



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

An Online Publication of PICS

<https://su.edu.pk/gleanings-from-national-press>

February 16-28, 2022

A pilot project of PICS

Table of Contents

01: February 16, 2022.....	03
02: February 17, 2022.....	12
03: February 18, 2022.....	22
04: February 19, 2022.....	27
05: February 20, 2022.....	32
06: February 21, 2022.....	36
07: February 22, 2022.....	39
08: February 23, 2022.....	43
09: February 24, 2022.....	49
10: February 25, 2022.....	50
11: February 26, 2022.....	51
12: February 27, 2022.....	55
13: February 28, 2022.....	55

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February 16, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan's rice exports to China increased 133% in 2021

Pakistan's export of rice to China (HS Code 1006) crossed \$400 million in 2021, up 133 percent year on year, and in the first five months of the last year once Pakistan remained the largest rice supplier to China. China Economic Net (CEN) reported this on Tuesday quoting official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Commercial Counselor of the Pakistan Embassy Beijing Badar uz Zaman previously said that in the next few years, his target is to achieve one million tons of rice. He desires that Pakistan will become the largest player in this market.

This year China imported about 973,000 tons of rice worth \$437 million from Pakistan. The seven new Pakistan rice exporters have been added to the approved list which has risen to 53 last year, and China relaxed import restrictions on Pakistani rice which helped rice export to China.

Commercial Counselor Badar uz Zaman told CEN that Pakistan has become the third-largest exporter of rice to China, added that they are using traditional and especially social media platforms to provide awareness about Pakistani rice in this market.

"We are also in discussion with the Chinese government for the technology transfer of sea rice because huge saline land along the coastal districts can be used for rice cultivation.

The Chinese have been successful in their experiments to use the saline land and we can learn this from China," Badar added. This year semi or wholly milled rice (Commodity Code 10063020) crossed about \$249 million, increased 85% as compared to last year, which followed by broken rice (Commodity Code 10064020) reached \$125 million, up 201% year on year. Badar further said that the number of Pakistani restaurants is increasing in China that helped Pakistani Basmati rice improve exports here, and Middle Eastern restaurants like Lebanese and Turkish restaurants also use Basmati rice. Previously there was no presence of Basmati rice because Chinese normally like the other varieties of rice, but now the Chinese buying power is being increased, and the tendency to use expensive products and special aromatic basmati rice will create a pull from the Chinese market.

Miss Xie working as a manager in a Pakistani restaurant is amazed that more Chinese customers are coming to eat Basmati rice because it's different from Chinese rice and it has a special fragrance. The grains remain separate after cooking.

Asif Jalil, owner of Little Lahore a famous restaurant in China told CEN that Thai Jasmine rice is very popular here because they created the demand in the Chinese market and now, they are capturing & enjoying the market, he added Pakistan still needs to work hard to grab the whole market because the Chinese market is too big.

“The quantity of Pakistani rice exported to China, at this moment does not represent the demand from the local consumers. It only tells that we let some of the consumers try Pakistani rice.

When this export grows over a certain period, then basically, we will be able to see the number of returning consumers to rightly quantify the growth in demand for Pakistani rice,” he added.

Pakistani rice exporters expressed that the shipping cost is too high due to COVID-19 and the price of rice in the domestic market goes up while the end-users are still buying on old rates. If they get subsidies or some incentives from the Chinese side, that would help increase much more exports of Pakistani rice to China.

They also said that 1121 Basmati Rice has very high quality in Pakistan but the price of this type of rice is the same as Indian traders are getting in the Chinese market, while quality has a huge difference, adding that the Pakistani government needs much more effort to increase further exports of rice because China is a very big market.

They also mentioned that right now IRRI-6, IRRI-9, semi or wholly milled rice and broken rice are the main varieties of rice that are exported to China while Basmati and other top varieties still need to work hard to capture the Chinese market.

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research (NFSR) Fakhra Imam said that last year Pakistan has the best rice production of around 9 million tons, which has helped Pakistan earn \$4.75 billion from rice exports, and he expected that 2022 will break all record of rice production and exports. It is also worth mentioning that the latest color sorter machines (technology) and seeds given by China to Pakistan to facilitate the sowing and improvement of rice grains helped increase rice exports to China and also around the world.

<https://dailymirror.com.pk/886338/pakistans-rice-exports-to-china-increased-133-in-2021/>

Dawn News

Steel makers want simple tax rules for Gwadar projects

KARACHI: Steel producers on Tuesday asked the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to remove the ambiguity in the sales tax rules due to which they have not been able to supply steel to tax-exempt mega projects in Gwadar including free zone and airport and others.

Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALSP) Secretary-General Syed Wajid Bukhari in a statement said that in the absence of a proper mechanism for availing sales tax exemption the producers could take benefit of this incentive.

He said the association has approached the FBR and recorded the industry’s concerns regarding the Sales Tax Rules 2006 and Chapter IV - Apportionment of Input Sales Tax, sub-rule (1) and sub-rule (2).

According to the sub-rule (1) of Chapter IV, the Sales Tax Rules disallow adjustment of sales tax paid at the input stage against any other supply.

Also, sub-rule 2 of Chapter IV says that the manufacturer shall not be entitled to adjust the input sales to the extent of exempted sales tax amount under this law, in any other supplies, which is contrary to the law as well as unjustified.

In a statement, he said the association has raised concerns regarding the relevant rule which interestingly aims at punishing the manufacturer and benefits the buyers only. Practically, the sales tax input amount equal to exempted amount is disallowed under this rule. As a result, the manufacturers are left with no choice to recover the amount of sales tax paid.

Mr Bukhari said the government has announced exemptions to the domestic industry for supplying world-class materials to the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Gwadar projects under CPEC, export processing zones (EPZs) and other big government projects to create more jobs and attract investment for local industry expansion.

But the ground reality is different. The contractors of the Gwadar Free Zones are not engaging the local companies to get steel supplies and are getting imported material, he deplored.

He urged the government to rectify the rules and take some urgent measures to enable the local steel industry to supply steel to such tax-exempt projects to ensure the domestic industry benefits from these mega projects.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1675360>

Pakistan Observer

Cabinet okays Saindak Mine lease extension to Chinese firm

Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar on Tuesday said the Federal Cabinet had approved extension of Saindak Mine lease to the Chinese company, already working on the project.

“As per the newly negotiated agreement, the government of Pakistan’s share in profit has increased from 50:50 to 53:47 in Pakistan’s favour,” he said in a series of tweets.

He said royalty to the Balochistan government was also enhanced from 5 per cent to 6.5 per cent of sales revenue, besides “social uplift support to the government of Balochistan from 5% to 6.5% of net profit & increase in annual rent by up to 40% (indexed with price),” he added.

The minister said the newly negotiated agreement was concluded in consultation with all the stakeholders including the provincial government.

In another tweet, Hammad said Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) would be taking over operation and working share from China Zenhua Oil in the Baska Block that spanned over 2500 square kilometer area in Dera Ismail Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan and Musa Khel area.

“The previous company was unable to carry out exploration for oil/gas in this terrain since 2007. PPL will do so now,” he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/cabinet-okays-saindak-mine-lease-extension-to-chinese-firm/>

Biodiversity & Karot Hydropower Project

Dr Nowsharwan

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a 3,000-kilometer-long route of infrastructure projects including the construction of dams and connects Xinjiang Region and the Gwadar Port. 720MW Karot Hydropower project is a milestone achieved after six years of construction.

The project will add more power to the energy sector by supplying electricity to about five million people in the country and will also help in reducing electricity prices. This project is also significant due to biodiversity and positive impact on the environment.

The leadership of Pakistan and China are committed to a green, clean and sustainable future for their countries. Prime Minister Imran Khan has termed the present decade as the “Decade of Dams”, where ten major dams are under construction.

The dams include Diamer-Bhasha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Dasu Hydropower Project, Kyal Khwar Dam, etc. These projects are scheduled to be completed one by one. These projects are just complementing other hydropower projects under the CPEC Framework.

On the other hand, during the opening session of APEC 2021, President Xi of China stated that “A sound eco-environment is the most basic public good that benefits all”. This shows the Chinese leadership’s willingness to work with international partners to solve the emerging climate issues.

Hydropower projects have a relationship to local biodiversity, the freshwater bodies on which they are built are home to significant species in the ecosystem.

As the largest renewable energy source, making up more than half of global renewable energy production, hydropower is part of the solution to protecting the planet’s biosphere – and all life on Earth – by decarbonizing the global economy.

The first hydropower Project under CPEC, 720MW Karot Hydropower Project is being developed by one of the world’s largest renewable energy companies “China Three Gorges”, on the Jhelum River, straddling AJK and the province of Punjab, falling in Kahuta sub-division in Punjab and District Kotli in AJK.

When completed, the power plant will generate 3.2 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, meeting the power demand of five million people.

It will also reduce 3.5 million metric tons of carbon emissions annually and save around 1.4 million tons of standard coal equivalent each year which as a result will effectively alleviate local power shortage and spur economic growth.

For the management of the environmental and social impacts associated with the development of the project, an Environmental & Social Impact Assessment was carried out in line with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) requirements as well as those of national laws and approved by the Environmental Protection agencies of AJK, Punjab and IFC.

The outcome of the ESIA study revealed that the Jhelum River and its tributaries include almost 43 fish species upstream of Mangla Reservoir that are essential breeding grounds for the aquatic habitat.

The construction of the project would affect the biodiversity of the project area, especially the aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

To mitigate and protect the biodiversity of the project area, a comprehensive Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) was developed for construction and operation stages of the project in line with the IFC's PS 6 and approved by the Governments of Punjab and AJK for implementation.

The BMP addresses regional biodiversity concerns and focuses on achieving 'No Net Loss' of the aquatic fauna under the International Finance Corporation's Performance Standard 6.

Since the exponential growth of Islamabad and Rawalpindi and the recent discussions relating to the protection of the Margalla Hills National Park in Islamabad, the general discussion regarding protection measures of other national parks around the country has kick-started.

Knowing the value of the biodiversity, Karot Project is also striving to protect nearby two National Parks namely Azad Pattan National Park notified by the Government of AJK, and the second is the Murree-Kahuta-Kotli Sattian (MKKS) National Park notified by the Government of Punjab.

These National Parks encircle the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi and are a source of ecological tourism and clean air for its residents. Both parks will add value to national tourism, forestation and campaigns for the construction of dams.

These two national parks are included in the Catchment Area of the reservoir of the Karot Hydropower Project. The reservoir of the Karot Project extends 27 Km upstream up to the Azad Pattan Bridge.

Overall major BMPs components included protecting the project area through Watch & Ward System; developing Sediment Mining Management Plan activities, and developing national Parks Management Plans through an inclusive implementation strategy that include Government Departments, Karot Project, and, most importantly, the local community. The Company engaged the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to implement the BMP.

IUCN has a presence worldwide with 50 offices and runs projects all around the world. The IUCN is a leader in environmental work in the country both at policy and community levels, working toward a sustainable future.

The conservation of nature and green infrastructure development is a global development path. This path is also aligned with the Green and Hi-quality Development of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Keeping in mind the expectations of the people of Pakistan, The Karot Project is pursuing its best endeavors to promote environmental and biodiversity protection at the Project.

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<https://pakobserver.net/biodiversity-karot-hydropower-project-by-dr-nowsharwan/>

BRI and EU Investment Plan in Africa: A Critical Analysis

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

OBSESSION of geopolitics has once again forced the European Union (EU) to make investment in the African Continent to compete with China's BRI.

The US sponsored and schemed China's containment policy has now been diverted and expanded even into African countries.

In this connection, the EU's sugar-coated so-called geo-economic shift towards Africa has actually inflated political intentions and geostrategic compulsions.

Moreover, the successful diplomatic trip of Wang Yi in the month of January 2022 has propelled "shock & awe" in the capitals of Europe and its aftershocks have even rattled Washington DC.

At the beginning of January, Morocco signed an accord with China facilitating the joint implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), making it the first North African country to do so. More nations in Africa are closely examining the new BRI implementation plan, with a view to developing similar plans of their own.

Morocco's geopolitical position, combined with China's rising global influence and economic success is injecting new energy into the Global South Cooperation Framework.

In this connection, the implementation plan between Morocco and China also sends a clear signal in the face of mounting geopolitical factors, that China sees Africa as a strategic partner and key economic hub, and will compete following international laws for fair access and free trade, built on a win-win strategy.

To counter Chinese heavy economic presence and to stop spells of accession ahead of the European Union-African Union summit set to kick off on February 17 2022, the EU is reportedly working on a 20 billion-euro (\$22.7 billion) financing plan to support so-called African development.

China's BRI, a multi-billion-dollar infrastructure investment platform, has positive economic implications for developing countries of the African Continent and the EU and USA are consistently overshadowed by political and national security concerns.

Despite Western propaganda BRI is now carrying out numerous mega projects of infrastructural development, railways, energy, industrialization and ICT in various countries of Africa which

are not posing any security threat to the EU and US. Thus geopolitical externalities are of secondary concern to the receiving states.

In the near past, the EU unveiled its “Global Gateway” project which is seen as a European alternative to China’s BRI.

In December 2021 the 27-member bloc announced it would mobilise up to €300 billion (US\$343.5 billion) in public and private investment around the world by 2027. Working out to €60 billion a year, the funds would be used to help emerging economies heal from the coronavirus pandemic which has pushed many African countries into debt distress.

Europe is not alone in wanting to overshadow China’s BRI. The US also announced its own initiative, “Build Back Better World” (B3W), at the G7 summit in June 2021.

Now the EU announced a scheme which is the first regional plan from the European Union’s Global Gateway.

It will use funding from EU institutions and member countries to leverage private-sector investment. It will be earmarked for renewable energy, reducing the risk of natural disasters, internet access, transport, vaccine production and education in Africa.

Speaking at a press conference in the Senegalese capital Dakar, von der Leyen told reporters she was “proud” to announce plans for Africa, where the aim was to amass at least €150 billion in investment.

The EU’s website says money under the Global Gateway will be earmarked for so-called “smart, lean and secure links” in communications and transport and for boosting health, education and research. Von der Leyen, President of the powerful executive European Commission, arrived in Africa to prepare for a summit between the EU and the African Union on February 17-18.

Speaking to press before arriving in Senegal, von der Leyen warned that foreign investment in Africa too often came with “hidden costs” attached.

Most recently, China hosted the 8th Forum on China and Africa Cooperation where the “China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035” involving \$60 billion of investment was presented, as well as the “Dakar Action Plan” (2022-2024) which foresees in “at least” €9 billion worth of investment in Senegal alone.

Thus China is serious about the economic development of Africa. To conclude the EU Global Gateway (EGG) is predominately a politically motivated project which does not have any resemblance with China proposed BRI. Thus it is another failed attempt of the EU to “counter China’s reach in the Continent. Thus the pure economic concept of shared prosperity and community development is badly missing in the EU Investment plan of Africa.

