



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

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A pilot project of PICS

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March 16, 2021

Daily Times

Understanding the CPEC Authority legislation

Munir Ahmed

The managing authority of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), commonly termed as the game changer for Pakistan, has no legal standing for the last six weeks. The government got the CEPA bill passed from the National Assembly on February 2, 2021 despite commotion from the opposition on many sections of the bills. An opposition Member of the National Assembly (MNA) Ahsan Iqbal has totally rejected the bill saying the Bill is undesired when the Planning Commission was doing its job successfully. He was one of the five members of the NA Committee who voted against the Bill. But, the Committee cleared it by a majority of two votes.

Strangely, the government came up with the CPECA Bill very recently after getting extension of the CPEC Authority Ordinance 2019 several times that President Dr. Arif Alvi promulgated on October 8, 2019, just before the Prime Minister's visit to China. Perhaps the Prime Minister wanted a face saving for his visit. Otherwise, the PTI government's entire tenure is a miserable reflection of its interest in the CPEC management.

Prime Minister Imran Khan's casual behaviour towards CPEC is understandable. Perhaps, it is for the only reason that he hates everything that is signed or initiated by the former premier Mian Muhammad Nawaz. The CPEC was signed by the then Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his visit to China on July 5, 2013 in Beijing – his first official overseas visit after assuming the PM office. The former Chinese Premier Li Keqiang decided to include Pakistan in the One Belt One Road initiative with CPEC during his first foreign visit in May 2013 after assuming office in March 2013.

In May 2018, just before the general elections in Pakistan, I had the chance to appear on the China Global Television Network (CGTN) for a geopolitical analysis. The host of the CGTN show asked me, what would be the future of CPEC if Imran Khan wins the election because he is against it. The question was reflective of China's fears that are still there even today.

While we strive for one-window operation as a backbone for the agricultural and industrial phase of the CPEC which should be handled by the relevant and expert human resource, we also need to make the CPEC projects more transparent and efficient

In my interview then, I proposed an inclusive and empowered CPEC authority having role of Pakistan army in it, not overall control of it as envisaged in the CPECA Ordinance 2019 or hurriedly passed CPECA Bill from the National Assembly recently in horridly manner. I still believe that Pakistan army's role is very important in the management and monitoring of the CPEC projects but heading the authority should be the prerogative of a civilian professional with a backbone advisory of provincial representation. Having retired or in-service army officers in key positions in the civilian departments and organizations have already given enough bad taste

in the nation's mouth. It would be too much when the media has already highlighted that the decisions taken by the CPEC authority officials would be beyond the jurisdiction of National Accountability Bureau (NAB) or Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

Interestingly, Prime Minister Imran Khan is keenly interested to directly take care of the CPEC Authority as mentioned in the recently passed Bill by the National Assembly, "to plan and coordinate the smooth implementation of the \$62 billion connectivity project".

The other salient features of the bill are that the Authority can seek assistance from any office, authority or agency working under the government, provincial government or local government in the country.

The chairperson of the Authority will be appointed for a period of four years and will be eligible for re-appointment for one additional term of four years. No person shall be appointed as chairperson, member of executive director operations or research if he or his dependents have any direct or indirect financial interest in with any person or body involved in CPEC-related projects. The chairperson, member, executive director operations or research shall not, during their respective terms of office, engage in any other service, business, vocation or employment.

The auditor general of Pakistan shall annually audit the accounts of the Authority. Quarterly reports shall be published on the Authority's website. No person shall communicate or allow to be communicated any record or information obtained pursuant to this Act, to a person not legally entitled to that record or information or allow any person not legally entitled to have access to any record obtained under this Act.

No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against the Authority, the chairperson, member, executive director operations of research, employees, officers, experts, consultants, or advisors in respect of anything done or purported to be done in good faith.

It's ironic to have such type of sections in the CPEC Authority Bill. It seems that the government wants hegemony over the CPEC regime. The question is if the Bill would get through the Senate of Pakistan? It seems possible in the political circumstances we are going through. Hegemonic steps would certainly make the game changer to a debt trap.

While we strive for one-window operation as a backbone for the agricultural and industrial phase of the CPEC which should be handled by the relevant and expert human resource, we also need to make the CPEC projects more transparent and efficient. A rational narrative is imperative to wipe off the ambiguity and rumours by engaging parliamentarians and media counter offensive campaigns. Perhaps, we need to rationalize the new CPEC Authority legislation too.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/734738/understanding-the-cpec-authority-legislation/>

Dawn News

Pakistan main recipient of Chinese arms: report

ISLAMABAD: Although China accounted for 61 per cent of Pakistan's arms imports in 2011-15 and for 74pc in 2016-20, the country's arms imports decreased by 23pc, according to the latest report released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The report, 'Trends in International Arms Transfers 2020' says Pakistan remained the main recipient of Chinese arms and accounted for 38pc of Chinese arms exports in 2016-20.

Pakistan has several large outstanding orders for arms which are scheduled for delivery by 2028. They include 50 combat aircraft, eight submarines and four frigates from China, and four frigates from Turkey. The report by the independent international institute says arms imports by states in Asia and Oceania decreased by 8.3pc between 2011-15 and 2016-20. Of the largest importers in 2016-20, five are in Asia and Oceania: India, Australia, China, South Korea and Pakistan.

The United States accounted for 29pc of the arms imports by states in the region, Russia for 27pc and China for 9.4pc.

On the other hand, arms imports by India between 2011-15 and 2016-20, decreased by 33pc. Russia was the largest arms supplier to India in both 2011-15 and 2016-20. However, Russia's deliveries dropped by 53pc between the two periods and its share of total Indian arms imports fell from 70 to 49pc.

In 2011-15, the United States was the second largest arms supplier to India, but in 2016-20 New Delhi's arms imports from the United States were 46pc lower than in the previous five-year period, making the US the fourth largest supplier to India in 2016-20.

France and Israel were the second and third largest arms suppliers to India in 2016-20. India's arms imports from France increased by 709pc while those from Israel rose by 82pc.

Combat aircraft and associated missiles made up more than 50pc of the Indian arms imports in 2016-20.

The report says that the overall drop in India's arms imports between 2011-15 and 2016-20 seems to be mainly due to its complex and lengthy procurement processes, combined with its attempts to reduce its dependence on Russian arms by diversifying its network of arms suppliers.

As India perceives increasing threats from Pakistan and China and as its ambitious plans to produce its own major arms have been significantly delayed, it is planning large-scale programmes for arms imports.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1612772/pakistan-main-recipient-of-chinese-arms-report>

The Nation

Sino-Pak friendship: 7 decades of mutual love, respect and trust

Abdul Wajid Khan

This year marks the completion of 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the People's Republic of China. Both countries have formally launched activities to commemorate their glorious journey of seven decades of very close and deep-rooted diplomatic ties. On this special occasion of the 70th anniversary, both sides have scheduled a series of activities and events for the whole year to celebrate this historic milestone in a befitting manner.

At a virtual ceremony which was simultaneously held in Islamabad and Beijing, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi reiterated their stance to further cement Pak-China 'ironclad' friendship.

A brief overview of this landmark historical journey indicates that Pakistan was one of the first few countries to recognise the People's Republic of China when it was established on October 1, 1949. Both countries formally established their diplomatic relations on May 21, 1951. In the beginning, both countries faced some difficulties in the bilateral relationship. In the early 1950s, India enjoyed friendly relations with China. India and China started the era of 'Hindi-Chini Bhai Bhai' in order to create good relations between them, while Pakistan decided to join the western bloc to counter security threats from India's growing military power.

During the Bandung Conference in 1955, then PM Pakistan Muhammad Ali Bogra met Chinese Prime Minister Chou Enlai and as a result, both countries succeeded to resolve their mutual concerns. The Bandung Conference built confidence between both countries and its successful conclusion paved the way for their smooth diplomatic, political, economic and defence relations.

Since the beginning of the 1960s, both countries started a new era of remarkable friendship. Pakistan and China inked the Boundary Agreement on March 2, 1963 and this agreement produced political, strategic and economic advantages for both countries.

Later on, both countries also signed the air service and trade contract. Under the Air Service Agreement, Pakistan played a crucial role in the elimination of China's isolation and difficulties.

During the Indo-Pakistan wars of 1965 and 1971, China provided diplomatic, economic and military support to Pakistan. Pakistan always categorically supported China on its 'One China Policy' while China provided it support on Kashmir dispute. Pakistan always extended its full support to China on the issues of sovereignty over Tibet, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Pakistan also supported China to get its seat at the United Nations.

Pakistan played a crucial role in the normalization of the China-US relationship and facilitated high level visits of then US Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger to China in 1971, followed by US President Richard Nixon's visit to China in 1972.

The Indian's nuclear test in 1974 created security threats for Pakistan. The Indian nuclear test gave further push to Pakistan-China defence cooperation in 1974.

Pakistan with the cooperation of China completed the construction of Karakoram Highway in 1978. This was a landmark initiative for the promotion of bilateral trade, people-to-people exchanges and tourism between the two countries. China supported Pakistan to manufacture Al-Khalid tanks and JF-17 fighter jets.

The strategic cooperation between Pakistan and China has grown over the past seven decades. In recent years, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which is considered a basic pillar of China's proposed Belt and Road Initiative, is turning these relations into strong economic relations and in the future, it will also shift Pakistan-China relations into industrial cooperation.

CPEC has, so far, produced real and tangible outcomes for the economy and the people of Pakistan. Due to the completion of major energy projects, the problem of Pakistan's severe energy shortage has been resolved. Massive infrastructure projects under this initiative are not only improving connectivity but also providing thousands of new jobs. Now under CPEC, Pakistan needs to fully focus on the revival of industry because only export-oriented growth can lead Pakistan towards a path of greater development and prosperity.

The highlights above from the history of China-Pakistan relations show that both nations have been enjoying very cordial and close relations in the past. Pakistan and China have always stood side by side in testing times and helped each other on important issues at every forum. That's why, close Pakistan-China ties and this deep-rooted friendship is best described as 'higher than the Himalayas, deeper than the ocean, sweeter than honey and stronger than steel'.

It is the responsibility of both governments to smoothly transfer this legacy of a sincere relationship to new generations. Both governments have already taken concrete steps to boost people-to-people contacts. In this regard, the Chinese government has offered thousands of scholarships to Pakistani students to study in the best universities of China. According to details, Pakistan has established seven sister-province and thirteen sister-city relationships with China. Seven Pakistan study centres and eleven Urdu language departments are also working in various Chinese universities. China has established four Confucius Institutes in Pakistan. Although these steps are bringing people of both countries closer to each other, this will not be enough and more exchanges are needed.

In the present era, full vigilance is required from both sides to protect these deep-rooted ties from emerging challenges. Enemies of both countries are using hybrid war or fifth generation war through social media to create mistrust and misunderstanding among the people of both countries.

It is believed that the relationship of both countries will further grow with the passage of time in the strategic, diplomatic, political and economic spheres because of common interest and a shared future. The legacy of love, respect and trust among the people of both the countries will continue with full enthusiasm in the future.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-16/page-7/detail-5>

The News

Chinese expert shares experience for locust control in Pakistan

BEIJING: A Chinese expert shares his experience for desert locust control in Pakistan on a webinar jointly held by China and Pakistan, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

The report says, Tang Renjian, the minister of the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Syed Fakhar Imam, the minister of the Pakistani Ministry of National Food Security & Research sent a congratulation and a video address respectively for the launch of the locust control training.

At the seminar, Zhang Long, a professor from China Agricultural University, said China and Pakistan are iron brothers, and China would like to help Pakistan deal with the desert locust plague.

Zhang is one of the expert team members who traveled to Pakistan to help the desert locust control in February 2020. As Zhang along with the other experts made a field trip across Pakistan then, Zhang made different suggestions for desert locust control according to different situations. Zhang points out that Punjab province is facing the most emergent situation now. As the nymphs will hatch in the next two weeks, some action must be taken immediately, including digging out eggs and spraying chemicals.

Besides specific measures, Zhang also advised Pakistanis to establish a sustainable, high-efficient and long-term management system for the desert locust control. In this system, biological and ecological controls are the main methods. Zhang thought that monitoring and forecast of the locust should be more precise and efficient.

Zhang also stressed that Pakistan should strengthen scientific research in locust biology, ecology and physiology to tackle threats of locust plague. He also advised to train more people for the locust control.

The webinar is jointly by relevant departments of China and Pakistan, including the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, the National Agro-tech Extension and Service Center affiliated to the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing and the Pakistani Ministry of National Food Security & Research.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/805183-chinese-expert-shares-experience-for-locust-control-in-pakistan>

Express News

چینی ڈرون ٹیکنالوجی کا پاکستان میں ڈیولپمنٹ کیلئے استعمال

چین کی ماڈل ڈرون ٹیکنالوجی کو پاکستان میں کمرشل، ریسرچ، ڈیولپمنٹ، ایگریکلچر اور دیگر پرامن مقاصد کیلئے استعمال کیا جائیگا۔ گوادرو کی رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے چین میں ڈرون قوانین سے متاثر ہو کر گزشتہ ہفتے سول ڈرون اتھارٹی کے قیام کی منظوری دے دی ہے۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ ڈرون ٹیکنالوجی کا ترقی اور پرامن مقاصد کیلئے استعمال پاکستان میں وقت کی ضرورت تھی۔

پاکستانی حکام کے مطابق سول ڈرون اتھارٹی کو ملک میں بغیر پائلٹ طیارے کے نظام کو ریگولیت اور کنٹرول کرنے کا اختیار دیا جائے گا۔ اعلامیے میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ وہ ڈرون اجازت نامے کی فراہمی، درآمد، مینوفیکچرنگ، جانچ پڑتال اور اجراء سے متعلق امور کا بھی فیصلہ کریگی۔

وزیر اعظم آفس کے ایک اعلیٰ عہدیدار نے بتایا کہ اتھارٹی کی ذمہ داریوں میں مینوفیکچرنگ، آپریشنز، ٹریننگ اور ریسرچ اینڈ ڈیولپمنٹ کے معیار تیار کرنا شامل ہوگا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2155282/1/>

K2 Daily

بقیہ 5

شوری کا اجلاس بی بی کو مری صوبہ جانے پر تشویش کا اظہار کرتا ہے جس سے مسئلہ کشمیر کو شدید نقصان ہوگا اور پاکستان کا قومی موقف بے جا ہونے کا شوری کا اجلاس کشمیر کے معاملے سے حکومت پاکستان کی حکومت کی پالیسی سے شدید اختلاف رکھتا ہے جس کے تحت گزشتہ 73 سالوں سے بی بی کو سیاسی، دیہاتی اور آئینی حقوق سے محروم رکھا کر تیار کر کے دم و کرم پر چھوڑ دیا ہے، جماعت اسلامی نے ہر دور میں حکمرانوں کو بی بی کی آئینی حیثیت واضح کرنے اور اسی تناظر میں یہاں کے عوام کو دیہاتی حقوق کی فراہمی کا مطالبہ کیا ہے شوری کا اجلاس گلگت بلتستان میں بجلی کے مسائل پر شدید تشویش کا اظہار کرتا ہے اور مطالبہ کرتا ہے کہ کسی پیک میں شامل تمام بجلی کے منصوبوں کو گلگت بلتستان منتقل کیا جائے، ہنزول، بوٹی، ہنزول، سارکوئی منصوبوں پر کام شروع کئے بغیر بجلی بحران کا خاتمہ ممکن نہیں ہوگا۔ شوری کا اجلاس یہ بھی مطالبہ کرتا ہے کہ پولیس میں بھرتیاں، سیاسی اور عوامی بنیاد پر کرنے کے بجائے خالص صورت پر کی جائیں، شوری کے اجلاس میں اس بات پر بھی تشویش پائی گئی ہے کہ بی بی کے عوام کو اعلیٰ درجے کے لیے بغیر پھیل پارک کا امتحان کیا گیا ہے۔ پھیل پارک کے نام پر زمینوں پر جبری قبضے کی اجازت نہیں دی جائے گی، بھر شوری کا مطالبہ ہے کہ عوام کو اعلیٰ درجے کے لیے کراہت دہانت کیے جائیں شوری کا اجلاس یہ بھی مطالبہ کرتا ہے کہ تمام عوامی ملازمین کو فوراً منتقل کیا جائے شوری کا اجلاس مطالبہ کرتا ہے کہ پھیل سے متعلق عوامی منصوبوں پر کام جاری رکھا جائے شوری کے اجلاس میں 8 مارچ کو پاکستان میں عورت مارچ کے نام پر شہداء اور عوام کا حراق اڑایا گیا ہے اسکی شدید ترین الفاظ میں مذمت کرتے ہیں۔

سی پیک کے بجلی منصوبوں کو بی بی منتقل کرنا ہوگا، عبدالسمیع
ہنزول، بوٹی، ہنزول سمیت دیگر منصوبوں پر کام شروع کئے بغیر بجلی بحران کا خاتمہ ممکن نہیں
مطالبات حل ہونے تک جماعت اسلامی عارضی ملازمین کیساتھ کھڑی رہے گی

گلگت (نامک و خصوصی) جماعت اسلامی جماعت اسلامی گلگت میں ہوا اجلاس میں مختلف طور پر
گلگت بلتستان کی شوری کا انتخابی اجلاس مولانا گلگت بلتستان کے عوامی اٹھوڑ، سیاسی مسائل پر
عبدالسمیع امیر جماعت اسلامی گلگت بلتستان دفتر قرار داد منظور کی گئی (باقی صفحہ 7 پیج نمبر 5)

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

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

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان کو اپنے گھر جیسا پایا ہے، نوٹنگ روٹنگ

عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے پاکستان میں سفیر مسٹر نوٹنگ روٹنگ دفاتر کے دورہ سے پہلے نوائے وقت اور دی نیشن کو خصوصی انٹرویو میں پاکستان اور چین کے مثالی تعلقات پر بہتر پر جوش نظر آئے اور کہا کہ ایک پرانی چینی کہاوت ہے "کسی اچھے دوست سے پہلی بار ملاقات کرنا کسی پرانے دوست کے ساتھ دوبارہ ملاپ کے مترادف ہے۔ بطور سفیر تعیناتی یہ ان کا پاکستان کا پہلا دورہ ہے جس کا انہوں نے بر ملا اظہار کیا اور کہا کہ اگرچہ یہ ان کا پاکستان کا پہلا دورہ ہے لیکن وہ ایسے محسوس کرتے ہیں جیسے اپنے گھر میں ہوں۔ پاکستان کی آب و ہوا اور پودے بالکل ان کے آبائی شہر چین کے خود مختار گوانگ ڈوانگ جیسے ہیں۔ اس سے بھی اہم بات یہ کہ وہ "چین پاکستان دوستی" میں گرم جوشی کو محسوس کر سکتے ہیں اور ساتھ ہی ان دوستانہ تعلقات کو بڑھانے کے لئے پاکستان کی حکومت کے ساتھ ساتھ ہر شعبہ ہائے زندگی سے وابستہ لوگوں سے بھی اس سلسلے میں توقعات رکھتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اسی لئے پاکستان کے لئے "آئرن برادر" کی اصطلاح کو وہ موزوں ترین سمجھتے ہیں۔ مسٹر نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے پاکستانی قوم کی بے حد تعریف کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان ایک شاندار قدیم تہذیب کا گھر ہے اور پاکستانی عوام مہربان، بہادر، باوقار اور پر اعتماد لوگ ہیں جو ایک قابل قدر قومی کردار رکھتے ہیں۔ چین میں پاکستانیوں کے لئے بڑے اچھے اور قابل ستائش جذبات پائے جاتے ہیں۔ اور ہمیں پاکستان اور چین کے مابین تعاون کے لئے مستقبل کے حوالے سے مکمل اعتماد ہے۔

اپنے انٹرویو میں انہوں نے پاکستانی کھانوں کا خاص طور پر ذکر کیا، اور بتایا ان اور باری کیو پاکستانی کھانے بالکل منفرد ہیں، خاص طور پر چین کے خود مختار صوبے شنجیانگ کے کھانوں سے مشابہ ہیں۔ قومی زبان اردو سے متعلق انہوں نے کہا کہ اردو ایک شاعرانہ زبان ہے اور وہ روزمرہ بول چال کی اردو سیکھنے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی سفارتخانے میں ہر کوئی "پاک چین دوستی زندہ باد" کہتا ہے، پاکستان میں بطور چینی سفیر دونوں ملکوں کے تعلقات کو فروغ دینا میرے لئے بڑے اعزاز کی بات ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کی قیادت اور مشترکہ کوششوں کے نتیجے میں مستقبل کے حوالے سے بہت پر امید ہوں۔ 4 ماہ سے اس عہدے پر فائز ہوں، سی پیک اور مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کو فروغ دینے کی کوشش میں اس دوران میں نے پاکستان کے ہر حصے میں لوگوں کو دوستوں جیسا پایا۔ دونوں ملکوں نے مل کر کورونا کے خلاف جنگ لڑی اور اس حوالے سے ویکسین کی فراہمی سے تعاون میں خاص کامیابی حاصل ہوئی ہے۔ پاکستان پہلا ملک ہے جس نے حکومتی اور فوجی سطح پر چین سے کورونا ویکسین وصول کی۔ مستقبل قریب میں چین پاکستان کو مزید پانچ لاکھ ویکسین فراہم کرے گا۔ مجھے یقین ہے دونوں ممالک مشترکہ کوششوں سے اس وبا پر قابو پالیں گے۔ دونوں ممالک کے 70 سالہ سفارتی تعلقات کی ایک تاریخ ہے جس میں دونوں ممالک کے عوام کے دل ایک ساتھ دھڑکتے ہیں۔ پاکستان ایک اچھا دوست اور برادر پڑوسی ملک ہے۔ شاہراہ قراقرم کی تعمیر کے سہ لے کر چینی تو فیصلیٹ کا تحفظ کرنے والے پاکستانی پولیس اہلکاروں تک جانوں کی قربانی دینے والے ان برادرانہ تعلقات کی عمدہ مثال ہیں۔

انہوں نے بتایا پاکستان میں انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی کا انقلاب تیزی سے آگے بڑھ رہا ہے اور یہاں بہت بڑی مارکیٹ ہے اور اس حوالے سے دونوں ممالک کے مابین تعاون کی بھی ایک مضبوط بنیاد اور وسیع امکانات موجود ہیں۔ چین میں بیرون ملک سے آنے والے طلباء کی سالانہ تعداد 28 ہزار سے بڑھ چکی ہے۔ اس لئے دونوں حکومتوں کے مابین آئی ٹی انڈسٹری میں تعاون کو مزید مضبوط بنانے کے حوالے سے مزید مواقع کیلئے اعلیٰ سطح پر اتفاق رائے پایا جاتا ہے۔

سی پیک کے حوالے سے انہوں نے بتایا ان منصوبوں پر کام کی رفتار برقرار ہے۔ اس وقت دونوں ملک جو انٹ کو آپریشن کمیٹی کے 10 ویں اجلاس کی تیاریوں میں مصروف ہیں۔ چین کی مجموعی اقتصادی حجم 100 ٹریلین یو آن سے تجاوز کر چکا ہے، چین نے موجودہ صورتحال کے تناظر میں کچھ ترقیاتی اہداف مقرر کئے ہیں۔ کووڈ 19 کے باوجود اس نے

گذشتہ برس مثبت اقتصادی شرح پیداوار حاصل کی۔ 2021 چین کے 14 ویں پانچ سالہ پلان کا یہ پہلا برس ہے۔ اپنے ترقیاتی پیٹرن کی بنیاد پر چین اپنے ہاں ملکی سطح پر ترقی کے عمل کو عالمی سطح پر ترقی کے عمل کے ساتھ لے کر آگے بڑھے گا۔ عالمی معاشی نمو میں چین کی معیشت نے طویل عرصے سے نمایاں شراکت کا کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ 6 فیصد سے زیادہ معاشی نمو کے حصول کے عمل میں چین یقینی طور پر عالمی سطح پر زیادہ سے زیادہ تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع پیدا کرے گا جس سے پاکستان سمیت دنیا بھر کے ممالک چین کی معاشی نمو سے مستفید ہوں گے۔

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نوائے وقت گروپ نے سی پیک مخالف مغربی پروپیگنڈے کا بھرپور توڑ کیا

چینی سفیر کی قیادت میں نوائے وقت گروپ کے دفاتر کا دورہ

نوائے وقت واحد قومی اخبار ہے جس کا آغاز 23 مارچ 1940 کے اس مبارک روز ہوا جب قرارداد پاکستان پیش کی گئی جو روئے زمین پر ایک الگ مسلم ریاست کی بنیاد کی وجہ بنی۔ نوائے وقت کا یہ اعزاز ہے کہ جب یوم قرارداد پاکستان منایا جاتا ہے تو اسی روز نوائے وقت کی ساگر ہوتی ہے، نوائے وقت سنجیدہ حلقوں میں سب سے زیادہ پڑھا اور پسند کیا جانے والا اخبار ہے جو ہمیشہ ملکی سلامتی اور نظریاتی سرحدوں کے تحفظ کو تاجلا آ رہا ہے۔ نوائے وقت نے ہمیشہ ہی اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان کے مشکل وقت میں ساتھ کھڑے ممالک کے مفادات کو ریاست پاکستان کی پالیسی کے مطابق وکالت کی ہے۔ اور اس کا ادراک دوست ممالک نے بھی بر ملا کیا ہے۔ اس کی واضح مثال پاکستان میں چین کے نئے سفیر مسٹر لونگ روگ کا حالیہ بیان ہے جو انہوں نے نوائے وقت و دی نیشن کے دفاتر کے دورہ پر ٹیننگ ایڈیٹر محترمہ رمیزہ نظامی سے ملاقات میں کیا۔

عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی طرف سے 11 مارچ کو نئے تعینات معزز چینی سفیر مسٹر لونگ روگ نے 12 کئی وفد کے ہمراہ نوائے وقت اور دی نیشن کے دفاتر کا دورہ کیا۔ ملکی تاریخ میں یہ پہلا واقعہ ہے کہ جب پاکستان کے آرن برادر چین کی طرف سے اتنے بڑے سفارتی وفد نے کسی میڈیا مرکز کا دورہ کیا ہے۔ اسلام آباد میں چینی سفارخانے اور لاہور میں چینی قونصلیٹ کے عملے نے مشترکہ طور پر اس دورہ کیلئے خصوصی اہتمام کیا۔ جس میں قائم مقام تو نصل جنرل لاہور مسٹر پنگ زینگو بھی شامل تھے۔ دورے کی نہایت اہم بات چینی سفیر کا یہ ادراک کہ نوائے وقت گروپ نے سی پیک کے خلاف ہونیوالے مغربی میڈیا کے ہر قسم کے پراپیگنڈے کو اپنی رپورٹنگ اور مضامین سے زبردست جواب دیا اور دے رہا ہے۔ چینی سفیر کے عین دورے کے دن ان کے انٹرویو کو نوائے وقت گروپ نے نمایاں کوریج دی۔ چینی سفیر کا ناصرف کسی بھی میڈیا ادارے کا یہ پہلا دورہ تھا بلکہ اس دوران انٹرویو کے لئے بھی انہوں نے نوائے وقت گروپ کا انتخاب کیا۔

وفد کا نوائے وقت کے دفاتر پہنچنے پر گرم جوشی سے استقبال کیا گیا۔ یہاں پہنچنے کے بعد معزز چینی وفد نے ٹیننگ ایڈیٹر محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی سے طویل ملاقات کی۔ باہمی گفتگو و شنید میں مجموعی طور پر حکومتوں سے حکومتوں تک تعلقات سے لے کر نسل در نسل باہمی رشتوں، دوستیوں اور دونوں ملکوں کے کلچر پر تبادلہ خیال ہوا۔ ایم ڈی محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی نے خاص طور پر متبوضہ کشمیر سے متعلق چین کے واضح اور دلیرانہ موقف کو خوب سراہا۔ عام طور ایسی میٹنگز میں مخصوص اور طے شدہ معاملات پر بات چیت ہوتی ہے لیکن اس گفتگو میں کم و بیش دونوں اطراف کے مشترکہ معاملات اور بہترین خارجہ پالیسی پر بات چیت ہوئی۔ ملاقات میں پاک چین تعلقات، دونوں ممالک کے میڈیا کے درمیان ورکنگ ریلیشن کو بہتر بنانے سمیت دیگر امور پر تفصیلی گفتگو کی گئی۔ اس دوران سی پیک سے متعلق مغربی میڈیا کی منفی رپورٹنگ کو کاؤنٹر کرنے کے لئے نوائے وقت گروپ اور چینی میڈیا کے مابین ورکنگ ریلیشن کو بہتر کرنے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ جو یقیناً بڑی ڈومپنٹ ہے۔ ملاقات میں نوائے وقت کی طرف سے ٹیننگ ڈائریکٹر محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی کی سربراہی میں نوائے وقت کے ڈائریکٹر ایڈمنسٹریشن لیفٹیننٹ کرنل (ر) سید احمد ندیم قادری، مارکیٹنگ ہیڈ بلال محمود اور بندہ ناچیز بھی موجود تھے۔ چینی سفیر مسٹر لونگ روگ ابتدائی کلمات میں نوائے وقت گروپ کی طرف سے شاندار استقبال، بہترین رپورٹنگ کو خوب سراہا اور کہا کہ وہ نوائے وقت اور دی نیشن کے دونوں ممالک کے مابین

مثالی تعلقات میں ہمیشہ سے اہم کردار ادا کرنے کو تحسین کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے سی پیک سے متعلق مثبت رپورٹنگ، مضامین چھاپنے اور ادارتی پالیسی میں نمایاں کوریج دینے پر ٹیجنگ ڈائریکٹر محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ نوائے وقت گروپ کو سی پیک کے حوالے سے مثبت کردار ادا کرنے پر مکمل سپورٹ کریں گے۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا پاکستان اور چین کی حکومتیں ایک ہیج پر ہیں۔ چینی سفیر نے پاکستان اور چین کے مابین سفارتی تعلقات کے 70 سال مکمل ہونے پر ہونیوالی مشترکہ تقریب کا بطور خاص ذکر کیا کہ اس تقریب میں دونوں ممالک کے وزراء خارجہ کی شرکت اہمیت کی حامل ہے۔ انہوں نے اس بات پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا کہ پاکستان پہلا ملک ہے جسے چین سے کووڈ ویکسین حاصل ہوئی۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ وہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی طرف سے غربت کے خاتمے پر چین کی تعریف اور مبارکباد دینے پر بھی انتہائی مشکور ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک سمیت متعدد مشترکہ معاملات پر نوائے وقت گروپ اور چینی میڈیا کا ایک ہی ویژن ہے اور ہمیں اس حوالے سے تعاون بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ چینی میڈیا سے کہیں گے کہ وہ مغربی میڈیا کے سی پیک سے متعلق منفی رپورٹنگ کا بھرپور جواب دینے کے نوائے وقت گروپ سے مل کر کام کریں۔ اس حوالے سے نوائے وقت گروپ جو بھی اشاعتی مواد بھجوائے گا وہ چینی میڈیا کے لئے انتہائی سود مند ہو گا۔

چینی سفیر نے ٹیجنگ ڈائریکٹر محترمہ رمیزہ نظامی کو سٹاف سمیت اسلام آباد میں چینی سفارتخانے کا دورہ کرنے کی دعوت دی جس کا انہوں نے خیر مقدم کیا۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات اس قدر قابل رشک ہیں کہ ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کو مشکل حالات میں سپورٹ کرتے آئے ہیں۔ ٹیجنگ ڈائریکٹر محترمہ رمیزہ نظامی نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے دوستی ایسی لازوال ہے کہ دونوں ممالک بلاشبہ آئرن برادر ہیں اور چین کی طرف سے سی پیک کا تحفہ ایک عظیم کاوش ہے۔ اس حوالے سے نوائے وقت گروپ ہمیشہ کی طرح اپنا مثبت کردار ادا کرتا رہے گا۔ انہوں نے چینی سفیر کا کسی بھی میڈیا ہاؤس کے پہلے دورے کے لئے نوائے وقت کا انتخاب کرنے پر شکریہ ادا کیا اور کہا ملکی مفادات کا تحفظ نوائے وقت کی پالیسی ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کے عزت و احترام پر مبنی تعلقات قابل ستائش ہیں اور نوائے وقت گروپ کا پلیٹ فارم دونوں ممالک کے مثالی تعلقات اور سی پیک سے متعلق مثبت رپورٹنگ کے لئے حاضر ہے اور رہے گا۔ دی نیشن کا ایڈیٹوریل اور رپورٹنگ ڈیپارٹمنٹ اس حوالے سے بھرپور کام کر رہا ہے۔ ٹیجنگ ڈائریکٹر محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی نے چینی سفیر کی طرف سے وزیر اعظم عمران خان اور وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی کے لئے تعریفی کلمات ادا کرنے پر کہا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا چین میں غربت کے خاتمے کی تعریف کرنا اس بات کی عکاسی کرتا ہے کہ وہ اپنے ملک میں بھی غربت کا خاتمہ چاہتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی انتہائی پروفیشنل، متحرک شخصیت ہیں جو بطور وزیر خارجہ بہترین کام کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے گذشتہ سال ہونیوالی ”پاک چین فوجی مشقوں“ کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ نوائے وقت واحد میڈیا گروپ ہے جس نے ان مشقوں کو بھرپور کوریج دی۔ گذشتہ سال ہونے والی دونوں ممالک کی فوج کی فوجی مشقیں، جغرافیائی اور سرحدی صورتحال کے پیش نظر خطے کے لئے اہمیت کی حامل تھیں۔ انہوں نے کہا پاکستان کی سلامتی اور سکیورٹی سے متعلق معاملات میں نوائے وقت گروپ نے ہمیشہ اپنا کلیدی کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی نے مقبوضہ کشمیر سے متعلق چینی حکومت کے دو ٹوک موقف کو خوب سراہا اور کہا عوامی جہوریہ چین کا پاکستان کے کشمیر سمیت دیگر اہم قومی معاملات پر موقف کی حمایت کرنا قابل تحسین ہے، ان کا ملک اور اس کے عوام چینی حکومت اور سفارتخانے کے اس حمایت پر خاص طور پر مشکور ہیں۔ محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی نے اس موقع پر کاروبار اور ثقافت کو فروغ دینے کے لئے مختلف تجاویز دیں اور کہا کہ چین کی طبی ادویات بہت موثر ہیں کیونکہ چین کا طریقہ علاج بہت قدیمی ہے اور ان ادویات کو پاکستان میں قابل استعمال بنانے کے لئے کام کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ اس حوالے سے لائسنس سمیت دیگر معاملات کو دیکھنا ہو گا۔ انہوں نے پاکستان اور چین کے پیپلز ٹو پیپلز تعلقات کو مزید فروغ اور کاروباری معاملات کو مزید بڑھانے کے لئے بزنس فیسٹول کے انعقاد کا مشورہ دیا کہ اگر ایسا ہوتا ہے تو دونوں اطراف کے کاروباری طبقات سٹاز لگائیں گے جس میں چینی ایشیا جیسے فوڈ، ایکٹروکس سمیت دیگر آئٹمز رکھی جائیں گی جو یقیناً دونوں اطراف کے کاروباری طبقات کے لئے سود مند ثابت ہوں گی۔ چینی سفیر نے ان تجاویز کا خیر مقدم کیا اور کہا آئندہ ایسی تقریبات کے لئے نوائے وقت گروپ کے پلیٹ فارم سے بزنس کمیونٹی کو متعارف کرایا جائے گا تاکہ کاروبار فروغ پاسکے۔ ٹیجنگ ڈائریکٹر محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی نے معزز مہمانوں چینی سفیر مسٹر لونگ رونگ اور قائم مقام کونسل جنرل لائبر مسٹر پنگ زینگلو کو نوائے وقت گروپ کے اخبارات اور دیگر مطبوعات کے لوگوں پر مبنی یادگاری شیلڈز

دیجیٹل ٹیکنالوجی کے نئے (ر) سید احمد ندیم قادری نے چینی سفیر کو نوائے وقت گروپ کی طرف سے ہیلتھ اینڈ روڈ پراجیکٹ پر خصوصی اشاعت کے میگزین پیش کئے۔ تقریب سے ایک روز پہلے اپنے انٹرویو میں چینی سفیر مسٹر ٹونگ روٹنگ نے بتایا کہ وہ باقاعدہ اردو سیکھ رہے ہیں اور سفارتی عملے میں ”پاک چین دوستی زندہ باد“ کا نعرہ بہت مقبول ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-03-16/page-7/detail-1>

March 17, 2021

Daily Times

China-Pak collaboration conference hosted by the Centre for Chinese legal studies at LUMS

The Centre for Chinese Legal Studies (CCLS) at the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law at LUMS recently organized a virtual conference on the topic of ‘China-Pakistan Collaboration in the 21st Century.

