



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

April 01-15, 2021

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Data collected and compiled by Rabeeha Safdar, Alishba Aslam and Zohaib Sultan

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April 01, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan invites Hungarian firms to invest in SEZs

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday invited Hungarian companies to enter into joint ventures with Pakistani companies, especially in the special economic zones (SEZs) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Qureshi spoke at the joint online inauguration of the Hungary-Pakistan Trade and Economic Window and the first Hungary-Pakistan business forum along with Hungarian Minister of Foreign affairs and Trade Peter Szijjarto, the Foreign Office said in a statement. Qureshi welcomed Hungarian expertise in the fields of agriculture and food, environment, water resource management, engineering, vocational training and urban planning. He appreciated the improving economic cooperation between the Pakistani and Hungarian businesses despite the Covid-19 pandemic, and highlighted the importance of collaboration in the fight against the novel coronavirus. Szijjarto said that Hungary's policy of opening towards the East will provide a good impetus to Hungary-Pakistan relations. Earlier last week, Hungarian President Janos Ader said that he hoped Hungary and China will continue to strengthen cooperation on anti-pandemic, economy, trade, tourism and military affairs, and to promote the in-depth development of the Hungary-China comprehensive strategic partnership. Ader made the remarks when meeting with visiting Chinese State Councillor and Minister of National Defence Wei Fenghe.

Geo-Politics, China and Pakistan

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

President Xi speech at UN can be summarized around three key messages, 1) world needs a fair and dignity-based system, 2) no more bullying and 3) Human has common future. China's international relation policy is revolving around these key areas. China is refining its' approach to martialize the dream of fair and equality-based system without any fear of being bullied. The policy is being supported by concrete actions. China has launched a comprehensive diplomatic campaign to extend the message of peace and prosperity guided by these key messages. Mr. Wang Yi State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China is on a continuous streak of meetings and visits under the guidance of President Xi Jinping.

The glimpse of new policy and approach is crystal clear from the Alaska meeting. China changed her policy of tolerating criticism to counter the bullying. The top diplomats of China said enough is enough, no more bullying. It was first time that someone spoke to USA in such a tone in front of the top USA leadership. China also, is not in a mood to take any irrational interference in internal affairs. China has shown this commitment by imposing sanctions on European institutes, which were propagating against Xinjiang. It also sanctioned the H&M. EU was expecting that due to Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI) China will not retaliate but China retaliated and told EU, CAI is not favor, it is mutually beneficial agreement for both parties.

Now China has announced sanctions on European and USA people for interference in Hong Kong and Xinjiang.

China is also busy in strengthening its ties with existing friends and forging new partnerships. After the Alaska meeting China has accelerated its efforts and right after the meeting invited Russian foreign minister. The visit concluded with meaningful interaction and consensus on the future cooperation in global arena. It was decided that China and Russia will work together for the fair and reliable global governance.

The next stop for Mr. Wang Yi, was West Asia/Middle East. Mr. Wang met with top leadership of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Turkey, UAE, Oman and Iran. The highlights of the meeting are; 1) KSA supported the stance of China on Xinjiang, 2) high level commitments from countries to expand cooperation under BRI and other initiatives, 3) signing of 25 years strategic partnership agreement with Iran, 4) China showed willingness to facilitate Israel and Palestine dialogue, 5) Middle East led process of peace, security and development for the region and 6) enhancing trade and economic linkages by respecting each other's model of development. Moreover, China has also signed agreement for data security with Arab League.

China being the leading country of Asia and emerging global power of world is at center of criticism, propaganda and unfair treatment. CPEC being flagship project of BRI and sign of bilateral relationship, is equally under fire

From the discussion above we can draw two conclusions. First, China is moving forward by adopting a comprehensive approach and engaging all instruments of international cooperation. Second, change is happening at accelerated pace and China is leading the change. These conclusions have direct relevance for Pakistan because 1) Pakistan is iron brother for China and 2) Pakistan is home to flagship project of BRI, the CPEC. Thus, the counter strategy of USA and allies will have implications for Pakistan. In this backdrop, Pakistan needs to be vigilant and ponder on questions; Is Pakistan ready to embrace the change? What options Pakistan have to embrace change?

The answer to first question is not satisfactory, as policy framework in Pakistan is still dominated by the 20th century dynamics. We are still stuck in cold war era and new world order of USA. We are lagging behind in comprehending the new realities. We believe Pakistan enjoys the same strategic importance as it was during the cold war era. However, the reality is different, with the collapse of USSR, geo-strategic interests of West have been changed. Now the geo-strategic interests of USA and West have been tagged with India, as they see India as a good partner to contain China.

In the new geo-strategic environment USA and West even do not hesitate to squeeze Pakistan on economic front. It is not mere statement or rhetoric; it is evident from the recent actions of USA and its allies. For example, USA and West has launched a smear campaign against CPEC without considering the Pakistan's needs. They are trying to create hurdles to delay the implementation. India has launched a sabotage campaign against the CPEC.

The situation urges Pakistan to be more active and devise new instruments of engagement by keeping in mind new geo-strategic environment. First, the international engagement should be refined according to new realities. For that purpose, Pakistan needs to immediately start a policy discourse with people who understand the new dynamics and are free from Western influence. Unfortunately, right now policy discourse in Pakistan is occupied by Western influenced minds. They try to analyze the rise of Asia, more specifically of China, by putting glasses of West, which leads to misdirected policy. The major reason is that the influencers are educated in West or inspired by Western philosophy or has deep stakes with the West.

Second, Pakistan should redefine its strategic affiliation in the context of rising status of China, geo-strategic interest of USA, QUAD and China containment policy of USA. China being the leading country of Asia and emerging global power of world is at center of criticism, propaganda and unfair treatment. CPEC being flagship project of BRI and sign of bilateral relationship, is equally under fire. Hence, Pakistan needs to come out of good days strategy and act according to the need of the time. First, Pakistan needs to redefine strategic alignment, as USA has clearly shown that India is USA's strategic partner. Second, Pakistan being iron brother of China, should actively plays its role to negate and counter propaganda against China on the issues of Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Taiwan etc. Pakistan should show the facts to world. Pakistan should stand with China in the same way as Pakistan expects China to stand with Pakistan.

Third, Pakistan should treat CPEC as an urgent and prime area of work. It is good to note that Pakistan established CPEC Authority to justify the importance of CPEC. Despite all odds, it is performing good and Pakistan has started to receive the dividend of it. However, Pakistan needs to further strengthen it by analyzing the emerging realities at global and regional levels. We should analyze the different initiatives in region and beyond like Middle Corridor by Turkey, Asian African Growth Corridor by Japan and India, China-Iran strategic agreement, Comprehensive Agreement of Investment, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership etc. On the basis of analyse we should devise the future course of action for CPEC.

Second, CPEC is multi-dimensional program, no single ministry or institution can perform all works. In this context, CPEC Authority (or any institution or ministry) should be structured in such a way that it can take care of all dimensions of projects. Third, all political parties and stakeholder should own it and contribute to strengthen it. They should understand that positions and personalities are temporary, and institutions are permanent. For strengthening CPEC Authority, we can learn from China's Leading Group philosophy or restructuring of National Development and Reform Commission of China.

Lastly, Pakistan needs to realize the urgency and pace of events. Pakistan should take these steps immediately, as it is pre-requisite to place the country at right place in changing dynamics. In nutshell, Pakistan needs minds, which can analyze the situation, devise policies and actions by putting on lens of Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/740599/geo-politics-china-and-pakistan/>

US proposal for a parallel BRI project

S M Hali

Last week, while talking to reporters, United States President Joe Biden disclosed that he suggested to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in a phone call that democratic countries should have an infrastructure plan to rival China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The US President's Biden's remarks came in the wake of his statement, a day earlier, when he said that he would prevent China from passing the US to become the most powerful country in the world, pledging to invest heavily to ensure the US prevails in the ever-growing rivalry between the world's two largest economies.

China's BRI is a multitrillion-dollar infrastructure scheme launched in 2013 by President Xi Jinping involving development and investment initiatives that would stretch from East Asia to Europe. The project would significantly expand China's economic and political influence but also ensure the economic progress of the countries that have joined it.

The US, Japan, Australia and India have raised concerns regarding the efficacy and transparency of the BRI. Biden's concerns regarding China's BRI notwithstanding, the US President plans to unveil a multi trillion-dollar plan to upgrade US infrastructure next week. He said this would ensure increased US investment in promising new technologies, such as quantum computing, artificial intelligence and biotechnology.

While airing its concerns and seeking to encourage private sector-investment for overseas projects to rival those of the BRI, Washington has yet to be able to convince countries that it can offer an alternative to the state-backed economic vision put forward by Beijing under BRI.

The concept of a parallel BRI by Biden is not new. During her 2011 tour of India, the then US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had unveiled the idea of the US New Silk Road (NSR) Strategy. She had declared:

If Afghanistan is firmly embedded in the economic life of the region, it will be better able to attract new investments, benefit from its resource potential, provide increasing economic opportunities and hope for its people

[Let's build] an international web and network of economic and transit connections. That means building more rail lines, highways, [and] energy infrastructure, like the proposed pipeline to run from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan, Pakistan into India (TAPI). It means upgrading the facilities at border crossings. And it certainly means removing the bureaucratic barriers and other impediments to the free flow of goods and people.

Hillary Clinton's idea was perhaps an extension of the Northern Distribution Network (NDN), which comprises a series of commercially based logistic arrangements connecting Baltic and Caspian ports with Afghanistan via Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus. The NSR initiative is

focused on Afghanistan as a main hub for economic integration and transportation. It was expected that the Silk Road initiative would help provide the much-needed support to Afghanistan after US troops departed the region in 2014. Hindsight is 20/20 but the US-led NSR initiative envisaged:

If Afghanistan is firmly embedded in the economic life of the region, it will be better able to attract new investments, benefit from its resource potential, provide increasing economic opportunities and hope for its people.

Despite skepticism, a number of important steps toward the US-led NSR initiative have already been completed. At the Tokyo Symposium on the Silk Road in 2012, US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Geoffrey Pyatt, claimed:

The New Silk Road is already being built. Electricity from Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan is powering small businesses and government buildings in Afghanistan; rail connections are being built between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan and a new rail line from the Uzbek border to Mazar-e-Sharif has been completed; Turkmen, Pakistani, and Indian officials have finalised a pricing agreement for the TAPI gas pipeline. Overall, the US Government identifies about 40 infrastructure projects that it considers important parts of the NSR initiative.

Hopefully Biden was referring to the US-led NSR.

As far as China's mega project is concerned, over 100 countries have signed agreements with China to cooperate in BRI projects like railways, ports, highways and other infrastructure. According to a Refinitiv database, as of mid-last year, more than 2,600 projects at a cost of \$3.7 trillion were linked to the initiative. However, China said last year that about 20 percent of BRI projects had been "seriously affected" by the coronavirus pandemic.

There has also been pushback against BRI from countries that have criticized projects as costly and unnecessary. Beijing scaled back some plans after several countries sought to review, cancel or scale down commitments, citing concerns about costs, erosion of sovereignty, and corruption.

For the US, there are two options, one that more thought goes into Biden's concept of a parallel BRI. It would perhaps be more pragmatic and cost effective for the US to join China's New Silk Road Project, sit on its Board of Directors, ensure transparency as well as the equitable distribution of profits, rather than reinventing the wheel.

The key factor in all these projects is peace and stability in Afghanistan, for which numerous nations are striving but none more than the US and Pakistan. The US wants to extricate itself from a war in which it has been involved in the longest, while Pakistan continues to face terror attacks being launched by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and the surrogates of the Islamic State, who are entrenched in Afghanistan.

Development projects in the region, BRI, China Pakistan Economic Corridor or TAPI, all can proceed smoothly once Afghanistan becomes peaceful.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/740598/us-proposal-for-a-parallel-bri-project/>

Baloch leader says dreams have come true because of CPEC

Baloch leader Ahmed Iqbal Baloch, who is chairman of Pakistan's Visionary Group appreciated the closeness brought by CPEC and the Belt & Road Initiative (BRI).

“The Chinese President Xi Jinping gave an excellent road map not only for China and Pakistan but also for the whole world. His idea establishes a good platform to the world regarding economy, trade, cultural exchanges, etc.,” Baloch praised the initiative put forward by Xi Jinping in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

Recording impression of his long association with China and the deep commitment of the Baluch people with the CPEC, Ahmed Iqbal said, he was very happy seeing that their Prime Minister Imran Khan is working hard to lead Pakistan into a powerful country and bring more development to Pakistan. In the coming days, he hoped China-Pakistan ties will definitely deepen because of more connectivity in various areas.

Some people have no idea that Gwadar, currently the shining pearl along China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), didn't belong to Pakistan until 1958. “There are so many people made efforts to bring Gwadar to Pakistan.

Seeing the speedy development of Gwadar, “my dream in the past that China one day becomes a prosperous and powerful country in the world has come true. Pakistan is also doing quite well,” Baloch told CEN with gratification and pride.

Visionary Group is doing business related to CPEC in a wide scope including media, social club, housing scheme, etc. Especially in the media area, VSH News TV under Visionary Group has produced many high-quality programs together with CEN like The Belt and Road: Face to Face and When in China. “When we talk about CPEC, there is a question of how we can bring more and more connectivity and make people become closer with each other. Good media definitely bring things in a proper direction. We are working with Chinese companies to show what development is actually going on in Pakistan through CPEC,” he said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/740621/baloch-leader-says-dreams-have-come-true-because-of-cpec/>

Overseas Pakistanis keen to bring \$10m investment in CPEC SEZs

Overseas Pakistanis from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) have shown interest to bring \$ 10million investment in different potential sectors including food industry and food processing in Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC) Faisalabad.

The AIIC Special Economic Zone under the framework of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is offering one window shop for foreign and local investors to bring investment in the different sectors, head of delegation of Overseas Pakistani Investors from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Chaudhry Muhammad Afzal told APP here on Wednesday.

The 13 members of delegation of overseas Pakistani investors from KSA visited the AIIC in Faisalabad to see the future investment opportunities and negotiated with the Chairman of Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq.

Head of delegation Chaudhry Muhammad Afzal said that overseas Pakistanis especially those settled in KSA are more interested to bring investment in different sectors including food and food processing, farming, Oil and Petrochemical, medical and medical equipment, Pharmaceutical, tyres manufacturing particularly in the CPEC Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

He said, “We are demanding 200 acre land in the SEZ on 30 years lease and on 10 percent down payment for decreasing the cost of doing business in multi sectors”.

He said that the delegation of investors want to acquire land in Allama Iqbal Industrial City (AIIC) to establish their industries in different sectors and because of the more high-quality business environment and facilities offered by the government in SEZs.

He said that the AIIC is the largest industrial zone among prioritized SEZs in terms of area with 3217 acres and the Allama Iqbal SEZ has advantage of being adjacent to M3-Industrial city which comprises of large number of projects including agriculture and food, pharmaceuticals, information technology, chemicals and automotive.

He said that already Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have signed the agreement of \$9billion investment in Petrochemicals in Gawadar and now a number of overseas Pakistani inventors not only from Saudi Arab but from European Union (EU) countries are also interested to bring investment in this potential sector.

Afzal said that after the execution of the mega project of CPEC, overseas Pakistanis are hopeful for economic emergence and industrial growth of Pakistan to provide state of the art facilities for investors in the local SEZs.

He said that CPEC is a game changer project not only for Pakistan but it will play the role of catalyst for regional and global trade by provide economic integration between the world markets.

He was of the view that economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia possess great potential and there is dire need for Overseas, Pakistani investors to focus on SEZs.

Replying to another question he said, “We want government of Pakistan to relax the duties on the import of machinery for overseas investors, who want to bring investment in Pakistan and establish new industry.”

He said that the money transaction is also a major issue for overseas investors. There is a need to establish a banking channel after the negotiation of central banks.

He said that there is a need to promote small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan, overseas Pakistanis are much interested in SMEs, which are a major driver to create employment opportunities in any economy.

He said a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was on card between Pakistan and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which helped boost trade between Pakistan and the entire Gulf region. He said that signing of Preferential Trade Agreement (PTAA) between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is also expected in near future.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/740872/overseas-pakistanis-keen-to-bring-10m-investment-in-cpec-sezs/>

Dawn News

Pakistan receives 560,000 doses of vaccine from China

Ikram Junaidi

- Active Covid cases cross 50,000 mark for a third time
- PM rules out general lockdown
- Sindh CM seeks ban on inter-provincial travel

ISLAMABAD: As the number of active cases crossed the 50,000 mark for the third time since the pandemic started in February last year, Pakistan on Wednesday received 560,000 more doses of Covid-19 vaccine from China.

Another consignment of 500,000 doses is set to arrive on Thursday (today) after which the number of doses received from China will surpass the figure of 2.5 million.

While Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday ruled out a general lockdown in the country, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah suggested a ban on inter-provincial travel to break the chain of the dreaded virus.

Data released by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) showed that 4,757 people contracted coronavirus and 78 lost their lives over the past 24 hours. The number of active cases reached 50,397. As many as 3,912 patients were admitted to hospital across the country and 412 ventilators were in use.

During the first wave of Covid-19 the number of active cases surpassed the figure of 50,000 in June 2020. It later started decreasing and finally dropped to less than 6,000 in September last year. The cases again started increasing during the second wave in October and surpassed the 50,000 mark in December last year.

The number of cases again started decreasing and reached 16,000 in February this year. The cases again started increasing due to which the third wave was declared and on March 31 the number surpassed the figure of 50,000 for the third time.

Vaccine doses

As many as 560,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine arrived in Pakistan from China on Wednesday and another consignment of 500,000 doses is set to reach on Thursday.

The vaccine was received by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan at Noor Khan Airbase.

Spokesperson for the Ministry of Health Sajid Shah, while talking to Dawn, said it was the first consignment of procured vaccine. “There are 500,000 doses of Sinopharm and 60,000 doses of Cansino Bio vaccine. We will receive 500,000 more doses of Sinopharm from China on Thursday,” he said.

China had earlier donated 1.5 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

Dr Sultan said Pakistan was thankful to China which always supported through thick and thin. “It is the job of the government to save the lives of people and it will ensure uninterrupted supply of vaccine,” he added.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Khan on Wednesday ruled out a general lockdown while acknowledging that the country was going through a third wave of the pandemic.

“We have to adopt a balanced policy where the spread of the virus can be prevented and where the poor man and the country’s economy are least affected,” Mr Khan told a national coordinating committee meeting.

He said he would direct the government to reinforce the mask mandates.

Inter-provincial travel ban Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah suggested that the federal government should impose a ban on inter-provincial travel to break the chain of the dreaded virus.

Talking to media persons after appearing before an accountability court in Islamabad in connection with fake bank accounts case, Mr Shah said the prime minister had called a meeting of the NCOC, but he was not timely conveyed. He said he was informed about the meeting through phone call on Wednesday and, therefore, it was not possible for him to attend it as he had to attend the court proceedings.

The chief minister said that despite resistance from the Centre, the Sindh government had decided to go for a lockdown. He said that while other countries were swiftly vaccinating their citizens, it was being done in Pakistan with a snail’s pace. According to him, Pakistan is entering into the crisis, while other countries have overcome this.

Mr Shah said Pakistan’s economy was worst in the entire region, adding that the finance minister had been sacked and the government itself accused him of causing inflation.

He said the Sindh government had allocated funds for procurement of Covid-19 vaccine. He stressed the need for devising an effective strategy to combat coronavirus.

The chief minister appeared before the accountability court in connection with a NAB reference related to misuse of authority and award of contracts without feasibility which caused a loss of Rs8 billion to the national exchequer.

The reference, an offshoot of the fake bank accounts case, accused CM Shah of using his influence and releasing funds for Nooriabad power plant in violation of rules.

The chief minister contended that the plant was producing electricity at cheaper rates and still in working condition and the people of Karachi were getting electricity through this power plant.

The NAB prosecutor requested the court to issue arrest warrants for those who absented themselves from the court proceedings.

CM Shah said he did not receive the court's summons and learnt about this case through media reports.

The defence counsel asked accountability judge Syed Asghar Ali to repeat the summons to all the accused persons.

Subsequently, the court adjourned the hearing till April 19.

Malik Asad also contributed to this story

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1615700/pakistan-receives-560000-doses-of-vaccine-from-china>

China has produced 17 anti-Covid vaccines: diplomat

Saleem Shahid

QUETTA: Chinese Con-sul General for Sindh and Balochistan Li Bijian has said that his country has prepared 17 Covid-19 vaccines.

Speaking during his visit to Quetta Press Club on Wednesday, he said four of the 17 vaccines had been approved for the commercial purposes by the Chinese scientists and health officials.

Chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Company Zhang Baozhong, Adviser to the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Bayzed Khan Kasi and other Chinese diplomats were also present on the occasion.

Referring to Pakistan-China bilateral and diplomatic relations, Mr Li said that the Chinese government had provided 1.5 million doses of anti-coronavirus vaccine so far and more consignments of the vaccine would be reaching Pakistan soon. "There is no after-effect of using Chinese vaccine," he said.

The Chinese envoy said that his country gave great importance to the relations with Pakistan.

He dispelled a perception about slow work on the ongoing development projects launched under the CPEC in Gwadar and other areas of Balochistan and said that some sections of the press and social media were giving a wrong impression in this regard. He said that the first phase of the

CPEC had been completed and now projects launched in the second phase, which were based on socio-economics of the mega project, were under implementation.

Mr Li said that work on the Gwadar international airport and other projects were in progress and these projects would be completed soon as the contractors were asked to accelerate the pace of work on them. He, however, said that there were some technical difficulties in the completion of the Gwadar international airport which would be removed soon and expressed the hope that the airport would be completed by next year.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1615719/china-has-produced-17-anti-covid-vaccines-diplomat>

Dunya News

Hammad declares CPEC as most important project for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Industries and Production, Muhammad Hammad Azhar on Thursday said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a project of highest importance for Pakistan to achieve the agenda of economic development and prosperity. Federal Minister for Finance expressed these views while chairing a meeting regarding economic and industrial cooperation under China Pakistan Economic Cooperation (CPEC) at the Finance Division here, said a press release issued by Ministry of Finance. Federal Minister for Privatization Muhammad Mian Soomro, Chairman CPEC Authority Lt. Gen (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa, Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China Nong Rong, Federal Secretary Finance Division and Federal Secretary Privatization Commission were attended the meeting. Hammad Azhar said that it will enable the country to enhance industrial production, upgrade energy and communication infrastructure and improve connectivity with the region. The CPEC would generate abundant employment and investment opportunities in Pakistan and beyond, he added. The Finance Minister stressed the need for the early completion of projects falling under the umbrella of CPEC. The Finance Minister lauded China for its continuous support in provision of COVID-19 vaccine for fighting the disease effectively. He appreciated the continuous and unwavering support of China that has extended to Pakistan during testing times. China-Pakistan bilateral relationship is an epitome of enduring friendship and brotherhood, he concluded.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese Ambassador outlined that CPEC is of immense importance for the Chinese companies and will expand and strengthen economic cooperation for achieving common objectives that guarantee a prosperous future for both the nations. The Chairman CPEC Authority assured full support and assistance to the Chinese Ambassador for expediting progress in the communication and transportation sectors on the occasion.

<https://dunyaNews.tv/en/Business/595348-Hammad-declares-CPEC-as-most-important-project-for-Pakistan>

The Express Tribune

PM Imran's letter to Modi shows wisdom, vision: Chinese scholar

BEIJING: Prime Minister Imran Khan's letter to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi showed Pakistan's good wishes and unremitting efforts aimed at enabling durable peace and stability in South Asia. "This letter depicted the wisdom and vision of PM Khan", these views were expressed by Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law and former military diplomat in South Asian countries on Thursday. "I remember that as soon as Imran Khan came to power in August 2018, he expressed his strong desire to live in harmony with India. In the past two-and-a-half years, Pakistan has repeatedly expressed this desire and made substantial efforts to this end. Pakistan's efforts for regional peace have been highly praised and unanimously appreciated by the international community," he said in a statement. "As we all know, the Kashmir issue is the core issue between India and Pakistan, and also the most intractable issue affecting regional peace and stability. Therefore, lasting peace and stability in South Asia depend on the proper settlement of all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan, especially the Jammu and Kashmir dispute," he added. He said over the years, the Narendra Modi regime has been undermining relations with neighbouring countries and regional peace and stability, which is obvious to all in the international community. Therefore, he said, India must first take concrete actions to create a favourable environment for constructive and fruitful dialogue with Pakistan, which is crucial. Otherwise, Pakistan will not be able to move forward, he added. China, he said, has noted that Pakistan is focusing on development and upholding peaceful coexistence with regional countries. China has also noted that Pakistan is actively calling on world leaders, especially those in South Asia, to abandon hatred, prejudice and religious extremism and jointly safeguard regional peace and prosperity, he added. Chinese scholar said that working for peace and development is the common aspiration and expectation of the countries in the region. China supports Pakistan's adherence to the foreign policies of peace and good neighbourliness and is firmly committed to promoting the process of regional peace, and is pleased with Pakistan's recent positive initiatives with India, he further said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2292705/pm-imrans-letter-to-modi-shows-wisdom-vision-chinese-scholar>

How can Pakistan, Russia and China jointly stabilise West Asia?

Andrew Korybko

The prestigious Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) hosted a webinar on Monday with Pakistan's Strategic Vision Institute (SVI) titled "Russia-Pakistan Cooperation: Regional Interests And Global Context". The event saw the participation of many prominent people, including current Pakistani Ambassador to Russia Shafqat Ali Khan, former Pakistani Ambassador to Russia Qazi Khalilullah, and former Pakistani Ambassadors Tariq Osman Hyder and Arif Kamal, among other distinguished Russian and Pakistani guests. Ambassador Khan spoke about how both countries are gradually building strategic trust, while former Ambassador

Hyder published an op-ed on Wednesday at The Nation titled “Pak-Russia Relations: The Way Forward” in which he expanded on some of the insight that he shared during the webinar.

Its former Ambassador Kamal’s proposal, however, that forms the basis of the present analysis. He suggested that Pakistan jointly coordinate its diplomatic activity in West Asia alongside Russia and China in order to optimize the potential for normalizing the tense relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which would in turn greatly stabilize the Gulf if successful. This idea builds upon RIAC and SVI’s report from March 2020 about “Russia and Pakistan in The Middle East: Approaches To Security In The Gulf”. It also seems to have been inspired by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s recent visit to the region where he importantly clinched a 25-year strategic partnership deal with Iran that will see the People’s Republic invest a whopping \$400 billion into the Islamic Republic. Former Ambassador Kamal is uniquely qualified to table the proposal that he did. According to his recently published memoirs titled “Reminiscences Of My Wanderings”, he previously served as Pakistan’s envoy to Jordan (2003-2007) and Qatar (1999-2003), prior to which he was its Consul General in Saudi Arabia’s Jeddah (1995-1998), served as Desk Officer Iran at the Foreign Office (1979-1981), and completed his first-ever overseas diplomatic assignment in Kuwait (1974-1978). He can therefore be considered one of Pakistan’s most knowledgeable experts on the region and even global affairs more broadly seeing as how he later chaired Global Studies at the National Defence University’s Institute for Strategic Studies, Research & Analysis (ISSRA, 2007-2017). Upon contemplating it, his trilateral diplomatic coordination proposal is very sensible.

Pakistan and Russia are both pursuing complementary “balancing” strategies that emphasise connectivity-driven “economic diplomacy” over all else. This is evidenced by Pakistan’s multipolar grand strategy that was recently unveiled at the inaugural Islamabad Security Dialogue in mid-March and Russia’s Greater Eurasian Partnership. Both countries also enjoy excellent relations with all countries in the Gulf, which enables them to mediate between the relevant parties. As for China, its Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) is the definition of economic pragmatism and the People’s Republic has always pursued balanced relations with all of its partners. Former Ambassador Kamal wisely noted during his speech at the RIAC-SVI webinar that including China into any potential Pakistani-Russian diplomatic coordination initiative would add greater credibility to it. This is because China commands impressive economic influence, especially in the Gulf in light of Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s trip there and the 25-year strategic partnership deal that he clinched with Iran, which could incentivize all stakeholders to de-escalate tensions in the interests of Chinese-led regional development. Put differently, Pakistan is the Gulf’s traditional diplomatic partner, Russia is its newfound non-traditional one, while China is the world-changing economic force to be reckoned with which could help sweeten whatever diplomatic deal that they might all jointly propose. It’s of course too early to talk about what form this could take, but discussions should hopefully be held on former Ambassador Kamal’s proposal at the earliest possibility, even if they’re first done discretely behind closed doors and/or through Track II diplomacy. The first step in this direction would be for Pakistanis, Russians, and Chinese to talk about this idea among themselves in order to

determine the maximum extent of their commonality of interests in the Gulf and the most realistic means through which they could jointly advance them. After that, the second step would be to gauge the region's interests in their proposed trilateral diplomatic coordination initiative, following which they could add relevant details to it upon the conclusion of their consultations with all stakeholders. The third step would then be to publicly unveil their initiative, ideally with some tangible proposals in mind that would be acceptable to the parties involved. Although it's an ambitious timeline, all of this could prospectively be completed before the end of the year if the political will is present.

In summary, this week's RIAC-SVI webinar was indeed a milestone for Track II diplomacy between Pakistan and Russia, especially when considering the political prominence of some of its participants. Although former Ambassador Kamal's visionary proposal for trilateral diplomatic coordination between Pakistan, Russia, and China didn't receive the same coverage as others' presentations, it arguably deserves to be among the most seriously considered of all the ideas that were tabled during that event. This expert on West Asia has a keen understanding of regional dynamics and global affairs after his decades of service to Pakistan. He identified an amazing opportunity for everyone, and it would therefore be in Pakistan's, Russia's, China's, and the Gulf's interests to have their diplomats and experts actively work towards turning his proposal into reality.

