluating misinformation and disinformation," Asif said.

"Citizens should also utilize social media platforms, official websites, and other digital channels to directly communicate with global audiences," said the expert.

Gary Machado, managing director of EU DisinfoLab, said he thought the muted reaction to the revelation of the disinformation network was partly because it was "clearly managed by Indian stakeholders."

"Imagine if the same operation was run by China or Russia. How do you think the world would have reacted? Probably with international outrage, leading to public inquiries and probably sanctions," he told BBC in an interview in December 2022.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1292967.shtml>

June 21, 2023

Global Times

China and Pakistan ink \$4.8 billion deal to build 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant: report

China and Pakistan inked a \$4.8 billion deal on Tuesday to construct a 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant, according to media reports.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made the announcement, stating that work on the Chashma 5 project would commence immediately. Reuters reported Sharif's remarks on state-run news channel PTV, which came after the signing of the memorandum of understanding between China National Nuclear Cooperation and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

Sharif emphasized that China's investment of \$4.8 billion in this project sends a clear message that Pakistan is a trusted destination for Chinese companies and investors. The Chashma 5 project will be built in the central province of Punjab and will assist Pakistan in transitioning away from fossil fuels.

Pakistan's total nuclear energy production capacity reached 1,400 MW after the opening of the sixth nuclear power plant in the southern port city of Karachi two years ago. The 1,100 MW plant was also constructed with assistance from China, as stated in the Reuters report.

China and Pakistan have been strengthening their cooperation in the energy sector. In February, the inauguration ceremony for the K-3 Hualong No.1 nuclear power unit took place in Pakistan. This marked the first official delivery of China's self-built third-generation nuclear power technology to a foreign country. The K-2 and K-3 Hualong No.1 nuclear power units in Karachi form the largest nuclear power plant in the country.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1292971.shtml>

People's Daily

Chinese FM meets Pakistani military official

(Xinhua)

BEIJING, June 20 (Xinhua) -- Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee of the Pakistan Army Sahir Shamshad Mirza in Beijing on Tuesday.

Qin said the Pakistani army is a staunch defender and promoter of China-Pakistan friendship. He expressed the hope that the Pakistani military will continue to play its role as the anchor of stability by safeguarding domestic stability and contributing to the building of a China-Pakistan community of shared future.

He also thanked the Pakistani army for its long-term efforts to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan.

Sahir Shamshad Mirza said the Pakistani military will continue to make every effort to ensure bilateral cooperation including the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and safeguard the Belt and Road cooperation.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Wu Chaolan)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0621/c90000-20034175.html>

June 22, 2023

Shanghai Daily

China's cooperation helps Pakistan bring remarkable development in agriculture: experts

China's agricultural cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) helped Pakistan to bring remarkable development in the field, including increased yields, disease-free crops and capacity building, said experts on Wednesday.

Addressing a webinar with the title "China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation under CPEC: Achievements and Challenges" hosted by the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies (IPDS), experts said that the agricultural cooperation between China and Pakistan launched innovative practices in Pakistan that improved the agricultural system of the country.

Considering the formidable challenges, including climate change, energy crises and security issues, the participants including industrialists, agriculture experts, entrepreneurs and educationalists highlighted how the two nations remained steadfast in their commitment to fostering agricultural collaboration for future generations.

President of the IPDS Farhat Asif emphasized the significance of the agriculture sector for Pakistan considering the rising population and global warming effects on the country.

General Manager of the Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed Co. Ltd Zhu Xiaobo said that her company had made substantial investments and training initiatives in Pakistan, which brought development in the progress of various agricultural products like hybrid rice and canola technology.

Executive Director of China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) Xi Jianlong highlighted the transformative role played by CMEC to modernize Pakistan's agricultural sector through digital farming and export-oriented food deep-processing zones.

Rizwan Hamid, a senior scientist at China's Hunan University, described the impressive yield improvements in cotton and corn cultivation in the southern region of Pakistan, and stressed the need to increase research and development collaboration between China and Pakistan to foster innovation.

Commercial Head of the LTEC International Agriculture Development Co. (Pvt) Ltd Huang Pei highlighted the vitality of the global branding of Pakistani companies, enabling them to export food products.

"There is a dire need for collaboration between Pakistan and China in the agriculture and food sectors, where China's expertise and Pakistan's abundant resources can mutually benefit both nations," added Huang.

