



# For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

## Gleanings from the National Press

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### **Business Recorder 16-04-19**

#### **SSUET, ICMS join hands for various ventures pertaining to CPEC**

KARACHI: Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology (SSUET) and Integrated Corporate Management Solutions (ICMS) have collaborated for reshaping organizational competence, building capacity, developing high performing culture and sustaining growth of government functionaries, businesses and industries, particularly for “Capturing CPEC Opportunities”.

The purpose of the SSUET-ICMS alliance is to help government, businesses and industries to move to next level in performance with world-class competence and capacity to capture better share in economic flow unfolded in CPEC.

SSUET has the academic and research strengths, ICMS has business experience and exposure to global 21st century management concept; organizational project management, a globally recognized and proven methodology for managing change.

The synergistic specialties would help creating a unique business power for business and industry to advance their business meaningfully and purposefully.

The alliance is ready to offer training and consulting services in specialized areas with world class-expertise for developing organizational and technological competence with research-based trends, establishing the specific industry needs, creating a flow of skilled resource in line with market demands.

### **Business Recorder 17-04-19**

#### **China committed to timely completion of CPEC projects: Yao Jing**

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing called on Federal Minister for Finance Asad Umar here on Tuesday and discussed with him issues of bilateral interests besides emphasizing the need for enhancing and expanding bilateral cooperation.

Welcoming the Chinese Envoy, Asad Umar said that China was a reliable friend and her support was essential for the social and economic development of Pakistan. He briefed the envoy about the measures taken by the government for creating enabling environment for foreign investment. He said that the Chinese businessmen and investors would also benefit from the current environment by making investment in various sectors, particularly agriculture, housing, health, education and energy.

The meeting discussed the ongoing projects being built under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Yao Jing reiterated his country’s commitment to timely complete the projects. He expressed the hope that CPEC would bring social and economic prosperity to both countries. Appreciating the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, the Ambassador said that the Chinese businessmen’s confidence has enhanced due to the economic policies of

Pakistan. During the meeting, the forthcoming visit of Premier Imran Khan to China also came under discussion. Both the sides expressed the hope that the visit would further boost strategic, economic and industrial relations between the two neighbors.

### **Business Recorder 18-04-19**

#### **PM Khan to visit China next week, sign new pacts**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit China next week to meet its leaders and deliver a keynote speech at the vast Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, the South Asian nation's foreign ministry said on Wednesday, as economic anxiety grows at home.

China has pledged about \$60 billion in infrastructure loans for Pakistan, touted as a success story of its Belt and Road initiative, which aims to build road and maritime trading routes across the globe. But Pakistan's economy has hit serious turbulence over the past year and Islamabad is now finalizing a bailout package with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to stave off a balance of payments crisis, despite more than \$10 billion in short-term loans from allies such as China and Saudi Arabia.

Khan will visit China from April 25, and give a keynote speech at the three-day Belt and Road Forum that starts the following day. The high-profile gathering is one of China's biggest annual state events.

"In addition to participating in the Belt and Road Forum, the Prime Minister would also hold bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang," the ministry said in a statement. The two countries will sign several pacts to enhance cooperation, and Khan will meet corporate and business leaders, it added.

Khan's visit to Pakistan's all-weather friend China comes as his government, in power since August, faces a deepening economic crisis, with a ballooning current account deficit and fast-depleting foreign reserves.

It initially tried to avoid an IMF bailout by securing loans from friendly countries such as China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates but has since changed tack and said it had agreed in principle to turn to the IMF.

### **Business Recorder 19-04-19**

#### **Pak-China FTA-II**

Dawood foresees \$6bn exports growth on meager free market access

KARACHI: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Textile Abdul Razak Dawood on Thursday said that the minimum 10 percent realization of free market access of 313 Pakistani items expected to be given by China under Phase-II of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would bring US\$ 6 billion exports growth. "We are extremely thankful to the Chinese government. It has accepted



our demand for concessions,” Razak said at an awareness seminar on the 2nd phase of Pak-China FTA organized by Ministry of Commerce and Textile in collaboration with Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) at a hotel, here. He said that Pakistan and China all set to sign FTA on April 28, 2019. He urged business community to contribute its maximum share in the \$ 5 trillion Chinese import market in the next five years.

Dawood said that currently we look towards the West but factually speaking, 21st century belongs to Asia. “Great business window has been open for Pakistanis in CPEC and FTA with China. Please, turn your directions,” he asked the business community. He said that incumbent government has taken steps forward for industrialization and still, we need reforms on a greater level. He said that a trade-oriented economy would not be a sustainable solution for a nation with 200 million populations. “We need to encourage import substitutions, enhance and diversify our exports, establish industries and develop Make in Pakistan policy to steer the country out of challenges,” he said.

The adviser said that provision of subsidy should be selective, logical and time-bound. He also asked traders not to commit under invoicing and misreporting. He said the government was going to rationalize tariff structure in the next federal budget in June. He said an industrial policy is being formulated and a draft will be provided to businessmen for consideration. He said textile policy would also be coming soon. He said government was preparing policy for 3.7 million small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) of the country. Dawood advised Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) to establish FTA think-tank to conduct extensive research, while the chambers come up with capacity-building initiatives for its member organizations. He also appreciated former commerce secretary Muhammad Younus Dagha and his entire team for their efforts in the FTA negotiation process.

Earlier, in a detailed presentation, Shafiq Quraishi, an official of Ministry of Commerce highlighted the major breakthroughs made at the 11th round of FTA in March 2019. He said China agreed to eliminate duty at par with ASEAN on 313 items. China has also extended sensitive list of Pakistan’s 1410+350 items, he said.

Highlighting the shortcomings of the 2007 first phase of FTA, he said there were weak safeguard provisions. There were no provisions to address balance of payment issues in difficulties. He said majority of FTAs has a standard provision in line with WTO agreement to address BOP difficulties. There was no mechanism to share real time trade data to discourage under-invoicing and misreporting.

He said 41 percent of Pakistan’s global exports were liberalized in FTA phase-I, which has now been increased up to 83 percent. Similarly, Pakistan’s exports to China were liberalized by around 35 percent in Phase-I, while 91.3 percent in Phase-II that covers 88 percent of Chinese global imports.

He said both sides agreed 67 percent liberalization in terms of trade volume for Pakistan and around 90 percent for China. Federal Commerce Secretary Sardar Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera,

Secretary Trade Development Authority of Pakistan Muhammad Sualeh Ahmad Faruqi and others were also present.

### **Business Recorder 20-04-19**

#### **China makes it clear: CPEC has nothing to do with sovereign, territorial disputes**

BEIJING: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi Friday said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a multi-billion dollar flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative, was an economic cooperation programme and did not target any third country.

“We have stated clearly on many occasions that the BRI including the CPEC is only an economic initiative and does not target any third country,” he said during a press briefing in which he also announced that the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will be held here from April 25 to 27.

He remarked that both - the BRI and CPEC - had nothing to do with the sovereign and territorial disputes, left over from history between any two countries, adding, “Our cooperation will not undermine any party’s position on those issues.” Wang said: “Now we are trying to achieve common prosperity through the cooperation under BRI. Those issues left over from history must be separated from our efforts in this area.” He opined that such cooperation would not undermine a country’s basic position on sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Chinese foreign minister informed that a total of 37 heads of state or government and other leaders from Pakistan, Austria, Egypt, Italy, Nepal, and Laos will attend the forum. France, Germany, the UK, Spain, Japan, South Korea, and the EU will send high-level representatives to the forum, he added. In addition, President of Laos Bounnhang Vorachith will pay a state visit to China.

Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the opening ceremony and deliver a keynote speech and host a state dinner in honor of world leaders. The second day of the forum, the Chinese president will receive world leaders and hold a Leaders’ Roundtable at Yanqi Lake, located at the foot of the Yanshan Mountains, in the northeast suburb of Beijing.

Chinese President Xi will address the media at the end of the forum. Wang said: “Belt and Road Cooperation, Shaping a Brighter Shared Future”, will be the theme of the second BRF which is aimed to bring about high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road framework. More side events are planned for this year’s forum, including 12 sub-forums focusing on practical cooperation. Also, a conference will be organized specifically for the business community for the first time.

The Chinese foreign minister said that BRI has gained active response and participation since it was announced by President Xi Jinping in 2013; as many as 126 countries and 29 international organizations have signed cooperation agreements with China to jointly build the Belt and Road.

He said the total trade volume between China and participating countries has surpassed 6 trillion U.S. dollars, investment has exceeded 80 billion U.S. dollars and the 82 cooperation parks built by China and relevant countries have created nearly 300,000 jobs, bringing enormous development opportunities for the countries involved and laying a solid foundation for China to host the second forum.—APP

### **Business Recorder 20-04-19**

#### **MoU signed to manufacture Chinese heavy transport vehicles in Pakistan**

KARACHI: A memorandum of understanding has been signed, which will allow manufacturing of Chinese heavy transport vehicles and related technology in Pakistan to reap the benefits of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

The Rawal Industrial Equipment and Malik Group of Companies entered into the agreement in this regard at a ceremony held here at a hotel. Chairman and CEO of Malik Group of Companies Malik Khuda Baksh and CEO of Rawal Industrial Equipment Farrukh Kamal signed the MoU on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Kamal said that his company had been formed some four years back in view of the increasing trade relations between China and Pakistan in the backdrop of the CPEC. He said that assembly plant for the indigenous manufacturing of the heavy transport vehicles and related technology was being established at Daudkhel in District Mianwali, which is situated on the route of the CPEC. The assembly plant will start its production by the end of current year. He said that his unit would initially create up to 5,000 job opportunities. He said that one of the prime productions of this assembly plant would be luxury buses whose demand in the country would increase with tourism prospects increasing in Pakistan. Trucks, tankers, excavators, prime movers, earth moving machinery, and related technology will also be assembled at the plant.

Speaking on the occasion, Malik Khuda Baksh said that the main reason his company had entered into the agreement was the massive demand for buses for public transportation in urban parts of Sindh including specialized vehicles required for the proposed Bus Rapid Transit System in Karachi.

“This is really need of the hour,” he said while adding that he had been in contact with Sindh Transport Department to introduce such buses of Chinese-origin for public transportation service in cities like Karachi. The assembly plant in Daudkhel Near Kalabagh will produce 600 Sunlong buses per annum, 5000 Shacman trucks, 10,000 CIMC-RJST Semi trailers and Tankers. Cost of the Project is 7 to 10 million US Dollars.—PR

## **Business Recorder 20-04-19**

### **26 new CPEC initiatives underway: Chinese envoy**

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing said on Friday that to take the bilateral relation between Pakistan and China to the next level, business-to-business (B2B) cooperation and enhance people-to-people (P2P) contacts should be promoted as a part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said this while speaking at an event titled 'CPEC 2015-2019: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward,' jointly organized by Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, CPEC Economic Forum and Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM).

The seminar also marked the fourth anniversary of CPEC agreement between China and Pakistan (20 April 2015). Yao Jing said that as many as 26 new CPEC initiatives are underway. The focus of new CPEC investments will shift from G2G interactions to B2B and P2P cooperation, eventually encouraging the private sector investors from both the countries to play their part especially in the areas of industrial and social development, he added.

He said that all the developments that are taking place as part of CPEC show the trust and confidence of both countries in each other as it is the only bilateral initiative taken by the Chinese government whereas all other ventures undertaken under the BRI are multilateral. The energy projects under CPEC have contributed to a GDP increase of about 1% in Pakistan so far but the real dividends of the mega project will unfold with time, eventually helping in releasing economic pressures on Pakistan considerably, he claimed.

He further said that Pak-China relations have always been based on the principles of justice, fairness and shared destiny, and it is in this spirit that all CPEC ventures seek to extend Chinese progress to Pakistan through different development initiatives. The onus now rests with Pakistan on how it benefits from the opportunities coming forth and one way of doing this is to build its capacity and competitiveness in concerned areas.

The session was chaired by Mirza Hamid Hasan, former federal secretary and member IPS-National Academic Council. Other who spoke on the occasion included General Khalid Naem Lodhi (retd), former federal defence minister, Dr Talat Shabbir, director, China Study Centre, ISSI, Ambassador Tajammul Altaf (retd), senior research associate, IPS, Abid Sabri, executive director, PIM, Muhammad Arshad Qaim Khani, executive chairman, CPEC Economic Forum, Dr Syed Tahir Hjazji, vice chancellor, MY University Islamabad, and Dr Shazia Ghani, director CPEC and BRI, SASSI.

### **Roads in rural areas to be constructed, repaired: CM**

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar on Saturday said that roads in rural areas would be constructed and repaired under 'Naya Pakistan Manzilain Asan' programme and billions of rupees had been earmarked for this purpose.

The CM presided over a meeting here in which progress on the infrastructure development, especially the construction and repair of roads, was reviewed.

The proposed programme of infrastructure especially road sector for the financial year 2019-2020 was reviewed in detail.

He said that every district would be provided funds in proportion to its population and new roads would be constructed and repaired. Two-way roads and connecting roads would be constructed to connect cities of Punjab with China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The CM said development schemes of road construction and repair would be completed on priority as it would have positive impact on agriculture and economy besides providing rural population with best traveling facilities.

The secretary construction and communication briefed the chief minister on the road schemes. The chief secretary, chairman planning and development, principal secretary to CM and other senior officers also attended the meeting.

### **Business recorder 22-04-19**

#### **Pak-China FTA to be signed on April 28: Chinese envoy**

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China to Pakistan Yao Jing on Monday said that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Phase II between Pakistan and China would be signed on April 28, besides other important agreements related to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China.

He said the FTA had been finally concluded after eight years of negotiations and it would be inked by the commerce ministers of two countries during the visit of Pakistani prime minister.

Under the FTA-Phase II, Jing said, China would provide market access to 90% of Pakistani commodities at zero rated duty, while Pakistan would give China market access to 65 percent tariff lines. He was addressing a press briefing here at the Chinese Embassy on the upcoming Second Belt and Road Forum to be held in Beijing from April 25 to 27.

The ambassador said world leaders, including heads of state and government from 37 countries, would attend the Forum's roundtable summit, but Pakistan being a major partner of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was the most important of all.

"The Chinese Prime Minister and President are looking forward to the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China where he will also hold bilateral meetings with the Chinese leadership to build more consensus on bilateral trade ties," he added. The Chinese envoy pointed out that China wanted a more prosperous and developed Pakistan as what he said without sustainable development in the neighboring countries, China could not sustain its development.

He said under the CPEC's industrial cooperation, the first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Rashakai was going to be inaugurated during the current month where 20 factories would be set up initially.

He assured that employment in the SEZs would be given to the local people and the latest technology would be transferred from China to Pakistan.

Cooperation in industrial and social sectors would be the main focus of second phase of CPEC, he added. “There are six areas in the social sector, including education, health, agriculture, water, irrigation, and poverty alleviation in which around 26 new projects will be initiated in Pakistan,” he said.

The ambassador said two model villages would be built in Pakistan under the social sector cooperation of CPEC to uplift the living standard of low income segments of the society.

He said China was basically an agricultural country and it started its development journey with bringing reforms in the agriculture sector. It would now help Pakistan in revolutionizing its agricultural sector by linking it with the state of the art technology. With respect to the multi-billion Railway ML1 project, the envoy said as its technical aspects had already been finalized, the project would hit the ground soon.

He also invited the neighboring countries to become part of the mega project as it was not only beneficial to China and Pakistan but also for the whole region. To a question, Jing said 11 out of 22 projects had already been completed while the work on the remaining was going fast. In total \$19 billion had been invested by China on all the projects, \$13 billion lent as commercial loans and \$6 billion as concessionary loan to be repaid by the Pakistani government in 25-30 years.

To a query regarding the Karachi Circular Railway, the Chinese envoy said the two sides were working on its financial model. Many options of financial model, including build-operate-transfer (BOT), loaning, and financing from own resources, were under consideration, he added.

Regarding investment in Gilgit-Baltistan, Yao Jing said China was eager to upgrade and develop tourist sites in the area to provide facilities to local as well as foreign tourists.

### **Business Recorder 23-04-19**

#### **Govt to provide all support to Chinese to invest in Pakistan: Hafeez**

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh on Monday said the government would facilitate Chinese investors by provide them all possible support to invest in Pakistan.

The environment in Pakistan for foreign investment was conducive and the Chinese businessmen should benefit from it to make investment in various sectors, he added. Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh was talking to Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing, who called on him here, a Finance Ministry press release said. During the meeting, both the sides discussed matters of bilateral interest and underscored the need for enhanced collaboration between the two countries in the areas of mutual benefit.



The adviser said Pakistan highly valued its ties with China, which was a sincere friend and had always supported Pakistan in difficult times. He deeply appreciated China's role in the social and economic development of Pakistan.

Appreciating the steps taken by Pakistan government for the revival of economy, the ambassador said the Chinese investors wanted to invest in Pakistan and their confidence over the policies and leadership of Pakistan was getting increased.

He reiterated his government's resolve to continue its support for early execution of various projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor. The ambassador also congratulated Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh on assuming the portfolio of adviser. The two sides discussed the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China and expressed the hope that the visit would further strengthen the existing multifaceted relations between the two neighbors.

### **Business Recorder 23-04-19**

#### **CPEC a substantial plan for marine and land trade: Governor Balochistan**

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Justice (R) Amanullah Khan Yasinzai on Tuesday said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a great economic plan for trade through marine and Land routes, its completion will bring economic revolution in the entire region.

Governor Balochistan expressed these views while talking to the delegates of the PAF Air War College here today in Governor House. The delegation was consisted of under training officers, who were on a study visit to Quetta and headed by Pakistan Navy's Rear Admiral Naveed Ahmed Rizvi.

The governor said that federal and provincial governments are cognizant of the importance and benefits of CPEC, and having special focus on the development projects under CPEC mega project.

“The government is taking steps to train young people in the province with modern technical and vocational Skills”, the governor said.

Navy officials discussed various issues with Governor Balochistan including peace and security situation, elimination of extremism and terrorism from the province, steps for promotion of tourism, and different development projects initiated by provincial government.

In response to a question, the Governor said that peace and amity have become basic need of this region. The services and sacrifices rendered by security forces have led to improve law and order situation in the province. He further said that promotion of higher education is imperative for Balochistan's development and prosperity.

## **Business Recorder 23-04-19**

### **China welcomes PM Imran Khan's attendance in 2nd Belt and Road Forum in Beijing**

BEIJING: China Tuesday welcomed Prime Minister Imran Khan's attendance in the second Belt and Road Forum scheduled for April 25-27 and termed China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as highly demonstrative project and set a good example for other projects under Belt and Road Initiative.

"We welcome Prime Minister Imran Khan's attendance in the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation," Chinese foreign ministry's spokesperson Geng Shuang said during his routine briefing held here.

He remarked that with concerted efforts of both China and Pakistan, the CPEC, a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative has delivered many tangible benefits to the people of two countries with concrete outcomes.

"We have every confidence to work with Pakistan to promote greater progress in this project to deliver greater benefits to our people," he added.

The spokesperson observed that the CPEC was a highly demonstrative project and it set a good example for other projects under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, at the invitation of Chinese President, Xi Jinping, is scheduled to participate in the second edition of Belt and Road Forum.

He will be accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising federal ministers and other senior officials.

On the first day of the forum, he will attend the inaugural session of the forum and deliver a keynote speech at the plenary meeting of high-level dialogue.

He will also attend the state banquet to be hosted by President Xi Jinping in the honour of world leaders attending the BRF.

The prime minister along with other world leaders will attend the leaders' roundtable sessions on the second day of the forum.

He will also hold meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Li Keqiang to further promote bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

A number of agreements are expected to be signed in to further promote cooperation between the two countries under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework during the visit.

The prime minister is also expected to meet world leaders on the sidelines of the forum.

After the forum, the prime minister will attend the inaugural ceremony of international horticultural expo to be held in the Yanqing district where Pakistan has set up a pavilion at the Asian Gardens to showcase its newest horticulture achievements and promote tourism.

The forum will include a series of events, such as leaders' round table, high-level meeting, thematic forum, CEO conference, under the theme of Belt and Road cooperation shaping a brighter shared future.

There will also be more side events, including 12 thematic forums focusing on practical cooperation and for the first time a conference organized specifically for the business community.

Representatives from over 100 countries, including nearly 40 foreign leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin; Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz; Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras; Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte have confirmed participation in the second Belt and Road Forum.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has gained active response and participation since it was announced by President Xi Jinping in 2013; more than 150 countries and international organizations have signed cooperation agreements with China.

### **Business Recorder 24-04-19**

#### **CPFTA-II likely to get approval today**

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet to approve China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement -II ( CPFTA-II) on Tuesday (today), according to which both countries have agreed on liberalization of 75 percent tariff lines and 90 percent trade value, well-informed sources in Commerce Division told Business Recorder. The CPFTA-II will be signed during the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister, Imran Khan. Prime Minister's Advisor on Commerce, Textile, Industries and Production and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood will also accompany him. The source said, both sides agreed that in category -1(EIF) Pakistan and China would liberalize 45 percentages of tariff lines with immediate effect; category 2-15 percentage tariff lines will be liberalized in 2-7 years by Pakistan and 1-5 years by China and category 3-15 percentage tariff lines by Pakistan in 4-15 years and 1-10 years by China. For Pakistan percentage of trade value would be 67 percent whereas for China percentage of trade value would be 90 percent.

According to the agreement, partial reduction of 20 percent Margin of Preference (MOP) will be on 3.3 percentage tariff lines from Entry into Force for Pakistan and China each whereas the remaining 1.7 percentage tariff lines of 20 percent MOP will be effective from January 2022. For Pakistan, MOP and sensitive tariff lines will be for 33 percentage of trade value whereas it will be 10 percentage of trade value for China. Tariff on remaining 20 percentage lines for both countries will remain the same as is in the first phase.

Regarding responsiveness to Pakistan's 65 tariff line request list from 313 items, China agreed to prioritized 57 tariff lines on EIF, whereas, eight agriculture tariff lines excluded. Regarding

remaining 256 tariff lines EIF, six tariff lines have been replaced with six new tariff lines. China has also agreed to give unilateral concessions to Pakistan on 313 items. In addition, Pakistan will also seek market access of additional \$ 1 billion.

### **Business Recorder 24-04-19**

#### **PA fears diminishing CPEC investments in Gwadar due to terrorism**

KARACHI: The Sindh Assembly on Monday condemned violent attacks against Hazara community in Quetta as the legislators apprehended that poor law and order in Balochistan province may scale down investments under the CPEC projects in Gwadar. The MPAs debated the resolution which PPP's Nadir Magsi tabled at the house to condemn terror attacks on Hazara community. "A disturbed Balochistan will also affect entire Pakistan with decline in investments," Magsi said, adding that violence against Hazara community is condemnable.

MQM's Rana Ansar demanded constitution of a committee to resolve the issue while Javed Hanif lamented intolerance in society. PPP's Shehla Raza demanded that National Action Plan ought to be implemented. Similarly, Dr Seema Zia of the PTI and Sardar Chandio of PPP tabled a resolution on Makran Coastal Highway tragedy that left at least 14 people dead at the hands of terrorists. Chandio said that the nation is united under Pakistan's flag and undeterred by such attacks.

"Terror is being spread in the name of Baloch people," he said. Javed Hanif said that terrorists used neighboring countries soil, infiltrated into Pakistan and carried out attacks. Dr Seema Zia and PPP's Ghazal Sial tabled a resolution to condemn the death of a nine month baby girl Nishwa due to negligence of doctors. The house demanded an inquiry into the incident and demanded stern action against those found guilty. The house also condemned Easter Day blasts in Sri Lanka. The house unanimously adopted all the condemnation resolutions.

The provincial legislature also opened a pre-budget debate. PPP's Sohrab Sarki lauded his party government for carrying out several uplift schemes. He said clean Karachi now can be compared with Islamabad. He said the PPP government served people in Sindh. Earlier, Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah ruled out chances of presidential form of the government in the country. He said the issue was previously also debated but yielded no results. Sindh Energy Minister Imtiaz Shaikh said Jacobabad had a better medical care with 24 hours services with availability of doctors. He said "there is no reality that people are deprived of healthcare facilities there." PTI's Sidra Iqbal raised the issue of shortage of facilities in Matli College in district Badin. Sindh Education Minister Syed Sardar Shah acknowledged that the college lacks basic facilities and that the government couldn't provide all that is required in an academic institute.

## **Business Recorder 29-04-2019**

### **FTA Phase-II signed with China**

BEIJING: Pakistan and China on Sunday signed the second phase of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to further enhance bilateral trade between the two countries.

Prime Minister Imran Khan and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang witnessed the signing ceremony held here at Diaoyutai State Guest House.

The other memorandum of understanding and agreement signed on the occasion included Declaration for Completion of Preliminary Design of Phase-I for Up-gradation of ML-1 and Establishment of Havelian Dry Port under CPEC, MoU on Cooperation in the field of Marine Sciences between the China Geological Survey (CGS), Ministry of Natural Resources of China, the Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Science and Technology, MoU between CIDCA and Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform on Implementation of the Projects under JWG of CPEC on Socio-Economic Development, China-Pakistan Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement and Rashakai SEZ Joint Venture and License Agreement between KPEZMDC and CRBC.

Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan held a bilateral meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the conclusion of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum (BRF).

The two Prime Ministers were accompanied by Ministers and senior officials during the meeting.

Both leaders reaffirmed the time-tested and strong friendship between Pakistan and China and exchanged views on the myriad facets of bilateral engagement.

The Prime Minister extended felicitations to the Chinese leadership on the successful holding of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum (BRF). Noting the depth and breadth of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Prime Minister said it was of immense significance for the world in terms of connectivity and shared prosperity. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral collaboration in the context of CPEC and prospects of further deepening economic linkages.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance of CPEC for Pakistan's economy and noted with satisfaction its expansion into new areas of development – including industrial development; livelihood projects; social uplift; and agriculture in line with the priorities of government.

He hoped that Chinese investment in Specialized Economic Zones (SEZs) would expand Pakistan's industrial base and assist in diversifying its export basket.

Underlining the steady growth of bilateral cooperation since the Prime Minister's last visit to China in November 2018, Premier Li Keqiang expressed satisfaction at the positive momentum of CPEC projects.

He hoped that the conclusion of the Second Phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA), would give further boost to trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to further deepen the political, security, economic, education, science and technology, cultural, and people-to-people relations.

It was agreed to maintain the existing momentum of high level exchanges between the two countries.

The two leaders also exchanged views on regional issues including peace efforts in Afghanistan and peace and stability in South Asia. They also agreed to closely coordinate in their endeavors.

The two Prime Ministers also witnessed the signing ceremony at which the Second Phase of the Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement was signed.—APP

### **Business Recorder 29-04-2019**

#### **PM reaffirms unflinching commitment to CPEC**

BEIJING: Prime Minister Imran Khan met with President Xi Jinping here on Sunday and reaffirmed Pakistan's unflinching commitment to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as well highlighted CPEC's next phase and it's extension into new areas of agriculture, industrial development and socio economic uplift with livelihood projects.

The two leaders were accompanied by Ministers and senior-level delegations during the meeting held at Great Hall of the people. Reaffirming 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership' between Pakistan and China, the two leaders exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relations in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

They affirmed the resolve to further strengthen their strategic cooperative partnership in all fields including political, security, economic and trade, and people-to-people exchanges.

Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked President Xi for the warm and gracious welcome accorded to him in China and for China's steadfast support to Pakistan on all issues.

The Prime Minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's support to China on all issues of its core interest. Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated President Xi on the successful convening of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum (BRF), which is a practical manifestation of his far-reaching vision, and highlighted its significance as an important international platform for connectivity and sharing of experience among the BRI participating countries.

Reaffirming Pakistan's unflinching commitment to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the Prime Minister highlighted CPEC's next phase and its extension into new areas of agriculture, industrial development, and socio-economic uplift with livelihood projects. President Xi Jinping reiterated China's unwavering support to Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and appreciated the government's agenda for socio-economic development and people-centered progress. He affirmed that China-Pakistan ties would continue to acquire greater strength and deepen practical cooperation in the time to come.



The two sides also exchanged views on the regional situation, including in Afghanistan and South Asia.

President Xi further expressed China's appreciation for Pakistan's sustained and successful efforts in the fight against terrorism and to create a peaceful neighborhood.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora and resolved to further deepen communication and coordination at all levels. They also agreed to keep the momentum of high-level exchanges between the two countries.—APP.

## **Business Recorder 29-04-2019**

### **Special economic zones**

#### **Imran invites Chinese entrepreneurs to relocate industries**

BEIJING: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday invited the Chinese entrepreneurs to take benefits of investment friendly policies of the present government and relocate their industries in the special economic zones (SEZs) being built under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a pilot project of Belt and Road Initiative.

“We want the Chinese entrepreneurs to relocate their industries in special economic zones being constructed in Pakistan just like they repositioned the industries in Vietnam and other countries,” he said while addressing the participants of Pakistan China Trade and Investment Forum organised by the Ministry of Commerce here.

More than 370 Chinese companies and businessmen and 70 entrepreneurs from Pakistan participated in the forum.

The prime minister also expressed his government's resolve to remove impediments in the way of investment and make the doing business easy for the Chinese businessmen in Pakistan.

He said the government has offered incentives and concessions in the tax and asked them to use Pakistan as base for the export to other countries.

He said unfortunately, the previous government did not pay much attention to set up export industries but the present government has changed policy and encouraging investment, adding, “We are not only helping the exporters but also providing incentives to businessmen and traders to relocate their industries in our country.”

On the CPEC, he said, it was started with building infrastructure and couple of roads has blossomed to different areas of cooperation as now it has gone into cooperation in agriculture which is the lifeline of Pakistan.

He expressed the confidence the economic growth would improve after the rise of agriculture products with the cooperation of China.

Highlighting the security situation in the country, he said it has been greatly improved with sacrifices rendered by Pakistan's armed forces and other security organizations. They have overcome a difficult security situation.

About relations with neighboring countries, he said, Pakistan is helping a peace process in Afghanistan and added, for the first time, there are prospects of peace and a political settlement of Afghan issue.

Regarding relations with India, he said that elections were being held in India and hoped that both the countries would resume dialogue once the new government takes charge after the elections.

He remarked that the Kashmir was a core issue between the two countries which should be resolved through talks and negotiations.

The prime minister said that Pakistan's strategic location is important as it has China, world biggest market on one side, India, the second biggest market on the other side while it has countries full of energy resources on the Western side.

He said that Pakistan's young population of around 110 million which is below the age of 30 is an asset and future for Pakistan.

"We seek support from China to set up a university of science and technology for education in different fields particularly Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology and other related subjects for our young population," he added.

On the Belt and Road Forum, he said it was a great success as more than 40 countries participated in the two-day event.

He expressed the confidence that more countries would join the Belt and Road Initiative as it is meant for the connectivity and shared prosperity.

He said several countries are now worried about the climate change and they want to take measure to mitigate its impact.

Advisor to PM on Commerce and Textile, Abdul Razaq Dawood said after the signing of the second phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and China, the bilateral trade and wide-ranging mutual business cooperation would increase between the two all-weather friends.

Pakistan, he said, will have greater market access to the Chinese market and begin the export of wide-ranging goods to China and enhance cooperation in agriculture and livelihood areas.

He said the Chinese agro firms are also very keen to enter into the Pakistani market and collaborate with Pakistani counterparts due to the rapidly increasing demand of the import of food products from Pakistan.

He expressed the confidence this measure will usher in an era of industrialization in Pakistan and help promote exports.

The advisor invited the Chinese companies to come to Pakistan and invest in the joint venture and re-export their goods back to China, European and African countries.

He assured that special economic zones will be made available for the relocation of Chinese industries. Vice Chairman, Pakistan Business Council, Saqib Shirazi spoke on “Business Opportunities between China and Pakistan” and pointed out that the present government has offered a number of incentives to attract foreign investment in the country.

“It is now focusing from the government to government relations to the business to business cooperation to enhance trade and business activities”, he added. He said the CPEC has helped overcome energy challenge, improved infrastructure and generated more than 200,000 employment opportunities across the country.

The vice chairman said a number of Chinese companies have entered to the Pakistani market and are taking advantage of the investment-friendly environment. In his welcome address, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Masood Khalid said the second phase of FTA will help accelerate cooperation in business and trade between Pakistan and China.

“The CPEC has injected a fresh impetus into the economy of Pakistan and now both the countries are collaborating in agriculture and social sectors,” he commented.

Meanwhile, during the business to business sessions of the forum, Pakistani and Chinese companies and businessmen discussed mutual business cooperation and materialized joint ventures. The forum is likely to result in investment from big Chinese companies and business groups in Pakistan as they are very excited to shift their manufacturing units in the proposed special economic zones.

The forum also helped create awareness among the big Chinese companies about the investment friendly environment and the measures taken by the government to enhance business activities aimed at encouraging exports and the availability of low-cost skilled labour besides the strategic geographic location of Pakistan.—APP

### **Business Recorder 29-04-2019**

#### **PM’s visit will cement Pak-China ties: Firdous**

SIALKOT: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan on Sunday evening said that recent visit of Prime Minister to China will further strengthen relations between Pakistan and China.

Addressing a public meeting she said that laying of 1800km long railway track mega project will not only bring prosperity but also supportive in increasing exports between the two countries. She said that Imran Khan struggling for solidarity and prosperity of the country and people should extend their full support to Prime Minister for achieving ultimate goals.

The Special Assistant asked the opposition to focus attention on tracing their missing “Opposition Leader” that escaped to foreign country for hiding looted national wealth and corruption money. Unfortunately, the past rulers had used politics as a tool of business and indulged in massive corruption she said.

She said that front men of some political parties were trying to mislead the people for their nefarious designs but people had become more politically conscious because of PTI struggle as compared to past decades. In fact the hue and cry of some political parties was to divert the attention of the masses from their massive corruption of their big bosses she said.

The Special Assistant further stated that PTI led government was making sincere efforts for bringing the country out of multifarious problems on top priority basis adding that people would observe a visible change in near future.

She said that ex-rulers had protected the corruption just for prolonging their tenure and ruined the national economy ruthlessly. The government was taking drastic steps for the redress of the problems being confronted by the masses on top priority basis, Firdous said.

The Special Assistant stressed upon the people that they should strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Imran Khan for brining economic stability and purging the country from the menace of corruption. She said that the masses are reaping the fruits of the massive corruption of previous rulers and government was making all out efforts for weeding out the corruption on top priority basis.

The Special Assistant further told that government was taking special steps for resolving the problems and difficulties being faced by the farmer community of the country.

Earlier, the Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan was accorded warm welcome on her arrival at Sambrial, Ugoki and Sialkot.

### **Business Recorder 29-04-2019**

#### **Pak-China agree to promote investment in priority sectors**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Board of Investment (BoI) Haroon Sharif met Liu Dianxun, Director General of Investment Promotion Agency (CIPA) of Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China on Friday at Beijing.

Sharif discussed revival of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CIPA and both sides agreed to revive the cooperation in order to ensure investment promotion in prioritized sectors such as Information Technology, Textiles and Agro-based products.

He further said, “We at the Board of Investment encourage our Chinese friends to invest in Pakistan.

In addition to the existing notified 7 Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Pakistan is planning to develop new SEZs under CPEC.”

“Development of Rashakai SEZ is a milestone and a first step towards implementation of industrial cooperation under CPEC. Industrial Cooperation was prioritized by the incumbent government with a goal to start implementation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) this year”, the Chairman informed.

He said that BoI has received concrete investment proposals from local and foreign investors who are interested to invest in Pakistan’s priority sectors having immense potential for investment; agro-based Food & Industry, Value added Textile, Tourism and hospitality, IT sector, Light Engineering, and Logistics.

Chairman BoI informed that Pakistan has initiated a reform process to facilitate foreign investment in the country. The BOI team aims to include Pakistan in the list of top 100 economies in Ease of doing Business (EoDB) by 2020, he added.

He further intimated that BOI has established a dedicated unit with the aim to facilitate investors in materializing their projects in Pakistan in a transparent, timely and efficient manner.

Haroon Sharif is visiting China, accompanying Prime Minister Imran Khan to participate in the 2nd Belt and Road Forum, being held in Beijing, China.—PR

### **Business Recorder 30-04-2019**

#### **FPCCI hails FTA Phase-II with China**

KARACHI: President Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), EngrDaroo Khan Achakzai was optimistic that the Chinese investment particularly in the specialized economic zones (SEZs) would expand Pakistan’s industrial base and assist diversifying its export basket.

Congratulating Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan on his successful visit to China, during which the bilateral trade collaboration and economic relations remained in focus, he hoped that in future, these would be further expanded.

He also expressed his conviction that the MOUs signed between the two governments including the FTA Part-II would bring much closer the business communities of both the countries.

### **Business Recorder 30-04-2019**

#### **India’s nefarious designs in relation to CPEC**

Ahead of the signing of the second phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) and Prime Minister Imran Khan’s participation in Belt and Road Forum, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi had said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), multi-billion dollar flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative, was an economic cooperation programme and did not target any third country. “We have stated clearly on many occasions that the BRI including the CPEC is only an economic initiative and does not target any third country,” according to him.

This was a highly important statement from China's foreign minister. There is no doubt about the fact that India has been seeking to undermine CPEC for quite some time. Nursing the ambitions of becoming the regional hegemon, India has no plausible argument to make against the CPEC.

### **Daily Times 18-04-19**

#### **PM Imran Khan will leave for China on 25 April**

Prime Minister Imran Khan will be visiting China from April 25 to 28, confirmed foreign office on Wednesday. The statement issued by FO stated, "On the invitation of President Xi Jinping, Prime Minister Imran Khan is visiting China from April 25 to 28 to attend the 2nd Belt and Road Forum in Beijing. The forum will be inaugurated by President Xi Jinping on April 26."

The statement further added that leaders of 40 countries and delegations from over 100 countries, corporate sector and international organizations would participate in the Belt and Road Forum.

The statement mentioned that Belt and Road Forum provides a platform to countries participating in Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) for exchanging views and experiences on regional connectivity; policy synergy; socio-economic development and trade and commerce. FO said that during the visit, the premier will be accompanied by a ministerial delegation.

"PM Imran will deliver a keynote speech in the opening ceremony of the forum and participate in the Leaders' Round Table. He would also hold meetings with several heads of state/government and corporate and business leaders," it added.

In addition to participating in the Belt and Road Forum, PM Imran will also hold bilateral meetings with President. Pakistan and China will also sign several MoUs and Agreements to enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, as per the statement. After the forum, PM will address Pakistan Trade and Investment Conference and will also attend Beijing International Horticulture Exhibition-2019. This will be the second time PM will visit China since taking the charge as a PM.

### **Daily Times 18-04-19**

#### **No deadline from UNSC Sanctions Committee to withdraw 'technical hold': China**

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson on Wednesday rejected a claim that China was given a deadline to withdraw its 'technical hold' it put to further discuss the listing issue at the United Nations Security Council's 1267 Committee and said the listing issue should be resolved through cooperation and consensus.

"I don't know [from] where you get such information. The UNSC and its subsidiary body like the 1267 Committee has clear rules and procedure, and you need to seek a clarification from the



sources from where you get such information,” Lu Kang said during his regular briefing, while responding to a question regarding China giving a deadline of April 23 to lift the technical hold from the 1267 Committee.

The spokesperson said that his country’s position was very clear. “This issue should be resolved through cooperation and we don’t believe that any effort without the consensus of most members will achieve a satisfying result.”

Responding to a report that the US would bring a resolution in the UNSC and bypass the 1267 Committee, he said that China’s stance on the listing of Masood Azhar remained unchanged.

He observed that there were clear procedures and regulations regarding the UNSC and its subsidiary bodies to resolve such an issue. “We also stay in touch with the relevant parties. And the matter is moving towards ... a settlement,” he added. Lu Kang made it clear that China would oppose any resolution if it would be moved in the UNSC by bypassing the 1267 Committee. “As to what you said that relevant parties are forcing a new resolution through the UNSC, we firmly oppose that,” he said.

He explained that in fact, in the relevant discussions at the UNSC, most members expressed the hope that this issue would be discussed within the framework of the 1267 Committee and no country would bypass the 1267 Committee to handle the issue. “We hope that the relevant countries can respect the opinion of most members of the UNSC to act in a cooperative manner to help this issue to be properly resolved within the framework of 1267 [Committee],” he added.

To another question about the timeline, he said as to the specifications for the discussion in the 1267 Committee, there were clear procedures and regulations regarding the UNSC and its subsidiary bodies. “We think the members should follow and abide by procedures and rules.

### **Daily Times 19-04-19**

#### **Lessons to be learned from China’s economic rise**

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) organized the 23rd Zahid Husain Memorial Lecture on April 19, 2019 at SBP Karachi. Zhou Xiaochuan, ex-Governor Peoples Bank of China, delivered the lecture on “Lessons from the Role of Peoples Bank of China in China’s Economic Rise”.

In his lecture, Zhou stated, “reforms in Peoples Bank of China reflect China’s gradualist approach towards globalization for sustainable economic development”. He emphasized on gradual liberalization of exchange rate, monetary and capital account regimes to facilitate greater role for market forces without large-scale disturbances. He also elaborated how Peoples Bank of China provided incentive structures to channelize financial resources towards productive sectors to ensure inclusive growth and financial stability.

Referring to Pakistan, Zhou emphasized to raise the domestic savings rate in order to address most of the macroeconomic imbalances including current and fiscal deficits. Further, he suggested using regional currencies in order to facilitate trade in the region.

It may be recalled that SBP organizes almost every year a lecture in the honor of its first governor (late) Zahid Husain to cherish his meritorious services for this nation. Eminent economists are invited from across the world to deliver this lecture.

Earlier while delivering his welcome address, Governor SBP Mr. Tariq Bajwa, emphasized the role of central banks in provision of conducive environment for sustainable development.

He also highlighted the efforts of SBP for inclusive economic development in Pakistan and mentioned initiatives to promote financial inclusion, agriculture and SME financing, mortgage lending, green banking and electronic payment systems to underscore torch-bearing role of SBP in economic growth and development of Pakistan.

### **Daily Times 22-04-19**

#### **In nod to debt concerns, China Belt and Road summit to urge sustainable financing**

A man walks past a flower installation set up for the upcoming Belt and Road Forum in front of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing, China April 18, 2019. World leaders meeting in Beijing this week for a summit on China's Belt and Road initiative will agree to project financing that respects global debt goals and promotes green growth, according to a draft communiqué seen by Reuters. The Belt and Road Initiative is a key policy of President Xi Jinping and envisions rebuilding the old Silk Road to connect China with Asia, Europe and beyond with massive infrastructure spending.

But it has proved controversial in many Western capitals, particularly Washington, which views it as merely a means to spread Chinese influence abroad and saddle countries with unsustainable debt through nontransparent projects. The United States has been particularly critical of Italy's decision to sign up to the plan last month, the first for a G7 nation.