<https://tribune.com.pk/article/97345/how-can-pakistan-russia-and-china-jointly-stabilise-west-asia>

The Nation

Pakistan-China comm networks urged to deepen cooperation

ISLAMABAD-China and Pakistan should bridge the gap in information, knowledge and communication capacity between the two countries and promote sustainable development by deepening cooperation in think tanks, culture, tourism and media.

Historically, the relationship between Pakistan and China has been very good. In today's world, building a mutually beneficial and win-win partnership is the key to promoting coordinated development. Therefore, two-way communication and cooperation are of great significance.

The above views were expressed by Mr. Munir Ahmed, Executive Director of Development Communications Network in an interview with Gwadar Pro recently.

He further mentioned that 20 years ago, communication played a critical role in social development and its impact is ongoing. "Communication skills and tools enable stakeholders to stimulate scale, potential and resources to connect more closely to achieve specific goals. In today's information age, it is all the more imperative to develop the network to provide information to the public in order to get more support and credence."

Referring to the necessity of developing networks in Pakistan, Mr. Munir Ahmed stated that Pakistan is a pluralistic country with different philosophies, languages, etc. It is vital for the

whole nation to have a vibrant network, communicate with vision and power, and connect society and people. “Unlike the lingua franca, packaging information into the language of common people is a two-way communication, one is to communicate with the people and the other is to convey the voice of the community to decision makers, national and international stakeholders, while the network is of great benefit to communicate in both ways.”

Mr. Munir Ahmed affirmed that significant progress had been made in the connectivity of communication network infrastructure between both countries. “In this regard, think tanks can promote strategic communication and assist in implementation.” He said, “Through the exchange of visits by experts and holding seminars, discussions and exchanges on the current situation and development prospects of political, economic and cultural relations between the two countries are greatly conducive to in-depth understanding of Pakistan and China.”

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-01/page-14/detail-1>

April 02, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan-China cooperation in citrus industry untapped: scientists

Pak-China cooperation in citrus industry is untapped, says Pakistani scientists of Citrus Research Institute Sargodha (CRIS), according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. They contended that scientists from both the countries can exchange necessary information about various varieties of citrus food.

“China is helping us a lot in research work and Pakistan’s citrus industry is trying to obey the Chinese Laws for import which are called SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary),” said Ihsan ul Haq, Principal Scientist of Citrus Research Institute Sargodha (CRIS), Pakistan while taking interview with Gwadar Pro.

Take Malta – the red blood orange of Palai valley, Malakand district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) – as an example. Pakistan produces more than 30 types of different fruits of which citrus fruit is leading among all fruits and constitutes about 30% of the total fruit production. Among all these citrus fruits, Malta is considered the best due to their distinctive aroma, sweet taste, reddish color and premium quality.

Malta has got fame for more than 50 years, and “many outsiders used to come and purchase it directly from the fields,” said Rehmatullah, a local packing labourer. Every year as winter arrives, Malta is ripe for picking. From December to next March, farm-hands can be seen plucking Malta of all sizes and shade from trees and grading, packing and transporting them.

Even though the fruit has not lost its charm, the local Malta plantation is facing challenges. Akbar Hayat, Scientific Officer of CRIS, told Gwadar Pro that “from nursery to harvesting, almost every step, there is a need for improvement and innovation”.

First, although the sandy loamy soil of Palai is suitable for cultivating citrus, local growers are troubled by the lack of a proper irrigation system, fertilizers and so on.” Our farmer is using traditional methods to farm citrus,” Akbar Hayat added. The locals should use innovative techniques in management. “For example, the method for irrigation used in Pakistan is flooding, but the crops are badly affected by this.” With a high efficient drip irrigation system, “it could save water and prevent the roots of plants from rotting.”

“When it comes to fertilizers, we should also use decomposing natural fertilizers. And our post-harvest techniques, the transport system are also in need of improvement,” noted Akbar Hayat.” CRIS is working to provide required input and expertise to growers that can raise the quantity and quality of citrus fruits,” Ihsan ul Haq noted.

Second, the lack of access and facilities to export the products limited Malta’s cultivation to local consumption instead of global sale and consumption. Regarding Malta plantation as a source of income, many locals have been doing this business for dozens of years. As per Abdul Khaliq who contracted an orchard for Rs. 28 lakhs, they sell Malta in nearby markets like Dargai, Batkhela, Malakin, and the production of Malta is yet to meet the demand of big cities.

Ihsan ul Haq explained that Pakistan doesn’t have much access to western markets because their laws are very strict and Pakistani farmers are unable to produce the wanted quality of citrus fruits like seedless Kino. Therefore, Pakistan’s main export destinations are Russia, Gulf Countries, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines.

As per Citrus Value Chain(s): A Survey of Pakistan Citrus Industry written by Muhammad Imran Siddique and Elena Garnevska, a large part of citrus fruit produced in Pakistan is mostly consumed locally without much value addition; however, 10-12% of the total production is exported after value addition. “By improving the quality, we can increase our exports by up to 30-50 percent,” Ihsan ul Haq added.

To solve the problems mentioned above, Mohammad Hayyan, CEO of CEMCO Management and Engineering Services Private Ltd, mentioned that it will be a blessing for the locals if solar panels or tube wells on solar panels are installed there because it helps tackle the problem of water scarcity and the shrinking of underground water level.

Also, by meeting the quality certification standards, exports can be increased particularly to the European countries, the Middle East, South East Asia, China and Central Asia markets. According to Ihsan ul Haq, China has a vast gene pool and technology and Pakistan’s aim is to adopt that technology in every field so that they can improve both production capacity and its quality. “We have to develop cold chain infrastructure if we want to export to China,” he added.

“We keep on interacting with Citrus Research Institute (CRI), China,” said Akbar Hayat, Scientific Officer of CRIS, adding that CRIS is comparing China’s gene pool with Pakistan’s so that scientists from both countries can exchange the varieties. Unluckily, there is no project going on right now. “We planned a tour to China but it halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If it had happened then we would have seen lots of improvement in this field,” he added.

“CRIS is working hard every day to increase the fruit’s production and quality. In the near future, we will export it with full confidence and command,” said Muhammad Asim, Scientific Officer of CRIS.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/741197/pakistan-china-cooperation-in-citrus-industry-untapped-scientists/>

Dawn News

Searle, Chinese firm strike deal to make Covid vaccine in Pakistan

Imran Ayub

KARACHI: A local pharmaceutical company has signed a deal with a Chinese giant that allowed it to supply and produce an upcoming Covid-19 vaccine in Pakistan, an official announcement said on Thursday.

This has emerged in a letter written by M/s Searle Company Limited to the Pakistan Stock Exchange, saying it had concluded an agreement with China’s Livzon Mapharm Inc. for manufacturing novel coronavirus vaccine (V-01) in Pakistan.

“Searle Company has concluded an exclusive licensing and supply agreement with Livzon Mapharm Inc. for the Recombinant Novel Coronavirus Vaccine (V-01). The licensing agreement also covers the manufacturing transition of (V-01) in Pakistan,” the company said.

The communique suggested that the vaccine was in the final phases of its trial which suggested promising results. The company expressed the hope that it would add value to overall exercise against the pandemic.

During its trials V-01 has shown promising results

“The Recombinant Novel Covid-19 Vaccine (V-01) developed by Livzon has shown promising results in phase I & II clinical trial,” the letter said. “The phase III clinical study will include multiple countries and enroll more than 20,000 subjects, with the aim to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and immunogenicity of V-01 programme.”

The company said that among the many new Covid-19 vaccine projects being developed around the world, V-01 had many potential advantages such as strong safety profile, high neutralising antibody titer in vivo, long durability, and easy to scale up for manufacturing. “Searle is confident that in the existing pandemic, the relevant authorities will take up the matter on [an] urgent basis & support for fast-track approval to carry out phase III clinical trials in Pakistan,” it added.

Financial market experts and health professionals believe that the growing health crisis and the immense need of better cure amid one after another wave of the coronavirus pandemic have emerged as fresh opportunities for the pharma industry to capitalise on and explore business opportunities, mainly for healthcare and medication.

The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan has approved four vaccines for use in the country — China’s Sinopharm and Cansino, Russia’s Sputnik V and Oxford University’s AstraZeneca.

“It would be first of its kind if any of the pharmaceutical companies brings production authority of any approved vaccine,” said a pharmaceutical industry official.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1615940/searle-chinese-firm-strike-deal-to-make-covid-vaccine-in-pakistan>

Pakistan, China mull bilateral framework under CPEC

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are expected to sign a bilateral framework agreement on industrial cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) even though Islamabad has declined negotiated divestment of Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) to Chinese firms.

Informed sources said a Chinese delegation has been engaging with Pakistan authorities for a government-to-government (G2G) deal on the country’s largest industrial complex which shutdown operations in June 2015.

In this regard, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Industries and Production Muhammad Hammad Azhar presided over a meeting on economic and industrial cooperation under CPEC to address outstanding issues. The sale of PSM to Chinese state-run firms under the G2G arrangement also came up for discussions.

The sources told Dawn that during the meeting, also attended by privatization minister and secretaries of finance and privatization, authorities explained to the Chinese side that G2G arrangement on PSM was not possible under the country’s privatization law and the entity was now on top of the divestment list and at an advance stage.

Beijing aiming for G2G deal on Pakistan Steel Mills

Sources said the Framework Agreement on Industrial Cooperation was earlier expected to be signed during the Joint Cooperation Committee of the meeting tentatively scheduled in the last week of March.

An official statement said Federal Minister for Privatization Muhammad Mian Soomro, CPEC Authority Chairman Lt Gen Retd Asim Saleem Bajwa, Chinese Ambassador in Islamabad Nong Rong and Federal Secretaries for Finance and Privatization Commission attended the meeting.

Mr Hammad said that CPEC was of “utmost importance for Pakistan” as it would enhance industrial production, upgrade energy and communication infrastructure and improve connectivity with the region. CPEC would generate abundant employment and investment opportunities in Pakistan and beyond, he added.

The Chinese ambassador, who led the delegation, also agreed that CPEC was “of immense importance for the Chinese companies” and will expand and strengthen economic cooperation for achieving common objectives and guarantee a prosperous future for both the nations.

The finance minister “stressed the need for the early completion of projects falling under the umbrella of CPEC” and noted that “time was of essence in meeting project deadlines so that the economic benefits could reach to the people of both the countries and contribute towards overall economic growth and development”.

Potential profitable enterprise?

Last year, the government had decided to sack 100 per cent of about 9,350 employees to facilitate the privatization of PSM. According to an old summary of the Ministry of Industries and Production, the “failure of the country’s mother industry was an unending story of unchecked corruption, inefficiency, and over-employment”.

The Pak-China Investment Bank had declared in 2015 that with an initial investment of \$289m (about Rs29 billion), provision of uninterrupted electricity supply and a new management, Pakistan Steel had the potential of becoming a profitable enterprise given its ideal location, market and facilities.

The country’s largest industrial complex could generate the funds required for expanding its production capacity to three million tonnes, the bank said. It further proposed a development and expansion plan with a capital investment of \$288.77m in the first phase, \$300.4m in the second and \$296.62m in the third phase. The total investment required was \$885.8m, or approximately Rs100bn.

On the basis of field surveys, extensive data and in-depth discussions, the financial advisers had concluded that the PSM was a steel enterprise which had a high starting point, complete process chain and the advantages of resource acquisition and regional market.

The advisers were of the opinion that because it was located near a coastal city with over 20m population and close to the 50,000-tonne bulk cargo wharf relying on raw material and fuels import, the PSM owned rare logistic cost advantages. With the expansion of its production capacity in future, its harbour could also be used to ship products to the rest of the market.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1615959/pakistan-china-mull-bilateral-framework-under-cpec>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan asks China to bid for PSM

Pakistan on Thursday urged China to take part in competitive bidding for buying Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) and reiterated its earlier decision of excluding the closed industrial unit from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework. The issue of selling the country’s largest industrial unit to China under a government-to-government deal was discussed during a meeting between Finance Minister Hammad Azhar and Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong, a government

official told The Express Tribune. During the 9th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC meeting, Pakistan had given an understanding to China that it wanted to include PSM in the CPEC framework. Projects that are executed under the CPEC framework are not open to all international investors and only Chinese investors can participate in the bidding process.

However, over a year ago the government decided to keep PSM outside of the CPEC framework based on input from the then finance adviser, Abdul Hafeez Shaikh. Pakistan is keen to seek Chinese participation in the competitive bidding process as it wants to sell the entity that had been closed six years ago. However, sources said that China's position on the matter was that the PSM revival project may be developed under the Joint Working Group on Industrial Cooperation of the JCC. Metallurgical Corporation of China Limited was keen to invest in the steel mill. However, the officials said that Pakistan had finally informed Chinese authorities that the mill would be sold through the competitive bidding process. Prime Minister Imran Khan is eager to complete the PSM transaction at the earliest but the matter is moving at painstakingly slow pace. Finance Minister Hammad Azhar said on Wednesday that bidding for PSM privatization would be held this week. This week, the Ministry of Privatization took notice of the situation and called for resolving the issues related to the formation of a new subsidiary, use of jetty and conveyor that were delaying the privatization process. During the meeting, both sides also discussed industrial cooperation and progress on the Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Sources said that Pakistan was keen to sign a framework agreement on industrial cooperation during the next JCC meeting. However, the Chinese authorities were not willing to enter into another framework agreement. Pakistan is trying to show progress on at least three SEZs - Rashakai SEZ in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, Allama Iqbal SEZ in Punjab and Dhabeji SEZ in Sindh. The development agreement for Rashakai SEZ had been concluded in September last year, however, there were delays in installation of allied facilities and introduction of preferential policies. Hammad Azhar stated that CPEC was of utmost importance for Pakistan, according to a Ministry of Finance press release. It would enable the country to enhance industrial production, upgrade energy and communication infrastructure and improve connectivity with the region, it added. CPEC would generate abundant employment and investment opportunities in Pakistan and beyond, said Azhar. The Chinese ambassador outlined that CPEC was of immense importance for the Chinese companies and would expand and strengthen economic cooperation for achieving common objectives and guarantee a prosperous future for both the nations. The finance minister stressed the need for early completion of projects falling under the umbrella of CPEC. Time was of essence in meeting project deadlines so that economic benefits could reach the people of both countries and contribute to the overall economic growth and development, he stressed.

The CPEC Authority chairman assured full support and assistance to the Chinese ambassador for expediting progress in the communication and transportation sectors on the occasion. Towards the end, the finance minister lauded China for its continuous support in provision of Covid-19 vaccine for fighting the disease effectively.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2292737/pakistan-asks-china-to-bid-for-psm>

Make CPEC greener

Syed Mohammad Ali

It is surprising to note that Pakistan has not been invited to the climate summit organised by President Joe Biden, which will bring together 40 world leaders including those from India, Bangladesh, and Bhutan. Pakistan should certainly have been on the list of countries invited to this high-profile summit scheduled for late April, which intends to signal Biden's resolve to recommit the United States to address climate change. Climate change poses a grave threat to a populous country like Pakistan, which has been consistently ranked amongst the top 10 countries facing the brunt of ongoing climate vulnerabilities, despite its insignificant ecological footprint. The fact that climate change is a threat multiplier with the potential to worsen existing rivalries is worrisome for countries like India and Pakistan, which share rivers fed by the depleting Himalayan glacier. Bill Gates has rightly begun asserting of late that, although the Covid-19 pandemic has been unprecedentedly debilitating, its impacts will pale in comparison to the potential disruptions headed our way due to frequent climate disasters.

Addressing climate change is one of the few issues on which the US thinks it can cooperate with China, despite their growing strategic rivalry. While Biden has invited China to the climate summit, US policymakers are still restrained in commenting on China's potential to help address this global problem. Gates has, however, been more forthcoming in his recent remarks applauding China's determination to prioritize the climate and its contributions to carbon reduction. He, in fact, rightly noted how the world can benefit from China's efforts to make green energy more affordable. Without China's contributions, many of the key ingredients needed to address global emissions, such as rechargeable batteries and solar power panels, would not be affordable, especially for the cash-strapped poorer countries. China has made impressive gains in building up its electricity grid to use more renewable energy. Electric buses are evidently becoming the norm in many Chinese cities. However, China needs to increase its commitment to use renewable energy in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), including its flagship China-Pakistan Energy Corridor (CPEC) initiative.

Speaking at the Climate Ambitions Summit at the end of last year (which marked the five-year anniversary of the Paris Agreement), Prime Minister Imran Khan had expressed the desire to make Pakistan produce 60% of its energy needs via renewable resources by 2030. To achieve this goal, the tree tsunami is important, but not enough. The government needs to boost investments in renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, and to convert existing coal fired plants to curb their emissions. Pakistan also needs to import cleaner fuel and put in place effective mechanisms to prevent pollution.

Reportage of a couple of coal powered CPEC projects being shelved, and the development of the HydroChina Dawood Wind Power project near Karachi, are good signs. But the need to contend with climate threats, instead of exacerbating them, still require more attention generally, including within the context of CPEC projects. Political strategists were hoping that Pakistan

could rely on US largess to help 'green' CPEC. While there is still a case to be made for courting such support, Pakistan's omission from the Biden climate summit is not encouraging. It is thus vital for Pakistan to begin taking a harder look at Chinese (and other bilateral and private sector investments within the country) to ensure that they comply with rigorous environmental impact assessments. Pakistan must place a higher priority on steering newer CPEC projects towards addressing environmental challenges facing the country. Certainly, both China and Pakistan have a lot more work to do if they really want to turn CPEC into a blueprint for greening the ambitious BRI.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2292731/make-cpec-greener>

The Nation

Hammad Azhar stresses need for early completion of CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Hammad Azhar on Thursday stressed the need for the early completion of projects falling under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He said that CPEC is of utmost importance for Pakistan, adding that it will enable the country to enhance industrial production, upgrade energy and communication infrastructure and improve connectivity with the region. The CPEC would generate abundant employment and investment opportunities in Pakistan and beyond, he added.

Finance minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting regarding economic and industrial cooperation under China Pakistan Economic Cooperation (CPEC) at the Finance Division. Federal Minister for Privatization Muhammad Mian Soomro, Chairman CPEC Authority Lt. Gen (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa, Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China Nong Rong, Federal Secretary Finance Division and Federal Secretary Privatization Commission participated in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese ambassador outlined that CPEC is of immense importance for the Chinese companies and will expand and strengthen economic cooperation for achieving common objectives and guarantee a prosperous future for both the nations. Time is of essence in meeting project deadlines so that the economic benefits could reach to the people of both the countries and contribute towards overall economic growth and development, he stressed.

The chairman CPEC Authority assured full support and assistance to the Chinese ambassador for expediting progress in the communication and transportation sectors on the occasion.

Towards the end, the finance minister lauded China for its continuous support in provision of COVID-19 vaccine for fighting the disease effectively. He appreciated the continuous and unwavering support that China has extended to Pakistan during testing times. China-Pakistan bilateral relationship is an epitome of enduring friendship and brotherhood, he concluded.

Minister attends virtual meeting of ministers of MENAP region with IMF MD

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Hammad Azhar attended a virtual meeting of the ministers and governors of the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan (MENAP) region with the Managing Director of the IMF Kristalina Georgieva.

The discussion focused on the impact of the pandemic on the economies of the region, lessons learnt through the crisis, and the implications of policy reforms undertaken to mitigate the human and economic impact of the pandemic.

In her opening remarks, the managing director IMF outlined the risks posed by the recent wave and said that the economic recovery this time around is usually faster as well as nations have learnt lessons on how to handle emerging circumstances in their own peculiar way. She, however, advised caution as going forward the availability of vaccines and its administration would be instrumental for countries to return to normal economic activity.

She also underscored the importance of having green economies in post-COVID-19 scenario to spearhead economic activities with enhanced energy and resource efficiency and protection of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Towards the end, Ms Georgieva asked member countries to pursue a coherent strategy, keeping sufficient fiscal space for expansion of social safety nets and business support initiatives. The IMF Board is also deliberating the possibility of extending additional financial support to partner countries during these testing times, she concluded.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-02/page-8/detail-6>

The News

Flagship CPEC power transmission line shelved till Sept

LAHORE: The launching of flagship China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 4,000mw South-North transmission line project has been delayed to September 2021, making grid stability and power affordability another pipe dream for now, The News has learnt.

The delay has been attributed to outstanding work, pending on the part of both state-owned transmission company and the contractor.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) and the Chinese company, Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company Pvt Ltd (PMLTC), it is clearly mentioned in the clause 6 that: "Both Parties shall complete their outstanding works at the earliest to guarantee that the extended COD (commercial operation date) will be realized not later than 01.09.2021".

This major setback to this high priority CPEC project will lead to inordinate delay in connecting power plants having least cost generation before peak summer months, which may result in high tariff for consumers.

The failure in completing +/-660kv HVDC Matiari-Lahore Transmission line by its scheduled COD in March 2021 may make people vulnerable to summer load shedding too as delay in

execution of the transmission line would erode grid flexibility in terms of a balancing act between thermal power plants in South and hydropower projects and load centers in North.

The spokesperson of Ministry of Energy (Power Division) has admitted the delay in launching of project till September 2021. However, he insisted the delay was not on part of Power Division or NTDC, but due to technical testing reasons on part of the EPC (engineering, procurement, and construction) contractor since it was Pakistan's first-ever high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line.

Therefore, he added, all international standards were being fulfilled to ensure its endurance and complete synchronisation with existing system.

It clearly means such assurance will result in major saving from any future failures.

The spokesman did not comment on financial impact due to failure of connecting least cost thermal generation in South including indigenous Thar Coal projects. He was specifically asked to comment on this aspect -impact of not linking power plants having cheap generation cost with load centers in terms of high tariff for the consumers.

Nevertheless, spokesperson held the view that there were no capacity charges due to the delay which the Power Division had to pay to EPC contractor. There is cost saving in take-and-pay energy transmission after 31st March 2021 i.e., pre-COD till 1 September, 2021.

About frequency of load-shedding during upcoming summer, the spokesperson claimed there was no impact on load management due to any delay in full capacity delivery of HVDC line as adequate transmission capacity existed in the system to cater for the summer requirements as per estimates.

Denying any adverse impact of extended COD, he maintained the delay due to international standards tests on part of EPC contractor and existence of enough electricity for summer, the project was still going in the right direction.

It may be noted that PMLTC served a notice of dispute on December 11, 2020 regarding issues leading to the delay in launching of +/-660kV HVDC Matiari-Lahore Transmission Project. Later, both parties agreed on February 18, 2021 over a revised schedule of launching the project. There are many firsts attached to this novel transmission line project. The transmission line was included in the framework of the Early Harvest CPEC projects. It has been termed a crucial step for the evacuation of bulk electricity, leading to the general improvement of Pakistan's grid structure. It will be the first HVDC transmission line in the country. Furthermore, the project will also be the first power transmission line in Pakistan financed through the foreign investment as well as private sector.

The scope of this highly important project includes evacuation of power from coal-based plants located in Thar, Port Qasim, and Hub through 878 km long 4000 MW \pm 660 kV HVDC Line Matiari-Lahore, 878km with estimated cost of about 1.7 billion dollars. The Financial Closed of

the project was achieved on February 27, 2019 while its original scheduled COD was due in March 2021.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/813302-flagship-cpec-power-transmission-line-shelved-till-sept>

Webinar ‘Friends of Silk Road’: China invested \$25.4b in CPEC since its inception

Nong Rong

ISLAMABAD: Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said China has so far invested \$25.4 billion in CPEC since its inception, creating 75,000 jobs for Pakistanis and no Pakistani worker was laid off during the pandemic from any CPEC project.

Commemorations marking 70 years of Pakistan-China diplomatic ties were kicked off with a Webinar, organised by Pakistan-China Institute under the banner of “Friends of Silk Road”, which had distinguished speakers from Pakistan and China.

An illustrious panel of keynote speakers including Gen Ehsanul Haq (retd), former chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Senator Mushahid Hussain, chairman, Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and Pakistan-China Institute, China’s ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, ambassador Sha Zukang, former Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and president of China-Pakistan Friendship Association, Masood Khalid, Pakistan’s former ambassador to China, ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the United Nations, Ms Tehmina Janjua, former foreign secretary of Pakistan and Ms Saliha Agha, youth leader who visited China. The online event was moderated by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, executive director of the Pakistan-China Institute. Chinese ambassador Nong Rong thanked Pakistan for its consistent support to China during the past decades. He said the bilateral relationship was being further cemented through mutual support and high-level consultations and visits.

He said China has so far invested \$25.4 billion in CPEC since its inception, creating 75,000 jobs for Pakistanis and added “no Pakistani worker was laid off during the pandemic from any CPEC project”.

He said Pakistan is the first country to get a donation of Chinese COVID-19 vaccine and said the bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will strive to narrow the trade deficit and deepen economic cooperation. Ambassador Nong Rong added that the upcoming meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), which is the apex body on CPEC, will focus on socio-economic development, industry and agriculture. He also said 100 million Chinese had benefited from the elimination of rural poverty in China.

Former chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and former DG, ISI Gen Ehsanul Haq (retd) termed “security cooperation as a significant core area of Pakistan-China relations”. He said “75-80% of Pakistani defence equipment comes from China and Pakistan accounts for 35% of China’s military exports”. He said China has a proven track record of reliability and Pakistan-

China relations had now moved forward from geo-politics into geo-economics, socio-economic development, human security and soft power.

Former Under Secretary General of the UN and president of the China-Pakistan Friendship Association, ambassador Sha Zukang said “Pakistan is the most important country in the region for China” and he said “Pakistan-China relations will blossom in today’s world, where changes not seen in a century, were occurring”.

He said “a strong Pakistan is good for stability in the region and the world”. Pakistan’s ambassador to the UN, Munir Akram termed “China the pivot of Pakistan’s foreign policy” and “this pivot will remain” and Pakistan is the strongest defender of China’s territorial integrity. He said “Pakistan-China policies are completely aligned in South Asia, in the Indian Ocean, in Central Asia, in the Asia-Pacific region”. Former ambassador of Pakistan to China, Masood Khalid said “China’s rise is an established reality” and he also narrated how 50 years ago, “despite China’s own difficulties during the Cultural Revolution, China provided invaluable support to building Pakistan’s heavy industrial base worth almost \$300 million”, which, he said, in today’s world would be a sum in billions.

Former foreign secretary Tehmina Janjua quoted President Xi Jinping as telling the Pakistani prime minister in 2019 in Beijing that “no matter how the international situation changes, China will always stand firmly with Pakistan”.

Senator Mushahid Hussain said “people-to-people relations are the core of the Pakistan-China bond” and he referred to his first visit to China in the early 70s as a young teenager in college, “I am very fortunate to have witnessed the remarkable transformation of China in the past five decades through my nearly 100 visits to China”.

He termed CPEC a “success story whose results are obvious in the resolution of Pakistan’s long-standing electricity shortages, greater inter-provincial connectivity through roads and motorways, the functioning of the Gwadar Port which is now emerging as the hub of regional connectivity with Afghanistan and Central Asia and empowerment of women in such less-developed areas as Thar”.

He also thanked China for gifting 1.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Pakistan at a time when these vaccines were urgently needed. He also said 2021 is the 50th anniversary of Pakistan’s historic role in arranging the secret visit of former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to China which resulted in normalization of China-US relations which was the biggest “diplomatic coup” of that period. He lauded the role of Pakistan’s Foreign Office professionals like Foreign Secretary Sultan Mohammad Khan and ex-ambassador to the United States, Agha Hilaly, who assisted former president Yahya Khan in this secret mission.

He added that during a recent webinar on March 20, organised by the Chinese government, in which he and Dr Kissinger participated, the American statesman had recognized and appreciated Pakistan’s pivotal role in building ties with China.