Attended by LUMS students and faculty, the purpose of this conference was to highlight the collaborative efforts of Pakistan and China moving forward, in light of recent partnerships in cases such as China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The conference started off with introductory remarks by the moderator, Professor Sikander A. Shah, Director, CCLS, who introduced the panelists and contextualised Pak-China collaboration to set the foundation for the rest of the talk. Professor Shah focused on the importance of China as a strategic ally to Pakistan in all aspects of foreign policy. He explained that the conference is very timely as CPEC is entering into a new phase and thus, it is important to further study and unearth new opportunities for Pak-China collaboration.

The esteemed panel included Dr. Hassan Bashir, Political Scientist, Texas A & M University; Prof. Li Xiguang, Director, Center for Pakistan Cultural and Communication, Tsinghua University; Mr. Mustafa Hyder Syed, Executive Director, Pakistan-China Institute; Dr. Humayun Bashir, Nuclear Medicine Consultant, SKMCH & RC and Prof. Uzair Kayani, Faculty of Law, LUMS.

Dr. Bashir touched upon various subjects in Comparative Political Theory including the idea that Western Political Theory has historically been about the West, but the recent rise of China in the global order has made it impossible for the West to ignore the East any longer.

Prof. Xiguang talked about the history of Pakistan and its deep links with China for thousands of years. Providing a historical perspective to this relationship, Prof. Xiguang pointed out that China learned Buddhism from the land that is now modern-day Pakistan.

Mr. Syed focused on how CPEC will affect the future of Pak-China relations and what hurdles still stand in the way of Pakistan fully benefitting from CPEC. He prioritized the creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and their future potential, but also raised questions about whether Pakistan was ready to commit to the daunting task of making the most out of these economic zones.

Prof. Kayani discussed the economic dimensions of Pak-China cooperation. By way of comparison between Pakistan and China, he pointed out how Pakistan can benefit from China's experience. Dr. Bashir presented the various possibilities for mutually beneficial collaboration between the two countries in the field of medicine.

The conference included prominent audience members such as the Acting Dean of the Shaikh Ahmad Hassan School of Law, Dr. Sadaf Aziz. The conference also received positive feedback from the participants and served as a constructive discourse on Pak-China collaboration that is becoming more relevant each day.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/735260/china-pak-collaboration-conference-hosted-by-the-centre-for-chinese-legal-studies-at-lums/>

Dawn News

‘Pakistan should strike balance in its ties with US, China’

ISLAMABAD: A US scholar has said Pakistan would have to strike balance in ties with China and United States to avoid drifting further away from Washington.

Daniel Markey, a professor in International Relations at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), while speaking at a webinar hosted by Islamabad Policy Institute (IPI) on 'South Asia and Biden Administration: Engagement and Challenges', said: "A better scenario is that Pakistan should maintain some balance in its relations with China and the United States."

Explaining his vision of balance that Pakistan could be required to undertake, Prof Markey said it could be done by creating "openings for outside investors," by offering them incentives and benefits similar to those extended to Chinese companies and investors.

According to a statement issued by the think tank, he was of the opinion that US would be welcoming of Chinese support to Pakistan as long as Beijing's investments are 'sustainable' and in 'critical sectors' as per Pakistan's economic requirements.

The scholar noted that Biden administration's foreign policy outlook, particularly the South Asia strategy, will be shaped by accelerating strategic competition with China in the immediate term.

"Washington now very clearly perceives China as the global competitor to the United States and this (thinking) is likely to remain for a long period of time to come and, therefore, all of what the United States does internationally will be structured with China in mind," he maintained.

Prof Markey, while explaining Biden administration's approach to dealing with Afghanistan conflict, said that it was attempting to accelerate the dialogue, and progress towards a framework for an agreement between the warring parties that could enable US to stick to a timeline for military withdrawal similar to one given in the Feb 2020 agreement with the Taliban.

Biden administration, he said, is clearly committed to leaving Afghanistan, but wants to do so in a way that at least does not lead to rapid deterioration of security and establishes a regional

compact that could provide a degree of stability or help manage instability, if it happens, going forward.

Former Pakistani diplomat Amb Javid Hussain, while taking part in the discussion, underscored how US policy of propping up India militarily as part of its China containment strategy was affecting Pakistan.

IPI Executive Director Prof Sajjad Bokhari, in his opening remarks, said Pakistani and US policymakers need to search for common ground. He said US must broaden its perspective beyond the Afghan lens and both sides should build mutual trust and undertake pragmatic cooperation for peaceful and prosperous South Asia.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1612903/pakistan-should-strike-balance-in-its-ties-with-us-china>

Pakistan Observer

Now China-Pakistan Knowledge Corridor

Prof Dr Attaullah Shah

THE academic and research collaboration between China and Pakistan have witnessed impressive growth in the last few decades. With the huge investment of Chinese government in research and development, more than 100 Chinese universities are today placed in the global best 500 universities of the world, according to Times Higher Education Ranking (2021), Shanghai Jiao Thong Universities ranking (2020) and US News and World Report (2020). While looking at the significance of intellectual and knowledge connectivity, alongside the physical routes, HEC has timely established a CPEC Centre at its headquarters. Under this initiative, a consortium of CPEC universities has been created which now consists of more than 50 universities.

Lately, HEC approved a project to establish Knowledge and Research Corridor between the two countries. The main aim of the project is to create collaboration amongst the Chinese and Consortium universities of Pakistan for strengthening Chinese Road and Belt Initiative (RBI), to exploit the opportunities of China's appetite for global talent hunt and support the universities of Pakistan for human resource development, identifying the long-term challenges in implementation of CPEC and analysis of Chinese culture and history for drawing lessons for development of Pakistan. The components of the project are: Joint Research: For implementation of these strategies, HEC has proposed some of the way forward like joint research on selected themes of joint interest which can include climate adaptation, sustainable mountain development, food security, urban planning, water resource management, supply chain management, IT entrepreneurship, medicinal plants, gemstones and mineral resource management, etc. Talent Cultivation and Training: This component mainly focuses on the capacity building of faculty to strengthen the academic and intellectual relations. About 400 faculty members will be trained under this component both in Pakistan and China. Post-doctoral research: Post-doctoral research and training provide ample opportunities to faculty for exchange of latest knowledge, research

and technologies. Short Term Trainings: Due to shortage of qualified PhD faculty in the newly established universities in Pakistan, it may not be affordable for them to place most of the faculty on PhD studies or Post Doc research. Hence a window of short term placement of 150 faculty and staff for short-term trainings of 2-3 weeks will be provided. Dual degree programs between Chinese and Pakistani universities: Under the proposed project 10 BS and 20 MS students will be provided with this opportunity to complete their degrees under dual degree programs of Chinese and Pakistani universities. In the current phase, about 12 international conferences will be arranged at Pakistan and China to showcase the research in both countries, which will be focused on the challenges faced by the two countries, with special emphasis over CPEC and BRI.

Establishment of China Study Centres: At least 6 China Study Centres will be established across Pakistan, one each in the four provinces as well as Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. These centres will focus on strengthening the Chinese language teaching, cultural and history studies and act as a think tank for having long-term understanding about CPEC.

The Chinese New Normal of Economic Development, drawn by current Chinese leadership, is based on the OBOR lately called Belt and Roads Initiative (BRI). The principal and strategic component of this network is CPEC which is part of 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The multibillion mega projects under CPEC are destined to usher in a new era of economic prosperity and peace in the region. These mammoth projects in the energy sector, strengthening of physical and telecommunication networks, upgradation and strengthening of Gwadar port and establishment of Export Promotions Zones across Pakistan, are collectively called the “Destiny Changer” in the region. The dividends of the first early harvest phase of CPEC have already created trickle-down effects to the masses in Pakistan.

China and Pakistan are time tested friends with shared boundaries, culture and history dating back to the ancient silk route. The two countries have always stood for inclusivity, peaceful co-existence and sustainable growth in the region. While inaugurating the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, President Xi-Jinping said: “Friendship between China and Pakistan is based on trust and mutual support, and we have been devoted friends through both good and hard times. Our friendship is a pacesetter for amicable relations.” The unwavering support of China to Pakistan’s stance on the issue of Kashmir, China’s Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the enormous allocation of resources to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as part of One Belt and One Road Initiative are some of the major dividends of this friendship. To restrain the hegemonic and expansionist designs of India, the need for this partnership has further intensified in the last few years.

Gilgit-Baltistan is a region blessed with unique opportunities by nature. The region has a distinction of being the converging point of three of the mightiest mountain ranges in the world, namely: Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush. GB being a gateway to CPEC and Karakoram International University, being a pioneer seat of higher learning has been connected to China both physically, historically and traditionally. The flow of services and goods across the two

region under regional trade arrangements, provide unmatched opportunities to the people on both sides of the border. KIU established its Confucius Centre, years back to impart Chinese Language literacy to the students and youth. All graduates of KIU are bound to learn the two levels of Chinese literacy (HESI&II). Every year more than 1000 students are taught Chinese language by native Chinese teachers. A good number of the faculty of KIU also graduated from Chinese top universities that have brought their rich experience to the region for quality education and research to more than 7000 students at KIU. The faculty and students of Pakistani universities and general and KIU in particular would need to abreast for harnessing the opportunities provided under CPEC Knowledge and Research Corridor. Drew Faust President Harvard University quoted: “Higher Education is the strongest, sturdiest ladder for socioeconomic mobility”. CPEC knowledge and Research Corridor (CKRC) will enhance the intellectual capacity of the faculty and staff of Pakistani Higher Education Institutes, which will turn the youth force of Pakistan as a growth engine as envisaged by HEC.

<https://pakobserver.net/now-china-pakistan-knowledge-corridor-by-prof-dr-attaullah-shah/>

CPEC: South Asia & Central Asia, convergence and convenience

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

WE live in an “alternative” mechanism not in “absolute” world in which the concept of “relativity” and “game theory” plays a very important role in any bilateral or trilateral relations and business propositions. During the most recently-held regular press conference, China’s Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian endorsed the importance and utility of relativity and welcomed all countries and international organizations to take part in the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of China’s ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He showcased CPEC as an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative which remained transparent and open since its inception and based on the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. He further added that the principle of cooperation, collaboration and coordination in the building of CPEC with all the interested countries and international organizations would be on the basis of “consensus” and share the dividends of BRI cooperation.

Pakistan is a “gateway” to landlocked Central Asia and has invited all Central Asian Republics (CARs) to benefit from the shortest route to international seas. Pakistan desires to forge closer ties with “Uzbekistan” and other CARs in areas of trade, investment, energy and people-to-people exchanges in which CPEC will play an important role. The Republic of Uzbekistan has been pursuing “holistic” policies to enhance its regional connectivity for achieving desired goals of socio-economic prosperity, regional integration, poverty eradication, energy cooperation and last but not the least mass industrialization. Thus, CPEC may hold the “key” of success in achieving regional connectivity.

Uzbekistan’s reconnect with South Asia through Pakistan offers the “shortest routes”. It has various “seaports” to benefit/connect Uzbekistan not only with South Asia and beyond. Most

recently, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Dr. Abdulaziz Kamilov paid a personal visit to Pakistan and met Prime Minister Imran Khan and discussed matters of regional connectivity and further strengthening of activities of trade & commerce. During the meeting, Pakistan Prime Minister Khan emphasized the importance of economic development and enhanced bilateral trade through enhanced regional connectivity and termed it as the “cornerstones” of economic growth and development for both the countries. He underlined Pakistan’s resolve to forge closer ties with Central Asia, covering trade, investment, energy as well as people-to-people exchanges and the CPEC may provide a “launching pad” to Uzbekistan to move forward to secure its “strategic” interests of “commercial diplomacy” and “regional connectivity” through various seaports of Pakistan and proposed trans-regional railways project. Both sides have now agreed to develop “alternative routes/corridors” in which CPEC may play a vital role in the future.

Uzbekistan is one of the important countries of One Belt & One Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC is the flagship project. Thus commercial “convenience” and “convergence” is there to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries through alternative corridors because regional connectivity heavily rests on economic corridors and transportation hubs.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi also held delegation level talks with the Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan, Dr. Abdulaziz Kamilov. During the meeting, both sides expressed their firm resolve to boost high-level interactions to give impetus to the existing positive momentum in bilateral relations. It was agreed to maximally utilize the existing institutional mechanisms by regularly convening sessions of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPCS) and Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC). He also underscored the importance of closer agricultural cooperation between the two countries particularly in the cotton seed sector.

Uzbekistan is blessed with natural coloured cotton which may be utilized by initiating a joint venture in public-private partnership between the two sides. CPEC Phase-II may carry agricultural development in the country so scope of agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan may be further strengthened in the days to come.

In this connection during the various spells of bilateral meetings both sides agreed to enhance trade relations, Bilateral Transit Trade Agreement (BTTA), Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), banking and visa issues, and aviation and customs cooperation.

In the near past, Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood and Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister Sardor Umurzakov had various meaningful meetings to further strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries.

In order to further deepen the trade ties, both sides also agreed to hold a business conference in Tashkent in July this year. Most recently, Pakistan offered cooperation to different Uzbek stakeholders including customs, maritime affairs, railways and aviation sectors. Uzbekistan and Pakistan held the first meeting of the joint working group on trade and economic issues, as well as a railway project to link the two countries. A special attention is now being paid to the

practical aspects of the implementation of the project for the construction of the Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway. The Proposed railway link through Afghanistan will have a strategic importance for further strengthening bilateral economic ties and ensuring sustainable development of the Central Asian region. Uzbekistan's national rail company has built and operates a railway line to Mazar-i-Sharif town in Afghanistan, and the project aims to link it to Pakistan opening the country's seaports for the Central Asian region.

Uzbekistan's President Mirziyoyev's "paramount" structural reforms have now revolutionized Uzbekistan due to which its role in reconnecting Central Asia with South Asia has now been further consolidated. Rich in hydrocarbons and mineral resources and possessing a relatively well-educated and low-cost labour force, Uzbekistan has become a leading emerging economy of the world. Uzbekistan has great potential to serve as a "manufacturing", transport and technical hub for Central Asia, South Caucasus and South East Asia which may be further strengthened by combining the BRI and CPEC for all future "endeavours" between the two sides.

Uzbekistan has now made a rapid progress in the development and successful implementation of a whole range of industry-specific growth, export-oriented policies, investment & business friendly structural reforms, corruption free governance and society, independent judiciary, transparency and development programs, which have actually revolutionized its economic prospects and business outlook. It has outperformed all the regional economies in terms of GDP, GNP, job generation, foreign currency management, tourism, service sector and, above all, development of human capital.

Among all the Central Asian Republics Uzbekistan remains the most stable state with well developed capital and social infrastructure. It is the world's second largest cotton exporter and fifth largest producer. It also has gas reserves. It also has several operational oil fields.

So convergence and convenience of South Asia & Central Asia may be a beneficial proposition which may be further strengthened by combining the BRI & CPEC.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-south-asia-central-asia-convergence-and-convenience-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

China says will continue to work with Pakistan to fight against pandemic

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian has said that China will continue to work with Pakistan to strengthen anti-epidemic cooperation including vaccine cooperation and to contribute to building a global community of health for all.

The remark came during a regular news briefing in Beijing in response to the administration of the China-made Sinopharm vaccine to President Dr Arif Alvi and First Lady Samina Alvi in Islamabad. Noting the relevant reports, the spokesperson said, China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners. "Pakistan is the first country to receive the Chinese aided vaccines in

the world, which reflects our special friendship, and which also represents new highlights in our practical cooperation,” he added.

On Monday, President Alvi and the first lady got their anti-Covid shot in Islamabad with the former urging the nation to take precautions to make Pakistan sail through the third wave of the pandemic.

Talking to the media, the president said the elite across the world had been breaking the queue to get vaccinated but in Pakistan, the government had put in place an efficient mechanism for vaccination of the people on their turn. Calling the Covid-19 a deadly disease, President Alvi said it affected the elderly more than others and it could only be tackled through precautions.

Earlier today, a second batch of the Sinopharm vaccines from China to inoculate the population against Covid-19 arrived in Pakistan. PM's Assistant on Health Dr Faisal Sultan received the 0.5 million jabs at the Nur Khan Airbase in Rawalpindi, the ministry of health said. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Faisal said that China has always extended a helping hand to Pakistan in crucial times, and thanked the Chinese government for its generosity.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2289951/china-says-will-continue-to-work-with-pakistan-to-fight-against-pandemic>

The Nation

US competition with China, Afghan conflict to shape up Pak-US ties: Experts

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - The United States competition with China and the Afghan conflict would shape Pakistan-US ties, experts said on Tuesday.

Foreign policy experts believed that US President Joe Biden's policy for South Asia would be driven by competition with China and developments in Afghanistan.

They said Pakistan would have to position itself accordingly for keeping the bilateral ties on an even keel.

They expressed these views while speaking at a webinar hosted by Islamabad Policy Institute on 'South Asia and Biden Administration: Engagement and Challenges'.

Daniel Markey, a professor in International Relations at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, said global competition with China was the organising principle of Biden administration's foreign policy.

“Washington now very clearly perceives China as the global competitor to the United States and this (thinking) is likely to remain for a long period of time to come and, therefore, all of what the United States does internationally will be structured with China in mind,” he maintained.

He recalled that one of the earliest foreign policy acts of President Biden was holding a discussion with Quad partners in Asia. “This implies that Washington is now turning to alliances and partnerships as the building blocks for the global competition with China,” he said.

Daniel Markey urged Islamabad to strike a balance in its ties with China and US and create “openings for outside investors,” by offering them incentives and benefits similar to those extended to Chinese companies and investors.

Professor Markey, while explaining Biden administration’s approach to dealing with Afghanistan conflict, said that it was attempting to accelerate the dialogue, and progress towards a framework for an agreement between the warring parties that could enable US to stick to a timeline for military withdrawal similar to one given in the Feb 2020 agreement with the Taliban.

He said, “Biden administration was clearly committed to leaving Afghanistan, but wants to do so in a way that at least do not lead to rapid deterioration of security.”

He maintained: “For Pak-US relations, the crucial question is: what will be the relative near-term outcome in Afghanistan and what will be the nature of the cooperation between the United States and Pakistan.”

Accelerated dialogue and diplomacy can bring opportunities for broader cooperation between US and Pakistan.”

Former Pakistani Ambassador Javid Hussain, while taking part in the discussion, underscored how US policy of propping up India militarily as part of its China containment strategy was affecting Pakistan.

Javid Husain said if US expected Pakistan’s cooperation on issues of peace and security in Afghanistan and in the Indian Ocean, then it would have to keep in mind Islamabad’s concerns, especially with regards to the growing Indo-US cooperation that could disturb the strategic balance between Pakistan and India.

IPI Executive Director Professor Sajjad Bokhari, in his opening remarks, said Pakistani and US policy-makers needed to search for common ground.

He said US must broaden its perspective beyond the Afghan lens and both sides should build mutual trust and undertake pragmatic cooperation for peaceful and prosperous South Asia.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-17/page-4/detail-3>

70 golden years of Pak-China ties

Muhammad Mehdi

The 70th anniversary of Pak-China ties is being celebrated this year and it is a good thing that the friendship with China is at the forefront of issues on which there is no difference of opinion in Pakistani society. The positive feedback on the usefulness of establishing closer ties with China

in Pakistan came with the advent of the Chinese Revolution and its profound effect on the collective psyche of both nations. This is not just rhetoric, but when Chinese President Xi paid his first visit to Pakistan in 2015, he wrote an article in which he expressed his feelings in this way “When I was young, I heard many touching stories about Pakistan and the friendship between our two countries. To name just a few, I learned that the Pakistani people were working hard to build their beautiful country, and that Pakistan opened the air corridor for China to reach out to the world and supported China on restoring its lawful seat in the United Nations. The stories have left me with a deep impression.”

Sentiments for Pakistan in these words are a national asset for us. And this is not a new mindset that has gone up and down; this friendship of the brotherly nations is recognised by the policymakers and opinion leaders on both sides. When the communist revolution broke out in China in 1949, there was a fierce difference between capitalism and communism in the world. Non-communist countries did not seem ready to recognise the Chinese revolution, but under these circumstances, just three months after the revolution, on January 4, 1950, Pakistan sent a high-level delegation to China. And things started moving towards the establishment of diplomatic relations. Regular diplomatic relations were established between the two countries on May 21, 1951. It is important to know that Pakistan was the first Muslim country to establish diplomatic relations with China after the Chinese Revolution and the third non-communist country to take such a step.

From this, one can easily gauge the extent to which the government of Shaheed-e-Millat Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan was looking into the matter with proper understanding of this important issue. It was clear that Pakistan was not going to follow in the steps of big powers who were lobbying against the Chinese revolution.

Later, in 1955, a high-level Chinese delegation led by Vice President Madam Song Ching arrived in Pakistan and high-level visits were made. In response, Prime Minister Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy visited China in 1956. The Boundary Agreement between Pakistan and China, signed in 1963, is the most significant deed because it resulted in the regularisation of all borders with China so that there would be no future differences.

Pakistan became the first non-communist country whose airline launched flights to Beijing in 1964 and began to play its part in reducing China's isolation from the world. Similarly, the Scientific and Cultural Cooperation Agreement was signed in 1976, which opened a new path for Pakistanis on scientific matters. The Karakoram Highway of 1978 connected Pakistan with western China, while China also gained access to the Arabian Sea.

Similarly, in 1995, a transit trade agreement was signed between Pakistan, China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, opening the way from Central Asia to Eurasia. Pakistan has been facing a defence threat from India since its inception. In order to prevent this threat and India's air superiority, the Nawaz Sharif government signed an agreement with China in 1999 to make JF-17 Thunder fighter jets. JF-17 fighter jets joined the Pakistan Air Force in 2010, which India enjoyed in the form of Abhinandan. During the Zardari government in 2013, the Chinese Prime

Minister Li visited Pakistan and the two countries discussed the concept of ‘Comprehensive Strategic Cooperation’.

In 2013, the Nawaz Sharif government was formed in Pakistan and in the same year he visited China and presented the “vision for deepening China-Pakistan strategic partnership in the new era” and then President Xi paid a historic visit to Pakistan in 2015 in which the agreement for CPEC was signed and then the work started on CPEC under the Chinese vision of Road and Belt initiative.

No situation in Pakistan can spoil our relations and no other opinion can be formed in this regard. But it is worrying that after the political change of 2018, a silence is beginning to be felt and silence on CPEC is very inappropriate. Similarly, our diplomatic position in the world is weakening. For example, it is very significant that President Joe Biden did not have contact with Imran Khan until a month after he came to power. At the moment, Chinese diplomatic circles seem to be questioning Pakistan’s future political landscape as they plan President Xi’s visit to Pakistan after April. But there are also fears of delays; President XI’s visit should happen because it will give more strength to our brotherly relations.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-17/page-6/detail-2>

Pakistan can adopt Chinese technology for cultivation of olive plants: Experts

BEIJING - Pakistan has immense potential of olive plantation due to availability of land and favourable environment in the country. If olives are planted on Pakistan’s arable land, the country could become one of the world’s leading olive oil producers and exporters.

Experts believe that Pakistan can adopt the latest Chinese technology for the cultivation of olive plants.

China could be one of the potential markets for Pakistani olive production in the future, which could also help reduce the trade deficit between the two countries, according to experts. Currently, olive brands from Spain and Italy are highly recognized in the Chinese markets, according to a report published by CEN on Tuesday.

The government of Pakistan is increasing olive cultivation in the country. Olive plantation under ‘10 Billion Tsunami Tree’ initiative of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s government is one of such projects aiming to increase olive products, reduce the impacts of climate change and to support poverty alleviation.

While addressing the launching ceremony of olive plantation campaign in Nowshera district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa yesterday, Prime Minister Imran Khan has also stressed that olive plantation would help address the country’s food security, climate change, unemployment and will save our foreign exchange.

“Olive Tree Tsunami will not only ward off the increased conversion of land into deserts but a national resource of healthy edible oil will emerge as well,” a senior provincial official said. Under the program, four million olive plants would be grafted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to

produce olive products. An area of 27 hectares had been selected for the plantation of olives in Amangarh, Nowshera.

The agriculture experts said that olive cultivation in Pakistan has become a success. Olives have been cultivated for the last three decades in the country, however, the proper screening of olive varieties in recent times has improved the cultivation of the plants.

Pakistan has 12.72 million hectares of land, which is cultivable for olive plantation. Out of this area, four million hectares is the most suitable land with proper irrigation systems. Currently, olives are cultivated at 35,000 hectares of land. Pakistan extracted 11,000 tons of extra virgin olives during the last season.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Potohar region in Punjab and Khuzdar in Balochistan contain the most suitable land for olive cultivation.

The experts have called upon Pakistan and China to deepen and expand cooperation in the agriculture sector under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-17/page-9/detail-0>

The News

Learning from China

Modern China is in many ways a remarkable success: within a generation it has become a moderately high-income country from a low-income one. It has eliminated poverty, and expanded the capability of its citizens with decisiveness and skill.

China has also become the mightiest economy, in terms of purchasing power parity. Its children are top performers in mathematics, science and reading, and it produces the largest amount of scientific literature – all telltale signs of more future progress.

China's hope of realizing 'Zhongguo Meng' (the Chinese dream) and overtaking the West in living standards no longer seems a distant one. Through investments in education and healthcare, it keeps enhancing living standards and labor productivity at faster rates than in any other country.

And so, its 14th five-year development plan, published recently, promises another round of economic and social transformation, another leap towards giving practical content to Zhongguo Meng.

Though admitting that industrial greatness is still 30 years ahead, the plan aims to make China the world leader in ten industries, including aviation, and critical technologies such as semiconductors. It will also build a navigation system to rival the US's GPS, expand the already impressive network of high-speed rails, power grids and much more. As a result, growth this year could be a whopping nine percent.

China's development is a good example to follow. Its emphasis on expanding human capability both as a goal in itself and an integral element of achieving growth is an effective way to eliminate poverty and rapidly improve living standards of the people. The lesson here is: there are enormous returns from bettering human lives.

Rather than adopting *laissez faire* or the path of Western style deregulated capitalism, China follows one of active economic management. The Chinese call this 'capitalism with Chinese characteristics.' It means opening the economy to competition. But rather than letting the market rule economic life, the state governs the market, controls assets and income streams. It mobilizes funds for investment, shapes the economy and economic outcomes through its five-year development plans. And, far from retreating, the state throws its weight behind its enterprises, enabling some to become world leaders in their respective areas of business.

The lesson here is: China uses capitalism well, but it practices state-led capitalism rejecting Western-style *laissez faire* ideology.

Our socio-economic underperformance could be traced to a failure to learn from China's example of bettering human lives and from the example of its state's active role in the process. Yet, Western pundits and our very own China experts are quick to tell you that capitalism with Chinese characteristics works 'because of the capitalism, and not the characteristics.' Hence their conclusion that China and we need more capitalism. So, they tell us, sell more of your profitable state enterprises, reduce the state's role in the economy so that, guided by their 'animal spirits,' Pakistani businessmen can do everything efficiently.

Binyamin Appelbaum's book 'The Economists' Hour: False Prophets, Free Markets and the Fracture of Society' tells us how such economists dominated policymaking in Washington and 'seriously misled the nation, helping to disrupt and divide it socially with a false sense of scientific certainty about the wonders of free markets.'

Still, there's a grain of truth, only a grain, in the pundits' claim concerning the role of capitalism in China's development, but it is far from the whole story. And you can't understand China's story without recalling the follies of its encounter with capitalism a century ago. At the time, China was a country of addicts. For fifty years, the East India Company was exporting opium to China from Bengal to pay for Chinese tea which the British drank copiously, as now. Annual opium exports to China were over nine hundred tons, which turned millions of Chinese into addicts but cleared up Britain's trade deficit.

So, quite naturally, Britain was outraged when the Chinese finally clamped down on the harmful drug in 1839. Britain's naval flotilla seized Canton killing thousands, which the British foreign minister said was essential to protect 'free trade,' a fundamental principle of capitalism. Britain annexed Hong Kong and wrested twenty million silver pieces (more than half a billion dollars in today's currency) in war reparations. Fifteen years later, also in the service of free trade, France, Russia and the US joined Britain to wage another 'opium' war on China. In its aftermath, they extracted more reparations and legalized opium trade.

The Chinese call these years their 'century of humiliation.' During this time they say 'foreigners dismembered China, poisoned it with opium, butchered our people and looted our treasures.' The Qing dynasty collapsed; civil war and revolution led to Mao's Long March in which 90,000 red army soldiers died. Yet, the communists recovered. They beat the much superior Japanese army and the nationalists. Twenty million Chinese died in the struggle. It is a feat more heroic and remarkable than the mythological Chinese Titan Pan Gu splitting the sky and earth from primordial chaos with his axe.