<https://www.shine.cn/news/world/2306223649/>

June 23, 2023

Global Times

China set to promote deeper cooperation with Pakistan under BRI and CPEC: Chinese Premier

China is ready to promote continued development of the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and build a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era, Chinese Premier Li Qiang said during his meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday.

During a meeting with Sharif on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris, Li said that China stands ready to continue strengthening cooperation with Pakistan to jointly promote the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative, according to a Xinhua News Agency report on Friday.

Li also called on the two sides to jointly advance major projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) so as to promote high-quality development of the corridor, and better contribute to the economic and social development of the two countries.

China and Pakistan have always treated each other sincerely, trusted each other and shared ups and downs, Li said. He noted that China will continue to firmly support Pakistan in safeguarding the country's sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity, in pursuing a development path suited to its national conditions, and in achieving its stability, development and prosperity.

Li pointed out that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and the 10th anniversary of the launch of the CPEC.

China will, as always, support Pakistan in accelerating its economic development and enhancing its capacity for sustainable development, Li said.

Li also noted that China hopes that the Pakistani side will resolutely and effectively crack down on all types of domestic terrorist organizations, and ensure the safety of the Chinese institutions and personnel in Pakistan. Li said that the two sides should jointly uphold international fairness and justice, and safeguard the common interests of China and Pakistan as well as other developing countries.

For his part, Sharif said that Pakistan and China are all-weather friends and iron-clad brothers, and that the friendship between the two countries remains unbreakable.

It is the consensus of various Pakistani political parties and all walks of life to consolidate the friendship between Pakistan and China, Sharif said.

Noting that Pakistan appreciates China for its great support of Pakistan's efforts in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic and in its economic development, Sharif said that Pakistan adheres to the one-China principle and firmly supports China in safeguarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Sharif also noted that Pakistan opposes any attempt to contain or suppress China, and stands ready with China to mutually support each other in multilateral affairs.

Pakistan is willing to work with China to promote the high-quality development of the CPEC and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields, he said, adding that Pakistan will make every effort to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel and institutions in Pakistan.

Earlier on Tuesday, China and Pakistan inked a \$4.8 billion deal to construct a 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant, announced by the Pakistani prime minister.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1293026.shtml>

Xinhuanet News

1st LD Writethru: Chinese premier calls for stronger Belt and Road cooperation between China, Pakistan

PARIS, June 22 (Xinhua) -- Chinese Premier Li Qiang said here Thursday that the Chinese side is ready to continue strengthening cooperation with Pakistan to jointly promote the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative.

During his meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif on the sidelines of the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, Li also called on the two sides to jointly advance major projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) so as to promote high-quality development of the corridor, and better contribute to the economic and social development of the two countries.

China and Pakistan have always treated each other sincerely, trusted each other and shared weal and woe, Li said. China will continue to firmly support Pakistan in safeguarding country's sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity, in pursuing a development path suited to its national conditions, and in achieving its stability, development and prosperity.

China stands ready to work with Pakistan to promote the continued development of the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and build a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era, said Li.

Li pointed out that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and the 10th anniversary of the launch of the CPEC.

China will, as always, support Pakistan in accelerating its economic development and enhancing its capacity for sustainable development, Li said.

The Chinese side hopes that the Pakistani side will resolutely and effectively crack down on all types of domestic terrorist groups, and ensure the safety of the Chinese institutions and personnel in Pakistan, said Li, adding that the two sides should jointly uphold international fairness and justice, and safeguard the common interests of China and Pakistan as well as other developing countries.

For his part, Sharif said that Pakistan and China are all-weather friends and "iron-clad brothers," and that the friendship between the two countries remains unbreakable.

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Sharif also noted that the Pakistani side opposes any attempt to contain or suppress China, and stands ready with China to mutually support each other in multilateral affairs.

<https://english.news.cn/20230623/59eca33e622a4ec0be265507ef3bf6b5/c.html>

June 24, 2023

People's Daily

CPEC testimony to Pakistan's deep-rooted friendship with China: official

(Xinhua)

ISLAMABAD, June 23 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan's Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has hailed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a testimony to and a living example of Pakistan's deep-rooted friendship with China.

In the remarks made on Thursday, he said China has always been the most trustworthy friend of Pakistan.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking the Gwadar port in southwestern Pakistan with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, which highlights energy, transport, and industrial cooperation.

