



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

1st – 15th April, 2019

A pilot project of PICS

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Business Recorder, 04-04-19

Under 2nd phase of CPEC. Pakistan, China may sign MoUs, agreements on projects

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are likely to sign memoranda of understanding on various projects of second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on April 26 during the Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China, it is learnt.

China is going to hold the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on April 25 in Beijing in which nearly 40 foreign governments and representatives from more than 100 countries would participate.

Prime Minister Imran Khan on the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping would start a three-day visit on April 25 to attend the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. Pakistan will have a key role in the conference because the CPEC is a flagship project of the Belt and Road initiative. According to sources, chief ministers of the provinces, minister for planning, development and reform and high officials of other ministries including Pakistan Railways would also accompany Prime Minister Khan during his visit to China. During this visit, Pakistan and China would sign MOUs and agreements on the projects of the second phase of the CPEC. They said that in the second phase, scope of CPEC is being enhanced in the domains of social sector development and agriculture sector as both the sectors hold a huge potential of growth in Pakistan.

They said that the government is interested to start pilot projects in these areas with the support of China on priority. They said that China would give \$1 billion grant to Pakistan for early harvest projects of socioeconomic development and agriculture sectors under the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. They said that China would provide this grant for early harvest and pilot projects during the next three years. Most of the projects relating to socioeconomic development include vocational training particularly in the provinces, capacity building of hospitals and pilot projects of agriculture sector.

When contacted Project Director/Coordination for CPEC Hassan Daud Butt told this correspondent that 13-member Chinese expert team had visited the provinces and discussed various projects with the provincial governments. He said that most of the projects would be launched in the provinces. He said that the development projects of the second phase have been scrutinized and final decision has been taken after the approval of the Prime Minister. He said that a list of the projects of the second phase has been handed over the Chinese government. Many ongoing projects under the CPEC would be completed in current year. Construction of Western Routes, ML-1 Pakistan Railway project and establishment of Special Economic Zones (SPZs) are major long-term projects under the second phase of CPEC.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform MakhdumKhusroBakhtyar has said that the present government is focusing on developing the agriculture sector on modern

lines to improve the livelihoods of small farmers and enhance its contribution in the national economy, noting that agriculture constitutes the largest sector of economy.

He stated that in this regard agriculture cooperation with China will be enhanced under the CPEC framework. The minister was talking to Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Sahibzada Mehboob Sultan who called on him here on Wednesday. Secretary Planning Zafar Hasan, Secretary National Food Security Dr. Muhammad Hashim Popalzai and Project Director CPEC Hassan Daud were also present in the meeting. The minister for planning said efforts are under way to initiate joint ventures with leading Chinese agriculture companies in various sectors of agriculture to enhance agricultural output and value addition of agricultural products for mutual benefit of both countries. He highlighted that there is a lot of scope for increasing cooperation between the countries, particularly in areas of livestock, fisheries, citrus, mango, rice, potatoes and horticulture.

Makhdum Khusro apprised that CPEC Business Advisory Council has been constituted which will have representation from leading companies dealing in various sectors including agriculture, and the purpose of which will be to identify new areas for future collaboration with China under CPEC.

During the meeting, deliverables in different areas of agriculture came under discussion. It was discussed that a memorandum of understanding on foot & mouth disease is also expected to be signed during the Prime Minister's visit.

Business Recorder, 05-04-19

Improvement in tax laws & procedures

ISLAMABAD: Chinese companies and investors will submit proposals to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) for changes and improvement in tax laws and procedures through Chinese Embassy in Pakistan to facilitate Chinese investment in different projects.

Sources told Business Recorder here on Thursday that the decision has been taken during the recent visit of Chinese ambassador to Pakistan along with his team in the embassy and the representatives of the large Chinese companies operating in Pakistan to the FBR Headquarters.

The meeting was also attended by line members of Inland Revenue and Customs both with their teams. The Chinese investors presented one by one their taxation related issues pending with various Inland Revenue and Customs offices. The FBR chairman promised to resolve all pending issues within shortest possible time. Member Inland Revenue Operations and Member Customs Policy pledged their special support to the Chinese investors.

Following decisions were made in the meeting requiring various wings of FBR authorities and representatives from Chinese Embassy to take actions as per timeline:

Firstly, a workshop on federal tax laws and procedures shall be conducted by the FBR. The representatives from prominent/large Chinese companies and the staff from commercial section of the Chinese embassy shall attend. The action will be taken by FBR Member Inland Revenue

Policy, FBR Member Customs (Policy), Commercial Counselor Chinese Embassy by the end of April 2019.

Secondly, Chinese companies would inform the focal person of FBR chairman office if they do not receive proper response from field offices of the FBR within two weeks' time. FBR Member Inland Revenue (Operations) and FBR Member Customs Operations would immediately take action. Thirdly, all field formations of the FBR and FBR wings at the headquarters shall be found to respond and dispose of any issue brought to their offices within the period of one month. FBR Members concerned shall make periodical inspections in this regard. Fourth, the FBR fields of formation will appoint focal persons for Chinese companies. One focal person shall be appointed at each chief collect rate of customs and one at each large taxpayer unit. The details of the focal person shall be communicated to the Chinese embassy through the focal person for CPEC of this office.

Fifthly, Chinese companies/investors to move proposals for changes and improvements in tax laws and procedures through Commercial Section of the Chinese Embassy to focal person in the office of FBR chairman. The members of the Chinese delegations expressed their satisfaction on the proactive approach of the FBR to solve their taxation-related problems, sources added

Business Recorder, 05-04-19

CPEC Business Council's inaugural meeting today

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Investment (BoI) has constituted China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Business Council aimed at accelerating the processing of industrialization in the country under the umbrella of CPEC.

The inaugural meeting of the CPEC Business Council is scheduled to be held on Friday (today) under the chairmanship of Prime Minister's Advisor on Commerce, Textile, Industries and Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood to be co-chaired by the Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms, Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar.

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Business Council which has an advisory role will be as follows: (i) to be a consultative forum between business community and government on matters related to private investment under CPEC; (ii) to make specific recommendations for private sector for private sector investment in Pakistan under industrial cooperation; (iii) to propose feasible projects for investments for discussion with Chinese business companies; (iv) to formulate strategies for expediting ongoing and future B2B projects particularly industrial cooperation and devaluation of Gwadar as an industrial and commercial hub; (v) to discuss and explore opportunities and develop new investment model for future projects of CPEC; (vi) to advise on developing an integrated approach on future development of industrial cooperation under CPEC with special focus on agriculture, industry, housing, tourism and any other potential area or sectors in the CPEC's long- term plan; and (vii) to advise on any of the issue referred by the concerned ministries.

The Business Council on CPEC is initially formulated for a period of two years from the date of notification issued on March 27, 2019 and would automatically stand dissolved on the date of expiry of its term unless further extended through a notification by the competent authority. — MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

Business Recorder 05-04-19

B2B cooperation under CPEC kicks off in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD:-Paksitan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government wants industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China under CPEC to address trade imbalance broaden market access for agricultural products and encourage B2B (Business to Business) cooperation between the two countries.

These views were expressed in the first meeting of the CPEC Business Council co-chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Khusro Bakhtyar along-with Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Industry and Textile Abdul Razak Dawood here on Friday.

It was said in the meeting that the Business Council would provide a platform for regular consultation between the government and business community on matters related to private sector investments and push forward industrial cooperation under CPEC. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Khusro Bakhtyar said that scope of CPEC has been expanded with focus on industrial and agriculture cooperation, socio-economic development, trade and market access.

He said that purpose behind establishing the forum is to create an interface between the government and business community and take forward the industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China to new heights for mutual benefit. He said that through industrial cooperation, we also want to address trade imbalance, broaden market access for agricultural products and encourage B2B cooperation between the two countries, stated the Minister.

He said that creation of CPEC Business Council, with representation from private sector leading associations and companies in various areas, will accelerate the pace of industrialization under the umbrella of mega project. He said that focus is to boost Pakistan's industrial capacity through joint ventures in priority areas relocation of labor-intensive export led industry, SME's collaboration and enhance vocational training capacity.

Advisor to Prime Minister Abdul Razak Dawood said that after implementation of early harvest projects of energy and infrastructure under CPEC, the stage is now set to expedite the industrial collaboration which will help to attract private investments and diversify the country's exports. He added that we are in the second phase of CPEC where industrialisation and agriculture growth would be the main goals of the current regime.

“Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been the engine of growth for many developing states around the world for the last few decades and it's the high time for Pakistan to convert its SEZs into growth hubs,” Razak Dawood said. The Advisor hoped that SEZs would attract investment

from diversified sources because they offer a combination of tax-and-tariff incentives, streamlined customs procedures and less regulation. The production of finished goods is the topmost priority, which will help Pakistan in reducing trade deficit

Business Recorder, 06-04-19

CPEC Business Council meets

Govt seeks industrial cooperation with China to address trade imbalance ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government wants industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to address trade imbalance, broaden market access for agricultural products and encourage B2B (business-to-business) cooperation between the two countries.

These views were expressed in the first meeting of the CPEC Business Council co-chaired by Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform KhusroBakhtyar along with Adviser to PM on Commerce, Industry & Textile Abdul RazakDawood here on Friday.

It was said in the meeting that the Business Council would provide a platform for regular consultation between the government and business community on matters related to private sector investments and for pushing forward industrial cooperation under the CPEC.

KhusroBakhtyar said that scope of CPEC has been expanded with focus on industrial and agriculture cooperation, socio-economic development, trade and market access. He said that purpose behind establishing the forum is to create an interface between the government and business community and take forward the industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China to new heights for mutual benefit.

He said, "Through industrial cooperation, we also want to address trade imbalance, broaden market access for agricultural products and encourage B2B cooperation between the two countries." He said that creation of CPEC Business Council, with representation from private sector leading associations and companies in various areas, will accelerate the pace of industrialization under the umbrella of mega project.

He said that focus is to boost Pakistan's industrial capacity through joint ventures in priority areas, relocation of labor-intensive export-led industry, SME's collaboration, and enhancing vocational training capacity.

Abdul RazakDawood said that after implementation of early harvest projects of energy and infrastructure under CPEC, the stage is now set to expedite the industrial collaboration which will help attract private investments and diversify the country's exports. He added, "We are in the second phase of CPEC where industrialization and agriculture growth would be the main goals of the current regime." "Special economic zones (SEZs) have been the engine of growth for many developing states around the world for the last few decades and it's the high time for Pakistan to convert its SEZs into growth hubs," Dawood said. The adviser hoped that SEZs would attract investment from diversified sources because they offer a combination of tax-and-tariff incentives, streamlined customs procedures and less regulation. The production of finished goods is the topmost priority, which will help Pakistan reduce trade deficit.

Earlier, Chairman Board of Investment (BOI) Haroon Sharif welcomed all the members to the first meeting of the council and said that BOI will serve as secretariat for the CPEC Business Council, adding that a dedicated team of professionals has been hired in this regard. He said that BOI is improving its capacity to deal with matters of industrial cooperation with China and urged the members to come up with tangible suggestions in this regard. Secretary to the Council, Executive Director General BOI, Fareena Mazhar briefed the members on the progress in SEZs and incentive packages under the industrial cooperation.

Secretary Planning Zafar Hasan, Project Director CPEC Hassan Daud and representatives from leading associations and companies also attended the meeting.

Business Recorder, 06-04-19

Rail connectivity of Gwadar port not on priority under CPEC frame-work

ISLAMABAD: Rail connectivity of Gwadar Port with other parts of the country is not on the priority under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework, as it requires over \$4 billion but currently does not present any favorable business model, said officials of Railways Ministry. "The overall up-gradation of Pakistan Railways (PR) is estimated to cost \$40-50 billion, which the government itself cannot finance," said Chief Executive Pakistan Railways Aftab Akbar, adding that international investors had been invited to invest on ML-2 and ML-3 on build-operate-transfer (BoT) basis, public-private partnership (PPP) or joint ventures (JVs).

This he stated while briefing a sub-committee of Senate Standing Committee on Railways, which met with John Kenneth Williams in the chair. The parliamentary panel was given a detailed briefing on Pakistan Railways projects relating to CPEC and the initiatives taken by Pakistan Railways. Briefing the committee, the PR officials said CPEC project for Railways would consist of early harvest — ML-1 up-gradation and establishment of dry port - mid-term — establishing new rail link from Gwadar to Mastung and Besima to Jacobabad - and long-term — establishing new rail link from Havelian to Khunjrab (China border).

China and Pakistan were expected to reach an agreement for finances on ML-1 soon, said Railways officials, adding that estimated cost of up-gradation of ML-1 and dry port was \$8.2 billion which would be completed in five years in two phases. The project of up-gradation of ML-1 has been declared a strategic commercial project with loan on favorable terms as it presents a perfect business plan covering 75 percent traffic/population and 65 percent industrial areas.

The meeting was told that up-gradation of Main Line-1 and establishment of dry port near Havelian was an early harvest project which was to be completed by 2025.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) will consider the \$3.4 billion phase-1 of up-gradation of Pakistan Railways' Main Line-1 and establishment of dry port near Havelian projects under the CPEC in April (current month) after the completion of preliminary design.

Business Recorder 12-04-19

Govt wants to expand CPEC project scope for regional progress: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday said that the government was not only giving top priority to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project but wanted to further expand its scope so that other countries could also become part of the gigantic project and a new era of progress and prosperity started in the region.

The prime minister stated this while chairing a high-level meeting on his forthcoming visit to China to participate in the second Belt and Road Forum for International cooperation.

The meeting reviewed the preparations regarding promoting cooperation between the two countries in various fields during the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister to China.

The prime minister said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project consisted of just few power plants and three corridors, while the present government had included agriculture, education, health, water projects, vocational education and skill development, transport, up-gradation of Railways Main Line-1 and other important projects in the second phase of CPEC.

He said the government would replicate the successful experiment of Chinese government of poverty alleviation where millions of people were lifted out of poverty.

He said the government wanted to learn from China's skill in agriculture, industry and other fields.

The prime minister said keeping in view the commendable progress of China in science and technology fields, cooperation between the two countries in this field would be the main focus of the visit.

He said efforts were going on to accelerate the process of getting scholarships for at-least 20,000 Pakistani students so that they could study advance subjects in China.

The prime minister said that special attention was being given for bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and China in eight big sectors including mining, high-speed railways, manufacturing, agriculture etc.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Information Minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Minister for Food and Security Shahibzada Muhammad Sultan, Education Minister Shafqat Mahmood, Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Energy Minister Omar Ayub Khan, Chairman Task Force for Science and Technology Dr Atta ur Rehman and other high officials.

Business Recorder, 13-04-19

Timely completion of CPEC projects top priorities of govt: minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed has said that timely completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects stands among priorities of the government, while more road projects would be included in the framework.

This he stated while talking to media persons after the launch of Clean and Green Pakistan ceremony held at Islamabad-Murree Dual Carriageway (IMDC) here on Friday. "Countrywide Clean and Green Pakistan drive is moving forward at a rapid pace, which aptly reflects vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan," he said, adding that the Ministry of Communications and National Highway Authority are hand in hand to make motorways and highways network clean and green.

Saeed and Chairman NHA Jawwad Rafique Malik also planted samplings. The Street Art Competition was also arranged along the wall of IMDC Manga- 25km. More than 200 students from the Fatima Jinnah Women University Rawalpindi and National College of Arts Rawalpindi participated. The students expressed their deep sense of love for their culture and heroes through paintings.

Talking to media persons, Saeed said being custodian of the country's motorways and national highways network, "We are determined to make journey safe and sound and providing maximum civic amenities at the service areas at reasonable rates." He asked the media persons to join them for making the drive of Clean and Green Pakistan a success.

He said, "We are focusing on increasing revenue of the NHA so that it can be made self-sustained that will ultimately reduce load on the national exchequer thus saving money for spending on health, education and poverty alleviation." He further said that timely completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects stands among priorities and that more road building schemes will be included in the CPEC. In order to introduce model roads in the country, the Intelligent Transport System (ITS) has been introduced that will further be expanded on other motorways and national highways gradually.

A special shield was also presented to the federal minister for communications and postal services by the NHA chairman.

Daily Times, 04-04-19**Agri cooperation with China to be enhanced under CPEC: Minister**

Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform MakhdumKhusroBakhtyar on Wednesday said the government was focusing on developing the agriculture sector on modern lines to improve the livelihoods of small farmers and enhance its contribution in the national economy noting that agriculture constitutes the largest sector of economy. He stated that in this regard agriculture cooperation with China will be enhanced under CPEC framework. The Minister was talking to Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research SahibzadaMehboob Sultan who called on him in Islamabad today.

Secretary Planning ZafarHasan, Secretary National Food Security Dr. Muhammad HashimPopalzai and Project Director CPEC Hassan Daud were also present in the meeting. Minister for Planning said efforts are underway to initiate joint ventures with leading Chinese agriculture companies in various sectors of agriculture to enhance agricultural output and value addition. He highlighted that there was a lot of scope for increasing cooperation between the countries particularly in areas of livestock, fisheries, citrus, mango, rice, potatoes and horticulture. MakhdumKhusro apprised that CPEC Business Advisory Council has been constituted which will have representation from leading companies dealing in various sectors including agriculture. The purpose of Council will be to identify new areas for future collaboration with China under CPEC.

Daily Times, 07-04-19**CPEC holds great promise**

Considerable progress has been made towards the China Pakistan Economic Corridor since its launch in 2013. China has been closely monitoring the developments in Pakistan and is largely in agreement on the direction the project is taking.

Pakistan has not used the IMF and World Bank loans to repay the loans obtained under the CPEC arrangement. This fact has attracted more international donors and persuaded them of the merit of the CPEC framework.

Around 42 per cent of Pakistan's loans come from the IMF and the World Bank. Another 18 per cent come from the Paris Club. The CPEC loans now account for around 10 per cent. The Chinese loans are concessional and there is no threat of Pakistan becoming vulnerable on account of repayment. The repayment situation is satisfactory and no debt crisis is feared.

In fact, the Chinese loans will ease the financial hardship and allow Pakistan to become a thriving economy. There is nothing wrong with the Chinese loan repayment.

The China-Pakistan cooperation for the Corridor projects will bring new opportunities for infrastructure development in Pakistan. This is win-win situation. The cooperation for

development speaks of a wisdom shared between the two nations. Pakistan is keen to learn from China's experience in poverty alleviation, environment protection and urban reconstruction.

China is already the biggest investor in Pakistan and its largest trading partner. Increasing investments will bring prosperity. The infrastructure development will allow Pakistan to realize its great geographic potential.

As a formal member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Pakistan is now participating in the Leaders' Summit. This will enhance its influence and recognition on the international stage.

China has been an all-weather strategic partner for Pakistan. The friendship between Pakistan and China is deep-rooted. This has been the guarantee of peace and stability not only in bilateral relations but also in the region.

China is currently Pakistan's biggest trading partner. The increasing investments will spur economic development and bring greater prosperity for the people. The CPEC is a great accomplishment. The deepening of economic cooperation will attract more capital

The CPEC is taking this friendship forward. It will continue to improve infrastructure, promote employment, broaden cultural exchanges and spur economic development in Pakistan. The CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) complement each other.

The CPEC is a flagship project of the BRI which seeks to explore new ways to broaden cooperation. China is laying down roads, railways, fiber optics connection in the economic zone, which is making it easier for third parties to connect with the project. The third parties to CPEC will bring more investments, catalyze job creation, and promote economic uplift through technology transfer and regional stability.

Pakistan has been supportive of an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process. China is increasing its efforts for the BRI. Pakistan is quite confident of increasing regional connectivity. The Gwadar Port will likely handle more than 20 per cent of the regional oil supply. It will also provide a platform to several Central Asian countries.

The CPEC will promote all sorts of economic activities in the region and be a win-win solution for all parties concerned. Saudi investment in Gwadar can be a game changer and will possibly lead to a new world order.

The writer is a consultant at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad. He writes on East Asian affairs.

Daily Times, 11-04-19

CPEC can help Pakistan overcome extremism

Pakistan has long suffered on account of extremism. Sectarianism, radicalization and extremist violence have plunged the country into obscurantism and wreaked havoc on the masses. It is obvious that poverty, unemployment and illiteracy are sustaining the extremism.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a boon from heaven. It can rescue a people from the clutches of extremism by providing ample economic opportunities to the youth and utilizing their energies in constructive pursuits.

The \$62 billion flagship project holds immense importance for Pakistan. Chinese assistance will not only beef up foreign exchange reserves but also help the economy grow. The CPEC will bring new roads, railways, cable networks, pipelines and energy projects. The energy projects envisaged under the CPEC include Gwadar Coal Power PLANT, Hub Coal-fired Power Plant, Rahim Yar Khan Coal Power Plant, Quaid-i-Azam Solar Park, 50 MW Dawood Wind Farm at Bhambore, 100 MW Wind Farm at Jhimpir, 50 MW Wind Farm at Sachal, SukiKinari Power Plant, Karot Hydropower Project and Kohala Power Project.

The extent of the project's success will depend on the attitude of the new government. Its commitment to fulfilling its side of the bargain needs to be beyond doubt. The first challenge for the policymakers is to overcome parochial considerations and cynicism

Illiteracy, poverty and deplorable living conditions have been the norm in much of the areas that are going to see development under the CPEC. These conditions provide space to extremist elements to exploit the weaknesses of marginalized sections of the society. According to the 2017 census, 60 per cent of the country's 208 million people are below the age of 30 years. According to the Bureau of Statistics 22.3 per cent of the country's population is living below the poverty line. As many as 22 million children are out of school.

These factors guarantee the room the miscreants and extremist elements need to cause trouble by exploiting the youth.

CPEC contains the seeds of prosperity that can help deprive the extremists of the ready recruits.

In the end, the extent of the project's success will depends on the new government. The government needs to be committed to its side of the bargain. The policymakers' first challenge is to overcome suspicion, parochialism and cynicism.

The writer is a Doctor of Pharmacy with interest in socio-economicaffairs

Daily Times, 11-04-19

Balochistan's CPEC potential

Questions have been raised about the utility of the infrastructure projects as soon as governments of China and Pakistan announced agreement on plans for the China Pakistan Economic Corridor in 2013. There has been speculation that the people of Pakistan, particularly the people of Balochistan do not stand to benefit from the huge project. Some people have suggested that the challenge of returning the areas bordering Afghanistan, particularly in Balochistan, to peace and normalcy is going to be too much.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a part of China's Belt and Road Initiative. The project was envisaged in 2013. It and became a reality, two years later in 2015. So far, progress on the project has kept pace with the ambitious plans. In infrastructure and energy sectors the project has already started paying dividends. As an ailing economy Pakistan had long needed an initiative of this kind. The project is designed in such a way that once it gains momentum, its pace will accelerate.

A desirable feature of this project is bringing the fruits of development to less developed areas of both Pakistan and China. These include the western parts of both Pakistan and China. The project is a ray of hope for those residing on both sides of the border.

CPEC promises to take Pakistan-China friendship and their economic cooperation to new heights. It is a truly epoch-making project

Balochistan is the smallest province of Pakistan in terms of population. However, it has the largest land mass and its share in the economy is bound to grow rapidly. Balochistan is already known for its mineral wealth. For years, Balochistan has been supplying natural gas to the entire the country. As CPEC becomes a reality the untapped potential of the province will be realized.

An amount of \$7.1 billion has been set aside as the initial investment in Balochistan. The funds are to be spent on development projects. After decades of exclusion from the development agenda, Balochistan has been transformed to be the linchpin of the project. The Baloch can now hope to participate in the economy and enjoy their rights. That is how they can make CPEC a success and take Pakistan forward in a collaborative manner. The project has allowed the federal government to make good use of the land mass in the province and address the problems faced by the people. It is hoped that the development of Balochistan's mineral wealth is nigh.

So how will CPEC benefit Pakistan and Balochistan? The answer is simple: through development. The deep sea port holds great trade potential. The infrastructure development will prove a great boost to trade and economy. Infrastructure developments will also open new and better markets. Resultantly, more investors would be attracted. The investment they bring will lead to the creation of more job opportunities. The living standards will improve gradually, but surely.

The project has already started benefiting Balochistan. Industrial zones are planned in Quetta, Gwadar, Khuzdar, Uthal, Hub and DeraMuradJamali. There will be mineral processing zones and plants for extraction of valuable metals from the ores. The road and rail network will help improve efficient movement of goods making the trade more efficient. Besides the road and rail network, three major energy projects are planned in the province, namely, Gwadar Coal Power Project, HUBCO Coal Power Plant and Gadani Power Park Project. These projects will contribute approximately 2,940 MW of energy to the national grid.

The security situation in Balochistan has been unsatisfactory for quite some time. Military and security forces were carrying out an operation to neutralize the rebels. Soon after the announcement of the project, Balochistan became the centre of attention and the fulcrum of the CPEC. Recently, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA), Pakistan revealed in their 2018 report that there has been an overall 21 per cent reduction in terrorist attacks compared to the preceding year. The law and order situation is improving in Balochistan. Once the socio-economic fabric of the province gets strong, there will be a large influx of people migrating into the province.

Most importantly, Gwadar is going to be the anchor and key driver of this mighty collaboration between China and Pakistan. It is hoped that Gwadar, having one of the world's deepest sea ports, will become another Dubai by the time the project gets into its final stages. Balochistan is thus going to be a bridge between Asia on one side and the West on the other. The city itself will see massive modernization. These project will bring the federation and the province closer to each other.

Daily Times, 12-04-19

Pakistan wants to expand scope of CPEC: PM

Prime Minister Imran Khan said the government is not only giving top priority to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project but wants to further expand its scope so that other countries could also become part of the gigantic project and a new era of progress and prosperity starts in the region.

The prime minister stated this on Thursday while chairing a high-level meeting on his forthcoming visit to China to participate in the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. The meeting reviewed the preparations regarding promoting cooperation between the two countries in various fields during the forthcoming visit of the prime minister to China.

The prime minister said the CPEC project consisted of just few power plants and three corridors, while the present government got included agriculture, education, health, water projects, vocational education and skill development, transport, up-gradation of railways Main Line-1 and other important projects in the second phase of CPEC. He said the government will replicate the successful experiment of Chinese government of poverty alleviation where millions of people

were lifted out of poverty. He said the government wants to learn from China's skill in agriculture, industry and other fields.

The prime minister said keeping in view the commendable progress of China in science and technology, cooperation between the two countries in this field will be the main focus of the visit. He said efforts are going on to accelerate the process of getting scholarships for at least 20,000 Pakistani students so that they can study advanced subjects in China.

The prime minister said special attention is being given to cooperation between Pakistan and China in eight big sectors, including mining, high-speed railways, manufacturing and agriculture.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan said the government accords top priority to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project as it will not only help in translating all-weather Pak-China relations into mutually beneficial economic equation but also open new vistas of opportunities for the entire region.

The prime minister met with representatives of 15 leading Chinese companies working on various CPEC and other projects in Pakistan. The Chinese delegation included representatives from Power China, Three Gorges Corporation, CMEC Neelum Jhelum Power Plant Project, Cr-Norinco Orange Line Project, Huawei, Zong, Port Qasim Power Plant, China Gezhouba Corporation, China State Construction, China Harbour, Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line aProject, Haier and other companies. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing accompanied the delegation.

Talking to the Chinese delegation, the prime minister said the government will provide all possible facilitation to the Chinese companies in undertaking profitable business ventures and taking advantage of business friendly policies of the present government.

The Chinese ambassador, while conveying greetings from Chinese president and premier, said that Chinese leadership is looking forward to the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China. He thanked the prime minister on behalf of Chinese leadership and business community for his personal interest in facilitating Chinese businessmen and addressing their issues. He assured the prime minister that Chinese companies will continue to partner with the government in socio-economic development of Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan, during a briefing on Thursday, was informed that 11 integrated tourism zones will be established in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and replicating the model, eight zones will also be set up in Punjab.

Daily Times, 12-04-19

Pak-China parliamentary linkages further cement ties

Enhanced Parliamentary linkages between Pakistan and China would further cement the friendly ties of the two countries. The increase in reciprocal visits of the parliamentary delegations would

also strengthen the existing political and economic relations, while setting the stage for future interaction in different sectors.

A high level parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Chairman Senate will be visiting China very soon on the invitation of Chinese Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). An invitation to the Chairman of the National People Congress (NPC) of China to visit Pakistan has also been extended. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said this while talking to Ambassador of China Yao Jing, here on Thursday.

Chairman Senate said that historic friendly ties between Pakistan and China have further strengthened due to enhanced economic cooperation between the two countries. Projects under CPEC are not only for the benefit of people of Balochistan but also very important for economic development of different areas of the country as well as providing a mile stone for future development of China. Different mega projects being executed under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) should be expedited so as the people can reap the fruits of the development at the earliest.

Chairman Senate said that inauguration of Gwadar International Airport would help project Gwadar as economic hub of the region and would pave the way for beginning of a new era of economic prosperity.

He said that the development of the region is connected with expeditious completion of the projects being executed under CPEC. He said that both the countries are committed for provision of maximum fruits of development to the people by timely completion of the projects.

He said that Pakistan and China are actively engaged to successfully implement the agenda of poverty alleviation, fighting corruption, overcoming the energy crises and improving the agriculture development.

He said that China has always supported Pakistan in its bid to strengthen its economy and CPEC is an obvious example of such support. He said that China has always supported Pakistan in its bid to strengthen its economy and CPEC is an obvious example of such support. He said that Pakistan and China have cordial relations at all levels from Parliaments and governments to the level of the people at large. Chinese Ambassador on this occasion said that Pakistan and China friendship is time tested and the present economic partnership would be mutually beneficial for both the countries. Pakistan and China are actively working on common agenda of regional development.

He said that Chinese government is fully cooperating with government of Pakistan for the executing public welfare projects in less developed areas of the country with the active participation of the relevant provinces.

Daily Times, 12-04-19
Islamabad glues Beijing-Riyadh ties

On March 28, Secretary Perry of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) issued thirty-seven Part 810 authorizations to the U.S. companies, including seven to Saudi Arabia, allowing them to export unclassified civilian nuclear technology to 16 countries.

The DOE statement profoundly contested Deputy Energy Secretary Dan Brouillette's remarks in February, which opined that the U.S. would not help Saudi Arabia to develop nuclear technology, unless it guarantees the use of technology for civilian purposes.

Brouillette's rhetoric was blatantly responded by former Saudi intelligence chief and senior Saudi diplomat Prince Turki Al Faisal who voiced that Saudi Arabia has more options for civil nuclear technology other than the United States.

Ex-ambassador to the U.S. and the U.K. said that the energy market is open. 'We have France. We have Russia. We have China. We have our friends in Pakistan and in other places as well, so if they want to remove themselves from that market, well, that's up to them.'

The kind of the U.S. about-turn on civil nuclear technology transfer and assistance to Riyadh is very much surprising to the quite a few in Washington and the world over that didn't expect the abrupt announcement.

Links to this rushed authorization may be traced back to a topical high-level Chinese military delegation visit to Saudi Arabia in the end of March. Led by Defense Minister Wei Fenghe, the mission received a red carpet reception in Riyadh.

During its trip to the Kingdom, the Chinese military commission had some productive interaction with Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman (MbS) and King Salman, where the two sides agreed to strengthen bilateral economic and military cooperation.

Ostensibly, the United States proclaimed this chaotic Part 810 authorization in a bid to restrain Riyadh from relocating itself into the Chinese camp as well as to try and regain the declining trust of its key partner in Middle East.

Riyadh declines to become an atomic power. In an interview with a U.S. television on 15-March-2018, MbS said that his country isn't interested in acquiring nuclear bomb but if Tehran develops such a weapon, Riyadh will follow the suit as soon as possible.

Saudi Arabia however is pursuing civil nuclear technology to meet the country's energy and water needs. The Kingdom's nuclear research center, King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (KACARE), is an integral part of Saudi Vision 2030 that aims to create an energy mix in which atomic energy plays a major role.

The defense experts in Washington widely believe that Saudi Arabia is tracking its homegrown defense program with the help of China and Pakistan – inferring a Saudi swing towards the East over a potential divergence from the United States

Riyadh is also tailing an indigenous defense program. Its state-owned defense organization, Saudi Arabia Defense Industries (SAMI), goals to localize more than 50% of the Kingdom's military spending and visions to be among the top-25 military industry companies by 2030.

The defense experts in Washington widely believe that Saudi Arabia is tracking its homegrown defense program with the help of China and Pakistan – inferring a Saudi swing towards the East over a potential divergence from the United States.

Earlier this year, an anonymous former Pentagon official told CNBC that Saudi's secret Strategic Rocket Forces (SRF), which avoids missing with American advisors, likely 'operates with Chinese input'. 'Given that, Pakistan has close ties with both China and the Kingdom and has numerous advisors working with Saudi security agencies, I won't be surprised if there were Pakistani assistance as well', he added.

Although Riyadh has historically been a strong U.S. defense ally but some recent diplomatic spats have reprimanded the Kingdom to quickly find new partners for its defense needs, particularly after Trump onslaught at Saudi King Salman who would not last in power 'for two weeks' without the backing of the U.S. military.

'King – we're protecting you – you might not be there for two weeks without us – you have to pay for your military.'

Previously in a post-cold war era, the susceptible U.S. behavior 'gifted' Pakistan to China and yet again, Washington's whiplash policies are giving away the largest Middle East economy to Beijing – a move China won't mind at all.

Pakistan carts robust economic and strategic relations with both China and Saudi Arabia and all of three nations have a chronicle of being battered by fitful Washington – so together they could expand economic and military cooperation to evolve into much stronger alliance in the region.

As Islamabad has deep-rooted ties with some of the other Gulf nations as well, it could serve as an economic and military trade bridge between China and Middle East. Pakistan can escort Riyadh's ambitious defense program through its decades-long experiences of erecting the defense industry after the country was abandoned by the U.S.

In addition, Saudi Arabia is in the process of diversifying its economy and wants to learn from incredible and consistent Chinese economic growth experiences over the years so that it can reform and widen its economic base.

In his official visit to China on February 21-22, Crown Prince MbS gave several accolades to Beijing including pacifying byline 'over such a long period of exchanges with China, we have never experienced any problems with China'.

While signing \$28 billion of MOUs, MbS reassured his support for China's Belt and Road initiative (BRI). The MOUs include setting-up \$10 billion refining and petrochemical complex in Chinese city of Panjin, which would help Saudi Arabia to emerge as the largest crude oil supplier to China.

Riyadh support for BRI is crucial for Beijing since a substantial volume of Chinese trade will pass through Saudi-adjacent Red Sea, on its way to Europe. The economic cooperation will also strengthen bilateral trade that rose 26.3% to \$63.3 billion in 2018; largely favoring Saudi Arabia that's exports to China increased 44.5% to \$45.9 billion for the year.

As long as, the United States gestures to appear distant to Saudi Arabia, Riyadh is quickly responding by lining-up new partners, most importantly China as well as strengthening relationship with stalwart ally, Pakistan.

The author works in a private organization as 'Market & Business Analyst' and writes on domestic, regional, and global issues

Dawn News, 01-04-19

Govt may cancel Chinese firm`s contract to lift garbage from West, Malir districts

KARACHI: The Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) is learnt to have decided to issue a final 15-day show-cause notice to the Chinese company tasked with the disposal of solid waste in districts West and Malir for rescinding the contract due to the company`s poor performance.

Well-placed sources told Dawn on Sunday that the notice to the Hangzhou Jinjiang Group Sanitation Services Company Ltd, which was awarded the contract in Oct 2017 for front-end collection and disposal of garbage in the city`s two districts, would be third in row as earlier notices were issued on July 18 and Dec 5, 2018, respectively, for unsatisfactory performance. They said that over 2,400 tonnes garbage was generated daily in West district, while the contracting firm was collecting only half of it before it suspended its operation a week ago.

A spokesperson for the SSWMB said that the final notice to the Chinese firm would be issued in a couple of days as it was still under legal process and approval from the competent authority. Violation of agreement she said that the contracting firm did not make investment for solid waste management as per the agreement. `They inducted only 40 per cent machinery and 20 per cent staff`, she added. The spokesperson said that the performance of the contracting firm had never been satisfactory as there were always heaps of garbage in the two districts.

She said that the SSWMB was managing the disposal of garbage in the vicinity through alternative resources with the assistance of the district municipal committee-West to ease out the situation. They said that the Supreme Courtmandated water commission had also taken notice of the low performance of the company and called its chief executive officer Managing Director A. Sanani told Dawn that the Chinese firm did not perform as per standards set in the contract. `It also failed to bring required machinery and gear for solid municipal waste despite assurance before the water commission,` he added.

The sources said that the contracting firm had requested the water commission for one-month time for improving its working in March, but it did not show any substantial improvement. They said that the door-to-door component of front end collection of solid municipal waste was the core item of the contract with the Chinese firm. The sources said that the contracting firm was required to do extensive and unceasing operations to removal of garbage from the doorsteps of people and sweeping of main roads, streets, lanes, footpaths and open spaces, and to bring the garbage to dustbins for further disposal to the 500-acre Jam Chakro landfill site, some 30-35 kilometers from the city`s center. They said that no proper mechanism for public awareness for proper garbage disposal devised by the contractor as per agreement, causing poor waste management.

The sources said that the machinery, vehicles, equipment, containers and bins were very short of quantity as per the agreement with the contractor. They said that the containers and bins were

also short of the quantity mentioned in the contract and their unplanned placement on different places also increased the severity of the issue. Garbage lifting not even begins in four islands. The sources said, the contractor did not start its operation in four islands Shamspir, Baba, Bhit and Salihabad within the limits of West district as per the agreement. According to a representative of the Chinese firm, the operation in the islands could not start due to issue of transportation of municipal solid waste from there. He said that the firm suspended its operation due to non-payment of its dues to the provincial authorities. `We will resume our operation, once our dues are cleared`, he said. Residents of West district said that piles of garbage were playing havoc with their lives as manual sweeping of primary roads, secondary main roads, streets and narrow lanes was not carried out for days.

Unsatisfactory performance in Malir As for Malir, the sources said that the company's performance was also unsatisfactory as it did not meet the required standards at any stage since the execution of the contract. They said that there was a huge shortage of at least 200 sanitary workers in the Malir district, while most of the machinery of the company was out of order.

The city's solid waste management was extricated from the hands of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation by the provincial government in 2014 through the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board Act-2013 adopted by the Sindh Assembly. The SSWMB contracted out garbage collection, taking it to the landfill sites, as well as sweeping streets, to a Chinese company for two districts, East and South, and to another Chinese company for Malir and West, out of total six districts of the city for a period of seven years. The garbage collection and disposal of districts Central and Korangi is being carried out by their respective DMCs.

Dawn News, 01-04-19

New unit for audit of CPEC projects

LAHORE: A new unit has been set up for financial audit of the projects worth billions of dollars being carried out under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Auditor-General of Pakistan Mr Javed Jehangir was quoted as telling a ceremony held at the Audit and Accounts Academy here on Sunday that CPEC directorate-general was being set up for financial audit of the projects being undertaken with the help of China. He said likewise three new units for audit of environment, social safety net and information system were also being set up. He said both the federal and provincial governments were demanding special audit of their development projects, expenditures and revenue generation for which the auditors would have to enhance their expertise in forensic, IT and environment audit.

Dawn News, 01-04-19

Chinese investors are in no hurry to save the day

FOR the third year in a row, equity investors have been left to fend for themselves. There is despondency in the air. One finds sullen faces in the trading hall, narrating tales of their never-ending losses. Mukhtar Ali, a man in his late 50s, has been living off capital gains and dividends for years. He put his faith as well as entire early-retirement settlement money in stocks many years ago. `Half of my savings, roughly Rs6.4 million, have been wiped off in the market meltdown that knows no end, he says. Brokers and traders also sit idle as the average daily traded value of shares has dipped to just around Rs3 billion. `Three years ago, this was a vibrant place producing (the daily) traded value of over Rs20bn,` said a veteran broker. As earnings evaporate and regulations intensify, several brokers have closed down their businesses. A market watcher said that under the previous Companies Ordinance, no one except banks was allowed to accept cash deposits. However, under the new rules introduced a little while ago, Central Depository Company (CDC) and National Clearing Company of Pakistan (NCCPL) are empowered to carry out cash collection and shares settlement under the Direct Settlement Services and National Custodial Services.