And so, today, no one pushes China around. It is on a roll, showing the rest of the world the enormous benefits of central planning and collective behavior without which humanity can no longer manage itself.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/805380-learning-from-china>

K2 Daily

بقیہ 19

یوں ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری سے ملے معیشت مستحکم ہوگی۔
ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے فیروز پور پورڈ کے
تاجروں کے وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ خادم
حسین نے کہا کہ بیرونی سرمایہ کاری میں اضافہ سے نئی
صنعتوں کے قیام سے روزگار کے دیگر مواقع دستیاب
ہوئے اور ملک سے سپرد روزگاری کے خاتمہ میں مدد ملے
گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان میں مختلف
شعبوں میں سرمایہ پھر کیلئے تیار ہیں جس سے پاکستان کی
معیشت میں ابھری دیکھی جاسے گی اور ملکن کے تعاون
سے قائم چینی سے گلوبائل معنومات کی ایک پھورت
شروع ہونے سے پاکستان کے ورملڈ کے دفاتر میں
بھی اضافہ ہوگا۔

چینی کمپنیوں کی سرمایہ کاری سے معیشت مستحکم ہوگی، خادم حسین

بیرونی سرمایہ کاری میں اضافہ سے نئی صنعتوں کا قیام، روزگار کے مواقع دستیاب ہوں گے

لاہور (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) تاجر رہنما و گلوبائل چینی کے دورہ کو خوش آئند قرار دیتے
پاکستان سٹون ڈولپمنٹ کمپنی کے بورڈ آف ہونے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور ملکن ہمسائیہ ممالک
ڈائریکٹرز کے رکن خادم حسین نے ملکن کے ہیں اور یہ ایک کے بعد پاکستان تاریخ اہمیت اختیار
پاکستان میں سٹیر لوگ روگ کی لاہور ملتان روڈ کر گیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی کمپنیوں کی
پے 60 ملین ڈالر کی چینی سرمایہ کاری سے قائم چینی پاکستان میں حریہ اور (باقی صفحہ 6 بجیہ نمبر 19)

<https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP ICT&Page=International>

بقیہ 31

اور دیگر برہمن مقلد کیلئے استعمال کیا جائیگا۔ میلڈا
برہمن کے مطابق گوادر پر دہ کی برہمن میں کہا گیا
ہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے ملکن میں ڈورن
قوانین سے حائر ہو کر گزشتہ پلٹے سول ڈورن
اقتدار کی کے قیام کی منظوری سنائی ہے۔

چینی ڈورن ٹیکنالوجی کا پاکستان میں

ڈیو پلنٹ کیلئے استعمال کریں گے

اسلام آباد (آن لائن) ملکن کی مال ڈورن
ٹیکنالوجی کو پاکستان میں کرسٹل، ریسرچ،
ڈیو پلنٹ، ایگریکلچر (باقی صفحہ 7 بجیہ نمبر 31)

<https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP ICT&Page=Classified>

<https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP ICT&Page=Back Page>

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

Nawaiwaqt News

چین نے اپنی ویکسین لگوانے والے ملکوں کیلئے ویزوں میں نرمی کر دی

بیجنگ (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چین نے ان کی تیار کردہ ویکسین لگانے والے پاکستان، امریکا اور بھارت سمیت دیگر ممالک کے شہریوں کو ایک سال کی بندش کے بعد ویزے جاری کرنے کے لئے پالیسی میں نرمی کر دی۔ خبر ایجنسی اے ایف پی کی رپورٹ کے مطابق چین کی تیار کردہ کووڈ-19 ویکسین لگانے والے غیر ملکیوں کو سرحدی پابندیوں میں نرمی کرتے ہوئے واپسی کی اجازت دینے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے۔ خیال رہے کہ چین نے گزشتہ برس مارچ میں کرونا وائرس کی شدید لہر آنے کے بعد اکثر غیر ملکیوں کے لئے اپنی سرحد بند کر دی تھی اور اس کے نتیجے میں بڑے پیمانے پر وائرس پر قابو کر لیا تھا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-03-17/page-3/detail-44>

March 18, 2021

Business Recorder

China donates 500,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine

ISLAMABAD: Government on Wednesday received a Chinese donation of 500,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine, bringing the country's total supply to 1 million shots, Health Minister Faisal Sultan said.

The South Asian nation of 220 million people launched COVID-19 vaccinations for the public on March 10, starting with older people. Health workers started receiving shots in early February.

"These 500,000 doses will ensure smooth continuation of our vaccine drive, currently under way for senior citizens," Sultan said in a tweet.

Sinopharm, the only vaccine currently available in the country, requires two doses. The virus infections have sharply increased lately in the overwhelmingly Muslim nation that has had a history of refusing vaccination.

The percentage of COVID tests coming back positive across the country has touched 6.26% and crossed 11% in Punjab, the largest province.

Pakistan has recorded 612,315 coronavirus cases and 13,656 deaths, with 2,351 infections and 61 deaths reported in the last 24 hours.

The country has not secured any vaccine from drug manufacturers and is depending on the GAVI/WHO COVAX initiative for poorer nations and the donations.

Pakistan is expecting to get GAVI's first batch of 2.8 million doses of AstraZeneca sometime later this month, officials said.

Besides Sinopharm and AstraZeneca, Pakistan has approved Russia's Sputnik and China's CanSino Biologics Inc's (CanSinoBIO) vaccines for emergency use.

CanSinoBIO has released interim efficacy results from a multi-country trial, which included Pakistan, showing 65.7% efficacy in preventing symptomatic coronavirus cases and a 90.98% success rate in stopping severe infections.

In the Pakistani subset, efficacy of the CanSinoBIO vaccine at preventing symptomatic cases was 74.8% and 100% at preventing severe disease.

Authorities last week reversed a decision to allow large indoor gatherings like cinemas, theatres and marriage halls in Pakistan after opening up almost all sectors of society.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/03/18/1-page/874234-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC committee reviews projects in Sindh

A meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was held at the Sindh Secretariat to review the projects under the CPEC in Sindh.

Chairman Parliamentary Committee for CPEC MNA Sher Ali Arbab, Chief Secretary Sindh Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah, Committee Members MNA Noor Alam Khan, MNA Sadaqat Ali Khan Abbasi, MNA Murtaza Javed Abbasi, MNA Zahid Akram Durrani, MNA Muhammad Aslam Bhootani, Federal Secretary Planning, Chairman Sindh Planning Board Wasim Ahmed, Commissioner Karachi Naveed Ahmed Sheikh and other relevant secretaries have attended the meeting.

The meeting was briefed on Thar Coal, Special Economic Zones, KT Bandar project, Karachi Circular Railways, BRTs and other projects.

Briefing the committee, Chief Secretary Sindh Syed Mumtaz Ali Shah said that Thar Coal has the capacity to meet the power needs of the entire country. He said that there is famous slogan that Thar will change Pakistan because Thar is generating cheaper electricity from all other power generation projects in the country. “Additional 660 MW electricity from Thar will also be added to the national grid this year” he said. In the meeting, Chief Secretary Sindh also invited the CPEC Parliamentary Committee to visit Thar Coal to witness the progress.

The Chief Secretary said the members of the committee should visit Thar and see the development work done by the Sindh government, roads have been constructed and the provincial government had built an airport in Islamkot to facilitate the investors he added. He further said that Dhabeji Special Economic Zone is another big project on 1500 acres of land, which will be used for industries. Dhabeji Economic Zone is an important project of CPEC, which will boost the manufacturing and increase exports of the country. He said that a mass transit network is being laid in Karachi city from Malir Expressway, BRT and KCR which will resolve the transport problems in the city.

During the meeting, Chairman CPEC Parliamentary Committee said that timely completion of the CPEC projects are in the national interest. He said that Thar Coal, Dhabeji Economic Zone

and Wind Corridors of Sindh are the big projects. He said that the real success of CPEC is Special Economic Zones and the Gwadar.

The parliamentary committee appreciated the efforts of the Sindh government on the CPEC projects and the members have decided to visit Thar soon.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/735694/cpec-committee-reviews-projects-in-sindh/>

Joint ministerial meeting held on Gwadar modalities

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi on Wednesday chaired a joint meeting with representatives of various ministries to discuss Gwadar modalities. According to a press release, the meeting discussed different issues including update on various plans/projects with input of all stakeholders – detailed discussion on different projects/ deliverable to increase footfall in Gwadar and prioritise alignment of different infrastructure projects to streamline for Gwadar to become a business hub. The meeting agreed for joint input from all ministries will help to expedite the different challenges and remove obstacles that are collectively being experienced. Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce Razzaq Dawood and CPEC Authority Chairman Gen (r) Asim Bajwa were also present in the meeting.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/735744/joint-ministerial-meeting-held-on-gwadar-modalities/>

Pakistan Observer

Rashakai to be leading example of Sino-Pak partnership: KP-BOI

Rashakai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ) will be a leading example of public-private partnership with China. It is poised to uplift Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province by attracting local and foreign investment, creating thousands of jobs and bringing in economic and social services, said Hassan Daud Butt, CEO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment & Trade (KP-BOI).

Talking to Gwadar Pro, Hassan Daud Butt said, "Many Chinese enterprises and investors have shown keenness to invest in RSEZ. We are just waiting for the groundbreaking which will take place soon. We have received many requests from Chinese investors for land acquisition in RSEZ and KP-BOI has prepared a plan to facilitate the investors upon the inauguration, he said.

Prime Minister Imran Khan is expected to perform the groundbreaking of RSEZ on March 19. The internal development work will begin after the inauguration while the external developments such as road construction, laying of electricity and gas pipelines are going full swing. According to Hassan Daud Butt, the role of KP-BOI is to find potential investors, to interact with them and to give them potential projects. "We also try our best to provide investors with one window service and to facilitate them in getting NOC (explain NOC) and regulation", he told Gwadar Pro. There is a one-time tax exemption for developers if they bring equipment for the development to the economic zone.

<https://pakobserver.net/rashakai-to-be-leading-example-of-sino-pak-partnership-kp-boi/>

Matchmaking webinar for handicraft products in Chinese market

Trade Development Authority of Pakistan in collaboration with Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai and Handicraft Association of Pakistan organized a matchmaking webinar for handicraft products in the Chinese market. In this webinar, Consul General Shanghai, Mr Hussain Haider arranged around eight buyers as well as logistic companies from China. From the supply side, around ten handicraft suppliers from Pakistan participated who pitched their products and showed their product catalogue to Chinese buyers. The Chinese buyers showed immense interest in Pakistani handicraft products. These buyers identified handicraft sellers from Pakistan of interest pre-sent in the webinar and asked them to share their contact details for further business interaction. Chinese buyers also apprised participants of their particular demands, market preferences in China and their willingness to import handicraft products from Pakistan. Consul General Shanghai told the participants that this should not be a one-time exercise and this forum should be utilized by both Pakistani and Chinese side to build lasting business relationships. Ms. Haleema Usman, chairperson Handicraft Association of Pakistan thanked TDAP and the consulate in Shanghai for providing the opportunity to handicraft suppliers in Pakistan for this virtual B2B. Mr. Fahad Barlas, former chairman Handicraft Association of Pakistan gave an overview of the suppliers of handicraft products present in the webinar.

<https://pakobserver.net/matchmaking-webinar-for-handicraft-products-in-chinese-market/>

The Nation

Pakistan lauds China for speedy delivery of Covid-19 vaccine

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has taken elaborate measures to vaccinate millions of its people, thanks to the Chinese government for speedy delivery of anti-corona vaccine which is still coming in batches, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday.

Mass vaccination centres have been set up across Pakistan just ahead of the arrival of another 500,000 doses of Sinopharm Vaccine.

“We have set up these centers in Islamabad, Multan, Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar. More will be established across other cities,” said a senior official dealing with the vaccine program project in Pakistan.

Pakistan has signed a deal with Beijing Institute of Biological Products for delivery of Sinopharm vaccine that aims to fight against COVID-19.

In Pakistan, Federal Health Ministry has recently launched a registration drive across the country in collaboration with NADRA advising the masses to register to have jabs of vaccine.

“Vaccine is being administered to people who have registered online to get free dose of vaccine. The vaccination will continue until the whole population gets jabs of vaccine,” a spokesperson of Ministry of Health told the media.

A large number people in Pakistan, mostly frontline health workers, have been so far been administered doses of Sinopharm vaccine. The vaccine has had great results so far, Pakistani authorities said.

Meanwhile, the health authorities have confirmed they have placed an order to purchase single-dose Chinese vaccine Ad5-nCoV vaccine (Cansino Bio) for COVID-19 and its first batch is expected to be delivered to Pakistan shortly.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-18/page-4/detail-7>

Ambassador Haque briefs FPCCI on Pakistan's economic diplomacy in China

BEIJING - Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin-ul-Haque briefed the leadership of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) on Pakistan's economic diplomacy in China, which had achieved tangible results despite the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

He said that the positive outcomes included the 18 percent year-over-year increase in Pakistan's exports to China in 2020; both sides agreed to mutually find new ways and avenues to increase Pakistan's trade with China.

Ambassador Haque stated that China is the largest investment country for Pakistan with a large FDI value each year. While many investors have intention on Pakistani market like medical production, oil refinery, cement and so on. And many sectors have advantages for potential profit margin. He said that growth rate of bilateral trade between the two countries' major products, textiles, seafood, and agriculture products, helped in economic recovery and enhanced Pakistan's export to China.

He emphasized FPCCI's vital role as a platform for Pakistan's vibrant private sector to contribute to policymaking and strengthen overseas economic cooperation.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), FPCCI and Pakistan-China Business Council (PCBC) were informed that new items under quarantine procedures like FMD Zone, cream and so on are waiting for signing protocol like onion and cherry. Members of FPCCI showed gladness that around ten new rice companies were added to the registration list.

FPCCI was further informed that from January to December 2020, China's imports from Pakistan counted \$2.12 billion irrespective of the COVID-19 pandemic that impacted fiscal 2020, while this year, China's export to Pakistan has decreased 4.95 percent amounting to \$15.36 billion as compared to the previous year which was \$ 16.17 billion. The total volume of trade between China and Pakistan decreased by 2.69 percent amounted to \$17.49 billion as compared with 2019, which was \$17.97 billion due to COVID-19.

FPCCI and PCBC members learned that in the 70 early harvest projects identified by China and Pakistan, 46 had been launched or completed, with a total investment of \$25.4 billion.

FPCCI informed that the participants have apprised that policies play an important role and Pakistan's comprehensive and clear investment guidance are necessary with information on

different industrial zones, SEZs, and provinces, adding that the government support like production certificate, environment protection certificate and other local policies should be supportive enough.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-18/page-9/detail-1>

March 19, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan invites Kuwait to benefit from economic potential of CPEC

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday invited Kuwait to benefit from the vast and profitable investment opportunities in Pakistan amid country's shifting focus to geo-economics with central emphasis on peace, development and connectivity.

At a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs of Kuwait Dr Ahmed Nasser Al-Sabah here at the Foreign Office, Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed him on the economic potential of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), in particular the special economic zones being set up along the route.

During the meeting, the two foreign ministers reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including cooperation in political, economic, defence, trade and investment sectors, and manpower export, and discussed ways to enhance people-to-people linkages between the two countries. The resolve to continue close collaboration in multilateral fora, in particular the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), was reaffirmed.

Qureshi reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to further strengthening and diversifying bilateral cooperation with Kuwait in all fields. Expressing satisfaction at the recently held bilateral political consultations (January 2021), he reiterated the resolve to work together towards achieving mutually agreed goals.

It was agreed to convene the next session of the joint ministerial commission as soon as possible. The need for facilitating travel between Pakistan and Kuwait to provide impetus to bilateral trade was also emphasized. In this regard, the two sides resolved to achieve tangible results in the near future.

The foreign minister of Kuwait appreciated the positive contribution of more than one hundred thousand expatriate Pakistanis towards the development of Kuwait. He thanked Pakistan for support and cooperation during the global pandemic, in particular in the health sector and food security of Kuwait.

Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed his counterpart on the situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), in particular the serious human rights violations and attempts to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory. He stressed that peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions, was indispensable for durable peace and security in South Asia. He also detailed Pakistan's efforts in

support of the Afghan peace process and stressed that the Afghan parties must seize this historic opportunity to secure an inclusive, broad-based and comprehensive political settlement. He reaffirmed Pakistan's support for all efforts aimed at enhancing solidarity and unity within the Muslim Ummah.

Later, the visiting dignitary called on Prime Minister Imran Khan. Reaffirming Pakistan's long-standing fraternal ties with Kuwait, rooted deep in shared faith and culture, the prime minister underscored the imperative of forging deeper economic, trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. Lauding the efforts on both sides to build an enhanced partnership, he also appreciated the two countries working closely to ensure ease of travel and enhancing people-to-people linkages.

The foreign minister of Kuwait expressed his country's firm resolve to further expand cooperation with Pakistan in diverse fields. He expressed thanks for Pakistan's steadfast support and noted that the two countries always stood by each other at difficult times. He also thanked the prime minister for Pakistan's valuable cooperation, especially during the testing times of global pandemic.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/736137/pakistan-invites-kuwait-to-benefit-from-economic-potential-of-cpec-2/>

Pakistan, Russia, China, US say no to Taliban's Islamic Emirate

Tahir Khan

Representatives of Russia, China, United States and Pakistan on Thursday announced opposition to the restoration of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan and urged the Taliban not to announce their Spring Offensive.

This was revealed in a joint statement issued at the conclusion of a regular meeting of the extended "Troika".

The extended "Troika", comprises of representatives of Russia, China, the USA and Pakistan, focused on making progress in the intra-Afghan process to reach a negotiated settlement and permanent and comprehensive ceasefire.

The event was attended by representatives of the Afghan government, Afghanistan's High Council for National Reconciliation, prominent Afghan political figures, and representatives of the Taliban movement. While Qatar and Turkey attended the event as guests of honour, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The four states participating in the extended 'Troika' have agreed on a 10-point joint statement that acknowledges the widespread and sincere demand of the Afghan people for a lasting and just peace and an end to the war. The extended troika also agreed that a sustainable peace can only be achieved through a negotiated political settlement.

“We call on all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan to reduce the level of violence in the country and on the Taliban not to pursue a Spring offensive, so as to avoid further casualties and to create an environment conducive to reaching a negotiated political settlement,” the statement said.

The Taliban routinely announce Spring Offensive in April or early May that marks the beginning of new fighting season as the weather changes in Afghanistan.

“As stated in the UNSC resolution 2513 (2020), we do not support the restoration of the Islamic Emirate and we call on the Government of the Islamic Republic and the High Council for National Reconciliation to engage openly with their Taliban counterparts regarding a negotiated settlement,” according to the joint statement.

The representatives of the four countries urged participants in the intra-Afghan negotiations to engage immediately in discussions on fundamental issues to resolve the conflict, including the foundations of the future peaceful and stable Afghan State, the content of a political roadmap leading to an inclusive government, and the modalities of a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire.

“At this pivotal moment, our four states call on the parties to negotiate and conclude a peace agreement that will bring an end to over four decades of war in Afghanistan,” the statement read.

They strongly advocated a durable and just political resolution that will result in the formation of an independent, sovereign, unified, peaceful, democratic and self-sufficient Afghanistan, free of terrorism and an illicit drug industry, which contributes to the creation of pull factors for the voluntary, sustainable and expeditious return of Afghan refugees, stability and global security.

They also called on all Afghans including the Government of the Islamic Republic and the Taliban to ensure that terrorist groups and individuals do not use Afghan soil to threaten the security of any other country.” We reaffirm that any peace agreement must include protections for the rights of all Afghans, including women, men, children, victims of war, and minorities, and should respond to the strong desire of all Afghans for economic, social and political development including the rule of law,” the statement said.

The four countries encouraged all concerned countries to support the Afghan people and contribute to a lasting peace in the interest of all. “We reaffirm our commitment to mobilize international political and economic support for a post political settlement in Afghanistan.”

In a statement they appreciated the long-standing support of the State of Qatar to facilitate the peace process, and supported the continuation of discussions between the parties’ negotiating teams in Doha, which began in September 2020 and which has resulted in meaningful progress toward a political settlement.

The representatives recognized and welcomed all international efforts that are underway to facilitate and support a negotiated settlement as soon as possible. They noted that the UN Secretary General Guterres’ appointment of Mr. Jean Arnault as his personal envoy on

Afghanistan and regional issues. They welcomed the UN playing a positive and constructive role on the Afghan peace and reconciliation process.

Addressing the meeting Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation Dr Abdullah Abdullah made it clear that peace is not only beneficial for the people of Afghanistan, but also for the entire region and beyond. “Peace and security in Afghanistan will facilitate the realization of connectivity, and major projects,” he said. He also said the Afghan government’s negotiation team is ready to discuss any topics with the Taliban.

“We called for an end to targeted killings, & a comprehensive ceasefire to begin the next rounds of the talks in a peaceful environment,” he said.

Abdullah reiterated commitment for the peaceful settlement of the crisis in Afghanistan and called for an end to violence, and the acceleration of the peace talks. He asked the regional countries and beyond to help Afghanistan in its drive to achieve a just & lasting peace.

The Taliban leader Mullah Baradar in his speech said that the Taliban can declare a ceasefire after the Islamic system is implemented. He said Taliban are committed to the Doha agreement, adding if everything had been done in the way that was agreed upon in the Doha agreement, the internal issue of Afghanistan would have been resolved.

Baradar said durable peace would have been achieved and Afghans would have started a normal life if the Islamic system would have been established in the country.

“Intra-Afghan talks are currently underway, there is no doubt that there are some problems in this regard, but still a framework has been established, both sides have exchanged their agendas, work is in progress and progress has been made to some extent,” he said.

Baradar said Taliban want to have a strong Afghan inclusive Islamic system that represents the people, seeks solutions to these problems and work for the welfare of the people and the stability of the country.

“The best and most effective way to solve the problem and move forward is the Doha Accord, the implementation of which can solve external problems and provide a base for solution of internal problems as well,” the Taliban leader said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/736061/pakistan-russia-china-us-say-no-to-talibans-islamic-emirate/>

The Nation

2000 investors to set up industrial units in Rashakai SEZ

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) under CPEC is getting encouraging response, and for 3000 Acres Zone, more than 2000 investors have shown their interest so far in setting up their units.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar chaired a progress review meeting on the development and groundbreaking of Rashakai Prioritized Special Economic Zone under CPEC Framework here on Thursday. Provincial Finance Minister KP Taimur Khan Jhagra and senior officials of the Federal & Provincial governments attended the meeting.

The meeting was briefed on the progress of work at the SEZ. It was informed that the camp office at the site had been established, while the first industrial unit had started its construction work within the Zone. The meeting was informed that Rashakai Zone was getting very encouraging response as more than 2000 investors had indicated in setting up their units in the SEZ. All such applicants will be processed in a transparent manner to allocate appropriate space within the Zone. The total area of the SEZ is 3000 acres.

Asad Umar directed that the list of the interested investors in the Rashakai SEZ should be furnished by next week, said the source. The meeting was informed that currently 10 MW electricity is available to the SEZ while transmission line for the supply of another 160 MW electricity is in process, the source maintained. The minister directed that the provision of all the utilities to the SEZ be completed at the earliest. Minister appreciated the work carried out by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) and the development to setup Rashakai as the first SEZ in PPP model. He said that the relevant Federal agencies will be directed to provide all necessary support and assistance to make the SEZ a success.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-19/page-8/detail-5>

The News

China agrees to invest in two new SEZs in Pakistan

BEIJING: Pakistan to set up two new Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to host mega Chinese investments.

Owais Mir, CEO of DEA told China Economic Net (CEN) that negotiations with Chinese investors have been concluded, and multi-billion Chinese companies have confirmed their plans to establish manufacturing facilities, global service centers, R&D labs and sales centers in these SEZs with an estimated investment USD of 5-7 billion in the next five years.

Pakistani company Dynamic Engineering and Automation (DEA) has launched the SEZs at Pir Patho District Thatta and Padshahan, District Chakwal to promote Foreign Direct Investment, in line with the vision of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan.

Owais Mir further said that DEA has signed agreements on Tuesday with multiple Chinese companies to act as the local partners and facilitators. Companies include Shenyang Biotech Group, Neusoft Medical Systems, HE Vision Group, Lovol heavy industries, Wondfu medical, Kaper technologies, Green agrotech, Shenglin metallurgical Group, Red Crown Intelligent Technology, Shanghai Rich Tai Industries and Dandong automation.

“These Chinese investors will establish industries in the medical sector, metal recycling, automobiles including EV, paint, marbles, agriculture and farming, renewable energy, paper recycling, and artificial intelligence.

The master layout of the SEZs will be prepared by China Urban-Rural Holding Group, which specializes rural and urban revitalization, eco-friendly designs and implementation of balanced development of regions in China,” Mir told CEN.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/806667-china-agrees-to-invest-in-two-new-sezs-in-pakistan>

Chinese company signs MoU with COMSATS

Islamabad: COMSATS University Islamabad and China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC) DASU Hydropower Management signed a memorandum of understanding at the Islamabad Campus. Officials of CGGC DASU Hydropower Management led by Tan Bixuan Project Manager and senior management officials from CUI led by Prof. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal participated in the signing ceremony.

While speaking at the occasion Prof. Afzal said that China Pak relations have stood the test of time. He said that CUI will contribute towards capacity building of CGGC DASU Hydropower Management manpower and engage in field of electrical engineering, communication engineering, prefabricated housing construction, light energy saving engineering etc.

Tan Bixuan, Project Manager CGGC DASU Hydropower Management said that the MoU is the first step of a long journey and that his company would like to see tangible achievements facilitated by this MoU. He said that cooperation with universities in Pakistan will strengthen the academic linkages between China and Pakistan.

Bixuan said that CGGC will establish Project based Technology Transformation Centre (PTTRC) for CUI and will bear its operational costs. Furthermore CGGC will allow COMSATS University graduates to do field and on the job internship and trainings. Prof. Dr. Shamsul Qamar, Acting Registrar CUI and Tan Bixuan Project Manager CGGC DASU Hydropower Management signed the MoU document. Later Tan Bixuan Project Manager CGGC DASU Hydropower Management presented a masks and sanitizers as a token of corporate social responsibility to Rector CUI.

A tree was planted by Tan Bixuan and Prof. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal, Rector CUI which was named as Pak China Friendship Tree. Senior executives from Bank of China, Islamabad, HIKVision and Heroboss Technologies as well as Chairs and Heads of Departments of International Office, CUI China Study Centre, Planning and Development, Electrical Computer Engineering, Computer Science and Management Sciences of CUI were also present at the occasion.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/806485-chinese-company-signs-mou-with-comsats>

March 20, 2021

Daily Times

Gwadar to emerge as economic hub: President

President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Gwadar will emerge as an economic hub by providing the shortest route for China and Central Asian Republics to trade their goods.

In an interview with a private news channel, the President said that after defeating terrorism successfully, Pakistan has shifted its emphasis from geo-politics to geo-economics.

He said that unlike the world, Pakistan is acting as a harbinger of peace and morality which will bring about a good future for the country.

President Alvi said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project will herald a new era of speedy development and prosperity in the country, especially Balochistan. He said that with Gwadar port becoming fully functional, the construction of airport, oil refinery, important corridors and economic zones would provide ample job opportunities to the people of Balochistan, which would eliminate poverty and open new avenues of prosperity and development in the province.

“Gwadar will emerge as a new developed port city and economic hub on the world map after completion of ongoing projects,” Dr Alvi said. He said the federal government is paying special attention to the reconstruction and development of Balochistan because its people have suffered a lot in the war against terrorism.

He said the present government is concentrating on developing agriculture and livestock sectors as these sectors were a big source of employment for the local people. He said that Balochistan is very important in terms of coastal areas and measures are being taken to promote foreign investment in the fisheries sector.

Recounting the positive indicators, the President said the economy has improved, construction sector growing and dollar-rupee disparity has been controlled. He said the houses for the low-income sector are being constructed and the country is moving ahead positively on the economic front.

Touching the Pakistan-India ties, he said Kashmir dispute is the main hurdle in normalization of the relations and instead of moving forward to resolve the dispute, India is issuing fake domiciles to around 2.5 million non-Kashmiris to change demography of the disputed territory. He said that despite all, Pakistan wants a peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/736344/gwadar-to-emerge-as-economic-hub-president/>

The Express Tribune

Planning ministry ‘can’t manage CPEC’

The Senate Special Committee on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has apprised the upper house of parliament that the planning, development and special initiatives ministry does not have the capacity to coordinate and manage projects like CPEC. The committee states in a report that the ministry clearly lacks vision and critical thinking as an institution, adding that several lapses in the project due to mismanagement and lack of strategic planning were pointed out in the last two-and-a-half years. “The ministry did not have the capacity to coordinate and manage a huge project like CPEC,” Committee Convener Senator Sherry Rehman stated in the report submitted before the house in the session held before the elections of chairman and deputy chairman Senate.

CPEC, an over \$50 billion project, is a framework of regional connectivity, and aimed at enhancing geographical linkages by improving road, rail and air transportation system in Pakistan and in the region. “From the outset, the committee observed that the ministry was facing issues which needed immediate response and that it clearly lacked a vision and critical thinking as an institution,” the convener stated in her message attached to the report. Rehman has informed the house that the committee also viewed that “departments were shifting responsibility to one another and that they lacked institutional collaboration”. After reviewing the performance and progress of the planning ministry and its various allied departments, the committee has reached the conclusion that they were “unable to formulate a clear strategy and harmonise their efforts with all stakeholders to communicate clearly to the public”. Since CPEC is a major component of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and it envisions unlocking the economic potential of Pakistan, the committee has suggested that provinces should be taken into confidence on building strong partnerships.

While giving “critical observations of the committee”, it is stated that numerous times, the committee expressed its serious concerns and reservations at the government for ignoring the demands of committee members to hold meetings and take notice of the lethargic attitude of planning ministry. “The federal minister for planning, development and reforms was used to putting off the meetings by claiming to have been busy with projects of CPEC and his continuous visits abroad,” the report read. In its meeting on April 17, 2019, the report stated, the committee took serious notice of the absence of the then planning minister Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtiar and directed the Senate Secretariat to issue a written notice to the federal minister.

The committee strongly criticised the minister for having left previous meetings without hearing the views of the members of the committee. The report also states that providing incomplete brief and working papers in the meetings was a routine. The committee further observed that Special Economic Zone in Bostan, Balochistan, has received no PSDP funding and hence no progress could be achieved. “Planning Division’s unprofessional approach towards CPEC and its various umbrella projects with special reference to development of special economic zone in

Balochistan and other parts of the country is disappointing.” The report reveals that the briefings given by the planning ministry and its allied departments were “insufficient and lacked details on many aspects”. In addition, it added, that the “federal government is misrepresenting the facts on projects on Balochistan, including the SEZs, as well as the power project for Gwadar, which has been dragged in the Nepra tariff issue since 2017 and work has still not been started.” The members of the committee stated that “no tangible progress has been achieved during last few years and despite recommendations, provision of gas and electricity supply in Boston area of Balochistan and its development as Special Economic Zone (SEZ) seems a farce.” On several occasion, the report said, the committee showed its serious concern regarding the delay in CPEC projects and stressed the need for maintaining timelines if tangible progress is to be made. Among other things, the committee has pointed out that overlapping of responsibilities was the main reason for slow progress of projects.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2290408/planning-ministry-cant-manage-cpec>

The Nation

Qaiser for timely completion of CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD - Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has said that there was a need to utilize all possible measures for timely completion of CPEC projects.

“The PTI government will ensure removal of all procedural and technical hurdles for early completion of CPEC related projects,” said the speaker in a meeting with KPK Chief Minister Mehmood Khan here yesterday.

They discussed the CPEC-related projects including Chasma Right Bank Canal Project, Peshawar D.I. Khan Motorway, Chakdara-Chitral Road (Dir Motorway).

Earlier, Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser approved establishment of a steering committee under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Defence Pervez Khan Khattak to oversee the CPEC related projects in KPK.

The committee was given mandate to oversee the expeditious execution of the CPEC projects in KPK and their Timely completion.

It was decided that federal ministers and MNAs will be members of the steering committee.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-20/page-3/detail-4>

President invites Kuwait to benefit from CPEC

ISLAMABAD - President Dr Arif Alvi of Friday invited Kuwait to benefit from the emerging economic opportunities under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by making investment in its various projects.

In a meeting with visiting Foreign Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Dr Ahmed Naseer Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President said Pakistan's geo-

economic importance was enhanced due to CPEC and Gwadar Port. The President said Pakistan and Kuwait had immense potential of cooperation in the fields of education, health and science and offered to provide the country's skilled labour and professionals. He said Pakistan could also provide training to the military personnel of Kuwait.

President Alvi said Pakistan accorded highest importance to its cordial and fraternal relations with Kuwait and wanted to further expand ties with the brotherly country. Both sides discussed the existing level of cooperation and agreed to further expand bilateral ties for the mutual benefits of the two brotherly countries. The President also highlighted the atrocities and human rights violations being committed in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and lauded Kuwait's support to Pakistan's position on IIOJK, especially at OIC.