In marking the 10th anniversary of the CPEC, Pakistan's planning ministry has scheduled a number of events to promote the CPEC and highlight its achievements and contribution to Pakistan's socio-economic development.

Speaking at the opening event of the celebrations, Iqbal said that Pakistan will always remember the role China played in bringing investment to Pakistan at a time when even Pakistan's own investors were shying away from investing in the country.

"Pakistan was grappling with 16 to 18 hours of daily load-shedding, drawing international ridicule, as it seemed as we were living in the stone age, with people resorting to using lanterns for lighting ... the CPEC swiftly addressed the crisis by completing power projects

ahead of schedule, allowing Pakistan to illuminate its homes and overcome the energy shortage within a remarkably short time frame," he added.

The minister also paid tribute to hundreds of thousands of "unsung heroes, the Chinese workers, and officials who have spent many years in Pakistan, away from their families."

He said that during the last 10 years, the Chinese staff of the CPEC were more devoted to the program than to their own families, and made the CPEC a success story.

"The success of the CPEC showed to the world how two countries which are like iron brothers and are friends can work mutually in a win-win paradigm to bring opportunities for people in both countries," he added.

In his address, Nadeem Javaid, chief economist of the Pakistani government who also works as the focal person on the CPEC, said that the Pakistani side meticulously drafted CPEC documents to address the pressing needs in improving the socio-economic development across the regions.

"I'm confident that with the continued commitment and support of both authentic governments, the CPEC will further progress and achieve its objectives and become a model of successful economic cooperation and development in the years to come," he added.

Speaking at the event, Pang Chunxue, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, said that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of the CPEC. Over the past 10 years, the CPEC has made outstanding contributions to Pakistan's economic and social development. Its great achievements have attracted worldwide attention.

"We are fully convinced that the celebration of the 10th anniversary will create a good momentum in advancing the CPEC, making more people get to know and understand the CPEC, telling more success stories of the changes brought by the CPEC, enhancing the confidence of all classes for the CPEC and promoting the CPEC cooperation to a new higher level," she added.

(Web editor: Zhao Tong, Liang Jun)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0624/c90000-20034941.html>

June 25, 2023

South China Morning Post

China stresses common threats, security as it pushes for Iran-Pakistan engagement

Since the Taliban retook control of neighbouring Afghanistan, concerns have grown over more frequent extremist activities

Beijing is pushing for peace solutions, and Pakistan is a key regional partner in China's Belt and Road Initiative infrastructure plan

With the return to power of the Taliban in Afghanistan, concerns have grown about more frequent extremist activities. A recently created mechanism for counterterrorism dialogue

reflects both the concerns and desires for neighbouring Pakistan and Iran to deepen security ties with China, according to analysts.

China – mindful of a growing wariness from groups that perceive it as the “new enemy” – is attempting to mend deeply fractured ties between the two countries in the hope of bolstering individual counterterrorism capabilities to avoid spillover effects.

“From the Chinese perspective, the issue that has been the greatest concern, is the fact that you’re seeing a growing plurality of different groups talking about China as the enemy,” said Raffaello Pantucci, a senior fellow at the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

Pantucci said the spectrum of contempt has expanded from mainly Uyghur militants to separatist and jihadist groups in Pakistan, which have targeted Chinese interests in the region as they mobilised people and resources.

Recently, China announced that it would begin regular anti-terror talks with Pakistan and Iran “to tackle the cross-border movement of terrorists”, the first dialogue of its kind with the two countries, which have had ongoing border clashes over long-standing disputes.

The region has faced increasingly frequent terrorist activities since the Taliban retook power in 2021 after the United States withdrew its remaining troops in Afghanistan.

Since the Taliban returned to power, separatist groups, including the Uyghur East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) and the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) in Pakistan, have reportedly begun consolidating their forces inside the country – the types of insurgents that China is most concerned about.

The groups have been particularly active in the Pakistani province of Balochistan, raising concerns from both Pakistan and Iran, which borders the province, as well as from China, whose people and projects in the area have been frequently targeted against.

China has established key infrastructure projects in the area, including the Gwadar Port, part of the US\$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor under China’s broader Belt and Road Initiative.

Alarms were set off in Beijing in 2021, when a suicide bomb at Gwadar Port, which the BLA claimed responsibility for, targeted Chinese nationals, killing two.