In an apparent nod to these concerns, the communiqué reiterates promises reached at the last summit in 2017 for sustainable financing — but adds a line on debt, which was not included the last time. “We support collaboration among national and international financial institutions to provide diversified and sustainable financial supports for projects,” the draft communiqué reads.

### **Daily Times 22-04-19**

#### **Chinese traditional culture exhibition begins at PNCA**

A three-day Chinese traditional culture and creative exhibition was inaugurated at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Sunday. Addressing the opening ceremony, National History and Literary Heritage Secretary Aamir Hasan said Pakistan had always considered China as its closest friend and ally that had helped the country on many occasion.

“We had the first cultural protocol between the two friendly countries back in 1965, and since then we have taken many more cultural initiatives,” he said. He said an executive four-year cultural programme was initiated in 2018, under which a number of initiatives had taken place.

Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Pakistan Yao Jing, National History and Literary Heritage Division Joint Secretary Syed Junaid Akhlaq, Cultural Counselor of the Embassy of People’s Republic of China and Director of China Cultural Centre Zhang Heqing and PNCA Director General Syed Jamal Shah were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing said he was pleased to inaugurate the first Chinese culture and creative exhibition. “Both Pakistan and China have a long history of friendship and interactions,” he said, and added that China valued the friendship with Pakistan. He said Pakistan and China had worked together on a number of occasions, and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was part of their cooperation.

He said high-level exchanges and visits of Pakistani and Chinese leaderships “gave us a kind of direction and momentum” for more cooperation. “I can say that in the next stage of the CPEC, our cultural cooperation and people-to-people links will be further enhanced,” he said.

“Under the social sector, health, education, poverty alleviation and human resource development were the major areas of the next stage of the CPEC cooperation,” he said, and added that “today event is part of the Belt and Road initiative”. He said Pakistan and China would cooperate for the betterment of not just the two nations but the communities and all other nations of the region and the world. He thanked the Ministry of National History and Literary Heritage and the PNCA for their cooperation in organizing the exhibition.

PNCA Director General Syed Jamal Shah said that culture was the best possible communication. He congratulated the Embassy of China for organizing the exhibition. The students and performing arts group of the PNCA also gave traditional Chinese and Pakistani dance performances on the occasion. The dignitaries also visited the stalls of cultural and creative artwork set up on the occasion.

### **Daily Times 23-04-19**

#### **CPEC complements Imran Khan’s vision of poverty alleviation: Yao Jing Pakistan’s PM to be ‘most important’ guest speaker at upcoming B&R forum in Beijing**

Although several heads of state and government are participating in the upcoming 2nd Belt and Road (B&R) Forum to be held in Beijing on April 25-27, 2019 yet China attaches significant importance to Pakistan’s Prime Minister Imran Khan’s participation and address on the occasion. Prime Minister Imran Khan is going to deliver keynote address on the occasion. This is going to be his second visit after November 2018 and the Chinese leadership and the people

await the high level delegation led by Prime Minister Imran Khan to discuss further cooperation and build consensus on all matters during this visit.

Ambassador of China Yao Jing at a media briefing on B&R Forum said Chinese President Xi Jinping and his team look forward to interacting with PM Khan as this is the 5th year since the launch of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project under the B&R Initiative and a lot of work has already been done. Out of 22 big and small projects, 11 have been completed while work on the rest is underway, he said.

Deputy Head of Mission Lijian Zhao, officials of the Chinese embassy, senior media persons representing both print and electronic attended the briefing by Mr Yao Jing and asked him a number of questions about the pace, progress, challenges and opportunities related to CPEC and general mutual relations between the two countries. At the very outset, Ambassador Yao Jing dismissed the impression whether some concerns were expressed by the Chinese government with regard to willingness or resolve of the present Pakistani government over successful completion of CPEC.

This is out of question as Prime Minister Imran Khan on a number of occasions has expressed his resolve to carry forward the CPEC and make it his government's top priority, said Ambassador Yao Jing. From Nov 2018 to April 2019, both the countries are much better positioned and the partnership between the two is growing.

Through this forthcoming visit of PM Imran Khan, it will turn out to be a joint and mutually beneficial partnership, said Ambassador of China. B&RI he said is a Chinese initiative but aims at collective prosperity of the entire region, said he. The Ambassador said that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Phase II between Pakistan and China would be signed on April 28, besides other important agreements related to CPEC. He said the FTA had been finally concluded after eight years of negotiations and it would be signed by the commerce ministers of two countries during the visit of Pakistani prime minister. Under the FTA-Phase II China would provide market access to 90pc of Pakistani commodities at zero rated duty, while Pakistan would give China market access to 65pc tariff lines.

The ambassador said world leaders, including heads of state and government from 37 countries, would attend the Forum's roundtable summit, but Pakistan being a major partner of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was the most important of all. He said under the CPEC's industrial cooperation, the first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Rashakai was going to be inaugurated soon this month where 20 factories would be set up initially.

He assured that employment in the SEZs would be given to the local people and the latest technology would be transferred from China to Pakistan. There are six areas in the social sector, including education, health, agriculture, water & irrigation, and poverty alleviation in which around 26 new projects will be initiated in Pakistan, he said.

The ambassador said two model villages would be built in Pakistan under the social sector cooperation of CPEC to uplift the living standard of low income segments of the society.

He said China was basically an agricultural country and it started its development journey with bringing reforms in the agriculture sector. It would now help Pakistan in revolutionizing its agricultural sector by linking it with the state of the art technology. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was also signed on the occasion between All Pakistan China Entrepreneurs Association (APCEA) and National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) to provide skilled workforce to Chinese companies engaged in various projects in Pakistan. Chairman of NAVTTTC Syed Javed Hassan in his brief speech said NAVTTTC is proud to be associated with Chinese companies and would provide all the required skilled labour for their projects. “We have over 600,000 data base of highly skilled workers and laborers and would be happy to cater to the Chinese business firms and companies,” he said. Executive Director of NAVTTTC Dr Nasir Khan was also present on the occasion.

### **Daily Times 24-04-19**

#### **China-aided hydroelectric plant to brighten homes and hearts in Pakistan**

Three years ago, 28-year-old Maryam Saleem decided to forgo an urban life in Islamabad and head to the remote mountains. She found out later that she had made the right decision.

Saleem is working at the construction site of Karot Hydropower Plant, some 70 km east of the capital. With roaring juggernauts and raging muddy currents, it turned out to be ‘quite noisy’, compared to a very ‘peaceful and quiet’ Islamabad.

Nevertheless, “my decision is not wrong,” Saleem said. She now is a health, safety and environment (HSE) engineer at the hydropower station, a major pilot project of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It is expected to be completed in 2021 and generate 3.2 billion units of cheap and clean electricity for Pakistan. “My life is totally changed by the project for the better,” she said.

As an HSE engineer, Saleem prefers strict project criteria without sacrificing the environment. She said the plant, which has entirely adopted China’s technology and standards, is an environmentally friendly one. “On some parts, Chinese standards are stricter,” said Saleem, who once worked on environmental consulting for the Washington-based International Finance Corporation. “We definitely opt for the best option.”

At first, however, persuading local authorities to accept Chinese standards was a tough job, said Yan Xinde, general manager of the Karot Power Company.

Yan’s team invited Pakistani officials and technicians to the Three Gorges Dam project on the Yangtze River in China, the largest hydroelectric complex in the world. After checking it out for themselves, they were convinced. “Therefore, the Karot project has become the first hydropower plant in Pakistan that has completely adopted China’s standards,” Yan said.

In September last year, the plant finished a river closure and entered into the comprehensive construction phase. It aims to annually meet the electricity needs of about 2 million local households and deliver about 20 million U.S. dollars in taxation, Yan said.

“We created some 3,000 jobs for local Pakistanis, and some 1,000 Chinese workers are also working on the project around the clock in efforts to complete the Karot project in advance,” Yan said.

We created some 3,000 jobs for local Pakistanis, and some 1,000 Chinese workers are also working on the project around the clock in efforts to complete the Karot project in advance,” Yan said.

Yet another challenge was the relocation of locals, as most land was private, and villagers have lived there for decades.

“Most of them were supportive as they know we are here to help them develop,” said Yan. “We made a lot of efforts by visiting them one by one to find out their requirements and to make considerate solutions while abiding by local legislations.”

Saleem joined the relocation team. Its members “assess every aspect,” including land, structures, plants, animals and businesses. “Each and every thing, we make it a part of our assessment and then we pay the people,” she said.

Resettling can sometimes be painful. However, in the pain there’s healing. Some locals launched a campaign to offer prospects of a bright future and a strong homeland to those, especially elders, who had lingering doubts.

Naseer Hussain, a 31-year-old local driver of Holar Village in the Karot area, took part in the campaign. “I know very well how such a project is crucial for our country,” Hussain said.

In the past, Hussain earned an irregular income. Now working as a driver for the Karot project, he receives a salary, bonuses and overtime pay, plus a friendly working environment.

Moreover, the Chinese company built a school and a hospital, both of which have been transferred to local authorities. “We also set up a scholarship for all college students from relocated families to support their higher education,” said Yan.

Yan, who first came to Pakistan in 1988, has stayed for more than 15 years. There, he has witnessed a constantly advancing society.

Since the launch of the CPEC, Pakistan has acquired multifold development opportunities in such areas as energy and transport infrastructure, helping the country “embrace more investment, employment and industrial cooperation,” said Yan.

“It will be beneficial for the industries,” said Saleem. “When industries grow automatically people will grow and it will impact the national economy as well.” xinhua.



### **Daily Times 25-04-19**

#### **China asks world to view Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts 'objectively'**

China on Wednesday called on the international community to view Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts and contributions in an objective and fair manner, and strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the country.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a meeting where both the leaders stressed that developing China-Pakistan relations are a diplomatic priority, and reiterated commitment to strengthen all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries and build a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era, according to a statement issued by the foreign ministry.

The Chinese side reiterated its steadfast support for Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national dignity, choosing its development path according to its national conditions, and establishing a better security environment. The Chinese side also appreciated Pakistan's constructive role on international and regional issues.

Both the leaders agreed to further strengthen their coordination and cooperation on international and regional matters. They resolved to continue closer communication and collaboration in multilateral forums, including the UN, multilateral financial institutions, the SCO and SAARC. Both sides believed that a peaceful, stable, cooperative and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all the parties, and emphasised the importance of dialogue in resolving all disputes and issues in this region on the basis of mutual respect and equality.

The Chinese side appreciated efforts made by the government and people of Pakistan in firmly combating terrorism and extremism and implementing the National Action Plan (NAP) through important measures taken recently. The Chinese side called on the international community to view Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts and contributions in an objective and fair manner, and to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with Pakistan. The two sides underlined that China-Pakistan relationship is a factor of stability in the regional and international situation and reaffirmed their resolve to continue to strengthen it in all areas.

### **Daily Times 27-04-19**

#### **Pakistan outlines five-point roadmap to advance growth**

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday asked the participant countries of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to join hands in fighting climate change by planting 100 billion trees, establish tourism corridor and combat corruption.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation here at the China National Convention Center, the prime minister suggested a five-point roadmap to direct efforts and focus on the peoples of the participating countries, and towards addressing impediments on their way to sustainable growth.

Speaking on the theme of ‘Shaping a Brighter Future’, Prime Minister Imran Khan told the gathering comprising around 37 nations the urgency to create a poverty alleviation fund and the importance of efforts to further liberalize trade and investment flows.

The three-day meeting is being attended by leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, UK Chancellor Philip Hammond, and the heads of state of the 10 ASEAN states, besides over 5,000 participants from more than 150 countries. The United States has sent a low-level delegation, while India opted not to attend.

Prime Minister Imran Khan while elaborating his five-points called for joint efforts to mitigate climate change. He recalled how the provincial government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has successfully planted a billion trees and said that the president of Chile has also mentioned this initiative. “We launched a nationwide project to plant 10 billion trees. I suggest we launch a joint project to plant 100 billion trees in the next two years, so that we can mitigate the effects of climate change for our coming generations,” he added.

Imran Khan, who has been very vocal about encouraging tourism in the country, suggested establishment of a BRI Tourism Corridor to promote people-to-people contacts and inter-cultural understanding. He also suggested setting up of an office of anti-corruption cooperation to combat the scourge of white-collar crimes.

Speaking about the importance of fighting poverty, Imran Khan spoke for creating a poverty alleviation fund that can supplement national efforts in the fight against poverty and malnourishment.

“In Pakistan, we have recently launched a targeted poverty alleviation programme called Ehsas,” he said, adding that it was aimed at emulating China’s spectacular success in lifting 800 million people out of poverty within a matter of decades.

Prime Minister Imran Khan also called for making concerted efforts to further liberalize trade and investment flows, encouraging the private sector and businesses to collaborate in projects.

He said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), one of BRI’s major components and one of its earliest manifestations, has made substantial progress. “Pakistan’s energy supplies have increased massively. Our critical infrastructure gaps are being plugged. Gwadar, once a small fishing village, is transforming rapidly into a commercial hub. Gwadar Airport will be the largest in the country,” he added.

Imran Khan said Pakistan and China are entering the next phase of CPEC, with greater emphasis on socioeconomic uplift, poverty alleviation, agricultural cooperation and industrial development. “We are expanding the frontiers of knowledge through closer engagement and deeper cooperation in the fields of education, innovation and technology,” he said, adding that special economic zones are being set up along the length of the corridor and will offer opportunities for investments for Pakistani, Chinese and foreign entrepreneurs.

Prime Minister Imran Khan said supplementing the next phase of CPEC; the two countries will sign an expanded free trade agreement. “We are changing Pakistan’s economic landscape and the destiny of our people. I want to thank China and its leadership for their unwavering support for Pakistan,” he said. “Our deep-rooted friendship, partnership and brotherhood with China remains strong, resilient and unbreakable, standing tall in the face of every challenge,” he added.

He said Pakistan will continue to work with China and other BRI partners on the basis of mutual respect and equal opportunity for a better future of the people. “Pakistan will partner with all those who share the vision for a peaceful and prosperous world. We will work together to realize a future of hope and happiness,” he added.

The prime minister congratulated President Xi Jinping and the government of China for organizing the event and said as the Belt and Road transforms from vision into reality, the gathering has provided a useful platform for taking stock and setting the agenda. “In a world of geopolitical uncertainty, of rising inequality and barriers to trade, the BRI offers a model of collaboration, partnership, connectivity and shared prosperity,” he said. “Pakistan is proud to have partnered and pioneered with China in this transformational endeavour. We have been among BRI’s earliest and most enthusiastic proponents,” he added.

### **Daily Times 27-04-19**

#### **Businessmen term Pak-China FTA Phase II ‘anti-industry’**

The business community has expressed serious reservations over Pak-China FTA Phase 2 terming it anti-industrialization. Pakistan and China will sign the second phase of Free Trade Agreement in Beijing on 28th April. Under the Free Trade Agreement, China has extended duty free access to Pakistan on three hundred and thirteen items. The agreement will help boost the exports of the country, besides increasing foreign exchange.

Saud Mahmood, Chairman SITE Taxation and Trade Policy, said FTA could prove anti industrialization as did the first phase, even with up to 30 percent RD, we have USD 15 billion trade deficit with China. “China should buy Pakistani T-bills equivalent to its trade deficit with us to support Pakistani Rupee”, said Chairman SITE Taxation and Trade Policy.

China is known as the supplier of the world with huge current account surpluses with most trading partners. After the first phase of PAK China FTA, we had to impose up to 30% regulatory duty to save the local industry from closing down. Even after the imposition of 30% regulatory duty, trade deficit from China is over USD 15bn with Pakistan exporting under USD 3bn worth of goods to China, mostly minerals, agricultural products, and livestock.

It is extremely unlikely for Pakistan to benefit from the 2nd phase of Pak China FTA as Chinese imports of USD 2 trillion are either of raw materials or high-tech equipment. Pakistan does not have the industrial and technical base to produce high-tech equipment such as computers, ICs, telecommunication equipment & automobiles. Moreover, exports of mineral, live stock and

agricultural products are not accelerated by FTAs as importing countries do not apply duties on raw materials.

### **Daily Times 28-04-19**

#### **PM floats ideas to break barriers, connect people**

Imran Khan says with region becoming more linked and prosperous, finding common solutions to longstanding problems will be much easier. Suggests 'BRI Tourism Corridor' to boost cultural and tourism exchanges

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is not a transaction, but a transformation of the Pakistani society, adding that Pakistan is privileged to have been an early partner of China.

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a collection of projects in road, rail, energy and other fields, aimed at overcoming constraints and achieving growth,” he said while speaking at the Leaders’ Roundtable of the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation here. “We are building highways, modernizing railroads, setting up power plants, establishing a port, and establishing special economic zones. And a new port is connecting regions and eventually continents,” he added.

The prime minister said connectivity of Gwadar Port with China’s Xinjiang region will provide a shorter route for China’s imports compared to the South China Sea, reduce the cost for Chinese companies and develop western China as well. “China is a great success of the modern age, which achieved sustained growth, transformed society, improved the quality of life of a billion people. This transformation is due to the wisdom of China’s leadership and the hard work of the Chinese people,” he said. “Now President Xi Jinping has given the BRI vision, to break barriers, connect people, integrate economies and share prosperity,” he added.

The prime minister said in order to further boost connectivity and benefits under the BRI umbrella, further areas should be considered. “Digital connectivity and better sharing of information about business opportunities and lowest prices; mobility of labour and transfer of skills for cost-effectiveness; cultural links to assist the development of tourism which increases jobs and small businesses; knowledge and innovation connectivity to share best practices from BRI countries need to worked on,” he said. “For Pakistan, with its young population, future lies in developing skills and integration with the global economy,” he said. “To implement these additional areas of connectivity, I suggest that BRI countries should establish a BRI Tourism Corridor for cultural and tourism exchanges and develop programmes for improving the skills of labour from labour surplus countries to assist the labour-deficient countries,” he said, adding that creating multi-lingual digital platforms for connecting producers, consumers, and skilled job-seekers is highly necessary.

“Pakistan is at the cross-roads of important regions. Throughout our history, we have connected ideas, cultures, and commerce. Connectivity has been a part of our heritage and CPEC is giving it

modern shape in the 21st Century,” he said. “As our region becomes more linked and prosperous, my expectation is that we will find it easier to find common solutions for longstanding problems,” he concluded.

Separately, Prime Minister Imran Khan along with his delegation met Vice President of China Wang Qishan here. The vice president also hosted a banquet for the prime minister and the Pakistani delegation on behalf of President Xi Jinping.

The delegation included Minister for Foreign Affairs Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Minister for Water Resources Faisal Vawda, Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhtiar, Advisor on Finance Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh and Advisor on Commerce Abdul Razaq Dawood.

Prime Minister Imran Khan also held a bilateral meeting with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali on the sidelines of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum here on Saturday. The two prime ministers exchanged views on the broad range of bilateral matters.

Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored the importance Pakistan attaches to further intensifying multi-dimensional ties with the African Continent. Bilaterally, the prime minister proposed up gradation of political, trade, commercial and people-to-people contacts.

The two sides agreed to maintain regular high-level exchanges. Highlighting Pakistan’s participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations over the past several decades, Prime Minister Imran Khan stressed that Pakistan will continue to contribute to the cause of peace and security in Africa. The prime minister is currently on a four-day visit to China for attending the second Belt and Road Forum and meet the Chinese leaders.

Besides Prime minister Imran Khan, President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan, President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam, President Sebastián Piñera Echenique of Chile, President Nicos Anastasiades of Cyprus, President Milo Zeman of Czech Republic, President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti, President Abdul Fatah Al-Sisi of Egypt, First President Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, President Sooronbai Zheenbekov of Kyrgyz Republic, President Bounnhang Vorachith of Lao People’s Democratic Republic, President Khaltmaagiin Battulga of Mongolia, President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi of Mozambique, President Bidya Devi Bhandari of Nepal, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte of Philippines, President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa of Portuguese Republic, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, President Aleksandar Vucic of Serbia, President Ueli Maurer of Swiss Confederation, President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan, Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum of the United Arab Emirates, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz of Austria, Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali of Ethiopia, Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of Hellenic Republic, Prime Minister Orbán Viktor of Hungary, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte of Italian Republic, Prime Minister Mahathir Bin Mohamad of Malaysia, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar, Prime Minister Peter

O'Neill of Papua New Guinea, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha of Thailand, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Vietnam, and Vice President Jusuf Kalla of Indonesia attended the summit.

### **Daily Times 30-04-2019**

#### **K-Electric with China announces to develop 700MW power project**

K-Electric, Pakistan's only vertically integrated power utility has signed an agreement with the state-owned China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) for the development a state-of-the-art 700MW IPP based power project at Port Qasim, Karachi.

The project was formally announced at the Pakistan Trade and Investment Forum held alongside the 2nd Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, China. The project agreement and contracts were signed by Moonis Alvi, Chief Executive Officer K-Electric and Zhang Chun, Chairman CMEC in the presence of Abdul Razak Dawood, Adviser for Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment. This is a milestone project in the economic cooperation between China and Pakistan and will directly benefit Karachi, Pakistan's economic hub.

Abdul Razak Dawood, Adviser for Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment shared, "I am sure that this is just one of a series of joint endeavors in the future that will translate into a win-win for shared prosperity in the region and beyond. Stable electricity supply infrastructure is critical for the country's sustainable progress, trade and industries and I urge all stakeholders to work together for its early completion to maximize the benefits to Karachi and Pakistan.

This project is being developed under an IPP mode structure, with K-Electric as the single off-taker. KE holds equity share in this IPP whereas CMEC is both an equity partner and EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) contractor. The power project already has an approved tariff from NEPRA, whereas land has also been acquired in Port Qasim area of Karachi for the project.

On the occasion of the signing, Zhang Chun, Chairman CMEC lauded Pakistan as a land of opportunities with tremendous economic potential. "We are delighted to be a part of this landmark occasion today and are confident about the role of this power plant in addressing Karachi's power needs and look forward to increased economic cooperation between China and Pakistan in future as well," he said.

Speaking at the signing ceremony Moonis Alvi, CEO KE said, "The current project is one more in a series of investments from K-Electric to further strengthen the city's power infrastructure and brings us yet another step closer to our long-term commitment to enable Karachi to fulfill its economic potential. KE has invested more than USD 2.1 Billion in infrastructure upgrades across the energy value chain over the last 9 years and plans to invest USD 3bn over the next few years. We are committed to increase generation as well as to upgrade Karachi's transmission and



distribution network. Our goal is to commission the project at the earliest and we are confident we can do this with the continued support of policy makers and an enabling business environment.”

Construction of the plant is expected to commence in the first quarter of next fiscal year. Once the project comes online it will not only help meet the growing power demand in Karachi and its adjoining areas but will also allow KE to diversify its fuel mix.

K-Electric is Pakistan’s only vertically integrated and private power utility managing generation, transmission and distribution. As the sole power provider to Pakistan’s largest city Karachi and its adjoining areas with over twenty million inhabitants, KE is committed to serving its customers and powering the country’s economic hub.

China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) specializes in the construction of power projects in generation, transmission and distribution and has more than 30 years of experience in the engineering industry with exposure in more than 47 countries. CMEC will be a shareholder as well as the selected engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractor in this project.

### **Daily Times 29-04-2019**

#### **Pakistan pledges firm commitment to CPEC**

Prime Minister Imran Khan met with President Xi Jinping here on Sunday and reaffirmed Pakistan’s unflinching commitment to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as he highlighted the CPEC’s next phase and its extension into new areas of agriculture, industrial development and socio-economic uplift through livelihood projects.

The two leaders were accompanied by ministers and senior-level delegations during the meeting held at the Great Hall of the People.

Reaffirming all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China, the two leaders exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relations in a warm and cordial atmosphere. They affirmed the resolve to further strengthen their strategic cooperative partnership in all fields, including politics, security, economy and trade and people-to-people exchanges.

Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked President Xi for the warm and gracious welcome accorded to him in China and for Beijing’s steadfast support to Islamabad on all issues. He also reaffirmed Pakistan’s support to China on all issues of its core interest.

Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated President Xi on the successful convening of the second Belt and Road Forum (BRF), which he said is a practical manifestation of his far-reaching vision, and highlighted its significance as an important international platform for connectivity and sharing of experience among the BRI participating countries.

President Xi Jinping reiterated China’s unwavering support to Pakistan’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and appreciated the government’s agenda for socio-economic development and

people-centered progress. He affirmed that China-Pakistan ties will continue to acquire greater strength and deepen practical cooperation in the times to come.

The two sides also exchanged views on the regional situation, including in Afghanistan and South Asia.

President Xi further expressed China's appreciation for Pakistan's sustained and successful efforts in the fight against terrorism and to create a peaceful neighborhood.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral forums and resolved to further deepen communication and coordination at all levels. They also agreed to keep the momentum of high-level exchanges between the two countries.

Separately, Prime Minister Imran Khan held a bilateral meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the conclusion of the second Belt and Road Forum (BRF) here on Sunday.

The two prime ministers were accompanied by ministers and senior officials.

Both leaders reaffirmed the time-tested and strong friendship between Pakistan and China and exchanged views on the myriad facets of bilateral engagement.

Prime Minister Imran Khan extended felicitations to the Chinese leadership for successful holding of the forum. Noting the depth and breadth of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the prime minister said it is of immense significance for the world in terms of connectivity and shared prosperity.

The two sides exchanged views on bilateral collaboration in the context of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and prospects of further deepening of the economic linkages.

The prime minister underscored the importance of CPEC for Pakistan's economy and noted with satisfaction its expansion into new areas of development, including industrial development, livelihood projects, social uplift and agriculture in line with the priorities of government.

He hoped that Chinese investment in special economic zones (SEZs) will expand Pakistan's industrial base and assist in diversifying its export basket.

Underlining the steady growth of bilateral cooperation since the prime minister's last visit to China in November 2018, Premier Li Keqiang expressed satisfaction at the positive momentum of CPEC projects. He hoped that the signing of the second phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will give further boost to trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to further deepen the political, security, economic, education, science and technology, cultural, and people-to-people relations. It was agreed to maintain the existing momentum of high-level exchanges between the two countries.

The two leaders also exchanged views on regional issues including peace efforts in Afghanistan and peace and stability in South Asia and also agreed to closely coordinate in their endeavors for stability in the region.

## Daily Times 29-04-2019

### **BRI: A ROAD MAP TO GLOBAL PROSPERITY**

Imran Khan Prime Minister Imran Khan was right on money when addressing the second Belt and Road Forum in Beijing he said “In a world of geopolitical uncertainty, of rising inequality and barriers to trade, the BRI offers a model of collaboration, partnership, connectivity and shared prosperity. The phenomenal rise of China as world’s world second biggest economy has also made it a major player on the global economic and political stage. There is almost a consensus around the world among diplomats, academicians and economists that BRI offers the world an alternative model of economic development.

The signing on to the BRI Vision by 122 States and 49 International Organizations is an indubitable acknowledgement of that reality. The Chinese model of development premised on partnership and shared economic prosperity also has cultural and political dimensions which can immensely contribute to promoting world peace and harmony.

Pakistan is the major partner and beneficiary of CPEC, a flagship project of BRI and as rightly pointed out by Prime Minister Imran Khan its benefits have already started having their impact on Pakistan’s economy through increased supply of energy and development of infrastructure which has enabled the two countries to shift greater focus on socio-economic uplift, poverty alleviation, agricultural cooperation and industrial development emulating the Chinese model of poverty alleviation. He was right on mark to assert that this cooperation and collaboration for transformational change was characterized by deep-rooted friendship, partnership and brotherhood with China which remains strong, resilient and unbreakable and stood tall in the face of every challenge.

While informing the audience about setting up of special Economic Zones along the length of the Corridor in the second phase of CPEC he observed that it offered myriad of opportunities for Pakistani, Chinese and other foreign investors to take advantage of them. He specifically mentioned the opportunities in the domain of infrastructure development, Railways, Dams, IT and manufacturing.

Pakistan currently is confronted with an enormous economic melt-down and there are only two ways of orchestrating revival of the economy and setting the stage for sustained economic growth in the future. The first is encouraging and promoting investments in the industrial sector by the Pakistani investors which lead to a boost in Pakistani exports and second is inviting foreign investments through liberal policies.

Foreign direct investments are a preferred substitute for loans. They act as a propeller for generating employment and enhancing the GDP growth. For Pakistan which is already groaning under the unbearable weight of foreign loans, foreign direct investments are like a life line and all efforts need to be focused on that aspect. The special economic zones to be set up along the corridor have the potential for acting as a catalyst to transformational change in the economic profile of Pakistan and could create a win-win situation both for Pakistan and would be investors in those

zones. That was the strategy adopted by China to lift 800 million people out of poverty and achieved upper middle-income status.

The Prime Minister also emphasized the need among the participating countries in BRI for collaborative efforts for mitigating effects of climate change, establishment of BRI Tourism Corridor, Establishment of Office of Anti-Corruption Cooperation to combat white-collar crimes, Creation of Poverty Alleviation Fund and making efforts for further liberalization of trade and investment flows. In the permeating global situation the recipe suggested the Prime Minister provides the best chance to overcome the challenges in the identified domains through collective efforts.

Climate change is probably the biggest challenge facing humanity at the moment and has already affected every country around the world with debilitating effect, particularly the developing countries. Pakistan ranks seventh among the ten most affected countries due to climate change. Scientists have warned the world leaders of the impending dangers if the phenomenon was not tackled through collaborative efforts on top priority basis. Promotion of tourism would also cement cultural ties among the BRI countries giving further boost to the developmental efforts. Poverty and corruption are surely the bane of socio-economic development where ever they exist and they can only be tackled through concerted joint efforts.

Chinese model of development, poverty alleviation and fighting corruption is worth emulating. The policies pursued by China over the last forty years not only led to poverty alleviation but have also made China a country which accounts for 30 per cent of global GDP and a trade partner of over 120 countries as well as a consumer market which generates huge profits for foreign companies and investors. China now is the third biggest source of direct foreign investment. It touched the threshold of \$ 125 billion in 2017. China also holds foreign exchange reserves of \$ 3 trillion which is the biggest in the world.

The BRI launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013 aims to connect China with Asia, Europe and Africa via land and sea-based infrastructure. It is a game changing mega economic initiative that introduces a new age of economic globalization which can help the developing countries in poverty alleviation and achieving sustained economic growth. Pakistan rightly feels proud of her association with CPEC and one of the pioneers and participant of this imaginative effort which promises win-win situation for all the participating countries

The economists believe that with the completion of all the projects under CPEC by 2030 there would be an addition of 2% to the already existing GDP growth rate. Pakistan will hopefully enjoy energy security which is a vital ingredient in the industrial development. The envisaged connectivity of Pakistan with other regional countries, particularly central Asian nations would make Pakistan a hub of regional economic activity with perennial benefits.

## **Daily Times 29-04-2019**

### **The second phase of CPEC**

The three-day Belt and Road Forum held in China and attended by leaders of 38 nations has concluded. Agreements involving projects costing \$64 billion were signed on the occasion. Pakistan and China have now entered discussions to finalize the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Prime Minister Imran Khan was one of only seven foreign leaders requested to address the Forum. He also met President Xi and Vice President Wang Qishan and discussed bilateral issues. The presence of Russian and Italian leaders accorded the Forum a political importance in addition to its economic value.

Pakistan has much to gain from the international forum, where its eastern neighbor India was conspicuous by its absence. Prime Minister Imran Khan rightly called on Indian leadership to consider joining the Forum for regional prosperity and more collaborative initiatives. The government may also have gained points in terms of domestic politics as it was reported to have persuaded the Chinese government to prioritize its projects. The phased programme has been under deliberation for seven years. Most of the programme components were thus based on projects favored by the previous governments. The government will do well to discuss its plans on the floor of the parliament so that a consensus can be built in their support. Openness about development projects involving foreign funding makes for a clear roadmap and a secure future.

Once the prime minister is back in the country, he should brief the nation on the gains of the first phase of the CPEC and about plans for the second phase. The previous government drew a lot of flak for allegedly disregarding the concern for transparency. This threatened to drive a wedge between the provincial and federal governments and the PTI-led government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was often seen leading the protests.

The information shared so far with the media indicates that the next phase is mainly about industrial cooperation, development of special economic zones, private sector investment and joint ventures. The second phase agreements include a free trade accord, the Main Line-1 railway upgrade and the establishment of Havelian Dry Port, cooperation in marine sciences, implementation of projects on socioeconomic development, China-Pakistan Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement and Rashakai SEZ joint venture.

The FTA will open 90 per cent of the Chinese markets for Pakistani goods. Pakistani exporters are very excited about this. Last year, the Chinese share of Pakistani markets was \$11.458 billion while Pakistani exports to China were a mere \$1.744 billion. The new FTA is expected to increase Pakistani exports by \$500 million. In itself this is not huge but an open access to Chinese markets might benefit Pakistani traders in other ways.

### Daily Times 30-04-2019

#### **Challenge to maximize CPEC gains is from Pakistan not China: Sherry**

Sherry-Rehman We must take ownership of planning and ensure that the trickle-down benefits permeate across all provinces,” remarked Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) Senator Sherry Rehman, on Monday.

She said this as she presided over a workshop organised by the Senate CPEC Committee and National Defence University on the lessons of developing multi-partisan support for CPEC.

Chairperson Rehman added, “This can only be achieved if an autonomous CPEC authority, either in the Planning Ministry or as an autonomous body, is put in action.”

“It must be made very clear that the challenge to maximizing CPEC gains is from Pakistan not China,” she maintained.

The senator further asserted, “We must focus on four Cs in order to maximize CPEC’s potential: consensus, coordination, capacity and clarity.”

“At the moment, there is no federal capacity to manage policy frameworks and execute the complex set of contractual structures needed for different types of investment models being utilized under CPEC platforms,” she said.

Rehman also pointed out, “A crucial factor that requires attention and is often neglected is the environmental aspect of CPEC.”

She made note of Chinese President Xi Jinping’s assurance of a “green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable” Belt and Road Initiative.

‘We must focus on four Cs to maximize CPEC’s potential: consensus, coordination, capacity and clarity’: Senator Rehman

However, Pakistan, being the world’s seventh most climate impacted country, was said to start prioritizing green energy development initiatives and building climate resilience, especially since infrastructural and industrial growth takes away chunks of green acres and expose us to more air and marine pollution.”

“There is a clear lack of coordination between government agencies and financing methods with provinces as well as private sector facilitation,” Senator Rehman said.

She talked at length about how common the confusion regarding the ministry’s plans was, and how they offered few tangible incentives for businesses to invest in training human capital.

Committee Chairperson also said, “A higher commitment to transparency, pertaining to coordination and contracts will assist CPEC advocates in Pakistan to identify gaps in both planning and investment roadmaps, whether it be between provinces within Pakistan, or between federal ministries or Joint Venture projects.”



“President Xi has prioritized transparency but unfortunately, our government has not. Right now, there seems to be a lack of clarity in priorities and the sharing of contractual terms,” continued Rehman.

PPP Vice-President further noted, “Despite all this the consensus on realising the potential of this huge opportunity is clear in all parties and provinces.”

“The government is unable to exercise its function of convening meetings to maintain the consensus in the midst of course corrections on priorities and sectors,” she concluded.

### **Dawn News 16-04-2019**

#### **In new FTA, China extends zero rate access to more goods**

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese government has finally offered Pakistan market access similar to that offered to countries of Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) after seven years of negotiations. According to Secretary Finance Mohammad Younus Dagha, the Chinese government has agreed to immediately reduce duties to zero per cent on 313 tariff lines.

Dagha led the technical team in the negotiations in his previous assignment as commerce secretary, and says he sought to secure market access to China on the pattern of the Asean economies. “We successfully got the best possible gains for Pakistan”, the secretary claimed while talking to Dawn.

Pakistan and China have concluded the second phase of China-Pakistan free trade agreement (FTA) after seven years of talks. The protocol was initialed by current Secretary Commerce Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera and Chinese Vice-Minister on April 13 in Beijing.

Agreement covers 7,000 tariff lines at level of eight-digit HS code

The final agreement will be signed by commerce ministers of the two countries during Prime Minister Imran Khan’s visit to China end of the month. Both sides will get approval from their respective cabinets before signing the pact.

An official source in the Commerce Division told Dawn that China’s willingness to finally offer Pakistan market access on Asean-plus model was in the light of understanding reached between PM Khan and Chinese president. The second phase of FTA was supposed to commence from the sixth year of agreement ie 2013 but was delayed as officials from both countries failed to reach an agreement despite meeting over 12 times. Talks on Phase-II began in 2011.

Sharing the outcome of the negotiations, Dagha said that Islamabad will get market access for 313 tariff lines, which will cover most of its exports and encourage exports to China.

With signing of the agreement, he said the duty structure on these items will come immediately to zero per cent. “The new agreement will have a positive impact on our exports to China,” Dagha said. “The Chinese government has also agreed to allow us to protect 25pc of our total tariff lines from duty reduction under the second phase” he said, adding “we have included all those tariff

lines identified by chambers of commerce and associations for protection.” As per Chinese FTA with Asean, reduction on tariffs is almost over 90pc of the total tariff lines.

Under the agreement, Pakistan will reduce duty to zero on 75pc of total tariff lines in 15 years, while China will do the same in a period of 10 years. During this period, China will reduce duty to zero per cent on around 2,000 -2,500 tariff lines for Pakistan.

The FTA between China and Pakistan covers nearly 7,000 tariff lines at the eight-digit level of the HS code. Both sides had reduced tariffs on almost 36pc of the tariff lines to zero during first three years of PCFTA’s Phase-1.

Commerce ministry spokesperson was approached but could not provide any details of the agreement. Meanwhile the Commerce Division’s team turned to social media to share photo ops from the ceremonious initialing of the protocol, while they were unable to provide any details of the agreement or answer any questions posed to them.

### **Dawn News 16-04-2019**

#### **Chinese company evinces interest in PM housing project**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of China Silk Road Group Limited Yan Lijin on Monday called on Prime Minister Khan and showed a keen interest in the PM’s low-cost housing project.

Finance Minister Asad Umar, Housing Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema, Planning Minister Khusro Bakhtiyar, Housing Secretary Dr Imran Zeb were also present during the meeting.

The company offered affordable solution for construction of low-cost houses by setting up a plant for pre-fabricated housing structures in Pakistan.

During the meeting, the prime minister highlighted his government’s various initiatives to improve ‘Ease of Doing Business’ and providing the foreign investors an enabling environment to undertake profitable business ventures in Pakistan.

### **Dawn News 19-04-19**

#### **Improve industrial capability to benefit from new FTA with China’**

KARACHI: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industries and Production, Abdul Razak Dawood on Thursday asked the industrial community to best prepare themselves to reap the fruit of signing of the second phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China.

Speaking at an interactive session with exporters and industrialists, he said negotiations on the revised FTA had been completed after holding 12 rounds since 2012 with three final rounds at the level of secretaries of commerce of both the countries.

The revised FTA would be signed on April 28, which would be a big day for Pakistan as it had offered many concessions and had brought Pakistan on a par with Asean member countries who enjoyed zero duty on a wide-range of tariff lines.

He said there had been serious reservations by the business community on the first phase of FTA signed in 2006 and was implemented next year that is why, he continued, the negotiations on the second phase was initiated seven years back.

It was a big success for Pakistan to get many things reversed to its favor, which will pay in short and long run, he said.

He, however, warned the business community that there was no free meal in the world and they will have to work hard to pursue their high targets of expansion, modernisation diversification and maintaining the quality of their products at international standards.

“As the business community, it is your responsibility and task to work for industrialization and boosting exports,” he asserted, adding that the government could play a limited role on this account.

“The answer to all economic issues and for bringing socioeconomic uplift, simple answer was fast industrialisation based on research and knowledge about the changing world,” he remarked.

Dawood said that the next five-year commerce policy had been finalised and will be announced soon. The industrial policy was also in the pipeline and due consultations were being made with the stakeholders.

He emphasized the need for the policies for leather, gems and jewellery, rice and other major export industries. Federal Secretary Commerce Sardar Ahmed Nawaz Sukhera was also present.

### **Dawn News 20-04-19**

#### **Beijing says Silk Road project is not a “geopolitical tool”, understands concern**

BEIJING: China’s Belt and Road project is not a “geopolitical tool” or a debt crisis for participating nations, but Beijing welcomes constructive suggestions on how to address concerns over the initiative, the government’s top diplomat said on Friday.

Beijing will host a Belt and Road summit next week which 37 foreign leaders will attend, including some of China’s closest allies, though the United States which has been critical of the project is only sending low level representatives.

The Belt and Road Initiative, as it is formally called, is a key initiative of President Xi Jinping, and envisions rebuilding the old Silk Road to connect China with Asia, Europe and beyond with massive infrastructure spending.

But it has proved controversial in many Western capitals, particularly Washington, which views it as merely a means to spread Chinese influence abroad and saddle countries with unsustainable debt through non-transparent projects.

The United States has been particularly critical of Italy’s decision to sign up to the plan last month, during Xi’s visit to Rome, the first for a G7 nation.

Chinese State Councilor Wang Yi, the government's top diplomat, told reporters that the Belt and Road scheme had brought real benefits to participating countries.

"This partnership relationship is not a geopolitical tool, but a platform for cooperation," he said.

"You can't put hats like 'debt crises' onto the head of the Belt and Road, and this is not something any participating country would recognize," Wang added.

"Of course, there is a development process for the Belt and Road. You can't get there in one step, and it's unavoidable it will cause some worries during its development. So we welcome all sides to come up with constructive suggestions," he said.

#### Close allies coming

The number of foreign leaders at the April 25-27 summit is up from 29 last time, mainly from China's closest allies like Pakistan and Russia but also Italy, Switzerland and Austria.

The United States will not send high-level officials, a US State Department spokesman said earlier this month, citing concerns about financing practices for the initiative.

Wang said there would be Americans at the summit, made up of diplomats, state-level officials, executives and academics, though he did not give details.

"We welcome any country that is interested to take part. When the United States participates, or whether it participates, is up to them to decide," he added. While the United States and China are currently working to end a bitter trade war, they have numerous other areas of disagreement, including human rights and US support for self-ruled Taiwan. China on Monday condemned as "slandorous" criticism US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made of Beijing's policies in South America last week.

"The United States has no plans to send high-level officials from Washington to the Belt and Road Forum," a US Embassy in Beijing spokesman said.

"We call upon all countries to ensure that their economic diplomacy initiatives adhere to internationally-accepted norms and standards, promote sustainable, inclusive development, and advance good governance and strong economic institutions."

At the first Belt and Road summit two years ago, the United States submitted a diplomatic note to China complaining about North Korea's participation, though since then Washington and Pyongyang have sought to re-set ties, including with two summits between their leaders.

Wang said North Korea would also take part in this year's summit, but gave no further details.

"I think this is normal as it's an economic cooperation initiative. All countries have the freedom to attend, but I think they don't have the right to prevent any other country from participating. This is an open, inclusive platform."