According to the EU, the new Africa investment plan covers a wide array of areas, ranging from transport networks, energy, digital and education to health projects; however, EU member states

“have yet to commit to financing the infrastructure plans which are urgently needed in various African countries.

Thus its economic significance is narrowed and mired with certain geopolitical goals. On the other hand, due to weak global economic prospects the EU bloc and many other countries now do not have enough surplus funds to support these projects in Africa. It seems that the real issue of the EU Africa investment plan has geopolitical motives.

It is a bitter reality that many European countries and the US all have long shamed & shamle histories in the African Continent.

France and the UK were once the two largest colonial empires in the Continent, plundering resources and ruthlessly exploiting African people. All the colonized countries of the EU have treated Africans as their personal slaves in the past.

Unfortunately, even today, colonialism is still deeply rooted in Western mentality regarding Africa, with their eyes fixated on the Continent’s resources and material. The growth of African countries and the livelihood of African people are never on the priority list of the hypocritical Western powers.

Now there is an economic competition between the Chinese concept of shared prosperity and the EU’s perpetual colonialization, Chinese economic generosity and the EU’s genocides, Chinese community development and the EU’s discrimination towards African Blacks and last but not the least Chinese spirit of cooperation and coordination and the EU’s evil spirit of conspiracy and conflicts.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-eu-investment-plan-in-africa-a-critical-analysis-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

Beijing was once Lahore

Beijing’s air quality management system is supported by monitoring and evaluation

The people of Lahore have their life years slashed by five years! On average the citizens of Lahore are losing about five years of life expectancy due to hazardous air quality, as reported by the University of Chicago. Once the city of vibrance, Lahore now has a dubious distinction for being a city with one of the worst air qualities in the world!

As one of the most populated cities in the world, Lahore has expanded four times its size in the past two decades due to migration. Migration not only brings people but also vehicles causing air and noise pollution. The air quality index in Lahore at one point this year went up to 440. For reference, the worst possible is 500.

Taking a stroll in the city one finds a thick layer of dust covering trees that line Lahore’s streets and its famous gardens. All around the city, visibility is low. The smog makes it hard to breathe, even with a mask.

Smog is caused by various air pollutants which are introduced to the environment by burning the low-grade fuel and crop residue along with the general waste on roadsides. Brick kilns play a detrimental role in emitting toxic smoke. Also, the burning of stubs of crops and the smoke emitting from vehicles cause the particles to suspend in the air.

Poor fuel quality and furnace oil used to produce power in thermal power plants add to the menace. Unfortunately, Lahore is surrounded by at least eight thermal power plants, including Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, which uses coal. Pakistan adopted the Pak-2 fuel-quality standards in 1998, but uniformity in implementation has never been evaluated.

Beijing can play a role model. Twenty years on Beijing's air quality has improved substantially, and the lessons learned to provide a roadmap for other cities tackling air pollution.

Beijing's air quality management system is supported by monitoring and evaluation, pollution source apportionment and emission inventories, all of which seem missing at home. It also contains comprehensive legal standards and strict environmental law enforcement. Air quality work is supported by economic policies, public participation, and coordination on air pollution prevention and control in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. Coal-fired pollution control and vehicle emission controls are the keys.

Beijing was once as polluted as Lahore today. The people of Lahore can be thought of as living in a big cylinder of toxic gases piercing into their eyes, nose and lungs and cutting short their lives.

However, if you have visited Beijing lately, one finds it hard to believe that this city had one of the worst air qualities in the world. Lahore can do what Beijing has done already.

Beijing has shown what is possible, their efforts benefit health, sustainable development and our shared climate and far outweigh the cost of doing nothing. In Pakistan, hazardous air quality is forcing the government to shut down schools; students and teachers are falling sick unprecedentedly; and outdoor activities are being restrained, especially in big cities. Online classes must be a permanent option to reduce a load of traffic on the roads. Improving the fuel quality, planting trees and using advanced scrubbers will gradually improve the air quality and will be the first step towards 'smog-free' Lahore.

The government envisions the Import of Euro-4 oil, and converting petrol buses to electricity and CNG to guarantee less air pollution. Oil refineries are already given three years to improve their technologies for a better refining process. Loans will be offered to convert kilns on the zigzag technology and lastly to import machinery that would uproot the crops residue and plant more trees in Lahore. But these need to be more than on paper.

Individually using carpooling or hybrid cars, stopping burning waste materials and focusing on planting more trees can help. In the short run to combat irritation, headaches and discomfort, wear recommended masks and only go outside when it is highly necessary for the smog condition. Inaction is criminal now. Remember. Beijing was once Lahore!

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2343650/beijing-was-once-lahore>

K2 Daily News



مطلوبہ ہونے پر کامیاب امیدواروں کو اپنی زبان کا
 طبیعت چینی کیا جائے گا اور یہ کہ مطابق ایچ
 چین ایچ آر ڈی کے ایک بلڈ سے تیار کیا جائے
 ظاہر کی گئی ہے اور یہ ہے جو پہلے ہی چین کے مختلف
 طبی اداروں میں داخلہ ملے چکے ہیں۔ اگلے دنوں
 کے 1 کورسنگ میں اپنی تعلیم کے آغاز میں ان
 کی مدد کرے گا۔ سی ڈی ای اگلے دنوں کے 2 اگلے
 دنوں کے 3 کورسنگ کر رہا ہے۔ گواڈار سے
 منظر کرتے ہوئے سی ڈی ای کے ڈائریکٹر
 پر دیکھ کر اگلے دنوں کے ایک کے دوسرے
 سرٹیکو وٹھو اور ای ٹی ایم کی راجداری ضروری ہے
 ہونے سے یہ کہا کہ چین پاکستانی طور کے لیے ایک
 چیلنڈر بن گیا ہے۔

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

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

February 17, 2022

Daily Times

Gwadar extensively reduced distance and transport cost: study

Gwadar Sea Port has extensively reduced distance and transport cost, according to a study published in World General of Advance Transportation and reported by Gwadar Pro. The report says Gwadar will be an alternative, safe, short, and inexpensive route to trade with Europe and Middle East countries.

Through Gwadar, China will not only save travel time but can also save billions of dollars in transport costs. The research showed that transport cost for the 40-foot container between Kashgar and destination ports in the Middle East is decreased by about USD 1450 and for destination ports in Europe is decreased by USD 1350.

Additionally, travel time is decreased by 21 to 24 days for destination ports in the Middle East and 21 days for destination ports in Europe. The distance from Kashgar to destination ports in the Middle East and Europe is decreased by 11,000 to 13,000km.

The most important benefit for China under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would be the decrease of China's trade way from the existing sea route of 12,000 kilometers to 2,000 kilometers. The oil consignments from Gulf nations would be transported to China via Pakistan, while non-oil imports could be transported to the world by Gwadar as a transport route.

Researchers believe that due to the construction and improvement of the land route, physical distance and travel time between Pakistan and China will fall significantly and the GDP of both economies will be increased sharply. The advantages for China in trade will happen not only in the decrease in travel time and distance but also through the linkage with the larger market. In addition, the development in worldwide trade flows and a considerable shift are expected in the trade between various regions of Pakistan and China.

The research report represents the fact that China will save about USD 71 billion from the new CPEC route on its imports and exports in terms of shipping costs from selected destination countries from Europe and the Middle East. On the other hand, the local industry and services sector in Pakistan along the route will also benefit. Trade activities along the route will create thousands of job opportunities.

Moreover, the Central Asian states are also looking to connect with the world through Gwadar Port. They showed interest in Gwadar Port and allied facilities. CPEC, therefore, is considered a game-changer for the entire region. It will not only benefit Pakistan and China but also the Middle East, Europe, and noncoastal Central Asian countries.

Land-locked Central Asian countries like Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Afghanistan would get the advantage of the shortest seaway from the Gwadar port.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/886888/gwadar-extensively-reduced-distance-and-transport-cost-study/>

Beijing Winter Olympic Games promote non-politicizing of sports

Beijing Winter Olympics helped a lot promoting non-politicizing of sports, global vaccine drive, public health, development of BRI, cooperation under CPEC and multilateralism, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday.

At the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games 2022, President Xi held a series of high-level in-person meetings with multiple dignitaries for the first time since the pandemic.

The Beijing Olympics 2022 provided a golden opportunity for China to simultaneously host international dignitaries, including the head of states and many representatives of international organizations on the sidelines of the opening ceremony.

This kind of interaction may as well bridge the diplomatic gap caused by the global pandemic. China offered physical interaction amongst Chinese and global leaders. It further gives confidence to other leaders to embark on state visits under strict pandemic control measures.

President Xi engaged foreign dignitaries in a tight schedule during a long streak of meetings. The notable dignitaries, including the Secretary-General of the UN, President of the International Olympics Committee, President of Russia, Prime Minister of Pakistan, and Presidents of all Central Asian Republics.

During the bilateral meetings, a wide range of agendas covered the non-politicizing of sports, global vaccine drive, public health, development of BRI, cooperation under CPEC, and multilateralism. China took the foreign leaders into confidence over its core interests, including the One China policy, protection of human rights in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, and security of BRI.

President Xi separately met with Secretary-General United Nations Antony Gutter and President of IOC Thomas Bach to discuss the importance of sports in promoting public health. President IOC Thomas Bach insinuated that the Winter Olympics are the New Year gift for the Chinese people.

The Secretary-General of the UN also appreciated China for the fulfillment of international health commitments during the entire mega event. During the meeting with the President of Russia, both leaders expressed their trust and confidence in each other and reiterated the need of close cooperation.

As China and Russia have been coordinating closely on strategic issues in the world, both stand for justice and fair practices in the world. The meetings with leaders of Central Asia were focused on cooperation in areas of trade, economy, energy, sports, security, and countering extremism.

The BRI and its pilot project CPEC was discussed at length with Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, where progress on the second phase of development was reviewed. It is worth mentioning that both states are strategic partners and coordinate with each other on all regional and global issues.

Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan also met with his Chinese counterpart. PM Imran hails the Chinese development model and intends to replicate it in Pakistan to bring people out of poverty. Both sides also issued an important statement at the end of the meetings. Most significantly creating a path for a shared future for humanity has remained the epitome of China's foreign policy, as the main theme of the winter Olympic games was the "shared future of mankind" to promote the sense of togetherness and prosperity.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/886881/beijing-winter-olympic-games-promote-non-politicizing-of-sports/>

Pakistan Observer

Senate body discusses proposal to setup LNG terminal at Gwadar

Senate Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs on Wednesday discussed the proposal to establish LNG import Terminals at Gwadar Port and virtual LNG pipeline (Vehicle based) to allow additional future LNG imports through Gwadar Port in detail received for installation of LNG terminals at Gwadar port.

The committee was briefed about the status of these applications and the stance of GPA on the same. Chairman GPA informed that the Gwadar Port Master Plan offers a detailed plan and dedicated location for establishment of LNG Terminals and associated onshore and offshore installations.

He said LNG terminals can be established at the dedicated location as per approved Gwadar Port Master Plan. The Chairperson Committee deferred the matter for further deliberation during the next meeting.

The committee held today at parliament house while Senator Rubina Khalid was on chair. The committee reviewed the development & non-development budget allocated, and its utilization by the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and its attached departments, during first six months of Financial year 2021-22.

It was apprised that the up-gradation of Berthing Facilities for Boats at Gwadar has physically progressed by 100 percent with an allocation budget of Rs37.975 million.

Other projects include construction of Eastbay Express, Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute at Gwadar and Acquisition of Marine Services Vessels for Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) with 93pc, 90pc and 85 pc physical progresses.

Rehabilitation of Leading Light Tower, Gwadar is also in progress by 40pc with an allocated budget of 20.590 Million Rupees. The committee also reviewed the budget allocation and expenditure for the financial year 2021-22, the committee was informed that a budget of Rs1190 million is allocated for the year 2021-22.

<https://pakobserver.net/senate-body-discusses-proposal-to-setup-lng-terminal-at-gwadar/>

World beyond Beijing Winter Olympics

Naghmana A Hashmi

THE phenomenal strength and speed of rise of China has fundamentally altered rules of interstate engagement not only for developing world but also for the developed and politically established powers including the US and Europe.

With its strong and sustained economic power which gives it the requisite strength to pursue its geopolitical and geostrategic agenda, China's political outreach has increased manifold.

2. China is a prime example of geo-economic tools being put to effective use for protecting and enhancing geopolitical and geostrategic gains in the region and beyond.

The significance of geo-economics therefore, as an effective and preferred instrument to achieve geopolitical and geostrategic goals has established itself in a fast changing world.

China's Belt and Road Initiative, of which the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the flagship project, is exactly in line with this new trend. China today has emerged as a strong and an effective practitioner of this evolving trend

3. While China is set to overtake the USA as the largest economy in the coming years, Brazil and India among BRIC nations have suffered due to COVID 19, particularly India where the inability and inefficiency of the Modi government has seriously questioned the economic and political stability of India, delaying if not diminishing its chances of emerging as one of the pillars of multipolar world in the near future.

The U.S.A on its part is trying new strategies and alliances to contain China and retard if not limit its growing influence in the region and beyond that has given rise to concepts of Indo-Pacific as a political and security construct and alliances like QUAD and ANGUS, heralding in uncertainties and insecurities particularly in our region and sparking fears of new cold war.

4. In this state of uncertainty and geopolitical flux, the U.S.A Strategic Competition Act 2021 was passed by the US parliamentarians that includes measures not only to address the economic competition with China, but also humanitarian and democratic values, such as imposing sanctions over the treatment of the minority Muslim Uighurs and supporting democracy in Hong Kong.

The bill seeks to counter the expanding global influence of the People's Republic of China by formalizing the policy objective of the United States to "sustain its global leadership role" and declaring that the Chinese government is leveraging its political, diplomatic, economic, military, technological and ideological power to compete with the United States on a global stage.

5. On the other hand, globalization has increased the interdependence of sovereign states. In this new world of trade and supply chains, scientific and technological advances, demographic shifts and migration issues due to economic reasons; and new alignments among Asian, African and Southern and Central American countries, the emergence of strong trading blocs, stringent financial laws, intellectual property rights etc. are apparently making the use of economic power more effective and relevant.

6. In today's economically inter-dependent world therefore, the use of geo-economic tools including targeted sanctions by developed countries on a variety of pretext including human rights and environmental concerns, are becoming more effective.

In recent decades we have seen geo-economics tools being increasingly put into practice for protecting and enhancing geopolitical and geostrategic interests. US sanctions against Iran, Pakistan, North Korea, Venezuela, China, etc are all examples of economic pressure employed for geopolitical gains.

7. Many scholars of world politics believe that the emerging trend of geo-economics, particularly its actual practice by China, is questioning the political and governance models in vogue in the Western world.

They believe that President Xi's model is not only propagating a geo-economic order as an alternative to neo-liberalism but also offers a political alternative to liberal democracy.

China advocates a diverse and multipolar world—a balance of power among large regional blocks that would prevent any single one of them from dominating the emerging world order.