Violence and instability in the region have prompted Beijing to “firstly establish a preventive mechanism, so that both Pakistan and Iran can also protect themselves better against terrorist threats emanating from the Afghan territory”, said Zoon Ahmed Khan, a foreign-policy analyst and research fellow at Tsinghua University’s Belt and Road Strategy Institute.

The dialogue is also aimed at bringing Pakistan and Iran together to coordinate on the “growing militant activities on the Pakistan-Iran border” – as a first step to strengthen trust and prepare for a future quadrilateral dialogue, which also involves Afghanistan, Khan added.

Pakistan-Iran relations have been strained due to cross-border attacks by Pakistani militants along their shared border between the Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchistan, and the Pakistani province of Balochistan.

Khan admitted that despite mutual intent, working with the Taliban government was “challenging” and further coordination with the Kabul authorities would be “a medium and long-term strategy” for Beijing.

Last month, when the foreign ministers of China, Pakistan and Afghanistan met for the first time since the Taliban took power in Kabul in August 2021, China’s Qin Gang said Beijing was worried about the safety of “Chinese nationals, institutions and projects”.

The three sides issued a joint statement afterwards and stressed the need for a “peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan”, which required deterrence of terrorist activities and highlighted threats from the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and the Eastern Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM).

“[But] the Taliban have not been able to crack down on the TTP, BLA, among other outfits that directly threaten Chinese and Pakistanis in relation to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, despite it being directly demanded,” Khan said.

Beijing has started to take a more cautious approach in its engagements with the Taliban regime. One of its largest investments in Afghanistan, the Mes Aynak copper mine, has been suspended for years due to instability.

Pantucci, the terrorism expert with Nanyang Technological University, said that there was barely any trust between Beijing and Kabul, reflected by the “clear message” from their recent diplomatic interactions.

The day after the China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Foreign Ministers’ Dialogue, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin highlighted the first “written pledge of not allowing the ETIM and other forces to conduct terrorist actions and activities”, adding that it was “of great significance to the future development of China-Afghanistan relations”.

“The fact that they’re having to [make a big point about it] says to me that they are concerned. [And] that’s not going to happen,” he said.

The new initiative is also an attempt by Beijing to improve relations with Tehran, Pantucci said. “[Iran] is probably the one that they have got the least strong security relationship on this particular issue [of terrorism]”, he said.

The fact that China and Iran officially urged Afghanistan to end restrictions on women’s rights despite the risks of irritating the Taliban “reflects a real concern that they both have, and also a desire for them to kind of think about cooperation together”, Pantucci said, referring to the joint statement released after a meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in Beijing in February.

In their joint statement, the two countries also “agreed on further counterterrorism cooperation” and expressed willingness to “establish bilateral counterterrorism consultation mechanisms”.

China has been pushing for peace solutions as it boosts its investment in the region, including brokering a peace deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia, and has said it is ready to assist peace efforts between Israel and Palestine.

“The [trilateral] dialogue occurs at a time of major changes in the diplomacy of the Middle East and South Asia. Local states are increasing their economic and security engagement both bilaterally and multilaterally through new [US-led] initiatives like the Abraham Accords, the Negev Forum, or I2U2,” said Jean-Loup Samaan, senior research fellow at National University of Singapore’s Middle East Institute.

But although these kinds of talks build “a regional momentum”, they could hardly counter the US initiatives with the Arab states in the region, he said.

Still, China is not aiming to “lead” regional security forces, but rather is trying to meet needs that are shared by the three countries, said Yan Wei, a professor at China’s Northwest University.

“The security and stability of [Pakistan, Iran or neighbouring] countries are closely related to China, as they are important, if not core, countries of the Belt and Road Initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor,” said Yan.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3225170/china-stresses-common-threats-security-it-pushes-iran-pakistan-engagement>

June 27, 2023

Global Times

Ten years on, green development becomes benchmark of China-proposed BRI: attendees at Summer Davos

By Liu Yang in Tianjin

Green development has become a benchmark of China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) over the past 10 years, officials and entrepreneurs said at the 14th Annual Meeting of the New Champions, also known as the Summer Davos Forum, in North China's Tianjin Municipality on Tuesday, noting that infrastructure construction under the framework has connected the world together and brought lots of development opportunities for countries along the route.