Mustafa Sayed, executive director, Pakistan-China Institute termed China a “champion of the developing world” and he also lauded China’s poverty alleviation strategy which is “an example that developing countries can follow”. The webinar lasted for 2 hours and 30 minutes, including an attentive 45 minutes Q&A and discussion among participants, who numbered about 80 diverse and distinguished audience of former policy-makers, students and scholars and representatives of think tanks.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/813561-webinar-friends-of-silk-road-china-invested-25-4b-in-cpec-since-its-inception-says-nong-rong>

Express News

پاکستان آئی ٹی بیس مارٹ کی نئی چین عکاظ کا آغاز

پاکستان آئی ٹی بیس مارٹ کی نئی چین عکاظ کا آغاز کر دیا گیا ہے۔

پاکستان اور امریکا کے نوجوانوں نے باہمی اشتراک سے پاکستان آئی ٹی بیس مارٹ کی نئی چین عکاظ کا آغاز کر دیا ہے، منصوبے کے تحت صارفین کو سستی قیمتوں پر ایک چھت تلے ہر قسم کی معیاری مصنوعات کی فراہمی کے لیے ملک بھر میں عکاز مارٹ کی شاخیں قائم کی جائیں گی جبکہ ابتدائی طور پر کراچی کے مختلف علاقوں میں 50 مارٹ قائم کر دیے گئے ہیں۔

تعارفی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے عکاظ کے سی ای او سید سعد شاہ نے کہا کہ عوام کو معیاری اور سستی ایشیا ایک چھت کے نیچے فراہم کرنا ہماری بنیادی ترجیح ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2160999/508/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی کمپنی کو شراب کا لائسنس دینا قابل مذمت ہے: ابو الخیر محمد زبیر

لاہور (خصوصی نامہ نگار) جمعیت علماء پاکستان و ملی بھتیجی کونسل کے سربراہ ڈاکٹر صاحبزادہ ابو الخیر محمد زبیر نے چینی کمپنی کو شراب کے لائسنس جاری کرنے کے حکومتی اقدامات کی سخت الفاظ میں مذمت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ شراب جیسے حرام کام کی اجازت دے کر حکومت اللہ کے عذاب کو دعوت دے رہی ہے۔ پی ڈی ایم کی ناکام حکمت عملی کے باعث تو خان حکومت کو کچھ ریلیف مل گیا ہے لیکن حدود اللہ کو مسلسل نظر انداز کرنے سے حکومت کہیں کی نہیں رہے گی اور بہت جلد اپنے انجام کو پہنچ جائے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ کیسی ریاست مدینہ ہے جہاں حرام کاروبار کے لائسنس جاری کر کے ملک کے اسلامی تشخص کو مٹانے کی سازشیں کی جا رہی ہیں۔ ریاست مدینہ کا نعرہ لگانے والوں کا یہ عمل باعث شرم ہے کسی بھی اسلامی ملک میں شراب کی فیکٹری لگانے کی نہ کوئی گنجائش ہے اور نہ ہی کوئی مسلمان اس کو برداشت کر سکتا ہے۔ اس ضمن میں وفاقی وزیر علی محمد خان نے شراب کی فیکٹریاں لگانے کے حکومتی اقدامات کی مخالفت کر کے عین اسلامی احکامات کی بجا آوری کی ہے۔ ریاست مدینہ میں سب سے پہلے شراب پر پابندی لگنی چاہئے نہ کہ حکومت شراب کے لائسنس جاری کر کے اسلام کا تمسخر اڑائے اور اپنے بیرونی آقاؤں کو خوش کرنے کیلئے پاکستان کے اسلامی تشخص کو مٹانے کی کوشش کرے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حضور سرور کائنات نے فرمایا کہ ”شراب تمام برائیوں کی جڑ ہے“۔ ایک اور حدیث میں حضرت محمد صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ ”اللہ نے لعنت فرمائی ہے شراب کے نچوڑنے والے، اسے پینے والے، اسے بیچنے والے اور اسے خریدنے والے پر اور اس کی حد 80 کوڑے ہے۔“

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-04-02/page-11/detail-6>

پاکستان، چین سی بیک منصوبوں میں شفافیت کیلئے مل کر کام کر رہے: چیئر مین نیب

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) چیئر مین نیب جسٹس (ر) جاوید اقبال نے کہا ہے کہ ٹرانسپیرنسی انٹرنیشنل پاکستان اور عالمی اقتصادی فورم نے بدعنوانی کے خاتمہ کیلئے نیب کی کارکردگی کو سراہا ہے جو کہ پاکستان کیلئے قابل فخر ہے۔ نیب کے سات ریجنل بیوروں نے گزشتہ تین سال کے دوران بالواسطہ اور بلاواسطہ طور پر 487 ارب روپے قومی خزانہ میں جمع کرائے ہیں۔ نیب بدعنوانی کے خلاف اقوام متحدہ کے کنونشن کے تحت پاکستان کا فوکل ادارہ ہے۔ پاکستان دنیا کا واحد ملک ہے جس نے چین کے ساتھ بدعنوانی کے خاتمے کے لئے مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کئے ہیں۔ چین، پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبوں میں شفافیت یقینی بنانے پر مل کر کام کر رہے ہیں۔ نیب سارک ایٹنی کرپشن فورم کا چیئر مین ہے۔ سارک ممالک میں نیب کو ایک رول ماڈل سمجھا جاتا ہے۔ نیب کا ایمان بدعنوانی سے پاک پاکستان ہے۔ نیب نے انسداد بدعنوانی کی قومی حکمت عملی وضع کی ہے۔ چیئر مین نیب جسٹس جاوید اقبال کی متحرک قیادت میں نیب کے 7 ریجنل بیوروں نے جنوری 2018 سے 31 دسمبر 2020 تک بالواسطہ یا بلاواسطہ طور پر 487 ارب روپے وصول کئے ہیں جو کہ ریکارڈ کا میاں ہے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق نیب راولپنڈی کو 2018 میں 8057، 8727 اور 2020 میں 4287 شکایات موصول ہوئی ہیں اور تمام شکایات کو جانچ پڑتال کے بعد نمٹا دیا گیا تھا اور فی الحال کسی بھی شکایت پر کارروائی نہیں ہو رہی ہے۔ نیب راولپنڈی نے 2018 میں 215، 2019 میں 237 اور 2020 میں 255 شکایات کی جانچ پڑتال کی۔ نیب راولپنڈی نے 2018 میں 162، 2019 میں 172 اور 2020 میں 179 انکوائریاں جبکہ نیب راولپنڈی نے 2018 میں 71، 2019 میں 83 اور 2020 میں 64 انویسٹی گیشنز کی منظوری دی۔ نیب راولپنڈی نے قانون کے مطابق احتساب عدالتوں میں 2018 میں 213، 2019 میں 233 اور 2020 میں 246 بدعنوانی کے ریفرنسز دائر کئے ہیں۔ نیب راولپنڈی نے 2018 سے 31 دسمبر 2020 تک بالواسطہ اور بلاواسطہ طور پر 287.293983 ملین روپے 2019 میں 93473.16148 ملین روپے اور 2020 میں 196222.736054 ملین روپے قومی خزانہ میں جمع کروائے ہیں۔ نیب لاہور کو 2018 میں 10211، 2019 میں 14008 اور 2020 میں 5023 شکایات موصول ہوئی ہیں جو جانچ پڑتال کے بعد نمٹا دی گئیں اور اس وقت 757 شکایات پر کارروائی جاری ہے۔ نیب لاہور نے 2018 میں 326، 2018 میں 243 اور 2020 میں 148 شکایات کی جانچ پڑتال کی۔ نیب کراچی کو 2018 میں 10561، 2019 میں 11381 اور 2020 میں 6483 شکایات موصول ہوئی ہیں اور تمام کو جانچ پڑتال کے بعد نمٹا دیا گیا تھا اور فی الحال کسی بھی شکایت پر کارروائی نہیں ہو رہی ہے۔ نیب کے پی نے 2018 میں 483، 2019 میں 245 اور 2020 میں 121 شکایات کی تصدیق کی۔ نیب بلوچستان کو 2018 میں 1191، 2019 میں 836 اور 2020 میں 473 شکایات موصول ہوئی ہیں اور تمام کو جانچ پڑتال کے بعد نمٹا دیا گیا۔ نیب سکھر کو 2018 میں 20575، 2019 میں 26161 اور 2020 میں 29208 شکایات موصول ہوئی ہیں اور تمام کو جانچ پڑتال کے بعد نمٹا دیا گیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-04-02/page-1/detail-9>

April 03, 2021

Daily Times

China Iran recent ties and the region

Naveed Aman Khan

Recently China and Iran has announced a new economic and security partnership. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was in Tehran to sign a 25-year partnership deal between China and Iran. The deal, outlines plans for economic, political and security cooperation between the two countries, which are celebrating 50 years of diplomatic ties. The prospect of a closer alliance between two U.S. rivals has inspired alarm in the United States. President Joe Biden had been concerned about the partnership. By signing road maps for economic and security cooperation with countries across the Middle East, it is seeking to ensure that it does not stoke regional rivalries. China has similar cooperation deals in place with Iraq signed in 2015, Saudi Arabia

signed in 2016 and the United Arab Emirates signed in 2018. Far from signaling a uniquely deep or ambitious alliance between China and Iran, the newly signed CSP reflects Iran's long efforts to get China to provide the same level of economic and security cooperation it offers other countries in the Middle East.

In past China-Iran trade and investment have struggled. Even with the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, China's ambitious plan to connect Eurasia through infrastructure investment, Iran was under the strictest sanctions ever levied by the United States. Trade between China and Iran did grow despite the sanctions, but this growth was mostly a reflection of China's emergence as a major global supplier of industrial goods in the same period. Planned investments in energy and transport infrastructure hit a wall as sanctions risks proved too great for China's major contractors. Conditions for bilateral trade and investment improved in January 2016 when the implementation of the Iran nuclear deal lifted international sanctions. Chinese President Xi Jinping traveled to Tehran and committed to the new CSP. Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and the reimposition of U.S. secondary sanctions complicated China-Iran plans. China-Iran trade has languished since. Will China get a security dividend? U.S.-Iran tensions have done more than complicate China-Iran trade. Around 3 million barrels per day of crude oil pass through the Strait of Hormuz en route to China, making it the largest oil customer in this trade route.

The prospect of a regional conflict halting the route has spurred China to get more involved in Middle East security, even though it remains hesitant to become entangled in the region's complex politics

Iran lags behind its neighbours with regard to both the extent of Chinese economic commitments and the level of bilateral security cooperation. Rather than elevating the China-Iran relationship to new heights, the belated signing of this CSP is probably a clear signal that Iran wants to catch up to its neighbours. The new deal would amount to \$400 billion over the next 25 years which means China would need to invest \$16 billion on an annual basis. That's an astronomical sum when considering that total foreign direct investment in Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer and a country unencumbered by U.S. sanctions, has averaged just \$5.1 billion over the past five years. If the target sounds unrealistic, it's because it is not real. The \$400 billion figure was first cited in 2019. The deal is a road map with no specific financial targets. Likewise, China has emphasized that there are no set contracts or goals in this frame work.

There also appears to be no incoming flurry of Chinese arms sales to Iran, even with the end of the United Nations arms embargo last fall. China's nascent Middle East arms trade is directed toward Iran's neighbours. China's motive in this market is profit, and cash-strapped Iran is not a lucrative customer. China and Iran are also mismatched in capabilities. Iran seeks air defence weaponry, and China's main sales in the region are tanks. China struggles to manufacture jet engines, and its new drones have crashed in the field. China's support for the Iran deal will continue. Will the CSP compete with, or complement, U.S. interests? It's important to remember that China, as a permanent U.N. Security Council member, is a signatory to the Iran nuclear deal.

And China stands to benefit economically as well from the resumption of this nuclear control measure and from greater regional stability. After all, removing international sanctions would help Chinese trade and investment in Iran. A CSP with China isn't likely to embolden Iran's moves away from the nuclear deal. Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif heralded his counterpart as a friend for difficult times but China and Iran both know that their interests are better served by a U.S. return to the Iran nuclear deal.

The prospect of a regional conflict halting the route has spurred China to get more involved in Middle East security, even though it remains hesitant to become entangled in the region's complex politics. China has conducted two multilateral naval drills with Iran and Russia under the pretexts of anti-piracy and counterterrorism. China has used its CSP deals to structure security cooperation with countries across the region, including those that count themselves as Iran's rivals and partners of the United States. A naval exercise with Iran is usually accompanied by a Chinese drill with the Saudi royal navy. While the newly signed CSP with Iran does portend increased security cooperation, China has in no way promised a steadfast military alliance. Such an agreement would undermine the benefits China draws from the established U.S. security architecture in the region a set of security partnerships and bases established in the 20th century to protect oil imports from Middle East suppliers.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/741301/china-iran-recent-ties-and-the-region/>

Gwadar becomes capital of southern Balochistan

Gwadar, a crown jewel of CPEC, has become the capital of southern Balochistan, a move that will bring the coastal town into new limelight, catapulting its "star image" on the national and international spectrum.

Talking to Gwadar Pro, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani revealed that Gwadar has got an official status of capital of southern Balochistan. "We have received a letter from the Government of Balochistan in this regard."

A government official of Balochistan said that Gwadar is now an official provincial metropolis of southern Balochistan. GDA officials said the provincial government has declared the rest house of Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) as the secretariat office of Gwadar.

It is revealed that an agreement in this regard has been inked. Funds have also been allocated to furnish the civil secretariat of Gwadar. A team of Services & General Admission Department has launched the recruitment process.

Gwadar Development Authority (GPA) official Nadir Baloch said that the new initiative would have a positive impact on the image of Gwadar rising as the apple of the eye for everyone especially for those who visualize Gwadar as a unicorn of future development. It will help charge up Gwadar Master Plan, he added.

It is pertinent to mention that on February 23, 2017 former Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Sanaullah Zehri announced to designate Gwadar as the winter capital of the province and directed all provincial departments to set up their offices in the port city.

Presiding over the 16th meeting of the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) governing body, he said the decision had been taken in view of the importance of Gwadar as a future economic hub of the country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/741360/gwadar-becomes-capital-of-southern-balochistan/>

Xi Jinping wishes Alvi quick recovery from Covid-19

Chinese President Xi Jinping has sent a message of sympathy to President Arif Alvi over his infection with Covid-19 and wished him a quick recovery. President Alvi tested positive of Covid-19 on March 29. Stressing the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two sides, Xi said that the Chinese government and people will always stand firmly with Pakistan to fight the epidemic. “I attach great importance to the development of China-Pakistan relations and am ready to work with President Alvi to build a closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future for the benefit of our two countries and two peoples,” he said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/741336/xi-jinping-wishes-alvi-quick-recovery-from-covid-19/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan wins approval for meat export to China

In a major development, Pakistan has won China’s approval for meat export after a private sector company established a heat treatment facility to remove virus, if any, from export consignments. China is the largest producer and importer of meat in the world. It imported meat worth \$2.21 billion in February 2021, which was 10% higher compared to the same month of previous year. “The Organic Meat Company has received approval and has been granted registration by the Chinese Customs authorities for export of heat treated beef to China,” announced Company Secretary Abdul Quadir in a notification sent to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday. The company has pioneered the heat treatment process during which foot and mouth disease (FMD) virus can be removed from beef. “This process enables the company to access more markets for value-added meat products,” he said.

“We have set up a 300-ton per month heat treatment facility (for China and similar markets),” CEO Faisal Hussain told The Express Tribune. “We would consider expansion when needed.” As far as export potential to China is concerned, “I would say sky is the limit. China remains the single largest ... importer of meat in the world,” he said. He pointed out that Russia, China, Indonesia and South Korea were the markets which imported heat treated meat from around the world. “We are also working to win Russia’s approval (for meat export),” he said. The Organic Meat Company’s share price dropped 1.09% or Rs0.34 to close at Rs30.92 with 2.87 million shares changing hands at the PSX on Friday. Pakistan’s meat and meat preparation exports stood

at only \$216.2 million in the first eight months (Jul-Feb) of current fiscal year. They rose 2.6% compared to exports of \$210.73 million in the same period of previous fiscal year, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). China is the largest trade partner of Pakistan with bilateral trade touching \$20 billion in the previous fiscal year. However, the trade balance was heavily in favour of China whose exports to Pakistan had 85% share in the bilateral trade volume. Earlier, Pakistan signed an agreement with China for establishing an FMD free zone with the objective of meat and meat preparation exports to Beijing. The agreement was signed during the visit of China's Deputy President Wang Qishan to Pakistan in May 2019. A government official, however, said that the zone was yet to be constructed where Pakistani and Chinese companies would set up a heat treatment facility in the form of joint venture to serve Chinese and other global markets.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2292945/pakistan-wins-approval-for-meat-export-to-china>

Jang News

سی پیک کے پہلے صنعتی زون میں چین نے سرمایہ کاری شروع کر دی ہے، اسد عمر

وفاقی وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی اسد عمر کا کہنا ہے کہ سی پیک کے پہلے صنعتی زون میں چین نے سرمایہ کاری شروع کر دی ہے۔ اسد عمر نے ایف پی سی سی آئی کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ سی پیک کے ذریعے پاکستان میں روزگار کے مواقع میں اضافہ ہو گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے پہلے صنعتی زون میں چین نے سرمایہ کاری شروع کر دی ہے، کے فوراً منصوبہ دو تین سال سے رکا ہوا تھا، کراچی سرکلر ریلوے کی بحالی کے حوالے سے 30 سال سے باتیں سنتے آرہے تھے۔

وفاقی وزیر نے بتایا کہ کراچی سرکلر ریلوے کی بحالی کے لیے کام جاری ہے، گرین لائن منصوبے پر بھی تیزی سے پیشرفت جاری ہے۔ اسد عمر نے کہا کہ ماضی میں بجلی کے کارخانے درآمدی تیل پر لگائے گئے، سی پیک کے مغربی روٹ پر موجودہ حکومت نے بہت کام کیا ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/906819>

April 04, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan, China discuss cooperation in maritime sector

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Saturday called on Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi in his office here. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation in the maritime sector, said a press release. They were keen to best utilize blue economy concepts to further strengthening economic ties between both the countries under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) umbrella. Matters related to make Gwadar port fully operational, were also discussed in detail. Ambassador Rong thanked Minister Zaidi for receiving him.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/741732/pakistan-china-discuss-cooperation-in-maritime-sector/>

Qasim coal-fired plant sets new records of power generation

Qasim coal-fired power station generated 945 million kwh in March, breaking the record of the same type of power stations while also reaching the maximum monthly generating capacity.

Guo Guangling, general manager of power plant, told Gwadar Pro that 660MW generator units have constantly operated at 100% capacity during March, generating 30 million kwh of electricity per day. The 940 million kwh is the maximum monthly capacity the project can produce, which is possible to be achieved only by operating at full capacity for a full month without any production pause. This data also breaks the previous record of the same type of power stations.

Indicated by the electric power department, in March, Qasim Power Station generated about 9.8% of domestic net on-grid electricity, which is equivalent to a year's electricity consumption for about 400,000 average households here.

When asked, whether the units in Qasim capable of long-term operating at full capacity, Guo Guangling said, "Indeed, even in China, the same type units don't constantly run at full capacity where load rates are around 50%. However, the units in Qasim, thanks to the strict regular maintenance procedures and higher reliability, are still stable and well-performing after such a long time of full-load operation."

After reaching the maximum generating capacity, the plant has turned its attention to being more environment-friendly. "High-generating capacity, or high-efficiency power generation, to some extent, exactly means eco-friendly as far as a coal-fired power plant."

The traditional power stations in Pakistan are costly and cause great pollution to the environment. This fact has aroused controversy and repulsion on coal-fired electricity midst people. However, its uniqueness and importance decides that it cannot be completely replaced, at least in the short term. In this case, higher efficiency of power generation, what Qasim is striving for, means lower pollution to the environment.

Guo pointed out that Qasim's units use seawater secondary circulation for cooling and seawater desalination for water supply, and adopt environmental protection technologies such as limestone-gypsum desulfurization. "That's why emission indexes of Qasim are far better than local and World Bank environmental protection standards," he said. "In the future, Qasim will continue to strive for the solution of domestic power shortage and sustainable development.

Rashakai SEZ:

The China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) would carry out the marketing campaign for the Rashakai Special Economic Zone under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) expressing interest to work with the Board of Investment in this regard.

In a meeting with Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar here, the CRBC Vice President Sun Yaoguo along with a delegation said that external marketing of the SEZ to local and foreign investors was crucial for its full operationalization.

The meeting reviewed the Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and CRBC's mega-project Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone.

The vice president of CRBC stated that the development work of Rashakai SEZ was being carried out at a fast pace and to that end the necessary resources had already been mobilized. He assured the minister that the timelines for the projects would be strictly observed.

The minister said that the industrial cooperation was the need of CPEC and the government was keen to see early completion of the project and the ministry of energy had already expedited the work on supply of electricity and gas to the SEZ.

He said that BOI would fully cooperate with CRBC for effective marketing of the SEZ. Asad Umar said that it was the first time in Pakistan that the foreign developer would be marketing an Industrial zone. He hoped that CRBC would be able to attract substantial investment in the SEZ from Chinese investors.

During the meeting Mr. Sun also briefed about CRBC's mega project Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone in collaboration with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the government of Sindh.

He said that the project would add substantially to the city's economy landscape and would be generating employment opportunity for a very large number of populations of the city.

The minister said that the Karachi Coastal Development Project was an important project and the federal cabinet had approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). It will give a boost to the business and technology sectors and provide employment opportunities to the people.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/741734/qasim-coal-fired-plant-sets-new-records-of-power-generation/>

Dunya News

Scope of CPEC expanding with inclusion of new project: Asad Umar

KARACHI (APP) - Federal minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar, has said scope of China Pakistan Economic Corridor has been expanding as various important projects entered into advanced stage. Talking to media persons during visit of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), the federal minister said that in the second phase of the CPEC projects relating to agriculture, industry and employment were being planned. In the first phase of CPEC basic infrastructure, energy sector particularly hydro-electrical power generation were given priority, he said and added that a multibillion dollar railway project ML-I was in advanced stage and remarkable progress has been achieved in lieu of financing of the project. The joint committee on CPEC would consider the project in its next

meeting, he informed. He said that work on Rashakae and Faisalabad trade zones was also in progress. The entire work on western corridor of the CPEC has been carried out by PTI government while during previous governments the important segment of the project was marred by conflicts and confusions, he said.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/595638-Scope-of-CPEC-expanding-with-inclusion-of-new-project-Asad-Umar>

Pakistan Observer

Iran-China deal to enhance Beijing's influence, economic activity in region

Experts speaking at a webinar on Saturday termed the China-Iran 25-year long new cooperation framework a milestone to further strengthen the Chinese influence in the region and Middle East (ME).

It will not only extend the Chinese market for trade and economic growth but also be feared to disturb the balance of power in the MENA region. The \$400 billion financial cooperation will help Iran to dilute its isolation and enhance trade ties with China and Middle East countries. At a time when Iran is struggling with the US sponsored restrictions and the devastating impact of Covid-19, this development is a welcome relief. The panelists also questioned if this deal would lead to a win-win situation for all. Beijing has not only secured an alternative access to hydrocarbons but has also further strengthened its influence across the Indian Ocean. This deal might come as a surprise for many given the Indian investments in Iran. China has nurtured friendly bilateral relations with Iran over the decade and signed over 17 agreements worth USD 18-20 billion and promised to increase trade relations between the two countries in the next 10 years to US\$ 600 billion. This would be a bid dent to the US interests in the region. Development Communications Network (DEvcom-Pakistan) organized the webinar on the theme “China-Iran new framework of cooperation – prospects for regional security and economic growth”.

The panel of expert included former ISI chief and strategic analyst Lt General (Retd) Asad Durrani, Senior Research Fellow at the Chengdu Institute of World Affairs Dr. Dan Ge, CPEC Expert & CEO KPBOIT Hassan daud Butt, Research Fellow at the Tehran International Studies and Research Institute (TISRI) Dr. Ehsan Sadeghi, Research Fellow, East-West Institute (London) Dr Najam Abbas, and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed. Among others who spoke on the occasion included Dr. Azhar Aslam (London), Henry Tillman, Hussain Askary, Dr Khushboo Ejaz, Ambassador Rehmatullah Javed, Umar Khayyam, and Sarwat Kazmi. Lt General (R) Asad Durrani said the world is a chessboard where strategic moves keep on rolling for new alliances and partnerships based on the win-win strategies. The China-Iran cooperation agreement is one of the strategic moves that would have a significant impact in the region by curtailing the US influence and increasing Chinese trade and strategic collaboration in the region.

<https://pakobserver.net/iran-china-deal-to-enhance-beijings-influence-economic-activity-in-region/>

The Nation

Pak-China border to be reopened as soon as Chinese authorities lift COVID-19 restrictions

GILGIT/ISLAMABAD - Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said Saturday that Pakistan Tahreek-e Insaf government had taken concrete measures to revive tourism industry in Gilgit-Baltistan.

“Online visa facility has been introduced to encourage foreign tourists in the country,” the minister said during his visit to Altit Fort, Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan. On this occasion music students of Hunza played their traditional musical instruments.

While talking to journalists, the minister said that GB has world’s best tourist attractions with beautiful waterfalls, lakes, meadows, deserts, and skiing resorts, but unfortunately it was neglected in the past. There would be more development in the region under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan who was striving hard for socio-economic development at the area, he added. GB was going to become a province very soon than it would have a key role in both the upper and the lower house of the Parliament, said the Minister. Responding to a question, the minister told reporters that the government had started construction of Diamer-Bhasha Dam that would create employment opportunities for locals. The Pak-China border would be reopened as soon as the Chinese authorities lift the COVID-19 restrictions, the minister said.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-04/page-12/detail-2>

The News

Covid-19: Clinical trials of triple-dose Chinese vaccine begin

KARACHI: Phase-III clinical trials of a triple-dose Chinese vaccine against Covid-19 have commenced at the University of Health Sciences (UHS), Lahore, and four other hospitals in Lahore as well as Faisalabad, officials said on Saturday, adding these trials would also commence at health facilities in Islamabad, Karachi and Jamshoro.

“Clinical trials of a three-dose Chinese vaccine, dubbed as ZF-2001 have commenced at the University of Health Sciences (UHS) and four other health facilities in Lahore. So far around 1,000 volunteers have been registered for the trials while the target is to involve 10,000 volunteers from all over the country,” Vice Chancellor, University of Health Sciences (UHS), Lahore Prof Javed Akram told The News on Saturday.

The UHS Lahore is conducting the Phase III clinical trials of second Chinese vaccine as earlier it conducted the clinical trials of single-dose Chinese vaccine Convidicia, developed by Cansino Biologicals Inc., which is now commercially available after it was found highly effective in preventing severe disease among people infected with SARS-CoV-2 or Coronavirus.

“The triple dose vaccine developed by the Chinese company Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical Company Ltd is an excellent solution against Covid-19 which would prove to be effective against new strains and variants, including the Variant of Interest (VoI) and Variant of Concern (VoC),” Prof Javed Akram said, adding that the triple-dose vaccine would provide long lasting immunity against the Covid-19.

“There is a concern that immunity generated by the single dose vaccines may reduce or vanish overtime, but in the case of a triple-dose vaccine, which would be administered after one month’s interval, long-lasting immunity could be achieved,” he added.

Prof Javed Akram, who is the Principal investigator of the trials, said it is the Phase-III Clinical Trial of Recombinant Coronavirus vaccine (CHO Cell) to determine its safety and efficacy among people and added that around 29,000 volunteers would be recruited worldwide, including 10,000 in Pakistan. These trials are expected to be completed by the middle or end of next year, he said.

“The manufacturer, Anhui Zhifei Biopharmaceutical, however, can apply for the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) earlier based on the interim results and data and it would be up to the expert committee and the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to allow the use of vaccine among general public or not, he added.

Prof Shehnoor Azhar, an Assistant Professor of Public Health at UHS Lahore, said it is multi-center trial which is being conducted at Avicenna Medical College and Hospital, Central Park Medical College and Hospital, National Defence Hospital Lahore, Aziz Fatima Hospital Faisalabad, PIMS Islamabad, Indus Hospital, Karachi as well as Aga Khan University Hospital Karachi.

“In addition to clinical trials in Pakistan in collaboration, we have also shown our intention to set up a manufacturing plant in Pakistan if necessary facilitation and support is offered by the authorities in Pakistan,” said Maria Song, Senior Manager of Clinical Team of Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical Co Ltd. while talking to The News.

Maria Song said their vaccine is already available in China and Uzbekistan, adding that they also got orders from Tajikistan and Russia they will first provide their vaccines to China and Uzbekistan.

To a query, she said their team was working in Pakistan as monitors and added that they will apply for the Emergency Use Authorization when DRAP think they meet its conditions. “We will be satisfied when we reach our aim, but we really appreciate our local investigator’s hard working,” she added.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/814665-covid-19-clinical-trials-of-triple-dose-chinese-vaccine-begin>

K2 Daily

چین کی تیار کردہ تیسرے کرونا ویکسین پاکستان لانے کی تیاریاں

لاہور کی کھٹی نے ویکسین کے ہنگامی استعمال کا اجازت نامہ طلب کر لیا، ڈرپ کے پاس درخواست جمع

کرونا اور ایک ان ایجیڈیٹڈ ویکسین 2 ڈوز پر مشتمل ہے حتیٰ 8۲۲ پر ذخیرہ ہوتی ہے، وزارت صحت

اسلام آباد (این این پی) پاکستان میں چین رجسٹریشن بورڈ کرونا ویکسین کی منظوری دے کی تیار کردہ ایک اور کرونا ویکسین کے ہنگامی کا بھلائی کے مطابق چین کی تیار کردہ تیسری استعمال کا اجازت نامہ طلب کر لیا گیا، ڈرپ کرونا ویکسین پاکستان (باقی صفحہ 6 پیج نمبر 31)

بقیہ 31

لانے کی تیاریاں جاری ہے، پاکستان میں کرونا ویک ویکسین کے ہنگامی استعمال کا اجازت نامہ طلب کر لیا گیا ہے، لاہور کی کھٹی نے چینی ویکسین کی منظوری کیلئے درخواست جمع کرادی، لاہور کی کھٹی سرجیکل طبی آلات کی ایپورٹ، ایکسپورٹ کرتی ہے، وزارت کے مطابق کرونا ویکسین چینی کھٹی سائنو ویک لائف سائنسز کی تیار کردہ ہے، کھٹی نے ڈرپ کو کرونا ویک کے تجزیاتی فراہم کا اعلان کرادیا، ڈرپ رجسٹریشن بورڈ کرونا ویکسین کی منظوری دے گا، ویکسین کو رواں ماہ ڈرپ سے منظوری ملنے کا امکان ہے، وزارت صحت نے کہا ہے کہ کرونا ویک ان ایجیڈیٹڈ ویکسین 2 ڈوز پر مشتمل ہے، یہ ویکسین حتیٰ 8۲۲ درجہ حرارت پر ذخیرہ ہوتی ہے، بلاد سے چین میں تیار کردہ سائنو فارم اور چین سائنو ویکسین پاکستان میں استعمال کی جارہی ہے۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2021-04-04

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2021-04-04

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی سفیر کی علی زیدی سے ملاقات، گوادر بندرگاہ کو فعال کرنے پر گفتگو

اسلام آباد (این این پی) چینی سفیر ٹونگ روٹنگ نے وزیر بحری امور علی زیدی سے ملاقات کی جس میں بحری شعبے میں دونوں ممالک کے مابین تعاون پر تفصیلی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ دونوں عمائدین نے سی پیک کے تحت دونوں ممالک کے مابین اقتصادی تعلقات میں مزید تقویت کیلئے بلیو اکانومی کے تصور سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانے میں گہری دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا۔ ملاقات میں گوادر کی بندرگاہ کو مکمل طور پر فعال بنانے پر بھی مفصل گفتگو کی گئی۔ چینی سفیر نے میزبانی پر وزیر بحری امور علی زیدی کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-04-04/page-6/detail-18>

April 05, 2021

Business Recorder

Development, marketing in Rashakai SEZ

Chinese co enters into deal to promote foreign investments: Umar

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar on Sunday said the projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were progressing with fast pace during the tenure of incumbent government.