`The whole idea was to prevent the misuse of investors` money and shares for margin utilization and default payments... and to ensure that no broker took away and fled with investors` money,` he added. He noted that the new regulation enjoyed ceremonial presence only. According to a broker, brokerages are now required to follow the `impractical rule` of know your client (KYC) to comply with the requirements of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). This has drastically reduced the number of new accounts. Stockbrokers hold a 20 per cent stake in the total issued capital of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) while 10pc shares vest with the general public. But it is the majority 40pc strategic or `anchor` investment that is under the investors` glare. It was in the winter of 2016 that the PSX sold 40pc strategic `anchor` shares to a Chinese consortium at Rs28 apiece. In essence, the consortium paid Rs8.96bn for 320m shares. Last Friday, the PSX stock price stood at Rs14.50, meaning 40pc or Rs3.54bn has been wiped off from the price paid by the consortium a little over two years ago. But do the Chinese stakeholders fret over the loss? `The strategic investors have entered with a vision of 20 years. They are not fixated on the daily change in stock prices, said one stock strategist. According to an enraged fund manager, `If the anchor investors have lost money, so be it.` He complained that the foreign investors were expected to bring in investment, experience, technological assistance and newproducts like options and futures. But all that is still a dream. Early last month, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) allowed an increase in the limit on foreign persons or institutions to acquire PXS shares up to 20pc of share capital from 10pc applicable under the Stock Exchange (Corporatization, Demutualization and Integration) Regulations 2012. The exchange stated that as per the SECP requirement, it was mandatory for foreign persons to disclose if they hold 1pc or foreign institutions if they hold 2.5pc of PSX shares. On Dec 23, 2017, the SECP made amendmentstotheStock Exchange

(Corporatization, Demutualization and Integration) Regulations 2012, removing the ban on foreign investors to trade in the PSX stock. Yet, foreign persons, other than the foreign anchor investor, could not collectively directly or indirectly acquire or hold more than 10pc of the total issued share capital of the exchange. The amendment also provided that the commission could, if it deemed fit in the interest of the capital market, increase the limit of shareholding for foreign persons, other than foreign anchor investor, to 20pc of the total issued capital of the exchange. A person privy to the affairs affirmed that the PSX board had discussed and recommended to the SECP that it should raise the ceiling of foreign holding to 20pc a while ago. PSX CEO Richard Morin declined to comment on the increase in the limit, saying it is the prerogative of the apex regulator and the government.

A member of the divestment committee that oversaw the sale of strategic shares in 2016 said former finance minister Ishaq Dar was averse to giving a nod to the sale of 40pc PSX shares to a single party. This was why 30pc shares were offered to the Chinese consortium comprising three Chinese exchanges China Financial Futures Exchange Company Ltd (lead bidder), Shanghai Stock Exchange and Shenzhen Stock Exchange while two local financial institutions received 5pc shares each. A veteran investor said that it was possible for the anchor investor to surreptitiously raise its stake to 50pc by an indirect acquisition of 10pc shares now offered to foreign investors. But he added that there was little inclination for the strategic investors to do that because the Stock Exchange (Corporatization, Demutualization and Integration) Regulations 2012 contained a provision that allows the anchor investor to raise its equity stake to 51pc after three years of the first offer. `A little over two years have already gone by and the Chinese strategic investors will be at liberty to accumulate shares up to 51pc of the capital after a few months if they so wish,` said the high-net-worth individual.

Some market watchers say that the regulator`s intention in raising the bar of foreign shareholding to 20pc was to encourage foreign inflows. Foreign investors have continued to seek an exit from the stock market for the fourth year in a row. Portfolio outflows in 2018 amounted to \$534m. The sell-off continues in 2019 to date. Market strategists calculate that the current foreign investment in equities stands at \$6bn, of which \$1.6bn relates to portfolio investment while the rest is strategic holdings mainly in multinationals. •

Dawn News, 03-04-19

China border reopens after winter closure

GILGIT: After four month`s closure, The China-Pakistan land border at Khunjerab pass reopened the other day, thus resuming the trade and travel activities between the two countries. According to Pakistan immigration officials, a first Northern Areas Transport Corporation bus carrying six passengers from Pakistan left for China.

Under the protocol agreement signed by Pakistani and Chinese authorities, the border is usually closed on Nov 30 and reopens on April 1, owing to heavy snowfall. The Khunjerab pass is the

highest paved international border at an altitude of 15,500 feet. There has been a daily bus service across the boundary from Sost valley of Gilgit to Kashgar in Xinjiang. Talking to Dawn an official of Pakistan Customs said all arrangements had been finalized to start trade and travel activities between the two countries. The official said the pace of trade at the border was expected to increase this year because of the CPEC-related activity.

Dawn News, 04-04-19

US move not conducive to peace in South Asia: China

WASHINGTON: The United States vowed on Wednesday to utilize `all available avenues` to ensure Masood Azhar was held accountable but China warned Washington that this attitude could complicate an already tense situation in South Asia.

`We can confirm that we circulated a draft UNSC resolution with UK and French support,` said a US State Department spokesperson when asked how the United States planned to deal with this issue. On March 27, the United States circulated a draft resolution to the 15-nation UN Security Council (UNSC) to blacklist Azhar and subject him to a travel ban, an assets freeze and an arms embargo.

`We hope South Asia could maintain peace and stability and we hope India and Pakistan will engage in dialogue and through dialogue and consultation resolve outstanding issues,` said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang while explaining China`s policy on the dispute.

Last month, India accused Azhar`s Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) group of carrying out the Feb 14 suicide bombing at Pulwama in India-held Kashmir (IHK) that killed 40 paramilitary troops and urged Pakistan to hand over Azhar, who was already under house arrest. Pakistan rejected the Indian claim, pointing out that the attack was carried out inside IHK and there`s no Pakistani involvement.

On March 13, China put a technical hold on a French proposal to list Azhar under the UNSC 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee and asked for more consultations before bringing the matter to the UNSC for a vote. The State Department spokesman insisted that Washington also wanted to route its move to brand Azhar a UN-designated terrorist through this committee but it was not against using other options.

`While we strongly prefer that UNSC designations take place through the committee process, the United States and its allies and partners, including those on the UN Security Council, will utilize all available avenues to ensure that the founder and leader of the UN-designated terrorist organization JeM is held accountable by the international community,` the spokesman added. Mr Geng, however, said that the US threat to use `all available avenues` was not helpful particularly when JeM`s involvement in the Pulwama attack had not yet been proven. China, he said, had taken a `constructive and reasonable stand` on the issue while the US stance was not conducive to peace and stability in South Asia.

On Monday, MrGeng said that the US decision to go directly to the UNSC to designate Azhar aimed to scuttle China`s efforts to resolve the issue amicably. China, he said, had already made `positive progress` towards its goal.

MrGeng said the vast majority of UNSC members believed that terrorist designations should be routed through the sanctions committee and should be resolved through consultation instead of pushing the draft resolution at the UNSC.

`Also China has been working hard with relevant sides and is making positive results. The US knows that very well. Under such circumstances the US still insists on pushing the draft resolution, doesn`t make any sense, he said. MrGeng said Washington`s action was not consistent with the UN rules and customary practice and sets a bad precedent. `It is only complicating the issue and not conducive to peace and stability in South Asia,` he said. `China will continue to adopt constructive and responsible attitude to participate in discussions and deliberations on the designation issue,` he said. `We hope this issue will finally be resolved properly,` he said.

Dawn News, 05-04-19

NA speaker forms panel on CPEC to oversee projects

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser on Thursday constituted a parliamentary committee on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to oversee ongoing projects despite `reservations` by members of the Senate over the move. According to an official announcement by the National Assembly Secretariat, the speaker has constituted the committee in pursuance of motions adopted by the National Assembly during its sitting on Feb 21 and the Senate on March 1. The committee comprises 14 members of the National Assembly and seven senators belonging to all major political parties having representation in parliament.

The members from the National Assembly are: Noor Alam Khan, Sher Ali Arbab, Sadagat Ali Khan, Umer Aslam Khan, Mir Khan Mohammad Jamali and Zile Huma of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), Ghous Bux Khan Mahar of the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), Ahsan Iqbal, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Syed Imran Ahmed Shah and Mehnaz Akber Aziz of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), Raza Rabani of the Pakistan People`s Party (PPP), Zahid Akram Durani of the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA) and Mohammad Aslam Bhootani, an independent MNA from Gwadar (Balochistan).

The names of seven senators will be included in the committee when they will be nominated by Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani in pursuance of the said motions. It is interesting to note that a special committee of the Senate on the CPEC is already functioning and its members have even visited the sites of the project in Balochistan. The Senate committee is headed by Sherry Rehman of the PPP. Sources in the Senate Secretariat told Dawn those members of the upper house were unwilling to become a part of the parliamentary committee formed by the speaker. They said that at a recent meeting of the House Business Advisory Committee presided over by Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, a number of senators both from the treasury and the opposition, while

expressing their views, had termed the formation of a new parliamentary committee on the CPEC unnecessary in the presence of the Senate committee.

The sources said that the senators were opposing the move fearing that the parliamentary committee was being formed so that the ruling party could get control of the secretariat presently functioning to facilitate the committee. They said that it had been decided during the meeting that the Senate committee would not be abolished even if the speaker notified the formation of the parliamentary committee as it had happened in the past too.

When contacted, Leader of the House in the Senate Shibli Faraz, who had moved the motion in the house regarding formation of the parliamentary committee, said that he was unaware of the decisions taken by the business advisory committee as he had participated in it for a brief period due to his poor health condition. Meanwhile, in the notification, the speaker has also elaborated the functions of the committee.

It says that the committee will perform functions of oversight of CPEC projects, monitor implementation of the projects and make recommendations for speedy and timely implementation of the projects. The committee may make suggestions for improvements that may result in cost and time reduction as well as provision of better services to the public. Besides this, the committee will `endeavor to promote consensus and support for CPEC in the federation`.

The committee will be required to present its periodical reports to both the houses of parliament and it may make rules to regulate its procedure. The projects being carried out under the CPEC are regularly being reviewed by a number of committees of the two houses of parliament, including the committees on planning and development and communications.

Dawn News, 05-04-19

Chinese firm plans \$500m investment in garment sector

LAHORE: A Chinese company, Shanghai Challenge Textile, plans to invest up to \$500 million on the development of a private Special Economic Zone (SEZ) spread on an area of 400 acres near Kasur for establishing an exclusive apparel park for garments and allied industries.

The investors expect the project to complete and start production for the export markets in the next two years. The entire garment production from the apparel park will be meant for export markets and is estimated to bring in foreign exchange revenue of \$300m to \$500m a year. The park will be developed by the China Railway 20 Co. Pakistan as its ECP contractor with the PakChina Investment Company providing financing for the project.

The Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT), the provincial investment promotion agency, will act as the facilitating agency. Shanghai Challenge Apparel already has a facility in Lahore and had a few years back bought almost 25 per cent shareholding in the Faisalabad-based Masood Textile Mills.

`The investor company has already started acquiring land for developing the park. Once it completes land acquisition, it will begin the process for SEZ status,` PBIT chief executive officer (CEO) Jahanzeb Burana told Dawn. He said the entire project from acquisition of land to

establishment of factories was a `private venture by the Chinese company` and the government was not involved in it in any way. `We at the PBIT will only be facilitating it,` he said, adding the park will have its own power station. The Chinese investors also signed four-party Cooperation Framework Agreement in this regard at the PBIT with the Punjab government on Thursday. The agreement was signed by senior executives of China Railway 20 Co.

Shanghai Yuanyi Industry, Pak-China Investment Company and PBIT, Provincial industries, commerce and investment minister Aslam Iqbal and China`s Consulate General in Lahore Long Dingbin witnessed the ceremony.

The investment plan will formally be announced during Prime Minister Imran Khan`s next visit to Beijing towards the end of this month, Mr Burana said. The Chinese investors also signed a four-party Cooperation Framework Agreement in this regard at the PBIT with the Punjab government on Thursday. The agreement was signed by senior executives of China Railway 20 Co.

Pakistan, Shanghai Yuanyi Industry Company, Pak-China Investment Company and PBIT. Provincial industries, commerce and investment minister Aslam Iqbal and China`s Consulate General in Lahore Long Dingbin witnessed the ceremony. The investment plan will formally be announced during Prime Minister Imran Khan`s next visit to Beijing towards the end of this month, Mr Burana said.

Dawn News, 06-04-19

CPEC to boost industrial collaboration: Dawood

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Industry and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood on Friday said that the stage for the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was now set to expedite the industrial collaboration, which would help attract private investments and diversify the country`s exports.

`We are now in the second phase of CPEC where industrialization and agriculture growth would be the main goals of the current regime,` he told the first meeting of the CPEC business council under the Board of Investment (BoI). Special economic zones (SEZs) have been the engine of growth for many developing states around the world for the last few decades and it`s the high time for Pakistan to convert its SEZs into growth hubs, he said.

Mr Dawood expressed the hope that SEZs would attract investment from diversified sources because they offered a combination of tax-and-tariff incentives, streamlined customs procedures and less regulation. The production of finished goods was the topmost priority, which will help Pakistan in reducing trade deficit, he added.

Minister for Planning and Development and Reforms Khusro Bakhtyar, who co-chaired the CPEC business council meeting with Mr Dawood, stated that the purpose behind establishing the

forum was to create an interface between the government and business community and take forward the industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China to new heights for mutual benefit.

‘Through industrial cooperation, we also want to address trade imbalance, broaden market access for agricultural products and encourage business-to-business cooperation between the two countries,’ Mr Bakhtyar said. Stating that the scope of the CPEC had been expanded with focus on industrial and agriculture cooperation, socio-economic development, trade and market access, the planning minister expressed optimism that creation of the CPEC business council with representation from private sector leading associations and companies in various areas would accelerate the pace of industrialization under the umbrella of the mega project.

Mr Bakhtyar said that the focus was to boost Pakistan’s industrial capacity through joint ventures in priority areas, relocation of labour intensive export-led industry and collaboration of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and enhance vocational training capacity.

Earlier, Board of Investment chairman Haroon Sharif welcomed all the members to the first meeting of the council and said that the BoI would serve as secretariat for the CPEC business council, adding that a dedicated team of professionals had been hired in this regard.

He said the BoI was improving its capacity to deal with matters of industrial cooperation with China and urged the members to come up with tangible suggestions in this regard. Planning and Development Secretary Zafar Hasan, CPEC project director Hassan Daud and representatives from leading associations and companies also attended the meeting.

The business council secretary and executive director general of the BoI, Fareena Mazhar, briefed the members on the progress in SEZs and incentive packages under the industrial cooperation.

Dawn News, 07-04-19

Tribute paid to Chinese, Pakistanis who died during KKH construction

GILGIT: Tributes were paid to Chinese and Pakistani citizens who died during construction of the Karakoram Highway which connects the two countries.

A ceremony organized by the Chinese embassy was held at the Chinese memorial graveyard in Danyor area of Gilgit to pay homage and remember 800 persons, including 108 Chinese engineers and laborers, who lost their lives during construction of KKH from 1966 to 1978.

The Chinese embassy counselor, Li Yuanling, and other officials and nationals of the country, GB Assembly Deputy Speaker Jaffarullah Khan, government officials, relatives of the martyrs, students and business community members attended the ceremony.

The participants observed one minute silence in memory of the martyrs and laid floral wreaths at the Chinese memorial graveyard. GB Board of Investment vice chairman Raja Nazeemul Ameen told Dawn that every year families of the martyrs came from China to offer rituals at their gravesites. According to Chinese tradition, in April which heralds arrival of spring season,

relatives of the dead lay floral wreaths at their graves and bow to pay respects to them, he said, adding this ritual was also an annual feature at the Chinese graveyard in Gilgit in April.

Mr Ameen said the Chinese graveyard had been built in memory of martyrs of KKH, adding the road had played vital role in cementing friendship between Pakistan and China. Addressing the ceremony, Chinese diplomat Li Yuanling said the monument built in the memory of KKH martyrs reminded them of the sacrifices of the people while constructing the road. 'We cannot forget their sacrifices, the Pakistan and China friendship is not a simple slogan, it is practical and strong,' he said.

Mr Yuanling said CPEC had further cemented relations between the two countries. Jaffarullah Khan said strong Sino-Pak relations were the result of the sacrifices of the people while building the 8th wonder of the world.-Correspondent

Dawn News, 07-04-19

The geo-economics of CPEC

GRAPPLING with a crippling economic crisis at home, Pakistan is compelled to tread slowly and carefully in the emerging geo-economics and politics of the region. Although financial help and support from China, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have contributed to partially resolving the country's balance of payments crisis, yet an IMF bailout seems inevitable. Some would translate it as a return to old partners in the West or the US to be more precise.

The outgoing government used the investment under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) not only to overcome the energy crisis and infrastructure-building but also to counter pressure from the US, which was growing with the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The previous government also tried to maintain Pakistan's traditional policy of keeping a balance in its relationship with Saudi Arabia and Iran and, therefore, withstood pressure to send Pakistani troops into Yemen. The government of Prime Minister Imran Khan has apparently completely revised Pakistan's Middle East policy. There is an impression in national and international policy circles that, in the process of economic recovery, Pakistan has lost its geopolitical equilibrium as well.

CPEC, which was until recently being projected as a game-changer for the country and the region, has lost its attraction in policy discourse. In the process of rationalization of CPEC projects, Pakistan has put many projects on hold, thus discouraging private Chinese companies and individuals from investing in the special economic zones (SEZs).

Beijing has supported Mr Khan's idea of rationalizing CPEC projects for two major reasons. First, the aggravating economic situation in Pakistan has made China concerned about the repayment of the loans it has provided for CPEC projects. Second, China wanted to give time to Pakistan's new government to overcome its economic challenges, for which it also provided a couple of bailout packages.

The government also tried very hard to diversify its options for the foreign investment, and succeeded to a certain extent but with a heavy price. Pakistan is fast losing balance in its relationship with Iran and Saudi Arabia. The \$10 billion Saudi pledge for a refinery and petrochemicals complex in Gwadar has not only come as cause for caution for Iran, but also China. The latter has concerns that it may lead to Saudi-Iranian proxy warfare in the coastal region, at the bottleneck of CPEC. The Baloch in Gwadar also see the refinery in the context of Iran-Saudi Arabia rivalry. They believe it will bring in US influence due to the common strategic objectives of the Saudis and Americans against Iran. Though the refinery would be set up about 100 kilometers away from the Pakistan-Iran border, it will continue to perturb China.

Pakistan's support for talks between the Afghan Taliban and the US is widely welcomed. It could become a hugely positive contribution to regional peace if reconciliation is achieved. But many in Pakistan are also arguing about what this country has achieved so far through the facilitation of a peace process. An IMF bailout package could be one but, at the same time, the US is not willing to reduce pressure on Pakistan on multiple strategic fronts. It is believed Pakistan could have gained much more had it extended its support for the peace process a few years ago, when the Obama administration was desperate to achieve a peaceful resolution in Afghanistan.

It is not the economy alone that has pushed Pakistan to a restricted geopolitical position but also the militant groups. Some analysts even suspect that the Afghan Taliban will remain a reliable ally of Pakistan after entering into a peace agreement in Afghanistan. Certainly, by bringing the Taliban to the table, Pakistan has done what it had been avoiding for several years. Internal security and economic challenges notwithstanding, international compulsions and obligations are also bearing upon Pakistan's policy responses.

Looking ahead, Pakistan needs to develop a geo-economics framework of engagement with its neighbors and allies. This country can make sure that Saudi investment is coming with no geostrategic strings attached, and that it would be for economic purposes only under the compulsion of the Saudi Vision 2030. Pakistan must not allow any proxy group to use its soil against neighbors. Though it would be difficult to maintain such a relationship with an assertive Saudi regime, Pakistan can maintain a balance through a China-Pakistan-Iran economic partnership.

To balance the Iran-Afghanistan-India bond of Chabahar port, China and Pakistan can work towards connecting Chabahar and Gwadar ports. China and Iran have both hinted at the ports' connectivity through joint initiatives. Chinese academics consider a trade relationship with Iran via Gwadar as one of the major outcomes of CPEC. Pakistan also needs to speed up transnational energy projects with Afghanistan, apart from taking initiatives to boost bilateral trade.

Though CPEC has not fulfilled the expectations of the common man, especially in Balochistan where it has not generated the expected economic activities and employment opportunities for the local people yet speedy development on the SEZs in Gwadar can address their many grievances. The Balochistan government is inviting domestic and foreign donors and investors

for infrastructure projects, which can attract private Chinese investors, who are moving towards East and Central Asia. New Chinese investors are desperately looking for investment avenues across the world, mainly in Asia.

The US role in the region is not expected to subside even after a peace agreement with the Taliban is reached. Pakistan will remain an important working partner, if not strategic ally, for the US in the Indian Ocean and in neighboring regions. For that, the relationship has to be taken out of the shadows of mistrust and non-state actors.

It is often heard in strategic policy discussions in the federal capital that Pakistan is changing its focus from geostrategic to geo-economics, but this transition needs a clear direction. Pakistan has to set out priorities of a traditional zero-sum game to ensure that its relationship with one nation do not come at the cost of its relationship with another.

This country does not have a multiplicity of options to attract foreign investment, and those that are available need to be fully harnessed. The writer is a security analyst.

Dawn News, 08-04-19

CPEC parliamentary panel to elect its chief on 16th

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the newly formed Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been convened on April 16 for election of its chairman without waiting for nominations from the Senate, Dawn has learnt. A notice issued by the National Assembly Secretariat says that the 14-member Parliamentary Committee on CPEC will be held at 3pm on April 16 `for election of its chairman`. A list attached to the notice contains the names of 14 members from the National Assembly only, while there is no mention of any senator despite the fact that NA Speaker AsadQaiser had constituted the committee in pursuance of motions adopted by the National Assembly during its sitting on Feb 21st and the Senate on March 1st.

The speaker had last week notified the formation of the parliamentary committee to oversee the ongoing projects despite reservations by senators over the move. The committee, according to the notification, comprises 14 MNAs and seven senators belonging to all major parties having representation in parliament. The names of seven senators were to be included in the committee when they would be nominated by Senate Chairman SadiqSanjrani in pursuance of the said motions, according to the notification.

The members from the National Assembly are: Noor Alam Khan, Sher Ali Arbab, Sadagat Ali Khan, UmerAslam Khan, Mir Khan Mohammad Jamali and ZileHuma of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI), GhousBux Khan Mahar of the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), AhsanIqbal, MurtazaJavedAbbasi, Syed Imran Ahmed Shah and MehnazAkber Aziz of the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PMLN), RazaRabbani of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP),

Zahid Akram Durrani of the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal (MMA) and Muhammad Aslam Bhootani, an independent MNA from Gwadar (Balochistan).

It is interesting to note that a special committee of the Senate on CPEC has already been functioning and its members have even visited sites of the project in Balochistan. The Senate committee is headed by Sherry Rehman of the PPP. Sources in the Senate Secretariat told Dawn that members of the upper house were unwilling to become a part of the parliamentary committee formed by the speaker. They said that in a recent meeting of the House Business Advisory Committee presided over by Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, senators from the treasury and the opposition had termed the formation of a new parliamentary committee on CPEC unnecessary in the presence of the Senate committee.

The sources said the senators opposed the move fearing that the parliamentary committee was being set up so that the ruling party could get control of the secretariat functioning to facilitate the committee. They said it had been decided in the meeting that the Senate committee would not be abolished even if the speaker notified the formation of the parliamentary committee as it had happened in the past too.

When contacted, several members of the committee expressed their ignorance about reports that senators were not willing to be the part of the committee.

Dawn News, 11-04-19

Agri varsity signs MoU with Chinese lab

RAWALPINDI: The Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi's National Centre for Livestock Breeding, Genetics and Genomics (NCLBGG) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Wednesday with the CAASILRI Joint Laboratory on Livestock and Forage Genetic Resource (JLLFGR), which is based in Beijing, China.

The MoU's objective is to enhance the genetic potential of local livestock for food security and poverty alleviation. It will also help establish a long-term relationship for the purposes of exploring complementary research, institutional development and capacity building skills of both organizations.

Dr Mohammad Moaen ud din, the director of the NCLBGG, and JLLFGR chief manager and senior scientist Dr Jian-Lin Han signed the agreements on behalf of their respective organizations. Staff Reporter

Dawn News, 12-04-19**CPEC enjoys top priority, PM tells Chinese delegation**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Thursday the government accorded top priority to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and that it would provide all possible facilities to companies working on the project.

Chairing a meeting with representatives of 15 leading Chinese companies working on various CPEC and other projects in Pakistan, the prime minister said: `The project [CPEC] will not only help in translating all-weather PakChina relations into mutually beneficial economic equation, but will also open new vistas of opportunities for the entire region. The Chinese delegation included representatives of the Power China, Three Gorges Corporadon, Huawei, Zong, China Gezhouba Corporation, China State Construction, China Harbor, Haier and the companies working on Neelum-Jhelum Power Plant Project, Port Qasim Power Plant, Orange Line Project and Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line Project. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing accompanied the delegation.

Federal Power Minister Omar Ayub Khan, Minister for Planning Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar, Board of Investment (BOI) Chairman Haroon Sharif and Chairman of the PM`s Task Force on Energy Nadeem Babar were also present.

Talking to the Chinesedelegation, the prime minister said: `The government will provide all possible facilitation to the Chinese companies in undertaking profitable business ventures and taking advantage of business-friendly policies of the present government. The Chinese ambassador said the leadership of his country was looking forward to Prime Minister Khan`s visit to China.

He thanked the prime minister on behalf of the Chinese leadership and business community for his personal interest in facilitating Chinese businessmen and addressing their issues. He said Chinese companies would continue to partner with the government of Pakistan in socio economic development of the country.

Tourism zones in KP, Punjab In another meeting, Prime Minister Khan was told that 11 integrated tourism zones (ITZs) would be established in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and replicating this model, eight such zones would be set up in Punjab.

The ITZs would not only serve to showcase tourist potential of the country and promote tourism, but would also ensure preservation of natural beauty, biodiversity and forests cover and promotion of eco-tourism, he was told.

The meeting was attended by Fawad Chaudhry, federal minister for information; Sayed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari, special assistant to the PM on overseas Pakistanis; Haroon Sharif, chairman of the BOI; Yasir Humayun, tourism minister of Punjab; Atif Khan, KP tourism minister; Shahram Khan Taraki, KP minister for local government; SultanMohammad Khan, KP minister for law and parliamentary affairs and Rashid Mehmood Langrial, secretary of tourism, KP.

The prime minister was apprised about new initiatives being taken to promote tourism in KP and Punjab. A detailed briefing was also made about the draft Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tourism Act-2019.

The tourism minister of KP shared salient features of the draft legislation on tourism and said under the ambit of this coming law exclusive jurisdiction would be clearly chalked out to avoid coordination problems and overcome low performance capacity of organizations. The PM was told that private sector would play a leading role in development of tourism while the government would provide an enabling environment and act as a facilitator.

Some of the areas where the ITZs will be set up are: Gabeen Jabba, (elevation 9,200 feet), Mankyal (8,700ft) and Bayon, (11,000ft) in Swat; Bir Mughlasht (9,000f t), Golain (10,400ft) and Qaglasht (7,500ft) in Chital; Burwai, Naran (10,000ft) and Mahaban, Buner (6,600f t).

Prime Minister Khan was told that internationally successful models were being followed for promoting tourism in the country. He said with the development of tourist resorts and provision of required facilities, the tourism sector would receive tremendous boost. He directed the authorizes concerned to launch a website identifying all tourist zones being set up and providing detailed information about them for the benefit of local and foreign tourists.

Dunya News, 01-04-19

سٹی پیگ آڈٹ کیلئے ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل کا نیا شعبہ قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ

محلے میں ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل ماحولیات، جنرل سوشل سیفٹی نیٹ اور جنرل انفارمیشن سسٹم آڈٹ بھی شامل

نوجوان افسر خود کو جدید ٹریننگ، علم اور مہارت سے لیس کرنے کی ٹھان لیں، جاوید جہانگیر: تقریب سے خطاب

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) آڈیٹر جنرل آف پاکستان میں بھی اصلاحات کو تیز کر دیا گیا جن کے تحت آڈیٹر جنرل آف پاکستان نے اربوں ڈالروں کے چین، پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور کے منصوبوں کے آڈٹ کے لئے محلے میں ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل سی پیگ کے نام سے نیا شعبہ قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا جبکہ جاری اصلاحات کے تحت محلے میں 3 نئے شعبے قائم کر دیئے گئے ہیں۔ ان شعبوں میں ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل ماحولیات آڈٹ، ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل سوشل سیفٹی نیٹ آڈٹ اور ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل انفارمیشن سسٹم آڈٹ شامل ہیں۔ یہ اکتشاف گزشتہ روز لاہور میں آڈیٹر جنرل پاکستان جاوید جہانگیر نے آڈٹ اینڈ اکاؤنٹس اکیڈمی میں 45 ویں سہولت پروگرام کے شرکاء کی پانگ آڈٹ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ محکمہ آڈیٹر جنرل کے افسروں اور سٹاف کو حکومت کے بدلے ڈھانچے سے ہم آہنگ ہو کر چلنا پڑے گا تب ہی وہ ملک سے کرپشن کے خاتمے کے لئے محلے سے وابستہ توقعات پر پورا اتر سکیں گے۔ جاوید جہانگیر نے کہا کہ وفاقی اور صوبائی حکومتیں اور ان کے ادارے بڑی تعداد میں ترقیاتی منصوبوں، اخراجات اور وصولیوں کے پیکٹ آڈٹ کا تقاضہ کر رہی ہیں جس کے لئے ہمیں فرائزنگ آڈٹ، انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی آڈٹ اور ماحولیات آڈٹ کے شعبوں میں مہارت کو بڑھانا ہوگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حال ہی میں کئی افسروں نے ان شعبوں میں اہم رپورٹیں تیار کر کے اس شعبے میں آگے بڑھنے کے عزم کی بنیاد رکھ دی ہے۔ انہوں نے نوجوان افسروں کو مخاطب کر کے کہا کہ وہ پاکستان کے روشن مستقبل کی نوید ہیں جس کے تحت ان کو مالی احتساب اور گنڈ گونڈ کے مسائل سے نکلنے کے لئے پاکستان کے محکموں کی قیادت کرنی ہے۔ اس لئے نوجوان افسر خود کو جدید ٹریننگ، علم اور مہارت سے لیس کرنے کی ٹھان لیں۔ آڈیٹر جنرل آف پاکستان نے آڈٹ افسروں کی جدید خطوط پر تربیت میں آڈٹ اینڈ اکاؤنٹس اکیڈمی کے کردار کو بھی سراہا۔

آڈیٹر جنرل

Dunya News, 01-04-19

بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ، چین کا سرمایہ کاری پالیسی بنانے کا فیصلہ

اپریل میں ہونیوالے دوسرے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم کے موقع پر اعلان متوقع

اسلام آباد (وقائع نگار) چین نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے سے متعلق سرمایہ کاری پالیسی بنانے کا فیصلہ کر لیا، چینی قیادت کی جانب سے اپریل میں ہونیوالے دوسرے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم کے موقع پر اعلان متوقع ہے، اقتصادی زونز میں سرمایہ کاری کرنیوالے چینی سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے پالیسی واضح ہو جائے گی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق پالیسی تیار کر لی گئی ہے جس کے بعد سی پیک میں چینی سرمایہ کاری میں مزید اضافہ ہوگا۔ چین کی سرمایہ کاری پالیسی سے پاکستان کے علاوہ وہ تمام ممالک استفادہ کر سکیں گے جو بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ سے وابستہ ہیں۔ پاکستان اس پالیسی سے اس وقت خصوصی فائدہ اٹھا سکتا ہے کیونکہ سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کا آغاز ہوا ہے، خصوصی اقتصادی زونز پر جلد کام شروع ہو جائے گا، اپریل میں رھنکی اقتصادی زون کا سنگ بنیاد رکھا جائے گا۔

پالیسی

Dunya News, 02-04-19

گواڈرا ایئر پورٹ 2026: ۵ تک پانچ لاکھ افراد

کی آمدورفت ہوگی، حکام سی پیک سیکرٹریٹ

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) سی پیک کے تحت گواڈرا انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ کی تعمیر سے 2026 تک پانچ لاکھ افراد کی آمدورفت ہوگی، ایئر پورٹ 230 ملین ڈالر کی لاگت سے تعمیر ہوگا۔ سی پیک سیکرٹریٹ کے حکام کے مطابق نئے بین الاقوامی ایئر پورٹ کی تعمیر سے سی پیک کے فریم ورک میں ایک اہم مقام حاصل ہو جائے گا جبکہ اس سے گواڈر عالمی سطح پر ایوی ایشن کی صنعت کا ایک اہم مرکز بھی بنے گا۔

حکام سی پیک

Dunya News, 02-04-19

گواڈرا ایئر پورٹ سے دونوں ممالک کو فائدہ ہوگا، ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ
 بیجنگ (اے پی پی) چین کی حکومت نے وزیراعظم عمران خان کی جانب سے گواڈرا میں نئے بین الاقوامی ایئر پورٹ کے سنگ بنیاد کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ اس منصوبہ سے نہ صرف دونوں ممالک کو فائدہ ہوگا بلکہ اس سے دنیا کی ترقی میں بھی یہ اپنا کردار ادا کرے گا۔ یہ بات چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان گینگ شوانگ نے پیر کو بیجنگ میں معمول کی پریس بریفنگ کے دوران ایک سوال کے جواب میں کہی۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فریم ورک کے تحت مختلف منصوبوں پر کام جاری رکھے ہوئے ہے، یہ منصوبے باہمی تعاون اور مفاد میں ہیں، گواڈرا میں نیا بین الاقوامی ایئر پورٹ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعاون کی صرف ایک مثال ہے۔

چین

Dunya News, 03-04-19



پاک بھارت جنگ سے جنوبی ایشیا تباہی سے دوچار ہوگا: چین

سی بیگ پر پاکستان کی تمام جماعتوں میں اتفاق رائے ہے، چینی نائب سفیر

چینی حکومت سی بیگ کی آمدنی کا ایک حصہ پاکستان کے قرضوں کی ادائیگی کیلئے دے گی، رحمان ملک اسلام آباد (وفاقی نگار) چین کے نائب سفیر لی جیا تنگ نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور بھارت دونوں ممالک ایسی طاقت ہیں، جنگ کی صورت میں پورا جنوبی ایشیا تباہی سے دوچار ہوگا، ہم نہیں چاہتے پاکستان بھارت جنگ ہو۔ سی بیگ منصوبے پر پاکستان میں تمام سیاسی جماعتوں کے درمیان اتفاق رائے موجود ہے، زرداری اور نواز شریف دور میں سی بیگ پر کام ہوتا رہا، تھرڈ پارٹی کو آپریشن منصوبہ میں تیسرے ملک کی شمولیت سے اقتصادی اور سماجی ترقی کے منصوبوں پر عمل ہوگا، دو درواز علاقوں کی ترقی کے لیے چین تین سال میں ایک ارب ڈالر گرانٹ فراہم کرے گا۔ سی بیگ کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے چینی نائب سفیر نے کہا کہ ملتان سکھر موٹروے رواں برس اگست کے بجائے جولائی میں مکمل ہو جائے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ جویلیاں تھا کوٹ شاہراہ ریشم کی توسیع رواں سال مکمل ہوگی۔ سی بیگ اب دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو چکا ہے۔ سی بیگ کا دوسرا مرحلہ خصوصی اقتصادی زون کی تعمیر ہے۔ سی بیگ میں تیسرے فریق کی شمولیت پر اتفاق رائے ہو چکا ہے۔ سابق وزیر داخلہ رحمان ملک نے کہا کہ سی بیگ منصوبے پر چین پارٹی کے دور میں کام شروع ہوا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادر بندرگاہوں کا سنگاپور کی کمپنی سے معاہدہ چین پارٹی کے دور میں ختم کیا گیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی حکومت سی بیگ منصوبے کی آمدنی کا ایک حصہ پاکستان کے قرضوں کی ادائیگی کیلئے دے گی۔

ہیں

Dunya News, 04-04-19

پاکستان شنگھائی کوآپریشن یوتھ کونسل کی ممبر شپ کا حامل خطے کا پہلا ملک ہوگا، عثمان ڈار اسلام آباد (خصوصی نیوز رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی برائے امور نوجوانان عثمان ڈار نے وزارت خارجہ کے ایڈیشنل سیکرٹری سے ملاقات میں کہا ہے کہ پاکستان خطے کا پہلا ملک ہوگا جو شنگھائی کوآپریشن آرگنائزیشن یوتھ کونسل کی ممبر شپ حاصل کر رہا ہے، پاکستان کو یہ امتیاز اس لئے حاصل ہو رہا ہے کہ اب پاکستان میں حکومت کی جانب سے نوجوانوں کو سیاسی و سماجی طور پر بااختیار بنانے کی طرف ملکی تاریخ میں پہلی بار توجہ دی گئی ہے، باصلاحیت نوجوانوں کو اس پروگرام سے مستفید ہونے کا موقع ملے گا۔

Dunya News, 06-04-19

مسعود اظہر معاملہ، چین نے پاکستان سے مخلص دوستی کا ثبوت دیا، عالمی تجزیہ کار انتخابات میں مودی کو پاکستان مخالف مسعود اظہر کارڈ استعمال کر نیکی اجازت نہیں دی جاسکتی جنوبی ایشیا میں امن و استحکام کیلئے اپنی ذمہ داری پوری کریں گے، ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین کا کہنا ہے کہ وہ مولانا مسعود اظہر کو بین الاقوامی دہشتگرد قرار دلوانے کے بارے میں الاقوامی برادری کے ساتھ رابطے میں ہے، مودی کو بھارتی انتخابات میں مسعود اظہر کارڈ استعمال کرنے کی اجازت نہیں دی جائیگی، چین اس معاملے کو ذمہ دارانہ اور مستحکم طریقے سے حل کرنے کا خواہشمند ہے، چین کی خواہش ہے کہ جنوبی ایشیا میں امن و استحکام برقرار رہے، بھارت اور پاکستان اس معاملے سمیت باہمی مسائل مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل کریں جبکہ تجزیہ کاروں کا کہنا ہے کہ چین نے مولانا مسعود اظہر کے معاملہ پر ایک بار پھر ثابت کیا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کا مخلص دوست ہے، بین الاقوامی تجزیہ کاروں نے مولانا مسعود اظہر کے بارے میں بھارتی ایما پر امریکا، فرانس اور برٹش سرکار کی جانب سے پیش کردہ بارے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے واضح کیا کہ چین نے مسعود اظہر معاملہ پر ایک بار پھر ثابت کیا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کا مخلص دوست ہے، انہوں نے چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان کینگ شوانگ سے مسعود اظہر کے بارے میں پوچھے گئے سوال کے جواب میں کہا کہ چین مولانا مسعود اظہر کو بین الاقوامی دہشتگرد قرار دلوانے کے بارے میں الاقوامی برادری کے ساتھ رابطے میں ہے، مودی کو بھارتی انتخابات میں اظہر کارڈ استعمال کرنے کی اجازت نہیں دی جائیگی، چین اس معاملے کو ذمہ دارانہ اور مستحکم طریقے سے حل کرنے کا خواہشمند ہے، چین کی خواہش ہے کہ جنوبی ایشیا میں امن و استحکام برقرار رہے، بھارت اور پاکستان اس معاملے سمیت باہمی مسائل مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل کریں۔

عالمی تجزیہ کار

Dunya News, 07-04-19

12 مئی، چین تونصلیٹ کے مقدمات جیل منتقل کرنے کا فیصلہ

ملزمان کو جیل سے اے ٹی سی پیش کرنے کے حوالے سے سکیورٹی خدشات ہیں

انسداد دہشت گردی کی خصوصی عدالت کو محکمہ داخلہ کی جانب سے آگاہ کر دیا گیا

کراچی (سٹاف رپورٹر) محکمہ داخلہ سندھ نے سانحہ بارہ مئی اور چین تونصلیٹ پر حملے کے مقدمات کی سماعت جیل منتقل کرنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا۔ ہفتے کو انسداد دہشت گردی کی خصوصی عدالت کو محکمہ داخلہ سندھ کی جانب سے آگاہ کیا گیا ہے کہ 12 مئی کیس کا ملزم ایم کیو ایم کا کارکن عمیر صدیقی سنگین جرائم میں ملوث ہے، ملزم کی جان کو خطرہ ہے، سماعت کیلئے ملزم کو جیل سے اے ٹی سی کافشن میں پیش کرنے کے حوالے سے سکیورٹی خدشات لاحق ہیں۔ علاوہ ازیں اے ٹی سی میں سہولت کاری سے متعلق مقدمے کی سماعت کے دوران محکمہ داخلہ سندھ کی جانب سے مقدمے کی سینٹرل جیل میں قائم انسداد دہشت گردی کی خصوصی عدالت منتقلی کا نوٹیفکیشن پیش کر دیا گیا، نوٹیفکیشن کے مطابق مقدمہ حساس نوعیت کا ہے اس لیے منتقل کیا جا رہا ہے، خطرناک دہشتگردوں میں احمد حسنین، علی احمد عرف ہاشمی اور محمد اسلم شامل ہیں، جنہیں جیل سے عدالت پہنچانا خطرناک ہے۔

مقدمات کی منتقلی

Dunya News, 08-04-19

سی پیک کیلئے قائم پارلیمانی کمیٹی

کا اجلاس 16 اپریل کو طلب

اسلام آباد (صبح نیوز) پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے لئے قائم پارلیمانی کمیٹی کا اجلاس 16 اپریل کو طلب کر لیا گیا۔ اجلاس میں کمیٹی کے چیئرمین کا انتخاب کیا جائے گا۔ گزشتہ دور میں بھی پارلیمانی کمیٹی برائے سی پیک قائم کی گئی تاہم سابقہ کمیٹی چھوٹے صوبوں بالخصوص دور دراز اور پسماندہ علاقوں کے حقوق کے تحفظ میں ناکام رہی تھی۔ کمیٹی سی پیک کے سارے منصوبوں کی تفصیلات طلب کرے گی۔

