



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

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April 01, 2022

Business Recorder

Bilawal accuses PM of ‘sabotaging’ CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari claimed while reacting to the prime minister’s address to the nation that he (the PM) has made the country a slave of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), harmed the Kashmir policy, and sabotaged the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project process.

He said in a statement on Thursday, Bilawal claimed that this man has made the country a slave of the IMF and harmed the Kashmir policy. He has sabotaged the CPEC as per an international conspiracy. He said that the prime minister did not spare our economy, foreign policy and democracy.

“The common man is bearing the burden of the destruction that has been going on in the name of change. When defeat that has come through a democratic mean is clear and there is no other way to escape it, such blames are not appropriate. He should take an honourable exit instead of trying to find a safe exit. He should have resigned in today’s speech. He should face us in the voting on Sunday and respect the democracy. He should not try to fool the people of Pakistan,” he said.

“I did not watch “the former” prime minister’s speech. I believe that he is repeating the same things. The Pakistani people have recognized his “lies” now, they know that this man has not fulfilled one promise in the past three years. Every promise has been a U-turn or betrayal,” he claimed.

The chairman PPP said that “the former” PM made an unsuccessful effort to hold a big gathering in Islamabad. He does not need millions of people, only 172 members. He said that 175 members of the opposition were present in the assembly today. “We have proved that he has lost his majority. His government has ended. The PPP has never compromised on the foreign policy of the country,” he said.

He said that Zulfikar Ali Bhutto made us a nuclear power, Benazir Bhutto gave us missile technology and President Zardari gave China access to the warm waters through CPEC and also tried to bring Iran gas pipeline. Be it the Salala incident when we stopped NATO supply lines or when we condemned the US’s drone attacks on our visits, every policy has been in the best interest of the country, he said.

The PPP chairman said that the Pakistani nation is witness as to how the US president has not even called this man in the past three years. “Why would he threaten him? This man is scared of phone calls himself. He cancelled a trip to a foreign country over a phone call. There are countless examples. The political, economic and foreign policies of this government have all been unsuccessful. If this man says that he will not admit defeat, it does not mean that he has not been defeated. He is a defeated man,” he said.—NAVEED BUTT

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/01/3-page/924501-news.html>

Daily Times

More interaction needed to increase Pakistani carpets' presence in China

More interaction is needed to increase Pakistani carpets' presence in China, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday.

According to the report, "Pakistan is famous all over the world for its hand-made carpets. Pakistan has the ability to produce high-quality carpets according to the taste of global importers, whether in terms of design, color, size, and so on," Akhtar Nazir Khan Cooki, Chairman of Pakistan Carpets Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA), said at a webinar.

"The types of carpets that are manufactured in Pakistan include Super Kazzak/Yakash Kazzak, Chobi, Khurjeen, etc. And carpets can be transported from Pakistan to China by sea, air, and land. Pakistan's carpets industry values the opportunity of export to China," he added.

The webinar on the export of carpets from Pakistan to China was held by the Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and Pakistan Carpets Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) on Wednesday.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, underlined that China is continuing to liberalize its trade and investment regime and paying more attention to expanding domestic demand and consumption, which creates space for importing high-quality goods from Pakistan.

"During the financial year 2020-21, Pakistan's export of carpet worldwide was \$74 million. However, Pakistani carpets have a very low presence in the Chinese market," he said, adding that the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement provides zero-tariff benefits for carpets trade, and more interaction is needed to increase the presence of Pakistani carpets in China.

Khurram Ikram, Deputy Director, TDAP added that the carpet manufacturing industry employs a large number of workers, creating production activities and skills for low-income groups. He reaffirmed that building matchmaking and interaction platforms would lay a very important foundation for the development of the industry.

The webinar was attended by around 25 companies from Pakistan and China. Representatives from different carpet manufacturing industries in Pakistan introduced their products. The Chinese participants also advised Pakistani companies on the appropriate communication and marketing strategies to penetrate the Chinese market. They also expressed interests in cooperation with carpet manufacturers and exporters from Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/911258/more-interaction-needed-to-increase-pakistani-carpets-presence-in-china/>

Pakistan Observer

China to help Pakistan to ensure its autonomy, security: Wang Yi

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said that China will help Pakistan to ensure and protect its sovereignty, autonomy and security.

The Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with FM Pakistan Shah Mehmood Qureshi in Beijing on Thursday. According to details, the Chinese FM said that China will help Pakistan to safeguard its sovereignty and autonomy, saying Pakistan is China's most important ally and closest friend. Wang Yi added that they will not let the cold war's mentality reemerge; the usage of Asian countries as proxies in others' wars is unacceptable. Developing and underdeveloped countries should not be used as fuel to fulfill someone else agendas, the Chinese FM added.

Wang Yi added that smaller countries should not be used as stooges in the 'great power game' of international powers. For Wednesday, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who came to China to attend the Third Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Afghan Issue Among the Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan in Tunxi, Anhui Province.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-to-help-pakistan-to-ensure-its-atomy-security-wang-yi/>

The News

China hopes Pakistan's political parties to uphold country's interests

BEIJING: A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Thursday that Chinese government expected that all the political parties in Pakistan would stay united and uphold supreme interest of country's development and stability.

While responding to a question about no-confidence move against incumbent Prime Minister Imran Khan by the opposition, Chinese spokesman Wang Wenbin said, "China is committed to non-interference policy, adding that as an all-weather strategic cooperative partner and friendly neighbour of Pakistan, it is our sincere hope that all parties in Pakistan will stay united and uphold the major interest of country's developments and stability."

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=72649>

April 02, 2022

Pakistan Observer

Building China-Pakistan Trade Corridor by Concerted efforts of Governments and Business Sectors"

Yiwu-Karachi Workshop themed "Building the China-Pakistan Trade Corridor by Concerted Efforts of Governments and Business Sectors" was successfully held via video link on Friday.

This event was jointly organized by Yiwu Municipal People's Government and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), and co-hosted by Foreign Affairs Office of Yiwu Municipal People's Government and Yiwu Bureau of Commerce.

It aimed to promote key exchanges between Yiwu and Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and important port, build a bridge for deepening cooperation between enterprises from both sides, facilitate trade exchanges between small, medium and micro market players, and help implement the results of the China-Pakistan Joint Statement.

Mr. Li Bijian, Consul General of China in Karachi, Mr. Ye Bangrui, Mayor of Yiwu City, Mr. Wang Wei, Deputy Mayor of Yiwu City, Mr. Arif Ahmed Khan, Chief Executive of TDAP, Mr. Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, Mr. Irfan Iqbal, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Mr. Muhammad Idrees, President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) and others attended this event online.

Representatives from the governments, chambers of commerce and enterprises of both sides joined the meeting and conducted in-depth exchanges.

Mr. Li Bijian, Consul General of China in Karachi, said that there are close economic ties and huge development potential between Yiwu and Karachi.

He hoped to further enhance mutual trade exchanges, promote trade balance, improve trade quality, and introduce more high-quality Pakistani products to enter China through Yiwu market.

Meanwhile, bilateral investment needs to be increased, and Chinese enterprises are welcome to make the best use of Pakistan's favorable policies to invest in Pakistan and create more employment opportunities for the younger generation of Pakistan.

He also proposed that the trade representatives of the two sides would deepen policy communication, strengthen exchanges and cooperation, and jointly cope with the opportunities and challenges in the post-covid era.

Mr. Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, said, Yiwu-Karachi Workshop is a manifestation of the commitment of the two countries, particularly the two cities, to shore up their bilateral trade and investment relations.

He was confident that the Karachi-based businesses would enter into mutually beneficial cooperative relations with their Yiwu counterparts to give a further momentum to the bilateral economic relations.

He also assured that Pakistan's Consulate General in Shanghai would give full support and facilitation to these endeavors.

Mr. Ye Bangrui, Mayor of Yiwu City, gave a brief introduction of the social and economic development of Yiwu. He said, Pakistan is an important trading partner of Yiwu.

In 2021, the trade volume between Yiwu and Pakistan reached nearly 600 million US dollars. The imports from Pakistan to Yiwu has tripled. He also mentioned, Karachi is Pakistan's economic center, important port and largest city.

Yiwu looks forward to further enhancing exchanges and cooperation with Pakistan, especially with Karachi, to strengthening cooperation in export and import, e-commerce, exhibition and deepening cultural exchanges so as to achieve win-win development and contribute to the development of China-Pakistan economic and trade relations.

Mr. Arif Ahmed Khan, Chief Executive of TDAP said, Pakistan and China have great potential for cooperation.

He hoped that Pakistan would learn from China's experience and make solid steps to build online digital platforms that will greatly improve the country's digital connectivity so as to facilitate the export of standardized and high-quality Pakistani products to China.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal, President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), expressed the hope that Yiwu and Karachi should establish closer ties to enhance two-way cooperation and carry out frequent exchanges and cooperation in areas such as trade, culture, education, scientific and technological R&D.

At the meeting, Mr. Muhammad Idrees, President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), gave a briefing about the Chamber and introduced many competitive products made in Pakistan.

Yiwu Municipal Bureau of Commerce highlighted on the trade development of the city and cooperation opportunities with Pakistan. Yiwu Pakistan Buyers Service Center made a presentation about their excellent services for Pakistani business people.

Mr. Ashraf Hussain, a Pakistani businessman living in Yiwu, shared his successful story of starting up business in Yiwu and his personal feelings about the convenient business environment in Yiwu.

The two sides had in-depth exchanges on topics covering trade supporting services and Pakistan's export demand, which greatly deepened mutual understanding and paved the way for future cooperation.

<https://pakobserver.net/building-china-pakistan-trade-corridor-by-concerted-efforts-of-governments-and-business-sectors/>

The News

‘Chinese Consulate strives to ensure health facilities’

LAHORE: Chinese Consul General Peng Zhengwu has said as China always aims to incentivize social and medial cooperation between China and Pakistan, Chinese Consulate Lahore is making the all-out effort to ensure health facilities to deserving hospitals in the provincial capital with the passion of brotherhood and affability.

He expressed these remarks on the inauguration of upgradation of Neonatology Unit and Central Oxygen System at Lady Aitchison Hospital carried out by Chinese special grant in collaboration with Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) here on Friday.

IIRMR Chairman M Mehdi, Lady Aitchison Hospital MS Dr M Iqbal Shahid and In-Charge Neonatology Department Alia Batool were also present on this occasion. Chinese acting Consul General said, "It is my honour to do something for the hospital and I hope the project will be remembered as a gesture of friendship between China and Pakistan."

He said, "It is an exchange of love between our people and based on the mutual trust and respect. Our friendship is time tested and will continue in the future. Under the framework of CPEC, more and more projects will benefit the local society. All this will consolidate our relations of all-weather strategic cooperative partnership." IIRMR chair Muhammad Mehdi said that Chinese Consulate Lahore's role in extending humanitarian assistance and help particularly in medical and health arena are very laudable. It will help synergise people-to-people cooperation between China and Pakistan, he added.

Lady Aitchison Hospital MS Dr M Iqbal Shahid said that 150 years old historical Lady Aitchison Hospital with 200 beds manage deliveries of around 1000 babies in a month. "At this critical situation China came forward with donation and fulfilled the demand of renovation of Neonatology Unit and Central Oxygen system in the hospital that will help to mitigate the incidence of mortality of new born babies," he added. In-Charge Neonatology Department Dr Alia Batool paid a heartfelt gratitude to Chinese grant; Chinese acting Consul General Peng Zhengwu, Chinese diplomats and IIRMR chair M Mehdi to make this happen.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=73160>

Express News

کیمپ پالیٹکس پر یقین نہیں رکھتے، چین امریکادونوں سے اچھے تعلقات چاہتے ہیں، آرمی چیف

آرمی چیف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے کہا ہے کہ یوکرین پر روسی حملہ افسوس ناک ہے۔ اسلام آباد

اسلام آباد میں سیکورٹی ڈائریکٹر کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے آرمی چیف نے کہا کہ خطے کی سیکورٹی اور استحکام ہماری پالیسی کا حصہ ہے، ملک کی خوشحالی، ترقی اور امن ہماری ترجیح ہے، دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں پاکستان نے 90 ہزار جانیں قربان کیں، پاکستان نے دہشت گردی کے خلاف مثالی کامیابیاں حاصل کیں اور آخری دہشت گرد کے خاتمے تک جدوجہد جاری رہے گی۔

جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ کا کہنا تھا کہ بھارت کا سپر سائیکل میزائل پاکستان میں گرنے پر شدید تشویش ہے، ایک ایٹمی ملک کا دوسری ایٹمی ملک پر میزائل گرا ہے، بھارت دنیا اور پاکستان کو بتائے کیا اس کے ہتھیار محفوظ ہیں، میزائل کے باعث کسی بھی قسم کا جانی نقصان ہو سکتا تھا یا کوئی مسافر طیارہ بھی نشانہ بن سکتا تھا، پاکستان نے بھارت کے میزائل گرنے کے واقعے کی جامع تحقیقات کا مطالبہ کیا ہے۔

آرمی چیف نے کہا کہ ایل او سی پر صورتحال فی الحال قابل اطمینان اور پر امن ہے، گزشتہ ایک سال سے کوئی بڑا تنازع نہیں ہوا، مسئلہ کشمیر کے حل کے لیے سفارت کاری اور مذاکرات پر یقین رکھتے ہیں۔

جزل قمر جاوید باجوہ نے کہا کہ چین کے ساتھ سی پیک معاہدہ بہت اہم ہے، پاکستان کو روس یوکر ائن تنازع پر تشویش ہے، روس کا یوکرین پر حملہ افسوس ناک ہے بہت سے شہری ہلاک ہو چکے ہیں، یوکرین پر روسی جارحیت کا فوری خاتمہ ہونا چاہیے اور تنازع کو ہاتھ سے نہیں نکلنا چاہیے، روسی جارحیت بہت بڑا سانحہ ہے جسے کسی صورت قبول نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔

آرمی چیف نے کہا کہ ہم امریکہ سے بھی بہتر تعلقات چاہتے ہیں، امریکا پاکستان کی سب سے بڑی ایکسپورٹ مارکیٹ ہے۔ ہمارے اس کے ساتھ بہترین تعلقات کی طویل تاریخ ہے۔

انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ ہم چین اور امریکہ دونوں سے اس طرح اپنے اچھے تعلقات بڑھانا چاہتے ہیں کہ ایک کی وجہ سے دوسرے سے تعلقات متاثر نہ ہوں، پاکستان کسی کیپ پالیٹکس پر یقین نہیں رکھتا، کسی ملک سے تعلقات سے دیگر ممالک سے تعلقات خراب نہیں ہونے چاہئیں، ہمارے یورپی یونین اور جاپان کے ساتھ بھی اچھے تعلقات ہیں، پاکستان سب کے ساتھ مل کر کام کرنا چاہتا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2305261/1/>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک، چین دوستی خطے میں امن اور ترقی کی ضامن

چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ ٹی نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کی خود مختاری کی تحفظ میں مدد دیں گے، گریٹ پاور گیم میں چھوٹے ممالک کو نشانہ نہیں بنانا چاہیے۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان وانگ وین بن نے کہا کہ چین دوسرے ممالک کے اندرونی معاملات میں عدم مداخلت کے اصول پر عمل پیرا رہتا ہے۔ پاکستان ہمارا تمام موسموں کا سٹریٹجک شراکت دار، دوست ملک ہے، ہم کسی کے اندرونی معاملات میں مداخلت نہیں کرتے۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ اور چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان کی طرف سے پاکستان کی خود مختاری کی حمایت اور پاکستان کے اندرونی معاملات میں عدم مداخلت کے حوالے سے بیان ایک اچھے اور، قابل اعتماد دوست کی عکاسی کرتا ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان تعلقات سطحی یا رسمی نوعیت کے نہیں ہیں بلکہ یہ گہری اور پائیدار بنیادوں پر استوار ہیں، جو وقت گزرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ مضبوط سے مضبوط تر ہوتے جا رہے ہیں۔ یہ تعلقات محض حکومتوں کے درمیان نہیں ہیں۔ یہ دو ممالک کے عوام اور دو ریاستوں کے درمیان ہیں جو حکومتوں کی تبدیلی سے متاثر نہیں ہوتے، یہی وجہ سے قیام پاکستان سے لے کر آج تک پاکستان میں کتنی ہی حکومتیں آئیں لیکن پاک چین دوستی میں کسی موقع پر بھی سرد مہری پیدا نہیں ہوئی۔ چین میں بھی انقلاب چین کے بعد کئی شخصیات مسند اقتدار پر متمکن ہوئیں لیکن شخصیات کے بدلنے سے خارجہ پالیسی میں تبدیلی واقع نہیں ہوئی۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ آج پاک چین دوستی ایک مثالی دوستی کہلاتی ہے یہ بات ہمارے لیے اطمینان بخش ہی نہیں قابل فخر بھی ہے کہ پاکستان کی ترقی و استحکام اور خود مختاری کا تحفظ چین کی خارجہ پالیسی کا اہم جزو ہے۔ روس اور یوکر ائن میں جاری جنگ نے ایک بار پھر دنیا کو دو درہزوں میں تقسیم کر دیا ہے۔ ترقی یافتہ سرمایہ دار ممالک سپر پاور امریکہ کی قیادت میں ایک ہیں جبکہ دوسری طرف روس، چین اور ان کے ہم خیال ممالک ہیں، روس اور امریکہ میں پیدا ہونے والی چپقلش ایک نئی سرد جنگ کا ماحول پیدا کرنے کا سبب بن رہی ہے جس میں چھوٹے ممالک کے لیے خطرات پیدا ہو گئے ہیں۔ اس صورت حال کے تناظر میں چینی وزیر خارجہ کا یہ بیان خصوصی اہمیت کا حامل ہے کہ گریٹ گیم میں چھوٹے ملکوں کو نشانہ نہیں بنانا چاہیے۔ یہ ان طاقتوں کے لیے ایک واضح پیغام ہے جو خطے میں طاقت کا توازن لگاڑنے کی مذموم کوششوں میں مصروف ہیں۔ انہیں اتحاد و یکجہتی سے ہی ناکام بنایا جاسکتا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-04-02/page-10/detail-7>

April 03, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan, China playing key role in providing assistance to Afghans

As close neighbors of Afghanistan and important forces in maintaining world peace and international order, China and Pakistan have always been playing key roles in the Afghan issue and providing substantive assistance to the Afghan people within their capabilities.

These views were expressed by Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor of Southwest University of Political Science and Law and Senior Fellow of the Charhar Institute in a statement on Saturday.

He said, the third meeting of the foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighboring countries on Afghanistan held in Tunxi, Central China's Anhui Province, on March 31 was very successful and reached a series of high degree of consensus. Judging from this meeting, Afghanistan's neighboring countries all attach great importance to promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan is detrimental to regional peace. The stability and development of Afghanistan are conducive to regional peace, the interests of Afghanistan's neighboring countries, as well as the interests of the whole international community.

Prof. Cheng, who is also former Chinese Defense Attach's in South Asian countries noted that in the documents produced by the meeting, all the neighboring countries participating in the meeting pledged to support Afghanistan's economic reconstruction in the fields of humanitarian assistance, connectivity, economy and trade, agriculture, energy and capacity-building.

He pointed out that since the outbreak of the Ukrainian crisis, the Afghan issue seems to be increasingly forgotten by the United States and the western world. Statistics from the United Nations World Food Programme show that 22.8 million Afghans are facing serious food security problems, and 3.2 million Afghan children under the age of 5 are seriously malnourished.

The Afghan people are facing extreme hunger and poverty, but little progress has been made on the goal of providing \$4.44 billion for humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan. Recently, UNHCR had appealed to the international community to provide support to Afghans while paying attention to the Ukrainian crisis, so as to avoid the worsening of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

Prof. Cheng opined that the world should not forget Afghanistan, let alone deliberately ignore the Afghan issue. Therefore, the third meeting of the foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighboring countries focusing on Afghanistan was particularly important and timely, reminding the international community that the Afghan issue is still in an important position on the current international peace and security agenda.

In addition, Afghanistan's neighboring countries all have a very positive attitude towards regional connectivity. All parties have fully recognized that due to the special location of

Afghanistan, the country's move towards peace, stability and development is conducive to the docking of development strategies of all the countries in South, Central and West Asia, the construction of connectivity in the whole region, and the development and prosperity of the whole region, he concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/912365/pakistan-china-playing-key-role-in-providing-assistance-to-afghans/>

MoU signed to strengthen Pak, China business cooperation

Beijing Business School (BBS), China, and Muslim Youth University (MYU), Pakistan, have signed an MoU to build an ecosystem with trained human resources to boost China-Pakistan business and e-commerce cooperation, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

The MoU will promote exchanges in academic research, student programs, culture, teachers training and joint curriculum development for experiential teaching and research environment. A joint research program on new business majors like e-commerce, rail transport, logistics, accounting, etc. will also be introduced. Muhammad Asif Noor, CEO of Diplomatic Insight Group, moderated the session and welcomed the participants.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Hassan Waseem, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, MYU, expressed his privilege to sign the MoU. While talking about MYU and its academic programs, he said that they promote intellectual faculties of students to solve real-world society-centric problems.

Dr. Waseem further added that MYU is committed to high-quality teaching with an interactive culture. It offers undergraduate, graduate, and Ph.D. programs in Engineering and Technology, Basic and Applied Sciences, Management and Social Sciences, and Natural Sciences. MYU aims to foster an ecosystem that germinates an entrepreneurial mindset for inventions.

Xing Lianxin, Principal of BBS, expressed that he is proud to sign this MoU between the two institutions. Highlighting the background of BBS, he said that it has achieved honors and is a leading vocational school in China. Xing Lianxin said that the school has more than 20 majors including Accounting, E-business, Logistics Service & Management, Pre-School Education. BBS also cooperates with countries like Austria, Korea, and the UK. Also, BBS actively participates in the education cooperation and exchange programs with countries along the Belt and Road Initiative, and looks forward to expanding cooperation with more overseas universities.

Wang Cai'e, Vice Principal of BBS, said during the ceremony that this MoU is a step forward towards comprehensive cooperation in the business field.

Both sides appreciated the tireless efforts of Muhammad Asif Noor, CEO of Diplomatic Insight Group, for his extensive contribution to this collaboration. They also acknowledged his services in promoting Pakistan-China relations.

Aneesa Rahat, MYU Registrar, Dr. Waqas Ahmad, Head of MY School of Business, Wang Jin, Head International Cooperation Office BBS were also present during the ceremony.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/912358/mou-signed-to-strengthen-pak-china-business-cooperation/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan to benefit from Chinese poverty reduction model

Experts for implementing e-commerce to achieve objective

QINGDAO: Pakistan will benefit from China's experience in alleviating poverty through e-commerce, according to Pakistani experts who participated in the online Seminar on South-South Cooperation in Cross-border E-commerce for Poverty Eradication and Global Sustainable Development on China's coastal city of Qingdao.

“During the training, I learned how to gradually transfer e-commerce skills in rural areas through training programmes, starting with popularisation sessions to service centres,” said Hassan Rizvi, Manager of Capacity Building at the Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP), in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN). According to Rizvi, the five-day training mentioned an often neglected but crucial triad reasons for poverty ie lack of development resources, weak sense of competition and improper market docking.

“In all these three aspects, China has been completely successful in optimizing them with ecommerce. This one was the most inspiring for me personally,” Rizvi revealed. In her written interview with CEN, Nadia Perveen, lecturer of business and economics at the Quaid-e-Azam University termed the training sessions important sources for her students. “I always motivate my students to start their own business. This seminar was excellent opportunity to learn the Chinese practices regarding e-commerce and to teach my students.”

Similar views are echoed by Zahid Latif, Assistant Engineer of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication of Pakistan (MoITT), who obtained his PhD at a top IT university in China. “During my four years in China, I observed its booming e-commerce and sharing economy,” the engineer exclaimed. “One example is bicycle riding. You can ride a bicycle for just one RMB (about Rs28).” Focusing on empowering people with technology, Latif believes e-commerce will be a “game-changer” for Pakistan, and that China and Pakistan can cooperate with each other in e-commerce-driven poverty alleviation.

“In July 2018, the Pakistan China fibre optic line was laid down for the purpose of boosting the digital technology in Pakistan,” he said. “I think this type of initiative is not only beneficial for raising GDP but also for lift people's living standards upward.” He added that more bilateral cooperation was possible in reducing poverty in Pakistan through e-commerce. However, to replicate China's experience of reducing poverty through e-commerce, Rizvi mentioned that Pakistan has to increase the internet penetration in the country.

“In my opinion, the common goal of poverty elevation can be embedded in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor as well. It is a good resource and can become a good channel to promote e-commerce,” said Rizvi. A total of over 1,100 participants from more than 90 countries and regions, including 37 Pakistanis, participated in the training seminar.

THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED ON THE CHINA ECONOMIC NET

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2350815/pakistan-to-benefit-from-chinese-poverty-reduction-model>

April 04, 2022

Dawn News

PNSC's help sought to bring metro buses from China

Kashif Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has requested Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC) to help it in getting an early delivery of 30 buses from China so that the Metro Bus Project from Peshawar Mor to Islamabad Airport could begin.

Meanwhile, the CDA is also going to open financial bids on Monday (today) for installation of equipment at seven bus stations and a platform at the airport.

Sources in the CDA said as per the earlier plan, buses were supposed to reach Islamabad by March 15 but their departure from China had been delayed.

“We have requested PNSC to help CDA. As per agreement, bringing buses from China is the responsibility of the contractor but PNSC's help was sought in this regard as currently due to Covid-19 issues, the contractor is facing difficulty in getting space in ships,” said an officer of CDA.

He said whenever the ship carrying buses would set off from China, it would take a couple of weeks to reach Karachi whereas after custom clearance, bringing buses from Karachi to Islamabad could also take two weeks.

CDA to open financial bids for installation of equipment, platform at bus stations today

“So, I guess, there is no chance of starting operation of this bus service in April,” said an official.

CDA sources said when the buses arrive, the authority would also use some of them for running a public bus service from Expressway to Faisal Mosque, adding that it would help ease traffic congestion on the expressway to some extent.

The CDA, after a competitive process, had placed the order for procuring 30 buses to an international company called Higer Bus Company, which had submitted a bid of Rs728 million.

Construction of the bus track (25.6km) worth Rs16 billion began in January 2017. The project was executed by National Highway Authority (NHA) and it was supposed to be completed in August 2018 but the project saw delay of some years and its civil work was completed last year.

However, after completion of civil work, a new issue arose, when the NHA stated that its responsibility was only to construct corridors and do civil work and it had nothing to do with the operation of buses.

Similarly, Punjab Masstransit Authority, which is already running Rawalpindi-Islamabad Metro bus service, also refused to run the service and the CDA also stated that being a development authority it had nothing to do with the bus service.

The refusal of NHA, Punjab Masstransit Authority and CDA put the federal government in an awkward position, therefore, the government directed the CDA to take over the project in March last year from the NHA and take steps to procure buses to start operation.

The corridors and stations of the metro track have already been constructed and now command and control, ticketing, station management, cleanliness and security systems will be installed.