On the sidelines of the economic forum, some officials also slammed the so-called debt trap allegations by some Western media outlets, noting that blame game is never productive, and the BRI is indispensable for local development.

Ten years on, the BRI has attracted the participation of more than 75 percent of the world's countries and major international organizations, and the relevant concepts have been written into the related outcome documents of the UN and other multilateral mechanisms, Liang Linchong, an official with the National Development and Reform Commission, China's top economic planner, said during a session of the forum on Tuesday.

He enumerated some achievements of the initiative during the last 10 years, including the Luban Workshop, a Chinese vocational workshop program training talents in over 20 countries and regions, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which had created 236,000

jobs by the end of 2022, as well as the China-Laos Railway, a "golden corridor" that has sent 16.4 million passenger trips and 21 million tons of cargo since its operation.

Liang added that based on the connectivity in terms of policy coordination, road travel, trade, financial flows and people-to-people exchanges, China has stepped up efforts in the construction of a healthy, digital, green and innovative Silk Road, which has fostered new growth points for global development.

Sebastian Kurz, former Federal Chancellor of Austria, expressed his support for the initiative, saying that it is one of the most important initiatives in the world today as it has opened a lot of opportunities for cooperation between China and other countries.

However, in the last few years, we also saw the increase of tensions and unfortunately the idea of 'decoupling.' From my perspective, I hope the BRI, as a driver for [world] economic growth, will be possible to reduce tensions between the East and the West, Kurz noted.

Kurz added that the BRI has played a vital role in Austria's green transformation, and China and the European countries have large cooperation potential in electric vehicles in the future.

Sekai Irene Nzenza, Minister of Industry and Commerce of Zimbabwe, also stressed the BRI's role in her country's economic transition, adding that the country has a large power shortage and relies more on solar power, so it needs investment in solar and wind power to reduce carbon emissions.

Over the past 10 years, China has cooperated with more than 100 countries and regions on green energy projects, and has invested more in green and low-carbon energy than traditional energy in the countries along the route.

"Green is becoming one of the most vibrant colors of the BRI, and the future cooperation in energy transition has unlimited opportunities," said Xin Bao'an, Executive Chairman of the State Grid Corporation of China.

China has already built the world's largest clean power generation system, especially its new energy generation has exceeded 800 million kilowatts of installed capacity, which is far ahead of the rest of the world. "We not only have new energy technology, we also have high-quality products, so the initiative can provide countries with large-scale new-energy development solutions," Xin noted.

Talsiman Huo, Brand General Manager of LONGi Green Energy Technology Co., told the Global Times in an exclusive interview on Tuesday that the company's overseas photovoltaic business is targeting the booming markets of Central and East African countries, and has new factories in Vietnam and Malaysia, continuously providing low-carbon products to promote the world's green transition.

As the BRI has reaped fruitful results during the decade, some discordant voices have also been raised, including the so-called debt trap as well as unqualified projects in the countries along the route. In response, Thomas Lembong, director of Singapore-based Consilience Policy Institute and former Indonesian minister of trade, told the Global Times that the BRI is very important in terms of providing financing to developing countries, and they would otherwise struggle to secure funding for infrastructure projects.

"For anyone who is in any lending difficulties, we always have to remember that there're two parties, the borrower and the lender, so it's absurd to blame only one party auditor."

"Blame game is never productive. The constructive way forward is to work on solutions including restructuring, tuning projects and approaches," he noted.

Nzenza also told the Global Times on the sidelines that in fact, Zimbabwe does have an investment and technology agreement with China. "And already we've got some remarkable infrastructure projects, so we are very excited and ready to embrace BRI in Zimbabwe."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202306/1293295.shtml>

June 30, 2023

South China Morning Post

IMF agrees to long-awaited bailout for Pakistan of US\$3 billion, higher than expected

The country faced catastrophic floods that killed 1,739 people, impacted millions and left US\$30 billion damage

The cash-strapped government has had financial help from friendly countries such as China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE

The International Monetary Fund agreed to provide US\$3 billion to Pakistan – a long-awaited relief to bail out the impoverished country's ailing economy.

The nine-month agreement must be approved by the IMF's Executive Board, which is expected to make a final decision in mid-July, a top IMF official, Nathan Porter, said in a statement late on Thursday.