8. COVID 19 pandemic has added another dimension and has further challenged the standard tools of geopolitics.

There is no example of a pandemic that has put the political and governance systems of states, their administrative capabilities, and their economic fundamentals, the strength of their health infrastructure, the resilience and discipline of the people as COVID 19.

Here again we saw how the economic strength, superb governance capabilities, agility of the enterprises and organizations to quickly adapt to new challenges and requirement, the faith and trust of the people in the leadership and tremendous national discipline, among other factors, helped China not only survive the pandemic but scuttle the brutal attempts to alienate, stigmatize and malign it. In contrast 2020-2021 clearly brought to the fore the inequalities, lack of clarity and financial and governance capabilities of developed world of liberal democracies.

We saw how one developed country after another descended into political, economic and governance chaos questioning the effectiveness of the liberal democracies in times of great emergencies

9. China on the other hand successfully used its economic and production strength to emerge as the world leader in provision of COVID related PPEs and ventilators amassing good will from around the world particularly in the developing world struggling to cope with the pandemic.

The expeditious development and distribution of COVID vaccine around the world also exhibited the strength of the political, economic, governance and administrative capabilities of China. It would therefore not be an exaggeration to say that put its geo-economics ‘COVID diplomacy’ to superb use to protect geopolitical interests.

10. The diplomatic boycott of the Winter Beijing Olympics by the U.S.A and its Western allies is a practical manifestation of the changing geo-strategic and geo-economic orientation and an effort by the Western block to challenge China in all spheres of activity in an effort to delay if not to stop the certain rise and rejuvenation of China by 2049 when it marks the 100 years of the establishment of the people’s republic of China.

Pakistan made a principled decision to participate in the Winter Olympics and Prime Minister sent a strong and unequivocal signal that Pakistan was not for the politicization of sports and that Pakistan stood firmly with its time-tested, All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partner and Iron brother China.

11. The visit also provided an excellent opportunity to exchange views on the important global, regional bilateral developments and chart out a clear direction for the further strengthening of the bilateral relationship in all spheres.

With a strong emphasis on economic cooperation and investments, the visit put an end to speculations that CPEC was getting slow or that there was some kind of a cooling of relations between the two iron brothers.

12. The diplomatic boycott by the western world of the Beijing Winter Olympics clearly demonstrated that shifting the gear or focus from Geo-politics to geo-economics as a tactic does not necessarily mean changing or compromising national interest goals.

It only means changing the tools from hard military power to achieve the same geopolitical goals through applying geo economic tools. It however, remains to be seen whether the system being spearheaded by China will be successful or the world would revert to hard military prowess.

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<https://pakobserver.net/world-beyond-beijing-winter-olympics-by-naghmana-a-hashmi/>

Pak-China industrial cooperation framework and beyond

Syed Wajahat Ali

PAKISTAN'S economy needs a push in the form of FDI to bounce back. Clouded in geo-strategic storms and political instability, however, attracting FDI towards Pakistan is a tough row to hoe.

Nevertheless, China's massive economic explosion outwards is a tide of time, if surfed intelligently, it can galvanize the industrial transformation in Pakistan.

The challenge is to collaborate sustainably and comprehensively — by liberating the conception and execution of the whole process from desperate fallouts — within and without.

Furthermore, the operational mechanics of the partnership need expansion with a precise analysis of variables identifying stakeholders from both countries with their needs, potentials, and terms of engagement under a liberal investment regime.

As CPEC entered its second phase which primarily revolves around Special Economic Zones (SEZs) development, industrialization, FDI generation and stronger B2B ties between both sides, with special emphasis on industrial relocation from China, the need for a comprehensive Framework Agreement became imperative for an objective-oriented roadmap.

Similar agreements have also been signed for Early Harvest CPEC Projects on Energy & Infrastructure.

In 2016, the Board of Investment (BOI) was designated as the lead agency of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC from the Pakistani side and the National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC) from the Chinese side.

NRDC represents the main state organ of China responsible to formulate strategies; playing a leading role in implementing and coordinating China's "go global" strategy through BRI.

In 2018, BOI initiated the process of drafting a Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation, which was hoped to be signed in the 8th JCC meeting held in the same year at Beijing.

However, due to paucity of time, negotiations could not be concluded between the parties and only an MoU was signed which formed the basis for future engagements under the ambit of Industrial Cooperation.

In 2019, BOI established the Project Management Unit CPEC Industrial Cooperation Development Project (PMU-CPEC-ICDP) with PSDP funding.

Due to lack of sufficient regular BOI staff, it became imperative that a dedicated PMU may be established to spearhead BOI's Industrial Cooperation initiatives.

Resuming the BOI's efforts from 2018, the PMU-CPEC-ICDP, under the supervision of Project Director, Asim Ayub, who is a dedicated Civil Servant from Pakistan Administrative Service with the sapient guidance of the BOI leadership, took up the matter with NDRC to kickstart the negotiations on the Framework Agreement.

In this regard, a draft was prepared after in-house deliberations and circulated amongst the Federal and Provincial stakeholders for their valuable input.

Similarly, a series of consultative forums were also organized by PMU whereby all concerned quarters were invited from the public and private sectors.

The idea was to devise an all-inclusive framework that should be a focused document yet encompassing all the envisaged ideas to create industrial competitiveness in Pakistan.

Approval of the Federal Cabinet to sign the framework was sought a day prior to PM's departure to China on 3 February 2022 and the Framework finally saw the light of the day, which was signed on 4 February 2022.

The agreement envisages the prioritized development and operations of the nine CPEC Special Economic Zones, Establishing the Industrial Cooperation Fund for win-win projects and relocation of Chinese and third-country industries.

It envisions the design of a business-to-business matchmaking mechanism for Pakistani and Chinese enterprises to relocate manufacturing establishments and to achieve an effective operational capacity for these Special Economic Zones.

The agreed framework also anticipates an extended and multi-layered collaboration in Skill Development, FDI attraction for Pakistan, Industrial Diagnosis and Technical Assistance, Technology Transfer, joint global marketing of the multi-sectoral corporate prospects linked with SEZs, industry concentration in priority sectors: Iron & Steel, Mines & Minerals, Textile, Petrochemicals, and last but not the least, the promotion of cultural and institutional liaison between the two countries.

The document encapsulates a vast opportunity horizon both horizontally and vertically. The impactful execution of this framework demands four steps to be taken without any delay.

Firstly, Pakistan constitutes a devolved federal structure. The execution arms of different policies in industry regulations, mines and minerals, revenue and land acquisition, environment and general administration rest with provincial departments.

The efficient coordination mechanism between BOI and provincial departments needs a Legislative Framework to decrease the operational frictions at functional levels.

Secondly, systematic outreach to small and large enterprises is needful to develop a sound opportunity base before fabricating the prescribed multi-sectoral investment models.

Constituting a Strategic Incubation Cell with a representation of federal and provincial agencies and business experts; tasked to assist, guide, regulate and monitor local enterprises in developing business plans, feasibility studies, technical reports, surveys, market analysis, recovery, risk, and profit assessment tools, can bridge the glaring capacity gap between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises.

The proposed cell would aim to centralize the opportunity pool with enhanced credibility and to bring the capacity of host enterprises at par with their foreign counterparts.

Thirdly, it is imperative to devise an objective strategy to implement the second phase of CPEC with a sustainable bandwidth.

The third step required is to design out-of-box marketing initiatives to pitch cooperation in the readily available areas aiming to have a larger trickle-down impact on human development by reducing unemployment and poverty.

Tapping indigenous potential in agriculture, mining and tourism, skill and technology transfer in priority areas, identification and provision of cheap raw material to attract speedy manufacturing relocations, and targeted academic and cultural linkages are important steps to ensure an inclusive and progressive implementation of this framework.

Fourthly, a strategy is vital to ensure that internal political instability and law-in-order should least interject the trajectory of cooperation.

China's business model is highly pragmatic with no tolerance for uncertain profits and recoveries.

Afghanistan's situation, rampant political polarization and rising extremism are frictions to be overcome by considering all available options to protect logistics and foreign citizens involved in these projects.

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<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-industrial-cooperation-framework-and-beyond-by-syed-wajahat-ali/>

Nawaiwaqt News

وزیر اعظم کا دورہ چین اور متوقع دورہ روس

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کو بیرونی محاذ پر کامیابیاں ہو رہی ہیں اور اپوزیشن کا یہ طعنہ اپنی موت آپ مر چکا ہے کہ پاکستان سفارتی تنہائی کا شکار ہے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کو چین کے دورے کی دعوت ملی اور وہ ایک بڑے وفد کے ساتھ وہاں گئے، اولمپک کھیلوں اپنی جگہ لیکن وزیر اعظم کو پہلے چینی وزیر اعظم نے ملاقات کا وقت دیا اور پھر اگلے ہی روز چین کے صدر نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان سے تفصیلی ملاقات کی۔ چینی سرمایہ کاروں کے ایک بڑے گروپ کے ساتھ بھی وزیر اعظم کی ویڈیو لنک پر ملاقات ہوئی جس میں وزیر اعظم نے انہیں بتایا کہ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے حالات انتہائی سازگار ہیں، سی پیک کارڈ مکمل ہونے کو ہے، گوادر بندر گاہ بن چکی ہے اور اب گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ پر تیزی سے کام جاری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی سرمایہ کاران مواقع سے فائدہ اٹھائیں اور مختلف صنعتی زون میں پروجیکٹ لے کر آئیں، جہاں ون ونڈو سسٹم کے تحت ان کو ہر قسم کی سہولت فراہم کی جائے گی۔ چینی سرمایہ کاروں نے گوادر میں تین منصوبوں کے معاہدوں پر دستخط کیے جو کہ پاکستان کیلئے ایک بھاری سرمایہ کاری کا باعث ہوں گے۔ ان سے صنعت کا پیہ بھی حرکت میں آئے گا، کاروبار بھی چلے گا اور نیاروز گار بھی پیدا ہوگا۔ پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی وقت کی آزمائش پر ہمیشہ پوری اتری ہے۔ یہ دوستی ہماریلیہ سے بلند اور سمندروں سے زیادہ گہری ہے اور قراقرم کی چوٹیوں کی طرح پختہ اور مستحکم ہے۔ مگر کیا کیا جائے پاکستانی اپوزیشن کا، جو چھوٹی چھوٹی بات کا ہنگامہ بنا لیتی ہے، داسو ڈیم پر چینی ورکروں پر فائرنگ ہوئی تو ظاہر ہے وقتی طور پر ڈیم کا کام رک گیا جس پر اپوزیشن نے بغلیں بجانا شروع کر دیں اور یہ رٹ لگادی کہ چین بھاگ گیا کیونکہ پاکستان میں بد امنی کا دور دورہ ہے۔ لیکن وقت نے دیکھا کہ اسی داسو ڈیم پر چینی ورکروں نے نئے عزم و ہمت کے ساتھ کام کا آغاز کر دیا ہے اور ملکی اپوزیشن خاک چاٹ رہی ہے۔ پچھلے چند برسوں سے چونکہ سی پیک کے انفراسٹرکچر پر کام جاری تھا یعنی سڑکیں بن رہی تھیں، شاہراہیں بن رہی تھیں، موٹرویز مکمل ہو رہی تھیں، پل تعمیر ہو رہے تھے، بندر گاہ اور ایئر پورٹ پر کام جاری تھا، ان حالات میں سرمایہ کاری کا عمل عام طور پر سست ہو جاتا ہے، لیکن جیسے ہی سارا انفراسٹرکچر مکمل ہوا تو فیصل آباد دھابئی اور ریشمی کے صنعتی زونز میں چینی سرمایہ کاروں نے تیزی سے منصوبے مکمل کیے، وزیر اعظم کے حالیہ دورے میں سرمایہ کاری کے نئے ایم او یوز پر دستخط کیے گئے ہیں اور وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ یہ بھی مسیجور ہو جائیں گے۔

چین کے ساتھ تعلقات کا اصل بیانیہ تجارت اور صنعت کاری نہیں بلکہ دیکھنا یہ ہے کہ اسٹریٹجک سطح پر دونوں کا اشتراک کس حد تک ہے۔ وزیر اعظم کے دورے نے ثابت کیا ہے کہ اس پہلو سے بھی پاکستان اور چین ایک ساتھ کھڑے ہیں۔ چین ایک صنعتی ایبیلٹی بن چکا ہے، اس نے تین براعظموں کو تجارتی روابط میں استوار کرنے کے لیے ”ون ویٹ و ن روڈ“ کا منصوبہ بھی شروع کر رکھا ہے مگر امریکہ اور یورپ کو چین کی تیز رفتار کاروباری ترقی ایک آنکھ نہیں بھاتی۔ اس لیے ایک طرف بھارت کو انگلیت کر کے چین سے لڑنے بھڑنے پر مجبور کر دیا گیا ہے اور دوسری طرف چین کے جنوبی سمندر میں بڑے پیمانے پر فوجی نقل و حرکت جاری ہے۔ چین میں اولمپک گیمز کے ساتھ ساتھ یہ بھی واضح ہو گیا کہ بڑی طاقتوں کی سازشوں کا مقابلہ کرنے کے لیے چین خطے میں تنہا نہیں ہے، پاکستان کی ایٹمی طاقت بھی اس کے شانہ بشانہ کھڑی ہے اور روس نے بھی ٹم ٹھونک کر چین کا ساتھ دینے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ اس پس منظر میں وزیر اعظم کا دورہ چین بے حد اہمیت اختیار کر جاتا ہے اور اس سے ایک ایسا تاثر ملا ہے کہ چین، پاکستان اور افغانستان کا دوستی کا ایک پرانا محاذ نئے سرے سے سرگرم عمل ہونے والا ہے۔ دوسری طرف ٹریڈ پالیسی کے آثار بھی واضح طور پر نظر آرہے ہیں۔ یعنی افغانستان کے تمام ہمسائے پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر افغانستان کی بد حالی اور بربادی پر قابو پانے کی کوشش کریں گے۔ اس ضمن میں اسلامی کانفرنس کے وزرائے خارجہ کے ایک غیر معمولی اجلاس کو بھی ذہن میں رکھنا چاہئے جو حال ہی میں اسلام آباد میں منعقد ہوا۔ اس اجلاس میں تمام اسلامی ممالک نے پاکستان کے اشتراک کے ساتھ افغان مسائل کو حل کرنے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا تھا۔

وزیر اعظم کے چینی دورے کا ایک نتیجہ یہ بھی سامنے آیا ہے کہ روسی صدر پوٹن نے عمران خان کو اپنے ملک کے دورے کی دعوت دے دی ہے۔ روس کی اس دعوت سے واضح ہوتا ہے کہ اس نے بھارت کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات کو پس پشت ڈالتے ہوئے پاکستان کی طرف ہاتھ بڑھایا ہے اور یہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی بڑی کامیابی ہے کہ وہ اسلامو فوبیا پر ایک واضح نظر یہ رکھتے ہیں اور روسی صدر پوٹن نے انہیں یقین دلایا ہے کہ وہ عمران خان کے نقطہ نظر کی حمایت میں آواز بلند کریں گے۔ کریملن نے اس دورے کی تصدیق کر دی ہے اور اب اس کی صرف تاریخوں کا تعین کرنا باقی ہے۔ چین کے بعد روس کا دورہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے لیے کسی بڑی تھکی سے کم نہیں۔ اس دورے سے پاکستان کو اسٹریٹجک طور پر بھی کئی ثمرات ملیں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-17/page-10/detail-3>

February 18, 2022

Business Recorder

CCoCPEC approves several projects

NAVEED BUTT

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CCoCPEC), Thursday, approved several development projects including realignment of KKH from Thakot to Raikot, provision of utilities for CPEC Special Economic Zones (SEZ), implementation plan for vacation of Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) and Pakistan Navy (PN) land at Shamba Ismail, Gwadar and establishment of CPEC Business and Industrial Cooperation Tower.