The CDA will reportedly award contract for operation and maintenance of command and control, ticketing, station management, cleanliness and security systems.

This contract will be completed in six months, however, CDA officials said that when buses will arrive (before completion of this project), the civic authority under interim arrangements of manual ticketing will start operation of the bus service.

“There will be no delay in starting the bus service; we are just waiting for the buses and will start the service through interim arrangements,” the officer said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1683279>

April 05, 2022

Pakistan Observer

Logistic services at Gwadar

NATIONAL Logistic Cell (NLC) really deserves credit for initiating a highly beneficial project at Gwadar, which, on completion in six months, would go a long way in attracting import/export activities and optimum utilization of the port facilities.

The project is aimed at automation, standardization and harmonization of all logistic services related to land, air and sea routes under the Pakistan Single Window (PSW).

It will connect the Web-based One Customs (WeBOC) system with the Gwadar Port, customs, banking channels and other institutions to increase efficiency and reduce the time taken for processing in various departments.

Gwadar has all the potential to become a hub of regional trade because of its peculiar location but absence of required facilities and infrastructure is one of the major hurdles in the way of its proper operationalization.

It is the nature of the facilitation that plays a crucial role in attracting import/export business and with this in view Gwadar needs to be made most competitive in terms of infrastructure facilities, cost of the services and the time taken to clear goods.

Presently, an import container in Pakistan bears a cost of \$417 and takes 216 hours in the regulation process as against \$366 and clearing time of 85 hours in a neighbouring country and just seven working hours and a cost of \$342 in South Korea.

In this backdrop, the mega initiative of the NLC is appreciable as it would help bring down significantly both the cost and the time for clearance of a container.

The single window facility would permit parties involved in trade and transport to lodge standardized information and documents with a single entry point to fulfil all import, export, and transit-related regulatory requirements.

Gwadar's air, rail and road links with the rest of the country and with other countries may also be improved on a fast track basis if we are genuinely interested in making it a hub of business, trade and investment opportunities.

<https://pakobserver.net/logistic-services-at-gwadar/>

China-Pakistan Friendship: We Must Not Let Our Vision be Blocked by Floating Clouds

Dr. Wang Xu

(Executive Deputy Director of Centre for South Asian Studies, Peking University)

Recently, the opposition tabled a no-trust motion against government led by Prime Minister Imran Khan in the National Assembly. President Dr. Arif Alvi dissolved the National Assembly, and the political uncertainty is growing in Pakistan.

Pakistan is the only all-weather strategic cooperative partner of China. The political instability in Pakistan is always a cause for concern.

However, with the time-honored history and solid foundation of friendship, and having just celebrated the 70th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic ties, the two countries are confident enough to maintain and shape the steady development of bilateral ties that have been friendly for generations, regardless of the international and domestic political changes.

Chinese President Xi Jinping described China and Pakistan as good brothers and good partners sharing a special friendship.

In the history, no matter how international and regional situations change, China and Pakistan have always stood by each other, sharing joy and sorrow, understanding and supporting each other's core interests.

This is because the two countries have a high degree of consistency in safeguarding their joint and regional common interests of development and security.

During the Cold War, China and Pakistan supported each other to break the geo-containment of the superpower, worked together in safeguarding regional peace and stability in South Asia. Two

countries cooperated with each other to promote the normalization of China-U.S. relations, which changed the global landscape of Cold War at one stroke.

Since the turn of the century, both countries have supported each other in formulating and implementing counter-terrorism strategies in accordance with their respective national conditions, and have jointly opposed “double standards” and “stigmatization” in counter-terrorism by international and regional hegemonism.

In the past decade, the U.S. adjusted its global strategy to promote great power competition in the name of “Asia-Pacific Rebalancing” and “Indo-Pacific strategy”, and even hastily withdrew its troops from Afghanistan in disregard of the ground reality, resulting in political, economic, security and humanitarian crises.

As neighbors of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan have always supported the political settlement on Afghan issue, taking into full consideration the historical and practical factors of the Afghanistan, and have been cooperating with each other to promote the post-withdrawal era of Afghanistan from chaos to stability and prosperity.

In the meantime, the cooperation between China and Pakistan in the field of development, especially the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has injected new impetus into the in-depth development of bilateral relations. In April 2015, President Xi Jinping paid a historic state visit to Pakistan.

Both leaders agreed to upgrade the bilateral relationship to an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and continue to promote the construction of the CPEC, building a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era. The CPEC has brought 25.4 billion dollars in direct investment to Pakistan, created more than 70,000 jobs directly, and launched a large number of social and livelihood priority projects.

It has helped the Pakistan solve the problem of insufficient installed capacity for power supply, improve domestic transportation, promote the Gwadar port toward the goal of a logistics hub and industrial base, and achieve a period of stable and rapid economic growth.

China has always adhered to the principle of non-interference in Pakistan’s internal affairs no matter how political changes have taken place from time to time in Pakistan. The first highest level official contacts between Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Bogra and his Chinese counterpart Zhou Enlai, during the Bandung Conference in 1955, enhanced mutual understanding and trust.

It was at this meeting that the “Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence”, one of which is “non-interference in each other’s internal affairs”, became the consensus among Afro-Asian countries in handling inter-state relations.

This not only lays the foundation for China-Pakistan friendship, but is also the reason why China-Pakistan relationship has become a model of friendly exchanges between countries with different social systems.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Pakistan's political situation has gone through different periods, but maintaining China-Pakistan friendship has always been the consensus of all political factions and social segments in Pakistan. The friendly relations between the two countries have kept growing from strength to strength. In fact, the past eight years since the construction of the CPEC was launched, have been a time of empathy, mutual trust and support between China and Pakistan.

In these eight years, Pakistan has undergone two power transitions of government. Nevertheless, CPEC has always maintained a mutually beneficial and win-win development direction and a stable and far-reaching development momentum.

The cooperation and mutual trust between the two sides transcend party differences in Pakistan, which also shows that the construction of CPEC gives no preference to cooperation with any certain faction, political party or region in Pakistan, the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits has always been open to the whole Pakistani nation.

The current political scenario in Pakistan is rather complicated, which is a result of the accumulation of contradictions over a period of time, but so far it has not affected the overall development of China-Pakistan relations. Recently, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Pakistan and attended the 48th Sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC, reaching an important consensus with Pakistan on deepening strategic cooperation between the two countries under the current international and regional situation.

China expressed its unwavering adherence to the policy of friendship with Pakistan. While Pakistan reaffirmed that ironclad friendship between Pakistan and China serves as the cornerstone of bilateral relations, Pakistan has always been firmly committed to upholding the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries.

There have been speculations on CPEC at time by seizing the chance of political changes in Pakistan. The CPEC has not regressed, but has made significant progress. From time to time Pakistan's economic development has been affected by political factors, and China has always held a positive approach towards this.

However, unlike some other major powers or international institutions, China has never attached political conditions, set political agendas or exported political models to aid or cooperation projects.

CPEC is new to the field of international economic cooperation, which requires close cooperation between two countries with different histories, cultures, social systems, development paths and stages.

It is normal for different voices in this process, and the construction of the CPEC is not vulnerable to criticism as a snowflake.

But the consensus between China and Pakistan in seeking development and stability has never been shaken, and the desire to promote the CPEC to achieve more comprehensive, sustainable and high-quality development has never wavered.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-friendship-we-must-not-let-our-vision-be-blocked-by-floating-clouds/>

The Nation

China Becomes Main Export Destination For Pakistani Pine Nut

BEIJING – Pakistani pine nuts not only enjoy a high price premium in China but at present, China has become one of the main export destinations for Pakistani pine nuts.

According to the Agriculture Marketing Information Service (AMIS), in FY2018-2019 (July 2018-June 2019, a good year) and FY 2019-2020 (a small year), Pakistan exported 692 tons and 73.9 tons of pine nuts to China respectively, worth 820 million and 190 million rupees, accounting for 45.86 percent and 14 percent of the total export volume.

“Compared with other main varieties in the Chinese market, including Siberian and Korean pine, Pakistani pine nuts have a huge variety advantage. With a thinner skin and plumper flesh, it has low fat content and rich nutrients. Beyond that, the kernel rate of Pakistani pine nuts can reach 80 percent, while that of red pine nuts from northeast China is about 40 percent, only half of the Pakistani type.” Xin Mindong, Manager of Zhicheng Food Co., Ltd., Meihekou City, Jilin, who has been trading Pakistani pine nuts for more than 15 years, told China Economic Net.

“For us, due to the impact of the epidemic in the past two years, land routes have been partially blocked, and sea transport may take as long as 40 days, which is not conducive to the storage of pine nuts. Besides, the market price of pine nuts fluctuates continually.

In contrast, expensive air transport is our best choice now. So far, flights have been cut because of the epidemic, the air freight per ton of pine nuts is about RMB 37,000, which has invisibly increased the cost,” he added. Pakistan pine nuts are generally shipped from Karachi Port to Ningbo Port, Zhejiang. The transportation price is about Rmb 17,000 per ton, which is much cheaper than air freight, Xin added. “But in addition to time, we also need to consider the wastage. With thinner skins, Pakistani pine nuts are easily broken or damaged during handling. In addition, we have to process it in advance to remove moisture. Otherwise, the pine nuts in the container will become moldy and deteriorate. We have established a plant in Pakistan. After preliminary dehydration processing locally, mildewed and relatively poor-quality pine nuts are removed for easier transportation,” he said.

Pakistani pine nuts originate from the Chilgoza pine forest in northwestern Pakistan, which ranges from 1800 to 3350 meters above sea level. A pine tree takes 20 to 25 years to start bearing fruit, which is why its yield is limited, as the Chinese saying goes, “something must be precious when it’s rare.”

Picking pine nuts is an arduous work. Farmers need to go to the pine forest to pick and bag it. The yield of one Chilgoza pine is about 3-5 kg. “Preliminary washing and drying are also essential. We imported machines for washing from China a few years ago, which means a great convenience,” mentioned pine nut picker Altaf Hussain.

After that, China-made machines will help grade these pine nuts. “The grading machine purchased from China can classify the raw pine nuts into three grades-A, B and C, which helps us classify the quality more accurately,” said Zahoor Shah, a Pakistani pine nut trader, who was echoed by Muhammad Rafique, a Karachi pine nut exporter, “Chinese importers have high requirements, and A-grade products are always the most popular for them. Due to their sharp rise in demand in recent years, the price of pine nuts is also rising year by year, especially those highest quality products. I’ve been in this business for 35 years, from my point of view, Bannu produces one of the best quality pine nuts. About 20 percent of dealers in Bannu sell all their goods to the Chinese.” In the 2020-2021 production season (July 2020-June 2021), data from the International Nut and Dried Fruit Council (INC) showed that the output of pine nuts in Pakistan reached 2,800 tons, 1.9 times that of the 2019-2020 season. Pakistan has become the fifth largest producer of pine nuts in the world.

Even in the 2020-2021 production season, which was severely affected by the epidemic, Pakistani pine nuts have maintained a considerable export volume to China. However, the epidemic still had a negative impact on the local market prices. “The land road is blocked from time to time, and the road conditions are not good. Recently, our pine nuts can only be sold at about 2,000 rupees per kilogram in the domestic market,” said Mir Afzal, a Pakistani pine nut trader. “Thanks to the direct flights between China and Pakistan, air freight has been reduced a lot in 2021. In the future, as the epidemic further eases and flights gradually increase, air freight will still be the best choice,” said the person in charge of a Chinese pine nuts processing enterprise. And according to the second-phase protocol of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, Pakistani pine nuts can be exported to China with zero tariff. Previously, it requires a 36 percent tariff, about Rmb10 per kilogram. The new policy will greatly benefit pine nuts industry in both countries.

With a bumper harvest and an increase in exports to China, why is the price of Pakistani pine nuts still high, Yar Muhammad Niaz, CEO of Hangzhou Niaz Food Co., Ltd., believes that in addition to the impact of the epidemic in the past two years, it is mainly due to China’s soaring market demand.

“The Chinese market has a growing demand for mid-to-high-end snack foods. Just like sunflower seeds, Pakistani pine nuts are a hot commodity that is sought after,” Xin Mindong also emphasized.

In the current Chinese market, Pakistani pine nuts are also facing fierce competition from Afghanistan. In addition to Pakistan, Chilgoza pine is also widely distributed in eastern Afghanistan. Currently, 80 percent of Afghanistan’s pine nuts are exported to China.

According to INC, China is the second largest consumer of pine nuts. Pine nuts from Afghanistan entered China's live broadcast room in 2021 and sold out 26 tons within 2 hours. Facing competition, deep processing may be a promising cooperation direction.

“If the governments of the two countries can cooperate deeply and further transfer the industry chain to Pakistan to process pine nuts and pine nut oil, it will be of great benefit to local employment, and the export of high value-added products to China can also create more foreign exchange for Pakistan,” said Ma Xiaoyan, Senior Investment Adviser at the Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Moreover, it is also urgent to promote the ecological protection of the pine forest to achieve sustainable development. Syed Azeem Shah, a pine nut exporter, indicates that the lack of ecological management and protection of the origin and uncontrolled picking will lead to a gradual decline in production.

“Some people pick pine nuts in summer and autumn, while cut down or burn pine trees in winter, which is very shortsighted and ignorant. The forestry department must realize that ecological protection and afforestation are the top priorities. In our main producing area Chilas, where has a vast plateau land, but the plants are relatively sparse. We can increase the density of pine tree planting step by step. Although Chilgoza pine requires a unique high-altitude ecological environment and grows very slowly, it will undoubtedly be a long-term plan for the benefit of future generations.”

“Besides, in the process of picking, it is also common to break branches casually. If we can cooperate with Chinese factories to ask them to provide us with more scientific collection tools, it will be of great benefit,” • Syed Azeem Shah suggested. “Without a doubt, Pine nut industry is a promising sunshine industry, and Chinese companies can provide various picking and processing equipment,” Xin summed up.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/05/china-becomes-main-export-destination-for-pakistani-pine-nut/>

The News

Internationalization of Chinese currency

Dr Murad Ali

Recent news that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has reportedly agreed to accept payment in yuan for Saudi oil purchased by Beijing has been received with unusual enthusiasm (or scepticism). It has been argued that the move is likely the beginning of the internationalization of the Chinese currency or the end of the hegemony of the US dollar as an international currency.

With its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) – dubbed as the ‘project of the century’ – in addition to advancing its foreign policy and economic goals, Beijing aims to truly internationalize its currency. To this end, the main objective is to export Chinese currency as the settlement

currency for trade so as to “internationalize” and broaden the sphere of influence by financial structures.

Qin, Liu and Zhang in their book chapter titled ‘The BRI from within China: mechanisms, institutions and media representations’ say: “China has made bilateral currency swap arrangements with more than 20 BRI countries, RMB clearing arrangements with 7 BRI countries, and has signed cooperation agreements with the financial supervision authorities of 35 BRI countries. These strengthen RMB’s currency functions for international payment, trade and reserves”. For instance, Pakistan also signed a currency swap agreement with China which had significant implications for the internationalization of the renminbi (RMB), argue these authors.

However, as Doshi has aptly stated in his well-received book ‘The Long Game: China's Grand Strategy to Displace American Order’, China has a ‘fast-aging population, enormous debt, slowing growth, and a currency still far from rivaling the dollar’.

Hence, although Beijing has made solid progress in this direction, it is highly unlikely to dislodge the dollar from its current position of an unrivalled international currency.

That said, China has been quite active and steadfast in promoting the renminbi’s use in international trade, especially through signing several dozen swap agreements of different varieties that facilitate the use of its currency overseas. For example, by 2015, trade settlement in RMB reached \$1.1 trillion – about 30 percent of Beijing’s total trade – from virtually zero in 2000. If the same trend continues, which is expected as more and more BRI projects are implemented in numerous countries, this percentage is likely to witness an upward trajectory. It could considerably reduce China’s vulnerability to the US’s structural power because Beijing will be in a more advantaged position than it currently enjoys conducting international trade in its own currency.

The currency war has remained a historical phenomenon. At the zenith of power, France sought to establish a frank area excluding Germany in the 1860s. Then, Nazi Germany and imperial Japan extended their currencies in the twentieth century to gain structural power; and the US followed suit as well after the end of the Second World War.

Another area in which Beijing has made some progress is related to the cross-border payment system offering clearing and settlement services for its participants in international financial transactions. Currently, there is a complete monopoly of SWIFT’s structural power, which at times has been deployed by great powers to coerce countries such as Iran, North Korea and Russia from time to time. The organization, known as the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, was founded in 1973 when 239 banks from 15 different countries created unified messaging standards. It is a messaging programme and a network that makes cross-border financial payments possible, thereby constituting the sub-structure of global finance. According to the organization, SWIFT became the nodal financial messaging system with “the connection of the first central banks in 1983”. Today, SWIFT spans over 200 countries

and territories and more than 10,000 institutions, facilitating 15 million messages daily. It has emerged as a vital financial infrastructure that makes international payments possible.

Although it is not to counter SWIFT but to ‘complement it’, as Chinese officials have maintained, China has come up with Cross-Border Interbank Payment System (CIPS). According to CIPS, about 1,280 financial institutions in 103 countries and regions are connected to the system, including 30 banks in Japan, 23 banks in Russia, and 31 banks from African nations receiving yuan under China's BRI investments.

Backed by the People’s Bank of China (PBOC), Beijing launched the CIPS in 2015 to internationalize its currency. It is a payment system that offers both clearing and settlement services and it also counts several foreign banks as its important shareholders. Although nowhere near to SWIFT, CIPS processed around 80 trillion yuan (\$12.68 trillion), with about 1280 financial institutions in 103 countries and regions having connected to the system in the year 2021.

Given the above facts, although China has been making efforts and has taken practical initiatives for the internationalization of its currency, it is in no position right now to dislodge the dollar from its position as a globally valued currency. Data from SWIFT indicates that the RMB accounts for only between one and two percent of all international payments at the moment. Perhaps as an increasing number of BRI projects are executed, it may further lead to the internationalization of the Chinese currency.

For instance, of all the BRI projects, “data from the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council suggests that, in early 2019, central SOEs took up 50 percent of the infrastructure projects either already underway or in the pipeline, with over 70 percent of the contract value, spreading across more than 3,200 projects. According to the figures, central government-controlled SOEs had 10,791 overseas units in 185 countries and regions in 2019, and its foreign assets totalled more than RMB 7 trillion (USD1 trillion) in the same period, with annual operating revenue and profit reaching RMB 4.7 trillion and RMB 106.4 billion respectively”.

These figures indicate how Chinese SOEs are operating in numerous countries under the BRI and how they can achieve the goal of the internationalization of the Chinese currency in the future.

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<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=73928>

K2 Daily News

دوٹی کی علامت قرار دینے ہوئے کہا کہ پاک ہائیک اور سیز فیڈ ریٹین کے ذریعہ اجناس سے تقریباً ہر سال منصفہ ہوتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ شاہراہ قراقرم دنیا کا آٹھواں گلوب ہے۔ پاک چین لازوال دوستی کی علامت ہے۔ شاہراہ قراقرم پاکستان اور ہماری جمہوریت چین کو ملانے والی واحد قومی شاہراہ ہے۔ شاہراہ قراقرم دنیا کے عظیم پیمانی سلسلے قراقرم اور ہمالیہ میں سے مل کھاتی ہوئی گزرتی ہے۔ اس شاہراہ کی تعمیر کے دوران 810 پاکستانی اور اعلیٰ چینیوں نے اپنی جانوں کا نذرانہ پیش کیا۔ جس میں سے 88 مزدور چینی یادگار دکن میں مدفون ہیں اس موقع پر پانے کا دس ایسی انجین کے اسٹنٹ کٹر صداقت علی خان کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی لازوال ہے اور چین پاکستان کا دیرینہ دوست ہے۔ جس کی مثال ہمالیہ سے ہندو کی جاتی ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ شاہراہ قراقرم پاک چین دوستی کی عظیم مثال ہے۔ قراقرم ہائے وئے کی تعمیر و تیس سو چھاسٹھ میں شروع ہوئی اور پانچ سال کی مدت میں 1978 پانچ تھیل کو پتلی۔ تیرہ سو کلومیٹر میں شاہراہ دو حصوں پر منقسم ہے ایک حصہ پاکستان میں جو طیاروں سے ہزار ہا تک 887 کلومیٹر ہے جبکہ دوسرا حصہ ہزاروں سے چین کے شہر کا شرف تک 413 کلومیٹر پر منقسم ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی یادگار شاہراہ قراقرم کی نشانی ہے اور اس یادگار کا حلقہ 'مقاتل اور دیگر انکشافات لائن حسین ہیں تقریب کے آخر میں پاک چین دوستی لہجہ ہار کے پر شاکف نے سنی لگا ہے۔

شاہراہ قراقرم پاک چین دوستی کی علامت، محمد علی رضوی
شاہراہ کی تعمیر کے دوران 810 پاکستانی اور 88 چینیوں جان سے گئے
چینی یادگار شاہراہ قراقرم کی نشانی ہے جس کی صفائی لائن حسین ہے، صداقت علی
نگلت (تلف رپورٹ) شاہراہ قراقرم کی تعمیر اجرام منصفہ ہونے والی تقریب میں پانے
کے دوران پاک ہائے وئے چائیز مزدور اور سکالرس کے دستے نے سٹائی ٹیج کی اور یادگار پر
انجینئرز کو خراج عقیدت پیش کرنے کے لئے چینی بھول چڑھانے۔ پاک ہائیک اور سیز فیڈ ریٹین
یادگار دکن میں تقریب منصفہ ہوئی۔ اس دوران کے جنرل میجر جنرل محمد علی رضوی نے اس موقع پر
پاک یادگار میں چینی مزدوروں کی قبروں کی صفائی کی چائیز یادگار میں مزدوروں کی یاد میں ہونے والی
گئی۔ پاک ہائیک اور سیز فیڈ ریٹین کے ذریعہ تقریب کو پاک چین دوستی (ہائی سٹریٹ 6 بجے 25)

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

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

April 06, 2022

Business Recorder

Second phase of CPEC

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: Chinese investors have reportedly put billions of dollar investment on ice, planned for second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), due to political uncertainty in Pakistan, well informed sources told Business Recorder.

CPEC Authority, sources said, had identified 19 Chinese companies, which have shown keen interest in different sectors for investment billions of dollars.

According to sources, top executives of Chinese companies also met Prime Minister Imran Khan during his visit to China in February 2022, wherein they expressed their interest to invest in different sectors under second phase of CPEC.

The key sectors, which have been identified for Chinese investments under CPEC-II, are textile, pharmaceutical industry, automotive industry, information technology, footwear industry, furniture industry, and agriculture sector.

In textile sector, Pakistan has supply base for almost all man-made and natural yarns and fabrics, including cotton, rayon and others. This abundance of raw material is a big advantage for Pakistan due to its beneficial impact on cost and operational lead time. Many international brands currently operate in Pakistan and work with the local textiles mills such as H&M, Levis, Target, Nike, Adidas, Puma etc.

Textile sector of Pakistan presents the most attractive opportunities for Chinese investors in the value-added segment particularly ‘apparel and made-ups’ where there is considerable growth potential. The investors will be able to take advantage of the best possible fiscal incentives in the SEZs, skilled and inexpensive labor, easy availability of raw materials, competitive energy tariffs, low freight costs and preferential access to European markets.

In pharmaceutical, there is an opportunity to replace the imports from India, Korea, Japan, EU and even Chinese counterparts. New avenues for export of Plant, Machinery and Equipment to Pakistan would be realized, as local industry will also step-in on backward integration, transportation and logistics strategic advantage for exports to MENA, Central Asia, South Asia, EU and Africa.

In auto sector, duty-free import of plant and machinery for setting up the assembly and/or manufacturing facility on a one-time basis, concessional rate of custom duty @ 10 percent on non-localised parts and @ 25 percent on localised parts for a period of five years for the manufacturing of cars and LCVs.

Pakistani authorities have informed the Chinese investors of 19 multi-industry SEZs open for business, with respect to availability of infrastructure (electricity, gas, water & road accessibility etc.) for investors who wish to set up units in the next two years.

The sources said 5,300 acres of land is available in these SEZs. Additional 1000 acres of land is planned to be added: (i) Bin Qasim Industrial Park (BQIP); (ii) Korangi Creek Industrial Park (KCIP); (iii) Hattar Special Economic Zone (HSEZ); (iv) M3 Industrial City (M3IC); (v) Oil Village SEZ; (vi) Rachna Industrial Park (RIP); (vii) Rahimyar Khan Industrial Estate (RIE); (viii) Rashakai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ) (CPEC); (ix) Vehari Industrial Estate (VIE); (x) Bhalwal Industrial Estate (BIE); (xi) Bostan Special Economic Zone (BSEZ) (CPEC); (xii) Hub Special Economic Zone (HUBSEZ); (xiii) Naushero Feroz Industrial Park (NFIP); (xiv) Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC) (CPEC); (xv) National Science and Technology Park (NSTP); (xvi) JW-SEZ China-Pakistan SEZ; (xvii) Quaid-e-Azam Business Park (QABP); (xviii) Dhabeji Special Economic Zone (CPEC); and (xix) Gwadar Free Zone.

The sources said out of total nine CPEC SEZs, four are at advanced stage of readiness in addition to Gwadar Free Zone.

“All 19 Chinese companies were ready to invest billions of dollars in the identified sectors but they have shelved their plans due to current political insecurity in the country, which is not in favour of the country,” said one of the key officials of CPEC, who has left office after the dissolution of the cabinet.

The Chinese companies, which have already invested in Pakistan’s energy sector are unhappy with the treatment, they are receiving with special reference to payments against sold electricity. Chinese leadership had shared their concerns with the Prime Minister and other authorities, but payments have not yet been made to them as per commitment.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/06/1-page/925030-news.html>

Daily Times

Rashakai, SEZs to start new era of industrial development

The Board of Investment (BOI) on Tuesday said that Rashakai, Special Economic Zone would usher in a new era of industrial development in the country.

The completion of Rashakai Economic Zone will encourage foreign investment and provide adequate facilities to foreign investors, the senior official of BOI told APP here.

The senior official said that to transform the trade corridor into a true economic corridor, BOI being the secretariat for SEZs and Industrial Cooperation under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and a party to all the SEZ development agreements on the behalf of the Federal Government, after 9 long months of negotiations, on 14th September, facilitated signing of the quad-partite development agreement for the development of the first CPEC SEZ i.e. Rashakai SEZ, in KP.

Rashakai SEZ is to be developed in collaboration with a state-owned Chinese enterprise, that makes this development agreement first of its kind with Chinese counterpart being one of the parties to the development agreement, he said.

Replying to a question he said that by 1 FY2018-19, only 7 SEZs existed, while 6 of them had converted from their earlier status as Industrial estates (IEs) or industrial parks (IPs).

He said that Provision of Utilities from the Federal PSDP with BOI’s efforts and support of line ministries Rs. 19.9bn have been earmarked in the PSDP for provision of utilities for all the SEZs over the period of 5 years.

He said that efforts are underway for more funding and use of other innovative models, such as captive power to cut the costs and release the burden of such allocation.