Porter, the IMF's mission chief to Islamabad, said Pakistan's economy has faced several external shocks, such as the catastrophic floods in 2022 that killed 1,739 people, caused US\$30 billion in damage and impacted millions of Pakistanis. The country was also hit by an international commodity price spike in the wake of Russia's war in Ukraine.

The IMF official said despite the authorities' efforts to reduce imports and the trade deficit, reserves have declined to very low levels and liquidity conditions in the power sector also remain acute.

"Given these challenges, the new arrangement would provide a policy anchor and a framework for financial support from multilateral and bilateral partners in the period ahead," the statement read.

Porter said over the past few days, the Pakistani authorities had "taken decisive measures to bring policies more in line with the economic reform programme supported by the International Monetary Fund," including Parliament passing a revised budget.

The proposed package is higher than what Pakistan was expecting. The country was awaiting the release of the remaining US\$2.5 billion from a 2019 bailout package of US\$6.5 billion that expires on Friday.

There were a lot of uncertainties about what would happen after June, especially with a new government coming to power in a few months, said Mohammad Sohail, prominent economist and head of Topline Securities.

“Now this funding of US\$3 billion for nine months will definitely help restore some investors’ confidence,” said Sohail.

The deal between the IMF and Pakistan comes days after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke with Kristalina Georgieva, the managing director of the IMF, on Tuesday. The two also met on June 22 on the sidelines of a global finance meeting in Paris.

Talks between Pakistan and the IMF had stalled in December after the global lender delayed the release of a crucial tranche of US\$1.1 billion from the bailout originally signed in 2019 by Sharif’s predecessor, Imran Khan.

Pakistan and the IMF have been at odds over what the fund says is Islamabad’s unsatisfactory compliance with the bailout conditions. Pakistan says it has fully complied with the conditions.

The cash-strapped Pakistani government is struggling to avoid a default with financial help from friendly countries such as China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. It has also been embroiled in an unprecedented economic crisis since Sharif replaced Khan, who was ousted in a no-confidence vote in Parliament last year.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/south-asia/article/3226129/imf-agrees-bailout-pakistan-us3-billion-higher-expected>

Xinhuanet News

Reinvestigation: Debunking Western lies of China "Debt Trap"

Tian Dongdong, Liu Tian and Han Bing

BEIJING, June 30 (Xinhua) -- Countries defaulting, inflation soaring, people losing jobs and their families facing starvation ... This is the bleak picture painted by Western media of the world's poorest countries falling into a "debt trap."

China, again, became an easy target to blame. A recent Associated Press (AP) story, titled "China's loans pushing world's poorest countries to the brink of collapse," accused China of setting up the so-called "debt trap" and labeled it as the "world's biggest and most unforgiving government lender."

But does this allegation hold water?

On-site investigations conducted by Xinhua on several countries, including Pakistan, Kenya, Zambia and Sri Lanka, present a contrasting perspective to the AP report, shedding new light on their debt impasse.

THE BIGGEST LENDER ISN'T CHINA

According to the National Treasury of Kenya, Kenya's external debt stock stood at 36.66 billion U.S. dollars at the end of March 2023. The debt is owed to multilateral lenders (46.3 percent) and bilateral sources (24.7 percent), among others. As of March 2023, Kenya owed

Chinese entities, including Chinese banks and companies, 6.31 billion dollars, but the largest chunk of Kenya's debt -- 17 billion dollars -- is owed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB).

Citing World Bank IDS data, a Briefing Paper titled "Integrating China into Multilateral Debt Relief: Progress and Problems in the G20 DSSI," released by the Johns Hopkins University in April, showed that "China (Chinese entities) only holds 21 percent of Kenya's public external debt, with private creditors holding another 24 percent and multilateral institutions 45 percent."

Data exclusively given to Xinhua by the Economic Affairs Division (EAD) of Pakistan showed that as of April 2023, Pakistan's total external debt was 125.702 billion dollars, while the loan from Chinese entities was 20.375 billion dollars, and some 4 billion dollars more from the Chinese side as safe deposits, making Chinese entities' debt in Pakistan only 16.2 percent of its total (without adding the safe deposits).

"This (AP's story) is not the first story. It is a series of stories (to defame China)," Shakeel Ahmad Ramay, CEO of the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development in Pakistan, told Xinhua.