He stated that Pakistan was also grateful to Kuwait for supporting Pakistan's resolution on 'International Day to Combat Islamophobia'.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-20/page-12/detail-9>

The News

China cooperation key reason behind Pak rupee rise

BEIJING: China's steady financial cooperation is one of key reasons behind rise of Pakistan currency "rupee" in the region, according to an article carried by Gwadar Pro on Friday.

It says, Pakistani currency has recovered 12 rupees against dollar. The development is helping increase export bill by reducing burden on import bill leading to give strength to the overall economy. Rupee has ascended to its highest level of 155.74 against dollar in one year that is considered a remarkable upturn.

Alarmingly, in the past, Pakistani rupee touched 167.7 against dollar vindicating spiraling depreciation of rupee. However it regained its lost strength when rupee hovered to 155.74 against dollar, making a difference of 11 rupee despite the economic tumble due to COVID-19 pandemic. Pakistan currency has breathed well on the back of consistent China's FDI inflow, Pakistan's rising exports to China, unshaken financial assistance in CPEC projects and Chinese investors' avidity in Pakistan's market that injected a new life to Pakistan's economy allowing recovery of rupee.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/807100-china-cooperation-key-reason-behind-pak-rupee-rise>

March 21, 2021

Business Recorder

Thar has tremendous potential to change Pakistan's future: Chinese CG

HYDERABAD: Chinese Counsel General in Karachi, Li Bijian while visiting the three-day "The Colours of Thar" Festival said that Thar has great investment potential that could not only change Pakistan's future but could also change the entire world for its rich natural resources and

peaceful people. The festival organized by the District Administration in collaboration with Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company, Thar Foundation, Hubco, Sino Sindh Resources, Shenghai Electric, Pakistan Army and Pakistan Rangers Sindh and some other organizations under the aegis of “Thar will change Pakistan”.

On the first day of the colourful festival, various events were organised. MNA Dr Mahesh Kumar Malani along with MPA Qsim Siraj Soomro, MPA Fakeer Mohammad Bilani, Deputy Commissioner Thar Mohammad Nawaz Soho and with the officials of the sponsors of the mega festival visited the festival.

Making a keynote address, the Counsel General Li Bijian said under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Project (CPEC), we have successfully completed the phase one and now the second phase will be started soon.

He said mining and power projects in Thar are moving very smooth and have created thousands of jobs opportunities for the local people.

“Thar is a beautiful place, and it has tremendous investment potential in all spheres. Let us work together to make Thar more beautiful and much developed,” said Li Bijian. Chinese Counsel General Li Bijian also visited Thar Coal Block II Project of Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company and witnessed Thar Foundation development schemes. He was briefed by Director Site Operations, SECMC Ahmed Munib about the inclusive development model at Thar Coal Project.

Addressing the festival, Dr Malani highly lauded the efforts of the organizers of the mega event and said that such events with very activities would not only promote the culture, traditions, music, and other various other aspects of the desert district but also to inculcate trends of the competition among the students of the district.

MPA Qasim Siraj Soomro said that it was the great achievement of those, who put their resources and energies to organize such event in Mithi to provide enough to participants and gave opportunities to various other organizations to display the true beautiful colours of Thar at their different stalls.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/03/21/3-page/874633-news.html>

Pakistan, China, India and evolving regional order

Nawazish Ali

Three powers – China, India, and Pakistan – hold the keys to the future of south Asia. As the West withdraws from Afghanistan and US influence in the region declines, this triangular strategic relationship will become more complicated unless China and India – the two major powers – can define the parameters of a new regional order. The announcement by Pakistan and India of strict observance of all agreements, understandings and cease firing along the Line of Control (LOC) is undoubtedly a welcome step. The de-escalation on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China provides a sense of relief to all rational minds in the South

Asian region. In case of India and Pakistan, the protracted history of the conflict punctuated by fleeting moments of hope always imposes a caution on reading too much into the recent developments. If all three countries, Pakistan, China and India, can draw the correct lessons in humility, there is hope for regional politics to turn over a new leaf. The truth of this moment is that South Asia will not proceed further according to the so called Modi doctrine.

In international relations the intention, doctrine and capabilities can be subverted by a combination of certain unexpected happenings. So it is premature to conclude what all this will amount to creating environments of all-inclusive peace within the South Asian region in long term. In the case of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi needs immense political capital to make bold foreign policy moves. Many of these, including the strike on Balakot, were milked for his domestic political consumption. They were also an attempt to signal a change in status quo. But two years later, a few things have become palpably clear to India. First, the belligerent use of foreign policy in domestic politics has unintended effects on India's international standing. In 2019, the Indian official rhetoric was promising retaking Azad Kashmir and putting more military pressure on Pakistan. In contrast, the discourse on foreign policy since the Chinese pressure across the LAC has been one of marked sobriety scaling back all expectations of a superficial militarism.

For the long term momentum to be sustained, political establishments of both countries will have to think of what is a win-win political narrative that they can legitimately offer their citizens

The recent standoff between India and China has brought home some blunt realities for South Asia. It is unlikely that Indian moves with Pakistan are a pure result of some package deal with China. But there is no denying that the LAC stand-off between India and China had significantly released the pressure on Pakistan and has cut out all of India's loose talk on cross-border adventurism. China may have not particularly been concerned about abrogation of Article 370, but it did care about casual signaling that India might want to alter the status quo on borders with Pakistan including Gilgit – Baltistan. India was definitely reminded that the LAC and LOC can be linked and that the zone around Kashmir was a trilateral and not a bilateral contest, and that India will need substantial resources to deal with China. The fact of the matter is that status quo clause has not been restored on the LAC between India and China, and heavy costs can be imposed on India. But equally, there are humbling lessons for Pakistan as well. India now has enough weight in the prevalent international system that any attempt to internationalise Kashmir dispute is a non-starter. Second, even Modi's critics will have to acknowledge that the revocation of Article 370 did not unleash the kinds of fissures and cycle of violence within the Valley that Pakistan might have been hoping to exploit. There are important questions about Indian democracy and the rights of Kashmiris. But Pakistan can hardly show a candle on these issues. Pakistan's infrastructure of terrorism has been a net liability to Pakistan in international relations, and its vulnerability in FATF is a constant reminder of that fact. But we are at a moment in global politics where so long as India's actions are within international understandings, it will have free rein to work out whatever political arrangements it wishes. And there is the persistent

question of whether Pakistan can ever attain its full economic potentials if it continues to remain thoroughly dependent on good offices of one or the other super power.

It seems that China is the ultimate victor in all this signaling, how it can carry on ratcheting up the pressure on India. However, the fact of the matter is that India has stood up with enough firmness to send the signal that it will not be a simple pushover for China. India's economic development and measures may have been nothing but certainly a pin prick to China for the moment. China cannot wish away considerable Indian economic and military potentials.

Therefore, this moment can be a constructive one if everyone understands the one lesson of this conjuncture in world politics. There are diminishing returns to belligerence. Three things can derail this moment of de-escalation. The first one is: How much does the Indian deep state buy into this de-escalation? The second is that there is always the risk that some unconventional group will try to test the waters by precipitating an incident. Third, Indian intentions still remain relatively opaque and the deep currents of distrust that Modi regime generate will not be easy to overcome.

With Pakistan, India should seize the moment and build on the de-escalation. The pandemic offers an opportunity for greater economic cooperation. For the long term momentum to be sustained, political establishments of both countries will have to think of what is a win-win political narrative that they can legitimately offer their citizens. Nationalism is a perennial derailing ideological force in all three countries. The ability of regimes to spin nationalism to convert even defeats into victories should never be underestimated. The truth of this moment is that the world will not run according to a Modi doctrine, a Pakistani dogma or a Xi policy. The region will be better off with a humility that tries to align them, rather than an arrogance that revels in unilateral triumphalism. Finally, Pakistan needs to adjust its strategic priorities, in light of its growing inability to act as a modern, functioning state. Its deep-seated obsession with India needs to end if it wants to get back on its feet as a viable nation state and contribute to a stable regional order.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/736626/pakistan-china-india-and-evolving-regional-order/>

The Nation

Rehman Malik fears Taliban, Daesh can do terrorist acts in Xinjiang

ISLAMABAD - Senior PPP leader and country's former security czar Senator A. Rehman Malik Saturday said that Taliban and Islamic State (IS), the two militant outfits, could carry out terrorist activities in the Xinjiang region of China in future to destabilize the emerging world power.

"I have insight information from Afghanistan that Daesh (IS) and Taliban have made friendships, both will make stronger and will get re-energized, and both these organizations can be used in Muslim majority Xinjiang province of China for sabotage activities," said the seasoned politician of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in a panel interview with The Nation and the Nawa-i-Waqt.

He also hailed the recent statement of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa proposing peace with India by saying that “it is time to bury the past and move forward.”

Senator A. Rehman Malik, country’s former interior minister and also an author of a number of books, shed light on a host issues ranging from diplomatic to political and regional. He predicted that he was seeing more violence in Afghanistan after the May 1 deadline of US to withdraw its troops from the landlocked country as it was not going to withdraw after this cut-off date. He said that Afghan Taliban were the major stakeholder in Afghanistan and any peace process could not be taken ahead if they were unsatisfied with its terms and conditions.

He also asserted that Pakistan would remain on the grey list of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global anti-money laundering watchdog, as this was part of India’s conspiracy against Pakistan.

Talking on the political issues, Rehman Malik said that former president and his party leader Asif Ali Zardari’s remarks in an important meeting of the opposition Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) were wise enough and the opposition collation was facing no threat with the position taken by PPP on the issue of resignations.

He also claimed that his party leadership was soon going to give him new important responsibilities and he has complete trust in all decisions of the party.

Following are the questions and replies of Senator A. Rehman Malik:

The Nation (TN): Does IS gaining ground in Afghanistan and in the region? What is your assessment?

Senator Rehman Malik: Daesh is a monster and it will leave behind Al-Qaeda and Taliban. Daesh was created for some reasons and huge training is going on within the organization and India is involved in getting it trained. What is your choice if west and India wanted to destabilize the region, and the two countries including Pakistan and China are the main target? I had been saying in the past that Daesh would be used against China.

I have insight information from Afghanistan that Daesh (IS) and Taliban have made friendships, both will make stronger and will get re-energized, and both these organizations can be used in Muslim majority Xinjiang province of China for sabotage activities. Travelling to China with world connections is not difficult. I am seeing increased cold war plus between China and US.

The Arab spring is being replicated in the region and according to my information, around one million Taliban and Daesh militants were staying in Afghanistan and getting training and they will be either used against Pakistan or China. Let President Ashraf Ghani or somebody else deny this fact.

China has utilized all its energies on its development instead of fighting a war. I have fears that if Afghan Taliban and Daesh entered into those Muslim majority regions of China, the areas will become another Afghanistan and Syria. I am seeing bloodshed there. I am warning with clarity that indicators are not good for China and US and there would be destruction if South Asia became any forum of conflict. There is a triangular tussle going on as Russian is also against US and poor countries like Pakistan would have to bear the brunt of this conflict and Pakistan can go into more isolation in this situation.

TN: How do you see the statement of COAS General Qamar Javed Bajwa made at the National Security Dialogue proposing peace with India?

Rehman Malik: If you go through General Bajwa doctrine, it contained a lot of things about national security, asks for making good relations with India and says that 'war is not an option but dialogue is the option for the issues.' The COAS has proposed a sensible solution of the matter as Pakistan needs to keep itself away from the conflict of Daesh, Taliban and world powers. But the Army Chief also pointed out that Pakistan cannot move forward till the resolution of Kashmir issue.

I would say that Pakistan needs to sit with India on equal terms. This is an initiative of the COAS and is a good opportunity for India to use the occasion and should talk about composite dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues including water with Pakistan. India should come forward and move ahead on this proposal and bring the Kashmir issue on the table.

This statement has made stronger the position of Pakistan as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been saying at every forum that Pakistan doesn't talk with us. With these remarks, the narrative of India has faced a setback.

TN: Whether FATF would remove Pakistan's name from its grey list?

Rehman Malik: It was painful for me when FATF president stated that they had started increased monitoring on Pakistan. I had written a letter to him seeking to explain the limits of this monitoring. This is my observation, India and other foreign agencies will give more evidence to the global watchdog against Pakistan and it will not get its name off the list. Rather, FATF will increase more pressure on Pakistan and its demands will increase.

To counter the pressure, I had approached International Court of Justice (ICJ) and it committed that they would bring India in the ambit of FATF with regard to the human rights violations there. There has been no letter from government asking that India should be placed on some monitoring or sanction list of FATF. I am also approaching ICJ with the help of some lawyers and Kashmiri leaders and will lodge a complaint to the international forum against Indian brutalities in Occupied Kashmir. I would ask government to either join me or I will join it to approach ICJ against India on Kashmir issue.

I have now got registered a think tank with the name of Institute of Reforms and Research and I will take up this issue internationally from this platform. This forum includes retired generals, retired secretaries, retired foreign secretaries, former ambassadors, and people belonging to minorities. I am making this effort because Pakistan needs reforms, and laws have become obsolete.

TN: What is your view on the overall regional situation?

Rehman Malik: Both the foreign ministers of US and China berated each other in Alaska and this clearly showed their minds. China's allegation against US in an open forum that it is pursuing people to attack China was actually indication towards India.

I've been saying for the last two years that India was being prepared as a policeman against China. For Pakistan, it is a critical situation as there is China on one side and India on the other side.

I've information that US wanted that India and Pakistan should increase relations. US is doing so because it wanted to bring more negativity against China which Pakistan didn't want to do. The west is also increasing pressure on Pakistan to make good relations with India. We are talking about connectivity but this could not be made till peace is attained in the region. The connectivity with Afghanistan could not be made until Taliban, the main stakeholder there, could be satisfied. Daesh and Taliban can be used against China as they had been used in the past against Pakistan.

Talking about joint declaration at the Moscow Dialogue, Rehman Malik said that all stakeholders are jumping in to bringing the situation normal but as long as US is not withdrawing its forces, peace could not be resumed in Afghanistan. The withdrawal date is open ended and this will be disliked by Taliban. I have information that US is working on it to increase its relations with Taliban and it can replicate the situation of 1990s.

Afghanistan has become a base of west and they would not leave it from their hands especially when their relations with China are not good and they want to use the situation to suppress the China.

TN: Whether government is capable enough to overcome the situation?

Rehman Malik: Our institutions are alert and giving full assistance to Prime Minister Imran Khan and all depends on how smartly and amicably he handles China and US together. The question is whether the PM would make such a diplomacy to satisfy both. We are facing world pressure to make good relations with India, but the question remains whether we can do this or not? Let us see what we can do about?

The country's foreign policy and its security instructions should pre-empt the situation emerging after May 1 withdrawal deadline.

TN: How do you see the statements of US government that withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan might not be possible till the deadline of May 1?

Rehman Malik: The situation is very disturbing. Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa has worked very hard to make useful the Afghan peace process. The Doha agreement was a good package to bring peace in the country. But I have confirmed assessment that US will not be going to withdraw its forces even partially from Afghanistan after May 1. This will lead Afghan Taliban to enhance its spring offensive. I am seeing increased violence in Afghanistan after May 1.

TN: US President Joe Biden has not made a formal contact with Prime Minister Imran Khan after taking oath, how do you see this?

Rehman Malik: US President should have replied to the congratulation message of Prime Minister Imran Khan. US Foreign Relations Committee has said that minorities were not safe in India but I am seeing that US would not take any action against it as they have vested interests and will never sanction India. The whole world is sleeping over the brutalities of PM Modi's government being committed against minorities and Muslims in India.

I think that US doesn't want to create an imbalance in the region. If US President Joe Biden visits Pakistan, India would become angry and vice versa. US wanted to bring on track some

things between Pakistan and India so the President could justify the Americans that they are serious to bring peace in the region.

TN: Whether China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project would face hurdles in the whole situation?

Rehman Malik: CPEC has already got disturbed as new projects are not being started under it and the government is not paying attention towards already initiated projects. The government is not giving money to those power plants established by Chinese companies saying that agreements were made in higher rates. Whether you were sleeping when these agreements were signed and this thing is being taken negative in China. Some people wanted to create negativity with China. China has never complained about these things at any level or with government as it wants to take forward the CPEC and its relations with Pakistan.

TN: Whether PDM will remain intact after the refusal of PPP to give en masse resignations from the assemblies?

Rehman Malik: The PDM is still intact as politics makes its own way and does not remain static. My view is that PPP leader Asif Ali Zardari gave a very wise statement in the PDM meeting because in politics, you have to move forward by taking along all other stakeholders and the Central Executive Committee of the party earlier had decided that the party would not give en masse resignations. He has not made a dent to the unity of opposition. Former president Zardari has rightly said that this is not an appropriate time to tender resignations. This is true because there are many unanswered questions about the situation that can emerge after the resignations, like whether the opposition parties would contest by-elections or not etc.

Perhaps the PTI government is giving an impression that PDM has collapsed which is not true. The rising inflation is more dangerous than any other anti-government movement like PDM. The rising inflation has the potential to unite the people to start an anti-government movement.

From page 1

interview with The Nation and the Nawa-i-Waqt.

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<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-21/page-1/detail-7>

March 22, 2021

Business Recorder

Puppet show held to mark 70 years of Pak-China friendship in Beijing

BEIJING: An exquisite puppet show was held at China Puppet Art Theatre here on Sunday to celebrate 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

The show, co-hosted by Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing and China Puppet Art Theatre also

coincided with the World Puppet Day celebrated every year on March 21. The initiative was taken in collaboration with China Puppet Art Theatre and Rafi Peer Art Theatre.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin-ul-Haque welcomed the audience and said that the all-weather cooperative strategic partnership between Pakistan and China is a significant milestone in the history of the relations of two countries.

“This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between two countries,” he added. He stressed the need of cultural exchanges and people to people contacts between the two countries and added the Pakistani and Chinese children are the torchbearers of friendship between the two countries.

Ambassador Haque said, earlier this month, the two countries launched 70 years of celebrations and also released a logo to officially commence a series of commemorative activities throughout the year.

The puppeteers of the Lahore-based Rafi Peer Theatre enthralled the audience particularly the young Pakistani and Chinese children with online performance while the China Puppet Art Theatre presented excerpts from mermaid, crane and tortoise, the true monkey king and happy New Year.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/03/22/2-page/874735-news.html>

Daily Times

Pak-China earth sciences academic cooperation to boost CPEC

Pak-China earth science cooperation will efficiently benefit construction of CPEC projects, experts said at a high-level webinar.

Quoting experts, Gwadar Pro reported that the Pak-China academic cooperation in earth sciences is not an impractical project and far from daily life. In fact, it's closely related to people's well-being and economic development of the two countries,” Prof. Su Lijun, Deputy Director-General of China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Sciences (CPJRC), told Gwadar Pro.

The webinar on earth sciences cooperation, themed Sustainable Development of CPEC, held by CPJRC in Beijing and Islamabad online. CPJRC, which is jointly sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, is to join efforts of both Chinese and Pakistani scientists to carry out scientific research on natural disasters, environment, geology, ecology, climate change and sustainable development in Pakistan, especially along with CPEC.

On the webinar, CPJRC released a report contained by researching results, challenges, research direction in 2021. Both Chinese and Pakistani scholars shared academic achievements and discussed academic issues related to earth sciences and CPEC.

Prof. Zhang Yaping, Vice President of CAS, commented on the event that the discussion will help CPJRC to identify areas of priority for our cooperation in earth sciences in the future. He also said on the occasion that CAS will work with all partners even more closely in the future to jointly address the challenges ahead and maximize the potential value of CPJRC as an international center of excellence.

Prof. Asif Khan, Fellows of both PAS and CAS; HEC Distinguished National Professor for Earth Sciences, U. of Peshawar, delivered a speech themed Spectrum of Earth Sciences Research in Pakistan: Expected Contributions to Socio-Economic Development of the Country. He believed that Pak-China earth science cooperation will efficiently benefit construction of CPEC projects and boost economic development of both sides through avoiding natural disasters and utilizing resources in a reasonable way.

Pakistani and Chinese scientists also delivered academic presentations on climate change, hydrology, metallogeny, geologic hazard, energy and ocean sciences.

Prof. Dr. M. Qasim Jan, Former President of PAS; Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan; Prof. Muhammad Ali, Vice-Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University; Ruan Xiangping, Senior Counsel, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology of China, and other scientists, researchers, enterprises also attended the event.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/737180/pak-china-earth-sciences-academic-cooperation-to-boost-cpec/>

Dawn News

Panel calls for early completion of Gwadar airport

QUETTA: The Parliamentary Committee on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CEPC) has urged the authorities concerned to complete the construction of New Gwadar International Airport as soon as possible as it has great importance for attracting investors.

A meeting of the committee presided over by its Chairman Sher Ali Arbab, MNA, in Gwadar on Sunday received briefing on various infrastructure, energy and socio-economic development projects under the CPEC framework.

Members of the committee Aslam Bhootani, Sadaqat Ali Abbasi, Noor Alam Khan, Murtaza Javed Abbasi and Zahid Akram Durrani attended the meeting.

The Civil Aviation Division secretary briefed the committee on the progress of work on the airport.

The committee observed that timely operation of the airport would prove conducive for effective operationalisation of Gwadar deep seaport and recommended its expeditious completion and avoiding delay caused either by Pakistan or Chinese side. The institutional efforts should be made to take up the issue with the Chinese side to meet the timelines for completion of the project.

The Gwadar Port Authority chairman briefed the committee on Gwadar Port Free Zone, East Bay Expressway and Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute.

He informed the committee that the Gwadar Free Zone Policy had been approved which provided potential incentives for imports and exports and it would pave the way for triggering economic activities in Pakistan.

He assured the committee that the local people from whom the land was acquired would be paid compensation within three months so that the CPEC's development process could create ease in their lives and attract massive local ownership instead of causing difficulties for them.

The committee recommended that the difficulties faced by local fishermen in Gwadar should be resolved at the earliest. It also proposed that the work on the desalination water plant should be expedited and timelines of the projects must be met. It also recommended that a special session of the committee should be convened with all stakeholders to help carry out the execution of the desalination plant.

The committee decided to convene a special meeting to sort out issues of energy and Gwadar Development Authority with other stakeholders to ensure the timely completion of the specific projects at Gwadar.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1613904/panel-calls-for-early-completion-of-gwadar-airport>

The Nation

HBL becomes first Pakistani bank to operate in China

Karachi - HBL became the first Pakistani bank to open a branch and serve clients in Beijing, China's capital city.

The inauguration ceremony for HBL Beijing was attended by clients, regulators and senior executives of the Bank from across HBL's international network. Deputy Governor, State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmad, HBL Chairman Sultan Ali Allana, - HBL President and CEO Muhammad Aurangzeb, along with senior executives and HBL's customers, virtually joined the ceremony. HBL Beijing offers a full range of products and services for its clients.

HBL officials expressed their gratitude to the Governments of Pakistan and China and the regulators for the trust and confidence, reposed in the Bank, through the opening of the branch.

HBL has created history by being the first and only bank from Pakistan to have a branch in Beijing and One of the three banks from South Asia and MENA region to offer end-to-end RMB intermediation in China. Upon commencement of business, HBL Beijing has become HBL's second branch and its managing branch in China, both branches in Beijing and Urumqi are equipped with foreign exchange and RMB licence to better facilitate customers' requirements in multiple currencies.

HBL's presence in China will allow the bank to interact with State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and leading financial institutions, involved in CPEC and across Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) corridors.

Chairman HBL, Sultan Ali Allana said, "HBL's journey in China began in 2005 when a Representative Office in Beijing was opened by the HBL. This was followed by the establishment of branch operations in Urumqi in 2017, and today we mark the commencement of our branch operations in Beijing. It is an extremely proud moment for HBL to playing a leading role in facilitating regional trade and serving our valued customers throughout HBL's international network."

Commenting on the branch opening, President and CEO HBL Muhammad Aurangzeb said that china is the second home market, and HBL will grow its business in the country.

He said that the HBL is the largest executor of CPEC related financing in Pakistan, and the Bank's presence in China has put HBL in a unique position to connect the clients across the HBL's global network directly with the businesses in China."

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-22/page-9/detail-5>

The News

Chinese forum marks 50th anniversary of Kissinger's secret visit to Beijing

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said historic breakthrough in China-US relations became possible due to the 'indispensable role of Pakistan, which enjoyed the trust of both China and the United States (US), whose then president, Richard Nixon, had tremendous affection and goodwill for Pakistan'.

China Development Forum, a high-level annual event organised by China's State Council in Beijing, organised a webinar on '50 Years of China-US Relations' with keynote speeches from former US Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger and Senator Mushahid Hussain on Pakistan's pivotal role in arranging Dr Kissinger's secret journey to China in 1971.

Former US secretary of state Dr Henry Kissinger praised Pakistan for its key role during that period and how president Yahya Khan acted as a go-between China and US, communicating secretly with premier Zhou Enlai and president Nixon, which led to Dr Kissinger's path-breaking journey in a PIA plane from Islamabad to Beijing on July 9, 1971.

Dr Kissinger recounted on how the first message from China was in the form of a handwritten note which was personally dictated to him in the White House by the then Pakistan Ambassador in Washington, Agha Hilaly.

Speaking next after Dr Kissinger, Senator Mushahid Hussain, representing Pakistan, said that this historic breakthrough in China-US relations became possible due to the 'indispensable role of Pakistan which enjoyed the trust of both China and the United States, whose then President, Richard Nixon, had tremendous affection and goodwill for Pakistan'.

Mushahid Hussain said that Pakistan's then president, General Yahya Khan, once entrusted with this task by both president Nixon and premier Zhou Enlai, undertook this sensitive mission with 'military precision, secrecy and deception', with an official announcement of a decoy visit by Dr Kissinger to Nathiagali on the pretext that 'the American official was resting due to an upset stomach', while he had secretly flown to Beijing! He said that president Yahya relied only on a 2-man team of his top diplomats, Foreign Secretary Sultan Mohammed Khan and Pakistan Ambassador to the US, Agha Hilaly.

Mushahid Hussain said that 'it was an honour for Pakistan to play such an important role in the shaping of history, as Dr Kissinger's visit to China led to a tectonic shift in the global balance of power in 1971'.

He said that normalisation of relations had been beneficial for not just China and the US but also Asia and the world. China had helped the US win the cold war and the US helped China come out of isolation which led later to China's reform and opening up policy that has transformed China.

Mushahid Hussain concluded that 50 years later, one lesson of China-US relations is that cooperation is good for both the countries, and there is no room for outmoded policies like containment or a new cold war.

The China Development Forum was attended by a large number of high officials, policy makers, economists, opinion and business leaders in Beijing, while Dr Kissinger and Senator Mushahid Hussain spoke virtually from New York and Islamabad respectively.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/808021-chinese-forum-marks-50th-anniversary-of-kissinger-s-secret-visit-to-beijing>

Express News

چینی وزیر اعظم کا عمران خان کو خط، کورونا سے صحتیابی کیلئے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار

چین کے وزیر اعظم نے اپنے پاکستانی ہم منصب عمران خان کو خط لکھ کر ان کی جلد صحت یابی کے لیے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا۔

پاکستان میں چینی سفیر نوگ روگ نے ٹوئٹ کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ چین کے وزیر اعظم لی کی چیانگ نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے نام خط لکھ کر ان کی جلد صحتیابی کے لیے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا۔ چینی وزیر اعظم نے اس یقین کا اظہار کیا کہ عمران خان کی قیادت میں پاکستان کورونا وبا پر کامیابی سے قابو پالے گا۔

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کورونا کا شکار ہو گئے ہیں اور ان کا کورونا ٹیسٹ مثبت آیا ہے جس کے بعد انہوں نے خود کو گھر میں قرنطینہ کر لیا ہے۔

وزیر اعظم عمران خان جمعے کے روز مالا کنڈیونیورسٹی میں نئے بلاک کی افتتاحی تقریب میں شرکت کے لئے گئے تھے، اور انہیں گلے میں خراش محسوس ہوئی، جب کہ وہ کھانستے بھی رہے، وزیر اعظم نے طبیعت میں بہتری محسوس نہ کرنے پر کورونا ٹیسٹ کروایا تھا جو مثبت آگیا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2157618/10/>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان میں چین کے نئے سفیر کی وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب عثمان بزدار سے ملاقات

حباوید یونس

چین کی دوستی بلاشبہ پاکستان کا عظیم سفارتی ورثہ ہے جس پر ہر پاکستان کو فخر ہے۔ چین نے ہر مشکل گھڑی میں پاکستان کا ساتھ نبھایا ہے۔ طیارہ سازی سے لے کر تجارتی و ثقافتی شعبوں میں و فود کے تبادلوں تک دونوں ممالک کے مابین ناصر فرتوں میں اضافہ ہوا ہے بلکہ یہ روابط ایک دوسرے کی تہذیب و ثقافت سے آشنائی حاصل کرنے میں بہت ممد و معاون ثابت ہوئے ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کی محبت اور دوستی لازوال رشتوں میں بندھی ہوئی ہے اور یہ دوستی ہیوی میکینیکل کمپلیکس ٹیکسلا سے ہوتی ہوئی شاہراہ قراقرم کے ذریعے زندگی کے تمام شعبوں پر محیط ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دیرپا، گہرے اور مضبوط برادرانہ تعلقات، باہمی اعتماد، بھروسہ اور عزت کی بنیادوں پر استوار ہیں جن پر بین الاقوامی سطح پر رونما ہونے والی تبدیلیاں بھی اثر انداز نہیں ہو سکیں بلکہ وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ ان میں مزید نکھار پیدا ہوا ہے۔

چینی ہمارے ایسے بھائی ہیں جو پاکستان کو ترقی یافتہ ممالک کی صف میں کھڑا کرنے کے لئے تمام شعبوں خواہ وہ معاشی شعبہ ہو یا دفاعی ہمارے شانہ بشانہ کام کرنے کے لئے ہمہ وقت تیار ہیں۔ پاک چین دوستی کا دائرہ کار وفاق کی سطح سے آگے بڑھ کر صوبوں تک پھیل گیا ہے جو یقیناً ایک مثبت اور خوش کن پہلو ہے جس سے صوبے میں صنعتی معاشی اور تجارتی سرگرمیاں بڑھیں گی۔ ترقی و خوشحالی کا دور دورہ ہو گا۔ روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے اور عوام کا معیار زندگی بلند ہو گا۔ زیادہ صنعتیں لگنے سے صوبہ میں مقابلے کا رجحان پیدا ہو گا اور مارکیٹ میں دیرپا اور سستی اشیاء ضروریہ دستیاب ہوں گی۔

دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات میں گرجوشی 1962 کی چین بھارت سرحد جنگ کے بعد پیدا ہوئی۔ بھارت کو اپنا روایتی دشمن سمجھنے والی پاکستانی قیادت نے چین کے ساتھ تعلقات بڑھاتے ہوئے اس خطے میں ایک متبادل قیادت کے طور پر ابھارنے میں مدد فراہم کی تاکہ بھارتی اثر و رسوخ کا راستہ روکا جائے۔ دونوں ممالک نے مختلف شعبوں میں کثیرالجہتی تعاون کیا ہے۔ بین الاقوامی سطح پر غیر مستحکم صورتحال کے باوجود پاک چین دوستی متحرک رہی بلکہ مضبوط سے مضبوط تر ہوتی چلی گئی۔ حالیہ چند برسوں کے دوران چین نے پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کا رخ موڑ دیا ہے۔ سی بی کے بدولت پاکستان میں اربوں روپے کی سرمایہ کاری ہو رہی ہے اور یہ پاکستان کی ترقی میں گیم چینجر ثابت ہو گا۔ اس وقت پاکستان میں ہزاروں چینی پاکستان میں مختلف شعبوں میں کام کر رہے ہیں۔ حکومت پنجاب نے اپنے چینی بھائیوں کے حفاظت کے لئے ایک علیحدہ پولیس فورس کا پروٹیکشن یونٹ کام کیا ہوا ہے جو چینی ماہرین کی حفاظت پر مامور ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان تعلقات اور تعاون میں کئی گنا اضافہ ہوا ہے اور کئی مشترکہ فوجی اور اقتصادی منصوبوں پر کام ہو رہا ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان دہشت گردی کے خاتمے کے لئے بھی مشترکہ کوششیں کر رہے ہیں۔ اس وقت پاک چین دوستی کے نغے صرف پاکستان میں ہی نہیں بلکہ پوری دنیا میں گونج رہے ہیں اور یہ کہانی محض دوستی کی کہانی نہیں بلکہ یہ دیانت، امانت اور شفافیت کی داستان ہے۔ پاکستان میں جب بھی کوئی قدرتی آفت آئی ہے چین نے ہمیشہ مصیبت کی اس گھڑی میں پاکستان کی ہر ممکن مدد کی ہے اور چین نے ہمیشہ پاکستان کی طرف کھلے دل کے ساتھ تعاون ہاتھ بڑھایا ہے۔ لاہور اور نئی لائن میٹرو ٹرین پر اجیکٹ پاک چین دوستی کا شاندار نمونہ ہے۔ اکنامک کوریڈور خطے میں مثبت تبدیلیوں کا پیامبر ثابت ہو گا اور شاہراہ معیشت نے پاک چین تعلقات کو نئی جہت دی ہے۔ یہ کہنا بے جا نہ ہو گا کہ پاک چین دوستی سمندر سے گہری، شہد سے میٹھی اور ہمالیہ سے اونچی ہے جس پر ہر پاکستانی کو فخر ہے۔