The senior official said that BOI being the SEZ Authority for ICT, promoted the case for award of SEZ status to National Science and Technology Park, that is being developed by NUST for promotion of hi-tech industry and research and development.

He said the park was approved by the BOA in its 6th meeting held on 7th October 2020, and notified on 2nd December 2020, as an SEZ under the purview of the SEZ Act 2012 and was allowed certain exemptions by the BOA for its unique business model.

Considering the special needs of the hi-tech and IT sector on BOI's proposal, amendments were made in the Customs Act 1969 to expand the custom duty exemptions to include the IT sector, he said.

He said the colonization of SEZs can be divided into two eras, pre- and post-SEZ MIS Module.

Before the notification of the SEZ Zone Enterprise Admission and Sale, Lease and Sublease of Plots Regulations 2021, the SEZs were marred with real estate activities, he said.

However, in order to eradicate these practices and give way to only serious investors, with effect from 1st January 2021, all zone and zone enterprise applications are being processed through the SEZ MIS Module.

These SEZs together house 285 enterprises (excluding the Industrial Estate units in M3IC and VAC), he said. He said that over 84% of industrial area allotted, 46% of investment has been realized with 50% of it being Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

The Federal Government has exempted Rs 49.39bn of custom duties and taxes on the import of plant and machinery for setting up of units in these zones.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/914596/rashakai-sezs-to-start-new-era-of-industrial-development/>

Pakistan has become economic hub, focusing on connectivity: Prof Cheng

Cheng Xizhong, visiting Professor of Southwest University of Political Science and Law said on Tuesday that with the transformation of Pakistan's national strategy from geo-politics to geo-economy, the country has become an economic hub, centering

on economic security and focusing on connectivity and development. Now, Pakistan is firmly committed to peaceful co-existence and cooperative multilateralism for win-win outcomes. Pakistan's outlook and trajectory have been fundamentally transformed. Therefore, Pakistan is striving for peace, prosperity and connectivity in the region, and even the whole world, Prof. Cheng, who is also a senior fellow of the Charhar Institute and former Chinese Defence Attaché in South Asian countries said in a statement. He also noted that Pakistan successively and successfully held an extraordinary meeting of the OIC-CFM and the 48th session of the OIC-CFM meeting. Pakistan has made great efforts to promote the solidarity and cooperation of the Muslim Ummah and make it play a greater role in international affairs, thus having made outstanding contributions to regional and world peace.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/914579/pakistan-has-become-economic-hub-focusing-on-connectivity-prof-cheng-2/>

Pakistan Observer

Tribute paid to Chinese workers of KKH

Officials and locals from Gilgit-Baltistan paid tribute to Chinese workers and engineers who lost their lives about 50 years ago in the construction of Karakoram Highway (KKH). According to Gwadar Pro, the “April 4, National Mourning Day” was organised by Overseas Chinese Association Gilgit Baltistan (OCAGB). Officials, local notables and students were gathered at “China Yadgar”, the Chinese cemetery, located in Danyor, about 10 kilometers away from Gilgit city across the Gilgit Giver.

The officials, locals and students laid floral wreaths on the graves of Chinese workers and engineers who laid their lives in the construction of KKH, also known as the Eighth Wonder of the World. Poems eulogizing the sacrifices and Chinese and Pakistani workers who laid their lives in the construction were also played.

“Fifty-four Chinese are buried in the cemetery; every year on April 4, we pay tribute to the Chinese workers and engineers at China Yadgar,” said Ali Ahmad Jan, a local from Gilgit, adding “China and Pakistan’s friendship is a perfect example of one soul and two bodies. We are together at grief and happiness”.

“Due to China’s sacrifices, today our KKH is linked with China. This road is an integral part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC),” said an official.

<https://pakobserver.net/tribute-paid-to-chinese-workers-of-kkh/>

Chinese firm directed to ensure garbage lifting in city’s district East

The Sindh Solid Waste Management Board has directed the Chinese company responsible for lifting and disposing of garbage in district East to make arrangements for 100 per cent removal of garbage in all localities.

The contracting firm had added 40 more three-wheeler hydraulic system rickshaws to further improve the arrangements for door-to-door garbage collection in the district.

SSWMB-East director Musheer Ahmed said that the number of three-wheelers had increased to 240 with the addition of 40 more vehicles. He said that around 1,400 to 1,500 Tonnes of garbage was lifted daily in the 31 union councils of the district.

The SSWMB official said that garbage collected from the houses was later shifted to 45 garbage transfer stations in the district. “Besides, there are big garbage containers placed in certain areas,” he added. He said that the heaps of garbage if found or reported to the SSWMB at its complaint centre were removed within hours. “On average, we resolve 25 complaints of garbage heaps daily,” he added. Meanwhile, a garbage mafia is learnt to have been fleecing people in

several parts of the city, particularly in posh and salubrious areas, by charging them hefty amounts for collecting garbage from their houses.

Sources in the SSWMB told media on Monday that the firms assigned waste management and door-to-door collection of garbage had lodged complaints against the garbage mafia that also manhandled their sanitation staff.

They said that the SSWMB had sought help of police and Rangers to ensure door-to-door collection of garbage in the city and got Section 144 of the criminal procedure code imposed on the unauthorised collection of garbage.

The sources said that the informal sector was involved in unauthorised door-to-door garbage collection, mainly by Afghan children, in different localities, including Clifton, Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Bahadurabad, Sindhi Muslim Housing Society, PECHS, Saddar and University Road.

They said that the collected garbage was then shifted to makeshift dens where the recyclable waste, mainly metal, plastic, furniture and paper, was segregated and sold in the market by the mafia which had set up their dens in the nearby shantytowns in and around the localities of high and middle-income groups.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-firm-directed-to-ensure-garbage-lifting-in-citys-district-east/>

Connectivity for Peace and Development

Ambassador Naghmana A. Hashmi

Human beings have always craved community and connection. It is evident from a cursory look at the history to realize that the world today, with all its technological and social development, cultural diversity, languages and heritage is the result of millennia of intermingling of different peoples – sharing ideologies, cultures and enriching each other.

The creations that come from shared experience have built our societies and led to our most monumental inventions and deepest insights about the world around us.

Geographical isolation has always been seen as the main hindrance to economic progress and development.

Whether it was the ancient Silk Route, Grand Trunk Road, RCD rail connection, KKH, Eurasian land bridge, Trans-Siberian Rail or now BRI and CPEC connecting China to rest of Asia, Africa, Middle East and Europe have all enriched and developed the nations along these routes. In the 21st century, Connectivity, particularly regional connectivity, has gained prominence reflected in the increasing demand for resources to be invested in linking communities, economies and countries.

President Xi's vision of regional connectivity and people-centric development model through BRI should be seen in this context and the established trend of Globalization. CPEC is an important part of BRI serving as the buckle with Gwadar Port as the Jewel in the crown. Connecting Gwadar to Xinjiang in China through a network of highways, railways and pipelines

to transport goods, technology, oil and gas and fiber optic cable for flow of knowledge, presents enormous opportunities to people from Gwadar to Kashgar and beyond.

The strategic concept of connectivity between Pakistan and China has been in the works for decades. It originated with the decision to build the Karakoram Highway linking Pakistan and China through Khunjab Pass. The two sides moved towards translating the concept into reality with the decision in 2001 to construct a deep sea port at Gwadar. The financial package for linking KKH to Gwadar port with a network of roads and bridges, reviving the energy sector of Pakistan, establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and project layout of CPEC was agreed in April 2015 during President Xi's visit to Pakistan taking a big stride forward for accomplishing the vision of connectivity and development.

CPEC has huge strategic significance for Pakistan and has helped Pakistan lay a strong energy and road infrastructure for subsequent development of industry, agriculture and human resource. It has already provided seventy thousand jobs to the youth along the CPEC route. Therefore, completion of CPEC including operationalization of SEZs should remain a priority for Pakistan irrespective of the criticism and negativity spread by our detractors and efforts by them to sabotage CPEC through acts of terrorism. More than ever before, a national consensus on CPEC across the political spectrum is of paramount significance to ensure its smooth implementation opening the path for enhancing growth and development of Pakistan in earnest.

With the first phase of CPEC nearing completion, the focus should squarely be on the fast track development and operationalization of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), sustainable development, poverty elevation, agriculture, health care and knowledge economy. Proper establishment and successful running of the SEZs are of critical importance for CPEC to take off and contribute to the long awaited socio-economic development of Pakistan and the region. SEZs can attract investment in low and high-technology products, lead to product diversification, promote exports, create employment lead to growth of manufacturing and services sector, enhance business activities, lead to technology transfer, skill up-gradation and improve external competitiveness through the development of a better supply and value chain provided the SEZs they are supported by the right policies.

In order to be successful in Pakistan, SEZs need to be supported with the right incentives and planning, including an effective design, ease of conducting business and effective implementation and management of SEZs. To maximize the benefits, sufficient linkages between the SEZs and the rest of the economy need to be ensured. The success of SEZs does not depend solely on the institutional framework and administrative bodies. It requires a multitude of other factors including location, ease of doing business, good governance, a transparent policy regime and good infrastructure. Factors such as location, availability of land, price of land, connectivity, infrastructure within and outside the SEZs, autonomy of the SEZs, fiscal and other incentives, supporting regulations and type of governance affect the success or failure of an SEZ.

It is heartening to see that finally the government has announced some incentives and have reduced the cumbersome administrative requirements and clearances for the Chinese investors in

SEZs but more needs to be done to attract FDI from China and third countries. For Pakistan developing world-class infrastructure inside SEZs should be a priority. The government needs to take a proactive role to ensure that SEZs are developed to attract the best enterprises from China and other countries. Badly developed SEZs will only attract substandard enterprises. The above mentioned elements are essential to maintain the attractiveness of SEZs.

SEZs in Pakistan still face several challenges that are easily manageable if a central, clear and uniform policy is adopted for SEZs throughout the country. The Federal and provincial governments must be in sync on the methodology and incentives for the development of SEZ. Presently the barriers faced by SEZs include; institutional mechanism and its implications; challenges related to land acquisition; location; sharing of infrastructure and the business model; barriers related to fiscal incentives; challenges related to backward and forward linkages, unavailability of skilled labour; lack of basic amenities on plug and play model and many more.

10. Pakistan is situated at the nexus of the four most dynamic regions of the world. Through CPEC Pakistan and China should aim at the establishment of an efficient and integrated system of communications and transport, in order for both to benefit from and contribute to the regional dynamism. If Pakistan wants to be part of the global production networks and value chain, we have to fully grasp the concept of economic corridors and cross-country partnerships. The success of economic corridors in Asia is based on the concept of how domestic trade and subsidy policy can be linked to SEZs and trade agreements. Pakistan is now actively promoting economic corridors, and the experiences of China and ASEAN countries in promoting and developing regional and sub-regional corridors will benefit Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/connectivity-for-peace-and-development-by-ambassador-naghmana-a-hashmi/>

BRI: height of infrastructure diplomacy

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Chinese One Belt & One Road Initiative has become sign of economic recovery, strength, stability and of course sustainability in all the member countries although internal economic fault lines and limited capacity building mechanism are one of the main impediments of it. That is why BRI has been advocating and reaching out the needy countries to first rectifies its intrinsic economic flaws.

The concept of BRI is not out of the blue moon. It has been characterized in various economic policies and strategic orientations of China for the last so many years.

It has been an ideal combination of Chinese's robust domestic economic growth and its regional and global planned expansion for achieving a befitting grand economic road map and model to trigger countries and communities from impasses economic slums towards economic surpluses through infrastructure development, greater regional connectivity and immense socio-economic

integration. In this context, the Western Development Program (WDP) (1999) and the “China Goes Global” plan (CGC) (2000) had some basic futuristic origins of the BRI.

It seems that the BRI follows the “infrastructure diplomacy” initiated by China in the 2000s. Afterwards, the BRI has succeeded in mobilizing every economic actor in China.

Right from the beginning the BRI’s signature program has been infrastructure connectivity, aiming to finance and construct large infrastructure projects that link China with Southeast, South, and Central Asia. Critical analysis reveals that BRI concept was not new; China had conducted “infrastructure diplomacy” since at least 2008.

In this connection, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) had proposed mutual connectivity projects in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) framework in Central Asia and ASEAN Plus Three (APT) framework in Southeast Asia.

Infrastructure proposals by MFA, however, did not go much further, as it had no access to project reserves at Chinese banks, nor the power to orchestrate financing and construction of infrastructure, which belonged to the National Development and Reform Council (NDRC) and China Development Bank (CDB).

Meanwhile, China’s domestic overcapacity intensified in 2010, and its infrastructure diplomacy was raised to a new height by its visionary leaders. At the China-ASEAN Leaders’ Summit, former Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao pledged to “provide loans to establish a China-ASEAN Infrastructure Cooperation Fund.

In particular, in Indonesia, Wen announced that China would disburse \$1 billion in concessionary loans and \$8 billion in development financing to help the country’s infrastructure needs. Then President Hu Jintao pushed for similarly strong infrastructure ideas.

In this regard, at an APEC summit in Russia in 2012, Hu offered a concrete plan for infrastructure development in Eurasia in a speech titled “Deepening Mutual Connectivity and Realizing Sustainable Development,” stating that “infrastructure is the basis for economic development; connectivity is critical to trade integration; and Asian leaders need to promote communication and cooperation across borders.

It is obvious that before Xi’s Belt and Road announcements, former Premier Li was an active promoter of infrastructure in Asia and China’s commitment to invest in it. In May 2013, while visiting Pakistan, Li announced that China would invest \$14 billion in 36 projects covering energy, roads, and telecommunications in the country.

In this direction, actual infrastructure investment had also been strident before the BRI. In 2011, China provided \$15 billion in concessionary loans to support 50 projects including highways, railways, water, energy, telecommunications, and electricity linking China and ASEAN. Cross-border rail and highways projects connected border capitals such as Nanning and Kunming with Hanoi and Singapore, respectively.

When ASEAN members founded the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF) in 2012, Chinese diplomats attempted to expand it into an East Asian Infrastructure Fund (EAIF) but could not include Japan and other “unfriendly” nations. Ultimately Chinese president Xi formally announced BRI in 2013.

The concept of Chinese Marshall Plan remained in news during 2009 which could serve as a medium to long-term strategy to disburse foreign aid and foster international cooperation. Chinese leadership proposed that China spend \$500 billion to set up a “Harmonious World Plan” by providing aid and loans to Asian, African, and Latin American countries. The plan, according to Xu, would boost Chinese exports, reduce industrial overcapacity, accelerate renminbi internationalization, and advance China’s global influence.

From 2010 to 2012, tension in Maritime Asia was rising fast. The US excluded China from a regional grouping, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and was seen as creating de facto geostrategic encirclement around China. Wang Jisi proposed “China goes west” as a way to promote strategic rebalancing and prevent a US-China direct clash in Maritime Asia.

Wang’s strategy was quite popular in Beijing foreign policy circles. After the launch of BRI, security specialists in Beijing claimed that “China goes west” had been the forerunner of the BRI.

The process from the BRI announcement to consolidation as a national strategy, roughly from 2013 to 2015, demonstrates how the strategy empowered the Chinese dynamic state. During this juncture, various state agencies, particularly those with resources and preexisting projects in line with the BRI received a major boost to their efforts. The BRI became a mobilization campaign, in which different government agencies inserted their policy ideas and made the messages in the strategy more concrete.

In line with preexisting policy ideas and practices, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supported the BRI strongly and argued that the strategy would integrate China’s own development with Asian regionalism through policy coordination, road connections, trade facilitation, currency exchanges, and communication of public opinion.

On its part, the NDRC publicized its action plan for BRI construction, in which investment, manufacturing, cross-border industrial parks, energy trade, and infrastructure were “the priority of the priorities. On the other hand, the State Council think tank Development and Research Center (DRC) advocated that the BRI jointly develop coastal, central, and western China, while improving Asia’s overall economic competitiveness in the world.

To conclude, the BRI represents a new era economic diplomacy in China and advocates a series of geostrategic-conscious Free Trade Areas (FTAs) and other associated economic cooperation among all the member countries. It has strategic significance, tying construction of a new Silk Road with the revival of China’s former place in the world. It advocates the BRI to connect land and maritime transport, deepen regional integration, and expand the geostrategic space for China’s rise.

Ultimately, it borrows holistic policies of Chinese president Xi mainly Global Development Initiative (GDI), Common/shared Prosperity (CP) and Global Community Development (GCD) and has become a symbol of economic sustainability without any conditions or especial geopolitical designs.

Rapidly changing socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic trends in the region and beyond urge policy makers of China to further transform BRI in accordance with the new conflicting realities especially imposition of unilateral socio-economic and geopolitical sanctions against Russia. In this connection, China-EU strategic partnership should also be reviewed and pursued to make breathing space for the member countries of BRI especially in Central Asia and South Caucasus regions.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-height-of-infrastructure-diplomacy-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

April 07, 2022

Business Recorder

Agriculture sector

PCJCCI official, Chinese CG discuss various potentials

LAHORE: Ehsan Chaudhry, senior vice-president PCJCCI conducted a meeting with Peng Zhengwu, Consul General of China at HAC Agri premises in which they have discussed various potentials for agriculture sector. Peng Zhengwu, Consul General of China in Pakistan shared his views by saying that Pakistan should initiate collaborations with China in learning agricultural techniques under CPEC to enhance yield of crops, modernization of irrigation system and value addition. Agriculture is the backbone of the Pakistani economy, and cooperation with China could turn a new page in agricultural modernisation and will be a destiny changer for the people of Pakistan, he said.

Ehsan Chaudhry, senior vice president PCJCCI said that agriculture-based business is the fastest growing sector by unleashing umpteen opportunities and strengthening the supply chain in Pakistan's agricultural scenario.

HAC Agri is a non-listed public limited company which has expertise in Controlled Atmospheric (CA) storage for fruits and vegetables, the first of its kind in Pakistan. CA is used worldwide to enhance the storage life of high-end fruits, vegetables and other food items. In this way we are exporting fruits and vegetables to various countries. He added that we should introduce such contemporary techniques in Pakistan and also to foster development and diversification of commercial exchanges and economic cooperation in agriculture sector.

Salahuddin Hanif, secretary general PCJCCI said that PCJCCI aims to conduct different workshops and B2B meetings with Chinese companies for learning innovative and better techniques of farming, he said adding that PCJCCI would make investments with the help of Chinese companies, in new seeds, farming technology, and techniques, mechanization and the

water infrastructure which will ensure high return and generate employment in rural areas reducing rural poverty.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/07/31-page/925236-news.html>

Daily Times

Gwadar port commemorating Chinese martyrs

In connection with the global commemoration of Chinese martyrs, Gwadar Port solemnly marked the 18th anniversary of Chinese nationals who lost their lives in a deadly terrorist attack in Gwadar.

Chinese officials working in Gwadar paid rich tributes to the compatriots who sacrificed their lives in the construction of Gwadar port.

According to Gwadar Pro, Deputy General Manager Gwadar Free Zone Company, Mr. Jia Yong Hui, along with Chief Security Officer Xu Shaolong, Manager Administration Zou Yaodong, and other senior officials of COPHC and CBC visited the monument to pay homage to the gallant compatriots for laying down their lives in the construction of Gwadar Port.

COPHC chairman in his tweet paid homage to the Chinese martyrs of Gwadar Port. Chinese consul general Karachi Li Bijian in his twitter account uploaded Chinese President Xi's remarks which later mentioned "for those who offered their precious lives for the country, the Chinese people and peace, we will forever remember their sacrifice and contribution no matter how time changes."

On April 5, 2004, when a van carrying 12 Chinese engineers and 2 Pakistani workers was passing through marine drive, it suffered a terror attack that led to the martyrdom of three Chinese nationals and nine injured.

Gwadar tribute to Chinese martyrs is a part of the Qingming Festival, a traditional occasion for the Chinese to honor their ancestors, people in the country and overseas pay tributes to their family ancestors as well as to the country's martyrs.

Over the past few days, officers and soldiers across China paid tributes at various martyrs' cemeteries, visited revolutionary memorial sites and expressed their desire to draw strength from the spirit of the martyrs and continue their struggle.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/914881/gwadar-port-commemorating-chinese-martyrs/>

Dunya News

China urges all parties in Pakistan to uphold national development, stability

BEIJING (Dunya News) – A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Wednesday that all parties in Pakistan could stay united and uphold national development and stability.

“As ironclad friend of Pakistan, We hope all parties in the country can stay united and uphold national development and stability,” Zhao Lijian said in response to a question about current political situation in Pakistan after Prime Minister Imran Khan blocked opposition parties no-confidence move against him.

He said China always followed the principle of noninterference in other countries domestic affairs.

Terming China and Pakistan as all-weather strategic cooperative partners, he said

“History has proven once again that no matter how the international landscape may evolve, how our respective domestic situation may change, China and Pakistan relations will always stand unbreakable and rock firm.”

“We believe that the China-Pakistan overall cooperation and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) construction will not be affected by the political situation in Pakistan,” he added.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/648198-China-urges-parties-Pakistan-uphold-national-development-stability>

The Express Tribune

China says CPEC won't be affected by political situation

Spokesperson stresses Pakistan could stay united and uphold national development and stability

BEIJING: China said on Wednesday all the parties in Pakistan could stay united and uphold national development and stability, stressing that the bilateral cooperation and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project would not be affected by the political situation in the neighbouring country.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian emphasised that China and Pakistan were “all weather strategic cooperative partners” but added that Beijing always followed the principle of non-interference in other countries domestic affairs.

“As ironclad friend of Pakistan, we hope all parties in the country can stay united and uphold national development and stability,” the spokesperson said, in response to a question about the current political situation in Pakistan. “History has proven once again that no matter how the international landscape may evolve, how our respective domestic situation may change, China and Pakistan relations will always stand unbreakable and rock firm,” Zhao added.

Responding to another question, Spokesperson Zhao said: “We believe that the China-Pakistan overall cooperation and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor construction will not be affected by the political situation in Pakistan.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2351374/china-says-cpec-wont-be-affected-by-political-situatio>

پاکستان کے زرعی منظر نامے میں بے شمار مواقع فراہم کرنے اور سپلائی چین کو مضبوط بنانے کے ذریعے سب سے تیزی سے ترقی کرنے والا شعبہ ہے۔ جبکہ ہمیں ایسی عصری ٹیکنیکوں کو پاکستان میں متعارف کرانا چاہیے اور زرعی شعبے میں تجارتی تبادلوں اور اقتصادی تعاون کی ترقی اور تنوع کو بھی فروغ دینا چاہیے۔ سیکرٹری جنرل پی سی جے سی سی آئی صلاح الدین حنیف، نے کہا کہ پاک چین جیبر چین کا مقصد کاشتکاری کی جدید اور بہتر ٹیکنیکوں کو سیکھنے کے لیے چینی کمپنیوں کیساتھ مختلف ورکشاپس اور بزنس ٹو بزنس میٹنگز کا انعقاد کرنا ہے، انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پاک چین جیبر چین کمپنیوں کی مدد سے نئے بیج، فارمنگ ٹیکنالوجی میں سرمایہ کاری کرے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-04-07/page-16/detail-0>

سی پیک کے خصوصی اقتصادی زون، روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کریں گے، سرمایہ کاری بورڈ

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) سی پیک کے تحت خصوصی اقتصادی زونز پاکستان میں تیزی سے صنعت کاری کو فروغ دینے کے علاوہ روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کریں گے۔ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ حکام کے مطابق سی پیک کے پہلے مرحلے میں سی پیک کے منصوبے بنیادی ڈھانچے کی ترقی اور توانائی کے منصوبوں پر مشتمل تھے جبکہ جوں جوں سی پیک دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہوا ہے، اس میں تیزی سے خصوصی اقتصادی زونز قائم کیے جا رہے ہیں۔ جن سے صنعتی یونٹس قائم ہونے کیساتھ ساتھ روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے اور ملک میں معاشی سرگرمیوں کو فروغ ملے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-04-07/page-16/detail-11>

April 08, 2022

Business Recorder

CPEC SEZs: progress reviewed

ISLAMABAD: The 6th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting was co-chaired by Board of Investment (BoI) Secretary Fareena Mazhar and Director General, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China, Ying Xiong on Friday.

Both sides reviewed the progress of the CPEC Special Economic Zones (SEZs), particularly, Rashakai, Allama Iqbal, Dhabeji, and Bostan SEZs, and expressed satisfaction over the achievements so far.

Furthermore, both sides vowed to take forward the Framework Agreement in a pragmatic manner, which was signed during the prime minister's visit to China in February.

Contrary to the previous JWG meetings, the 6th JWG witnessed active participation and presentations by the provincial NDRCs in China to strengthen business-to-business collaborations at the provincial levels between the two countries.

Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shandong, and Guangdong provinces committed to encourage their enterprises to develop linkages with Pakistan's provincial BOIs and invest therein.

Provincial NDRCs vowed to collaborate with Pakistan's provincial BOIs for joint efforts to bring in meaningful FDI and strike business-to-business (B2B) ventures.

The Chinese side showed great interest in the mining sector of Pakistan.

China Geological Survey and Metallurgical Corporation of China presented their possible proposals for collaboration in the mining sector of Pakistan.

Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) also delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the potential of the sector and possible investment opportunities for Chinese investors.

The BOI also presented proposals of establishing a SEZ at government-to-government (G2G) basis and CPEC Tower in Islamabad.

Representatives of Pakistan Embassy, Beijing and Chinese Embassy, Islamabad were also present in the meeting along with other JWG members.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/09/1-page/925431-news.html>

Dawn News

Bloc politics may hinder steadiness of Pak-China relations, official says

ISLAMABAD: Though relations between the two countries had gone through a historic change since the inception of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), bloc politics may impact steadiness in the flow of relations between Pakistan and China.

CPEC which is the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) aims to alleviate the socio-economic woes of Pakistan.

This was highlighted by Dr Fu Xiaoqiang, vice chancellor of China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) during a virtual conference. It was jointly organised by CICIR in collaboration with Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

ISSI Director General Aizaz Chaudhry was on the same page regarding the dangers of bloc-politics. Touching upon the recent war in Ukraine, he was of the view that the military escalation should be put to an end.

In the first session titled 'Global and Regional Impacts of Ukraine Crisis' Dr Shang Yue deputy director (Institute of Eurasian Studies, CICIR) maintained that the crisis marked the end of Russia's quest of its rightful place in Europe and, with its bold move, Moscow had challenged the global supremacy of United States.

Dr Sameera Imran who is an assistant professor at National Defence University (NDU) argued that the Ukrainian invasion had worsened the condition of food security in post-pandemic South Asia.

Dr Hu Shisheng said that the global financial situation was worse due to severe imbalance in payments and disruption in the supply chain. Countries that had cordial relations with Russia were in a tight spot, the speaker said, adding, "For instance, India is heavily dependent on Moscow for its arms supply and not following the US lead, would get New Delhi in trouble. The developing countries will bear the brunt of Russo-Ukrainian military escalation."