The way government handled pandemic situation and made efforts to contain the spread of pandemic Covid-19, it would also continue working day and night for the success of the CPEC, he said while addressing the reception ceremony of first consignment, carrying equipment and machinery for Century Steel at Karachi Port, for setting up of a steel mill in Rashakai Special Economic Zone.

The Minister termed the occasion as another manifestation of exceptional relation between Pakistan and China.

Asad Umar said the CPEC was now entering into the most important second phase. The projects were now not limited to infrastructure only.

He informed that CRBC, a Chinese firm had entered into an agreement with Pakistan under CPEC to promote foreign investments for development and marketing in Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

He said the work for the provision of basic necessities including electricity and others at Rashakai SEZ was underway at fast pace.

He said the Century Steel, a Chinese firm with the investment of US \$ 240 million, would set up a steel mill in Rashakai SEZ which would produce about 1.5 million tons of steel.

The firm would also employ over 600 Pakistanis during construction phase while in second phase over 1000 people would be provided jobs.

Asad Umar said the bilateral relation of Pakistan and China was not new and whenever Pakistan needed a friend China was there.

Chinese Consul General in Karachi Li Bijian speaking on the occasion said due to the concerted efforts of the government of Pakistan, the economy of the country was strengthening and gaining momentum despite the negative effect of global pandemic, especially the construction sector had been witnessing faster growth and the demand for steel had increased.

Because of the brilliant efforts from both sides China and Pakistan, the first phase of the CPEC had completed, he said.

Li Bijian said, “We are quite confident to attract more and more investments in Rashakai SEZ”.

On the occasion, Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa, representatives of Century Steel, officers of KPT and other were present.

Meanwhile in his tweet, Asad Umar said the first industrial unit was being set up in the Rashakai SEZ in KP.

“The CPEC is moving practically into the exciting phase of industrial cooperation with foreign investment transferring technology & creating jobs”, he added.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/04/05/5-page/880706-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

PCFA holds essay competition on Sino-Pak friendship

Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter (PCFA-KPC) has announced to hold an essay competition-2021 on “Seventy Years of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations” It will take place from April 5 to May 5, 2021, said Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, Secretary General, PCFA-KPC. According to a press release issued here, to celebrate the spirit of this wonderful bond, PCFA-KPC is inviting Pakistanis from the province to take part in the competition. The essay competition invites participants to write on Pakistan and China, showcasing their feelings and perceptions. The guidelines for contests include the stories of friendship witnessed in Pakistan and China; feelings and impression about Chinese and Pakistani culture, customs, history, and natural geography; inspiring stories. The participants could narrate their experience with regards to the exchanges and cooperation between China and Pakistan in various fields including heartwarming stories about the joint fight against the epidemic.

The competition carries 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prize. All 10 top winners will get a Certificate. Eligibility Criteria: Age limit: 20-25 years, Essay-Language: English and Urdu, More than one submission is not allowed. As per the rules, essay should be a maximum of 1,000 words, plagiarized articles will be rejected, co-authorship is not allowed and the essay should not be published before. The Originality of the essay will be appreciated. The deadline for receiving the essay is 5 May 2021 while results will be announced on 15 May. The contestants can submit Word documents to pcfakp1970@gmail.com GPO Box No. 1276 Peshawar cantt-25000.

<https://pakobserver.net/pcfa-holds-essay-competition-on-sino-pak-friendship/>

Special fashion show held to introduce Pakistani costumes in China

As the China Fashion Week drawing to close, a special fashion show, 70th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Pakistan and China: Introducing Best of Pakistan Fashion Trends, has intrigued Chinese fashion insiders to learn about Pakistani costumes. “We should value not only our own culture, but also the cultures of others, especially our friends,” Zhang Qinghui, Chairman of China Fashion Association (CFA), said at the event. To celebrate the 70th anniversary and enhance communication between Pak-China in fashion sector, this show was held by CFA and Pakistani Embassy in China. As many as 14 Pakistani famous fashion brands,

including Maheen Khan, Tabassum Mughal, Umsha, Kalah, Sundus Talpur, Sana abbas, Shamsha, Aleena Fareena, Diners, Sadaf Malaterre, Delphi, Sameer Sain, GOGI.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/special-fashion-show-held-to-introduce-pakistani-costumes-in-china/>

The Nation

RSEZ flagship project for promoting industrial, trade activities: KP CM

Peshawar - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has declared Rashakai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ) an important and prioritised project of the provincial government and directed the concerned authorities for special focus on attracting maximum foreign investors and formulation of joint ventures for local and foreign investors.

Presiding over a meeting regarding RSEZ here at Chief Minister's House, he directed that all authorities concerned and partners should ensure their respective responsibilities for its timely completion for commercial launch.

The Chief Minister termed Rashakai Special Economic Zone as a flagship project for promotion of industrial and trading activities in the province.

The completion of the project, he said, would promote international trade, usher industrial growth and generate employment opportunities for the locals and strengthened the economy of the province.

The meeting was attended besides others by Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries Abdul Karim Khan, Secretary Industries Javed Marwat, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company (EZDMC) Javed Khattak, CEO KP Board of Investment & Trade (KP-BoI&T) Hassan Daud Butt and concerned officials of Chinese company, China Road and Bridge Company (CRBC).

During the meeting, the Chief Minister was briefed in detailed regarding progress made in connections with the foundation stone laying ceremony so far. He was told that besides construction of access roads to economic zone, construction work on other infrastructure including provision of gas, electricity and other facilities had been completed. The team of the construction company has been arrived at the site while federal government has also made payments in this connection.

The meeting was informed that various incentives were being granted to anxious foreign investors interested in making investment in the economic zones of the province. The incentives included duty exemptions on the import of machinery and provincial taxes.

The meeting was further informed that provincial and federal governments had timely fulfilled their responsibilities regarding Rashakai Economic Zone.

The meeting stressed large-scale marketing of the project to attract foreign investors, particularly Chinese investors for setting up of industries in the zone and directed the Chinese construction company for further acceleration and expansion of the marketing process.

On the occasion, the authorities of China Road & Bridge Company said that Chinese government and Chinese embassy would extend full cooperation in the marketing of Rashakai Economic Zone.

They said that several Chinese investors had expressed interest in making investment in Rashakai Economic Zone and soon after improvement in corona situation a delegation of their country would visit the zone.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-05/page-3/detail-5>

The News

‘Pakistanis love for Chinese highly impressive’

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani people’s love for Chinese is highly impressive and a major factor of their fast growing relationship, said Bai Yan, a Chinese lady, who has been working and living here since 2010, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.

Sharing her experience while living in Islamabad, she said Pakistanis are friendly to her all the way.

Bai recalled that when she first came here in August, the local scorching heat weather hit her first. “I hadn’t experienced such a torrid summer,” she said.

However, the livable environment and green plants everywhere in the Federal Capital made her fall in love with the city.

After settling down in a place, the importance of food emerges. Fortunately, the Pakistani barbecued meat and milky tea catch Bai’s eye. “The barbecued meat is pretty good,” she commented.

According to Gwadar Pro, besides these conditions, Bai likes the lifestyle here. She thinks that the walking pace of local people is definitely not as hurried as that in some big cities in China.

Another reason why Bai likes this city is that she has been impressed by the local people’s enthusiasm for Chinese. “Once knowing I am Chinese, Pakistanis will be friendlier to me. We are always enjoying such amicable atmosphere here,” she remarked.

Bai Yan added, Chinese enterprises in Pakistan get along well with Pakistani employees and local people.

She lauded this cooperative and friendly relationship in terms of people-to-people exchanges, while talking to Gwadar Pro.

For example, she said, her company often celebrates the Pakistani traditional holidays with employees and local people.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/815083-pakistanis-love-for-chinese-highly-impressive>

Express News

چینی کمپنی 240 ارب ڈالر کی اسٹیل مل لگائے گی

اسد عمر

وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی و ترقیات اسد عمر نے کہا ہے چین سے رشتہ نیا نہیں، جب بھی دوست کی ضرورت پڑی تو اس کی طرف دیکھا۔: کراچی

چینی کمپنی سینچری اسٹیل کیلئے پہلی کنسائنٹ کی آمد کے موقع پر تقریب سے خطاب کے دوران وفاقی وزیر نے کہا حکومت جس طرح کورونا پر قابو پانے کی کوششیں کر رہی ہے، اسی طرح سی پیک کی کامیابی کیلئے دن رات کام کر رہی ہے، اس کے تحت منصوبے تیزی سے تکمیل کی جانب بڑھ رہے ہیں، اس کے تحت منصوبے صرف انفراسٹرکچر تک محدود نہیں رہے، راشا کنی ایس ای زیڈ میں بجلی اور دیگر سمیت بنیادی ضروریات کی فراہمی کیلئے کام تیزی سے جاری ہے۔ چینی کمپنی سینچری اسٹیل 240 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری سے اسٹیل مل قائم کرے گی جو 15 لاکھ ٹن اسٹیل تیار کرے گی۔ وہ پہلے مرحلے میں 600 اور دوسرے مرحلے میں 1000 سے زائد پاکستانیوں کو ملازمتیں دے گی۔

وفاقی وزیر نے چیئر مین سی پیک اتھارٹی لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) ناصر سلیم باجوہ کی کاوشوں کو سراہا۔ چینی تو نصل جنرل بی بیجیان نے کہا کورونا کے باوجود حکومتی کوششوں سے ملکی معیشت مستحکم ہو رہی ہے، تعمیراتی شعبہ تیزی سے ترقی کر رہا ہے، جس کی بدولت اسٹیل کی طلب بڑھ رہی ہے، سی پیک کا پہلا مرحلہ مکمل ہو گیا، سٹیٹل اکنامک زون میں زیادہ سے زیادہ سرمایہ کاری کے لئے پر اعتماد ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2163079/1/>

بین الاقوامی نوعیت کا سب سے بڑا پروگرام

پینل انٹرویو

جی آرا عوان، حسالد یزدانی

ہیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو جدید تاریخ کا بین الاقوامی نوعیت کا سب سے بڑا معاشی پروگرام ہے جو عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ کے دور رس ویژن کا عکاس ہے۔ اس عظیم الشان بین الاقوامی معاشی پروگرام کو پاکستان بھر میں عوامی آگہی کیلئے پوری تفصیلات کے ساتھ بیان کرنے کا سہرا ”روزنامہ نوائے وقت“ کے سر ہے۔

نوائے وقت گروپ کے ڈائریکٹر ایڈمنسٹریشن لیفٹیننٹ کرنل (ریٹائرڈ) سید احمد ندیم قادری، تمنغہ امتیاز نے نوائے وقت میڈیا گروپ کی میجنگ ڈائریکٹر محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی کی مشاورت سے دو سال قبل اس عظیم الشان کام کا بیڑا اٹھایا۔ اب تک ہیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو پروگرام کی 24 ماہانہ اقساط شائع ہو چکی ہیں۔ دو سال مکمل ہونے پر ہم نے لیفٹیننٹ کرنل (ریٹائرڈ) سید احمد ندیم قادری، تمنغہ امتیاز سے ایک مفصل نشست منعقد کی اور عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے اس عظیم الشان اور فقید المثال پروگرام پر سیر حاصل گفتگو کی جس کا احوال درج ذیل ہے۔

سوال:- کرنل صاحب! عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے اس پروگرام پر گفتگو سے پہلے آپ کچھ اپنے بارے میں بتائیے؟

جواب:- میری عملی زندگی کا آغاز 1975ء میں ہوا جب میں نے پاکستان کے عظیم الشان عسکری ادارے پاکستان ملٹری اکیڈمی کاکول کو جوائن کیا۔ دو سالہ تربیت کی تکمیل پر اپریل 1977ء میں پاس آؤٹ ہونے کے بعد فرنٹیئر فورس کی ایک ماہیہ نازر جنٹ میں شمولیت اختیار کی۔ مادر وطن کے دفاع کے لئے 27 سال خدمات سرانجام دینے کے بعد اپریل 2002ء میں ریٹائر ہوا۔ جون 2002ء میں ڈیپارٹمنٹل سلیکشن امتحان کو ایفائی کرنے کے بعد پاکستان بیت المال جوائن کیا کچھ عرصہ پاکستان بیت المال صوبہ سندھ میں

خدمات سرانجام دیں۔ اس کے بعد ڈائریکٹر پنجاب کی حیثیت سے 11 سال خدمات سرانجام دینے کے بعد 2013ء میں سبکدوش ہوا۔ پاکستان بیت المال میں خدمات عامہ کے شعبہ میں میری نمایاں خدمات کے اعتراف میں صدر اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان نے مجھے ”تمغہ امتیاز“ سے نوازا۔

سوال:- کرنل صاحب! اپنے تعلیمی پس منظر کے متعلق بتائیں؟

جواب:- میں نے پاکستان ملٹری اکیڈمی کاکول سے گریجویشن کیا۔ پھر فوجی ملازمت کے دوران مختلف کورسز کئے۔ فوجی سروس کے آخری چند سالوں میں ”بین الاقوامی تعلقات“ میں ماسٹرز کیا۔ ”اردو ادب“ میں ماسٹرز کیا اور قانون کی ڈگری حاصل کی۔

سوال:- بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو بین الاقوامی نوعیت کا ایک بہت بڑا پروگرام ہے۔ اس عظیم الشان پروگرام پر لکھنے کا محرک کیا تھا؟

جواب:- مارچ 2019ء میں محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی نے مجھے نوائے وقت کو جو ان کرنے کیلئے کہا اور میں نوائے وقت کا حصہ بن گیا۔ نوائے وقت کے ساتھ بطور قاری میرا رشتہ نصف صدی سے زیادہ عرصے پر محیط تھا اور نوائے وقت کے مزاج سے بخوبی آشنا تھا۔ محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی سے پہلی باضابطہ ملاقات میں، میں نے ان سے گزارش کی کہ سی جو بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو پروگرام کی ایک اہم ترین راہداری ہے اور پاکستان کی معاشی تقدیر اس پروگرام سے وابستہ ہے اسے پاکستان کے عوام کو مکافقہ (CPEC) پیک روشناس کروانے کے لئے ہمیں اس پر تفصیل سے لکھنا چاہئے۔ انہوں نے میری تجویز سے فوراً اتفاق کیا اور اسی وقت چین سے ایک تربیتی پروگرام مکمل کر کے آنے والے صحافی خاور عباس سندھو کو میری معاونت کے لئے مقرر کر دیا۔ اپریل 2019ء میں ہم نے اس کام پر تحقیق و تحریر کا آغاز کیا اور 12 مئی 2019ء سے اس کی پہلی قسط کا آغاز ہوا۔ اب تک اس کی 24 ماہانہ اقساط پوری ہو چکی ہیں۔

سوال:- بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو پروگرام کے منصفہ شہود میں آنے کے مرکزی خیال کی تشکیل کس طرح ہوئی؟

سے پندرہویں صدی Han Dynasty جواب:- بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کا تصور قدیم سمندری اور زمینی شاہراہ ریشم سے تشکیل پایا ہے جسے دوسری صدی قبل مسیح میں چین کی عیسوی تک خوب عروج حاصل رہا۔ شاہراہ ریشم کے ان تجارتی راستوں نے قدیم چین کو جنوب مشرقی ایشیا، برصغیر، جزیرہ نمائے عرب، افریقہ میں صومالیہ سے مصر اور یورپ سے منسلک کیا جس سے چینی قلمرو کو معاشی دائرہ اثر بڑھانے اور علاقائی غلبہ حاصل کرنے میں مدد ملی۔ 2013ء میں چائینیز کمیونسٹ پارٹی کی موجودہ قیادت نے چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کے گلوبل ویزن کے مطابق بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کا تصور پیش کیا۔ اس تصور کا مقصد سیاسی، سفارتی مقاصد کے ساتھ ساتھ ترقیاتی اثرات کے حامل دور رس معاشی نتائج کا حصول ہے جو قدیم تجارتی شاہراہ ریشم کے احیاء کے ذریعے اکیسویں صدی کے معاشی دور کو نئے سرے سے توانائی بخش کر بین الاقوامی تجارت اور بین الاقوامی تعلقات کے ساتھ ہم آہنگ کر سکے۔ یہ شاہراہ ریشم مشرقی ایشیا اور یورپ کے درمیان بیٹھار ریل، روڈ اور بحری تجارتی راستے مہیا کرے گی اور چین کو جنوب مشرقی ایشیا، جنوبی ایشیا، افریقہ، مشرق وسطیٰ، یورپ اور لاطینی امریکہ کے ساتھ تجارتی راستوں سے منسلک کرے گی۔ دنیا کی 65 فیصد آبادی کو حاصل ہونے والے اثرات کے ساتھ ساتھ چین کو حاصل ہونے والے عظیم معاشی فوائد نہ صرف چین کی قومی قوت اور طاقت کے اجزاء کو جلا بخشنے کی بلکہ قابل عمل ترقیاتی پروگراموں کے ذریعے معاشی تقویت کو بڑھانے میں مدد دے گی جس سے عالمی ہم آہنگی اور باہمی خوشحالی کو فروغ حاصل ہوگا، نتیجتاً یہ عظیم معاشی اور تجارتی پیشرفت خطے میں چین کے نمایاں کلیدی رول کو موثر طور پر بڑھانے میں مدد دے گی۔

سوال:- بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کی کتنی راہداریاں ہیں؟

جواب:- بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کی اب تک جن راہداریوں کا اعلان ہو چکا ہے ان کی تفصیل یہ ہے:-

نیو یوریشین لینڈ بریج

(New Eurasian Land Bridge)

-2

چائنا-منگولیا-رشیا اکنامک کوریڈور

(China-Mangolia-Russia Economic Corridor)

-3

چائنا-سنٹرل اینڈ ویسٹ ایشیا اکنامک کوریڈور

(China-Cental and West Asia Economic Corridor)

-4

چائنا-انڈو چائنا پیننسولا اکنامک کوریڈور

(China- Indo China Peninsula Economic Corridor)

-5

آئس سلک روڈ

(Ice Silk Road)

-6

ٹرانس ہمالین اکنامک کوریڈور

(Trans Himalayan Economic Corridor)

-7

اکیسویں صدی کی میری ٹائم سلک روڈ

(21st Century Maritime Silk Road)

-8

آئرن سلک روڈ

(Iron Silk Road)

-9

بنگلہ دیش-چائنا-انڈیا-میانمار اکنامک کوریڈور

(Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor)

-10

چائنا-پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور

(China-Pakistan Economic Corridor)

نوائے وقت میں عرصہ دو سال میں پہلی سات راہداریوں کا مفصل احوال بیان ہو چکا ہے۔

کی وسعت اور ہمہ گیریت کے بارے میں بتائیے؟ (BRI) سوال:- بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو

گلوبل انفراسٹرکچر ڈیولپمنٹ کا تزیرواتی اہمیت کا پروگرام ہے جس کا عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے 2013ء میں اعلان (BRI) جواب:- بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کیا۔ اس پروگرام کے تحت چین دنیا کے 152 ممالک اور بین الاقوامی آرگنائزیشنز میں تقریباً 8 ٹریلین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کرے گا۔ براعظم ایشیا، افریقہ، یورپ، مشرق وسطیٰ، ربحی میں شروع کئے گئے ان عظیم الشان اور محیر العقول منصوبوں کی تکمیل کا اندازہ 2049ء ہے جب چین اپنی آزادی کی 100 ویں (Arctic) لاطینی امریکہ اور آرکٹک سا لگرہ منارہا ہوگا۔ ان پروگراموں کے ذریعے چین ان ممالک میں انفراسٹرکچر، ریل، روڈ اور سمندری رابطوں، توانائی کے منصوبوں، زراعت، صنعت، ڈیموں، فلڈ کنٹرول، نئے شہر، خشکی اور پانی کے نئے راستوں، ہیومن ریسورس، غربت کے خاتمے، باہمی تجارت، اکنامک گروتھ، سیاحت، دنیا کے ممالک کے شہریوں کے باہمی رابطوں، بندرگاہوں، تعلیم، تعمیراتی امور، (Connectivity) کی تعمیر و ترقی، ثقافتی تعلقات، کان کنی، مواصلات، پارکس، خصوصی اقتصادی زونز، شہری ترقی، سسٹم اور میکانزم کی کنکٹیوٹی، آٹوموبائل، ریل اسٹیٹ، بجلی کے گرڈ، آئرن اور اسٹیل، ونڈ پاور، گیس اور آئل پائپ لائنز، پاور پلانٹس اور زراعت پر سرمایہ کاری کرے گا۔ ان پروگراموں کی وسعت اور ہمہ گیریت کا اندازہ اس بات سے لگایا جاسکتا ہے کہ اس سے دنیا کی 65 فیصد آبادی کو فائدہ ہو گا۔

راہداری کی چین کے نزدیک کیا اہمیت ہے؟ (CPEC) سوال:- سی پیک

جواب:- عوامی جمہوریہ چین ایک ارب چوالیس کروڑ 42 لاکھ آبادی کے ساتھ دنیا میں پہلے نمبر پر ہے۔ اتنی بڑی آبادی کی ضروریات زندگی، بالخصوص تیل کی اچھوت اور چین میں تیار ہو کر دنیا بھر کو سپلائی ہونے والی کنزیومر گڈز کو ایکسپورٹ کرنے کیلئے چینی بحری جہازوں کو ساؤتھ چائنا سی، آبنائے ملاکہ اور بحر ہند میں انڈیمان اور نکوبار جزائر کے پاس سے گزرتا پڑتا ہے۔ ساؤتھ چائنا سی سے متصل ممالک سے چین کے علاقائی تنازعات، آبنائے ملاکہ پر امریکی اثر و رسوخ اور انڈیا کے زیر تسلط انڈیمان اور نکوبار جزائر پر انڈین تنصیبات کی موجودگی میں چین کے بحری جہازوں کی آمد و رفت ہر وقت ایک خطرے کا شکار رہتی ہے۔ آبنائے ملاکہ کی بندش کی صورت میں چین کی تیل کی 80 فیصد درآمد سے بھرپور طویل راستہ 45 دن کے سفر پر محیط ہے جبکہ Hostile Environment خطرے میں پڑ کر چین کے لئے ایک خطرناک بحران کی صورت اختیار کر سکتی ہے۔ پھر یہ کاشغریہ گوادریک سڑک کا راستہ نہ صرف محض 10 دنوں میں طے ہو جاتا ہے بلکہ یہ تمام راستہ مکمل محفوظ اور فرینڈلی ہے۔ دنیا کی سب سے گہری گوادریک بندرگاہ ”گلگ آف CPEC اومان“ کے عین دہانے پر واقع ہے اور تیل کی دولت سے مالامال خلیجی ریاستوں کے تیل کی چین کو سپلائی کے لئے محفوظ ترین اور مختصر ترین راستہ مہیا کرتی ہے۔ لہذا راہداری چین کے لئے اہم ترین راہداری کا درجہ رکھتی ہے۔

سوال:- گلوبل اہمیت کے اتنے بڑے پروگرام کی دو سال سے مسلسل کوریج پر مختلف اداروں اور افراد کی طرف سے کیا رسپانس ملا ہے؟

جواب:- یہ رسپانس نہایت حوصلہ افزا اور خوش کن ہے۔ مجھے بے شمار قارئین نے فون اور وٹس ایپ کے ذریعے تعریفی پیغامات بھیجے اور اس معلوماتی پروگرام کو جاری رکھنے پر زور دیا۔ عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے تو فصل جزل ان لاہور مسٹر لانگ ڈنگ بن نوائے وقت لاہور کے دفتر میں تشریف لائے اور محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی صاحبہ کا شکریہ ادا کیا کہ ان کا ادارہ چین کے اس عظیم الشان پروگرام کو پاکستانی عوام میں پرنٹ میڈیا کے ذریعے متعارف کروانے میں اہم ترین کردار ادا کر رہا ہے۔ انہوں نے اس موقع کا اظہار بھی کیا کہ باہمی تعاون کا یہ سلسلہ جاری رہے گا۔ اس کے بعد مارچ 2021ء میں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے نئے سفیر ہنریکسی لینسی مسٹر لونگ برونگ نے اپنے 12 رکنی وفد کے ہمراہ نوائے

وقت لاہور آفس کا دورہ کیا۔ یہ ان کا پاکستان میں کسی بھی میڈیا ہاؤس کا پہلا دورہ تھا۔ انہوں نے محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی کا شکریہ ادا کیا کہ ان کا ادارہ چین کے اس عظیم الشان بین الاقوامی پروگرام کو پاکستانی عوام میں متعارف کروانے میں پیش پیش ہے۔ انہوں نے محترمہ رمیزہ مجید نظامی کو اپنی ٹیم کے ہمراہ چینی سفارت خانے اسلام آباد آنے کی دعوت بھی دی۔ گورنر پنجاب چودھری محمد سرور نے 22 مارچ 2021ء کو نوائے وقت لاہور کا دورہ کیا تو ”بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو“ پر شائع ہونے والے مضامین میں گہری دلچسپی لی اور انہیں نہایت معلوماتی قرار دیا اور انہیں تفصیلاً پڑھنے کی خواہش کا اظہار کیا۔ نیشنل ڈیفنس یونیورسٹی اسلام آباد کے سابق صدر ریفینٹ جزل (ر) آغا عمر فاروق نے ان مضامین کو بھرپور انداز میں سراہا اور کہا کہ ”بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو“ پر لکھی جانے والی یہ پہلی اور منفرد کوشش ہے جس سے پاکستان کے عوام کو اس پروگرام کو جاننے کا موقع ملے گا۔ آئی کے سابق ڈائریکٹر جزل میجر جزل (ر) سلیم اللہ نے ان مضامین کی اشاعت کو نہایت خوش آئند قرار دیا اور کہا کہ انہیں کتاب کی شکل میں شائع کرنا (ISPR) ایس پی آر چاہئے تاکہ محققین، انٹرنیشنل انویسٹرز اور جیو پالیٹیکل اینلیسٹس کے طلباء کیلئے یہ ایک ریفرنس بک کا کام دے سکے۔ اس کے علاوہ پی ایچ ڈی اور سول سپیریورس کے امتحان کے امیدواروں کی جانب سے بھی ان مضامین کا بھرپور خیر مقدم کیا گیا ہے۔ بے شمار تارکین کی جانب سے اسے انگریزی میں ترجمہ کروا کر شائع کرنے کا بھی مطالبہ کیا گیا ہے کئی اشاعتی اداروں نے اسے کتاب کی شکل میں چھاپنے کے لئے تعاون کی پیشکش بھی کی ہے۔ مختصر آئیے کہ علمی حلقوں میں اس کی نہایت شاندار پذیرائی ہوئی ہے جو ایک نہایت خوش آئند بات ہے۔

سوال:- چین مخالف ممالک کی طرف سے یہ پراپیگنڈہ کیا جاتا ہے کہ چین اس پروگرام کے ذریعے وسعت پسند پالیسی پر عمل پیرا ہے۔ آپ اس بارے میں کیا کہیں گے؟
جواب:- دیکھیں! چین ہمیشہ پُر امن بقائے باہمی کے اصول پر کاربند رہا ہے۔ تمام ہمسایہ ممالک کے ساتھ اس کے ہمیشہ سے اچھے تعلقات رہے ہیں سوائے انڈیا کے۔ انڈیا نے چین کے علاقوں پر قبضہ کر رکھا ہے اور اس تنازعے پر 1962ء اور پھر اس کے بعد حال ہی میں انڈیا اور چین کی مڈ بھڑ ہو چکی ہے جس میں انڈیا کو شرمناک شکست کا سامنا کرنا پڑا ہے۔ ”بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو“ کے ذریعے چین پروگرام میں شامل تمام ممالک کی معاشی ترقی میں مدد دے رہا ہے جسے وہاں کی حکومتیں اور عوام نہایت خوشدلی سے قبول کر رہے ہیں بلکہ باہمی تعاون (Aggressive Design) رہے ہیں اور معاشی ترقی کے ثمرات سے مستفید ہو رہے ہیں۔ چین کی پالیسیاں جارحانہ ڈیزائن (Peaceful Economic Expansion) کے ذریعے انسانی اور معاشی ترقی کے اصول پر عمل پیرا ہیں یہ (Cooperation) کا شاندار نمونہ ہے جو چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کا Peaceful Economic Expansion کے ذریعے انسانی اور معاشی ترقی کے اصول پر عمل پیرا ہیں یہ (Peaceful Co-existence) کا نمونہ ہے۔

سوال:- کیا اس پروگرام کے ذریعے عالمی امن کے حصول کی طرف کوئی پیش رفت ہو سکتی ہے؟

جواب:- ”بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو“ پروگرام سے دنیا کے 152 ممالک اور عالمی تنظیموں کے معاشی مفادات منسلک ہونے جا رہے ہیں جس سے ان ممالک کے عوام کی خوشحالی وابستہ ہے۔ خوشحال معاشرہ عمومی طور پر ایک پُر امن زندگی گزارنے کا خواہشمند ہوتا ہے، پھر ملکوں کے معاشی مفادات انہیں اس بات کی ترغیب دیں گے کہ وہ پُر امن بقائے کے اصولوں کے تحت باہمی تنازعات کو حل کرنے کی طرف پیش رفت کریں اور ایک خوشحال معاشرہ تشکیل دیں جو عالمی امن کے (Peaceful Co-existence) کا نمونہ ہے۔ حصول کی طرف ایک قدم ہو سکتا ہے۔

سوال:- آپ اپنے لکھنے کے اسلوب کے بارے میں بتائیے؟

جواب:- بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کے نظریے نے دو ہزار سالہ قدیم تاریخی شاہراہ ریشم سے جنم لیا ہے۔ یہ قدیم تاریخ کا احیاء ہے۔ لہذا ہم نے قدیم شاہراہ ریشم کی تاریخ لکھنے کی BRI سے اس کا آغاز کیا تاکہ قارئین کو اس قدیم دور کے مہم جوؤں کی مشکلات، لگن، حوصلے اور عزم صمیم کا ادراک ہو سکے۔ یہ تاریخ نہایت دلچسپ ہے۔ اس کے بعد کے BRI مختلف راہداریاں جن جن ممالک سے گزر رہی ہیں ان ممالک کے مختصر جغرافیے، تاریخ، طرز حکمرانی، آبادی اور اہم معلومات کا ذکر کیا گیا ہے۔ پھر ان ممالک میں

تحت ہونے والے پراجیکٹس کا تعارف کروایا گیا ہے اور نقشوں اور جدول کی مدد سے ان کو تفصیلاً بیان کیا گیا ہے تاکہ قارئین کے لئے اسے سمجھنا آسان ہو بالخصوص ساؤتھ چائنا سی، اس میں 9 ڈیش لائنز اور آبنائے ملاکہ میں درپیش مشکلات کو نقشوں کی مدد سے نہایت صراحت کے ساتھ بیان کیا ہے۔ نئے اور متبادل زمینی اور سمندری راستوں کی بھی نقشوں اور تصاویر کے ذریعے وضاحت کی گئی ہے تاکہ قاری اس عالمی منظر نامے، اس سے ہونے والی تبدیلیاں اور اس کے گلوبل اثرات کو آسانی سے سمجھ سکے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2021-04-05/page-9/detail-0>

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Daily Times

China's yet another masterstroke

Munir Ahmed

A country's moves on the global strategic chessboard defines its vigor, present importance and projected future capacity. In recent years, the world has seen China's gradual but rapid economic growth after the launch of 'One Belt One Road' (OBOR) initiative that was lately termed as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013, the BRI envisions the construction of road and sea connections between China and countries in Southeast Asia, Central Asia and through to Europe. This is to be achieved with massive investment in infrastructure, including roads, rail, airports, ports, pipelines, and communications. China has committed \$1.4 trillion to the initiative, which will leverage multiples of private finance to foot the bill for building and servicing the infrastructure. Credit Suisse estimates that China could invest over \$500 billion into 62 BRI projects by the end of 2021.