The projects were approved during a meeting of CCoCPEC chaired by Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar at P-Block Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Omar Ayub Khan, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor, and other relevant stakeholders.

The first agenda item was realignment of KKH from Thakot to Raikot was discussed in length.

Secretary Ministry of Communication informed the meeting that PC-II for the realignment of KKH 250km was approved by the Departmental Development Working Party (DDWP) and after that NESPAK has engaged to carry out the feasibility study. He apprised the Committee that the engagement of Chinese consultancy team will be the responsibility of Chinese Government out of their funds and it will be considered as technical assistance to government of Pakistan.

The Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives directed Ministry of Communications specially the National Highways Authority (NHA) and the relevant stakeholders to meet the deadline, so development project could be completed in time.

During the meeting, the Minister for Planning has also given a deadline of 30 days to complete the game plan of Rashaki Special Economic Zone (SEZ), KPK, Dhabeji SEZ, Sindh, Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Punjab and Bostan SEZ, Balochistan, while reviewing the progress on provision of Utilities for CPEC Special Economic Zones (SEZ).

The meeting also discussed the implementation plan for vacation of PCG and PN land at Shamba Ismail Gwadar in length. The Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives directed the relevant stakeholders to hand over 52 acres land for projects. The meeting was informed that the concerned authority was interested to keep 20 acres land due to security reasons.

According to the sources, keeping in view the ground realities, PN's mandate for defence/security of Gwadar Port, following implementation/vacation plan was submitted for consideration of CCoCPEC: (i) PN is to coordinate with GPA and identify the location/coordinates of 20 acres of land at Shamba Ismail, Gwadar essential for seaward security;(ii) GPA is to transfer identified 20 acres of land at Shamba Ismail, Gwadar to PN ;(iii) PN while retaining possession of 20 acres of land, is to vacate remaining land at Shamba Ismail to transfer of 20 acres of land by GPA. Subsequently, GPA is to handover the land vacated by PN to concession holder and; (iv) in lieu of 20 acres' land awarded to, PN, GDA is to provide GPA 20 acres of land at alternate location. GPA is to coordinate to handing over land to concession holder.

The meeting also approved the establishment of CPEC Business and Industrial Cooperation Tower in Islamabad with Public Private Partnership basis and the Capital Development Authority (CDA) will be engaged for land acquisition. The Committee recommended Public-Private Partnership between the CDA and Chinese side.

The meeting was informed that under the project, eight multi-storey CPEC Towers in Gwadar, all provinces including in Islamabad will be established.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/18/1-page/919287-news.html>

PCJCC chief for vigorously tapping Chinese market

LAHORE: Wang Zihai, President Pak China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCC) said that China was a huge consumer market with increasing buying power, and there was a greater demand of all kinds of Pakistani commodities in China. Local exporters should vigorously tap the Chinese market by producing high-quality products and establishing good brands, stated by President PCJCCI during a think tank session which is held Wednesday at PCJCCI premises.

He added Pakistan should spare no efforts to further strengthen the Pakistan-China trade relations. He said country's exports to China increased by 34 percent to 2.33 billion dollars during the fiscal year 2020-2021 (July 1-June 30), as compared to 1.74 billion dollars in the previous fiscal year. Leather, textiles, seafood and agricultural products were among the major products exported to China during the period.

Wang Zihai also added that the traditional friendly relations between Pakistan and China had become more pragmatic and productive with time. A new awareness is seen among the Pakistani exporters, who previously preferred the European, US and other markets. These Pakistani

businessmen, with the help from the government, started to see the Chinese market opportunities. Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI said the Pakistan-China trade volume had shown an upward trajectory over the years. According to official figures from the Ministry of Commerce of Pakistan, in the year 2018 the trade volume between the two countries was 16.4 billion dollars, seeing a jump from 4.8 billion dollars in 2007. He added the recent upward trend in exports to China was encouraging. Pakistani manufacturers need to understand the Chinese market and should focus on improving the quality and standard of their products to be exported to China to further increase exports.

PCJCCI Vice President Sarfaraz Butt said China was the second-largest export destination for Pakistan and the government had been making all-out efforts to further boost exports to China by promoting industrialization in the country, providing special subsidies to the business community and working closely with the Chinese government and enterprises to get know-how about the Chinese market requirements.

In addition, the implementation of the second phase of the free trade agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and China last year had paved the way for the substantial and sustained growth of the bilateral trade, as Pakistani traders were now allowed to export 313 new products to the Chinese market on zero duty.

PCJCCI Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif said that under the previously-signed first phase of the pact, the country had been already enjoying zero duties on exports of over 700 products to China.

Besides, a number of Chinese companies have been cooperating with local enterprises to enhance their production capacity, quality and exports of Pakistani commodities by providing modern technology and equipment.

He also said that special economic zones being established under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would promote industrialization in the country and boost exports to not only China but other countries as well to help Pakistan to earn valuable foreign exchange. Pakistan also needs to make more presence in Chinese market by extensively advertising its characteristic products and actively participating in expos and events in China.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/18/4-page/919319-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan, China say Winter Olympics to promote peace, harmony worldover

Speakers from Pakistan and China at a webinar said Beijing Winter Olympics is an opportunity for the world to build and give peace a chance, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

There should not be any politics in sports as these games are to learn to coexist and develop a shared future for mankind. Boycotting such international games by a few countries is not

favorable, while the world is fighting gigantic challenges, including the pandemic and climate change.

These were the voices of the speakers from across the globe speaking during the webinar, hosted by the Friends of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Forum. In her welcome remarks, Farhat Asif, Co-Founder of the Forum has highlighted the significance of the platform by sharing that the aim is to build understanding through dialogue and effective communications through various initiatives.

Ambassador Masood Khalid, former envoy of Pakistan to China while speaking on the occasion said that China deserves all accolades for hosting one of the most outstanding Olympics in the time of the pandemic. He emphasized that the games should not be politicized and those doing it are not supporting the cause of development and peace in the world. He said that sports offered an opportunity to unite nations and create world solidarity.

Due to the presence of the world leaders at the inaugural ceremony, there was an opportunity to engage in meaningful bilateral exchanges. This has further cemented relations with other countries.

Song Ronghua, Founder of the Silk Road Cities Alliance said that sports keep the world healthy. Sports events like Winter Olympics allow people to unite, offer a common platform for athletes to build peace and synergy regardless of identity, language, and culture.

Professor Zhou Rong, Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China, said that the wide coverage of the Olympics through global media reflects the togetherness of the people from the world.

China's message is the way of hope, peace, and prosperity and for this, all nations should join hands with China to make the world a better place.

Sergey Sanakoev, President of the Asia-Pacific Research Center and Deputy Chairman of the Russian-Chinese Friendship Association, said that Olympic Games are ideal for diplomacy and the countries should avoid warmongering. In particular, he mentioned the ongoing issue on Ukraine and said that the Minsk Agreements should be applied in the true sense.

Indranandra Abeysekera, President of the Association for Sri Lanka-China Social and Cultural Cooperation, reiterated China's determination and will to build a shared future for all.

Furthermore, he said that despite the Covid-19 pandemic, China has successfully hosted this important global event.

Crystal Huang, Deputy Director, China Association for Promoting UN Procurement (CAPUNP), believed that people will overcome the challenges together for a shared future, referring to the official theme song of the Olympics.

Dr. Nadia Helmy, Associate Professor of Political Science at Beni Suef University in Egypt, said that regardless of different political opinions, it could not be denied that the games had been a

roaring success. The media has proved that the Beijing Winter Olympics has won global appreciation.

A large number of media professionals, students, and academicians from different parts of the world attended the webinar.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/887471/pakistan-china-say-winter-olympics-to-promote-peace-harmony-worldover/>

The Express Tribune

Ground-breaking of five industrial units performed

Industrial units with estimated investment of Rs800 million will generate more than 400 direct, 900 indirect jobs

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) on Industries and Investment, Abdul Karim Tordher Thursday performed groundbreaking of five industrial units at Mohmand Economic Zone.

He also inaugurated one industrial unit.

Secretary Industries K-P Zulfikar Ali Shah and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak and a large number of local industrialists were present on the occasion.

The newly inaugurated industrial units are Alam Ghee and Oil Mills Pvt Ltd, New Italian Marble Factory, MD Khan Marble Factory, Azmareez Marble Factory, and 3M Grinding Mill while the advisor also opened a mosque at the economic zone.

These industrial units with an estimated investment of Rs800 million will generate more than 400 direct and 900 indirect jobs after starting commercial production. The swift one-window approval mechanism and quick implementation by KPEZDMC is making Mohmand Economic Zone a fast emerging zone in industrial development.

The zone will invigorate industrial activities and uplift the socio-economic condition of the merged districts. This will create employment opportunities for the locals. Addressing the ceremony, Karim Khan said that the government is making all-out efforts for provision of conducive environment to investors and facilitating domestic and foreign investors.

He said that the provincial government is going to sign a formal memorandum of understanding with the Bank of Khyber (BoK) for provision of Rs20 million loans to businessmen through Rast Islamic banking and also providing a mineral sector specific loan for purchase of machinery to promote mechanized mining.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2344098/ground-breaking-of-five-industrial-units-performed>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین بڑی صارف مارکیٹ، ہر قسم کی پاکستانی اشیاء کی مانگ ہے: واٹگ زیہائی

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پی سی جے سی سی آئی کے صدر واٹگ زیہائی نے کہا کہ چین بڑھتی ہوئی قوت خرید کیساتھ ایک بہت بڑی صارف مارکیٹ ہے اور چین میں ہر قسم کی پاکستانی اشیاء کی زیادہ مانگ ہے۔ مقامی برآمد کنندگان کو چاہیے کہ وہ اعلیٰ معیار کی مصنوعات تیار کر کے اور اچھے برانڈز قائم کر کے چینی مارکیٹ کو بھرپور طریقے سے استعمال کریں۔ وہ گزشتہ روز پاک چین چیئرمین میں ایک اجلاس سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان کو پاک چین تجارتی تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط بنانے میں کوئی کسر اٹھانیں رکھنی چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مالی سال 2020-2021 (یکم جولائی تا 30 جون) کے دوران چین کو ملک کی برآمدات 34 فیصد بڑھ کر 2.33 بلین امریکی ڈالر ہو گئیں۔ جبکہ گزشتہ مالی سال میں یہ 1.74 بلین امریکی ڈالر تھیں، پی سی جے سی آئی کے سیکرٹری جنرل صلاح الدین حنیف نے کہا کہ معاہدے کے تحت ملک پہلے ہی چین کو 700 سے زائد مصنوعات کی برآمدات پر صفر ڈیوٹی سے فائدہ اٹھا رہا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ متعدد چینی کمپنیاں جدید ٹیکنالوجی اور آلات فراہم کر کے پاکستانی اشیاء کی پیداواری صلاحیت، معیار اور برآمدات کو بڑھانے کے لیے مقامی اداروں کیساتھ تعاون کر رہی ہیں۔ اس عرصے کے دوران چین کو برآمد کی جانے والی اہم مصنوعات میں چمڑا، ٹیکسٹائل، سمندری غذا اور زرعی مصنوعات شامل تھیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/laure/2022-02-18/page-12/detail-9>

February 19, 2022

Daily Times

Pak-China step up cooperation on cotton research under climate change

BEIJING: As global climate change is intensifying, the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) are working together to establish a model through the study of the changes in climate characteristics and the corresponding changes in cotton and wheat production varieties, and to put forward breeding suggestions for climate change in the next 30-50 years.

This is a message conveyed by Ms. Zhang Rui, Biotechnology Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences on the International Training Workshop on Climate Smart Water Fertilizer Intelligent System for Cotton and Wheat organized by the MNS University of Agriculture, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

The model is developed under the APSIM (Agricultural Production Systems Simulator) intelligent regulation and decision-making system, which can simulate the biophysical process in farming system under the climatic risk, describe crop structure, crop sequence, yield prediction, and quality control as well as erosion estimation under different planting pattern, and predict the future design direction of wheat and cotton varieties and water, fertilizer and salt management measures.

“Compared with traditional breeding, the use of genetic engineering methods can produce crop varieties that adapt to different types of environmental conditions more quickly”, she said.

Pakistan stands 5th in cotton production among the 60 major cotton-producing countries of the world and occupies the 3rd position in consumption. The cotton industry in Pakistan, with the

Pakistan Observer

CPEC to prove as best economic hub in the world, says Sanjrani

Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani while inaugurating the “Islamabad Office for bringing Gwadar to the Capital” organized by Rafi Group said that CPEC projects are development not only for Balochistan but for the whole country.

He said that Gwadar port would prove to be one of the best economic hubs in the world. Ports play a key role in the development of a country and therefore we have introduced Gwadar as an active port in the world and there is no denying to the geographical importance of Gwadar. “Gwadar will be important for the development of the whole region” said Sanjrani.

The role of Gwadar Port will be an important milestone in the development of the country where there are vast opportunities for investment and trade. “Domestic and foreign investors can take advantage of these opportunities” said Chairman Senate.

Chairman Senate expressed while talking about its geographical importance, that Gwadar is central to the Pak-China Economic Corridor. He said that the positive effects of CPEC projects would boost the economy of the entire country. He said that investors are showing interest in Gwadar and five billion dollars is expected to be invested by next year.

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani appreciated the efforts of Rafi Group for development of Gwadar. He said that a number of companies from the private sector have expressed interest in investing in Gwadar and the government is in touch with them.

Imtiaz Rafi Butt, Chairman Rafi Group, gave a detailed briefing to the Chairman Senate regarding the projects launched in Gwadar.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-to-prove-as-best-economic-hub-in-the-world-says-sanjrani/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan, China step up joint cotton research

Both sides working to release breeding suggestions for next 30-50 years

BEIJING: As global climate change is intensifying, the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) are working together to establish a model through the study of the changes in climate characteristics and the corresponding changes in cotton and wheat production varieties, and to put forward breeding suggestions for climate change for the next 30-50 years.

This message was conveyed by Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences Biotechnology Research Institute’s PhD supervisor Zhang Rui on the International Training Workshop titled ‘Climate Smart Water Fertiliser Intelligent System for Cotton and Wheat’ on Thursday. The seminar was organised by the University of Agriculture, Multan.