In the second session titled ‘Review and Prospect over the Situation in Afghanistan’, Dr Yan Shuai said after the Taliban took over Kabul, the security environment improved overall.

However, it was still a fertile ground for terrorist organisations and in order to remain credible, the Taliban would have to comply with international norms and present a moderate face, he added.

ISSI Amina Khan opined that the Taliban government was confronted with a myriad of challenges right now and the biggest ones were the non-existent economy of the country and weak institutions.

Unless the financial situation in the country improved, Afghanistan would remain a breeding ground for terrorist organisations.

Dr Wang Shida touched upon the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and said that Chinese aid came in the form of food assistance and help in the facilitation of land routes and air corridors for providing humanitarian assistance to war-stricken people.

Dr Talat Shabbir offered a comprehensive view of the situation in Afghanistan emphasising upon employing a consolidated regional approach towards Kabul.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1683989/bloc-politics-may-hinder-steadiness-of-pak-china-relations-official-says>

The Nation

Pak Exports To China Register 23pc Increase In First Two Months Of Year

BEIJING – Pakistan’s exports to China crossed \$ 67.072 million in the first two months of 2022, which recorded a nearly 23% increase year-on-year, shows the official data from the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC).

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral trade has increased significantly. Pakistan’s exports stood at \$67 million in the first two months of 2022, up 22.77 percent from \$54 million in the same period of the previous year, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Thursday.

Last month former adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood announced via Twitter that China was opening the Khunjrab Border which would help further increase Pakistan’s exports to the country. “We are pleased to share that China is opening the Khunjrab Border on April 1, 2022. It will not only help in the utilization of the second phase of Pakistan-China FTA (Free Trade Agreement) but also support local commerce on both sides of the border, especially the fruit and vegetable exporters from northern Pakistan. I urge the exporters to take advantage of this opportunity and increase their exports to China,” said Abdul Razak in a tweet. According to the GACC, overall, from January to February 2022, China’s imports and exports from Pakistan counted \$4.365 billion irrespective of COVID-19, which impacted FY2022 as well.

In the first two months of the current year, China's export to Pakistan also increased by 15.32 percent amounting to \$3.69 billion as compared to the previous year which was \$3.20 billion. Among the growth of trade in major products between the two countries, textiles, seafood, and agricultural products had increased year on year, which had promoted Pakistan's economic recovery and increased its exports to China, especially cotton yarn, rice, sesamum seeds, pine nuts that got a boom in the Chinese market.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/08/pak-exports-to-china-register-23pc-increase-in-first-two-months-of-year/>

April 09, 2022

Daily Times

CPEC, SEZ progress reviewed

Pakistan and China on Friday reviewed the progress of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and also discussed the future plan for the completion of these projects.

Both sides evaluated the development of CPEC, SEZs, particularly Rashakai, Allama Iqbal, Dhabeji and Bostan SEZs and expressed satisfaction over the achievements so far, said a press release issued by Board of Investment (BOI) here.

The 6th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting was co-chaired by Secretary Board of Investment (BOI) Fareena Mazhar and Director General, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China, Mr. Ying Xiong .

Representatives of Pakistan Embassy Beijing and Chinese Embassy Islamabad were also present in the meeting along with other JWG members.

Contrary to the previous JWG meetings, the 6th JWG witnessed active participation and presentations by the provincial NDRCs in China to strengthen business to business collaborations at the provincial levels between the two countries.

Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shandong and Guangdong provinces committed to encourage their enterprises to develop linkages with Pakistan's provincial BOIs and invest therein.

Provincial NDRCs vowed to collaborate with Pakistan's provincial BOIs for joint efforts to bring in meaningful FDI and strike business to business (B2B) ventures.

The Chinese side showed great interest in the mining sector of Pakistan.

The China Geological Survey and Metallurgical Corporation of China presented their possible proposals for collaboration in the mining sector of Pakistan.

Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) also delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the potential of the sector and possible investment opportunities for Chinese investors.

The Board of Investment also presented proposals of establishing a Special Economic Zone at government to government (G2G) basis and CPEC Tower in Islamabad.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/916432/cpec-sez-progress-reviewed/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese companies invest in seven attractive sectors of Pakistan

Chinese companies are investing in seven attractive sectors of Pakistan including textiles, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, information technology, footwear, furniture, and agriculture, reports WealthPK.

Industrial development is regarded as one of the most reliable ways of promoting the long-term growth of an economy. Therefore, many countries have used industrial development planning to boost their economic growth in recent decades. The Asian Tigers have served as an obvious illustration.

One technique for achieving this aim is to designate places for industrial growth, such as business parks, industrial estates, export processing zones, special economic zones (SEZs), and so on.

Adnan Khan, a socio-economic development specialist at the CPEC Authority, told Wealth PK that a number of companies have made investment proposals for the second phase of CPEC, which will bring huge investments in Pakistan. He said the majority of Chinese firms have shown interest in investing in the SEZs.

He said the prime minister has conducted roughly 20 back-to-back talks with top executives from Fortune 500 businesses in order to solicit investment.

“Compliance framework has been made easier for Chinese enterprises, and they no longer require no-objection certificates (NOCs) from 37 different ministries before beginning any investment project in the SEZs,” he said.

China has promised \$10–\$15 billion in investments for a variety of projects, including establishing industrial units on 2,200 acres of the Gwadar Free Zone, exploring the possibility of establishing oil refinery at Pasni, and relocating industries in seven key sectors to the upcoming SEZs.

Three Chinese firms have shown interest in investing in agriculture-related projects such as foot and mouth disease (FMD)-free zones, agricultural automation, pesticide production, poultry and cattle feed, and so on.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-companies-invest-in-seven-attractive-sectors-of-pakistan/>

Chinese provider signed MOU with Pakistan Integra Solar to supply PV module

Chinese provider signed MoU with Pakistan Integra Solar to supply PV module, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. According to the MoU, C&D Clean Energy will provide Integra Pakistan with integrated supply chain services of 100MW solar modules in 2022. Recently C&D Clean Energy has announced a partnership with Integra Solar for panel supply chain services.

“Integra’s value concept is to write the earth’s green future by choosing high-quality products, and we are in line with C&D Clean Energy on this point,” commented Mahmood Tahir, CEO of Integra Solar Pakistan.

“We are honored to find a global supply chain partner like C&D Clean Energy, a Fortune 500 company member, in a global solar market that requires high flexibility and competitiveness. The comprehensive supply chain services provided by C&D Clean Energy have given us more competitive advantages in the development of new energy business.”

General Manager of C&D Clean Energy, Michael K. Lee, offered online congratulations at the MOU signing ceremony, adding: “It is an honor to partner with Integra and play a part in this low-carbon and green cooperation.

Integra has developed an extensive cooperation with C&D Clean Energy on inverters and solar modules over the past year and we will continue to support the company with integrated and valued-added supply chain services in the future, extending our cooperation in Pakistan and other parts of the world to make joint contributions to global green and low-carbon development.” INP

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-provider-signed-mou-with-pakistan-integra-solar-to-supply-pv-module/>

The Express Tribune

China to review new SEZ proposal

Govt-owned zone will help reduce construction time, address financing issues

ISLAMABAD: China has agreed to consider Pakistan’s request for setting up a government-owned Special Economic Zone (SEZ) aimed at reducing construction time and addressing financing issues amid Islamabad’s inability to make special zones operational.

The request was made during sixth meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Industrial Cooperation on Friday.

The meeting was co-chaired by Board of Investment Secretary Fareena Mazhar and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China, Director General Ying Xiong.

The Board of Investment presented proposals for establishing an SEZ on a government-to-government (G2G) basis and a CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) Tower in Islamabad, according to a statement.

The zone is being proposed under the broader CPEC framework.

Initially, China was reluctant to consider the request and was not willing to include the issue in the agenda. Now, it has agreed to make a favourable review of the proposal.

According to the concept, Pakistan will offer free-of-cost land to China while investment will be made by Beijing to have a real plug-and-play zone.

Setting up a government-owned economic zone was also on the agenda of the prime minister's visit to China, but the premier did not take it up with the Chinese authorities.

Pakistan and China had agreed to set up nine prioritised SEZs under CPEC but during the past seven years no substantial progress could be made on the zones.

During the last meeting of CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), Pakistani side had informed Chinese officials that funds were allocated for the provision of electricity and gas at zero point of the Rashakai SEZ in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P), Allama Iqbal Industrial City SEZ in Punjab, Dhabeji SEZ in Sindh and Bostan SEZ in Balochistan.

However, these zones are still not ready for setting up factories.

In the last JCC meeting, China had hoped that in order to create favourable conditions for attracting investment, Pakistan would establish external infrastructure facilities and provide one-window service in the SEZs at an early date.

A statement issued by the Board of Investment underlined that both sides reviewed the progress on CPEC SEZs, particularly Rashakai, Allama Iqbal, Dhabeji and Bostan SEZs, and expressed satisfaction over the achievements made so far.

The developer of Rashakai SEZ demanded during the meeting that Pakistan should waive import duties on raw material and semi-finished goods for those investors who would make investment in the SEZs.

The developer argued that Chinese investors were more keen to invest in Far Eastern countries due to the benefits being offered from the platform of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) – a free trade agreement signed by 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) plus Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

The Board of Investment authorities have in the past expressed the desire that Pakistan should either become part of RCEP or China may offer similar benefits to make the country an attractive destination for Chinese investors.

One of the reasons for the lukewarm Chinese interest in Pakistani zones was that the developers, particularly of Rashakai zone, were demanding very high land prices.

The per-acre price being demanded by the Rashakai zone developer was almost double the price being sought by the Allama Iqbal zone, Faisalabad. The absence of infrastructure and utility services were the other key reasons that were keeping investors away from the zones.

The Board of Investment was not in favour of giving any further tax concessions on the ground that it would further edge out the local investors, who already complain about giving undue advantage to the Chinese investors.

During the JWG meeting, China also agreed to set up a mineral and mines sub-group aimed at tapping the potential of the sector.

The Chinese side showed great interest in the mining sector of Pakistan, according to the statement.

China Geological Survey and Metallurgical Corporation of China presented their proposals for possible collaboration in the mining sector of Pakistan, it added.

Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation (PMDC) also delivered a detailed presentation, highlighting the potential of the sector and possible investment opportunities for Chinese investors.

China will assist Pakistan in conducting a diagnostic study of the mineral and mines sector.

Furthermore, both sides vowed to take forward the framework agreement on industrial cooperation in a pragmatic manner, which was signed during the PM's visit to China in February.

However, the implementation plan for the framework agreement has not yet been finalised.

The Board of Investment official handout noted that contrary to the previous JWG meetings, the sixth JWG witnessed active participation and presentations by the provincial NDRCs in China to strengthen business-to-business collaboration at the provincial levels between the two countries.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2351593/china-to-review-new-sez-proposal>

The News

‘Pak-China relations have gone through historic change since inception of CPEC’

Islamabad: Dr. Fu Xiaoqiang, Vice-President. China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) has said that Pak-China relations have gone through a historic change since the inception of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Dr. Xiaoqiang was addressing a virtual roundtable organised here by the Institute of Strategic Studies in joint collaboration with CICIR.

Dr. Xiaoqiang said that it is the flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and it is meant to alleviate the socio-economic woes of Pakistan. He cautioned against the pitfalls of

bloc politics which are looming over the horizon and could curtail the steady flow of Pak-China relations.

Former ambassador of Pakistan to China Masood Khalid said that this Eurasian conflict has reshaped the geostrategic landscape of Europe and has exposed the long-standing fissures among the democracies on the European peninsula.

Dr Yan Shuai, Deputy Director, Institute of International Security Studies, CICIR, said that after the Taliban took over in Kabul, the overall security environment improved. However, there is still a fertile ground for terrorist organisations. In order to remain credible, the Taliban will have to comply with the international norms and present a moderate face. Ms. Amina from ISS opined that the Taliban government is confronted with a myriad of challenges right now and the biggest ones are the non-existent economy of the country and weak institutions. Unless the financial situation in the country improves, Afghanistan will remain a breeding ground for the terrorist organisations.

Dr. Wang Shida, Deputy Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, CICIR, touched upon the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and stated that the US aid goes back to the US and, contrary to this, Chinese aid comes in the form of food assistance and help in facilitating the land routes and air corridors for providing humanitarian assistance to the war-stricken people.

Dr. Talat Shabbir from ISS offered a comprehensive view of the current Afghan situation and emphasised employing a consolidated regional approach towards Kabul.

Dr Shang Yue, Dr Sameera Imran, Aizaz Chaudhry and Dr Hu Shisheng also spoke on the occasion.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=75516>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان کی سیاسی جماعتوں کو برادر چین کا صائب مشورہ

چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان ژاؤ لچیان نے پاکستان کی موجودہ سیاسی صورتحال پر بریفنگ کے دوران ایک سوال کے جواب میں پاکستان کی تمام سیاسی جماعتوں کو مشورہ دیا ہے کہ وہ متحد ہو کر ملکی ترقی اور استحکام کو برقرار رکھیں۔ اگلے بقول چین نے ہمیشہ دوسرے ممالک کے اندرونی معاملات میں عدم مداخلت کے اصول پر عمل کیا ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کو تمام موسمی تذبذباتی تعاون پر مبنی شراکت دار قرار دیتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے تعلقات ہمیشہ اٹوٹ اور مضبوط رہیں گے۔ انہوں نے توقع ظاہر کی کہ پاکستان چین اقتصادی راہداری کی تعمیر پاکستان کی سیاسی صورتحال سے متاثر نہیں ہوگی۔

اس میں کوئی دو رائے نہیں کہ پاکستان چین اٹوٹ دوستی کے تناظر میں چین پاکستان میں سیاسی، اقتصادی استحکام اور اسکی ترقی و خوشحالی کا خواہش مند ہوتا ہے اور اسی تناظر میں نمائندہ عالمی اور علاقائی فورموں پر بھی چین مختلف ایشوز پر پاکستان کے موقف کے ساتھ کھڑا ہوتا ہے۔ اس حوالے سے چین سلامتی کونسل میں پاکستان کے مفادات بالخصوص کشمیر ایشو اور پاکستان کی ایٹمی ٹیکنالوجی کے معاملہ میں پیش ہونیوالی کئی قراردادیں ویٹو بھی کر چکا ہے۔ اس وقت امریکہ بھارت گٹھ جوڑ کے تناظر میں پاکستان چین دوستی علاقائی سلامتی کے تحفظ اور اقتصادی ترقی و استحکام کیلئے بھی اس خطہ کی ضرورت بن چکی ہے جبکہ کسی بھی بیرونی جارحیت کے خطرہ کے توڑ کیلئے پاکستان اور چین ایک دوسرے کا دفاعی

حصار بھی بن چکے ہیں اس لئے بے شک پاکستان اور چین کے نظام حکومت الگ الگ ہیں مگر اپنے اپنے سسٹم میں رہتے ہوئے سیاسی استحکام ایک دوسرے کی ضرورت ہے جس کیلئے باہمی تعاون کے راستے کھلیں گے تو یہ بھی کوئی اچنبھے کی بات نہیں ہوگی۔ ویسے بھی سی پیک کو اپریشنل کرنے اور اسکے ثمرات حاصل کرنے کیلئے علاقائی اور اندرونی سیاسی استحکام ضروری ہے۔ پاکستان میں گزشتہ کچھ عرصے سے حکومتی اور اپوزیشن جماعتوں کی باہمی محاذ آرائی سے عدم استحکام کی جو صورت حال پیدا ہوئی جس سے سسٹم کی بساط لپیٹے جانے کے خدشات بھی پروان چڑھتے نظر آئے تو برادر چین کی جانب سے اس پر تشویش کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ اس تناظر میں ہماری قومی سیاسی جماعتوں اور انکی قیادتوں کیلئے برادر چین کا یہ مشورہ خطے کے امن امان کو لاحق خطرات کی بنیاد پر صائب نظر آتا ہے کہ وہ باہم متحد ہو کر ملک کی ترقی اور استحکام کیلئے کردار ادا کریں۔ یہ مشورہ برادر چین کی جانب سے پاکستان کے اندرونی معاملات میں مداخلت سے ہرگز تعبیر نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-04-09/page-10/detail-8>

چینی کمپنیوں کی سرمایہ کاری، این اوسی کی شرط ختم فریم ورک آسان

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) سی پیک اتھارٹی کے ذرائع نے بتایا ہے کہ چینی کاروباری اداروں کے لیے فریم ورک آسان بنا دیا گیا ہے، اور انہیں اب این اوسی کی ضرورت نہیں ہے۔ خصوصی اقتصادی زون میں کسی بھی سرمایہ کاری کے منصوبے کو شروع کرنے سے پہلے 37 مختلف وزارتوں سے اجازت لینا پڑتی تھی۔ ان کا کہنا ہے کہ چینی اداروں نے جن مختلف منصوبوں کی نشاندہی کی ہے، اس سے توقع ہے کہ کہ ملک میں آنے والے مہینوں میں 10 سے 15 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری آئے گی۔ جن میں پسنی میں آئل ریفاؤنڈری کا قیام، سات اہم صنعتوں کو خصوصی اقتصادی زون میں منتقل کرنا اور گوادریں میں 2200 ایکڑ پر صنعتی زون تعمیر کرنا ہے۔ تین چینی فرموں نے زراعت سے متعلق منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے میں دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے جیسے پائوں اور منہ کی بیماری کا خاتمہ، زرعی آٹومیشن، کیڑے مار ادویات، پولٹری اور کیٹل فیڈ شامل ہیں جبکہ چینی کمپنیوں کی پاکستان کے سات شعبوں ٹیکسٹائل، فارماسیوٹیکل، آٹوموبائل، انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی، جوتے، فرنیچر اور زراعت میں سرمایہ کاری، خصوصی اقتصادی زونز میں سرمایہ کاری میں بھی دلچسپی ظاہر کی ہے۔ علاوہ ازیں کراچی پورٹ پرائیویٹ لیمیٹڈ، لاہور قصور روڈ پریویلو ایڈڈ ایشیا کیلئے ٹیکسٹائل پلانٹ لگے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-04-09/page-12/detail-22>

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The Nation

Gwadar To Bring Prosperity To Whole Region: Chinese Scholar

BEIJING – After completion of all the projects, Gwadar will be the hub of commercial activities for the whole region and will completely change the trade pattern globally.

These views were expressed by Cheng Xizhong, visiting professor of Southwest University of Political Science and Law and senior fellow of the Charhar Institute and a special commentator of China Economic Net, in an article.

As an important infrastructure project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CEPC), the 19-km-long Gwadar Eastbay Expressway Phase-I with a total investment of \$179 million will be open to traffic from May 16. The completion of the six-lane expressway will provide primary connectivity between Gwadar Port and its 2,281-acre-big Free Trade Zone (FTZ) and facilitate import and export transportation and cargo transshipment.

Prof Cheng said, now, China and Pakistan are cooperating closely. As Chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), Zhang Baozhong said last year, Gwadar will become a regional logistics hub within five years.

The first phase of Gwadar Port Free Zone covers an area of 60 acres and has been successfully completed, while the second phase covers an area of more than 2,220 acres and is in the stage of intense construction.

On October 1, 2021, the construction of Gwadar Technical & Vocational Institute, an important CEPC livelihood project, assisted by China was completed. It will provide skill training for thousands of people every year and provide human resources for port enterprises.

The New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), a \$246 million greenfield project, being built in an area of 4,300 acres will be operational by September 2023.

He said, other projects under construction include Expansion of Multi-purpose Terminal including Breakwater and Dredging, the 19 km Gwadar Eastbay Expressway Phase-II connecting Eastbay Expressway Phase-I to New Gwadar International Airport, Fresh Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Plant for Gwadar City, China-Pakistan Faqeer Primary School and Gwadar China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital Upgradation, etc.

Gwadar holds an important strategic position. The newly emerged port city of Gwadar is a hub of connectivity for the whole region. With its natural deep-sea port and strategic location, Gwadar can help China and Pakistan realize the goal of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Route, which will benefit not only China and Pakistan but also Central Asia, East Asia, Russia and the whole region of Eurasia. After completion of all the projects, it will be the hub of commercial activities for the whole region and will completely change the trade pattern globally.

Development and prosperity of Gwadar will also cater to the local population by improving their livelihoods. Projects planned for the Gwadar Port City are aimed at capacitating Balochistan to its full economic, social, technical, and energy potential, and closely integrating it within the CPEC framework, he concluded.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/10/gwadar-to-bring-prosperity-to-whole-region-chinese-scholar/>

Express News

عالمی طاقت کا توازن چین اور پاکستان کو منتقل ہو رہا ہے؟

اس وقت دنیا میں غلبہ حاصل کرنے کی جو کھیچا تانی جاری ہے اس میں بحر ہند پر تسلط حاصل کرنے دوڑ مرکزی حیثیت اختیار کر چکی ہے جسے 'نئی گریٹ گیم' کہا جا رہا ہے لیکن بحر ہند میں جاری اس 'گریٹ گیم' کو جاننے سے قبل یہ جاننا ضروری ہے کہ ملک کے اہم ایشوز پر پالیسی سازی کیسے ہوتی ہے۔

پاکستان میں اس سلسلہ میں نیشنل ڈیفنس یونیورسٹی کی نیشنل سکیورٹی ورکشاپ کی طرز پر نیشنل ورکشاپ بلوچستان کا آغاز 2017 میں حکومت بلوچستان نے اس تصور کے ساتھ کیا تھا کہ جب لوگ این ڈی یو سے کورس مکمل کرتے ہیں تو قومی ایٹوز سمیت پالیسی سازی کے عمل اور اداروں کے اہداف اور کارکردگی کے بارے میں ان کی معلومات بہت اچھی اور مختلف ہوتی ہے۔

مزید یہ کہ وہ سوسائٹی کے بہتر، موثر اور باخبر فرد بن جاتے ہیں تاہم دقت یہ تھی کہ زیادہ تعداد میں لوگوں کو نیشنل ڈیفنس یونیورسٹی میں نہیں بھیجا جاسکتا۔ اس لئے بلوچستان کی سطح پر اس نوع کی ورکشاپ کا آغاز نیشنل ڈیفنس یونیورسٹی کی مدد سے کیا گیا۔ بعد ازاں حکومت نے اس سلسلے کو جاری رکھنے کے لئے '12 کور' کی مدد بھی حاصل کی۔ وقت کے ساتھ کورس میں جدت آئی گئی۔ ابتدائی چھ کورسز میں صرف بلوچستان سے تعلق رکھنے والے مختلف شعبہ ہائے زندگی سے متعلق لوگوں کو موقع دیا گیا۔

تاہم ساتویں اور آٹھویں کورس میں پنجاب، سندھ، خیبر پختونخوا، آزاد کشمیر اور گلگت بلتستان سے بھی لوگوں کو اس کورس کا حصہ بنایا گیا تاکہ اس پلیٹ فارم پر مختلف اکائیوں سے تعلق رکھنے والے لوگوں کو بھی نہ صرف قومی بلکہ صوبہ بلوچستان کے بارے میں جاننے اور اداروں کی کارکردگی دیکھنے، سننے، جانچنے اور پرکھنے سمیت پالیسی سازی کے عمل کو سمجھنے کا موقع ملے۔

یہ پلیٹ فارم جہاں میز کی دوسری طرف بیٹھ کر لائے علمی سے علم تک سفر طے کرنے میں مددگار ہے وہیں اس کا فائدہ یہ بھی ہے کہ مختلف اکائیوں سے تعلق رکھنے والے لوگوں کو بلوچستان کے لوگوں کے ساتھ ہم آہنگی پیدا کرنے، انہیں قومی دھارے میں شمولیت کا احساس دلانے، غلط فہمیاں دور کرنے، مسائل اور وسائل کے بارے میں خیالات کے تبادلے سمیت دوسری اکائیوں سے تعلق رکھنے والے لوگوں کو بلوچستان کے لئے سفیر کا کردار ادا کرنے کا موقع ملتا ہے۔

اب تک تقریباً چھ سو ممبران یہ کورس مکمل کر چکے ہیں جن میں قومی و صوبائی اسمبلیوں کے ممبران، مختلف نکتہ ہائے نظر کے حامل سیاستدان، تعلیم و صحت سے متعلق پروفیسرز، بیوروکریٹس، صحافی، وکلاء، سول سوسائٹی کے ممبران، کاروباری حضرات اور نوجوان شامل ہیں جنہیں اب یکجا کر کے ایک ٹیم کی صورت میں ان کی صلاحیتوں سے مستفید ہونے کے لئے سیکریٹریٹ قائم کرنے کی تجویز بھی زیر غور ہے۔

یہ ورکشاپ اس نقطہ نظر سے بھی اہمیت کی حامل ہے کہ ممبران 4 ہفتے تک زندگی کے معمولات سے ہٹ کر پوری یکسوئی کے ساتھ قومی اور بین الاقوامی تناظر میں پاکستان کو درپیش چیلنجز اور مواقعوں کا بغور جائزہ لیتے اور تجزیہ کرتے ہیں جبکہ صوبہ بلوچستان پر زور اس لئے ہے کہ نیو ورلڈ آرڈر کے تناظر میں بلوچستان کی جغرافیائی پوزیشن، ساحلی پٹی اور معذنیات کی دولت پاکستان کی معیشت اور دفاع کے نقطہ نظر سے انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے جبکہ ترقی کی دوڑ میں باقی اکائیوں سے پیچھے رہ جانے کی وجہ سے گونا گوں مسائل کا بھی شکار ہے۔ چکا تدارک وقت کی ضرورت بھی ہے۔

دوران ورکشاپ مشاہدہ کیا گیا کہ یہ سرگرمی معلومات کے تبادلے، تجربے کے اشتراک اور اتفاق رائے پیدا کرنے کا موثر اور منظم پروگرام ہے۔ منتظمین غربت اور بے روزگاری سمیت عدم مساوات کے خاتمے کے لئے اپنی کوششوں کو جاری رکھتے ہوئے خوشحال، محفوظ اور پائیدار بلوچستان اور بالآخر خوش حال و محفوظ اور پائیدار پاکستان جیسے مقاصد کے حصول کے لئے پرعزم ہیں۔

ورکشاپ ترقی کے تین محرکات یعنی طاقت، عوام اور پالیسی کے گرد گھومتی رہی۔ شرکانے سیکھا کہ کیسے بلوچستان کے عوام کو پالیسی سازی کے ذریعے اختیار بنا کر ملکی ترقی اور دفاع کے معاملے میں کردار ادا کرنے کی جانب مائل کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ منتظمین کی اس کوشش کے نتیجے میں اب تقریباً 600 افراد کی ایسی فورس تیار ہے جو صوبائی بنیادوں پر قومی مقاصد کے حصول میں اپنا کردار ادا کر رہی ہے جس کا فائدہ بہر حال پورے ملک کو ہو گا۔