The pandemic 2019, however, might have affected the pace of work on the BRI projects. But it seems not as the China signs a \$400 billion deal with Iran for 25 years just about a week back. The deal is to ensure exchange of a steady supply of oil to fuel China's growing economy under a sweeping economic and security agreement. The New York Times has termed the deal to deepen China's influence in the Middle East. "The countries signed a sweeping pact on Saturday [March 27, 2021] that calls for heavy Chinese investments in Iran over 25 years in exchange for oil — a step that could ease Iran's international isolation. But it was not immediately clear how much of the agreement can be implemented while the U.S. dispute with Iran over its nuclear program remains unresolved."

President Biden has offered to resume negotiations with Iran over the 2015 nuclear accord that his predecessor, President Donald J. Trump, abrogated three years after it was signed. American officials say both countries can take synchronized steps to bring Iran into compliance with the terms of the agreement while the United States gradually lifts sanctions. Iran has refused to do so, and China has backed it up, demanding that the United States act first to revive the deal it broke by lifting unilateral sanctions that have suffocated the Iranian economy. China was one of five world powers that, along with the U.S., signed the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran.

China-Iran accord as yet another masterstroke of China that would have a historic turnaround in the Middle East and Asia with global impact challenging the unilateral and hegemonic decision-making by the only ‘super power’

In these circumstances, the China-Iran accord is being termed as a historic milestone to further strengthen the Chinese influence in the Middle East region and Asia. It will not only extend the Chinese market for trade and economic growth but also be feared to disturb the balance of power in the region. The impact is expected to go beyond the region.

The \$400 billion financial cooperation will help Iran to dilute its isolation and enhance trade ties with China and Middle East countries. At a time when Iran is struggling with the US sponsored restrictions and the devastating impact of Covid-19, this development is a welcome relief. However, it is questionable if the deal would lead to a win-win situation for all in the region and for the global stakeholders.

With this deal, Beijing has not only secured an alternative access to hydrocarbons but has also further strengthened its influence across the Indian Ocean. This deal might come as a surprise for many given the Indian investments in Iran. China has nurtured friendly bilateral relations with Iran over the decade and has signed over 17 agreements worth USD 18-20 billion and promised to increase trade relations between the two countries during President Xi Jinping 2016 visit to Iran. The deal discussed then got matured now.

This deal would be a big dent to the US interests in the region – a deal which is yet to be unfolded by Iran and China to the world. But experts believe that it may be largely unchanged from an 18-page draft obtained last year by The New York Times, as claimed and published.

That draft detailed \$400 billion of Chinese investments to be made in dozens of fields, including banking, telecommunications, ports, railways, health care and information technology, over the next 25 years. In exchange, China would receive a regular — and, according to an Iranian official and an oil trader, heavily discounted — supply of Iranian oil. The draft also called for deepening military cooperation, including joint training and exercises, joint research and weapons development and intelligence-sharing.

Hesamoddin Ashena, a top adviser to President Rouhani, called the deal “an example of a successful diplomacy” on Twitter, saying it was a sign of Iran’s power “to participate in coalitions, not to remain in isolation.” He called it “an important decree for long-term cooperation after long negotiations and joint work.”

Chinese foreign minister Mr. Wang has already visited Iran’s archrival, Saudi Arabia, as well as Turkey, and is scheduled to go to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman in the days ahead. He has said that the region is at a crossroads and offered China’s help in resolving persistent disputes, including over Iran’s nuclear program. China is even ready to play host to direct talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians, hinting that American dominance in the region has hindered peace and development.

While concluding, I must term the China-Iran accord as yet another masterstroke of China that would have a historic turnaround in the Middle East and Asia with global impact challenging the unilateral and hegemonic decision-making by the only ‘super power’.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/742272/chinas-yet-another-masterstroke/>

Pakistan continues cotton trade with Xinjiang

Pakistan cotton export and import bodies have announced to continue cotton trade with China especially from Xinjiang, dismissing all accusations and sanctions imposed by the western countries.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), they took crystal-clear stance that Xinjiang cotton industry is not stigmatized at all by human right abuses and forced labour rather the move is politically-motivated.

Pakistan Textile Exporter Association (PTEA) Chairman Muhammad Ahmed in an interview to CEN said that Pakistan traders characterize Xinjiang cotton boycott reprehensible. “We have nothing to do with western campaign hell-bent to play Xinjiang cotton card to eclipse China image under the pretext of concocted accusation of human rights,” he asserted. Pakistan’s import trade with China, he said, will remain unhurt as traders are not going to succumb to any pressure. “Pakistani importers have conspicuous understanding that Xinjiang cotton industry meets all standards and parameters set by World Trade Organization (WTO) related to working conditions in industries. It is beyond comprehension that neither World Trade Organization (WTO) nor United National (UN) raised any eyebrows over the working qualities in Xinjiang cotton growth and production practices,” he revealed, and added that satisfaction of WTO and UN are enough to substantiate that EU, US, UK and Canada have their own ulterior motives to serve their trade agenda and political designs.

Punjab Trader Association (PTA) President Asim Hussain said that under CPFTA phase I and phase II, spillover of incentives on export and import with China, Pakistani is the main beneficiary. “Since Pakistan-China trade scenario has been deepened and broadened recently especially under CPEC framework, cotton trade with China is up and running smoothly,” he mentioned. “With the products of Chinese cotton including Xinjiang from which Pakistan imports cotton, Pakistani traders are in a position to meet the deadlines of fulfilling international contracts secured from Nike, Addidas, Zara and other global brands,” he said.

According to data, during the first half of the fiscal year 2019-20, Pakistan imported 24,299 tonnes of cotton yarn from China and other countries including Turkey, Oman, Uzbekistan, Indonesia, Vietnam and other countries. Pakistan imported 14,100 tonnes of cotton yarn from China (58pc of total imports), 2,067 tonnes from Turkey, 1,038 tonnes from Oman, 915 tonnes from Uzbekistan, 246 tonnes from Indonesia, 172 tonnes from Vietnam and 1,028 tonnes from other countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/742424/pakistan-continues-cotton-trade-with-xinjiang/>

CPEC-funded Iqbal Industrial City ready to run

Qadeer Sikander Malik

The first phase of the Allama Iqbal Industrial City, the first economic zone under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has been completed where more than ten companies have started setting up their industrial plants while a total area of more than 1,000 acres has been allotted.

Expressing these views, the chairman of the Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC), Mian Kashif Ashfaq, said that Allama Iqbal Industrial City was a historic project of the present government which reflected the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and the chief minister.

State-of-the-art facilities will be provided at the Allama Iqbal Industrial City, which will be provided with electricity and gas supply, a modern security system, and trained security staff. With the establishment of the One Window Service Center, the problems of all the industries related to the industry will be solved under one roof.

He added 300 acres have been allotted for the Pakistani community living in Saudi Arabia in Allama Iqbal Industrial City where they will set up various types of industries while 1000 acres have been allotted for China and other countries. Allama Iqbal Industrial City is expected to invest \$250 billion, which will provide employment to half a million people.

The FIEDMC chairman said that Allama Iqbal Industrial City is the first project in Pakistan and the only project in Punjab to be built under C-Pac Authority where investors will have access to property special economic zone facility under which industrialists will get significant tax exemption and duty-free, missionary import facility will be provided.

Mian Kashif Ashfaq further clarified that Allama Iqbal Industrial City is located at the best location in Pakistan from where access to the whole world including Pakistan is possible.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/742393/cpec-funded-iqbal-industrial-city-ready-to-run/>

Dawn News

Cheap Chinese tyres flood local markets

Aamir Shafaat Khan

KARACHI: Chinese tyres have captured 85 per cent of market share in Pakistan — a substantial 45pc increase from two years ago, importers said on Monday.

Like many Made in China products that have flooded local markets, the takeover of the local market share by a Chinese product is not unusual.

Back in 2018, Chinese car tyres held 40pc of the market share which has since increased to 85pc. In the light truck category tyres, China held a share of 30-40pc two years ago which has now gone up to 65-70pc.

Similarly, China also dominates in truck/bus tyres with over 75pc market share which was 40pc two years back.

Talking to Dawn, former chairman of the Pakistan Tyre Importers and Dealers Association (PTIDA) Azim K. Yousufzai said, “Mushroom growth has been noted in the number of dealers who are regularly flooding the market with Chinese tyres.”

One of the main reasons for the rising market share of Chinese tyres is low prices compared with European, Korean, Thai and American tyres, Mr Yousufzai added.

On the smuggling of tyres, he said illegal arrival of different types tyres has slowed down drastically owing to strict vigil at the Landi Kotal border. However, smuggled truck tyres still find their way into local markets via the Chaman border.

“Strict monitoring at the borders has brought down informal arrival of tyres to 20pc from 50-60pc,” he claimed.

Tightening border security has helped in boosting Pakistan’s legal imports of rubber tyres and tubes by 145pc in quantity to 4.87 million and 253pc in value to \$262m during July-Feb 2020-21 from 1.98m costing \$74m in the same period last fiscal year, figures of PBS revealed.

However, Mr Yousufzai said the menace of smuggling still haunts legal tyre trade and deprives the government from revenue. “If the passenger car tyre demand is estimated at 4.25m tyres annually, legal imports cover over 1.7m tyres while the local industry provides 1.19m, leaving a shortfall of around 500,000 tyres which is met through smuggling,” he explained.

Light truck tyre (radial and non-radial) demand is estimated at 4.48m in which local industry produces over 360,000 tyres while imports come to around 900,000 tyres, leaving a shortfall of 2.66m tyres which is met by smuggled items.

In truck/bus tyres (radial and non-radial), legal imports stand at around 900,000 tyres against the demand of 4m tyres annually. As a result, the shortfall of 2.5m tyres is met via illegal arrivals, the former PTIDA office bearer said.

The government has reduced the regulatory duty (RD) to 10-20pc for various categories imported tyres imported 35pc some two and half years ago which also encouraged legal imports, he added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1616687>

The News

Chinese centre empowers Gwadar’s women tailors

ISLAMABAD: Shazia Tariq, a 28-year-old tailor in the Gwadar district, was elated on finding a tailoring centre founded by the Chinese in her hometown, where she could earn good money and polish her skills.

“I had been a tailor since years and I stitched hundreds of dresses for people living in my village,” Tariq told Xinhua. “When I heard about job creation at the tailoring centre in my area, I jumped at the opportunity and now it is providing me a chance to further polish my skills besides giving me monetary benefits.”

Tariq, the single breadwinner of her family after her husband lost his small business amid the Covid-19 lockdown, said she takes a decent amount back home to bear household expenses and it gives her a sense of empowerment.

“It is just the beginning. Our Chinese brothers and sisters are transforming Gwadar and changing the fate of the area. I believe that they will also change the fate of women like me in the centre by giving us opportunities to make the best of our skills to build our future,” she added.

As one of the pillar projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Gwadar port has been operated by China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) since 2013.

The tailoring centre project was supported by the Chinese Consulate General in Karachi and implemented by the COPHC in collaboration with a local women development organisation to support and empower skilful women of Gwadar.

Zaitoon Abdullah, a social worker and coordinator of the tailoring centre, told Xinhua that in the initial phase, samples made by the women were sent to different companies and educational institutes in Gwadar, while in the second phase they prepared uniforms for Chinese companies and educational institutes.

“The women come to the centre and make different samples to be sent to the institutes and companies, and they are paid a monthly stipend by the Chinese, who have not only provided jobs to locals in Gwadar and good education to our children, but are also making local women financially independent,” Abdullah said.

She said in the next step, they would stitch uniforms for Chinese companies and a school built by them for locals in Gwadar. “Women in Gwadar are very talented, but they did not have any platform to show their skills. There are several vocational training institutes to teach basic stitching skills to women, but the centre is the first of the kind to provide an opportunity to skilled women to generate income in an organised way,” she said.

Most of the women at the centre are not much educated, but have big dreams to do something for themselves and their families. Joining the centre has helped their dreams come true, she said, and added that working on modern machines would also enhance their skills.

COPHC Chairman Zhang Baozhong said the tailoring centre was also a starting point for the COPHC to build a complete textile industry chain covering textile printing, garment designing and making in Gwadar to let the locals benefit from industrial development.

“So far, some Chinese and Pakistani textile enterprises have expressed their willingness to cooperate with our tailoring centre to provide technological training and management support, and order our products,” he said.

To make daily commute convenient, the centre was providing free pick up and drop off services. Local people and public representatives said the tailoring centre is a “big step” for women empowerment in the area, which would act as a source of motivation for others.

“Gwadar is a small area. Here everyone knows each other. The few women going out of their homes in traditional dress in good vehicles and coming back home in time are the role models for others to follow and make a mark in the society,” Majid Sohrabi, former mayor of Gwadar said.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/815357-chinese-centre-empowers-gwadar-s-women-tailors>

April 07, 2021

Daily Times

Al-Shifa begins final trials of Chinese Covid vaccine

Final trials of coronavirus vaccine developed by Chinese multinational Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical Co Ltd has been initiated at the Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, after which it will be made available to the public across Pakistan.

The vaccine has already been approved by the government of China, while trials have started at Al-Shifa after Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) recommended its Rawalpindi facility for the purpose. After successful completion of phase 1 and phase 2 of the trials, the third and final phase was launched on Tuesday after the signing of an agreement between Al-Shifa Trust and the Chinese company.

According to the agreement, Zhifei Longcom will be responsible for providing investigational drug and clinical material which meets the requirements while supervising and managing the trial process. For the purpose, a state-of-the-art Clinical Research Unit has already been established at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital and trials will be completed in three months with the help of 1,000 volunteers.

Speaking at the occasion, the President of the trust, Major General (r) Rehmat Khan said that it is an honour for the trust that it has been selected for the vaccine trial by DRAP. He said that there is an urgent demand for vaccine globally as well as in Pakistan therefore all the cooperation is being extended to the Chinese company.

He said it is the fifth vaccine approved in China; it is totally safe and also undergoing the last phase of trials in Uzbekistan and Indonesia and other countries. He said that the vaccine is similar to many of the other approved vaccines, it is effective, and it can be stored at normal refrigeration temperatures.

Major General (r) Rehmat also lauded the selflessness of volunteers who have offered for the national and humanitarian cause. He hoped that the vaccination process in Pakistan will be accelerated after the successful completion of the trials of new vaccine.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/742651/al-shifa-begins-final-trials-of-chinese-covid-vaccine/>

Pakistan, China hold joint fashion show to mark 70th anniversary

A special fashion show, marking the 70th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Pakistan and China held here, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

It introduced best of Pakistan Fashion Trends, that intrigued Chinese fashion insiders to learn about Pakistani costumes. “We should value not only our own culture, but also the cultures of others, especially our friends,” Zhang Qinghui, Chairman of China Fashion Association (CFA), said at the event.

To celebrate the 70th anniversary and enhance communication between Pak-China in fashion sector, this show was held by CFA and Pakistani Embassy in China.

Fourteen Pakistani famous fashion brands, including Maheen Khan, Tabassum Mughal, Umsha, Kalah, Sundus Talpur, Sanabbas, Shamsha, Aleena Fareena, Diners, Sadaf Malaterre, Delphi, Sameer Sain, GOGI, and ZAAVIAY participated in the online event.

The China Fashion Week was aimed at introducing Pakistani fashion trends and shows to China. Pakistani fashion costumes with their strong local style and ornate decorations attract Chinese visitors.

According to CFA: “Different from fashion in the usual sense, Pakistani costumes combining contemporary fashion with national traditional characteristics brought a new view and a visual feast to Chinese audiences.

The 2021 Fashion Week was a part of cultural exchange between Pakistan and China. Through Pakistani models dressed in elegant and colourful garments, we hope the unique Pakistani fashion can be recognized by more Chinese people, then enhance the Sino-Pak communication in this field.”

Zhang Qinghui also presented a Partner Certificate to Counsellor Awais Ahmed Khan on the occasion, and called for further cooperation and communication with Pakistani fashion industry.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/742619/pakistan-china-hold-joint-fashion-show-to-mark-70th-anniversary/>

Dawn News

China assures Murad of inclusion of KCR, Keti Bandar projects in CPEC

Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: Chinese authorities have assured the Sindh government that they would pursue Karachi Circular Railway, Keti Bandar and other projects to officially include them in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)-related projects.

This emerged on Tuesday in a meeting between Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and a Chinese government delegation led by Beijing’s Ambassador in Pakistan Nong Rong.

The other delegation members were Chinese Consul General Li Bijian, defence attaché Maj Gen Chen Wen Rong, consular Bao Zhong, deputy defence attaché Senior Col Ji Xinqi, Lt Col Di Weichao, first secretary Wang Xianfeng and third secretary Wu Linglin.

Financing request for KCR

The chief minister told the delegation that on the request of his government the KCR was included in CPEC on Dec 3, 2016. The project was approved and included in 6th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC). He added that the project was approved by Ecnec at a cost of \$1.97 billion in Oct 2017.

The CM says centre hasn't addressed KCR issues despite his multiple requests

Mr Shah said that the KCR had been part of all JCC meetings and in all the meetings it was stated to be a feasible and viable project but there were major obstacles that needed to be removed.

He added that the obstacles included sharing of a framework agreement, sovereign guarantee by the finance division, concessional finance request to Chinese government by the federal government, right of way for KCR at common corridor between ML-1 and KCR.

He said that he had been requesting the federal government to resolve the issues, but the issues were still unaddressed.

“In the 9th JCC meeting the KCR was again discussed and it was resolved that the Pakistan side will submit the financing request to the Chinese side,” he said and added it had not been submitted yet.

Talking about the current situation of the KCR, Mr Shah said that the federal government included two projects in the public sector development programme of FY 21, which were Rs1.85bn organization of train on existing KCR alignment and revival of KCR Phase-II for Rs8.7bn.

He said that he had included three projects in the provincial ADP 2020-21, which include revival of KCR (CPEC framework) for Rs207.5bn, construction of a boundary fence along the KCR alignment for Rs2.3 million and construction of underpasses/flyovers on railway crossing along KCR route for Rs5bn.

The visiting delegation assured the chief minister that they would take up the KCR projects in the CPEC-related meeting.

Keti Bandar

The chief minister said that Keti Bandar was located about 107km from Thatta city and 150km from Karachi via Gharo and it was very promising in terms of future prospects.

He said that the Keti Bandar project was an important part of the Sindh government's strategy towards developing the energy sector.

Mr Shah said that 4,000 acres of land had been identified for the project and a feasibility study was completed for installation of a 1,320MW power plant along with a railway line, coal jetty and allied infrastructure.

“A financial viability assessment and bid management report has also been completed and the transaction advice report is being awaited,” he added.

The CM said that the project was part of CPEC framework since 2017. Earlier, the project was referred to the Joint Working Group (JWG) for consideration. “After completion of the studies, the project is now ready to be taken up in the main framework,” he said.

The other projects that came under discussion included Thar coal energy, infrastructure, special economic zone, Dhabeji, socio-economic development projects.

The Chinese delegation said that their first CPEC project of 660MW Thar coal power plants was functioning successfully and on the same pattern all the CPEC-related projects would be completed on a fast-track basis.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1616838>

Farmers for permission to export potato to China

OKARA: Potato growers say potato yield is estimated to be 15m tonne this season and four million tonne can be exported after about nine million tonne domestic consumption.

They claim China currently needs three million tonne potato, which Pakistani farmers could provide as their produce is in abundance.

The farmers, including Potato Growers Association (PGA) President Mian Muhammad Siddique, Potato Research & Development Board (PR& DB), Punjab Chairman Ch Muhammad Maqsood Jatt and Abdul Rauf Hinjra, were talking to this correspondent after a meeting on Tuesday.

They said although it was getting late but the Ministry of National Food Security& Research (NFS& R) could initiate dialogues on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) with China as the SPS paved the way to settle restrictions between two countries for trade of seeds, plant, plant produce and vegetables.

In this connection, a meeting was required at the start of potato harvesting season in January 2021 but Adviser to PM on Commerce Razak Dawood postponed the meeting four times and now scheduled a meeting on April 12 at Islamabad to consider potato export under the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) on the proposal of potato growers.

The farmers demanded that like the Pakistan Tobacco Board, the government must establish a permanent Potato Development Board (PDB) of all stakeholders comprising growers, exporters, government representatives and scientists.

The farmers said when the potato crop was ready for harvesting, the crop in China was many weeks away from maturity and there was a bright chance of potato export to China.

It is worth mentioning present potato rates might add more than one billion dollars in the total exports.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1616764/farmers-for-permission-to-export-potato-to-china>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC: The strategic power fulcrum

Prof Abdul Shakoor Shah

CPEC is the regional strategic power fulcrum. During Russian invasion of Afghanistan, the US aspired to develop Gwadar port for its strategic engagement in Afghanistan. But the Russian decamping Afghanistan left the plan unfulfilled. The President of Pakistan, General Parvez Musharraf, realized the economic and strategic vitality of Gwadar and received China's attention. Now, CPEC has proven itself the Asian Trojan Horse. Along with other benefits of CPEC, it is a strategic power fulcrum. CPEC has strengthened Pak-China strategic ties and joint endeavours against common enemy India. India-US-Israel ties are posing serious threats to both. India-US imperialistic designs to control Central Asia are not favourable to any regional stakeholder. CPEC has jeopardized India economically, geopolitically and strategically. This fact compelled India to end its reluctance of shaking hands with the US.

Gwadar is an important strategic port for Pakistan, China and the CARs. The port is also a strategic barrier for the US, being the unbidden extra regional power in South Asia. Gwadar port has weakened the US geopolitically and strategic holds over Pak-India relations. It has substituted the US with China and Russia for strategic support for Pakistan. CPEC is a corridor to Central Asian States which is another region for the US interests. It is aligning the Central Asian States with Pak-China and Russia instead of the US because CPEC is promising economic and strategic prospects for Central Asian States. The strategic importance of Gwadar port for China and Pakistan is enshrined in the unique location of this port. One-third of the trade of the world is done from the Strait of Malacca. There is no second thought Chinese import of oil products is done from this Strait up to 80%. The Strait is always prone to the threats in case of strife among countries. The Gwadar port also opens a gateway to Indian Ocean. CPEC is a catalyst for balance in South Asia.

It has surely strengthened Pakistan against arch enemy India economically, strategically and on international fronts. The US regional strategic monopoly, which has always been India-centric, has lost its strongholds. Through CPEC, China will get an easy gateway to support and control its remote areas of Xinjiang economically and strategically. For Pakistan, it will ensure to curb Indian backed insurgency in Balochistan. CPEC is going to reshape the power fulcrum of South Asia, Central Asia and Europe. The strategic bonds between Pakistan and China have been on an upward trajectory with moved thrust on economic interaction after the initiation of CPEC. CPEC was inevitable to safeguard common interests and mutual benefits, and strategic communication between China and Pakistan. Counter balancing the Pivot to Asia Policy designed by the US to

contain and encircle China with an alliance including India, Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, Australia, Singapore and the Philippines, this Corridor will serve as a substitute route for Chinese trade, thereby allowing China to outwit the threat of a blockade of Chinese oil supplies through the Strait of Malacca by the USA and allied navies in the wake of a future war in Asia. CPEC will strengthen the strategic alliance between Pakistan and China. Gwadar port having tremendous reserves of cargo and shipment tackling capacity and numerous shipyards carries an imperative position. CPEC is located close to the Strait of Hormuz which supplies about 40% of world oil. In case of war, this oil supply can be cut off and the power of oil bomb can be used.

Gwadar port has key significance in protecting Chinese energy security by promising the Pakistan Navy with strategic depth beside its seashore as a nautical pedestal. Through CPEC, Chinese trade and power provisions significantly outwit Indo-US nautical coercion of commotion. The US-led wars have become order of the day specifically in East Muslim zones. These imperialistic designs can be averted to a large extent through CPEC, assuring decisive wellbeing value to a durable world peace. The CPEC-sponsored Kashgar-Khunjerab land route immensely alleviates the projection of conflict with the arch enemy, India that could become a reality, either, by miscalculation, or, otherwise, over the ongoing high seas. The Chinese economic presence in the Arabian Sea, and Gwadar, in union with Pakistan's crucial geostrategic cooperation, introduces much needed strategic balance which is omitted from the Arabian Sea. The Indo-US strategic affiliation that has monopolized the strategic sphere of influence in the Arabian Sea-Indian Ocean region will be restricted to acknowledge the impact of Sino-Pak charisma in the dominion of competitive naval interests. India-US maritime joint ventures in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea have left Pak-China with no alternative to empower their naval forces to protect their sea lanes of communication. Pak-China Active Defence will enhance the capability of Pak Navy and forces to better them. The protection of open seas and ports will boost up strategic efficiency of the sea combats. In future years, Pak-China Active Defence can be jointly developed to the largest Asian Navy. CPEC is many times much safer than the narrow and dangerous nature of the Strait which endangers merchants to terrorist attacks. From Gwadar, China can keep a critical eye on the Indian-US adventures in the Indian Ocean and Basra Gulf.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-the-strategic-power-fulcrum-by-prof-abdul-shakoor-shah/>

CPEC: China & Iran strategic partnership

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

CHINA Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has now become hot topic in the South East Asia and Central Asia regions because of its “trans-regional” importance in terms of a real “pushing force” to achieve immense “socio-economic” prosperity, “regional integration”, food and energy cooperation, poverty eradication, green revolution and last but not the least, “connecting hub”. The CPEC has become a “magnetic force” to promote ties of mutual respect, equal rights of prosperity, community development and positive & productive political consultations in the region and beyond. The “preachers” of disinformation, disintegration, destruction, disharmony

and powers of “disorder” have been projecting the CPEC as a franchise of Chinese so-called regional dominance which is absolutely false. The forces of “evil” are once again drawing unnecessary comparison between the CPEC and the most recently signed China-Iran Strategic Partnership (CISP) and terming it anti-Pakistan & CPEC. Thus it started another hot debate in the country and region about its probable socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic spill-over repercussions to Pakistan and the CPEC alike. Unfortunately, paid agents of imperialistic forces, the so-called pseudo intellectuals, fake economists and so-called esteemed regional experts have written articles against the just signed CISP and, therefore, deliberately label the CPEC conflicting and contradicting. It is absolutely untrue and baseless in all respects. On the other hand, Pakistan will gain unlimited benefits from the CISP worth USD 400 billion. According to it, China will invest billions in different Iranian sectors, including gas and oil, while Iran is due to ensure regular energy supplies to Beijing for the next 25 years at a discounted rate. It seems that the CISP will mark a geopolitical shift in the Middle East and Asia and will benefit Pakistan and, of course, the CPEC. It is indeed a lifeline that would ensure the West Asian country’s long-term stability against the ongoing US socio-economic sanctions and increased US-led regional military presence and pressure. It predicts that the CISP will facilitate Pakistan’s interests in terms of regional stability, peace and harmony but also to further increase its regional connectivity with all interested countries via the CPEC in the days to come. CPEC is the flagship project of the Belt & Road Initiative’s (BRI) thus it is only natural that this mega project may expand west-ward into Iran as a result of the recently signed CISP. The CISP would further enhance the chances of greater regional integration vision i.e. CPEC’s western expansion (W-CPEC+). It may open a window of opportunity for bringing together the Eastern Pakistan and the Western (Azerbaijan, Turkey) in the days to come. It hopes that Pakistan would gain the most from the CISP. It is in Pakistan’s own interests to see it positive and productive which would further enhance its regional connectivity with all interested countries through its paradigm shift from geopolitics to geo-economy or economic diplomacy. It seems that the CISP will continue to be dominated by the energy sector; their inevitable diversification into other domains will lead to more bilateral trade being conducted across CPEC. Pakistani entrepreneurs can now easily take advantage of the CISP to enhance their own trade ties with both countries. It hopes that W-CPEC+ would be the best opportunity for bringing all the interested regional countries closer to establish a border regional integration network.