نے ملاقات کی، جس میں پاک چین تعلقات کے فروغ، چین کے (Mr. Nong Rong) وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار سے وزیر اعلیٰ آفس میں چین کے سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ تعاون سے پنجاب میں جاری منصوبوں اور مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ چین کے سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار کو چین کے دورے کی دعوت بھی دی۔ ملاقات میں صنعت، زراعت اور ٹیکنیکل ٹریننگ کے شعبوں میں معاونت مزید بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔ چین کے سفیر نے کورونا وائرس پر قابو پانے

کے لئے وزیر اعلیٰ عثمان بزدار کی قیادت میں پنجاب حکومت کے موثر اقدامات کو سراہا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ عثمان بزدار نے کورونا وبا کے دوران تعاون اور ویکسینیشن کی فراہمی پر چین کی حکومت اور عوام کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ عثمان بزدار نے اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کا انتہائی بااعتماد دوست ملک ہے۔ پاکستان کی تعمیر و ترقی میں چین کے تعاون کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دور میں پاک چین معاشی تعلقات نئی بلندیوں کو چھو رہے ہیں۔ سی پیک کے منصوبے پاکستان کی پائیدار ترقی کے سفر میں اہمیت کے حامل ہیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے کہا کہ پنجاب میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے انتہائی سازگار ماحول ہے۔ پنجاب حکومت نئے سٹیٹل اکنامک زونز قائم کر رہی ہے۔ چینی کمپنیاں سٹیٹل اکنامک زونز میں سرمایہ کاری کریں، ہر طرح کی مراعات اور سہولتیں دیں گے۔ سماجی شعبوں کی پائیدار ترقی ہماری حکومت کی ترجیح ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ صنعت، زراعت اور ٹیکنیکل ویکیشنل ٹریننگ کے شعبوں میں چین کے تعاون سے مزید استفادہ کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ غربت اور کرپشن کے خاتمے کیلئے چین نے گراں قدر کام کیا ہے جسے پوری دنیا سراہتی ہے اور اس ضمن میں چین کے کامیاب ماڈل سے فائدہ اٹھائیں گے۔ چین کے سفیر نوگ روگ نے اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ سٹیٹل اکنامک زونز میں سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع سے فائدہ اٹھائیں گے۔ سماجی شعبوں کی ترقی کیلئے پنجاب حکومت کے ساتھ تعاون کو مزید بڑھانا چاہتے ہیں۔ چین ترقی و خوشحالی کے سفر میں پاکستان کے ساتھ ہے۔ چین مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے کے لئے ہر ممکن اقدامات کرے گا۔ صنعتی عمل تیز ہونے سے روزگار کے مواقع بھی پیدا ہوں گے اور غربت میں بھی کمی ہوگی

چین کے سفیر نوگ روگ نے اپنے لاہور کے دورہ کے دوران اورنج لائن میٹرو ٹرین کے ڈپو ڈیرہ گجراں کا دورہ کیا۔ اورنج لائن میٹرو ٹرین پاکستان میں مکمل ہونے والا سی پیک کا پہلا پراجیکٹ ہے۔ اس موقع پر نور کوانٹریٹل کی انتظامیہ نے چینی سفیر کا استقبال کیا اور منصوبے کے مختلف شعبوں کا معائنہ بھی کر لیا۔ چینی سفیر نے اس منصوبے کی کارکردگی پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا۔ انہوں نے مقامی تکنیکی افراد کی بڑھتی ہوئی تعداد، ان کی پیشہ وارانہ مہارت پر مسرت کا اظہار کیا۔ چینی سفیر نے سیف سٹی کا بھی دورہ کیا۔ انہوں نے سیف سٹی اتھارٹی کے آپریشن اینڈ مینٹننگ سنٹر، پکار 15 اور میڈیا سنٹر کا بھی دورہ کیا۔ سیف سٹی کے اعلیٰ حکام نے چینی سفیر کو تفصیلی بریفنگ دی۔ نوگ روگ نے اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ سیف سٹی پراجیکٹ کی وجہ سے لاہور سمارٹ سٹی بن گیا ہے۔ چائینہ کی طرز پر بننے والے لاہور سیف سٹی پراجیکٹ کو دیکھ کر خوشی ہوئی۔ پنجاب کے دوسرے شہروں میں بھی سیف سٹی پراجیکٹ لگانے میں تعاون فراہم کریں گے۔

اس میں کوئی شک نہیں کہ چینی سرمایہ کاری سے پنجاب کی معیشت مزید مضبوط اور مستحکم ہوگی۔ مشترکہ سرمایہ کاری سے برآمدات میں اضافہ کے ساتھ ساتھ روزگار کے وسیع مواقع پیدا ہوں گے اور عوام کا معیار زندگی بلند بھی ہوگا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار کی خواہش ہے کہ صوبہ پنجاب بدلتے ہوئے تقاضوں کے مطابق ترقی کرے اور غیر ملکی اپنا سرمایہ یہاں لگائیں تاکہ پنجاب کے عوام تمام شعبوں میں ترقی کریں اور جدید ٹیکنالوجی سے بھرپور استفادہ کرتے ہوئے صوبے کو خوشحال بنائیں تاکہ ملک و اقتصاد اور معاشی طور پر مضبوط ہو سکے۔

پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کو 70 سال مکمل ہونے کو ہیں۔ ان دوستانہ تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ منانے کے سلسلے میں دونوں ملکوں کی سطح پر تقریبات بھی جاری ہیں۔ اس حوالے سے دونوں ملکوں کے وزرائے خارجہ نے پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کے لوگو کا اجراء بھی کیا ہے۔ حالیہ دنوں میں چین کے ریاستی کونسلر اور وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے بیجنگ میں ویڈیو لنک کے ذریعے پاکستانی وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی کے ساتھ مل کر اس سلسلے میں افتتاحی تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کے ستر برسوں میں دونوں ممالک نے ہمیشہ بڑھ چڑھ کر تعاون کا مظاہرہ کیا ہے اور دونوں پڑوسی ممالک میں سد ابھار دوستی قائم کی ہے۔ بقول، چینی وزیر خارجہ 70 سالہ پاک چین دوستی نئے عہد میں مضبوط ترین فولاد میں ڈھل چکی ہے۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ پاکستان ”ایک چین“ کی پالیسی پر ثابت قدم رہے گا اور ”دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ“ انٹیشی ایٹیو کی بھرپور حمایت کرتا ہے۔

سترویں سا لگرہ کی مناسبت سے آئندہ منعقد کی جانے والی تقریب کے حوالے سے چین کے ترجمان وانگ وین بین نے تعارف کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاک چین تعلقات کے قیام کی سترویں سا لگرہ کی مناسبت سے سیاست، معیشت و تجارت، ثقافتی تبادلے سمیت متعدد شعبوں میں تقریباً سو سرگرمیوں کا انعقاد کیا جائے گا۔

پاک چین دوستی کی ابتداء 21 مئی 1951 سے ہوئی۔ پاکستان مسلم دنیا کا پہلا ملک تھا جس نے چین کو تسلیم کیا۔ باضابطہ سفارتی تعلقات قائم ہونے کے بعد دو طرفہ تعلقات کا ایسا سلسلہ شروع ہوا جو تمام موسموں اور حالات کے اتار چڑھاؤ کے باوجود قائم و دائم ہے۔ دونوں ممالک نے ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کی علاقائی اور بین الاقوامی پالیسیوں کی حمایت کی۔

بھارت کی چین کے ہاتھوں 1962 کی جنگ میں شکست سے جنوبی ایشیا کی سیاست میں تبدیلیاں رونما ہوئیں۔ اسی زمانے میں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سرحدی حد بندی کی بات چیت شروع ہوئی۔ دراصل اس وقت بھی چین نے دنیا کو یہ باور کروایا کہ ہمسایوں کے ساتھ وہ مناسب اور دوستانہ تعلقات رکھنا چاہتا ہے۔ ماضی میں امریکہ کی بھارت کو فوجی امداد اور امریکی ہتھیار ناصرف چین بلکہ پاکستان کے خلاف استعمال کئے جانے کا اندیشہ رہا۔ اسی لئے پاکستان دنیا میں ایک آزاد اور خود مختار خارجہ پالیسی اپنانے کا خواہشمند تھا۔ انہی وجوہات نے پاکستان اور چین کو بہت قریب لانے میں اہم کردار ادا کیا۔ سرحدی حد بندی کے معاہدے پر مارچ 1963 میں دستخط ہوئے۔ پاکستان اور چین نے فضائی تعاون کے معاہدے کے تحت ڈھاکہ سے شنگھائی کو درمیان فضائی سروس کا آغاز کیا۔ اس معاہدے کی اہمیت اس لئے بھی زیادہ تھی کہ چین نے ان تمام کوششوں کو پس پشت ڈال دیا جو بین الاقوامی سطح پر چین کو تنہا کرنے کے لئے کی جا رہی تھیں۔

ایک ایسی دنیا میں جہاں تشدد، جنگ و دشمنی کا ماحول ہو ایسے میں دو ممالک جو نظریاتی لحاظ سے یکسر مختلف ہوں لیکن ان کی دوستی دنیا بھر کے لئے ایک مثال ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین میں سیاسی، معاشرتی اور معاشی شعبوں میں قریبی تعلقات پچھلی سات دہائیوں پر محیط ہیں۔ 1965 کی جنگ میں پاکستان کی چین سے دوستی نے بھارت پر ایک دباؤ رکھا۔ جب 16 ستمبر کو چین نے بھارت کو الٹی میٹم دیا کہ اگر تین دن کے اندر بھارت نے سکم چین سرحد سے اپنی فوج نہ ہٹائی تو نتائج کا ذمہ دار وہ خود ہوگا۔ چین کی اس پالیسی سے روس اور امریکہ کے تبدیل شدہ رویے سے پاکستان اور بھارت میں سلامتی کو نسل کی قرارداد کے تحت جنگ بندی ہوئی۔ چین کی اس پالیسی سے جنوبی ایشیا میں امن کی کوششوں کو تقویت ملتی رہی ہے۔ دراصل ان سب اقدامات سے دنیا کو اور خاص طور پر پاکستان کے دشمن بھارت کو ایک واضح پیغام جاتا ہے کہ پاکستان چین کے ساتھ کھڑا ہے۔

پاک چین تعلقات میں اہم سنگ میل شاہراہ ریشم کاراستہ کھلنا تھا۔ جس نے چین کے صوبہ

سکیانگ کو وادی ہنزہ سے ملا دیا ہے۔ 1969 تک شاہراہ قراقرم پر کام جاری تھا۔ اس شاہراہ پر تقریباً 15000 پاکستانی اور چینی مزدوروں نے صبح شام کی انتھک (Xinjiang) محنت کے بعد تقریباً 774 کلو میٹر اور 16,072 فٹ اونچائی پر کام مکمل کیا۔ شاہراہ قراقرم دونوں ملکوں کے تعلقات میں سنگ میل کی حیثیت رکھتی ہے۔ پاکستان کی سفارتی تاریخ کا ایک عظیم حصہ وہ تاریخی کردار ہے جس کو نہ صرف چین نے بلکہ دوسرے ممالک خاص طور پر امریکہ نے بھی سراہا۔ پاکستان نے امریکی سیکرٹری خارجہ ہنری کسنجر

کے بیجنگ کے خفیہ دورے کے انتظامات کئے۔ جس کی وجہ سے بالآخر چین امریکہ سفارتی تعلقات قائم ہو سکے۔ انہی تعلقات کی وجہ سے امریکہ نے (Henry Kissinger) چین کی اقوام متحدہ میں رکنیت کی مخالفت ترک کی اور چین اقوام متحدہ کا ممبر اور سلامتی کونسل کا مستقل ممبر بن سکا۔

چین نے شروع ہی سے مسئلہ کشمیر پر پاکستان کے موقف کی حمایت کی۔ خاص طور پر اقوام متحدہ اور دوسرے بین الاقوامی فورمز پر مسئلہ کشمیر کو اقوام متحدہ کی قرارداد کی روشنی میں حل کرنے کی اہمیت پر زور دیا اور بار بار پاکستان کی اقوام متحدہ اور سلامتی کونسل میں حمایت کی۔ خاص طور پر جب امریکہ نے بھارت کو سلامتی کونسل کا ممبر بنانے کی کوششیں شروع کیں تو چین نے شروع ہی سے اس کی شدید مخالفت کی۔ چین جنوبی ایشیا میں ہمیشہ سے تسلط کی سیاست کی مخالفت کرتا آ رہا تھا۔ چاہے وہ تسلط کسی عالمی طاقت کا ہو یا اس کے کسی اتحادی کا۔ 1971 کی پاک بھارت جنگ کی چین نے مخالفت کی اس جنگ میں چینی کردار صرف ہتھیاروں کی ترسیل تک محدود رہا۔ چین پانچ چھ سال سے پاکستان

میں تعمیر و ترقی اور انفراسٹرکچر کے شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری اور متعلقہ منصوبوں پر عملاً کام میں حصہ لے رہا ہے۔ اس وقت چین پاکستان کا دوسرا بڑا تجارتی شراکت دار ہے۔ نا صرف یہ بلکہ چین کی اس وقت سب سے بڑی سرمایہ کاری پاکستان میں ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کی مشترکہ تجارت کا حجم 18 بلین ڈالر تک پہنچ چکا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2021-03-22/page-9/detail-0>

March 23, 2021

Business Recorder

China will send more doses of Covid-19 vaccines: Wang

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said that China will send Pakistan more doses of Covid-19 vaccines by the end of this month as a gift.

According to Foreign Office, the Chinese foreign minister stated this during a telephonic conversation with Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, on Monday.

During the conversation, the two foreign ministers exchanged views on issues of mutual interest, including the coronavirus pandemic.

Foreign Minister Qureshi thanked Foreign Minister Yi for the good wishes extended by Chinese leadership through a letter for the speedy recovery of Prime Minister Imran Khan after he was tested positive for the coronavirus.

Qureshi also told his Chinese counterpart that the way China had helped the international community, especially Pakistan, after the global challenge of coronavirus “is exemplary”.

Qureshi said that Pakistan was taking all necessary measures including smart lockdown as per the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan to stop the spread of the virus.

The foreign minister thanked the Chinese leadership and the Chinese foreign minister for sending the coronavirus vaccine as a gift to Pakistan.

The foreign minister apprised his Chinese counterpart of the status of coronavirus vaccination in Pakistan, and said that the government had formulated a comprehensive vaccination plan to protect Pakistani citizens from the coronavirus pandemic “for which we will soon need more doses of vaccine”

The Chinese foreign minister announced that more vaccine doses would be sent to Pakistan by March 31st as a gift.

“The Chinese foreign minister said that more than 100 countries have approached China to get the coronavirus vaccine but we will maintain our ideal friendship with Pakistan and provide the required doses of vaccine on priority basis,” the Chinese foreign minister was quoted as having said in the Foreign Office statement.

Foreign Minister Qureshi extended thanks to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi for this goodwill.

The two foreign ministers also discussed, in detail, the bilateral relations and the promotion of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The two foreign ministers agreed to continue high-level contacts between the two countries.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/03/23/9-page/874929-news.html>

The Nation

Chinese agrichemical giant to establish plant in Faisalabad's SEZ

BEIJING - General Manager of Zhengbang Agriculture Pakistan Private Limited (ZHENGBANG), Zhang Shilu has planned to invest Rs700 million to establish an agrichemical plant at Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone (SEZ), Faisalabad.

Under the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the friendly business environment, and huge market potential in Pakistan, Zhangbang began to prepare for the agrichemical plant project in October 2020, which was approved by the Board of Investment of Pakistan in March 2021.

With an area of 10.93 acres, the plant will be put into operation in June 2022. Once established, the plant will manufacture 100 agrichemical solutions to major crops - wheat, rice, cotton, maize, sugarcane, mango and vegetables - including insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, plant growth regulators, water-soluble fertilizers, emulsifiable concentrate, suspension concentrate, powder, water dispersible granule etc. Notably, a fertilizer production base will be set up in the plant, specializing in functional water-soluble fertilizers such as amino acids, humic acids, NPK, zinc fertilizers. "The fertilizers will help alleviate chronic problems of hardening and saline-alkali soils in Pakistan," said Zhang Shilu. To achieve long-term operations of the plant, ZHENGBANG will also establish a R&D team in collaboration with Pakistani agricultural institutes and universities, and recruit Pakistani talents with a PhD in China to provide customised crop solutions to better combat diseases, pests, and weeds in Pakistan. The plant is also expected to create more than 500 job opportunities for local people and contribute an annual tax of Rs50 million to the local government. Starting its business in Lahore since January 2020, ZHENGBANG has been dedicated to importing and selling pesticides and fertilizers in Punjab, Pakistan.

ZHENGBANG is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zhengbang Crop Protection Co Ltd, a leading crop protection body of China's agrichemical giant Zhangbang Group. With its economic and research prowess, Zhangbang Group has set up 20 overseas companies along the Belt and Road countries including Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-23/page-8/detail-6>

China extends felicitations to Pakistan on Resolution Day

Lahore - Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong has extended his felicitations on the 81st Resolution Day of Pakistan and the 81st anniversary of the establishment of Nawa-i-Waqt.

He said, “I would like to extend thanks to Daily Nawa-i-Waqt Pakistan for its attention to China. It is not China’s goal to become a superpower. Realizing prosperity of the country, the rejuvenation of the nation and the happiness of people is our (Chinese) dream. I am very grateful to your newspaper for its firm confidence in China’s development. In the future China will continue to follow the path of peaceful development, pursue multiculturalism and work with Pakistan and other countries to continue to build a community with a shared future for mankind.”

“Both Daily Nawa-i-Waqt Pakistan and The Nation are time-honoured and well known newspapers with a good reputation in Pakistan. They have been paying close attention to China’s development and supporting China-Pakistan friendship for a long time,” the ambassador added. “I highly appreciate this. I hope that this newspaper will inherit the friendship between the two countries, continue to tell the stories of China and the China-Pakistan friendship and present the real and colourful China and the ever-developing China-Pakistan relationship to Pakistani readers. I wish the two newspapers achieve greater success,” he maintained.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-23/page-12/detail-2>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کیساتھ تجارت بڑھانے کیلئے پی بی آئی ٹی کردار ادا کرے: ایف پی سی سی آئی

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) کرونانے دنیا کو شدید معاشی بد حالی کا شکار کیا، بین الاقوامی تجارت بھی اس سے شدید متاثر ہوئی ہے۔ چین پاکستان کا ایک اہم اور قابل بھروسہ دوست ہے۔ چائنہ کیساتھ پاکستان کے اہم تجارتی تعلقات ہیں اور تجارت کو مزید بڑھانے کے لیے پی بی آئی ٹی اپنا کردار ادا کرے۔ ڈریپ کے فارم 6 اور فارم 7 کی وجہ سے کاروباری افراد کو مشکلات کا سامنا ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار فیڈریشن آف پاکستان چیئرمین آف پاکستان کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے سینئر نائب صدر خواجہ شاہ زیب اکرم نے ایف پی سی سی آئی ریجنل آفس لاہور میں پنجاب بورڈ برائے سرمایہ کاری و تجارت کی سی ای او ڈاکٹر ارفعہ اقبال نے ایف پی سی سی آئی ریجنل آفس لاہور کا دورہ کیا اور کاروباری برادری سے ملاقات کی۔ وزیر اعلیٰ پنجاب نے پنجاب بورڈ برائے سرمایہ کاری و تجارت کی سی ای او ڈاکٹر ارفعہ اقبال کو ایف پی سی سی آئی کے لیے فوکل پرسن مقرر کیا ہے۔ اجلاس میں ایف پی سی سی آئی کے سینئر نائب صدر خواجہ شاہ زیب اکرم، ڈاکٹر ارفعہ اقبال، عرفان اقبال شیخ، تنویر احمد شیخ، محمد ندیم قریشی، ظفر محمود، عامر سجاد دیگر نے شرکت کی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-03-23/page-11/detail-235>

سی پیک اہم پراجیکٹ تھر میں سرمایہ کاری کے زبردست مواقع موجود

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) چین کے قونصل جنرل بی بی جیان نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک پاکستان کی تعمیر و ترقی کے حوالے سے ایک اہم پائلٹ پراجیکٹ ہے۔ تھر فیٹیبول سے خطاب میں انہوں نے کہا کہ تھر میں سرمایہ کاری کے زبردست مواقع موجود ہیں اور یہ سرمایہ کاری پاکستان اور پوری دنیا میں قابل ذکر تبدیلیاں لاسکتی ہے۔ اس میلے کا اہتمام ضلعی انتظامیہ نے سندھ اینگرو کول مائننگ کمپنی، تھر فائڈیشن، جبکو، چین سندھ ریسورسز، شنگھائی الیکٹریک، پاکستان آرمی اور پاکستان رینجرز سندھ اور کچھ دیگر تنظیموں کے اشتراک سے کیا تھا۔ اس موقع پر چینی قونصل جنرل نے یہ بھی کہا کہ سی پیک کا پہلا مرحلہ کامیابی کے ساتھ مکمل ہو گیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-03-23/page-3/detail-2>

عمران کا مولانا رومی کا قول ٹویٹ سعودی قیادت، چینی وزیر اعظم کے پیغامات

اسلام آباد، مکہ مکرمہ (نمائندہ خصوصی، نوائے وقت رپورٹ، ممتاز احمد بڈانی) کرونا کے باعث قرنطینہ میں موجود وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے پاکستانی نوجوان نسل کے لیے پیغام جاری کیا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے سوشل میڈیا پر عظیم شاعر اور فلسفی مولانا رومی کا قول ٹویٹ کیا۔ عمران خان کے مطابق مولانا رومی کا کہنا ہے کہ اپنی روح کا سودا کسی شے سے ناکرو، روح واحد چیز ہے جو انسان کو دنیا میں لاتی اور واپس لے جاتی ہے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے ٹویٹ کے کیپشن میں لکھا کہ ایک حقیقی آزاد اور دولت مند شخص وہ ہے جس کی روح کی کوئی مادی قیمت نہیں لگائی جاسکتی۔ خیال رہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے چند روز قبل ہی کرونا ویکسین لگوائی تھی اور ویکسین لگوانے کے دوروز بعد ہی ان کا کرونا ٹیسٹ مثبت آیا تھا جس کے بعد انہوں نے خود کو گھر میں قرنطینہ کر لیا تھا۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی قرنطینہ کے دوران کی تازہ تصویر سامنے آگئی۔ شہباز گل نے وزیر اعظم کی تصویر سوشل میڈیا پر شیئر کر دی۔ خادم حرمین شرفین شاہ سلمان بن عبدالعزیز اور ولی عہد شہزادہ محمد بن سلمان کا وزیر اعظم عمران خان کو کرونا وائرس میں مبتلا ہونے پر خیر سگالی کا پیغام شاہ سلمان کا اپنے پیغام میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی جلد صحت یابی اور پائیدار صحت و تندرستی کی خواہش کا اظہار کیا۔ دوسری جانب ولی عہد، نائب وزیر اعظم اور وزیر دفاع شہزادہ محمد بن سلمان نے بھی اپنے علیحدہ پیغام میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی جلد صحت یابی و مستقل صحت و تندرستی کی خواہش کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر ٹونگ رونگ نے کہا ہے کہ چینی وزیر اعظم لی نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی صحت یابی کیلئے خط لکھا ہے۔ ٹونگ پر اپنے ایک پیغام میں چین کے سفیر ٹونگ رونگ نے کہا کہ چینی وزیر اعظم نے اپنے پاکستانی ہم منصب عمران خان کی جلد صحت یابی کیلئے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ چین کے سفیر ٹونگ رونگ نے کہا کہ امید ہے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی قیادت میں پاکستان جلد وبا پر قابو پالے گا۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے ٹویٹ میں کہا ہے کہ ایک اور سنگ میل عبور کرنے پر شوکت خانم ہسپتال کی ٹیم کو مبارکباد دیتا ہوں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-03-23/page-1/detail-4>

March 24, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistani to get 7m vaccine jabs from China by April 15: Yasmin

Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid said on Tuesday that Pakistan would receive seven million more doses of the coronavirus vaccine by mid-April from China. "On March 28, another 1 million SinoPharm corona vaccines will arrive, and by April 15, 6 million vaccines from Sinopharm or CansinoBio will arrive," Dr Yasmin Rashid said on Twitter, referring to two Chinese vaccines cleared for emergency use in the country. She said the Punjab government has allocated \$150 million to procure coronavirus vaccines and would buy 2.5 million jabs from its own resources. China's Sinopharm and CansinoBio, Russia's Sputnik-V and the British AstraZeneca vaccines are approved for emergency use in Pakistan, whose government has not secured any vaccine from manufacturing companies yet and is relying so far on donations. Last week, a private pharmaceutical company, AGP Limited, imported the first shipment of 50,000 doses of the Russian vaccine to Pakistan but they are in cold storage until the government can set a price cap for privately imported jabs to be used for commercial sale.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/737825/pakistani-to-get-7m-vaccine-jabs-from-china-by-april-15-yasmin/>

Pakistan Observer

One Belt One Road

By Tariq Aqil

Touted as Chinese President Xi Jinping's brainchild, this ambitious project, the One Belt One Road initiative focuses on improving connectivity and cooperation among Asian countries, Africa, China and Europe. The emphasis is on enhancing land as well as maritime routes. The policy is significant for China since it aims to boost domestic growth in the country. Experts have noted that OBOR is also a part of China's strategy for economic diplomacy. Considering China's exclusion from G7, OBOR policy might just provide China an opportunity to continue its economic development.

Indian reaction towards the China-Pakistan Corridor has been one of hostility and opposition. The launch of CPEC has resulted in investment to the tune of USD 46 billion. The Indian claim is that they oppose this project because it passes through Indian Territory meaning the areas of Kashmir under Pakistani control.

For Pakistan this gigantic project is a game changer. It is a critical necessity and a lifeline of future consequences that can help to lift our society out of poverty, misery, illiteracy and social conflict including unemployment. Apart from political differences one must give due credit where it is due. The dream of this initiative was converted into reality by the regime of Nawaz Sharif who was the driving force behind this effort. Minister of planning Ahsan Iqbal played a key role and Sartaj Aziz too did a yeoman service for pushing CPEC forward. Ironically the effort ran out of steam during the PPP govt. and the Chinese showed little interest during this time and the project was stalled for many years.

One of the most important countries in this project is definitely Pakistan. Pakistan lies in very close proximity to China. Pakistan is next door to the Chinese province of Xinjiang in the North at a height of over 15000 feet. This provides China with a corridor through the Karakoram highway to the Pakistani seaport of Gwadar in Balochistan.

The Chinese Government plans to invest about 60 billion dollars in infrastructure developments in Pakistan. Part of this amount will be in loans on soft terms which Pakistan will be under obligation to pay. CPEC will result in the development of industrial parks, agricultural farms, railways, airports, highways, fibre optics network, energy generating projects and a high speed train between Karachi and Peshawar travelling at a speed of 160 km per hour. This project will also build a brand new telecommunications network linking Pakistan with China and via China to Europe. CPEC will also result in the development of some initiatives of cultural and civic importance for example the safe city project, training the local police force and cultural improvement initiatives.

The anti-CPEC lobby in Pakistan and other countries have been very critical of this project and some have even called this initiative the second East India Company claiming that this will result in the colonization of Pakistan! Nothing could be further from the truth. China has traded with many countries of South and southeast Asia for the last two thousand years. They have traded with India for spices, with the Persians for gems, with Malaya, Sri Lanka. Over two thousand years ago they were a mighty naval power and an economic powerhouse to contend with. Never once did they invade a country to rule over it. Chinese merchants were very active in Malaysia and the volume of trade was astounding for the mutual benefit of both countries. Admiral Zhenghe visited Malaysia five times leading a huge naval fleet he could have captured the country easily but he did not. On the contrary, the Portuguese came in 1511, the Dutch in the 18th century and finally the British all these European countries colonized Malaysia one after the other. The only time in history when China expanded beyond its defined borders was when Changez Khan and his descendants conquered huge lands in China, Asia, and Eastern Europe. The Yuan Dynasty based in China was basically part of the Mongolian empire. They came as far as the Indus in the sub-continent but never colonized the area that they could have done easily. In 1900 China was attacked by the eight-nation alliance consisting of Russia, Britain, France, USA, Germany, Italy, Austro-Hungary and suffered the loss of lives and national treasures that ended up in Museums like the British Museum London and the Louvre in Paris. Large parts of China such as Manchuria were occupied by Japan during WW-11 and suffered millions of casualties. It was only in 1949 that China emerged from the ravages of war and destruction and under the leadership of giants like Mao and Chou en Lai that the People's Republic of China was established. All the progress and development in China is a result of back breaking labour and not by loot and plunder beyond their own borders. In all their dealings with other countries the Chinese have shown decency, honesty and respect for the sovereign rights of all the nations they have dealt with. Any doubts about the Chinese intentions or motives for the CPEC project should be put to rest once for all.

<https://pakobserver.net/one-belt-one-road-by-tariq-aqil/>

CPEC: Changing Security Equation & Interconnectivity Strategies

By Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) stands for socio-economic prosperity and massive industrialization of Pakistan. It also instruments for greater regional integration and regional connectivity. Actually, it changes the basic concept of national security which is a good omen for achieving regional peace, stability and harmony. Pakistan and Uzbekistan have been jointly working to achieve sustainable regional connectivity by avoiding spillover repercussions of endgame in Afghanistan. Both countries have been pursuing an Afghan-owned & Afghan-led solution for the future of Afghanistan especially after the US withdrawal. Most recently, the COAS General Qamar Bajwa while delivering a keynote speech in Islamabad Security Dialogue showcased the strategic importance of the CPEC for greater regional connectivity. He also outlined salient features of Pakistan's geo-economy based on inter-regional connectivity via

CPEC and strategic location of the country too. Various spells of high official meaningful meetings have been in process in the capitals of Islamabad, Tashkent and Kabul to streamline the process of Afghan internal grand dialogue to reach a consensus for its national wide stability, peace and harmony. Moreover, the upcoming international conference in the month of July 2021 titled “Central Asia and South Asia: Regional Interconnectedness: Challenges and Opportunities” would provide more valuable practical solutions for greater regional connectivity in the future. Most recently, the Deputy Chairman of Uzbekistan Railways, Akmal Kamalov visited Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and desired to utilize it for a significant volume of Uzbekistan’s cargo and containers. The Uzbek Minister said the maritime initiative between Pakistan and Uzbekistan would be fast-tracked and facilitated. The KPT has also assured the Uzbek side that the port had sufficient capacity to handle their trade

In the near past, Uzbekistan presented the concept of greater regional connectivity through the construction of the Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway. The Uzbek Chairperson of the Senate, Tanzil Narbaeva termed it as the “event of the century”. Prime Minister Imran Khan described the project as the important connectivity project and endorsed Pakistan’s efforts for the early implementation of the railway line. Once this entire project is operationalized, there is an estimate that the trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan may reach up to 90 billion USD.

In this regard, a roadmap was signed by all the participating countries in Tashkent. It is indeed a giant step towards regional integration of the CIS and South Asia Region which has combined population of 1.9 billion people 25 percent the world and a GDP of 3.5 trillion dollars.

South Asia is the fastest growing region in the world up 7.5 percent per year leading by China. Moreover, South Asia’s contribution to global growth is 15 percent and by 2040 it may increase to over 30 percent. So this is Asian Century in which Chinese One Belt & One Road Initiative (BRI) and its flagship mega project CPEC will play a positive and productive role. For further regional connectivity, in the near past, Uzbekistan’s Deputy Prime Minister for Investment and Foreign Trade, Sardor Umurzakov visited Pakistan and met high dignitaries including Prime Minister Imran Khan, COAS General Bajwa and various Ministers.

During his stay in Pakistan, Sardor Umurzakov showed his government’s willingness to become the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA) which has already been signed by Pakistan, China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The Government of Pakistan has now decided to have access to the market of Central Asian Republics (CARs) through China. It offers an alternative means to CARs by completely circling Afghanistan. Pakistan would use the Karakorum Highway which connects Gilgit-Baltistan and China’s Xinjiang region with the CARs. Pakistan would support Uzbekistan to become part of the QTTA. Uzbekistan has since long been expressing seriousness to join the QTTA which will enable Pakistan to export its products under QTTA to Central Asia. Uzbek Deputy Premier Sardor Umurzakov also met with Adviser to the PM on Commerce, Textile and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood and explored more avenues for increasing the bilateral trade between the two countries. Afghanistan has been a stumbling factor for greater regional connectivity which must be now resolved for greater

regional integration, prosperity and poverty eradication for which Pakistan and Uzbekistan have been jointly playing important roles.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-changing-security-equation-interconnectivity-strategies-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The News

China promises steady support in COVID-19 fight

ISLAMABAD: As the country faces a deadly third wave of COVID-19, China has reassured Pakistan that it will continue to firmly support it in its fight against the pandemic and would accord highest priority to the requirements of its time-tested friend.