بحر ہند نئی گریٹ گیم کا محاذ کیسے ہے؟

جیو پالیٹیکل تبدیلی کے تناظر میں سوال اٹھتا ہے کہ کیا موجودہ سپر پاور امریکہ بغیر مزاحمت کے ابھرتی ہوئی طاقت چین کے ساتھ نبرد آزما ہو سکے گا؟ مخصوص اہمیت کے پیش نظر کیا بحر ہند ایک نئے فوجی ٹکڑے کی آماجگاہ بننے والا ہے؟ اس کا جواب جاننے کے لیے خطے میں ماضی قریب اور حالیہ صورت حال کا جائزہ لینا ہو گا۔ دفاعی امور کے ماہر بریگیڈیر (ر) سید انتخاب گردیزی کے مطابق ایک امریکی بحری ماہر نے 1890ء میں دنیا پر غلبے میں بحری طاقت کو کلیدی قرار دیا تھا۔

الفریڈ تھارن نے اپنی کتاب میں لکھا کہ جو کوئی بھی بحر ہند پر کنٹرول حاصل کرے گا وہی ایشیا پر غالب رہے گا اور اسی ساگر کے پانی پوری دنیا کی منزل کا فیصلہ کریں گے۔ 1968ء میں امریکہ نے بحر ہند برطانیہ سے لے لیا، اور ڈیگولار شیا میں اڈہ بنایا۔ اب اس کے جہاز پورے بحر ہند اور بحیرہ عرب میں گشت کرنے لگے۔ اس وقت دنیا کا 50 فی صد کاروبار اور 80 فی صد توانائی کی تجارت انہی پانیوں کے راستے ہو رہی تھی جس کی بدولت بحر ہند ایک بین الاقوامی تجارتی شاہراہ کاروبار دھار گئی۔

ایک ابھرتی ہوئی معیشت ہونے کے سبب توانائی کی چینی ضروریات بھی بڑھ رہی تھیں۔ وہ تمام راستے جو اس کی طلب کو پورا کرنے کے لیے استعمال ہو رہے تھے ان پر عملاً امریکہ قابض تھا۔ مغرب اور اشتراکی بلاک میں سرد جنگ جاری تھی لیکن بیجنگ نے دانش مندی کا مظاہرہ کرتے ہوئے اس میں حصہ نہیں لیا۔ سوویت یونین بکھرنے کے بعد امریکہ دنیا میں توانائی کے وسائل پر واحد نگہبان کی حیثیت اختیار کر گیا کیوں کہ اس کی بحری فوج بحر ہند اور بحیرہ عرب جیسے آبی خطوں پر اپنا راج قائم کیے ہوئے تھی۔ اس محاذ پر امریکہ سے مخلصت کا چین متحمل نہیں تھا۔

خطے کا ایک اور کھلاڑی بھارت بحر ہند کے ساتھ 750 کلو میٹر ساحلی پٹی کا حامل ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ انڈمان اور نکوبار جیسے اہم جزائر بھی اسی کے پاس ہیں۔ اگرچہ اسے مستقبل میں بحر ہند کے اندر طاقت کی تقسیم کا ایک اہم کردار سمجھا جاتا تھا لیکن بھارتی سوچ پر کسی یا پھر ایک حد تک آزادی کے ساتھ کسی بڑی طاقت سے اتحاد پر مرکوز تھی۔ سوویت یونین کے بعد بھارت کو امریکہ کی صورت میں نیا دوست نما آقا ملا تو واشنگٹن کے لیے بھی وہ بحر ہند میں ممکنہ پر کسی کی اہلیت رکھنے والا ساتھی تھا۔

یوں دونوں کا اشتراک شروع ہوا لیکن مشکل یہ تھی کہ بھارت کی پالسی کا ارتکاز پاکستان دشمنی پر تھا اور امریکہ کو چین سے خطرات لاحق تھے۔ اس طرح دو مختلف مقاصد پر مبنی ایک گھب جوڑو وجود میں آیا۔ اب وہ گریٹ گیم بحر ہند میں شروع ہوئی جس کا ممکنہ اختتام معاشی منزل کے باعث دنیا سے امریکی پس پائی پر ہو گا۔ سنگاپور، ملائیشیا، بنگلہ دیش، عرب امارات اور انڈونیشیا جیسی کئی چھوٹی معیشتیں بھی بحر ہند سے وابستہ ہیں۔

امارات کے سواباتی سب ملکوں کے کاروباری نظام پر سرمایہ کاری، مہارت اور ٹیکنیکی مدد کی فراہمی کے ذریعے مضبوط چینی اثر و رسوخ قائم ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ چین بحر ہند کی تمام اہم بندرگاہوں پر موجودگی بھی رکھتا ہے۔ ان حالات میں امریکی غراہٹیں دراصل ایک مرتے شیر کی ٹخیف دھاڑیں ہیں کیوں کہ اس کی اقتصادی طاقت تیزی سے سکڑتی جا رہی ہے اور فوجی طاقت کے حجم اور تعیناتی میں بھی کمی آرہی ہے۔

چین کی حکمت عملی اس پورے معاملے میں وسیع تر ہے۔ جغرافیائی اور تزویری حوالے سے وہ جنوبی ایشیا اور بحر ہند کو اپنی بحری شاہراہ ریشم یعنی میری ٹائم سلک روٹ کا ہی تسلسل سمجھتا ہے، جو کہ اس کی تجارتی اور مواصلاتی راہداری کو ساحلی چین سے دیگر ایشیائی ملکوں کے ساتھ جوڑتی ہے۔ یہ بحری شاہراہ ریشم اس کے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کا نصف تشکیل دیتی ہے جس کا مقصد چین کو یورپی و ایشیائی رسائی دینا ہے۔ یوں بیجنگ اس خطے کو اس نگاہ سے دیکھتا ہے جو اس کے ساحلی علاقوں کو جنوبی مشرقی ایشیا کے ذریعے بحر ہند تک لے جاتا ہے اور پھر جزیرہ نما عرب سے ہوتا ہوا افریقہ تک۔ محدود بھارتی مقاصد کے برعکس، خطے سے متعلق چینی نکتہ نگاہ ایک بڑے وزن پر مبنی ہے۔

عرب ملکوں میں نہ تو ایسا عزم ہے نہ اتنی صلاحیت کہ وہ بحر ہند یا بحیرہ عرب میں طاقت کی تقسیم کے عمل میں شریک ہو سکیں۔ ان کا محدود کردار بھی تیل کے ذخائر خشک ہوتے ہی ختم ہو جائے گا۔ ایک اور اہم ریاست جس کا بحر ہند میں اہم کردار ہو سکتا تھا، وہ ایران تھی لیکن اس نے بھارت کی صورت میں غلط شر اکت دار کا انتخاب کیا۔ اس کے علاوہ

ایران کے اپنے اہداف مشرق وسطیٰ میں رہے ہیں جہاں وہ نظریاتی مخالف ریاستوں کو زک پہنچانے کے درپے رہتا ہے۔ ایسی متعصب اور علاقائی پالیسی کسی قوم کو بڑے اہداف کا تعاقب کرنے کے قابل نہیں بناتی۔

بحر ہند کے تناظر میں گریٹ گیٹ کے لیے قابل ذکر طور پر دانش مندانہ طرز عمل اختیار کرنے کا اعزاز پاکستان کو حاصل ہے۔ امریکہ سے بے گانگی اختیار کیے بغیر اس نے چین سے ہاتھ ملائے۔ اس کا تھر سی پیک منصوبے کی صورت میں ملا۔ چین سے تجارتی اور عسکری تعلقات بھی ہمیشہ مضبوط اور بہتری کی طرف مائل رہے۔ اس لیے امید ہے کہ بحر ہند پر چینی کنٹرول کا فائدہ پاکستان کو بھی ملے گا۔

اس جائزے کو مد نظر رکھا جائے تو مندرجہ ذیل صورت حال جلد یا بدیر ظاہر ہو سکتی ہے۔

الف۔ امریکہ کے برعکس چین ایسی پالیسی پر عمل پیرا ہے جو اس نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ اور بحری شاہراہ ریشم کے راستے تجارت اور کاروبار پر مبنی مقاصد حاصل کرنے کے لیے بنائی ہے، اس میں وہ دو طرفہ فوائد کی بنیاد پر دوسری اقوام کو ساتھ ملا کر چل رہا ہے۔ اگرچہ اس کے عسکری نتائج بھی ہوں گے۔ اس طرح مسابقت اور مخالفت پیدا ہونا متوقع ہے ماسوا بھارت کے۔ بھارت عجیب طریقے سے بروئے کار آئے گا۔ وہ خود کو ہر ممکن طریقے سے امریکہ اور مغرب کے لیے پرکشش اور بڑی مارکیٹ بنا کر پیش کرے گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2308207/10/>

April 11, 2022

Business Recorder

‘CPEC SEZs to usher in new era of industrial development’

ISLAMABAD: Special Economic Zones, a key component of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), are expected to usher in a new era of industrial development and economic growth in the country in the days ahead.

As both the Pakistani and the Chinese authorities at a recent interaction had reviewed progress on Special Economic Zones, they had a common notion that SEZs would help boost economic activity in the country, generate employment opportunities and earn foreign exchange.

Officials of Board of Investment (BoI) Pakistan and Chairman National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China, Ying Xiong, the Zhejiang, Shandong and Guangdong provinces had reiterated to encourage their enterprises to develop linkages with Pakistan’s provincial BoIs and invest in the SEZs.

Pakistan is currently developing five out of nine SEZs nominated under CPEC including Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Faisalabad, Punjab, Dhabeji SEZ in Sind, Rashakai SEZ in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Boston SEZ in Balochistan. Another fast-track SEZ is in Gwadar namely Gwadar Free Zone is also under progress.

First phase of Gwadar Free Zone at an area of 60 acre land is already fully functional while the mighty second phase spanning over 2200 acres of land is under construction.

According to the CPEC officials, dozens of Chinese firms were operating at Pakistan's various economic zones as both the governments were actively engaged to carry forward the SEZ projects and making them operational at the earliest possible.

In recent past, numerous Chinese companies' representatives had visited Pakistan to discuss some outstanding issues and were informed that all issues on way to make these projects a success, would be resolved on priority.

Pakistan is interested to relocate the Chinese industries in the CPEC SEZs to benefit from the expertise of the companies.

Textile, information technology, agriculture, science and technology sectors, and mining sectors are the key areas in which Pakistan is keen to bring foreign direct investment in a bid to boost exports and to substitute the country's imports.

The upcoming projects in CPEC would mainly be in these sectors which would act as dual-beneficial tool, cutting down the country's imports and increasing the exports.

Meanwhile, a senior official on the CPEC Authority has informed that it was a wrong perception that only China was involved in the CPEC projects. He said a number of investors from other countries such as United States, Germany, United Kingdom, Canada, and the Netherlands were also participating in this mega project and around 20 companies from these countries had already invested in the Allama Iqbal Industrial City.

With respect to Rashakai Economic Zone, he said its completion would encourage foreign investment and provide adequate facilities to foreign investors.

Rashakai SEZ is to be developed in collaboration with a state-owned Chinese enterprise, that makes this development agreement first of its kind with Chinese counterpart being one of the parties to the development agreement.

The official said that over 84% of industrial area has been allotted in the SEZs, 46% of investment has been realized with 50% of it being Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

The Federal Government has exempted Rs 49.39 Billion of custom duties and taxes on the import of plant and machinery for setting up of units in these zones.

Overall, the official said that all the notified SEZs together in across the country, account for approximately 10,029.64 acres of industrial land out of which 5,220.62 acres (52%) have been allotted to investors for setting up of industry with planned investments of Rs. 633.9 Billion, 43.6% of this comprises of FDI component (USD 1.73 billion).

It is also significant to mention that under the SEZ Act 2012, a zone enterprise is obligated to start construction within six months and to get into commercial production/operations within 24 months of its approval, whereas title to land is to be transferred only after it has performed regular operations for six months.

Experts believe that China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a rare opportunity for Pakistan to boost its economy and overcome deepening economic recession. Since, the country is facing trade deficit, depleting reserves, downing rupee value and number of other challenges; this initiative can turn things around leading the country to economic stability.

They also expect from the upcoming government to fully focus these projects so the country could be able to reap the benefits of this historic project between China and Pakistan at the earliest possible.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/11/4-page/925636-news.html>

Pakistan-China film on Karakoram Highway in the pipeline

BEIJING: A Pakistan-China film is in the pipeline, with a well-known actor Anees Qadir, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

Apart from being an actor, Anees is also working on his own film projects with Chinese partners. “The film will be about how Pakistan and China cooperate in the Karakoram Highway,” Anees told CEN, “If we start this movie, 40 percent of the shooting will be in China and 60 percent in Pakistan. It [The film] will be a big surprise for the people of both countries.”

The report narrates that, “It’s eight o’clock in the morning. Anees Qadir is sitting at an airport lounge in the northwestern city of Xi’an in China, waiting to board a plane to the southern city of Haikou in China.

With a script book in one hand, the Pakistani young man scribbled Pinyin upon the Chinese lines while looking up for new Chinese words on his phone as he recites the lines.

Starting out as a nautical engineering student at a top university in the northwestern city of Xi’an in China, Anees has always harboured the dream of becoming an actor.

“Before coming to China, I worked as a radio broadcaster in Pakistan,” the Pakistani actor told CEN, “And in that role, I wrote stories and characters and performed them in my own way in the radio...So I was acting in the radio [for a long time] ...”

Without attending any acting courses in a drama school, Anees learns acting by watching classic movies, and polishes his skills by practising scripts and filming and reviewing his own performance. “I don’t have the [acting] diploma actually, but I have the skills.”

After graduating in 2018, Anees landed a job as a model for advertisements and photography, during which time, he was approached by a film director and had the opportunity to try for an audition. “I sent him my profile and I got a small role. It was approximately 1 to 2 minutes. I performed that, but it was good for me,” said Anees.

Soon after the audition, Anees got his first role in a documentary film, and began to embark on his journey of acting.

Now nearly four years into the Chinese film industry, Anees has performed in five films and four TV series in China. And it is an arduous but rewarding process for the Pakistani actor.

“I had this quite challenging role as an action hero in a movie because I never learned kung fu...and I have no idea how to react in the fight because the co-actors just throw their fists in the air rather than on my face,” he noted, adding that “So I told the co-actors, if you hit me in the real, I will have the real expressions.”

The script poses another challenge. Since the lines are in Chinese, Anees has to first have them translated to understand the scene and the role before transforming them into Pinyin, the romanisation system for Standard Mandarin Chinese, to recite the lines.

But all the efforts are paying off. In his latest role, he worked with Yang Shuo and Jiang Xin, two well-known Chinese actors, in a TV series. “Yang Shuo and I have very good chemistry working together.

He was very nice and helped me a lot improve my skills.”—INP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/11/5-page/925650-news.html>

Daily Times

Furniture exporters urged to tap Chinese market

Pakistan Furniture Council has urged the local exporters to further vigorously tap Chinese market potentials, besides focusing on improving the quality of their products at par with international standards.

Chief Executive Officer PFC Mian Kashif Ashfaq, while talking to a delegation of exporters led by Ishtiaq Ahmad Motianwali Sarkar on Sunday, said the recent upward trend in exports to China is encouraging.

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

He said the trade between the two countries has made significant progress as both export and import volumes are on the rise. This is a testament to China’s commitment to the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in the limelight, he added.

He said the trade and commerce volumes signify that China wants to provide unconditional support to Pakistan and import more from it in order to uplift its economy, he added. He said China will continue to support Pakistan for a long time to come as Islamabad values unconditional support from Beijing. He said Pak exporters must encash this opportunity.

Kashif said among major items traded between the two countries, volumes of electronics, textiles, seafood, leather products and agricultural products have gone up on a year-on-year

basis. He said the traditional friendly relations between Pakistan and China had become more pragmatic and productive with time.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/917417/furniture-exporters-urged-to-tap-chinese-market/>

Pakistan Observer

LCCI chief urges govt to follow China in business pursuits

President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Mian Nauman Kabir urged the government to follow China in business pursuits.

According to Gwadar Pro, he believed that the increase of 2.5 percent raise in markup rate by the Pakistani government in the present economic scenario was a surprise as the business community was expecting a cut by State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The LCCI President maintained that the 2.5 percent increase would hit all sectors of economy hard.

State Bank of Pakistan should withdraw massive hike in mark up rates and bring it to single digit to encourage new investments, for revival of businesses and to give a jumpstart to the economy which is at standstill, he added.

In a statement, he mentioned that business grew in China as they facilitated the businesspersons.

He contended that the increase in markup rate would have dire consequences on Pakistan's economic growth rate. "It will surely hinder the process of Industrialization and private sector growth. Pakistan should bring its markup rate at par with the regional rates which are much lower," he opined.

Kabir said that being the premier business support organization of the country, LCCI was of the view that the monetary policy of the country should support industrialization.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/lcci-chief-urges-govt-to-follow-china-in-business-pursuits/>

New SEZ proposal

During sixth meeting of the Joint Working Group on Industrial Cooperation, China reportedly has agreed to consider Pakistan's request for setting up a government owned Special Economic Zone aimed at reducing construction time and addressing financial issues.

According to the concept, Pakistan will offer free-of-cost land to China while investment will be made by Beijing to have a real plug-and-play zone.

In our view, this new government owned economic zone, if approved will be mutually beneficial for both the countries and give much needed impetus to industrial cooperation.

Provision of free land indeed is a big incentive to lure investment and one expects it will populate the zone with a variety of industries at a fast pace. The proposal of this zone was made following lack of progress on the nine prioritized SEZs.

During the last meeting of CPEC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), Pakistani side had informed Chinese officials that funds were allocated for provision of electricity and gas at zero point of the Rashakai SEZ in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Allama Iqbal Industrial City SEZ in Punjab, Dhabeji SEZ in Sindh and Bostan SEZ in Balochistan.

However, these zones are still not ready for setting up factories. While the new SEZ proposal is welcoming which will further broaden the scope of multi billion dollars CPEC project, we are confident that China that always extended full support to Pakistan, will be forthcoming on the new SEZ as well.

At the same time it is also important to remove obstacles so that these prioritised SEZs become operational at the earliest.

Engagements should be enhanced with Chinese authorities and companies to address their concerns without further waste of time.

While ensuring provision of basic amenities, it must also be ensured that Chinese companies get the land at these prioritized SEZs at reasonable rates.

Higher prices will only keep investors at bay and our long cherished dream of industrial revolution will never come to fruition.

The success of these SEZs is of vital importance to increase industrial base in the country that will create immense job opportunities for our youth and also significantly enhance our exports.

<https://pakobserver.net/new-sez-proposal/>

The Nation

Pak-China Military Relations

Relations between Pakistan and China have grown and strengthened over the passage of time and have reached great heights in terms of economic cooperation, with military ties also in the process of expansion. Although China has been providing military assistance to Pakistan for quite some time now, the cooperation has deepened in recent years. Under the Trump presidency, there were fears of how Pakistan would cope with the withdrawal of billions of dollars of military aid. Islamabad however was able to fill this vacuum with Beijing's help.

The primary focus for Pakistan has been on acquiring equipment for its Air Defense. Pakistan is quite dependent on its Air Force to provide defense for its ground formation. To achieve its aims, Pakistan has worked on various joint projects with China such as the joint development of the JF-17 Thunder Aircraft and a tailor-made training aircraft based on China's local Hongdu L-15 especially for the Air Force of Pakistan. The Chinese have custom designed numerous modern weapons for Pakistan such as the AL Khalid tanks, AWACS system and many others, enabling Pakistan to stand as one of the most powerful militaries in South Asia.

Moreover, not only have the two countries traded weapons, but have also scheduled joint exercises for the troops of both countries. Such a training camp was set up recently at the Sipahi

Camp in Jaglot (Azad Kashmir), in order to train the Pakistan army soldiers in high altitude warfare. The Chinese instructors trained the troops not only about the special tactics required, but also enlightened them about the skills needed to endure the difficult conditions of the mountainous terrain. There are even plans of setting up a battalion by recruiting people from Gilgit-Baltistan and training them in this warfare. Furthermore, it is well known that China is the biggest investor in the Gwadar Sea Port, which holds great strategic importance as it is located in the Strait of Hormuz. It is believed that this could be used as a launch pad for the submarines and warships of the Chinese Navy. China is one of the land locked countries and finds it difficult to access the sea for defense purposes, but now has a direct route thanks to Pakistan.

Over the years, China has played a vital role in the development of the infrastructure of Pakistan's nuclear programme, especially when Pakistan struggled in obtaining plutonium and uranium enriching equipment due to the export controls implemented by the western countries. Not only did China help Pakistan develop its key plutonium production plant, the Khushab reactor, but it also contributed to the expansion of Pakistan's uranium reserves, which are two of the main components required in the production of nuclear weaponry. Moreover, due to China's technical and material assistance, Pakistan was able to complete the Chashma Nuclear Power Complex—one of Pakistan's largest nuclear power plant located in Punjab.

Many powers around the world have bitterly raised suspicions about how this alliance would end up being a trap for Pakistan, but the reality is that China has proved itself as a reliable ally time and again. The relations between the two countries are not just limited to the economic sphere as Beijing has helped Pakistan in countering terrorism and restoring stability in the region. This partnership is only going to flourish in the future.

Although China has been providing military assistance to Pakistan for quite some time, the cooperation has deepened in recent years.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/11/pak-china-military-relations/>

The News

Fixing the economy and CPEC

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

Political turmoil diverted attention from economic turmoil. Economic indicators disappeared from the screens and political number started to occupy the mainstream media. However, it could not change the reality and facts. The fact is that economy is not performing well. Despite, all the claims and rosy picture strategy of outgoing government, economic indicators are telling a sad story. Current account deficit, which came down due to increase in remittances through Roshan digital account and expense loans in the form of Naya Pakistan Certificates, is increasing again. It was pointed out by sane voices that it is not sustainable, but government advisors and experts did not give any head to it.

Owing to bad policy choices foreign reserves are in declining mode and thanks to China that it did not enter into the single digit. Export growth is not showing sustainability, as the boom of export coming to reality. Government could not capitalise on the window, which COVID-19 created for Pakistan. It is well-known fact that COVID-19 impacted traditional supplier of textile products including Bangladesh, India etc. to USA and Europe. It gave space to Pakistan to exploit the supply gap. Allah was merciful and He protected Pakistan from the worst impacts of COVID-19 but government could not turn it into an opportunity for long term.

Government missed or did not use according to the potential of many opportunities to put economy on fast track and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) of them. CPEC offers sustainable solutions to Pakistan but could not get the desired attention from the government. Although, in beginning PTI showed great enthusiasm for CPEC like creation of CPEC Authority but could not convert it into a success story. CPEC Authority was created with great pump and show but could not deliver because government kept on experimenting and turned it into political battle ground. Board of Investment only kept on changing chairman and telling fancy stories. The real task of industrial cooperation is still not operational.

As a result of mismanagement, now Pakistan is facing daunting challenges in the form of depleting foreign reserves, higher inflation, lower economic growth and higher uncertainty. Pakistan is also in need of \$35 billion for the next fiscal year to pay the debt and liabilities.

Thus, new government will to present solutions for all these problems. In addition, government will have to inject new momentum to economy through rapid growth to create higher job creation and combat the challenges of poverty and inflation.

Fortunately, new government has the opportunity to overcome above challenges in the form of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). However, to exploit the opportunity (CPEC) it will have to adopt a wise and smart policy. For that purpose, government must have to devise and follow a two-prong policy, which must give boost to growth and inclusive development, simultaneously.

First, for growth, government should prioritise industrializing process and cooperate agriculture. Although, the framework for industrialization has been signed but Pakistan will have to put special efforts to make it successful.

First of all, government will have to complete the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) on war footings and support these SEZs through comprehensive policy and regulations. There is need of a competitive and lucrative policy to attract foreign investment. Besides, there is also need of a comparative analysis of Pakistani SEZs with other countries' SEZs. Government will also have to properly market our SEZs, as geographical location of Pakistan enhances competitiveness of our SEZs (for details please read report A Road Map to Implement Second Phase of CPEC).

For cooperate agriculture government will have to act on two levels. First, Pakistan needs a new cooperate agriculture policy, the old ordinance has been expired. Second, the cultivable barren lands of Pakistan must be utilized for attracting the Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan.

Pakistan should work to devise a formula to protect the rights of state and attract investment, simultaneously. It is urgently required, as private land holdings are not attractive for cooperate sector due to its small size (almost 90 private farms are less than 12.5 acers).

Second, for development government will have to use agriculture, skill development, employment and e-commerce. First, government will have to devise instruments, which can attract funding and opportunities for small farmers. Although, CPEC already provides opportunities but Pakistan can explore new opportunities like Six-100 programme and Global Development Initiatives. As, food security and agricultures are the prime focus of these initiatives. For that purpose, Pakistan can also ask China to divert resources from the Six-100 programme and Global Development Initiatives for the cooperation under CPEC. Fortunately, China is also willing to enhance cooperation under these initiatives. Thus, Pakistan must put forward doable proposals for cooperation.

Second, Pakistan should request China to share its experience of poverty elevation through skill development, employment generation and use of e-commerce. It is well established fact that these areas played a key role in eliminating poverty in China. Moreover, the role of industry in poverty alleviation must also be explored for poverty alleviation in China. It will provide blueprint to engage industry for development purpose in Pakistan.

In the conclusion, ruling elite, new government and parties will have to work on four areas, which is pre-requisite to make the CPEC cooperation a success. First, the ruling elite will have to put the house in order and political elite will have to come of out mentality of self-greatness. Second, government will have to devise SEZs policy and cooperate agriculture policy immediately. Third, there should be no political games or point scoring to present itself champion of China-Pakistan brotherhood. As, China does not care about parties or individuals, China only cares about State of Pakistan and People of Pakistan. Especially PMLN and PPPP will have to learn this and they must avoid self-projection on this front.

Fourth, Pakistan must deploy people to steer cooperation, who understand China, Chinese model of development, governance and international relations. Western trained minds will not be able to comprehend the dynamics of China and move the cooperation smoothly. They will always try to compare China with West, which has no rational. As, we cannot compare apples with organs.

Lastly, government will have to understand that actions are required urgently. There is no time to waste or more specifically, there is no space for lengthy speeches. People are not looking for speeches, they are looking for solutions. Thus, the focus must be on work.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=76312>

April 12, 2022

Daily Times

Advanced dental laboratory with Chinese technology inaugurated

The Advanced Dental Laboratory at Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Jamshoro was inaugurated at LUMHS Advanced Dental Care Center equipped with the Chinese technology, according to report published by Gwadar Pro.

Vice Chancellor, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences Jamshoro, Professor Dr Ikram Din Ujjan inaugurated the Laboratory.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the VC said that dental treatment was highly expensive and beyond the reach of poor people. He mentioned that people cannot afford dental treatment in private clinics and hospitals therefore LUMHS management had established the dental laboratory. He informed that artificial teeth of patients will be made at 70 percent discount in this laboratory which was equipped with the latest Chinese technology.

Profession Ujjan told the audience that a tooth which costs Rs12,000 in a private laboratory will be made here at Rs.2,500.