More than 150 countries are sending delegations, and there will be some 5,000 guests, Wang said.

### **Dawn News 20-04-19**

#### **Chinese banker suggests gradual economic liberalization**

KARACHI: Former Peoples Bank of China (PBC) governor Zhou Xiaochuan on Friday suggested Pakistan to opt for gradual liberalisation of exchange rate, monetary and capital account regimes to facilitate greater role for market forces without large-scale disturbances.

In his speech titled “Lessons from the Role of Peoples Bank of China in China’s Economic Rise” at the 23rd Zahid Husain Memorial Lecture organised by the State Bank of Pakistan, he said that “reforms in PBC reflect China’s gradual approach towards globalization for sustainable economic development.”

He also explained how PBC provided incentive structures to channelize financial resources towards productive sectors to ensure inclusive growth and financial stability.

Referring to Pakistan, Zhou emphasized the need to raise domestic savings rate in order to address most of the macroeconomic imbalances including current and fiscal deficits.

He also suggested Pakistan to use regional currencies in order to facilitate trade in the region. Pakistan recently borrowed 15 billion Yuan from China to support its external account.

Since China is the biggest trade partner of Pakistan, the use of Chinese currency for trade would help the country reduce its load on dollar reserves.

Moreover, Governor SBP Tariq Bajwa, while delivering his welcome address, emphasized the role of central banks in creating conducive environment for sustainable development. He also highlighted the efforts by the SBP for inclusive economic development in the country and mentioned initiatives to promote financial inclusion, agriculture and small and medium enterprise financing, mortgage lending, green banking and electronic payment systems to underscore torch-bearing role of the SBP in the economic growth and development of the country.

The lecture was attended by an august gathering which included policy-makers, financial sector specialists, independent researchers, government officials, heads of commercial banks, eminent businesspersons and representatives of the academic and media.

### **Dawn News 23-04-19**

#### **Hafeez reassures Chinese investors**

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh has said the government will facilitate Chinese investors by providing them all possible support to invest in Pakistan.

During a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Yao Jing on Monday, the finance adviser said the environment for investment is conducive and the Chinese businessmen should benefit from it by exploring opportunities in various sectors. Both the sides discussed matters of bilateral interest and

underscored the need for enhanced collaboration between the two countries in the areas of mutual benefit.

Hafeez said Pakistan highly valued its ties with China, which was a sincere friend and had always supported Pakistan in difficult times. Appreciating the government policies taken for the revival of economy, the ambassador said the Chinese investors wanted to invest in Pakistan and their confidence had improved.

The adviser reiterated the government's resolve to continue its support for early execution of various projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The two sides discussed the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China and expressed the hope that the visit would further strengthen the existing multifaceted relations between the two neighbors.

### **Dawn News 24-04-19**

#### **New FTA with China to increase exports by \$500m**

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to PM on Commerce and Textile Abdul Razak Dawood on Tuesday said that under the new list of 313 items included in the second phase of China-Pakistan free trade agreement (FTA), the country's export earnings could increase by \$500 million within a time span of 18 months.

He said the new list is not limited to textile specific products but also includes textile goods, leather, engineering, chemicals, furniture, auto parts, plastic, rubber, paper board, ceramic, glass, surgical instruments, footwear, wood, articles of stones, sea food, meat, tractors, home appliances etc. The second phase of China-Pakistan FTA is scheduled to be signed in Beijing on April 28 during PM Imran Khan's official visit of to the country.

Dawood said that Beijing imports around \$64 billion worth of these items from across the globe, and if Pakistan is successful in capturing just 10pc of that market share, the country's exports to China could rise to \$6bn.

About China's export to Pakistan, he said that "we are opening up to 80 per cent of the tariff line over a period of fifteen years, from the existing 35pc." Referring to the first phase of Pak-China FTA, which came into effect in 2007, he said that it lacked proper safeguard measures, and now on our request, the Chinese authorities have incorporated those measures in the second phase.

The federal cabinet at its meeting on Tuesday also approved the second phase of FTA which will become operational after the Chinese government completes due diligence.

Almost 95pc of the tariff lines will come under the EDE, covering every item, Dawood explained. In this regard, he appreciated the hard work done by Finance Secretary Muhammad Younus Dagha and his team while serving as commerce secretary.

He said that the real challenge is on both ends — import and export, and the biggest problem is how to reduce imports. Referring to the \$15bn trade deficit between Pakistan and China, he said



that steps have been taken bring down imports from Beijing and “we have reduced our import [bulk from China] by \$3.5bn as compared to previous fiscal year.”

Dawood also showed disappointment with the export figures for March but was hopeful that these would improve in April. Board of Investment (BOI) Chairman Haroon Sharif told the newsmen that it is not difficult to generate long-term investment interest in Pakistan, and under the FTA, market access is available while companies are also interested.

On foreign investment, he said the BOI would provide around 10,000 acres of land to investors over the next few years. BOI is currently working on the ‘Clean Titled Available Land’ for industrial zoning. Within the existing industrial zones, around 150 acres of land is being made usable, he added.

Sharif said the ‘Board of Approval’ of BOI will hold its meeting in May to consider applications from seven investors. Under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor economic zones, land for five zones has been prioritized, while land in Rashakai and Dhabejee has been retrieved, land in Islamabad is being searched, however, there has been a delay for the land in Balochistan, he said.

BOI chairman said there are multiple layers of sanctions at federal and provincial levels and all permissions were being merged in a single portal for ease of business. These permissions at multiple levels will have to be removed one day, he commented.

He said that the FDI inflow which was previously directed towards infrastructure is now being diverted towards industrial units.

For the past six months, BOI has received more than 100 applications. Out of these, 22 have already started businesses; twelve of which are in the engineering, electronics, clothing, chemicals and food processing sectors whereas some are currently being incorporated, he said.

Moreover, the BOI chairman added that a Pakistan Business Forum will also be organized on April 28 in Beijing to be addressed by PM Imran Khan.

Around 140 business leaders from Pakistan and 500 Chinese business leaders will attend the forum.

### **Dawn News 25-04-19**

#### **Number of Pakistani students in China grew from 100 to 25,000 in five years, Urdu Conference told**

KARACHI: It was heartening to see Prof Dr Tang Meng Sheng of Peking University engaging the crowd on the third day of the 11th International Urdu Conference at the Arts Council in one of the post-lunch sessions. His presence on Saturday also mattered because the day before an attack on the Chinese consulate in Karachi had saddened book lovers, who were in doubt whether Prof Sheng would carry on with his programme scheduled for the moot.

Dr Jaffar Ahmed was the host of the segment. He first lauded Prof Sheng's arrival and then put a series of questions to the scholar. Prof Sheng said, in fine Urdu, after the CPEC project a good number of Pakistanis went to China. Before the project, there weren't more than 100 Pakistani students in China. In five years, the number had risen to 25,000.

Prof Sheng, director of the Centre for Pak Studies at the university, said many Urdu books had been translated into Chinese. They included the novels Udas Naslein and Khuda Ki Basti. Then short stories, such as those by Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi, too had been translated into the Chinese language. The professor told the host that he had compiled a book Shahrah-i-Khushhaali, which was about how China attained economic success, adding that after CPEC, Chinese were taking a keen interest in Pakistani society.

### **Dawn News 27-04-19**

#### **Pakistan, China to revive cooperation for investment promotion**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China agreed on Friday to revive cooperation between the Chinese Investment Promotion Agency (CIPA) and the Board of Investment (BoI) to ensure investment promotion in prioritised sectors of information technology, textiles and agro-based products.

BoI Chairman Haroon Sharif, who is in Beijing as part of prime minister's delegation to participate in the second Belt and Road Forum, met Liu Dianxun, Director-General of Investment Promotion Agency of the Chinese ministry of commerce, and discussed the revival of a memorandum of understanding signed between BoI and CIPA in the past. Both sides agreed to revive the cooperation.

Mr Sharif informed CIPA Chief Dianxun that BoI would encourage Chinese investors for investment as Pakistan was planning to develop new special economic zones in addition to already notified seven special economic zones.

"The development of Rashakai special economic zones is a milestone and a first step towards implementation of industrial cooperation under CPEC. Industrial cooperation was prioritised by the present government with a goal to start implementation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) this year," Mr Sharif informed his Chinese counterpart.

He said that BOI had received concrete investment proposals from local and foreign investors who were interested in investing in Pakistan's priority sectors having immense potential for investment; agro-based food and industry, value-added textile, tourism and hospitality, information technology sector, light engineering, and logistics.

### **Dawn News 28-04-19**

#### **Agreement on social sector cooperation to be signed during PM's visit**

China would in the CPEC's next stage also commit to social sector cooperation for which it would be investing \$1billion in 27 education, health, agriculture, water and irrigation, human resource

development and poverty alleviation projects. The agreement on social sector cooperation would be signed during PM Khan's visit.

Moreover, the second stage Pak-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would also be signed under which China would open up 90 per cent of its market for Pakistani goods in an effort to address trade imbalance. Pakistan's trade deficit with China last year stood at \$9.7bn. China, the largest trade partner of Pakistan, was then exporting goods worth \$11.458bn to Pakistan while Pakistani exports to China were valued at \$1.744bn.

It is estimated that the new FTA would increase Pakistani exports by \$500 million. The agreement is being concluded after protracted negotiations spanning over nearly seven years.

"This time the discussions between PM Khan and President Xi would be very specific about what has to be done by the two countries under the CPEC," a diplomat said and emphasised that industrial cooperation would be the most important element of the CPEC's next stage.

Chinese ambassador Yao Jing had earlier this week in a briefing on PM Khan's visit to China had said the two countries were better placed than before to expand the CPEC's scope. He said: "There is now much better standing and foundation to enhance and promote cooperation."

### **Roundtable**

Earlier speaking at the Leaders' Roundtable of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, PM Khan underscored the importance of greater connectivity among BRI participating countries. He proposed four specific areas for promoting connectivity, including digital connectivity, mobility of labour, cultural connectivity and sharing best practices in knowledge and innovation.

He said the CPEC would play an important role in boosting connectivity, particularly between Gwadar port and Xinjiang region of China.

"As our region becomes more linked and prosperous, my expectation is that we will find it easier to find common solutions for longstanding problems," he said.

Prime Minister Khan also met with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali on the sidelines of the BRF.

"The prime minister underscored the importance Pakistan attached to further intensifying multi-dimensional ties with the African continent. Bilaterally, the prime minister proposed upgradation of political, trade, commercial and people-to-people contacts. The two sides agreed to maintain regular high-level exchanges," the PM Office said in a statement on the meeting.

In a reference to Pakistan's participation in United Nations peace keeping operations, the prime minister said Pakistan would continue to contribute to the cause of peace and security in Africa.

## **Dawn News 29-03-2019**

### **Belt & Road Initiative**

THAT China has transformed itself from a socialist giant into an economic powerhouse of the 21st century is not news.

However, what is noteworthy is the fact it now seeks to become a global player through its Belt and Road Initiative — an economic superhighway linking continents and cultures with China at the heart of the project.

And as interest from a growing number of countries has shown, the BRI could play a key role in shaping the socioeconomic and sociopolitical future of Eurasia and beyond.

The fact that 37 heads of state and government — including Prime Minister Imran Khan — attended the just concluded second Belt and Road Forum in Beijing proves that a growing number of states are seeking to jump on the BRI bandwagon and grab a slice of the pie.

It is indeed a massive initiative, envisioning an integrated network stretching from the shores of the Pacific to the heart of Europe, while extending to Southeast Asia and parts of Africa.

And CPEC is one of the key nodes of this network, reflecting both on the positive Pakistan-China relationship, as well as this country's potential as a hub for regional trade and commerce.

However, while the BRI may hold immense potential for the regional, and indeed the global, economy, the projects under its umbrella must be transparent, and the benefits mutual to both China and the partner countries.

There have been accusations of Beijing practicing 'debt-trap diplomacy' by 'drowning' partner states in debt.

There is evidence of Sri Lanka having problems with Chinese debt in a port project, while Malaysia under Mahathir Mohamed has renegotiated a rail project with Beijing on reportedly better terms.

To allay fears such, China and partner governments in the BRI must ensure that the terms of the projects involved are clearly understood and transparent.

In Pakistan's case, there has also been criticism that the benefits of CPEC are not trickling down to all parts of the country. For CPEC to be a success, its fruits must reach all provinces, while Pakistan's economy must benefit from the project in the long term.

Under the vision of functionalism and regional integration, the dynamics of international relations have been transformed.

For example, from the ashes of old Europe rose the European Union, in which former foes discarded their mutual animosity and worked for unprecedented integration.

However, while the EU project may be facing turbulence, regional cooperation under BRI can — by interlocking economies — be the harbinger of better ties and prosperity for the people of Eurasia and other regions falling under the project's ambit.

South Asia, for example, can gain from mutually rewarding BRI initiatives. Indeed others, especially the US and its allies, who are mostly critical of the BRI, must let this ambitious vision become a reality and work to establish a complementary relationship.

### **Dawn News 29-04-2019**

#### **Inching towards equitable trade with China**

In pursuance of the new economic strategic direction, the PTI government hopes to cultivate a more intimate relationship with China focused on equitable trade and active collaboration for expanding the industrial base of Pakistan.

It also expects a greater degree of flexibility from China on the transparency of bilateral deals under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Members of the economic dream team of the government were not sure if they would succeed in winning over the Chinese to agree to grant more time for loan repayments, particularly for commercial loans.

According to our sources, the government is willing to offer an additional markup of one to two per cent in exchange for a three-year rollover. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reportedly made a three-year loan package of \$6-8 billion conditional on the deferment of Chinese loan repayments.

According to reports, China has thus far injected \$19bn for CPEC projects — \$13bn for private power projects and \$6bn for 22 infrastructure projects. Government loans will be payable after five years, but the repayment for Chinese commercial loans is scheduled for mid-2019-20. Keeping the financial squeeze in sight, Chinese commercial loans were rolled over for one year during the current fiscal year.

Islamabad and Beijing have agreed to ensure electronic data exchange to curb under-invoicing as the bilateral trade statistics do not currently reconcile

A day before travelling to China with Prime Minister Imran Khan to attend the 2nd Belt and Road Forum, Adviser for Commerce, Textile and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood shared his optimistic thoughts on Islamabad-Beijing ties with Dawn over the phone.

“I am excited and going to Beijing with high hopes to get things moving for better outcomes for both the friendly countries. At the start of the next phase of collaboration, in the context of the CPEC, the focus will shift to industrial development and terms of trade that accrue greater benefits to Pakistan,” he asserted.

The adviser was confident that China was comfortable with Pakistan's compliance with the IMF's demand for greater transparency in CPEC projects. He dismissed the perception that former finance minister Asad Umar had turned down the IMF's request to share details of Pakistan's bilateral agreements, but capitulated to pressure and agreed to chop the defence budget to narrow the fiscal gap.

"I don't know the details of the IMF meeting. But I don't think there was any problem on the subject of information sharing. Mr Umar publicly said that we had passed on the information the multilateral lender asked for," he said.

A source in the Ministry of Finance contested the adviser's view. He said the issue is still pending as — under the confidentiality clause — details of the country's bilateral agreements cannot be shared with any multilateral lender.

Mr Dawood declined to comment on the issue of the rollover of Chinese commercial loans. "I am sorry, but I am not aware of developments on this count and not in a position to comment," he said last Thursday.

He told Dawn that the team accompanying the prime minister this time around is well prepared. "We have done extensive homework and have already agreed on better access to the gigantic Chinese market for a wide range of Pakistani products. The galloping China expects its imports to increase from current \$2.1 trillion to \$5tr by 2023. With exports to China totaling \$1.8 billion, Pakistan's share is miniscule in the Chinese market. The duty-free access will place Pakistan on a par with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean)," he told Dawn.

He said the policy paper on Pakistan-China ties has been approved by the cabinet that met earlier in the week. He expected the revised Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would become operational by July. It contains safeguard measures against the import of those products from China that hurt local industry.

He said the two sides have also agreed in principle to the electronic data exchange transfer to curb misdeclaration and under-invoicing. Currently, trade data of the two countries does not reconcile. The volume and valuation of Chinese exports to Pakistan are higher than imports from China reported in Pakistan.

Most FTAs that Pakistan signed over the past 20 years are perceived as flawed because they opened up Pakistan's market without the country getting reciprocal access to partner nations. Business forums say the agreements hurt the local industry, partially blaming them for the erosion of whatever little industrial base the country had.

To move away from a trade-based consumption-oriented economy, the private sector and its think tanks such as the Pakistan Business Council have long been demanding that trade deals should be revised to allow sufficient space for the local industry to stabilize and expand.



## **Dawn News 29-04-2019**

### **Pakistan, China enter second stage of free trade**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Sunday embarked on the new phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor by signing memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on the first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and socio-economic development and a new agreement on free trade.

The MoUs and the second stage Free Trade Agreement (FTA) were signed towards the conclusion of Prime Minister Imran Khan's second trip to China in six months.

The prime minister's latest visit to Beijing was for attending the second Belt and Road Forum and talks with the Chinese leadership on the expanded CPEC. The earlier visit was more about the future course of the CPEC after the change of government in Pakistan and soliciting Beijing's help for dealing with the balance of payments crisis.

Beijing to spend \$1bn on 27 projects, help Pakistan Railways upgrade its capacity

PM Khan in his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping assured him of Pakistan's "unflinching commitment" to the CPEC and hailed its next phase, which includes newer areas like agriculture, industrial development and socio-economic uplift with livelihood projects.

The contours of the second phase of the CPEC have been finalised in view of priorities of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government related to socio-economic projects, greater involvement of the private sector and jobs creation.

President Xi appreciated Pakistan government's agenda for socio-economic development and people-centered progress, the PM Office said.

The new phase of the CPEC would be characterized by industrialization. The first Special Economic Zone comprising 20 factories is being set up in Rashakai, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The Rashakai SEZ Joint Venture and License Agreement was signed between the KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company and the China Road and Bridge Corporation.

Further progress on SEZs would depend on how the Rashakai project progresses. In the next stage, Chinese are planning to cooperate with Pakistan for setting up of a heavy industry SEZ in Dhabeji (Sindh) and a hi-tech SEZ in Islamabad. Chinese investors are, meanwhile, also signing up joint ventures in a local SEZ in Faisalabad.

In his meeting with Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang, Imran Khan hoped that Chinese investment in the SEZs would expand Pakistan's industrial base and diversify its export basket.

The second most important MoU, signed by the two sides, was between the China International Development Cooperation Agency and Pakistan's Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms for implementation of the projects under Joint Working Group of the CPEC on socio-economic development. The projects in education, health, human resource development, poverty alleviation, agriculture, and water and irrigation sectors are being sponsored by the Chinese government for which Beijing would spend \$1 billion. Twenty seven projects have been identified

by the two governments. The PTI government had placed a special emphasis on this element of cooperation.

In view of trade being an important element of the CPEC, the two sides concluded the second stage of the Free Trade Agreement. The new FTA, which was signed after negotiations spanning over seven years, is aimed at strengthening trade ties. Under the new FTA, China would open up 90 per cent of its market for Pakistani goods whereas Pakistan would share 65pc of its market with Chinese exports. This would also help in redressing, to a certain extent, the yawning trade imbalance between the two countries, which stood at \$9.7 billion last year.

Premier Li hoped that the conclusion of the second phase of China-Pakistan FTA would give further boost to trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The two sides also signed an agreement on a technical package for up gradation of Pakistan's main railway line ML-1.

On completion of ML-1, the Pakistan Railways will benefit in terms of increase in speed from 65km per hour to 105km per hour to 120km/h to 160 km/h, increase in line capacity from 34 to 171 trains each way per day, increase in freight volumes from six to 35 million tons per year by 2025, increase in passenger trains from 20 to 40 each way per day and increase in railway share of freight transport volume from the current less than 4pc to 20pc.

Under the next phase of the agreement, the ministry of railways and the National Railway Administration of China will jointly start the construction work on the project. Prior to start of work, the final cost of the project would be worked out and agreement of financing would be finalised after considering the available options for financing, a spokesperson of the ministry of railways explained.

The signing of the 'Declaration for Preliminary Design' for completion of the first phase of Pakistan Railways' existing mainline (ML-1) has laid the foundation of cooperation between Pakistan and China in the railways sector.

Other agreements signed during PM Khan's visit were on setting up of a dry port at Havelian, economic and technical cooperation and cooperation in the field of marine sciences.

### Geo-politics

President Xi, during his meeting with Mr Khan, reiterated China's unwavering support to Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He expressed China's appreciation for Pakistan's sustained and successful efforts in the fight against terrorism and creating a peaceful neighborhood.

"Both sides expressed satisfaction over the close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora and resolved to further deepen communication and coordination at all levels," the PMO said.

During the meeting between PM Khan and Prime Minister Li, the two sides agreed to further deepen political, security, economic, education, science and technology, cultural and people-to-people relations.

### **Dawn News 29-04-2019**

#### **Imran asks Chinese entrepreneurs to shift industries to CPEC special zones**

BEIJING: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday invited Chinese entrepreneurs to take benefits of investment-friendly policies of his government and relocate their industries to the special economic zones being built under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The Pakistan government wanted Chinese entrepreneurs to relocate their industries to special economic zones being constructed in the country just like they repositioned their industries in Vietnam and other countries, he said while addressing participants of the Pakistan-China Trade and Investment Forum organised by the Ministry of Commerce here.

More than 370 Chinese companies and businessmen and 70 entrepreneurs from Pakistan participated in the forum.

The prime minister also expressed his government's resolve to remove impediments in the way of investment and make doing business easy for the Chinese business in Pakistan.

He said the government had offered incentives and concessions in tax and asked them to use Pakistan as the base for exporting their products to other countries.

On the CPEC, he said, it was started with building infrastructure and couple of roads, but it had now blossomed to different areas of cooperation and gone into cooperation in agriculture which is the lifeline of Pakistan.

He expressed the confidence the economic growth would improve after an increase in agriculture production with the cooperation of China.

Highlighting the security situation in the country, he said it had been greatly improved with sacrifices rendered by Pakistan's armed forces and other security organizations. They have overcome a difficult security situation.

About relations with neighboring countries, he said, Pakistan is helping a peace process in Afghanistan and added, for the first time, there were prospects of peace and a political settlement of Afghan issue.

Regarding relations with India, he said that elections were being held in India and hoped that Pakistan and India would resume dialogue once the new government took charge after the elections.

He remarked that the Kashmir was a core issue between the two countries which should be resolved through negotiations.

The prime minister said that Pakistan's strategic location was important as it had China, world biggest market on one side, India, the second biggest market on the other side while it had countries full of energy resources on the western side.

Pakistan sought support from China to set up a university of science and technology for education in different fields, particularly artificial intelligence, information technology and other related subjects for the young population, he added.

He expressed the confidence that more countries would join the Belt and Road Initiative as it was meant for the connectivity and shared prosperity.

Adviser to the PM on Commerce and Textile Abdul Razzaq Dawood said after the signing of the second phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and China the bilateral trade and wide-ranging mutual business cooperation would increase between the two all-weather friends.

Pakistan, he said, would have greater market access to the Chinese market, and begin the export of wide-ranging goods to China and enhance cooperation in agriculture and livelihood areas.

He said the Chinese agro firms were also very keen to enter into the Pakistani market and collaborate with Pakistani counterparts due to the rapidly increasing demand of the import of food products from Pakistan.

Pakistan Business Council vice chairman Saqib Shirazi spoke on business opportunities between China and Pakistan and pointed out that the present government had offered a number of incentives to attract foreign investment in the country.

In his welcome address, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Masood Khalid said the second phase of the FTA would help accelerate cooperation in business and trade between Pakistan and China.

### **Dawn News 30-04-2019**

#### **Success of CPEC linked to job opportunities for Pakistanis**

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can only become a success if jobs are provided to the local people and Chinese companies are made bound to do businesses through joint ventures.

Transfer of technology should also be ensured otherwise local people would never be benefited by the CPEC projects. Moreover, there should be equal opportunities for Chinese and local companies to do business.

These views were expressed by participants of an event, "Rural Development and Industrialization in Pakistan" organised by Rural Development Foundation (RDF) at Islamabad Club on Monday.

Representative of Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) Dr Abdur Rehman Cheema said though people of rural areas wanted jobs but he was doubtful if the Chinese companies would provide jobs to them.

Experts say Chinese companies should be made bound to do businesses through joint ventures

“Chinese companies completed projects worth \$16 billion in different countries but employed 40,000 Chinese laborers on those projects. We need to make sure that it should not happen in Pakistan,” he said.

However, speaking about the positive points of the partnership with China, Dr Cheema said China focuses on financial issues and has no political interests.

He suggested that CPEC must aim to benefit local people.

Assistant Professor at Comsats University Dr Tahir Mumtaz Awan said the ‘One belt and one road’ was a project aimed at integration of 60 countries and five continents.

“It is a new Silk Route but the problem is local communities might not be integrated. Despite this, it is hoped that because of CPEC Gwadar will become more developed than Dubai. However, we should retain our land and suggest the Chinese to do businesses through joint ventures rather than pushing us to sell our assets such as land. Moreover, transfer of technology should also be ensured,” he said.

Former ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Dr Manzoor Ahmed said things were changed rapidly because of CPEC. He said a few years ago Pakistan was losing eight to 10 billion dollars every year due to power shortage but because of CPEC the energy crisis was addressed.

“Moreover, tremendous development has been made in infrastructure. A number of roads are constructed due to which travel duration has reduced by half of the time. However, I have concerns that a number of statutory regulatory orders (SROs) have been issued allowing Chinese companies to bring machinery and equipment free of tax. There should be similar exemptions for the local businessmen otherwise they will not be able to compete. I also suggest that steps should be taken to increase the per acre yield of crops,” he said.

Deputy Chief of Party USAID-TDEA Rashid Chaudhry said because of a decision of the Federal Shariat Court, Pakistan had lost an opportunity for land reforms.

Representative of Food and Agriculture Organization Farrukh Toirov said by 2050 population of the globe would reach nine to 10 billion so agriculture products have to be increased by almost 60 per cent.

“Though 60pc population of Pakistan lives in rural areas small sizes of farms will be an issue as it would be difficult to increase the per acre yield,” he said.

Earlier, Deputy Director RDF SanaaKhetran said fundamental rights of farmers and those connected to agriculture should be secured and safeguarded and an environment of trust should be maintained.

First Secretary at the embassy of China Jia Wei was the chief guest but he did not address the participants.

Talking to Dawn, Mr Wei said CPEC had entered into the second phase.

“In the first phase, focus was on infrastructure and now in the second phase the focus is on industrialization. Industrial zones are being built across the country and I hope more investment will come to Pakistan as Prime Minister Imran Khan has signed more MoUs during his visit to China,” he said.

### **Dawn News 30-04-2019**

#### **New body proposed to maximize CPEC’s potential**

ISLAMABAD: Sherry Rehman, chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, (CPEC) on Monday proposed forming a ‘CPEC authority’ to take advantage of opportunities offered by the huge project.

Speaking at the Senate CPEC Committee and National Defence University’s workshop on the lessons of developing a multi-partisan support for CPEC, Ms Rehman said, “We must take ownership of planning and ensure the trickle-down benefits permeate across all provinces”.

She said this could only be achieved if a CPEC authority which is either a part of the planning ministry or exists as an autonomous body is put into action. “It must be made very clear that the challenge to maximizing CPEC gains is from Pakistan not China.”

The former federal minister underlined the need to focus on four Cs to maximize CPEC’s potential: consensus, coordination, capacity and clarity.

She said at the moment there appeared to be a lack of federal capacity to manage policy frameworks and execute the complex set of contractual structures needed for different types of investment models being utilized under CPEC platforms.

A crucial factor that requires attention and is often neglected is the environmental aspect of CPEC, she said. “While President Xi Jinping has ensured that the Belt and Road Initiative would be ‘green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable’, Pakistan, being the world’s seventh most climate impacted country, must start prioritizing green energy development initiatives and build climate resilience, especially since infrastructural and industrial growth takes away chunks of green acres and expose us to more air and marine pollution.”

She also said there was a clear lack of coordination between government agencies and financing methods with provinces as well as private-sector facilitation. “Confusion in communicating the ministry’s plans are common, and offer few tangible incentives for businesses to build projects that invest in training human capital.”

The CPEC Committee in Senate Chairperson also said, “A higher commitment to transparency, pertaining to coordination and contracts will assist CPEC advocates in Pakistan to identify gaps in both planning and investment roadmaps, whether it be between provinces within Pakistan, or between federal ministries or as joint venture projects.”



“President Xi has prioritized transparency but unfortunately, our government has not. Right now, there seems to be a lack of clarity in priorities and the sharing of contractual terms,” continued Rehman.

The Vice-President of Pakistan People’s Party further said, “Despite all this the consensus on realizing the potential of this huge opportunity is clear in all parties and provinces. The government is unable to exercise its function of convening meetings to maintain the consensus in the midst of course corrections on priorities and sectors.”

### Dunya News 21-04-19



عمران کا دورہ چین سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلہ کی ابتدا، چینی سفیر

دورہ میں صنعت، زراعت اور سوشل تعاون کے فروغ کے معاہدوں پر دستخط ہونگے

دونوں ممالک میں تجارتی عدم استحکام کو ختم کرنا چاہتے ہیں، یاؤ جنگ، گفتگو، خطاب

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ دنیا، آئی این پی) پاکستان میں تعینات چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے کہا ہے کہ وزیراعظم پاکستان کا دوسرا دورہ چین بہت اہم ہوگا، سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کی ابتدا ہے، وزیراعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین کے دوران صنعت، زراعت اور سوشل تعاون کے فروغ کے معاہدوں پر دستخط ہوں گے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تجارتی عدم استحکام کو ختم کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔ چین کی ثقافتی نمائش کی افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب اور میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ آٹھ سال کے مذاکرات کے بعد آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدہ دوئم کو حتمی شکل دی۔ علاوہ ازیں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ ون بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ اقدام سے پورے خطے کی ترقی ہوگی۔ چین پاکستان کے ساتھ اپنی دوستی کو بہت اہمیت دیتا

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**Dunya News 22-04-19****سی پیک پاکستانی اقتصادی جغرافیہ کو نئی جہت دیگا، ہارون شریف**

منصوبہ خطے سمیت عالمی ترقی کے وسیع مواقع فراہم کرتا ہے، چیئرمین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ

سی پیک کو بنیادی ڈھانچے، صنعتی تعاون، زراعت، سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کا منصوبہ بنایا گیا ہے  
اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیئرمین ہارون شریف نے کہا کہ سی پیک پاکستان کے اقتصادی جغرافیہ کو نئی جہت دے گا، جس سے مشترکہ ترقی اور استحکام میں مدد ملے گی، تمام ممالک تیزی سے بدلتی عالمی اقتصادی صورتحال سے زیادہ سے زیادہ استفادے کیلئے حکمت عملی مرتب کر رہے ہیں اور سی پیک خطے سمیت عالمی ترقی کے وسیع مواقع فراہم کرتا ہے۔ پاک چین دو طرفہ تعلقات کے حوالے سے انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی حکومت چاہتی ہے کہ سی پیک کثیر الملکی منصوبہ بنے اور زیادہ سے زیادہ ممالک اس میں سرمایہ کاری کریں تاکہ بنیادی ڈھانچے کی ترقی کو یقینی بنایا جاسکے۔ سی پیک کو بنیادی ڈھانچے، صنعتی تعاون، زراعت، سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کا منصوبہ بنایا گیا ہے، ان شعبوں میں تعاون کے فروغ سے بہتری آئے گی، ٹیکنالوجی کی منتقلی سے پیداوار میں اضافہ ہوگا، منڈیوں تک رسائی اور کم ترقی یافتہ علاقوں کی ترقی میں مدد ملے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ مقامی و غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کی معاونت کیلئے ہر طرح کی ممکنہ سہولیات کی فراہمی کو یقینی بنا رہا ہے۔

## Dunya News 24-04-19



### چین نے ایک ارب ڈالر ڈیوٹی فری برآمدی پیکیج دیکھنا شروع کیا

اسلام آباد (واقعہ نگار خصوصی) وزیر اعظم کے مشیر برائے صنعت و تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے سینیٹ کی قائمہ کمیٹی برائے تجارت و ٹیکسٹائل کو بتایا ہے کہ چین نے ایک ارب ڈالر تک ڈیوٹی فری مراعات کا پیکیج اور آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدہ دوئم میں پاکستان کو آسیان ممالک کے برابر درجہ دے دیا ہے، پاکستانی مصنوعات کیلئے چینی مارکیٹ کا دروازہ کھل گیا ہے۔ کمیٹی کا اجلاس گزشتہ روز مرزا محمد آفریدی کی صدارت میں پارلیمنٹ ہاؤس میں ہوا۔ مشیر تجارت نے بتایا کہ چین اور بھارت دونوں کے راستے پاکستان کو ٹیکسٹائل مصنوعات برآمد کر رہے ہیں، چین اور بھارت سے آنے والی ایشیا کی انڈر انوائٹنگ ہو رہی ہے۔ وزارت تجارت کے حکام نے بتایا کہ ٹیکسٹائل کی 60 فیصد ریسرچ کا کام ٹیکسٹائل یونیورسٹی میں ہوتا ہے، نئی ٹیکسٹائل پالیسی میں سٹیمپنگ کپاس کی ریسرچ کے لیے سینٹر بنایا جا رہا ہے۔ سینیٹ میں فریڈم نے کہا کہ کمپیوٹر اور اس کے پارٹس کی درآمد میں انڈر انوائٹنگ ہو رہی ہے، اس کے ذریعے منی لانڈرنگ بھی ہو رہی ہے، وزارت تجارت انڈر انوائٹنگ کو روکنے کے لیے قانون سازی کرے۔ اس پر مشیر تجارت نے کہا کہ انڈر انوائٹنگ کو روکنا میری وزارت کے دائرہ اختیار میں نہیں آتا، وہ ایف بی آر کا کام ہے۔ سینیٹ نے ان کے جواب میں کہا کہ ٹیکسٹائل صنعت کو دی جانے والی مراعات کو ان کی بہتر ایکسپورٹ کارکردگی سے منسلک کیا جائے۔ مشیر تجارت نے بتایا کہ نئی تجارتی پالیسی میں مارکیٹ شیئر بڑھانے کے حوالے ایک پورشن رکھ رہے ہیں۔ انمان وزیر نے کہا کہ ٹیکسٹائل شعبہ کی ناقص کارکردگی کو بہتر کرنے کے لئے اقدامات کرنے چاہئیں، اپنا بہت زیادہ مضبوط ہے، اس کو کہا جائے کہ کارکردگی بہتر کرے، ایف بی آر باڑہ مارکیٹوں کے خلاف ایکشن لے۔ مشیر تجارت نے مزید بتایا کہ پاکستان کو انڈونیشیا تک بہتر مارکیٹ رسائی مل گئی ہے، ترکی کے ساتھ مارکیٹ رسائی پر ہونے والے مذاکرات ناکام ہو گئے ہیں، 28 اپریل کو چین کے ساتھ آزاد تجارتی معاہدہ دوئم پر دستخط ہو جائیں گے، چین معاہدہ دوئم میں ہمیں بہت مراعات دے رہا ہے، پاکستان کو 1313 ایشیا کی رسائی مل گئی ہے، فوڈ پراسیسنگ ایشیا، کیمیکلز، پلاسٹک، سیڈز، ریفریجریٹرز پر ڈیوٹی فری رسائی مل گئی ہے، ایک سو سے زائد سرمایہ کار چین جائیں گے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ اچھی خبر ہے کہ پہلی مرتبہ پاکستان کو آسیان ممالک کے برابر درجہ ملا ہے، پاکستان کے لئے چین کا دروازہ کھل گیا ہے، چین نے ایک ارب ڈالر تک ڈیوٹی فری مراعات کا پیکیج دیا ہے، چین کو ایک ارب ڈالر کے چاول، چینی اور کائونٹن یارن ڈیوٹی فری برآمد کریں گے، تین ہزار میٹرک ٹن چینی برآمد کی جائے گی۔

**Dunya News 26-04-19****بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کانفرنس، 88 ممالک کے نمائندوں کی شرکت****صدر ایف پی سی سی آئی نے تین چینی کمپنیوں کیساتھ معاہدوں پر دستخط کیے**

کراچی (بزنس رپورٹر) ایف پی سی سی آئی کے صدر انجینئر داروخان اچکزئی نے روڈ اینڈ بیلٹ سی ای او کانفرنس بیجنگ میں شرکت کی جس کا انعقاد چائنہ کونسل برائے بین الاقوامی تجارت فروغ، چائنہ چیمبر آف انٹرنیشنل کامرس، آل چائنہ فیڈریشن آف انڈسٹری اینڈ کامرس اور SASAC نے چائنہ نیشنل کنونشن سینٹر بیجنگ میں کیا۔ کانفرنس کا افتتاح چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے کیا جس میں 88 ممالک کے 900 کاروباری رہنما شرکت کر رہے ہیں۔ اس موقع پر انجینئر داروخان اچکزئی نے سی سی پی آئی ٹی شوٹنگ پنگ، سی سی پی آئی ٹی تیان جن اور سی سی پی آئی ٹی ژن جیانگ کے ساتھ تین مفاہمتی یادداشت پر دستخط بھی کیے۔ صدر فیڈریشن نے کہا کہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ ایک میگا پراجیکٹ ہے جس کا مقصد غربت کے خاتمے، تجارت، سرمایہ کاری، اقتصادی ترقی کے فروغ، عالمی اور علاقائی تعاون ہے، سی پیک بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کا ایک اہم کوریڈور ہے جو خشکی میں گھرے ہوئے وسط ایشیا کو مڈل ایسٹ اور افریقہ کے ممالک کے ساتھ تجارت میں مدد دے گا۔ انہوں نے معلومات کے اشتراک، ٹیکنالوجی کی فراہمی اور صنعت کاری کی جدت پر بھی زور دیا۔



**Dunya News 27-04-19**

پاک چائنہ ایف ٹی اے، صنعتکاروں نے بے سود قرار دے دیا

چینی ایشیا پر 30 فیصد ڈیوٹی عائد، برآمدات 3، خسارہ 15 ارب ڈالر سے زائد، سعودی محمود

دوسرے مرحلے کے بعد کیا ڈیوٹی ختم ہو جائیگی، چیئر مین سب کمیٹی سائٹ ایسوسی ایشن

کراچی (بزنس رپورٹر) سائٹ صنعتی زون کے صنعتکاروں نے پاک چائنہ آزاد تجارتی معاہدے (ایف ٹی اے) پر تحفظات کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے ملکی برآمدات کو فروغ دینے کے حوالے سے ایف ٹی اے کو پہلے مرحلے کی طرح بے سود قرار دیدیا۔ گزشتہ روز سائٹ ایسوسی ایشن کی ٹیکسیشن وٹریڈ پالیسی سب کمیٹی کے چیئر مین سعود محمود نے ایک بیان میں کہا کہ چین دنیا بھر سے ہائی ٹیک ساز و سامان درآمد کرتا ہے جبکہ پاکستان ہائی ٹیک ساز و سامان نہیں بنا سکتا جس کی وجہ سے پاکستان سے صرف خام مال، زرعی اجناس، لائیو اسٹاک، معدنیات درآمد کرتا ہے جو کہ پہلے ہی صفر ڈیوٹی کے قریب ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان چین کے ساتھ آزاد تجارتی معاہدہ طے کرنے کے دوسرے مرحلے کی طرف جا رہا ہے لیکن پاکستان کو ایف ٹی اے کا کوئی فائدہ نہیں ہوگا۔ چین کے ساتھ پاکستان کا تجارتی خسارہ 15 ارب ڈالر سے زیادہ ہے۔ پاکستان سے کوئی بھی ویلیو ایڈڈ آئٹمز چین کو برآمد نہیں کیے جاتے جبکہ پاکستان کی چین کے لیے برآمدات صرف 3 ارب ڈالر تک محدود ہیں۔ چین کی اشیاء انتہائی سستی ہونے کی وجہ سے حکومت نے درآمدات پر 30 فیصد ریگولیٹری ڈیوٹی عائد کی تاکہ مقامی صنعتوں کو تباہی سے بچایا جاسکے۔ کیا ایف ٹی اے کے دوسرے مرحلے کے بعد ریگولیٹری ڈیوٹی ختم ہو جائے گی اور اگر ختم ہوئی تو ملکی صنعتیں تباہ ہو جائیں گی اور اگر ختم نہیں ہوئی تو ایسے ایف ٹی اے کا کوئی فائدہ نہیں ہوگا۔ ان تمام حقائق کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے چین کے ساتھ آزاد تجارتی معاہدہ کرنا بے کار ثابت ہوگا۔

**Dunya News 27-04-19****نیا پاکستان ہاؤسنگ اسکیم کیلئے چینی پلگ ان ٹیکنالوجی کی تجویز****نئی ٹیکنالوجی سے 24 گھنٹوں میں گھر بنایا جاسکتا ہے، پاک چین جوائنٹ چیمبر**

لاہور (نمائندہ دنیا) پاک چین جوائنٹ چیمبر نے پاکستان میں 50 لاکھ گھروں کی تعمیر کے ہدف کو پورا کرنے کیلئے چین کی پلگ ان ہاؤسنگ ٹیکنالوجی سے بھی استفادہ کرنے کی تجویز پیش کی ہے۔ پلگ ان ہاؤسنگ ٹیکنالوجی پر ایک بریفنگ کے دوران چینی ماہر تعمیرات جہزشین نے بتایا کہ چین میں گھروں کی تعمیر کے سلسلے میں پلگ ان ٹیکنالوجی بے حد مقبول ہو چکی ہے کیونکہ اس ٹیکنالوجی کے تحت بنے بنائے میٹریل کو جوڑ کر چوبیس گھنٹوں کے اندر اندر ایک گھر بنایا جاسکتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس نوعیت کے گھر معمولی تربیت یافتہ مقامی لیبر کی مدد سے با آسانی بنائے جاسکتے ہیں، کیونکہ ان کیلئے کسی بھاری مشینری یا بہت زیادہ ہنرمند لیبر کی ضرورت نہیں ہوتی، یہ ٹیکنالوجی بیجنگ سمیت چین کے بڑے شہروں میں نئے گھروں کی تعمیر کے علاوہ پرانے گھروں کی تزئین و آرائش کیلئے بھی استعمال کی جا رہی ہے۔ سیکرٹری جنرل صلاح الدین حنیف نے کہا کہ ہاؤسنگ پراجیکٹ کی تکمیل کیلئے جدید ترین ٹیکنالوجی کی ضرورت ہے۔



**Dunya News 28-04-19****چین پاکستان کو خلائی ٹیکنالوجی دیگا، معاہدہ پر دستخط**

**پاکستانی اور چینی خلا نوردوں کو مشترکہ طور پر اب خلائی مشن پر بھیجا جائے گا**  
**معاہدے کے تحت دونوں ممالک ملکر سائنسی اور ٹیکنیکی ترقی کے تجربات کریں گے**