سی پیک / طلب

Dunya News, 08-04-19

شاہراہ قراقرم کی تعمیر کے دوران جاں بحق ہوئی والے چینوں کی یاد میں تقریب

چینی وفد کی تقریب میں شرکت، کارکنوں کو خراج عقیدت پیش، یادگار پر پھول چڑھائے
 گلگت (آئی این پی) سفارتی مشن پر مشتمل چینی وفد اور طلبا نے 1960 اور 1970 کے درمیان شاہراہ
 قراقرم کی تعمیر کے دوران اپنی جانوں کا نذرانہ پیش کرنے والے چینی کارکنوں کو خراج عقیدت پیش کیا۔ اس
 حوالے سے ایک خصوصی تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا جس میں ڈپٹی سپیکر گلگت بلتستان جعفر اللہ خان اور مقامی حکومت
 کے دیگر حکام بھی شریک تھے، تقریب کے شرکانے یادگار پر پھول چڑھائے اور محنت کشوں کی خدمات کو سراہا۔
 اس موقع پر ڈپٹی سپیکر گلگت بلتستان جعفر اللہ خان نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی بھائی چارے میں تبدیل ہو
 گئی، گلگت کے لوگ سی پیک کی اہمیت کو سمجھتے ہیں، پاک چین دوستی کے خلاف کوئی سازش کامیاب نہیں ہونے
 دیں گے۔ چینی وفد نے چینی انجینئروں کی حفاظت کے لئے مقامی حکومت کی کوششوں کو سراہا اور کئی دہائیوں تک
 چینی کارکنوں کے قبرستان کی حفاظت کرنے پر تعریف کی۔

Dunya News, 13-04-19**آئی ایم ایف پیکیج، سی پیک سے دستبرداری**

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) سابق چیئر مین سینیٹ میاں رضاربانی نے کہا کہ آئی ایم ایف پیکیج سے متعلق حکومت کا یونٹرن قابل مذمت ہے، آئی ایم ایف پیکیج کا مقصد پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری سے دستبرداری ہے، مہنگائی میں بے پناہ اضافہ ہوا جس نے عام آدمی کی کمر توڑ دی ہے، آئی ایم ایف پیکیج پاکستان میں بین الاقوامی سامراجی قوتوں کی مداخلت یقینی بنائے گا۔
رضاربانی

Express News, 01-04-19**چولستان میں شجرکاری کیلئے چین کو بڑی اراضی دینگے: نعیم الحق**

لاہور، کاہنہ (سیاسی رپورٹر، نمائندہ ایکسپریس، نمائندہ خصوصی) وزیراعظم کے مشیر نعیم الحق نے کہا ہے کہ تنخواہوں میں اضافے کا نل غلط طور پر پیش کیا گیا، وزیراعظم کی ناراضی کے بعد بل واپس لے لیا، مہنگائی اور بیروزگاری کنٹرول کرنے کے لئے اقدامات کر رہے ہیں، پرویز الہی کیساتھ اچھا تعاون ہے اور جاری رہیگا، لاہور میں شجرکاری مہم پر خطاب اور میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے نعیم الحق نے کہا کہ نواز شریف اور زرداری پر مقدمات ان کے دور میں بنے، ہمارا موقف صرف لوٹی ہوئی دولت کو واپس خزانے میں لانا ہے، بجلی، گیس کی قیمتوں میں اضافہ کچھلی حکومت کی نااہلی کے باعث کرنا پڑا، انہوں نے کہا کہ مستحق افراد کیلئے آسان اقساط پر گھروں کا منصوبہ لارہے ہیں، شجرکاری آبیوالی نسلوں کے لیے تحفہ ہوگا، ڈرون منگوارہے ہیں جو ایک گھنٹے میں ایک لاکھ بیج پھینکیں گے، انہوں نے کہا کہ چین صحراؤں کو آباد کرنا چاہتا ہے انہیں چولستان میں بڑی اراضی دیں گے، جلو میں متروکہ وقف املاک کی ڈھائی ہزار ایکڑ زمین ہے اس پر پلاننگ کر رہے کہ سوایکٹر پر اگر چھاٹکا مانگا جیسا جنگل لگائیں تو لاہور کے لیے بہترین ہوگا، ہر شہر کے ارد گرد گرین بیلٹ ہونی چاہیے، اسلام آباد کے گرد گرین بیلٹ کو ہاؤسنگ سوسائٹی بنا دی گئی ہے، اسلام آباد اور راولپنڈی میں سبزہ لگائیں گے۔ لاہور اور کاہنہ سے نمائندگان کے مطابق نعیم الحق نے گجومتہ بلھے شاہ انٹر چینج پر صاف و سرسبز پاکستان کے حوالے سے تقریب میں کہا کہ گرین پاکستان مہم میں 15 لاکھ پودے لگائے جا رہے ہیں۔

Express News, 02-04-19

چین نے اعتماد سازی کیلئے امریکی مصنوعات پر مزید ٹیکس نہ لگانے کا اعلان کر دیا

یکم اپریل 2019 سے امریکی مصنوعات پر کوئی نیا ٹیکس نہیں لگایا جائے گا: چین کے ساتھ تجارتی روابط میں مثبت پیش رفت ہوئی ہے، صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ، بڑی کاروباری ڈیل پر محتاط رہنے کا عندیہ

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین نے امریکہ کے ساتھ تجارتی سرگرمیوں میں اعتماد سازی اور خیر سگالی کے لیے امریکی مصنوعات پر ٹیکس نہ لگانے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ چین کی سٹیٹ کونسل کی طرف سے جاری ایک بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ یکم اپریل 2019 سے امریکی مصنوعات پر کوئی نیا ٹیکس نہیں لگایا جائے گا۔ یہ اقدام امریکہ کی طرف سے چینی مصنوعات پر ٹیکس نہ لگانے اور خیر سگالی کی کوششوں کے جواب میں کیا گیا ہے۔ گذشتہ برس دسمبر میں چین نے امریکی گاڑیوں، ان کے سپئر پارٹس پر تین ماہ کے لیے مزید ٹیکس نہ لگانے کا فیصلہ کیا تھا۔ یہ اعلان اس وقت کیا گیا جب دنیا کی دونوں بڑی معاشی طاقتوں نے تجارتی جنگ بندی کا اعلان کیا تھا۔ چین کی سٹیٹ کونسل کا کہنا ہے کہ امریکی مصنوعات پر نئے ٹیکس نہ لگانے کا مقصد دونوں ملکوں میں تجارتی اور کاروباری سرگرمیوں کو بحال کرنا ہے۔ کونسل کا کہنا ہے کہ امریکی مصنوعات پر نیا ٹیکس مکمل ختم کرنے کیلئے جلد ہی اعلان کیا جائے گا۔ ادھر امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ نے ایک بیان میں کہا ہے کہ چین کے ساتھ تجارتی روابط میں مثبت پیش رفت ہوئی ہے تاہم انہوں نے چین کے ساتھ کوئی بڑی کاروباری ڈیل پر محتاط رہنے کا عندیہ دیا۔

Express News, 02-04-19

تعلیمی اداروں میں چائیزبان لایٹ میسج کی بجائے کیلئے یوتھ کونسل بنانے پر غور

پاکستان پروجیکٹ کے تحت چائیزبان اسلام آباد کے تین تعلیمی اداروں میں سکھائی جائیگی، الگ سے اساتذہ کا تقرر کیا جائیگا

سمندر پار پاکستانیوں کی 17 ہزار 793 شکایات موصول ہوئیں 13 ہزار شکایات حل کی گئیں، قائمہ کمیٹی برائے سمندر پار پاکستانی اجلاس

اسلام آباد (دو قاص احمد) وزارت سمندر پار پاکستانی کا زیر انتظام تعلیمی اداروں میں چائیزبان سکھانے کا اعلان کرتے ہوئے تعلیمی اداروں میں چائیزبان کو لازمی قرار دیدی، وزارت کا بیرون ملک مقیم پاکستانیوں کے بچوں کیلئے یوتھ کونسل بھی بنانے پر غور، قومی اسمبلی کی قائمہ کمیٹی برائے سمندر پار پاکستانیوں کا اجلاس چیئر مین شیخ فیاض الدین کی زیر صدارت ہوا، اجلاس میں ایم ڈی او پی ایف نے کمیٹی کو بتایا کہ وزارت سمندر پار پاکستانی نے اپنے زیر انتظام تعلیمی اداروں میں چائیزبان سکھانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے انہوں نے کمیٹی کو بتایا کہ پاکستان پروجیکٹ کے تحت چائیزبان کو اسلام آباد کے تین تعلیمی اداروں میں سکھائی جائیگی جسکے کیلئے الگ سے اساتذہ کا تقرر کیا جائیگا، ایم ڈی او پی ایف نے کمیٹی کو مزید بتایا کہ تعلیمی اداروں میں چائیزبان کو لازمی قرار دیا جائیگا اور ابتداء سے ہی طلباء کو چائیزبان بولنے، سمجھنے اور لکھنے کی تربیت دی جائیگی انہوں نے بتایا کہ اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کی اہمیت میں اضافے کے ساتھ پاکستان میں چائیزبان کی اہمیت میں بھی اضافہ ہوا یہ اس اقدام سے بچوں کو مستقبل میں بہترین مواقع میسر ہو گئے۔ اجلاس میں کمیٹی کو بریفنگ دیتے ہوئے ایم ڈی نے کہا کہ وزارت نے اوو سیز پاکستانی یوتھ کونسل بنانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، بیرون ملک مقیم پاکستانی نوجوانوں کو سال میں ایک بار پاکستان کا دورہ کرایا جائے گا، اور وزیر اعظم سے ملاقات بھی کرائی جائے گی، اجلاس میں سیکرٹری سمندر پار پاکستانی نے کمیٹی کو بتایا کہ بڑی تعداد پاکستانی بیرون ملک جیلوں میں قید ہے جن میں سب سے زیادہ تعداد سعودی عرب میں قید پاکستانیوں کی ہے او پی ایف حکام نے مزید بتایا کہ سمندر پار پاکستانیوں کی 17 ہزار 793 شکایات موصول ہوئیں جن میں سے 13 ہزار شکایات حل کی گئیں۔

Express News, 02-04-19

مسعود اظہر پر پابندی کیلئے امریکہ قرارداد پیش کر کے بری مثال قائم کر رہا ہے، چین

امریکہ کا رویہ سلامتی کونسل کے قوانین سے مطابقت نہیں رکھتا، معاملہ پیچیدہ ہوگا، ترجمان وزارت خارجہ

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) چین نے خبردار کیا ہے کہ مسعود اظہر پر پابندی کیلئے امریکہ اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل میں قرارداد کا مسودہ پیش کر کے بری مثال قائم کر رہا ہے۔ امریکی اقدام جنوبی ایشیا میں امن اور استحکام کیلئے سازگار نہیں ہوگا۔ چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے پیر کو بریفنگ کے دوران کہا کہ امریکہ کا رویہ اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کے قوانین اور طریقہ کار کے ساتھ مطابقت نہیں رکھتا اور اس سے معاملہ محض پیچیدہ ہوگا، چین نے بارہا مسعود اظہر کے بارے میں اپنے نقطہ نظر کا اظہار کیا ہے جو یکساں اور واضح ہے۔ انہوں نے امید ظاہر کی کہ مختلف فریق آپس میں سمجھوتہ کر لیں گے اور اس معاملے کو 1267 کمیٹی کے دائرہ کار کے تحت مناسب طریقے سے حل کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین مختلف فریقوں کے ساتھ کام کر رہا ہے اور پیشرفت جاری ہے اور امریکہ حالات و واقعات سے آگاہ ہے لیکن وہ سکیورٹی کونسل کے ذریعے قرارداد کے مسودے کی منظوری کیلئے دباؤ ڈال رہا ہے اور اس رویے کا کوئی جواز پیش نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔

Express News, 03-04-19

چین پاکستان میں موبائل اور کار مینو فیکچرنگ شروع کرے گا

چینی سفیر کا چیئر مین ایف بی آر سے ڈیوٹی و ٹیکس سٹرکچر سے متعلق تبادلہ خیال

اسلام آباد (ارشاد انصاری سے) چین اربوں ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری سے پاکستان میں موبائل کی مینو فیکچرنگ اور کار مینو فیکچرنگ شروع کرے گا اس کے علاوہ اسٹیل اور ریئل اسٹیٹ سیکٹر میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے میں بھی دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے جبکہ چین نے ترجیحی تجارتی معاہدہ کے تحت پاکستان کی جانب سے عائد کردہ ریگولیشنز ڈیوٹ کو بھی ریشٹلائز کرنے کی تجویز دی ہے جبکہ پاکستان سے چین کو ایک ارب ڈالر کی اضافی اشیاء برآمد کرنے کے حوالے سے چین نے پاکستانی مصنوعات کیلئے ڈیوٹی و ٹیکسوں میں کمی پر اتفاق کیا ہے۔ یاؤ جنگ نے اعلیٰ سطحی چینی سرمایہ کاروں کے وفد کے ہمراہ گذشتہ روز ایف بی آر کو آر ٹر میں چیئر مین نبھانزیب خان اور ممبر کسٹمز سے اہم ملاقات کی ہے۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ اس موقع پر چائینز سرمایہ کاروں کو ڈیوٹی و ٹیکسوں میں دی جانے والی چھوٹ اور مراعات بارے تفصیلی طور پر آگاہ کیا گیا، چائینز موبائل مینو فیکچرنگ کمپنی نے پاکستان میں موبائل فون سیٹ مینو فیکچرنگ پلانٹ اور چائینز کار مینو فیکچرنگ پلانٹ لگانے میں دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے اور ان صنعتی یونٹس کے لگانے کیلئے ڈیوٹی و ٹیکس سٹرکچر اور کاروبار شروع کرنے سے متعلق دیگر معاملات زیر غور آئے۔ چائینز سرمایہ کاروں کو بتایا گیا کہ گرین فیلڈ میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے والے غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کو ڈیوٹی و ٹیکسوں میں چھوٹ حاصل ہے اس کے علاوہ خصوصی اکنامک زونز میں نئی سرمایہ کاری پر بھی ڈیوٹی و ٹیکسوں میں مراعات و چھوٹ حاصل ہے۔ چین اپنی کاریں پاکستان میں متعارف کروانے کا بھی ارادہ رکھتا ہے، خصوصی طور پر چھوٹی کاریوں کی پاکستان میں اسمبلنگ و مینو فیکچرنگ میں دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے۔

Express News, 03-04-19

آڈیٹر جنرل آف پاکستان میں اصلاحات کیلئے 3 نئے شعبے ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل ماحولیات، سوشل سیفٹی نیٹ، انفارمیشن سسٹم قائم

لاہور، اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر، خصوصی رپورٹر) چین پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور کے منصوبوں کے آڈٹ کے لئے آڈیٹر جنرل آف پاکستان نے ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل سی پیک کے نام سے نیا شعبہ قائم کرنے کا فیصلہ کر لیا ہے۔ جبکہ آڈیٹر جنرل آف پاکستان میں بھی اصلاحات کو تیز کر دیا گیا ہے جن کے تحت 3 نئے شعبے قائم کر دیئے گئے ہیں۔ ان شعبوں میں ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل ماحولیات آڈٹ، ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل سوشل سیفٹی نیٹ آڈٹ اور ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل انفارمیشن سسٹم آڈٹ شامل ہیں۔ گزشتہ روز آڈیٹر جنرل پاکستان جاوید جہانگیر نے لاہور میں آڈٹ اینڈ اکاؤنٹس اکیڈمی میں 45 ویں سیشنل پروگرام کے شرکاء کی پانسنگ آڈٹ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے کہا کہ محکمہ آڈیٹر جنرل کے افسروں اور سٹاف کو حکومت کے بدلتے ہوئے ڈھانچے سے ہم آہنگ ہو کر چلنا پڑے گا تب ہی وہ ملک سے کرپشن کے خاتمے کے لئے توقعات پر پورا اتر سکیں گے۔ جاوید جہانگیر نے کہا کہ وفاقی اور صوبائی حکومتیں اور ان کے ادارے بڑی تعداد میں ترقیاتی منصوبوں، اخراجات اور وصولیوں کے سیشنل آڈٹ کا تقاضہ کر رہی ہیں جس کے لئے ہمیں فرائزک آڈٹ، انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی آڈٹ اور ماحولیاتی آڈٹ کے شعبوں میں مہارت کو بڑھانا ہوگا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حال ہی میں کئی افسروں نے ان شعبوں میں اہم رپورٹیں تیار کر کے اس شعبے میں آگے بڑھنے کے عزم کی بنیاد رکھ دی ہے۔

Express News, 06-04-19

سی پیک بزنس کونسل کی تخلیق سے صنعتکاری تیز ہوگی: خسرو بختیار

اسلام آباد (خصوصی نیوز رپورٹر) وزیر منصوبہ بندی ترقی و اصلاحات مخدوم خسرو بختیار نے مشیر تجارت، صنعت و ٹیکسٹائل عبدالرزاق داؤد کے ساتھ سی پیک بزنس کونسل کے پہلے اجلاس کی مشترکہ صدارت کی۔ اس موقع پر وزیر منصوبہ بندی نے کہا کہ اس فورم کے قیام کا مقصد حکومت اور تاجر برادری کے درمیان رابطوں کے ساتھ پاک چین صنعتی تعاون کو باہمی مفاد کی نئی بلندیوں تک پہنچانا ہے، صنعتی تعاون کے ذریعے ہم تجارتی عدم توازن، وسیع پیمانے پر زرعی مصنوعات کیلئے مارکیٹس تک رسائی اور دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان بزنس ٹو بزنس تعاون کی حوصلہ افزائی کرنا ہے۔ مخدوم خسرو بختیار نے کہا کہ سی پیک بزنس کونسل کی تخلیق اور اس میں نجی شعبہ، اہم تنظیموں اور کمپنیوں کی نمائندگی سے پاکستان میں صنعتکاری کے کام میں تیزی آئے گی۔

Express News, 11-04-19

ایم ایل ون ریلوے منصوبے کے معاہدے پر نظر ثانی پر اتفاق

پاک چین کا منصوبہ 1872 کے بجائے 1680 کلومیٹر کرنے پر اتفاق، 6 سال میں مکمل ہوگا

اسلام آباد (رپورٹ: شہباز رانا) پاکستان اور چین نے ریلوے کے منصوبے ایم ایل ون کے معاہدے پر نظر ثانی پر اتفاق کر لیا ہے، کئی ملین ڈالر کے اسٹریٹجک نوعیت کا منصوبہ تاخیر کا شکار ہے، اب یہ سی پیک سے منسلک منصوبہ 3 مراحل میں مکمل کیا جائے گا۔ حکومتی ذرائع کے مطابق چین اور پاکستان نے منصوبہ 1872 کے بجائے 1680 کلومیٹر کرنے پر اتفاق کر لیا ہے، منصوبہ 3 سال میں مکمل کیا جانا تھا لیکن اب یہ منصوبہ 6 سال میں مکمل ہوگا۔

Express News, 11-04-19

وزیر اعظم 28 اپریل کو چین کا دورہ کریں گے رزاق داؤد

آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدہ کی نوید، چاول اور چینی کا 1 ارب ڈالر کا اضافی کوٹہ ملے گا، پریس کانفرنس

اسلام آباد (خصوصی رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم کے مشیر تجارت رزاق داؤد کا کہنا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم 28 اپریل کو چین کا دورہ کر رہے ہیں، آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے پر خوشخبری ملے گی چین سے چاول اور چینی کا ایک ارب ڈالر کا اضافی کوٹہ ملے گا، چین میں سرمایہ کاری بورڈ ہارون شریف کہتے ہیں کاروبار میں آسانی کے لیے ریفاہ کا آغاز ہو چکا ہے، اختتام تب ہو گا جب پاکستان ایشیا میں ٹاپ پر ان خیالات اظہار وزیر اعظم مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیئرمین ہارون شریف کے ہمراہ پریس کانفرنس کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ اس موقع پر چیئرمین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ ہارون شریف کا کہنا تھا کہ نئے طریقہ کار کے تحت اب پاکستان میں کمپنی کی رجسٹریشن 4 گھنٹے میں کروائی جا رہی ہے تمام سسٹم ان لائن ہے اور صوبوں کے ساتھ منسلک ہے، کاروبار کیلئے ٹیکس ادا کیے 47 سے کم کر کے 10 کر دی گئی ہیں کراچی میں پراپرٹی رجسٹریشن کا عمل 208 دنوں سے 14 پر آ گیا ہے جبکہ لاہور میں پراپرٹی رجسٹریشن کا عمل 26 دن سے کم کر کے 15 دن کر دیا گیا ہے۔ جبکہ مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم کی ترجیح کاروبار میں آسانی ہے بہت اہم اصلاحات مکمل کر لی ہیں آئندہ سال عالمی بینک کی کاروبار میں آسانی رپورٹ میں پاکستان کی درجہ بندی بہتر ہوگی، مشیر تجارت نے کہا کہ چین کے سرمایہ کاروں نے کاروبار میں آسانی کی ضرورت پر زور دیا ہے دورہ چین کے دوران اجلاس میں کینیڈا اور روس نے اپنے ملک میں کاروبار میں آسانی کی تفصیلات فراہم کیں کاروبار میں آسانی غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کا حصول کا اہم قدم ہے عالمی بینک کا وفد آئندہ ہفتے پاکستان کا دورہ کرے گا اور کاروبار میں آسانی کا جائزہ لے گا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ چین کے ساتھ آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے پر بات چیت چل رہی ہے۔ وزیر اعظم کے اٹھائیس اپریل کو دورہ چین کے دوران آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے پر خوشخبری ملے گی چین سے چاول اور چین کا ایک ارب ڈالر کا اضافی کوٹہ لیا جائے گا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستانی مصنوعات کا عالمی معیار کے مطابق نہ ہونا کم برآمدات کی اہم وجہ ہے 47 قسم کے وفاقی اور صوبائی ٹیکسوں کو کم کر کے 10 کر دیا چین کے ساتھ آزاد تجارت معاہدے پر مذاکرات کافی پیش رفت ہوئی ہے وزیر اعظم کے 28 اپریل کو دورہ چین میں آزاد تجارت معاہدے پر دستخط ہو جائیں گے مزید تفصیلات ابھی تک نہیں بتا سکتا چین کو ایک ارب ڈالر کی مزید برآمدات شروع ہو چکی ہیں چاول جا رہا ہے چینی اور یارن کی چین کو برآمد جلد شروع ہو جائے گی مارچ کی برآمدات اچھی نہیں، مجھے اس پر فکر ہے درآمدات میں نمایاں کمی ہوئی ہے مارچ میں درآمدات میں 28 فیصد کمی ہوئی ہے مجھے امید ہے رواں مالی سال 25 ارب ڈالر کی برآمدات کا ہدف حاصل کر لیں گے۔

Express News, 11-04-19

پاک چین کے شعبہ لائیو اسٹاک میں ترقی و تحقیق کے معاہدہ پر دستخط

معاہدے سے دونوں ممالک کے سائنسدانوں کو فائدہ ہوگا: وی سی بارانی زرعی یونیورسٹی ڈاکٹر ندیم

راولپنڈی (نامہ نگار خصوصی) پاکستان اور چین نے لائیو اسٹاک کے شعبہ میں ترقی، مشترکہ تحقیق کے معاہدہ پر باقاعدہ دستخط کر دیئے، پیر مہر علی شاہ بارانی زرعی یونیورسٹی کے وائس چانسلر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر ندیم اختر عباسی نے اس تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ لائیو اسٹاک کے شعبے میں تحقیق وقت کی اہم ضرورت ہے اور جنیاتی صلاحیتوں کی تحقیق سے نہ صرف ملک سے غربت میں کمی آئے گی بلکہ یہ شعبہ بھی ترقی کرے گا، انہوں نے یونیورسٹی کے نیشنل سنٹر فار لائیو اسٹاک بریڈنگ جینیٹکس اور چائسنہ کی لائیو اسٹاک اینڈ جینیٹکس جوائنٹ لیبارٹری کے درمیان مفاہمتی یادداشت پر دستخط کی تقریب میں کیا، وائس چانسلر نے کہا کہ معاہدے سے نہ صرف دونوں ممالک کے سائنسدان فائدہ اٹھائیں گے بلکہ لائیو اسٹاک کا شعبہ بھی بھرپور ترقی کرے گا معاہدے پر بارانی زرعی یونیورسٹی کے لائیو اسٹاک سنٹر کے ڈائریکٹر ڈاکٹر معین الدین اور چائسنہ کی جوائنٹ لیبارٹری کے چیف مینیجر ڈاکٹر جیان لی ہان نے اپنے اپنے اداروں کی طرف سے دستخط کئے۔

Express News, 12-04-19

چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان میں کوشش کر رہی ہیں کہ وہاں کی موانع سے کٹ کر پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے نئے مواقع پیدا کر سکیں، پاکستان میں پرکشش کاروباری مواقع سے چینی کمپنیوں کو بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے۔ گذشتہ روز سی پیک منصوبوں میں مصروف چین کی 15 بڑی کمپنیوں کے نمائندہ وفد نے اسلام آباد میں وزیر اعظم سے ملاقات کی، اس موقع پر وفاقی وزراء بھی موجود تھے۔ وزیر اعظم نے چینی وفد سے گفتگو میں کہا کہ پاکستان میں موجودہ حکومت کی بھی ترجیح ہے، حکومت چینی کمپنیوں کو ہر ممکن سہولیات اور تعاون فراہم کرتی رہے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی کمپنیوں کو پاکستان میں کاروبار کیلئے موزوں حالات سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے۔ ملاقات میں موجود چینی سفیر نے چین کے صدر اور وزیر اعظم کی طرف سے خیر-مگالی پیغام بھی وزیر اعظم عمران خان کو پہنچایا۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ چینی تبادلت، عمران خان کے دورہ بیجنگ کی منتظر ہے، چین کی کمپنیاں پاکستان کی سماجی و معاشی ترقی کیلئے اپنا کردار ادا کرتی رہیں گی۔ مزید برآں وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی زیر صدارت دورہ چین کے حوالے سے اعلیٰ سطحی اجلاس ہوا جس میں وزیر خارجہ محمود قریشی، وزیر اطلاعات چوہدری خواجہ حسین، وزیر برائے فوڈ سیکورٹی صاحبزادہ محمد محبوب سلطان، وزیر برائے ایجوکیشن شفقت محمود، وزیر ریلوے شیخ رشید احمد، وزیر توانائی مراد علی خان، چیئر مین ناسک فورس برائے سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی ڈاکٹر عطاء الرحمن و دیگر افسران نے شرکت کی۔ اجلاس میں وزیر اعظم کے آئندہ دورہ چین کے دوران دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کو فروغ دینے کے سلسلے میں کی جانے والی تیاریوں کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک ون محض چند پار پارٹس اور تین سڑکوں پر مشتمل تھا جبکہ موجودہ حکومت کے دور میں سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں زراعت، تعلیم، صحت، پانی کے منصوبوں، فنی تعلیم و سکل ڈیولپمنٹ، ٹرانسپورٹ، مین لائن 1 کی ایپ گریڈیشن و دیگر اہم منصوبے شامل ہیں۔ آٹھ بڑے شعبوں بشمول مائننگ، ہائی سپیڈ ریلوے، مینوفیکچرنگ، ایگریکلچر و غیرہ میں دو طرفہ تعاون کو مزید فروغ دینے پر خصوصی توجہ دی جا رہی ہے تاکہ جہاں ان جدید شعبوں چینی مہارت سے استفادہ کیا جاسکے وہاں ٹیکنالوجی ٹرانسفر بھی عمل میں آئے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ ایک محدود وقت میں کثیر تعداد کو غربت کے دائرے سے نکالنے کا چین کا کامیاب تجربہ قابل تقلید ہے، حکومت غربت کے خاتمے کے لئے چین کے کامیاب تجربے سے استفادہ کرنا چاہتی ہے۔ زراعت، صنعت و دیگر شعبوں میں چین کی مہارت سے سیکھنا چاہتے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا سی پیک منصوبہ نہ صرف حکومت کی اولین ترجیحات میں شامل ہے بلکہ ہم اس منصوبے کا دائرہ کار مزید وسیع کرنا چاہتے ہیں تاکہ دیگر ممالک بھی اس اہم منصوبے کا حصہ بنیں اور خطے میں تعمیر و ترقی کا نیا باب روشن ہو۔ سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبے میں چین کی بے مثال ترقی کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے اس شعبے میں تعاون کا فروغ دورے کا اہم مقصد ہے، کوشش ہے کہ کم از کم تین ہزار پاکستانی طلبہ کے وظائف اور ان کی چین میں جدید علوم میں تعلیم حاصل کرنے کی راہ ہموار ہو سکے۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی زیر صدارت سیاحت کے فروغ سے متعلق اجلاس ہوا۔ اجلاس میں وزیر اطلاعات خواجہ چوہدری، ذلتی بخاری، ہارون شریف، یاسر ہمایوں اور عاطف خان نے شرکت کی ہے۔ اجلاس میں وزیر اعظم کو خیبر پختونخوا ٹورازم ایکٹ 2019 کے مسودے پر بھی بریفنگ دی گئی۔ بریفنگ میں کہا گیا کہ خیبر پختونخوا میں 11 نئے سیاحتی زون قائم کیے جا رہے ہیں۔ پنجاب میں 8 نئے سیاحتی زون بنائے جائیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ نئے ٹورسٹ ریزارٹس بنانے اور وہاں سہولیات فراہم کرنے سے سیاحت کے شعبے کو ترقی ملے گی۔ وزیر اعظم نے تمام سیاحتی زونز کی مکمل تفصیلات پر مشتمل ویب سائٹ بنانے کی ہدایت کی تاکہ بیرون ملک مقیم سیاحوں کو تمام معلومات اور تفصیلات ایک ہی پلیٹ فارم پر مل سکیں۔ وزیر اعظم کو بتایا گیا کہ سیاحتی پالیسی میں عالمی معیار کے ماڈلز اپنانے جا رہے ہیں جو سیاحتی شعبے میں بڑا انقلاب لائیں گے۔

سی پیک منصوبے اولین ترجیح ہیں، دوسرے مرحلے میں اہم پراجیکٹس شامل ہیں، عمران خان، چینی کمپنیوں کے وفد سے گفتگو

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) اپنے سٹاف رپورٹر سے (وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری میں مصروف عمل چینی کمپنیوں کو ہر ممکن سہولیات کی فراہمی کیلئے یقین دہانی کراتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک منصوبے حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہیں، سی پیک نہ صرف پاک چین سدا بہار دوستی کو مضبوطی بخاتا بلکہ معاشی فوائد فراہم کرے گی بلکہ پورے خطے میں سرمایہ کاری کے نئے مواقع پیدا کرے گا، پاکستان میں پرکشش کاروباری مواقع سے چینی کمپنیوں کو بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے۔ گذشتہ روز سی پیک منصوبوں میں مصروف چین کی 15 بڑی کمپنیوں کے نمائندہ وفد نے اسلام آباد میں وزیر اعظم سے ملاقات کی، اس موقع پر وفاقی وزراء بھی موجود تھے۔ وزیر اعظم نے چینی وفد سے گفتگو میں کہا کہ پاکستان میں موجودہ حکومت کی بھی ترجیح ہے، حکومت چینی کمپنیوں کو ہر ممکن سہولیات اور تعاون فراہم کرتی رہے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی کمپنیوں کو پاکستان میں کاروبار کیلئے موزوں حالات سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے۔ ملاقات میں موجود چینی سفیر نے چین کے صدر اور وزیر اعظم کی طرف سے خیر-مگالی پیغام بھی وزیر اعظم عمران خان کو پہنچایا۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ چینی تبادلت، عمران خان کے دورہ بیجنگ کی منتظر ہے، چین کی کمپنیاں پاکستان کی سماجی و معاشی ترقی کیلئے اپنا کردار ادا کرتی رہیں گی۔ مزید برآں وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی زیر صدارت دورہ چین کے حوالے سے اعلیٰ سطحی اجلاس ہوا جس میں وزیر خارجہ محمود قریشی، وزیر اطلاعات چوہدری خواجہ حسین، وزیر برائے فوڈ سیکورٹی صاحبزادہ محمد محبوب سلطان، وزیر برائے ایجوکیشن شفقت محمود، وزیر ریلوے شیخ رشید احمد، وزیر توانائی مراد علی خان، چیئر مین ناسک فورس برائے سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی ڈاکٹر عطاء الرحمن و دیگر افسران نے شرکت کی۔ اجلاس میں وزیر اعظم کے آئندہ دورہ چین کے دوران دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان مختلف شعبوں میں تعاون کو فروغ دینے کے سلسلے میں کی جانے والی تیاریوں کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک ون محض چند پار پارٹس اور تین سڑکوں پر مشتمل تھا جبکہ موجودہ حکومت کے دور میں سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں زراعت، تعلیم، صحت، پانی کے منصوبوں، فنی تعلیم و سکل ڈیولپمنٹ، ٹرانسپورٹ، مین لائن 1 کی ایپ گریڈیشن و دیگر اہم منصوبے شامل ہیں۔ آٹھ بڑے شعبوں بشمول مائننگ، ہائی سپیڈ ریلوے، مینوفیکچرنگ، ایگریکلچر و غیرہ میں دو طرفہ تعاون کو مزید فروغ دینے پر خصوصی توجہ دی جا رہی ہے تاکہ جہاں ان جدید شعبوں چینی مہارت سے استفادہ کیا جاسکے وہاں ٹیکنالوجی ٹرانسفر بھی عمل میں آئے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ ایک محدود وقت میں کثیر تعداد کو غربت کے دائرے سے نکالنے کا چین کا کامیاب تجربہ قابل تقلید ہے، حکومت غربت کے خاتمے کے لئے چین کے کامیاب تجربے سے استفادہ کرنا چاہتی ہے۔ زراعت، صنعت و دیگر شعبوں میں چین کی مہارت سے سیکھنا چاہتے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا سی پیک منصوبہ نہ صرف حکومت کی اولین ترجیحات میں شامل ہے بلکہ ہم اس منصوبے کا دائرہ کار مزید وسیع کرنا چاہتے ہیں تاکہ دیگر ممالک بھی اس اہم منصوبے کا حصہ بنیں اور خطے میں تعمیر و ترقی کا نیا باب روشن ہو۔ سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبے میں چین کی بے مثال ترقی کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے اس شعبے میں تعاون کا فروغ دورے کا اہم مقصد ہے، کوشش ہے کہ کم از کم تین ہزار پاکستانی طلبہ کے وظائف اور ان کی چین میں جدید علوم میں تعلیم حاصل کرنے کی راہ ہموار ہو سکے۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی زیر صدارت سیاحت کے فروغ سے متعلق اجلاس ہوا۔ اجلاس میں وزیر اطلاعات خواجہ چوہدری، ذلتی بخاری، ہارون شریف، یاسر ہمایوں اور عاطف خان نے شرکت کی ہے۔ اجلاس میں وزیر اعظم کو خیبر پختونخوا ٹورازم ایکٹ 2019 کے مسودے پر بھی بریفنگ دی گئی۔ بریفنگ میں کہا گیا کہ خیبر پختونخوا میں 11 نئے سیاحتی زون قائم کیے جا رہے ہیں۔ پنجاب میں 8 نئے سیاحتی زون بنائے جائیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ نئے ٹورسٹ ریزارٹس بنانے اور وہاں سہولیات فراہم کرنے سے سیاحت کے شعبے کو ترقی ملے گی۔ وزیر اعظم نے تمام سیاحتی زونز کی مکمل تفصیلات پر مشتمل ویب سائٹ بنانے کی ہدایت کی تاکہ بیرون ملک مقیم سیاحوں کو تمام معلومات اور تفصیلات ایک ہی پلیٹ فارم پر مل سکیں۔ وزیر اعظم کو بتایا گیا کہ سیاحتی پالیسی میں عالمی معیار کے ماڈلز اپنانے جا رہے ہیں جو سیاحتی شعبے میں بڑا انقلاب لائیں گے۔

Express News, 12-04-19**چین معاشی و اقتصادی ترقی کی رفتار مستحکم رکھے گا****بین الاقوامی معاشی عدم استحکام چینی معیشت پر اثر انداز نہیں ہوگا، آئی ایم ایف**

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین اپنی معاشی ترقی کو برقرار اور بین الاقوامی معاشی استحکام اور اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے حمایت جاری رکھے گا، بین الاقوامی مالیاتی فنڈ (آئی ایم ایف) کا کہنا ہے کہ عالمی معیشت پر دباؤ کے باوجود چین کی معاشی ترقی میں استحکام رہے گا، بین الاقوامی غیر یقینی صورتحال اور عدم استحکام کے باوجود چین کے طویل المدتی منصوبوں پر اثر نہیں پڑے گا، چین نے بی آر آئی منصوبوں پر شکوک و شبہات اور ابہام کی تردید کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ بی آر آئی منصوبے سے متعلق شکوک و شبہات کو دور کرنے کے لئے چین ایک میکنزم ترتیب دے گا۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق چین اپنی معاشی و اقتصادی ترقی کے کنٹرول کے ساتھ عالمی معاشی و اقتصادی صورتحال کے استحکام کے لئے معاونت جاری رکھے گا۔ بین الاقوامی مالیاتی فنڈ (آئی ایم ایف) کا کہنا ہے کہ عالمی معیشت پر دباؤ کے باوجود چین کی معاشی ترقی میں استحکام رہے گا، چین کی اس مستحکم معاشی ترقی کا سبب پالیسیوں کا تبدیل نہ ہونا ہے۔ آئی ایم ایف نے مزید کہا کہ چین کی معاشی ترقی یہ ظاہر کرتی ہے کہ بین الاقوامی برادری کو اس پر مکمل اعتماد ہے۔ چینی میڈیا کے مطابق عرب ممالک کے لئے چینی وزرات خارجہ کی جانب سے مقرر کئے گئے سفیر چھینگ وین نے بی آر آئی منصوبے پر تمام خدشات اور شکوک و شبہات کو مسترد کیا ہے۔

Express News, 12-04-19

ایڈمرل ظفر محمود عباسی سے چینی سفیر یاؤ جینگ کی ملاقات

پاک چین بحری دفاعی تعاون، خطے کی صورتحال، سی پیک میری ٹائم سکیورٹی امور پر بات چیت

اسلام آباد (وفاقی ڈسٹرکٹ) پاک بحریہ کے سربراہ ایڈمرل ظفر محمود عباسی سے چین کے سفیر یاؤ جینگ کی ملاقات، پاک چین بحری دفاعی تعاون اور خطے کی سکیورٹی سمیت سی پیک کے میری ٹائم سکیورٹی سے متعلقہ امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ ترجمان پاک بحریہ کے مطابق چین کے سفیر یاؤ جینگ کی نیول ہیڈ کوارٹرز میں پاک بحریہ کے سربراہ ایڈمرل ظفر محمود عباسی سے ملاقات کی جس میں پاک چین بحری دفاعی تعاون اور خطے کی سکیورٹی کی صورتحال اور سی پیک کے میری ٹائم سکیورٹی سے متعلقہ امور پر بات چیت کی گئی۔ ملاقات کے دوران نیول چیف نے خطے کی بحری سکیورٹی میں پاک بحریہ کے کردار پر روشنی ڈالی جبکہ چین کے سفیر نے پاک بحریہ کی خطے میں سکیورٹی کے استحکام کی کوششوں کو سراہا۔

Express News, 12-04-19

سی پیک پاکستان کی تقدیر بدل دے گا: سہیل امان

ہمارے نوجوان ہمارا قیمتی اثاثہ ہیں، سابق ائر چیف کا کتاب رو نمائی کی تقریب سے خطاب

اسلام آباد (ذوالفقار بیگ) سابق ائر چیف سہیل امان نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان ہم نے بہت سی قربانیوں سے حاصل کیا ہے ہمارے نوجوان ہمارا قیمتی اثاثہ ہیں، بھارت نے دوبارہ حملہ کیا تو پھر جواب دیا جائے گا۔ بھارت کے پاکستانی جواب سے بھارت پریشان ہو گیا۔ سی پیک پاکستان کی تقدیر بدل دے گا۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار گزشتہ روز ہلال احمر میں منعقدہ ڈاکٹر عارف آزاد کی تحریر کردہ کتاب کی تقریب رو نمائی سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ سابق ائر چیف کا کہنا تھا کہ ہمارا ملک دنیا کا خوبصورت ترین ملک ہے ہمیں ملک کی ترقی کے لئے مزید کام کرنا ہوگا ہمیں اپنے طور پر فیصلہ کرنا ہوگا کہ ہم نے کیسی ترقی کرنا ہوگی ہمارے نوجوان ہمارا قیمتی اثاثہ ہیں چین اور روس نے معاشی ترقی کے اہداف حاصل کئے ہمیں بھی مضبوط معیشت کے لئے کام کرنا ہوگا ہمیں عالمی حالات کا جائزہ لینا چاہیے سی پیک کے آنے بعد ریجن میں پاکستان کی اہمیت بڑھ گئی موجودہ حکومت کی پالیسیوں سے معیشت مستحکم ہو جائے گی ہمیں مایوسی کو دل سے نکالنا ہوگا ہم نے ارادہ کیا تھا کہ ہم دہشت گردی پر قابو پائیں گے ہم نے بہت سی قربانیاں دی ہیں جب میں سکول پڑتا تو 1971 کی پاک بھارت کے جنگ تو میں ارادہ کیا تھا کہ ملک کے دفاع کے لئے کام کروں گا ہمیں مضبوط ارادے کے ساتھ دشمن کا مقابلہ کرنا ہوگا۔