“LUMHS Dental Laboratory is a complete and modern dentistry laboratory in which all kinds of teeth will be made. Its advanced machinery has been imported from China and some from Germany,” he added. Dean of Dentistry LUMHS Professor Feroz Kalhoro, Chairman Prosthodontics Professor Aamir Mehmood Butt, Dr Irfan Sheikh, Professor Kashif Channa, Professor Amir Iqbal Memon, Dr Asif Gulzar, Professor Munir Banglani, Professor Rizwan Memon, Professor Shahzad, Azar Akbar Memon, Rahim Sheikh and Sharif Baig were also present on the occasion.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/917746/advanced-dental-laboratory-with-chinese-technology-inaugurated/>

Pakistan-China cooperation on sorghum new milestone in CPEC

Pak-China cooperation in sorghum industry has turned into a new milestone in CPEC, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Monday.

As agricultural countries, China and Pakistan are currently facing the same challenges – growing food demand and tight agricultural land jointly threaten food security.

In addition to the three major staple foods in the world, a crop has gradually attracted attention-sorghum, or sarghu in Urdu.

According to the report, as an indispensable dry food crop, sorghum is second only to wheat, corn, rice and barley in China in terms of planting area and output. Agricultural experts call it “the camel of crops” based on its numerous excellent qualities such as resistance to pests and diseases, high temperature, cold,

“Sorghum is a multi-purpose crop that can play an important role in food and fodder provision. At a time when the world is facing the dual challenges of the epidemic and the food crisis, it is a win-win choice to incorporate this multi-purpose crop into the CPEC cooperation framework and add another layer of guarantee to the food security of China and Pakistan,” which was the consensus shared by experts on the Symposium on Sorghum Industry Development of China Pakistan organized recently.

According to Dr. Shahzor Gul, Assistant Professor, Institute of Food Sciences and Technology, Sindh Agriculture University, in Pakistan, as the climatic conditions are excellent for sorghum production and emerging water shortage has necessitated the production of sorghum on wide scale, this cash crop means the most affordable option.

“Sorghum produces about 5.4 tonnes per hectare in Pakistan, more than wheat and rice, which have 3.0 and 2.2 tonnes per hectare, respectively. Meanwhile, because wheat is mainly a winter crop and sorghum is primarily a summer crop, demand for sorghum is significantly lower, and there is no direct competition,” Dr. Gul told CEN.

However, he pointed out in the mean time that sorghum yields in Pakistan are still meager due to a lack of better cultivators, an insufficient plant population, unscientific fertilizer application, weed control techniques, and water conservation procedures.

In addition, Dr. Gul also indicated that the consumption pattern of sorghum is quite traditional, and it is not available as a commercially processed food in the Pakistani market. “This is mainly due to lack of processing technologies and availability of machinery.

And Sorghum has not been used in our beverage and baking food industry due to a variety of factors including lack of awareness and taste. Nowadays, there are not much sorghum grain processing plants in Pakistan. This industry holds immense potential to offer employment to hundreds of thousand people.”

Similar views are echoed by Dr. Shahzad Sabir from Punjab Agriculture Department, ” Punjab and Sindh are the major sorghum producing Provinces of Pakistan contributing respectively 47 percent and 26 percent of the total,” he said. “On the other hand, in 2019, we exported USD 23, 500 in sorghum, making Pakistan the 53rd largest exporter of sorghum in the world.

At the same year, sorghum was the 91st most exported product in Pakistan. Obviously, it is far from meeting expectations, especially in the face of growing global food crisis. Countless opportunities are waiting for us to discover together.”

“In 2020-21, we have carried out planting trials of more than ten sorghum varieties in Pakistan and achieved preliminary results, of which five varieties-01, 02, 03, 04, and 12 performed better.

The tannin content of domestically grown sorghum is generally around 1.3 to 1.6 percent, however, according to trials data in Pakistan, benefited from local excellent light and temperature conditions, the tannin number can climb up to 2.3 percent.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/917712/pakistan-china-cooperation-on-sorghum-new-milestone-in-cpec/>

Dawn News

Joint working group for single-window cooperation with China formed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Single Window (PSW) and the General Administration of Customs People's Republic of China (GACC) have formed a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Single Window cooperation and integration.

The two sides agreed to establish a JWG to devise the coordination mechanism and facilitate technical discussions between the two sides for the proposed integration. The understanding was reached in the first virtual consultation session.

An official announcement said that GACC and Pakistan Customs are already exchanging trade valuation data under the Electronic Data Exchange mechanism. The data exchange helps both sides to detect under/over-invoicing and counter trade-based money laundering in bilateral trade.

The integration between the two single-windows will expand the scope of the current data exchange to include full transmission of the Goods Declaration data, phyto-sanitary certificates, Certificates of Origin, and shipping and logistics data to enable execution of advanced risk management techniques and expeditious clearance of goods.

Both sides have also agreed to cooperate on the implementation of blockchain technology on the lines of similar initiatives being implemented by GACC with other countries.

China is Pakistan's biggest trading partner being the top country of origin for import of industrial and consumer goods and the second-biggest export destination after the United States.

Under the PSW initiative, the government of Pakistan is digitising the entire cross-border trade ecosystem and intends to integrate with regional and global data platforms on trade finance, shipping, and customs clearance.

PSW began rolling out in July 2021 and has completed integration with commercial banks for the exchange of cross-border trade-related financial information.

It recently launched the Trade Information Portal of Pakistan to provide a single access point for all import, export, and transit-related information and has also begun offering services for online application and processing of import permits, and phyto-sanitary certificates on imports and exports of agricultural goods and commodities regulated by the Department of Plant Protection.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1684580>

The Express Tribune

'Expanding road network under CPEC big challenge'

NHMP IG says quality training of officers vital to achieve goals

LAHORE: National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) IG Inam Ghani has said expanding the road network under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a big challenge for Motorway Police and training would play a crucial role to achieve success.

He expressed these views while addressing the inauguration ceremony of new buildings of Admin block, Academic Block and barracks at NHMP Training College Sheikhpura.

In the perspective of CPEC, it is imperative to expand the infrastructure of NHMP Training College because it is a nursery from which officers will be passed out after training to perform their professional duties throughout Pakistan, IG added. IG NHMP also appreciated the efforts of Commandant Training College Mahboob Aslam in the expansion of NHMP Training College.

Ghani said the character building of the officers during the training develops the characters of the institutions.

“The quality training of NHMP officers is vital to coping with these new challenges.”

Additional IG Khalid Mahmood, Commandant Training College DIG Mehboob Aslam, Deputy Commandant Taimoor Khan, CPO Training Nasim Shah, officials of PWD, and many NHMP officers were present on occasion. Addressing the inauguration ceremony of new buildings, IG NHMP Inam Ghani said that NHMP was a magnificent and prestigious department with deep-rooted respect in people's hearts by adopting golden principles of honesty, courtesy, and help.

The IG stressed that it was the prime focus of the department to train its officers in such a manner that they must remain courteous with the road users in whatsoever the situation.

“When we provide the best training facilities for the officers' physical, mental and moral training, its result will manifestly be seen in the practical field,” he said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2352098/expanding-road-network-under-cpec-big-challenge>

The Nation

China Agrees On Partially Funding Feasibility Study, Design Of KKH

ISLAMABAD – China has agreed on G to G venture and partially funding the feasibility study and detailed design of Karakorum Highway (KKH), which is being relocated as a result of construction of dams on River Indus.

Pakistan and China will jointly carry out the feasibility study and detailed design for realignment of 250 kilometers Karakorum Highway which is being relocated due to construction of Pattan, Dasu and Diamer Basha dams on River Indus, official documents available with the scribe revealed. The realignment of 250 kilometers Karakorum Highway from Thakot to Raikot is being planned due to construction of three dams on river Indus.

Both Pakistan and China in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Joint Working Group on Transport and Infrastructure had agreed to have G to G level joint technical level collaboration on the Term of Reference (TORs) for conducting feasibility study/detailed design

of the project. Following the JWG decision, both the countries had formed G to G Joint Technical Working Group and the TORs/scope of services had been finalized, the documents added.

It has been agreed that the feasibility study and detailed design is to be jointly carried out through consulting firms from both sides. From Pakistan side, the National Highway Authority has nominated M/S NESPAK to carry out feasibility study and detailed design out of GOP funds.

The engagement of the Chinese consultancy team will be the responsibility of the Chinese government. The government of China will fund the consultancy and it will be considered as technical assistance to Government of Pakistan.

The feasibility and detailed design study of the realignment will be jointly carried out by the consulting firms of both Pakistan and China. The theme of the joint feasibility study is that master planning of the new alignment with technical requirements for a state of the art highway is assigned to the Chinese experts, whereas the ground validation and computation of quantities that will form the basis of the project cost for PC-I is given to Pakistan side consultant. Certain task to be assigned to both the sides jointly, the source said. The transfer of the technology Pakistan is also part of the joint study.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/12/china-agrees-on-partially-funding-feasibility-study-design-of-kkh/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کو برآمدات میں 22.77 فیصد اضافہ

کراچی (کامرس رپورٹر) چین کو قومی برآمدات میں رواں سال کے پہلے دو ماہ کے دوران 23 فیصد اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ جنرل ایڈمنسٹریشن آف کسٹمز آف چائینہ کے مطابق جنوری اور فروری 2022ء کے دوران برآمدات کا حجم بڑھ کر 67.072 ملین ڈالر رہا۔ 2021ء میں پہلے دو ماہ کے دوران چین کو 54 ملین ڈالر کی برآمدات کی گئی تھیں، اس طرح 2021ء کے پہلے دو مہینوں کے مقابلے میں رواں سال کے اسی عرصے کے دوران چین کو ملکی برآمدات میں 13 ملین ڈالر یعنی 22.77 فیصد اضافہ ہوا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-04-12/page-7/detail-20>

April 13, 2022

Daily Times

Chinese companies launch ‘Special Ramazan Plan’

Thousands of Pakistani workers and officials are experiencing ease in spending fast during their working hours in Chinese companies since the onset of Ramazan, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

A number of Chinese companies have launched “Special Ramazan Plan” for Muslim staff as a considerate relief facilitating them to keep fast in true Islamic letters and spirit across Pakistan.

Given the Special Ramazan Plan, Pakistani Muslim Staff are having special allocated times for prayers, reduction in working hours, light workload and ample meal arrangements at sehri (fast-holding time) and Iftar (fast-breaking time).

Meanwhile, many companies have announced additional salaries and beforehand salaries enabling Pakistani staff to manage their needs and budgets in Ramazan. Usama Hamid, senior translator in Challenge Textile, a Chinese company based in Lahore, said that under special Ramazan plan, half an hour of time has been set aside for “Asar prayer”.

Meanwhile, Chinese management has allocated a separate space with prayer carpets inside the company’s premises, allowing staff to do prayers conveniently. “The time-break and special prayer space have won the hearts of Muslim workers,” he added.

“Chinese companies allowed staff to leave work for 15 to 20 minutes before the holding and breaking of fast, allowing them to prepare themselves to perform religious practices in accordance with Islamic injunctions”, he said. The special Ramazan budget is also serving staff with abundant quality food during Sehri and Iftari times.

Hafiz Hussam Sohail, a Pakistani official working as Manager of Stations in Orange Line Metro Train (OLMRT) told Gwadar Pro that all Muslim staff are in high spirit during Ramazan as the company has reduced working hours, duties and provided maximum ease from Iftari time to Sehri time since the advent of Ramazan.

“Instead of 48 hours a week, Muslim staff only need to work for 36 hours. Workers have six hours cut on patrolling assignments. Drivers enjoyed nap arrangements after each trip to observe fast diligently. There are elaborate arrangements in terms of the quality and the quantity of meals for fasting people. Another perk is that salary will be provided many days before the end of Ramazan,”he detailed.

China’s Consul General in Lahore, Peng Zhengwu, said that Chinese companies offered more resting time for Pakistani Muslim staff in Ramazan. Most of them also send traditional gifts to Pakistanis working in various capacities in China-run enterprises. Especially in Gwadar Port where hundreds of local Muslims are at work, China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) has enforced Ramazan measures. Chairman of Z COPHC, Zhang Baozhong, said that all local employees are paid with a one-month additional salary to help support in the month of Ramazan. “Working hours have been adjusted from 9 am to 2 pm. Iftar are being organized variously with different groups,”he added.

President of Lahore Overseas Chinese Association (LOCA) Luo Jianxue said that in Ramazan, Pakistani staff in Chinese companies have less workload and shorter working hours.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/918326/chinese-companies-launch-special-ramazan-plan/>

China calls Shehbaz a ‘committed’ friend

The Charge d’ Affaires of China Pang Chunxue Tuesday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and emphasized that the latter was viewed as a strong and committed friend of China and

enjoyed great respect and admiration there. During the courtesy call, the charge d' affaires conveyed warm felicitations and good wishes of the Chinese government and leadership on the assumption of office by the prime minister.

The charge d' affaires also lauded the prime minister's contribution to promoting China-Pakistan Economic Cooperation during the years that he was Chief Minister of the Punjab province. Conveying his warm greetings and gratitude to the Chinese leadership, the prime minister recalled his many visits to China, when he also met with President Xi Jinping who had taken a personal interest in promoting relations with Pakistan. The prime minister appreciated CPEC's continued progress as the flagship project of President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative and its importance for economic development and prosperity of Pakistan. He affirmed his government's resolve to speed up high quality development of CPEC projects and make it a symbol of China-Pakistan friendship and close partnership.

He underlined the importance of enhanced investment from China in industrialization, agriculture, and digital technologies. Recalling his close cooperation with China as Chief Minister of Punjab, the prime minister reaffirmed the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China as a cornerstone of Pakistan's policy and factor for regional peace and stability. He underscored that friendship with China resided in the hearts of the people of Pakistan and China was Pakistan's strongest friend and closest partner. The prime minister affirmed his government's commitment to further deepening the win-win economic cooperative partnership between the two countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/918308/china-calls-shehbaz-a-committed-friend/>

Pak exports to China continue 'growing substantially'

In recent years, with the rapid progress of the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Chinese enterprises, especially private small and medium-sized enterprises, have significantly increased their investment in Pakistan.

The economies of the two countries are increasingly integrated, thus continuously enhancing Pakistan's export capacity. Under such circumstances, Pakistan's exports to China have continued to grow substantially, according to an article published by China Economic Net (CEN).

The statistics released by the General Administration of Customs of China show that Pakistan's exports to China crossed \$ 67mn in the first two months of 2022, which recorded a nearly 23pc year-on-year increase.

In fact, the growth of Pakistan's exports to China is only a good start. There is still great potential for bilateral trade, especially for Pakistan's exports to China.

It said, "China is a country with a population of more than 1.4bn. It is not only a global exporter, but also a global importer. China and Pakistan are friendly neighbours connected by rivers and

mountains and have convenient transportation channels. Therefore, China is naturally a huge market for Pakistan”.

If the bilateral trade between China and Pakistan continues to grow at the current rate of 20-30pc per year, China will finally become Pakistan’s largest export destination, and Pakistan is likely to become China’s main trading partner in South Asia in the future.

Over the years, Pakistan has been committed to developing an export-oriented economy. To realize the rapid and stable growth of exports to China, both China and Pakistan need to make further efforts.

For Pakistan, first, it is necessary to ensure social stability and security, to create favourable conditions for CPEC and SEZ continuous expansion and the rapid development of its economy.

Second, Pakistan should accelerate industrial modernization and accomplish the industrialization of agriculture science and technology. China is now the largest importer of agricultural products in the world. If Pakistan’s agricultural products reach a high-quality level, China can import as much as Pakistan has.

Third, the two countries make joint efforts to accelerate the transfer of Chinese capital, technology and industries to Pakistan, so that China’s achievements in rapid economic development over the past few decades can quickly spill over to Pakistan and help Pakistan improve its export capacity.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/918699/pak-exports-to-china-continue-growing-substantially/>

Dawn News

New PM sends positive signals to China, US

Anwar Iqbal & Baqir Sajjad Syed

WASHINGTON / ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reiterated the need for cooperation with the United States and India, while assuring Beijing of further deepening of relations.

“The new government wishes to constructively and positively engage with the US to promote shared goals of peace, security and development in the region,” the Prime Minister’s Office said in response to a White House statement on Mr Sharif taking over as the new prime minister.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki had earlier said that a democratic Pakistan was critical to US interests.

Ties between Islamabad and Washington touched a new low after former prime minister Imran Khan accused the US of conspiring to dislodge his government. He based his allegation on a diplomatic cable in which it was reportedly said that a State Department official had warned of consequences for bilateral ties if the no-confidence motion failed.

Washington has denied the allegation.

Mending fences with the US would be one of the top foreign policy priorities for the new government.

Mr Sharif, while speaking in the National Assembly after his election, noted “confusion” in ties and said that it did not mean an end to the historic relationship.

The same was repeated in the PM Office statement, which welcomed US reaffirmation of long-standing ties with Pakistan and said that the new government looked forward to deepening this “important relationship” on the principles of equality, mutual interest and mutual benefit.

Messages from other leaders

Meanwhile, in response to a congratulatory tweet by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr Sharif called for securing peace and focusing on socio-economic development of the people.

“Pakistan desires peaceful & cooperative ties with India. Peaceful settlement of outstanding disputes, including Jammu & Kashmir, is indispensable,” he further said.

Talking to the Charge d’ Affaires of People’s Republic of China, Ms Pang Chunxue, who called on him, PM Sharif affirmed his government’s commitment to further deepening the win-win economic cooperative partnership between the two countries.

He expressed his government’s resolve to speed up high quality development of CPEC projects and make it a symbol of China-Pakistan friendship and close partnership. He, moreover, underlined the importance of enhanced investment from China in industrialization, agriculture, and digital technologies.

Russian President Vladimir Putin also greeted Mr Sharif. According to a statement by Russia’s embassy in Pakistan, hoped that the new government will “contribute to further development of the Pakistan-Russia cooperation and partner interaction on the Afghan settlement as well as countering international terrorism.”

US approach

At the Monday afternoon news briefing in Washington, a journalist asked White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki what was the administration’s reaction to the new developments in Pakistan. “Does President Biden plan to speak with the country’s new prime minister?”

Responding to the first part of the question, Ms Psaki said the United States “support(s) the peaceful upholding of constitutional democratic principles. We don’t support one political party over another, and we certainly support the principles of rule of law and equal justice under the law.”

Recalling that the United States and Pakistan were old allies, she said: “We value our long standing cooperation with Pakistan, and have always viewed a prosperous and democratic Pakistan as critical to US interests. That remains unchanged, regardless of who leadership is.”

Responding to the question about President Biden calling the new prime minister, she said she did not “have anything to predict at this point in time. Obviously, we stay in close touch with them at a range of levels.”

A third journalist tried a different approach and asked to get more information from the White House Press Secretary on Mr Biden’s call. “What arrangements does the administration have to contact him (Mr Sharif) and what’s moving forward on that?” he asked.

“I don’t have a prediction of a call at this point in time. Obviously, those are assessments made day by day, especially after new leaders are elected,” Ms Psaki said.

“We have a long, strong, and abiding relationship with Pakistan, an important security relationship, and that will continue under new leaders,” she added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1684770/new-pm-sends-positive-signals-to-china-us>

Dunya News

China commends PM Shehbaz's statement on CPEC

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – China on Wednesday highly commended Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif s remarks on the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor saying it is ready to work with Pakistan.

During his regular briefing in Beijing, Foreign Ministry s Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said that China has noted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif s remarks on the CPEC and we highly commend that.

He said all efforts will be made to continue pursuing high-quality development of the corridor and build it into a model and demonstration project for Belt and Road cooperation between the two countries.

Zhao Lijian said, since its launching, the CPEC had made important contributions to Pakistan s economic development and improvement of Pakistani people s livelihood.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/648938-China-commends-PM-Shehbaz/'s-statement-on-CPEC>

Pakistan Observer

PSW forms joint working group with China Customs for Single Window integration

Pakistan Single Window (PSW) and the General Administration of Customs People’s Republic of China (GACC) have formed a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Single Window cooperation and integration. The 1st consultation session between the two sides was held virtually in March 2022 attended by officials from the PSW Company, China Customs, and the Federal Board of Revenue.

During the consultation session, presentations were given by China Customs and PSW on their respective single window programs followed by a focused discussion on the cooperation mechanism and scope of data exchange. The two sides agreed to establish a JWG to devise the coordination mechanism and facilitate technical discussions between the two sides for the proposed integration.

GACC and Pakistan Customs are already exchanging trade valuation data through the Electronic Data Exchange mechanism. The data exchange helps both sides to detect under/over-invoicing and counter trade-based money laundering in bilateral trade.

Integration between the two single windows will expand the scope of the current data exchange to include full transmission of the Goods Declaration data, Phyto-sanitary certificates, Certificates of Origin, and shipping and logistics data to enable execution of advanced risk management techniques and expeditious clearance of goods. Both sides have also agreed to cooperate on the implementation of blockchain technology on the lines of similar initiatives being implemented by GACC with other countries.

China is Pakistan's biggest trading partner being the top country of origin for import of industrial and consumer goods and the second-biggest export destination after the United States.

<https://pakobserver.net/psw-forms-joint-working-group-with-china-customs-for-single-window-integration/>

BRI stands for peace, development

Hussein Askary

Two recent events consolidated the idea that economic development and cooperation are the main drivers of China's foreign policy. Despite the political and military provocations by Western powers, especially the United States, China has been asserting that any problems between or among countries can be addressed by adhering to international law based on the UN Charter and by building economic and cultural bridges across borders.

These concepts were highlighted by the "Resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on the Major Achievements and Historical Experience of the Party over the Past Century" issued by the Sixth Plenary Session of the 19th CPC Central Committee in November and the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation held in Dakar, Senegal, on Nov 29-30.

Using development to maintain peace

The historic resolution highlights the principle of using economic development and cooperation as a means to maintain peace and normal relations with other nations. It also says China's own development is a contribution to global peace as it contributes to the development of other countries.

The resolution also emphasizes that the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative is an “initiative for peace”. Asserting that “China has promoted high-quality development” of the Belt and Road Initiative, it says, “We have advanced a large number of cooperation projects with significant implications for fuelling economic development and improving people’s lives in countries along the BRI routes and worked to build the BRI into an initiative of peace, prosperity, openness, green development, and innovation that brings different civilizations closer, and a widely welcomed public good and platform for international cooperation in today’s world.”

China-Africa cooperation a best example

The best example of this is China’s cooperation with African countries. Delivering his keynote address, via video link, at the Eighth Ministerial Conference of FOCAC, President Xi Jinping reminded African leaders that 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the People’s Republic of China’s seat at the United Nations and that the African countries had played a key role in it.

Focusing on the economic aspect of China-Africa relations, Xi said: “At the UN General Assembly this year, I put forward the Global Development Initiative, which dovetails with the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We welcome the active support and participation by African countries.”

President Xi presented a nine-point program to be implemented by China according to the “China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035” which the two sides had previously agreed upon. An interesting aspect of the document is that it emphasizes China will never cross “five lines”. It will not interfere in African countries’ internal affairs, not force African countries to choose a certain development path, not impose its will on African countries, not attach any political strings to assistance to Africa, and not pursue selfish political gains through investment and financing cooperation with Africa.

China’s diplomacy in stark contrast to the US

This is in stark contrast to the flagrant interference by the US and its allies in the internal affairs of African countries, including their economic policy, foreign policy, and internal social and political dynamics. And when political and economic pressure does not produce results, the US and its allies use their military power to get what they want, as has happened in Libya in 2011 — with horrifying consequences for the Libyan people — and many other African nations.

Worse, US officials travel regularly to African countries to warn them against cooperating with China, which is an insult to those countries as it suggests they cannot make their own decisions. In fact, just 10 days before the FOCAC meeting, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Senegal, after travelling to Kenya and Nigeria, and made ludicrous claims about how the US’ “Build Back Better World” was superior to the Belt and Road Initiative and denounced China for allegedly violating human rights and enticing countries into a “debt trap” through its development projects.

The reaction from Africa to such baseless accusations was that two more countries—Eritrea and Guinea Bissau—joined the Belt and Road Initiative the same week. This means all but four African countries are now part of the initiative.

It is ironic that the more the West warns African countries against cooperating with China, the more countries and organizations join the Belt and Road Initiative because, unlike Western initiatives, it is result-oriented and people-centred.

Also, despite being a major aid provider, China has always tried to make sure African countries don't become addicted to aid, because aid cannot help them raise their productivity or improve their infrastructure facilities.

Addressing the FOCAC Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2015, President Xi mentioned the “three bottlenecks of development”— lack of capital, lack of infrastructure, and shortage of skilled labour. If African countries can overcome these bottlenecks, Xi said, they can eliminate poverty, just as China has done.

“It is entirely possible for Africa, as the world's most promising region in terms of development potential, to bring into play its advantages and achieve great success.... The achievement of inclusive and sustainable development in Africa hinges on industrialization, which holds the key to creating jobs, eradicating poverty and improving people's living standards,” Xi said. China's efforts in Africa since then have been consistent with this vision.

Despite China's efforts, however, the pace of development in Africa has been slow because China is standing almost alone with African countries in tackling the massive challenges. If the US, the European Union, Japan and other advanced economies had contributed in a similar manner, Africa's fight against poverty, famine and disease would have been greatly enhanced.

It's time the West realized that peace and security come from economic development. This is the vision presented in 1967 by Pope Paul VI, who believed in the encyclical *populorum progressio* (development of the people), saying “development (is) the new name for peace”.

The pope wrote: “When we fight poverty and oppose the unfair conditions of the present, we are not just promoting human well-being; we are also furthering man's spiritual and moral development, and hence we are benefiting the whole human race. For peace is not simply the absence of warfare, based on a precarious balance of power; it is fashioned by efforts directed day after day toward the establishment of the ordered universe willed by God, with a more perfect form of justice among men.”

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-stands-for-peace-development-by-hussein-askary/>

BRI and Indonesia: Befitting Propositions & Projects

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

CHINESE One Belt & One Road Initiative (BRI) has become an icon of greater regional connectivity, sustainable development and of course bilateral or trilateral socio-economic integration in the world especially in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, (ASEAN).

It seems that ASEAN is on track to become the fourth-largest economy in the world. It has a population of more than 650 million with a combined GDP of US\$2.5 trillion comprising 3.4 percent of the world's GDP is one of the ideal destinations and regions for BRI in the world.

Moreover, the ASEAN-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement came into force on 1 January 2022 for Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Japan, Lao PDR, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. With it, ASEAN resolves to keep markets open while strengthening regional economic integration towards post-pandemic inclusive recovery. RCEP could add \$209 billion annually to world incomes. Rigorous activation of RCEP has further enhanced bilateral and trilateral economic cooperation under the flagship of BRI.

Although ASEAN has some misgivings and deep relations with China but for Indonesia, strategic autonomy of the region is very important and that means that it wants to be engaged with all sides, with all the major powers, without becoming too dependent. Without allowing any of the great powers to impose its hegemony but still desires close economic, trade, investment and social relations with China in which BRI may play an important role. Furthermore, China's trade with Southeast Asia totaled \$685 billion nearly twice that of the U.S., whose trade with the region reached \$362 billion.