بیجنگ (آئی این پی، این این آئی) پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان خلائی ٹیکنالوجی منتقلی کا معاہدہ ہو گیا، معاہدے کے تحت دونوں ممالک ملکر سائنسی اور ٹیکنیکی ترقی کے تجربات کریں گے جس سے پاکستانی خلا نوردوں کو خلا میں بھیجنے کی راہ ہموار ہو گئی ہے۔ پاکستانی اور چینی خلا نوردوں کو مشترکہ طور پر اب خلائی مشن پر بھیجا جائے گا اور چین پاکستان کی خلائی تحقیق میں مدد و تعاون فراہم کرے گا۔ چین کے خلائی تحقیق کے قومی ادارے سی این ایس اے کے جاری کردہ ایک بیان میں کہا گیا کہ معاہدے سے دونوں دوست ممالک کے درمیان تعاون کے ایک نئے دور کا آغاز ہو گا۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان طے پانہ والے معاہدے پر چین اور پاکستان کے خلائی تحقیق کے اداروں کے سربراہان نے دستخط کیے، معاہدے کے مطابق دونوں ممالک ملکر سائنسی اور ٹیکنیکی ترقی کے تجربات کریں گے اور خلا بازوں کی تربیت کیساتھ خلا نوردوں اور خلائی مشن کو خلا میں بھیجنے کے سلسلے میں مشترکہ طور پر تعاون کریں گے۔ چین کا خلائی تحقیقی ادارہ سی این ایس اے اور پاکستان کا خلائی تحقیقی ادارہ سپارکو، چین پاکستان سپیس کمیٹی تشکیل دیں گے، جس کی سربراہی خلائی اداروں کے سربراہان کریں گے۔ خیال رہے 9 جولائی کو پاکستان نے خلا اور ٹیکنالوجی کی دنیا میں اہم سنگ میل عبور کرتے ہوئے ملکی تاریخ میں پہلی بار چائنہ کی مدد سے تیار کردہ سیٹلائٹ PRSS-1 اور پاکستانی انجینئرز کا تیار کردہ سیٹلائٹ پاک ٹیس-1 اے خلا میں بھیجے تھے۔

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وزیر اعظم کا دورہ چین اور سی پیک کا اگلا مرحلہ

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا چار روزہ دورہ چین دو طرفہ تعلقات خاص طور پر پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے حوالے سے خاص اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ سی پیک جو دو ملکوں کے مابین ہی نہیں بلکہ دنیا کے دو حصوں کے درمیان اقتصادی راہداری کا ایک اہم ذریعہ بن کر سامنے آ رہا ہے اب عملی طور پر دوسرے مرحلے میں داخل ہوا چاہتا ہے۔ پہلا مرحلہ جو انفراسٹرکچر اور توانائی کے وسائل کی تعمیر پر مبنی تھا تکمیل کے قریب پہنچ چکا ہے اور خوش قسمتی سے یہ کہ دنیا کے اس حصے میں اقتصادی راہداری کا یہ اہم ترین منصوبہ مقررہ وقت اور منصوبہ بندی کے عین مطابق مکمل ہو رہا ہے۔ پاکستان کے طول و عرض میں پچھلے انفراسٹرکچر کے ان بڑے بڑے منصوبوں کا ناتمہ فریم کے مطابق مکمل ہونا بذات خود سی پیک کی کامیابی اور اس کے کلیدی شرائط داروں کی سنجیدگی کا ثبوت ہے۔ یہ سنجیدگی سی پیک کے شرائط کو نمایاں کرنے کا ایک ذریعہ ہے۔ اور اس سے امید پیدا ہو رہی ہے کہ اس نخطے کے دیگر کئی ممالک پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کا حصہ بن کر مستقبل کے ان اقتصادی مواقع سے فائدہ اٹھانے کی دوڑ میں شامل ہو چکے ہیں۔ سی پیک کا دوسرا مرحلہ صنعتی اور اقتصادی زونز پر مبنی ہے اور اب اس کی شروعات کا وقت ہے۔ ان پیشکش اکٹماک زونز کے لیے ملک کے مختلف حصوں میں نو مقامات منتخب کئے گئے ہیں۔ توقع کی جاتی ہے کہ سی پیک سے منسلک پیشکش اکٹماک زونز پاکستان میں صنعتکاری کے ایک نئے دور کا آغاز ثابت ہوں گے۔ عملی طور پر سی پیک کے شرائط ان اکٹماک زونز کی تعمیر پر منحصر ہیں کیونکہ شاہراہوں، پلوں اور انفراسٹرکچر کے دیگر منصوبوں کی تکمیل اس وقت تک اقتصادی طور پر بار آور نہیں ہو سکتی جب تک کہ ان کے ساتھ وسیع پیمانے کے صنعتی ڈھانچوں کو نہ جوڑا جائے۔ شاہراہوں کا یہ حال اسی صورت عوامی اقتصادی زندگیوں پر مثبت اثرات کا حامل ثابت ہوگا جب صنعتی سرگرمیاں فروغ پائیں گی، لوگوں کو روزگار اور ملک کو ریونیو حاصل ہونا شروع ہوگا۔ سی پیک کے اس مرحلے پر سماجی شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کا بھی عہدہ دیا گیا ہے۔ اطلاعات کے مطابق چین تعلیم، صحت، زراعت، نکاحی آب اور انسانی ترقی کے 27 منصوبوں پر ایک ارب ڈالر خرچ کرے گا۔ اس سرمایہ کاری کی ضرورت کو شدت سے محسوس کیا جاتا ہے اس کی وجہ یہ ہے کہ پاکستان میں اقتصادی راہداری کا بیشتر حصہ ان علاقوں میں ہے جو بحروی کے لحاظ سے ملک میں پست ترین سطح پر شمار ہوتے ہیں۔ بنیادی انسانی بہولتوں سے محروم ان علاقوں میں بین الاقوامی اہمیت کے اقتصادی منصوبوں کی کامیابی کے لیے لازمی ہے کہ زندگی کی لازمی ضروریات اور بہولیات فراہم کر کے ان محروم عوام کا اعتبار جیتا جائے۔ بین الاقوامی سطح کے اقتصادی منصوبوں کی کامیابی اس میں ہے کہ ان کا پرتو مقامی آبادی کی زندگی پر بھی نظر آئے۔ اگر یہ ہو جائے تو اقتصادی راہداری کے خلاف ہر قسم کے پروپیگنڈے کے سامنے یہ لوگ ڈھال بن جائیں گے۔ چین کی جانب سے اقتصادی راہداری سے بڑے سماجی ترقی کے منصوبوں میں پہلی ترجیح بلوچستان اور سندھ کے محروم علاقوں کو دینا ہوگی۔ بلوچستان کے محروم علاقے ان ترقیاتی منصوبوں کے سب سے بڑے حقدار ہیں کہ گوادریس جوسا گراں بہا منصوبے کا مرکزہ ہے آج بھی اس شہر کی آبادی پینے کے پانی جیسی بنیادی سہولت سے محروم ہے، دوسری سہولیات کا بھی یہی حال ہے؛ چنانچہ اس قسم کے حالات ڈشمنوں کو افواہیں پھیلانے اور پروپیگنڈا کرنے کا موقع دیتے ہیں اقتصادی سرگرمیاں جن کی تاب نہیں لاسکتیں۔ وزیر اعظم کے دور سے کے موقع پر چین کے ساتھ دوسرے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے پر بھی دستخط کئے گئے ہیں جس کے تحت چین نے پاکستان کی 313 مصنوعات کو ہر طرح کے ٹیکسوں سے استثنیٰ دیا ہے۔ چین کے ساتھ دوستی کو ہم ہمالیہ سے اونچی اور سمندر سے گہری قرار دیتے ہیں مگر چین کے ساتھ ہمارا تجارتی خسارہ ہمارے تعلقات کے لیے اکثر ایک چیلنج بن جاتا ہے۔ گزشتہ برس چین سے گیارہ ارب ڈالر سے زائد کا سامان درآمد کیا گیا جبکہ ڈیڑھ ارب ڈالر کے قریب مالیت کا سامان چین کو برآمد کیا گیا، یوں دو طرفہ تجارت میں پاکستان کا خسارہ نو ارب ڈالر سے زائد تھا۔ اس غیر معمولی حجم کے تجارتی خسارے کی بنا پر بھی پاک چین تعلقات کے ناقدرین کو باتیں بنانے کا موقع ملا۔ اب دوسرے فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ پر دستخطوں اور پاکستان کی مزید 313 مصنوعات کی ڈیوٹی فری ترسیل پاکستانی صنعتکاروں کیلئے چین کو برآمدات بڑھانے کا بہترین موقع ہے۔ ہمارے صنعتکاروں کے لیے یہ ایک بڑا چیلنج بھی ہے کہ وہ اس موقع سے کس طرح اور کس قدر فائدہ اٹھاتے ہیں۔ جہاں تک چین کے ساتھ تجارتی توازن کا تعلق ہے تو چینی صنعت کے حجم کے مقابلے میں پاکستانی صنعت کا حجم نہ ہونے کے برابر ہے اس لیے چین سے درآمدات کے برابر برآمدات کو موجودہ پاکستانی صنعتی پیداوار کے ساتھ ممکن نہیں؛ البتہ اس عدم توازن کو جس قدر کم کیا جاسکے دونوں ملکوں کے مفاد میں ہوگا؛ چنانچہ اب پاکستانی صنعتکاروں پر بھی بڑی ذمہ داری آن پڑی ہے جو متعلقہ کی دنیا میں معیار کی بہتری کے ذریعے مواقع سے فائدہ اٹھانے کی بجائے مجبور یوں اور مسائل کی شکایتوں کے عادی ہو چکے ہیں۔ پاکستانی صنعتکاروں کو اپنے چینی دوستوں سے سیکھنا ہوگا کہ مقابلے کی اس دنیا میں اپنا حصہ پانے کیلئے کس طرح محنت کے ساتھ آگے بڑھتے اور اپنی جگہ بناتے ہیں۔

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## 700 میگا واٹ کی بجلی گھر کی تعمیر کا پہلا قدم

کراچی اور چینی کمپنی میں معاہدہ، جدید ترین آئی پی پی بیسڈ پراجیکٹ سے کراچی کو براہ راست فائدہ پہنچے گا، مشیر تجارت، اسٹیک ہولڈرز سے مل کر کام کرینگے درخواست

کراچی میں بڑھتی ہوئی بجلی کی طلب کو پورا کرنے میں مدد ملے گی، ٹنگ چن پلانٹ کی تعمیر کا آغاز آئندہ مالی سال متوقع، منصوبہ مستقل سرمایہ کاری کی ایک کڑی، مونس علوی

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) کے الیکٹرک نے چائنا مشینری انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن (سی ایم ای سی) کے ساتھ ایک معاہدے پر دستخط کیے ہیں جس کے تحت پورٹ قاسم کراچی میں 700 میگا واٹ کے جدید ترین آئی پی پی بیسڈ پاور پراجیکٹ کی تعمیر کا کام کیا جائے گا۔ پراجیکٹ کا باضابطہ اعلان بیجنگ میں پاکستان ٹریڈ اینڈ انوسٹمنٹ فورم کے دوران کیا گیا۔ معاہدے پر کے الیکٹرک کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر مونس علوی اور سی ایم ای سی کے چیئرمین ٹنگ چن نے مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد کی موجودگی میں دستخط کیے۔ اس موقع پر مشیر تجارت نے کہا کہ مجھے یقین ہے کہ یہ مستقبل میں کی جانے والی مشترکہ کوششوں کی ایک کڑی ہے جس سے خطے میں خوشحالی آئے گی۔ پراجیکٹ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان اقتصادی تعاون میں سنگ میل ہے، اس سے پاکستان کے معاشی حب کراچی کو براہ راست فائدہ پہنچے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ملک کی صنعتی ترقی اور معاشی خوشحالی کیلئے بجلی کی مستحکم فراہمی کا نظام انتہائی ضروری ہے۔ اس موقع پر انہوں نے تمام اسٹیک ہولڈرز سے پراجیکٹ کی جلد تکمیل کیلئے مل کر کام کرنے کی درخواست کی تاکہ کراچی اور پاکستان کو اس سے زیادہ فوائد حاصل ہو سکیں۔ پراجیکٹ آئی پی پی موڈ پر مبنی ہے جس کے تحت کے الیکٹرک کو بجلی فراہم کی جائے گی۔ کے الیکٹرک اس پراجیکٹ کی ایکویٹی میں حصہ دار ہے جبکہ سی ایم ای سی ایکویٹی پارٹنر اور انجینئرنگ، پروکیورمنٹ اینڈ کنسٹرکشن کیلئے کنٹریکٹر بھی ہے۔ پاور پراجیکٹ کیلئے پاکستان کی پاور ریگولیٹری اتھارٹی کی جانب سے پاور ٹیرف کی پہلے ہی منظوری دی جا چکی ہے جبکہ کراچی کے علاقے پورٹ قاسم میں اس پراجیکٹ کیلئے زمین بھی حاصل کی جا چکی ہے۔ سی ایم ای سی کے چیئرمین ٹنگ چن نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری اور معاشی ترقی کے بے شمار مواقع موجود ہیں۔ انہوں نے اس پراجیکٹ میں شراکت داری پر مسرت کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے امید ظاہر کی کہ یہ کراچی کی بڑھتی ہوئی بجلی کی طلب کو پورا کرنے میں مددگار ثابت ہوگا۔ مونس علوی نے کہا کہ یہ پراجیکٹ شہر کے پاور انفراسٹرکچر کو مزید مستحکم بنانے کیلئے کے الیکٹرک کی جانب سے کی جانے والی مستقل سرمایہ کاری کی ایک کڑی ہے۔ اس پراجیکٹ کی بدولت کراچی میں معاشی سرگرمیوں کو فروغ ملے گا اور کے الیکٹرک کو اپنے طویل المیعاد عزم پر مزید ایک قدم آگے لے جائے گا، ہم بجلی کی پیداوار میں اضافے کے علاوہ کراچی کے ٹرانسمیشن اور ڈسٹری بیوشن نیٹ ورک کو مزید مستحکم بنانے کیلئے پر عزم ہیں۔ پلانٹ کی تعمیر کا آغاز آئندہ مالی سال کی پہلی سہ ماہی میں متوقع ہے۔



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### پاک چین معاہدہ سے برآمدات میں 6 ارب ڈالر اضافہ متوقع

اسٹیٹ بینک کم مارک اپ پر قرضوں کیلئے خصوصی ونڈو قائم کرے، لاہور چیئرمین

لاہور (نمائندہ دنیا) لاہور چیئرمین کے صدر الماس حیدر نے چین کے ساتھ فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ کا دوسرا مرحلہ طے ہونے پر حکومت کو مبارکباد پیش کی اور اسے پاکستان میں معاشی انقلاب کی شروعات قرار دیا ہے۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان، ان کے مشیروں اور گورنر اسٹیٹ بینک کو صدر لاہور چیئرمین کی جانب سے لکھے گئے خطوط میں انہوں نے کہا کہ اب یہ نجی شعبہ پر منحصر ہے کہ وہ کس طرح چینی مارکیٹ کی ضروریات کے مطابق مصنوعات تیار کر کے ڈیوٹی فری رسائی کے موقع سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھاتا ہے۔ دونوں دوست ممالک کے درمیان اس تاریخی معاہدے کے بعد پاکستان سے چین کو برآمدات میں چھ ارب ڈالر اضافہ متوقع ہے لیکن اس کیلئے پہلے پاکستان کو صنعتوں کی وسعت اور انفراسٹرکچر کی بہتری کیلئے تین ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری درکار ہوگی، انہوں نے کہا کہ سرمائے کی قلت صنعتوں کے بڑے مسائل میں سے ایک ہے، اسٹیٹ بینک بالخصوص انجینئرنگ اور فوڈ سیکٹرز کو کم سے کم مارک اپ پر قرضوں کی فراہمی کیلئے خصوصی ونڈو قائم کرے۔

**Dunya News 30-04-2019**

### اسپیشل اکنامک زون میں چینی سرمایہ کاری صنعتی ترقی میں اہم، وفاقی چیئرمین

پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان معاہدہ بزنس کمیونٹی کو مزید قریب لائے گا، دارو خان کراچی (بزنس رپورٹر) وفاقی چیئرمین کے صدر انجینئر دارو خان اچکزئی نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کو چین کے کامیاب دورے پر مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہوئے امید ظاہر کی کہ آنے والے وقت میں دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات مزید مستحکم ہوں گے۔ گزشتہ روز اپنے ایک بیان میں انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان کے اسپیشل اکنامک زون میں چین کی سرمایہ کاری پاکستان کی صنعتی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گی جس سے برآمدات کا حجم بھی بڑھے گا۔ دونوں ممالک کی حکومتوں کے درمیان مفاہمتی یادداشت پر دستخط بشمول ایف ٹی اے کا دوسرا مرحلہ دونوں ممالک کی بزنس کمیونٹی کو کاروباری معاملات میں مزید ایک دوسرے کے قریب لائیں گے۔ دارو خان اچکزئی نے وضاحت دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین نے فوری طور پر 313 ترقیاتی مصنوعات پر مخصوص ڈیوٹی ہٹانے پر اتفاق کر لیا ہے۔ پاکستان کی برآمدات میں ان 313 اشیاء کا حجم 8.7 ارب ڈالر جبکہ چین کی درآمدات میں حجم 64 ارب ڈالر ہے۔

## Dunya News 30-04-2019



سی پیک..... خوشحالی کا راستہ

نوازش علی رندھاوا لاہور

سی پیک پاکستان کی خوشحالی کا راستہ ہے پاکستان کی خوش قسمتی ہے کہ ہم چین کے شراکت دار ہیں، ون بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم سے جڑے ممالک کے درمیان تعلیمی اور جدید راہنما کو بڑھانا ہوگا، نوجوان آبادی ہنرمندی اور مہارت کے ذریعے عالمی معیشت کی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کر سکتی ہے؛ بیجنگ میں منعقدہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ گول میز کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا کہ جدید دور میں چین کا میانی کی عظیم مثال ہے، دونوں ممالک کے درمیان خصوصی اقتصادی زون قائم کئے جا رہے ہیں، موٹرویز ہائی ویز اور ریلوے کا نظام بہتر کیا جا رہا ہے، پاور پلانٹس اور خصوصی پورٹس کی تعمیر پر بھی کام جاری ہے، پاکستان بندرگاہ کے ذریعے خطے اور براعظموں کو آپس میں جوڑ رہا ہے، سی پیک محض ٹرانزیکشن نہیں بلکہ ہمارے پورے معاشرے کی تبدیلی کی علامت بن گیا ہے، گوادر بندرگاہ سے چین کو تجارت کیلئے آسان اور چھوٹا راستہ فراہم ہوگا۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم سے اپنے خطاب میں وزیراعظم عمران خان نے جن حقائق کی جانب عالمی برادری کی توجہ مبذول کرائی، ان کی اہمیت اور حقیقت اپنی جگہ یقیناً مسلم ہے۔ سی پیک کی تعمیر سے؛ اگرچہ بقول وزیراعظم عمران خان چین کو عالمی سطح پر تجارت کیلئے موجودہ طویل راستے کی جگہ چھوٹا اور کم فاصلے کا راستہ ملنے کے علاوہ گوادر بندرگاہ کی سہولیات بھی حاصل ہوں گی، تاہم یہ سہولیت یکطرفہ نہیں بلکہ انہی کی بدولت پاکستان کی اقتصادی حالت بہتر ہونے کے سبب پاکستان کا مستقبل بھی شاندار اور محفوظ ہوگا، سی پیک سے منسلک منصوبوں کی وجہ سے ملک میں بیروزگاری کا خاتمہ کرنے اور ہنرمندوں کو کھپانے میں مدد ملے گی، جبکہ گوادر بندرگاہ کی تعمیر اور فعال ہونے سے عالمی تجارت کو بھی فروغ ملے گا۔ سی پیک منصوبہ یقیناً پاکستان کی خوشحالی کیلئے نئے درکھولنے کا باعث بنے گا۔ یاد رہے کہ حال ہی میں وزیراعظم عمران خان کے دورہ ایران کے دوران ایرانی بندرگاہ چاہ بہار اور گوادر کو باہمی طور پر مربوط کرنے کی سوچ بھی پروان چڑھی اور اگر اس پر عملی طور پر عمل درآمد کیا گیا، تو یہ ایک اور سنگ میل ہوگا، جو جنوبی اور وسطی ایشیا کے ممالک کیلئے گیم چینجر ثابت ہوگا۔ یہ بات پہلے ہی سی پیک کے منصوبہ سازوں کے ذہن میں ہے اور اس پر ذرائع ابلاغ میں بحث و مباحثہ تبادلہ خیال اور تبصرے و تجزیے کئے جاتے رہے ہیں کہ اگر سی پیک کو وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں، افغانستان، ایران، بلکہ بھارت تک آنے والے دنوں میں توسیع دی جائے تو عالمی سطح پر تجارت کو نئی بلندیوں تک پہنچایا جاسکے گا۔ بد قسمتی سے بھارت اس ضمن میں امریکی شہ پر اس منصوبے سے استفادہ کرنے کے مواقع چھوڑ کر مخالفت پر اتر آ ہوا ہے اور اس ضمن میں اس نے گوادر کے مقابلے میں ایرانی بندرگاہ چاہ بہار میں اربوں ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری بھی شروع کی ہے، جبکہ اس کا مقصد جہاں ایک جانب گوادر بندرگاہ کی اہمیت گھٹانا ہے، وہیں دراصل خطے میں گھمبھوشن یا دیو قسم کے جاسوسی اور تخریبی ٹیٹ ورکس کو فعال بنا کر پاکستان کی خلاف معاندانہ سرگرمیاں تیز کرنا ہے، تاہم اللہ تعالیٰ کا احسان ہے کہ ماہرین کے مطابق؛ چاہ بہار بندرگاہ سمندر کے اندر جا کر قائم ہے، جبکہ گوادر سمندر کی عین گزرگاہ پر واقع ہونے کی وجہ سے اپنی ایک خاص اہمیت اور افادیت کی حامل ہے اور گوادر بندرگاہ فعال ہونے سے دنیا کی تجارت کا رخ اس کی جانب مڑ جانے کے قومی امکانات ہیں۔ خاص طور پر وسطی ایشیائی ریاستوں کیلئے گوادر سے منسلک سی پیک کا راستہ نہایت مختصر ہوگا، جبکہ چاہ بہار تک راستہ بھی نسبتاً طویل ہے، یوں ناصر چین، بلکہ دنیا کے دیگر ممالک کی تجارت بھی گوادر اور سی پیک پر منتقل ہو جائے گی اور یہی وہ صورتحال ہے جو نہ امریکا کیلئے قابل قبول ہے نہ ہی بھارت سے برداشت ہو رہی ہے؛ حالانکہ بھارت اگر اس سے چاہے تو استفادہ کر سکتا ہے۔



### Express News 17-04-2019

بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم اجلاس معاشی منصوبہ بھارت بائیکاٹ نہ کرے: چین

بیجنگ (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) چین نے بھارت کے سی پیک پر اعتراضات کو مسترد کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ مودی حکومت بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم کے اجلاس کے بائیکاٹ کے فیصلے پر جلد بازی کا مظاہرہ نہ کرے۔ بین الاقوامی خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق بیجنگ نے بھارت کے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری پر اعتراضات کو بہانہ بنا کر بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم کے ہونے والی دوسرے اجلاس میں شرکت سے انکار کے عمل کو بلا جواز قرار دیتے ہوئے بھارت کو جلد بازی میں فیصلہ کرنے سے باز رہنے کا کہا ہے۔ بھارت نے 2017 میں بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم کے پہلے اجلاس کا بائیکاٹ بھی کیا تھا۔ چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان لو کنگ کا میڈیا بریفنگ میں کہنا تھا کہ بی آر آئی ایک معاشی پروجیکٹ ہے جس میں جنوب ایشیائی، خلیجی ممالک اور یورپی ممالک ایک دوسرے سے منسلک ہو جائیں گے اور تجارتی فوائد حاصل کریں گے۔ اس پروجیکٹ کا کسی بھی زمینی تنازع یا ملکیت سے کچھ لینا دینا نہیں ہے اس لیے بھارت اپنی بے جا ضد چھوڑ دے۔

## Express News 18-04-2019

سرگودھا یونیورسٹی میں چینی زبان کے فروغ کیلئے سیمینار

چینی زبان کو بطور اختیاری مضمون نصاب کا حصہ بنایا جائے، چینی وفد کی تجویز

ڈاکٹر اشتیاق نے سی پیک کے پیش نظر پاکستان میں چائنہ سٹڈی کے فروغ کو اہم قرار دیا

سرگودھا (خبرنگار) سرگودھا یونیورسٹی میں پاکستان انسٹیٹیوٹ آف چائنہ سٹڈیز کے زیر اہتمام چائنہ سٹڈیز کو فروغ دینے کیلئے ان ہاؤس سیمینار کا انعقاد کیا گیا جس میں چین کے کنفیو شس انسٹیٹیوٹ سے آئے وفد نے شرکت کی، چینی وفد میں کنفیو شس انسٹیٹیوٹ پنجاب یونیورسٹی کے سربراہ پروفیسر لیو شین شنگ، زرعی یونیورسٹی فیصل آباد سے ڈاکٹر زو چن منگ، نمل اسلام آباد سے ڈاکٹر زیگ ڈاؤ جن، ڈائریکٹر مسٹر شاہین اور ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر مس وانگ سو جنگ شامل تھیں جبکہ اس موقع پر وائس چانسلر ڈاکٹر اشتیاق احمد، ڈائریکٹر پاکستان انسٹیٹیوٹ آف چائنہ سٹڈیز ڈاکٹر فضل الرحمن اور سینئر فیکلٹی ممبران موجود تھے۔ چینی وفد نے یہ تجویز پیش کی کہ سرگودھا یونیورسٹی چینی زبان کو بطور اختیاری مضمون اپنے نصاب کا حصہ بنائے، چین کی جامعات کیساتھ اشتراک کے ذریعے چینی زبان میں گریجویٹ اور انڈر گریجویٹ پروگرامز کا آغاز کرے اور طلبہ کو یہ موقع فراہم کیا جائے کہ وہ چار سے چھ سمسٹر جامعہ سرگودھا اور باقی سمسٹر چین کی کسی یونیورسٹی میں مکمل کر سکیں۔ وفد نے اس بات پر بھی زور دیا کہ سرگودھا کے زرعی خطہ میں جدت لانے کیلئے چینی ٹیکنالوجی کا استعمال بڑھایا جائے اور کسانوں کو جدید طریقہ کاشت کی تربیت فراہم کی جائے۔ ان ہاؤس سیمینار میں اس بات پر بھی اتفاق کیا گیا کہ سرگودھا یونیورسٹی میں کنفیو شس انسٹیٹیوٹ قائم کرنے کیلئے اقدامات کیے جائیں۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے ڈاکٹر زیگ ڈاؤ جن نے کہا کہ ہم پر امید ہیں کہ مستقبل قریب میں پاکستان انسٹیٹیوٹ آف چائنہ سٹڈیز ہونہار طلبہ کی ایسی کھیپ تیار کرنے کا عمل جاری رکھے گا جو چینی زبان، چینی ثقافت اور چین کے بارے میں درکار علم رکھتے ہوں۔ انہوں نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ چینی علم کا اردو میں اور اردو کے علم کا چینی زبان میں ترجمہ کیا جائے تاکہ دونوں ممالک کے لوگ ایک دوسرے کو سمجھ سکیں۔ ڈاکٹر فضل الرحمن نے چینی وفد کو انسٹیٹیوٹ کی جانب سے اب تک کیے جانے والے اقدامات، ترجیحات اور مستقبل کی پیش بندی کے بارے میں آگاہ کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سرگودھا یونیورسٹی کی جانب سے حال میں قائم کیے جانے والے پاکستان انسٹیٹیوٹ آف چائنہ سٹڈیز نے طلبہ کی چین کے بارے میں فہم و فراست بڑھا کر پاک چین دوستی کے فروغ میں اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے اور انسٹیٹیوٹ طلبہ کو بہتر علم و مہارتوں سے لیس کر رہا ہے تاکہ طلبہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کی وجہ سے پیدا ہونے والے مواقع سے صحیح طرح استفادہ کر سکیں۔ ڈاکٹر اشتیاق احمد نے علاقائی و بین الاقوامی سطح پر وقوع پذیر ہونے والی تبدیلیوں اور سی پیک منصوبہ کے پیش نظر پاکستان میں چائنہ سٹڈی کے فروغ کو اہم قرار دیا۔ انہوں نے چینی وفد کی تجاویز کو سراہا اور کہا کہ سرگودھا یونیورسٹی مشترکہ ڈگری پروگرام اور چینی زبان کو بطور اختیاری مضمون نصاب کا حصہ بنانے کیلئے تمام امکانات کا جائزہ لے گی۔ وائس چانسلر نے وفد کو بتایا کہ سرگودھا یونیورسٹی زرعی شعبہ میں جدت لانے کیلئے عملی اقدامات کو بروئے کار لارہی ہے اور اس ضمن میں چین کی مشہور زرعی جامعات و اداروں کے ساتھ معاہدات کیے گئے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سرگودھا یونیورسٹی صرف معاہدات ہی نہیں کرتی بلکہ ان معاہدات کے ہر ایک نقطہ پر عمل درآمد کرتے ہوئے نتائج سامنے لاتی ہے

### Express News 19-04-2019

10 برسوں میں 10 لاکھ ملازمتیں پیدا ہوں گی، صدر علوی

اقتصادی راہداری نے پاکستان کو عالمی تجارت و سرمایہ کاری کیلئے اہم مقام بنا دیا، وفد سے گفتگو

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی نے کہا ہے 10 برسوں میں 10 لاکھ ملازمتیں پیدا ہوں گی۔ انہوں نے این ڈی یو کے زیر اہتمام عالمی سی پیک ورکشاپ کے وفد سے ایوان صدر میں گفتگو کرتے کہا اقتصادی راہداری نے پاکستان کو عالمی تجارت و سرمایہ کاری کیلئے اہم مقام بنا دیا، خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کا قیام سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے یعنی صنعتی تعاون کا اہم جزو ہے جس کے لئے سرکاری و نجی اشتراک کار میں اضافہ کیا جانا چاہئے۔ انہوں نے کہا دس برسوں میں کم و بیش 10 لاکھ ملازمتیں پیدا ہوں گی، افرادی قوت کو اس ضمن میں تیار رہنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ صدر نے سی پیک ورکشاپ کے انعقاد پر تعریف کرتے ہوئے مستقبل میں ان کی کاوشوں کیلئے حمایت کی یقین دہانی کرائی۔

### Express News 20-04-2019

ایم ایل ون، ریلوے لائن، گوادر ایئر پورٹ سمیت 21 منصوبے، پاکستان سے 6 ارب ڈالر قرض کی واپسی 2024ء میں شروع ہوگی

دوستی کے نئے مرحلے میں داخل ہو چکے، متعدد مسائل کا سامنا ہے، ملکر مقابلہ کرنا ہے، سماجی و معاشی ترقی ہماری اولین ترجیح ہے

اسلام آباد (خالد محمود) پاکستان میں تعینات چینی سفیر ژاؤ جنگ نے کہا ہے سی پیک منصوبوں پر اب 19 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری ہوئی۔ انھوں نے "سی پیک 2015ء تا 2019ء کامیابیاں، مشکلات اور مستقبل" کے موضوع پر سیمینار سے خطاب میں کہاگزشتہ 4 برس اہم رہے، سی پیک نے تیزی سے ترقی کی، متعدد مسائل کا سامنا ہے، ملکر مقابلہ کرنا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان آئندہ ہفتے دوسرے بیلٹ روڈ سٹ میں شرکت کریں گے۔ سی پیک پر بہت تنقید ہوئی، نشتر چلے، سازشیں ہوئیں تاہم سی پیک کامیابی سے آگے بڑھ رہا ہے۔ پاک، چین سی پیک منصوبے پر قریبی تعاون رکھتے ہیں۔ چین، پاکستان کو اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے ہر ممکن وسائل فراہم کر رہا ہے، دونوں کے مابین 6 ورکنگ گروپس انتہائی منظم بنیاد پر قائم ہے۔ سی پیک میں محدود، وسط اور طویل مدتی منصوبے موجود ہیں۔ روایتی دوستی کے نئے مرحلے میں داخل ہو چکے۔ پاکستان، چین کی خارجہ پالیسی کا انتہائی ناگزیر حصہ ہے، دونوں نے ترقی و خوشحالی کے انقلابی خیالات کیساتھ ربط پیدا کر لیا، عوام کی سماجی و معاشی ترقی ہماری اولین ترجیح ہے۔ مجموعی طور پر 13 ارب ڈالر چین کے کمرشل بینکوں سے قرض ہے، چینی توانائی کمپنیوں نے 6 ارب ڈالر بینکوں سے قرض لیکر سرمایہ کاری کی، وہ بجلی کی فروخت سے قرض واپس کریں گی، پاکستان سے 6 ارب ڈالر قرض کی واپسی 2024ء میں شروع ہوگی۔ سی پیک میں ایم ایل ون، ریلوے لائن، گوادر ایئر پورٹ سمیت 21 منصوبے موجود ہیں۔ پاک، چین دوستی کی بنیاد باہمی احترام، انصاف، شفافیت، بہترین تعاون اور مشترکہ مستقبل ہے۔

## Express News 23-04-2019

اسے سبوتاژ کرنے والے عناصر ترقی کے دشمن ہیں، پاکستان اور چین جب چاہیں گے تب تیسرا ملک شامل ہو سکتا ہے، سود کے بغیر 6 ارب ڈالر قرض دیا  
 سی پیک، بی آر آئی کی کامیابی کیلئے افغانستان سمیت خطے میں امن اہم ہے، طالبان، امریکہ دوحہ مذاکرات کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہیں

اسلام آباد (خالد محمود) چینی سفیر ڈاؤننگ نے کہا ہے پاک، چین تجارت میں بڑا قدم توڑا ہے، تحریک انصاف کی حکومت آنے سے سی پیک پر کام کی رفتار کم نہیں ہوئی۔ انھوں نے ایک سڑک، ایک راستہ منصوبے کے متعلق معلومات دیتے ہوئے کہا 115 ممالک، تنظیموں کے ساتھ معاہدے ہوئے۔ سی پیک مشترکہ اور باہمی فوائد پر مبنی منصوبہ ہے، دو طرفہ تجارت چین کے حق میں ہے، جس وقت پاکستان اور چین مناسب سمجھیں گے، اسی وقت تیسرے ملک کو شامل کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ پاکستان میں کاروبار آسان بنانے کی کوششوں کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہیں، فوجی شعبے کو ترقی دینے میں مدد کریں گے۔ سی پیک کو سبوتاژ کرنے والے عناصر ترقی کے دشمن ہیں، پاکستان سی پیک ہی نہیں ہر لحاظ سے چین کیلئے اہم ترین اور شراکت دار ملک ہے، اس کی ترقی ہماری ترقی ہے۔ سیاسی، دفاعی، ثقافتی، کھیل، معاشی شعبہ میں تعاون بڑھا رہے ہیں۔ آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کے دوسرے مرحلے پر جلد کام مکمل ہونے چاہا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورے کے دوران آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کے دوسرے مرحلے پر بات ہوگی۔ فیصل آباد کے علاوہ رشتگی میں پہلا خصوصی اقتصادی زون قائم کیا جا رہا ہے، وہاں 20 صنعتیں مقامی شراکت داروں کے ساتھ مل کر لگائی جائیں گی۔ اسلام آباد میں ٹیکنالوجی زون قائم کیا جائے گا۔ پاکستانی منڈیوں میں چین کا حصہ 65 فیصد ہے، اگلے مرحلے میں پاک چین صنعتی تعلقات کو فروغ دیا جائے گا، مشترکہ منصوبوں پر کام کیا جائے گا۔ غربت کے خاتمے کیلئے 3 ماڈل ویلج قائم کرے گا۔ چین سماجی ترقی کے شعبے میں ایک ارب ڈالر خرچ کرے گا، زرعی شعبے میں بہتری کے لئے کاشتکاروں کو تربیت دی جائے گی، زراعت کی ترقی کے لئے تعاون بڑھایا جائے گا۔ نیویک کے ساتھ مل کر ہنرمندی کی تعلیم و تربیت دی جائے گی۔ پاکستانی طلباء کو تین برسوں میں 20 ہزار وظائف دیئے جائیں گے۔ افغانستان میں مقامی عمل کی کامیابی اہم ہے، افغانوں کے درمیان مذاکرات کے حامی ہیں، سی پیک اور بی آر آئی کی کامیابی کے لئے افغانستان سمیت خطے میں امن اہم ہے، طالبان، امریکہ دوحہ مذاکرات کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہیں۔ پچھلے پانچ برسوں میں سی پیک کے 22 منصوبوں پر کام کیا گیا۔ چین سی پیک منصوبوں پر 19 ارب ڈالر خرچ کر چکا، 13 ارب ڈالر کمرشل قرضے لئے گئے۔ سی پیک منصوبوں سے پاکستان پر چینی قرضے نہیں بڑھ رہے، چین نے 6 ارب ڈالر قرض دیا، جس پر سود صفر ہے۔ حکومتوں کے درمیان منصوبوں کے لئے رقوم رعایتی قرضوں پر فراہم کی جا رہی ہے۔ کراچی سرکلر ریلوے اہم منصوبہ ہے جس کے مالی پہلوؤں پر غور ہو رہا ہے۔ سی پیک میں شرکت کے لئے خطے کے دیگر ممالک کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہیں بھارت پر واضح کیا کہ سی پیک معاشی منصوبہ ہے، جس میں کوئی بھی ملک شریک ہو سکتا ہے، تیسرے ملک کی شمولیت پاکستان اور چین کیلئے فائدہ مند ہونی چاہئے۔

### Express News 23-04-2019

رواں مالی سال 2018-19ء کے اقتصادی سروے میں 2.54 بلین ڈالر قرض کی تفصیلات بھی شائع نہیں کی جائیں گی

اسلام آباد (شہباز رانا) حکومت نے بیرونی کمرشل قرضوں کو خفیہ رکھنے کے اصول کے تحت چینی قرضوں کی تفصیلات کو سامنے نہ لانے کا حتمی فیصلہ کر لیا ہے، اس فیصلے سے شفافیت کو مزید تقویت ملے گی۔ وزارت خزانہ کے مطابق تحریک انصاف کی حکومت کی طرف سے 2017-18 کے شائع کردہ اقتصادی سروے میں چین کی طرف سے ملنے والے 3.7 بلین ڈالر قرض کی تفصیلات کا ذکر نہیں کیا ہے۔ اس قرض میں سے چین کی طرف سے اب تک 2.2 بلین ڈالر کی رقم پاکستان وصول کر چکا ہے۔ اس صورتحال سے عندیہ ملتا ہے کہ حکومت رواں مالی سال 2018-19ء کے اقتصادی سروے میں 2.54 بلین ڈالر قرض کی تفصیلات بھی شائع نہیں کرے گی۔ چین کی طرف سے یہ رقم زر مبادلہ کے ذخائر کو مستحکم کرنے کیلئے پچھلے مہینے دی گئی تھی۔ چائنہ ڈیولپمنٹ بینک نے 2.24 بلین ڈالر کا شارٹ ٹرم قرضہ جبکہ انڈسٹریل اینڈ کمرشل بینک آف چائنہ نے 300 ملین ڈالر کا قرض مارچ کے مہینے میں پاکستان کو فراہم کیا تھا۔ مشیر برائے خزانہ ڈاکٹر عبدالحفیظ شیخ بجٹ پیش کرنے سے ایک روز قبل حکومت کارواں مالی سال کا اقتصادی سروے پیش کرینگے۔ وزارت خزانہ کے اقتصادی کونسلر ونگ کے ماہر معیشت اعجاز واسطی کے مطابق پاک چین معاہدہ میں شامل خفیہ شق کی وجہ سے اس بات کا امکان ہے کہ موجودہ حکومت بھی قرضوں کی تفصیلات سامنے نہیں لائے گی۔ ان کے مطابق یہ پہلی دفعہ ہے کہ کسی حکومت نے قرضوں کی تفصیلات سامنے نہ لانے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، جبکہ یہ تفصیلات پچھلی حکومت کے وزیر خزانہ ڈاکٹر مفتاح اسماعیل مئی 2018 میں پیش کئے گئے سروے میں پیش کر چکے ہیں۔ سابق وزیر خزانہ اسد عمر کی جانب سے پارلیمنٹ کو بیرونی قرضوں کی خفیہ شقوں کے بارے میں آگاہ کرنے کا فیصلہ حیران کن تھا۔ سال 2017-18 میں ان لیگ کی حکومت نے ایک سال کے دوران لئے جانیوالا ملکی تاریخ کا سب سے قرض 11.5 بلین ڈالر لیا۔ اس مالی سال کے دوران لئے گئے بیرونی قرضوں کی تفصیلات بھی سامنے نہیں لائی گئی تھیں۔ پاکستان اور آئی ایم ایف کے درمیان چینی قرضوں کی تفصیلات سے آگاہی نہ دینا بھی تک اہم مسئلہ ہے، آئی ایم ایف ان قرضوں کی تفصیلات کی فراہمی کے مطالبے سے دستبردار نہیں ہوا۔ آئی ایم ایف اسلئے تفصیلات سے آگاہ ہونا چاہتا ہے کیونکہ اسے خدشہ ہے کہ 2023ء تک پاکستان کا ٹوٹل قرض اسکی جی ڈی پی کا 83 فیصد کی بلند ترین سطح تک پہنچ جائیگا۔



### Express News 25-04-2019

پاک چین دوستی خارجہ پالیسی کا اہم ستون ہے، شاہ محمود قریشی

موجودہ صورتحال کے تناظر میں وزیراعظم کا دورہ چین انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل ہے، بیجنگ میں گفتگو

جاپان صحت، سکیورٹی ڈیولپمنٹ کیلئے پاکستان کو 49 ملین ڈالر امداد دیگا، معاہدے پر دستخط