The model is developed under the APSIM (Agricultural Production Systems Simulator) intelligent regulation and decision-making system, which can simulate the biophysical process in farming system, describe crop structure, crop sequence, yield prediction, quality control and erosion estimation under different planting pattern.

It can also predict the future design direction of wheat and cotton varieties and water, fertiliser and salt management measures.

“Compared with traditional breeding, the use of genetic engineering methods can produce crop varieties that adapt to different types of environmental conditions more quickly,” she said.

Pakistan ranks fifth in cotton production among 60 major cotton-producing countries of the world and occupies the third position in consumption. The cotton industry of Pakistan, with the longest value chain system in the country, has 60% share in foreign exchange earnings and engages 38% of labour force directly or indirectly.

But there is a gap of about 5-6 million bales between production and consumption of local cotton industry, informed CRI, Multan Chief Scientist Dr Saghir Ahmad.

THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED ON THE CHINA ECONOMIC NET

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2344216/pakistan-china-step-up-joint-cotton-research>

CPEC body for vacating Gwadar land

Says occupation of land hampering work on Gwadar Port, development of free zone

ISLAMABAD: The Cabinet Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has conditioned the surrendering of 20 acres of prime land in Gwadar in favour of Pakistan Navy on the written consent of Chinese operators after the Navy refused to vacate the land due to “security reasons”.

Headed by Planning Minister Asad Umar, the CPEC committee once again told Pakistan Navy to immediately vacate another 52 acres of land, as the occupation of land was hampering work on Gwadar Port and the development of its free zone.

The 72 acres of land, which is currently in possession of the Navy, is part of the concessional agreement that Pakistan signed in November 2015 with China Overseas Port Holdings Company Limited (COPHCL) for 40-year lease of Gwadar Port.

The cabinet committee has not accepted Pakistan Navy’s plea, requesting permission to keep 20 acres of land, said Planning Minister Asad Umar while talking to The Express Tribune.

He said that until the Chinese contractors agreed, the land could not be given to Pakistan Navy.

In February last year, the Cabinet Committee on CPEC had directed different ministries to immediately get 72 acres of prime Gwadar land vacated, which was under the possession of Navy and was hampering work on CPEC.

The delay in getting the land vacated slowed down work on Gwadar Free Zone and Gwadar East Bay Expressway – the two projects that were very critical for the full functioning of Gwadar Port, showed official documents.

Pakistan Navy informed the cabinet committee that it had already vacated 500 acres out of 584 acres in 2014 and transferred the land to Gwadar Port Authority as directed by the Prime Minister's Office.

In 2019, Pakistan Navy voluntarily vacated another 12 acres of land for the passage of Gwadar East Bay Expressway, purely in national interest, according to the Navy.

Regarding the remaining 72 acres, “the Ministry of Defense and Pakistan Navy upon detailed study and analysis have a considered view that the geographical dictates make Shamba Ismail the only central advantageous location for seaward security, response generation”.

Pakistan Navy's sole purpose for retaining the land with seafront is to ensure timely response for the defence and security of Gwadar Port against the ubiquitous asymmetric threat, according to the Ministry of Defence.

The Ministry of Defence had proposed that 20 acres of land should be left with Pakistan Navy and as an alternative the Gwadar Development Authority may provide 20 acres of land to the Gwadar Port concession holder.

Pakistan Navy has also linked the vacation of another 52 acres of land with the transfer of 20 acres in its name. However, Asad Umar did not agree with the proposal, as the Navy was in violation of the decisions taken by the federal cabinet and the prime minister.

A planning ministry press statement noted that Asad Umar directed the relevant stakeholders to hand over 52 acres of land. The meeting was informed that the authority concerned was interested in keeping 20 acres of land due to security reasons, it added.

The cabinet committee also discussed the realignment of Karakoram Highway from Thakot to Raikot. The Ministry of Communication secretary informed the meeting that Nespak had been engaged to carry out a feasibility study but it was seeking 14 months to complete the task.

The realignment of Karakoram Highway, as a result of the construction of dams (Pattan, Dasu, Diamer-Bhasha), on the Indus River has attained high priority and is thus required to be taken up on priority.

Asad Umar directed the Ministry of Communication, National Highway Authority and relevant stakeholders to meet the deadline so the project could be completed in time. The planning minister has also given a deadline of 30 days to complete the game plan of Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Dhabeji SEZ, Sindh, Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Punjab and Bostan SEZ, Balochistan, while reviewing the progress on provision of utilities for SEZs under CPEC.

The meeting also approved the establishment of CPEC Business and Industrial Cooperation Tower in Islamabad on public-private partnership basis and Capital Development Authority (CDA) will be engaged for land acquisition.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2344208/cpec-body-for-vacating-gwadar-land>

February 20, 2022

Daily Times

IIRMR hailed for helping Pakistani youth understand Chinese spirit

Acting Chinese Consul General Lahore Peng Zhengwu said that Chinese Consulate Lahore is diversifying cooperation with Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) to find new avenues of Pak-China relations. He expressed these views on the online conclusion ceremony of Digital Poster Competition held under the auspices of the IIRMR, Chinese Consulate Lahore and China Media Group (CMG) Urdu Service. He praised the IIRMR for the conduction of “Digital Poster Competition” as it helped in engaging Pakistani youth to feel Chinese spirit and essence of Beijing Winter Olympics 2022. “Our cooperation and partnership with IIRMR is going a long way to achieve Sino-Pak ambitions rooted in the sense of Together for a Shared Future,” he added

He wished best of luck to all winners and applauded their ingenuity and digital mastery to pitch their insight on Beijing Winter Olympics because The Beijing Winter Olympic Games has created a new chapter in the history of international sports, and undoubtedly, the Games made a greater contributions to the Olympic movement and to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. Chinese embassy political section head Ms Bao Zhong lauded the efforts of the IIRMR and said that with developed and developing countries, grappling to meet the climate targets and the sustainable development goals amidst the perilous impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, China seized an opportunity to inspire the world by conducting Beijing Winter Olympics 2022 that promoted unity, peace and shared prosperity. She gave big shout-out to winners and all participants. She hoped that IIRMR would continue to conduct such productive events for fostering China-Pakistan friendliness.

On the successful conduction of Digital Poster Competition CMG Urdu Service Head Zhao Qiao (Ms Mehwish) desired to keep partnering with Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) to continue cozy up relations between China and Pakistan. With an effective people-centered development approach, the Chinese government has forged ahead in organizing Beijing Winter Olympics as a catalyst to stimulate interest in the Winter Games which in turn increased the number of participants for winter sports in the country – bringing together people from diverse cultures and promoting peace and unity.

“This set goals have been realized perfectly in the Winter Olympics 2022 as China implemented germane measures and constructed high-quality infrastructure which played its role in attaining sustainable solutions, diminishing inequality, generating new job opportunities, protecting the

environment, fostering inclusive economic growth and eliminating poverty in the country,” she added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/888561/iirmr-hailed-for-helping-pakistani-youth-understand-chinese-spirit/>

Towards a greener world, Pakistan to learn from Chinese experience

The world is currently facing climate change, and its devastating effects due to mushroomed industrialization, urbanization, and extensive reliance on non-renewable energy resources. To address this formidable challenge, China is investing heavily by leveraging its resources, technology, and workforce to transform itself into an environmental friendly country, and making strides to share its gains with the rest of the world.

According to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN), for the first time in the history of the Olympic Games, China has achieved a 100% green power supply, as well as the world’s first mass usage of hydrogen fuel cell buses to serve sporting events. China has carried out technological innovations to ensure a smooth green power supply for the Winter Olympics.

Zhangjiakou, the mountain city in China’s Hebei province, hosting the skiing events of the games, has renewable energy, exceeding that of most countries in the world. And a pioneering “Zhangjiakou Green Electric Grid” is also built to deliver power from the city to neighboring Beijing.

Since the start of the Beijing Winter Olympics, not only the on-site competition but also its surrounding areas have drawn worldwide attention. This time around, the Olympic Games enable people to observe how China’s energy transition is speeding up, and how it will have a significant impact on global economic and social change in the years ahead. The Winter Olympics are more than just a sporting event. In fact, they have become a display forum for cutting-edge technologies, competitive advantages, and economic potential. An all-out “Green Olympics” is intended to expedite China’s energy transformation, and to relay its resolve to the rest of the world under the “dual carbon” goal, a term referring to Chinese president Xi Jinping’s 2030 and 2060 emission targets.

The Beijing Winter Olympics’ pursuit of clean energy exhibited the Chinese government’s confidence, and strength in developing the clean energy industry diligently, and proactively fulfilling its obligations as a principal country in decreasing carbon emissions. Through its iconic Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China has been ramping up efforts around the world to create renewable energy projects, and accelerate the replacement of fossil energy usage.

China is also making significant progress toward green and low-carbon development targets through BRI’s most active project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The 1000MW Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park (Bahawalpur), 50 MW Hydro China Dawood Wind Farm, Gharo, Thatta 50, 100MW UEP Wind Farm, Jhimpir, Thatta, 50MW Sachal Wind Farm, Jhimpir, Thatta, and 100MW, Three Gorges Second and Third Wind Power Project are among

the 21 energy projects under the CPEC umbrella that are in operation and producing 1300MW. Two hydropower projects with a combined capacity of 1590MW are now under construction: the 884MW Suki Kinari Hydropower Project in KP and the 720MW Karot Hydropower Project in AJK/Punjab.

The latter is aiming for a Commercial Operation Date of mid-2022, with the project estimated to reduce yearly carbon dioxide emissions by about 3.5 million tons, while also improving the clean energy output mix and optimizing the energy consumption structure. This is the first and most advanced hydropower investment project under CPEC, backed by the Silk Road Fund and built by the Three Gorges Group of China's well-known conglomerates.

Under CPEC, four projects, one each of hydel and wind, are being considered, with a total capacity of 1924.7MW. The projects are the 1124MW Kohala Hydropower Project in AJK, the 700.7MW Azad Pattan Hydropower Project in AJK/Punjab, the 50MW Cacho Wind Power Project, and the 50MW Western Energy (Pvt.) Ltd. Wind Power Project in AJK/Punjab. For maintaining the baseload, initially in CPEC, the focus was on coal power generation, however, in the future, renewable projects will be further prioritized.

The same was affirmed by Dr. Liaqat Ali Shah, policy head of the CPEC, Centre of Excellence, Islamabad, "the share of the renewable energy mix has been considerably improved through CPEC projects, which is a step taken in the right direction, and we must push it further to make Pakistan greener and cleaner."

It is an opportune time for Pakistani policymakers to put their acts together with their Chinese counterparts and learn from their best practices to fend off the current and evolving environmental challenges in Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/888562/towards-a-greener-world-pakistan-to-learn-from-chinese-experience/>

Pakistan Observer

Why Xinjiang, not Kashmir

Hina Habib

PRIME Minister Imran Khan rightly pointed towards the hypocrisy of the West with regard to silence on Kashmir issue.

On one hand, there is unnecessary hue and cry for peaceful Xinjiang and on the other, there is complete silence.

Khan also said that the Pakistani diplomat visited the Xinjiang region and called the western allegation false and fabricated.

Back in 2021 from 30 March to 02 April, a delegation comprising the Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Vladimir Norov and more than 30 diplomats from some 21 countries visited Xinjiang.

The delegation found the region peaceful and prosper contrary to the image portrayed by the western media.

Chinese efforts and practical training provided to the people of the area improved the life of the people and helped in the elimination of violence and extremism from this region.

According to Chinese media from 2014 to 2019, the GDP of Xinjiang increased from 919.59 billion Yuan to 1.36 trillion Yuan, with an average annual growth rate of 7.2 percent and with exceptional decrease in poverty.

Despite Covid 19 restrictions and US sanctions on the basis of so called human rights violations and forced labour Chinese work report says that Xinjiang produced 5.13 million metric tons of cotton in 2021, which accounted for 89.5 per cent of China's total.

In addition, 469,400 tons of photovoltaic materials were produced in the region, an increase of 30.9 percent year-on-year.

The region's GDP in 2021 saw healthy growth of 7 percent year-on-year. The allegations like religious restriction, cultural genocide, forced labour and forced sterilization were rejected by the local people of Xinjiang on multiple occasions.

Actually protection of freedom of religious belief is a long-term basic national policy of the Chinese government and part of its Constitution.

Xinjiang protects freedom of religious belief and ensures orderly practice of religion.

Additionally, China not only promotes standard language but also protects the language spoken by its minorities and arranged a bilingual education that facilitates the larger number of ethnicities.

We know that promotion of standard language is true to every state of the world but western writings showcase the Chinese case exclusively which looks absurd.

Now coming to the accusation of forced sterilization and family planning it was surprising that when Han majority was allowed only to have one child the ethnic minorities were allowed to have two children it was due to this the population of minorities maintained a rapid growth.

I think it is a time that world must work together to eliminate the real disturbing issues like India-occupied Kashmir.

Almost two and a half years of Indian revoking article 370 and limiting autonomy of the valley political activities in the disputed region have stopped, businesses are moving to zero, while people's rights are being suppressed through harsh laws.

This is not new for the innocent people of the region for decades.

The Indian security forces have abused civilians during search operations, the detainees and murdered civilians, many women were raped and recently even minors were taken into custody.

On the other hand India is busy in doing propaganda against Pakistan and targeting China Pakistan Economic Corridor, funding terrorist to destabilize Balochistan.

Western countries should set their efforts and time in stopping Indian brutalities in Kashmir rather wasting time in maligning China over Xinjiang.

—The writer is Research Associate at the Eurasian Century Institute Islamabad.

<https://pakobserver.net/why-xinjiang-not-kashmir-by-hina-habib/>

February 21, 2022

Daily Times

Pak students shine in ‘Junior Cultural Ambassador’ contest

The award ceremony for the 2022 China Soong Ching Ling Foundation “Junior Cultural Ambassadors” contest was held virtually.

The event was jointly sponsored by China Soong Ching Ling Foundation and China Cultural Centers abroad, and organized by China Soong Ching Ling Science & Culture Center for Young People, said a press release issued here. Two students Sukhen Fatima and Ali Shaheryar from the Millennium Confucius Classroom and the Confucius Classroom at Cadet College Petaro recommended by the China Cultural Center in Pakistan won the title of “Junior Cultural Ambassadors”. All the contestants and some teachers of the Millennium Confucius Classroom and Confucius Classroom at Cadet College Petaro were invited to participate in the online award ceremony.