Express News, 13-04-19

آئی ایم ایف کا چینی قرضوں کی تفصیلات جاننے پر اصرار

چینی قرضوں کی تفصیلات سے آئی ایم ایف کو آگاہ نہ کر نیکی وجہ سے مذاکرات طول پکڑ رہے ہیں

بیل آؤٹ چین نے 6.5 ارب ڈالر کے تجارتی قرضے دیئے، 2 ارب ڈالر جمع کرائے ہیں

اسلام آباد (رپورٹ: شہباز رانا) چینی قرضوں سے حکومت کو مالی ضروریات پوری کرنے میں مدد ملی یہی ایک بنیادی وجہ ہے جس کے سبب آئی ایم ایف کے بیل آؤٹ پیکیج کی منظوری میں تاخیر ہو رہی ہے۔ آئی ایم ایف سے بیل آؤٹ پیکیج کے اجراء میں تاخیر کا سبب عالمی مالیاتی فنڈ کی شرائط ہیں جن میں چینی قرضوں کی تفصیلات سے آگہی، بجلی کے نرخ میں اضافہ، روپے کی قدر، قرضوں کی ایڈ جسٹمنٹ اور ٹیکسز کا نفاذ شامل ہے۔ حکومتی ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ میڈیا کی توجہ صرف قرضوں، روپے کی قدر اور بجلی کے نرخ پر ہے۔ ایکسپریس ٹریبیون کو وزارت خزانہ کے انتہائی باخبر حلقوں نے بتایا ہے کہ آئی ایم ایف چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان مالی تعاون کی تفصیلات کے حصول سے دست بردار ہونے کو تیار نہیں۔ بیجنگ اور اسلام آباد کا دوطرفہ تعاون صرف سی پیک تک محدود نہیں ہے، پاکستان قومی اہمیت کے کئی منصوبے چین کے تعاون سے چلا رہا ہے جن میں انفراسٹرکچر، جوہری توانائی، بے ایف 17 تھنڈر کی تیاری اور آبدوزوں کی خریداری شامل ہے۔ چین نے پاکستان کو بطور بیل آؤٹ 6.5 ارب ڈالر کے تجارتی قرضے دیئے ہیں اور اسٹیٹ بینک آف پاکستان میں 2 ارب ڈالر جمع کرائے ہیں۔ ذرائع کا کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان کیلئے یہ ممکن نہیں کہ وہ چین سے لیے گئے مختلف نوعیت کے قرضوں کی تفصیلات سے آئی ایم ایف کو آگاہ کرے یہی وجہ ہے کہ عالمی مالیاتی ادارے سے مذاکرات طول پکڑ رہے ہیں۔

Express News, 14-04-19

وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین بدلے آتے ہیں تجارتی معاہدے کے دوسرے مرحلے کی دستخط نئے عبدالرزاق داؤد

رواں ماہ بہترین پاکستانی برآمد کنندگان بھی بیجنگ جائینگے اور چینی تاجروں کو مشترکہ منصوبوں کی طرف راغب کریں گے

چین صنعتکاری کے عمل میں پیشرفت، زرعی ٹیکنالوجی کی ترقی میں مزید تعاون کریگا، مشیر تجارت کی چینی میڈیا سے گفتگو

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) وزیر اعظم کے مشیر برائے تجارت و ٹیکسٹائل عبدالرزاق داؤد نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے آئندہ دورہ چین کے دوران دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان آزادانہ تجارت کے معاہدے کے دوسرے مرحلے پر دستخط کیے جائیں گے۔ چینی میڈیا کے ادارے ”چائنا کنٹاک نیٹ“ سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ معاہدے کے دوسرے مرحلے پر دستخط اس ماہ کے آخر میں چین میں کیے جائیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کو امید ہے کہ چین صنعتکاری کے عمل کو آگے بڑھانے اور زرعی ٹیکنالوجی کی ترقی میں پاکستان کے ساتھ مزید تعاون کریگا جس سے پاکستانی برآمدات میں اضافے پر اچھے اثرات مرتب ہوں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا دورہ چین رواں ماہ کے آخر میں متوقع ہے، وزیر اعظم کے ہمراہ پاکستان کے بہترین برآمد کنندگان بھی بیجنگ جائیں گے۔ پاکستانی برآمد کنندگان چین کے تاجروں اور سرمایہ کاروں کیساتھ رابطے کریں گے اور انہیں پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری اور مشترکہ منصوبے شروع کرنے کی طرف راغب کریں گے، تجارت کے موجودہ عالمی ماحول میں پاکستان میں چینی کمپنیوں اور اداروں کی سرمایہ کاری زیادہ موثر ثابت ہو سکتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ٹیکسٹائل کا شعبہ پاکستان کا اہم برآمدی شعبہ ہے، اس وقت ملکی برآمدات کا 60 فیصد ٹیکسٹائل پر مشتمل ہے، پاکستان کا شمار ان ممالک میں ہوتا ہے جہاں ٹیکسٹائل کی صنعت کا مکمل ویلیو چین موجود ہے۔

Express News, 14-04-19

کچھ عناصر غیر قانونی شادیوں کے کاروبار میں ملوث، چینی سفارتخانہ

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) پاکستان اور چین کے شہریوں کے مابین غیر قانونی شادیوں اور انسانی سمگلنگ کے معاملے پر چینی سفارتخانے نے وضاحتی بیان جاری کرتے ہوئے تسلیم کیا ہے کہ چند عناصر نے دونوں ملکوں کے باشندوں کے درمیان غیر قانونی شادیوں کو کاروبار بنایا ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کے نوجوان ان ایجنٹس کا شکار ہوئے ہیں۔ چینی قوانین غیر ملکی باشندوں کے ساتھ شادیوں کی ممانعت کرتا ہے۔ چینی سفارتخانہ نے کہا کہ چینی حکومت انسانی اعضاء کی کسی بھی شکل میں خرید و فروخت کی ممانعت کرتی ہے ایسی غیر قانونی سرگرمیوں میں ملوث عناصر کے خلاف سخت کارروائی کی جائے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین غیر قانونی شادیاں کرانے کے خلاف کریک ڈاؤن میں پاکستانی اداروں کے ساتھ مکمل تعاون کر رہا ہے۔ ہفتہ کو چینی سفارتخانے کی جانب سے یہ رد عمل ان پاکستانی میڈیا رپورٹس پر دیا گیا جن میں کہا گیا کہ غیر قانونی مراکز پاکستان میں چینی اور پاکستانی شہریوں کے درمیان غیر قانونی شادیاں کروا رہے ہیں اور وہاں انسانی سمگلنگ یا انسانی اعضاء کی فروخت بھی ہوتی ہے۔

Jang News, 01-04-19

پاک چین آزاد تجارتی معاہدے اسی ماہ سے خراب پاکستانی برآمدوں کو ناجائز کی تجارت

عمران خان ون بیلٹ ون روڈ کے دوسرے فورم میں شرکت کیلئے 27 اپریل کو 3 روزہ دورے پر بیجنگ جا کیلئے تجارتی معاہدے کے بعد چین کیلئے پاکستان کی برآمدات کا حجم 1.2 ارب سے بڑھ کر 2.4 ارب ڈالر ہو جائیگا اسلام آباد چین کو مزید ایک ارب ڈالر کی برآمدات کی درخواست بھی دے گا، سعودی عرب کیلئے برآمدات کو روکنا اور گوارڈینسٹری کیلئے پاکستانی ٹیم ریاض جاسکی، عبدالمزاق داؤد

تفہیم کر لینا چاہئے۔ ملائیشین وزیر اعظم مہاتیر محمد کے دورہ چین کے موقع پر پاکستان اور چین فری ٹریڈ معاہدے (ایف ٹی اے II) آزاد تجارتی معاہدے پر دستخط کریں گے، عمران خان 27 اپریل کو تین روزہ دورے پر چین پہنچیں گے اور اس دوران وہ دوسرے دن بیلٹ ون روڈ کے دوسرے فورم فار انٹرنیشنل کارپوریشنز میں شرکت کریں گے۔ مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد کے مطابق تجارتی معاہدے کے بعد چین کیلئے پاکستان کی برآمدات کا حجم 1.2 ارب ڈالر سے بڑھ کر 2.4 ارب ڈالر ہو جائے گا، اسلام آباد چین کو مزید ایک ارب ڈالر کی برآمدات کی درخواست بھی دے گا، سعودی عرب کیلئے برآمدات کو روکنا اور گوارڈینسٹری کیلئے پاکستانی ٹیم ریاض جاسکی۔ وزیر اعظم کے مشیر برائے تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے دی نیوز کو بتایا کہ ایف ٹی اے II کے معاہدے کے بعد چین کو پاکستانی برآمدات دوگنی ہو جائیں گی۔ سیکرٹری خزانہ پولیس ڈھاگا اور سیکرٹری تجارت سردار احمد سکھیرا معاہدے کے لئے 19 اپریل کو چین کا دورہ کریں گے جہاں وہ چینی حکام کیساتھ ابتدائی مذاکرات کریں گے۔ جبکہ ون بیلٹ ون روڈ کے فورم جس میں 100 کے سربراہ مملکت اور ڈوڈ شرکت کریں گے کے موقع پر دو دنوں کا ممالک وزیر اعظم

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورے سے قبل مزید ایک ارب ڈالر برآمدات کیلئے درخواست کرے گا۔ عبدالرزاق داؤد نے گوارڈینسٹری کے قیام کیلئے 10 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری اور پیٹرو کیمیکل کمپلیکس کیلئے ایک ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے پاکستانی وفد سعودی عرب کا دورہ کرے گا، اس دوران پاکستانی وفد اپنے سعودی ہم منصبوں کیساتھ تکنیکی پہلوؤں پر مذاکرات کریں گے اور معاملات طے پا جانے کے بعد سعودی عرب کو یہ سمجھنے میں مدد ملے گی کہ ریفرنڈم اور پیٹرو کیمیکل کمپلیکس کے قیام کیلئے کتنی سرمایہ کاری کرنا پڑے گی۔ انہوں نے اس امید کا اظہار کیا کہ سعودی ماہرین 12 ماہ کے اندر ریفرنڈم کیسٹری مکمل کر لیں گے۔ ایک سوال کیا گیا کہ پاکستان نے سعودی عرب کیلئے اپنی برآمدات میں اضافے کی کوششیں کی ہیں، مشیر تجارت کا کہنا تھا کہ سعودی عرب میں ان کے ہم منصب نے واضح کر دیا تھا کہ اگر پاکستانی تنظیمیں ہمارے مطالبات کو پورا کرنے کیلئے تیار ہوں گے تو ایسی صورت میں ان کے ملک کے دروازے کھلے ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اب یہ پاکستانی تنظیمیں سمجھ رہے ہیں کہ وہ اپنی مصنوعات کو سعودی عرب کی مارکیٹوں تک کس طرح پہنچاتے ہیں تاہم انہیں سعودی حکومت اور اس کے معیار کے معاملے کو ذہن

عمران خان اور چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کی موجودگی میں فری ٹریڈ معاہدے (II) پر دستخط کریں گے۔ مشیر تجارت نے بتایا کہ پاکستان اعلیٰ چینی حکام سے مذکورہ معاہدے کے علاوہ مزید ایک ارب ڈالر کی برآمدات کے آرڈر کیلئے درخواست کریں گے جس کے بعد چین کیلئے پاکستانی برآمدات تین گنا بڑھ جائیں گی۔ مشیر تجارت کا کہنا تھا کہ بیجنگ نے گزشتہ برس نومبر میں پاکستان کو چینی مارکیٹس کیلئے ایک ارب ڈالر کی برآمدات کا آرڈر دیا تھا۔ اس کے تحت چین کو تین لاکھ میٹرک ٹن کی شوگر، ساڑھے تین لاکھ میٹرک ٹن دھاگا اور دو لاکھ میٹرک ٹن چاول برآمد کرنے تھے۔ اس ایک ارب ڈالر کے آرڈر میں 30 کروڑ ڈالر مالیت کی شوگر اور چاول رواں برس 30 جون تک برآمد کرنا ہیں۔ تقریباً 75 فیصد چاول ایکسپورٹ کی جا چکی ہے جبکہ بقیہ آرڈر رواں برس 30 جون تک مکمل کر لیا جائے گا۔ جبکہ شوگر اور دھاگے کی برآمدات کا ہدف رواں برس ڈیسمبر تک حاصل کر لیا جائے گا۔ اس وقت چین کیلئے پاکستان کی برآمدات کا حجم 1.2 ارب ڈالر ہے جو ایف ٹی اے معاہدے کے بعد ڈبل یعنی 2.4 ارب ڈالر ہو جائے گا تاہم دوسرے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کے علاوہ ایک ارب ڈالر برآمدات کی ہدف ڈیسمبر تک حاصل کر لیا جائے گا جس کے بعد پاکستان

اسلام آباد (خالد مصطفیٰ) وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین کے موقع پر پاکستان اور چین فری ٹریڈ معاہدے (ایف ٹی اے II) آزاد تجارتی معاہدے پر دستخط کریں گے، عمران خان 27 اپریل کو تین روزہ دورے پر چین پہنچیں گے اور اس دوران وہ دوسرے دن بیلٹ ون روڈ کے دوسرے فورم فار انٹرنیشنل کارپوریشنز میں شرکت کریں گے۔ مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد کے مطابق تجارتی معاہدے کے بعد چین کیلئے پاکستان کی برآمدات کا حجم 1.2 ارب ڈالر سے بڑھ کر 2.4 ارب ڈالر ہو جائے گا، اسلام آباد چین کو مزید ایک ارب ڈالر کی برآمدات کی درخواست بھی دے گا، سعودی عرب کیلئے برآمدات کو روکنا اور گوارڈینسٹری کیلئے پاکستانی ٹیم ریاض جاسکی۔ وزیر اعظم کے مشیر برائے تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے دی نیوز کو بتایا کہ ایف ٹی اے II کے معاہدے کے بعد چین کو پاکستانی برآمدات دوگنی ہو جائیں گی۔ سیکرٹری خزانہ پولیس ڈھاگا اور سیکرٹری تجارت سردار احمد سکھیرا معاہدے کے لئے 19 اپریل کو چین کا دورہ کریں گے جہاں وہ چینی حکام کیساتھ ابتدائی مذاکرات کریں گے۔ جبکہ ون بیلٹ ون روڈ کے فورم جس میں 100 کے سربراہ مملکت اور ڈوڈ شرکت کریں گے کے موقع پر دو دنوں کا ممالک وزیر اعظم

Jang News, 01-04-19**سی پیک ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل آڈٹ جلد قائم کیا جائیگا، جاوید جہانگیر****پاکستان آڈٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں بڑے پیمانے پر اصلاحات کی جارہی ہیں، آڈیٹر جنرل پاکستان**

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) سی پیک منصوبوں کے آڈٹ کے لیے سی پیک ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل آڈٹ جلد قائم کیا جائے گا، اس کا اعلان آڈیٹر جنرل آف پاکستان جاوید جہانگیر نے پاکستان آڈٹ اینڈ اکاؤنٹس سروس کے تربیت حاصل کرنے والے افسران کی 45 ویں فائنل پاسنگ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا، جاوید جہانگیر نے کہا کہ حکومتی سٹرکچر کی تبدیلی کے مطابق پاکستان آڈٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ میں بڑے پیمانے پر اصلاحات کی جارہی ہیں تین نئے ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل آڈٹ کا قیام عمل میں لایا گیا ہے ان میں ڈائریکٹوریٹ جنرل سوشل سیفٹی نیٹ، انفارمیشن سسٹم آڈٹ اور انوائس

مینٹل آڈٹ شامل ہیں، جاوید جہانگیر نے کہا کہ پاکستان آڈٹ ڈیپارٹمنٹ کے احتساب کا کردار بڑھایا گیا ہے اور وفاقی و صوبائی حکومتیں، وزارتیں اور محکمے مختلف پروجیکٹس اور اداروں کے خصوصی آڈٹ کی درخواست کر رہے ہیں، اس پر پورا اترنے کے لیے اے جی پی کے محکمے نے اپنی ایگزیکٹو اور انتظامی صلاحیتوں میں اضافہ کیا اور فرانزک آڈٹ، انوائس مینٹل آڈٹ، آئی ٹی آڈٹ کے شعبے شروع کیے ہیں، انہوں نے کہا نئے افسران پاکستان کا مستقبل ہیں، تقریب میں پاکستان آڈٹ اور اکاؤنٹس سروس کے اعلیٰ افسران بھی شریک ہوئے۔

Jang News, 03-04-19

چین کا پاکستان کیخلاف امریکہ کی نئی

مستراراد کو ویٹو کرنے کا اعلان

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چین نے پاکستان کے خلاف امریکہ کی نئی قرارداد کو ویٹو کرنے کا اعلان کر دیا۔ چین کے نائب سفیر لی جیانگ نے نجی ٹی وی سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ امریکہ نے بغیر مشاورت کے قرارداد کا مسودہ سلامتی کونسل میں پیش کیا جب کہ ایسی قراردادوں کے لیے سلامتی کونسل کی کمیٹی پہلے سے موجود ہے۔ لی جیانگ نے کہا کہ چین بھی پاک بھارت کشیدگی کا خاتمہ چاہتا ہے کیونکہ جنگ کی صورت میں نقصان مخطے کا ہوگا۔

Jang News, 03-04-19

نواز، زرداری دور میں سی پیک پر بہت کام ہوا، چینی نائب سفیر

ملتان سکھر موٹروے جولائی، حویلیاں تھانہ کوٹ، شاہراہ ریشم کی توسیع اسی سال مکمل ہوگی

تیسرے فریق کی شمولیت پر اتفاق ہو چکا، پاک بھارت جنگ سے پورا جنوبی ایشیا تباہ ہو جائے گا

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) پاکستان میں چینی نائب سفیر لی جیا تگ نے کہا ہے کہ ہم نہیں چاہتے پاکستان بھارت جنگ ہو کیونکہ دونوں ممالک ایشیائی طاقت رکھتے ہیں، پاک بھارت جنگ کی صورت میں پورا جنوبی ایشیا تباہ ہوگا، اس لئے تمام معاملات مذاکرات کے ذریعے طے کرنے چاہئیں۔ سی پیک پر آصف زرداری اور نواز شریف دور میں بہت کام ہوتا رہا تاہم اس منصوبے پر تمام سیاسی جماعتوں کا اتفاق رائے ہے۔

اگست کی بجائے جولائی میں مکمل ہوگی، حویلیاں تھانہ کوٹ شاہراہ ریشم کی توسیع رواں سال مکمل ہوگی، پہلا اقتصادی زون تعمیر کے آخری مرحلے میں ہے، سی پیک اب دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہو چکا ہے۔ سی پیک میں تیسرے فریق کی شمولیت پر اتفاق رائے ہو چکا ہے، آپریشن منصوبہ میں تیسرے ملک کی شمولیت سے اقتصادی اور سماجی ترقی کے منصوبوں پر عمل ہوگا۔ چینی نائب سفیر نے کہا کہ دور دراز علاقوں کی ترقی کے لیے چین 3 سال میں ایک ارب ڈالر گرانٹ فراہم کرے گا۔

Jang News, 04-04-19

پاکستان نے چین سے 100 فیصد ٹریڈ ٹرانزیکشن آپکھینچ ڈیٹا مانگ لیا نظر ثانی شدہ فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ پر تبادلہ خیال ہوگا جلد مکمل ہونے کی امید ہے، یونس ڈھاگا

انڈرانوائسنگ سے قومی خزانے کو نقصان سے بچانے کے لئے ڈیٹا کی فوری فراہمی ضروری ہے

بارے میں بتایا کہ، ”گوکہ یہ نظام عمل میں آچکا ہے مگر یہ سہ ماہی بنیاد پر ہو رہا ہے جبکہ فوری آپکھینچ آف ڈیٹا ہی انڈرانوائسنگ کی وجہ سے قومی خزانے کو بڑے نقصان سے بچا سکتا ہے۔ اس ضمن میں ایک اعلیٰ افسر نے بتایا کہ ایف بی آر اس سلسلے میں مسلسل وزارت خزانہ اور وزارت خارجہ سے فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ اور نان فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ کے ٹرانزیکشن آپکھینچ ڈیٹا کی فراہمی کے کہہ رہے ہیں اس سلسلے میں ایف بی آر کے ممبر کسٹم پالیسی محمد جاوید غنی سے ان کا موقف لینے کے لئے ان کے دفتر جایا گیا مگر انہوں نے ملنے سے انکار کر دیا۔ اس سلسلے میں پاکستان کی صنعتکاروں کو خدشہ ہے، چین سے برآمدات بڑھنے سے پاکستانی صنعت کو نقصان پہنچے گا اور پاکستان صنعت سکڑ کر نڈید کم ہو جائے گی، اس سلسلے میں فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ پاکستانی صنعت کو بڑا دھچکا پہچائے گا۔

اسلام آباد (مہتاب حیدر) پاک چین فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ پر نظر ثانی کر کے منظوری اور چار سے پانچ ارب ڈالر سالانہ کی انڈرانوائسنگ کے خاتمے کے لئے پاکستان نے چین سے 100 فیصد ٹرانزیکشن ٹریڈ ڈیٹا مانگ لیا ہے، پاکستان کا اعلیٰ سطح کا ایک وفد 19 اپریل کو چین جا رہا ہے جہاں فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ میں نظر ثانی کے لئے مختلف امور پر جائزہ لے کر حتمی شکل دی جائے گی۔ فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ پر دستخط وزیر اعظم کے چین کے آئندہ دورے پر ہونگے۔ وفاقی سیکریٹری خزانہ یونس ڈھاگا سے رابطہ کرنے پر ان کا کہنا تھا کہ نظر ثانی شدہ فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ پر تبادلہ خیال ہوگا جلد مکمل ہونے کی امید ہے، وفاقی کامرس سیکریٹری احمد نواز سکھیرا کا کہنا تھا کہ وہ چین جانے والے وفد میں شامل ہیں اور اب تمام اہم امور طے ہو چکے ہیں، بس کچھ کام باقی ہے اور یہ تمام امور ان کی تعیناتی سے قبل ہی طے ہو چکے تھے۔ ایک سینئر افسر نے آپکھینچ آف ڈیٹا انفارمیشن کے

Jang News, 04-04-19

زراعت کے شعبے میں چین کیساتھ تعاون کو مزید وسعت دی جائیگی، خسرو بختیار

سی پیک بزنس ایڈوائزری کونسل قائم کر دی گئی جس میں بڑی کمپنیوں کی نمائندگی ہوگی، محبوب سلطان سے گفتگو

اسلام آباد (کامرس رپورٹر) وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی، ترقی و اصلاحات خسرو بختیار نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک بزنس ایڈوائزری کونسل قائم کر دی گئی ہے جس میں مختلف شعبوں سے وابستہ بڑی کمپنیوں کی نمائندگی ہوگی جس کا مقصد سی پیک فریم ورک کے تحت چین کیساتھ مستقبل میں تعاون کو مزید مضبوط کرنے کیلئے نئے شعبوں کی شناخت ہے، بدھ کو وفاقی وزیر نیشنل فوڈ سیکورٹی صاحبزادہ

محبوب سلطان سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے خسرو بختیار نے کہا کہ سی پیک فریم ورک کے تحت زراعت کے شعبے میں چین کیساتھ تعاون کو مزید وسعت دی جائے گی، موجودہ حکومت چھوٹے کسانوں کی بہتری اور زراعت کا حصہ قومی معیشت میں بڑھانے کے لیے زراعت کے شعبے کو جدید خطوط پر استوار کرنے پر توجہ مرکوز کر رہی ہے۔

Jang News, 07-04-19

چین مقامی وغیر ملکی تاجروں کو سہولیات فراہم کریگا، چینی وزیر اعظم

حکومتی فیس اور آپریٹنگ سروس چارجز کم کر دیئے جائیں گے، ریل اسٹیٹ کی رجسٹریشن کو کم یا منسوخ کر دیا جائے گا

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین مقامی وغیر ملکی تاجروں، کاروباری اداروں کو سہولت فراہم کرنے کے لئے حکومتی فیس، آپریٹنگ سروس چارجز کو کم کرنے کے اقدامات اٹھائے گا، ریل اسٹیٹ کی رجسٹریشن کو کم یا منسوخ کر دیا جائے گا، پاسپورٹ، ٹریڈ مارک رجسٹریشن اور سفری دستاویزات پر چارجز کم کئے جائیں گے، سول ایوی ایشن ڈیویژن ڈیویژن فنڈ کی ادائیگیاں نصف کر دی جائیں گی۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق چینی وزیر اعظم لی کھی چھیانگ کی زیر صدارت ریاستی کونسل کے ایگزیکٹو اجلاس میں فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے کہ چین مقامی وغیر ملکی تاجروں، کاروباری اداروں کو سہولت فراہم کرنے کے لئے حکومتی فیس، آپریٹنگ سروس چارجز کو کم کرنے کے اقدامات اٹھائے گا۔ یکم جولائی سے ریل اسٹیٹ کی رجسٹریشن کو کم یا

منسوخ کر دیا جائے گا۔ یہ کمی غیر ملکی براڈ بینڈز کیلئے بھی ہوگی۔ سفری دستاویزات مثلاً پاسپورٹ اور دیگر سفری دستاویزات، ریڈیو فریکوئنسی اور ٹریڈ مارک رجسٹریشن کے چارجز میں بھی نمایاں کمی کی جائے گی۔ اجلاس میں یہ بھی فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ جائداد کی ملکیتی دستاویزات کی رجسٹریشن فیس اور پارکنگ فیس بالترتیب 550 یوآن سے کم کر کے 80 یوآن جب کہ 1000 یوآن سے 500 کر دی جائے گی۔ سول ایوی ایشن ڈیویژن ڈیویژن فنڈ کی ادائیگیاں نصف کر دی جائیں گی جو کہ 2024 تک قابل عمل ہوگی۔ ریاستی کونسل کے اجلاس میں یہ بھی فیصلہ کیا گیا کہ صنعتی اداروں اور کاروباری اداروں کیلئے بجلی کی قیمتوں میں نمایاں کمی کی جائے گی۔

Jang News, 08-04-19

رواں ہفتے ایک نئی بات چیت میں چین حکام نے کہا کہ وہ ابھی بھی اپریل کے اختتام تک معاہدہ ہونے کی امید کر رہے ہیں، لیکن مئی یا جون تک مذاکرات کے جاری رہنے کے لئے بھی تیار ہیں۔

مسٹر لیو کی مذاکراتی ٹیم ایک ایسے معاہدے گریز کرنے کا عہد کیا ہوا ہے جو چین کے جغرافیائی سیاسی حریف کیلئے کافی فراخ دلانہ ہو۔ اگرچہ امریکی ایشیا اور تیار کردہ سامان کے اضافہ سے خوش ہے جبکہ رٹھی اور ڈالر کے تبادلے کی مسئلہ شرح کو برقرار رکھنا بھی جاری ہے، نائب صدر نے امریکا کی جانب سے ساختی اقتصادی اصلاحات اور ایک طرف نافذ کا طریقہ کار جو واشنگٹن کو ٹریف دوبارہ جانے کی اجازت دے، اگر وہ ایسا سمجھے کہ چین نے معاہدے کی شرائط کی خلاف ورزی کی ہے، کی سخت مخالفت کی ہے۔

چین کے مرکزی بینک کے سابق مشیر اور چین کے معروف ماہر اقتصادیات یو یو ٹنگ نے کہا کہ میرا نہیں خیال کہ چین کو کسی بھی معاہدے تک پہنچنے کے لیے جلد کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ ہمیں اس بنیاد پر ہر آئٹم پر مذاکرات کرنے کرنا چاہئے کہ آیا یہ چین کیلئے مفید ہیں نہ صرف قلیل المدت بلکہ طویل المدت کیلئے بھی۔

پروف یو نے بھی مقررہ تجارتی توازن اور کرنسی کے اہداف جو مارکیٹ میں اقتصادی قوتوں میں فیصلہ کن کردار افرام کرنے کے چین کے بیان کردہ مقصد کو مزور بناسکتا ہے، کا عہد کرنے کے خلاف خبردار کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہمیں امریکا کے ساتھ تجارت کو مزید متوازن بنانا چاہیے لیکن ہمیں کچھ مقررہ اہداف پر متفق نہیں ہونا چاہئے۔ امریکا کی متعدد درخواستیں نامناسب ہیں۔

آئی ایم ایف کے چانڈو بیٹن کے سابق سربراہ اور کورنیل یونیورسٹی میں پروفیسر ایسور پراسانے کہا کہ شی جنگ پنگ اور مسٹر لیو کو ملکہ میں سیاسی ردعمل کا سامنا ہو سکتا ہے اگر معاہدے کا فیصلہ نظر آئے۔

چینی داخلی سیاست اغماض نہیں برتے گی کہ چینی حکومت کی انتظامیہ کی اس کی معیشت اور قواعد و ضوابط کے اندر سے امریکا کی مداخلت کی بو آئے۔ چین کے لئے یہ تسلیم کرنا نامعقول ہوگا کہ امریکا کا قاعدہ ہی ہے چین کی حکومت کی کارکردگی کا جائزہ لے، مزید تجارتی پابندیاں عائد کرنے کے قابل ہو اور اس سلسلے میں چین سے یہ توقع کرنا کہ وہ دوبارہ بدل نہیں لے گا۔



امریکا اور چین نے تجارتی مذاکرات کی مدت کا تعین کرنے کیلئے بات چیت کا دور مکمل کر لیا

بیجنگ: ٹام پچل

واشنگٹن: جیمز پولیٹی

اضافے نے اس طرح کی منظوری دینا ان کے لئے سیاسی طور پر مشکل بنا دیا ہے۔ جبکہ دونوں جانب کے حکام نے کہا ہے کہ حتمی تجارتی معاہدہ ہونے میں ابھی بھی کئی ماہ لگ سکتے ہیں، وہ اسے جلد از جلد سے ممکن بنانے کیلئے تیزی سے کام کر رہے ہیں۔

چین کے سیکریٹری ریگیو لیئر نے ایک بیان میں کہا کہ شیعے کیلئے اس کے مجموعی منصوبے کے ساتھ جے پی مورگن اور نومورا کے لئے منظوری زیر غور تھی اور تجارتی مذاکرات کے ساتھ کوئی تعلق نہیں تھا۔

دونوں کمپنیوں نے تصدیق کی کہ انہیں ریگیو لیئر کے فیصلے سے مطلع کر دیا گیا تھا۔ جے پی مورگن نے بطور ایک بڑے سگمبل کے اس پیشرفت کا غیر مقدم کیا، جبکہ نومورا نے کہا کہ اس کے لئے چینی آپریشن میں اعلیٰ مالی حیثیت کے حامل افراد کے لئے دولت کی انتظامی خدمات پر توجہ مرکوز ہوگی۔

انہوں نے یو بی ایس جوائن کیا جس نے گزشتہ سال چین کے مشن کے برکر منصوبے پر اس کے زیادہ سے زیادہ کنٹرول کی منظوری حاصل کی تھی۔

امریکی تجارتی نمائندے رابرٹ لیٹھریئر کے لوہی کے ساتھ ملاقات کیلئے بیجنگ کے 24

چین کے ریگیو لیئر نے جمعہ کو اکثریتی کنٹرول برقرار قائم کرنے کے لئے جے پی مورگن اور نومورا کی جانب سے اپنی پیشہ کی منظوری دے دی جیسا کہ سینٹر امریکی حکام نے بیجنگ میں تجارتی مذاکرات کا ایک آگاہی کا دور مکمل کر لیا ہے۔

امریکی صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ کے چینی برآمدات، جس پر ان کی انتظامیہ چین کی غیر منصفانہ تجارتی پالیسیوں کا الزام لگاتی ہے کیلئے، ان پر تادیبی ٹریف عائد کرنے کی پہلی دھمکی سے ایک ماہ قبل چینی حکام نے 2017 کے آخر میں مالیاتی صنعت کو آزاد بنانے کے عمل کا بیڑا اٹھانے کا وعدہ کیا تھا۔ تاہم جیسا کہ تجارتی جنگ میں شدت آتی گئی، جے پی مورگن، ویزا، ماسٹر کارڈ اور دیگر امریکی کمپنیوں کیلئے ریگیو لیئر کی منظوری تاخیر کا شکار ہو رہی تھی، جو دونوں ممالک کے مابین لگاتار میں اضافہ کا سبب بن رہی تھی۔

گزشتہ سال ایک نئی ملاقات میں چینی حکام نے امریکی ایگزیکٹوز کو بتایا کہ تجارتی جنگ میں

Jang News, 09-04-19**سی پیک نے پاکستان میں 86 لاکھ گھروں کی بجلی ضرورت پوری کی، چین****20 فیصد منصوبے قرض، 80 فیصد براہ راست سرمایہ کاری یا بلا سود امداد سے مکمل ہونگے، ترجمان**

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) سی پیک کی تعمیر کے اب تک کے عرصہ میں جہاں علاقے میں روزگار کے کئی ہزار مواقع فراہم کیے گئے ہیں اور وہاں چھپاسی لاکھ گھروں کے لیے بجلی کی ضرورت کو پورا کیا گیا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ سی پیک منصوبے سے ناصرف پاکستان کی بنیادی تنصیبات کو بہتر کیا گیا ہے بلکہ پاکستانی عوام کی فلاح و بہبود کے شعبے کو بھی بہتر بنایا گیا، سی پیک کے 20 فیصد منصوبوں کے لیے چین نے قرض دیا، 80 فیصد سے زائد منصوبے چین کی براہ راست سرمایہ کاری یا بے سود امداد سے مکمل کیے جا رہے ہیں۔

چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے بیجنگ میں منعقدہ ایک کانفرنس سے خطاب کے دوران کہی۔ اُن کا کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک نے پاکستان کی معیشت کو مضبوط بنایا ہے، چھپاسی لاکھ گھروں کے لیے بجلی کی ضرورت کو پورا کیا گیا، پاکستانی عوام کی فلاح و بہبود کے شعبے کو بھی بہتر بنایا گیا، سی پیک کے 20 فیصد منصوبوں کے لیے چین نے قرض دیا، 80 فیصد سے زائد منصوبے چین کی براہ راست سرمایہ کاری یا بے سود امداد سے مکمل کیے جا رہے ہیں۔

Jang News, 13-04-19

سی پیک: وسعت کے امکانات

وزیراعظم عمران خان نے ایک بار پھر پاک چین راہداری (سی پیک) میں وسعت کے امکانات کی طرف اشارہ کیا ہے۔ قبل ازیں سعودی عرب کی شمولیت اور آئل ریفاؤنڈری سمیت کئی پروجیکٹس میں دلچسپی کی صورت میں سی پیک میں توسیع کی جہتیں نظر آئی ہیں۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان نے اپنے مجوزہ دورہ چین کے حوالے سے جمعرات کو اعلیٰ سطح کے اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے واضح کیا کہ سی پیک نہ صرف حکومت کی اولین ترجیحات میں شامل ہے بلکہ وہ اس منصوبے کا دائرہ کار مزید وسیع کرنے کی خواہش بھی رکھتے ہیں۔ حقیقت یہ ہے کہ تنہا کسی ایک ملک کی ترقی کی کاوشوں کے مقابلے میں اگر پورے خطے میں ترقی کے اہداف تلاش کر کے تعاون و اشتراک کی فضا بنائی جائے تو اس عمل میں آسانی، تیز تر پیش قدمی اور مجموعی فوائد میں اضافے کے امکانات بڑھ جاتے ہیں۔ جیسا کہ وزیراعظم نے کہا خطے میں تعمیر و ترقی کی نئی فضا پیدا کرنے اور نیا باب روشن کرنے کیلئے غربت کے خاتمے، زراعت، سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبوں میں چین کے کامیاب تجربات ہماری رہنمائی کا ذریعہ بن سکتے ہیں۔ چین کا شروع کردہ ون بیلٹ ون روڈ پروجیکٹ اپنی ہمہ گیری کے باعث متعدد ملکوں کی دلچسپی کا محور بن چکا ہے جبکہ سی پیک منصوبہ بھی پہلے مرحلے کے چند پاور پلانٹس اور سڑکوں کی تعمیر سے آگے نکل کر دوسرے ہمہ گیر مرحلے کی طرف بڑھ رہا ہے۔ مینوفیکچرنگ اور زراعت سمیت 18 شعبوں میں چینی مہارت سے استفادہ اور ٹیکنالوجی کی منتقلی عمران خان کے دورہ چین کے اہم مقاصد میں شامل ہے۔ کم از کم 20 ہزار پاکستانی طلبہ کے وظائف اور ان کیلئے چین میں جدید تعلیم کی راہ ہموار ہو سکی تو یہ ملکی ترقی و خوشحالی کے سمت اہم پیشرفت ہوگی۔ وزیراعظم سے 15 چینی کمپنیوں کے نمائندوں کی ملاقات کو بھی سرمایہ و ٹیکنالوجی کی وطن عزیز میں آمد کے امکان کے طور پر دیکھا جاسکتا ہے جبکہ پچھلے دنوں کی گئی وسطی ایشیا، یورپ، افریقہ اور جنوبی ایشیائی ملکوں کی سرمایہ کاری کی پیشکش رو بہ عمل آنے سے پاکستان ہی نہیں پورے خطے میں ترقی و خوشحالی کے نئے دور کا آغاز ہوگا۔

Jang News, 13-04-19

ریلوے ایم ایل ون سی پیک کے تحت 5 سال میں مکمل ہوگا

کراچی پشاور اور ٹیکسلا حویلیاں 1872 کلومیٹر منصوبہ میں اپ گریڈیشن اور دورویہ کرنا شامل

نگرانی انٹرنیشنل کنسلٹنٹ کے ذریعے کی جائے گی۔ پلاننگ ڈویژن نے ہدایت کی ہے کہ اخراجاتی تھمبہ اپ گریڈیشن ڈیزائن کے مطابق ہونا چاہئے۔ ایم ایل ون کی اپ گریڈیشن کیلئے ابتدائی ڈیزائن پاکستانی اور چینی کنسلٹنٹس کے کنسورشیم نے 10.478 بلین روپے میں تیار کی تھی جو حکومت پاکستان پی ایس ڈی پی کے ذریعے ادا کرے گی جبکہ تھرڈ پارٹی نے ڈیزائن پر نظر ثانی بھی کی ہے، ابتدائی ڈیزائن (فیرون) پر 85 فیصد کام ہو چکا ہے اور توقع ہے کہ 15 اپریل 2019 تک مکمل ہو جائے گا۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان کے 27 اپریل 2019 کے دورہ چین کے دوران ابتدائی ڈیزائن دستاویزات کی منظوری دی جائے گی۔ منصوبہ کو عملی جامہ پہنانے کیلئے 2 فیز میں تقسیم کیا گیا ہے جس میں پہلے مرحلے پر 3.4 بلین اور دوسرے مرحلے پر 4.8 بلین امریکی ڈالر خرچ ہوں گے۔ پلاننگ ڈویژن نے حال ہی میں تجویز دی ہے کہ بجٹ مجبوریوں کی وجہ سے منصوبہ کو تین مرحلوں میں مکمل کیا جائے اور پہلے فیز کی لاگت کو بھی کم کیا جائے۔ تمام سٹیک ہولڈرز سے مشاورت کے بعد نئی فیزنگ کو کاہینہ کی منظوری کیلئے پیش کیا جائے گا۔ وزارت ریلوے نے تجویز کیا ہے کہ کاہینہ کمیٹی سی پیک فیصلہ کرے گی کہ طریقہ کار اور شرائط کیا ہوں گے اور قرضوں کی نوعیت کیا ہوگی۔ منصوبہ کے فیز ون کی پی سی ون کی منظوری کے بعد قرضوں پر چین کے ساتھ مذاکرات کئے جائیں۔

اسلام آباد (حنیف خالد) پاکستان ریلوے کے ایم ایل ون کے مین لائن۔ ا کو سی پیک کے تحت 5 سال میں مکمل کیا جائے گا، کراچی تا پشاور اور ٹیکسلا تا حویلیاں 1872 کلومیٹر منصوبہ میں اپ گریڈیشن اور دورویہ کرنا بھی شامل ہے جس میں جدید سگنلنگ، ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن سسٹم، لیول کراسنگ کو انڈر پاسز/فلائی اوور میں تبدیل کرنا بھی شامل ہے۔ منصوبہ میں کراچی سے حیدرآباد تک نئی دورویہ سڑک بھی شامل ہے جو 50 لوکو موٹوز، 300 مسافر کوچز 2000 ویگنوں پر مشتمل ہے جبکہ حویلیاں کے قریب ڈرائی پورٹ بھی قائم کیا جائے گا۔ منصوبہ کی تکمیل سے رفتار 65-105 کلومیٹر فی گھنٹہ سے بڑھ کر 120-160 ہو جائے گی جبکہ روزانہ کی بنیاد پر ٹرینوں کی تعداد 34 سے 171 پر جائے گی اور 2025 تک سالانہ مال برداری میں اضافہ ہو کر 6 سے 35 بلین ٹن ہو جائے گا۔ ٹرینوں کی تعداد روزانہ 20 سے 40 تک بڑھ جائے گی جبکہ ریلوے کی ٹرانسپورٹ میں 4 سے 20 فیصد تک اضافہ ہوگا۔ منصوبہ کی فیز پہلی سٹڈی پر ایک فریم ورک ایگریمنٹ کے تحت چین اور پاکستان کی حکومتوں کے درمیان 20 اپریل 2015 کو دستخط ہوئے ہیں۔ منصوبہ کیلئے دوسرے ایگریمنٹ پر 15 مئی 2017 کو دستخط ہوئے جبکہ منصوبہ کیلئے چین قرضہ فراہم کرے گا۔ منصوبہ پر عملی کام کیلئے سی پیک کنٹریکٹر کو چینی فرمز کے درمیان بڈنگ کے ذریعے ہائر کیا جائے گا جبکہ تعمیراتی کام کی