The reassurance came in a telephonic conversation between Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, who's also the Chinese state councillor.

According to the Foreign Office, the two sides also agreed to maintain high-level exchanges.

Qureshi raised the issue of vaccines that had been gifted to Pakistan by China, but the Foreign Office did not make it clear whether more vaccines were being requested by Pakistan and what the response from China was in that regard.

However, China did extend its 'firm support' against the pandemic. Qureshi expressed gratitude to China for earlier gifting Pakistan 1.5 million doses of Chinese vaccine, underlining that it had played a pivotal role in protecting precious human lives.

"To reinforce Pakistan's capacity to effectively and expeditiously fight the pandemic, Foreign Minister Qureshi discussed with his Chinese counterpart the supply of COVID-19 vaccine from China to Pakistan during March-April 2021," added the FO. Qureshi also shared with Wang Yi the 'elaborate plan' of vaccination across the country as part of its endeavours to combat the pandemic. The foreign minister also thanked Premier Li Keqiang and Wang Yi for wishing Prime Minister Imran Khan speedy recovery from COVID-19.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/809119-china-promises-steady-support-in-covid-19-fight>

March 25, 2021

Daily Times

Rashakai Special Economic Zone to change fate of area

As the inauguration of Rashakai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ) is just around the corner, locals are optimistic that this flagship project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would change the fate and face of the area.

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro, RSEZ would attract local and foreign investors, generate development, create thousands of jobs and will provide economic and social services.

Farmanullah, 31, is an unemployed young man living in a small town adjacent to RSEZ. “Lots of unemployed youth would get jobs on their doorstep, Our village would also prosper,” he told Gwadar Pro. According to him, many people from the surrounding villages would get jobs in factories at RSEZ.

Spreading over an area of around 1,000 acres of land, the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Managing Company (KPEZDMC) and China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) are developing the zone.

Hamid Khan, a resident of Wali Interchange, said even before groundbreaking, the villagers have started receiving benefits. According to him, the access road from Wali Interchange to RSEZ zero point is beneficial for them as the villagers are now connected to the Islamabad Peshawar Motorway (M-1) via it.

RSEZ is connected to all the provinces of Pakistan through airport, dry port, railway station, motorway and highways. The zone is located at the confluence of five major districts of KP including Nowshera, Mardan and Swabi, Charsadda and Peshawar.

The connected districts possess fertile lands, which is suitable for growing different kinds of cash crops and vegetable. “The economic zone has predominant investment feasibility for industries in fruit and food processing and textile,” said Zahid Khan from Turo village in Mardan. He said that besides working in agricultural land, now the local would avail opportunity to work in food processing units in the economic zone.

Engineer Irshad Aslam from Dhobiano village of Swabi told Gwadar Pro that the locals would get skilled and semi-skilled jobs in industries. “Instead of hard physical labour, many of us would find white-collar jobs,” he said.

One can find several fruit vendors and small tea stalls at the Wali Interchange, which is close to zero point of RSEZ. Their clients are mainly labourers working on different construction sites in the area. “The ongoing construction activities have created jobs for us, while our children will certainly get sophisticated jobs within the economic zone in the future,” said Zahid, a fruit vendor.

RSEZ would house over 400 industries including garment and textile products, home building materials, general merchandise, electronics and electrical appliances, automobile and mechanical equipment. Several pharmaceutical companies exist in Nowshera, Mardan and Peshawar. “We would certainly move to the economic zone,” Muhammad Asim, an official from a local pharmaceutical company, told Gwadar Pro, adding, “There is great opportunity for the local pharmaceutical companies to grow; the 10-year tax exemption in RSEZ is a real source of attraction”.

RSEZ is the best option to fit the qualified females of the area into the industries. Every year thousands of females are graduated from universities in KP but they do not find suitable jobs. “Due to the Pashtun culture, our parents do not allow us to travel to other parts of the country in

search of work. We can't find jobs in our areas to earn a living, so most of us become dependent on others, said Uzma Khan, who recently completed her master's degree at Abdul Wali Khan University in Mardan.

According to her, the economic zone would accommodate thousands of women who would commute daily between their homes and their workplace. "RSEZ is actually a tool to empower the local women," she said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/738249/rashakai-special-economic-zone-to-change-fate-of-area/>

Pakistani cotton farmers can benefit from Chinese expertise

Chinese experts in an online seminar elaborated how Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region excels in cotton production in the world and how Pakistani cotton farmers can benefit from their experience.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), Dong Hezhong, principal researcher at Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences, said that seed research to pick the right seed for right atmosphere, cotton-peanut intercropping and plant architecture to allow for mechanical harvest enabled Xinjiang to enhance its share in China's cotton production from less than 4% in 1949 to 76% as of today.

The seminar was aimed at bolstering China-Pakistan cooperation in seed industry. The experts discussed how Pakistan could learn from China to increase production of rice, maize, soybean and cotton, especially by adopting the Chinese techniques of intercropping and double cropping.

Yang Wansen, General Manager of Xinjiang Tianye Water Saving Irrigation System Co. Ltd., said that mechanical harvesting in Xinjiang saved 50% consumption of water and 30% of fertilizer. It also reduced labour cost by 30% while enhanced the yield by the same percentage.

Chairman of Four Brothers Group Pakistan Javed Saleem Qureshi said that his firm had developed two types of cotton seeds, but both could not resist diseases and insect attacks. He requested Chinese researchers to land Pakistan and help the farmers against whitefly and other pests responsible for falling cotton yields in Pakistan. He said that his firm was already collaborating with the National State Cotton Key Lab, Beijing and was looking forward for joint ventures with other Chinese organizations as well. He also sought help from Chinese molecular biology experts to introduce such seeds that adapt to climate. "Presently, climate change has also become a big challenge for us which we don't know how to tackle," he said.

Dr. Erfa Iqbal, CEO Punjab Board of Investment and Trade, said that she wanted tangible projects with Chinese organizations in agriculture sector under the framework of CPEC. "The Punjab government has provided two agro-based industrial zones in Vehari and Bhalwal that offer several incentives to Chinese firms including tax waivers," she said.

She also said that her team will reach out to several provinces of China to learn from their experiences. Pakistani participants of the seminar hailed the organizers and said that such webinar will enhance coordination among relevant organizations from both countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/738255/pakistani-cotton-farmers-can-benefit-from-chinese-expertise/>

Dawn News

Memorandum signed between Chinese university, PEC

ISLAMABAD: With an aim to take advantage of Chinese technology, a memorandum-signing ceremony took place on Wednesday between Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) and Shenzhen University (SZU), to establish the Shenzhen-Pakistan Open Innovation Lab (Spoil).

Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry said, “The joint venture will lay a solid foundation for the development and application of the internet of things for the construction of the ‘Belt and Road’ in China and Pakistan.”

“For this purpose, we wish to establish a Shenzhen-Pakistan Open Innovation Lab (Spoil), under PEC in collaboration with Shenzhen University, Trioca Ventures along with the NED University, Buitems, Karakorum International University, Virtual University, UET Lahore and Peshawar,” he said.

China and Pakistan are cooperating in many fields, he said, adding, Shenzhen University is China’s top facility.

At the ceremony, participants learnt that PEC being the statutory body for regulating the field of engineering is functioning as a key driving force towards achieving rapid and sustainable growth in all national, economic and social fields.

The council has played a progressive role through achievements in all directions of the engineering sector at the national and international levels, besides extending expert support to the government as a think tank in almost all sectors.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a transcontinental long-term policy and investment programme aimed at infrastructure development and acceleration of the economic integration of countries along the route of the historic Silk Road. The initiative was unveiled in 2013 by China’s President Xi Jinping.

The initiative shows serious steps the prime minister has taken towards reforms, he said, adding Pakistanis will get vaccinated for free against coronavirus while vaccination of people over the age of 60 is already underway.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1614387/memorandum-signed-between-chinese-university-pec>

The Nation

Agri industry upgrade may help reduce Pak-China trade deficit

BEIJING-Although Pakistan's trade deficit with China has declined in recent years, it may still be an important factor affecting the sustained and healthy development of bilateral trade.

Since the first phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement came into effect, bilateral trade volume has increased from USD 2.2 billion in 2005 to USD 15.6 billion in 2019. However, 75% of Pakistan's exports to China are concentrated in a few products such as cotton and rice, leading to a large export deficit with China.

Agriculture is the main driving force of Pakistan economic growth, and the export of agricultural products is the largest source of Pakistan foreign exchange income. The Chinese government has always encouraged the expansion of trade with Pakistan, hoping to import more goods from Pakistan, especially agricultural products. But by contrast, Pakistan's agricultural products still show a slight disadvantage in the competition of similar products in the international market. Touching on this issue, Ma Xiaoyan, Chairman of UNI International Business Consultancy Co Ltd, who has been engaged in business management for 15 years in Pakistan and has worked in a local family business with a history of 170 years for 8 years, told China Economic Net that Pakistani entrepreneurs must take a global and international perspective in their business practices.

Starting from the cultivation of agricultural products, they should change the original rough production methods, introduce international market quality certification systems and quality control standards, research the target consumer groups, understand the needs of consumers, and improve food formula to meet the consumption habits of consumers, Ma said.

In addition, they can seek Chinese partners, who are mainly responsible for the control of production technology, product quality and sales market. They can vigorously develop the huge potential consumer market in China with the help of the China-Pakistan free trade policies, Ma said. As a typical agricultural country, Pakistan has a relatively high proportion of agriculture and service industries in its industrial structure, and its industrial development is insufficient. This has led to its export agricultural products with few varieties and low added value. Therefore, Pakistan traditional agriculture urgently needs to be transformed and upgraded, releasing more room for economic growth, Ma said.

Ma believes that the development of modern agriculture and modern industry in Pakistan is an inevitable trend in the future. Infrastructure investment driven by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project is an important opportunity for Pakistan to develop modern agriculture and industry. Pakistan has a solid foundation of water conservancy and irrigation, and a competitive labor force.

On this basis, focusing on the deep processing of high value-added agricultural products is the best way to increase the value of Pakistan export products, and also a booster for the development of its industrial chain.

At the same time, Pakistan should also improve its supporting service systems such as warehousing, cold chain, and logistics to promote the transformation and upgrading of its agriculture and industry, Ma told the reporter. Ma is full of confidence in the continuous and in-depth cooperation between China and Pakistan. He said that the 70-year friendship laid the most solid foundation for the two countries.

He also shared a story with the reporter that when he first cleared customs at Pakistan's Sost dry port in 2006, the local agent paid 500,000 rupees in advance for him when he learned that Ma is a Chinese person.

As CPEC enters the second phase, the two countries will step up cooperation in agriculture. In the future, China's investment in processing industry of agricultural products will be expanded to onion, mango, beans, rice, wheat, vegetables and meat in Pakistan. Meanwhile, China will set up a pest control research center in Karachi to provide local farmers with high-quality seeds. It will also help Pakistan increase its productivity and enhance the market competitiveness of its agricultural products in the future.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-25/page-8/detail-0>

The News

70 years of everlasting Pak-China friendship

Dr. Sardar Muhammad Tahir Tabassum

Seventy years of everlasting and unprecedented bilateral friendship and strong diplomatic relations are all weather strategic cooperative partnership based on mutual trust, respect and goodwill between Pakistan and China, which began on May 21, 1951, during this long period, many global political, diplomatic and economic inequalities and ups and downs have been created by many powers.

Terrorism was imposed in conspiracies to weaken the established economy. The United States, India, and Israel have waged terrible diplomatic, political, and economic wars, but our tried and trusted neighbor, China, has never allowed Pakistan to be isolated. Strengthened Pakistan financially, economically and defensively and by pulling the oscillating ship out of the whirlpool at every stage and putting it ashore, proved that Greater China is truly the most trusted tested and in true friendship, real and strong relationship, is a worthy friend and a proud neighbor. Undoubtedly, Pakistan-China diplomatic friendship is higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the sea.

Many important defence strengthening projects and CPEC's greatest multi-mega flagship project of China's Belt and Road initiative (BRI) are practical proof of the same true friendship

and full confidence that will not only strengthen Pakistan's economic, communications, defence, energy, infrastructure, agriculture, security socio- economic development but also its impact in all walks of life.

Will sigh and many neighboring countries will also benefit. That is why the United States, India and Israel are having stomach cramps. As this project moves towards completion, Pak-China friendship will continue to grow at the same pace. Chairman Mao Zedong, Chuan Lai and President Xi Jinping have nurtured this friendship in such a wide and strong relationship and friendship that in every era, this relationship has grown and matured. Whether Pakistan is in economic turmoil or debt burden, the Chinese leadership has always provided practical assistance and support to Pakistan.

China has always spoken out for the right of Kashmiris to self-determination with courage and boldness and the Kashmiri people consider China as their shelter for resolving the Kashmir issue. China has always defended Pakistan's rights at the international level. The dust that the Chinese army has inflicted on India in Ladakh in the last few months is also its own example.

There is little to be proud of in our friendship with China, a friendship of almost three decades has now turned into a strongest one. I wish Pakistan would adopt a permanent policy that would make us aware of friend and foe and keep our policy stable and sustainable. This is possible only when our country is strong and there are no political or religious conflicts. We speak up on the basis of equality. May our strategy be rooted in strong intentions and true intentions, and may the national security agencies, government and politicians, on the same page, play their role for security, unity, solidarity and national goals while building and developing the country. See the country's economic stability and defense requirements as the first priority.

The CPEC project is the brainchild of Chinese President Xi Jinping and his diligent team, who have approved multi-billion dollars great project and are working hard to complete it. Former Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Amb. Yao Jing, current ambassador Mr. Nong Rong and the efforts of the present Spokeperson Chinese Foreign Ministry Amb. Mr. Lijian Zhao and former Pak Army Chief General (R) Raheel Sharif, current Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and the political leadership of Mian Nawaz Sharif, Asif Ali Zardari and the Prime Minister Imran Khan are commendable.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/809450-70-years-of-everlasting-pak-china-friendship>

Express News

لازوال دوستی؛ یوم پاکستان پر چین کا کینٹن ٹاور گوانگوعوسبز، سرخ روشنیوں سے جگمگا اٹھا

یوم پاکستان کے موقع پر چین کا کینٹن ٹاور گوانگوعوسبز اور سرخ رنگ کی روشنیوں سے جگمگا اٹھا۔

دونوں ممالک کے مابین سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کے موقع پر پاک چین لازوال دوستی کو اجاگر کرتے ہوئے چین کے کینٹن ٹاور گوانگوعوسبز اور سرخ رنگ

روشنیوں سے سجایا گیا ہے اس موقع پر 2 مہار کبادی پیغام بھی ٹاور پر دکھائے گئے ہیں۔

یہ پہلا موقع ہے جب گوانگھو کی ایک ممتاز عوامی عمارت میں کسی بیرونی ملک کے قومی دن کے پیغام کو آویزاں کیا گیا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2158541/1/>

March 26, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese martial art turns into popular game in KP

Wushu, or the Chinese martial art, has turned into a popular game in northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

The report says the province has produced talented players who have represented KP at national and international competitions. Experts viewed that Wushu could be further promoted if Pakistani players and coaches get training in China or Chinese coaches start visiting the country to share their experiences with the local players. “It would be one of the top games in the province if we had adequate facilities, foreign qualified coaches and proper training camps,” Najmullah Safi, Secretary General Wushu Association KP, told Gwadar Pro.

Najmullah, 38, is one of the finest Wushu players and a trainer in KP who runs Rehmat Martial Art Academy Peshawar. The academy has cultivated many Wushu players of international caliber. More than 100 players are attending different classes of Wushu at the academy. “My academy has produced national gold medalists and South Asian champions,” Najmullah said adding that seven of his students are part of the current national team.

Thousands of kids are playing Wushu in different academies of Peshawar. The popularity of the game could easily be seen by the presence of local Wushu teams in all 35 districts of KP.

In 1993-94, Najmullah started training under the supervision of Wushu trainer Rehmat Gul Afridi in Peshawar and soon established himself as a top class Wushu player. In 2003 and 2014, he won the title eight times in national Wushu games with a gold medal in an international competition between Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan in 2005. “In 2018-19, I won a gold medal for my country during a series between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in kickboxing,” he told Gwadar Pro.

Being a player himself, Najmullah began to coach other children at Rehmat Martial Art Academy, Qayyum Stadium Peshawar, in 2014. He contributes the popularity of Wushu in KP to his teachers Rehmat Gul Afridi, Khizar Ali Shah and Mian Waheed Shah. Currently he is running Rehmat Martial Art Academy Peshawar, located over Ring Road of the metropolis.

Najmullah Safi said that parents happily send their children to Wushu academy for training. “It is a physical activity that also helps mental growth,” he said.

Taimoor Javed, 24, is one of Najmullah’s students who represented Pakistan in six different countries in Wushu competitions. He is also South Asian champion. During the last World Wushu Championship Beijing, Taimoor did not garner any medal and was defeated in the

quarterfinal round. “My goal is to become Asian Champion and World Champion,” Taimoor Javed told Gwadar Pro.

Zahid Ullah, 15, is a seventh grader who attends the Wushu academy in the evening. Speaking with Gwadar Pro, he said, “My family is very supportive of my aim to become the best Wushu player; I want to represent my country internationally.”

Najmullah says Pakistan has made utmost efforts to develop the game with resources available; however, with inadequate existing facilities for talented Wushu players like Taimoor Javed, it is impossible to become a world champion. In this regard, he is looking to China to help lift the game in Pakistan.

As China offers scholarships to Pakistani students studying in China, similar support is also needed in the field of games to ensure the nation’s healthy and strong future, according to Najmullah. China is a world leader in games such as basketball, volleyball, swimming, badminton, track and field and martial arts and one of the main reasons is the availability of the best training facilities for the players. “If our children can have some courses in China and our instructors receive advanced training there, it will help promote Wushu in Pakistan,” Najmullah said.

To him, if China provides them with facilities like boxing gear and Chinese instructors make occasional visits to Pakistan to train the children, “it will not only promote Wushu game in Pakistan but would also further strengthen friendship between the two countries”.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/738602/chinese-martial-art-turns-into-popular-game-in-kp/>

CPEC offers Hungarian businessmen huge opportunity to invest in Pakistan

The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being established all along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offer the Hungarian businessmen a remarkable opportunity for profitably setting-up and conducting their business either to cater to the huge Pakistani market of over 210 million people, or for extending your business into any surrounding region of choice, according to a concept note on “Hungary-Pakistan Trade and Economic Window” released on Thursday.

The Embassy of Pakistan in Budapest, in collaboration with the All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF), has developed an initiative to launch a ‘Hungary-Pakistan Trade and Economic Window (HPTEW)’ on 25 March 2021. The inaugural event was co-chaired by Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, and Peter Szijjarto, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary.

The 12-point ‘Business Window’ concept aims at introducing interested Pakistani and Hungarian business companies, entities and individuals to each other’s potential through a structured format. The HPTEW aims to serve as a 24/7 online platform that will be fully supported by the two governments through our respective Embassies. The Business Window also aims to unlock and bring the true potentials of the highly lucrative markets in Pakistan and Hungary to your fingertips. In a nutshell, it is a business-friendly, easy-to-use way of finding not only your

required business information, and identify your potential business partners in Hungary and Pakistan, but also offers guidance and necessary support of the concerned authorities on both sides to all interested companies, trade bodies and individual businessmen in a hassle-free manner.

Since, there is a sizable potential to meaningfully introduce highly competitive, international-quality products of Pakistan and Hungary in various sectors of both the markets, for the first time, especially in today's COVID-affected world of online virtual reality, such windows can provide us authentic information and practical understanding and guidance in exploring new avenues. Such a facility is particularly helpful for the modern businesses, who expect the governments to facilitate their endeavors through a simple, 'One-window' operation.

This initiative is expected to unfold and evolve further in coming months and years as it is likely to become a reliable standard tool for the private sector entities interested in doing business in Pakistan, Hungary or both. As such HPTEW offers an entirely new model and way of doing business in an efficient, transparent and cost-effective manner.

Any Pakistani businessmen looking at Hungary through this newly opened window for the first time, would definitely find numerous strengths. Some of the major strengths include Hungary's strong economy and its consistently high economic growth rate especially over the last ten years, its strategic location at the heart of Central and Eastern Europe, its cutting-edge technological base and expertise in the agricultural and food industry, in the environmental industry particularly in the field of water resource management, urban development and engineering technologies and industry, and achievements in science and technology, sports, culture and music etc.

On the other hand, a Hungarian business person focusing on Pakistan through the business Window lens will notice Pakistan's own remarkable strengths, and some unique similarities with Hungary in many areas.

There is considerable scope for the business communities on both sides to exchange experiences and create new avenues of setting-up profitable businesses in the agriculture and food sector. Additionally, Pakistan is a world leader and producer of top brands in food items, sports goods, surgical / medical equipment, leather items and textiles. Some of them include the Basmati Rice, Pakistani Mangoes and Pakistani footballs.

The Window is believed to let both countries' strengths build as economic partners, at an entirely new scale and level, in the months and years ahead. It will also support the nurturing of new business linkages, ideas and endeavors being taken by the business communities in Hungary and Pakistan.

It will set a new milestone in our bilateral relations that are historically marked by friendship, cooperation and similarity of views on many important issues in today's increasingly complex global environment.

Foreign Minister Qureshi and his Hungarian counterpart Peter Szijjarto jointly inaugurated the HPTEW and the first Hungary-Pakistan business forum today. The event was held online.

Qureshi, in his welcome remarks, invited Hungarian companies to take advantage of the investor-friendly climate in Pakistan to enter into joint ventures with Pakistani companies, especially in the SEZs under the CPEC.

He welcomed Hungarian expertise in the fields of agriculture and food, environment, water resource management, engineering, vocational training and urban planning.

The Hungarian Foreign Minister agreed with Foreign Minister Qureshi that boosting linkages in all areas, particularly the economy, trade and enhanced people-to-people exchanges, would lead to fully realizing the economic potential between the two countries. Foreign Minister Szijjarto said that Hungary's policy of opening towards the East would provide a good impetus to Pakistan-Hungary relations.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/738782/cpec-offers-hungarian-businessmen-huge-opportunity-to-invest-in-pakistan/>

Express News

چینی صدر کا وزیر اعظم کو خط، کورونا سے صحت یابی کیلئے نیک تمناؤں کا اظہار

چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے اپنے خط میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی کورونا سے جلد صحت یابی کی دعا اور نیک تمناؤں کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر نوگ روگ نے کہا ہے کہ صدر شی جن پنگ نے پاکستان کے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کو خط کران کی خیریت دریافت کی اور نیک تمناؤں کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ سماجی رابطے کی ویب سائٹ ٹوئٹر پر اپنی ٹوئٹ میں چینی سفیر نوگ روگ نے لکھا کہ صدر شی جن پنگ نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کو لکھے گئے خط میں کورونا سے جلد صحت یابی کی دعا کرتے ہوئے نیک تمناؤں کا اظہار کیا ہے۔

وزیر اعظم قرنطینہ میں رہ کر کیا کر رہے ہیں، تازہ ترین تصویر جاری: یہ خبر بھی پڑھیں

نوگ روگ کے مطابق صدر شی جن پنگ نے اپنے خط میں پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر کورونا وبا کے خلاف جنگ کے عزم کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے اس حوالے سے دو طرفہ تعلقات میں استحکام اور مضبوطی کی ضرورت پر زور دیا ہے۔

چین اور پاکستان نے کورونا وبا کے خلاف جنگ میں دو طرفہ تعاون کا عزم کیا تھا اور چین کے کورونا ویکسین کا ٹرائل پاکستان میں بھی ہوا تھا جب کہ چین نے کورونا ویکسین کی ایک کھیپ تحفہ پاکستان بھیجی تھی۔

واضح رہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا 20 جنوری کو کورونا ٹیسٹ مثبت آیا تھا اور وہ اپنے گھر بنی گالہ میں قرنطینہ میں ہیں تاہم اس دوران میڈیا نمائندوں سے ایس او بیسز کے تحت میٹنگ بھی کی ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2159269/10/>

March 27, 2021

Daily Times

Pak-China cooperation to bring economic stability in region: Masood

The Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Sardar Masood Khan has said that completion of energy projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would help overcome the energy crisis on the national level, and at the same time, it would bring a visible change in the socio-economic life of the people of Azad Kashmir.

He expressed these views after a briefing given by the chief executive officer of China Three Gorges South Asia Investment (Pvt) limited Yao Feixiong on the hydropower generation project currently under execution at Karot Hollar here under the CPEC initiative.

While describing CPEC as an important project for the economic development of Pakistan, the AJK president said that on the one hand, the project would help develop infrastructure in Pakistan and Azad Kashmir, on the other, it will raise the living standard of people by providing job opportunities to the local educated people.

“The execution of 720-MG Karot hydropower generation project would provide jobs to the local people and the completion of this project early next year will provide electricity to more than two million households in the country,” he added.

He maintained that the accomplishment of similar other CPEC projects will promote economic activity in Azad Kashmir and provide jobs to the local educated youth.

Earlier on arrival at Hollar, the state president was warmly received by the CEO China Three Gorges South Asia Investment (Pvt) Ltd Yao Feixiong, Deputy Executive Officer, General Manager (Environment and social safety), Manager Administration and other Chinese officials, and gave him a briefing on the Karot project.

He said that it is a major pilot project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which is expected to be completed early next year and generate 3.2 billion units of cheap, clean electricity for Pakistan.

The state president was told that the project which has a capacity of generating 3.2 billion units of electricity would be completed next year. At present 3,000 people including 1,000 Chinese citizens are working on the project.

The Chinese company officials thanked the state president for visiting the project. Later, Sardar Masood Khan took a round of different sections of the project and inspected the construction work.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/739088/pak-china-cooperation-to-bring-economic-stability-in-region-masood/>

The Nation

President Xi wishes PM Imran speedy recovery from Covid-19

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping Friday wished Prime Minister Imran Khan a speedy recovery and expressed deep sympathy with him for being affected by Covid-19.

In his message, President Xi said China and Pakistan are partners in the all-weather strategic cooperation. China will always stand firm with Pakistan to defeat Covid-19 pandemic.

This year 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. "I attach great importance to the development of Sino-Pakistani relations. I hope that together with Prime Minister Imran Khan, the building of a closer China-Pakistan cooperation will be promoted and the people of both the countries will reap the benefits," he added.

Meanwhile, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong also said in a tweet that President Xi Jinping had sent a message of speedy recovery to Prime Minister Imran Khan. Nong Rong tweeted that President Xi Jinping stressed that China would always stand firmly with Pakistan and join hands to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-27/page-1/detail-8>

Construction of first steel unit at Rashakai SEZ under way

ISLAMABAD-Construction of first steel unit at Rashakai Special Economic Zone under CPEC, costing \$79 million, is under way and plant and machinery for the unit will be imported soon.

A review meeting on Rashakai Special Economic Zone was informed that work on the first phase of establishing steel plant is under way and the company will invest \$ 242.2 million in the three phases of the project.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar chaired a meeting to review the progress on the development of Rashakai Special Economic Zone under CPEC Framework here on Friday. Chairman CPEC Authority, representatives from KP BOI and senior officials of the federal & provincial governments attended the meeting.

The representatives of the developers informed the meeting that the first unit of steel plant was under construction and would be soon importing its plant and machinery. In the first phase, they plan to set up their first unit with an investment of \$79 million to produce 500000 tons of rebar/construction steel. Whereas in the second phase, they intend to set up their second unit for production of industrial steel with an investment of \$77 million and the total investment for three phases will be \$242.2 million.

The meeting was apprised of the progress of work in SEZ, especially regarding supply of gas and electricity to the zone. It was informed that 10MW electricity is available for Rashakai SEZ while the transmission line for another 160MW is under construction and will be completed by November 2021. A further addition is also planned for 2022. SNGPL representatives informed that work on the gas supply of 30 MMCFD to Rashakai SEZ is underway and scheduled to be completed by the end of December.

Representatives from FBR and BOI said that all the incentives under the SEZ Act are available to the potential investors in the Zone.

Minister directed the relevant ministries to ensure completion of their respective tasks within timelines. He also directed Planning Division to carry out implementation monitoring of the various activities related to the SEZs.

Meanwhile, Sun Yaoguo, vice president of China Road & Bridge Corporation, and his delegation called on chairman of Board of Investment Atif Bokhari and discussed the development progress and marketing plans for Rashakai Special Economic Zone and other matters of mutual interest.

Sun informed that development work of Rashakai SEZ is being carried out at a fast pace and to that end respective teams have already been mobilized. He highlighted that aggressive marketing of the SEZ to local and foreign investors is crucial for its speedy occupation and operationalization. Rashakai SEZ is the flagship project of CPEC & its success will further strengthen industrial cooperation between Pakistan & China.

In his remarks, Atif Bokhari welcomed the delegation and praised CRBC's impressive work in the Rashakai SEZ. He concurred with Sun for perusal of an aggressive marketing campaign that effectively highlights the monetary benefits for investors. In this regard MOS/chairman apprised the delegation about approval of two major incentives for SEZs i.e. custom & duty exemption on capital goods & elimination of 1.5% turnover tax. He also shared that domestic companies have shown keen interest in setting up enterprises in the Rashakai SEZ & desired that this should be looked into.

Both sides also discussed the interest of Chinese enterprises in Rashakai. On a suggestion from CRBC to effectively communicate with the Chinese business community about incentives & sectors for investment, Bokhari agreed & further suggested that he will be part of a webinar on the issue. He emphasized that both sides need to focus and work towards expediting the relocation of Chinese industry in the Special Economic Zones.

During the meeting, Sun also briefed about CRBC's mega project in Karachi. The Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone in collaboration with Ministry of Maritime Affairs aims at developing Karachi as regional hub for economic activity while simultaneously generating employment opportunities for millions & bringing in sizeable FDI.

Chairman BOI applauded the work being carried out by CRBC in Pakistan. He assured the delegation that BOI will support CRBC in coordination with relevant departments and Ministries

as well as offering assistance within BOI's mandate. BOI looks forward to closely working with CRBC to not only facilitate their progress in Pakistan but also to jointly work towards Pakistan's fast paced industrialization.

Sun thanked chairman BOI for his time and also assured of CBRC's dedication for successful execution of the ongoing projects.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-03-27/page-8/detail-0>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک سے قومی معیشت کے فروغ و غربت کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی: حکام

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے، سی پیک سے قومی معیشت کے فروغ اور غربت میں کمی لانے میں نمایاں مدد ملے گی، موجودہ حکومت کے پہلے دن سی پی سی پیک کے تحت جاری منصوبوں پر کام کی رفتار تیز کی گئی۔ سی پیک اتھارٹی حکام کے مطابق دونوں ملکوں کے مابین تجارتی اور اقتصادی تعلقات کو مزید فروغ ملے گا۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت جاری منصوبوں پر کام کی رفتار مزید تیز کی جائے گی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-03-27/page-3/detail-19>

March 28, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese technology has potential to strengthen Pakistan's seed industry

China-Pakistan cooperation in seed is high on the agenda as the CPEC enters the second phase to focus on agriculture cooperation and other sectors of social welfare, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

At the China-Pakistan Seed Industry Cooperation and Exchange Forum held last week, agricultural experts from China and Pakistan offered insights on how to further promote bilateral cooperation in the seed industry.

Dr Zhang Shengquan of the Beijing Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences said, "In 2012, we carried out joint R&D on two-line hybrid wheat in Pakistan, and achieved an average increase of more than 20 % in wheat production, and last year, we brought that figure to 50% and even up to 70%."

The potential of China's hybrid wheat is emphasised by Shahzad Ali Malik, CEO of Guard Agri, during his interview with CEN. The reasons for limited wheat production in Pakistan include low yield potential of seed varieties, mismanagement, high temperature and drought, and severe rust damage, etc. Drought-resistant and infertility-resistant traits of Chinese hybrid wheat make it a suitable variety to be introduced in Pakistan. Dr Li Hui from the breeding team of the Hebei Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences said that China's Hebei, with its natural conditions similar to those of Pakistan, has been dedicated to the R&D of draught-resistant, water-saving wheat varieties to achieve replicably stable and huge production.

The report says that nearly 30 water-saving wheat varieties bred by his team are expected to be introduced into Pakistan through the China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Information Cooperation Platform. Pakistan has long been a huge soybean importer, with its import volume increasing annually and consuming colossal foreign exchange reserves.