The “Junior Cultural Ambassadors” activity was officially launched in June 2021, with the theme of “Build a Dream for 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics”, inviting Chinese and foreign youth to carry out cultural exchanges online, which has attracted young people from all over the world to participate in the event. China Cultural Center in Pakistan, together with the Millennium Confucius Classroom and the Confucius Classroom at Cadet College Petaro, responded positively and enthusiastically participated in the event. Young people from 32 countries participated online and told their stories for Chinese historical civilization and Beijing 2022 through video sending best wishes for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

Among the 100 students selected for the primary selection, there are 6 students from Pakistan. After multiple rounds of selection by the event review committee and online voting, 30 winners of the global “Junior Cultural Ambassador” title, “Excellence Award” and 20 “Popularity Award” were selected. Among the 30 “Junior Cultural Ambassadors”, 10 are from China, and 20 are from 18 overseas countries. Hafna Khan, Amroz Ali, and Muhammad Hasnain Ali from the Millennium Confucius Classroom in Pakistan and the Confucius Classroom at Cadet College Petaro won the “Excellence Award”; Li Youyan and Han Mingsheng also won the “Popularity Award”.

At the award ceremony, Ali Shaheryar's (Xie Rui) entry video was selected as an excellent work for the exhibition. In their acceptance speeches, Sukhen Fatima (Suha) and Ali Shaheryar expressed their ardent expectations for the Beijing Winter Olympics and their best wishes for the China-Pakistan friendship on behalf of Pakistani youth. China and Pakistan have made their own contributions to cultural exchanges and mutual learning and deepening China-Pakistan friendship. Ali Shaheryar (Xie Rui) said that "Junior Cultural Ambassador" is not only a title, but also an inspiration to him.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/889096/pak-students-shine-in-junior-cultural-ambassador-contest/>

The Express Tribune

Getting to know China

Shahid Javed Burki

China has used its increased economic strength to build up its military prowess

Since Pakistan has been firmly placed in the Chinese orbit, Islamabad's policymakers would do well to study where China is today and where it is likely to go not only in the near future but also in a few decades ahead. To follow China, Islamabad should read Rush Doshi's well-received book titled *The Long Game: China's Grand Strategy to Displace American Order*. In the author's view, President Xi Jinping is clearly standing up to the United States by pursuing policies in places such as Hong Kong, Taiwan and the South China Sea that are in its interest although they don't suit what America is attempting to achieve. The United States has in place the Monroe Doctrine which is meant to keep foreign influences out of the areas that Washington considers to be its backyard. Beijing could follow that precedence, but it has not.

Doshi's book follows that by the 2015 best seller by Michael Pillsbury's *The Hundred Year Marathon: China's Secret Strategy to Replace America as the Global Superpower*. Pillsbury book was popular with the far right in the United States political system and fed into the anti-China stance taken by President Donald Trump during his four-year presidency. Doshi's book is based on much more solid research and since he sits in the White House as director China at the National Security Council, he is in a position to influence President Biden's China policy. His book identifies three turning points in China's recent history that has resulted in a confrontational relationship with Washington.

The first shift was the consequence of what Doshi calls the "traumatic trifecta" that occurred between 1989 and 1991 that saw several anti-government demonstrations in East European countries that were once part of the Soviet Union. The United States showed its ability to act fast to enforce the agreed United Nations principle that force would not be used to change established boundaries. Saddam Hussein invaded Iraq and the United States reacted by sending its military to push Iraq back to its own territory. The 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of a number of countries as independents on the periphery of Russia changed the international situation.

The second turning point was the financial crisis of 2008 that showed Beijing that the western model of capitalism had some profound weaknesses to which the state control of the economy was not subject. Hu Jintao, the Chinese president at that time, in his address to the 11th Ambassadorial Conference in 2009, modified China's approach to the world of "hide and bide" with the strategy of actively accomplishing something. "This seemingly mundane semantic shift meant a lot," argues Doshi. Hu in his address to the conference called for "more offensive moves" around the world.

The third turning point occurred in 2016 following the election of Donald Trump to the America presidency. In a speech to the 19th Congress of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, President Xi announced a "new era". He vowed that China would lead the world in innovation, governance and military development. Xi no longer felt the need to modify the "hide and abide" policy of the past, he dispensed with it completely. With his ascension to power, Doshi writes, "the struggle for mastery once confined to Asia is now over the global order and its future." While a decade earlier, China's leaders preached accommodation with the American superpower, Xi declared that "it is for the people of Asia to run the affairs of Asia." These strong words were matched by developments on the ground.

As Beijing expected, China's hosting of the Winter 2022 Olympics drew a great deal of world attention to the progress the country has made since 2008 when the capital city was also the site of the Olympics. The 2008 event was held at the "Bird's Nest", a futuristic looking building. For the 2022, the Chinese constructed an in-door skiing facility which it called the Water Cube. To impress the visitors, it constructed a massive new airport terminal that it claims is the world's largest human made structure by area covered. It has also finished a high-speed 73-mile rail line that connects Beijing to the nearby seaport, Tianjin.

The build-out hasn't just been domestic, Eva Dou reminded the readers of her newspaper, The Washington Post. "In 2013 Xi launched the Belt and Road Initiative, BRI, a trillion-dollar infrastructure-building program that encompasses hydropower dams in Cambodia and Pakistan, railways in Uzbekistan and Nigeria, ports in Sri Lanka and Djibouti and much more. The sprawling project is a centerpiece of Xi's foreign policy and has prompted much international discussion of how Beijing may use it to enhance its global sway." Dou could have added to her list more Chinese-financed projects in Pakistan such as the port of Gwadar on the Balochistan coast, three motorways that would connect Pakistan's east coast with Xinjiang in China, and a high-speed rail line that would connect the port city of Karachi with Peshawar in the country's northeast 1,000 miles away. With America having pulled out of Afghanistan, the Chinese are likely to move in and extend the BRI to Central Asia via Afghanistan.

As China hosted the 2022 winter Olympics comparison were made with the state of the economy 14 years earlier when it hosted the Summer Olympics. Since then, the Chinese GDP has grown almost four-fold, increasing from \$4.6 trillion in 2008 to \$18 trillion in 2021. The percentage of the middle class has increased in the same period from 3 per cent to 50 per cent. In February 2021, President Xi announced that China had officially eradicated poverty as defined by the

World Bank. Miles of high-speed rail lines had gone up from 73 to 24,900 while the number of buildings that classify as skyscrapers — more than 492 feet high — has increased from 848 to 2,708. Internet penetration has gone up from 22.6 per cent to 70.4 per cent of the total population.

China has used its increased economic strength to build up its military prowess. Military spending has increased from \$58 billion in 2008 to \$209 billion in 2021. It is also investing in developing new weapons; in 2021, Beijing tested a hypersonic missile that can carry nuclear weapons. China's construction of artificial islands in the disputed waters in the South China Sea has created 3,200 acres of new land in the waters to its south. In 2012, Beijing launched its first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning — a recommissioned Soviet-era vessel from the 1980s — and has gone on to build one of its own. The country has been active in space as well. In 2013, it landed its first lunar rover following six years later by becoming the first country to land a rover on the far side of the Moon. In 2021, it sent a rover on Mars, a planet to which it expects to send its astronauts in 2033.

It is obvious that Pakistan's close relations with China that have lasted more than half a century will be impacted by these developments. That said, Pakistan needs to be mindful of how China's relations are evolving with the United States. That is the subject to which I will turn next week.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2344486/getting-to-know-china>

February 22, 2022

Business Recorder

Govt to amend PCA

China's co allowed to maintain 17.5pc share in Baska Block

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government has decided to amend Petroleum Concession Agreement (PCA), allowing a Chinese company, China Zhen Hua Oil, to maintain 17.50 share of Baska Block and transfer 82.50 working interests to Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL).

According to Petroleum Division, Baska Exploration Licence was granted over block number (3020-13) (Zone-II) covering an areas of 2,442 sq kilometres located in districts D I Khan and Musa Kehl and D G Khan to M/s China ZhenHua Oil from March 29, 2007, in accordance with the terms of Petroleum Policy 2001 and Pakistan Petroleum (Exploration & Production) Rules, 2001, on Government-to-Government basis without going into open bidding.

Earlier, in November 2006, the Federal Government through Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Resources (now Ministry of Energy - Petroleum Division) executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China North Industries Corporation (NORINCO) and China ZhenHua Oil Company Limited (China ZhenHua Oil) with the approval of the then Prime Minister in accordance with the Rules of Business, 1973. In the said MoU, the Federal

Government agreed to grant Baska Block to China ZhenHua Oil on G2G basis in accordance with clause 2.1.1(ii) of the Petroleum Policy, 2001.

Consequently, the President granted Baska Block No 3070-13 to M/s China ZhenHua Oil. Simultaneously, a Petroleum Concession Agreement (PCA) was also executed with M/s China ZhenHua Oil which transferred 49 per cent working interests out of its 100 per cent working interests to Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) under the terms of Baska PCA. M/s China ZhenHua Oil and PPL could not drill the well due to law and order situation in the area. The current working interest ownership in the Baska Block is as follows: (i) China ZhenHua Oil 51 per cent and (ii) PPL 49 per cent, respectively.

M/s ZhenHua Oil now intends to transfer its 33.5 per cent working interests out of its 51 per cent working interests along with operator-ship to PPL and is also willing for the said assignment and change of operator-ship.

According to Petroleum Division, there was no cost to the proposed transaction and PPL undertook to perform the remaining firm work commitment. It was also highlighted that Baska Block also had a discovery in the past namely “Savi Ragha” and through drilling of multiple exploratory wells in the future, PPL was reasonably confident to commence commercial production from the Block. Such assignment shall also enable PPL to fulfil social welfare and training obligations as per the Baska PCA and Government guidelines.

Article -3 of the MoU reads: “The ZhenHua Oil Co., Ltd shall not subsequently farm-out this block to any private party and they would take along with a Pakistan public sector E&P company with 49 per cent share.” And Article 5.2 of the Baska Block PCA, provides that “the licensee shall at all times maintain its 51 per cent working interest and give 49 per cent working interest to Pakistan public sector company(ies).” However, Article 29.6 of the said PCA allowed for amendment, revision or alteration of the PCA on mutual agreement of the working interest owners with the consent of the government. In view of the history, Petroleum Division forwarded a reference to Law Division for obtaining its legal opinion, which replied on October 16, 2019 that the Article 5.2 of the PCA could be amended under the provision of Article 29.6 with the approval of Federal Government, which would be interpreted as the approval of the Federal Government.

Accordingly, Petroleum Division circulated a draft summary for the Cabinet to all stakeholders which included Ministry of Finance, Planning & Development Division, Law and Justice Division and Foreign Affairs Division for their comments. Ministries of Finance, Planning and Foreign Affairs had no objection. The Ministry of Law and Justice reiterated its earlier stance that “for transfer of 33.5 per cent working interest along with operator-ship from M/s China ZhenHua Oil to a Pakistani public sector company, i.e., PPL an appropriate amendment in the PCA was required which could be carried out with the approval of Federal Government”. In view of entire background, Petroleum Division, being cognizant of the strategic importance of the Government of China in the overall development of Pakistan’s petroleum sector, recommended as follows: “Article 5.2 of the PCA may be amended to provide that “the licensee

shall all times maintain its 17.50 per cent working interest and given 82.5 per cent working interest along with operator-ship to Pakistani public sector company, i.e., PPL, enabling the company to discharge its second and third contract years' work commitment, i.e., drilling two exploratory wells in Baska Block.”

The Cabinet in its previous meeting approved the proposal titled “transfer of 33.5 per cent working interest & operator-ship of China ZhenHua Oil to PPL in Baska Block.” —MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/02/22/1-page/919726-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

The Inspirations of Beijing Winter Olympics for Inter-state Relations

Among all foreign dignitaries that attended the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympic Games, Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan stands out for being a sportsman himself before entering politics.

But his high expectation for the Beijing Games not only comes from his passion for sports but also grows out of the ironclad bond between Pakistan and China. His visit to China shows his love and passion for sports as well as solidarity between the two countries.

In Pakistan, people's passion has been ignited by the Winter Games. The country has high mountains with great skiing slopes. The China-assisted Karakoram Highway links northern Pakistan to other parts of the country, making it convenient for people to explore winter sports in the north. Team Pakistan has also competed in the Beijing Winter Games, with athlete Muhammad Karim participating in the slalom event.

The Olympic Games have the power of bringing people together. As the curtain falls for Beijing 2022, people begin to relish the many moments that capture the essence of the Games. In many ways, what happened at the Winter Games may well serve as a microcosm for inter-state relations. Our world would certainly be a better place if countries could learn a thing or two from their athletes.

Lifting all together rather than a zero-sum game We are inspired by the sportsmanship frequently on display during the games – pure joy and elation for other competitors' excellent performance. These moments go beyond the competition and exhibit what the Olympics truly is: not a zero-sum game to take other athletes down but really to become one's better self.

This holds some truth for state-to-state relations. Keeping others from catching up economically, militarily, technologically is not as good as better-ing oneself to stay ahead of the curve. In this age of globalization, countries' interests are intertwined, and small steps forward in one part of the world may bring a big step forward for all humanity. China and Pakistan set good examples in this regard. Despite the vast differences in history, culture and national circumstances, our two countries have stood with each other not only in times of peace and prosperity but also in the

face of rising challenges. It is a relationship characterized by unwavering mutual support, mutual trust and mutual respect, come rain or shine.

Openness and respect

The gathering of athletes from throughout the world provides an opportunity for understanding, respect and friendship without concern for national, cultural or racial differences. When the Japanese figure skater Yuzuru Hanyu, a two-time Olympic champion, failed to land the impossibly difficult quadruple axel, or “4A” during his performance, he earned applause from the spectators both on the venue and across the world.

Such open-mindedness and respect is more needed at a time when information cocoons are making people increasingly parochial. To be known, to be heard, to be seen as equal and worthy – these are shared desires even in international politics. World affairs should be discussed and decided by countries working together. This is the basic tenet of multilateralism.

Together for a shared future Despite the raging pandemic, the Beijing Winter Games has been hosted as scheduled, which in itself is a remarkable demonstration of global togetherness, as suggested by the Olympic motto. The Organizing Committee could not have put together such successful Games without the strong support of all participating teams, the IOC, the World Health Organization and many other international organizations.

Such cooperation in itself is a boost to multilateral diplomacy. Its positive spillovers will go a long way in enhancing global solidarity as humanity battles a myriad of challenges, from the coronavirus to climate change and to terrorism.

In many ways, the global village we live in is not unlike the Olympic Village for athletes. As IOC President Thomas Bach said at the opening ceremony, “it is possible to be fierce rivals, while at the same time living peacefully and respectfully together.” This message should not be lost on politicians and decision-makers anywhere in the world.

As the Beijing Winter Games draw to an end, the enduring value of the Olympic Games cannot be measured in gold, silver or bronze. Rather, they are found in the brotherhood of athletes, who gathered in Beijing from the ends of the Earth in pursuit of excellence. We should not let the heartwarming moments pass, but instead embrace the power of sport to connect us all.

Prior to the opening of the Beijing Games, some Pakistani teenage students created short videos to wish the success of Beijing 2022.

This is just one small example of this Winter Olympic acting as a unifying force between countries. In a fractured world, we need more spirit of solidarity, just like that between China and Pakistan, to pursue a shared, better future of mankind. The author is a Beijing-based observer of international affairs.