Jang News, 14-4-19**بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ سٹ کے موقع پر پاک
چین قیادت میں اہم مذاکرات ہونگے**

اسلام آباد (صالح ظافر) دوسری بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ سٹ کے موقع پر پاک چین قیادت کے درمیان اہم مذاکرات ہوں گے۔ یہ سٹ رواں ماہ کے آخری ہفتے میں ہو رہی ہے۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان ایک مضبوط وفد کے ساتھ اس میں شرکت کریں گے۔ چین نے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کو بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انی شیٹو (بی آر آئی) کا فلیگ شپ پروجیکٹ قرار دے رکھا ہے۔ روسی صدر پوٹن اور ترک صدر جب طیب اردوان نے بھی سٹ میں شرکت کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ پاکستان میں تحریک انصاف کی حکومت کے برسر اقتدار آنے کے بعد سی پیک سے متعلق کام کی رفتار پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ سٹ میں وزیراعظم عمران خان کی سائیڈ لائن پر عالمی رہنماؤں سے ملاقاتیں ہوں گی۔

K2 News, 04-04-19



اگر کی امداد کسی دے گا۔ گوار میں بجلی گھر اور انٹر نیٹ کے حوالے سے انہوں نے کہا کہ سوہانی اور وفاقی حکومت کو اس پر کام کرنی چاہیے کیونکہ گوار کی ترقی اور جدید بنانا بننے کے لیے یہ دونوں چیزیں بہت ضروری ہیں۔ خٹکے میں موجود مسئلہ کھیر اور افغان جنگ کی موجودگی ہے۔ لیکن اس بات پر یقین رکھتا ہے کہ جنگیں مسائل کا حل نہیں بلکہ اس اور تجارت میں مہم کی ترقی اور بہتر کاروبار چھپا ہے۔ تاہم کسی بھی قسم کی جارحیت کے نتیجے میں جنگ پاکستان کے ساتھ کھڑا ہے۔ بھارت کی جانب سے مسلسل جنگیں اور بھر بھاری طیاروں کی جانب سے حملہ آزار میں پاکستان کو خلاف ورزی کی جھینٹے اس پر بھی رد عمل کا اظہار کیا تھا اور پاکستان کے جاپانی ریلوے پر یقین بھی مطمئن نظر آتا ہے۔ اس وقت اقتصادی راہداری کے لیے مسئلہ کھیر اور افغان جنگ دونوں ایک بہت بڑا خطرہ بن کر سامنے آ رہے ہیں۔ اگر یہ دونوں مسائل حل نہ ہوں تو خٹکے میں اس واپس کی راہ ہوا نہیں ہوتی اور اس کے نتیجے میں ترقی کے کمرات مہم نہیں چلی جائیں گے۔ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے نکلنے پر پاکستان اور دیگر اثرات برقرار رکھنے کے لیے ضروری ہے کہ یہ دونوں مسائل حل ہوں اور چھ افغان جنگیں حل کی جانب بڑھتی نظر آ رہی ہے۔ تاہم بھارتی ہتھیاری کے باعث مسئلہ کھیر چوں کہ توں ہے۔ گوار دونوں ممالک میں مزید پیش بڑھنے کا باعث بن رہے جو کہ کسی بھی پھر سے جنگی دہانے پر لاکھڑا کر دے گا۔ اگرچہ امریکہ و دیگر عالمی طاقتیں جن کی مصیبت کا دار و مدار اسی طرح کی صنعت سے وابستہ ہے وہ اس مسئلہ کے حل کے لیے کئی کارواہی کرنے سے گریز ہیں تاہم جنگ کی ناکامی اور اقتصاد اور راہداری کے مضمونوں کی منتقلی بنانا اور ترقی کے لیے ان مسائل پر اپنا کردار ادا کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ ورنہ شاید خٹکے کی ترقی کا خواب پورا نہ ہو سکے اور جنوبی ایشیا کی بڑی آبادی اس کمرات سے فائدہ مند نہ ہو سکے۔

اندر بھی ہیں دونوں ممالک کے مہم کی ہر مہم پر ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ دہانہ انداز میں وہی کا اظہار کرتے ہیں۔ جیسا کہ ہے کہ اقتصادی راہداری کے خلاف ہونے والے تمام پابندیوں کو دہانہ ممالک کے مہم نے بھی کو ایستہ نہیں دی اور یوں اپنے حاصر بری طرح طرح کا کام ہو گئے۔ اب جبکہ وہی کا سڑک سے اقتصادی انقلاب کی منزل کی جانب گامزن ہے تو تعلقات کی بھی جھینٹیں بھی سامنے آ رہی ہیں۔ چینی سلاطین میں اقتصادی راہداری کے اچھا لڑاؤ کی جہان کا کہتا ہے کہ دونوں ممالک کے دوران وہی کا قائل اندازہ موجود ہے اور اس کے ساتھ ساتھ فراموش نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔ اقتصادی راہداری کا یہ منصوبہ پاکستان کے ساتھ ساتھ خٹکے کے دیگر ممالک کے لیے بھی بہتر چھڑا ہے۔ تاہم اگر ہمیشہ گوار پابندی کی شرکت کو سراہا ہے تاہم اگر سعودی عرب بھی شامل ہوتا ہے تو یقین کو کوئی اعتراض نہیں تاہم اب دوسرے کرنے کی جہان سے اطلاعات پر عمل ہونا چاہیے۔ لیکن پاکستان کے توانائی کے مسائل سے آگاہ تھا ہی ہے لیکن مضمون کو اولیت دی گئی اور اب ملک میں توانائی کی ضروریات پوری ہو چکی ہیں۔ کڑی حکومت کے پانچ سالوں میں اقتصادی راہداری کے مضمونوں پر ترقی کے ساتھ کام جاری رہا لیکن حکومت کی تبدیلی کے عمل کی وجہ سے رفتار میں کچھ سستی دیکھنے میں ملی جو یقیناً ایک قدرتی عمل ہے تاہم اب پھر سے مضمونوں پر کام میں تیزی آ رہی ہے۔ کچھ معاملات میں ابھی بھی مسائل کا سامنا ہے جس کی بڑی وجہ انقلاب میں تبدیلی ہے اور امید ہے کہ نئی آنے والی انقلابی بھی اسی طرح کام جاری رکھے گی۔ لی جہان نے توقع ظاہر کی کہ اربوں میں ہونے والی طے اندازہ وراثت میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی شرکت کے بعد مزید رفتار تیز ہو جائے گی۔ لیکن آنے والوں میں پاکستان کے سوشل نیٹ ورک میں ایک اب سے زائد

پانچ اربوں میں ہیں جن کی تشکیل کے بعد پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی میں ایک نیا انقلاب پیدا ہو جائے گا۔ اس معاشی ترقی سے جہاں پاکستان کے مہم کو فائدہ ملے گا وہیں وسط ایشیا کی ریاستیں، مشرق وسطیٰ کی ریاستیں، روس، افغانستان سمیت عرب کے کئی ممالک برآمدات ترقی کی اس جہن میں شامل ہو جائیں گے۔ پاکستان کی دوسری بندرگاہ گوار دیا بھر کی تجارت کا حباب بن جائے گی۔ اب تک گوار میں 250 اربوں ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری ہو چکی ہے۔ گوار پورٹ میں پانچ نئی کرپس نصب کی جا چکی ہیں۔ دو لاکھ ٹریڈر لیکن پانی روڈان صاف کیا جا رہا ہے۔ سیرنگ اسپڈل سسٹم اور کارگر ہائیڈریک کے جدید اور بہترین آلات کے باعث اس کا شمار دنیا کی جدید بندرگاہوں میں ہو گا۔ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے منصوبے کے خلاف اگرچہ مختلف انداز اور مختلف مہم کی جانب سے پابندیوں کی جا رہا ہے جس کی مختلف وجہات ہیں۔ بھارت و امریکہ کی جانب سے اقتصادی راہداری کے مضمونوں کو بحال میں روکنے کی دیکھیں بھی دی گئیں جبکہ بلوچستان اور قاتل کے مختلف طاقتوں میں دہشت گردی کی کارروائیاں بھی کی گئی ہیں میں نہ صرف پاکستانی مہم کو پھٹا ہوا گیا بلکہ لیکن سے تعلق رکھنے والے باہرین کو بھی نشانہ بنانے کی کوشش کی گئی تاہم دونوں ممالک کی قیام اور وہی نے ایسے تمام جھگڑوں کے سبب و کرب ہوئے وہی اور ترقی کا یہ سفر جاری رکھا جو خوش آئند ہے۔ اس لیے کوئی دوسری رائے نہیں کہ تمام پاکستان سے لے کر اب تک لیکن ایک قیام اتحاد، دوست کے طور پر سامنے رہا ہے۔ پاکستان کی ترقی و خوشحالی کے لیے لیکن نے ہر موقع پر اپنا تعاون پیش کیا۔ واقع سے لے کر زراعت تک کے شعبہ جات میں پاک چین تعاون کی کئی مثالیں موجود ہیں۔ پاک چین وہی مہم کی سزا پر ہی نہیں بلکہ اس کی بڑی مہم کے

اس حقیقت سے انکار نہیں کیا جاسکتا کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کا منصوبہ صرف پاکستان کے لیے ہی نہیں بلکہ جنوبی ایشیا کے دیگر ممالک کے ساتھ ساتھ دنیا کے لیے بھی معاشی خوشحالی اور امن و استحکام کی ترویج ہے۔ یہ منصوبہ لیکن کی اس حیثیت کی بھی دلیل بھی ہے جس کے مطابق پانچ تعلقات اور امن کے لیے خاصیت کی جہان معاشی ترقی کو فروغ دیا جانا ضروری ہے۔ اقتصادی راہداری میں کاروں کے باوجود پاک چین نے بھارت سمیت ہر ملک کو شرکت کی دعوت دی ہے۔ امران، قطر، جاپان، سعودی عرب، ترکی، چین اور اسٹریٹس کے ممالک ان کرپس ہیں جہاں بھی طے اندازہ ہونے کے سزا سزا کرنا ہے۔ لیکن اس منصوبے میں شامل ہو چکا ہے۔ اقتصادی راہداری کے مضمونوں کی دہانہ ساتھ ساتھ اب اس سے زائد ہو چکی ہے اور اس کے عمل ہونے تک 2.3 ملین ملازمتیں پیدا ہوں گی۔ مختلف مضمونوں میں انڈیا سزا سے لے کر توانائی کے مضمونوں کی تشکیل پر پاکستان ایک نئے مضمون دور میں داخل ہو جائے گا۔ کڑی چند سالوں میں پاکستان اس کے ذریعے توانائی کے منصوبے عمل کرنے کے بعد لاکھ ٹریڈنگ سے چھکارا حاصل کر چکا ہے۔ 2008 سے لے کر 2015 تک پاکستانی مہم نے ملک میں بڑی ترین لاکھ ٹریڈنگ کا سامنا کیا ہے لیکن اب یہ صورتحال بہتر ترقی ہو کر ترقی یافتہ ہو چکی ہے۔

کئی کی پھر امداد ملک کی ضروریات کو پورا کر رہی ہے۔ لیکن لیکن مہم اور انڈیا سزا کے مسائل کی وجہ سے کچھ مشکلات کا سامنا ضروری ہے تاہم توانائی کی کمی پانا چکا ہے۔ وراثت سے آواز تک مضمونوں میں چار ہزار سے زائد میگا واٹ کے سات مضمونوں کے ساتھ جاری ہے جو وراثت سال کے اتمام سے عمل ہو چکے ہیں جبکہ مضمونوں پر کام تیزی کے ساتھ جاری ہے جو وراثت سال جاری ہونے والی پورٹ کے مطابق وراثت سال کے آغاز سے عمل ہو چکے ہیں جبکہ اقتصادی راہداری کے گیارہ مضمونوں میں ہو چکے ہیں جبکہ گیارہ مضمونوں پر کام جاری ہے۔ مزید سزا مضمونوں

K2 News, 06-04-19**پاکستان چین کے سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے پرکشش مارکیٹ ہے، احمد حسن****فیرنگی سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے ایک پرکشش مارکیٹ کے طور پر ابھر رہا ہے**

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چین کی کمپنیوں کے سی جیو فریل پاور کنسٹرکشن لوہڈ کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل احمد حسن نے اسے اس کے ایچ این ایس ایل ایس کے جینگ اڈا کیٹرنگٹھم ایس کاٹھ کی تیار ت میں اسلام آباد چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کا دورہ کیا اور پاکستان میں امرین پانک، ہڈنگ و غیر ات تروائی کی پیداوار، ٹیلی و گیس، آؤٹ سٹور، انڈر ٹیشن ٹیکنالوجی اور ٹیکنالوجی سمیت دیگر شعبوں میں جماعت دیگر سرمایہ کاری کرنے میں دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا۔ وہڈس جیو جیو ہڈنگ و غیر ٹیکنالوجی، ڈاؤ ایچ ای سٹالٹ ویز کولٹیڈ، جیو جیو ٹیکنالوجی گروپ، ای آر ایس ای انڈر ٹیکنالوجی، پان چاؤ کنسٹرکشن گروپ اور سی ای ای

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K2 News, 11-04-19

سی پی کے منصفوں پاکستان کے کردار کی عکاسی ہے چنانچہ اپنی

بی آر آئی فورم میں پاکستان بھرپور شرکت کرے گا، اٹلی کی شمولیت سے یورپی نقطہ نظر تبدیل ہو گا
ذرائع آمدورفت کی بہتری ہی ترقی اور سرمایہ کاری کو بلندیوں تک لے جانے کا سبب بنتی ہے

جنگل آئی این ٹی ایف اور پاکستان ایف سی جی بی آئی فورم میں بھارت ملک پاکستان سے کہیں سے بھی نہیں پاکستان اس منصوبے کا بڑا حامی طرہ ایئر ریلوے منصوبے کے حوالے سے عمل میں آگئی کے ذریعہ عالمی حرکت کریں گے۔ لیکن کے صرف اہم کرمانے آئے جس کی واضح مثال ہی بیک کی غیر اپنی جاتی ہے، پاکستان بی آر آئی منصوبے کے حوالے روزانہ سے چائے کی کاروبار میں جاری کی گئی ریلوے اور ترقی ہے۔ بی آر آئی منصوبے کا پائلٹ سے رواں ماہ کے ہفتوں میں منصفہ فورم میں بھرپور تصدیقات کے مطابق لیکن کا بی ایئر آر آئی پر ایک ہی ایک پاکستان کے کردار کا عکاس حرکت کرے گا پاکستان بی ایئر آر آئی منصوبے کا اہم منصوبہ سماجی و اقتصادی شراکت داری کا عظیم ہے۔ لیکن ایک عالمی معیشت اور ترقیاتی سیاسی دست کاری ہے بی آر آئی منصوبے کا پائلٹ پراجیکٹ منصوبہ ہے اور پاکستان بی ایئر آر آئی منصوبے کا عاقبت کے طور پر اہم کرمانے آئے ہے، اٹلی کی شمولیت ہی بیک پاکستان کے کردار کا عکاس ہے۔ عالمی زبردست حامی ہے۔ لیکن اور پاکستان ایف سی جی بی آئی فورم میں ایک عالمی معیشت اور ترقیاتی سیاسی عاقبت کے طور پر اہم کرمانے آئے ہے، اٹلی کی شمولیت آگئی اپنی جاتی ہے۔ بی ایئر آر آئی منصوبے کی بین الاقوامی کانفرنس رواں ماہ کے آخر میں لیجن بنتی ہے۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پائلیٹی قیادت نے یورپ میں بھی بی آر آئی منصوبے کے نظریہ کو تبدیل کر کے رکھ دیا ہے، ذرائع آمدورفت کی بہتری میں منصفہ کی جانے گی جس میں پاکستان بھرپور حصہ لے گا۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے کہ پائلیٹی قیادت نے اس ہی ترقی اور سرمایہ کاری کو بلندیوں تک لے جانے کا

K2 News, 12-04-19

<p>سی پیک ترجیح، دفاع کیلئے تیار ہیں، عمران، چینی سفیر، جنرل باجوہ کی ملاقاتیں چینی کمپنیوں کو کاروبار کیلئے ہر ممکن سہولت فراہم کی جائے گی، وفد سے گفتگو جنرل باجوہ سے ملاقات میں سیکورٹی صورتحال اور دیگر امور پر تبادلہ خیال اسلام آباد (آئی این نی) پاکستان کے سربراہ قمر محمود ہاسی سے چین کے سفیر یانگ لے ملاقات کی، ملاقات میں ہاسی نے چینی وفد (آئی سٹو 7 اپریل 2019)</p>	<p>نیول چیف سے چینی سفیر کی ملاقات، سی پیک کے میری ٹائم سیکورٹی سے متعلق امور پر گفتگو اسلام آباد (آئی این نی) پاکستان کے سربراہ قمر محمود ہاسی سے چین کے سفیر یانگ لے ملاقات کی، ملاقات میں ہاسی نے چینی وفد (آئی سٹو 7 اپریل 2019)</p>
	
<p>اسلام آباد، وزیر اعظم عمران خان سے آرمی چیف جنرل قمر باجوہ ملاقات کر رہے ہیں۔</p>	

Nawaiwaqt News, 03-04-19

چین سی پیک کی آمدنی سے پاکستان کے قرضے ادا کرے: رحمن ملک

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی کے رہنما سابق وزیر داخلہ رحمان ملک نے کہا ہے کہ چینی حکومت سی پیک منصوبہ کی آمدنی کا ایک حصہ پاکستان کے قرضوں کی ادائیگی میں ادا کرے، سی پیک کے خلاف دشمن قوتوں نے منفی پروپیگنڈا کر رکھا ہے۔ سی پیک کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبہ پر کام پیپلز پارٹی کے دور میں شروع ہوا جب کہ گوادربندر گاہوں کا سگاپور کی کمپنی سے معاہدہ پیپلز پارٹی کے دور میں ختم کیا گیا۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 04-04-19

عمران خان کو سی پیک قبول نہیں، مراد سعید کو عدالت میں جواب دینگے: احسن اقبال

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) مسلم لیگ ن کے رہنما احسن اقبال نے مراد سعید کے بیان پر رد عمل میں کہا ہے کہ مراد سعید کے بچکانہ الزامات کا جواب عدالت میں دیا جائے گا۔ مراد سعید میں دراصل عمران خان بول رہا ہے عمران خان نے سی پیک کو دل سے قبول نہیں کیا۔ پگڑی اچھالنے والوں کو قانون کی گرفت میں لائیں گے۔ مراد سعید کے پاس پوری حکومتی مشینری ہے۔ تفتیش کرائیں سی پیک کے تمام منصوبے پاکستان اور چین کی مشترکہ نگرانی میں جاری ہیں سی پیک منصوبوں کی شفافیت کو دونوں ممالک نے یقینی بنایا ہے۔ مراد سعید سی پیک دشمن لابی کا آلہ کار بنے ہوئے ہیں۔ ملتان سکھر منصوبے کی منظوری ایکنگ نے دی۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 05-04-19

چینی کمپنیاں پنجاب میں گارمنٹس فیکٹریاں لگائیں گی، 400 ایکڑ پر سپیشل اکنامک زون بنے گا: معاہدے پر دستخط

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پنجاب حکومت اور چین کی کمپنیوں چائنہ ریلوے، شنگھائی یونائیٹڈ سٹریٹری کمپنی اور پاک چائنہ انویسٹمنٹ کمپنی کے مابین پنجاب سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے دفتر میں فریم ورک معاہدے پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ معاہدے کی رو سے چینی کمپنیاں پنجاب میں گارمنٹس سیکٹر میں سرمایہ کاری کریں گی۔ صوبائی وزیر صنعت و تجارت میاں اسلم اقبال، سی ای او پنجاب بورڈ برائے سرمایہ کاری و تجارت جہانزیب برانہ، شرقی احمد ٹیپو اور چینی کمپنیوں کے (Mr. Long Digbin) لاہور میں چین کے قونصل جنرل لونگ ڈگبن حکام تقریب میں موجود تھے۔ پنجاب سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر جہانزیب برانہ اور چینی کمپنیوں کے حکام نے معاہدے پر دستخط کیے۔ صوبائی وزیر نے اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چینی کمپنیوں کے ساتھ طے پانے والا معاہدہ تاریخ ساز ہے۔ چار سو ایکڑ رقبے پر سپیشل اکنامک زون بنے گا جس میں چینی کمپنیاں گارمنٹس فیکٹریاں لگائیں گی۔ یہ یونٹ لگنے سے پنجاب میں اقتصادی سرگرمیاں بڑھیں گی جس سے کم از کم 5000 افراد کو روزگار کے مواقع میسر آئیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان رواں ماہ چین کا دورہ کریں گے جس سے پاکستان میں نئی سرمایہ کاری آئے گی اور دو طرفہ تعاون بڑھے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی کمپنیوں کی جانب سے لگنے والی گارمنٹس انڈسٹری کیلئے کوئی چیز درآمد نہیں کی جائے گی۔ ہر چیز یہاں بنے گی اور گارمنٹس یہاں سے برآمد ہوگی۔ یہ ابھی آغاز ہے پاکستان میں چین کی مزید سرمایہ کاری تیزی سے آئے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ 10 اپریل کو فیصل آباد کی ایم تھری انڈسٹریل زون میں ون ونڈو سروس کا افتتاح کیا جا رہا ہے اور اس تقریب میں چین کے سفیر بھی شرکت کریں گے۔ چینی

کمپنیاں یہاں اپنا پاور پلانٹ بھی لگائیں گی۔ صوبائی وزیر نے میڈیا کے نمائندوں کے سوالوں کا جواب دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ فنی تعلیم کے اداروں کو مضبوط بنایا جا رہا ہے اور ٹیوٹا کے دائرہ کار کو بڑھانے کیلئے بھی کام کر رہے ہیں۔ چینی تو نسل جزل لوگ ڈگبن نے اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پنجاب میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے سازگار ماحول موجود ہے اور مزید چینی کمپنیاں یہاں پیسہ لگانا چاہتی ہیں۔ امید ہے کہ پنجاب چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو بہتر سے بہتر سہولتیں دے گا۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 06-04-19

سی پیک منصوبوں پر شیڈول کے مطابق کام جاری ہے: چینی سفیر

اسلام آباد (جاوید صدیق) پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر ژاؤ جیانگ نے کہا ہے کہ عمران خان کے اسی ماہ دورہ چین کے بعد چین کی اعلیٰ قیادت میں سے بعض شخصیات پاکستان کا دورہ کریں گی۔ ایک سفارتی تقریب میں نوائے وقت سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ دونوں ملکوں کے تعلقات ہرگز رتے دن کیساتھ مضبوط ہو رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے اس تاثر کو غلط قرار دیا کہ چین پاکستان میں سی پیک پر کام کی رفتار سے مطمئن نہیں اور کہا کہ تمام منصوبوں پر کام شیڈول کے مطابق جاری ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے حال ہی میں گوادرا ایر پورٹ کی تعمیر کا افتتاح کیا۔ دونوں ممالک سی پیک منصوبوں کو بہت اہمیت دیتے ہیں۔ یہ تاثر کہ موجودہ حکومت سی پیک منصوبوں میں زیادہ دلچسپی نہیں لیتی بے بنیاد ہے۔ وزیر اعظم کے دورہ چین کے دوران سی پیک سے متعلق تمام منصوبوں پر تفصیل سے تبادلہ خیال ہو گا اور اس دورہ کے بعد کام کی رفتار مزید تیز ہو جائے گی۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 07-04-19

سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں صنعت کاری، زرعی ترقی اہم اہداف ہونگے: عبدالرزاق داؤد

اسلام آباد (آن لائن) وزیراعظم کے مشیر برائے تجارت، صنعت اور سرمایہ کاری عبدالرزاق داؤد نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے دوسرے مرحلے کے لیے اسٹیج اب صنعتی تعاون کے لیے مقرر کیا گیا ہے، جس سے نجی سرمایہ کاری کو اپنی طرف متوجہ کرنے اور ملک کی برآمدات کو فروغ دینے میں مدد ملے گی۔ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ (بی او آئی) کے تحت سی پیک بزنس کونسل کے پہلے اجلاس میں وزیراعظم کے مشیر تجارت، صنعت اور سرمایہ کاری عبدالرزاق داؤد نے کہا کہ ہم اب سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں ہیں، جہاں صنعت کاری اور زرعی ترقی موجودہ حکومت کا اہم اہداف ہوں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ خصوصی اقتصادی زونز (ایس ای زونز) گزشتہ کچھ دہائیوں سے دنیا بھر کی کئی ترقی پذیر ریاستوں کے لیے ترقی کا انجن رہا ہے اور یہ پاکستان کے لیے بہتر وقت ہے کہ وہ اپنے خصوصی اقتصادی زون کو ترقیاتی مرکز میں تبدیل کرے۔ انہوں نے اس امید کا اظہار کیا کہ خصوصی اقتصادی زونز مختلف ذرائع سے سرمایہ کاری کو اپنی طرف متوجہ کریں گے کیونکہ یہ ٹیکس اور ٹیرف کی مراعات، کسٹم طریقے کو درست اور کم پابندیوں کی پیش کش کرتا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ تیار مال کی پیداوار اور اولین ترجیح ہے اور اس سے پاکستان کو تجارتی خسارہ کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ اس موقع پر مشیر تجارت کیساتھ سی پیک بزنس کونسل کی مشترکہ صدارت کرنے والے وزیر برائے ترقی، منصوبہ بندی اور اصلاحات خسرو بختیار کا کہنا تھا کہ اس فورم کے قیام کے پیچھے کا مقصد حکومت اور کاروباری برادری کے درمیان ایک رابطہ قائم کرنا اور پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان صنعتی تعاون کو باہمی مفاد کے لیے نئی بلندیوں پر پہنچانا ہے۔ خسرو بختیار کا کہنا تھا کہ اس صنعتی تعاون کے ذریعے ہم تجارتی عدم توازن کو دور کرنے، زرعی مصنوعات کے لیے مارکیٹ تک رسائی وسیع کرنے اور دونوں ممالک کے درمیان کاروبار سے کاروبار تعاون کو فروغ دینا چاہتے ہیں۔ قبل ازیں سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیئرمین ہارون شریف نے کونسل کے پہلے اجلاس میں تمام اراکین کا استقبال کیا اور کہا کہ بی او آئی سی پیک بزنس کونسل کے لیے بطور سیکریٹریٹ خدمات انجام دے گا اور اس سلسلے میں پیشہ وارانہ افراد کی ٹیم کو رکھا جائیگا۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 08-04-19

سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کے اہداف

وزیراعظم کے مشیر برائے تجارت و صنعت اور سرمایہ کاری عبدالرزاق داؤد نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے دوسرے مرحلے کے لیے اسٹیج اب حتیٰ تعاون کے لیے متحرک کیا گیا ہے جس سے نئی سرمایہ کاری کو اپنی طرف متوجہ کرنے اور ملک کی برآمدات کو فروغ دینے میں مدد ملے گی۔ انہوں نے گزشتہ روز اسلام آباد میں سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے تحت سی پیک بزنس کونسل کے پہلے اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے مزید کہا کہ ہم اب سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں ہیں، جہاں صنعت کاری اور زرعی ترقی اہم اہداف ہوں گے۔

وزیراعظم کے مشیر تجارت و صنعت و سرمایہ کاری کا یہ تجزیہ نہایت حقیقت پسندانہ ہے کہ ”اقتصادی زون گزشتہ پچھوہا بیوں سے دنیا بھر کی ترقی پذیر ریاستوں کے لیے ترقی کا انجن رہے ہیں اور یہ پاکستان کے لیے بہتر وقت ہے کہ وہ اپنے خصوصی اقتصادی زون کو ترقیاتی مراکز میں تبدیل کرے۔“ اس وژن پر اگر توجہ مرکوز رکھی گئی تو یہ زون مختلف ذرائع سے سرمایہ کاری کو اپنی طرف متوجہ کریں گے۔ اس بات میں بھی کوئی شبہ نہیں ان زونز میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے والوں کے لیے بھاری مراعات کی پیشکش بھی اپنے اندر بڑی کشش رکھتی ہے۔ سی پیک کے ساتھ بننے والے اقتصادی زونز میں تو صرف کارخانے اور فیکٹریاں ہی لگائی جاسکتی ہیں جہاں تک زرعی ترقی کا تعلق ہے یہ صرف ان علاقوں میں ہی ممکن ہے، جہاں زمین زرخیز اور آبپاشی کی سہولتیں موجود ہیں۔ ممکن ہے بعض لوگوں کو یہ سچ کڑا محسوس ہو لیکن حقیقت ہے کہ زرعی ترقی کے لیے پہلے اور آخری ٹھوس اقدامات صرف اور صرف ایوب دور میں ہی ہوئے۔ اگر ہم اس راہ پر گامزن رہتے اور زرعی ترقی کی راہیں مسدود نہ کرتے تو ہمارا شمار خوشحال اور ترقی یافتہ ملکوں میں ہوتا۔ ہم آدھی دنیا کو گندم، چاول، چینی اور کپاس فراہم کر رہے ہوتے۔ زرعی ترقی کی راہ میں ایک اور بڑی رکاوٹ یہ ہوئی کہ ہم اراضی کی حد ملکیت کا تعین نہ کر سکے اور یہ کام اس لیے نہ ہو سکا کہ سیاست و حکومت پر جاگیر دار، وڈیرے اور زمیندار قبضہ کئے ہوئے تھے۔ پاکستان آج ماضی کی غلطیوں اور ناکامیوں کا خمیازہ بھگت رہا ہے ورنہ وسائل کی کمی نہ تھی۔ ہمارے دیہات، غربت و افلاس سے دوچار ہیں۔ اب اگر زرعی ترقی کو سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کا ایک اہم ہدف بنا کر کام کیا گیا تو یہ قدم پاکستان کی ترقی و خوشحالی اور خطے میں گہم بھڑکات ہو سکتا ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 09-04-19

سی پیک سے بوجھ بڑھانے کی بجائے پاکستانی معیشت کو مضبوط بنا رہے ہیں: چین

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چینی وزارت خارجہ نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک نے پاکستان کی معیشت کو مضبوط بنایا ہے، چھپاسی لاکھ گھروں کے لیے بجلی کی ضرورت کو پورا کیا گیا، پاکستانی عوام کی فلاح و بہبود کے شعبے کو بھی بہتر بنایا گیا، سی پیک کے 20 فیصد منصوبوں کے لیے چین نے قرض دیا، 80 فیصد سے زائد منصوبے چین کی براہ راست سرمایہ کاری یا بے سود امداد سے مکمل کیے جا رہے ہیں۔ پیر کو چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان لو کھانگ نے بیجنگ میں منعقدہ رسمی کانفرنس میں کہا کہ سی پیک کے منصوبے سے پاکستان پر بوجھ بڑھانے کی بجائے پاکستان کی معیشت کو مضبوط بنایا جا رہا ہے۔ حال ہی میں ذرائع ابلاغ میں سی پیک منصوبے سے پاکستان کے اقتصادی خطرے میں اضافے کے حوالے سے چلنے والی خبر سے متعلق پوچھے جانے والے ایک سوال کے جواب میں لو کھانگ نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے محض بیس فیصد منصوبوں کے لیے چین کی جانب سے قرض دیا گیا ہے جب کہ اسی فیصد سے زائد منصوبوں کو چین کی براہ راست سرمایہ کاری یا بے سود امداد سے چلایا جا رہا ہے۔ چائنہ ریڈیو انٹرنیشنل کے مطابق لو کھانگ نے کہا کہ سی پیک کی تعمیر کے پانچ سے زائد برسوں میں علاقے میں روزگار کے کئی ہزار مواقع فراہم کیے گئے ہیں اور وہاں چھپاسی لاکھ گھروں کے لیے بجلی کی ضرورت کو پورا کیا گیا ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ سی پیک منصوبے سے ناصر پاکستان کی بنیادی تنصیبات کو بہتر کیا گیا ہے بلکہ پاکستانی عوام کی فلاح و بہبود کے شعبے کو بھی بہتر بنایا گیا ہے جسے پاکستانی حکومت اور عوام نے خراج تحسین پیش کیا ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt 10-04-2019

بین الاقوامی تعاون، رابطے، پاک چین مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ کا اجلاس

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) بین الاقوامی تعاون اور رابطوں کے بارے میں پاکستان چین مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ کا افتتاحی اجلاس گزشتہ روز بیجنگ میں ہوا۔ دفتر خارجہ کے مطابق سیکرٹری خارجہ تھیمہ جنجوعہ نے پاکستانی وفد کی قیادت کی جبکہ چینی وفد کی قیادت نائب وزیر خارجہ یوان یوکانگ نے کی۔ طرفین نے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے مختلف منصوبوں میں پیشرفت پر اطمینان ظاہر کیا اور اس رفتار کو جاری رکھنے کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔ دونوں وفد نے سی پیک کے تحت بین الاقوامی تعاون اور رابطوں کے بارے میں مشترکہ تجاویز پر تبادلہ خیال کیا اور مزید امکانات کا جائزہ لیا۔ انہوں نے سی پیک اور ایک خطہ ایک شاہراہ منصوبے کے خلاف خود ساختہ تنقید کی کوششوں کو مسترد کرتے ہوئے مختلف سطحوں اور طریقوں سے مشترکہ کوششوں کے ذریعے ان سازشوں کی روک تھام پر اتفاق کیا۔ بین الاقوامی تعاون کے بارے میں مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ گزشتہ سال نومبر میں سی پیک کی مشترکہ تعاون کمیٹی کے آٹھویں اجلاس کے دوران تشکیل دیا گیا تھا۔ مشترکہ ورکنگ گروپ کا آئندہ اجلاس باہمی طور پر متفقہ تاریخوں پر اسلام آباد میں ہوگا۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 12-04-19

عمران: سی پیک اولین ترجیح، مزید ممالک کو بھی حصہ بنانا چاہتے ہیں

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم عمران خان سے سی پیک منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والی 15 چینی کمپنیوں کے وفد نے ملاقات کی۔ اس موقع پر وزیر اعظم نے کہا حکومت سی پیک کو اولین ترجیح دیتی ہے، منصوبے سے پورے خطے کو فائدہ ہوگا۔ مواقع کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی۔ چینی کمپنیوں کو منافع بخش کاروبار کیلئے تمام سہولتیں دیں گے۔ اس

موقع پر چینی سفیر نے چین کے صدر اور وزیر اعظم کی جانب سے نیک خواہشات کا پیغام پہنچایا۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ چین کی قیادت وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورے کی منتظر ہے۔ چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان کی سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے حصہ ڈالتی رہیں گی۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی زیر صدارت سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے اہم اجلاس ہوا جس میں وزیر اطلاعات فواد چودھری، معاون خصوصی زلفی بخاری، وزیر بلدیات خیبر پی کی شہرام ترکئی اور وزیر سیاحت عاطف خان نے شرکت کی۔ اجلاس میں پاکستان بھر میں سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے اقدامات کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔ وزیر اعظم کو سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے اقدامات پر بریفنگ دی گئی۔ وزیر اعظم نے شمالی علاقہ جات میں مزید سیاحتی مراکز کی نشاندہی کی جس میں بتایا گیا کہ خیبر پی کے میں گیارہ، پنجاب میں سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے 8 سیاحتی زونز قائم کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم نے اس موقع پر کہا کہ نجی شعبہ سیاحت کی ترقی کیلئے کردار ادا کرے۔ حکومت سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے ہر ممکن سہولت فراہم کرے گی۔ سیاحتی زونز کے قیام سے سیاحت کو فروغ ملے گا۔ سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے عالمی سطح پر کامیاب ماڈلز پر عمل کیا جا رہا ہے۔ پاکستان میں سیاحت کو بے پناہ فروغ حاصل ہو رہا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی زیر صدارت دورہ چین سے متعلق اعلیٰ سطحی اجلاس ہوا۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا موجودہ حکومت کے دور میں سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں زراعت، تعلیم، صحت، پانی، فنی تعلیم، سکل ڈویلپمنٹ، ٹرانسپورٹ، مین لائن ون کی اپ گریڈیشن جیسے منصوبے شامل ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ عوام کو غربت کے دائرے سے نکلانے کا چین کا کامیاب تجربہ قابل تقلید ہے۔ حکومت غربت کے خاتمے کے لئے چین کے کامیاب تجربے سے استفادہ کرنا چاہتی ہے۔ زراعت، صنعت اور دیگر شعبوں میں چین کی مہارت سے سیکھنا چاہتے ہیں۔ سی پیک منصوبے کا دائرہ کار وسیع کرنا اور مزید ممالک کو بھی اس اہم منصوبے کا حصہ بنانا چاہتے ہیں تاکہ خطے میں تعمیر و ترقی کا باب روشن ہو۔ چین سے سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبے میں تعاون کا فروغ دورے کا اہم مقصد ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt News, 13-04-19

سی پیک ترقی و خوشحالی کی شاہراہ

وزیراعظم عمران خان سے سی پیک منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والی 15 چینی کمپنیوں کے وفد نے ملاقات کی۔ اس موقع پر وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ حکومت سی پیک کو اولین ترجیح دیتی ہے، منصوبے سے پورے خطے کو فائدہ ہوگا۔ موقع کی بنی راہیں کھلیں گی۔ اس موقع پر چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ چین کی قیادت وزیراعظم عمران خان کے دورے کی منتظر ہے۔

وزیراعظم عمران خان 27 اپریل سے چین کا دورہ کریں گی جس کی تیاریاں جاری ہیں اس حوالے سے وزیراعظم کی زیر صدارت گزشتہ روز اعلیٰ سطح کا اجلاس ہوا۔ وزیراعظم اس دورے کی بڑی اہمیت دیتے اور چین سے بہت کچھ سیکھنے کی جستجو رکھتے ہیں۔ موجودہ حکومت کے دور میں سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں زراعت، تعلیم، صحت، پانی، فنی تعلیم، سکل ڈویلپمنٹ، ٹرانسپورٹ، مین لائن ون کی اپ گریڈیشن جیسے منصوبے شامل ہیں۔ ترقی و خوشحالی، غربت اور کرپشن کے خاتمے کے حوالے سے وزیراعظم عمران خان چین کو رول ماڈل قرار دیتے ہیں، ان کا کہنا ہے عوام کو غربت کے دائرے سے نکلانے کا چین کا کامیاب تجربہ قابل تقلید ہے۔ حکومت غربت کے خاتمے کے لئے چین کے کامیاب تجربے سے استفادہ کرنا چاہتی ہے۔ زراعت، صنعت اور دیگر شعبوں میں چین کی مہارت سے سیکھنا چاہتے ہیں۔ چین سے سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبے میں تعاون کا فروغ دورے کا اہم مقصد ہے۔ سی پیک منصوبے کا دائرہ کار وسیع کرنا اور مزید ممالک کو بھی اس اہم منصوبے کا حصہ بنانا چاہتے ہیں تاکہ خطے میں تعمیر و ترقی کا باب روشن ہو۔ سی پیک خطے کے ممالک کے لیے گیم چینجر کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ پاکستان نے بڑی فراخ دلی سے بھارت کو بھی اس منصوبے میں شامل ہونے کی پیشکش کی مگر اس کی سوئی اس منصوبے کے خلاف آگے رہی۔ سی پیک منصوبے کو سبوتاژ کرنے کے لیے اس سے جو بن پڑتا تھا اس نے کیا مگر وہ اپنی مذہب سازشوں کو عملی جامہ پہنانے میں کامیاب نہ ہو سکا، اس کی سازشیں جاری ہیں، وہ خطے کے دیگر ممالک کو بھی اپنی سازشوں میں شامل کرنے کے لیے سرگرداں رہا۔ اس نے پاکستان کے اندر سے بھی کچھ لوگوں پر سرمایہ کاری کرنے کی کوشش کی۔ پاکستان اور چین سی پیک کی تکمیل کے لیے کمپلکس جیکہ پاک فوج اور سیاسی حکومت اس عظیم تر منصوبے کے حوالے سے اکٹھی ہیں اس لیے سی پیک کے خلاف دشمن کی سازشوں کے پھینکے کا امکان نہیں۔ سی پیک یقیناً پاکستان اور خطے کے لیے ترقی و خوشحالی کی شاہراہ ثابت ہوگی۔

Nawaiwaqt 15-04-2019

چین سے بی آر ٹی کی مزید 20 بسیں روانہ

بجنگ (این این آئی) چین سے بس ریپڈ ٹرانزٹ (بی آر ٹی) کی مزید 20 بسیں روانہ کر دی گئیں جو سی پورٹ کے ذریعے پاکستان پہنچیں گی۔ ٹرانس پشاور کے مطابق بی آر ٹی منصوبے میں شامل بسیں چین سے منگوائی جا رہی ہیں اور مزید 20 بسیں پاکستان کیلئے روانہ کر دی گئی ہیں۔ حکام کے مطابق 18 میٹر کی بسیں سی پورٹ کے ذریعے پاکستان پہنچیں گی، اس سے پہلے 51 بسیں پاکستان پہنچ چکی ہیں جن میں 30 بسیں کراچی اور 21 بسیں پشاور پہنچی ہیں۔

Pakistan Observer, 01-04-19

Pak, China building green partnership

THE government of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf has tried to further expand the scope of multi-billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project with focus on green projects such as agriculture and its sub sectors. Agreements to this effect were also signed during the first visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Beijing.