Dr. Irfan Afzal, associate professor at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad said that Pakistan began to cultivate soybean as early as 1960s, but due to natural conditions, especially overlapping planting time of soybean and wheat, “we only have 120 days for soybean cultivation each year, but Brazil, the soybean powerhouse, has six months.”

Ali Raza, a post-doctoral research fellow at Sichuan Agricultural University, learned the “maize-soybean intercropping technology” from his Chinese supervisor, Professor Yang Wenyu of Sichuan Agricultural University. He introduced the technology to Pakistan and transformed the local agriculture sector.

The intercropping technology was once hailed as a possible second Green Revolution in grain and soybean production in Pakistan by Syed Hussain Jahania Gardez, Provincial Minister of Punjab for Agriculture. At the forum, he said CPEC can support agricultural development and help achieve the goal of agricultural modernisation in Pakistan, especially for poor regions. He hoped to develop such fields “as high-quality rice variety research, irrigation systems, agricultural mechanisation, and we also want to work with China in more fields including cotton production, R&D of hybrid seeds in maize.”

The intercropping technology was acclaimed by the Minister mainly for four reasons, Professor Yang Wenyun of Sichuan Agricultural University explained. First, the technology can greatly save foreign exchange reserves arising from Pakistan’s soybean imports. Second, maize-soybean intercropping can achieve a planting and breeding cycle, which lead to increased farmers’ income and reduced environmental pollution by facilitating the raising of cattle and sheep. Third, it can make the land fertile with green and sustainable approaches. Fourth, Pakistan can enhance crop breeding and cultivation and its mechanisation level by introducing Chinese soybean varieties and cultivation technologies including seeders, sprayers and harvesters to the country.

The intercropping technology is expected to increase farmers’ income by up to 23% to \$654, said Ali Raza. “If we roll out the intercropping technology in maize cultivation nationwide, we would produce 6.5 million tons of maize and over 900,000 tons of soya beans,” he said.

Hezhong, Director of Cotton Research Centre at Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences told CEN that China currently accounts for 25 % of the world’s cotton production, with 12 % of the world’s planting area. The high cotton productivity in China is due to the “dark technologies in cotton cultivation. Pakistan urgently needs to increase cotton yield per unit area. According to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research of Pakistan and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Pakistan’s cotton production will reach 7.7 million bales in FY2020-2021, with demands for at least 6 million bales yet to be met due to a 10% decrease in cotton acreage.

Jawed Salim Qureshi, CEO of Four Brothers in Pakistan expressed the desire for urgent cooperation, “we are in urgent need of cooperation with China in terms of cotton cultivation. Pakistan needs to deal with pests and the impacts of global warming on cotton yield, he added.

The agricultural sector between China and Pakistan, scientific research cooperation will not only contribute to Pakistan’s cotton production, but also to the global cotton production, and we would like to see Pakistani products exported to all parts of the world, “he said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/739497/chinese-technology-has-potential-to-strengthen-pakistans-seed-industry/>

China Fashion Week invites Pakistani designers for 2021 edition

Designer Maheen Khan has confirmed that the Fashion Pakistan Council has been invited to China Fashion Week 2021.

“I’m thrilled to announce that China Fashion Week has invited Fashion Pakistan Week to collaborate,” she said.

The CFW, which started on March 24 and will run until March 31, features 64 Chinese designers showcasing their autumn collections. The organizers have invited 14 designers from Pakistan to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations. Designers from Malaysia, Mongolia, India, Japan, Australia, and Canada will showcase their collections as well

“Collaborating with China has been amazing for us,” said Maheen. “We hope to reciprocate the invite for the FPW winter festival.”

The FPW was scheduled to take place in December 2020, but was postponed due to the pandemic. It was held in February 2021.

The event will be held online.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/739270/china-fashion-week-invites-pakistani-designers-for-2021-edition/>

Express News

سی پیک سے 70 ہزار ملازمتیں پیدا ہوئیں، سرمایہ کاری بورڈ

سی پیک عام طور پر ایک گیم چینجر کے نام سے جانا جاتا ہے اور لوگوں نے پہلے ہی اس کے ثمرات سے استفادہ حاصل کرنا شروع کر دیا ہے۔

سرمایہ کاری بورڈ حکام کے مطابق سی پیک کے تحت 9 مکمل شدہ منصوبے اور 13 جاری منصوبوں نے 70 ہزار سے زیادہ براہ راست ملازمتیں پیدا کیں، آئندہ 4 سے 5 سال میں

مزید ساڑھے 4 لاکھ براہ راست ملازمتیں پیدا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ سی پیک کا مستقبل اب خصوصی اقتصادی زون اور گورنری ٹریڈ زون کے آغاز پر ہے۔

مزید برآں سی پیک کا ادارہ جاتی میکانزم ابھی بھی برقرار ہے اور عالمی وبائی امور کی پریشانیوں اور دنیا کو اپنی لپیٹ میں لے جانے کے باوجود جے سی سی کے اجلاس مستقل بنیادوں

پر ہوتے رہے ہیں۔

علاوہ ازیں سی پیک علاقائی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں مزید فعال کردار ادا کرے گی۔ سی پیک اتھارٹی حکام کے مطابق چین علاقائی تعاون کے مزید فروغ میں مصنوعات کی تجارت کے حوالے سے گوادر بندرگاہ کی حمایت کرتا ہے۔

گوادر بندرگاہ پر مچھلی کے سامان کی چین سے پہنچنے کے ساتھ پہلے ہی شروع ہو گئی ہیں۔ آنے والے دنوں میں، ایل پی جی، اسٹیل پائپ، ڈی اے پی کھاد سمیت افغانستان جانے والے بین الاقوامی سامان پر مشتمل مزید جہازوں کا گوادر پورٹ پہنچنا طے ہے۔

گوادر میں ایک ڈائریکٹوریٹ آف ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ بھی قائم کیا گیا ہے جو اسٹیک ہولڈرز کے ساتھ مل کر کام کر رہا ہے تاکہ بندرگاہ کو ایک اہم ٹرانزٹ ٹریڈ حب میں تبدیل کیا جاسکے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2159813/6/>

Nawaiwaqt News

امریکہ کو سی پیک سمیت کسی ترقیاتی منصوبے پر اعتراض نہیں: طاہر جاوید

لاہور (نامہ نگار) حکومت پاکستان کی جانب سے امریکہ میں پاکستان کیلئے بہترین کارکردگی پر تمغہ امتیاز سے نوازے جانے والے پاکستانی نژاد امریکی سیاسی رہنما طاہر جاوید نے لاہور پریس کلب کی دعوت پر میٹ دی پریس پروگرام میں شرکت کی۔ پروگرام سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے طاہر جاوید نے کہا کہ پاک امریکہ تعلقات کو بہتر بنانے کے لیے کام کر رہے ہیں، جو بائیڈن حکومت پاکستان کو ساتھ لے کے چلنا چاہتی ہے جس پر کام جاری ہے، جو بائیڈن حکومت مسلم دنیا سے اچھے تعلقات رکھنا چاہتی ہے اور پاکستان کے ساتھ امریکی تعلقات غیر مشروط ہیں، امریکہ کو پاکستان کے ساتھ لے کے چلنا چاہتی ہے جس پر کام جاری ہے، جو بائیڈن حکومت مسلم دنیا سے اچھے تعلقات رکھنا چاہتی ہے اور پاکستان کے ساتھ امریکی تعلقات غیر مشروط ہیں، امریکہ کو پاکستان میں سی پیک سمیت کسی بھی ترقیاتی کام پر اعتراض نہیں لیکن اگر امریکہ کو اعتماد میں لے کر چلا جائے تو پاکستان کو زیادہ فائدہ ہو گا۔ کشمیر میں جاری بھارتی ظلم و جبر پر بات کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ انڈیا کے کشمیر پر حالیہ ظلم کے خلاف 150 سنیٹرز نے اس پر احتجاج کیا تھا، جو بائیڈن کے الیکشن منشور میں سب سے بڑا منشور ہیومن رائٹس تھا، جو بائیڈن حکومت کشمیر سمیت کہیں بھی ہیومن رائٹس کے خلاف عمل ہو اس پر اپنا کردار ادا کر رہی ہے۔ افغانستان میں امن اور طالبان کے حوالے سے بات کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ افغانستان میں امن کے لئے پاکستان کا کردار بہت اہم ہے جس سے ہم بخوبی آگاہ ہیں۔ تمام حقائق کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے افغانستان سے متعلق فیصلہ کریں گے۔ پروگرام کے اختتام پر طاہر جاوید کو کلب کی جانب سے یادگاری شیلڈ پیش کی گئی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-03-28/page-8/detail-43>

March 29, 2021

Business Recorder

BoI chief for expediting relocation of Chinese industry in SEZs

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment (BoI) Atif Bokhari on Sunday emphasized that Pakistan and China need to focus and work towards expediting the relocation of Chinese Industry in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) including Rashakai SEZ.

In his remarks Chairman BOI, Atif Bokhari welcomed the delegation and praised China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC's) impressive work in the Rashakai SEZ.

China and Pakistan have negotiated in detail on the development progress and marketing plans for Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and other matters of mutual interest, said a press release issued by BOI here.

Vice President, China Road and Bridge Corporation Sun Yaoguo and his delegation called on MOS/Chairman Board of Investment (BoI) Atif Bokhari at the BOI office. Both sides also discussed the interest of Chinese enterprises in Rashakai.

While in meeting Chairman BOI concurred with Mr. Sun for perusal of an aggressive marketing campaign that effectively highlights the monetary benefits for investors.

In this regard Chairman BOI appraised the delegation about approval of two major incentives for SEZs i.e. custom and duty exemption on capital goods and elimination of 1.5 percent turnover tax.

He applauded the work being carried out by CRBC in Pakistan. He assured the delegation that BOI will support CRBC in coordination with relevant departments and Ministries as well as offering assistance within BoI's mandate.

BOI looks forward to closely working with CRBC to not only facilitate their progress in Pakistan but also to jointly work towards Pakistan's fast paced industrialization.

He also shared that domestic companies have shown keen interest in setting up enterprises in the Rashakai SEZ and desired that this should be looked into.

On a suggestion from CRBC to effectively communicate with the Chinese business community about incentives and sectors for investment, Bokhari agreed and further suggested that he will be part of a webinar on the issue.

In meeting Vice President of CRBC, Sun Yaoguo informed that development work of Rashakai SEZ is being carried out at a fast pace and to that end respective teams have already been mobilized.

He highlighted that aggressive marketing of the SEZ to local and foreign investors is crucial for its speedy occupation and operationalization.

He further said that the standard of services combined with the attractive incentives offered by the Government of Pakistan, Rashakai has the potential to become a hub of economic activity. Additionally, Rashakai SEZ is the flagship project of CPEC and its success will further strengthen Industrial Cooperation between Pakistan and China.

During the meeting, Sun also briefed about CRBC's mega project in Karachi. The Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone in collaboration with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs aims at developing Karachi as a regional hub for economic activity while simultaneously generating employment opportunities for millions and bringing in sizable FDI.

Vice President Sun thanked Chairman BOI for his time and also assured of CBRC's dedication for successful execution of the ongoing projects.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/03/29/43-page/877114-news.html>

The News

Chinese liquor company gets licence in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese company has got a licence in Pakistan to manufacture liquor here, according to sources.

The company, Hui Coastal Brewery and Distillery Limited, was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on April 30, 2020, with the Hub (Balochistan) address. The licence was issued by Excise, Taxation and Anti-Narcotics Department Balochistan. The company has been launched as a joint venture with Balochistan at the Lasbela Industrial Estate Development Authority.

With vast experience of manufacturing liquor in China, this will be the first Chinese company to establish its plant in Pakistan. The company is famous for producing world's famous brands and it would introduce its two famous brands in Pakistan. The entire process, from manufacturing to packaging, would be carried out at its plant in Lasbela.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/811528-chinese-liquor-company-gets-licence-in-pakistan>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک منصوبے خطے کی تقدیر بدل دیں گے، شاہ زیب کا کڑ

گوادر (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) گوادر میں گوادر ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی نے کرونا کی صورتحال میں تمام احتیاطی تدابیر کے ساتھ یوم پاکستان کی منفرد تقریب منعقد کی۔ اس موقع پر گوادر سٹیڈیم اور اس کے عقب میں واقع پہاڑ کو پاکستانی جھنڈے کے رنگوں والے برقی قمقموں سے مزین کیا گیا۔ چاروں طرف حرکت کرتی ہوئی سبز و سفید ریشمیوں کے ساتھ قومی ترانے اور سجاوٹ نے ماحول پر سحر طاری کئے رکھا۔ گوادر ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل شاہ زیب خان کا کڑ نے اپنے خطاب میں کہا کہ اللہ تعالیٰ نے پاکستان کو بے شمار نعمتوں سے نوازا ہے ملک کی تعمیر و ترقی ہماری ذمہ داری ہے۔ اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے میں گوادر بندرگاہ کو مرکزی حیثیت حاصل ہے جبکہ سی پیک کے تحت جاری منصوبے پاکستان سمیت پورے خطے کی تقدیر بدل دیں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2021-03-29/page-5/detail-1>

سی پیک گیم چینجر، 9 ماہ کے دوران 70 ہزار ملازمتیں پیدا ہوئیں، سرمایہ کاری بورڈ

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) سی پیک عام طور پر ایک گیم چینجر کے نام سے جانا جاتا ہے اور لوگوں نے پہلے ہی اس کے ثمرات سے استفادہ حاصل کرنا شروع کر دیا ہے۔ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ حکام کے مطابق سی پیک کے تحت 9 مکمل شدہ منصوبے اور 13 جاری منصوبوں نے 70 ہزار سے زیادہ براہ راست ملازمتیں پیدا کیں، آئندہ 4 سے 5 سال میں مزید ساڑھے 4 لاکھ براہ راست ملازمتیں پیدا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ سی پیک کا مستقبل اب خصوصی اقتصادی زون اور گوادر فری ٹریڈ زون کے آغاز پر ہے۔ مزید برآں سی پیک کا ادارہ جاتی میکانزم ابھی بھی برقرار ہے اور عالمی وبائی امور کی پریشانیوں اور دنیا کو اپنی لپیٹ میں لے جانے کے باوجود جے سی سی کے اجلاس مستقل بنیادوں پر ہوتے رہے ہیں۔ علاوہ ازیں سی پیک علاقائی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں مزید فعال کردار ادا کرے گی۔ سی پیک اتھارٹی حکام کے مطابق چین علاقائی تعاون کے مزید فروغ میں مصنوعات کی

تجارت کے حوالے سے گوادر بندر گاہ کی حمایت کرتا ہے۔ گوادر بندر گاہ پر مچھلی کے سامان کی چین سے پہنچنے کے ساتھ پہلے ہی شروع ہو گئی ہیں۔ آنے والے دنوں میں، ایل بی جی، اسٹیل پائپ، ڈی اے پی کھاد سمیت افغانستان جانے والے بین الاقوامی سامان پر مشتمل مزید جہازوں کا گوادر پورٹ پہنچنا طے ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-03-29/page-8/detail-0>

March 30, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese doctors saving lives in Pakistan

“Despite Covid-19, our efforts on Pak-China cooperation in liver transplant have not stalled. Actually, we’re working on three priorities so that we can continue with liver transplantation for Pakistani patients after the pandemic,” said Dr Zhu ZhiJun, a Chinese Professor of Medicine, Director of Liver Transplant Center, Beijing Friendship Hospital (BFH), who has provided Pakistani patients with free liver transplant, according to Gwadar Pro.

He pointed out three task priorities of his team for the future: minimally invasive transplantation through endoscopy; accurate diagnosis through genetic analysis; convenient conversation and exchanges between doctors of the two countries through favorable policies. Endoscopy and genetic analysis, two of the most advanced technologies in this field, effectively relieve the pain of patients and improve the cure rate.

Dr. Zhu said: “They are considered as revolutionary technologies by the international medical community and have become mature and achieved good results in China.” Since 2018, DrZhu and his team have visited Pakistan several times and successfully operated more than 40 liver transplant surgeries which are free of charge. “Though due to Covid-19 pandemic we’ve been unable to visit Pakistan, we’ve kept in touch with our comrades and patients in Pakistan. The good news is, our patients are getting better and doing well after the operations. According to the updates by hospitals in Pakistan, most of them have gradually returned to normal life,” Dr. Zhu gladly said.

“Pakistan is a big country with liver disease, but the nation only performs no more than 200 cases of liver transplant a year. Our efforts not only aim to cure the patients, but more purpose to train and cultivate a group of Pakistani specialists,” he said.

Earlier, Dr Zhu received a letter from Lieutenant General Nigar Johar. In the letter, she thanked Chinese doctors: “I appreciate the effort of your team for capacity building to accommodate patients to save their lives. Indeed, the liver transplant unit has immensely benefitted from your expertise and experience.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/740085/chinese-doctors-saving-lives-in-pakistan/>

China to work with Pakistan for development, peace in region

Expressing warm congratulations on 82nd Pakistan Day, Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Monday that China supported Pakistan in pursuing peaceful diplomatic policies and it would work with Pakistan to inject more positive energy into the regional peace and stability as well as development.

“China expresses warm congratulations on the 82nd Pakistan Day. We believe that Pakistani Government and people will make further progress on national building and revitalization,” Chinese Foreign Ministry’s Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing held at the International Press Center.

While taking note of the positive remarks delivered by President Dr. Arif Alvi about China on Pakistan Day Parade last week, he said, “We highly appreciate that. China also values the All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries.”

In the speech, President Alvi had said, “China is our closest and friendliest country.” “President Alvi also noted in his speech that Pakistan would focus on development and peaceful coexistence with other countries and he urged world especially South Asian countries and their leaders to abandoned hatred, bias and religious extremism to jointly safeguard regional peace and stability,” he added.

The spokesperson remarked that seeking peace and development is the common aspiration of countries in the region.

On Pakistan’s peaceful diplomatic policies and its efforts to help secure peaceful solution of Afghan issue, he said, “China supports Pakistan in pursuing peaceful diplomatic policies and we support the peace and reconciliation process of Afghanistan.”

On the relations between Pakistan and India, he said, “We are happy about the active interactions between Pakistan and India.”

He said that China would like to work with Pakistan to inject more positive energy into regional peace and stability as well as development. “I would like to take the opportunity of the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties to work with Pakistan to fight Corona virus and carry forward our traditional friendship to expand our all dimensional cooperation and build a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in a new era,” he added.

Pakistan and China are celebrating the seven decades of friendship and establishment of diplomatic relations this year and launched a series of more than 100 activities in the both countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/740105/china-to-work-with-pakistan-for-development-peace-in-region/>

Pakistan Observer

China highly appreciates President Alvi remarks: Lijian

China warmly congratulates Pakistan on the 82nd Pakistan Day, and believes that the Pakistani government and people will make steady progress on the path of national development and rejuvenation. Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on the Regular Press Conference of Monday. He said, China has noted and highly appreciates President Dr. Arif Alvi's positive comments on China-Pakistan relations in his speech delivered on the occasion of the Pakistan Day military parade. China also cherishes its all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation with Pakistan. We are ready to take the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic ties as an opportunity to work together in the fight against COVID-19, carry forward our traditional friendship, deepen all-round cooperation, and build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future for the new era. President Alvi also stressed in his speech that Pakistan will focus on development, and remain committed to peaceful coexistence with the outside world. He called on world leaders, especially South Asian leaders, to discard hatred, prejudice and religious extremism, and jointly safeguard regional peace and prosperity. To pursue peace and development is the shared aspiration of all countries in the region. China supports Pakistan's foreign policy of peace and good-neighbourliness as well as its commitment to advancing the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. China is pleased with Pakistan's recent positive interactions with India. We are ready to work with Pakistan, and continue to inject positive energy into regional peace, stability and development.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-highly-appreciates-president-alvi-remarks-lijian/>

cpeclive.tv launched

Being proudly launched for the people of Pakistan, cpeclive.tv will inform how CPEC benefits them today and in the future. The web channel and its social media footprint will bridge the information gap for Pakistanis about the Belt and Road Initiative, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor and the corridor's allied projects. Whereas the webcast of cpeclive.tv will help Pakistanis acquire information about the potential effects of CPEC on their lives, its interactive forum will proactively assist stakeholders of the corridor to realize the full potential of their efforts in all ways possible. cpeclive.tv's programming covers a wide range of subject matter pertaining to the economic corridor including culture and tourism, the entertainment industry, scientific innovations, agriculture, climate change, real estate investment and living, education, and workforce and industry.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpeclive-tv-launched/>

China's Century Steel to invest \$242.2 m in Rashakai SEZ

China's Century Steel will invest a total of \$242.2 million in Rashakai SEZ in three phases, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. The firm recently announced to have acquired 40 acres of land in the SEZ with plans to invest \$50 million to produce 0.25 million tonnes of steel products. The

firm is presently building its plant in Rashakai, being the first ever investment in the SEZ. However, as against the earlier plans of \$50 million, the company will invest \$79 million in the first phase to double its capacity to 0.5 million tonnes of reinforcing or construction steel. The second phase, it will invest \$77million to set up another unit for production of industrial steel. The total investment will reach \$242.2 million in three phases, according to a spokesperson of Ministry of Planning Ayesha Khan. Pakistan's Minister for Planning Asad Umar chaired two meetings in the past eight days to review the progress on the Rashakai SEZ. Ayesha Khan told Gwadar Pro that it was because the Prime Minister Imran Khan was due to inaugurate the SEZ in April and the ministry was working day and night to make it possible.

During the meeting which was also attended by Chairman CPEC Authority Lt Gen (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa, among other senior officials, the respective government organs and officials of the development contractor CRBC informed the Minister on progress of various works including provision of gas and electricity. The second phase, it will invest \$77million to set up another unit for production of industrial steel. The total investment will reach \$242.2 million in three phases, according to a spokesperson of Ministry of Planning Ayesha Khan.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-century-steel-to-invest-242-2-m-in-rashakai-sez/>

The Express Tribune

'Pleased' with Pakistan's positive interactions with India, says China

After a number of conciliatory steps taken by the country's leadership to promote regional peace, China said on Monday that "it is pleased with Pakistan's recent positive interactions with India". The relations between the two nuclear-armed neighbours have been on the mend since New Delhi and Islamabad in an unexpected move announced to restore the 2003 ceasefire on February 25. Since then both sides have been visibly trying to send positive signals. While the Pakistani leadership is giving conciliatory statements, India also opted to avoid giving hostile statements against Islamabad. On February 2, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa gave a telling statement, offering India a resolution of the Kashmir dispute through a "peaceful and dignified manner". He went on to say "it is time to extend a hand of friendship to all directions". Three days later, Prime Minister Imran Khan offered an olive branch to the Modi-led government, stating that his government is ready to take two steps forward if India takes one. On February 23, despite hostilities, India permitted the PM's special aircraft to use its airspace for a visit to Sri Lanka. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also wrote a letter to his Pakistani counterpart, congratulating him on Pakistan Day. He expressed his desire to have a "cordial relationship" with the people of Pakistan. Last week, Pakistan and India also held talks on water issues. The meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission in New Delhi was the first since August 2018. "We are ready to work with Pakistan, and continue to inject positive energy into regional peace, stability and development," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said during a press conference today. He said that China supported Pakistan's foreign policy of peace and

good-neighbourliness as well as its commitment to advancing the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

Lijian called on world leaders, especially South Asian leaders, to discard hatred, prejudice and religious extremism, and jointly safeguard regional peace and prosperity. "To pursue peace and development is the shared aspiration of all countries in the region." He apprised that China has noted and highly appreciated President Dr Arif Alvi's positive comments on China-Pakistan relations in his speech delivered on the occasion of the Pakistan Day military parade. "China also cherishes its all-weather strategic partnership of cooperation with Pakistan. We are ready to take the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic ties as an opportunity to work together in the fight against Covid-19, carry forward our traditional friendship, deepen all-round cooperation, and build an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future for the new era," he added. Quoting President Alvi, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said that he also stressed in his speech that Pakistan will focus on development, and remain committed to peaceful coexistence with the outside world. "Pakistani President Alvi said at the National Day military parade that China is our closest and friendliest country. We highly appreciate his remarks. Long live China-Pakistan friendship," he exclaimed.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2292075/pleased-with-pakistans-positive-interactions-with-india-says-china>

BRI alternative?

US President Joe Biden recently pushed a competitor to China's massive Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a move that could further heighten the trade war with China that he inherited from former president Donald Trump. CPEC, incidentally, is a tiny part of the BRI — the \$60-odd billion valuation of all CPEC projects is barely 1% of the total estimated cost of the BRI. That alone should give an idea of the scale of the BRI and what any Western alternative would have to entail.

Biden has suggested that the proposed alternative led by "democratic" countries — presumptively the Western countries that are at odds with China for various trade and political reasons. The US and several other Western nations have shown concern over the BRI for a while. Unfortunately, while some of their concerns are worthy of debate — such as the terms of lending to various countries — many are just examples of the pot calling the kettle black.

Economic imperialism is one of the concerns forwarded. Any accusation of imperialism from countries such as the UK, France, Belgium, and even the US, is laughable. Lest we forget the billions that live in poverty till this day due to these countries' actions during the age of imperialism, or the fact that in many cases, they have made no attempt at reparations or even simple apologies. The truth is that China is just beating the Western powers at their own game. They country has leveraged her size and unprecedented economic success over the last 30-odd years to spread investment and influence to all corners of the globe and made itself an irreplaceable part of many countries' economies. Any Western competitor for CPEC would

require agreement between several countries just to get it off the ground, making it a non-starter — at least in terms of scale. Then there are issues concerning what China gets out of BRI versus what an alternative would offer the West. As the world's factory, China gains from reduced extraction costs for raw materials and lower carriage costs for these raw materials and finished products it exports. Most Western countries are already at a severe comparative disadvantage against China in terms of manufacturing. A counter-BRI will not change that.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2292090/bri-alternative>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کی یوم پاکستان پر مبارکباد گہر ادوست کہنا قابل تعریف

لاہور (خاور عباس سندھو) عوامی جمہوریہ چین نے پاکستان کو 82 ویں یوم پاکستان پر گرم جوشی سے مبارکباد اور پاکستانی صدر عارف علوی کے فوجی پریڈ کے موقع پر پاکستان چین دوستی سے متعلق ریمارکس کی تعریف کی ہے۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان ژاؤلی چیان نے پریس کانفرنس میں پاکستانی صدر عارف علوی کی جانب سے یوم پاکستان کی مناسبت سے فوجی پریڈ کے موقع پر ان کے چین سے متعلق ریمارکس کو سراہا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستانی صدر کی جانب سے اہم موقع پر چین کو پاکستان کا قریبی ترین اور گہر ادوست کہنا قابل تعریف ہے۔ ہم ان کے ریمارکس کی بے حد تعریف کرتے ہیں۔ ترجمان ژاؤلی چیان نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کی دوستی ہمیشہ قائم رہے۔ ژاؤلی چیان نے مزید کہا کہ چین نے پاکستان کو 82 ویں یوم پاکستان کی پر تپاک مبارکباد پیش کی اور کہا اسے یقین ہے کہ پاکستانی حکومت اور عوام قومی نشوونما اور تجدید نو کی راہ پر پائیدار ترقی کریں گے۔ یوم پاکستان کی مناسبت سے فوجی پریڈ کے موقع پر پاکستانی صدر کی جانب سے اپنے خطاب میں چین پاکستان تعلقات پر تعریفی کلمات کو نوٹ کیا اور ان الفاظ کی بے حد تعریف کی ہے۔ چین نے پاکستان کے ساتھ تعاون کے ہر موسم کی سٹریٹجک شراکت کو بھی فروغ دیا ہے۔ ہم اپنے سفارتی تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ کو نئے دور کے مشترکہ مستقبل کے لئے ایک موقع سمجھتے ہوئے کوویڈ 19 کے خلاف جنگ، اپنی روایتی دوستی کو آگے بڑھانے، ہمہ جہتی تعاون کو مزید گہرا کرنے اور ایک مشترکہ چین-پاکستان کمیونٹی کی تعمیر کے لئے مل کر کام کرنے کو تیار ہیں۔ ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان کی امن اور اچھی ہمسائیگی پر مشتمل خارجہ پالیسی اور اس کے ساتھ ساتھ افغانستان میں امن اور مفاہمت کے عمل کو آگے بڑھانے کے عزم کی حمایت کرتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین بھارت کے ساتھ پاکستان کے حالیہ مثبت تعامل پر خوش ہے۔ ہم پاکستان کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کے لئے تیار ہیں اور علاقائی امن، استحکام اور ترقی میں اپنا مثبت کردار جاری رکھے ہوئے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-03-30/page-1/detail-42>

March 31, 2021

Daily Times

China's world agenda based on cooperation, peace: moot

At present, the agenda provided by China for the world is based on peace, cooperation, and security, said Prof Dr Iram Khalid, Chairperson, Department of Political Science, University of Punjab, Lahore.

According to Gwadar Pro, she said the steering of the changing world is in the hands of China. Irum was speaking at the Focus Group Discussion on "Dialogue of Civilizations" held on March 29th. The discussion was jointly organized by Communication University of China and Pakistan

Research Centre for a community with shared future. The group discussion was moderated by Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) and Director Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future, Islamabad. The discussion was attended by the members of the Institute of Community with Shared Future, Communication University of China, Beijing.

The session commenced with the opening remarks by Prof. Li Huailiang, Dean, Institute of Community with Shared Future, Communication University of China. He stated that the concept of “Clash of Civilizations” has led to numerous wars and killings of thousands of innocent lives. He stressed the importance of international communication and international cultural exchange. He also mentioned that to achieve sustainable prosperity and security, a peaceful inter-civilization co-existence is required.

Prof. Zhang Yanqiu, Vice Dean, Institute of Community with Shared Future, Communication University of China, Beijing highlighted the need for Cultural Inclusiveness through the promotion of global communications. She said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the cooperation and negotiations have led to improved bilateral relations between China and Africa. She also mentioned that to promote the concept of “Dialogue of Civilizations”, China’s international communication needs to be improved.

Shakeel Ahmed Ramay, Member Advisory Board, CGSS and Director, China Study Center, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Islamabad highlighted that for a successful Dialogue of Civilizations, China and Pakistan must recognize common indicators of development. He elaborated that the Chinese Theory of empathy and mutual coordination is similar to that of the Chinese concept of empathy. Ramay emphasized that the Dialogue of Civilizations must be based on common grounds of interest for maximum benefit.

Palwasha Nawaz, Project Executive CGSS, Brigadier Zahoor-ul-Haq (Ret’d), PhD Scholar, National Defense University, Islamabad, Dr. Imran Ashraf, Assistant Professor, National Defense University Islamabad also spoke at the session.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/740410/chinas-world-agenda-based-on-cooperation-peace-moot/>

COAS & China’s envoy discuss CPEC, Regional Security

Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, on Tuesday met China’s ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, who called on the chief at the GHQ Rawalpindi, where both parties exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Ambassador of China to Pakistan during the meeting, discussed “matters of mutual interest, progress on CPEC, and regional security.”

Director-General Inter-Services Intelligence Lieutenant General Faiz Hamid was also present during the meeting. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan’s sincere efforts for bringing peace and stability in the region, especially the Afghan peace process,” the ISPR said. The army

chief also thanked the ambassador for China's contribution towards the fight against COVID-19 in Pakistan and said Pakistan Army greatly values its friendly relations with China, the military's media wing added.

Separately, the army chief also met the Ambassador of EU to Pakistan Androulla Kaminara, Canadian High Commissioner Wendy Gilmour, and Ambassador of Denmark Lis Rosenholm.

General Bajwa and the envoys discussed matters of mutual interest, regional security, and enhanced bilateral cooperation with the EU and Canada.

“[Gen Bajwa] said that Pakistan values its relations with EU countries and Canada and earnestly looks forward to enhancing mutually beneficial multi-domain relations based on common interests,” the ISPR added.

The visiting dignitaries also appreciated Pakistan's role in regional stability, particularly the Afghan peace process. “All sides pledged to play their role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation at all levels,” said ISPR.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/740480/coas-chinas-envoy-discuss-cpec-regional-security/>

Pakistanis to get training from China in semi-conductor technology

Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry has said that Pakistan is working with Iron Brother China to train the people in semi-conductor technology, according to Gwadar Pro. Speaking to journalists, the Minister said the country's future is linked with technology.” The merger of technology and biotechnology is of utmost importance. We will work together with China for the training of people in semi-conductor technology. China is already cooperating,” he remarked. Chaudhry maintained that the incumbent government is making all-out efforts for the development of the technology sector. He said the country can develop at a fast speed with the development of science and technology. The minister emphasized the need for a national environment where policies encourage technological innovations and the exploration of new ideas. He highlighted the recent initiatives, including a new national drone policy and the establishment of a national board for the regulation of technologies.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/740379/pakistanis-to-get-training-from-china-in-semi-conductor-technology/>

Dawn News

Balochistan to reap benefits of CPEC: Yasinzai

QUETTA: Balochistan will become a regional hub of trade and economic activities with the completion of mega projects under the China-Pakistan Econ-omic Corridor (CPEC), Balo-chistan Governor Justice retired Amanullah Khan Yasinzai said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the Friends of China Forum roundtable, the provincial governor said that China was the biggest producer of various products and at the same time it was also a big consumer country in the world.