بیجنگ (خبر ایجنسیاں) وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان چین دوستی ہماری خارجہ پالیسی کا اہم ستون ہے، دونوں ممالک خطہ میں تعمیر و ترقی کے ایجنڈے پر عمل پیرا ہیں۔ یہ بات انہوں نے بدھ کو بیجنگ میں اپنے چینی ہم منصب وانگ ڈی سے ملاقات کے دوران گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ اے پی پی کی مطابق ملاقات کے دوران دونوں وزراء خارجہ کے مابین خطہ میں امن و امان کی صورتحال اور کثیر الجہتی امور میں دوطرفہ تعاون پر گفتگو کی۔ اسکے علاوہ پاکستان چین تعلقات، سی پیک، خطہ کی سکیورٹی کی صورتحال بین الاقوامی امور اور افغانستان امن عمل پر بھی بات چیت ہوئی۔ وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ پاکستان چین دوستی ہماری خارجہ پالیسی کا اہم ستون ہے، اس وقت دونوں ممالک خطہ میں تعمیر و ترقی کے ایجنڈے پر عمل پیرا ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ موجودہ صورتحال کے تناظر میں وزیراعظم کا دورہ چین انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ قبل ازیں وزیر خارجہ مخدوم شاہ محمود قریشی جاپان کا تین روزہ دورہ مکمل کر چکے تھے۔ آئی این پی کی مطابق مزید برآں جاپان سماجی و اقتصادی ترقیاتی پروگرام کے تحت صحت اور سکیورٹی ڈیولپمنٹ کیلئے پاکستان کو 49 ملین ڈالر کی مالی امداد فراہم کریگا۔ معاہدے پر ٹوکیو میں دستخط کر دیئے گئے، اس موقع پر شاہ محمود قریشی اور ان کے جاپانی ہم منصب تارو کو نو بھی موجود تھے۔ مزید برآں آئی این پی کی مطابق ٹوکیو میں دورے کے اختتام پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا کہ یہ کسی بھی پاکستانی وزیر خارجہ کا 7 سال بعد جاپان کا پہلا دورہ ہے۔ جاپان دوسری جنگ عظیم کے بعد بڑی اقتصادی طاقت بن چکا ہے، جاپان اپنی صنعت دوسرے ممالک میں منتقل کرنا چاہتا ہے، ہم نے انہیں اپنی صنعتیں پاکستان میں لگانے کی دعوت دی ہے۔ وزیر خارجہ کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ جاپانی وزیر خارجہ کو منی لانڈرنگ کیخلاف اقدامات سے آگاہ کیا، پاکستان ذمہ دار جوہری طاقت ہے، ہمارے کوئی جارحانہ عزائم نہیں، دنیا اعتراف کرتی ہے کہ پاکستان کے ہتھیار محفوظ ہیں۔ وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ فوڈ پروسیسنگ انڈسٹری نہ ہونے سے زرعی آمدن متاثر ہو رہی ہے، جاپان ہماری 20 کروڑ آبادی کی فوڈ انڈسٹری سے فائدہ اٹھائے۔ انہوں نے کہا جاپانی قیادت سے ایف اے ٹی ایف پر تفصیلی بات چیت کے علاوہ پاکستان کو ایف اے ٹی ایف گریڈ لسٹ سے نکالنے پر بات ہوئی جبکہ جاپانی قیادت سے دہشتگردوں کی مالی معاونت روکنے پر بھی بات ہوئی۔



### Express News 25-04-2019

عثمان ڈار کی قیادت میں وفد چین پہنچ گیا، آل چائنہ یو تھ فیڈریشن کی صدر سے ملاقات  
بیجنگ (اے پی پی) وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی برائے امور نوجوانان عثمان ڈار کی قیادت میں وفد چین پہنچ گیا  
ہے۔ وفد نے آل چائنہ یو تھ فیڈریشن کی صدر سے بیجنگ میں ملاقات کی ہے جس کے دوران پاکستان اور چین  
کے درمیان یو تھ ایسوسی ایشن پروگرام پر اتفاق کیا گیا ہے۔

### Express News 26-04-2019

ایف بی آر کی چین کیساتھ آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے فیز ٹو کی مخالفت

تجارتی خسارہ بڑھ جائیگا، مقامی انڈسٹری و زرعی شعبہ متاثر ہوگا، جہانزیب خان

اسلام آباد (ارشاد انصاری سے) ایف بی آر نے وزارت تجارت کی جانب سے بغیر مشاورت چین کے ساتھ  
فائل کئے جانے والے آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے فیز ٹو کو ملکی معیشت کیلئے انتہائی نقصان دے قرار دیتے ہوئے شدید  
تحفظات کا اظہار کر دیا، اس معاہدے سے پہلے سال ریونیو کی مد میں ساٹھ ارب روپے سالانہ کا جبکہ دوسری اور  
تیسری کیٹیگری کے تحت چائینیز اشیاء کی درآمد پر ڈیوٹی و ٹیکسوں کی چھوٹ و رعایات دینے سے 264 ارب روپے  
کے ریونیو کا نقصان ہوگا۔ پاکستان کا تجارتی خسارہ بڑھ جائیگا اور مقامی انڈسٹری و زرعی شعبہ بری طرح متاثر ہوگا،  
ایف بی آر نے چین کیساتھ آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے فیز ٹو سے قبل معاہدے کے قلیل المعیاد، درمیانی مدت اور  
طویل المعیاد اثرات بارے تھرڈ پارٹی کاسٹ بینیفٹ اینالیسز کروانے اور تمام متعلقہ اسٹیک ہولڈرز سے مشاورت  
کرنے کی تجویز دیدی۔ اس ضمن میں چیئرمین فیڈرل بورڈ آف ریونیو جہانزیب خان نے چین کے ساتھ آزادانہ  
تجارتی معاہدے فیز ٹو کے حوالے سے شدید تحفظات پر مبنی دو صفحات کا لیٹر سیکرٹری تجارت احمد نواز سکھیرا کو بھجوا  
دیا ہے جس میں چین پاکستان آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدہ فیز ٹو بارے شدید تحفظات کا اظہار کیا گیا۔ لیٹر میں کہا گیا ہے  
کہ پاکستان کی جانب سے چین سے اشیاء کی درآمد پر پہلے مرحلے میں جن پینتالیس فیصد ٹیرف لائنز پر فوری ڈیوٹی  
و ٹیکسوں کی چھوٹ دی جا رہی ہے ان ٹیرف لائنز میں شامل اشیاء کی گذشتہ مالی سال 2017-18 کے دوران  
چین سے درآمد پاکستان کو ڈیوٹی و ٹیکسوں کی مد میں مجموعی طور پر 60 ارب روپے کا ریونیو حاصل ہوا ہے۔

### Express News 27-04-2019

ایف بی آر چین سے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے فیئر ٹوکا مخالف نہیں: وزارت کامرس، نمائندہ ایکسپریس خبر پر قائم اسلام آباد (خصوصی رپورٹر) وزارت تجارت نے چین کے سا آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے فیئر ٹوکا فیڈرل بورڈ آف ریونیو کی جانب سے مخالفت کی تردید کی ہے۔ وزارت تجارت کا کہنا ہے کہ ایف بی آر کی طرف سے چین کے ساتھ ایف بی آر کے ٹوکا مخالفت کی خبریں حقائق کے منافی ہیں تاہم نمائندہ ایکسپریس چین کے ساتھ دوسرے آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے پر ایف بی آر کے تحفظات بارے شائع کردہ خبر پر قائم ہے۔ چیئر مین ایف بی آر کی جانب سے سیکرٹری کامرس کو لکھے جانے والے دو صفحات پر مشتمل لیٹر کی کاپی بھی نمائندہ ایکسپریس کے پاس موجود ہے اس کاپی کے باوجود نمائندہ ایکسپریس نے سیکرٹری کامرس سردار احمد نواز سکھیرا کا موقف جاننے کیلئے انہیں وٹس ایپ پر کواٹری بھجوائی جس کا انہوں نے جواب نہ دیا۔ وزارت تجارت کے ترجمان نے خبر کے حوالے وضاحت میں کہا کہ وزارت تجارت نے اس معاہدہ کے ضمن میں سرکاری اور نجی شعبہ کے شراکت داروں کے ساتھ جامع مشاورت کی ہے۔ 2017ء میں صنعتی شعبہ کے ساتھ یکے بعد دیگرے مشاورتی اجلاس کئے جو کہ 2017ء اور 2018ء میں منعقد ہوئے، لاہور اور کراچی میں کئی سیمینارز بھی منعقد کروائے گئے جبکہ ایک سیمینار حال ہی میں 2019ء میں ہوا جن میں تمام متعلقہ شراکت داروں کو مدعو کیا گیا اور انہیں اس تجارتی معاہدہ کے ضمن میں اعتماد میں لیا گیا۔ ترجمان نے کہا کہ وزارت تجارت اس معاہدہ کی شرائط پاکستان کے حق میں طے کروانے میں کامیاب رہی، دوسرے فیئر میں صنعت سے متعلقہ تمام تحفظات کو حل کیا گیا ہے۔ تحفظ یافتہ فہرست 10 فیصد سے بڑھا کر 25 فیصد کر دی گئی۔ ادائیگیوں کے توازن میں مشکلات کی صورت میں معاہدہ میں ایک شق شامل کی گئی ہے، اپریل 2019ء میں منعقد ہونے والے 11 ویں دور میں چین نے پاکستان کی 313 زیادہ تر جاتی ٹیرف لائینز کو فوری طور پر ختم کرنے پر اتفاق کیا جو کہ پاکستان کی دنیا بھر میں کی جانے والی 8 ارب 70 کروڑ ڈالر کی برآمدات کا احاطہ کرتی ہیں، ٹیکسٹائلز و گارمنٹس، سی فوڈ، گوشت، تیار خوراک، چمچا، کیمیکلز، پلاسٹکس فٹ ویر، ٹیکسٹائلز، آٹو پارٹس، ہوم ایپلائنس وغیرہ تمام بڑی بڑی زرعی مصنوعات میں مقامی پیداوار اور ایشیا کو تحفظ فراہم کیا گیا ہے۔ تمام مذاکرات کے دوران ایف بی آر، ای ڈی بی، وزارت ٹیکسٹائل، این ٹی سی اور فوڈ سیکورٹی کے اعلیٰ نمائندے موجود تھے جنہیں اعتماد میں لیا گیا۔ جہاں تک خبر میں رعایتوں سے 60 ارب کے ریونیو میں نقصان کا تعلق ہے یہ حساب شمار یاتی اور سائٹ یفک بنیادوں پر نہیں بنایا گیا۔

### Express News 27-04-2019

سی پیک پاک چین سرسبز معاشی راہداری میں بدل دیئے گئے: امین اسلم

وزیر اعظم کا صاف پاکستان کا خواب منصوبے کے تمام رکن ممالک کیلئے مثال ہے، خطاب

اسلام آباد (خبر ایجنسیاں) وزیر اعظم کے مشیر برائے ماحولیاتی تبدیلی ملک امین اسلم نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم پاکستان کا صاف سرسبز پاکستان کا خواب نہ صرف ون بیلٹ ون روڈ کے وژن ماحول دوست آباد کاری کے متماثل سبز ہے بلکہ منصوبے کے تمام رکن ممالک کے لئے مثال کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے، آئیں سی پیک کو چین پاکستان سر انکناک کوریڈور میں بدل دیں، چین کا ماحول دوست آباد کاری یا ایکو سولائزیشن کا ماڈل نہ صرف کنفیو شزم، تاؤ مت اور بدھ مت کی تعلیمات کی روشنی میں ترتیب دیا گیا ہے بلکہ فطرت کے اصولوں کے بھی عین مطابق ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے بیجنگ میں ایک خطہ ایک شاہراہ فورم سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان گرین بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کولیشن کا حصہ بن چکا ہے جبکہ سی پیک کو گرین انیشی ایٹو کے پائلٹ پراجیکٹ کے طور پر سرانجام دے گا۔ انہوں نے ماحولیاتی تبدیلی کے بارے میں کہا ہے کہ شجر کاری، فاضل مواد کو ٹھکانے لگانا، نکاسی کا نظام، صحت اور صفائی اور پینے کے صاف پانی کی فراہمی صاف اور سبز پاکستان تحریک کے پانچ ستون ہیں۔



**Express News 28-04-2019**

## پاک چین آزاد تجارت کے دوسرے معاہدے پر آج دستخط کا امکان

وزیر اعظم عمران خان، چینی صدر شی جی پنگ اور اپنے چینی ہم منصب سے بیجنگ میں اہم ملاقات کریں گے پہلے معاہدے میں مزید وسعت سے تجارتی عدم توازن دور اور پاکستان کی برآمدات میں اضافہ ہوگا، قریشی کی گفتگو

بیجنگ (مانیٹرنگ ڈیسک) وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے کہا ہے کہ آج (تواری) پاک چین آزاد تجارت کے دوسرے معاہدے پر دستخط کیے جانے کا امکان ہے۔ آج ہی وزیر اعظم عمران خان چینی صدر شی جی پنگ اور اپنے چینی ہم منصب سے ملاقات کریں گے۔ ایک نجی ٹی وی سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ایک اہم معاہدے ایف ٹی اے ٹی او پر آج دستخط ہونے کا امکان ہے۔ یہ معاہدہ پہلے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان ہو چکا تھا۔ اس کو مزید وسعت دی گئی ہے اور اس میں ایسے اقدامات لیے گئے ہیں جس سے تجارتی عدم توازن دور ہو اور چین ایسی رعایت دے جس سے پاکستان کی چین کو برآمدات میں اضافہ ہو۔ علاوہ ازیں آئی این پی کی مطابق وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے نجی ٹی وی سے انٹرویو میں کہا کہ وزیر اعظم نے دورہ چین کے دوران اہم ملاقاتیں کیں، جس سے پاکستان کا عالمی سطح پر تہا ہونے کا تاثر ایک بار ختم ہو گیا۔ معاشی مسائل کے حل کے لئے آئی ایم ایف کے سربراہ سے بھی ملاقات ہوئی ہے۔ آئی ایم ایف کا وفد 29 اپریل کو پاکستان آئیگا۔



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رہنکی خصوصی اقتصادی زون کی ڈیولپمنٹ ایک اہم سنگ میل ثابت ہوگی، صنعتی تعاون اولین ترجیح ہے  
چیئر مین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ سے چین کی سی آئی پی اے کے ڈی جی کی ملاقات، دوطرفہ سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ پر  
اتفاق

اسلام آباد (خصوصی رپورٹر) سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیئر مین ہارون شریف نے کہا کہ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ پاکستان میں  
چینی دوستوں کی جانب سے کی جانے والی سرمایہ کاری کی حوصلہ افزائی کرتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بورڈ موجودہ 7  
مخصوص اقتصادی زونز کے علاوہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) منصوبے کے تحت ملک میں مزید  
خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کے قیام کی منصوبہ بندی کر رہا ہے۔ اس ضمن میں گذشتہ روز سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کی جانب سے  
جاری کردہ اعلامیے کے مطابق ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے چین کی انویسٹمنٹ پروموشن ایجنسی (سی آئی پی  
اے) کے ڈائریکٹر جنرل لو ڈیان ژن سے بیجنگ میں ہونے والی ملاقات میں کیا۔ اعلامیے کے مطابق اس موقع پر  
چیئر مین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ نے سی آئی پی اے کے ساتھ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کی مفاہمت کی یادداشت کی بحالی پر تبادلہ  
خیال کیا اور فریقین نے ترجیحی شعبہ جات بشمول انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی، ٹیکسٹائل اور زراعت پر مصنوعات کی تیاری  
وغیرہ میں سرمایہ کاری کے فروغ کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے دوطرفہ تعاون کے اٹھانے پر اتفاق کیا۔ ہارون شریف  
نے کہا کہ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ پاکستان میں چینی دوستوں کی جانب سے کی جانے والی سرمایہ کاری کی حوصلہ افزائی کرتا  
ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بورڈ موجودہ 7 مخصوص اقتصادی زونز کے علاوہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک)  
منصوبے کے تحت ملک میں مزید خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کے قیام کی منصوبہ بندی کر رہا ہے۔ چیئر مین سرمایہ کاری  
بورڈ نے کہا کہ رہنکی خصوصی اقتصادی زون کی ڈیولپمنٹ اس حوالے سے ایک اہم سنگ میل ثابت ہوگی جس  
سے سی پیک کے تحت صنعتی تعاون پر عملدرآمد کو یقینی بنانے کے پہلے ہدف کی جانب پیش قدمی کی جائے گی۔  
انہوں نے کہا کہ دوطرفہ صنعتی تعاون موجودہ حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہے جس کے تحت مخصوص اقتصادی زونز پر  
عملدرآمد کو رواں سال یقینی بنایا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کو مقامی اور غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کو  
سرمایہ کاری کی پختہ تجاویز موصول ہوئی ہیں جو پاکستان کے ترجیحی شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری پر دلچسپی رکھتے ہیں  
تاکہ زراعت پر مبنی فوڈ اینڈ بیوریج کی صنعت، ویلیو ایڈڈ ٹیکسٹائل، سیاحت و میزبانی، آئی ٹی، لائٹ انجینئرنگ اور  
لائسنس کے شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کی استعداد سے فائدہ حاصل کیا جاسکے۔ چیئر مین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ نے  
بتایا کہ پاکستان نے ملک میں غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کی سہولتوں کے عمل کو مزید آسان بنانے کے لیے اصلاحات  
متعارف کرائی ہیں۔ 2020ء تک ہم کاروباری آسانیاں پیدا کر کے دنیا کی 100 بڑی معیشتوں میں شامل ہونے  
کا عزم رکھتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ نے سرمایہ کاروں کو پاکستان میں اپنے منصوبہ جات کے لیے  
معاونت فراہم کرنے کے حوالے سے ایک خصوصی یونٹ قائم کیا ہے۔

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ایم ایل ون: پشاور تا کراچی ٹریک اپ گریڈ ہوگا، لاگت 8.2 ارب ڈالر

پانچ سال میں مکمل ہوگا، ٹرین کی اوسط سپیڈ 120 سے 160 کلومیٹر فی گھنٹہ ہو جائیگی

ٹرین راولپنڈی سے کراچی 10 گھنٹے میں پہنچے گی، لاہور پنڈی فاص لہاڑھائی گھنٹے کا رہ جائیگا

لاہور (اپنے نمائندے سے) پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ایم ایل ون (پشاور-کراچی) منصوبے پر 8.2 ارب ڈالر لاگت آئیگی، پہلے مرحلے میں پاکستان کی وزارت ریلوے اور چین کی نیشنل ریلوے ایڈمنسٹریشن ایم ایل ون منصوبے پر تعمیراتی کام شروع کریں گے، منصوبے کی حتمی تعمیراتی لاگت طے کی جائیگی اور اس کی فنائنگ کے حوالے سے دستیاب وسائل اور آپشنز پر حتمی معاہدے کیے جائیں گے۔ اتوار کو معاہدے پر پاکستان کی طرف سے وزیر ریلوے شیخ رشید احمد جبکہ چین کی طرف سے پاکستان میں چینی سفیر یاؤ جینگ نے دستخط کئے۔ پشاور-کراچی ایم ایل ون منصوبہ اگلے پانچ سال میں مکمل ہوگا جس کے تحت پشاور اور کراچی کے درمیان 1872 کلومیٹر طویل ٹریک کو اپ گریڈ کیا جائیگا۔ ریل ٹریل کی فی ننگ سمیت پل اور کراکنگز بھی بنائی جائیں گی۔ منصوبے کی تکمیل سے ٹرین کی اوسط سپیڈ 120 سے 160 کلومیٹر فی گھنٹہ ہو جائیگی۔ ابھی یہ سپیڈ اوسطاً 60 کلومیٹر فی گھنٹہ ہے۔ مسافر ٹرین راولپنڈی سے کراچی ریلوے اسٹیشن 10 گھنٹوں میں پہنچے گی۔ راولپنڈی سے ٹرین صرف اڑھائی گھنٹے میں لاہور پہنچے گی۔ ایم ایل ون منصوبے سے ٹرینوں کی تعداد دو گنی ہو جائیگی۔ فریٹ سٹیر 20 فیصد ہو جائیگا جو آج صرف 4 فیصد سے بھی کم ہے۔ پاکستان کی معاشی صورتحال اور دیگر منصوبوں پر ایلو کیشن کی وجہ سے ایم ایل ون منصوبے کو مرحلہ وار 3 فیز میں مکمل کرنے کا منصوبہ بنایا گیا ہے۔ حالیہ معاہدہ اس سلسلہ میں پہلے فیز کے لئے ہے۔ مکمل منصوبے کی ابتدائی لاگت تقریباً 8.2 ارب امریکی ڈالر ہے جسے 3 فیز میں مکمل کیا جائیگا۔ اس منصوبے کی حتمی لاگت جون سے پہلے طے کر لی جائیگی تاکہ آئندہ بجٹ میں فیرون کے لئے رقم مختص کر لی جائے۔ حالیہ معاہدے کے تحت پہلے مرحلے میں 52 کلومیٹر لمبے کلوال۔ پنڈورہ سیکشن کو سیدھا کیا جائیگا۔ اس سیکشن پر دوسری لائنیں بھی بچھائی جائیگی۔ 183 کلومیٹر طویل نوابشاہ۔ روہڑی سیکشن کو اپ گریڈ کیا جائیگا۔ لاہور اور ملتان سیکشن میں ٹریک کو اپ گریڈ کر کے سپیڈ کو 120 کلومیٹر فی گھنٹہ لایا جائیگا۔ راولپنڈی۔ پشاور کے درمیان ایک 160 کلومیٹر سیکشن کو اپ گریڈ کیا جائیگا اور دوسری ریل لائنیں بچھائی جائیگی۔ والٹن ریلوے اکائی کو اپ گریڈ کیا جائیگا۔ پاکستان ریلوے گوارڈ، کوسٹ، تفتان ایم ایل تھری اور ایم ایل ٹو کے ٹینڈر پہلے ہی جاری کر چکا ہے۔ یہ منصوبے ب لڈ، آپریٹ اور ٹرانسفر فار مولے پر تعمیر کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ صرف ایم ایل ون منصوبے سے 20 ہزار ڈائریکٹ اور ڈیزھ لاکھ ان ڈائریکٹ نوکریاں دستیاب ہوں گی۔

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پاکستان اور چینی کمپنیوں میں مفاہمت کی 14 نئی یادداشتوں پر دستخط

وزیر اعظم سے ہوا سے، ریڈیو ایگری ٹیک، چینج اپارل، فوٹون کارز کے چیف ایگزیکٹو کی ملاقات

چینی سرکردہ کاروباری شخصیات نے بڑے پیمانے پر سرمایہ کاری کی یقین دہانی کرائی، ہارون شریف

اسلام آباد (اپنے سٹاف رپورٹر سے) وزیر اعظم عمران خان سے سرکردہ چینی کاروباری شخصیات نے ملاقات کی اور پاکستان میں بڑے پیمانے پر نجی شعبہ میں سرمایہ کاری کی یقین دہانی کروائی، پاکستان اور چینی کمپنیوں کے درمیان 14 نئی مفاہمت کی یادداشتوں پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ سرکاری اعلیٰ عہدے کے مطابق وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے دنیا کی بڑی کمپنی ہوا سے کے چیف ایگزیکٹو سے بھی ملاقات کی، کمپنی کے بانی نے انہیں یقین دہانی کرائی کہ وہ پاکستان میں بڑی سرمایہ کاری توسیع منصوبہ رکھتے ہیں۔ کمپنی پہلے ہی پاکستان میں علاقائی سروس سنٹر قائم کر چکی ہے جس میں 600 سے زائد آئی ٹی پروفیشنلز کام کر رہے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم نے ریڈیو ایگری ٹیک گروپ، چینج اپارل، لی اینڈ فن کارپوریشن اور فوٹون کارز کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفسران سے بھی ملاقاتیں کیں۔ اس موقع پر وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے بتایا کہ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ براہ راست نہیں جوابدہ ہے اور وہ چاہتے ہیں کہ سرمایہ کاری کے راستے میں موجودہ تمام رکاوٹیں فوری طور پر ختم کی جائیں۔ انہوں نے سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیئرمین کو ہدایت کی کہ چینی کمپنیوں کو ترجیحی بنیادوں پر سہولیات کی فراہمی یقینی بنائی جائے۔ وزیر اعظم کے مشیر برائے تجارت و انڈسٹری عبدالرزاق داؤد و چیئرمین سرمایہ کاری بورڈ ہارون شریف نے ان ملاقاتوں میں وزیر اعظم کی معاونت کی۔ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیئرمین ہارون شریف نے بتایا کہ پاکستان میں چینی کی نجی سرمایہ کاری میں تیزی سے اضافہ ہو رہا ہے جس کا نتیجہ ٹیکنالوجی کی منتقلی اور برآمدات میں اضافے کی صورت میں نکلے گا۔ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیئرمین ہارون شریف نے اورینٹ گروپ، سنو فارم اور چینج اپارل کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفسران سے بھی ملاقات کی۔ وزیر اعظم کے اس دورہ کے موقع پر مختلف شعبہ جات میں تعاون کے لئے ایم او یو پر بھی دستخط کیے۔ یہ ایم او یو چائینہ ریلوے کنسٹرکشن کارپوریشن (انٹرنیشنل) لمیٹڈ سے ریلوے کارگو بزنس پر جبکہ حکومت پاکستان اور چائینہ اور سیز پورٹ ہولڈنگ کمپنی لمیٹڈ کے ساتھ کلین گریں موومنٹ پاکستان کے ضمن میں مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ پاکستان میں پہلے کاؤ سنٹر کے قیام کے لئے فنڈس کے لئے ایم او یو اور ہوا سے ٹیکنالوجی اور ارننگ کیونٹیکشن کے ساتھ میڈیا انڈسٹری میں تعاون کے لئے ایم او یو پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ ایم اینڈ ڈی فلمز پاکستان اور فائر انٹرنیشنل میڈیا چین کے درمیان فلم پروڈکشن کے لئے ایم او یو پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ ایم اینڈ ڈی فلمز پاکستان معاہدہ کیا گیا۔ چائینہ پاک انرجی انویسٹمنٹ کمپنی لمیٹڈ اور سینو ہائیڈرو کارپوریشن لمیٹڈ اور خیبر پختونخوا حکومت کے پی ای ڈی او میں چترال میں 350 میگا واٹ کے طورن مور کری ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ کے علاوہ 1320 میگا واٹ کے تھر کول پاور پراجیکٹ پر بھی چینی کمپنیوں کے ساتھ مفاہمت کے معاہدوں پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ اس کے علاوہ قابل تجدید توانائی میں تعاون کے حوالے سے پاور چائینہ انٹرنیشنل گروپ لمیٹڈ اور اٹلس پاور لمیٹڈ کے ساتھ معاہدے کیے گئے۔ سان پینگ گروپ کے ساتھ مل کر پاکستان میں صنعتی زونز کی ترقی کے لئے بھی مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ کنگ ڈاسٹی میں ایگری پلیٹ فارم کے قیام کیلئے مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ چائینہ مشینری انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن اور حکومت بلوچستان کے درمیان جدید ایگری کلتچر جامع ترقی کے منصوبے کے لئے مالیاتی معاہدے پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ تھر بلاک ٹو میں 330 میگا واٹ کے منصوبے کے لئے حکم اور تھل نووا کے درمیان معاہدہ ہوا۔ کے الیکٹرک کے ساتھ کولے سے چلنے والے 700 میگا واٹ کے بجلی کے منصوبے میں شراکت داری کے لئے جوائنٹ اینڈوینچر کے لئے ایم او یو پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ اس کے علاوہ فاطمہ گروپ کمپنی لمیٹڈ، سی آر بی سی اور خیبر پختونخوا اقتصاد زون ڈیولپمنٹ و مینجمنٹ کمپنی پاکستان کے ساتھ جدید زرعی ترقی کے منصوبوں کے لئے مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کیے گئے۔

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وزیراعظم عمران خان کا چین میں خطاب

وزیراعظم عمران خان نے چین کے دورے کے موقع پر بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ گول میز کانفرنس سے خطاب کے علاوہ بہت سے غیر ملکی سربراہان سے ملاقات کی۔ انہوں نے جہاں چین کی ترقی اور لوگوں کے معیار زندگی بہتر ہونے کی تعریف و توصیف کی وہاں چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان ریلوے کے معاہدے ایم ایل ون پر بھی دستخط ہوئے۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان اور چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کے درمیان ملاقات میں دو طرفہ تعلقات اقتصادی و تجارتی معاملات سمیت اہم امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ دوسرے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ گول میز کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا کہ سی پیک پاکستان کی خوشحالی کا راستہ ہے، پاکستان کی خوش قسمتی ہے کہ ہم چین کے شرکاء کو دے رہے ہیں، بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم سے جڑے ممالک کے درمیان تعلیمی اور جدید ریلوں کو بڑھانا ہوگا، نوجوان آبادی ہنرمندی اور مہارت کے ذریعے عالمی معیشت کی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کر سکتی ہے۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان خصوصی اقتصادی زون قائم کرنے جا رہے ہیں، موٹروے، ہائی ویز اور ریلوے کا نظام بہتر کیا جا رہا ہے، پاور پلانٹس اور خصوصی پورٹس کی تعمیر پر بھی کام جاری ہے، پاکستان گوادر بندرگاہ کے ذریعے خطے اور براعظموں کو آپس میں جوڑ رہا ہے، سی پیک محض ٹرانزیکشن نہیں بلکہ ہمارے پورے معاشرے کی تبدیلی کی علامت بن گیا ہے، گوادر بندرگاہ سے چین کو تجارت کے لئے آسان اور چھوٹا راستہ فراہم ہوگا، چینی کمپنیوں کی لاگت کم ہوگی اور مغربی چین کی ترقی میں بھی مددگار ثابت ہوگا۔

پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات دفاعی تعاون تک محدود نہیں رہے بلکہ اب یہ ریلوے، سڑک، توانائی، گوادر بندرگاہ اور خصوصی پورٹس کی تعمیر سمیت زندگی کے دیگر شعبوں تک پھیل گئے ہیں اس طرح وقت گزرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات مضبوط سے مضبوط تر ہوتے چلے جا رہے ہیں۔ اگر حقیقت حال کا جائزہ لیا جائے تو کسی بھی براہ راست اسلامی ملک کے مقابل پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات زیادہ مضبوط ہو چکے ہیں۔ اس امر میں کوئی شبہ نہیں کہ چین نے جدید دور میں کامیابی کی عظیم مثال قائم کی ہے اس کی پائیدار معیشت و معاشرتی ترقی سے کروڑوں لوگوں کا معیار زندگی بہتر ہوا ہے، چین کی ترقی نے یورپ اور امریکہ کی صنعتوں اور معاشی سرگرمیوں کو بھی متاثر کیا ہے، یورپ اور امریکہ کے بڑے بڑے سٹورز پر چینی مال بکثرت نظر آتا ہے۔ عالمی اداروں کی رپورٹس کے مطابق چند عشروں بعد چین کے دنیا کی سب سے بڑی معاشی قوت بننے کے امکانات بہت روشن ہیں، لہذا امریکہ جو اس وقت واحد سپر پاور ہے اس کی تیزی سے بڑھتی ہوئی معاشی، عسکری، سائنسی، خلائی اور تجارتی ترقی سے خائف دکھائی دیتا ہے، وہ ہے کہ وہ چین کا راستہ روکنے کے لئے مختلف اقدامات کر رہا ہے خاص طور پر اس کے بھارت کے ساتھ مختلف شعبوں میں تیزی سے بڑھتے ہوئے تعلقات چین کا راستہ روکنا پالیسی کا حصہ ہیں۔ پاکستان مختلف شعبوں میں ترقی کے لئے چین سے اپنے تعلقات مضبوط بنا کر درست جانب قدم اٹھا رہا ہے۔ گول میز کانفرنس سے خطاب کے موقع پر وزیراعظم عمران خان نے عالمی رہنماؤں کو بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم سے متعلق 4 تجاویز بھی پیش کیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم سے مستفید ہونے کے لئے مختلف باتوں پر غور کرنا ہوگا۔ کاروباری مواقع سے متعلق معلومات کے تبادلے کے لئے ڈیجیٹل ریلوں کا فروغ ضروری ہے، سیاحت کے فروغ کے لئے ثقافتی روابط بڑھانے ہوں گے، ان ریلوں کے ذریعے چھوٹے کاروبار اور روزگار میں اضافہ ممکن ہے، ہنرمند افراد کے تبادلے سے سکل شیئرنگ کا نظام مضبوط اور موثر ہوگا، بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم سے جڑے ممالک کے درمیان تعلیمی اور جدید ریلوں کو بڑھانا ہوگا، نوجوان آبادی ہنرمندی اور مہارت کے ذریعے عالمی معیشت کی ترقی میں اہم کردار ادا کر سکتی ہے۔ چینی قیادت کی تعریف کرتے ہوئے عمران خان نے کہا کہ چین نے مسلسل ترقی کو فروغ دے کر معاشرے کو تبدیل کر دیا۔ گوادر کی بندرگاہ چین کے لئے بہت اہمیت کی حامل ہے، وزیراعظم عمران خان نے مستقبل میں گوادر کی بندرگاہ کی اہمیت پر روشنی ڈالتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس بندرگاہ کو چین کے علاقے ژنگ جیانگ کے ساتھ ملانے سے چین کو اپنی درآمدات کے لئے مغربی چین کے سمندروں کے مقابلے میں ایک مختصر ترین بحری راستہ دستیاب ہوگا جس سے چینی کمپنیوں کے اخراجات میں کمی اور مغربی چین کی ترقی میں بھی مدد ملے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ باہمی ریلوں میں مزید اضافہ اور بی آر آئی کے فوائد سے زیادہ سے زیادہ استفادے کے لیے ہم مستقبل میں مزید شعبوں پر توجہ دیں گے۔ جس طرح معاشی میدان میں چین اور پاکستان کے تعلقات مضبوط ہو رہے ہیں وہ اس امر کے مظہر ہے کہ پاکستان کا مستقبل روشن ہے یہاں روزگار کے وسیع مواقع پیدا ہونے سے ترقی اور خوشحالی کے نئے درواہوں گے۔

## Express News 30-04-2019

### پاک چین آزاد تجارتی معاہدے

پاکستان اور چین باہمی تجارتی تعلقات کو مضبوط سے مضبوط تر بنانے کے لئے تاریخ کے نئے دور میں داخل ہو گئے ہیں، دونوں ممالک کے درمیان طے پانے والے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کے تحت پاکستان کو 313 مصنوعات کی برآمد پر ڈیوٹی فری رسائی حاصل ہوگی، اس معاہدے سے پاکستان کے لئے تجارت کو فروغ دینے کے نئے دروازہ کھل گئے ہیں اور اسے آسیان ممالک کی طرز پر رعایت میسر ہوگی، پاکستان کی 90 فیصد برآمدات کی چین کو ڈیوٹی فری رسائی ممکن ہو جائے گی۔ اتوار کے روز بیجنگ میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان اور چینی صدر شی جن پنگ اور چینی وزیر اعظم لی کی چیانگ کے درمیان ہونے والی ملاقات کے بعد معاہدوں پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ وزیر اعظم کے مشیر برائے تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد نے میڈیا سے بات کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین نے 75 فیصد صرف لائسنز کی ڈیوٹی فری رسائی پر اتفاق کیا ہے، پاکستان کی چین کے لئے برآمدات پانچ سال میں ساڑھے چھ ارب ڈالر تک بڑھنے کی توقع ہے، آزاد تجارتی معاہدے سے پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے دروازے کھلیں گے۔

پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان نئے تجارتی معاہدوں کا طے پانا خوش آئند ہے اس سے پاکستان کی صنعت کو بڑا سہارا ملے گا اور روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے، چین کا آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے کے تحت پاکستان کو بڑے پیمانے پر رعایتیں دینا اس امر کا مظہر ہے کہ وہ پاکستان کو معاشی بحران سے نکال کر ترقی کی راہ پر گامزن کرنا چاہتا ہے۔ عبدالرزاق داؤد کا کہنا ہے کہ ڈیوٹی کی چھوٹ صرف ٹیکسٹائل مصنوعات تک محدود نہیں بلکہ کیمیکل، انجینئرنگ، فوڈ آئٹمز، فٹ ویئر، پلاسٹک کی مصنوعات، فرنیچر، ایئر اور بہت سی دیگر اشیاں میں شامل ہیں۔ حکام 1700 وزارت تجارت کا کہنا ہے کہ آزاد تجارتی معاہدے میں مقامی صنعت کو تحفظ دیا گیا ہے جبکہ چین کی مصنوعات کو حساس لسٹ میں رکھا گیا ہے، پاکستان کو ڈیوٹی فری رسائی دینے والی اشیاں چین میں سالانہ درآمد 40 ارب ڈالر تک ہے، پاکستان کی چین کیلئے برآمدات 5 سال میں ساڑھے 16 ارب ڈالر تک بڑھنے کی توقع ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان ریلوے کے معاہدے ایم ایل ون اور ایم ایل ٹو پر بھی دستخط کیے گئے۔ اس منصوبے پر گذشتہ تیرہ سال سے کام جاری تھا اور بالآخر دونوں ممالک کا اس پر اتفاق ہو گیا۔ منصوبے کے تحت پشاور سے کراچی تک ڈبل ٹریک بنایا جائے، پہلے مرحلے میں 180 کلومیٹر تک ٹریک ڈبل ہوگا جبکہ دوسرے مرحلے میں 800 کلومیٹر تک ڈبل کیا جائے گا۔ وزیر ریلوے شیخ رشید نے کہا کہ نئے ٹریک پر ٹرین کی سپیڈ کم از کم 160 کلومیٹر فی گھنٹہ ہوگی۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی اپنے چینی ہم منصب لی کی چیانگ سے ملاقات کے دوران دونوں ممالک کی باہمی تجارت بڑھانے اور تعلقات کو نئی وسعتوں تک لے جانے پر گفتگو ہوئی۔ پاکستان اور چین نے اقتصادی اور تکنیکی تعاون کے معاہدے سمیت رکنی مخصوص اقتصادی زون کے مشترکہ منصوبے اور کے پی ای زیڈ ایم ڈی سی اور سی آر پی سی کے درمیان لائسنس کے معاہدے پر بھی دستخط کیے ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان جس طرح بڑے پیمانے پر تجارتی تعلقات کو فروغ دیا جا رہا ہے اس سے امید ہے کہ مستقبل میں بھی باہمی تعاون اور شراکت داری کو ہر سطح پر مزید وسعت دی جائے گی۔ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے ساتھ بیجنگ میں ہونے والی ملاقات میں کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان نے ایک دوسرے کے مفادات کا ہمیشہ احترام کیا ہے اور باہمی حمایت کی پالیسی پر کاربند رہے ہیں، دنیا اور خطے میں حالات جو بھی ہوں چین ہمیشہ پاکستان کی قومی اقتدار اعلیٰ اور قومی احترام کی حمایت کی پالیسی جاری رکھے گا، چین پاکستان کی جانب سے اپنی ترقی کی پالیسیوں، دہشگردی اور شدت پسند قوتوں کے خلاف پالیسی کی حمایت کرتا ہے جو کہ بین الاقوامی اور خطے کے سیوریٹی ماحول کیلئے بھی اہم ہے، پاکستان نے بین الاقوامی اور علاقائی امور میں مثبت کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تجارتی اور مالی تعاون سے متعلق صدر شی نے کہا کہ انہیں امید ہے کہ دونوں ممالک بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ پروگرام کے تحت تعاون جاری رکھیں گے۔ اطلاعات کے مطابق امریکہ اور بھارت بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے میں توسیع سے خائف دکھائی دے رہے ہیں کیونکہ یہ دونوں ممالک پاکستان اور چین کے اس قدر مضبوط ہوتے ہوئے تعلقات کے حامی نہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کو بھی خطے اور عالمی سطح پر ہونے والی تبدیلیوں کا بخوبی ادراک ہے لہذا وہ مستقبل پر گہری نظر رکھے اپنے مفادات کو ترجیح دے رہے ہیں۔ اب یہ پاکستانی حکومت اور سرمایہ کاروں پر منحصر ہے کہ وہ چین کے ساتھ ہونے والے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے سے کس قدر ہوتے ہیں، پاکستانی سرمایہ کاروں کو اپنے مال کی کوالٹی اور اس کی بروقت سپلائی پر بھی توجہ دینا ہوگی۔



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نیپالک مندرلیک سلسلے میں وزیراعلیٰ پنجاب نے وزیراعلیٰ لاہور (خصوصی رپورٹر) وزیراعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار کی زیر صدارت گزشتہ روز وزیراعلیٰ آفس میں اعلیٰ سطح کا اجلاس منعقد ہوا جس میں پنجاب میں انفراسٹرکچر سیکٹر خصوصاً سڑکوں کی تعمیر و مرمت کے منصوبوں پر پیشرفت کا جائزہ لیا گیا اور آئندہ مالی سال 2019-20 کیلئے انفراسٹرکچر خصوصاً روڈ سیکٹر کے مجوزہ پروگرام پر بھی غور کیا گیا۔ وزیراعلیٰ نے اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ”نیپا پاکستان منزلیں آسان“ پروگرام کے تحت دیہات کی سڑکوں کی تعمیر و مرمت کی جائے گی اور اس پروگرام کیلئے اربوں روپے مختص کیے جا رہے ہیں۔ ہر ضلع کے دیہات میں آبادی کے تناسب سے مساوی ترقیاتی فنڈ فراہم کریں گے۔ زراعت، انرجی، صنعت، کان کنی اور سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے سڑکوں کی تعمیر و مرمت کی جائے گی اور پنجاب کے شہروں کو سی پیک سے مواصلاتی طور پر منسلک کرنے کیلئے دورویہ شاہراہیں اور رابطہ سڑکیں بنائی جائیں گی۔ وزیراعلیٰ نے کہا کہ شہروں کے

اعلیٰ سطح اجلاس کی صدارت، پنجاب بینک کے نئے صدر سید طالب رضوی کی ملاقات، ایسٹر کے تہوار پر مسیحی برادری کو مبارکباد

بزدار نے ایسٹر کے تہوار کے موقع پر مسیحی برادری کو مبارکباد دی ہے، وزیراعلیٰ عثمان بزدار نے مسیحی برادری کے نام اپنے پیغام میں کہا ہے کہ ایسٹر بے آسرا اور مستحق افراد کے ساتھ وقت گزارنے اور خوشیاں تقسیم کرنے کا نام ہے۔ مسیحی برادری امن پسند اور ہمارے لئے قابل احترام ہے اور ہم مسیحی برادری کی خوشیوں میں شریک ہیں۔ وزیراعلیٰ نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں بسنے والی تمام اقلیتوں کو برابر کے حقوق حاصل ہیں۔ پاکستان ہم سب کا ہے اور اس کے تمام شہریوں کو مساوی حقوق حاصل ہیں۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیراعلیٰ نے سرفراز شاہ کی والدہ کے انتقال پر دکھ اور افسوس کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ وزیراعلیٰ نے اپنے تعزیتی پیغام میں سوگوار خاندان سے ہمدردی اور تعزیت کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے دعا کی کہ اللہ تعالیٰ مرحومہ کی روح کو جو رحمت میں جگہ دے اور غمزدہ خاندان کو صبر جمیل عطا فرمائے۔