China Pakistan Working Group on forestry held its first meeting the other day in Beijing in which the two sides introduced forestry profiles and work priorities and exchanged views on issues such as wetland restoration and floodplain control, desertification control, saline-alkali land ecological restoration, shelterbelt construction, wildlife protection and discussed the prospects for cooperation. Cooperation in this particular field indeed also shows the commitment of both the country towards eco-protection and indeed Pakistan can learn a lot from the Chinese experience in protection of wetlands and floodplain management. While the PTI government is pursuing an ambitious Clean and Green and Ten Billion tree Tsunami initiatives, China is also targeting to increase the number of hectares of forest in the country to 23 per cent of the total land by 2020 and to 26 percent by 2035. This provides a great opportunity to both the countries to work together and achieve their respective targets. Massive forestation along the CPEC route either road or railway will be the best course to turn the CPEC project into a Green Economic Belt.

Pakistan Observer, 01-04-19

Pakistan's exports to China up 4pc in 8 months

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's exports to China during first eight months (Jul-Feb) of current fiscal year increased by 3.97 per cent as compared to same period of last year.

The exports from Pakistan to China during the period under review increased to \$1.15 billion compared to the exports of \$1.106 billion recorded during Jul-Feb (2017-18), according to latest data released by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The imports went down to \$6.628 billion in July-February 2018-19 from \$7.32 billion in same period of last year.

On year-on-year basis, the imports went down to \$686.078 million in February 2019 against the imports worth of \$780.621 million recorded during same month of last year. While the exports of goods and services from Pakistan to China also decreased from \$127.308 million in February 2018 to \$118.707 million in same month of current year.

The trade deficit between Pakistan and China, during first eight months (Jul-Feb) of current fiscal year, shrank by 11.93 per cent.

Pakistan Observer, 02-04-19

CPEC to further strengthen Pakistan-China ties: Iftikhar

PESHAWAR

Central Secretary General of Awami National Party (ANP) and former Provincial Minister for Information, Mian Iftikhar Hussain Monday said the mega CPEC project would further strengthen ties between Pakistan and China. These views were expressed during his visit to China Window set up in Peshawar for display of Chinese culture, said a press statement issued here.

Mian Iftikhar said Pak-China friendship will remain matter of pride forever and the ongoing CPEC project will not only

improve economic condition of Pakistan but further strengthen the already existing ties between the two neighboring countries.

He said ANP delegation held a meeting with Chinese Ambassador and told him to add western route in the CPEC.

Mian Iftikhar said Chinese authorities have given heed to this proposal while realizing importance of KP and merged tribal districts.

ANP leader said Chinese gained independence after Pakistan and started its economic improvement in 1978 and within 40 years of hard work and dynamic leadership,

the country has emerged as super power among comity of the nations.

He also termed welcoming establishment of China Window in Peshawar and expressed the hope that the center will apprise people of the area about Chinese culture besides promotion of KP tourism by informing visiting Chinese delegations about scenic beauty of KP.—APP



Centre of Excellence for the study of Islamic History, Culture and Heritage

17 اپریل 2019 کو دن 10:00 بجے

Pakistan Observer, 02-04-19

Qatari companies to join global with value chain through CPEC

ISLAMABAD

Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industries and Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood Monday encouraged Qatari companies to come forward and have Joint Ventures (JVs) with foreign and local companies to become part of global value chain.

minister on commerce along with Board of Investment (BoI) Chairman Haroon Sharif welcomed a Qatari investment delegation led by head of Qatar Investment Authority, Sheikh Faisal Bin Thani Al-Thani, in Islamabad. Adviser informed the delegation that with investment in the tourism sector, Qatar could enjoy

The adviser said Pakistan desires to have a long term economic and strategic relationship between the two brotherly nations. The prime minister himself led a delegation to Qatar and met with the Emir of Qatar in January, 2019, following the prime minister's visit. BoI organized a successful Pakistan-Qatar Investment

meetings where both countries have reaffirmed their strong commitment to further reinforce their economic ties and discuss specific projects.

Sheikh Faisal Bin Thani Al-Thani said Qatar is planning various projects in Pakistan with an investment horizon in Pakistan for next 10-15 years.

tries and tourism across the country, he said.

The delegation showed a keen interest in prime minister's housing project.

There is also interest from the delegation in supplementing the CPEC investments.

The BoI chairman informed the delegation that the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has developed a master plan for nature tourism with technical assistance from a Swiss firm.

These projects are available to developers and will be showcased in the meetings this day.

Qatar-Pakistan bilateral trade volume is set to witness a major boost in the coming days as Hamad Port has established direct shipping links to Karachi and other ports in Pakistan.

The bilateral economic relations are expected to expand further as private companies from both sides are exploring trade and investment opportunities aggressively.

After recent visit of a Pakistani mission to Doha, Qatari companies have signed a number of agreements with their Pakistani counterparts to import goods from Pakistan including fruits, vegetables, fresh meat, chicken other poultry and dairy products.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industries & Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood and Chairman Board of Investment Haroon Sharif in a meeting with Qatari delegation led by Sheikh Faisal bin Thani Al Thani on Monday.

He further said Qatari companies have immense potential to supplement the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and stimulate industrialization in the country, a press statement said. The adviser to prime

a first mover's advantage. He also said as a result of renewed confidence in the new government, large investments were in the pipeline from other countries including China, Malaysia and Turkey.

Forum in Doha, Qatar between the business communities of the both countries in collaboration with the government of Qatar" he added. Razak Dawood said these high level visits have resulted in today's

"We are looking for a long term partnership and not quick wins" he added. Specific projects were discussed in areas of aviation services, tourism, infrastructure development, power generation, water management, agro indus-

Pakistan Observer, 03-04-19**Chinese ambassador appreciates Pakistan's efforts to fast-track CPEC projects****ZUBAIR QURESHI****ISLAMABAD**

Ambassador of China Yao Jing in a meeting with Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform Makhdam Khuro Bakhtyar here on Tuesday appreciated the PTI government's decision to fast-track CPEC projects and observed that first Special Economic Zone at Rashakai will bring in more investment and trade to the country.

The Minister on this occasion welcomed the Chinese ambassador and informed that SEZ at Rashakai will be launched so that Pak-China Indus-

trial Cooperation could enter implementation stage.

During the meeting, deliverables for the proposed visit of the Prime Minister Inran Khan to China to participate in the second Belt & Road Forum this month came under discussion regarding areas of industry cooperation, agriculture, socio-economic development and infrastructure.

He said Pakistan greatly valued China's support for implementation of Gwadar Airport project.

Secretary Planning Zafar Hasan, Member Private Sector Asim Saeed, Project Director CPEC Hasan Daud and senior officials were also present on the occasion.

Makhdam Khuro was of the view that the present Government attached top priority to the development of Gwadar, highlighting that Prime Minister Inran Khan in his recent visit to Balochistan performed groundbreaking of the Rs. 65 billion Zhob-Kuchlak section of western route, Rs. 17 billion project of transmission line for Makran coast, Rs. 23 billion new Gwadar Airport project, hospital as well as vocational institute.

The implementation of 300 MW energy project in Gwadar will be aligned with the development of Gwadar.

He further said that Pak-China cooperation will

be further strengthened by formal framework agreement focusing on joint ventures, and B2B cooperation.

The Minister emphasized the need for robust cooperation between the business communities of the two countries. 'We should move towards Pak-China Business Forum with representatives from leading companies of the two countries in various areas', said the Minister.

The Minister called for cooperation in agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors between the two countries to benefit from the enormous potential this area offers.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Makhdam Khuro Bakhtyar talking to Ambassador of China Yao Jing who called on him.

Pakistan eyeing high dividends under new tourism policy: Qureshi**STAFF REPORTER****ISLAMABAD**

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Tuesday said with adoption of an unprecedented strategic policy on tourism, the government was eyeing promising dividends in foreign exchange and also increased employment generation.

Speaking at Pakistan Tourism Summit titled 'Pakistan Tourism Industry - the Way Forward', the Foreign Minister said with thorough revamp of the country's visa policy, the government had made it easier for the world to travel to Pakistan. Foreign Minister Qureshi said the new tourism policy based on facilitating international tourists would help build Pakistan's positive narrative, project its soft power and improve standing in the comity of nations.

He said like the national

percent during the past few years - from half a million tourists in 2013 to 1.7 million in 2017.

According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, he said the revenue from tourism contributed around \$19.4 billion to the national economy and made up 6.9 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

He said international tourism moguls were taking note of Pakistan as the most attractive destination, calling it the "next big thing in international tourism". He said significant expansion was witnessed in domestic tourism, linking improved security situation in the country as a key factor.

Qureshi mentioned that visa fee was rationalized from as high of \$395 to a maximum of \$65. Electronic visa facility would be available to the citizens of 175 countries within 7-10 days of online payment, while visa on arrival



Pakistan Observer, 03-04-19**Gov't needs to develop skilled workforce for CPEC projects: SBP**

ISLAMABAD

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has urged upon the government to take serious notice of the country's human capital deficiency by focusing on re-skilling, digitization, and technological advancements to gain a competitive advantage in next phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "CPEC is expected to generate significant avenues of employment for the domestic labor force, especially after the establishment of the proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs). However, as this development takes shape, the job requirements would gradually become more demanding," the second quarterly report 2018-19 on "The State of Economy" published by the SBP said.

The report stressed the need to improving the level of human capital in the economy to ensure that both the existing and the incoming labor force is skilled enough to meet the growing technical requirements of the evolving nature of work. The report proposed that a significant overhaul of the education system of the country is required to address the dearth of adequately skilled graduates entering the labor force.

The effectiveness of the primary

education needs to be enhanced significantly in order to improve the level of knowledge-absorption and increasing the level of enrollment in schools. Of equal importance is the need for revis-



ing the curriculum of academic institutions to better reflect the needs of current and future occupations. Focus on vocational and skills training of the work

force is critical in ensuring that the employability levels of the domestic workers remain intact, or ideally increase, during the transitional stage of job transformation and technical advancement. It added that a welcome development in this regard is that the Chinese firms are already involved in technical skill building of the Pakistani youth to enable them to be prepared for work under the CPEC programs.

This includes emphasis on vocational training (such as the construction of Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar), scholarships and exchange programs for university and college students as mentioned in the Joint-Statement, and collaborative efforts with Pakistani technological platforms (such as the Alibaba eFounders

Fellowship program with NIC Karachi). It added that an encouragement development is that the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) of Pakistan is in the process of introducing officially defined skill-set categorizations to help improve the placement and skill matching in the domestic labor market.

Under the revised National Vocational Qualifications Framework (NVQF), an assessment criterion is being developed to classify workers according to skill-sets and to facilitate their gradual promotion to higher levels. On the technology front, the report said that Digital Pakistan Policy released last year includes an optimistic blueprint for the enhancement of human capital via expansion of digitization in the country.⁹ Emphasis on digital and financial literacy and inclusion would be vital to enable both individuals and businesses to take advantage of the ICT in e-commerce, Fintech and BPO segments of the market.

Finally, a strong focus on higher-level education pertaining to the complementary services sector (such as accountancy, consultancy, legal, etc.) would be needed so that the domestic labor force can fulfil the associated requirements of new industries enacted under the proposed SEZs, the report added. —APP

Pakistan Observer, 04-04-19

CPEC successfully moving towards second phase: Zhao Lijian

NAVEED AHMAD KHAN

ISLAMABAD

One day conference on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) titled as "CPEC: A Way Forward" held here at local hotel. The conference was organized by Islamabad Institute for Conflict Resolution (IICR) which focused on the importance of CPEC for the region. The Executive Director of IICR Ms. Sabah Aslam opened the conference by claiming that with the emergence of CPEC, strengthening of long-standing relationship that

wards its second phase which operates in four areas; more exhaustive work on infrastructure like Motorway 5; from Multan to Sukkur which is hopefully going to be finished ahead of time and launched by August.

He also highlighted that there is also going to be a major focus on the railway up-gradation from Karachi towards Peshawar and from Single Line to Double Line. Previously the speed would be 60 km/h and after this upgrade it will become 160 km/h. these will not affect the current operations and will take around



ISLAMABAD: Zhao Lijian, DCM, Embassy of China to Pakistan addressing conference on "CPEC: A Way Forward" organized by Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution. Senator Rehman Malik, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Interior & Executive Director of IICR Ms. Sabah Aslam are also present on stage.

Pakistan and China share in the realm of politics, economy and strategy is a compelling truth of the contemporary international relations.

Zhao Lijian, DCM and Minister Counsellor to the Embassy of China, congratulated to Pakistan on the success of CPEC. He claimed that he will make a few observations and began by reiterating that just like in China, there is a broader national consensus in Pakistan regarding CPEC. This consensus goes not just across border but extends to all areas and provinces of Pakistan. He also pointed out that this project began during the era of President Zardari and to this day this plan has been going on.

Lijian said that this is a long term plan which benefits people on both side. The major areas in which CPEC operates are: economy, energy and infrastructure. He further elaborated that after the success of the first phase, CPEC is moving to-

6 years to complete. Senator Rehman Malik said that reiterated the importance of friendship between Pakistan and China. He referred to history and recalled that whenever other state was there to support Pakistan, China was the one which stood by.

He claimed that the relationship is not just between the countries but in true essence it's between the two nations. This is a solid relationship which has evaded many things in history. The way in which they are performing and will continue to perform is indeed praiseworthy. When we say that the relationship is higher than the mountains and deeper than the sea and CPEC is the way via which the mountains and sea have become connected.

Maj. Gen. (R) Raza Muhammad (Chairman, IICR) said that a Harbinger of Social Emancipation for Pakistan and A Way to Regional Peace and Stability. The main

Pakistan Observer, 06-04-19

B2B cooperation kicks off with inaugural meeting of CPEC Business Council

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

The business to business (B2B) cooperation under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) kicked off hereon Friday with inaugural meeting of CPEC Business Council.

The Council would provide a platform for regular consultation between the Government and business community on matters related to private sector investments and push forward industrial cooperation under CPEC.

Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar along-with Advisor to PM on Commerce, Industry and Textile Abdul Razak Dawood co-chaired the first meeting of the CPEC Business Council.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Planning said purpose behind establishing forum is to create an interface between the Government and business community and take forward the industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China to new heights for mutual benefit.

Through industrial cooperation, they also want to address trade imbalance, broaden market access for agricultural products and encourage B2B cooperation between the two countries, stated the Minister.

Makhdum Khusro said scope of CPEC has been expanded with focus on industrial and agriculture cooperation, socio-economic development, trade and market access.

The Minister expressed optimism that creation of CPEC Business Council, with representation from private sector leading associations and companies in various areas, will accelerate the pace of industrialization under the umbrella of mega project. The Minister said focus was to boost Pakistan's industrial capacity through joint ventures in priority areas, relocation of labor-intensive export led industry, SME's collaboration and enhance vocational training capacity.

Advisor to PM Abdul Razak Dawood said after implementation of early harvest projects of energy and infrastructure under CPEC, the stage is now set to expedite the industrial collaboration which will help to attract private investments and diversify the country's exports.

He added that they were in the second phase of CPEC where industrialization and agriculture growth would be the main goals of the current regime.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been the engine of growth for many developing states around the world for the last few decades and it's the high time for Pakistan to convert its SEZs into growth hubs.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar along-with Advisor to PM on Commerce, Industry and Textile Abdul Razak Dawood co-chairing the first meeting of the CPEC Business Council.

The Advisor hoped that SEZs would attract investment from diversified sources because they offer a combination of tax-and-tariff incentives, streamlined customs procedures and less regulation. The production of finished goods is the top-most priority, which will help Pakistan in reducing trade deficit.

Earlier, Chairman Board of Investment Haroon Sharif welcomed

all the members to the first meeting of the council and said that BOI will serve as Secretariat for the CPEC Business Council, adding that a dedicated team of professionals has been hired in this regard.

He said that BOI is improving its capacity to deal with matters of industrial cooperation with China and urged the members to come up with tangible suggestions in this regard.

Secretary Planning Zafar hasan, Project Director CPEC Hassan Daud and representatives from leading associations and companies also attended the meeting.

Secretary to the Council, Executive Director General BOI, Ms. Fareena Mazhar briefed the members on the progress in SEZ's and incentive packages under the industrial cooperation.

Pakistan Observer, 06-04-19

Pak to earn \$110m thru export of sugar to China

Chinese people to taste Pakistan's sugar for first time

ZUBAIR QURESHI

ISLAMABAD

In first-ever sugar export deal with China, Pakistan is all set to export some 300,000 Metric Tons (MT) of sugar to China from June, this year.

In this way the Chinese people will taste Pakistani sugar for the first time and according to sources in the Commerce Ministry, after sugar Chinese market will also receive meat, livestock, fruit and other agri-products from Pakistan.

However, the sources said in order to export these products, we need to meet the international standards necessary for export of these food items.

Beijing had placed the order for sugar with Islamabad after signing the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and as a result the trade between the two coun-

tries has surged.

The export of sugar will generate revenue of \$110 million for Pakistan. Pakistan's exports to China are expected to reach \$2.2bn in the ongoing calendar year and \$3.2bn in 2020.

"This is the first time in the history that Pakistan is sending sugar to China," said sources.

In the first phase, 0.2 million ton will be exported the remaining quantity will be sent in the next phase.

It is important to mention here that Pakistan produces 6.5million ton sugar every year while its local demand is hovering around five million ton.

Deputy Head of Chinese Mission in Pakistan, Lijian Zhao has welcomed the first sugar trade between the two countries. On his twitter account, Mr Lijian Zhao has mentioned the latest development referring to sugar export to China.

Pakistan Observer, 06-04-19

Senate body briefed about CPEC projects

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD

Officials of Pakistan Railways on Friday briefed the Senate sub Committee regarding the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and said Gawadar would be connected with central Railways.

The meeting of the sub-committee on Railways was held under the con- venser ship of Senator John Kenneth Williams here on Friday at Parliament

House.

Officials of Pakistan Railways told the Senate body that a railway track would be laid from Gawadar to Turbat and Mustang, adding, Railway was ac- quiring the land for this project and working on the feasibility of the projects is ready.

They informed that beside all dan- gers in the area of Mustang and Pangore, the feasibility for the project has been completed and Railways offi- cials have completed this study with hard work.

Pakistan Observer, 08-04-19**CPEC for industrial,
agri growth**

THE first phase of multi billion dollars China-Pakistan Economic Corridor remained highly successful in addressing power shortage and bringing improvement in road infrastructure and now there are great hopes that the second phase which will see rapid industrialization will help the country diversify and bolster its exports and achieve durable and long-term economic stability.

It was in this backdrop that the first meeting of the CPEC Business Council under the Board of Investment (BoI) was held the other day in the federal capital. Addressing the meeting, Adviser on Commerce Abdul Razaq Dawood said industrialization and agriculture growth would be the main goals of the current regime in the second phase of CPEC and expressed the confidence that Special Economic Zones would attract investment from diversified sources because they offered a combination of tax-and-tariff incentives, streamlined customs procedures and less regulation. Indeed these SEZs have been the engine of growth for many developing countries and it is now time for us to expedite efforts towards that end and convert the SEZs into real growth hubs. Exports of finished goods from these SEZs will greatly help the country address its trade deficit and earn valuable foreign exchange. As the forums such as CPEC Business Council have provided the platform to exploit potential of industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China, we should not waste time in complete operationalization of the SEZs and all bottlenecks in their way should be removed immediately with provision of all the facilities to the investors in order to make them successful enclaves and home to global supply chains. It is only through industrialization and agriculture growth that we can provide sufficient job opportunities to our youth. Simultaneously, technical institutes should be activated to produce required trained and skilled workforce for the SEZs. Whilst China is set to relocate its industrial units to Pakistan, we should also hold seminars and conferences on the SEZs in other friendly countries in order to attract investment from there as well.

Pakistan Observer 10-04-19**CPEC a blessing for both Pakistan and China**

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has emerged as a boon both for Pakistan and China. And not surprisingly, the peoples of the two countries have great expectations from the CPEC in terms of economic growth and regional development.

True, the provincial government of Balochistan in Pakistan has voiced concerns over the CPEC, saying its share of CPEC investment is very low. But the recent allocation of \$1 billion for social development in Balochistan has assuaged those concerns. To further redress Balochistan's grievances, the Pakistani Finance Minister said industrialization would be expedited in Balochistan in order to alleviate poverty and improve the living standards of the local people.

Gwadar can help boost Balochistan economy

Balochistan, which has a population of more than 12 million, is a crucial factor for the CPEC because the Gwadar Port is situated there. The province covers 347,190 square kilometers, comprising about 44 percent of the total area of Pakistan. It may be a dry and arid region, but in terms of natural resources, it is Pakistan's richest province. Still, more than 53 percent of the people in Balochistan live below the poverty line, and the province has a poor literacy rate of about 29 percent and an unemployment rate of almost 33 percent.

Despite being rich in natural resources, Balochistan lacks both skilled and unskilled workers, as well as the necessary capital to build an industrial base to achieve the much-wanted economic breakthrough to lift the poor out of poverty and improve their living standards. So what measures should be taken to turn around the fortunes of Balochistan?

To begin with, the CPEC has the potential to change the situation thanks to the eagerness of the Chinese government and enterprises to invest in Balochistan, especially in Gwadar Port, road connectivity projects and industrial zones. Within a few years, the CPEC's projects would facilitate massive economic activities which would create jobs and help proliferate businesses that in turn would improve the living standards of the local populace.

Gateway to Central Asia and the Persian Gulf

Gwadar is situated on an isthmus in the Arabian Sea on the southwestern coast of Pakistan. As such, it is a gateway to both the Persian Gulf and Central Asian countries, which would eventually connect 64 countries in Asia and Europe. No wonder it has been called the "standalone pillar" of the CPEC — and the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative.

With its perfect geographical location, economic and geostrategic importance, Gwadar has all the features to transform into a regional hub of trade and transport, and an international seaport. The proposed planning and development term for Gwadar is from 2017 to 2050, with the short-term plan being between 2017 and 2025, the medium-term between 2026 and 2035, and the long-term between 2036 and 2050.

According to the Pakistani government's plans, Gwadar port will further flourish with the "blue economy" through committed spending of more than \$824 million on 12 projects. And Saudi Arabia has promised to spend another \$6-10 billion in the proposed Gwadar Oil City project and petro-chemical chain to be developed under the CPEC.

As for road connectivity, some roads have already been built while others are in the pipeline. China has also vowed to build a 1,320-megawatt coal power plant in Gwadar by 2020 at a cost of

\$1.9 billion, and proposed to build a 300-megawatt coal-fired plant. Potential of becoming a world tourist site.

Balochistan has an unexplored seacoast with the potential of emerging as a global tourist attraction, which would attract bulk foreign direct investment. Balochistan's mineral resources are lying untapped for want of capital while some exposed mineral deposits are wasted because of "rat-hole" mining.

According to primary geological surveys, the region could have deposits of rare earth, precious and semi-precious metals, industrial minerals and a variety of stones including onyx, which can provide a huge base for setting up processing and manufacturing plants to produce export-quality value-added products.

Despite some grievances of the people of Balochistan, the construction of Gwadar port and infrastructure facilities such as road networks would boost the local economy and thus improve the living standards of the people not only in the province but also elsewhere in Pakistan. It is important here to emphasize that there is a consensus among all the stakeholders of the CPEC on the construction of the Gwadar Port.

However, it is not unnatural that some people—either because of their naivety or due to their lack of understanding about the outcome – would raise questions on the need for a colossal economic project such as the CPEC. CPEC and BRI face external opposition

The CPEC and the Belt and Road Initiative face opposition also because some external forces are misleading some people into believing the projects won't do them any good, because they don't want to see the Gwadar project completed. But the governments of Pakistan and China, media outlets, civil society, think tanks and academics have been quashing such misleading narratives.

The Pakistani government is also keen in providing a level playing field for the local business community by implementing necessary reforms in taxation to develop the region. Still, immediate interventions by the government would help a great deal to dispel the fear of local businesses. Also, timely reforms in different sectors coupled with the acceleration in CPEC projects would assuage the fear of local businesses and attract more international investment. Many countries eager to invest in Gwadar

Five years on the CPEC has given Pakistan so much leverage on the economic front that countries such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are eager to invest in Gwadar and elsewhere in Pakistan. And countries such as Malaysia, Turkey, Russia as well as Central Asian and European states are looking forward to investing in the CPEC.

But people in Balochistan should realize that economic projects take time to bear fruit, so they must be patient and stay united. They should also know that the CPEC umbrella, which covers the Gwadar project, alone has the potential to turn Balochistan into an economic success story for Pakistan.

It is also important to emphasize that the malicious propaganda of some external forces that are using Balochistan's "depravity" to prompt some local people to question the CPEC's positive effects must be foiled both by the Pakistani and Chinese governments. The Pakistani government must also strategize a mass media campaign to educate the people by highlighting the eventual benefits of the CPEC and emphasizing the need for a peaceful and prosperous Balochistan without which the CPEC's "all-inclusive" slogan may lose its substance.

Historical perspective of CPEC

Around 1983 amid the so-called Afghan Mujahedeen movement, the United States during her engagement in Afghanistan wanted to develop the Gwadar deep seaport but dropped the idea once the then Soviet troops left Afghanistan and the idea became dormant. With the dismantling of the USSR and emergence of the newly independent Central Asian states, ideas to revise the old Silk routes came in fashion and for the first time the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program at SAIS, Johns Hopkins University first proposed the new Silk routes under the Greater Central Asia Partnership doctrine connecting Central and South Asia. During Musharraf government, for the first time the idea of an economic corridor was discussed and the Chinese government expressed great interest. By that time the Department of State in the United States has almost given up on the plans of new Silk roads originating in Starr's ideas. This was the moment, the government of China picked up under the rubric of New Silk Roads. This idea, which speculated for many years, gained power in May 2013 when Chinese Premier Li Keqiang discussed the construction of CPEC with Gwadar its core when he visited Pakistan and signed the milestone CPEC agreement at that time. The same year Pakistan's Prime Minister visited China and signed eight agreements worth \$18 billion that included building around 200 kilometers tunnels for the CPEC. The following year President of Pakistan visited China in February 2014 to clarify the Corridor plan. At that time, the Chinese banks and companies promised over \$45.6 billion for energy and infrastructure projects along the corridor.

In April 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan. This was the second visit of a Chinese leader to Pakistan since the beginning of present century after Hu Jintao's visit to Pakistan in 2006. Xi also wanted to visit Pakistan in 2014 during his South Asia trip to Maldives, Sri Lanka and India; however, the trip was postponed due to political problems in Pakistan. Later during his visit, 51 agreements were signed between China and Pakistan having a total worth of

\$46 billion which also included the development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. By this time the Chinese government under President Xi Jinping extended the previous CPEC project to the broader OBOR initiative globalizing CPEC as a major part of the broader project. The originally intended \$46 billion investment that China intended to invest in Pakistan under the CPEC has now been expanded to approximately 55 billion dollars. The amount exceeds all foreign direct investment Pakistan has received over the last several years and is considerably more than all the aid Pakistan has received from the US since 9/11.

The aim of the project is to connect China's north-western region of Xinjiang to Gwadar port of Baluchistan. Because of this gigantic project CPEC, Pakistan is having a massive new network of roads, highways, railways, and pipelines. The roads are approximately 2700 kilometers distance from Gwadar to Kashgar. The motorway is also a part of this project, which will be about 1100 kilometers long stretching from Lahore to Karachi, in addition to the Karakorum Highway from Kashgar via Khunjerab Pass to Islamabad.

A train track between Peshawar and Karachi will also be built; the Karakorum Highway between Rawalpindi and Chinese border shall also be extended and constructed. The network of pipelines shall also be constructed which will be used to transport liquefied natural gas and oil from Iran and the Gulf countries. The CPEC is not only about the infrastructure of trains roads and pipeline it will also connect Europe and Central Asian countries with the region providing a higher level of development as well as cultural exchanges between China and Pakistan.

The work on the project has already begun. Pakistan has also emphasized that CPEC will produce the equal opportunities for all regions of Pakistan. The CPEC contains multi-sectoral projects such as energy, infrastructure, Gwadar and industry in the country. The CPEC will restore Pakistan's economic growth of the early 1960s which led economists at the time to predict that the country would be one of the future leading economic powers in Asia.

CPEC has a high value for both countries China and Pakistan. Due to CPEC the connectivity will open up west China to the south and contribute to "One Belt One Road" initiative policy. The establishment of communication from Kashgar to Gwadar has been agreed to be completed by 2030. Chinese Government is trying to utilize the entire necessary supporting role to enabling the environment for the open economic and logistic system in the regional vision of CPEC. CPEC will not only benefit China and Pakistan but will also the surrounding countries. Pakistan will increase its economic growth through this projec. CPEC has great importance for both the countries. CPEC is envisioned as a corridor of peace, prosperity and development. Although the CPEC is facing a lot of challenges, it has significant potentials of promising future. The people of Pakistan were adversely affected in the past due to inadequate opportunities and lack of right

decisions. CPEC will have a transformational impact on the state and the prosperity of Pakistan. The visit of President Xi in April 2015 and Chinese commitment of \$46 billion plus for various projects of CPEC, sketched the world attention to the new development and growth of the economy, and this will be the real prosperity for both the countries and will promise future for the region and the world.

First CPEC International Cooperation Coordination Working Group meeting held in Beijing

BEIJING: The senior officials, at the first meeting of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) International Cooperation Coordination Working Group held here, believed that the construction of the CPEC had achieved fruitful results in more than five years and has become a landmark project for pragmatic cooperation between China and Pakistan in the new era.

The meeting was co-chaired by Vice Foreign Minister Kong Yuyou and Pakistani Foreign Secretary Tahmina Janjua, and representatives from relevant departments of China and Pakistan participated, according to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs here on Wednesday.

It said the corridor had also become a highlight of the “One Belt, One Road” international cooperation. At the same time, corridor construction was moving towards high-quality development and facing new tasks and challenges.

The two sides agreed to implement the important consensus of the leaders of the two countries, promote the corridor construction to enrich the industrial cooperation, tilt the employment to the people’s livelihood, and ensure the stability of the corridor construction.

The two sides opposed the false accusations against the corridors and agreed to strengthen external publicity so that more people can understand the positive results of corridor construction.

The two sides agreed to carry out corridor construction cooperation with third parties on the basis of China-Pakistan consensus and full argumentation. The two sides encouraged cooperation between think tanks, media and cultural institutions of the two countries to provide intellectual

support for corridor construction, build a bridge between the government and the public, and create a good social environment.

Pakistan Observer, 11-04-19

Round-table seminar on Bao Forum

China promoting innovative patterns for wholesome development: Zhao Lijian

ZUBAIR QURESHI

Center for Belt & Road Initiative and China Studies- Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, organized a seminar on "Boao Forum for Asia and China's Growing Prospects in the World" on Tuesday highlighting the importance of regional connectivity and cooperation in trade, culture among the countries of Asia and beyond.

Parliamentary Secretary for Commerce Shanza Gulzar Khan was the chief guest on the occasion. Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of China while Zhao Lijian was the keynote speaker on the occasion.

Director Chinese Study Center, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, NUST, Ambassador (R) Syed Hasan Javed, HOD Humanities & Social Sciences Bahria University, Dr Azhar Ahmad, constituted the panel of other distinguished speakers.



Zhao Lijian, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of China addressing a roundtable on 'Boao Forum for Asia and China's Growing Prospects in the World' organised by Centre for Belt and Road Initiative and China Studies-Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies.—Photo by Sultan Bashir

In his keynote address, Zhao Lijian said China premier Li shared his vision of the country in Boao Forum China 2019. The forum held on March 28, 2019.

Zhao Lijian was of the view that China was "promoting economic growth, improving people's livelihood, establishing fair, transparent, and predictable business environment and regional integration" and last but not the least China is creating new patterns of innovative development to strengthen cooperation in innovation" which is a common goal for all Asian countries". Ms Shanza Gulzar Khan said the world was facing 4th industrial revolution and "it is the critical time for developing and underdeveloped states to catch up with this race by brining the huge youth bulge in the mainstream through innovation and providing opportunities."

The government of Pakistan, she said, was trying its best to promote the economic wellbeing of the country by taking various innovative steps required and necessary.

Ambassador Syed Hassan Javed gave a background of the Boao Forum and its potential to promote multilateralism. Boao Forum solely made for corporate and private sector investment is destined to promote mutual growth in Asia, said he.

Dr Azhar spoke in details about the reasons why Boao Forum was initiated. It was in response to the integrated economic policies of the United States of America with allies in Pacific Region which led China to initiate equally potential platform, said the learned doctor.

The round table seminar was attended by large number of Ambassadors, diplomats, academia, diplomatic envoys, representatives of Chamber of Commerce industries, media groups and students representing different higher education institutions in Pakistan.

Pakistan Observer, 12-04-19

Pak-China ties strengthened due to enhanced economic cooperation: Sanjrani

Enhanced Parliamentary linkages between Pakistan and China would further cement the friendly ties of the two countries. The increase in reciprocal visits of the parliamentary delegations would also strengthen the existing political and economic relations, while setting the stage for future interaction in different sectors.

A high level parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Chairman Senate will be visiting China very soon on the invitation of Chinese Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). An invitation to the Chairman of the National People Congress (NPC) of China to visit Pakistan has also been extended. Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said this while talking to Ambassador of China Yao Jing, here on Thursday.

Chairman Senate said that historic friendly ties between Pakistan and China have further strengthened due to enhanced economic cooperation between the two countries. Projects under CPEC are not only for the benefit of people of Balochistan but also very important for economic development of different areas of the country as well as providing a mile stone for future development of China.

Different mega projects being executed under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) should be expedited so as the people can reap the fruits of the development at the earliest. Chairman Senate said that inauguration of Gwadar International Airport would help project Gwadar as economic hub of the region and would pave the way for beginning of a new era of economic prosperity.

Pakistan Observer, 14-04-19

Pak, China to sign FTA this month

The second phase of China-Pakistan free trade agreement (FTA) will be signed here during Prime Minister Imran Khan's forthcoming visit to China this month, reports China Economic Net.

Quoting Advisor to Prime Minister on commerce, textile, industry and production, and investment, Abdul Razak Dawood, it reported that China might provide more support to promote industrialization and agricultural technology development in Pakistan. "At the end of this month, the best exporters from Pakistan are going with the Prime Minister to Beijing with the idea of connecting with the Chinese business people, inviting them to relocate to Pakistan and allocate resources reasonably. The investment of Chinese enterprises could be the most effective way of cooperation between China and Pakistan under the present international trade environment," Razak Dawood added.

It is known that textile industry accounts for 60 percent of Pakistan's total exports, and Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world with a complete textile value chain. The first International Textile Exhibition in Pakistan was held in 2016 and became the first professional exhibition in Pakistan's history.—INP

Pakistan Observer, 15-04-19

CPEC and economic indicators

Reviewing the progress on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be the major agenda during Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Beijing later this month. Second Phase of the CPEC has already started and the project is being viewed in both countries as the most significant for their economies and as a strategic communication. As prioritized by the Government of Pakistan, the major focus during the second phase of this mega project will be on areas like; agriculture, education and various other sectors. Besides, Pakistan desire participation of other countries to

become part of the CPEC; “CPEC is not only one of the foremost priorities of the government but that he also wants other countries to join the project so that a new chapter of growth and prosperity is ushered in the region.” Participation of other countries in the CPEC is a positive thinking, since it will enhance the stakes of regional countries in the project, by reducing the rivalries.

Through a major development, the first phase of CPEC has completed major communication networks and some power projects, as foundation of the project. The second phase will mostly consist of the projects which will be mutually beneficial for both countries with the major involvement of the people of Pakistan, since the corridor runs through 3000 km mostly on Pakistani soil. The areas like; ‘agriculture, education, health and water’ have been prioritized by the Government. Bulk of Pakistani economy is based on agriculture, therefore, a major development and innovation is needed in this sector.

The communication networking through CPEC will enable the government and private sectors to promote quality education in the areas which could not be concentrated in the past. Health and clean drinking water facilities are very important areas which can be focused for the populace living along the CPEC.

Ever since the start of the CPEC project, the major lacking on the part of Pakistan has been the availability of skilled manpower for their participation in all projects of this gigantic plan. In the absence of Pakistani skilled manpower, China filled the gap. This aspect invited critic from the people of Pakistan, who wanted Pakistani participation in various projects of the CPEC all along the corridor with major job opportunities as perceived at the planning stage. In this regard, Pakistan Government has been found wanting to train its human resource for the job specific skills well in time, since it took some time in conceiving, planning and starting the project. This aspect was constantly ignored by Government and the planners of the project and now it will be challenging to incorporate the people after they are skilled and trained enough to become its part at a belated stage. Moreover, Chinese seem comfortable working with their own people, including the labourer class. Though the Government has identified this lacking, yet it will take time to train and incorporate the skilled manpower in the project in a near future.

As clear from some of the Government statements, the primary focus of Prime Minister, Imran Khan’s second visit to Beijing will be on CPEC. It is the right time that; Prime Minister brings clarity with respect to some of the misperceptions about the prospective beneficiary of the project. Although over 80% route of the corridor passes through Pakistani geopolitics, yet there have been doubts about the real beneficiary of the project at the subsequent stages of the CPEC. The people of Pakistan and even the academic circle are still not clear as to how CPEC will be a game changer for the state and the people of Pakistan. This question arises especially in the wake of sinking Pakistani economy where GDP ratio has reduced to a record low. The Asian Development Bank has estimated 3.9% GDP for the year 2019 which will further reduced to 3.6% in 2020. IMF and World Bank have given even a bleak picture of Pakistani economy in next five years.

This is upsetting for the masses that a record price hike has been noticed in last eight months with the unprecedented devaluation of Pakistani currency where the Rupee has hit 144 against 1USD. With this state of affairs, Pakistani economy has weakened rather strengthening after completion of First Phase of CPEC. In 2015, at the start of CPEC, it was estimated that, Pakistani economy will take steady and firm start in 2016 from 4.5% to reach at 8.5% in 2028, upon completion of CPEC. From the available statistics, no positive indicators have been observed in last few years. This is either because of bad economic management by Pakistani Ministry of Finance and Planning or else, something really wrong with the agreements; Pakistan has signed with China on CPEC. It is the most apt opportunity that, such grey areas to be identified and addressed before Imran Khan embark on his tour to Beijing. In this regard, a thorough homework is needed by all those involve in financial management of CPEC in Pakistan. The November 2018 visit of Prime Minister, Imran Khan was found wanting, owing to lack of prior homework at Islamabad, though some grey areas was identified by Financial Advisor. Later, there came no clarity from Islamabad, though Chinese Embassy was found damage controlling. The long-term national interests of Pakistan must be kept in mind by the inexperienced, though well-educated ministers of PTI government. Imran Khan and his government must realise that economy is the focus of future warfare. — The writer is Professor of Politics and International Relations at International Islamic University, Islamabad.

The Express Tribune, 01-04-19

MRDL president cites Saindak project as testament to Pakistan-China friendship

Ping says doing everything possible for economic, social development of people

OUR CORRESPONDENT
CHAGAI

Chinese company MRDL President Khosho Ping has said the Saindak project is a link between Pakistan and China's friendship.

"We are playing every possible role for the economic and social development of the people of Balochistan," said the MRDL president while meeting a delegation of the Dalbandin Press Club in Saindak on Sunday.

"MRDL has been working with technical expertise for the past 17 years to extract natural resources from Saindak and during this time, hundreds of Pakistanis had been provided employment while nearby areas had been provided electricity, education, water and health



FRIENDLY GESTURE: Journalist Farooq Siyapad Rind is presenting a gift to Chinese company MRDL President Khosho Ping. PHOTO: EXPRESS

facilities," said Ping.

He maintained that the project to provide water and electricity to Nokundi had also been approved by the CSR fund of the Saindak project.

He said, "Work on various development projects has

been carried out in Chagai."

To a question, Ping said 56% of the profits coming from the Saindak project were being received by Pakistan, while 46% were being received by MRDL.

"We are doing our part and will expand development

work to every extent possible," said Ping, adding that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was an important milestone of "our friendship" and "its centre will be Balochistan".

"With CPEC, a new phase of prosperity will start in

the country, including Balochistan," said Ping.

He admitted that with time problems of various kinds were increasing in the Saindak project, but MRDL, with the support of Pakistanis, was facing and solving problems.