“In view of this fact, our industrialists and investors need to come forward and take benefit from the available incentives in Gwadar,” he added.

Chinese Consul General to Karachi, Li Beijian, Chairman of the China Overseas Ports Holding Company Zhang Baozhong, adviser to the Pakistan Tehreek Insaf for Pak-China Cooperation Bayzed Khan Kasi, leading industrialists, business leaders and traders across the province attended the conference.

The participants discussed prospects of taking benefits of the facilities extended by the government, economic changes which were happening in the region as well as new opportunities of trade with other countries and investments in Balochistan.

Governor Yasinzai underlined the need for giving attention on providing facilities to the younger generation on technical education and learning modern skills in view of CEPC.

“The government should take all possible steps for making all technical institutions functional and evolve a comprehensive strategy for establishing new skills learning centers and technical institutes in the province,” he said.

He lauded the Chinese government for providing special incentives to the business community and traders of Balochistan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1615579/balochistan-to-reap-benefits-of-cpec-yasinzai>

Sindh govt to buy Cansino vaccine worth Rs500 million directly from China: minister

Sindh Health Minister Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho on Tuesday said the provincial government would buy Cansino's coronavirus vaccines directly from China after the federal government allowed provinces to purchase jabs independently.

Addressing a press conference in Karachi, she shared that Rs500 million had been allocated by the Sindh government for the purchase of the single-dose vaccine.

"We want the most number of people to be vaccinated but our vaccination process is slow because we are receiving too few doses. This is why we are trying to administer all the doses we are receiving," she said.

Pechuho said that presently, there were 175 adult vaccination centres in the province, out of which 29 were in Karachi, eight in Hyderabad, while the rest were in different districts of Sindh.

She urged people to continue following standard operating procedures (SOPs), cautioning that until 70 per cent of the country's population was vaccinated against the virus, following the SOPs was the "most reliable way to prevent the spread" of Covid-19.

Vaccine doses

Sharing details of the vaccine doses Sindh has received so far, the health minister said 362,000 doses had been initially sent by the federal government for 181,000 people. Of these, 163,808 doses have been administered to people, including senior citizens from the general population.

She added that 59,586 of these were second doses, administered mostly to healthcare workers because it was not yet time for senior citizens to receive the second dose since it was to be given 21 days after the first one.

Giving further information, Pechuho said 20,000 doses of the Sinopharm vaccine had been received by the province a day earlier, while 200,000 more doses from a recent batch would be sent by the federal government later.

Referring to the Cansino vaccine, 60,000 doses of which were received by Pakistan today, she said 8,000 to 10,000 of these would be given to Sindh.

PPP rally, Sehwan Mela postponed

Pechuho also said the PPP was postponing its rally scheduled to be held in Rawalpindi on April 4 as well as the Sehwan Mela in view of the rising coronavirus cases in Punjab.

She said it was necessary to postpone the rally — due to be held to mark the 42nd death anniversary of PPP founder Zulfikar Ali Bhutto — and the mela because if they took place, "there would be an influx of people travelling to attend them and due to the upward trend in Covid-19 positivity rates, this would have only made matters worse in terms of rising infection rates."

The health minister said the Sindh government had started to screen passengers at bus and train stations to monitor the coronavirus situation and prepare for it. If a passenger is found to have a fever, they will have to get tested for Covid-19, their district will be notified and the person and their family will be instructed to isolate at home for the next two weeks, she added.

Talking about the reason behind a higher number of cases being reported in provinces other than Sindh, Pechuho said it was because of "a higher frequency of travelling in other regions as well as the presence of the UK variant in large numbers, especially in Punjab".

"This variant of Covid-19 though said to be not more dangerous than the first, spreads much faster and therefore can infect more people rapidly and cause more casualties," she explained.

Pakistan recorded 100 deaths in the last 24 hours, and 4,084 new infections, with a national positivity rate of 8.8pc.

The country has recorded 14,356 deaths and 663,200 infections since the pandemic began. Around two-thirds of ventilators and 80pc of oxygenated beds are occupied in hospitals in major cities, according to officials.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1615487/sindh-govt-to-buy-cansino-vaccine-worth-rs500-million-directly-from-china-minister>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC and Regional Trade

By Hassan Mujtaba

In the Chinese Belt-and-Road Initiative (BRI), China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) holds a central value as it connects the terrestrial Silk Road with the Maritime Silk Road. In other words, CPEC acts as a bridge between the two most important trading routes of the BRI. Moreover, the Gwadar Port—also known as the Crown Jewel of CPEC—is instrumental in connecting the landlocked Xinjiang and other western Chinese provinces with regional markets and global trading hubs. This is because western China is located much closer to Gwadar port than the Eastern Chinese ports, and this proximity has the potential to further develop western China via the spill-over effects of CPEC and regional trade. While research on CPEC is still scant, this author had the honour to write his Masters of Philosophy (MPhil) dissertation at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) on CPEC. The exact research question probed the impact of CPEC on bilateral and regional trade using the ‘Gravity Model’ of International Trade. Put very simply, the gravity model is a mathematical equation that analyzes the trade flows between two countries (for example, country-i & country-j) as directly proportional to the product of their gross domestic product (GDP) but inversely proportional to the distance between them. Modern economics research based on econometric analyses usually augments the gravity model to include other variables. For example, this author augmented the gravity model of CPEC to include foreign direct investment (FDI), per capita income, trade restrictions (such as tariff and non-tariff barriers), relative distance and the effects of a common language, landlocked and free-trade agreements as other explanatory variables for estimation. Using the Panel Data estimation techniques of fixed effects (FE) and random effects (RE), I found that the CPEC will directly increase the regional trade flows by a whopping 119%. This means that with a fully operational CPEC, the regional (South Asian) trade will increase from the current \$23 billion to \$49 billion.

In addition, this author created an interesting hypothetical bloc denoted CPEC-1 by including India, Iran, and Afghanistan (i.e., Pakistan’s neighbours) as partners in the CPEC project. The purpose of this inclusion was to test the impact of CPEC-1 on regional trade flows. The addition of CPEC-1 in the gravity model was inspired by speculation in the media vis-à-vis the inclination of many [regional] countries to join CPEC.

This author expected that a larger bloc of CPEC will create more trade flows in the South Asian region, especially considering the inclusion of India and Iran, which are big economies ranked at 5th and 22nd respectively. However, the results were nothing but surprising. The econometric estimation of the Gravity Model containing CPEC-1 revealed that such a bloc will decrease the regional trade by 25%! In other words, a CPEC bloc with India, Iran and Afghanistan as

additional partners will decrease the South Asian trade flows from the current \$23 billion to \$17.25 billion. This unexpected result can be interpreted in various ways. First, the militancy fuelled in Pakistan by India via RAW and its proxies such as the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) is directly responsible for creating unrest and political instability in Pakistan hence affecting its economic activities. These militant organizations are also responsible for the kidnapping and killing of many Chinese engineers and labourers in Baluchistan and other areas of Pakistan. Research shows that for every 100% increase in terror incidents, the level of bilateral trade falls by 4%. This is because terrorism increases the cost of business (such as cross-border documentation, insurance fees), transaction costs, freight costs, besides resulting in a general atmosphere of fear and uncertainty.

Second, the hostile environment created in the South Asian region by a belligerent right-wing India led by Hindutva has sowed the seeds of division and hatred among the neighbours who once enjoyed friendly and peaceful diplomatic ties. As a result, diplomacy is replaced by cautious militarism and which is having a direct negative effect on regional trade and economic development. This explanation is also backed by empirical evidence. For example, a study conducted by American political scientist Brian Pollins states that the level of bilateral and multilateral trade between and among countries is directly affected by the quality of their diplomatic relations. In other words, good diplomatic relations translate into more bilateral trade and vice versa. Similarly, Acemoglu and Robinson (2012), in their landmark book titled *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty* also assert that many economic phenomena have their roots in political developments, and regional trade is no exception.

To conclude, the BRI in general and CPEC, in particular, is a game-changer project for the region. While many analysts have compared the project to “Marshall Plan”, the reality is that BRI is far more efficacious as it has the potential to bring entire countries and regions out of poverty and towards sustainable [economic] development, while the Marshall Plan was merely an aid program having no growth or development repercussions for the recipient countries. In this context, then, Pakistan’s neighbouring countries, especially India, are well-advised to shed their truculence and join hands with Pakistan & China in making CPEC a success by promoting peace, fostering diplomatic ties, and cracking down against terrorist outfits. Such an attitude will yield win-win results for all stakeholders and will make CPEC an engine of growth and international trade in a region which is home to 29% of the world’s impoverished population.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-regional-trade-by-hassan-mujtaba/>

Pakistan to import Chinese Cansino vaccine in bulk: Asad

Pakistan will import Chinese Cansino Biologics Covid-19 vaccines in bulk to package three million doses locally, Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar said on Tuesday. “We will be getting the bulk vaccine by mid-April from Cansino, from which 3 million doses can be made,” Umar said on Twitter. “The bulk vaccine received will be formulated, sterilised and packed in Pakistan. For this purpose special equipment has been procured and manpower is

being trained,” he said. Meanwhile, the first batch of 60,000 doses of the vaccine is arriving today, he said. Cansino’s vaccine is one of the four approved by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap), the other three being China’s Sinopharm, Russia’s Sputnik-V and the Oxford University-AstraZeneca vaccine. The company had last month released the interim efficacy results of a multi-country trial, which included Pakistan, showing 65.7 per cent efficacy in preventing symptomatic coronavirus cases and a 90.98pc success rate in stopping severe infections. In the Pakistani subset, the efficacy of the vaccine at preventing symptomatic cases was 74.8pc and 100pc at preventing severe disease. Pakistan also expects to receive one million doses of Sinopharm vaccine in a couple of days.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-to-import-chinese-cansino-vaccine-in-bulk-asad/>

CPEC & National Security and Regional interconnectedness

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been sailing through all “odds” to become the “economic” future of Pakistan and “ray” of hope for greater regional connectivity. It “swayed” all conspiracies by spreading a message of regional cooperation for achieving immense socio-economic prosperity. It dominated over “dissemination” of all propaganda by “stimulating” senses of coordination and collaboration to eradicate poverty, pandemic and hegemonic predominance. Thus it has drastically changed the outdated concept of national security rapped with perilous cold wars and geopolitics. Aims, objectives, utilities, scope and composition of the CPEC have been based on the rise and consolidation of “geo-economy” and regional interdependence since its inception. Rise to smarter economy, green energies, hydrogenation, protection of bio-diversity and climate change have been salient features of the CPEC. It has been dealing and promoting ample opportunities of poverty eradication, new job generation, social development, health diplomacy, balanced economic growth and sensible industrialization in the country which has now actually redesigned dimensions of our national security “paradigm”. The leadership of the country has already rightly projected the strategic importance of geo-economy which, in a way, is recognition of commercial diplomacy of the CPEC. Ongoing “Suez Canal” blockade has once again highlighted the importance of blue economy and easy & smooth maritime trade propositions. It carries more than 12 percent of global trade which is now at the mercy of geopolitics and nature. It has also showcased the importance of geo-economy, alternative corridors and deep sea facilities around the globe.

In this context, Gwadar deep seaport under the flagship project of CPEC would provide an easy, smooth and shortest route for East-West connectivity in the days to come. Thus the strategic importance of CPEC is “sky-high”. Meanwhile, Iran and China signed a 25 year strategic cooperation agreement as Beijing expands its trillion dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

China-Iran Strategic Deal (CHISD) may be a paradigm shift in the region as well international power politics. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi assured that their bilateral relations would not be affected by the current situation and would be permanent and strategic. It upheld the

importance of “dialogue”, “diplomacy” and “development” which is primarily based on mutual respect and peace. It offered Iran \$400 billion Chinese investment over the next 25 years in return for selling China a large proportion of the oil it produces over the same period at a discounted rate. It would further enhance Chinese presence in Iranian domestic banking system, telecommunications sector, shipments/ports, railways and dozens of associated projects. According to the deal projects include airports, high-speed railways and subways. Furthermore China would develop free-trade zones in Maku and Abadan. It proposes China to build the infrastructure for a 5G telecommunications network, to offer the new Chinese Global Positioning System, Beidou, and to help Iranian authorities assert greater control over what circulates in cyberspace.

In the near past, various countries of West Asia namely Iran and Afghanistan and the Central Asian States (CIS) Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan showed keen interest to join the CPEC. In this connection, various interactive and meaningful spells of negotiations/meetings have been held in Islamabad. The assertive stance of Iranian Ambassador Dr. Syed Muhammad Hussaini and consequent visit to Pakistan of Foreign Minister Jawad Zarif, accompanied by a big business delegation, and meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan and the COAS General Qamar Bajwa reaffirmed Iranian government’s desire to join the CPEC which indicated westward expansion of this mega project. For the further strengthening of bilateral trade & commerce, foreign direct investment, joint ventures and, above all, people-to-people contacts, the Iranian Foreign Minister, desired to open various new border openings between the two countries.

In the near past, another border opening at Rimdahn (Gwadar) has been made which is situated just 130km away from Chabahar Sea Port (CSP) which may be a connecting hub between CSP and Gwadar Sea Port (GSP) in the days to come. Hopefully, it will further enhance the inflow of petroleum products, fruit, vegetables and construction material trade in the days to come. Iranian side also requested for another border opening at Pishin-Quetta which is now under consideration. Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Syed Muhammad Hussaini once again reaffirmed his government’s desire to become part of the CPEC. While delivering a key-note speech in the CGSS-sponsored international webinar, the Iranian Ambassador briefed about the opening of Iran-Afghanistan Railway project which has further enhanced their connectivity and inflow of trade and commerce. It is their first shared railway network. The CPEC ML-I Rail project will also be connected with Afghanistan in the future, so the importance of the CPEC has further increased manifolds. The said train route so far links the Iranian city of Khaf with the Afghan town of Rozanak about 150 kilometres away but is scheduled to be expanded to reach Herat, Afghanistan’s third-largest city.

On the other hand, for the further strengthening of regional connectivity, the governments of Turkey, Iran and Pakistan have decided to revive a transnational rail service linking Istanbul, Tehran and Islamabad in 2021 which has now been reactivated. The ITI transnational railroad is expected to enhance connectivity with China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by providing a rail connection between China and Turkey. CPEC is the flagship mega-project of the BRI.

Interestingly, during his annual speech, the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, singled out enhanced ties with South Asia, and pointing out that “today we have taken the first practical steps to implement the project for the construction of the Trans-Afghan transport corridor, which will connect Central Asia with the Indian Ocean. Its implementation will serve to ensure stability and sustainable economic development throughout the region.

To materialize the dream of greater regional connectivity, peace and harmony, the government of Pakistan signed a joint request letter seeking a \$4.8 billion loan from international financial institutions for a mega rail project to connect Pakistan with Uzbekistan via Afghanistan and later to other Central Asian States. The said railway joint project has already been approved by the Presidents of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. It is hoped that the project will help improve regional trade and connectivity through Afghanistan to the Central Asia Republics. Interesting but meaningful geopolitical changes in terms of Pak-India peaceful rapprochement, peace dialogue among different stakeholders of Afghanistan, shifting of Uzbekistan’s foreign policy towards reunion with South Asia mainly Pakistan and last but not the least, China-Iran Strategic Agreement all uphold strategic importance of the CPEC being a flagship project of the BRI for greater regional connectivity. Thus CPEC holds the key to Pakistan’s future, socio-economic prosperity and greater regional connectivity in the future.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-national-security-and-regional-interconnectedness-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

China’s commitment to peace

CHINA said on Monday that “it is pleased with Pakistan’s recent positive interactions with India”. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said during a press briefing that his country was ready to work with Pakistan, and continue to inject positive energy into regional peace, stability and development. He said that China supported Pakistan’s foreign policy of peace and good-neighbourliness as well as its commitment to advancing the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan. China, under the dynamic leadership of President Xi Jinping, is single-minded pursuing the goal of economic development and prosperity for its people and understandably the success of this approach is deeply linked to regional and global peace. In a highly inter-dependent world, happenings in the neighbourhood or elsewhere in the globe affect internal policies and programmes of the countries and that is why China always laid stress on peaceful resolution of the conflicts and closer cooperation for shared prosperity. This is also amply evident from the historic ‘One Belt, One Road’ initiative of President Xi that seeks to foster cooperation among the majority of countries of different continents. Contrary to the pressure tactics being used by some countries to advance their agenda and force countries like Iran to compromise their national interests, China recently entered into a major partnership agreement with Iran, which is yet another example of Beijing’s policy of enlisting support of other countries for common goals of economic development. This policy was also reflected in the remarks of Mr Lijian who called on world leaders, especially South Asian leaders, to discard hatred, prejudice and religious extremism, and jointly safeguard regional peace and prosperity.

These are not mere words as Beijing demonstrated extreme restraint and went extra mile in reducing border tension despite provocative attitude of India and its pampering by some powers as per their strategy of ‘containing China’. The destiny of humanity can change if other countries reciprocate the policy of peaceful co-existence so firmly pursued by China.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-commitment-to-peace/>

The News

60,000 Chinese Convidecia vaccine doses arrive

KARACHI: The first shipment of 60,000 doses of single-dose Chinese vaccine Convidecia, developed by the CanSino Biologics Inc, arrived in Islamabad Tuesday night, officials of the National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHSR&C) said, adding that its distribution to provinces and other federating units would commence from Wednesday.

“A commercial flight carrying 60,000 doses of Chinese single-dose vaccine Convidecia has just landed at Islamabad International Airport and it is being shifted to the federal storage. Its distribution to provinces and other federating units would commence from Wednesday”, an official of the NHSR&C told The News on Tuesday night.

He said as per decisions taken at the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), the single-dose vaccine would only be administered to citizens above 80 years of age and in order to facilitate them, separate Adult Vaccination Centers (AVCs) would be established.

According to an NCOC communique to all the federating units, the single-dose vaccine would only be administered to 80 years and above population to prevent them from visiting the vaccination centers for the second time. It further says that it would be deployed at separate AVCs where no other vaccine (Sinopharm) would be kept and directed the federating units to communicate to senior citizens that they could avail the single-dose vaccine now.

“Owing to its availability in small quantity, it is recommended that it should only be administered in large cities with high number of COVID-19 cases”, the directives say, adding that the vaccination record of Convidecia should also be maintained separately.

The NCOC further directs that no vaccination should be done outside the National Immunization Management System (NIMS), which means that without registration, nobody should be vaccinated with single-dose and although it would be available at walk-in facilities but registration would be mandatory at the newly established AVCs.

It is worth mentioning here that a private firm AJM Pharmaceutical Limited is also importing 10,000 doses of the Cansino’s single dose vaccine, which would be sold initially to three private hospitals in Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi where its trials were held.

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has recommended a Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of Rs4,225 for the single dose of Chinese Convidecia vaccine in Pakistan although the federal cabinet has to approve and notify the price, an AJM official said.

The registration board of DRAP had given emergency use authorization to CanSino Biologics's single-dose vaccine in the second week of February 2021 after the Chinese manufacturer released interim efficacy results from a multi-country trial, which included Pakistan, showing 65.7pc efficacy in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 cases and a 90.98pc success rate in stopping severe infections.

"We would be providing the single-dose vaccine to Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad, Shaukat Khanum Hospital Lahore and the Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi, for inoculating the people. These are the three of five institutions where the phase three clinical trials of the vaccine were held in Pakistan," Hasan Abbas Zaheer said.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/812543-60-000-chinese-convidecia-vaccine-doses-arrive>

Express News

چین سے خریدی گئی کورونا ویکسین کی دو کھیپ کل اور پر سوں پاکستان پہنچیں گی

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حکام وزارت نیشنل ہیلتھ سروسز کے مطابق سائوفام ویکسین کی 5 لاکھ ڈوز کل پاکستان پہنچیں گی جب کہ مزید 5 لاکھ ڈوز زکیم اپریل کو پہنچیں گی۔

حکام وزارت نیشنل ہیلتھ سروسز کے مطابق چین سے کورونا ویکسین کی مزید 40 لاکھ ڈوز اپریل میں پاکستان پہنچیں گی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2160928/1/>

Jang News

چینی ویکسین کی نئی کھیپ اسلام آباد پہنچ گئی

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ جنگ، این این آئی) کورونا ویکسین کی چوتھی کھیپ چین سے اسلام آباد پہنچ گئی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق سائوفام کی ویکسین بذریعہ خصوصی طیارہ اسلام آباد ایئر پورٹ لائی گئی۔ کورونا ویکسین کی چوتھی کھیپ 60 ہزار خوراک پر مشتمل ہے، دریں اثنا کورونا ویکسین کیلئے حکومت پاکستان اور 2 چینی نجی کمپنیوں سائوفام اور کین سائوفام کے درمیان معاہدہ طے پا گیا۔ جس کے تحت سائوفام سے 40 لاکھ اور کین سائوفام سے 30 لاکھ ویکسین ڈوز کی خریداری کی جائے گی۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/905131>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک کا خواب اور آرمی چیف کی تعبیر

آرمی چیف کی تقریر میں سی پیک کا ذکر نہ ہوتا تو میں بچوں کی طرح بلک بلک کر روتا اور سر پہ خاک ڈالتا۔ اس وقت سی پیک کے خلاف اس قدر شور برپا ہے کہ کانوں پڑی آواز سنائی نہیں دیتی، نہ بھائی دیتی ہے۔ پاکستان واحد ملک ہے جہاں قومی مفاد کے خلاف بولنا فیشن اور آزادی اظہار کا آئینی حق سمجھا جاتا ہے۔ سی پیک بارے کیا گرد نہیں اڑائی گئی، یہ کہ چین پاکستان سے بدظن ہو کر اس منصوبے سے توبہ کر بیٹھا ہے اور کانوں کو ہاتھ لگا رہا ہے۔ کوئی طوطا انکشاف کرتا ہے کہ سی پیک کو تین سال کیلئے گڑھے میں ڈال دیا گیا ہے۔ سی پیک اتھارٹی کا دوبار آرڈی منس جاری ہو اگر پارلیمنٹ میں اس کا بل آیا نہ اس کی کسی نے منظوری دی۔ بس پارلیمنٹ سے استعفیہ دینے پر زور ہے۔ دوسری طرف وزیر اعظم نے چند روز قبل ہی خوشخبری سنائی ہے کہ برسوں بعد پاکستان میں دو بڑے ڈیم بن رہے ہیں۔ میرا خیال ہے ان میں سے ایک دیامیر بھاشا ہے اور دوسرا منڈا ڈیم ہے۔ میں یہ بھی

سنہا ہوں کہ مغربی روٹ کی تکمیل کے لئے ایم آٹھ موٹروے پر تیزی سے کام جاری ہے۔ یہ بھی خبر ملتی ہے کہ گوادریز پورٹ مکمل ہونے کو ہے اور طیور کی زبانی یہ بھی پتہ چلتا ہے کہ گوادریز پورٹ پر چینوں کی سرگرمیاں زوروں پر ہیں۔ توجہ کیا ہے، جھوٹ کیا ہے، کوئی تمیز کرنا مشکل ہے۔ سی پیک اٹھارٹی کو منانے کے لئے خود نواز شریف نے جو پروپیگنڈہ کیا، وہ اس قدر زہر بیلا تھا کہ کسی ملک کے سیاسی لیڈر سے اسکی توقع نہیں کی جاسکتی، میری معلومات کے مطابق ان کی پارٹی نے امریکہ میں ایک ویب سائٹ کے ذریعے گند اچھالا۔ اس کے لئے کئی پاکستانیوں سے رابطہ کیا گیا تھا مگر کچھ کا ضمیر جاگ رہا تھا اور انہوں نے کرائے کے ٹنوں سے معذرت کر لی مگر پیسے کی چمک بڑی خطرناک چیز ہے، اس چمک سے تو نواز شریف نے کوئٹہ کا عدالتی بیخ خرید لیا تھا۔ سی پیک اٹھارٹی کے سربراہ کو نشانہ بنانا تو بہت آسان تھا کہ وہ فوج کے حاضر سروس افسر نہیں تھے، ویسے نواز شریف نے تو آرمی چیف اور آئی ایس آئی چیف کو نشانہ پر رکھا ہوا ہے۔ اب ان کے نشانے پر ایک تیسرے جرنیل بھی آگئے ہیں، مسئلہ نواز شریف کا نہیں ان کی تو پرانی خصلت ہے کہ فوج سے لڑتے بھڑتے رہنا ہے، مسئلہ اصل میں ایک دوست ملک کا ہے جو پاکستان کو باجگزار ریاست بنانے کا خواہاں ہے۔ نواز شریف تو اس کے لیے پٹھو کا کام دے رہا ہے۔ یہ بہت بڑی بد قسمتی ہے کہ جنرل عاصم باجوہ جیسے باصلاحیت اور باشعور شخص کو بیڑے کی بھینٹ چڑھا دیا گیا مگر کیا ہی بہتر ہوتا کہ نواز شریف اپنا بھی کھاتہ کھولتے، حسین نواز اور حسن نواز کے بھید بھی کھولتے، شہباز شریف، حمزہ شہباز اور علی عمران کو بھی بے نقاب کرتے مگر وہ اپنے آپ اور ان سب کو فرشتوں سے بھی بالا سمجھتے ہیں۔ شہباز شریف کا کہنا ہے کہ انھوں نے سی پیک کو کامیاب بنانے کی سر توڑ کوشش کی مگر صد افسوس کہ انھوں نے پاکستان کو پنجاب تک محدود کر دیا اور بجلی کے منصوبوں سے جو پیدوار حاصل ہو رہی ہے اس کا بل ادا کرنا قوم کے لیے وبال جان بن گیا ہے۔ اور نچ ٹرین اور میٹرو بسوں کے منصوبے سفید ہاتھی ثابت ہوئے ہیں۔ جنرل باجوہ کی تقریر نے میرے جیسی ماپوس قوم کو روشنی کی کرن دکھائی ہے۔ انھوں نے اپنی تقریر میں سی پیک کا پہلو بدل بدل کر تذکرہ کیا ہے۔ انھوں نے صاف اقرار کیا ہے کہ پاکستان کا محل وقوع عالمی اور علاقائی تجارتی راستوں کے لیے ایک ناگزیر ضرورت ہے۔ شاہراہ ریشم کی تاریخ صدیوں پرانی ہے، یہاں روایتی تجارتی قافلے مشرق اور مغرب تک اشیاء سپلائی کرتے رہے، چین نے اگرچہ دنیا کے تین براعظموں کو تجارتی روابط میں منسلک کرنے کے لیے ون بیلٹ ون روڈ کا منصوبہ تیار کیا ہے لیکن اس منصوبے کی کامیابی کا سارا انحصار سی پیک کے کندھوں پر ہے۔ ہم جانتے ہیں کہ بھارت اور امریکہ سی پیک کو ہضم نہیں کر پائے اور وہ اس منصوبے کو سبوتاژ کرنے کے لیے دن رات مصروف عمل ہیں۔ پاکستانی فوج نے انہی خطرات کو بھانپتے ہوئے اعلان کیا تھا کہ سی پیک کی سیکورٹی کے لیے ایک پورا ڈویژن مخصوص کیا جائے گا۔ آج پاکستان میں انتہا پسند تنظیمیں سر اٹھا رہی ہیں، کبھی بلوچستان کے بے گناہ لوگوں کا خون بہایا جاتا ہے اور کبھی کراچی سٹاک ایکسچینج پر اس داعش کے حملے ہوتے ہیں جن کی سرپرستی کے لیے افغانستان میں بھارتی توصل خانوں میں راکے افسر متعین ہیں۔ پاکستانی فوج ان دہشت گرد تنظیموں کے راستے میں بہت بڑی رکاوٹ ہے۔ اور اب تو خواتین کمانڈوز نے بھی دفاعی محاذ سنبھال لیا ہے۔ سوشل میڈیا پر خواتین کمانڈوز کے دستے کے مارچ کی ویڈیو پر یہ سرفنی وائرل ہو گئی ہے کہ یہ ہوتا ہے اصل عورت مارچ۔ سی پیک کے لیے جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ کی لاکار نے پاکستان کو ایک نیا حوصلہ بخشا ہے، ان کی تقریر نے سارا اہام دور کر دیا ہے اور اب اس امر میں کسی کو شبہ نہیں ہونا چاہیے کہ سی پیک پر شب و روز کام جاری ہے اور اس عمل میں مکمل شفافیت برقرار رکھی گئی ہے۔ جبکہ شہباز شریف کے منصوبوں پر صدیوں تک شفافیت کے حوالے سے سوالات اٹھائے جاتے رہیں گے۔ سی پیک جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ کا بھی خواب ہے، میرا بھی خواب ہے اور پاکستان کا بھی خواب ہے۔ یہ ملک کے مستقبل کی معاشی سیکورٹی کا بھی ضامن ہے اور آنے والی نسلیں اسی منصوبے کی تکمیل سے اپنی زندگیوں میں انقلاب لاسکیں گی۔ سی پیک گیم چینجر کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے اس کی عظیم شاہراہوں کا جال پورے ملک میں پھیلے گا، ان شاہراہوں پر جگہ جگہ صنعتی زون تعمیر ہوں گے۔ پاکستانی عوام کی جھوک کا علاج اسی منصوبے کی تکمیل پر منحصر ہے۔ جنرل باجوہ نے اس منصوبے کی تکمیل پر زور دیا ہے اور امیدوں کے نئے چراغ جلائے ہیں۔ میری استدعا ہے کہ اب جبکہ سینٹ کے الیکشن کے بعد پارلیمنٹ کا ڈھانچہ مکمل ہو چکا ہے تو جنرل باجوہ ذاتی کاوش کر کے تمام پارلیمانی سربراہوں سے ایک ملاقات کریں اور ان پر سی پیک کی اسٹریٹجک اور معاشی افادیت واضح کریں، انہیں بتائیں کہ باشعور اور مہذب قومیں اپنے مستقبل پر سمجھوتہ نہیں کرتیں اور اس میٹنگ کے نتیجے میں پارلیمنٹ سے سی پیک کا بل منظور کروایا جائے۔ تاکہ ایک آزاد ادارہ اس کی نگرانی کرے اور اس کی تکمیل کے خواب کی عملی تعبیر پیش کرے۔ اب کسی کو معلوم نہیں ہے کہ دیامیر بھاشا اور منڈہ ڈیم بن رہے ہیں تو ان کی نگرانی کون کر رہا ہے، گوادریز

شاہراہیں بن رہی ہیں اور بندرگاہ تعمیر ہو رہی ہے اس کا کنٹرول کس کے ہاتھ میں ہے، اور یہ تو ایک معمہ بن کر رہ گیا ہے کہ جب جنرل عاصم باجوہ کے ہوتے ہوئے ایم ایل ون کا معاہدہ چین سے ہو گیا تھا تو اس کی تعمیر کا آغاز کیوں نہیں ہو سکا، جنرل عاصم باجوہ ہی کے دور میں دو چھوٹے ہائیڈرو پاور منصوبے بھی منظور کیے گئے تھے اور ان کے لیے باہر سے سرمایہ کار بھی آگئے تھے ان دونوں منصوبوں کا کیا بنا، حکومت بات بات پر ٹاسک فورسز تشکیل دے رہی ہے لیکن سی پیک اتھارٹی کو زندہ کرنے میں ڈھل مل کا مظاہرہ کیوں دیکھنے کو مل رہا ہے۔

شاعر نے کہا تھا تیری بربادیوں کے مشورے ہیں آسمانوں میں، مگر سی پیک کو برباد کرنے کے منصوبے ہماری آنکھوں کے سامنے اور برسر زمین بن رہے ہیں۔ سابق صدر ٹرمپ نے جاپان کا دورہ کر کے وہاں کی حکومت کو قائل کیا تھا کہ چین کی تجارتی راہداری کو ناکام بنانے کے لیے متحدہ کوشش کی جائے، اب تین روز قبل نئے امریکی صدر بائیڈن نے برطانوی وزیر اعظم جونسن کو فون کر کے کہا ہے کہ چین کی تجارتی راہداری کو ناکام بنانے کے لیے امریکہ اور یورپ کو اپنے الگ تجارتی روٹ تشکیل دینے چاہئیں۔ اس پس منظر میں پھر آرمی چیف جنرل باجوہ سے استدعا کرتا ہوں کہ وہ سی پیک اتھارٹی کے احیاء کے لیے سرگرم عمل ہوں اور وفاقی حکومت اور صوبائی حکومتوں کو قائل کریں کہ ہمارا مستقبل سی پیک سے وابستہ ہے اور اس عظیم الشان منصوبے پر کوئی سیاست نہ کی جائے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-03-31/page-14/detail-7>