It is a reality that Indonesia enthusiastically welcomed the BRI and proposed several projects to be financed and constructed within the framework of the Chinese initiative. Among those projects, the most important one was the Jakarta-Bandung High Speed Rail (JBHSR) construction on Java Island that should be completed in 2023.

In the near past, Indonesian president Widodo created a "Sea Toll Road" plan that perfectly aligns with the BRI. Indonesia aimed to direct Chinese investments to four main provinces to help the country's infrastructure and economic development. The most substantial Chinese investments are not currently in these regions, but interest is warming up.

In this connection, the BRI's impetus has led to a sixteen fold increase in Chinese investments in Indonesia from 2013 to 2019. Chinese investments went through phases. They started with trading and mining activities but more recently have brought new technology and built infrastructure.

However, in Indonesia, some BRI projects had faced important delays. The slow implementation of BRI projects was partly due to the prudent approach adopted by the Indonesian government

regarding the financing of those projects. Contrary to some other Asian nations, Indonesia preferred not to take direct loans from China but favored a business to business approach.

In 2019, President Widodo proposed to China to set up a special BRI Fund for Indonesia. In 2012, Indonesia and China already established a Maritime Cooperation Fund (MCF) to finance a joint project. In June 2017, China agreed to increase this fund in addition to the China ASEAN Maritime Fund (CAMF).

Another cause of delay regards land compensations. It is true especially for large projects like the JBHSR. Several companies and communities have launched lawsuits to seek compensation from land acquisition by the State. Although this process takes some time, this creates good conditions to gain public support for developing projects.

New infrastructure projects under the flagship of BRI will not only create jobs in the construction sector, but will also enable Indonesia to diversify its economy and reduce territorial inequalities.

For China, Indonesia's economic recovery is also a major challenge, as the Southeast Asian country is an important customer and could become a destination for Chinese companies to relocate their activities due to Indonesia's low salaries.

As islands are getting better connected thanks to the BRI, Indonesia will become more attractive to foreign companies and investors. New opportunities will be created in Java, but also in Sumatra, Kalimantan where Indonesia's new capital city is to be built.

Indonesia, a country that is currently embarking on massive infrastructure development, BRI is considered a good alternative financing source. In fact, Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, was among the seven heads of state from ASEAN to attend the inaugural BRI Forum in May 2017. Jokowi mentioned then that he wanted to see how Indonesia could benefit from BRI cooperation, and after the BRI forum, Indonesia proposed a list of projects for cooperation under BRI.

Indonesia has asked China to set up a special fund within its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for investment in Southeast Asia's largest economy, after offering China projects worth \$91 billion (30 projects).

Indonesia has not been among the biggest beneficiaries of China's trillion-dollar push to create a modern-day Silk Road.

Indonesia says this is because it has insisted any loan within the BRI framework is done on a business-to-business basis to avoid exposing the government in case of default.

The most high-profile BRI venture in Indonesia is a \$6 billion high-speed rail project connecting the capital, Jakarta, to the textile hub of Bandung, awarded to a consortium of Chinese and Indonesian state firms in 2015.

Another mega project is a \$1.5 billion hydro-power plant, funded by Chinese banks and being built by the Chinese state firm Sinohydro, in the heart of the Batang Toru rainforest on the island of Sumatra, which is home to the endangered Tapanuli orangutans.

To conclude, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asia faces an infrastructure funding gap of an estimated USD 26 trillion through 2030 in which BRI may play an important role.

Rapid development has become a global priority as countries strive to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a multi-trillion-dollar push to increase international investment, finance and trade, offers a potential pathway for countries to reach their national development goals. Indeed, Chinese financing is strongly linked with host country economic growth even more so than financing from the World Bank and it is estimated that the BRI could boost global GDP by nearly three percent.

Indonesia is expected to see some of the greatest economic benefits. It is among the top ten recipients of both Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) and overseas development finance from China's two largest policy banks the China Development Bank (CDB) and Export-Import Bank of China (CHEXIM) over the last decade.

FDI from China continues to increase rapidly in Indonesia, amounting to over \$17 billion during 2015-2020 alone, largely concentrated in three sectors: the metal industry (42 percent), transportation, warehousing and telecommunications (20 percent) and electricity, gas and water (19 percent). Overall, the World Bank anticipates a total of \$50 billion could be directed to Indonesia under the BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-and-indonesia-befitting-propositions-projects-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Shehbaz Sharif elected new Pakistan PM, vows to promote CPEC projects

Political changes within Pakistan could bring instability after the new prime minister was elected on Monday because the struggles between the supporters of ousted former prime minister Imran Khan and other political parties are unlikely to end easily, and although China doesn't need to be worried about its solid friendship with Pakistan, internal chaos in the country could affect some cooperation projects to some extent, said analysts from China and Pakistan.

The opposition's joint candidate and the President of the Pakistan Muslim League, Nawaz Shehbaz Sharif, became the new Pakistan Prime Minister since the candidate of the PTI (Pakistan Movement for Justice), former foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, quit the election held by the National Assembly on Monday.

PTI parliamentarians walked out of the National Assembly after their candidate Qureshi announced a boycott of the polling process, according to Pakistani media. China has noted that some changes have occurred in the Pakistani political situation. As a close neighbor and iron-clad friend, we sincerely hope all parties in Pakistan can remain united and jointly safeguard

stability and development in the country, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian while answering a question about the latest situation in Pakistan at a routine press conference before the election on Monday.

Zhao said, “I want to emphasize that no matter how the political situation of Pakistan changes, China will unswervingly insist on a friendly policy toward Pakistan. We believe the political change in Pakistan won’t affect the general picture of China-Pakistan relations.” China’s attitude is consistent with its diplomatic principle of non-interference and China has developed friendships with different parties of Pakistan, and this is a key reason why upholding the China-Pakistan friendship is an unshakeable consensus shared by all groups in Pakistan after many political power transitions in history, said Liu Zongyi, secretary-general of the Research Center for China-South Asia Cooperation at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies.

The new government will make efforts to fix ties with the US, as the opposition parties that will form the new government, as well as the military believe that former Imran Khan administration’s tense ties with the US did not serve the interests of Pakistan, as they prefer to make Pakistan more neutral and serve as a bridge between China and the US, rather than holding a clear anti-US stance, said Liu. Shehbaz Sharif promised to vigorously promote the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in a speech after winning the election on Monday, according to media reports.

Shehbaz had previously spoken highly of the CPEC several times, calling it an ambitious blueprint to transform Pakistan into a major emerging economy so that the less developed parts of the country could enjoy the dividends of development. Long Xingchun, a senior research fellow at the Academy of Regional and Global Governance of the Beijing Foreign Studies University, told the Global Times that Shehbaz spoke of the construction of the CPEC in his victory speech, which showed that he intended to safeguard China-Pakistan friendly cooperation and stabilize Pakistan’s economy.

“It also highlighted the importance he attached to the relationship. In fact, the CPEC has been through several changes of government since its establishment, but it has always been highly appreciated and promoted by the Pakistani side, which shows that the project is a reflection of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, and also helps the two countries and the people of the region,” Long said. Rana Ali Qaisar Khan, executive member of the Central Standing Committee of the National Party of Pakistan and an expert on Pakistani politics, told the Global Times on Monday that once the opposition parties regain power, they will try to fix ties with the US, at least on the surface, but they will “surely have a much closer relationship with China” because the Pakistani military and the public all want to prioritize the relationship with China, and Pakistan will never develop ties with the US at the cost of the China-Pakistan friendship. A supporter of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) holds a party flag with an image of Shehbaz Sharif outside the parliament house building in Islamabad on April 11, 2022. Complicated situation

A large number of PTI supporters took to the streets across many major cities in the country on Sunday in support of the party's chairman Imran Khan after he was ousted through a no-confidence motion, Pakistani media the Dawn reported on Monday. The PTI on Monday also decided to resign from the National Assembly to oppose the decision to oust Imran Khan, minutes before the election for the new prime minister was scheduled to place. Experts said Khan and his supporters and members of PTI remained influential, but since the opposition parties are also very united and have the support of the military, Khan and the PTI are unlikely to come back and reverse the no-confidence motion, but to what extent the protests will affect public order and social stability remains a question.

Rana Ali Qaisar Khan said if the current situation escalates into more serious nationwide chaos, it won't affect general cooperation in the CPEC but will affect Pakistan's economy and social order, and the people will suffer.

Although the current uncertainty in Pakistan is likely to last for a short time, the mainstream of Pakistani society and the key forces for stability in the country, such as the military, will definitely oppose long-term chaos, said Qian Feng, director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University, who predicted that the unstable situation would eventually be brought under control. Liu reiterated that the key to analyzing the current situation lies in whether the military will show up to stop the protests with resolute measures.

"The CPEC has been widely welcomed by all sectors of society in the two countries since it was established. The project has entered the second phase of high quality construction and it is expected that Sharif will pay more attention to the positive social and economic effects brought by the project, and continue to work with China to advance the project in the direction of high quality," Qian said.

Qian also said the instability caused by political struggles within Pakistan could have some negative effects on CPEC projects, but these would be temporary and the projects will continue to go better in the long term. Diplomatic changes Sharif is an experienced official in economic issues and has better relations with the military than his brother Nawaz Sharif, a three-time former prime minister of the country, and will establish a coalition government formed of multiple opposition parties, while his diplomatic policy will signal a great change to Khan's policy, said Chinese analysts. While the solid friendship with China will remain unshakeable, the changes will occur in the ties with other major countries that Pakistan must deal with, including fixing ties with the US, and also easing tensions with India, but the Pakistani stance on Afghanistan will not see any major change, Liu noted.

Lin Minwang, a professor at the Institute of International Studies of Fudan University, told the Global Times that due to the protests by the PTI, Shehbaz Sharif has very limited space to make major changes on foreign affairs even though he wants to ease tensions with the US and India, and the conflicts between Pakistan and India are structural, so it would be difficult for him to make significant policy adjustments in diplomacy after taking office. On ties with the US, Liu said that after the Biden administration decided to pull out from Afghanistan, the importance of

Pakistan in the eyes of the White House has been reduced, and the US strategy to draw India into its bloc to contain China is clear, so the US will not be interested in fixing ties with Pakistan as this could also affect US-India ties.

<https://pakobserver.net/shehbaz-sharif-elected-new-pakistan-pm-vows-to-promote-cpec-projects/>

The Express Tribune

Great potential for boosting Sino-Pak trade

Pakistan's exports to China cross \$67m in Jan-Feb 2022, up 23% year-on-year

BEIJING: The statistics, released by the General Administration of Customs of China, show that Pakistan's exports to China crossed \$67 million in the first two months of 2022, which recorded a nearly 23% year-on-year increase.

In recent years, with rapid progress on the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Chinese enterprises, especially private small and medium-sized enterprises, have significantly increased their investment in Pakistan.

The economies of the two countries are increasingly integrated, thus continuously enhancing Pakistan's export capacity. Under such circumstances, Pakistan's exports to China have continued to grow substantially.

As a matter of fact, the growth of Pakistan's exports to China is only a good start. There is still great potential for bilateral trade, especially for Pakistan's exports to China, said Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law. China is a country with a population of more than 1.4 billion. It is not only a global exporter, but also a global importer. China and Pakistan are friendly neighbours, connected by rivers and mountains and have convenient transportation channels. Therefore, China is naturally a huge market for Pakistan, he remarked.

"If bilateral trade between China and Pakistan continues to grow at the current rate of 20-30% per year, China will finally become Pakistan's largest export destination, and Pakistan is likely to become China's main trading partner in South Asia in the future," he projected. Over the years, Pakistan has committed to developing an export-oriented economy. To realise the rapid and stable growth of exports to China, both China and Pakistan need to make further efforts.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2352230/great-potential-for-boosting-sino-pak-trade>

April 14, 2022

Business Recorder

Shehbaz's remarks on CPEC commendable: China

BEIJING: China on Wednesday highly commended Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's remarks on the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and said that it was ready to work

with Pakistan to pursue high-quality development of the corridor and build it into a model and demonstration project for Belt and Road (BRI) initiative.

“We noted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s remarks on the CPEC and we highly commend that,” Chinese Foreign Ministry’s Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said in response to a question, raised by APP during his regular briefing.

In his maiden speech to Parliament after winning election on Monday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had said that his government would speed up construction of CPEC, the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

Zhao Lijian said, since it’s launching, the CPEC had made important contributions to Pakistan’s economic development and improvement of Pakistani people’s livelihood and added, “It has won widespread acclaim and recognition.” He said, “China stands ready to work with Pakistan to continue to pursue the high quality development of the economic corridor and build it into a model and demonstration project for high quality BRI cooperation.”

Shehbaz Sharif had previously spoken highly of the CPEC several times, calling it an ambitious blueprint to transform Pakistan into a major emerging economy so that the less developed parts of the country could enjoy the dividends of development.

Long Xingchun, a senior research fellow at the Academy of Regional and Global Governance of the Beijing Foreign Studies University, told the Global Times that PM Shehbaz Sharif spoke of the construction of the CPEC in his victory speech, which showed that he intended to safeguard China-Pakistan friendly cooperation and stabilize Pakistan’s economy. “It also highlighted the importance he attached to the relationship. In fact, the CPEC has been through several changes of government since its establishment, but it has always been highly appreciated and promoted by the Pakistani side, which shows that the project is a reflection of mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, and also helps the two countries and the people of the region,” Long said.

Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor of Southwest University of Political Science and Law noted that all political parties in Pakistan were highly consistent on the issue of relations with China. He believed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the development of the CPEC and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) would be further accelerated.

According to experts, since 2015, the CPEC has directly created more than 75,000 jobs in Pakistan. In the meantime, China has also invested heavily in various projects in the country. “It is conceivable that once the CPEC construction is fully completed, more investment will be drawn to the country, which will be greatly conducive to improving Pakistan’s manufacturing base,” they said.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/14/11-page/926087-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan to request China to include KCR in CPEC

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday said Pakistan would request China to include Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

Speaking to journalists during his day-long visit to Karachi, Shehbaz said earlier Chinese authorities had shown interest in KCR; however, due to political changes, things weren't finalised.

Shehbaz visited the CM House where he held a one-on-one meeting with CM Sindh Murad Ali Shah to discuss political, economic and several other issues of the province.

Shehbaz assured the CM Sindh of the federal government's support for development and betterment of the province.

Terming Karachi's drinking water issue, the "biggest challenge", the premier said he had requested the CM Sindh and other relevant authorities to complete the programme – under which half capacity requirement will be fulfilled – by 2024 directing him to ensure that full capacity requirement is met.

He said: "We will be following the will of Allah if we are able to resolve Karachi's drinking water issue." Highlighting Orange Line, and Green Line projects, Shehbaz said he had asked Shah to bring air-conditioned buses to Karachi, says a news report.

"I have suggested Shah to bring thousands of air-conditioned buses in a transparent manner while pre-qualifying transporters followed by a bidding," he said, adding that transporters will then be allowed to take loans from banks at minimal interest rates. He also acknowledged the Sindh government and the chief minister for their warm hospitality.

The PM was also presented with ajrak by the Sindh CM. The PM's special flight landed at the PAF Faisal Air Base. He was accompanied by PML-N's Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Miftah Ismail, MQM-P's Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, JUI-F's Maulana Asad Mehmood and others.

Soon after his arrival, the premier along with the leaders of allied parties paid his respects at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam. He also laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum and offered Fateha. The prime minister also visited the MQM-P's Bahadurabad headquarters and met senior party officials.

The MQM-P leadership congratulated the premier on his successful election and pledged to work with the federal government to ensure welfare of the people and Sindh's development, with a particular emphasis on Karachi.

The prime minister in turn appreciated the commitment of all allied parties to the welfare of the people. He also called for timely completion of important development projects, including the Karachi Circular Railway and K-4 water project and announced a new university for the city.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/919064/pakistan-to-request-china-to-include-kcr-in-cpec/>

China, UK PMs vow to work with Shehbaz govt

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Wednesday congratulated Shehbaz Sharif on his election as Prime Minister of Pakistan and said he was looking forward to working together with him to carry forward the two countries' traditional friendship and consolidate mutual political trust.

In a congratulatory message, Li said China and Pakistan were unique all-weather strategic cooperative partners, and their bilateral relations and friendship had experienced great changes, and had always been rock-solid and unbreakable. "In the face of profound and complex changes in international and regional situation and amid the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic, China and Pakistan have helped each other to overcome difficulties, and the ironclad China-Pakistan friendship continues to grow," he noted.

Li said he looked forward to working together with Shehbaz to carry forward the two countries' traditional friendship, consolidate mutual political trust and promote the high-quality construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, China Daily reported.

Meanwhile, Li expressed willingness to deepen the all-round, pragmatic cooperation between the two countries and speed up the process to forge an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future in the new era, which would not only benefit the peoples of the two countries and also be conducive to regional and global stability and development.

Li also expressed his belief that Pakistan would accomplish new achievements in promoting national stability, development and progress.

Meanwhile, United Kingdom's Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Wednesday that he wanted to work with Pakistan's newly elected premier Shehbaz Sharif.

PM Shehbaz was sworn in as the prime minister on April 11, following the ouster of the Imran Khan government through a no-confidence motion – making him the first premier to be removed through the democratic process.

"Congratulations to @CMShehbaz on his election as Prime Minister of Pakistan," Johnson said in a tweet, where he share his aspirations for a future working relationship with his Pakistani counterpart.

"The UK & Pakistan have a longstanding relationship and our people share deep ties. I look forward to working together on areas of shared interest," the UK's PM added.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of United Arab Emirates has felicitated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on assuming his office. A post of the UAE embassy on Twitter on Wednesday read that the UAE crown prince "sends congratulatory message to Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on his election as the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan".

Shehbaz Sharif was elected the prime minister of Pakistan after winning a no-confidence vote in the National Assembly against his predecessor Imran Khan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/919050/china-uk-pms-vow-to-work-with-shehbaz-govt/>

China to ‘unswervingly support’ Pakistan’s economic development

While political changes in Pakistan have recently fuelled speculation about the possible impact on China-Pakistan relations, it remains clear that the high level of mutual trust between the two sides forms the solid guarantee that bilateral economic and trade cooperation won’t be affected.

In a speech after winning the election, the newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif stated that he would vigorously promote the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project in China-Pakistan cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative, Global Times reported.

Prime Minister Sharif’s remarks are a clear reaffirmation of the ironclad friendship between China and Pakistan and should be sufficient to dispel any speculation about policy uncertainty about the CPEC or the broader China-Pakistan economic and trade ties.

Just like all Pakistani political parties and groups share the joint consensus of vigorously developing bilateral ties with China, China’s willingness to firmly support Pakistan’s economic development will not change because of shifting political tides in Islamabad.

As a country in transition, Pakistan is facing multifaceted challenges in terms of political, economic and social uncertainties, which sometimes may lead to changes in its domestic politics. However, the more political turmoil it sees, the more urgently the country needs to achieve steady economic development, which is the basis for addressing all major issues.

Currently, the Pakistani economy is facing great downward pressure. First, as the global COVID-19 pandemic continues to linger, the drag on the Pakistani economy is expected to continue for some time. Second, since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, global prices of major commodities like oil, natural gas and food have soared sharply, further aggravating the external economic pressure faced by Pakistan.

Moreover, the continuous depreciation of the Pakistani rupee against the US dollar has resulted in the skyrocketing costs of imported oil, natural gas and other raw materials, which has severely dampened domestic demand and hindered the operation of the manufacturing sector in Pakistan.

Against this backdrop, in addition to ensuring a smooth transition of power, it should be a top priority for the new Prime Minister to work to stabilize the economic fundamentals and ensure steady economic growth despite global headwinds. To achieve such economic goals, it is imperative for Pakistan to continue to work closely with its largest economic and trading partner.

The China-Pakistan economic and trade cooperation is of great significance for both countries. In particular, as a multi-billion-dollars flagship project under the BRI, the CPEC is a grand economic program focusing on cooperation in such areas as infrastructure, social welfare,

industry and agriculture – which all play a significant role in supporting and ensuring Pakistan’s economic and social development.

Since 2015, the CPEC has directly created more than 75,000 jobs in Pakistan. In the meantime, China has also invested heavily in various projects in the country. It is conceivable that once the CPEC construction is fully completed, more investment will be drawn to the country, which will be greatly conducive to improving Pakistan’s manufacturing base.

Over the past seven decades, China and Pakistan have formed a strong and close relationship, which saw strategic partnership and cooperation flourish in almost every field.

In their exchanges and cooperation, China and Pakistan have always respected each other’s core interests. China has never interfered in Pakistan’s internal affairs, and China’s economic assistance and support to Pakistan has no political strings attached. Therefore, despite the political changes in Pakistan, China will unswervingly support Pakistan’s economic development.

China-Pakistan cooperation also gained increased significance in light of shifting global geopolitical situations. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has severely disrupted the supply chains and industrial chains of developing countries.

Many developing countries face serious economic challenges. Under such circumstances, China and other developing countries like Pakistan need to build industrial and supply chains that can support the sustainable development of their economies. In this context, it is all the more important for China to strengthen cooperation with Pakistan and other developing countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/919228/china-to-unswervingly-support-pakistans-economic-development/>

The Express Tribune

Chinese auto firm to unveil first model by month end

Invests in vehicle manufacturing, optimistic about industry development in Pakistan

KARACHI: Recently, Chery Automobile Company Limited completed the body shop trials for its Tiggo series, which is the company’s first body trial out and assembly trial out in Pakistan.

This means that Chery’s first model will complete its standard operating procedure and be presented to consumers by the end of this month, after three months since production started in January.

Like other Chinese brands that have invested in vehicle manufacturing factories in Pakistan, Chery is optimistic about Pakistan’s advantages in developing the auto industry.

Chery Automobile Pakistan Country Director Felix Hu stated in a recent interview that “based on Pakistan’s huge potential market size, supportive policies for attracting foreign automobile

investors and opportunities brought by CPEC, we have landed Chery's first RHD (right-hand drive) CKD project in Pakistan."

This is a local manufacturing project with long-term development considerations, he said.

Chery launched its new RHD strategy in 2019 and selected seven countries as key potential markets for RHD, including Pakistan.

It has partnered with Ghandhara Nissan to invest Rs2.4 billion in Pakistan's production of Tiggo series SUVs in January 2021.

Felix revealed that Chery was promoting the listing of the company in Pakistan next month. It will continue to focus on Pakistani market and satisfy the local consumers.

The company also plans to export from Pakistan to other RHD countries in the near future.

At present, Chery Automobile's products include saloon cars and SUVs.

Choosing to manufacture SUV models in Pakistan is based on the fact that the global consumption trend is upgrading from cars to SUVs. SUVs are more suitable for Pakistan's road conditions and Chinese companies are competitive in the SUV market.

Felix said that SUV is a strategic choice according to Chery's initial development plan in Pakistan and more models will be launched as the company deepens cooperation and gets more feedback from the market.

As one of the largest automobile exporters in China, compared with other manufacturers such as Hyundai, MG and Haval, Chery's entry into RHD markets including Pakistan was relatively late.

The reason for this, Felix explained, was to make sure that their products are the latest models for RHD markets, rather than some old generation models.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2352419/chinese-auto-firm-to-unveil-first-model-by-month-end>

The Nation

Pak Rice Export To China Increases To \$132.59m In Two Months

BEIJING – Pakistan's rice export to China has risen by 3.90 per cent to \$132.59 million in the first two months of current year.

According to General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), Sino-Pak bilateral trade had increased significantly in the first two months of 2022. China imported more than 347,434 tons of different types of rice, worth \$132.5 million, 18% increase over the import of 294,240 tons worth \$ 127.61 million during the same period last year.

Commercial Counselor Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Badar uz Zaman hoped that in the current year, Pakistan would achieve the target of one million tons of rice export to China and within a few years, it would be the largest rice exporter in the Chinese market.

“I think Chinese seed and technology, especially colour sorter machines, helped increase the export of Pakistani rice to China,” he added. He further said last year China imported about 973,000 tons of rice worth \$437 million from Pakistan, CEN reported.

Badar Uz Zaman said Pakistan had become the third-largest exporter of rice to China. They were using traditional and especially social media platforms to provide awareness about Pakistani rice in the Chinese market.

Shamsul Islam Khan, former Vice President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and CEO of Integra Trade and Marketing, said the reason for the increase of rice export to China was that “there is no quota system applied to broken rice and the duty is 10%, while Chinese hybrid seed increased the production and cultivation in Pakistan”.

“I requested that China should accept more Pakistani companies in the approval list which is now 53 and remove all duties that would help increase Pakistan’s export of rice to China,” he added.

It is worth mentioning that last July China’s custom authorities allowed seven more Pakistani rice units to export rice to the Chinese market. The number of total companies in the approved General Administration of Custom P.R of China list reached 53.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/14/pak-rice-export-to-china-increases-to-132-59m-in-two-months/>

Jang News

سی پیک پر وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے بیان کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہیں، چین

چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے بیان کا خیر مقدم کیا ہے۔

چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے کہا کہ سی پیک سے متعلق وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے ریمارکس نوٹ کیے ہیں۔ سی پیک پر وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے ریمارکس کو بہت زیادہ سراہتے ہیں۔

انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ سی پیک نے اپنے آغاز سے ہی پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کیا۔

چینی ترجمان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک نے پاکستان کے عوام کے معیار زندگی کو بہتر بنایا ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کو سی پیک کی اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی کو مزید بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے۔

چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان کا کہنا تھا کہ ان کا ملک سی پیک کی اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی کے لیے پاکستان کے ساتھ کام جاری رکھنے کو تیار ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1074094>

Nawaiwaqt News

وزیر اعظم پاکستان کے سی پیک پر ریمارکس کو سراہتے ہیں: چین

بیجنگ (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چینی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے بیان کا خیر مقدم کیا ہے۔ چینی وزارت خارجہ نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک سے متعلق

وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کے ریمارکس نوٹ کئے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم کے سی پیک پر ریمارکس کو بہت زیادہ سراہتے ہیں۔ سی پیک نے اپنے آغاز سے ہی پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی میں

اہم کردار ادا کیا اور پاکستان کے عوام کے معیار زندگی کو بہتر بنایا ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کو سی پیک کی اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی کو مزید بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ چین سی پیک کی اعلیٰ معیار

کی ترقی کیلئے پاکستان کے ساتھ کام جاری رکھنے کو تیار ہے۔ چینی پرائم منسٹر نے شہباز شریف کو وزیر اعظم منتخب ہونے پر مبارکباد دی ہے۔ چینی وزیر اعظم نے کہا ہے کہ شہباز شریف کے ساتھ کام کرنے کیلئے پر عزم ہیں۔ پاک چین دوستی ہمیشہ سے مضبوط اور اٹوٹ رہی ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان نے کرونا پر قابو پانے میں ایک دوسرے کی مدد کی۔ چین پاکستان دوستی مسلسل بڑھ رہی ہے۔ چین اور پاکستان کل وقتی سٹریٹجک شراکت دار ہیں۔ سی پیک کی اعلیٰ معیار کی تعمیر کو فروغ دینے کیلئے مل کر کام کرنے کے منتظر ہیں۔ یقین ہے کہ پاکستان استحکام اور ترقی کی نئی کامیابیاں حاصل کرے گا۔ پاکستان سے تعلقات مزید گہرے اور مضبوط ہوں گے۔ شہباز شریف کے دور میں دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان دوستی اور سیاسی اتحاد مزید گہرا ہو گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2022-04-14/page-1/detail-4>

April 15, 2022

Business Recorder

Chinese automobile company sets up local manufacturing unit

BEIJING: A Chinese automobile company has set up a local manufacturing project with long-term development considerations in Pakistan based on country's huge potential market size, supportive policies for attracting foreign automobile investors and opportunities brought by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

This was stated by Felix Hu, country director of Chery Automobile in Pakistan, in a recent interview.