"Journalists play an important role in creating awareness in the society," said the MRDL president, adding that there was no shortage of resources in Chagai and they had to move forward together for progress.

"Foreign investors invest only when they see an opportunity. When chances are not provided it becomes difficult to continue work," said Ping, expressing determination that the MRDL would play its role in the development and progress of the locals.

Towards the end, journalists apprised Ping of the overall issues of the journalists of Chagai, including Dalbandin, Taftan and Nokundi.

The Express Tribune, 01-04-19

Five ways to help Pakistan overcome difficulties in cherry export to China

Officials discuss how to meet quality and safety standards for fruit's shipment

BEIJING

No restrictions have been placed on the entry of Pakistani cherries into China as long as they meet the standards, said a deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) during China's Two Sessions.

"A lot of countries are willing to export cherries to China. I have visited Turkey and other places of origin before. First, we should have strict inspection and quarantine standards; secondly, whether the price is competitive; thirdly, whether cherry production seasons are close," he said when asked how Pakistani cherries could enter China.

The deputy to the NPC was once at a high place in the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC). The second and third points mentioned above have already been talked in the article "China-Pakistan trade hotline: Pakistani cherries rival Chilean counterparts, yet hard to enter Chinese market." As to the first point, Zhao Jinping, former director-general of the Research Department of Foreign Economic Relations, Development Research Centre of the State Council, was the first guest to mention it in the special programme on "Cherry and FTA".

Closer relation between food safety and customs

Zhao believes that quality is not the only factor whether cherries can enter China or not. Besides, well performance in food safety, such as inspection and quarantine, and health standard system construction also contribute to imports of large quantities of Chilean cherries.

Being responsible for national health, every country should make sure the food that enters its territory meets safety standards. Therefore, strengthening food safety cooperation with Pakistan

is a significant part of maintaining long-term, sustained and rapid growth in bilateral trade.

"I personally visited Shanghai Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau when lots of imported fruits and vegetables were arriving there. For me, the cherries look very good and delicious, but technical experts can tell at a glance there are indeed tiny worm eggs in some part of the cherries."

Zhao said China Customs is stepping up efforts to facilitate customs clearance. "The time for customs clearance is greatly reduced. The sampling rate, an important indicator, is now very low, only 1% or even a smaller portion of all imported items will be inspected. In this case, it is important to have a management system that ensures product safety in the entire process and meets health requirements." China Customs, including the inspection and quarantine department, has established a long-term cooperation relationship with its counterparts from other countries and is making joint efforts for quality control.

"Pakistan Customs should further modernise and promote cooperation with China Customs," said Zhou Rong, senior researcher at Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University of China.

Cherry production in line with Chinese quarantine standards

GACC and SENASA reached an agreement on cherry quarantine on December 2, 2018. A month later, we found phytosanitary requirements for the import of Argentine cherries on the website of GACC, totalling over 6,800 words, which contain detailed regulations for orchards, packaging, refrigeration, pest monitoring and other factors in the cherry production process. Are these difficult for Pakistan?

"I do not think it is difficult, because our agricultural products, fruit and vegetable products, can be exported to the United States, the United Kingdom, Africa and other



FINDINGS: According to reports of the Chinese media, China has expressed interest in importing cherries, potatoes, wheat, citrus, rice and mangoes from Pakistan. PHOTO: CHINA ECONOMIC NET

countries. They should go through inspection and quarantine as well. Pakistani mangoes are very popular all over the world, especially in European countries such as the United Kingdom, and the United States. The problem of the presence of fruit flies has been solved. If we can get support from China and secure some orders, then we will definitely meet this requirement, this is not a big problem," said Amanullah Khan, Managing Director of Global Care.

"What we (are) concerned (about) most now is whether there are clear Chinese standards that we can follow to produce cherries, which will improve living standards of thousands of farmers in Pakistan, especially in Balochistan," Dunya TV Chief Editor Akram Habib added.

Joint effort in China-Pakistan cherry orchard

The idea of Sino-Pakistani joint venture cherry orchard was first introduced by Habib. He believes that logistics and promotion of cherries can lead to an increase in mutual cooperation.

Zhou thinks that China should set up a joint venture cherry farm in Pakistan and the two countries can

produce together to help Pakistan develop the cherry industry.

"If a new round of FTA is to be achieved, it is more pragmatic to help Pakistan increase its exports to China. If China can import Pakistani cherries, it will help solve our trade imbalance problem. Pakistan has an extremely large market and cheap labour, joint venture cherry orchard facilitates Pakistani cherry's access to the Chinese market, I think it is an idea that should be taken seriously," said Naveed Hussain, Editor of *The Express Tribune*.

More room for food export from Pakistan

Talking about the trade imbalance between China and Pakistan, Zhao says it does exist. "We should have imported some goods from Pakistan, but not enough has been done on imports now. Pakistan also faces some financial and debt difficulties. We must try to help them alleviate the pressure."

Zhao said the first two items with the highest proportion in Pakistan's exports are textile and food. Food accounts for nearly 20% and it mostly comprises Pakistan's specialty food. "China has expanded food import from Pakistan. I per-

sonally think it is worthwhile and there are opportunities. I suggest doing more in this regard."

Amanullah agreed with Zhao's idea. He said, "Whether it is fruit and vegetable or meat and dairy products, we have no problem in food export. Pakistan has established modern slaughterhouses that can produce 200 tons of beef and mutton per day. As far as I know, China imports from Australia and New Zealand, and it is very expensive, but exporting beef and mutton is not a problem for Pakistan."

CPEC-made product

According to reports of the Chinese media, China has expressed interest in importing cherries, potatoes, wheat, citrus, rice and mangoes from Pakistan. The two sides have also enhanced coordination in hybrid rice seed inspection and halal meat products are expected to be exported to China.

According to industry insiders, some think that the import of halal meat products is easier than the cherry quarantine.

According to the catalogue of fresh fruit varieties and exporting countries/regions that have obtained inspection and quarantine access to China, as of end-October 2018, there were three kinds of Pakistani fruits, namely mango, citrus and orange.

According to the data released by Ni Yuefeng, Minister and Secretary of CPC Committee of the General Administration of Customs of China, at the National Customs Work Conference at the beginning of the year, the GACC has completed the inspection and quarantine access of 83 kinds of quality food and agricultural products from 43 countries including India, Panama and Argentina, and quarantine access consultation for 22 agricultural products last year. "I hope that there will be a 'CPEC-made product'" said Zhou in concluding remarks and in a message on the Pakistan Day.

THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED ON THE CHINA ECONOMIC NET

The Express Tribune, 02-04-19

China hails PM Imran's support for CPEC

Geng lauds PM for performing groundbreaking of Gwadar airport

BEIJING

The Chinese government on Monday appreciated Prime Minister Imran Khan for performing ground-breaking for the construction of the New Gwadar International Airport, saying that the project would not only benefit the two countries but also contribute to the development of the region and the world.

"We appreciate the prime minister's attendance at the ceremony and we have every confidence in the prospects of our practical cooperation," Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson Geng Shuang told APP during a regular media briefing.

He expressed confidence that the airport after its construction would not only help benefit the two countries but also contribute to the development of the region and the

world. The spokesperson said China and Pakistan under the Belt and Road framework had been carrying out a series of mutually beneficial projects.

"The construction of the new airport at Gwadar was just one such example," Geng said. The \$230 million project funded by the Chinese government under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would be completed in three years in Guranani area, 26km northeast of Gwadar city.

The new airport would be capable of handling a combination of ATR 72, Airbus A-380, Boeing B-737 and Boeing B-747 for domestic and international routes. Covering an area of 18 square kilometres, the new airport would be the second largest in Pakistan and link the fast-rising Gwadar port city with the rest of the world.

Responding to a question, Geng said the US was setting a bad example by forcing a draft resolution on the sanctions issue at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), and cautioned that any such move would not be conducive to peace and security in South Asia.

"The US behaviour is not in consistence with the rules and procedures of the UNSC, its customs and practice. It is setting a bad example that will only complicate the issue and it is not conducive to peace and stability in South Asia," Geng said.

China, he said, had repeatedly said that its position on the issue of the designation of Maulana Masood Azhar was consistent and clear. "We hope that various parties will meet each other the halfway and continue to properly re-

solve this issue under the 1267 Committee framework," he added.

The spokesperson said that last Friday, the UNSC members exchanged views on the US proposed draft resolution and majority believed that efforts should be made under the 1267 Committee framework and to resolve the issue through dialogue and consultations. "They are not in favour of forcing the draft resolution."

He said that China had been working with various parties and was making progress and the US side was aware of the circumstances but it insisted on pushing the Security Council to adopt the draft resolution and that behaviour could not be justified.

When asked about the progress made by China on the listing issue, he said since the

application for designation was proposed at the committee, China had been in close communication with various parties. "As I said, we have been working with various parties and have made some positive progress and the US knows that very well," he added.

He said the Chinese side believed that under the current circumstances, forcing a draft resolution under the UNSC was not a constructive move. According to Geng, the US was showing haste on the listing issue by bypassing the set procedures to benefit the Indian ruling party in the forthcoming general elections in that country. "As I have just said, the US behaviour is not in consistence with the rules and procedures of the UN Security Council and its customs and practice." APP

The Express Tribune, 02-04-19

HASAAN KHAWAR

CPEC, Gwadar and the road ahead



The writer is a public policy expert and an honorary Fellow of Consortium for Development Policy Research. He tweets @hasaankhawar

Last time when I flew to Gwadar from Islamabad, it took me 14 hours, including an overnight stopover at Karachi. The turbulent landing of the turboprop ATR at the unassuming Gwadar Airport seemed to mock the tall ambitions for the city.

This, however, is set to change with Chinese help. The new \$230 million Gwadar International Airport is expected to be operational in three years, allowing much larger aircraft to operate on domestic and international routes and bringing the much-needed connectivity to this once-modest fishing town, now assuming a new identity under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The whole Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is built around the premise of improving connectivity, paving the way for investment, and trade and economic growth. CPEC is the flagship project of BRI and Gwadar is the cornerstone of CPEC. No wonder that the city has witnessed generous Chinese investments to improve its connectivity. But is connectivity enough to

change the future of Gwadar?

Let's first envision that if Gwadar were to become a success, how it would look like in 20 years. Ideally it would be a bustling port, with millions of tons of goods passing through it every year. Hundreds of Chinese companies would be managing flow of goods to and from western China to the Middle East and North Africa. The free trade zone would be home to scores of Pakistan-China joint ventures exporting goods to the world, alongside global conglomerates eyeing the mammoth Chinese market next door. Gwadar would be the economic hub for Balochistan, bolstering movement of goods and people from across the province and beyond, and ushering in a new era of prosperity for this hitherto-ignored region.

But connectivity alone cannot make this happen. There are two other pieces of this puzzle that must be addressed: building a safe and modern city with top-notch civic amenities and a robust commercial centre with investment-friendly regulations and institutions.

As of now, however, Gwadar is still known for speculative real estate investments and shady land records. Water supply and municipal services remain a question mark. The local population, mostly reliant on fishing, seems to be skeptical about the upcoming investments that may disrupt their decades-old businesses, while most of the skilled jobs in the port area have gone to people from Karachi and other areas, owing to poor skill-base of the local population. Leaving the Chinese investments aside, the rest of the city appears to be no different from any other small town of Pakistan. It seems to be an unequal partnership between China and Pakistan, where the latter doesn't seem prepared to play its part.

While the Chinese can bring in financing, technology and experience and build state-of-the-art infrastructure, they surely can't fix the underlying economic and governance systems and that is something where Pakistan government is failing. If we expect Gwadar's future to

be any different from the rest of the ill-managed urban centers of Pakistan, we need a different approach. Traditional government agencies like Gwadar Development Authority are not going to work. We need a new model, similar to charter cities, where the city management is governed by special laws through qualified experts. And this model should be duly supported by adequate resources, fully reflected in the provincial and national development plans, not only for the city's development on modern grounds but also to plug the local population into its promised development.

While Prime Minister Imran Khan has performed the groundbreaking of the new airport and has approved the dualisation of Kuchlak-Zhob section of the western CPEC route, what remains to be seen is if the government is ready to really transform Gwadar into a vibrant city and a robust commercial hub. And this will require far more than mere brick-and-mortar projects.

The Express Tribune, 03-04-19**Pakistan, China agree to continue CPEC momentum**

Work on first special economic zone in Rashakai will be launched soon

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and China have agreed to continue the current momentum in projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

An understanding to this effect was reached in a meeting between Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtiar and Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing on Tuesday.

The ambassador appreciated the government's efforts to fast-track CPEC projects, particularly the ground-breaking of the western route.

The minister hailed China's support for the implementation of Gwadar Airport project. He said the present government accorded top priority to the development of Gwadar, highlighting that Prime Minister Imran Khan, in his recent visit to Balochistan, performed the ground-breaking of the Rs65-billion Zhob-Kuchlak

section of western route, Rs17-billion transmission line for Makran coast, Rs23-billion new Gwadar Airport project, a hospital as well as a vocational institute.

The implementation of the 300MW energy project in Gwadar will be aligned with the development of the port city. He said CPEC had gained momentum and efforts would be made to continue the same pace in future. Bakhtiar revealed that work on the first special economic zone at Rashakai would be launched soon in order to enter implementation stage in Pakistan-China industrial cooperation.

He said cooperation would be strengthened through a formal framework agreement focusing on joint ventures and B2B cooperation. The minister emphasised the need for robust cooperation between business communities of the two countries.

"We should move towards Pak-China Business Forum with representatives from leading companies of the two countries in various areas," suggested the minister. APP

The Express Tribune, 06-04-19**CPEC Business Council
kicks off first meeting**

Minister hopes
to address trade
imbalance, broaden
market access

ISLAMABAD

The scope of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been expanded with focus on industrial and agricultural cooperation, socio-economic development, trade and market access, said Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtiar.

Co-chairing the first meeting of the CPEC Business Council on Friday, he detailed that the purpose behind the establishment of the forum was to create an interface between the government and business community besides uplifting industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China.

He elaborated that through industrial cooperation, the two nations planned to address trade imbalance, broaden market access for agricultural products and encourage business to business collaboration.

"The aim of the council is to provide a platform for regular consultations between the government and business community on matters pertaining to private sector investment besides enhancing industrial cooperation under CPEC," he added.

Bakhtiar voiced optimism

that the creation of the forum would accelerate the pace of industrialisation under the umbrella of CPEC.

The minister reiterated that the focus was on boosting Pakistan's industrial capacity through joint ventures in priority areas, relocation of labour-intensive export led industry, collaboration of small and medium enterprises, and enhancement of vocational training capacity.

Also co-chairing the meeting, Adviser to PM on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood was of the view that following the implementation of early harvest projects under CPEC, the stage was now set to expedite industrial collaboration, which would help attract private investments and diversify exports.

He added that CPEC had entered its second phase where industrialisation and agriculture growth were the main goals of the current regime.

"Special economic zones (SEZs) have acted as engines of growth for many developing states around the world for the last few decades," he noted. "Now it's high time for Pakistan to convert its SEZs into growth hubs."

The adviser hoped that the SEZs would attract investment from diverse sources because they offer a combination of tax-and-tariff incentives, streamlined customs procedures and less regulation. APP

The Express Tribune, 09-04-19

China-Pakistan cooperation brings prosperity to Gwadar

Locals pin hopes on CPEC for further development

ISLAMABAD

A regular job at the business centre of the free zone in Gwadar, once a small backward fishing village, has brought a great change in Younis Ghulam Qadir's life by lifting him from a fishing compound to a five-star working atmosphere.

Qadir, a 22-year-old former fisherman, looked very happy and satisfied with his job now as a housekeeper at the Gwadar Free Zone business centre as a regular and handsome monthly salary has helped his 10-member family resolve financial issues.

The young housekeeper is the eldest among a labourer father's six daughters and two sons. He told Xinhua in Gwadar that he had to quit his studies and started working at the age of 16 as a fisherman to help earn food for the family.

"I was worried about my fu-

ture and family. We couldn't afford food, medicine and education even after I worked whole day out for Rs300," he said, adding that he couldn't find a job as the town had an extremely high level of unemployment.

In January, on the advice of friends, the young man sent an application to the business centre from where he received a quick call from Chinese staff for an interview and instantly received a job offer.

Qadir considers the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a blessing for bringing fast growth and a number of jobs to Gwadar. "Gwadar is developing so fast that I had never dreamed about it. Chinese have done miracles by completing several projects, including roads, schools and health centres for locals," said the youth who is also learning the Chinese language after his working hours.

Gwadar, a small town located near the Arabian Sea and a vital part of the CPEC, has witnessed a great change

during the past five years with a number of completed projects, including the first phase of the free zone, arrival of cargo ships regularly and a water desalination plant.

In late March, the area welcomed its new international airport, the expected second largest airport of the country. Prime Minister Imran Khan broke ground for the construction and the new airport would establish direct links between the town and the outside world.

The prime minister said CPEC's main target is to bring people-oriented development.

Meanwhile, Abu Bakar, a local fisherman who has been in the business for 25 years, told Xinhua that development projects and economic activities in Gwadar are giving direct monetary benefits to locals, especially by increasing demand and prices of their fish by several times.

"In the past, our fish was sold at the rate of around Rs40 per kg but now it can be sold for up to Rs200 per kg," said

the 45-year-old fisherman, adding that activation of the Gwadar port and construction of the superhighway linking Gwadar with Karachi had eased up their supplies and exports.

He is confident that once the under-construction East Bay Expressway, linking the new Gwadar international airport and the free zone with the national highway network, is completed, the fish business would flourish further.

The six-lane, 19km-long expressway, funded by the Chinese government with an interest-free loan, is expected to be completed by October 2020 and would ensure smooth transportation of import, export and transit goods, the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform said.

On the sidelines of the Gwadar Expo 2019, Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Khusró Bakhtiar said the China-Pakistan partnership accords top priority to the development of Gwadar

along with investors-friendly regulations.

The minister said Gwadar is being developed as a modern, smart port city to meet international standards and it would be made green, clean and environment friendly.

Zohaib Sheikh, a captain who regularly visits Gwadar for cargo on his ship, told Xinhua that the port became operational very quickly with professional staff and standard facilities on the ground.

"I have visited several ports around the world, but Gwadar is the most eco-friendly and beautiful. When I enter Gwadar port's waters, I feel happy and breathe fresh," said the captain, who predicted that Gwadar has a great potential to become one of the best and busy ports.

Observing the fast development in the commercial as well as social sectors, Qadir and Abu Bakar both visualised that Gwadar would become a modern port city where they will live a happy life with a prosperous future. XINHUA

THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 10-04-2019

PM Imran to visit China for signing second phase of FTA

FAISALABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit China in the last week of current month to sign the second phase of a free trade agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and China, revealed Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing.

Addressing the business community at the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) on Tuesday, the envoy said in the second phase of FTA, both the countries would further extend cooperation in the fields of agriculture, manpower, health and education in addition to making efforts to eliminate poverty.

In this connection, a road map will be discussed to cover the social sector besides evolving a framework for assistance in the agro-industrial sector. The envoy said the FTA would help remove the imbalance in bilateral trade between the two countries.

“China will provide 95% market access to Pakistani products at zero duty whereas China will get 68% market access to Pakistan,” he disclosed.

He pointed out that during the visit of PM Imran, the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) would arrange a B2B Forum on April 28. During this event, businessmen of the two countries will negotiate feasible projects along with technology transfer.

Referring to the previous visit of the prime minister, Yao said China had agreed to import rice, sugar and yarn from Pakistan to bridge a widening import-export gap. “Though Pakistan has a huge quantity of surplus rice, its sale in Chinese markets is very low. Therefore, China will purchase 300,000 tons of rice and in this connection, negotiations have already started,” he added.

Regarding cooperation in the industrial sector, the Chinese ambassador said Chinese companies had reservations about the taxation policy of Pakistan. However, these companies will be convinced and provided incentives for investment in the industrial sector of Pakistan in order to enhance its production capacity.

Commenting on a Sean-like investment and incentives in Pakistan, the ambassador said “this region is traditionally, historically and culturally very close to China. Moreover, a sizable number of Chinese are also living in this region. Hence, they prefer to invest in this region because of their natural affiliation.”

He shared that China had made serious efforts to promote regional trade among SAARC countries, but it could not succeed due to the complex regional situation. However, he added that China would continue its efforts to expand regional trade.

He said the Chinese government would encourage its investors to set up a man-made fiber plant in Pakistan, but it could not compel anyone.

Speaking on the occasion, Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Railways Mian Farrukh Habib welcomed the Chinese ambassador, saying the technicalities regarding the FTA between Pakistan and China had been agreed, which would open new avenues of cooperation between the two sides.

He stressed the need for launching joint ventures with the Chinese, which would help Pakistan to promote environment-friendly and green industries in Faisalabad. launch joint ventures for the local production of 10 major import goods. “It will not only help Pakistan bridge its import and export gap, but will also open new business opportunities for Chinese investors,” he added.

The Express Tribune, 11-04-19

Pakistan, China to amend railways ML-1 agreement

Decide to reduce length of CPEC's largest project from 1,872 km to around 1,680 km

SHAHBAZ RANA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and China have agreed to amend a framework agreement on implementation of multibillion dollars mainline-I project of the Pakistan Railways in a bid to reduce size of the much-delayed strategically important scheme and to complete it in three phases.

The decision to split the project, which was once planned to be completed in

three years, suggests that work on the single-largest project of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will now take at least six years to complete — from the day of its groundbreaking.

It has been agreed to reduce length of the project from 1,872km to around 1,680 km, according to the government sources. The government has also decided to exclude the component of building a new 163km long double line between Karachi and Hyderabad from the scope of framework agreement.

It has been decided that this component will be executed on Public-Private Partnership or Build Operate and Transfer

Original plan was to construct and upgrade rail infrastructure in two phases and to complete it by 2022

Basis, if declared feasible after the commercial and financial feasibility study, said sources in the Ministry of Railways.

Similarly, the Havelian-Textile rail track has also been excluded from the project. The ML-I project will be completed on the Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode under a sovereign deal,

But like the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government, the government of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PT) has also failed to decide whether the Chinese loan for the ML-I project will be taken on the books of the Finance Ministry or that of the Ministry of Railways. In case the loan is taken on the books of the Finance Ministry, its servicing will also be the responsibility of the federal government.

An addendum to framework agreement will be signed to amend the Article-II to implement the ML-I project in three phases. According to RAILWAYS AGREEMENT, PAGE 8

The Express Tribune, 12-04-19

Gwadar is opening up to the world: GPA chairman

Kashani says port will improve lives, attract investment under CPEC

ISLAMABAD

Benefitting from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), local people's life, especially those living in the port city of Gwadar, would get improved due to vast economic opportunities, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani has said.

Talking to Chinese media in Gwadar recently, Kashani said that the Gwadar port would prove to be a heaven for local and foreign investors as it is located at a focal place at the Belt and Road Initiative, and offers a lot of favours to the investors.

Kashani said that Gwadar's development under CPEC is remarkable, and Gwadar is opening up to the world. "A few years ago, when I came for official meeting here, Gwadar did not have the kind of buildings that I see today. When I visited last time, it was giving the look of a port with a distant future."

He attributed the fast development and brisk transformation in Gwadar to its operator the China

Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), which has started to restore the port since 2013. "The pace was slow initially in 2005-2013. Consider it as a plane taxiing. But now, with COPHC, the port is extending, and more investors are coming in."

The GPA and COPHC recently held an industrial expo to attract local and foreign investors. Over 100 companies participated in the two-day event and there are high chances of individual investments and joint ventures in the near future.

Kashani said that they will keep on holding a number of expos in the next few years to introduce Gwadar to investors and traders. "(We want) everybody to come in and chip in, and have their contribution towards the development of Gwadar."

The GPA chairman said that Gwadar is at an important location from which the industrial goods can be taken to Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America through a des-

ignated route, without any hassle. Apart from it, the GPA does not impose any demurrage charges, "which is not actually conceivable in an operational port all around the globe as demurrage charges is one of the things which makes revenue," he said.

GPA Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani

ignated route, without any hassle.

Apart from it, the GPA does not impose any demurrage charges, "which is not actually conceivable in an operational port all around the globe as demurrage charges is one of the things which makes revenue," he said.

Talking about the welfare of local community brought by the development of Gwadar, Kashani said that the GPA is going to give a lot of support to local unemployed youth by enabling them to get good jobs after providing them skills.

A Pak-China vocational training institute has been planned

in Gwadar, which will provide basic training to unskilled youth to equip them with the necessary skills required for the port operations. "We would like to give local population better jobs. We would like to include them in pace of development that we are thinking about," he said.

The GPA is also uplifting the condition of local fishermen by giving them better equipment to replace their traditional fishing methods with modern techniques. "Their (fishermen) lives will be changed. The living standard can go up, once you have more money, you can have better boats for fishing, you can go and use the technology also in a more efficient and better manner," he said.

"So, it will open up a lot of avenues for them and instead of relying on the traditional method of fishing. They can have larger and more technologically advanced boats. So it can actually help them and their livelihood," the GPA chairman said. XINHUA

The Express Tribune 15-04-2019

PM Imran all set to visit Iran, China

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan will embark on visits to Iran and China on April 21 and April 25, respectively.

During his visit of Tehran, he is expected to meet Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rowhani.

This will be PM Imran's first visit to Iran since he assumed office last year in August. The premier's trip to the neighboring country is aimed to cement bilateral ties and promote unity among the Muslim Ummah.

The prime minister will also visit China on April 25 and during his four-day stay he will meet Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Chinese counterpart. Several memorandums of understanding (MoUs) in energy, infrastructure and other sectors would likely be inked.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Finance Minister Asad Umar, Planning Minister Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtyar and Shipping Minister Ali Zaidi will be accompanying the premier.

The prime minister will also meet other Chinese leaders and members of the business community to encourage them to explore investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The Express Tribune 15-04-2019

Over 28,000 Pakistanis studying in China

BEIJING: Pakistan ranks third in the number of international students currently studying in China with 28,023 students, according to a statement issued by China's Ministry of Education.

South Korea ranked first with 50,600 students, followed by Thailand with 28,608, India with 23,198, and the United States with 20,996.

A total of 492,185 international students from 196 countries studied in China, last year, up 0.62 per cent from the previous year. The number of students pursuing academic education increased by 6.86 per cent year-on-year to 258,122, accounting for 52.44 per cent of the total.

Students studying for master's and doctoral degrees increased by 12.28 per cent to 85,062. Most international students in China have been self-funded, accounting for 87.19 per cent of the total.

Pakistanis stand at 3rd position among total number of foreign students in China

The official data shows that China has become the top education destination for Pakistani students as out of all of them enrolled in Chinese universities, around 7,034 are studying on scholarships.

The number of Pakistani students has risen in China mainly because of a series of preferential policies offered by the Chinese government after the launch of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a pilot project of Belt and Road Initiative.

Currently, 6,156 Pakistani students are studying in Phd, 3,600 in Masters, 11,100 in Bachelors and 3,000 in Short Term Exchange Programs across China. Pakistani students are also studying Chinese language, engineering, medical, computer science and various other fields

Various scholarships are provided by the Chinese government to lure international students over – most notably, students from the Belt and Road Initiative participating countries and regions have been facilitated to obtain scholarships under the Chinese Government Scholarship – Silk Road Program. Pakistani students also enthusiastically participate in cultural activities organised at different universities across China.

They set up booths decorated with traditional Pakistani items and posters depicting different social and cultural activities and historical places in Pakistan.

Pakistani students also represent the country in the music, essay writing, and photography competitions to be organised under the Belt and Road Initiative in China.

The Nation, 01-04-19

Govt decides to set up a new Directorate General for CPEC audit

Islamabad - To undertake the detailed scrutiny of the multibillion dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor projects, Auditor General of Pakistan has decided to set up a new Directorate General for Audit of CPEC.

The accountability role of the Pakistan Audit Department had extensively been enhanced and various federal/provincial governments, ministries etc. were continuously sending requests for special audit of various government organizations, projects etc, said the Auditor General of Pakistan Javaid Jehangir, while addressing the officers of Pakistan Audit (PA) and Account Service (AS).

While addressing to the final passing out ceremony of the 45th Specialized Training Program of Pakistan Audit and Accounts Service, Javaid Jehangir emphasized on the need of modern skills & training to cater for the expectations of the stake-holders. AGP apprised that the Pakistan Audit Department was going under extensive reforms to remain relevant with the changing structure of the Government, and new Directorates General of Social Safety-Nets Audit, Information System Audit and Environmental Audit have been established from available resources.

The AGP informed that the establishment of a new Directorate General for Audit of CPEC was under consideration and would be established soon.

To meet the expectations of the Executive/Administration, Department of AGP has developed its capacities in emerging areas of audit (Forensic Audit, Environmental Audit, IT Audit etc.) and had recently conducted various Special Audit Assignments.

The AGP advised the passing-out officers that they, being young officers, were future of Pakistan and they had to lead the country to good governance by playing their role in financial accountability and transparency. So, they have to prepare themselves for emerging challenges with modern knowledge, skills and training.

The AGP appreciated the role of Pakistan Audit and Accounts Academy in training the new officers in areas of audit, accounts, financial management and in preparing them for performing their financial accountability role.

The event was attended by senior officers of Pakistan Audit & Accounts Service, passing-out officers and their parents. The AGP distributed prizes among passing-out officers for their good performance in academics and sports.

Meanwhile an official of the AGP told The Nation that currently there is Directorate General Federal, DG Provincial, DG GB, DG AJK, DG defense and DG commercial.

Since CPEC is the biggest project of the country, which entails multi billion dollars schemes from diversified sectors, therefore it required a dedicated Directorate General to scrutinize the CPEC projects in detail.

The official said that there will be no new hiring for the Directorate General Audit for CPEC and it will be undertaken through the current employees of the AGP.

After taking the requisite approval from the concerned ministries the new Directorate General will be established, the official said. “Most likely we are going to establish the Directorate General Audit of CPEC by July these years,” said the official.

The Nation, 01-04-19

SBP urges govt to develop workforce for CPEC

ISLAMABAD - The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has urged the government to take serious notice of the country’s human capital deficiency by focusing on re-skilling, digitization, and technological advancements to gain a competitive advantage in the next phase of CPEC.

“CPEC is expected to generate significant avenues of employment for the domestic labor force, especially after the establishment of the proposed Special Economic Zones (SEZs). However, as this development takes shape, the job requirements would gradually become more demanding,” the second quarterly report 2018-19 on “The State of Economy” published by the SBP said.

The report stressed the need to improving the level of human capital in the economy to ensure that both the existing and the incoming labor force is skilled enough to meet the growing technical requirements of the evolving nature of work. The report proposed that a significant overhaul of the education system of the country is required to address the dearth of adequately skilled graduates entering the labor force. The effectiveness of the primary education needs to be enhanced significantly in order to improve the level of knowledge-absorption and increasing the level of enrollment in schools. Of equal importance is the need for revising the curriculum of academic institutions to better reflect the needs of current and future occupations. Focus on vocational and skill training of the workforce is critical in ensuring that the employability levels of the domestic workers remain intact, or ideally increase, during the transitional stage of job transformation and technical advancement.

It added that a welcome development in this regard is that the Chinese firms are already involved in technical skill building of the Pakistani youth to enable them to be prepared for work under the CPEC programmes. This includes emphasis on vocational training (such as the construction of Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute at Gwadar), scholarships and exchange programs for university and college students as mentioned in the Joint-Statement, and collaborative efforts with Pakistani technological platforms (such as the AliBaba eFounders Fellowship program with NIC Karachi). It added that an encouragement development is that the NAVTCC of Pakistan is in the process of introducing officially defined skill-set categorizations to help improve the placement and skill matching in the domestic labour market.

The Nation, 03-04-19

Pakistan, China agree to continue momentum on CPEC

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China Tuesday agreed to continue momentum on the projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This agreement was made during a meeting of Minister for Planning and Development MakhdumKhusroBakhtyar with Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Yao Jing who called on him here.

The ambassador appreciated the government's efforts to fast track the CPEC projects particularly the groundbreaking of western route. Minister for Planning hailed China's support for implementation of Gwadar Airport project.

MakhdumKhusro said the present government attaches top priority to the development of Gwadar, highlighting that Prime Minister Imran Khan in his recent visit to Balochistan performed groundbreaking of the Rs65 billion Zhob-Kuchlak section of Western Route, Rs17 billion project of transmission line for Makran coast, Rs23 billion new Gwadar Airport project, hospital as well as vocational institute.

The implementation of 300 MW energy project in Gwadar will be aligned with the development of Gwadar. He said CPEC has gained momentum and efforts would be made to continue the same pace in future. He said first special economic zone at Rashakai will be launched soon in order to enter into the implementation stage of Pak-China Industrial Cooperation.

He further said cooperation will be further strengthened by formal framework agreement focusing on joint ventures, and B2B cooperation.

The minister emphasized the need for robust cooperation between the business communities of the two countries. "We should move towards Pak-China Business Forum with representatives from leading companies of the two countries in various areas," the minister said.

During the meeting, deliverables for the proposed visit of the prime minister to China to participate in the second Belt and Road Forum this month came under discussion regarding areas of industry cooperation, agriculture, socio-economic development and infrastructure.

He called for cooperation in agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors between the two countries to benefit from the enormous potential this area offers.

The Nation, 06-04-19

Senate body briefed about CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD - Officials of Pakistan Railways on Friday briefed the Senate sub Committee regarding the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and said Gawadar would be connected with central Railways.

The meeting of the subcommittee on Railways was held under the convener ship of Senator John Kenneth Williams here on Friday at Parliament House.

Officials of Pakistan Railways told the Senate body that a railway track would be laid from Gawadar to Turbat and Mustang, adding, Railway was acquiring the land for this project and working on the feasibility of the projects is ready.

They informed that beside all dangers in the area of Mustang and Pangore, the feasibility for the project has been completed and Railways officials have completed this study with hard work.

The Nation, 06-04-19

Pak-China co-op to address trade imbalance: Khusro

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform MakhdumKhusroBakhtyar has said that the industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan will address the issue of trade imbalance, broaden market access for agricultural products and encourage business to business contacts.

The federal minister was co-chairing a meeting of CPEC Business Council along-with Advisor to PM on Commerce, Industry & Textile Abdul RazakDawood on Friday. Secretary to the Council, Executive Director General BOI MsFareenaMazhar briefed the members on the progress in SEZ's and incentive packages under the industrial cooperation.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister for planning said that purpose behind establishing the forum is to create an interface between the government and business community and take forward the industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China to new heights for mutual benefit.

“Through industrial cooperation, we also want to address trade imbalance, broaden market access for agricultural products and encourage B2B cooperation between the two countries,” stated the minister.

Khusro said that scope of CPEC has expanded with focus on industrial and agriculture cooperation, socio-economic development, trade and market access. The Minister expressed optimism that creation of CPEC Business Council, with representation from private sector leading associations and companies in various areas, will accelerate the pace of industrialization under the umbrella of the mega project. The minister said that focus is on boosting Pakistan’s industrial capacity through joint ventures in priority areas, relocation of labour-intensive export led industry, SMEs collaboration and enhancing vocational training capacity.

Advisor to PM Abdul Razak Dawood said that after implementation of early harvest projects of energy and infrastructure under CPEC, the stage is now set to expedite the industrial collaboration which will help attract private investments and diversify the country’s exports. He added, “We are in the second phase of CPEC where industrialization and agriculture growth would be the main goals of the current regime. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been the engine of growth for many developing states around the world for the last few decades and it’s the high time for Pakistan to convert its SEZs into growth hubs.”

The advisor hoped that SEZs would attract investment from diversified sources because they offer a combination of tax-and-tariff incentives, streamlined customs procedures and less regulation. The production of finished goods is the topmost priority, which will help Pakistan in reducing trade deficit.

Earlier, Board of Investment Chairman Haroon Sharif welcomed all the members to the first meeting of the council and said that BOI will serve as Secretariat for the CPEC Business Council adding that a dedicated team of professionals has been hired in this regard. He said that BOI is improving its capacity to deal with matters of industrial cooperation with China and urged the members to come up with tangible suggestions in this regard.

Secretary Planning Zafar Hasan, Project Director CPEC Hassan Daud and representatives from leading associations and companies also attended the meeting.

The Nation 10-04-2019

Beijing concerned over Chinese marrying Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD - China has lodged a protest with Pakistan over Chinese nationals marrying Pakistanis in Pakistan. Chinese high-ups have shared this concern with Pakistani officials, Ministry of Interior Tuesday informed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Interior.

Additional Secretary Ministry of Interior Dr Tariq Sardar informed the NA panel that China has shared serious concerns with Pakistan over some Chinese nationals coming to Pakistan on visit visas and marrying Pakistanis. The committee met in the chair of member National Assembly (MNA) Raja Khurram Nawaz.

Responding to a question of PTI MNA Nafeesa Khattak, the additional secretary said that some private marriage bureaus were involved in these marriages. "We are receiving most of complaints from two cities Lahore and Abbottabad," he said. However, the officer could not answer the question of Khattak that some Pakistani men had married Uighur women in China and their wives had vanished there and their whereabouts are not known to them.

The Nation 10-04-2019

Chinese Consulate team visits Nawa-i-Waqt office

LAHORE - A three-member delegation of Chinese Consulate led by Deputy Consul General in Lahore PengZhengwu visited Nawa-i-Waqt Group and met Managing Director Rameeza Nizami on Tuesday. One Belt, One Road Project, CPEC, friendly relations between Pakistan and China and other issues came under discussion during the meeting.

Earlier, The Nation Editor Salim Bokhari briefed the delegation about the history of Nawa-i-Waqt. Deputy Consul General PengZhengwu lauded Nawa-i-Waqt and The Nation for positive reporting on Pak-Chine friendship and Belt and Road Initiative. Director Administrator Col (r) Nadeem Qadri, HR Director Shafiq Sultan and Khawar Sindu were also present on the occasion.

The Nation, 11-04-19

China may give special \$1b market access to Pakistan after June: Dawood

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan hopes to sign second phase of China-Pakistan free trade agreement by the end of current month during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Beijing. Pakistan and China are currently holding parleys in Beijing to finalize second phase of China-Pakistan free trade agreement. "Negotiations are going very well and I am hopeful that FTA will be signed during Prime Minister's visit to China on April 28," said Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Industries and Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood while addressing a press conference along with chairman Board of Investment Haroon Sharif.

Dawood said that rice shipments to China had already begun as part of the deal which was agreed during Prime Minister Imran Khan's four-day visit to Beijing and Shanghai in the first week of November last year. China had already provided market access to Pakistan in sugar, rice and yarn amounting to \$1 billion. Following this market access, China may also give special \$1 billion market access to Pakistan after June this year.

Haroon Sharif said that inflow of foreign investment is around \$1.441 billion during eight months (July to February) of the ongoing fiscal year as against \$573 million investment during same time of the PML-N government. He further said that volume of investment would remain at around \$3 billion during current fiscal year. However, it would significantly increase from the next fiscal year mainly due to the reforms introduced by the incumbent government to improve ease of doing business.

Inflow of foreign investment around \$1.441b during eight months

Razak Dawood and Haroon Sharif highlighted that Pakistan is aggressively pursuing reforms to create ease of doing business in the country. The country had improved its ranking by 11 points and moved from 136/190 to 147/190 in Doing Business Report 2019. Dawood said that the task is to ensure Pakistan carries on with the improvement trend. He appreciated World Bank for continued assistance and appreciated the efforts of all federal and provincial government departments.

Chairman Board of Investment informed that a new company can now be registered in just four hours with the SECP on its online platform. The government integrated SECP with Punjab and Sindh business registration portal. This has helped in reducing the time and process for registering a company and providing one platform where businesses are started. The SECP had registered more than 8,000 new companies in six months period due to the reforms process.

Sharif informed that number of tax payment had reduced to 10 from 47. Online payment of federal and provincial taxes, contributions and duties would be considered as one since now there is one online interaction. Online payments will help Pakistan to improve its ranking in paying taxes indicator. He hoped that number tax payment would reduce to single digit from next year.

Chairman informed that time for giving construction had also reduced. In Lahore, the Lahore Development Authority has started its one window operation where all departments involved in the process of issuing a construction permit are present. Similarly, in Karachi a one-window solution is in its development phase. Government of Sindh will be launching it soon. After the introduction of one window the process has been made efficient from 8 months to 2 months in Lahore and expected to be reduced to 3 months in Karachi.

Sharif said that there is complete automation of property registration in Punjab. Property registration through online mode has reduced the time drastically for this process and is one of the key areas of reforms. It improves transparency and quality of land administration.

Other areas of reforms are integration of key departments with WeBOC (online Platform of Pakistan Customs). To help importers/exporters and reduce the time and cost of compliance with departments, key departments have been integrated in WeBOC (Web Based One Customs Platform). The reforms also included automation of electricity connection process by K-Electric. K-Electric has made the process of getting a commercial electricity connection easier by making it online where the customer can track the application as well. Establishment of Collateral registry has also been started for unincorporated entities and registry has become operational with the appointment of registrar. This will help the small businesses to use their moveable assets as collateral for getting credit.

Sharif explained that it is a priority of the government to make business entry and operations easier, faster and cheaper. He added that the next step is to cut out the redundant regulations and remove unnecessary permissions/NOCs and inspections. He reiterated that the Board of Investment, as the secretariat of PM's Steering Committee on Doing Business Reforms, is keen to improve the business climate.