It may also accelerate the formation of a new economic bloc comprising Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and Azerbaijan (TIPA). The Chinese-facilitated rise of TIPA via W-CPEC+ could profoundly impact trans-regional geopolitics/economics by creating a belt of powerful and economically stable states situated at the frontier of West and Central Asia. The CISP would be a game changer in which CPEC, W-CPEC+, the recently improved trilateral coordination between Azerbaijan-Pakistan-Turkey would also play a decisive role in the days to come. On its part, Iran has cordial relations with all the TIPA countries which is a good omen for creating the TIPA regional integration network. Thus the role of Pakistan and, of course, the CPEC would be immense in the near future which would change the socio-economic, geopolitical and

geostrategic orientations of Asia and the Euro-Asia in the future. Most recently, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Industries and Production Muhammad Hammad Azhar, stressed the need for the early completion of the CPEC projects. The Minister highlighted the importance of CPEC and termed it beneficial for the country's industrial production, upgrading energy and communication infrastructure and improving connectivity with the region. On his part, speaking on the occasion, the Chinese Ambassador outlined and projected CPEC as of immense importance for the Chinese companies and will expand and strengthen economic cooperation for achieving common objectives and guarantee a prosperous future for both the nations.

The Chairman CPEC Authority Lt Gen (Retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa, assured full support and assistance to the Chinese Ambassador for expediting progress in the communication and transportation sectors on the occasion. Being a prominent regional expert of CPEC & BRI, I totally negate all assumptions, fake news and ongoing dissemination of propaganda against the CPEC and somehow its declining importance, scope and utility because of the CISP. Rather it would be mutually beneficial not only for the participatory countries but also all the interested regional countries mainly, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and even Turkmenistan. BBC termed the CISP as "CPEC-PLUS" which would be beneficial to CPEC. It would definitely enhance stability in Balochistan and increase mutual trade between Pakistan and Iran in the days to come. Moreover, it would further enhance regional connectivity with Afghanistan and beyond with all the Central Asian countries being part and parcel of the BRI.

In this connection, emerging Pakistan & Iran Economic Corridor (PIEC) would be beneficial for all the Central Asian States (CAS). Interestingly, commonality of main investor i.e. "CHINA" in the ongoing various projects of the CPEC and the CISP and having blessings of the BRI (US\$8 Trillion investments) would be "binding" force among the three countries – China, Pakistan and Iran. Furthermore, it is estimated that now Iranian oil may reach China easily by passing through the soil of Pakistan (1500 KM) instead of 13000 KM previously. Thus the ideal combination of the CPEC & CISP would provide geographical "comparative advantage" in the days to come. It would further flourish bilateral & trilateral trade among China, Pakistan and Iran in the near future. To conclude, similarities of aims, objectives and strategic orientations between the CPEC & CISP have consolidated CPEC & CISP in a win-win situation and befitting propositions. Energy generation, supplies and immense infrastructural development in the CPEC & CISP would be common deterrence against all conspiracies.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-china-iran-strategic-partnership-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Gwadar development a top priority: Kamal

Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan has said that the development of all areas of Gwadar is the top most priority of the government. Talking on the occasion of his visit to Gwadar on Tuesday, the chief minister said that steps are being taken under a comprehensive strategy for the welfare of fishermen in Gwadar and its adjoining areas. Kamal said the federal and provincial governments would jointly make efforts to remove the sense of deprivation in the

province. The chief minister said that Prime Minister Imran Khan would soon visit Gwadar and Quetta and make important announcements. He said the government had included mega projects in the federal Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). The chief minister maintained that in the federal and provincial PSDPs, the government would allocate funds for all districts and ensure that development measures were taken equally in all areas.

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-development-a-top-priority-kamal/>

BRI supply chains embraced amid Suez Canal jam

The Suez Canal jam, caused by a stranded container ship, has posed an unprecedented challenge to the global supply chain, pushing businesses to look for new options to diversify their trading routes, especially along the Belt and Road, which during the pandemic has become a major channel for cargo transportation and anti-virus supplies from factories in China to the markets in Europe. While the backlog was finally cleared nearly two weeks after the blockage caused by the grounding of Japanese-owned cargo ship Ever Given, the aftermath of the congestion has still sent shivers down traders' spines. Several traders that the Global Times reached following the canal congestion said that they have received increasing inquiries from clients asking about changing transport methods from ship to train in order to get their goods delivered on time. Some said that the new inquiries concerning train cargo services have jumped three-fold since the jam. Buck the trend Suez Canal Authority has said that all 422 ships stranded by the grounding of the giant container ship Ever Given passed through the canal by Saturday, ending the backlog caused by the blockage, Aljazeera reported on Saturday. However, experts believe that the aftermath of the jam could last much longer and deeper.

Allianz, the German insurance giant, estimates that the blockage of the Suez Canal could cost global trade between \$6 billion and \$10 billion a week. At the same time, the container shortage that was exacerbated in the second half of last year would be worsened, industry experts said. 'This was a relatively short blockage, but its consequences will be felt for a long time and will serve as a boost to China and Russia, both of whom are introducing new game-changing intercontinental freight routes,' Tom Fowdy, a British political and international relations analyst, said in his RT article published on March 30. Fowdy's words echoed the rising popularity of the China-Europe freight train. According to Zhou Shihao, founder and CEO of YQNLINK, a global logistics online services platform, there are more people asking them about the train services these days following the canal jam. While some goods of Zhou's company were stranded on the ships in the canal, they have started offering more alternatives for clients with urgent needs, including cross-border freight trains. 'We have seen client queries about China-Europe cargo trains jump 2-3 times since the canal was blocked,' said Zhou.

Another trader in the international cargo business and working for a large cargo company in East China's Zhejiang, named Bao, told the Global Times on Sunday that even after the jam was cleared, international shipping companies are still having huge backlogs of cargo to unravel, which takes additional time, adding that they just cannot afford any more delays after the canal

jam. In the last week, Bao's company has shipped about 30-35 percent more goods via the trains dispatching urgent goods, including several containers of electronic devices from Yiwu to Hamburg, after some of their goods were already held up on ships at the canal. Such a change in transport use is expected, given the advantages of trains compared to sea transport regarding price and time, industry insiders said. 'What normally takes 30-40 days by ship from China to Europe, only takes 15-25 days by train,' said Zhou, noting that during the blockage, some ships needed to detour around the Cape of Good Hope, taking an additional 10 days. Not only are trains faster than ships, but their on-time rate is also higher. 'The punctuality of the cross-border train between China and Europe can be up to 80 percent in general terms, whilst sea transport is only around 40-60 percent due to the low operation rate at some overseas ports caused by the pandemic,' Wu Minghua, an independent shipping industry analyst from Shanghai, told the Global Times.

To ensure the fast delivery of goods and smooth trade flows, Urumqi's customs office in Xinjiang is completing customs clearance in one to two hours, a source with the office told the Global Times. Such high efficiency is contributed in part by the high level of automation in loading and unloading goods and the digitization of customs clearance, enabling freight train transfer verification procedures for exported goods to be handled in 20 minutes, according to customs. China's Belt and Road Initiative has invested hundreds of billions in the creation of new ports, railways, and roads on multiple continents, all of which are changing the logistical landscape, according to Fowdy. More than 2,000 freight trains were running from China to Europe in the first two months of 2021, double the number at the same time a year ago. Other routes While the upward trend toward freight trains is resilient, there are also limitations compared with ships. 'The ships' capacity is at least five times bigger than trains, and although railways can be expanded, the gap is still big, making it essential to further diversify the trade routes,' said Wu. Other routes, such as detouring to the Cape of Good Hope, are a new alternative for many Chinese traders. Although the detour would take an extra week than the canal, a freight agent in Ningbo said, it would not necessarily cost more financially because the extra fuel would almost equal the passage fees charged by the Suez Canal. Other alternative lines that have come under discussion after the jam are via the Arctic. The total journey from Shanghai to London via the Suez Canal is around 10,413 sea miles, but the Arctic route in the north is only around 8,000, experts said.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-supply-chains-embraced-amid-suez-canal-jam/>

The Express Tribune

Pak-China JV to set up tyre plant

Service Global Footwear Limited (SGFL) - a leading exporter of footwear - has entered into a joint venture with Chinese firms to establish a tyre manufacturing plant for buses and trucks with the aim of exporting a majority of the merchandise. The new production facility is being established in Pakistan at a time when the US and European Union (EU) have imposed anti-

dumping and countervailing duties on tyres made in China. The development may help the joint venture win export orders from Western markets as the grant of tax exemptions to the company will keep its cost of production comparatively low. The scheme is in line with the government's key target of attracting new investment in export projects to improve the country's international payment capacity and build foreign currency reserves. Total cost of the project is estimated at around Rs16.43 billion. It is expected to start production in June 2021. Accordingly, SGFL has targeted to raise a minimum of Rs1.55 billion by offering its 40.88 million shares (around 20%) to the institutional and rich individual investors on April 7-8 and to retail investors on April 12-13 at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), according to its prospectus having details of the share offer. The company will begin the auction of shares at a minimum price (floor price) of Rs38 per share.

The price may increase by a maximum of 44% to Rs53.2 per share during the two-day auction for the institutional and rich individual investors. Shares will be sold to the successful bidders at a strike price, which will be set during the auction process. The company aims to sell 75% of the 40.88 million shares to the institutional and rich individual investors and the remaining 25% to retail investors at the strike price. SGFL will become the second company to offer its shares to the public at the PSX in 2021. Later, the company will be listed at the bourse, meaning that investors will be able to trade its shares. "The prime purpose of the issue for SGFL is to invest ... into a subsidiary company of SIL ie Service Long March Tyres (Pvt) Limited and become a stakeholder of approximately 18.91% of the total shareholding of SLM," read the prospectus. SIL (Service Industries Limited) has ventured into manufacturing of all steel radial tyres of trucks and buses (TBR tyres). For this purpose, SIL has entered into a joint venture agreement with Chaoyang Long March Tyre Co Ltd and Myco Corporation and established a joint venture company in Pakistan namely Service Long March Tyres (Pvt) Limited on January 7, 2020. The project is being financed through 50% debt and 50% equity with installed production capacity of 600,000 tyres per annum.

"Total debt requirement of Rs8.215 billion has been arranged through long-term financing facilities from different financial institutions. Of the total equity commitment of Rs8.215 billion, Rs4.500 billion has already been injected...." "As per SLM's estimation, 85% of the total sales will comprise exports," the prospectus added. "SLM is the first project that has been granted the status of Greenfield Industrial Undertaking and Sole Enterprise Special Economic Zone, which has allowed the company to avail tax exemption for 10 years," Topline Research analyst Sunny Kumar said in a commentary.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2293579/pak-china-jv-to-set-up-tyre-plant>

The Nation

Chinese envoy meets Zardari, Bilawal

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong called on former president Asif Ali Zardari and Pakistan People's Party chief Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to discuss issues of mutual interest.

PPP Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman was also present on the occasion, a PPP statement said. The Chinese envoy was accompanied by Defence Attache Major General Chen Wen Rong, Consul General Karachi Li Bijian and other diplomats who exchanged with the PPP leadership views on areas of mutual cooperation and long standing brotherly relations between the two neighbouring nations and the two political parties, the PPP and the Communist Part of China.

Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari thanked the Chinese government for its bilateral cooperation in setting up the monumental China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects after Gwadar Port was granted to China by Zardari, and the assistance by the Chinese government to the people of Pakistan in the provision of essential vaccine aid to prevent COVID-19.

“Both sides agreed to build on this strong relationship and undying bond nurtured over three generations of the PPP and the CPC,” said the statement.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-07/page-10/detail-3>

Jang News

چین کپاس کی پیداوار بڑھانے میں معاونت کر رہا ہے، عاصم سلیم باجوہ

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چیئر مین چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری اتھارٹی لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا ہے کہ آئرن برادر چین کپاس کی پیداوار بڑھانے کے لئے ریسرچ میں معاونت کے ساتھ ساتھ مشینری بھی فراہم کر رہا ہے۔ گوادر پروکے مطابق ایک اجلاس میں عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا کہ سی پیک اتھارٹی کسانوں کو ہر شعبے میں مکمل سپورٹ کے لیے تیار ہے، ملکی معیشت میں کپاس اور ٹیکسٹائل کا حصہ 8 فیصد ہے اور ہم سب کو مل کر پاکستان کی معیشت کو مستحکم کرنے کے لئے کام کرنا چاہئے۔ گورنر چوہدری محمد سرور کی سربراہی میں زرعی کمیٹی نے وفاقی حکومت سے کپاس کی فی من امدادی قیمت 5 ہزار کرنے اور کپاس کے کاشتکاروں کو براہ راست سبسڈی دینے کی سفارش کی۔ کمیٹی اجلاس میں کپاس کے کاشتکاروں کو درپیش مشکلات کے حل سمیت کسانوں کو ریلیف فراہم کرنے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/908363>

چین نے غربت کا خاتمہ کیسے کیا؟

طویل خانہ جنگی کے بعد کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائین نے انقلابی لیڈر ماؤزے تنگ کی عظیم قیادت میں انقلاب برپا کر کے چین کو عوامی جمہوریہ چین ڈیکلیر کیا۔ انقلاب کے بعد چین میں بڑی جاگیرداریاں ختم کر کے بے زمین کسانوں میں اراضی تقسیم کی گئی۔ عوام کی تعلیم کو ترجیح دی گئی تاکہ تعلیم کی شرح میں اضافہ کیا جاسکے۔ ماؤزے تنگ نے ثقافتی انقلاب برپا کر کے استحصال اور نا انصافی پر مبنی رسم و رواج ختم کئے۔ سنگاپور کے عظیم لیڈر لیکوان نے اپنی یادداشتوں پر مبنی کتاب میں تحریر کیا ہے کہ چین کے لیڈر ڈینگ زیائونگ نے سنگاپور کی ترقی سے متاثر ہو کر ان سے ملاقات کی اور سنگاپور کی شاندار ترقی کاراز پو چھاگریٹ لیکوان نے کہا آئین اور قانون کی حکمرانی، میرٹ، کڑی سزائیں سنگاپور کی ترقی کاراز ہیں لیکوان نے چین کے لیڈر کو مشورہ دیا کہ چین کے دروازے بیرونی سرمایہ کاری کیلئے کھول دیں۔ زیائونگ نے سنگاپور کے ریاستی اور معاشی ماڈل سمیٹا بق چین کے نظام میں جوہری تبدیلیاں کیں۔ آج جب کہ دنیا کو غربت کے چیلنج کا سامنا ہے، ان حالات میں چین کے لیڈروں نے معجزہ کر دکھایا ہے۔ اس بے مثال معجزے کی انسانی تاریخ میں اور کوئی مثال نہیں ملتی۔ چین نے گزشتہ 40 سال کے دوران 700 ملین یعنی 70 کروڑ افراد کو غربت سے باہر نکالا ہے۔ گزشتہ آٹھ سالوں کے دوران ہر سال دس ملین یعنی ایک کروڑ افراد کو غربت سے باہر نکالا گیا ہے۔ چین کے عظیم صدر شی جن پنگ سے سوال کیا گیا کہ آپ نے یہ معجزہ کیسے کر دکھایا تو انہوں نے جواب دیا کہ میں چالیس سال تک

کاؤنٹی میونسپلٹی صوبائی اور مرکزی حیثیت میں کام کرتا، اس دوران میرا یہ زندگی کا خواب اور مشن رہا کہ میں چین کے عوام کی غربت کو دور کر سکوں۔ میں نے اپنے اس مشن کو اپنی پالیسیوں کا مرکز اور محور بنا دیا۔ میں دن اور رات غربت کے خاتمے کے بارے میں سوچتا رہتا۔ چین میں غربت کے خاتمے کا سہرا کیمونسٹ پارٹی آف چین کے عظیم مضبوط اور پرعزم لیڈروں کو جاتا ہے، جنہوں نے ہمیشہ اپنے ذاتی گروہی اور خاندانی مفاد کے بجائے غریب عوام کے مفاد کے بارے میں سوچا۔ عوام کی فلاح اور خوشی ریاستی نظام کا مرکزی نقطہ رہا، اسی بنیادی اصول کے مطابق ریاستی نظام کی پالیسیاں تشکیل دی گئیں۔ انسانی تاریخ شاہد ہے کہ دنیا کے جن ملکوں کو نیک نیت دیانت دار اور اہل لیڈر میسر آئے، انہوں نے ترقی کی۔ ملائیشیا کے عظیم لیڈر مہاتیر محمد سے ایک صحافی نے سوال کیا کہ آپ نے ملائیشیا کو ایشیا کا ٹائیگر کیسے بنایا تو انہوں نے جواب دیا کہ جب میں پہلی بار وزیر اعظم بنا تو میں نے سوچا یا تو میں اپنے خاندان کو معاشی طور پر مضبوط بنا سکتا ہوں یا ملائیشیا کو معاشی استحکام دے سکتا ہوں میں نے ملائیشیا کے حق میں فیصلہ کیا۔

چین میں عوام پر اعتماد مشاورت اور شرکت کے سنہری اصول پر عمل کیا گیا۔ چین میں غربت کے خاتمے کے مشن میں اٹھارہ سو چینی افراد نے اپنی جانوں کے نذرانے پیش کیے۔ غربت کے خاتمے کیلئے قوانین بنائے گئے اور منصوبہ بندی کی گئی۔ رضا کاروں اور سٹاف کو تربیت دی گئی۔ غربت کے خاتمے کیلئے جو اصول مرتب کیے گئے ان کے مطابق صنعت، زراعت، شہری سہولتوں، انفراسٹرکچر ہنرمندی، تعلیم و تربیت پر خصوصی توجہ دی گئی۔ چین میں شراکتی معیشت کے نظام کو رائج کیا گیا۔ چین کے عوام کو یہ تعلیم دی گئی کہ ترقی اور خوشحالی سب کیلئے ہونی چاہیے۔ چین کے ترقی یافتہ علاقوں کو ترغیب دی گئی کہ وہ پسماندہ علاقوں میں غربت دور کرنے کیلئے معاونت کریں۔ گزشتہ آٹھ سال کے دوران چین کے امیر صوبوں نے پسماندہ صوبوں کیلئے ایک سو ملین چینی یوان کا فنڈ دیا۔ اقوام متحدہ نے پوری دنیا کو یہ ایجنڈا دیا تھا کہ 2030ء تک غربت کو ختم کیا جائے چین نے یہ ٹارگٹ دس سال پہلے ہی حاصل کر لیا ہے۔ چین نے دنیا کے مختلف ممالک سے تعلقات قائم کئے اور بقائے باہمی کے اصول پر خارجہ پالیسی تشکیل دی۔ چین نے فیصلہ کر لیا کہ وہ عالمی تنازعات میں ملوث نہیں گا اور عالمی امن کیلئے کام کریگا۔ چین نے ہیٹ اینڈ روڈ کے نام سے ایک عظیم منصوبہ شروع کر رکھا ہے جس کے نتیجے میں آٹھ ملین افراد غربت کی کبیر سے باہر آجائینگے۔ چین کے عظیم لیڈر اور صدر محترم شی جن پنگ نے اپنے ایک خطاب میں فرمایا کہ چین کے 128000 دیہاتوں اور 832 کاؤنٹیز میں غربت کو ختم کیا گیا ہے اور ہر شہری کو روٹی کپڑا مکان روزگار تعلیم صحت کی سہولیات فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔ یہ معجزہ گروہ کے تسلسل کو جاری رکھنے سے ہی ممکن ہو سکا ہے۔ چین نے بیرونی مداخلت کو قبول کرنے کی بجائے چین کے مزاج اور کلچر کی مطابق سیاسی اور معاشی نظام تشکیل دیا۔ چین کے عوام کو یہ اختیار دیا گیا ہے کہ وہ مقامی سطح پر اپنے نمائندے منتخب کر لیں۔ چین میں گراس روٹ لیول پریڈیموکریسی کا نظام ہے جبکہ اس کے اوپر مرکز تک میرٹوکریسی کا نظام رائج ہے۔ سرکاری ملازمین کو میرٹ اور پرفارمنس کی بنیاد پر ترقی دی جاتی ہے۔ اہلیت اور میرٹ جانچنے کیلئے شفاف امتحانات کا نظام وضع کیا گیا ہے۔ لیڈر کیلئے شرط یہ ہوتی ہے کہ اس نے غربت کے خاتمے روزگار کے مواقع فراہم کرنے مقامی معاشی ترقی ماحولیاتی تحفظ اور سماجی ترقی کیلئے کام کیا۔ چین نے مضبوط اور فعال احتسابی نظام وضع کر رکھا ہے۔ کرپشن کے جرم میں سزائے موت دی جاتی ہے۔ چین کے سینکڑوں ذمہ دار افسروں کو کرپشن کے الزام میں سزائے موت دی گئی۔ جس ریاست میں کرپشن غیر معمولی ہو وہ کبھی ترقی نہیں کر سکتی۔ پاکستان کے دشمن پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات کو نقصان پہنچانے کیلئے اکثر اوقات سی بیک کے بارے میں مختلف نوعیت کے شکوک و شبہات پیدا کرتے رہتے ہیں۔ راقم نے اس سلسلے میں منصوبہ بندی کے وفاقی وزیر جناب اسد عمر سے جو بڑے جذبے اور جنون کے ساتھ اپنے فرائض انجام دے رہے ہیں، رابطہ کیا اور سی بیک کے بارے میں پوچھا تو انہوں نے کہا سی بیک کے تمام منصوبے کرونا کے باوجود جاری و ساری ہیں جن پر شب و روز کام ہو رہا ہے۔ سی بیک کا پہلا مرحلہ مکمل ہو چکا ہے اور تاریخ کا یہ عظیم منصوبہ دوسرے اہم مرحلے میں داخل ہو چکا ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ سینیٹل اکنامک زون رینکٹی میں سٹیٹل ملز کی مشینری پہنچ چکی ہے جس کیلئے چین کی کمپنی سینینچری سٹیٹل نے 240 ملین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی ہے جو پاکستان چین کی لازوال اور بے مثال دوستی کا ایک اور ٹھوس ثبوت ہے۔ جناب اسد عمر نے بتایا سٹیٹل ملز کی تعمیر کے دوران 600 افراد روزگار حاصل کر سکیں گے جب کہ تکمیل کے بعد ایک ہزار افراد کو روزگار ملیں گے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ سینیٹل اکنامکس زون میں بنیادی سہولتیں اور بجلی کی سپلائی کا کام تیزی سے جاری ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی بیک کے بارے میں مختلف نوعیت کے شکوک و شبہات مکمل طور پر بے بنیاد ہیں۔ حکومت پوری توجہ کے ساتھ سی بیک کے منصوبوں کو مقررہ وقت کے اندر مکمل کرنے میں مصروف ہے۔

امریکہ کے سابق نامور وزیر خارجہ ہنری کسنجر نے آن لائن کانفرنس میں خطاب کرتے ہوئے خبردار کیا ہے کہ اگر امریکہ اور چین نے مفاہمت کے ساتھ نیورلڈ آرڈر کے لئے گفت و شنید نہ کی اور موجودہ کشیدگی برقرار رہی تو دنیا کو ایک اور عالمی جنگ کا خطرہ ہو سکتا ہے جس سے بچنے کا واحد راستہ یہ ہے کہ دنیا کی سپر طاقتیں باہمی مصلحتوں کا آغاز کریں اور پوری دنیا کے لئے منصفانہ ورلڈ آرڈر تشکیل دیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2021-04-07/page-10/detail-1>

April 08, 2021

Daily Times

China attaches importance to relations with Pakistan: envoy

Ambassador of China, Nong Rong on Wednesday called on Sindh Governor Imran Ismail at Governor House. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interests and cooperation.

Governor Imran Ismail on the occasion said that Pakistan and China enjoy deep political mutual trust and friendly relations between the two countries are deeply rooted in the people.

‘Pakistan highly values its friendship with China and worth its strong support and assistance for the development of Pakistan.

The government is committed to promoting Pakistan-China friendly cooperation, pushing forward CPEC, and making every effort to ensure the security of Chinese citizens working in Pakistan’, he said.

The Governor while expressing gratitude over donation of Covid-19 vaccines to Pakistan said that the coronavirus vaccination campaign was started quite a while ago, and it was started with vaccines donated by the Chinese government. The Chinese Ambassador said that China attaches great importance to China-Pakistan all-time strategic cooperative partnership. ‘The two countries have cooperated closely in international and regional affairs, effectively safeguarding the common interests,’ he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/743128/china-attaches-importance-to-relations-with-pakistan-envoy/>

Prosperity in Balochistan to ensure economic stability: Asad

National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser Wednesday said the prosperity and progress of Balochistan province would ensure economic stability of the whole country.

During a meeting with Balochistan Assembly Deputy Speaker Sardar Babar Musakhail here, he remarked that Balochistan was a land of opportunities and Gwadar Port was the heart of provincial development.

Speaker Asad Qaiser also said that early completion of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related projects in Balochistan would ensure mass welfare for the common people of the province. He said the Balochistan Assembly being the representative of the people of the province can bring positive changes in the life of people.

He said CPEC was a game changer and would bring development in the province.

Balochistan Assembly Deputy Speaker Babar Musakhail lauded the National Assembly Speaker's concern for Balochistan and its people.

He remarked that early completion of CPEC and its related projects in the province would be integral for country's development. He also expressed his thankfulness for federal government for taking Balochistan projects as special province.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/743129/prosperity-in-balochistan-to-ensure-economic-stability-asad/>

Dawn News

Chinese envoy sees steady progress on CPEC projects

KARACHI: Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong has said that during the first six months since his posting to Islamabad he got convinced that there is a national consensus in Pakistan on the need to complete all CPEC-related development projects in time.

Interacting with journalists here, Ambassador Nong said that since his arrival in Pakistan in October, he has held several meetings with Prime Minister Imran Khan and the army chief and regularly exchanged views with political and business leaders.

The diplomat said the impression he got during these meetings was that they not only fully supported CPEC, they were very keen on having greater cooperation to ensure timely completion of all the projects.

Expressing satisfaction over "steady progress" on most CPEC projects and related activities like the creation of Rashakai Economic Zone and Gwadar Free Zone, Mr Nong said these developments were likely to attract Chinese investors. He disclosed that under CPEC several new projects were being discussed at the moment. However, he did not provide any details.

The ambassador denied an impression being created by some elements that CPEC was against any third country. In fact, he said, the kind of cooperation going on between China and Pakistan could benefit many other countries.

He said that both Beijing and Islamabad were constantly working at different levels as well as through their embassies to invite participation from other countries for the mutual benefit of all.

The Chinese envoy said people had high expectations from CPEC and was confident that they would not be disappointed.

Mr Nong praised Pakistan's efforts to interact with India.

The ambassador said more than 100 programmes and activities were being lined up to celebrate 70 years of close bondage between Pakistan and China.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1617046/chinese-envoy-sees-steady-progress-on-cpec-projects>

Customs clears first consignment at Gwadar port under CPEC

Mubarak Zeb Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Customs has facilitated the clearance of the first import cum export consignment at Gwadar port under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

An official announcement said the cleared consignment by M/s HK Sun Corporation will be further processed in Gwadar Free Zone established under CPEC and later on items will be exported from Pakistan.

The first consignment consisting of metal scrap was processed and cleared by the Model Customs Collectorate, (A&F) West, Karachi and goods reached Gwadar Free Zone regulated by Model Customs Collectorate Gwadar.

More shipments of raw material of the same company are under way to Pakistan which will be further used in manufacturing of goods to be exported.

M/s HK Sun Corporation is the first enterprise which has started manufacturing and processing activity in the free zone followed by other investors to contribute to the development of first ever free zone of country established in Gwadar Baluchistan under CPEC.

According to the concession agreement signed between China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) and Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), the development and operation of Gwadar free zone is being performed by COPHC. The planned development period is from 2015 to 2030, which is divided into four phases. With import of the current consignment, the Gwadar Free Zone has practically become operational leading to the development of other economic zones under CPEC in Pakistan. The free zone will integrate and strengthen the linkage of industries between China and Pakistan.

The free zone is positioned as economic development engine of Gwadar aiming to transform international trade logistics hub under CPEC.

The project will create employment opportunities for local population; and will play a role of catalyst for economic growth and development of country.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1616969/customs-clears-first-consignment-at-gwadar-port-under-cpec>

April 09, 2021

Business Recorder

Expert highlights importance of China's overseas port investments

HYDERABAD: Dr Mohid Iftikhar, policy development expert, highlighted the importance of China's overseas port investments; a comparative analysis in Greece and Pakistan. He urged the

faculty members and students to come forward and understand changing global economy under the belt and road initiative.

He further added that Pakistan can emerge as a hub of industrial development that will connect through rest of the world with the development of Gwadar Port. Further, he stressed that it is significant to be patient in witnessing economic transformation in Pakistan that will equally create new opportunities for the youth of Pakistan.

He further added that Pakistani youth can also build their capacity in cultural exchange, language, technology, higher education, entrepreneurship, agriculture, food and fisheries and animal science products and value addition.

Earlier Prof. Dr. Aijaz Ali Khooharo, Dean Faculty of Agricultural Social Sciences, SAU Tandojam, said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can provide great opportunity for the students to develop and grow Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) for their economic empowerment. He added that the popular lecture series and expert lecture would be helpful for knowledge building for students and faculty members.

Prof Qamaruddin Chachar, Dean Faculty of Crop Production, said our youth should focus on knowledge economy through digitalization and researchers should focus to conduct problem oriented research to capture the market needs under CPEC.