Meanwhile, in Sri Lanka, data released by the country's Central Bank and Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization & National Policy showed that as of March 2023, Sri Lanka's existing external public debt is 27.6 billion dollars, with private creditors taking the lion's share at 14.8 billion dollars (53.6 percent), multilateral creditors 5.7 billion dollars (20.6 percent). Chinese entities' share is 3 billion dollars (10.8 percent).

In the case of Zambia, "the Chinese (entities') debt is only one-third of what Zambia owes externally. So if we were to worry as a country, we must worry about the two-thirds. This is two-thirds that is not owed to China (Chinese entities); it's owed to Western donors, multilateral institutions and bilateral ones," said Chibeza Mfuni, deputy secretary general of the Zambia-China Friendship Association.

"How much foreign debt does Zambia owe? It's an excess of 18.6 billion dollars by the end of 2022, and how much of that 18.6 billion dollars is owed to Chinese entities? It's around 6 billion dollars," said Mfuni.

According to WB statistics, nearly three-quarters of Africa's total external debt is held by multilateral financial institutions and commercial creditors, making them the largest creditors in Africa, said Wang Zhan, member of the International Finance and Economics Research Expert Studio of China's Ministry of Finance.

In a nutshell, Africa's main creditors are from the West, not from China.

CHINA FULFILLED ITS ROLE FAIRLY WELL IN DEBT RELIEF

In the article, AP claimed, "Behind the scenes is China's reluctance to forgive debt," portraying the country as an unforgiving lender.

Responding to the AP story, Song Wei, professor at the School of International Relations and Diplomacy, Beijing Foreign Studies University, said that China's contribution to debt relief exemplifies the international obligations expected of a responsible major country.

Amid the growing concerns of a debt default, China has always adhered to the principle of equality in bilateral relations and proactively participates in just and fair negotiations with different nations, Song said. "Furthermore, when the G20 announced the COVID-19 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), China promptly expressed its support."

In the Briefing Paper, Deborah Brautigam, director of the China Africa Research Initiative at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, said, "China fulfilled its role fairly well as a responsible G20 stakeholder implementing the DSSI in the challenging circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the 46 countries that participated in the DSSI, Chinese creditors accounted for 30 percent of all claims, and contributed 63 percent of debt service suspensions."

Song said she believes China is a genuine partner for developing countries needing capital to support nation-building projects.

"Moreover, debt suspension and relief should be a collective effort: multilateral, bilateral, commercial. China's proposal of shared responsibility in debt relief is fair and reasonable since all parties involved are creditors. It is unjust for only one side to bear the burden of debt reduction while others are exempted from their responsibilities," Song said.

Referring to data from the WB, professor Ding Yibing, dean of School of Economics, Jilin University, highlighted that since 2016, China, as a bilateral creditor, has been responsible for roughly 16 percent of global debt relief, surpassing the United States and the WB, adding that China's debt reduction has already doubled the average reduction scale of the G7 countries.

"Among G20 members, China has provided the largest debt relief overall," said Ding. "However, China's proportion of debt to Africa as a whole is not high. Multilateral financial institutions and commercial creditors hold the highest share of debt. Even without China's debt, these countries still face high debt pressure."

WHO'S TO BLAME?

In recent years, various factors such as the U.S. Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes, global commodity price cycles, the economic structures of certain developing nations, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis have led to a liquidity shortage. This has severely constrained the repayment capacity of some developing countries, leading to sovereign debt crises.

Therefore, placing blame on China for the debt crisis is unjust and misleading. A detailed case study of Pakistan can provide a clearer understanding of the situation.

The AP story said a dozen countries "most indebted to China," including Pakistan, "found paying back that debt is consuming an ever-greater amount of the tax revenue needed to keep schools open, provide electricity and pay for food and fuel."

But for Ramay, "Pakistan under the burden of Chinese debt is not a true statement."

Considering all the funds that China has provided to Pakistan, including the safe deposits, it amounts to approximately 20 percent. "And as I mentioned, most money came as a swap. They are reserves in Pakistani banks to avoid default. The rest are concessional loans trying to help us create economic opportunities for more financial resources and revenue, which will help to avert our debt crisis," said Ramay.

"Our real problem is the foreign debt from the Western financial institutions. Pakistan cannot pay them back because they are high-interest loans. Some of them, like private debt, are even higher," said Ramay. "Pakistan also sold bonds in the Western market at a higher rate. Those all are causing real problems for Pakistan."