The Nation, 11-04-19

Arid varsity, Chinese firm sign MoU on food security

RAWALPINDI- National Center for Livestock Breeding, Genetics and Genomics of PirMehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi and Joint Laboratory on Livestock and Forage Genetic Resources, Beijing signed a memorandum of understanding here on Wednesday.

The main objective of the MoU is to enhance the genetic potential of local livestock for attaining food security and poverty alleviation. This MoU will also be helpful to establish a long-term relationship for purposes of exploring complementary research, institutional development and capacity building skills of both organizations.

DrMoaen-ud-Din, Director NCLBG&G and DrJian-Lin HAN, chief manager/senior scientist JLLFGR, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. On the occasion, DrNadeemAkhtarAbbasi, Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR, deans and directors were also present.

Under the MoU, both organizations agreed to conduct collaborative research, capacity building programs and will conduct short and long term training for scientists/students through joint research to promote economically viable, socially acceptable, and environmentally sustainable systems of breeding and genetic improvement for local livestock species.

DrNadeemAkhtarAbbasi said that the MoU would be helpful to reduce poverty in the country through research in terms of improved genetic potential of indigenous livestock through discovery, development, and dissemination of knowledge related to animal breeding and genetics in genomics era.

The Nation, 12-04-19

Pak peacekeeper rescued by Chinese mission in Sudan

BEIJING - A sick Pakistani peacekeeping soldier was rescued with assistance of China's second peacekeeping helicopter contingent last week in Darfur, Sudan.

This has been the third emergency medical rescue mission of this contingent since its deployment, according to a report of China Military Online here.

According to details, the Operations Room of the helicopter contingent received a call from the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), on the morning of April 5, asking for a helicopter to transport a Pakistani peacekeeper who was suspected to have a heart attack from Kebkabiya to Al Fashir.

The contingent took action without delay and fulfilled the transportation safely to Al Fashir three hours later, where the patient was transferred by a UN airplane to Khartoum for further treatment.

"We're grateful for the kind assistance from the Chinese helicopter contingent. The outstanding performance of the rescue crew bought us time to relieve the pain and save the patient's life."

After the mission, accompanying Pakistani doctors shook hands with the Chinese crew members one by one to express their gratitude.

Since its deployment in Darfur, Sudan, China's second peacekeeping helicopter detachment has carried out several emergency rescue missions and received high acclaims from the UNAMID, the peers from other countries, and the Sudanese government and people.

The Nation, 14-04-19

Govt hopes FTA-II with China will help in reducing trade deficit

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan hopes that second phase of free trade agreement (FTA) with China would help in reducing its trade deficit with the neighboring country.

Pakistan and China had recently evolved a consensus on the FTA-II in Beijing. The second phase of FTA was supposed to start from the sixth year of the agreement ie 2013, but was delayed as officials from both countries failed to reach an agreement despite meeting for more than 11 times. The negotiations on the Phase-II of PCFTA began in 2011.

Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Industries and Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood has said that FTA-II with China would be signed later this month during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Beijing. He informed the media last week that China would also extend unilateral market access to hundreds of Pakistani products which were on the table for the last one year. China has also agreed to give another special quota of one billion dollars to Pakistan for export of potato, wheat, onion and cherry, in addition to existing one billion dollars.

"Both the sides had made a breakthrough in the stalled negotiations during recent talks, which will lead to sign the agreement during Prime Minister's visit to China," said an official of the

ministry of commerce. He did not share further details only by saying agreement is in Pakistan's favor. However, another official said that Pakistan would get market access for 301 tariff lines, which will cover most of its exports and allow export of commodities which are currently negligible.

He informed that Pakistan's exports to China would increase to \$2.2 billion by the end of current year from existing only \$1.2 billion. Later, it would enhance to \$3.2 billion following the additional quota of one billion dollars for export of potato, wheat, onion and cherry, The FTA-II would covers nearly 7,000 tariff lines at the eight-digit level of the HS code. Both sides reduced tariffs on almost 36 per cent of the tariff lines to zero during first three years of PCFTA's Phase-1. Moreover, at the end of the FTA-II, both sides were to reduce tariffs on 90pc of the tariff lines to zero.

The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCCI)'s President Daroo Khan Achakzai had recently said that government should enter into second phase of FTA with China but not at cost of closing our local industries and adversely affecting the economy at large. While commenting on first phase of FTA, he said that it had enhanced Pakistan's trade deficit with China to \$17 billion.

It is worth mentioning here that negotiations of FTA-II between two countries had started in 2012. Under the first phase of FTA, Pakistan's trade balance with China had worsened in last various financial years. Pakistan's major exports to China are cotton yarn, chemical material, crude vegetable material, rice, raw hides and skins, fish and fish preparations. On the other hand, the major imports of Pakistan from China are machinery and its spare parts, manufactured fertilizer, chemical elements, yarn and thread of synthetic fiber, iron and steel, chemical materials and products, vegetables and synthetic textile fiber, road vehicles and their parts, non-ferrous metals, tyres and tubes of rubber etc.

The Nation 15-04-2019

Pakistan, China together will emerge as big players in technological field:

Fawad

Information Minister Chaudhary Fawad Hussain has expressed the confidence that China and Pakistan together will emerge as big players in the field of technology. He was addressing Huawei Pakistan Mobile Summit in Islamabad on Monday.

The Information Minister pointed out that Pakistan and China have always remained great friends. However, under leadership of President Xi Jinping, the whole dynamics of this relationship has changed. He said both the countries have strategic economic and technological relations. He said that future belongs to technology and Pakistan has to embrace modern technology to move forward and keep pace with the world. He said we have to support our technology companies and facilitate our youth to acquire scientific and technological education.

The Information Minister recalled that there was a time when Pakistan used to locally manufacture transmitters and radio equipment but now everything is being imported.

The Information Minister said we have decided to establish a Media University where students will be imparted with education keeping in view the latest technological trends in the field of amedia.

The News, 01-04-19

Pakistan to seek \$1b export orders from China: Razak

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are set to sign Free Trade Agreement (FTA)-II when Prime Minister Imran Khan will leave for Beijing on April 27 for three days wherein he will also attend the second OBOR (One Belt One Road) Forum for International Corporations.

The much-awaited FTA-II, once it is signed, will help Pakistan double its exports to China, Razak Dawood, Adviser to PM on Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment told The News in an exclusive interview.

“Finance Secretary Younas Dagher and Commerce Secretary Sardar Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera will off to China on April 9 wherein they will hold talks with top Chinese officials on initial FTA-II accord. However, on the sidelines of the OBOR Forum that will be attended by heads of states and delegates from over 100 countries, both the countries will ink the free trade accord-II in the presence of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese President Xi Jinping,” he said.

Pakistan will, adviser disclosed, also place its request with top Chinese functionaries seeking another \$1 billion order for exports to China out of FTA-II agreement. Another \$1 billion export order will help Pakistan triple its exports to China.

On November 9, 2018, he said, Beijing had placed the order with Islamabad of \$1 billion exports to Chinese market. Under that particular order, Pakistan was to export sugar of 300,000 metric tonnes (MT), yarn 350,000 MT and rice 200,000 MT. Of \$1 billion order, \$300 million of rice and sugar will be exported by June 30, 2019. Almost 75 percent of the rice has been shipped and the rest of consignment will be completed by June 30, 2019. However, other consignments of sugar and yarn are to be executed by December 2019.

The exports to China currently stand at \$1.2 billion which will surge to \$2.4 billion after signing FTA-II, but out of second free trade deal, the target of export of \$1 billion is to be executed by December, 2019 that will be followed by another \$1 billion exports for which Pakistan will also request to China to extend order during the forthcoming visit.

About investment of \$10 billion on establishing the deep conversion refinery and \$1 billion on petro-chemical complex at Gwadar, Razak Dawood said that Pakistan experts’ delegation is to soon leave for Saudi Arabia to have interaction with their counterparts to discuss the technical issues and once the specifications are finalized, it will be easy to help Saudi Arabia assess the volume of investment that is exactly to be required for the both refinery and petro-chemical complex. However, he hoped that feasibility study by Saudi experts will be completed in 12 months.

When asked if Pakistan has initiated any endeavor to increase its export to Saudi Arabia, the adviser responded that Saudi Arabian counterpart has clearly said that if Pakistani entrepreneurs are ready to meet requirements of its tariff regime, which has not changed for the last 20 years and quality standards, his country’s doors are open. Now it is up to Pakistan’s entrepreneurs to

make inroads for their products in Saudi Arabian market keeping in view the Saudi tariff regime and its quality standards.

About the recently signed MoUs with Malaysian companies, during the visit of Prime Minister Mahatir Mohamad to Pakistan, the minister said that the said MoUs of \$900 million are different as these were signed by private-to-private parties. The minister said he is 100 percent sure that MoUs valuing \$900 million will be materialized and executed.

To a question, the minister brushed aside the impression that the government has abandoned the Look Africa Policy saying this policy is very much effective as Pakistan is currently exporting cement, and fully Pakistan made tractors to three African countries of Mozambique, Zambia and Kenya.

“I am much pleased that the engineering products like tractors are being exported without any subsidy to the said African countries,” the jubilant minister said and added that about 10,000 tractors would be exported by June 30, 2019. He said that cement export to African countries has surged manifold. The total exports of cement stands at \$150 million.

“The export of cement has diverted to Africa because of slow down in construction activities in Pakistan and ban imposed by India on Pakistani products following Pulwama incident,” he concluded.

The News, 02-04-19

Qatar evinces interest to invest in CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: Qatari government on Monday evinced interest in making investments in various projects, including those under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

Qatar Investment Authority’s Head Sheikh Faisal Bin Thani Al-Thani said Qatar is planning various projects in Pakistan with an investment horizon for next 10 to 15 years. “We are looking for a long-term partnership and not quick wins,” an official statement quoted him as saying. He was leading an investment delegation during a meeting with Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood and Chairman Board of Investment Haroon Sharif. The delegation showed a keen interest in Prime Minister’s Housing project as well as supplementing the CPEC investments. Specific projects were discussed in areas of aviation services, tourism, infrastructure development, power generation, water management, agro-industries and tourism across the country.

Dawood encouraged Qatari companies to come forward and have joint ventures with foreign and local companies to become part of global value chain. PM Advisor further said Qatari companies have immense potential to supplement the CPEC projects and stimulate industrialization in the country.

Advisor informed the delegation that Qatar could enjoy a first mover's advantage with investment in the tourism sector. "As a result of renewed confidence in the new government, large investments are in the pipeline from other countries including China, Malaysia and Turkey," he said. Qatar-Pakistan bilateral trade volume is set to witness a major boost in the coming days as Hamad Port has established direct shipping links to Karachi and other ports in the country. The bilateral economic relations are expected to expand further as private companies from both the sides are exploring trade and investment opportunities. Dawood said Pakistan desires to have a long-term economic and strategic relationship between the two countries.

Qatari companies have signed a number of agreements with their Pakistani counterparts to import goods from Pakistan including fruits, vegetables, fresh meat, chicken other poultry and dairy products, after recent visit of a Pakistani mission to Doha. Prime Minister Imran Khan led a delegation to Qatar and met with the Emir of Qatar in January. Following the Prime Minister's visit, Board of Investment organized a successful Pakistan-Qatar Investment Forum in March in Doha between the business communities of the both countries in collaboration with the government of Qatar.

The News, 03-04-19

Construction of ML-1 from Peshawar to Karachi

ISLAMABAD: Despite making claims for entering into second phase of cooperation under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), both sides could not evolve agreement on financing model for construction of Mainline-1 (ML-1) from Peshawar to Karachi.

Although, Pakistani authorities are claiming that Prime Minister Imran Khan would take up different projects during his upcoming visit to China including on ML-1 but the financing arrangement was not yet finalized between the two sides. "Pakistani side is asking for lower cost from the concerned public sector company of China as the government has decided to implement this project in phased manner," said the sources.

Pakistan wants early implementation on kick-starting special economic zone especially at Rashakai as early as possible but there are unresolved issues that need to be fixed for moving towards the desired objectives. Islamabad wants its inauguration within this ongoing month.

On the other hand, China's ambassador along with investor delegation held meeting with FBR team on Tuesday and explored the possibilities of incentives on investment.

Earlier, Chinese Ambassador in Islamabad Yao Jing called on Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform MakhdoomKhusroBakhtiar. The ambassador appreciated government of Pakistan's efforts to fast track the CPEC projects particularly the groundbreaking of western route. Minister for Planning hailed China's support for implementation of Gwadar Airport project.

Secretary Planning ZafarHasan, Member Private Sector AsimSaeed, Project Director CPEC HasanDaud and senior officials were also present on the occasion.

MakhdoomKhusro said that the present government attaches top priority to the development of Gwadar, highlighting that Prime Minister Imran Khan in his recent visit to Balochistan performed groundbreaking of the Rs65 billion Zhob-Kuchlak section of western route, Rs17 billion project of transmission line for Makran coast, Rs23 billion new Gwadar Airport project, hospital as well as vocational institute.

The News, 04-04-19

Pakistan seeks full transaction-based trade data from China

ISLAMABAD: With possibility to move towards finalizing revised Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China next week, Pakistan has formally requested Beijing for sharing 100 percent transaction-based trade data through the system of Exchange of Data Information (EDI) in order to curb massive under invoicing worth \$4 to \$6 billion per annum.

Pakistan's high-powered official trade delegation is scheduled to visit China next week from April 9 for possibly giving final touches to revised FTA as Islamabad sought Asean like tariff concessions to boost its exports to China. It is expected that the formal signing of revised FTA between the two countries would be signed on the eve of upcoming visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Secretary Commerce Ahmed Nawaz Sukhera, when contacted, confirmed that he would be going to China and all issues were settled with them.

“No pending issue is left as everything is settled before his joining,” he stated.

Federal Secretary Finance YounasDagha, when contacted by The News on Wednesday night, said that revised FTA will be discussed during talks with China. “We hope for early finalization,” says added.

On EDI front, official sources said that although Pakistan and China had operationalized EDI since last May 2018, but the transaction-based data was being provided to Pakistan on quarterly basis that resulted into losing purpose of utility as instant exchange of data could really help Pakistan overcome increasing under invoicing causing heavy loss to the national exchequer.

“After Prime Minister Imran Khan's last visit to China, our Foreign Office sent out official communication to Beijing for sharing ongoing trade data under the ambit of FTA and non-FTA simultaneously on transaction-based data,” official sources told The News here Wednesday. Now the FBR has been pursuing both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Commerce to follow up on this formal request with Chinese counterparts.

This correspondent visited the office of the FBR's Member Customs Policy Mohammad JavedGhani for seeking his point of view, but was told that he was busy and could not meet.

However, other official sources said that the EDI sharing was not fully done by China as currently the trade data under the FTA was shared but now Islamabad was asking providing all kind of trade data on transaction basis immediately so that Pakistani tax authorities could evaluate its actual value and then impose due taxes.

A top official said the under invoicing had come down drastically from \$8 billion to \$6 billion and now it has further reduced to \$4 billion.

When Goods of Declaration (GDs) were filed in China, it was instantly made available with Customs authorities at clearing stations so it would help customs officials to ascertain its exact value on the basis of which they could charge tax collection.

The Pakistan Revenue Authority Limited (PRAL), a subsidiary of the FBR, developed software in consultation with Director General Reform and Automation of Customs and Pakistan and China have so far remained unable to finalize second phase of FTA mainly because of concerns expressed by the Islamabad taxation authorities and business community arguing that the increased incentives for imported tariff lines would erode industrial sector of the country and the country could become heavily dependent upon Chinese imports and our industrial base could further shrink. Now the Ministry of Commerce has been engaged to finalize revised FTA with China and it is going to strike agreement within this month.

The News, 06-04-19

Pakistan, China to ink Railway project accord during PM's visit

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmad is likely to accompany Prime Minister Imran Khan on his visit to China at the end of the current month to attend Belt and Road Forum in Beijing.

During the five day visit, the Prime Minister and the Railway Minister would hold negotiations with Chinese authorities to make accord on Railway project related to finalization of design and funds arrangements for up gradation of Pakistan Railways Main Line (ML-1) to be done under CPEC.

According to official sources, ML-I would be completed in phases. In Phase -1, 59 Kilometer long Track would be laid from Rawalpindi to Lahore while 19 Kilometer from Kuluval to Pandora. With the completion of work of laying tracks the travelling time through passenger trains from Rawalpindi to Lahore would be reduced from four and half hours to two and half hours.

Similarly in Phase-II work on improvement and rehabilitation of deteriorated tracks from Nawabshah to Kotri would be initiated.

According to sources, equivalent Rs8.2 billion US dollars would be released in two years by Chinese government for work on Phase-1 of ML-I. It would be completed in five years.

The entire scope of work includes up gradation and doubling of Main Line-1 from Karachi to Peshawar and Taxila to Havelian measuring 1872 km including provision of modern signaling and Telecommunication system, conversion of level crossings into underpasses/flyovers and fencing of Track. The project scope also envisages laying of new double track from Karachi to Hyderabad on a new alignment, induction of 50 locomotives, induction of 300 passenger coaches, 2000 freight wagons and establishment of dry port near Havelian.

Similarly, on completion of ML-1, Pakistan Railways would reap up the advantages of increase in speed from 65 to 105 Km/hr to 120 to 160 km per hour, increase in line capacity from 34 to 171 trains each way per day, increase in Freight Volumes from 6 to 35 million tons per annum by 2025, increase in passenger trains (ex-Karachi) from 20 to 40 each way per day and also result in increase in railway share of freight transport volume from less than 4 per cent to 20 per cent.

The preliminary design of the project is being prepared by the consortium of consultants comprising of M/s CREEC, China, M/s NESPAK and M/s PRACS. For execution of works, the project has been divided in two phases (phase I and Phase-II with an estimated cost of US dollars 4.8 billion. The cost of preliminary design is estimated Rs10.478 billion, funded by the government of Pakistan through PSDP. Over all progress of preliminary design (phase-1) is around 70 per cent.

The News, 06-04-19

TehminaJanjua to be new envoy to China

ISLAMABAD: Incumbent Foreign Secretary TehminaJanjua will be Pakistan's new ambassador in China and Ambassador Moazzam Ahmad Khan who is currently country's envoy in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will be Pakistan's new High Commissioner in India.

He will replace SohailMahmood who has been designated as new Foreign Secretary of Pakistan. Well placed diplomatic sources told The News/Jang here Friday that the Foreign Office has decided in principal to bring about major reshuffle in its important missions abroad as the country will also have new ambassadors in Russia, France, Germany, European Union (EU), UAE, Hungary, South Africa, Japan and permanent representative (PR) UN headquarters at Geneva.

Pakistan's ambassador in China Masood Khalid who is availing second extension in his posting in Beijing after attaining superannuation will be quitting the station as soon TehminaJanjuaagreemaunt (Consent letter) is granted by China. She will be contractual ambassador and likely to serve the country for three years in Beijing.

She is reaching the superannuation age on 16th of this month. Pakistan's ambassador in France MoinulHaq who served as Chief Protocol before assignment in French capital will be proceeding to Abu Dhabi as ambassador for the UAE. NaghmanaHashmi will be new ambassador for France. She is currently Pakistan's ambassador for Belgium, Luxembourg and EU. Pakistan's

ambassador in Germany Jauhar Saleem will be replacing Naghmana Hashmi in Brussels. Additional Foreign Secretary for Europe Zaheer Aslam Janjua will be new ambassador for Germany.

He will be leaving for Berlin next month. The sources pointed out that Special Secretary for Asia Pacific region in Foreign Office Imtiaz Ahmad will be Pakistan's new ambassador in Japan since Pakistan's former ambassador in Tokyo Dr. Asad Majeed has already left Japan and assumed the assignment of ambassador in the United States.

Additional Foreign Secretary for Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan Dr. Muhammad Aejaz will be ambassador in Hungary. Khalil-ur-Rehman Hashmi who is Director General for the United Nations in the Foreign Office will be Pakistan's permanent representative (PR) for the UN Geneva headquarters. Farrukh Aamil who was PR at Geneva Headquarters has already relinquished the charge after attaining superannuation.

Dr. Sohail Ahmad Khan who is high commissioner in South Africa will be leaving for Moscow to become ambassador for Russia since incumbent ambassador Qazi M Khaliullah is completing his contractual period next month. Pakistan's high commissioner for Thailand Asim Iftikhar Ahmad could be picked for posting as high commissioner for South Africa, the sources added. New Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood is relinquishing his charge in New Delhi on Wednesday (April 10) to assume his new assignment in Islamabad.

The sources reminded that notification pertaining to the reshuffling would be formalized next week. The changes have been authenticated by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, the sources said. In the meanwhile Director General South Asia Division in the Foreign Office Dr. Muhammad Faisal Chaudhary who is in his own right an astute diplomat could be considered for High Commissioner in Dhaka where Ms. Saqlain Syeda was declined by the Bangladesh government to grant agreement. Dr. Muhammad Faisal Chaudhary is currently looking after the assignment of the spokesperson of the Foreign Affairs additionally.

The News, 06-04-19

Pakistan identifies 20-25 companies for joint ventures with Chinese

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has identified 20 to 25 giant companies for joint ventures (JVs) with Chinese counterparts for giving an opportunity to invest in upcoming special economic zones (SEZs) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar along-with Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Industry and Textile Abdul Razak Dawood co-chaired the maiden meeting of the CPEC Business Council in Islamabad on Friday.

Private sector representatives at the meeting criticized the government for not facilitating them. One participant from Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry said water scarcity was making life difficult, and the government should focus on provision of clean drinking water as the first priority.

Advisor to PM on Commerce Razak Dawood responded that now the government would put giant companies and businessmen on its front, and assume the role of facilitator for the future course of action.

However, he categorically made it clear that the government would not bear expenses of tickets and others for the businessmen who were trying to establish JVs with Chinese counterparts. He argued that if businessmen could not afford travel and staying expenses, they should not be vying for big business opportunities.

According to the official statement issued by the Ministry of Planning after the meeting, Planning Minister Bakhtyar said the forum was established for interaction between the government and business community to take forward the industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China to new heights. “Through industrial cooperation, we also want to address trade imbalance, broaden market access for agricultural products and encourage B2B cooperation between the two countries,” he added.

Bakhtyar said the scope of CPEC has been expanded with focus on industrial and agriculture cooperation, socio-economic development, and trade and market access. The minister expressed optimism that creation of CPEC Business Council, with representation from private sector leading associations and companies in various areas, would accelerate the pace of industrialization under the umbrella of the mega project.

He further said the focus was to boost Pakistan’s industrial capacity through JVs in priority areas, relocation of labour-intensive export-led industry, SME collaboration, and vocational training capacity.

Dawood said after implementation of early harvest projects of energy and infrastructure under CPEC, the stage was now set to expedite industrial collaboration to attract private investments for diversifying the country’s exports. “We are in the second phase of CPEC, where industrialization and agriculture growth would be the main goals of the current regime,” he added. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been the engine of growth for many developing states around the world for the last few decades and it was the high time for Pakistan to convert its SEZs into growth hubs.

The advisor hoped that SEZs would attract investment from diverse sources because they offered a combination of tax-and-tariff incentives, and streamlined customs procedures with less regulation. “The production of finished goods is the topmost priority, which will help Pakistan in reducing trade deficit,” the advisor said.

Earlier, Board of Investment Chairman Haroon Sharif welcomed all the members to the first meeting of the council and said BOI would serve as the Secretariat for the CPEC Business Council, for which a dedicated team of professionals has been hired.

He said BOI was improving its capacity to deal with matters of industrial cooperation with China, and urged the members to come up with tangible suggestions in this regard.

Secretary Planning ZafarHasan, CPEC Project Director Hassan Daud, and representatives from leading associations and companies also attended the meeting.

Secretary to the Council, BOI Executive Director General FareenaMazhar briefed the members on the progress in SEZ's and incentive packages under industrial cooperation.

The News, 06-04-19

Govt urged to defer 2nd phase of China-Pakistan free trade agreement

KARACHI: Businessmen and industrialists on Friday urged the government to defer the second phase of China-Pakistan free trade agreement for some period to scrutinize the reasons behind gigantic bilateral trade deficit that reached \$17 billion a year in the first phase.

The businessmen underscored needs of analyzing what went wrong during the first phase to have jacked up Pakistan's trade deficit with China to more than \$17 billion from \$2.9 billion when the bilateral free trade agreement was implemented in 2007.

The trade deficit might cross \$20 billion based on electronic exchange of data, they said during an interactive session on China-Pakistan free trade agreement (CPFTA) by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

The meeting was attended by a large number of stakeholders and representatives of associations across the country. FPCCI President Daroo Khan Achakzai said the country might enter into the second phase of FTA with China, "but not at cost of closing our local industries and adversely affecting the economy".

Achakzai said the government has already liberalized 60 percent of its trade with China. Ministry of commerce should take policy reforms for elimination of under-invoicing and have agreements with China on removal of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade.

The participants said seafood, vegetable oil, leather products, meat and agriculture should be considered to have zero-rated export entry status in China.

They called for protection to domestic industries of chemical, steel, leather, plastic and poultry, and specific industries related to small and medium enterprises in such a way that FTA does not adversely affect the industry, already hostage to supply constraints.

They said tariff and non-tariff barriers should be rationalized. Circumstances are fundamental to negotiate on non-reciprocity basis due to huge difference in economic development levels of FTA partners. The participants of the meeting also showed concern on non-implementation of electronic data exchange, earlier agreed between the customs of both countries.

The participants also showed further concern over non-documented trade data of at least 36 percent products on account of under-invoicing.

The participants underlined the need of direct market access of Pakistan's products into China, which presently allows import from Pakistan for sales in Chinese market through vendors,

causing rising trade disputes. The meeting's participants said economic growth of Pakistan would further be crippled due to trade liberalization and small and medium enterprises might near on the verge of closure.

The participants advised that China should also give concrete plan of relocating its labor intensive industries in special economic zones of Pakistan and include Pakistan in the supply chain of its finished goods exports from Pakistan, much like Vietnam and Cambodia.

The News, 08-04-19

China to hold Belt and Road forum this month

BEIJING: China will host a Mega event, the second Belt and Road forum this month providing an opportunity to the World Community negotiating to have better life for their people, Chinese President Xi Jinping said.

It will be participated by a number of World leaders including Prime Minister Inran Khan. Preparations are in full swing to make the conference, an effective forum promoting collaborative socio-economic partnership at country-to-country and regional levels.

Xi at a meeting of Asia-Pacific Forum has said China considered strengthening connectivity a high priority and that cooperation under its Belt and Road infrastructure initiative had entered a "new phase of full implementation".

The agency's special correspondent Javed Akhtar reports from Beijing that China will work with all countries involved under the principle of consultation and collaboration for shared benefits to pursue the Belt and Road initiative against high standards, so that it will deliver quality outcomes and create even greater development opportunities for the people in the Asia-Pacific and beyond", the Chinese president said. — INP

The News, 09-04-19

CPEC a landmark project in Sino-Pak ties: spokesperson

BEIJING: A spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Lu Kang said here on Monday at a regular news briefing that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a landmark project for China-Pakistan cooperation in the new era, and it is also an important project for the "Belt and Road" construction.

Commenting on the implementation of the CPEC, he said in the past five years since the construction of the corridor, there have been 22 early harvest projects, creating tens of thousands of jobs for the local community and meeting the electricity needs of 8.6 million households.

“These have greatly improved the infrastructure of Pakistan and have greatly promoted the welfare of Pakistani people. Of course, it will be warmly welcomed by the Pakistani government and people.

As for the adoption of international financing methods to implement major projects, this is also a global practice, especially for developing countries to break through the funding bottleneck and help increase growth.

As far as the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is concerned, less than 20% of the current projects use Chinese loans, and more than 80% are Chinese direct investment and free aid.

Therefore, the construction of this project not only does not increase the burden on the Pakistani side, but also contributes to the economic strength of the stronger Pakistani side. We still hope that if the media concerned really cares about the welfare of the Pakistani people and cares about the development of Pakistan, it may be worthwhile to go to the field to find out how the local people evaluate the construction project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. On this basis, they can report China-Pakistan economic cooperation more realistically, the spokesperson added.

Replying to a question about the recent visit of Chinese State leaders to Europe, Lu Kang said, indeed, President Xi Jinping’s first visit this year is Italy, Monaco and France. Premier Li Keqiang’s current visit to Europe is to attend the China-EU summit and the China-Central and Eastern European countries’ leaders and an official visit to Croatia.

Europe he added “is an important force in the world and has always been the focus of Chinese diplomacy. China's strengthening of relations with Europe is in line with China's wishes and the wishes of the EU.

As you have seen the achievements of President Xi’s visit to Europe, if the important consensus reached between China and the EU on maintaining multilateralism and maintaining a rules-based world trading system can have a greater driving effect on the international community, I believe that it includes Japan. All countries are welcome.

The News, 11-04-19

Pakistan backs Chinese initiatives ahead of 2nd BRI moot

BEIJING: Pakistan has reiterated its overwhelming backing to the Chinese socio-economic connectivity plans, ahead of 2nd international conference on Belt and Road Initiative, scheduled to take place here later this month.

In their messages, official circles as well as cross sections of the Pakistani society showed their full commitment giving all-out support to China to make the initiative successful. Recently Pakistan has appeared as a strong partner of BRI, as it stands on forefront projecting the initiative

by all means. The smooth functioning of the BRI's pilot project, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is reflective of Pakistan's leading role in the region to this respect.

According to a report appeared in the China Daily, Chinese leadership appreciates high Pakistan's cooperative partnership in pushing forward the plans of collective well-being. Since the inception of the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, a lot of change has taken place. Connectivity has enhanced, Chinese investment has reached new heights, trade patterns have had visible alterations and much more is going on promoting the concept of "win-win" situation and a shared destiny, introduced by President Xi Jinping. The report says that in recent years, China has emerged as a global economy and geopolitical power. Nations treat China with great importance and focus on what is happening there.

The News, 12-04-19

CPEC to open new opportunities for region: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has expressed hope that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will open new vistas of opportunities for the entire region. He has said that the project will not only help in translating all-weather Pak-China relations into mutually beneficial economic equation but will also open new vistas of opportunities for the entire region.

The Prime Minister was meeting with representatives of 15 leading Chinese companies working on various CPEC and other projects in Pakistan. He said that the government accords top priority to the CPEC Project.

The Chinese delegation included representatives from Power China, Three Gorges Corporation, CMEC Neelum Jhelum Power Plant Project, Cr-Norinco Orange Line Project, Huawei, Zong, Port Qasim Power Plant, China Gezhouba Corporation, China State Construction, China Harbour, Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line Project, Haier and other companies.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing accompanied the delegation. Omar Ayub Khan, Minister for Power, Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar, and Minister for Planning, Haroon Sharif, Chairman BOI, Nadeem Babar, Chairman Energy Task Force and other senior officials were also present.

Addressing the Chinese delegation, the Prime Minister said that the government will provide all possible facilitation to the Chinese companies in undertaking profitable business ventures and taking advantage of business friendly policies of the present government. Chinese Ambassador while conveying greetings from Chinese President and Prime Minister said that Chinese leadership is looking forward to the visit of Prime Minister to China.

He thanked the Prime Minister on behalf of Chinese leadership and business community for his personal interest in facilitating Chinese businessmen and addressing their issues. He assured the

Prime Minister that Chinese companies will continue to partner with the government in socio-economic development of Pakistan.

In the meanwhile, Prime Minister Khan, during a briefing, was informed that eleven Integrated Tourism Zones would be established in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and replicating these model 08 zones would also be set up in Punjab.

These Integrated Tourism Zones will not only serve to showcase tourist potential of the country and promote tourism but will also ensure preservation of natural beauty, biodiversity, forests cover and promotion of eco-tourism at the newly established tourist resorts.

The meeting was attended by Ch. Fawad Hussain, Minister for Information, Sayed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari (Zulfi Bukhari), SAPM on Overseas Pakistanis, Haroon Sharif, Chairman Board of Investment, Yasir Humayun, Minister Tourism Punjab, Atif Khan, Minister Tourism Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Shahram Khan Taraki, Minister for Local Government KP, Minister for Law & Parliamentary Affairs KP, Sultan Muhammad Khan, Rashid Mehmood Langrial, Secretary Tourism Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and senior officers. The Prime Minister was apprised about new initiatives being taken to promote tourism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

A detailed briefing was also made about the draft Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tourism Act 2019. Senior Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Atif Khan shared salient features of the draft legislation on Tourism and informed the meeting that under the ambit of this upcoming law exclusive jurisdiction would be clearly chalked out to avoid coordination problems and to overcome low performance capacity of organizations. It was further informed that Private Sector will play a leading role in development of Tourism while the Government will provide an enabling environment and act as a facilitator. The Integrated Tourism Zones will include Gabeen Jabba, Swat, (elevation 9,200 ft), Mankyal, Swat (8,700 ft), Bayon, Swat (11,000 ft), Bir Mughlasht, Chitral (9,000 ft), Golain, Chitral (10,400), Qaqlasht, Chitral (7,500 ft), Burwai, Naran (10,000 ft) and Mahaban, Buner (6,600 ft). Prime Minister was briefed that internationally successful models are being followed for promoting Tourism in the country. Yasir Humayun, Minister Tourism Punjab apprised that eight Integrated Tourism Zones would be established in Punjab. Prime Minister Imran Khan said that with the development of tourist resorts and provision of required facilities, the tourism sector will receive tremendous boost. He directed that a comprehensive website be launched immediately identifying all tourist zones being set up with detailed information for local as well as foreign tourists

The News, 12-04-19

ADB harnesses CPEC-CAREC synergy to enhance regional trade

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has stepped up efforts to augment regional trade through harnessing synergy between the two corridor projects.

ADB Country Head Yang Xiaohong various efforts are going on under the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) to promote regional integration and create economic values for member countries.

“ADB is working on enhancing trade volume in the region and there is lot of complementarity between CAREC and CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor),” Xiaohong said during a meeting with Secretary Planning, Development and Reforms Zafar Hasan.

Manila-based lender launched Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation two decades back to encourage economic cooperation among 11 member countries.

Pakistan joined Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation in 2010 and since then the program has invested about \$1.5 billion on projects largely related to building trade and transport connectivity.

Other Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation members include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The ADB earlier estimated that there has been around 37 percent decline in Pakistan’s exports to the member countries over the last five years.

China has pledged more than \$60 billion under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor framework to improve energy, industrial and transport infrastructures in Pakistan and to improve its economic link across the Arab seas.

Secretary Planning Commission emphasized the significance of formalizing massive informal trade with Iran and Afghanistan to achieve economic benefits, vowing its commitment to improve regional connectivity.

“Regional Connectivity will enhance growth potential,” Hasan said. The government is rendering efforts to promote regional connectivity and leverage China-Pakistan Economic Corridor for larger interest of the region. “Lots of informal trade is going on between Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan which needs to be formalized to benefit the country’s economy,” he added. The secretary planning lauded the role of Asian Development Bank in upgrading infrastructure for regional connectivity.

He said the government started various socioeconomic projects in Afghanistan in various sectors like health, education and infrastructure.

Safdar Pervaiz, regional cooperation head for Afghanistan and Pakistan said Asian Development Bank is also working on establishing rail and road links for Central Asia through Afghanistan into Pakistan. “Work is going on in these two countries for their mutual benefit.”

The News, 13-04-19

PM to sign pact with China for laying new railway tracks: Sh Rashid

LAHORE: Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said on Friday a new railway track would be laid in the country, and Prime Minister Imran Khan would sign an agreement with the Chinese authorities in this regard, during his upcoming Beijing visit.

Addressing a press conference in Lahore, he said Prime Minister Imran Khan would travel by Sir Syed Express upon his arrival in Rawalpindi after completion of visits to China and Iran.

He said the premier would invite Chinese and Iranian ambassadors and their families for a train journey. He said foreign envoys, along with their families, would also be taken to AttockKhurd by a train.

The minister said Pakistan Railways recorded an increase of Rs3 billion in its revenue during the last six months.

To a question, the minister said all cases against leaders of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), being heard by the courts currently, were registered by the two parties against each other during their governments. He said criticizing country's justice system was inappropriate as Nawaz Sharif filed cases against AsifZardari during his government and vice versa. Taking a jibe at opposition leader in Punjab Assembly, HamzaShahbaz, and the minister said "a politician becomes coward when he earns money through illegal means".

In reply to a question, he termed PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari a kid and advised him to be careful in politics. The minister also announced laying foundation stone of a post-graduate college and up gradation of a degree college to university.

About Indian elections, he said situation could worsen if NarendraModi failed to grab required seats in the upcoming polls. He also said that the Modi government could create more problems in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) through its subversive activities.

Later, he left for Rawalpindi by a train, along with Punjab Chief Minister SardarUsmanBuzdar and other ministers.

The News, 13-04-19

Pakistan students among top studying in China

BEIJING: A total of 492,185 international students from 196 countries and regions studied in China in 2018, the Ministry of Education said Friday.

The number increased by 3,013 over that of 2017, said a ministry statement. They studied in 1,004 colleges in 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. About 60 percent of the international students were from Asia, with Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand

ranking in the top three, the statement said. About 63,000 of them were sponsored by Chinese government scholarships, the ministry said.

According to Chinese media's report, Pakistan has emerged as World's top recipient of Chinese scholarships, as currently there are around 7000 Pakistanis, who are studying in China in their relevant disciplines in different Chinese Universities. Latest statistics showed that the highest of number foreign students, studying in China on scholarships are from Pakistan.

All these brilliant students are pursuing Bachelor's, Master's, PhD, or Advance Training Programs at some of China's top universities taking on a diverse range of subjects like medical, Computer Science, Technology, Business Administration, Architecture, Civil Engineering, International Law, and Journalism.

A record progress was witnessed during the last five years with the launching of China-Pakistan economic corridor (CPEC). This was also the result of vigorous efforts on the part of Chinese embassy in Islamabad.

Currently, annually around 1000 students are getting scholarships in China, most of them availing the opportunity directly from the Chinese Universities and the local governments.

The News, 14-04-19

Chinese leaders to hold crucial talks with visiting Pak leadership

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese leadership will have crucial negotiations with visiting Pakistani leadership during second Belt and Road summit commencing in the last week of this month.

Prime Minister Imran Khan will attend the summit heading a strong delegation. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) already declared by China as "flagship project" of the Belt and Road initiative (BRI), would come under discussion extensively between the two countries in their bilateral meetings being scheduled on the occasion.

In the meanwhile Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President RecepTayyipErdoguan have also announced to attend the Belt and Road Forum (BRF) for International Cooperation. It is believed that the two giants will dominate the event since their presence will be source of added "concern" for some western countries including one across the Atlantic which is harshly opposed to the idea.

Diplomatic sources told The News/Jang here on Saturday that China as part of its cosmetic diplomacy has been expressing satisfaction about the work and its pace regarding the CPEC ever-since new government has come in office in Pakistan but it is genuinely worried regarding certain speculations and assertions made by some governmental political high ups here about the gigantic project. It is understood that the Chinese leaders will discuss enhancing cooperation but simultaneously seek some clarifications with regard to the project and pace of work being carried out on it.

The sources maintained that delegation from Pakistan will have to walk on tight rope during its talks in Beijing. Availing the opportunity Prime Minister Imran Khan will have meetings with few world leaders on the brinks of the summit. The diplomatic channels are working on the plan for such meetings including one with the Russian and Turkish Presidents.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to visit Beijing from April 26-27 to take part in the forum. The Russian leader would be the main guest of the event. The diplomatic sources reminded that China's Belt and Road Initiative appears to be developing increasingly as a joint project, and especially so when it comes to two main factors: Russian military support for Chinese assets when the going gets tough, such as the recent situation in Venezuela, and again when it comes to the overall infrastructure development of Eurasia.

Both countries appear committed to the longer-term objective of their proposed "Greater Eurasian Partnership." The implications of this Union will be profound and far reaching.

Turkey has also announced its support for the idea of reviving the ancient Silk Road. "We support the Belt and Road Initiative of China since the beginning as a 'win-win' concept," Turkey has stated. Proposed by China in 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, and aims at to build a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa through the ancient trade routes of the Silk Road.

China and the participating countries will seek greater complementarities between the BRI and their development strategies, align up the key projects from the implementations of the United Nations 2030 agenda for sustainable development, and pay more attention to improving the lives of the ordinary people. It will include a series of events, such as leaders' round table, high-level meeting, thematic forum, CEO conference, under the theme of Belt and Road cooperation shaping a brighter shared future.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang has said there will also be more side events, including 12 thematic forums focusing on practical cooperation and for the first time a conference organized specifically for the business community. Wang said the second forum aims at to bring about a high quality Belt and Road cooperation, and China looks forward to a full exchange of views on the future cooperation plans.

Wang said China will act the spirit of win-win, focus on improving physical connectivity, build a stronger momentum for common development, and forge an even closer partnership. China will champion openness and cooperation, support economic globalization, uphold multilateralism, and work with all to make the world economy an open one, Wang noted.

Chinese President Xi Jinping who has emerged as far more powerful leader after his re-election will deliver a keynote speech during the opening ceremony. The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, or BRF, will have more foreign heads of state and government than the previous forum. It will include a series of events, such as leaders' round table, high-level

meeting, thematic forum, CEO conference, under the theme of Belt and Road cooperation shaping a brighter shared future.