Prof Muhammad Ismail Kumbhar, Coordinator Programs and Projects highlighted that university students should focus on entrepreneurship to capture the CPEC market. He said the students may build their knowledge in hospitality management, value addition of various agricultural products, skills enhancement for technology transfer of various agriculture commodities and should focus on market for research and commercialization. He also further added that there is a need for harmony in the system and socio-economic policies and the need for better political economy for the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

A large number of Students and faculty members participated in the seminar and exchange questions and express their opinions for the economic development of Country.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/04/09/7-page/881637-news.html>

Daily Times

CIPCE a great opportunity for Pakistani traders

China International Consumer Products Expo (CIPCE) that is a regular process will provide great opportunities to Pakistani businessmen to attract Chinese market.

Gwadar Pro quoting government officials reported on Thursday that the first CIPCE focuses on the strategy of expanding domestic demand, bases on the location advantages of Hainan Free Trade Port, and aims to connect domestic and international markets. The officials stated this as China announced that it will hold such an expo in Haikou from May 7 to 10.

Around the construction of Hainan international tourism consumption center, the expo will not only provide exhibition and trading opportunities for consumer products from various countries to enter the Chinese market, but also create a platform for high-quality products from China and other countries to sell globally, said Shen Danyang, executive vice-governor of Hainan. The expo will cover an area of 80,000 square meters and feature fashion, jewelry, food and supplements, hospitality and professional services.

The organizer will invite world-renowned consumer goods brands to participate in the expo to build a high-end trading platform with multiple forms of business and categories. It is expected to be the largest consumer products exposition in the Asia-Pacific region, according to organizers. The expo's international exhibition area will cover 60,000 square meters, accounting for 75 percent of the total venue area. It features 1,165 brands by 630 exhibitors from 69 countries and regions, with Switzerland serving as guest country of honor.

On June 1, 2020, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council issued the Master Plan for the Construction of Hainan Free Trade Port, which proposed that overseas exhibits would enjoy duty-free import and sales during CICPE.

Relevant departments are formulating a tax exemption policy for exhibits at the expo. During the exhibition period, overseas exhibits of a certain quantity and a certain amount can enjoy duty-free import and sale, said Han Shengjian, director-general of Hainan Provincial Bureau of International Economic Development. Different from the off-shore tax exemption policy for Hainan FTP, both tourists, island residents, and people participating in the expo can all enjoy the tax exemption policy during the expo.

The duty-free goods cannot be taken away immediately after purchase, they can only be delivered by a delivery service or picked up at the port of departure. While products can be taken away immediately during the expo, according to Shen. In addition, the expo's duty-free policy and Hainan's offshore duty-free policy are separate, which means that consumption at the expo is not included in the RMB 100,000 quota for offshore duty-free shopping.

Hainan Island has been opening its arms to the rest of the world. The establishment of Hainan FTP makes it clear to all that China's door of opening-up will not be closed and will only open even wider. China's huge potential of consumption is attracting more international companies to further deepen investment and trade cooperation with China via the platform Hainan has established.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/743505/cipce-a-great-opportunity-for-pakistani-traders/>

Dawn News

Academic community urged to benefit from BRI, CPEC projects

HYDERABAD: A policy development expert has urged students and teachers to come forward to understand changing world's economy under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

In his lecture at a seminar held at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam on Thursday, Dr Mohid Iftikhar also shed light on importance of China's overseas investments. He presented a comparative analysis of Greece and Pakistan.

He said Pakistan could emerge as a hub of industrial development which would connect the whole world with the development of Gwadar Port. He emphasized that observing economic change in Pakistan and coming up with new proposals would create new opportunities for the country's youth. He added that Pakistani youth could develop their potential in cultural exchange, language, technology, higher education, business skills, agriculture, food and fisheries, and animal science products and value-addition.

Earlier, dean Faculty of Agricultural Social Sciences Prof Dr Aijaz Ali Khoonharo said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) could provide the best opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to empower students in business.

Dean Faculty of Crop Production Dr Qamaruddin Chachar said the youth should focus on knowledge economy through digitization and current market demand for researchers to make their mark in the economic, business and domestic sectors under CPEC.

Prof Dr Mohammad Ismail Kumbhar, coordinator of programmes and projects, said the university students should focus on business activity to create a niche in the CPEC market.

He said students could focus on hosting programmes, increasing value of various agricultural products, enhancing skills for technology transfer of various agricultural varieties and focusing on the market for their research and commercialization

The seminar was attended by a large number of students and faculty members who also raised questions and expressed their views about the economic development of the country.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1617175/academic-community-urged-to-benefit-from-bri-cpec-projects>

The Express Tribune

China repeats call to resist 'vaccine nationalism', pledges to keep monetary support

China urged the international community to resist “vaccine nationalism” and to coordinate policy to make vaccines accessible for developing countries in order to contain the pandemic and for the sake of the global economy. Yi Gang, Governor of the People's Bank of China, said in a statement delivered to the International Monetary Fund's steering committee on Thursday that the pick-up in global growth was “slow and uneven”, and a fair distribution of vaccines was key to achieving a sustainable recovery. “The international community should work together to resist ‘vaccine nationalism,’ strengthen cooperation and policy coordination to fight against Covid-19, and improve the accessibility and affordability of vaccines in developing countries in a meaningful way,” Yi said. China's President Xi Jinping had delivered the same message on

vaccines in a telephone call with German Chancellor Angela Merkel earlier this week. The central bank chief also gave an assurance that China would continue to provide necessary monetary support to the economy and refrain from abruptly unwinding stimulus measures. “The sound monetary policy will be implemented in a flexible, targeted, reasonable, and appropriate manner,” Yi said.

Fiscal policy in China would focus on “quality, effectiveness and sustainability,” as the country’s economy is expected to continue recovering this year with gross domestic product (GDP) growth projected to be over 6%, he said. Beijing has repeatedly called into question the assumption that the new coronavirus originated in China, and has embarked upon a vaccine diplomacy campaign to send Chinese-developed shots against Covid-19 around the world. Yi said China either provided or plans to offer vaccine assistance to 80 countries, while exporting vaccines to over 40 countries. It also provides 10 million doses of vaccines to global vaccine sharing scheme COVAX, he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2293875/china-repeats-call-to-resist-vaccine-nationalism-pledges-to-keep-monetary-support>

Despite IMF loan, China remains country's lifeline

Pakistan will meet a dozen conditions in six months to stay in the \$6 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme but its economic endurance still hinges upon an \$11 billion continued Chinese lifeline. The international lender on Thursday released its staff level report of the \$6 billion programme, confirming that the government was in process of increasing electricity prices by Rs5.65 per unit or 36% from now till October. This increase will put an additional burden of Rs884 billion on the consumers by June 2023, according to the circular debt management plan, which the cabinet approved last month as part of the actions to meet the IMF conditions. Additionally, the government will slap new taxes equal to 1.1% of GDP or around Rs600 billion in June as part of the IMF condition, according to the report. These conditions are among 11 actions that the government will take by September this year. They are in addition to the five prior actions that the government took to convince the IMF board to approve its case.

They included the introduction of the Rs140-billion mini-budget, an increase in electricity prices by Rs4.97 per unit from December 2020 to January 2021 on account of quarterly and annual tariffs, introduction of amendments to the SBP Act and the approval of the circular debt management plan by the cabinet. The government is implementing these actions to remain in the \$6 billion IMF programme but at the same time, the report shows that Pakistan’s external financing needs are still largely met by Chinese continued support. The IMF programme was aimed at putting the country on sustainable path by removing all bottlenecks to growth. But the country couldn’t enhance its exports and remains deeply dependent on foreign loans to remain afloat. Another objective of IMF programme was market based exchange rate, which too couldn’t help exports.

Chinese lifeline

The country's gross external financing needs -- the funds that it needs to pay off foreign loans and finance its imports -- amount to \$27 billion over the next 12 months, according to the IMF. These financing needs will be met by support from China's \$10.8 billion, the UAE's \$2 billion, the World Bank's \$2.8 billion, the G20's \$1.8 billion initiative, the Asian Development Bank's \$1.1 billion, and the Islamic Development Bank's \$1 billion, Pakistan informed the IMF. The finance ministry told the Washington-based lender that key bilateral creditors had maintained their exposure to Pakistan in line with programme financing commitments. However, Saudi Arabia has already withdrawn the \$3 billion it had committed. "China has maintained its exposure by renewing and augmenting the CYN 30 billion, (about US\$4.6 billion) three-year bilateral currency swap", the report confirmed. The Express Tribune had reported that China had increased the size of bilateral currency swap from \$3 billion to \$4.5 billion to help Pakistan pay off Saudi loans. The IMF report further read that China had renewed the maturing commercial loans as part of the programme financing assurance commitment. China rolled over \$2.5 billion commercial loans in this fiscal year and also plans to extend \$4.4 billion in the next fiscal year. The IMF report stated that China had also provided an additional \$1 billion deposit in July 2020, raising the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) deposits to \$4 billion. China's continued financial support is "absolutely very critical for Pakistan", Ernesto Rigo, the IMF's Washington-based mission chief, said on Thursday while responding to a question. The report also acknowledged that the commitments that Pakistan had made to remain in the programme were ambitious.

Prime Minister Imran Khan and Finance Minister Hammad Azhar have indicated renegotiating the IMF programme. PM Imran has already shown the door to former finance minister Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh for making these commitments and not fully disclosing them to the premier, particularly those related to the NEPRA Act and SBP Act amendments. Rigo said the programme was "not written on stone" and the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) by Pakistan was a "live document". The mission chief added that Pakistan and the IMF were in discussions to see the impact of the second and third waves of coronavirus on the economy. To another question, Rigo said the IMF did not receive a formal request from Pakistan to renegotiate the programme objectives. The lender cautioned, in its report, that political tensions over reforms could weaken policy implementation, and undermine the country's adjustment and recovery path as well as debt sustainability.

Power tariff

The IMF report read that Pakistan's cabinet had approved a timetable for the outstanding power price adjustments, which include this fiscal year's annual rebasing, estimated at Rs3.34 per unit in the base tariff, and quarterly tariff adjustments, estimated as Rs1.63 per unit to catch up with past deferrals. The IMF report further revealed that as a first step, the government had notified an increase of Rs1.95 per unit in January 2021 and completed the Q2-Q3 of the last fiscal year quarterly tariff adjustments of Rs1.63 per unit in December 2020. The lender said the adjusted tariff now recovered about 90% of the power cost, excluding subsidies. As part of the

commitment, the “second-step annual rebasing is due in June and the Q4 FY 2020 QTA in September”. The increases on these accounts are equal to Rs4.33 per unit, as per the circular debt management plan. The IMF report further revealed that “Q1 FY 2021 QTA falls in April 2021 and is expected to be timely implemented under the automaticity of the amended NEPRA Act”. This will lead to additional increases of Rs1.32 per unit, as per the plan approved by the cabinet. The report noted that NEPRA Act “amendments will ensure the automaticity of quarterly tariff adjustments (QTAs) and reintroduce the option to levy surcharges if necessary”. “here are no easy solutions and hard choices need to be made” in the energy sector,” said Rigo while commenting on the need for a massive increase in electricity prices.

According to another IMF condition, the government will rationalise the existing electricity subsidies by June. The payment of Rs180 billion to 45 private companies by end-May 2021 is also a condition. The government has also made a commitment to amend the OGRA Act by June this year to increase the gas prices biannually. There is also a condition to establish an asset declaration system with a focus on high-level public officials by end-June 2021, publication of the second review cycle report under the UN Convention against Corruption and review of the institutional framework for Pakistan’s anticorruption institutions by international experts. The IMF has also imposed a condition for the introduction of the track-and-trace system for tobacco products by June 2021. The government will have to make public Covid-19 related contracts it had awarded and beneficial ownership information of bidding and awarded legal persons on a centralised website by end-April. According to another condition, the publication of the auditor general’s ex-post audit of the procurement of urgently needed medical supplies related to Covid-19 is also required by end-April. The publication of an external audit of the Utility Stores Corporation by end-April and establishment of a robust asset declaration system end-June are two other new conditions.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2293824/despite-imf-loan-china-remains-countrys-lifeline>

April 10, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan, China agree to safeguard multilateralism

Pakistan and China have agreed to firmly safeguard multilateralism and support the central role of the United Nations (UN) in international affairs.

The understanding came at the third round of China Pakistan Consultations on the United Nations Affairs.

Pakistani side was led by Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Usman Iqbal Jadoon whilst the Chinese side by its Director General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences Yang Tao.

The two sides agreed to strengthen their cooperation at the UN and other multilateral platforms and to support each other on each side’s core and major interests. They decided to work toward

the political and peaceful resolution of regional and international hotspot issues, and jointly safeguard peace and stability of the world, especially in Asia.

Both the sides were in complete harmony to continue to strengthen cooperation on counter terrorism and peacekeeping in the UN framework by addressing the issue of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and supporting the UN peacekeeping operations, so as to make greater contributions to the maintenance of international and regional peace and security.

They decided to consolidate strategic coordination in the field of human rights, jointly opposing double standards and the politicization of human rights issues, and working for the promotion and protection of all human rights in a cooperative manner.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/743803/pakistan-china-agree-to-safeguard-multilateralism/>

Research with Chinese counterparts to improve buffalo production underway

Collaborated research with China will be conducted to improve genetic potential of Neeli Ravi buffalo in order to enhance milk and meat production in Pakistan and in this connection a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be inked between the Chinese Royal Group Company (RGC) and the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) very soon.

Talking to a 7-member delegation of RGC from China, Professor Dr Asif Tanveer, Vice Chancellor of the UAF, appreciated the cooperation in this field to achieve tangible results within the shortest possible time.

He urged UAF Veterinary Sciences experts to jointly work with the Royal Group to increase the production of buffalo milk. He said that Internship facilities would also be made available at the Royal Group Center Lahore, which will help them learn modern trends in the field of genetics.

Chen Yiyi Head of the Delegation and President of the RGC said that UAF is the oldest university in Pakistan in terms of agriculture and livestock, along with genetic improvement of buffaloes. “A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed very soon to start joint efforts to upgrade this special and exotic breed of Pakistan”, he said and added that the production of cow’s milk in China is already in line with the developed countries.

He said that large corporate farming units have been set up in china instead of small livestock farmers where value added products are being developed keeping in view the demand of the consumers. He said that Ravi Neeli breed of Pakistani buffaloes is known all over the world for its improved milk production and his group is planning to enhance its genetics. “It will pave the way for its export to other countries”, he added.

Expressing his views on the occasion, Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qureshi, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, said that various projects have been initiated in his faculty in collaboration with different countries and institutions and he has joined hands with the Chinese group for buffalo breeding and genetics improvement.

The meeting was also attended by Principal Officer Estate Management Dr. Javed Akhtar, Professor of Agronomy and Director External Linkages Professor Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed Chatha, Principal Officer Public Relations Professor Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif and Vice President of the Royal Group Company from Teng Cuijin.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/743753/research-with-chinese-counterparts-to-improve-buffalo-production-underway/>

Pakistan fully supports China's position on Xinjiang: envoy

Pakistan fully supports China's position on Xinjiang and willing to develop more cooperation with China to strengthen people-to-people exchanges, said Ambassador Moin ul Haque.

According to Gwadar Pro, a delegation comprising Pakistani Ambassador and more than 30 diplomats from some 21 countries visited Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. "I'm very happy to visit Xinjiang, a beautiful part and a very historic area of China. We have been here for 3 days now, we visited the regional capital Urumqi and Kashgar, which is a very ancient city and trading hub of centuries as part of the silk road. Wherever you go, you can see development taking place in Xinjiang, Moin ul Haque said. "Development is taking place in Xinjiang, including infrastructure, industry, agriculture, water purification projects, educational institutions and exhibition centers."

The Ambassador noted that the Chinese government is doing alot for People of this beautiful region, and promoting the social economic development of the region, poverty alleviation, revitalization of the rural areas, creation of jobs. He said the region's developments in transportation and agriculture left a deep impression on him.

A recently built mosque in Urumqi, representing the religious freedom and cultural mosaic of China. "I'm very happy to get a briefing from the Imam, the head of this place. The notable and important thing is that there's freedom of religion in China and it's enshrined in the Constitution of China, which is a very important part. I think that's something which many people in the outside don't understand and they keep making this propaganda against China about the religion and the treatment of ethnic minorities," Haque said after visiting the Islamic center of Urumqi and mosque.

Haque said he has witnessed the religious freedom of the people in Xinjiang on the field trip, and after this visit, he can assure everybody outside the world that they need to come here and to see it themselves. "In a peaceful way, people here are enjoying their lives, their culture, their deep traditions, and most importantly, their religion," he added.

Haque also voiced support and appreciation for policies that helped maintain stability and development in Xinjiang. "We were very impressed the way the Chinese government is focusing on this area. The rapid development of Xinjiang is unprecedented in history. It's a miracle."

Responding to rumors fabricated by some Western countries on claimed human rights grounds, the ambassador said that human beings are facing many challenges and what we need is

cooperation, not defamation, unilateralism or hegemony. “Pakistan adheres to the principle of non-interference in other countries’ internal affairs,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/743754/pakistan-fully-supports-chinas-position-on-xinjiang-envoy/>

China’s Ambassador Nong appreciates Sargodha University for promoting China-Pakistan friendship

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Friday appreciated the efforts of Sargodha University in promoting the China-Pakistan friendship.

Addressing the concluding session of the fourth annual Sargodha Literary Festival, Ambassador Nong said “China will continue to strengthen its strategic relations with Pakistan in safeguarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and help Pakistan in playing a more constructive role in international and regional affairs.”

Appreciating the efforts of Sargodha University in promoting the China Pakistan friendship, the Ambassador said, “Sargodha University has been making an outstanding contribution in fostering public diplomacy by developing cultural understanding about China among its youth through its various initiatives and cultivating talents for the nation from a global perspective over the past many years,”

The ambassador said that “70 years of Pak-China friendship based on trust and mutual support have proved that our friendship and cooperation is conducive to maintaining regional and world peace, stability, and development.

Addressing the youth, ambassador Nong urged the young generation from Pakistan and China to play an active role in strengthening the iron friendship, walk hand in hand to push forward all-weather strategic cooperative partnership to a new height and work together in building the China-Pak community with a shared future.

The session titled ‘70 Years of Pak-China Relations’ was graced by founding member of Pakistan Council on China Humayoun Khan, senior journalist Aoun Sahi and Director Pakistan Institute of China Studies Dr Fazal ur Rahman.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/743747/chinas-ambassador-nong-appreciates-sargodha-university-for-promoting-china-pakistan-friendship/>

Nong Rong offers China’s support to Pakistani businesspersons

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong has extended full support to the business community of Pakistan, particularly to the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

The Chinese ambassador expressed this on Friday when he along with Li Bijian, Consul General of China at Karachi, and a team visited the FPCCI.

The meeting took note of various subjects pertaining to the economic relations between Pakistan and China particularly in reference to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Nong Rong shared his views with the house regarding the upcoming online business portal of the Chinese government which will be a good opportunity for Pakistani business community to get easily connected with their Chinese counterparts. He extended his full support not only of his embassy at Islamabad but also at the Consul General Office at Karachi to the business community.

The president FPCCI requested the ambassador in emphasizing strong and constant mutual efforts to eliminate negative air against CPEC and the bilateral trade. He also suggested that China should focus on investing in the people of Pakistan by giving access to the Chinese market. He also expressed the sincerest gratitude to the government of China for donating Covid-19 vaccines to Pakistan. During the discussion made in the meeting, Mian Anjum Nisar, former president FPCCI, requested the ambassador to extend support to the Pakistani business community in transferring technical knowledge in the field of agriculture.

Sheikh Jawaid Ilyas, Chairman of Pak-China Business Council, pointed out the imbalance in the bilateral trade which is heavily in favour of China. He also encouraged the embassy to coordinate with the Federation in identifying relocation of Chinese industries in Pakistan especially in the new economic zones that have been identified for Chinese investment under the second phase of CPEC. He also emphasized the need for the creation of the Pak-China Joint Dispute Resolution Committee for smooth and easy resolution of problems that may arise during the bilateral trade. He also appreciated the strong support extended by the Consul General of China at Karachi to the business community in the Sindh and Balochistan provinces of Pakistan. The meeting was attended by a large number of prominent businessmen and representatives of different trade bodies.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/743933/nong-rong-offers-chinas-support-to-pakistani-businesspersons/>

The Nation

Pakistan, China agree to promote UN central role

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China yesterday agreed to support the central role of the United Nations in international affairs and firmly safeguard multilateralism.

The understanding came at the third round of China-Pakistan Consultations on the United Nations Affairs, the foreign ministry said.

Pakistani side was led by Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Usman Iqbal Jadoon whilst the Chinese side by its Director General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences Yang Tao.

Yang Tao, Director-General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences of the Foreign Ministry of China, and Usman Iqbal Jadoon, Director-General (United Nations) of the Foreign Ministry of Pakistan jointly chaired the 3rd Round of China-Pakistan Consultations on the United Nations Affairs by video conference.

The Embassy of China in Pakistan, the Embassy of Pakistan in China and the Permanent Missions of China and Pakistan to the United Nations in New York and Geneva also attended the meeting.

Views were exchanged on a wide range of multilateral issues of mutual interest covering all major areas of the United Nations' work.

Both the sides agreed to firmly safeguard multilateralism and support the central role of the United Nations in international affairs.

They vowed to strengthen their cooperation on the United Nations and other multilateral platforms and to support each other on each side's core and major interests.

They agreed to work toward the political and peaceful resolution of regional and international hotspot issues, and jointly safeguard peace and stability of the world, especially in Asia.

They pledged to continue to strengthen cooperation on counter-terrorism and peacekeeping in the UN framework, by addressing the issue of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and supporting the UN peacekeeping operations, so as to make greater contributions to the maintenance of international and regional peace and security.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-10/page-3/detail-0>

Pakistani rice export to China increasing: PCJCCI

LAHORE-China has emerged as one of the destinations for Pakistani rice as reflected by substantial increase in its exports to the country during the last four years. Pakistan-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President SM Naveed stated this in a meeting with a representative of a Chinese import and export company. PCJCCI Senior Vice President Daud Ahmad, Vice President Khalid Raffique Chaudhry and Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif were also present. He said that export target of around 10 million tons of Irri-6 rice to China could be achieved if sustained efforts to market Pakistani rice to China were pursued, focusing on the need of the Chinese population. SM Naveed said that new hybrid rice varieties were being developed in Pakistan which would give maximum yield by utilising minimum input costs during water scarcity. The Rice Research Institute had developed new techniques to cultivate rice through a broadcasting system instead of manual sapling plantation. Under this technique, if farmers succeed in setting up 80,000 plants in a field, they will get more production besides saving input costs up to Rs 14,000 per acre.

Jonit Chamber's SVP Daud Ahmed said that new technique of rice production, based on broadcasting system, was not only cheaper but also helps save 30-35 per cent irrigation water. He suggested to propagate this technique at broader level in villages of Pakistan. He also urged

to organize training programs for farmers in this regard. While, Khalid Raffique Choudhry said that response of Chinese importers for Pakistani rice was overwhelming as compared to rice imported from Thailand and Vietnam. He said, "Our rice industry is not showing its full potential due to some internal barriers related to planning and strategic implementations."

He added that rice exporters deserve the patronage of the government at par with textile industry to develop rice export as one of the major foreign exchange-earning sector.

Sharing his views, Salahuddin Hanif said that the PCJCCI was going to launch a concrete drive to market Pakistani rice in China by creating a personalized demand among Chinese people.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-10/page-9/detail-8>

K2 Daily

پاکستان چین عالمی فورمز میں تعاون مستحکم کرنے میں متفوق

علاقائی و عالمی ہاٹ سپاٹ الیشوز کے پرامن حل کیلئے کام کیا جائیگا، ایک دوسرے کے اہم مفادات کو سپورٹ کیا جائیگا

ایشیا کے امن و استحکام کا مل کر تحفظ کیا جائیگا، امن افواج کے آپریشنز میں یو این کی حمایت کی جائیگی، اعلامیہ

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) پاکستان اور چین سپورٹ کیا جائے گا۔ تصبیحات کے مطابق پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان اقوام متحدہ کے امور سے حلقہ کی اقوام متحدہ سے حلقہ پاک چین مشاورت کے مشاورت اجلاس ہوا، مشاورتی اجلاس بڈریو یو ایس ٹیسرے دور کا مشترکہ بیان جاری کر دیا گیا، جس میں کہا گیا کہ اجلاس (باقی صفحہ 7 نمبر 24)

بقیہ 24

میں سفارتخانوں، یو این نیو یارک ویٹو آفس کے افسران بھی شریک ہوئے، جس میں اقوام متحدہ کے امور پر تفصیلی تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ مشترکہ بیان میں کہا ہے کہ عالمی امور میں یو این کی ہر گہریت، مرکزی کردار کا تحفظ کیا جائیگا، اقوام متحدہ اور دوسرے کثیر لگی فورمز پر تعاون مضبوط بنایا جائے گا۔ بیان میں کہا گیا کہ ایک دوسرے کے اہم اور بڑے مفادات کو سپورٹ کیا جائے گا اور علاقائی و عالمی ہاٹ سپاٹ الیشوز کے پرامن حل کے لئے کام کیا جائے گا، خاص طور پر ایشیا کے امن و استحکام کا مل کر تحفظ کیا جائے گا۔ مشترکہ بیان کے مطابق انسداد دہشت گردی، امن افواج کے شعبے میں تعاون جاری رکھا جائے گا اور دہشت گردی سے نمٹنے سمیت امن افواج کے آپریشنز میں یو این کی حمایت کی جائیگی جبکہ عالمی و علاقائی امن اور سلامتی کے لئے کردار جاری رکھیں گے۔ پاک چین مشاورت کے بیان میں کہا گیا کہ انسانی حقوق کے شعبے میں ترقیاتی کو آرڈینیشن کو مضبوط بنایا جائے گا اور انسانی حقوق کے ایشوز پر دہرے معیار، سیاست کی مگر مخالفت کی جائیگی جبکہ تعاون کے ذریعے انسانی حقوق کا تحفظ اور فروغ کیا جائے گا۔

<https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP ICT&Date=2021-04-10>

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2021-04-10

April 11, 2021

Business Recorder

Chinese diplomat invites Pakistani companies to attend online Canton Fair

ISLAMABAD: Minister Counsellor, Embassy of China Xie Gouxiang on Saturday invited Pakistani companies to attend the Canton Fair and explore prospects for export of their products around the world.

He held online meeting with Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and briefed him about the details of upcoming 129th China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair).

The fair will be held online between April 15 to 24, due to Covid-19 pandemic, said a press release.

He said the fair was a platform for win-win cooperation between different countries where worldwide businessmen connected with each other, shared opportunities and pursued common development.

Therefore, it provided a good opportunity to Pakistani companies to explore new prospects for business promotion. He said to further help companies reduced their production and operation costs, adding, the upcoming Canton Fair would continue to waive exhibitors' fees, and would not charge any fees to cross-border e-commerce platforms participating in synchronized activities. He said more participation of Pakistani companies in Canton Fair would contribute significantly to promote economic and trade ties between China and Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, thanked Xie Gouxiang, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of China for providing comprehensive information about the benefits of attending online Canton Fair and assured that ICCI member companies would fully attend this event. He appreciated the signing of second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA-II) and emphasized that China should provide enhanced market access to Pakistan products as imports from China stood at US 12.7 billion dollars and exports from Pakistan to China at US 1.85 billion dollars in 2019.

Yasir Ilyas Khan said that Pakistan was establishing many Special Economic Zones under CPEC and Chinese companies should transfer technology to setup JVs in these SEZs with Pakistani counterparts on 50 percent equity basis. It would help the local industry to upgrade itself and achieve better growth.

He also discussed many other options for promoting bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and China.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/04/11/2-page/881840-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan, China to boost mango industry through joint efforts

Pakistan and China would cooperate to boost mango industry through talent exchange, joint project research and constructing demonstration zones.

Combining Pakistan's rich mango variety resources with China's cultivation and integrated pest control technology, it is promising to jointly create a top-class mango product said Ni Zhangguang, a mango expert at the Tropical and Subtropical Economic Crops Research Institute, Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences. "One of the advantages of Pakistani mangoes is its long harvest period from May to September. There are relatively low mango supply in Chinese market from the end of April to the beginning of June," he told CEN. He said, "If Pakistan mango exporters grasp this period, profits can be large. The consumption capacity in China is very high."

Ni Zhangguang and his team started the promotion of mango planting in Yunnan in the 1980s, which has made a great contribution to the local poverty alleviation. "We introduced new mango varieties and adopted cultivation techniques to help improve the production and the quality of the products. After our efforts, the price of mango rose from RMB 0.3 per kilogram to RMB 6 per kilogram, and the yield per mound increased from 600 kilograms to 1,000 kilograms." "Our technology plus demonstration zone" mode can be adopted in Pakistan Ni Zhangguang said adding, it was a good way to encourage the farmers to learn new technologies initially. The demonstration zones were under standardized management. The production, sale and price of mangoes were excellent. Seeing the benefits, farmers took the initiative to purchase mango seedlings and requested to learn techniques, he said.