درمیان رابطہ سڑکوں کی تعمیر و مرمت کی سکیموں کو ترجیحی بنیادوں پر مکمل کیا جائے گا۔ سیکرٹری تعمیرات و مواصلات نے وزیراعلیٰ کو بریکنگ ڈی۔ چیف سیکرٹری، چیئرمین منصوبہ بندی و ترقیات، پرنسپل سیکرٹری وزیراعلیٰ، سیکرٹری تعمیرات و مواصلات اور متعلقہ حکام نے اجلاس میں شرکت کی۔ عثمان بزدار سے بینک آف پنجاب کے نئے صدر سید محمد طالب رضوی نے ملاقات کی۔ وزیراعلیٰ نے اس موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ بینک آف پنجاب کو بینکنگ کے جدید تقاضوں کے مطابق ہم آہنگ کرنے کیلئے تعاون جاری رکھیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بینک آف پنجاب کو اپنے کسٹمرز کو مزید سہولتیں دینے کیلئے جدت کیساتھ منفرد اقدامات کرنے چاہئیں۔ پنجاب حکومت کی سپورٹ آپ کیساتھ ہے۔ وزیراعلیٰ نے بینک آف پنجاب کے نئے صدر سید محمد طالب رضوی کیلئے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا اور کہا کہ امید ہے کہ آپ کی سربراہی میں بینک آف پنجاب بینکنگ سیکٹر کا نمایاں بینک بنے گا۔ عثمان

لاہور (خصوصی رپورٹر) وزیراعلیٰ پنجاب سردار عثمان بزدار کی زیر صدارت گزشتہ روز وزیراعلیٰ آفس میں اعلیٰ سطح کا اجلاس منعقد ہوا جس میں پنجاب میں انفراسٹرکچر سیکٹر خصوصاً سڑکوں کی تعمیر و مرمت کے منصوبوں پر پیشرفت کا جائزہ لیا گیا اور آئندہ مالی سال 2019-20 کیلئے انفراسٹرکچر خصوصاً روڈ سیکٹر کے مجوزہ پروگرام پر بھی غور کیا گیا۔ وزیراعلیٰ نے اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ”نیپا پاکستان منزلیں آسان“ پروگرام کے تحت دیہات کی سڑکوں کی تعمیر و مرمت کی جائے گی اور اس پروگرام کیلئے اربوں روپے مختص کیے جا رہے ہیں۔ ہر ضلع کے دیہات میں آبادی کے تناسب سے مساوی ترقیاتی فنڈ فراہم کریں گے۔ زراعت، انرجی، صنعت، کان کنی اور سیاحت کے فروغ کیلئے سڑکوں کی تعمیر و مرمت کی جائے گی اور پنجاب کے شہروں کو سی پیک سے مواصلاتی طور پر منسلک کرنے کیلئے دورویہ شاہراہیں اور رابطہ سڑکیں بنائی جائیں گی۔ وزیراعلیٰ نے کہا کہ شہروں کے



**Jang News 21-04-2019****وزیر اعظم کا دورہ سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کی ابتدا ہے، چینی سفیر****صنعت، زراعت اور سوشل تعاون کے فروغ کے معاہدوں پر دستخط ہوں گے، یاؤ جنگ**

تعاون شروع ہوا ہے، اس سے پہلے دونوں ممالک کے مابین انڈسٹریل تعاون تھا، وزیر اعظم پاکستان کا دوسرا دورہ چین بہت اہم ہو گا، سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کی ابتدا ہے، دونوں ممالک کے رہنماں کے درمیان صنعتی اور سوشل تعاون بڑھانے پر اتفاق ہے، وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین کے دوران صنعت، زراعت اور سوشل تعاون کے فروغ کے معاہدوں پر دستخط ہوں گے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تجارتی عدم استحکام کو ختم کرنا چاہتے ہیں، آٹھ سال کے مذاکرات کے بعد آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدہ دوم کو حتمی شکل دی۔

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) پاکستان میں تعینات چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے کہا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم پاکستان کا دوسرا دورہ چین بہت اہم ہو گا، سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کی ابتدا ہے، وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین کے دوران صنعت، زراعت اور سوشل تعاون کے فروغ کے معاہدوں پر دستخط ہوں گے، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تجارتی عدم استحکام کو ختم کرنا چاہتے ہیں، آٹھ سال کے مذاکرات کے بعد آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدہ دوم کو حتمی شکل دی۔ ہفتہ کو پاکستان میں تعینات چینی سفیر یاؤ جنگ نے میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پہلی بار پاکستان اور چین کے مابین کلچرل

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## آزاد تجارتی معاہدے اور فیصد چینی منڈیاں پاکستان کیلئے کھل جائیں گی

عمران خان چینی قیادت سے ملاقاتیں کریں گے، علاقائی صورتحال پر گفتگو کے علاوہ سی پیک کے مختلف معاہدوں پر دستخط کئے جائیں گے  
پاکستان نے 19 ارب ڈالر قرض لیا، 13 ارب ڈالر کمرشل، 6 ارب ڈالر کاروباری قرضہ فراہم کیا، چینی سفیر ژاؤ جنگ کی میڈیا بریفنگ

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی، نیوز ایجنسیاں) پاکستان میں چینی سفیر ژاؤ جنگ نے کہا ہے کہ وزیراعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین سے سی پیک منصوبہ کو مزید تقویت ملے گی، چین میں 25 سے 27 اپریل کو ہونے والے دوسرے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ بین الاقوامی فورم سے وزیراعظم خصوصی خطاب کریں گے، وزیراعظم کے دورہ چین اور دوسرے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انٹرنیشنل فورم کے حوالے سے بریفنگ دیتے ہوئے چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ فورم کے بعد وزیراعظم عمران خان چینی قیادت سے ملاقاتیں کریں گے، جن میں علاقائی صورتحال پر گفتگو کے علاوہ سی پیک کے مختلف معاہدوں پر دستخط کئے جائیں گے، وزیراعظم عمران خان کے دورہ کے دوران آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے پر دستخط کا امکان ہے، معاہدے سے پاکستان کے لئے 90 فیصد چینی مارکیٹیں کھولی جائیں گی جس کے باعث زیادہ سے زیادہ پاکستانی مصنوعات چینی مارکیٹ تک پہنچ سکیں گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان تجارتی خسارہ ہے۔ دوسرے آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے پر آٹھ سال تک مذاکرات کئے گئے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان صنعتی تعاون کو

مزید مضبوط کرنا چاہتے ہیں اور نئی شعبہ کو ساتھ لے کر چلنا چاہتے ہیں۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان کے دورہ کے دوران رٹکنگ ایئریل اکنامک زون کا اعلان کیا جائے گا۔ ایم ایل ون ریلوے منصوبے کے ٹیکنیکل پلان کو حتمی شکل دی جائے گی۔ چین کراچی میں دھابتی کے مقام پر دوسرا خصوصی اقتصادی زون قائم کرنا چاہتا ہے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ فیصل آباد صنعتی زون میں چین پرائیویٹ سیکٹر کے ساتھ فیکٹریز قائم کر رہے ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ غربت کے خاتمے کے لئے تین ماڈل ویٹنگ قائم کئے جا رہے ہیں جن پر 10 لاکھ ڈالر لاگت آئے گی۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان کے دورہ چین کے دوران سوشل سیکٹر منصوبوں پر عمل درآمد کیا جائے گا اور سوشل سیکٹر کے 27 منصوبے شروع کئے جائیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبوں سے چین مطمئن ہے، چینی قیادت کو وزیراعظم عمران خان سے بہت توقعات ہیں۔ بھارت سمیت تمام ممالک کو بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے میں شرکت کی دعوت دیتے ہیں۔ جو عناصر سی پیک کے خلاف کام کر رہے ہیں، ان کی مذمت کرتے ہیں۔ اس وقت تک چین نے سی پیک کے تحت 22 منصوبے مکمل کئے ہیں۔ پاکستان نے چین

19 ارب ڈالر قرض حاصل کیا جس میں 13 ارب ڈالر کاروباری قرضہ ہے جبکہ چین نے پاکستان کو 6 ارب ڈالر کاروباری قرضہ فراہم کیا ہے۔ یہ قرض 20 سالوں میں واپس کرنا ہے۔ این این آئی کے مطابق چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ بیلٹ اور روڈ منصوبے کے اطلاق میں پاکستان کا کلیدی کردار ہے، پی ٹی آئی حکومت آنے کے بعد سی پیک منصوبوں پر عملدرآمد رفتارست نہیں ہوئی، تعلیم، صحت، زراعت، آبپاشی اور غربت کے خاتمے کیلئے پاکستان کو ایک ارب ڈالر کی امداد فراہم کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان آئی ایم ایف کے ساتھ مل کر نیا بجٹ بنائے گا، نئے بجٹ سے ہی معلوم ہوگا کہ حکومت کے پاس ترقیاتی منصوبوں کیلئے کتنی رقم ہے۔ آئی این پی کے مطابق وزیراعظم عمران خان اور چین کے صدر شی جن پھنگ کے درمیان 28 اپریل کو ملاقات ہوگی، سی پیک منصوبوں کی وجہ سے پاکستان پر چینی قرضے نہیں بڑھ رہے، سی پیک کو سبوتاژ کرنے والے عناصر ترقی کے مجرم ہیں،

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# چین سے ہونے والے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کے تحت چین آسین ممالک کو حاصل مراعات پاکستان کو بھی دے گا، مشیر وزیر اعظم تجارت

اب ہونیوالے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کے تحت چین آسین ممالک کو حاصل مراعات پاکستان کو بھی دے گا، مشیر وزیر اعظم تجارت

سعودی عرب کی جیلوں میں 3400 پاکستانی قیدی ہیں، ہمارا سفارتخانہ 2107 قیدیوں کی رہائی کیلئے سرگرم عمل ہے، شاہ محمود قریشی

ملین ڈالر کی کمی واقع ہوئی۔ بنگلہ دیش سے تجارت میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی نے بتایا کہ بھارت کی جیلوں میں 585 قیدی زیر حراست ہیں۔ جناح ہاؤس کی واپسی کیلئے بھارت سے کئی بار تقاضا کیا گیا ہے لیکن کوئی مثبت جواب نہیں ملا۔ مشیر تجارت نے بتایا کہ گزشتہ سال 58 ارب روپے کی دالیں درآمد کی گئیں۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے بتایا کہ جب بھی بھارت کی جانب سے اہل اوسی اور ورکنگ باؤنڈری کی خلاف ورزی کی جاتی ہے تو حکومت احتجاج کرتی ہے۔ شہری علاقوں کو بھارت کی جانب سے نشانہ بنانا نہ صرف قابل افسوس ہے بلکہ انسانی وقار، بین الاقوامی انسانی حقوق اور انسانی ہمدردی سے متعلق قوانین کے منافی ہے۔ بھارت کی جانب سے جنگ بندی کی خلاف ورزیاں علاقائی امن و سلامتی کیلئے خطرہ ہیں۔ شاہ محمود قریشی نے بتایا کہ سعودی عرب کی جیلوں میں 3400 پاکستانی قیدی ہیں۔ ہمارا سفارتخانہ 2107 قیدیوں کی رہائی کیلئے سرگرم عمل ہے جس کا اعلان سعودی ولی عہد نے کیا تھا۔

کا اعلان کیا تھا یہ بتایا جائے کہ اب تک کتنے قیدی رہا کئے گئے ہیں۔ جو یہ ظفر نے کہا کہ رہائی کا عمل شروع ہو گیا ہے۔ تعداد کیلئے آپ نیا سوال کریں کیونکہ اس میں وزارت خارجہ سے بھی رجوع کرنا پڑے گا۔ ان لیگ کے ممبران نے تسلی بخش جواب نہ ملنے پر شور مچایا۔ وزیر مملکت پارلیمانی امور علی محمد خان نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم نے شمالی وزیرستان کیلئے 100 ارب روپے کے پیسے کا اعلان کیا ہے، وزیر اعظم نے اسی ماہ سابقہ فنانس کیلئے 57 ارب روپے کے فنڈز کی منظوری دی ہے۔ وزیر مواصلات مراد سعید نے کہا کہ جنوبی وزیرستان میں سروے مکمل کرایا جائے گا، مشیر تجارت نے بتایا کہ گزشتہ سال کپاس کی پیداوار 11.9 ملین گانٹھی تھی۔ اس سال 10.78 ملین گانٹھ پیداوار کی متوقع ہے۔ ایوان کو بتایا گیا کہ یکم فروری 2019 سے درآمد شدہ کائٹن پر کسٹم ڈیوٹی، اضافی کسٹم ڈیوٹی اور سیلز ٹیکس ختم کر دیے گئے ہیں۔ طورخم باؤر سے کائٹن کی درآمد کی اجازت دیدی گئی ہے۔ سوئی دھاگہ کی درآمد پر ریگولٹری ڈیوٹی 5 فیصد سے بڑھا کر 10 فیصد کر دی گئی ہے۔ مشیر تجارت نے بتایا کہ جولائی سے دسمبر تک کینیڈا سے تجارت میں 53

اسلام آباد (نیوز رپورٹر) وزیر اعظم کے مشیر تجارت عبد الرزاق داؤد نے کہا ہے کہ چین سے پاکستان کی تجارت کو 14 ارب ڈالر کا نقصان ہوا۔ اب ہونیوالے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کے تحت چین آسین ممالک کو حاصل مراعات پاکستان کو بھی دے گا۔ چین نے 313 میٹر لائسنز پر پاکستانی مصنوعات کو ڈیوٹی فری رسائی دینے پر اتفاق کیا ہے۔ معاہدہ میں مقامی صنعتکاروں کو تحفظ مل گیا، یہ معاہدہ ملک کیلئے اچھا ہوگا، قومی اسمبلی میں وقفہ سوالات کے دوران ایک سوال کے جواب میں عبد الرزاق داؤد نے کہا کہ یکم جولائی سے آج تک درآمدات میں 3.5 ارب ڈالر کی کمی ہوئی ہے۔ جون تک یہ کمی پانچ سے چھ ارب ڈالر تک پہنچ جائے گی، برآمدات میں اضافہ نہیں ہوا لیکن کمی بھی نہیں آئی، اپریل سے جون تک برآمدات میں اضافے کی توقع ہے، طاہرہ اورنگزیب نے سوال کیا کہ رواں مالی سال کے اعداد و شمار دیے جائیں۔ مشیر تجارت نے کہا کہ اس وقت میرے پاس تفصیل نہیں ہے جس پر ن لیگ کے ممبران نے تنقید کی، ریاض حسین بیروزادہ نے سوال کیا کہ سعودی ولی عہد نے 2100 پاکستانی قیدیوں کی رہائی

**Jang News 25-04-2019****چین پاکستان کی خود مختاری، سالمیت اور ترقی کیلئے ثابت قدم رہے گا****مستقبل میں پاک چین دوستی تمام سیکٹرز میں ترقی کی طرف گامزن دکھائی دیتی ہے، چینی اسٹیٹ ٹو نصلر**

پاکستان کی قومی ترقی میں کردار کا حوالے سے سی پیک منصوبے کا تذکرہ کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ کچھ منصوبے فنڈنگ میں کمی کی وجہ سے ختم کئے گئے ہیں۔ مستقبل میں پاک چین دوستی تمام سیکٹرز میں ترقی کی طرف گامزن دکھائی دیتی ہے۔ چین نے دنیا سے کہا ہے کہ بین الاقوامی طور پر دہشتگردی کے خلاف جنگ اور دہشتگردی کے خلاف پاکستان کے کردار کو بغور دیکھا جائے۔ چین نے پاکستان کی طرف سے کئے جانے والے اقدامات بشمول پینشن ایکشن پلان کی تعریف کی۔

اسلام آباد (ماریا نہ بابر) وزیراعظم عمران خان کے چین کے نہایت اہم دورے کے موقع پر چین نے پاکستان کو اہم ترین پیغام بھیجا ہے جس میں کہا گیا ہے کہ چین پاکستان کی خود مختاری، جغرافیائی تحفظ، وقار اور آزادی کے لئے نہایت ثابت قدم ہے۔ چین کہتا ہے کہ ”پاکستان خطے اور بین الاقوامی امن کی ضمانت میں چین پاکستان کے شاہد بٹانہ کھڑا ہے۔ یہ بات اسٹیٹ ٹو نصلر اور وزیر خارجہ وانگ ٹھی نے پاکستانی وزیر خارجہ شاہ محمود قریشی سے ایک ملاقات میں کہے۔ چین نے عالمی امن کے پاکستانی کردار کو مثبت قرار دیا۔ چین نے

## Jang News 27-04-2019

### سی پیک کا دوسرا مرحلہ

شاہراہ ریشم منصوبے کی عظیم الشان کامیابی لازوال پاک چین دوستی کی ایک ایسی بنیاد بنی جس پر دونوں ممالک کے جوائنٹ وینچرز کا سلسلہ جاری رہے گا۔ سی پیک اور ون بیلٹ ون روڈ منصوبہ اُس کی اہم ترین کڑی اور اُس کی افادیت پر مہر تصدیق کے مترادف ہے، جس کی بدولت آج پوری دنیا کی نظریں اُس پر مرکوز ہیں۔ یہ چین کو پاکستان کے ذریعے یورپ اور دوسرے ممالک سے ملائے گا۔ گوادر اس عالمگیر منصوبے کا مرکز ہے، یہی بات وزیراعظم عمران خان نے اپنے حالیہ دورہ چین کے دوران بیجنگ میں بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم کی افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب میں کہی۔ انہوں نے بجا طور پر کہا کہ اس فورم میں بنیادی حیثیت گوادر کو حاصل ہے۔ جو علاقہ کبھی مچھیروں کا ایک گاؤں تھا، آج دنیا کی سب سے بڑی بندر گاہ اور معاشی حب بننے جا رہا ہے اور جہاں ملک کا سب سے بڑا ایئر پورٹ بنے گا۔ وزیراعظم پاکستان کا یہ خطاب سی پیک اور ون بیلٹ ون روڈ منصوبے کے خدوخال واضح کرتا ہے، جس میں انہوں نے اپنے پیش کردہ پانچ نکات میں موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں کے اثرات کم کرنے کے لئے مشترکہ کوششوں، سیاحت کے فروغ، کرپشن اور وائٹ کالر جرائم کے خلاف مشترکہ حکمت عملی، غربت کے خاتمے کے لئے فنڈز کے قیام اور تجارت و سرمایہ کاری کے لئے ماحول بہتر بنانے کی ضرورت پر زور دیا۔ عالمی ماہرین وزیراعظم عمران خان کے اس دورے کو نہایت اہمیت دے رہے ہیں۔ اس میں دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان ہونے والے معاہدوں میں سرفہرست آزادانہ تجارت کا معاہدہ ہے۔ اُس کے علاوہ ریلوے، آئی ٹی، توانائی، صنعت و زراعت، صحت اور تعلیم، سبھی ایسے شعبے ہیں جو ملک کی ترقی و خوشحالی میں بنیادی توجہ کے حامل ہیں۔ یہ امر خاص طور پر قابل ذکر ہے کہ پاکستان کی قیادت کا حالیہ دورہ چین دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان سی پیک کے اگلے فیئر کی طرف ایک اہم قدم ہے۔ خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کا تعین اس سلسلہ کی اہم کڑی ہے۔ وہ وقت اب دور نہیں کہ پاکستان دنیا کے نقشے پر ایک مضبوط اقتصادی طاقت بن کر ابھرے گا۔



## Jang News 28-04-2019

# چین میں 4 اعظموں کے لیڈر جمع 91 گھنٹے کی ملاقات

معیشت کو بڑے چیلنجز کا سامنا، سرحدیں تجارت کیلئے کھولنا ہوگی، شی جن پنگ، لیبر کی نقل و حرکت پر توجہ کی ضرورت ہے، عمران خان

عمران خان سے چین کے نائب صدر، ایچو پیا کے وزیر اعظم کی ملاقاتیں، آج چینی صدر سے دن آن دن ملاقات ہوگی

خطے سمیت رابطے بڑھانے میں اہم کردار ادا کرے گا۔ عمران خان نے کہا کہ کسی پیک پاکستان کیساتھ مغربی چین کی ترقی میں بھی مدد دے گا، چین کا بنیادی شراکت دار ہونے پر فخر محسوس کرتے ہیں، سی پیک سے ہمارے معاشرے کی ترقی میں مدد ملے گی، ثقافتی رابطوں کا فروغ سیاحت کے شعبے کی ترقی میں معاون ثابت ہوگا، سی پیک صرف ایک منصوبہ ہی نہیں بلکہ اس سے ہمارے معاشرے کی ترقی اور فلاح و بہبود میں بھی مدد ملے گی، گوادر بندرگاہ چینی کمپنیوں کے لئے لاگت کم کرے گی، بہترین میزبانی پر چین صدر اور ان کی حکومت کا شکریہ ادا کرتا ہوں۔ وزیر اعظم نے چین کی 70 ویں سالگرہ پر چینی صدر شی جن پنگ، حکومت اور چینی عوام کو مبارکباد بھی دی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین جدید دور میں کامیابی کی عظیم مثال ہے، چین نے پائیدار ترقی، معاشرتی اور عوامی زندگیوں میں واضح تبدیلی پیدا کی۔ دوسری جانب عمران خان اور چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کے درمیان دن آن دن ملاقات (آج) اتوار کو ہوگی، پاکستان اور چینی حکام مختلف معاہدوں پر دستخط بھی کریں گے، پاک چین ٹریڈ انوسٹمنٹ فورم وزیر اعظم کے اعزاز میں نظرباندہ دیگا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق وزیر اعظم عمران خان چین میں منعقدہ عالمی نمائش میں پاکستانی اسٹال کا دورہ کریں گے چینی صدر اور دیگر عالمی رہنما بھی چینی اسٹال کا دورہ کریں گے۔ دوسری اثناء عمران خان نے ایچو پیا کے ہم منصب سے دوسری بیلت اینڈ روڈ فورم کے موقع پر ملاقات کی جس میں دو طرفہ امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ عمران خان نے تجویز دی کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان سیاسی، تجارتی، کمرشل اور عوامی سطح پر رابطوں کو مزید مستحکم بنایا جائے۔ دونوں اطراف میں اعلیٰ سطح پر باقاعدگی کے ساتھ رابطوں پر اتفاق کیا گیا۔

مستحکم بنانے کی امید کے ساتھ اختتام پذیر ہوئی۔ فورم کے اختتام پر شی جن پنگ نے صحافیوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ہم کھلی، شفاف اور ماحول دوست ترقی کے لیے پرعزم ہیں، ان کی خارجی پالیسی کا مقصد ایشیا کو یورپ اور افریقہ سے ملانے والی قدم سک روڈ کو بڑے پیمانے پر سمندروں، سڑکوں اور ریلوے منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کرتے ہوئے دوبارہ قائم کرنا ہے۔ شی جن پنگ کا کہنا تھا کہ بیلت اینڈ روڈ منصوبوں میں ادارے اصل کردار ادا کریں گے اور مارکیٹ کے اصول لاگو ہوں گے جبکہ حکومتیں بھی اس میں تعاون کر کے کردار ادا کریں گی، انہوں نے کہا کہ کاروباری افراد کے لیے منصفانہ طریقہ اجلاس میں 164 ارب ڈالر کے معاہدوں پر دستخط کیے گئے تاہم انہوں نے اس بارے میں مزید تفصیلات نہیں دیں۔ گول میز کانفرنس سے خطاب کے دوران چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا کہ بنیادی ڈھانچے اور صنعتی ترقی کے لیے مزید کام کرنا ہوگا، ہمیں اقوام متحدہ کے 2030 کے ایجنڈے پر عمل کرنا ہوگا، ماحولیاتی تبدیلی کے مضر اثرات سے نمٹنے کے لیے ہمیں مشترکہ کوششیں کرنا ہوں گی، بی آر آئی خطے کے ممالک کی اقتصادی ترقی کے لیے اہم فورم ہے، کثیرالجہتی تعاون بیلت اینڈ روڈ فورم کا بنیادی ڈھانچا ہے، انہوں نے واضح کیا کہ ہم مشترکہ جدوجہد سے ہی لوگوں کا معیار زندگی بہتر بنا سکتے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کے بیلت اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹیو ٹھیسین کے پاکستانی عزم کا اعادہ کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ توقع ہے کہ اس منصوبے سے علاقائی رابطوں، تعاون اور خوشحالی میں اضافے کے ساتھ ساتھ دیرینہ مسائل کے حل میں مدد ملے گی۔ عمران خان نے زور دیا کہ کسی پیک خطے کی تقدیر بدلنے کا منصوبہ ہے، گوادر بندرگاہ اور چین کے زن جیا ٹنگ

بیلت (خبر ایجنسیاں) بیلت اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کے حوالے چین میں ہونے والے فورم میں 4 براعظموں کے لیڈر جمع ہوئے، اس موقع پر چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کا کہنا ہے کہ بیلت اینڈ روڈ (بی اینڈ آر) منصوبے کی سمت میں 164 ارب ڈالر (تقریباً 91 گھنٹے) کے منصوبوں پر دستخط ہوئے جبکہ مزید ممالک عالمی انفراسٹرکچر پروگرام میں شرکت کریں گے، پوری دنیا میں معیشت کو بڑے چیلنجز کا سامنا ہے، عوامی سطح پر رابطوں کو فروغ دینا ہوگا، ہمیں اپنی سرحدوں کو تجارت کے لیے کھولنا ہوگا، مشترکہ جدوجہد سے ہی لوگوں کا معیار زندگی بہتر بنایا جاسکتا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ چین سے شراکت خوش قسمتی ہے، چین جدید دور میں کامیابی کی عظیم مثال ہے، بیلت اینڈ روڈ وژن سے معیشت کی ترقی و خوشحالی ممکن ہوئی، بیلت اینڈ روڈ کے ذریعہ رابطوں کو مزید بڑھانا ہوگا، منصوبے میں شامل ممالک کے درمیان رابطے بڑھانے کے علاوہ ڈیجیٹل رابطوں، لیبر کی نقل و حرکت، ثقافتی رابطوں اور علم و اہلیہ میں بہترین شراکت داری کے چار مختلف علاقوں پر خصوصی توجہ مرکوز کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ دوسری جانب وزیر اعظم عمران خان اور چین کے نائب صدر وانگ کیشان کے درمیان دوطرفہ تعلقات سمیت باہمی دلچسپی کے اہم امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا جبکہ عمران خان کی چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات (آج) اتوار کو ہوگی جس میں پاک چین تعلقات اور اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے سمیت مختلف امور زیر غور آئیں گے اور پاکستان اور چینی حکام مختلف معاہدوں پر دستخط بھی کریں گے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق چینی صدر شی جن پنگ اور 40 کے قریب دیگر عالمی رہنماؤں کے درمیان 3 روزہ بیلت کانفرنس، سک روڈ کو ماحول دوست اور مالیاتی طور پر



**K2 News 19-04-19****سی پیک اقتصادی زونز سے لاکھ ملازمین پیدا ہونگی عاقلوی؟**

دلہ سے بھارت کو ایم این صدر میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے  
 کہی۔ صدر نے کہا کہ خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کا قیام سی  
 پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے یعنی صنعتی تعاون کا اہم جز  
 ہے جس کے لئے سرکاری دفنی اشتراک کار میں اضافہ  
 کیا جانا چاہئے۔ انہوں نے خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کے  
 لئے پندرہ آئی سی ڈی ایس اور پاکستان میں سی پیک کی  
 حال صنعتی سرگرمیوں کی اہمیت کو اجاگر کیا۔ صدر نے کہا  
 کہ وہاں ۱۰۰۰۰ ملازمین پیدا ہوں  
 گی۔ ہماری افرادی قوت کو اس ضمن میں چاروں  
 ضرورت ہے۔ شے میں سی پیک اور طے روزہ اقدام  
 سے روزانہ ہونے والی ٹین ہائے رفت کو اجاگر کرتے  
 ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ اس قسم کی کارخانوں اور  
 ورکشاپس پیدا ہونے والے مواقع اور چیلنجز پر غور اور  
 ان کی تیاری کا پلیٹ فارم مہیا کرتے ہیں۔ صدر نے سی  
 پیک ورکشاپ کے انعقاد پر این ڈی او کی تحریف کرتے  
 ہوئے مستقبل میں ان کی کاوشوں کے لئے اپنی بھرپور  
 حمایت کی یقین دہانی کرائی۔

**K2 News 25-04-19****وزیر اعظم 4 روزہ سرکاری دورے پر آج چین جا ئیں گے****عمران خان ہیٹ اینڈ فورم سے اہم خطاب کریں گے عالمی رہنماؤں سے بھی ملیں گے**

کے جہاں وہ چائنا پیسین کا دورہ بھی کر چکے اور یادگاری  
 پودا بھی لگائیں گے اور پاکستان بزنس فورم کے  
 تہرانے میں بھی شرکت کریں گے، اتوار کو وزیر اعظم کی  
 چینی صدر شی جن پنگ، وزیر اعظم لی کی چیانگ سے  
 ملاقاتیں ہوں گی۔ ٹی ٹی وی کے مطابق وزیر اعظم عمران  
 خان 25 سے 28 اپریل تک چین کا دورہ کریں گے

**K2 News 25-04-19**

## نیول چیف سے چینی وزیر دفاع کی ملاقات، باہمی دلچسپی پر تبادلہ خیال

کی سز سالہ تقریبات میں شرکت کی، پاک بحریہ کے سربراہ نے چینی وزیر دفاع سے ٹک سے بھی ملاقات کی، نیول چیف نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان بحریہ کے ساتھ دوستی کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھا ہے، نیول چیف اور چینی وزیر دفاع سے ٹک نے سی بیگ کو ٹیٹے کیلئے گرم بختر قرار دیا، نیول چیف کا یہ دورہ بحریہ دونوں ممالک کی بحری افواج کے مابین تعلقات میں استحکام کا باعث ہوگا۔ چھ کے ترجمان پاک بحریہ کے مطابق پاک بحریہ کے سربراہ ایچمرل ظفر محمود عباسی گھون کا دورہ کیا، نیول چیف نے چینی بحریہ کی سز سالہ تقریبات میں شرکت کی دورے کے دوران پاک بحریہ کے سربراہ ایچمرل ظفر محمود عباسی نے چینی وزیر دفاع سے ٹک سے بھی ملاقات کی، چینی وزیر دفاع سے ملاقات کے دوران باہمی دلچسپی اور پیشہ ورانہ امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا، نیول چیف نے کثیر اہمکن بحری مشق 19 میں بحریہ کی شرکت پر چینی وزیر دفاع کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔

**K2 News 27-04-19**

چین کے صدر کا عشائیہ، وزیراعظم کی  
شرکت، شی جن پنگ نے عمران خان  
کا گرجوٹی کے ساتھ استقبال کیا

کی، چینی صدر نے وزیراعظم عمران خان کا گرجوٹی کے  
ساتھ استقبال کیا۔ جس کو چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ  
کی جانب سے عقیم عوامی ہال میں عشائیہ کا اہتمام کیا  
گیا، وزیراعظم عمران خان نے اس میں خصوصی شرکت  
کی۔ چینی صدر نے وزیراعظم عمران خان کا گرجوٹی کے  
ساتھ استقبال کیا۔

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اقتصادی زونز چین چننے پر لگے عمران

کو پاکستان میں کام کرنے کا موقع ملے گا، پاکستان  
اقتصادی زونز میں پر امن سیاسی مل چاہتا ہے اور اس کیلئے  
اپنا کردار ادا کر رہا ہے، انتخابات کے بعد بھارت سے  
بھی بات چیت کا عمل جاری ہوگا، حریت میں کمی کے  
پرگرام کے لیے چین کا عمل تعاون حاصل ہے۔ جس کو  
چین پاکستان فرینڈ شپ ایسوسی ایشن کے ممبرانے سے  
خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا کسی  
بیک منصوبہ طے ایڈ روڈ کی صورت میں اچھائی اہم  
ہے، اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ پاکستان کیلئے ایک نعت  
ہے، یہی بیک پر پورا پاکستان تعلق ہے، چین اور پاکستان  
کے درمیان تعاون کی مختلف جہتیں ہیں، چین کی  
یونورسٹیوں نے آرٹیفیسیل انٹیلی جنس پر توجہ دی، چین  
نے گزشتہ 30 سال میں ترقی کی منازل طے کیں،



**K2 News 28-04-19**

عمران خان اور چین کے نائب

صدر کا دو طرفہ تعلقات سمیت

دیگر امور پر تبادلہ خیال

بیجنگ (آئی این بی) وزیر اعظم عمران خان اور  
چین کے نائب صدر وانگ کیجیان کے درمیان دو طرفہ  
تعلقات سمیت باہمی دلچسپی کے اہم امور پر تبادلہ خیال  
کیا گیا۔

ملاقات صدر شی جینگ پنگ کی جانب سے وزیر اعظم اور  
ان کے ہمراہ پاکستانی وفد کے اعزاز میں ویجے گئے  
عشائیہ کے موقع پر ہوئی جس کی میزبانی چین کے نائب  
صدر وانگ کیجیان نے کی۔





**K2 News 29-04-19****پاکستان چین شہنشاہی شراکتی کو یوید مضبوط بنانے میں متفق**

عمران خان کی چین کے صدر اور وزیر اعظم سے ملاقاتیں، چینی قیادت کا پاکستان کی سلطنت کیلئے حمایت کا اعادہ  
پاک چین تعلقات وقت کے ساتھ مزید مضبوط ہوں گے مختلف شعبوں میں ملحقہ تعاون بڑھے گا شی جن پنگ، لی کی چراگ

میں داخل ہو چکی ہے سی پیک کے اگلے مرحلے میں  
زراعت کے شعبوں میں تعاون کو فروغ ملے گا، اگلے  
مرحلے میں صنعتی، سہائی اور اقتصادی ترقی کو بھی فروغ  
حاصل ہوگا، جبکہ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا ہے کہ  
پاکستان چین تعلقات وقت کے ساتھ مزید مضبوط  
ہو گئے، پاکستان اور چین کا مختلف شعبوں میں ملحقہ  
تعاون بڑھے گا، دوستی گہری کے خلاف پاکستان کی  
مستقل اور کامیاب کوششیں قابل تعریف ہیں۔ اقوام کو  
وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ  
سے ملاقات کی۔ ملاقات کے دوران دونوں ملکوں کے  
وزراء اور اعلیٰ حکام بھی موجود تھے۔ وزیر اعظم عمران  
خان اور چینی صدر نے دوطرفہ تعلقات رستہ کی تیار  
کیا



### Nawaiwaqt 16-04-2019

#### کم لاگت گھر، چینی گروپ نے تعاون کی پیشکش کردی، وزیراعظم کا خیر مقدم

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وزیراعظم عمران خان سے چائنہ سلک روڈ گروپ لمیٹڈ کے چیئرمین نے ملاقات کی۔ گروپ نے کم لاگت سے گھر بنانے کے منصوبے میں تعاون کی پیشکش کی۔ وزیراعظم نے گروپ کی پیشکش کا خیر مقدم کیا۔ وزیراعظم نے کاروبار میں آسانی پیدا کرنے سے متعلق حکومتی اقدامات سے آگاہ کیا۔

وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبوں کے تحت پاکستان میں کاروبار کے وسیع مواقع ہیں۔ دریں اثناء وزیراعظم عمران خان سے سپریم کورٹ بار ایسوسی ایشن کے وفد نے ملاقات کی۔ وفد کی قیادت سپریم کورٹ بار ایسوسی ایشن کے صدر امان اللہ کنزانی کر رہے تھے۔ تمام صوبوں سے تعلق رکھنے والے سپریم کورٹ بار کے ایگزیکٹو ممبران ملاقات میں موجود تھے۔ ایسوسی ایشن نے بار کی جانب سے وزیراعظم کے ویٹن اور حکومت کے اصلاحاتی ایجنڈے کو سراہا۔ وفد نے کہا کہ حالیہ پاک بھارت کشیدگی میں وزیراعظم نے جو قائدانہ کردار ادا کیا وہ قابل تعریف ہے۔ صدر سپریم کورٹ بار ایسوسی ایشن نے وکلاء برادری کو درپیش مسائمت سے وزیراعظم کو آگاہ کیا۔ وکلاء نے وزیراعظم سے درخواست کی کہ ججز تقرری کا عمل قابلیت اور شفافیت پر مبنی بنایا جائے۔ وزیراعظم نے بار ممبران خصوصاً عمر رسیدہ وکلاء کیلئے صحت انصاف کارڈ کی فراہمی کا اعلان کیا۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ انصاف کا نظام موثر اور انصاف کی فراہمی یقینی بنانے میں وکلاء کلیدی کردار ادا کریں۔ مضبوط بار ایسوسی ایشن عدلیہ، جمہوری اداروں اور گڈ گورننس میں اہم کردار ادا کرتی ہیں۔ حکومت بار ایسوسی ایشن کے مسائل کے حل میں ہر ممکن مدد فراہم کرے گی۔ بلوچستان کے وکلاء ان کے جائز حقوق کی فراہمی کیلئے حکومت مکمل تعاون فراہم کرے گی۔ علاوہ ازیں وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ پاک برطانیہ دیرینہ تعلقات تاریخی روابط اور وسیع تر علاقائی و بین الاقوامی امور پر یکساں سوچ پر مبنی ہیں، دونوں ممالک کو موجودہ طویل مدتی اور کثیر جہتی شراکت داری کو مزید فروغ دینے کی ضرورت ہے۔ برطانیہ کی کنزرویٹو پارٹی کے چیئرمین رکن پارلیمنٹ پارلیمنٹ بریڈن لیوس سے گفتگو کر رہے تھے جنہوں نے وزیراعظم آفس میں ان سے ملاقات کی۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ پاکستان یورپ میں برطانیہ کو اہم ترقیاتی اور تجارتی سرمایہ کاری شراکت دار تصور کرتا ہے۔ انہوں نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ دونوں ممالک کو بالخصوص بعد از ”بریکز“ موجودہ طویل مدتی اور کثیر جہتی شراکت داری کو مزید فروغ دینے کی ضرورت ہے۔ برطانیہ میں پاکستانی برادری کو دونوں ممالک کے درمیان بیل قرار دیتے ہوئے وزیراعظم نے اس امر پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا کہ یہ برطانوی معاشرہ میں مثبت کردار ادا کر رہی ہے۔ وزیراعظم نے بھارت اور افغانستان سمیت علاقائی صورت حال کا جائزہ پیش کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان اپنے تمام ہمسایوں کے ساتھ پرامن تعلقات اور بات چیت کے ذریعے تمام مسائل کے حل کا خواہاں ہے۔ انہوں نے مقبوضہ کشمیر میں ہر روز بھارتی افواج کے ہاتھوں انسانی حقوق کی سنگین خلاف ورزیوں کو بھی اجاگر کیا۔ کنزرویٹو پارٹی کے چیئرمین نے پلوامہ واقعہ کے بعد صورت حال سے نبرد آزما ہونے کے حوالہ سے وزیراعظم کی قیادت کی تعریف کی۔ انہوں نے برطانوی وزیراعظم ٹھریسا سے کی طرف سے وزیراعظم عمران خان کو برطانیہ کے دورہ کی دعوت کا اعادہ بھی کیا

### Nawaiwaqt 18-04-2019

#### چین کا مسعود اظہر کیخلاف آئندہ بھی کسی قرارداد کی مخالفت کا اعلان

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین نے ایک دفعہ پھر اعلان کیا ہے کہ مولانا مسعود اظہر کے خلاف اگر کوئی بھی نئی قرارداد لانے کی کوشش کی گئی تو ہم اس کی مخالفت کریں گے کیونکہ ایسا اقدام اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کے طے شدہ بین الاقوامی قوانین و ضوابط کی کھلی خلاف ورزی ہوگی، پر ہمارا موقف واضح اور غیر متزلزل ہے، چین اس معاملے پر متعلقہ ممالک سے مسلسل رابطے میں ہے، مولانا مسعود اظہر کے معاملے کو اقوام متحدہ کی قرارداد 1267 کے عین مطابق حل کیا جانا چاہیے، چین شق نمبر 1267 پر ہر صورت عمل درآمد کرے گا، اس معاملے پر تمام ممالک کو باہمی تعاون کرنا چاہیے، مولانا مسعود اظہر کے معاملے پر اقوام متحدہ کے اصول و ضوابط واضح ہیں، چین کے خود مختار علاقے سنکیانگ میں جو تعلیمی و ترقیاتی مراکز قائم ہیں ان کا مقصد انتہائی واضح ہے، چینی مذہبی آزادی و خود مختاری پر مکمل یقین رکھتا ہے، چین میں 20 ملین مسلم کمیونٹی اور 35 ہزار کے قریب مساجد ہیں، چین

امید کرتا ہے کہ متعلقہ ممالک کامیڈیا ذمہ دار اندرونی اپنائے، غلط خبروں کو نشر کرنے سے گزیر کرے گا۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق چین کی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان لو کھانگ نے کہا کہ چین میں مکمل طور پر مذہبی آزادی اور خود مختاری ہے، کسی مذہب یا مخصوص اسلام پر کوئی پابندی نہیں

### Nawaiwaqt 20-04-2019

#### چین کے بڑے گروپ آف انٹرنیشنل پاکستان میں 5 ارب کی سرمایہ کاری کا ارادہ

لاہور (پ) میٹل پروسیسنگ کے شعبہ میں عالمی شہرت کا حامل چین کا بڑا گروپ آف انٹرنیشنل گروپ اپنا 6 ارب کی وفد پاکستان بھیج رہا ہے۔ وفد کی سربراہی گروپ کے نائب چیئرمین ”او کوان“ کر رہے ہیں۔ وفد پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے امکانات اور حکومت کے تعاون کی بابت پالیسیوں کا جائزہ لے گا۔ گروپ پاکستان میں 5 ارب امریکی ڈالر سے زائد سرمایہ کاری کرنے کا ارادہ رکھتا ہے۔ وفد پاکستان کے فالکن گروپ کی دعوت پر آرہا ہے جو اپنے دورے کے دوران اعلیٰ حکام سے ملاقاتیں کرے گا۔