Take the textile industry. In its story, AP said, "In Pakistan, millions of textile workers have been laid off because the country has too much foreign debt and can't afford to keep the electricity on and machines running."

For Shahid Sattar, secretary general of the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association, the sector was hit by a "perfect storm" of a liquidity shortage caused by the significant change in rupee-dollar parity, delays in sales tax refunds and the cotton crop failure in Pakistan.

"But to blame it on China is completely absurd. China has been working with Pakistan to resolve our economic issues sustainably," Shahid said.

For Mfuni, former deputy head of the Zambian mission in Beijing, Chinese debt has the lowest interest rates, lower than Western and multilateral debt, the IMF, the WB and especially private lenders.

"Our biggest problem is not the Chinese debt but the vulture funds. They are not interested in debt forgiveness," but expect China to be, said Mfuni.

"I think we must be factual. The interest rates from Western lenders are higher ... Countries have been stuck paying the interest, and the principal remains unpaid for a long time. What does that represent? It represents the rate of exploitation," said Mfuni.

According to Lewis Ndichu, a researcher at the Africa Policy Institute in Nairobi, Kenya's debt challenges should not be attributed to China but to the spillover effects of the Ukraine crisis and global economic uncertainties.

"Kenya's debt dilemma is not a Chinese problem. It's not a China problem thing," said Ndichu.

Ndichu refuted the AP claim: "In Kenya, the last key miles of a railway were never built due to poor planning and a lack of funds." He said funding isn't the issue.

"China thought it was important to give African countries time to stabilize because we started paying back debt for the SGR (standard gauge railway) in 2020. The government is now able to reap the impacts of the SGR and is slowly on the right track regarding its debt sustainability for the SGR. When the time comes, especially now we have the new government, we can start on the second leg of the SGR," said Ndichu.

Economically vulnerable nations often fall victim to debt crises due to financial downturns transmitted by the West. From 2022, the U.S. monetary policy went from extreme looseness

to rapid interest rate hikes, which catalyzed the outbreak of debt problems in some poor countries.

With the dollar's dominance, the United States implemented rounds of quantitative easing and lowered interest rates to near zero, causing a significant inflow of low-interest dollars into Africa and emerging markets. However, it later increased interest rates aggressively, leading to a stronger dollar and capital outflows. Consequently, this resulted in a liquidity shortage, disrupted funding chains, currency depreciation, and a surge in sovereign debt, said Ye Jianru, associate professor at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies.

For Ye, also researcher at the Institute of African Studies of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, an unfair global financial system led by the United States is the root cause of Africa's debt problem.

The global financial governance system, centered on the U.S. dollar and institutions like the IMF and WB, puts African countries at a disadvantage. Africa has limited representation in the IMF and faces high financing costs due to bias from major rating agencies favoring the United States and Western countries.

As a result, African nations experience rapid credit rating downgrades and increased debt servicing expenses during liquidity challenges. Despite being the largest shareholder in the WB and IMF, the United States needs to take more action to address Africa's debt issues or offer viable solutions, said Ye.

Despite China not being the largest lender and offering unconditional debt relief, Western critics persist in spreading the "China debt trap" lie.

Song, from Beijing Foreign Studies University, highlighted the importance of how the West perceives China's rise as a new lending nation, whether with a competitive or cooperative attitude, which directly impacts mutual trust.

"Too often, Chinese loans are seen as neocolonialist. In fact, China does not lend simply for profits. It provides loans to foster progress and cooperation," said Song.

During his trip to Africa in January, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang said Africa's debt problem is essentially an issue of development and China's financing cooperation with Africa is mainly in areas such as infrastructure construction and production capacity, with a view to enhancing Africa's capacity for independent and sustainable development.

The so-called "debt trap" is a narrative trap imposed on China and Africa. Only the African people are in the best position to say whether cooperative China-Africa projects contribute to the development of the continent and the improvement of people's livelihood, he added. Enditem

(Li Li in Beijing, Meng Hanqi in Changchun, Jiang Chao and Misbah Saba Malik in Islamabad, Jin Zheng, Li Zhuoqun and Li Cheng in Nairobi, Peng Lijun in Lusaka, Lv Chengcheng in Luanda, Yu Qianliang in Jakarta, Che Hongliang in Colombo contributed to the report.)

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