Ni Zhangguang and his team have been to Pakistan once for the research of mango breeding. "The potential of Pakistan mangoes is huge", he said adding Pakistan is rich in natural resources and has suitable climatic conditions for mango planting. Pakistan also has wide mango varieties. "When we were there, Pakistan friends gave us seeds of Sindhri and Chaunsa for trial planting in Yunnan. They now begin to blossom and bear fruits", he said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/744318/pakistan-china-to-boost-mango-industry-through-joint-efforts/>

April 12, 2021

Daily Times

Special allocations for CPEC projects in next budget

The budget for the next financial year will provide special incentives for completion of CPEC projects, development of economic zones and introduction of new product lines in textiles. This was stated by Abdul Razzaq Dawood, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Trade and Investment. He was talking to Chairman FIEDMC Mian Kashif Ashfaq. Adviser to PM said that import of raw materials would be made duty free and special schemes would be introduced through State

Bank of Pakistan to promote manufacturing, similarly, special measures will be taken to support the allied industry likewise special focus will be on textile, leather, glass and ceramics industries, says the federal adviser. Adding he said that exports can be increased like this initiative. He said that new industry would be given priority in the economic zones of FIEDMC so that exports could be increased by reducing imports. In addition, special attention will be given to the development of the Western Line of Women Wear and the technical sector thus, a sourcing park will be set up in Lahore and Karachi for brands and foreign customers, while a one-window service act will be introduced to facilitate investors in the economic zone so that all the required facilities can be provided at their doorsteps. Chairman FIEDMC briefed him about the ongoing development works in the economic zones. Expressing satisfaction over the performance of FIEDMC the Federal Adviser promised to visit Faisalabad soon.

Mobile langar program launched

Under the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, “Ehsas Koi Bhoka Na Soye” a mobile langar program has been launched in Faisalabad. The two food trucks distributed food packets among the people present on the spot while the truck left for different routes to distribute food packets. In Faisalabad, two trucks will distribute 10,000 lunch boxes daily in prominent areas of the city. Punjab Ministers for Prosecution and Culture Ch. Zaheer ud Din and Mian Khayal Ahmad Kastro inaugurated the project. Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Ali, SSP Operations Mohammad Afzal, Members of Assembly Chaudhry Latif Nazar, Shakeel Shahid, Firdous Rai, Assistant Commissioner Sadar Umar Maqbool and other officers, industrialists were also present. Addressing the inaugural function, the provincial ministers said that feeding to the others is a sunnah of Prophet Muhammad PBUH and also a tradition in Punjab. He said that two food trucks in Faisalabad would serve food packets to the people especially the laborers, passengers and hardworking brothers with respect. The provincial ministers congratulated the Saylani Welfare Trust and other concerned welfare trusts besides departments on the launch of “Ehsas Koi Bhoka Na Soye”. Participants of the event watched the inaugural ceremony of the in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Lahore and also heard Prime Minister Imran Khan address via big screen.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/744511/special-allocations-for-cpec-projects-in-next-budget/>

The Nation

Chinese to augment Shikarpur Grid Station

Islamabad - China National Technical Import and Export Corporation (CNTIC), a subsidiary of Genertec, has signed a contract to augment 220kv Grid Station Shikarpur with National Transmission and Despatch Company Ltd. (NTDC).

According to Gwadar Pro, Shikarpur project, the first electricity project CNTIC contracted to build in Pakistan, is just a beginning and they will sign more grid projects this year. Zhao Yu, General Manager of Power Grids Division of CNTIC, said that in order to improve the

availability, reliability and efficiency of national transmission grid, they created the National Transmission Modernization I Project.

Shikarpur station, one of the most important key parts of this huge plan, will decisively improve grid construction in Pakistan.”

“For CNTIC, Pakistan is a friendly neighbour of China who has provided favourable conditions and policies for Chinese constructors. At present, as Pakistan’s economy is booming, the demand for electricity for industry, agriculture and residents is increasing year by year. “After the bidding, signing and implementation of the first project, our team will be greatly enhanced, and the operation of international business also will be standardized,” he said.

Shikarpur project is expected to start construction in May 2021 with an 18-month construction period.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-12/page-10/detail-4>

April 13, 2021

Daily Times

Report highlights Pakistan-China dialogue and way forward

The ongoing process of dialogue between Pakistan-China, why and how could be carried forward was highlighted in a report published by the Center for Global & Strategic Studies.

According to Gwadar Pro, the report was a review of a group discussion themed “Dialogue of Civilization” jointly organised by a research center and the Communication University China (CUC). The necessity and route of civilization dialogue especially that between Pakistan and China were focused during the discussion.

According to the report, in today’s globalized world where multipolarity, cultural diversity, economic globalization, and integration is becoming the new norm, comprehensive dialogue among civilizations enables nations to understand and respect each other’s cultures and replace estrangement, clash, and hierarchy with exchange, mutual learning, and peaceful coexistence.

This is a lesson taught by both history and reality. While the conflicts in the preceding century have taken a heavy toll on civilizations, the ongoing era of “re-awakening” allows us to review the old notions, rethink and find solutions to resolve conflicts via negotiation.

Currently, confronted with common challenge in public health and economic growth due to the ravaging pandemic, mankind once again is bound together as a community that shares weal and woe.

Pakistan and China, adjoined in history for both once being ruled by the Mogol, Kublai and Hulagu and suffered colonization, are enhancing civilizational connectivity and providing gateway between the North and the South, the East and the West through an active exchange of ideas, vision, and aspirations. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) brings the two civilizations

ever closer by opening a window for Pakistan in socio-political, economic, and geo-commercial terms.

To push such connections a step forward through dialogue, technology-driven growth, academic exchanges, and constructive media pave the way. According to the report, economic growth empowered by green development and technological innovations dominates bilateral leadership thinking. In this regard, mutual strength can be fostered in areas such as Gross Eco-system Product (GEP), Carbon Roadmap with Clear Investment Forecast, Green Infrastructure Development, Energy Big Data to reach high energy efficiency, Net Zero-Carbon Power Generation Technology and Multi-Trillion New Energy Market.

Underpinning civilizational exchanges is academic cooperation. Joint research programs would be beneficial to inspire the world with positive writings and change the dysfunctional ideas with modern ones as exemplified by the Dialogue of Civilizations, which presents an opportunity for all to come together and adopt a joint approach to address common concerns.

Research Centre for Community with Shared Future, one of the organizer of the discussion, has been established exactly to promote cooperation with China in common areas of interest.

Amid the pandemic, international news coverage and media operations are facing unprecedented challenges. Unbiased, authentic reports have never been so valuable in shaping people's values and decision making. Constructive journalism is deemed essential in promoting new understanding among people for the sake of dialogue of civilization. The report calls on media and researchers on both sides to identify impeding problems and bring forward solutions to counter the narratives with ulterior motives.

Specifically speaking, dialogues should be conducted in communication systems and journalistic concepts with a view to promote mutual understanding. Evolving modern values and transformed global trends are urging countries to move towards a more advanced perspective of civilization, one that resolves clashes through dialogue. When stereotypes, misunderstandings and conflicts are reduced, the common purpose of the global community will be achieved, the report added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/744968/report-highlights-pakistan-china-dialogue-and-way-forward/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese association to empower China-Pak irrigation cooperation

A Chinese Association will empower China-Pak irrigation cooperation, China Economic Net reported it on Monday. "We have recently established an international cooperation office to facilitate the communication between Chinese and Pakistani companies in irrigation technologies and products." This was stated by Dr. Gong Shihong, Deputy-Director of Department of Irrigation and Drainage, China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR), and Director of Agricultural Water-saving Equipment Division of China Agricultural Water-saving and Rural Drinking Water Supply Technology Association, in an interview with CEN.

The International Office, a department devoted to international cooperation under China Water-saving Association, will serve as a bridge between Chinese and Pakistani irrigation enterprises by exploring the needs of Pakistani people and companies and communicating them to Chinese companies so that they can provide customized irrigation and drainage solutions for Pakistan. Dr Gong told CEN that enhanced B2B communication between Pakistan and China in this regard can help raise Pakistani people's awareness of efficient irrigation and further popularise the "more crop per drop" initiative.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-association-to-empower-china-pak-irrigation-cooperation/>

Express News

زمین پر قدیم زندگی کے خاتمے کے مزید ثبوت پاکستان اور چین سے دریافت

اب سے لگ بھگ 25 کروڑ 20 لاکھ سال قبل زمین پر جان داروں کی بڑی تعداد فنا ہو گئی تھی جسے پریمن ٹرائیک ماس ایکسٹنشن (پی ٹی ایم ای) کہا جاتا ہے۔ اب اس کے تازہ ثبوت پاکستان اور چین سے ملے ہیں۔

زمین کی کروڑوں سال کی حیاتیاتی تاریخ میں کئی ادوار ایسے آئے ہیں جب کہہ ارض پر حیات کی بڑی اقسام ناپیدگی کے قریب پہنچ گئی تھی۔ یہ عمل کاربن ڈائی آکسائیڈ کے غیر معمولی اخراج کی وجہ سے ہوا تھا اور خیال ہے کہ اس طرح معمول سے 6 گنا زیادہ کاربن ڈائی آکسائیڈ خارج ہوئی۔

اب سے لگ بھگ 25 کروڑ سال قبل پی ٹی ایم ای میں سمندر کی 90 فیصد انواع اور خشکی پر ریڑھ کی ہڈیوں والی 70 فیصد انواع قصبہ پارینہ ہو گئی تھیں اور عین اتنی پرانی چٹانوں میں مختلف جانوروں کے فوسلز (رکازات) ملتے ہیں۔

جس مقام پر اس کے آثار ملتے ہیں انہیں ارضیات داں پریمن ٹرائیک باؤنڈری کہتے ہیں۔ اس موقع پر کاربن ڈائی آکسائیڈ سمیت کئی گیسوں کا غیر معمولی اخراج ہوا نتیجے میں شدید گرمی بڑھی اور جاندار حال سے بے حال ہو کر مرنے لگے۔

اگرچہ ارضیاتی طور پر کاربن ڈائی آکسائیڈ کے ثبوت تو ملے ہیں لیکن اس کے اخراج کا مستقل سلسلہ نہیں مل سکا تھا جو اب چین اور پاکستان سے ریکارڈ ہوا ہے۔ چینی جامعہ برائے ارضیاتی علوم، مونٹ کلیئر اسٹیٹ یونیورسٹی، امریکا اور برطانیہ کی یونیورسٹی آف لیڈز کے سائنس دانوں نے اس سلسلے میں اپنی نئی تحقیق پیش کی ہے جو ہفت روزہ جریدے نیچر میں شائع ہوئی ہے۔

ماہرین اس ڈرامائی صورتحال کو اپنی زبان میں 'عظیم موت' بھی قرار دیتے ہیں۔ نئی تحقیق میں سائنس دانوں نے پودوں، مٹی اور دیگر سمندری اجسام میں کاربن تھری اور کاربن 13 آکسوٹوپس کا سراغ لگایا ہے۔

اس طرح چار مختلف ادوار اور مقامات میں پاکستان اور چین شامل ہیں جہاں عین 25 کروڑ سال قبل پی ٹی ایم ای کے دوران کاربن آکسوٹوپس کا غیر معمولی اخراج ملا ہے اور اس سے تصدیق ہوتی ہے کہ شاید اس وقت کاربن ڈائی آکسائیڈ کا اخراج معمول سے چھ گنا تھا۔

کاربن ڈائی آکسائیڈ چونکہ حرارت پیدا کرنے والی گرین ہاؤس گیس ہے اور اسی وجہ سے بہت تیزی سے زمینی درجہ حرارت بڑھا تھا۔ خیال ہے کہ سمندری درجہ حرارت اوسط سے 10 درجے سینٹی گریڈ بڑھا اور زمینی اوسط درجہ حرارت بھی 35 درجے سینٹی گریڈ تک جا پہنچا تھا۔

پھر یاد رہے کہ پی ٹی ایم ای کا سلسلہ کم سے کم پانچ لاکھ سال تک برقرار رہا اور اس طرح انواع کی بڑی تعداد تیزی سے دم توڑ گئی تھی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2166332/508/>

April 14, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese Muslims enjoying all rights: Maulana Azad

Chinese Muslims enjoy all rights in the best way and mosques are functional there, said Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad, Chairman of the Ruet-e-Hilal Committee, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. The Chinese government is taking good care of Muslims, he made these remarks during his visit to China Window, a Chinese cultural center in Peshawar. The center is devoted to providing information on China, all under one roof in Peshawar city.

Maulana, who is also prayer leader at historic Badshahi Masjid Lahore said the the Muslim of Xinjiang province are playing a positive role in the development of China. The Western media is presenting a wrong picture of Chinese Muslims as the way China is taking care of minorities including Muslims is commendable, he said. “I would like to lead a delegation of Ulema (religious scholars) to China to visit the Muslims and their mosques,” he added. He said the people of Xinjiang and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa enjoy centuries-old trade relations and there is great potential to further enhance their business and trade ties. The CPEC, he added will play a great role in the development of KP and rest of the country.

The China-Window was established under a project of the Chinese Embassy in Peshawar. It contains painting and books galleries, maps, a classroom and a small theatre and guest room for Chinese visitors. The outer walls of the cultural center are also decorated with beautiful pictures and paintings depicting Chinese arts and culture.

Maulana Khabir Azad visited different sections of China Window and said that the cultural center provides an opportunity to the local people to know about China and its culture.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/745360/chinese-muslims-enjoying-all-rights-maulana-azad/>

China to gift 0.5m more Covid-19 vaccine doses to Pakistan

Pakistan will receive 500,000 doses of Sinopharm’s coronavirus vaccine from China this month, said the Parliamentary Secretary on Health Dr Nosheen Hamid.

Hamid was speaking to the media on Tuesday where she revealed that the vaccine doses will be donated by China.

“China has already donated 1.5mn doses of the coronavirus vaccine to Pakistan,” she said, adding that the 500,000 doses from Beijing will be delivered to Pakistan this month.

Speaking about the pandemic and the government’s vaccination process, Dr Hamid lamented that people were not getting themselves registered for the coronavirus vaccine jab. “As of now, a little over 2mn people have gotten themselves registered [for the vaccine],” she said. “Out of these, 650,000 are healthcare workers.”

Dr Hamid said the government will initiate a campaign that would encourage the masses to get vaccinated against the virus. Apart from the donated vaccine doses from China, the health secretary confirmed Pakistan will also receive the shipment of coronavirus vaccine doses from China that the country has purchased. A few days ago, a Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) official had said that the company provided its safety and efficacy data to the expert committee and on its recommendations, the approval for another Chinese vaccine was given.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/745408/china-to-gift-0-5m-more-covid-19-vaccine-doses-to-pakistan/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC: Regional Geo-economy Concept

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has further consolidated Pakistan's geo-economy "position", "proposition", "prospects" and "prosperity". Various interesting but beneficial socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic trends in the region and beyond have further enhanced economic importance of the CPEC in terms of eradication of poverty, massive industrialization, climate change control, development of green energies, regional stability, immense socio-economic integration and last but not the least, "realignment" within the "axis of power". Now most of the regional capitals are seriously considering "redesigning", "reshaping" and "remodeling" of their foreign policies and economic "engagements" with Pakistan and also drastically changed anti-CPEC policies. It is a good omen for the speedy development of the CPEC especially its phase-II which is going to be started very soon. President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev's virtual meeting with Prime Minister of Imran Khan is a historic event which has actually opened a new window of opportunity for both the countries to excel in diverse sectors of economy, trade and commerce, security and defense cooperation, energy & food cooperation and last but not the least, collaboration in textiles and tourism. It is the vivid reflection of Uzbek President Mirziyoyev's strategic foreign policy to connect with South East Asia and especially Pakistan being the easiest and short route for greater regional connectivity.

It is indeed height of commercial diplomacy of President Mirziyoyev who has been pursuing comprehensive structural economic reforms to liberalize its macro-economy, develop private sector, seek more and more FDIs, joint ventures, land reforms, assurance of private ownership, relaxation and incentives of taxes and customs duties and last but not the least, pledging of national currency to international currency basket to further strengthen its face value and increase more and more exports in the days to come. The Uzbekistan President has been striving hard for further regional connectivity through holistic approach of friendly relations with all neighbors since its presidency. His annual speech of 2020 to his nation and its keynote address to the SCO clearly demonstrate the importance of peace and stability in Afghanistan and regional connectivity with Pakistan through sea and road means. In this regard, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan have already signed a roadmap for a multi-billion-dollar rail project that is expected to boost trade relations between Central and South Asia. CPEC mega railway project ML-I may

play a decisive role for the completion of this trans-regional railways projects of three countries in the days to come. Uzbekistan Deputy Prime Minister Sardor Umurzakov said stability and peace in Afghanistan is a key for economic growth and regional cooperation. The proposed 573km railway project will link Uzbekistan's capital Tashkent through Afghanistan capital Kabul and Pakistan's northern city of Peshawar. The project, which is expected to take five years for completion enjoys the backing of international lending agencies including the World Bank. In the start of this year, the three countries signed a request seeking a loan of \$4.8bn from world financial institutions for the project. Pakistan and Uzbekistan have also agreed to form a joint working group (JWG) for future coordination in connection with "access to Pakistani seaports". On their visit to Pakistan, Karachi, Uzbekistan Railways Deputy Chairman Akmal Kamalov along with a delegation called on Maritime Affairs Minister Ali Zaidi. The delegation apprised the Minister of their visit to the ports in Karachi and Gwadar and discussed the way forward for cargo transportation. Akmal Kamalov said that a significant volume of Uzbekistan's cargo and containers would be availing the facilities at the Karachi Port Trust (KPT). On his part, Ali Zaidi assured the visiting Uzbek delegation of providing an enabling environment for the promotion of maritime and trade development between the two countries. As of now, Uzbekistan relies on Iranian seaport of Bandar Abbas for external trade but now seriously exploring other viable options and is prioritizing Pakistani ports because of short distance, being more economical, secure and due to some other reasons. Uzbekistan is also engaging with Pakistan on the development of two options the first is the Trans-Afghan railway project while the second is the road route via China. In this connection, Uzbekistan showed its keen interest to join the Quadrilateral Traffic in Transit Agreement (QTTA), an agreement between China, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to facilitate transit traffic and trade. Pakistan has been supporting Uzbekistan in this regard also. The road project under this agreement would provide an alternative link between Pakistan and Central Asia while bypassing Afghanistan through the Karakoram Highway which connects Gilgit-Baltistan to China's Xinjiang region and further on to Central Asia. Last month, Prime Minister Imran Khan had assured Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Dr Abdulaziz Kamilov of complete facilitation in access to Pakistani ports. Mr Khan said that Pakistan's Karachi and Gwadar ports could become "the gateway to the landlocked Central Asia as Pakistan provided the Central Asian Republics the shortest route to international seas". Pakistan would facilitate Uzbekistan's access to its ports he further added. Dr Kamilov's visit was also focused on regional connectivity and he extended invitations to Mr Khan and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi for participation in Central Asia-South Asia Connectivity Conference in Tashkent in July.

During the delegation-level talks, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Uzbek counterpart Dr Kamilov exchanged views on enhancement of economic cooperation, mutual support in international fora, regional connectivity and tourism promotion. The two foreign ministers expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in advancing the rail connectivity between the two countries and agreed on early completion of the Trans-Afghan railway project. Mr Qureshi called for establishing direct air connectivity between the two countries to boost

trade and tourism. He also stressed the need for quick facilitation of visas for businessmen and tourists. Being a prominent regional expert of CPEC & BRI, I personally endorse that diplomatic ease with India and ongoing track-II diplomacy may further consolidate strategic orientation of the CPEC which is ready to become bridge of regional connectivity, effective instrument of poverty eradication, engine of economic growth, powerhouse for energy generation (mix of hydro, thermal and coal power supplies) and last but not the least, means for new job generation. Pakistan's economic future is directly correlated with the CPEC and its phase-II would further consolidate its prosperity in the future. It is high time that element of inbuilt historic hang-over, unnecessary psychological barriers, economic compliancy, social uneasiness and political discomfort should not cast its shadows on the CPEC because it is the key to greater regional geo-economy and connectivity with all the Central Asian Countries, especially Uzbekistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-regional-geo-economy-concept-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

CPEC: An Amazing Source of Employment Opportunities in Pakistan

Col (R) Muhammad Hanif

As the Chinese-financed 3000 kilometres long CPEC connecting the Kashgar city of China's Xinjiang Autonomous region with Gwadar Port city of Balochistan province of Pakistan, would be a network of roads, railways, ports, power plants, pipelines, industrial zones and cooperation in agriculture, its development is going to give a quantum jump to the development of Pakistan's economy. With the huge economic and trade-related opportunities that the CPEC will provide, it also has a huge potential for creating countless employment opportunities for the people of Pakistan. In fact, as the construction of the CPEC is progressing, it has already created many jobs for the Pakistani people, which they are doing and earning their livelihood. A look at the ongoing CPEC related projects and the future projects give us a fair idea that from the start of its construction till its completion and later for its functioning as a regional trade and economic development hub, the CPEC is going to provide a huge number of jobs for the Pakistani youth. And, the creation of numerous employment opportunities for the Pakistani people will greatly help in earning their livelihood that will address not only the issue of poverty in Pakistan, but it will also substantially help in improving their standard of living.

Now let us have a look at the ongoing and the future CPEC-related projects and their potential to attract many people for the new jobs. Already, out of the 19 energy projects included in the CPEC plan, 10 projects, based on coal, have been completed and these projects have provided employment to a sizeable number of people in Pakistan and many people will remain on the job for the operation and maintenance of these electricity producing plants. Likewise, the ongoing nine projects have also provided jobs to the people and further jobs will be created for the operation and maintenance of these plants. As these projects have already added about 5000 megawatts of electricity and after the completion of the remaining projects, 17000 MW of additional electricity will be available for the industry, agriculture, services, construction and

other sectors of economic development, which will allow expansion of these production-related projects that will also create many more jobs.

Apart from the above mentioned projects, a vast network of highways and railways is also being built under the CPEC plan. This transportation network will link Gwadar and Karachi seaports with northern Pakistan, as well as points further north in western China and Central Asia. A 1,100-kilometre-long motorway is being built between Karachi and Lahore as part of CPEC, while the Karakoram Highway from Hasan Abdal to the Chinese border is also being reconstructed. The up-gradation of the Karachi–Peshawar main railway line is also about to be started to allow for train travel at up to 160 km per hour. Pakistan’s railway network will also be extended to connect with China’s southern Xinjiang Railway in Kashgar. It is therefore obvious that while the ongoing projects out of these have already provided jobs to many Pakistanis, the upcoming projects will also create new jobs.

Gwadar port forms the core of the CPEC project, as it would act as a major link between China’s One Belt, One Road project, and its Maritime Silk Road project and trade of China, Central Asia and South Asia, with the outer world and vice-versa. Gwadar Port is being initially expanded to allow for docking of the larger ships of up to the tonnage of 70,000. In Gwadar, a floating liquefied natural gas facility will also be constructed and will be connected to the Gwadar-Nawabshah segment of the Iran–Pakistan gas pipeline. In total, there are nine projects in Gwadar’s development plan, including the construction of a modern airport, funded by China. There are also plans to construct at least two oil refineries along with a huge oil storage facility. In the context it is crystal clear that these plans related to the development of the Gwadar port have a major potential to create numerous jobs as many people have already got jobs in the Gwadar-related ongoing projects. Pakistan and China have also signed an agricultural cooperation framework agreement to modernize agriculture. To expand and modernize industry in Pakistan, nine special economic zones are also being developed along the CPEC route in phases aimed to bring an industrial revolution in the country.

In view of this focus on expanding agriculture and industrial capacity and production in Pakistan, it can be fairly visualized that the development projects in these two major areas of economic progress of the country will create many jobs. In the light of the above discussion, it can be concluded that the signing of the construction of the CPEC between Pakistan and China, to be financed by China has come as a God-given opportunity to Pakistan, to prove its worth to become an Asian Tiger in its own right, as this project carries two major advantages of increasing Pakistan’s economic growth and providing countless employment opportunities to the people of Pakistan. And, these two achievements will certainly kill poverty and bring prosperity to the people of Pakistan, apart from making Pakistan an economic power and a truly sovereign country.

But, to achieve this major success, it is necessary that the Pakistani leadership and its people work very hard with full honesty and devotion, by the banishment of the petty and greedy power politics, corruption and nepotism and by adhering to the Islamic values.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-an-amazing-source-of-employment-opportunities-in-pakistan-by-col-r-muhammad-hanif/>

Nawaiwaqt News

سفارتی تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ، چینی سفارتخانے میں دوستانہ درخت لگایا گیا

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کی 70 ویں سالگرہ پر چینی سفارتخانے میں دوستانہ درخت لگایا گیا۔ ترجمان دفتر خارجہ کے مطابق دوستی کا درخت سیکرٹری خارجہ سہیل محمود اور چین سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے لگایا۔ رواں برس تقریبات کا آغاز شاہ محمود قریشی اور چینی وزیر خارجہ وانگ زی نے کیا تھا۔ فریقین نے پاک چین دوستی کے تاریخی سنگ میل سے متعلق سال بھر کیلئے تقریبات ترتیب دی تھیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2021-04-14/page-3/detail-21>

April 15, 2021

Business Recorder

PBF for Pak-China economic deal on pattern of Iran

NH Zubairi

KARACHI: Pakistan Businesses Forum (PBF) Vice President Ahmad Jawad has said Pakistan has an immense potential in the sectors of mines, mineral, halal meat, textiles and horticulture commodities and China can easily shift its imports toward Pakistan provided China made easier conditions for Pakistani products as a special arrangement in the light of new policy shift. He said that China and Pakistan bilateral trade relation requires to be enhanced for economic prosperity of Pakistan and it's vital for strengthening CPEC further. "It's time China should make economic agreement with Pakistan on the pattern of Iran so that both countries bilateral trade may reach \$100bn in next decade with the parity of level playing field. He said although Pakistan's trade deficit with China has declined in recent years, it may still be an important factor affecting the sustained and healthy development of bilateral trade. Since the first phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement came into effect, bilateral trade volume has increased from USD 2.2 billion in 2005 to USD 15.6 billion in 2019 which was nothing.

However, 75 percent of Pakistan's exports to China are concentrated in a few products such as cotton and rice, leading to a large export deficit with China; If Special Economic Zones are developed in the country as planned, Pakistan can attain quality and price that would help it export of goods to China.

"What we seek from China is to give us technology and value addition; touching \$100bn figure in next decade should not be difficult for both countries".

At the same time, Pakistan should also improve its supporting service systems such as warehousing, cold chain, and logistics to promote the transformation and upgrading of its

agriculture and industry. Jawad said, “The problem with Pakistan’s exporters and policymakers is that they are complacent to the core. Once they hit a high performance mark in a given market, they never bother to aim for reaching an even higher mark next year.” A change in trade policy factoring in all the possibilities in global trade dynamics is a must. There is perhaps a greater need for promoting intra-regional trade to take advantage of the economy of trade.

“Government must renegotiate some provisions of its trade deal with Beijing with the exclusive purpose of promoting exports to Chinese markets. It is desirable and it is possible,” he added.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40084560/pbf-for-pak-china-economic-deal-on-pattern-of-iran>

Daily Times

China to share its expertise of black tea production with Pakistan

China prepares to share its experience for black tea production with Pakistan, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Wednesday.

Tea industry can be a promising industry for China and Pakistan to cooperate and China can share its’ experience, said Xu Jiamin, the secretary-general of Guizhou Tea Association in China. “As long as the quantity is large, the cost can be lowered. We can make breakthroughs in technology and increase productivity.” according to Xu Jiamin.

The report says Pakistan is the third largest tea importer in the world. They consume a lot of imported tea every year. In July to February period of the present financial year, Pakistan’s tea import costs \$379.3 million. “Tea leaves are small, but it plays a big role in poverty alleviation in Guizhou. The development of the tea industry is an effective way to promote rural employment and boost farmers’ income.”

According to Xu Jiamin, there are 3.4 million people in Guizhou involved in tea planting. The annual income from tea per person has reached more than RMB 12,000. Xu Jiamin told CEN that mechanical tea picking is encouraged in the production of tea for export, and the output has been increased substantially. Also, the association is promoting the intelligent management of tea gardens, using the Internet and modern technology to realize the integration of automatic water and fertilizer. “We are cooperating with Anhui Agricultural University, Guizhou University, Guizhou Tea Research Institute and the research teams of the companies.” “Enterprise-driven model is adopted in most of our tea gardens, where the local farmers become employees of the companies. There are also tea farmers who have their own contracted lands, operating the tea plantation on their own. ” Xu Jiamin added.

Poverty alleviation is an important parts of Pakistan government’s priorities. Xu Jiamin thinks that tea industry can be a promising industry for China and Pakistan to cooperate and China can share its’ experience. “Broken black tea is the most popular tea product among the Pakistani

people. We have decades of years of experience in making broken black tea. We have advanced mechanical equipment and the quality of our tea is excellent.”

Before the Covid-19 epidemic, some tea companies in Guizhou have been to Pakistan to explore the cooperation potential in the deep processing of broken black tea. Xu Jiamin expects further cooperation with Pakistani companies. “We want more information and communication with Pakistan. We already have experience in setting tea industry in Morocco. I think the cooperation mode can be decided by the demand of both sides,” he said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/745818/china-to-share-its-expertise-of-black-tea-production-with-pakistan/>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت بجلی کے 9 منصوبے مکمل

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے تحت توانائی کے شعبے میں بڑی پیش رفت جاری ہے، منظور شدہ 22 توانائی کے منصوبوں میں سے 9 منصوبے مکمل ہو گئے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت منظور شدہ 9 توانائی کے منصوبے مکمل کر لیے گئے ہیں۔ منصوبوں کا مقصد بجلی کی ضروریات پوری کرنا ہے، مکمل شدہ 9 منصوبوں سے 5 ہزار 320 میگا واٹ بجلی پیدا کی جا رہی ہے۔ ان منصوبوں میں کونکے کے 13 سو 20 میگا واٹ کے ساہیوال، پورٹ قاسم اور چائنا صاحب منصوبے شامل ہیں۔ 660 واٹ کا اینگرو تھر اور 400 میگا واٹ قائد اعظم سولر پارک منصوبے بھی مکمل ہو چکے ہیں۔ مزید 4 ہزار 470 میگا واٹ کے 8 منصوبے تکمیل کے آخری مراحل میں داخل ہو چکے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2021-04-15/page-1/detail-22>