<https://pakobserver.net/the-inspirations-of-beijing-winter-olympics-for-inter-state-relations/>

February 23, 2022

Daily Times

Investors to get plug, play facility at Special Economic Zone, Dhabeji

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Tuesday said that the Special Economic Zone, Dhabeji was being developed through a private partner at a cost of Rs18 billion to provide 'plug and play' facility to the investors within next five year.

He said this while speaking at the signing ceremony of the Concession Agreement with ZKB, a private partner for development of the Special Economic Zone, Dhabeji, said a statement.

The ceremony was attended by Provincial ministers, advisors, leading businessmen and senior bureaucrats.

The chief minister said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has achieved significant milestones through joint efforts of the governments, enterprises, and people of both countries.

"The first phase of the CPEC, which focused on energy and infrastructure projects met its successful completion and now the second phase is set to boost Pak-China cooperation in agriculture and initiate an era of industrialization through establishment of Special Economic Zones," he said.

Dhabeji Industrial Zone is a flagship project of the Sindh government and one of the priority projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. "This project will strengthen the industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China," he said and added "it is ideally located near Karachi which provides a gateway to Central Asia, South Asia, Middle East and Africa."

Syed Murad Ali Shah said that the project has been launched under the Public Private Partnership mode. "We had received a number of bids but after a long evaluation process, ZKB has been finalized as the developer of the project," he said and added that ZKB would develop its complete infrastructure, including roads, electricity, water and such others required for a leading economic zone.

Talking about economic benefits of the project, the CM said that it would attract an investment of over \$5 billion and to generate 200,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities.

The project will offer state-of-the-art infrastructure, utilities at the doorstep and easy access to the ports of Karachi and the main railway line (ML-1), the CM said and added that a Jetty to connect Port Qasim with Dhabeji zone has also been envisaged to facilitate export-oriented industries.

He said a dedicated railway cargo deck from the zone to ML-1 near Dhabeji junction (Mainline1) was being planned to provide direct logistical connectivity with upcountry for transportation of finished goods -. hence, making it the most viable and connected Industrial Zone in the region.

The project will facilitate potential investors of China and other countries to establish new enterprises or transfer their facilities to Dhabeji Industrial Zone, Shah said.

Karachi with its two major seaports, an extensive industrial infrastructure and an abundance of raw materials from cotton, rice, fruits, fisheries to coal and minerals is an ideal location for investors from all segments of the trade and industry, the CM said and added the 350 km long coastline, the desserts, the Gorakh hills and the beautiful rivers give an immense opportunity to develop tourism.”

Earlier, CM Special Assistant on Investment Syed Qasim Naveed briefed the chief minister that work on the first phase of the project would be started by September 2022 and would be completed within five years. Chairman Sindh Economic Zone Management Company (SEZMC) Mohammad Waseem, Secretary Investment and CEO SEZMC Azem Uqaili also spoke on the occasion.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/890286/investors-to-get-plug-play-facility-at-special-economic-zone-dhabeji/>

Pakistan Observer

BRI and Comparative Advantage of Uzbekistan: An Expert Opinion

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Rapidly changing “priorities”, “parameters” and “fault-lines” of regional geopolitics and global geostrategic conflicting equations & alliances have reaffirmed the importance of greater regional connectivity.

Thus Chinese One Belt & One Road Initiative (BRI) vividly reflects its strategic importance, utility, scope and futuristic value-addition for immense socio-economic integration, massive infrastructural development, transportation connectivity and, above all, inflows of foreign direct investment.

In this connection, the “jewel” and “catalyst’ of Central Asia integration, Uzbekistan has a special status in the BRI.

According to data provider Refinitiv (2021) the value of BRI’s road projects has exceeded to more than US\$4.5 trillion for the first time. Among these, 1,590 projects valued at US\$1.9 trillion were BRI projects.

The BRI was announced in 2013 aimed to improve international transport infrastructure and increase economic integration.

It was meant to achieve better transport connections and greater economic integration through substantial Chinese financing of transport infrastructure and other complementary infrastructure in the BRI countries, better policy coordination among those countries and larger flows of outward foreign direct investment (FDI) from Chinese private firms and SOEs, all aimed at

promoting orderly and free flow of economic factors, highly efficient allocation of resources and deep integration of markets.

In this connection, Uzbekistan is “well placed” and is now rated as one of the “biggest beneficiaries” of the BRI.

It seems that ongoing structural reforms in the country have now further “consolidated” its position as regional “connecting hub”.

The financing and support for building common cross-border transport network provided by BRI has actually revolutionized its transport connectivity.

It is estimated that completion of numerous mega transport projects of the BRI will “drastically” reduce “shipment time” and the rise in exports of Uzbekistan. It will further enhance trade facilitation and logistics services.

It will reduce Uzbek shipment time by almost 15 percent, the largest reduction among BRI countries. Falling shipment time will in turn raise Uzbek exports by between 13 and 23 percent.

Uzbekistan is blessed with rich resources with a relatively young population of 33-34 million, the largest in Central Asia.

It is a geographic axis for the region, bordering all other Central Asian countries and Afghanistan, with transit connections in all directions. It has also a large industrial labor force with good manufacturing skills, better than most countries in the region.

Moreover, it also has a robust agricultural sector that has increased at an average annual rate of more than six percent since 2003. The strongest growth has come from crops other than wheat and cotton, mostly from horticulture.

The transport infrastructure of Uzbekistan has been improving since 2000 and the BRI offers the prospect of improving it substantially. Its cargo transportation depends more on road than rail because of the difficult mountainous terrain.

The BRI increasing investment in transport projects along six BRI corridors connecting China by rail to cities in Russia, Europe, Turkey, Iran, West Asia, South Asia and South East Asia.

Two of those BRI corridors transit through Central Asia and the Caucasus (CAC) region using five different routes to connect China to Europe, Turkey, Iran and West Asia.

Of these, two routes pass through Uzbekistan connecting its cities to China and Iran faster than before. Tashkent can also use the other routes through Kazakhstan to connect more speedily to Europe.

Hopefully, improved cross-border transport connections/corridors can stimulate growth and reduce poverty.

The BRI infrastructure projects can be a main actor for increasing Uzbek exports, FDI, and GDP because of its constant structural reforms and business/investment friendly policies. In addition

to this, Uzbekistan is already implementing reforms and plans to continue doing so to build a more open and market-oriented economy.

On its part, the BRI is opening the corridor to the Persian Gulf, enabling expansion of commercial and trade routes for the country. Exporting Uzbek goods to more regions is a highly attractive incentive for Uzbekistan.

In this connection, at the First Belt and Road Forum held in 2017 both Presidents, Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan and Xi Jinping of China, spoke positively of future collaboration in BRI advancement.

During those meetings, the two countries signed 115 deals worth more US\$23 billion on enhancing their cooperation in electrical power, oil production, chemicals, architecture, textiles, pharmaceutical engineering, transportation, infrastructure and agriculture.

In 2019 Uzbekistan established a new government group in charge of aligning their own country's development plan with China's BRI ambitions.

China is Uzbekistan's largest trade partner (both in imports and exports) and has more than 1,500 Chinese businesses within its territory. In 2018, China-Uzbekistan trade surged 48.4 percent reaching US\$6.26 billion.

Uzbekistan is also a significant Central Asian market, with a GDP of US\$276 billion and a per capita income of slightly less than US\$10,000, about the same as China but five times higher than the South Asian average. This has the potential of making Uzbekistan an "attractive" market for South Asian exporters.

Trans-railway project connecting three regional countries: Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan, was agreed last year between the governments of Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Total estimated cost of this project is US\$5 billion and it will provide access for Uzbekistan to Pakistani seaports on the Arabian Gulf. It is part of the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA) which also links to the CPEC. In Uzbekistan, the deal has been called the "event of the century" by Tanzila Narbaeva, the Chairman of the National Senate.

Moreover, the China-Ferghana Valley Railway route would connect east with Kyrgyzstan through an existing rail line connecting Uzbekistan's Andijan to Osh in Kyrgyzstan.

A southern route would cross Kyrgyzstan and enter China at the Erkeshtam border crossing, near to Kashgar.

In time, that could possibly connect south to another proposed railway running from Kashgar to Gilgit in Pakistan, joining Pakistan's national rail network and again through to Ports on the Arabian Sea.

To conclude, Uzbekistan is full of the "romance" of the old "Silk Route" with ancient and internationally famous cities such as Samarkand, Tashkent and Bukhara all in possession of Central Asian myths, beauty and romance.

Uzbekistan with the “largest” and “youngest” labour force in the region and considerable agricultural and manufacturing capacity, the potential for significant BRI dividend is high.

It is suggested that policy makers of Uzbekistan should further transform macro-economy through systemized liberalization, privatization, public-private partnership, channelization & operationalization of domestic savings, trade facilitation and logistics, export oriented policies/growth, attraction of FDIs and removing sector-specific constraints to expansion in agriculture and manufacturing, so that FDI and exports can respond to BRI improvements.

It is also suggested that to reduce the spatial concentration of benefits from BRI, policies Uzbekistan must encourage worker mobility and expand access to services across the country.

Moreover, the visit of Uzbekistan’s President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Pakistan next month (March) will further widen its trans-regional connectivity options, economic diversification, foreign policy dividends and last but not the least, security strategies to fight against terrorism, radicalization, economic terror financing and drugs & human trafficking in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-comparative-advantage-of-uzbekistan-an-expert-opinion-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Why is PM Khan’s visit to China crucial for CPEC?

Muhammad Usama

In the age of complex interdependence and the rapidly changing landscape of global political arena, the Pakistan-China relations have successfully survived the thick and thin of time.

History is suggestive of Pakistan and China’s unrelenting affiliation in various spheres of cooperation and in the recent time-period, projects like China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and a common antagonist like India has further bolstered this time tested friendship.

Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan embarked on his historic four-daylong visit to the People’s Republic of China on February 3, 2022.

The visit is being hailed as an eminent and perfectly timed move by the Pakistani premier.

Of course, it could not happen at a better time than this when Pakistan’s commitment of reshaping its national priorities and its long due conversion to a people-centric state is still a hot topic since the unveiling of the new National Security Policy of Pakistan.

PM Imran Khan’s fresh visit to China has imbued that commitment with a new life.

The visit as indicated by the joint press release was comprehensive and the two sides adequately addressed the underlying concerns on over 21 different sectors relating to trade, security, bilateral cooperation, regional and international political landscape and most importantly the development and future of CPEC.

The visit was a success from a purely economic point of view as Pakistan's Board of Investment (BOI) and National Development & Reform Commission of China (NDRC) signed the much anticipated framework agreement on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC.

Imran Khan himself held a one-to-one meeting with Chairman NDRC and deliberated extensively over the progress made on projects under CPEC.

China also maintained that it shall commence the second phase of CPEC and manifested its will to expand the volume of its investment in the project to boost industrialization and bring an overall improvement in the livelihoods of common peoples.

Once embodied fully, this much broader phase of CPEC shall boost the industrial and agriculture sector of Pakistan and ensure the introduction of scientific modernization and job creation in Pakistan.

The Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mehmood Qureshi added that both Pakistan and China were making rapid progress on Gwadar port and Gwadar free trade zone which may serve as a channel to promote greater regional connectivity and economic integration.

The first phase of CPEC has been instrumental in enabling Pakistan to develop the requisite infrastructure and has hugely benefited Pakistan in development of its highways to enhance reliable connectivity across Karakoram range and improved inland communication.

Under the aegis of the first phase, Pakistan achieved the completion of 1320 megawatt coal fired power plants in Sahiwal, Port Qasim Karachi and Hub (Baluchistan), 660 Megawatt Engro Thar coal power project and 1000 Megawatt Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park in Bahawalpur.

The hallmark of economic progress and possible new alliances is indicated by the mention of Russia during the visit and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi revealed the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Russia.

This, of occurs, shall open up a new spectrum of regional cooperation.

Pakistan can benefit from this vital opportunity to ease up the burden of misunderstandings with Russia and cash out on the perks of Russia's incorporation within the Chinese BRI projects.

This will not only reap favorable economic outcome for Pakistan but would also be a success for Pakistan in the strategic domain against India.

The deliberations as took place on CPEC could otherwise be considered as confidence building measures on security of the ongoing projects as China resumed working on the Dasu Hydropower project on 22 January earlier this year which was halted in July 2021 after a bus carrying Chinese personnel came under attack.

Hence, the contemplation of regional contestation in the light of India's ever growing strategic aims and its potential reservations and activities to curtail the development of CPEC must have also been spotlighted.

The strategic success of the visit is evident from the reaffirmation of both the parties to support each other's stances on Kashmir and Xinjiang/Tibet.

China acknowledged Pakistani concerns over Afghanistan and both the parties asserted the essentiality of a peaceful Afghanistan for the collective and peaceful future of the South Asian region.

This acknowledgment was followed by a proposal to invite Afghanistan in a tri-lateral Foreign Ministers dialogue.

The statement as passed by Prime Minister Imran Khan suggesting that China is the bedrock of Pakistan's foreign policy is indicative of Pakistan's shift from its westward foreign policy to a more region-centric approach.

Pakistan is already looking to materialize this idea starting with Turkey and Iran.

The inclusion of giant regional powers like China and Russia would further fortify this much anticipated alliance.

President Xi Jinping signaled his wish to visit Pakistan in the future in a gesture of good faith and as a symbol of his desire to expand the sphere of bilateral cooperation between the two Iron Brothers.

In short, the anticipated visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan will further bolster the ties of both countries guaranteeing success story of CPEC.

<https://pakobserver.net/why-is-pm-khans-visit-to-china-crucial-for-cpec-by-muhammad-usama/>

February 24, 2022

Dawn News

Work on Dhabeji Zone in Thatta to begin in July

Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: The construction work of the much-awaited Dhabeji Industrial Zone (DIZ) in Thatta will be started in July under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and likely to fetch \$5 billion investment besides the creation of more than 200,000 jobs.

The DIZ is being developed on over 1,500 acres and Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah, during the contract signing ceremony on Tuesday, promised to provide extra land for the extension of the zone saying hundreds of investors are eager to set up their units in the zone.

It is also expected that big Chinese entrepreneurs will relocate their industries to the DIZ which will become a hub of economic activities due to its ideal location being close to Karachi Port and Bin Qasim Port.

The concession agreement between the Sindh government and concessionaire M/s Zahir Khan & Brothers (ZKB) was signed for the development of DIZ at Chief Minister House.

Sindh Economic Zones Management Company chief executive Abdul Azeem Uqaili and ZKB Development Company CEO Mohabbat Khan signed the agreement.

Talking to Dawn on Wednesday Mr Uqaili said the project was proposed to be implemented in two phases of 750 acres and 780 acres each.