### Nawaiwaqt 20-04-2019

#### سی پیک گوادرسے سامان کی پوری دنیا میں منتقلی یقینی بنائے گا: عبدالرؤف مختار

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) چین پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور (سی پیک) تاجروں کو اپنے سامان کو گوادریٹ کے ذریعے دنیا میں منتقل کرنے کے قابل بنائے گا۔ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تجارتی اور اقتصادی سرگرمیوں بڑھانے کیلئے بہت گنجائش موجود ہے۔ ہانگ کانگ کی کئی کمپنیاں کے پاکستان میں مستقل دفاتر ہیں جو ہمارے ملک پر اعتماد کی گواہی دیتے ہیں۔ پاکستان ہانگ کانگ کیساتھ دوستانہ تعلقات رکھتا ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار فیڈریشن آف پاکستان چیمبرز آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری (ایف پی سی سی آئی) کے ریجنل چیئرمین عبدالرؤف مختار نے ہانگ کانگ کے کاروباری وفد سے ملاقات کے موقع پر کیا۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ مختلف شعبوں میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعاون بڑھایا جائے گا۔

### Nawaiwaqt 20-04-2019

#### وزیراعظم کے دورہ چین کے دوران سی پیک منصوبوں پر خاطر خواہ پیش رفت ہوگی: شیخ رشید

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) وفاقی وزیر ریلوے شیخ رشید احمد نے کہا ہے کہ وزیراعظم پاکستان کارواں میں چینی کا دورہ انتہائی اہم ہے، سی پیک منصوبوں پر خاطر خواہ پیش رفت ہوگی، پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان مین لائن ون ریل منصوبے کے ابتدائی ڈیزائن پر دستخط ہوں گے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے جمعہ کو چین کے صوبہ ہو بے کے وائس گورنر ہوانگ چونگ سے وزارت ریلوے میں ملاقات کے دوران کیا۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان باہمی دیرینہ تعلقات اور صوبہ ہو بے کے حوالے سے اقتصادی اور ثقافتی تعلقات کے فروغ پر بات چیت کی گئی۔ اس موقع پر شیخ رشید نے کہا کہ پشاور-کراچی ایم ایل ون منصوبے کے تکمیل سے پاکستان میں ریل کا انقلاب آئے گا۔ شیخ رشید نے ہو بے کی صوبائی حکومت کو گوادریٹ، کویٹہ، تافان ایم ایل ٹوریل منصوبے میں شراکت داری اور سرمایہ کاری کی دعوت دی۔ وائس گورنر نے وزیر ریلوے شیخ رشید احمد کو ہو بے کے دورے کی خصوصی دعوت دی جس پر وزیر ریلوے کی طرف سے وائس گورنر ہوانگ چونگ کا وزارت ریلوے دورے کا شکریہ ادا کیا اور دورے کی دعوت قبول کر لی۔ اس موقع پر ہو بے کے وائس گورنر ہوانگ چونگ نے کہا کہ پاکستان آکر ایسے لگا جیسے اپنے عزیز بھائی کے گھر آیا ہوں، پاکستان کے لوگوں کی چین کے لئے محبت پر ان کا شکر گزار ہوں

## Nawaiwaqt 22-04-2019

### چین میں دوسرا بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم جمعرات سے شروع ہوگا

بیجنگ (آئی این پی / شنہوا) چین میں دوسرا بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم برائے عالمی تعاون (بی آئی ف) جمعرات سے شروع ہو رہا ہے، یہ فورم بین الاقوامی سطح پر بڑی اہمیت کا حامل ہے جس میں پاکستان کے وزیر اعظم عمران خان سمیت معروف عالمی رہنما شرکت کر رہے ہیں، اس فورم کے ذریعے چین اپنی اقتصادی ترقی میں اپنے دوستوں اور شرکاء کو شریک کرنا چاہتا ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ ای نے یہاں صحافیوں سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ فورم کا افتتاح چین کے صدر شی جن پھنگ کریں گے، یہ فورم بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کے منصوبے کے فریم ورک کے تحت بین الاقوامی تعاون کیلئے اعلیٰ سطح کا پلیٹ فارم ہے۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ یہ کانفرنس نمایاں طور پر ایک اہم سنگ میل ثابت ہوگی۔ دوسرے بی آئی ف کا بنیادی خیال یا نظریہ ”بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ تعاون“ مستقبل کیلئے برابری کی روشن صورت ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس فورم کا مقصد اعلیٰ سطح کی ترقی کو بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ تعاون کے تحت فروغ دینا ہے جو کہ اس منصوبے میں حصہ لینے والے تمام ممالک کا ایک مشترکہ جذبہ ہے۔ 2013 میں شروع کئے گئے اس منصوبے کے اب تک حاصل ہونے والے سربار نتائج کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے چینی وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ دوسرے بی آئی ف کا عالمی سطح پر زبردست خیر مقدم کیا ہے، اس میں 150 ممالک اور 90 بین الاقوامی تنظیموں کے پانچ ہزار سے زیادہ شخصیات شرکت کر رہی ہیں جنہوں نے اپنی آمد کی تصدیق کر دی ہے۔ ان شرکاء میں حکومت، سول سوسائٹی، کاروبار اور تعلیم سمیت مختلف شعبہ ہائے زندگی سے تعلق رکھنے والی شخصیات شامل ہیں۔ فورم میں جن امور پر اتفاق رائے ہو گا ان کے بارے میں شرکت کرنے والے رہنما ایک مشترکہ اعلامیہ جاری کریں گے۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ چین کے صدر شی جن پھنگ نے 2013 میں تجویز کیا تھا جس کا بنیادی مقصد بنیادی ڈھانچے کی ترقی کے ذریعے دنیا بھر میں رابطوں کو بہتر بنانا تھا۔ بین الاقوامی معیشت کی ترقی میں نئے عناصر کو شامل کرنا اور عالمی اقتصادی تعاون کیلئے ایک نیا پلیٹ فارم قائم کرنا تھا۔ ایک میزبان ملک ہونے کے حوالے سے ہم تمام فریقوں کو یکساں قدرتی رابط اور تعاون برقرار رکھیں گے، صلاح مشورے اور تعاون برائے مساوی فوائد کا اصول برقرار رکھیں گے تاکہ اس فورم کو مزید کھلا، بے مثال اور شفاف بنایا جاسکے۔

## Nawaiwaqt 23-04-2019

### عمران خان کے دورہ چین سے دو طرفہ تعاون اور تعلقات کو نئی جہت ملے گی، ڈاکٹری

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) پاک چین گلوبل کلچرل لنک کے صدر ڈاکٹری نے کہا ہے کہ دونوں ملکوں کے مابین ثقافت کا فروغ محطے میں امن، سلامتی اور خوشحالی کی ضمانت ہے، وزیر اعظم عمران خان کا دورہ چین سے دو طرفہ تعاون اور تعلقات کو ایک نئی جہت ملے گی جس کی بدولت پاکستان اور اس کے عوام، ترقی اور خوشحالی کے ایک نئے دور میں داخل ہونگے، پاکستان اور چین کے عوام کے درمیان ثقافتی سرگرمیوں کے فروغ سے دو طرفہ روابط میں قربت آئے گی اور پیپلز ٹو پیپلز کنٹیکٹ کلچر کو عام کرنے کے راہ ہموار ہو سکے گی۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے اسلام آباد میں پہلی پاک چائنا کلچرل نمائش کی اختتامی تقریب سے خطاب کے دوران کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک چین ثقافتی نمائش کا انعقاد بڑا اہم ہے، پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی کی ایک طویل تاریخ ہے جو ثقافت پر مبنی ہے۔ ڈاکٹری نے کہا کہ ”اوربٹنٹل چارم“ کے عنوان سے پاکستان میں منعقد کی جانے والی پہلی چینی ثقافتی نمائش وقت کی اہم ضرورت تھی، پاک چین ثقافتی نمائش کا انعقاد بڑا اہم ہے، پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی کی ایک طویل تاریخ ہے جو ثقافت پر مبنی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم خاندان اور معاشرے کی ترقی پر یقین رکھتے ہیں۔ پاکستان اور چین دوستی اور میزبانی کی مشترکہ اقدار کی امین ہیں

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#### سی پیک کا جائزہ لینے کیلئے گوادر کا دورہ کریں گے: فرانسیسی سینیٹر

اسلام آباد (جاوید صدیق) فرانسیسی سینیٹ میں پاک فرانس فرینڈشپ گروپ کے صدر پاسکال ایلیزارڈ نے کہا ہے کہ چین کا ہیلتھ اینڈروڈ منصوبہ جس کا سی پیک ایک حصہ ہے، سٹرٹجک توازن کا منصوبہ ہے۔ فرانس اس منصوبے میں دلچسپی رکھتا ہے۔ گزشتہ شام فرانسیسی سفارت خانہ میں صحافیوں کے ایک گروپ سے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے پاک فرانس فرینڈشپ ایسوسی ایشن کے سربراہ نے کہا کہ سی پیک ایک اہم منصوبہ ہے۔ ہم اس کا جائزہ لینے کے لیے گوادر کا دورہ کریں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مغربی ملکوں کے سی پیک منصوبے پر تحفظات موجود ہیں۔ پاک فرانس فرینڈشپ گروپ کے سربراہ سے استفسار کیا گیا۔ فرانسیسی کمپنیاں پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے لیے تیار ہیں تو انہوں نے کہا کہ فرانسیسی کمپنیوں کی پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے راستے میں کچھ رکاوٹیں ہیں جن میں سیکورٹی کی صورت حال اور فنانسنگ کا مسئلہ ہے سیکورٹی کی صورت حال تو بہتر ہو گئی ہے لیکن فرانسیسی کمپنیوں کو بنکوں کی طرف سے فنانسنگ کی سہولت نہیں مل رہی۔ ان سے پوچھا گیا کہ پاکستان میں ٹوٹل کار فور اور اسی طرح ہتھیاروں کی سرمایہ کاری کی ہے۔ باقی کمپنیاں کیوں سرمایہ کاری نہیں کرتیں تو پاک فرانس فرینڈشپ گروپ کے سربراہ نے کہا کہ فرانس کی کاروں تیار کرنے والی کمپنی رینالٹ پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کرے گی۔ فرانسیسی سینیٹروں کے تین رکنی گروپ نے بورڈ آف انوسٹمنٹ کا دورہ کیا۔ گروپ نے چیئر مین سینیٹ، سپیکر قومی اسمبلی اور سیکرٹری خارجہ سے بھی ملاقاتیں کیں۔ وفد میں قانون سینیٹر دام گریسلے، جو رد اور مسز جانقیال ڈیسینے شامل ہیں۔ فرانسیسی سفارت خانہ نے وفد کے اعزاز میں ایک استقبالیہ دیا جس میں پاکستانی سینیٹ میں پاک فرانس فرینڈشپ گروپ کے سینیٹر فیصل جاوید اور دوسرے ارکان پارلیمنٹ نے شرکت کی۔

### Nawaiwaqt 26-04-2019

#### ہیلتھ اینڈروڈ فورم: عالمی سرمایہ کار پاکستان کی آزادانہ سرمایہ کاری کی پالیسیوں سے فائدہ اٹھائیں، وزیر اعظم عمران خان

وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے عالمی سرمایہ کاروں پر زور دیا ہے کہ وہ پاکستان کی آزادانہ سرمایہ کاری کی پالیسیوں سے فائدہ اٹھائیں اور بنیادی ڈھانچے، ریلوے، ڈیموں، انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی اور پیداواری شعبوں میں سرمایہ لگائیں۔ آج ہیٹنگ میں دوسرے ایک خطہ ایک سڑک فورم سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم پاکستان کا اقتصادی منظر نامہ اور اس کے عوام کی حالت بدل رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ کے ایک خطہ ایک سڑک منصوبے کے دائرہ کار کو مزید وسعت دینے کے لئے پانچ نکات بھی پیش کئے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک اپنے تجارتی اور اقتصادی تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط بنانے کے لئے آزادانہ تجارت کے معاہدے کے دوسرے مرحلے پر دستخط کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہمیں موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے منفی اثرات، عوامی سطح پر روابط کے فروغ، سیاحتی راہداریوں کے قیام اور بین الثقافتی روابط، انسداد بدعنوانی کے ادارے اور غربت کے خاتمے کا فنڈ قائم کرنے کے لئے اجتماعی کوششیں کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری میں مزید آسانی پیدا کرنے، نجی شعبے کی حوصلہ افزائی اور مختلف منصوبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے کے لئے مربوط کوششیں کرنا ہوں گی۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ گوادرماتی گیری کا چھوٹا سا گائوں ہوا کرتا تھا جسے تیزی سے تجارتی مرکز میں تبدیل کیا جا رہا ہے

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#### کرپشن، وائٹ کالر کریمز کیخلاف مشترکہ حکمت عملی، غربت بنایا جائے: عمران خان

ہیٹنگ، اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) ایجنسیاں، نمائندہ خصوصی) وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے چین کے میگا منصوبے 'اون ہیلتھ ون روڈ' کے ثمرات عوام تک پہنچانے کے لیے 5 نکات پیش کر دیئے۔ چین کے دار الحکومت ہیٹنگ میں 'ہیلتھ اینڈروڈ فورم 2019' کی افتتاحی تقریب میں وزیر اعظم نے اپنے پیش کردہ پانچ نکات میں کہا کہ دنیا موسمیاتی



تبدیلیوں کے اثرات کو کم کرنے کے لیے مشترکہ کوششیں، سیاحت کا فروغ، کرپشن اور وائٹ کالر کرانز کے خلاف مشترکہ حکمت عملی، غربت کے خاتمے کے لیے فنڈز کا قیام اور تجارت و سرمایہ کاری کے لیے ماحول بہتر بنانے کی کوششیں کی جائیں۔ وزیراعظم کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان اور چین سی پیک کے اگلے فیڑی کی جانب بڑھ رہے ہیں جس میں سیشنل اکنامک زونز کا قیام ہوگا، ہیٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے سے پاکستان میں توانائی بحران میں کمی ہوئی اور چین کے تعاون سے گوادریز سے دنیا کا تجارتی مرکز بن رہا ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان آزاد تجارت کا معاہدہ اہمیت کا حامل ہوگا، ہم بنیادی ڈھانچے، ریلوے، آئی ٹی اور توانائی میں چین کے ساتھ تعاون چاہتے ہیں اس کے ساتھ زراعت، صحت اور تعلیم میں تعاون کے بھی خواہاں ہیں۔ غربت کے خاتمے کے لیے پاکستان میں احساس کے نام سے پروگرام شروع کیا گیا ہے اور ماحول کی بہتری کے لیے دس ارب درخت لگانے کے منصوبے کا بھی آغاز ہو چکا ہے۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا کہ پاکستان پر امن اور خوشحال دنیا کے ویزن کو کامیاب بنانے کے لئے اپنا کردار جاری رکھے گا۔ ایک سڑک اور ایک خطے کا نظریہ حقیقت میں بدل رہا ہے۔ چین کے ساتھ پاکستان کی شراکت داری اور بھائی چارے کا رشتہ مستحکم بنیادوں پر استوار ہے۔ جغرافیائی و سیاسی غیر یقینی کی عالمی صورتحال، عدم مساوات میں اضافہ اور تجارتی رکاوٹوں کے خاتمہ کیلئے ہیٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ بین الاقوامی تعاون، شراکت داری، رابطوں کے فروغ اور مشترکہ خوشحالی کا بہترین ماڈل پیش کرتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بی آر آئی سے گلوبلائزیشن کی موجودہ صورتحال میں دنیا کی اقوام کو ترقی کے حوالے سے ایک نئے اور اہم مرحلہ کے لئے مواقع دستیاب ہوں گے۔ فورم میں بین الاقوامی رہنماؤں کی کثیر تعداد میں شرکت اس بات کا ثبوت ہے کہ ہم نے نامیدی کی بجائے امید اور اختلافات پر قابو پانے کیلئے باہمی تعاون کا انتخاب کیا ہے۔ ہم چین کے ساتھ عالمی ترقی اور خوشحالی کے خواب کو حقیقت میں بدلنے کے لئے بنیادی شراکت داری ہیں۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ (سی پیک) بی آر آئی کا ایک بڑا جزو ہے۔ گوادریز جو کبھی ایک چھوٹا سا ٹھیسروں کا گائوں ہوتا تھا تیزی سے تجارتی مرکز بنتا جا رہا ہے اور گوادریز میں تعمیر ہونے والا ایئر پورٹ ملک کا سب سے بڑا ایئر پورٹ ہوگا۔ ہم تعلیم، نئی ایجادات اور ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبہ میں بھی باہمی رابطوں کے فروغ سے پاک چین شراکت داری کو وسعت دے رہے ہیں۔ سی پیک کے ساتھ ساتھ خصوصی اقتصادی زونز قائم کئے گئے ہیں جہاں پر پاکستانی، چینی اور بین الاقوامی اداروں کو سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع پیش کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ وزیراعظم نے چین اور اس کی قیادت کی جانب سے پاکستان کی بھرپور معاونت پر شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ہماری دوستی لازوال اور پرانی ہے جبکہ چین کے ساتھ پاکستان کی شراکت داری اور بھائی چارے کا رشتہ مستحکم بنیادوں پر استوار ہے جو ہر مشکل کی گھڑی میں پورا اترتا ہے۔ بی آر آئی سے خطاب کے موقع کو اہم قرار دیتے ہوئے وزیراعظم نے فورم کے شرکاء کو دعوت دی کہ وہ پاکستان میں آزادانہ غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کے ماحول سے استفادہ کریں اور ہماری معیشت میں شراکت دار بنیں۔ انہوں نے بین الاقوامی برادری کو پاکستان کے بنیادی ڈھانچے، ریلوے، ڈیموں کی تعمیر، آئی ٹی اور مینوفیکچرنگ کے شعبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کی خصوصی دعوت دی۔ انہوں نے کانفرنس کے شرکاء کو عالمی سطح پر عوام کی فلاح و بہبود پر توجہ دینے کی دعوت دی اور کہا کہ اس سے ہم پائیدار معاشی ترقی کے مطلوبہ اہداف کے حصول کی جانب کامیابی سے سفر کر سکتے ہیں۔ میں تجویز پیش کرتا ہوں کہ ہمیں دنیا میں آئندہ 2 سال کے دوران 100 ارب درخت لگانے کے لئے مشترکہ منصوبے شروع کرنے چاہئیں تاکہ ہم اپنی آنے والی نسلوں کو موسمیاتی تبدیلیوں کے اثرات سے محفوظ رکھتے ہوئے اس سے ہونے والے نقصانات کو کم سے کم کر سکیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان بدعنوانی کے تدارک اور وائٹ کالر زکرائم پر قابو پانے کے لئے جامع اقدامات کر رہا ہے جس میں عالمی برادری کی شراکت داری سے مطلوبہ اہداف کے نتائج کو آسان بنایا جاسکتا ہے۔ مشہور چینی مقولہ کا حوالہ دیتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ ”سمندر اس لئے وسیع ہوتا ہے کیونکہ وہ کسی دریا کو مسترد نہیں کرتا“۔ وزیراعظم نے کہا کہ پاکستان باہمی عزت اور مساوات کی بنیاد پر اپنا عمل جاری رکھے گا اور چین سمیت بی آر آئی کے دیگر شراکت داروں کے ساتھ مل کر ہم اپنے عوام کے بہتر مستقبل کو یقینی بنانے کے لئے کام جاری رکھیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان پر امن اور خوشحال دنیا کے ویزن کو کامیاب بنانے کے لئے اپنا کردار جاری رکھے گا۔ ہم مل کر کام کرنے کے خواہشمند ہیں۔ دریں اثنا وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ اقتصادی راہداری منصوبہ پاکستان کیلئے ایک نعمت ہے، سی پیک کی بدولت دوسرے ممالک پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کرنے کا سوچ رہے ہیں۔ چین پاکستان فرینڈشپ ایسوسی ایشن کے ظہرانے سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیراعظم عمران خان نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبہ ہیٹ اینڈ روڈ کی صورت میں انتہائی اہم ہے۔ سی پیک پر پورا پاکستان متفق ہے۔ پاکستان افغانستان میں پر امن سیاسی حل چاہتا ہے۔ امکان ہے کہ انتخابات کے بعد بھارت سے بھی مذاکرات کا عمل جاری ہوگا۔ پاکستان اور آئی ایم ایف نے اتفاق کیا ہے کہ پاکستان کے لئے بیل آؤٹ پیکیج پروگرام پر اتفاق رائے کے لئے مل کر کام کیا جائے گا، یہ اتفاق رائے وزیراعظم عمران خان کی آئی ایم ایف کی ایم ڈی کرسٹین لیگارڈ سے ملاقات میں کیا گیا، آئی ایم ایف کا وفد پروگرام پر حتمی بات چیت کے لئے تین روز بعد پاکستان آنے والا ہے جس میں پروگرام کی شرائط کو حتمی شکل دے دی جائے گی، پاکستان ریونیو ہدف، خسارہ سمیت کچھ کارکردگی انڈیکسز کو نرم بنانے کو متعمی ہے، ملاقات میں یہ اتفاق رائے بھی کیا گیا کہ پاکستان میں معاشرے کے غریب طبقات کے لئے سوشل نیٹ بنانے کی ضرورت ہے، ایم ڈی کے ساتھ بات چیت میں وزیراعظم نے مختلف سیکٹرز میں اصلاحات کے بارے میں بتایا۔ وزیراعظم سے عالمی بینک کی چیف ایگزیکٹو

افیسر کرشینا جیو گیوانے بھی ملاقات کی، وزیر اعظم نے ملک کی معاشی اور مالی صورتحال کو بہتر بنانے کے لئے اقدامات کے بارے میں بتایا، انہوں نے داسو ڈیم سمیت مختلف ترقیاتی منصوبوں میں عالمی بینک کی مدد کو سراہا۔ پاکستان اور آئی ایم ایف کے درمیان مذاکرات کا شیڈول طے پا گیا جس کے تحت آئی ایم ایف کا وفد 29 اپریل سے اسلام آباد پہنچ کر پاکستانی حکام کے ساتھ پیر سے باضابطہ مذاکرات شروع کرے گا۔ بین الاقوامی مالیاتی فنڈ کا جائزہ مشن 7 مئی تک پاکستان میں قیام کرے گا اس دوران آئی ایم ایف جائزہ مشن مختلف اداروں کا دورہ بھی کرے گا، وزارت خزانہ نے تمام متعلقہ وزارتوں اور اداروں کو مراسلہ جاری کر دیا اور آئی ایم ایف سے مذاکرات کیلئے ایف بی آر سمیت متعلقہ وزارتوں سے ڈیٹا مانگ لیا۔ میڈیم ٹرم معاشی فریم ورک کو حتمی شکل دی جا رہی ہے، وزارت خزانہ کی ہدایت پر ایف بی آر کے تمام متعلقہ ونگز نے ڈیٹا مرتب کرنا شروع کر دیا ہے۔ آئی ایم ایف پاکستان کی ٹیکس آمدنی جی ڈی پی کے 13.2 فیصد تک بڑھانے کا مطالبہ کر رہا ہے، حکومت پاکستان نے 12.7 فیصد تک بڑھانے کی یقین دہانی کرائی ہے، آئی ایم ایف سے ہونے والے مذاکرات میں ٹیکس ریویو پر بات چیت ہوگی، ایف بی آر ریویو جمع کرنے کی کارکردگی کو بہتر بنانے کے علاوہ منڈی ٹیکسوں کا نفاذ چاہتا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے چینی صدر کے عشاءہ میں بھی شرکت کی۔ عمران خان نے تاجکستان کے صدر سے بھی ملاقات کی۔ عالمی مالیاتی فنڈ (آئی ایم ایف) کی نیچنگ ڈائریکٹر کرسٹین لیگارڈ نے وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے ساتھ ملاقات کو انتہائی مثبت اور خوش آئند قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ انہیں وزیر اعظم پاکستان سے ملاقات کر کے خوشی ہوئی۔ ٹوئٹر پر ایک ٹوٹ میں انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان سے معاشی پیش قدمی گفتگو ہوئی۔ پاکستان کو معاشی درپیش چیلنجز سے متعلق تبادلہ خیال ہوا ہے۔

عمران

بیجنگ (آئی این پی + صباح نیوز) چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ رابٹے مضبوط کرنے کا ذریعہ قرار دیتے ہوئے ترقی پذیر ملکوں کے لیے دیر پا ترقی کی اہمیت پر زور دیا اور کہا کہ دوسرے ممالک کی مصنوعات کا چینی مارکیٹ میں خیر مقدم کریں گے، بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم تمام شریک ممالک کو ترقی کے یکساں مواقع فراہم کرے گا، مزید ملکوں کیساتھ آزادانہ تجارت کے مختلف معاہدوں پر بات چیت کریں گے۔ چین اعلیٰ معیاری آزاد تجارتی معاہدوں کی حوصلہ افزائی کرے گا۔ کرپشن کے حوالے سے ہماری زیر و نالرس پالیسی ہے۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبوں میں کرپشن برداشت نہیں کی جائے گی۔ دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ سے متعلق دوسرے عالمی تعاون فورم کی افتتاحی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے چینی صدر نے کہا کہ چین کا کھلے پن کو وسعت دینے کا اقدام چین کی اصلاحات و ترقی کے مطابق خود کیا جانے والا انتخاب ہے۔ انہوں نے مختلف ممالک سے ایپل کی کہ وہ سازگار سرمایہ کاری کے ماحول کی تشکیل کریں، چینی صنعتی و کاروباری اداروں نیز غیر ممالک میں زیر تعلیم چینی طلبہ اور سیکلرز سے مساوی سلوک کریں اور ان کے معمول کے عالمی تعاون و تبادلے کے لیے منصفانہ اور دوستانہ ماحول فراہم کریں۔ ایک مزید کھلا چین دنیا کے ساتھ مزید خوش اسلوبی سے روابط استوار کرے گا اور یوں مزید ترقی پسند اور خوشحال چین اور خوش حال دنیا کی تشکیل ہوگی۔ شی جن پنگ نے کہا کہ چین مختلف ممالک کے ساتھ دستخط شدہ کثیر الجہت اور دو طرفہ تجارتی معاہدوں کو بڑی اہمیت دیتا ہے۔ چین قانون کی حکمرانی اور دیانت داری سے حکومت کی تعمیر کو مضبوط بناتا ہے اور بین الاقوامی معاہدوں کے نفاذ کا نظام بناتا ہے۔ چین کھلے پن کی ترویج کے لیے قانون و ضوابط کو بہتر بناتا ہے۔ چینی صدر شی نے کہا کہ میکرو پالیسی کے حوالے سے چین دوسرے ممالک کے ساتھ ہم آہنگی کو مزید مضبوط بنائے گا اور عالمی معیشت کی پائیدار، مضبوط، متوازن اور مشترکہ ترقی کے لیے کوشش کرے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کبھی بھی زر مبادلہ کی ایسی شرح فرسودگی نہیں کرے گا جس سے دوسرے ممالک کو نقصان پہنچے، چین چینی یوآن کے زر مبادلہ کی تشکیل کے نظام کو بہتر بنائے گا اور چینی یوآن کے شرح تبادلہ کو متوازن اور مناسب سطح پر برقرار رکھے گا۔ اس کے علاوہ وسائل مختص کرنے میں مارکیٹ کو مرکزی کردار دینے کی کوشش کرے گا۔ چین عالمی تجارتی تنظیم کی اصلاحات کی حمایت کرتے ہوئے اس میں مثبت طور پر شرکت کرے گا اور دوسرے ممالک کے ساتھ مزید اعلیٰ سطحی عالمی تجارتی اصولوں کی تعمیر کرے گا۔ چینی صدر نے کہا کہ چین محصولات کو مزید کم کرے گا، مختلف قسم کی غیر ٹیرف رکاوٹوں کو ختم کرے گا اور چینی مارکیٹ کے دروازے مزید کھولے گا اور دنیا کے مختلف ممالک کی اعلیٰ معیار کی مصنوعات کا خیر مقدم کرے گا۔ صدر شی نے کہا کہ ہمیں تعاون کا بیج بوئیں۔ ترقی پذیر ممالک میں پائیدار ترقی کیلئے مشترکہ عالمی کوششوں کی ضرورت ہے۔ روسی صدر ولادی میر پیوٹن نے فورم سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ دوسرے ممالک کی آزادی اور خود مختاری کا احترام کرنا چاہیے۔ مالیاتی کرنسی اور پالیسی کے استحکام کیلئے چین کے ساتھ مل کر کام کریں گے۔ صنعتی ترقی کو فروغ دینے کیلئے اقدامات ضروری ہیں۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم علاقائی ترقی کیلئے اہم ثابت ہو گا۔ دہشت گردی اور انتہا پسندی کے خاتمے کیلئے عالمی کوششوں کی ضرورت ہے۔ روسی صدر پیوٹن نے یہ بھی کہا کہ شاندار مشترکہ مستقبل کیلئے اجتماعی کوششوں کی ضرورت ہے۔ چین کے ساتھ روس کی ذہنی ہم آہنگی ہے۔ چینی صدر کے اس اقدام کو سراہتے ہیں۔

## Nawaiwaqt 28-04-2019

### گودار بندر گاہ خطے اور براعظموں کو ملانے کی: عمران

بیجنگ (نمائندہ خصوصی + ایجنسیاں + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ باہمی رابطوں کو فروغ دے کر معاشی ترقی کے نئے ذرائع دریافت کیے جاسکتے ہیں، جدید دنیا میں چین نے پائیدار معاشی شرح نمو، معاشرے کی فلاح و بہبود اور اربوں لوگوں کے معیار زندگی میں بہتری کی عظیم کامیابیاں حاصل کی ہیں جو اس کی قیادت کی فہم و فراست اور چینی عوام کی محنت کا نتیجہ ہے، اب چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ (بی آر آئی) پروگرام کا تصور پیش کیا ہے جو تجارتی رکاوٹوں کے خاتمے، عوامی رابطوں کے فروغ، مختلف معیشتوں کو ضم کرنے اور مشترکہ خوشحالی کے ویژن پر مشتمل ہے، پاکستان چین کا بنیادی شراکت دار ہونے پر فخر محسوس کرتا ہے، چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) منصوبے کے تحت سڑک، ریل، توانائی اور دیگر شعبوں کے منصوبہ جات شامل ہیں جن کا مقصد مسائل پر قابو پانا اور ترقی کے اہداف کا حصول ہے۔ ہفتے کو بیجنگ میں دوسرے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم (بی آر آئی) کے موقع پر لیڈرز رائونڈ ٹیبل مذاکرے کے پہلے سیشن سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ ہم سی پیک کے تحت بڑی بڑی شاہراہیں تعمیر کر رہے ہیں، ریلوے کے وسائل کو جدید خطوط پر استوار کرنے، نئے پاور پلانٹس کی تنصیب، گودار میں جدید ترین سہولیات سے آراستہ بندر گاہ کی تعمیر اور مخصوص اقتصادی زونز قائم کر رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک ایک منصوبہ ہی نہیں بلکہ اس سے ہمارے معاشرے کی ترقی اور فلاح و بہبود میں بھی مدد ملے گی۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ گودار کی بندر گاہ کو چین کے علاقے ژنگ جیانگ کے ساتھ ملانے سے چین کو اپنی درآمدات کے لئے مغربی چین کے سمندروں کے مقابلے میں ایک مختصر ترین بحری راستہ دستیاب ہو گا جس سے چینی کمپنیوں کے اخراجات میں کمی اور مغربی چین کی ترقی میں بھی مدد ملے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ باہمی رابطوں میں مزید اضافہ اور بی آر آئی کے فوائد سے زیادہ سے زیادہ استفادے کے لیے ہم مستقبل میں مزید شعبوں پر توجہ دیں گے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ میں محسوس کرتا ہوں کہ اس سے ڈیجیٹل رابطوں اور معلومات کے بہتر تبادلے سے کاروباری مواقع بڑھیں گے اور قیمتوں کو کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی، اس کے علاوہ کارکنوں اور مہارتوں کی منتقلی سے اخراجات کو کم کیا جاسکے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ثقافتی رابطوں کا فروغ سیاحت کے شعبے کی ترقی میں معاون ثابت ہو گا جس سے روزگار کی فراہمی کے مواقع پیدا کرنے اور چھوٹے کاروباروں کی ترقی میں بھی مدد ملے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ علم اور ایجادات پر مشتمل رابطوں کا فروغ بی آر آئی میں شامل ممالک کا ایک اہم مقصد ہے جس کے لیے پاکستان اپنی نوجوان آبادی کی بنیاد پر اہم مقام رکھتا ہے اور ہمارا مستقبل مہارتوں کو مزید نکھارنے اور بین الاقوامی معیشتوں کے ساتھ رابطوں کے فروغ پر منحصر ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ رابطوں کے فروغ کے ان اضافی ذرائع پر عملدرآمد کے لئے میں بی آر آئی کے ممالک کو توجیز پیش کرتا ہوں کہ وہ بی آر آئی ٹورازم کو ریڈور قائم کریں تاکہ ثقافت اور سیاحت کے باہمی رابطوں کو فروغ دیا جاسکے، اسی طرح زیادہ افرادی قوت رکھنے والے ممالک کے کارکنوں کی مہارتوں کو مزید بہتر بنانے کے لئے بھی جامع پروگرامز مرتب کرنے کی ضرورت ہے تاکہ انسانی وسائل کی قلت کے شکار ممالک کی معاونت کی جا سکے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ مختلف زبانوں پر مشتمل ڈیجیٹل پلیٹ فارمز کے قیام سے ہم پیداواری اداروں، صارفین اور ہنرمند افرادی قوت کے رابطوں کو بھی فروغ دے سکیں گے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان ایک اہم خطے میں واقع ہے اور ہماری پوری تاریخ اس بات کی مظہر ہے کہ پاکستان نے ہمیشہ نئے تصورات، ثقافت اور تجارت کو باہم مربوط کیا ہے، رابطوں کا فروغ ہماری تاریخ کا ایک حصہ ہے اور سی پیک کے ذریعے 21 ویں صدی میں اس کو جدید خطوط پر استوار کیا جا رہا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے کہا کہ جب ہمارے خطے کے رابطوں میں اضافہ ہو گا اور خوشحالی آئے گی جس سے میں توقع کرتا ہوں کہ ہم حل طلب دیرینہ مسائل کے مشترکہ حل کا آسان راستہ تلاش کرنے میں کامیاب ہوں گے۔ اپنے خطاب کے آخر میں انہوں نے چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ اور چینی قوم کو عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی 70 ویں سالگرہ پر مبارکباد پیش کی اور صدر شی جن پنگ اور عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی جانب سے بہترین مہمانداری پر ان کا شکریہ بھی ادا کیا۔ نوائے وقت رپورٹ کے مطابق انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) پاکستان کیلئے بڑی تبدیلی کا باعث ہے۔ اقتصادی راہداری روڈ ریل اور توانائی منصوبوں کے ذریعہ خوشحالی کا منصوبہ ہے۔ روابط سی پیک کا خاصا ہے۔ پاکستان کی خوش قسمتی ہے کہ ہم چین کے شراکت دار ہیں۔ گودار بندر گاہ چینی کمپنیوں کیلئے لاگت کم کرے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین جدید دور میں کامیابی کی عظیم مثال ہے۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ وژن سے رکاوٹیں ختم ہو گی اور عوام قریب آئیں گے۔ دریں اثنا وزیر اعظم سے ایتھوپیا کے ہم منصب نے ملاقات کی۔ اس موقع پر باہمی دلچسپی کے امور اور دو طرفہ تعلقات پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا پاکستان افریقی ممالک سے تعلقات کو وسعت دینے کا خواہشمند ہے۔ امن دستوں کے ذریعے افریقہ میں امن کیلئے کردار ادا کرتے رہیں گے۔ دونوں رہنماؤں نے مستقبل میں اعلیٰ رابطے جاری رکھنے پر اتفاق کیا۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ اقتصادی راہداری ہماری خوشحالی کا منصوبہ ہے۔ گودار بندر گاہ چینی کمپنیوں کیلئے لاگت کم کرے گی۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ وژن سے رکاوٹیں ختم ہوں گی گودار بندر گاہ نہ صرف خطے بلکہ براعظموں کو ملانے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کا شراکت دار ہونا پاکستان کی خوش قسمتی ہے۔ خطے کی خوشحالی

سے مسائل کا حل ممکن ہو سکے گا اور عوام قریب آئیں گے۔ سی پیک مختلف منصوبوں کا مجموعہ ہے جس میں شاہراہیں، ریل، توانائی اور دیگر منصوبے شامل ہیں۔ وزیراعظم نے تجویزی کی کہ صنعت کاروں اور صارفین میں روابط کیلئے کثیرالسلٹی ڈیجیٹل پلیٹ فارم بنایا جائے۔ افرادی قوت کی تربیت کیلئے پروگرام ترتیب دیئے جائیں۔ ثقافت و سیاحت کے تبادلوں کیلئے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ پیپاری راہداری بنائی جائے۔ سی پیک پاکستان کے ساتھ مغربی چین کی ترقی میں بھی مدد دے گا۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان نے وفد کے ہمراہ چین کے نائب صدر وانگ کیشن سے ملاقات کی جس میں دو طرفہ تعلقات، باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ چینی نائب صدر نے وزیراعظم عمران خان نے وفد کے اعزاز میں ضیافت دی۔ چینی نائب صدر نے صدر شی جن پنگ کی جانب سے ضیافت دی۔ ملاقات میں معیشت، سی پیک منصوبے دو طرفہ تعلقات کو مضبوط بنانے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا دونوں ممالک نے وفد کی سطح پر بات چیت آگے بڑھانے پر اتفاق کیا چینی نائب صدر وانگ جی شان سے ملاقات میں شاہ محمود قریشی، عبدالحفظ شیخ، شیخ رشید، فیصل واوڈا، امین اسلم، عمر ایوب اور عبدالرزاق داؤد بھی شریک تھے۔ وزیر توانائی عمر ایوب نے کہا ہے کہ وزیراعظم عمران خان کا دورہ چین کامیاب رہا ہے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ مزید وسعت کے ساتھ آگے بڑھ رہا ہے توانائی، زراعت، غربت کے خاتمے سمیت بہت سے منصوبے شامل ہیں چین کے ساتھ دو اہم پوز پر دستخط ہوئے ہیں متعدد چینی کمپنیاں پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کی خواہاں ہیں ہم پاکستان میں سرمایہ کار دوست ماحول بنا رہے ہیں۔ این این آئی کے مطابق چین کے دورے پر موجود پاکستان کے وزیراعظم عمران خان کی چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ سے ملاقات (آج) اتوار کو ہوگی جس میں پاک چین تعلقات اور اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے سمیت مختلف امور زیر غور آئیں گے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق (آج) اتوار کو پاکستان اور چینی حکام مختلف معاہدوں پر دستخط بھی کریں گے پاک چین ٹریڈ انویسٹمنٹ فورم وزیراعظم کے اعزاز میں ظہرانہ دیگا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق وزیراعظم عمران خان چین میں منعقدہ عالمی نمائش میں پاکستانی اسٹال کا دورہ کریں گے چینی صدر اور دیگر عالمی رہنما بھی چینی اسٹال کا دورہ کریں گے۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان اپنا دورہ چین مکمل کر کے (آج) اتوار کی رات 11 بجے پاکستان کیلئے روانہ ہوں گے۔

بیجنگ (ایجنسیاں + سننوا + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چین کے دارالحکومت بیجنگ میں تین روزہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم اختتام پذیر ہو گیا غیر ملکی خیر انجینیئرنگ کے مطابق فورم کے اختتام پر چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے میڈیا سے گفتگو کرتے کہا کہ اجلاس کے دوران 64 ارب ڈالر کے معاہدوں پر دستخط کئے گئے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ پروگرام میں مزید دوست ممالک اور شراکت دار شامل ہوں گے کلب میں اٹلی، یمن، سائیرس، بارباڈوس سمیت 9 نئے ممالک شامل ہوئے ہیں صدر شی نے کہا کہ کاروباری ادارے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ پروڈیکٹس کے ڈائریور ہوں گے۔ مارکیٹ کے اصول لاگو ہوں گے اس سے پروڈیکٹ پائیدار اور غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کیلئے منصفانہ غیر امتیازی ماحول پیدا ہوگا۔ فورم کے اختتام پر شی جن پنگ نے صحافیوں سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ہم کھلی شفاف اور ماحول دوست ترقی کیلئے پرعزم ہیں ان کی خارجی پالیسی کا مقصد ایشیا کو یورپ اور افریقہ سے ملانے والی قدیم سِلک روڈ کو بڑے پیمانے پر سمندروں، سڑکوں اور ریلوے منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کرتے ہوئے دوبارہ قائم کرنا ہے تاہم ناقدین کا کہنا ہے کہ 6 سالہ پرانا منصوبہ بیجنگ کی عالمی سطح پر مداخلت کو بڑھانے کیلئے ہے جس سے چینی کمپنیوں کو فائدہ اور ممالک کو قرضوں کی شکل میں اور ماحول کو بھی نقصان ہوگا۔ شی جن پنگ کا کہنا تھا کہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبوں میں ادارے اصل کردار ادا کریں گے اور مارکیٹ کے اصول لاگو ہوں گے جبکہ حکومتیں بھی اس میں تعاون کر کے اپنا کردار ادا کریں گی۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ اس سے منصوبہ مزید مستحکم ہوگا اور غیر ملکی سرمایہ کیلئے صاف شفاف اور بلا تفریق ماحول پیدا ہوگا۔ قبل ازیں چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے کہا ہے کہ پوری دنیا میں معیشت کو بڑے چیلنجز کا سامنا ہے، ہمیں اپنی سرحدوں کو تجارت کے لیے کھولنا ہوگا۔ چین کے دارالحکومت بیجنگ میں جاری دوسرے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم کے موقع پر گول میز کانفرنس سے خطاب کے دوران چینی صدر نے کہا کہ پوری دنیا میں معیشت کو بڑے چیلنجز کا سامنا ہے۔ بنیادی ڈھانچے اور صنعتی ترقی کے لیے مزید کام کرنا ہوگا۔ مشترکہ جدوجہد سے لوگوں کا معیار زندگی بہتر بنا سکتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ عوامی سطح پر رابطوں کو فروغ دینا ہوگا، ہمیں اقوام متحدہ کے 2030 کے ایجنڈے پر عمل کرنا ہوگا، ماحولیاتی تبدیلی کے مضراثرات سے نمٹنے کے لیے ہمیں مشترکہ کوششیں کرنی ہوں گی، بی آر آئی خطے کے ممالک کی اقتصادی ترقی کے لیے اہم فورم ہے، کثیرالسلٹی تعاون بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم کا بنیادی ڈھانچا ہے۔ چین کے صدر شی جن پنگ نے اقوام متحدہ کے سیکرٹری جنرل انتونیو گوسٹس سے ملاقات کی جو یہاں دوسرے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم برائے عالمی تعاون میں شرکت کے لیے آئے ہوئے تھے۔ اس موقع پر بات چیت کرتے ہوئے چین کے صدر شی نے کہا کہ چین کثیرالسلٹی بین الاقوامی نظام اور بین الاقوامی قانون پر مبنی عالمی آرڈر پر یقین رکھتا ہے، تاکہ مستقبل کی انسانی برداری کو مساوی فوائد کی برداری بنایا جاسکے۔ اقوام متحدہ کے سیکرٹری جنرل گوسٹس نے کہا کہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم سے صدر شی کا خطاب بہت اہم ہے، جو بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے سے وابستہ ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات اور عالمگیر ترقی کے ایجنڈے نمایاں کرتا ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ تازہ نشانیوں کی ترقی محض ایک پرکشش تاریخی رجحان نہیں تھا بلکہ انسانی ترقی میں ایک اہم کردار تھا۔ دریں اثناء چینی وزیراعظم لی کی کیانگ نے کہا کہ چین دوسرے ممالک کیلئے اپنے دروازے کھولنے پر مزید توجہ دیگا اور اصلاحات کو مزید گہرائی