Chery launched its new RHD strategy in 2019 and selected seven countries as key potential markets for RHD, including Pakistan. It has partnered with Ghandhara Nissan Ltd to invest Rs2.4 billion in Pakistan's production of Tiggo Series SUVs in January 2021.

Felix revealed that Chery is promoting the listing of the company in Pakistan next month. It will continue to focus on the Pakistani market and satisfy the local consumers. The company also plans to export from Pakistan to other RHD countries in the near future, CEN reported.

At present, Chery Automobile's products include saloon cars and SUVs. Choosing to manufacture SUV models in Pakistan is based on the fact that the global consumption trend is upgrading from cars to SUV, SUV is more suitable for Pakistan's road conditions, and Chinese companies are competitive in the SUV market segment.

Felix said that SUV is a strategic choice according to Chery's initial development plan in Pakistan, and more models will be launched as the company deepens cooperation and gets more feedback from the market.

As one of the largest automobile exporters in China, compared with other manufacturers such as Hyundai, MG and HAVAL, Chery's entry to RHD markets including Pakistan is relatively late. The reason for this, Felix explained, is to make sure that their products are the latest models for RHD markets, rather than some old generation models. Felix believes that the future trend of the automobile industry is electrification and intelligence.

“Echoing Pakistan’s EV policy, Chery has also developed a new energy vehicles plan, including EV, PHEV, FCVE, REEV for RHD markets. Felix underlined, Chery is preparing to introduce the latest versions that have not even been launched in China to the Pakistani market.

Automobile cooperation is another representative sector of industrial cooperation under the second phase of CPEC. Felix termed China-Pakistan automobile cooperation a win-win choice, new Chinese automobile entrants in Pakistan will bring more options to local customers, who will eventually benefit from this fierce competition.

New technologies and management methods will also enhance the capacity of the local automobile industry. Products and brands from China are being accepted by more and more consumers in Pakistan and other RHD countries. Felix is full of confidence in China-Pakistan automobile collaboration.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/04/15/11-page/926229-news.html>

Daily Times

China seeks deeper seed cooperation with Pakistan

“We look forward to establishing a “technology transfer-product process-export” model for seed cooperation with Pakistani partners. Under this model, we grow crops in Pakistan utilizing Chinese technology together with local companies and then sell the processed products back to China.”

This was stated by Zhou Xusheng from Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed Co., Ltd. in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN) following a recent salon on market access organized by the National South Asian Standardization (Chengdu) Research Center of China and attended by participants from both Pakistan and China.

“Take hybrid rice as an example. Pakistan, once the world’s seventh-largest rice exporter, became the fourth-largest after the introduction of hybrid rice from China, which improves production by 50-80% and enhances the process quality by 10%. By doing so, local farmers benefit from rice of higher quality and more production, local enterprises become more competitive in the global market, and huge revenue can be brought”, Mr. Zhou told CEN.

The seed company, with nearly two decades experience in promoting hybrid rice in Pakistan, has contributed to the examination of the first Chinese hybrid rice variety QY0413 in Pakistan’s history and developed Komal, the first hybrid rice variety with long growth period in Pakistan. Currently, the company is providing the seeds of hybrid rice, rape, tomato, pepper, and watermelon in Pakistan. Research is also underway in Sindh for heat- and alkaline- resistant rice varieties. But to set up a complete “technology transfer-product process-export” chain, more needs to be done.

According to Mr. Zhou, to build the model well, first there should be high-quality selected varieties that can be adapted to local conditions in Pakistan. According to Trade Development

Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), the average rice yield of Pakistan is generally lower than that of China, U.S., North Korea, South Korea, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brazil, Egypt, Iran, etc. In the past ten years, the average rice yield in Pakistan almost stagnated with only a slight increase.

To solve this problem, Pakistan can only rely on introducing high-yielding varieties. In this regard, Mr. Zhou recommends more R&D investment on varieties with good quality, high production, and resilience to local climate.

In addition, according to Mr. Zhou, a complete rice grading mechanism that distinguishes rice of different quality for different purposes, as well as enhanced awareness of the value of high-quality rice throughout the planting, purchasing, processing, and exporting process are also in need. “We would like to enhance exchanges and training with local partners, collaborate with Pakistani rice export association to set up grading system, and build local production bases to help stabilise rice production area and guard against emergencies threatening food security”, Mr. Zhou added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/919725/china-seeks-deeper-seed-cooperation-with-pakistan/>

China to work with new govt in Pakistan

China would continue to work with the new Pakistani administration led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to have close communication at different levels and add new impetus to bilateral cooperation between two all-weather friends and strategic cooperative partners, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Thursday.

“We appreciate the positive comments by PM Shahbaz regarding China-Pakistan Economic Cooperation (CPEC) cooperation,” Zhao Lijian said in his regular briefing while commenting on a meeting between PM Shehbaz Sharif and Pang Chunxue, charge d’ affairs of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan held in Islamabad.

During meeting, PM Shehbaz Sharif told the Charge d’ Affairs that Pakistan’s new government attached great importance to strengthening relations between Pakistan and China and was ready to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in agriculture, science and technology, education and poverty alleviation and push forward the construction of the CPEC with greater vigor and efficiency to better benefit the two countries and the two peoples.

The spokesperson said that China and Pakistan were all weather strategic cooperation partners and iron clad brothers, and added, “We will as always put Pakistan as a priority of our neighbourhood diplomacy and to support its efforts to realise revitalisation.”

He said that the Chinese side would continue to work with the new Pakistani administration to have close communication at different levels and add new impetus into our bilateral cooperation and to build CPEC with high standard in a sustained manner to benefit the people and a build a closer community with a shared future.

Shehbaz Sharif, President of PML (N) and a key leader of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), was sworn in as the 23rd prime minister of Pakistan last week after securing 174 votes from the 342-seat National Assembly, officially taking over from former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who lost a no-confidence vote in the lower house of the parliament.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/919743/china-to-work-with-new-govt-in-pakistan/>

The Express Tribune

Chinese seeds to boost rice output

Pakistan has vast uncultivated land where drought-resistant seeds can be used

BEIJING: Pakistan is a huge rice-growing country and its paddy area reached 3.3 million hectares in the year 2021. However, problems such as drought and salinity have made large arable land vacant, which has greatly affected its total rice production.

“In Pakistan, only 22-23% of land is cultivated,” said Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vice President Shamsul Islam Khan. “There is vast uncultivated land because of water depletion.”

In recent years, China has cultivated drought-resistant and salt-resistant rice varieties. To know more about it, the China Economic Net interviewed Xu Jianlong, Chief Scientist of Rice Molecular Design Technology at the Institute of Crop Sciences in the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

“There is a popular saying that farming accounts for roughly 70% of human water consumption and water used in rice fields accounts for 70% of the entire agricultural water consumption,” said Xu.

“Drought-resistant varieties in China can save about 30% of water. Under drought conditions, drought-resistant varieties can also grow normally and yield losses can be avoided.”

Pakistan is also a country affected by land salinity. “About 30% of Pakistan’s planting areas are affected by salinity. Just as drought-resistant varieties are required due to shortage of water resources, salt-resistant varieties are also needed to make full use of saline land.”

Xu noted that several salt-resistant varieties have been approved and promoted in China and got good production.

“In Tianjin, China, there is a rice variety called Xiaozhan rice, which is very delicious.”

Xu said that rice grown in saline soil tastes better than the same variety grown in ordinary soil. “It is salt tolerant and planted in a slightly saline environment, and its irrigation water also contains a certain amount of salt. The minerals contained in salt contribute to the slow but sufficient accumulation of starch in rice, so the taste is better.”

“To solve the current problems of rice production in Pakistan, new varieties can be introduced from China for trial planting. Pakistan can also introduce China’s advanced agricultural

machinery and planting technology suitable for small farmers to help them increase rice production,” Xu suggested.

Seed cooperation

“We look forward to establishing a technology transfer-product process-export model for seed cooperation with Pakistani partners,” said Zhou Xusheng from Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed Company Limited in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net.

“Under this model, we grow crops in Pakistan utilising Chinese technology together with local companies and then sell the processed products back to China.”

Take hybrid rice as an example. Pakistan, once the world’s seventh-largest rice exporter, became the fourth-largest after the introduction of hybrid rice from China, which improves production by 50-80% and enhances the processing quality by 10%.

By doing so, local farmers benefit from rice of higher quality and more production, local enterprises become more competitive in the global market and huge revenue can be brought.

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According to Zhou, to build the model well, first there should be high-quality selected varieties that can be adapted to local conditions in Pakistan.

According to Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), the average rice yield of Pakistan is generally lower than that of China, the US, North Korea, South Korea, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brazil, Egypt and Iran.

In the past 10 years, the average rice yield in Pakistan almost stagnated with only a slight increase. To solve this problem, Pakistan can only rely on introducing high-yielding varieties.

In this regard, Zhou recommended more research and development and investment in varieties with good quality, high production, and resilience to local climate.

According to Zhou, a complete rice grading mechanism that distinguishes rice of different qualities for different purposes, as well as enhanced awareness of the value of high-quality rice throughout the planting, purchasing, processing, and exporting process are also needed.

THE ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED ON THE CHINA ECONOMIC NET

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2352603/chinese-seeds-to-boost-rice-output>

The News

China hesitates on bailing out Sri Lanka, Pakistan as debt soars

Over the past few years, the U.S. has accused China of using “debt diplomacy” to make developing nations across the world more dependent on Beijing.

Yet the cases of Sri Lanka and Pakistan -- both friends of China facing dire financial situations as inflation soars -- show that President Xi Jinping’s government is becoming more reluctant to pull out the checkbook. China still hasn’t made good on a pledge to re-issue loans totaling \$4 billion that Pakistan repaid in late March, and it hasn’t responded to Sri Lanka’s pleas for \$2.5 billion in credit support.

While China has pledged to help both countries, the more cautious approach reflects both a refining of Xi’s signature Belt and Road Initiative as well as a hesitancy to be seen interfering in messy domestic political situations. Pakistan got a new prime minister on Monday after parliament booted out former cricket star Imran Khan, and Sri Lanka’s leader is facing pressure from protesters to step down.

“Beijing has for the past couple of years been rethinking its external lending because their banks realized they were carrying a lot of debt with countries whose prospects of paying back were quite limited,” said Raffaello Pantucci, a senior fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University. “This came on top of a tightening economic situation at home which also required a lot of spending, so there was less appetite to just throw money around wantonly.”

China is currently facing its own economic troubles, with lockdowns to contain the country’s worst Covid outbreak since early 2020 shutting down the technology and financial hubs of Shanghai and Shenzhen. Premier Li Keqiang on Monday told local authorities they should “add a sense of urgency” when implementing policies as analysts warn the official growth target of a 5.5% is now in jeopardy.

China has become the world’s largest government creditor over the past decade, with its state-owned policy banks lending more to developing countries than the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank in some recent years. The opacity around the terms and scale of some of that lending has been criticized, especially as the pandemic exacerbates debt problems in poorer countries.

Sri Lanka was downgraded deeper into junk by Fitch Ratings, which said on Wednesday the nation’s decision to suspend payments on its foreign debt has kicked off a sovereign default process. S&P said Sri Lanka’s next interest payments are due on April 18 and the failure to cover them will likely result in default, as would an outright debt restructuring.

Sri Lanka's top diplomat in Beijing this week said he was "very confident" that China will come through with credit support, including \$1 billion for the country to repay existing Chinese loans due in July. In an interview with Bloomberg, Ambassador Palitha Kohona said the process often takes months and he didn't see any delay.

"Given the current circumstances, there aren't that many countries that can step out to the pitch and do something," he said. "China is one of those countries that can do something very quickly." Still, China's role in helping to resolve ongoing crises in South Asia may be limited despite its status as a major creditor. A Shanghai-based scholar who researches China's overseas lending said new credit lines are harder to approve as authorities emphasize risk management at financial institutions including policy banks. The scholar asked not to be named due to rules for speaking with the media.

Xi highlighted the importance of a more cautious approach at a high-level Belt and Road symposium in November. "It is necessary to implement risk prevention and control systems," Xi said. He called on participants to make "small but beautiful" projects a priority for foreign cooperation and "avoid dangerous and chaotic places."

Earlier this month, Jin Liqun, president of the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, encouraged Sri Lanka to turn to the IMF for help in a meeting with Kohona.

China's development banks are acting to preserve returns and it "would be difficult for them to easily accede to Sri Lanka's requests for deferrals," said Matthew Mingey, a senior analyst at Rhodium Group's China Macro & Policy team who researches economic diplomacy.

"Credit conditions back in China aren't making things any easier for them," he added. "Ultimately, Sri Lanka needs the IMF."

Sri Lanka said Tuesday it would expedite talks with the IMF after it halted payments on foreign debt to preserve dollars for essential food and fuel imports. Pakistan's new government also plans to work with the IMF to stabilize the economy, according to Miftah Ismail, a former finance minister and a senior ruling party leader.

China's ability to assist either country with a balance-of-payments crisis is limited, particularly as Beijing's financial assistance is almost always tied to specific projects, said Muttukrishna Sarvananthan, principle researcher at the Point Pedro Institute of Development in Sri Lanka. China's policy of non-interference in internal affairs prevents it from offering the type of advice needed for countries to emerge out of a financial crisis, he added.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=77704>

Nawaiwaqt News

آئی ایم ایف سے دوبارہ بات شروع کریں گے، سعودیہ، چین سے بیل آؤٹ پیسج کی امید: شہباز شریف

اسلام آباد (خبرنگار خصوصی + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ اپنے پاؤں پر کھڑے ہونے کی کوشش کریں گے۔ حکومت کا کام روزگار کی فراہمی ہے۔ اپنے بیٹے کو وزیر اعلیٰ بنانے کا کوئی شوق نہیں تھا۔ ہم نے پرویز الہی کو وزارت اعلیٰ کی آفر کی تھی۔ جب وہ اپنی بات سے پھر گئے تو پارٹی نے حزمہ کو نامزد کر دیا۔ ایک دو دن میں کاہینہ مکمل کر لی جائے گی۔ عمران خان نے پہلے تو شہ خانے کا قانون تبدیل کیا۔ تو شہ خانے میں ہار، انگوٹھی اور گھڑی کم قیمت پر خرید کر دہی میں فروخت کر دی۔ وزارت توانائی سے بجلی کے کارخانوں کو ایندھن کی فراہمی سے متعلق پوچھا ہے۔ وزارت توانائی کے افسر پہلے آئیں بائیں شائیں کرتے رہے پھر کہا کہ وہ نیب کے خوف کی وجہ سے فیصلہ نہیں کر پارہے تھے۔ صحت کارڈ پروگرام نواز شریف کا دیا ہوا ہے۔ 2018ء میں ہماری حکومت ہوتی تو صحت کارڈ پورے ملک میں دے چکے ہوتے۔ ملک کے معاشی حالات ہماری توقعات سے کہیں زیادہ گھمبیر ہیں۔ نیب کے ساتھ معیشت نہیں چل سکتی۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے ٹویٹ میں کہا ہے کہ قطر سے مارکیٹ سے معقول اور کم ریٹ پر ایل این جی حاصل کی۔ پاکستان کی ہمیشہ مدد کرنے پر امیر قطر کا شکر گزار ہوں۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف کی زیر صدارت توانائی اور بجلی کی لوڈ شیڈنگ پر اجلاس میں ہو شربا انکشافات ہوئے اور توانائی ڈویژن نے وزیر اعظم کو بریفنگ میں سابقہ حکومت کی نااہلی کی چارج شیٹ پیش کر دی۔ انکشاف ہوا کہ ملک میں بجلی کی قلت نہیں، ملک میں 18 پاور پلانٹس، مختلف غیر فعال یونٹس فنی فائنٹس کی وجہ سے ایک سال سے بند ہیں۔ 7 پاور پلانٹس ایندھن کی عدم دستیابی کی وجہ سے بند پڑے ہیں۔ 18 پاور پلانٹس میں بیلٹ ٹوٹنے، تاریں خراب ہونے، کئی پاور پلانٹس ایندھن کی عدم فراہمی سے بند ہیں۔ زیادہ تر خرابیاں انتظامی اور کچھ کا تعلق پالیسی فیصلوں سے ہے۔ 9 پاور پلانٹس دسمبر 2021 سے بلوں کی عدم ادائیگی اور ایندھن خریدنے کے پیسے نہ ہونے کے سبب بند پڑے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے صورتحال پر شدید اظہارِ ناپسندیدگی کرتے ہوئے فائنٹس اور فنی خرابیاں فوری دور کرنے کی ہدایت کی۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ عوام لوڈ شیڈنگ کے عذاب میں مبتلا ہیں، خدارا احساس کریں، ایسی غفلت، لاپرواہی ناقابل برداشت ہے، فوری اقدامات کریں۔ افسران نے انکشاف کیا کہ نیب کے خوف سے کچھ نہیں کر سکے۔ وزیر اعظم نے لوڈ شیڈنگ جلد ختم کرنے کا پلان طلب کر لیا۔ شہباز شریف نے ہدایت کی ہے کہ عام آدمی کی معاشی حالت بہتر بنانے اور مہنگائی پر قابو پانے کے لئے فوری اقدامات کئے جائیں۔ جمعرات کو اپنی زیر صدارت ملکی معیشت کی موجودہ صورتحال پر اعلیٰ سطح کے اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ حکومت پاکستان کو معاشی لحاظ سے مستحکم بنانے کیلئے ہنگامی اقدامات اٹھانے جارہی ہے۔ اصلاحات کا جامع لائحہ عمل تیار کرنے کی ہدایت جاری کر دیں۔ ملکی مجموعی معاشی صورتحال کی بہتری کے ساتھ ساتھ مہنگائی پر قابو پانے کیلئے بھی تازہ جی بنیادوں پر اقدامات کرنے کا حکم دیا۔ وزیر اعظم نے پریشان کن معاشی اعشاریوں پر تشویش کا اظہار کیا۔ وزیر اعظم میاں شہباز شریف سے شریک چیئر مین پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی آصف علی زرداری اور چیئر مین پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے جمعرات کو یہاں ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات میں آصف علی زرداری اور بلاول بھٹو زرداری نے وزیر اعظم کو وزارت عظمیٰ کا منصب سنبھالنے پر مبارکباد پیش کی۔ وزیر اعظم نے آصف علی زرداری اور بلاول بھٹو زرداری کا حکومت کی تشکیل میں تعاون کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ دریں اثناء وزیر اعظم میاں شہباز شریف سے رکن قومی اسمبلی مرتضیٰ جاوید عباسی اور امیر مقام نے ملاقات کی ہے جس میں موجودہ سیاسی صورتحال پر گفتگو کی گئی۔ جمعرات کو اپنے ٹویٹ میں وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ حکومت شہریوں کو بہترین، باعزت، ارزاں اور ماحول دوست ٹرانسپورٹ سروس کی فراہمی پر یقین رکھتی ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ پانچ سال گزرنے کے باوجود پشاور موٹروے سے ایئر پورٹ تک میٹرو کا منصوبہ مکمل نہیں ہو سکا۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ میں نے اس منصوبہ میں تاخیر کی تحقیقات اور کام کو جلد مکمل کرنے کا حکم دے دیا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم محمد شہباز شریف نے بیساکھی کے میلے پر پاکستان آنے والے سکھوں کو خوش آمدید کہا ہے، وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ میں موسم بہار کے اس تہوار کو منانے والے تمام لوگوں کو مبارکباد دیتا ہوں۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے پشاور موٹروے سے نیو اسلام آباد ایئر پورٹ میٹرو بس منصوبہ کا دورہ کیا اور منصوبہ میں تاخیر کی تحقیقات کا حکم اور لوگوں کو سفر کی بہترین اور معیاری سہولیات کی فراہمی کیلئے بہارہ کو اور روات کے روٹس پر بھی میٹرو بسیں چلانے کیلئے فوری فیصلہ سازی تیار کرنے کی ہدایت کر دی ہے۔ وزیر اعظم کو سی ڈی اے اور این ایچ اے

کے حکام نے منصوبہ سے متعلق تفصیلی بریفنگ دی۔ وزیر اعظم کو بتایا گیا کہ ہفتہ سے 15 بسیں اس روٹ پر چلنا شروع ہو جائیں گی، 5 مئی تک 30 بسیں مزید پہنچ جائیں گی، یہ منصوبہ 2018 میں مکمل ہونا تھا لیکن تاخیر کا شکار رہا۔ وزیر اعظم نے منصوبہ میں تاخیر پر ناراضگی کا اظہار کیا، وزیر اعظم نے ہدایت کی کہ موٹر وے پر بھی ایک میٹرو سٹیشن ہنگامی بنیادوں پر بنایا جائے۔ اور رمضان المبارک میں مفت میٹرو بسیں چلائی جائیں تاکہ اس مقدس مہینے میں شہریوں کو سہولت حاصل ہو۔ ایئر پورٹ جانے والے مسافروں کے سامان کیلئے بسوں میں سامان رکھنے کی سہولت دی جائے۔ وزیر اعظم میاں محمد شہباز شریف نے عالمی مالیاتی فنڈ (آئی ایم ایف) سے بات چیت کرنے کا اعلان کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ ان کی شرائط بہت سخت ہیں، ہم مذاکرات کریں گے۔ وزیر اعظم ہاؤس میں سینئر صحافیوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم نے بتایا کہ آئی ایم ایف سے آج رات سے دوبارہ سے بات چیت کا سلسلہ شروع کریں گے اور ان سے سخت شرائط پر نظر ثانی کروانے کی کوشش کریں گے۔ شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ پٹرول اور بجلی پر جو سبسڈی دی گئی، ہمارے پاس اخراجات کے بعد چٹا ہی کچھ نہیں، ہمیں بھی غریب کا احساس ہے، بڑی مشکل سے کم سے کم اجرت بڑھائی، پٹرول، ڈیزل اور بجلی پر جو سبسڈی دی گئی اس پر ایک سال میں پانچ سو ارب روپے کے اخراجات آئے۔ وزیر اعظم کا کہنا تھا کہ سرمنڈواتے ہی اولے پڑنے والی صورت حال ہے، جس کا ہم سامنا کر رہے ہیں مگر ہم ملک کو تمام بحر انوں سے نکالنے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں اور ان شاء اللہ کامیاب بھی ہوں گے۔ شہباز شریف نے چین اور سعودی عرب سے نیل آؤٹ پیکیج کی امید ظاہر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ اگر ہمارے ساتھ تعاون ہوتا ہے تو اچھا ہے ورنہ ہم بھیک کسی سے نہیں مانگیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ نیشنل سکیورٹی کمیٹی کا اجلاس بلا کر امریکہ میں سابق سفیر جو آج کل پاکستان میں ہیں انہیں بھی بلائیں گے۔ عمران نیازی کو جلسے جلوس کرنے کا حق ہے مگر انتشار اور بد امنی کی جانب نہیں جانا چاہیے، ہمارا بیان یہ صرف کام ہے، کام کرتے رہیں گے۔ اُستغنیہ دینان کا فیصلہ ہے مگر ہاؤس اپنا کام کرے گا، ہماری حکومت کے لیے مہنگائی نمبروں مسئلہ ہے، کسب صرف ہم پر نہیں، عمران خان اور ان کے لوگوں پر بھی تھے مگر قانون اجازت دیتا ہے۔ شہباز شریف کا کہنا تھا کہ میڈیا سے متعلق کوئی کالاقانون نہیں بنائیں گے اور نہ ہی آزادی صحافت پر کوئی قدغن ہوگی۔ البتہ سوشل میڈیا نے بڑی بڑی حکومتوں کے ناک میں دم کیا ہوا ہے، جس کو بند کرنے کا معاملہ دیکھیں گے کیسے کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ میاں محمد شہباز شریف نے کہا کہ ڈرون حملے جب خیر پنچو خٹو میں پی ٹی آئی کی حکومت تھی تب بھی ہوتے تھے، ہم نے امریکہ کی یو ایس ایڈمنسٹری تھی جو دس سال بند رکھی، ہم پر تو میڈیا ڈنڈے لے کر پڑتا ہے، وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ گورنر سٹیٹ بینک کی توسیع کے معاملے پر حقائق کو دیکھ کر فیصلہ کریں گے، نواز شریف کو جب ڈاکٹر اجازت دیں گے واپس آجائیں گے، لنگر خانے خیر حضرات چلا رہے ہیں، چلاتے رہیں، ہم بند نہیں کریں گے۔

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چینی کمپنی میونسپل سائلڈ ویسٹ سے بجلی پیدا کرنے کیلئے سرمایہ کاری پر تیار، وانگ زیہائی

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاکستان چائینہ جو انٹ جی بی آر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری نے ملک میں کاروبار کرنے کی لاگت کو کم کرنے کیلئے چین کیساتھ مل کر کم لاگت توانائی پیدا کرنے کے منصوبے شروع کرنے پر زور دیا ہے۔ یہ بات پی سی جے سی سی آئی کے صدر وانگ زیہائی نے گزشتہ روز پی سی جے سی سی آئی میں منعقدہ ایک آن لائن تھنک ٹینک سیشن کے دوران کہی۔ اس موقع پر سینئر نائب صدر احسن چوہدری، سیکرٹری جنرل صلاح الدین حنیف اور پی سی جے سی سی آئی کی ایگزیکٹو کمیٹی کے اراکین کی بڑی تعداد موجود کمپنی شنگھائی کے نمائندوں کیساتھ اپنی حالیہ ملاقات کا حوالہ دیتے ہوئے بتایا کہ چین میں کم قیمت توانائی فضلے کے مواد کو جلانے کے Tianying تھی۔ وانگ زیہائی نے ذریعے پیدا کی جاتی ہے۔ کمپنی کے نمائندوں نے اس بارے میں تفصیلی پریزنٹیشن دی کہ کس طرح چینی کچرے سے توانائی جلانے کا ماڈل پاکستان میں توانائی کے بحران اور جلانے میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے تیار ہے۔ (MSW) بجلی کی پیداوار کیلئے میونسپل سائلڈ ویسٹ 'Tianying' ماحولیاتی آلودگی کا حل ثابت ہو سکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چینی کمپنی پی سی جے سی سی آئی کے سینئر نائب صدر احسن چوہدری نے کہا کہ ہمیں چینی ماہر کمپنیوں کیساتھ مل کر پاکستان میں ویسٹ ٹرانز جی جلانے کا ماڈل اپنانا چاہیے۔

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