Four Special Economic Zones are being developed in the country. Of which three are near completion while DIZ was hit by controversies and litigation as a result it has been delayed by five years.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1676790>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی پاکستان کے ٹیکسٹائل سیکٹر میں سرمایہ کاری کرے: روانگ زیہائی

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاک چائنہ چیمبر (پی سی سی جے سی سی آئی) کے صدر روانگ زیہائی نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے تجارتی رابطوں میں اضافہ کا مقصد چینی سرمایہ کاری اور ٹیکسٹائل سیکٹر میں پاکستان کے تقابلی فوائد کو اجاگر کرنا ہے وہ شیڈونگ چیمبر آف کامرس کے ارکان کے ساتھ آن لائن اجلاس سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان چینی سرمایہ کاروں کا تعاون جیتنا چاہتا ہے اور اس طرح کی ملاقاتوں کا مقصد سرمایہ کاروں کو ٹیکسٹائل سیکٹر میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع کے بارے میں آگاہی پیدا کرنا ہے۔ سیکرٹری جنرل صلاح الدین حنیف نے کہا کہ سفری پابندیاں ختم ہوتے ہی سرمایہ کاروں کے دوروں کا اہتمام کیا جائے گا انہوں نے بتایا کہ متعدد بڑی چینی ٹیکسٹائل کمپنیوں کے نمائندوں نے پاکستانی اداروں کے ساتھ تعاون کی یقین دہانی کرائی ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-24/page-7/detail-25>

February 25, 2022

Pakistan Observer

CPEC M-15 motorway improves law and order in remote KP district

The Hazara (M-15) Motorway of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has helped bring down the crime rate in Battagram district of KP province by creating the region a hub of tourism-related economic activities.

This was stated by District Police Officer Tariq Mehmood while talking to Gwadar Pro. The district was once known for lawlessness with the local people frequently involving themselves in enmities and incidents of violence against their rivals, together with other crimes.

However, as M-15 has brought enormous economic opportunities, the local people are now more inclined to establish businesses in Battagram, instead of being involved in crimes, he said.

“I don’t claim that crimes have ended totally, but the rate at which the law and order situation is improving here is encouraging and it demonstrates the economic and social impacts of CPEC,” he said.

Battagram has become a starting point for the scenic northern parts of the country, as the historic Karakoram (N-35) Highway merges here into M-15, which leads onwards to Shangla district of KP and Gilgit-Baltistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-m-15-motorway-improves-law-and-order-in-remote-kp-district/>

February 26, 2022

Daily Times

MoU signed to promote cooperation in e-commerce

To promote Pak-China cooperation in cross-border e-commerce, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Shenzhen Cross-border E-commerce Association, Shenzhen, China and Hunza Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry, Hunza, Pakistan.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), the MoU was signed by Muhammad Mustafa, Deputy Secretary General of Overseas Finance & Law of Shenzhen Cross-border E-commerce Association, and Imam Dade, President of Hunza Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry, so as to form a comprehensive cooperative partnership between both sides

According to Wang Xin, President of Shenzhen Cross-border E-commerce Association, this MoU is to bridge the gap for both sides and to promote the development of the local logistics industry.

It aims to provide a platform for information exchange and cooperation for enterprises in e-commerce, logistics, manufacturing and service trade of Pakistan and China.

As per the MoU, the two sides will strengthen cooperation in information exchange regarding customs, education, industry, law and other non-confidential policies. Also, more conferences, seminars, exhibitions, and other activities will be organized by both sides in days to come.

In terms of cooperation in research and consulting project on cross-border e-commerce, both sides will carry out research and cooperation in the fields of cross-border e-commerce, talent incubation, industrial parks, free trade zones, transportation, infrastructure and logistics.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/891856/mou-signed-to-promote-cooperation-in-e-commerce/>

Gandhara Art Exhibition to be held in Beijing

Pakistan has decided to organize a Gandhara Art Exhibition at the Palace Museum in Beijing this year, according to Gwadar Pro.

In a Joint Statement between China and Pakistan, the two sides agreed to make all possible efforts in support of greater civilizational exchanges between Pakistan and China and further expand cooperation for the conservation and presentation of heritage and artifacts of the two countries.

The leaders welcomed the organizing of a Gandhara Art Exhibition at the Palace Museum in Beijing in 2022.

New Immersive Technologies for Buddhist Gandhara culture heritage and art with guidance service based on enhanced public/user experience would be the first step to digitalizing Gandhara Buddhist Art, Pakistan also needs to learn and implement this new tech strategy.

Pakistan is the richest among the cultural heritage sites and its art around the world. There are hundreds of archaeological and historical sites that represent the Indus Valley Civilization and Gandhara Civilization.

Emerging “New Immersive Technologies”, Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), and Mixed Reality (MR) capture people’s attention.

It has become a part of different fields of life and has been applied in many sectors such as industry, medicine, video games education, and tourism, but so far “New Immersive Technologies”, Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR) and Mixed Reality (MR) is being used in the area of interest as leisure and entertainment.

Recently, these emerging technologies also got practical attention in the preservation of historical art culture, and heritage.

The advancement of technology computer graphics and immersive Virtual Reality or Augmented Reality systems supporting in cultural heritage for its preservation in multiple resources. There are a lot of different examples that have been seen through which many societies have preserved their historical cultural heritage within a digitized form of conservations.

Virtual and online exhibitions are the applications for the digitized steps towards cultural heritage preservations. Digitized technologies and computer graphic designing have opened new ways for transferring cultural heritage information as well as its preservation.

For example, digital labs and virtual reality museums are giving new lives to dying cultures and heritage with their digital storage system.

The advancement in Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality technology has made it possible to construct large immersive and interactive virtual content in regards to cultural heritage.

For example, In China, cultural heritage means a lot, and its preservation through advanced technology becomes more practically important than ever before.

In 2018-19 Publicity Department of Beijing, Haidian district committee of Communist Party of China (CPC), hosted a virtual exhibition named “Re-member” Three Hills and Five Gardens, applying the immersive technologies in terms of finding and enhancing the new designs for customers’ experience service systems.

Three major sub-systems are developed, namely, VR immersive experience, AR interactive experience, and Mixed Reality including VR/AR, 360 degrees, art installation illustration, digital showcase, and sound interaction.

The Beijing Palace Museum is one of the pioneer museums in the world that has already attained digitization and time by time exhibiting virtually by using all-new immersive techs.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/891854/gandhara-art-exhibition-to-be-held-in-beijing/>

US, China continue as Pakistan's top export destinations in Jan

The United States remained Pakistan's largest export market, with \$539 million worth of goods exported to the country in January 2022. According to the data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), national exports to the USA declined 16 percent on a month-on-month (MoM) basis in January 2022, as the country exported goods worth \$641 million to the USA in December 2021. In terms of volume, China appeared as the second major destination country during the month, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$256 million, depicting a decline of 19 percent on MoM basis while they increased by 35 percent on a year-on-year (YoY) basis. This was followed by the United Kingdom (UK), wherein the total exports to the country during the said period clocked in at \$163.5 million from the exports of \$201.8 million recorded in the previous month. Compared to the same period last year, exports to the UK plummeted by 9 percent YoY.

Next in line are Germany and Netherlands (Holland) wherein Pakistan received export earnings of \$128 million and \$117 million during the month, respectively. Exports to Germany depicted a decrease of 26 percent MoM, while exports to the Netherlands went down by 8 percent on an MoM basis. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to the UAE during January 2022 stood at \$107 million, down by 30 percent MoM, followed by Spain and Bangladesh with \$98 million and \$84 million respectively, the data revealed.

During the first seven months of the current fiscal year (July-January 2021-22), the USA remained the top destination of Pakistan's exports with \$2.68 billion, depicting an upsurge of 44pc when compared to the corresponding period last year. This was followed by China and the UK. The exports to China during 7MFY22 were recorded at \$1.59 billion, up by 55pc YoY, while exports to the UK, the third top export destination, increased by 15pc YoY to \$1.31 billion from \$1.14bn in the same period last year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/892040/us-china-continue-as-pakistans-top-export-destinations-in-jan/>

CPEC projects promoting green development, economic growth: Habib

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib has said that the Chinese-funded companies operating in Pakistan are strongly committed to corporate social responsibility.

Chinese-funded corporations, including those working on projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), are playing a very responsible role in bringing about sustainable social, environmental and economic benefits for the welfare of the people of Pakistan, Habib said while attending the 14th Annual Corporate Social Responsibility Summit the other day.

“The projects under CPEC are promoting the green development of the country ... The state-of-the-art infrastructure and energy projects give impetus to the economic growth of Pakistan,” the state minister told Xinhua, adding that the early completion of the CPEC projects is the foremost priority of the Pakistani government.

On the occasion, the National Forum for Environment and Health also gave awards related to corporate social responsibility to dozens of corporations including several Chinese-funded companies.

Li Hui, chief representative of China Electric Power Equipment and Technology Co., Ltd. to Pakistan, which is a subsidiary of the State Grid Corporation of China that invested and constructed the Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current transmission project under CPEC, told Xinhua that winning awards related to corporate social responsibility highlighted the recognition that the project has received.

The transmission project has been devoted to corporate social responsibility and donated a large amount of rice and flour to the locals and helped the Pakistani people to fight COVID-19 through the provision of masks and medicine, he said, adding that the project also planted over 50,000 trees in eastern Punjab province during the last year to protect the environment.

“Our project will do more in terms of corporate social responsibility in the future to bring more tangible benefits to the locals and enhance the special friendship between China and Pakistan,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/892041/cpec-projects-promoting-green-development-economic-growth-habib/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese varsity to offer scholarships to BEMS graduates

Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, Vice Chancellor the Islamia University of Bahawalpur called on the Executive President Tang International Education Group Max Ma.

Meeting was held regarding collaboration in Research and Education in Traditional Chinese Medicine and Eastern Medicine.

In the meeting Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, Vice Chancellor National Skills University Islamabad was also present.

It was decided that a Dual degree program of Eastern Medicine and Traditional Chinese Medicine will be offered in Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

Chinese Universities will offer scholarships to the graduates of Eastern Medicine (BEMS) for the research, clinical training and specialized Chinese Medicine Courses.

Traditional Chinese Medicine center will also be established in Islamia University of Bahawalpur for the research, education and clinical training of Eastern Medicine graduates.

Furthermore, exchange of students and joint research projects of Eastern Medicine and Traditional Chinese Medicine will be offered to the graduates of Eastern Medicine.

https://pakobserver.net/chinese-varsity-to-offer-scholarships-to-bems-graduates/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=chinese-varsity-to-offer-scholarships-to-bems-graduates

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان اور چین کی کپاس پر مشترکہ تحقیق

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاکستان اور چین کپاس پر مشترکہ تحقیق کے سلسلے کو آگے بڑھا رہے ہیں۔ چائیز اکیڈمی آف ایگریکلچرل سائنسز بائیو ٹیکنالوجی ریسرچ انسٹیٹیوٹ کے پی ایچ ڈی سپروائزر ٹانگ روئی نے کلائمٹ سارٹ واٹر فریڈلائز انٹیلیڈ سسٹم فار کائون اینڈ ویٹ کے عنوان سے منعقدہ ایک بین الاقوامی تربیتی ورکشاپ سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ چائیز کی نیشنل نیچرل سائنس فائڈیشن (این ایس ڈی سی) اور پاکستان سائنس فائڈیشن (پی ایس ایف) موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں اور کپاس اور گندم کی پیداواری اقسام میں متعلقہ تبدیلیوں کے مطالعہ کے ذریعے ایک ماڈل قائم کرنے کے لیے مل کر کام کر رہے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-02-26/page-12/detail-14>

February 27, 2022

Pakistan Observer

Matiari-Lahore LTC won 14th Annual NFEH's CSR Award-2022

Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company Pvt Limited (PMLTC) won the 14th Annual NFEH's CSR Award-2022, Gwadar Pro reported. It took place on the 14th Annual Corporate Social Responsibility Summit and Awards-2022, organized by National Forum for Environment & Health.

PMLTC is a Special Purpose Vehicle set up by China Electric Power Equipment and Technology, a wholly owned subsidiary of State Grid Corporation of China.

The construction and implementation of High Voltage Direct Current project from Matiari to Lahore was developed by PMLTC on Built-Own-Operate-Transfer basis, and the facility will be handed over to Pakistan in 25 years.

<https://pakobserver.net/matiari-lahore-ltc-won-14th-annual-nfehs-csr-award-2022/>

February 28, 2022

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan's Fatima Group inks \$1b deals with Saudi, Chinese firms

Fatima Group, one of the largest industrial conglomerates in Pakistan, has signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth over \$ billion with two key global agriculture

stakeholders China Machinery Engineering Company (CMEC) from China, and Sarh Attaqnia Co. (SAC) from Saudi Arabia.

A formal signing of the business partnership was held at the Pakistan Pavilion, in line with the ongoing Agriculture Week, at Expo 2020 Dubai.

Fatima Group, one of Pakistan's fastest growing industrial conglomerates with more than \$1 billion in revenues, has interests in fertilisers, energy, textiles, sugar, cement, and venture capital investments.

CMEC, as a technology partner, will help with the adaption of climate-smart precision agriculture farm machinery, improved high-yielding seeds, and other crop inputs in Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-fatima-group-inks-1b-deals-with-saudi-chinese-firms/>

Chinese CG assures support to Altamash health facilities

Consul General of China in Karachi Li Bijian has appreciated the meritorious services of Altamash health and medical education facilities in the city; especially for the low income and the poor segments of the society, and assured support in further strengthening the system.

Chairman of Altamash Group, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Altamash, his wife Dr. Shaheena Altamash and CEO Altamash General Hospital Dr. Imad Altamash welcomed the Chinese diplomat during his visit to the recently operational building/facility at Altamash General Hospital in Clifton, says AGH statement on Sunday.

On this occasion, Administrator of AGH, Dr. Muneer Ahmed, in his presentation, spoke of state-of-the-art equipment, IT infrastructure, highly proficient and skilled nursing staff, doctors, and other facilities which were fully operational at the new health facility.

The Chinese Consul General praised the efforts of Dr. Mohammad Altamash who was largely inclined to serve the masses without discrimination. In the coming years, he said, this hospital would set a paradigm for the entire health sector of Pakistan through its exceptional services.

He assured his full support to Dr. Altamash and his team in developing collaboration with the Chinese government for strengthening Altamash healthcare system, which had been widely recognized.

Response to a question on CPEC, Chinese envoy expressed his confidence that CPEC would play a vital role in boosting bilateral ties between China and Pakistan.

As a part of the state-to-state cooperation on economic and social fronts, he said Chinese government was taking key measures to provide exceptional healthcare facilities to the people of Balochistan, especially Gwadar, where China had already started a 150-bed hospital along with all other quality services to facilitate the suffering.

Dr. Mohammad Altamash emphasized on the use of modern technology at the health facilities.

“At our hospital, we fully comply with all the international standards in terms of delivering better healthcare services and to serve the population of over 22 million people in Karachi,” Dr. Altamash added.

He said that for the last four decades Altamash Dental Institute and Clinic were providing incomparable medical services to the people in Karachi. Now, with its newly built facility Altamash healthcare system would better service the humanity.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-cg-assures-support-to-altamash-health-facilities/>

K2 Daily News



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=International&Date=2022-02-28

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2022-02-28