تک لے جائیگی کوشش کرے گا۔ مارکیٹ میں رسائی کی پالیسی میں نرمی کی جائے گی اور پالیسیوں کے نفاذ اور عملدرآمد پر زور دیا جائے گا، وزیر اعظم کی کامیاب کھانا کسب کی منصفانہ اور غیر جانبدارانہ نگرانی کی جائے گی۔ خواہ چینی کمپنیاں ہوں یا بیرونی سرمائے سے چلنے والی کمپنیاں، اگر انہیں چین میں رجسٹرڈ کروایا گیا تو محصولات اور متعلقہ فیس میں کمی اور منصفانہ اور غیر جانبدارانہ نگرانی سمیت ان کے ساتھ دیگر معاملات میں بھی مساوی سلوک کیا جائے گا۔

## Nawaiwaqt 28-04-2019

### پاک چین دوستی

پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی ایک مضبوط دیوار کی مانند ہے۔ اس بات میں کوئی شک نہیں کہ پاکستان کے ہر مشکل وقت میں چین نے پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا ہے۔ پھر چاہے بات پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی کی ہو یا پھر دیگر ممالک کے ساتھ تعلقات کی دونوں ممالک نے ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کے لئے اہم ترین کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان باقاعدہ تعلقات کا آغاز 1950ء میں ہوا۔ پاکستان اسلامی دنیا کا پہلا اور غیر کمیونسٹ ممالک میں تیسرا ملک تھا۔ جس نے 1950ء کے تائیوان چین تنازعے کے فوراً بعد چین کو آزاد ریاست کے طور پر تسلیم کیا۔ تاہم دونوں ممالک کے درمیان سفارتی تعلقات 31 مئی 1951ء میں قائم ہوئے۔ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات میں نمایاں گرم جوشی 1962ء کی چین بھارت سرحدی جنگ کے بعد پیدا ہوئی۔ بھارت کو اپنا واپسی دشمن سمجھنے والی پاکستانی قیادت نے چین سے تعلقات بڑھاتے ہوئے اسے خطے میں ایک متبادل طاقت کے طور پر ابھرنے میں مدد فراہم کی تاکہ بھارتی اثر و سوج کاراستہ روکا جاسکے۔ 1965ء کی پاک بھارت جنگ کے دوران بھی چین نے پاکستان کو خاصی مدد فراہم کی جس کے بعد دونوں ممالک کے درمیان فوجی اور اقتصادی رابطوں میں مزید شدت آئی۔ 1966ء میں فوجی تعاون کا آغاز ہوا۔ چین پاکستان کو دفاعی پیداوار میں اپنے پاؤں پر کھڑا کر رہا ہے۔ چین سے ملنے والا اسلحہ سستا ہوتا ہے جو مغرب سے نہیں ملتا۔ اگر کوئی چیز نہیں ملتی تو دونوں (پاکستان اور چین) مشترکہ طور پر تیار کرتے ہیں۔ جس میں کچھ مغربی اور کچھ چین کی ٹیکنالوجی شامل ہوتی ہے۔ اس کے مقابلے میں دونوں جنگوں میں چین نے بڑے بھائی کا قابل ستائش کردار ادا کیا۔ پاکستان نے بھی ہمیشہ چین کی خیر سگالی کا مثبت جواب دیا۔ پاکستان نے چین اور امریکہ کے مابین سفارتی تعلقات قائم کرنے اور اقوام متحدہ میں اس کی رکنیت بحالی کرنے کے لیے بھرپور سفارت کاری کی۔ 1970ء میں پاکستان کی انتھک کوششوں سے امریکی وزیر خارجہ ہنری کسنجر کے خفیہ دورہ بیجنگ کے انتظامات ممکن ہوئے۔ اس طرح چین اور مغربی دنیا کے درمیان براہ راست رابطے ممکن ہو سکے اور پاکستان ہی کی بدولت 1972ء میں امریکی صدر رچرڈ نکسن نے چین کا سرکاری دورہ کیا۔ 1978ء میں چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان واحد زمینی راستے قراقرم ہائی وے کا باقاعدہ افتتاح ہوا۔ 1984ء میں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان جوہری توانائی کے میدان میں تعاون کے سمجھوتے پر دستخط کیے گئے۔ دونوں ممالک کی افواج کئی مشترکہ فوجی مشقیں بھی کر چکی ہیں۔ جس کا مقصد انسداد دہشت گردی کے لیے باہمی تعاون کا فروغ قرار دیا گیا تھا۔ 2005ء اور 2010ء میں دکھ کی گھڑی میں چین نے پاکستان میں آئے ہوئے سیلاب اور زلزلے کی تباہ کاریوں کے مداوے کے لیے 247 ملین ڈالرز کی امداد کی تھی۔

پاکستان اور چین ایک دوسرے کے بڑے اتحادی ہیں۔ یہ اتحاد دفاعی پہلوؤں سمیت اقتصادی پہلوؤں کا احاطہ کرتا ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سیاسی بندھن ٹوٹ ہے۔ یہی وجہ ہے کہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان کاروباری تعلقات ہمیشہ نمود پذیر رہے ہیں۔

ان دنوں وزیر اعظم عمران خان چین کے دورے پر گئے ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا کہ پاکستان کی خوش قسمتی ہے کہ ہم چین کے شراکت دار ہیں، افرادی قوت کی تربیت کیلئے پروگرام ترتیب دیئے جائیں، گوارا بندرگاہ چینی کمپنیوں کیلئے لاگت کم کرے گی۔ چین جدید دور میں کامیابی کی عظیم مثال ہے، صدر شی جن پھنگ نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کا ویشن پیش کیا جس سے رکاوٹیں ختم ہوگی، عوام قریب آئیں گے، بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ ویشن سے معیشت کی ترقی اور خوشحالی ممکن ہوگی، نئی بندرگاہ خطوں کو آپس میں منسلک کرے گی، گوارا بندرگاہ سکیناگ کے ذریعے چینی ایشیا کی ترسیل کیلئے مختصر راستہ ہے، ہائی ویز تعمیر، ریلوے کو جدید بنا رہے ہیں، توانائی منصوبے، خصوصی اقتصادی زونز قائم کیے جا رہے ہیں، سی بیک پاکستان کیلئے بڑی تبدیلی کا باعث ہے، بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ ویشن کے ذریعے ڈیجیٹل رابطوں اور اطلاعات کے تبادلوں میں بہتری لانا ہوگی۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ ویشن کے ذریعے سیاحت سے ثقافتی روابط کو بڑھا یا جائے، پاکستان اہم خطوں کی گزرگاہ ہے، روابط پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کا خاصہ ہیں، چین نے پائیدار ترقی، معاشرتی، عوامی زندگیوں میں واضح تبدیلی پیدا کی، عظیم تبدیلی چین کے وژن اور عوام کی محنت سے ممکن ہوئی، بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ ویشن سے معیشت کی ترقی و خوشحالی ممکن ہوگی۔ چین کی کے ساتھ روابط سے پاکستان کی معاشی ترقی تو ہوگی۔ پاکستان کے چین سے بڑھتے تعلقات اور پاکستان کی خوشحالی و ترقی اس کے دشمنوں کے لیے کسی ڈراؤنے خواب سے کم نہیں۔ چین کا شمار دنیا کے ان مضبوط ترین ممالک



میں ہوتا ہے۔ جو اقتصادی حوالے سے مستحکم ہیں۔ جب کہ دوسری طرف پاکستان کا شمار ترقی پذیر ممالک میں ہوتا ہے۔ لیکن اس کے باوجود دونوں ملکوں کے مابین تعلقات ہمیشہ مثالی رہے ہیں۔ پاک چین باہمی رشتے کو بہت زیادہ اہمیت حاصل رہی ہے۔ ہر عہد میں پاکستان اور چین نے اپنے تعلقات کو مضبوط بنانے کے اقدامات کیے ہیں۔

### Nawaiwaqt 30-04-2019

#### پاکستان، چین تعلقات مضبوط اور تاریخی حیثیت کے حامل ہیں: آصف نکئی

لاہور (نمائندہ خصوصی) صوبائی وزیر مواصلات و تعمیرات سردار محمد آصف نکئی نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین دوسرا آزاد تجارتی معاہدہ اور اقتصادی و تجارتی تعاون کے فروغ پر اتفاق رائے اس بات کا منہ بولتا ثبوت ہے کہ پاک چین تعلقات میں مزید بہتری آرہی ہے اور یہ سب وزیراعظم عمران خان اور ان کی حکومت کی کامیاب خارجہ پالیسی کا نتیجہ ہے جس سے معیشت میں بہتری آئے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین تعلقات مضبوط، گہرے اور تاریخی حیثیت کے حامل ہیں۔ چین نے ہر مشکل گھڑی میں پاکستان کا ساتھ دے کر دوستی کا ثبوت دیا اور دونوں ممالک کے باہمی تعلقات وقت گزرنے کے ساتھ مزید مستحکم ہو رہے ہیں۔ آصف نکئی نے کہا کہ پاکستان تحریک انصاف عوام کی خدمت کا ایجنڈا لے کر آئی ہے اور حکومت عوام کی بہتری کے لئے کوشاں ہے۔ سابق ادوار میں ہونے والی کرپشن اور بد نظمی نے ملک کو بے حد نقصان پہنچایا۔ قوم اپنی لوٹی ہوئی دولت کا حساب چاہتے ہیں۔ قومی دولت کی لوٹ مار کرنیوالوں کو چاہیے کہ وہ قوم کی لوٹی دولت ملک میں واپس لے کر آئیں۔

### Nawaiwaqt 30-04-2019

#### چین کی 1700 مصنوعات کو حساس لسٹ میں شامل کرنا خوش آئند اقدام ہے: میاں خرم الیاس

لاہور (سٹاف رپورٹر) چیئرمین لاہور ٹائون شپ انڈسٹریل ایسوسی ایشن میاں خرم الیاس نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین آزاد تجارتی معاہدہ ایم ایل ون پر دستخط سے 313 پاکستانی مصنوعات پر ڈیوٹی فری رسائی سے ملنے پر آمدات میں اضافہ ہوگا، معاہدے میں مقامی صنعت کو تحفظ دینے کیلئے چین کی 1700 مصنوعات کو حساس لسٹ میں شامل کرنا خوش آئند اقدام ہے اس سے مقامی انڈسٹریز کو تحفظ ملے گا ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے سینئر وائس چیئرمین حافظ عمران حمید، وائس چیئرمین مہوش احمد کے ساتھ ٹائون شپ انڈسٹریز کے صنعتکاروں کے مختلف وفد سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کیا۔

### Nawaiwaqt 30-04-2019

#### وزیراعظم کا دورہ چین ترقی کی ضمانت ثابت ہوگا: چودھری سرور

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) گورنر پنجاب چوہدری محمد سرور نے کہا ہے کہ وزیراعظم عمران خان کا دورہ چین ملکی ترقی اور خوشحالی کی ضمانت ثابت ہوگا۔ کامیاب دورہ چین کے دوران پاک چین آزاد تجارتی معاہدہ دوئم کے تحت پاکستان کو 313 مصنوعات کی درآمد پر ڈیوٹی فری رسائی ملنا ہماری بڑی کامیابی ہے۔ ملک دشمن عناصر قوم کو گمراہ کرنے کیلئے پروپیگنڈا کا سہارا لے کر بھی کامیاب نہیں ہو سکیں گے۔ دہشت گردوں اور ملک دشمنوں کے خلاف پوری قوم افواج پاکستان کے ساتھ ہیں۔ امن اور ملک دشمنوں کو ناکامی کے سوا کچھ نہیں ملے گا۔ عوام نے وزیراعظم عمران خان کو اعتماد کا ووٹ دیا ہے اور حکومت عوامی خدمت اور ترقی و خوشحالی کا مشن جاری رکھے گی۔ وہ گورنر ہاؤس لاہور میں وزیراعلیٰ پنجاب کے معاون خصوصی عون چوہدری اور صوبائی پارلیمانی سیکرٹری چوہدری محمد امین اور دیگر سے ملاقات کر رہے تھے۔ گورنر پنجاب چوہدری محمد سرور نے کہا آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے سے پاکستان کی برآمدات میں خاطر خواہ اضافہ دیکھا جائے گا۔ علاوہ ازیں گورنر پنجاب نے کہا کہ پنجاب کے عوام کو پینے کے صاف پانی کی فراہمی موجودہ حکومت کی اولین ترجیح ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ 80 فیصد لوگوں کو پینے کا صاف پانی میسر نہیں اور ملک بھر میں ہر سال گندہ پانی پینے کی وجہ سے لاکھوں افراد خطرناک بیماریوں کا شکار ہو جاتے ہیں۔ سابقہ حکمرانوں نے اس

اہم ترین مسئلہ کے حل کے لئے کوئی خاص توجہ نہیں دی۔ ان شاء اللہ تحریک انصاف اپنے دور اقتدار میں عوام کو پینے کے صاف پانی کی فراہمی کا وعدہ ضرور پورا کرے گی۔ ”پنجاب آب پاک اتھارٹی“ پنجاب بھر کے شہروں بالخصوص دیہی علاقوں میں لوگوں کو صاف پانی مہیا کرے گی۔

### **Nawaiwaqt 30-04-2019**

**ایم ایل ون منصوبہ کیلئے زمین نہیں دیگے: وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ**

کراچی (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ مراد علی شاہ نے ایم ایل ون منصوبے کے لیے زمین دینے سے انکار کر دیا۔ دس گھنٹے تک جاری رہنے والے سندھ اسمبلی کے اجلاس میں تقریر کے دوران مراد علی شاہ نے کہا کہ چین میں ایم ایل ون کا معاہدہ حکومت کر کے آئی ہے۔ سندھ حکومت ایم ایل ون کے لیے زمین نہیں دے گی۔ زمین پر پہلا حق کراچی کا ہے۔ زمین کراچی سرکلر یلوے کو دیں گے۔ مراد علی شاہ نے تقریر کے دوران کہا کہ جو بھی سندھ کے ہٹوارے کے خلاف ہیں وہ کھڑے ہو جائیں۔ پی پی کے ساتھ جی ڈی اے ارکان نشستوں پر کھڑے ہو گئے۔ تحریک انصاف کے ارکان بھی کھڑے ہو گئے لیکن ایم کیو ایم پاکستان کے ارکان نشستوں پر بیٹھے رہے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ سندھ نے جی ڈی اے ارکان سے اظہار تشکر کیا۔

### **Pakistan Observer 17-04-19**

#### **China-Pak friendship withstands test of time: CPPCC chairman**

Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Wang Yang Monday said China and Pakistan were good neighbors, friends, and partners that have withstood the test of time and changes in the international landscape.

He made these remarks in his meeting with Deputy Chairman Senate Saleem Mandviwala who was currently on a three-day visit to China along with a three-member delegation comprising Senators Sassi Palejo, Liaquat Khan Tarakai, and Abdul Qayyum. Pakistan Ambassador to China, Masood Khalid was also present.

Wang Yang, also a member of the Politburo Standing Committee, observed that the relationship between the two countries remained as rock solid and enjoyed a good momentum of growth. He particularly mentioned about the frequent exchanges between the leadership of two countries and good progress made in cooperation between the two neighbors in various fields. Wang Yang acknowledged the role of deputy chairman in promoting friendship and cooperation between China and Pakistan in various fields.

He also commended the distinguished guest his great and enormous efforts in helping establishment of China-Pakistan Friendship Group in the Senate of Pakistan. The Chairman of CPPCC hoped that the present visit of the deputy chairman would take the China-Pakistan friendship to new heights.

He recalled his last visit to Pakistan in which he led a delegation to attend 70th Independence anniversary celebrations and said, he was deeply impressed by achievements and development in Pakistan. He assured to continue strengthen friendship and cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

The deputy chairman said both Pakistan and China enjoyed strong and deep-rooted relations and expressed the hope that these relations would grow further in all the fields. He introduced his delegation to the chairman CPPCC and said it represented all major political parties in Pakistan.

He also thanked the Chinese side for extending hospitality and goodwill for the delegation. Later, the deputy chairman held a separate meeting with Vice Chairman, CPPCC Gao Yunlong and expressed satisfaction over the bilateral relations between Pakistan and China and ways and means to further cement these ties. The vice chairman, CPPCC also hosted welcome dinner in the honor of the deputy chairman senate and his delegation.

### **Pakistan Observer 17-04-19**

#### **Cautions important for CPEC**

CONFIDENCE is the basic factor for the success of any landmark achievement. In Pakistan after the commencement of Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) somehow confusion was created among different provinces and forums which will never help in the successful completion and full fledged operation of this multidimensional gigantic project. The CPEC could help revive economy of Pakistan but if it moves ahead without more thorough debate in Parliament and provinces, legislatures and consultation with locals, it will deepen friction between the Centre and provinces already neglected, widen social divides and potentially create new sources of conflict. Undoubtedly China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is a game changer for the ailing economy of Pakistan. But opaque plans for the corridor, the upheaval likely to affect locals along its route, and profits flowing mostly to outsiders could stir unrest. The present government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has repressed CPEC critics. Projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, under China's Belt and Road Initiative, mark a new era of economic ties in bilateral relationship. No doubt.

The PTI Government should encourage debate about the CPEC, consult with business leaders, civil society and locals affected, ensure landowners receive fair compensation, encourage hiring local labour and allow space for dissent. Complaints in this regard should be addressed properly without any further delay. Any hindrance and confusion will definitely cause damage to the projects underway in different parts of the country. The PTI government should mitigate these risks by being more transparent about CPEC plans, consulting all stakeholders, including smaller provinces, the business community, civil society and addressing concerns that the corridor subordinates Pakistan's interests to those of China. More so is the matter of confidence between Pakistan and China. It is observed seriously that confidence level between Pakistan and China has gone below its ever ascending level. China- Pakistan Economic Corridor has become second jugular vein of Pakistan after Kashmir. Pakistan needs to honorably maintain relationship with China by all means. Chinese investments in Pakistan are not less than a blessing as it has invested projects worth billions of dollars in Pakistan. Within China there is no confusion among the central government and the provinces or masses and the governing authorities. The reason is high level of

confidence of masses in the institutions and the government, because government of China has always taken care of its great nation but here in Pakistan different governments have shaken the confidence of the nation. This confidence will have to be restored. The sooner The better.

Economy of Pakistan clearly needs reform to better serve its people, and it is believed that CPEC will help in this regard. But as currently rolled out the corridor risks aggravate political tension and instability widening social divides and creating new conflicts in Pakistan. For its part, China has consulted with different stakeholders in regions that will host CPEC projects it agreed upon with Pakistan. It should encourage Chinese companies to display sensitivity to residents of those areas, including by hiring local labour. CPEC, which comprises loans, investments and grants that could grow to around \$60 billion, covers all the way 2,700 km long route. It starts on the Pakistani Arabian Sea port of Gwadar, in Balochistan province, climbs along the Karakoram Highway through the Khunjerab Pass in Gilgit-Baltistan before crossing into the Kashgar prefecture in Xinjiang region of China. Within Pakistan's territory, the economic and development project priorities transport infrastructure, industrial development, energy and Baluchistan's strategically located Gwadar port. Agricultural modernisation and production form of another critical component. While it is too early to assess if CPEC can deliver the economic gains Pakistan promises, the project risks inflaming longstanding tension between the Centre and smaller federal units and within provinces over inequitable economic development and resource distribution.

Less developed provinces of Balochistan and Sindh contend that the corridor's route, infrastructure and industrial projects will mostly benefit Punjab, already the country's wealthiest and politically powerful province. In Punjab, locals could forcibly resist the state's acquisition of land for agricultural projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. In Balochistan, CPEC is exacerbating existing grievances among a population whose perception of exploitation and neglect by the Centre, together with authorities' suppression of dissent, have long fuelled an insurgency. The province will receive no direct financial benefits from Gwadar port, a key CPEC project, which means local anger on central government, is likely to intensify. Instead of developing a sleepy fishing village into a bustling commercial hub as pledged by Pakistan and China, the project is producing a heavily militarized zone, displacing locals and depriving them of economic lifelines. Many of these problems stem from opaque policy formulation, and the failure to heed regional and local concerns. CPEC's Long-Term Plan 2017-30) was formulated by the Centre with little input from local leaders, business or civil society actors. It was not disclosed until December 2017 and then only in broad strokes after the rollout of some major elements had already begun. From the project's entry point, Gwadar, to its exit point, in Gilgit-Baltistan, the state's response to local dissent and alienation has been an overbearing security presence, marked by army checkpoints, intimidation and harassment of local residents and crackdowns on anti CPEC protest.

### **Pakistan Observer, 20-04-19**

#### **CPEC to reposition Pakistan in new economic geography: Haroon**

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has helped in the emergence of a new economic geography that could lead to proximity-led development and shared prosperity in the region, Board of Investment (BoI) Chairman Haroon Sharif Friday said. He was speaking to the participants of the International CPEC Workshop organized by the National Defence University here. Sharif remarked that more and more regions are using proximity as a competitive advantage and CPEC is facilitating the proximity-led development.

While appreciating the relationship between Pakistan and China, he said the government wanted CPEC to be a multidimensional initiative to bring foreign direct investment parallel to infrastructure development. “Private capital is being attracted not only from China but also from United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia”, BoI chairman hailed. Sharif said the complexion of CPEC has transformed to infrastructure, industrial cooperation, agriculture and socioeconomic development where the government was keen to get China’s help in three areas; technology transfer to increase productivity, market access to Pakistani products, and uplift of less developed areas.

### **Pakistan Observer 21-04-19**

#### **CPEC on course**

FOUR years have completed since the launch of multibillion dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project and despite many conspiracies by our enemies, it is heartening to see that the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative of Chinese President Xi Jinping, is moving forward with success as a result of full backing and consensus of the peoples and political parties both in Pakistan and China. The mega project indeed has transformed the traditional relationship between the two neighbor countries into a strategic economic partnership and we expect that both the countries will continue treading the same path in future as well in order to further cement the longstanding relationship.

A seminar to mark the fourth anniversary of the CPEC was held in the federal capital on Friday where Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing talked about greater people-to-people and business-to-business contacts between the two countries in order to take the historic mega development project to the next level. Indeed this is the way forward to foil the conspiracies being hatched by the enemies against the game changer project. The CPEC has greatly helped Pakistan meet its power shortages and build a modern road infrastructure. And now it is time to take this relationship to the cooperation in the industrial, agriculture and other important sectors of economy in order to fully reap the benefits of the corridor.

We have no doubt in saying that Pakistan can easily address most of its economic woes just by reviving the industrial sector and putting its agriculture on modern lines with the cooperation of



Chinese friends. Special economic zones under the CPEC need to be established at the earliest whilst addressing all the bottlenecks as this will definitely usher in a new era for Pakistan by triggering economic activity and creating thousands of job opportunities for our youth. During the seminar the Chinese Ambassador also very rightly and emphatically addressed the concerns of those who are declaring the CPEC related loans as a burden on Pakistan's economy. The envoy clarified that the Chinese government has given Pakistan a loan of \$ 6 billion and its return payment will start after six to seven years in 2024.

It will be the time when most of the CPEC-related projects would have come to fruition and start contributing to the economy, therefore, the payment of these loans will not be a major problem for Pakistan. We are confident that the plant of CPEC cultivated by the leadership of China and Pakistan will continue to grow in the months and years ahead and benefit not only the two countries but the entire region and the world.

### **Pakistan Observer 23-04-19**

#### **CPEC a debt reliever, not a 'debt trap' for Pakistan**

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, as part of the Belt and Road Initiative, has been making remarkable progress, yet some countries and observers are trying to belittle its enormous potential benefits by labeling it a "debt trap". Since the CPEC is entering the next phase of its development, those opposed to it are trying to impede its progress using a two-pronged strategy – first, deceiving the public by misquoting the CPEC's financial figures and achievements in the media and second, raising the specter of past militancy in Pakistan to mislead investors into believing the country is still a volatile investment destination.

Despite Pakistani government departments issuing innumerable clarifications, along with the real facts and figures about the CPEC, the international CPEC cynics are bent upon calling it a "debt trap". Let us solve this puzzle by analyzing the CPEC's financial figures shared by the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad. For instance, only \$5.9 billion of the \$18.9 billion funding provided by the Chinese companies as of now for infrastructure projects constitute loans with a two per cent interest payable from 2021. The rest of the sum is meant for energy projects funded by Chinese companies and other partners. Also, \$143 million has been provided as interest-free loan for the construction of Gwadar East Bay Expressway in Pakistan's Balochistan province and \$29 million as a grant to fund welfare projects. This means loans are being used to fund less than 20 percent of all CPEC projects – and more than 80 percent of the projects are funded via different financial modalities according to international rules.

Since the CPEC loan of \$5.9 billion is hardly six per cent of Pakistan's total external debt and liabilities of \$99.1 billion, how can it be called a "debt trap"? As part of a "hybrid war", it is obvious that some global observers along with a few Pakistanis are calling the CPEC a "debt trap" to fulfill their ulterior motives. The loans from the International Monetary Fund, World Bank,

Asian Development Bank and other international lending institutions form a major part of Pakistan's total external debt and liabilities. Yet no one calls them a "debt trap"?

Thanks to the CPEC, China has been the largest investor in Pakistan for the last five years. The CPEC has not only attracted more Chinese investment in Pakistan but also transformed the country from an investment-dry to an investment-friendly destination. For instance, in February, Saudi Arabia signed memorandums of understanding worth \$10 billion to invest in Gwadar oil refinery apart from an additional \$10 billion worth of other deals. Other countries, too, are looking forward to investing in Pakistan, especially in the CPEC projects, to reap rich benefits.

The CPEC energy projects have already helped Pakistan overcome its energy shortfall – and by 2021 Pakistan will no longer be an energy-deficient country which will allow Pakistani entrepreneurs to produce more exportable goods and increase their export earnings. The CPEC has already created about 70,000 direct jobs since 2015, and about 60,000 of those jobs have gone to the local people. And by 2030, up to 800,000 people are likely to be employed in various CPEC projects. The other major benefit of the CPEC, especially the Gwadar port, is likely to be a huge influx of foreign investments. Pakistan's transportation network is in a bad shape, causing an annual loss of about 3.5 percent of GDP – due mainly to excessive consumption of gas and lubricants and frequent change of spare parts and breakdown of vehicles. According to the IMF, Pakistan's GDP was about \$304.95 billion in 2017, which means it loses about \$10.67 billion because of its poor transportation network.

The CPEC will help reduce this loss because it is expected to help improve Pakistan's transportation network. And by building the Gwadar port and road network, the CPEC will help Pakistan earn \$6 billion to \$8 billion a year from road and bridge tolls. Pakistan is on way to establishing three Special Economic Zones (SEZs) by the end of June. Also, it has plans to establish an information technology SEZ in Islamabad. Such projects will promote upstream and downstream industries as well as create more employment opportunities for the local people.

Along with the CPEC, Pakistan's tourism industry, too, is developing at a rapid pace with the country attracting a record number of tourists. Agriculture is another sector that Chinese investors have targeted, and the innovative and modern technology they will introduce to farming will greatly benefit Pakistani farmers, by increasing their yields manifold. Compared with the increased earnings and benefits of Pakistanis, a \$5.9 billion debt payable over a long period of time would be of little consequence to Pakistan's economy.

### **Pakistan Observer 23-04-19**

#### **Our preparations for CPEC**

Last night I received a very thought provoking call from my university classmate Khalid Wakeel, Professor International Relations and Media Studies, King Khalid University, Abha, Saudia Arabia. During discussion he asked me about the development, preparations and successful future of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Undoubtedly China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is

gigantic multidimensional project and future of Pakistan is being seen in the success of this worthy project. Is Pakistan on the brink of its economic boom? After huge investment from China will we be in the position to handle this project? Will we properly cultivate the fruit of it? What are our preparations in this regard? These important questions still need attention of the government of Pakistan.

On my last visit to China, I came to know that Chinese Investors have serious reservations about procedural matters, provisions of facilities and availability of skilled manpower to meet the requirements of diverse projects of CPEC. China is transferring its low technology to Pakistan whereas high technology will remain within China. Are we preparing our manpower to meet the skilled needs of these projects? The answer is very simple and that is 'No'. In such a situation how can we expect that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will benefit common Pakistanis? Government of Pakistan is looking after the matters of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects so for these different projects and technologies government will have to make our manpower useful otherwise China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will not become actual game changer.

In such circumstances China will bring its technologies and required skilled and unskilled manpower to Pakistan. Technological and robotic advancement in Pakistan is only possible if Pakistan government provides lucrative duty tariffs and utilities to the investors. Both Pakistani and foreign investors are seen crying about high tariffs offered to them which logically discourage them to invest here. The investors prefer investing in the countries where they don't face the issue of availability of skilled manpower and their investment is safe and privileged; in the countries where their business flourish without unnecessary obstacles. Unfortunately, Pakistan is not preparing its manpower compatible to the standards, pace and momentum of the advance technological development. Skilled development in Pakistan is never encouraged. Industries suffer because of energy and power shortage and high tariffs.

China has transformed itself from agricultural country to a technologically developed country. America and entire Europe have already reached height of advancement after transforming themselves from agriculture-based nations to industrial ones. Even agriculture in China is being done by latest technologies. From seeds to plough and harvesting Chinese agriculture is fully transformed with most modern techniques and technologies. We need to modernize our agriculture on China model to meet our needs up to our requirements. If our manpower is not prepared for the future needs of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor we will definitely suffer a great loss.

Ultimately our nation will remain unemployed and non-productive. To meet their requirements Chinese companies will bring manpower from China. Because of this situation from Gilgit to Gwadar poverty will prevail and fate of the nation will never get changed and better. Government of Pakistan needs to look into this serious matter and find the ways to meet the requirements. During our discussion Professor Khalid Wakeel raised this very valid, rational and logical point. It reflects that our governments are not prepared to cultivate fruits of China- Pakistan Economic Corridor at all. China Pakistan Economic Corridor will then only provide excess to China, Central Asian States and rest of the countries of the region to the waters of Gwadar and nothing else. These

nations will get benefits of this worthy Corridor. Unfortunately starting and ending points of Gilgit-Baltistan and Gwadar are suffering a lot.

In our country almost all the labour classes are uneducated. For instance our carpenter's, masons, plumbers, electricians and others still work manually. Unless they are made properly literate and technology based, Pakistan can't make rapid progress compatible to advance nations of the world. Pakistan needs to focus on latest technology and workable skilled manpower. Pakistan will have to introduce its lucrative packages to encourage investors to invest in Pakistan.

### **Pakistan Observer 24-04-19**

#### **Pakistan to export 200,000 tons rice to China by June: Dawood**

Advisor to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, and Industry Abdul Razak Dawood Tuesday informed that under the duty-free incentive package of \$1 billion offered by China, Pakistan has so far exported 150,000 tons of sugar to China while the export of 200,000 tons of rice would be completed by June this year. Briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Textile here at the parliament house, Dawood said China had extended a duty-free package for export of rice, sugar, and 350,000 tons of cotton yarn to Pakistan.

Chairman of the committee Mirza Muhammad Afridi was of the view that local textile industry would be affected with exports of such a high amount of yarn as the price of the product would go high as a result. The Advisor said Pakistan produced a huge amount of cotton yarn so there would not be any such issue adding that the textile sector-related industries were now giving good results as even the closed factories had now started production, so it is hoped that the textile sector export would go up in the coming days.

Abdul Razak Dawood informed he was going to China along with Prime Minister Imran Khan, where he would sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China on April 28 under which Pakistan was going to get the duty free market share equivalent to the share already enjoyed by the countries of Association of East Asian Nations (ASEAN) from China. "Although it took a long time to finalize the second phase of FTA, I would like to appreciate the Chinese government's support in this regard."

Senator Nauman Wazir pointed out that the government should get assurance from the Chinese side that it would not impose non-tariff barriers on imports from Pakistan. Dawood said all such matters had already been discussed with China and he would further talk to Chinese authorities to get such assurance.

Talking about the performance of the textile sector, Senator Shibli Faraz said the sector had become a spoiled child by getting unnecessary subsidies. He said the productivity, efficiency, and quality of the textile was not up to the mark despite getting huge subsidies and the average monthly textile export never exceeded \$1.2 billion for the last 20 years.

Admitting Shibli Faraz's stance, the Advisor said textile needed assistance around 15-20 years ago but now there was no need to offer any subsidy to this sector. However he was of the view that the garment industry needed support owing to high prices of the land, therefore the government was mulling over extending long term financing to the garment manufacturers to purchase land and buildings to establish their industries. Dawood informed that the government was engaged with Japan for purchase of modern textile machinery, hoping that in six months' time, an agreement would be finalized in this regard.

Nauman Wazir suggested that the government should conduct value chain analysis in this sector to find out reasons for the decreasing trend of textile export. He said the commercial councilors appointed abroad should also be taken to the task and should be made bound to give feedback from their respective countries to find out the potential markets in various parts of the world. Dawood said, "If we want to boost our exports beyond \$50 billion level, we must have to look areas other than textile".

He said the engineering sector having a market share of over \$4 trillion across the globe can help Pakistan in increasing its exports to the desired level.

### **Pakistan Observer 24-04-19**

#### **CPEC substantial plan for marine, land trade**

Governor Balochistan Justice (R) Amanullah Khan Yasinzai on Tuesday said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a great economic plan for trade through marine and Land routes, its completion will bring economic revolution in the entire region. Governor Balochistan expressed these views while talking to the delegates of the PAF Air War College here today in Governor House. The delegation was consisted of under training officers, who were on a study visit to Quetta and headed by Pakistan Navy's Rear Admiral Naveed Ahmed Rizvi. The governor said that federal and provincial governments are cognizant of the importance and benefits of CPEC, and having special focus on the development projects under CPEC mega project.—APP

### **Pakistan Observer 24-04-19**

#### **Greater access to Chinese markets**

PRIME Minister Imran Khan is playing a very important four-day visit to China from Thursday, during which, he will attend the 2nd Belt and Road Forum in Beijing besides holding talks with the Chinese leadership. A number of important agreements, including the second phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA), are scheduled to be signed which will undoubtedly help both the countries further bolster their trade and economic relations.

Addressing a news conference on Monday, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing said that Beijing has agreed to provide 90% market access to Pakistani commodities under the revised FTA



while in return Islamabad will provide 65% access of its market share to Chinese side. Indeed this is a positive development for Pakistan currently struggling to enhance its exports in order to deal with chronic issues such as balance of payment. The very contours of the fresh FTA clearly demonstrate that our Chinese friends want to take along Pakistan on the path of progress and development and it is now up to us including the industrial and agriculture sector to take maximum benefit from the concessions offered by Beijing.

Actually, Pakistan has a vigorous product line including exclusive varieties of mangoes, oranges, basmati rice, leather, oilseeds and a variety of seafood from the fresh waters of the Arabian Sea, surgical goods, light engineering and several other raw materials, which have great potential to be exported to China on competitive rates. We really appreciate the Chinese leadership's efforts for opening its markets to Pakistani products but also providing them a platform through the CPEC to link to the global trading. We also need to improve and upgrade our businesses through training, innovations and efficiency to meet the required Chinese and world standards.

The visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China is also significant one as it will also see the CPEC entering into the second phase with agreement on launching of first Special Economic Zone at Rashakai is also to be signed. Our authorities should spare no effort to make this first economic zone a success story with the cooperation of Chinese friends as it will help the country attract more investment from other sources in other SEZs to be established under the corridor project. We are certain the success of SEZs will change the entire industrial landscape of the country and take it towards becoming one of the major regional economic powers.

### **Pakistan Observer 27-04-19**

#### **Imran presents proposals for China's BRI expansion Calls for tackling climate change, poverty; China to promote free trade agreements among BRI countries: Xi**

Prime Minister Imran Khan, in his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the second Belt and Road Forum in Beijing on Friday, called for greater attention to tackling climate change and poverty as Pakistan and China enter the next phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The prime minister appreciated the significance of China's Belt and Road Initiative, saying it "marks a new and distinct phase in the onward march of nations in the world along the path of globalisation".

"The presence of so many world leaders today is proof that we choose hope over despair and cooperation over confrontation. He pointed out that 122 states and 49 international organizations have signed onto the BRI's vision and this is a historic and monumental development. "The BRI offers a model of partnership, collaboration, connectivity and shared prosperity," the prime minister told the audience. "Pakistan is proud to have partnered with China in this transformative endeavour. We have been among BRI's earliest and most enthusiastic proponents," he said.

“The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, one of the BRI’s major components – and one of its earliest manifestations – has made substantial progress. Pakistan’s energy supplies have increased massively, critical infrastructure gaps are being plugged, Gwadar – once a small fishing village – is transforming rapidly into a commercial hub. The Gwadar airport will be the largest in our country,” he told his audience.

He informed the audience that special economic zones being set up along the CPEC offer investment opportunities for Pakistani, Chinese and foreign entrepreneurs, and invited interested parties to “avail Pakistan’s liberal foreign investment regime and participate in our economy; in particular infrastructure, railways, dams, IT and manufacturing.”

“Together, Pakistan and China are entering the next phase of CPEC, with greater emphasis on socioeconomic uplift,” he said, adding that the next phase would be “supplemented” by the signing of an expanded Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement.

He added that Pakistan wants to promote cooperation with China in agriculture, health and education, and called for joint efforts towards addressing impediments on the way to sustainable growth. The prime minister said that Pakistan and China are entering the next phase of CPEC and are focusing on socio-economic uplift, poverty alleviation, agricultural cooperation and industrial development.

“We are changing Pakistan’s economic landscape and, God willing, the destiny of our people. I want to thank China and its leadership for their unwavering support for Pakistan,” he said. Prime Minister Imran suggested that, as the BRI takes on a more concrete shape, world leaders direct their efforts and focus onto the people of their countries by addressing impediments in the path towards sustainable growth.

“Firstly, we must undertake joint efforts to mitigate climate change. In our Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, we successfully planted a billion trees. I suggest we launch a joint project to plant 100 billion trees over the next two years, so that we can mitigate the effects of climate change for our coming generations,” said PM Imran.

“Second, we should establish a BRI Tourism Corridor to promote people-to-people contacts and inter-cultural understanding. Thirdly, an office of Anti-Corruption Cooperation should be set up to combat the scourge of white-collar crime. White-collar crimes are devastating the world.” “We should create a poverty alleviation fund that supplements national efforts in the fight against poverty and malnourishment. In Pakistan, we have recently launched a targeted poverty alleviation programme called ‘Ehsas’. The aim should be to emulate China’s spectacular success in lifting 800 million people out of poverty within a matter of decades,” said the PM.

### **Pakistan Observer 27-04-19**

#### **Pak-China agree to promote investment in priority sectors**

Chairman Board of Investment (BoI) Haroon Sharif met Liu Dianxun, Director General of Investment Promotion Agency (CIPA) of Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China on Friday at Beijing.

Haroon Sharif discussed revival of a Memorandum of Understanding with CIPA and both sides agreed to revive the cooperation in order to ensure investment promotion in prioritized sectors such as Information Technology, Textiles and Agro-based products. He further said, "We at the Board of Investment encourage our Chinese friends to invest in Pakistan. In addition to the existing notified 7 Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Pakistan is planning to develop new SEZs under CPEC."

"Development of Rashakai SEZ is a milestone and a first step towards implementation of industrial cooperation under CPEC. Industrial Cooperation was prioritized by the incumbent government with a goal to start implementation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) this year", the Chairman informed. He said that BoI has received concrete investment proposals from local and foreign investors who are interested to invest in Pakistan's priority sectors having immense potential for investment; Agro-based Food & Industry, Value added Textile, Tourism and hospitality, IT sector, Light Engineering, and Logistics. Chairman BoI informed that Pakistan has initiated a reform process to facilitate foreign investment in the country.

### **Pakistan Observer 29-04-2019**

#### **700MW power project by KE announced**

K-Electric, Pakistan's only vertically integrated power utility has signed an agreement with the state-owned China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) for the development a state-of-the-art 700MW IPP based power project at Port Qasim, Karachi.

The project was formally announced at the Pakistan Trade and Investment Forum held alongside the 2nd Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, China. The project agreement and contracts were signed by Moonis Alvi, Chief Executive Officer K-Electric and Zhang Chun, Chairman CMEC in the presence of Abdul Razak Dawood, Adviser for Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment. This is a milestone project in the economic cooperation between China and Pakistan and will directly benefit Karachi, Pakistan's economic hub.

Abdul Razak Dawood, Adviser for Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment shared, "I am sure that this is just one of a series of joint endeavors in the future that will translate into a win-win for shared prosperity in the region and beyond. Stable electricity supply infrastructure is critical for the country's sustainable progress, trade and industries and I urge all stakeholders to work together for its early completion to maximize the benefits to Karachi and Pakistan.

This project is being developed under an IPP mode structure, with K-Electric as the single off-taker. KE holds equity share in this IPP whereas CMEC is both an equity partner and EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) contractor. The power project already has an approved tariff from NEPRA, whereas land has also been acquired in Port Qasim area of Karachi for the project.

On the occasion of the signing, Zhang Chun, Chairman CMEC lauded Pakistan as a land of opportunities with tremendous economic potential. “We are delighted to be a part of this landmark occasion today and are confident about the role of this power plant in addressing Karachi’s power needs and look forward to increased economic cooperation between China and Pakistan in future as well,” he said.

Speaking at the signing ceremony Moonis Alvi, CEO KE said, “The current project is one more in a series of investments from K-Electric to further strengthen the city’s power infrastructure and brings us yet another step closer to our long-term commitment to enable Karachi to fulfill its economic potential. KE has invested more than USD 2.1 Billion in infrastructure upgrades across the energy value chain over the last 9 years and plans to invest USD 3bn over the next few years. We are committed to increase generation as well as to upgrade Karachi’s transmission and distribution network. Our goal is to commission the project at the earliest and we are confident we can do this with the continued support of policy makers and an enabling business environment.”

Construction of the plant is expected to commence in the first quarter of next fiscal year. Once the project comes online it will not only help meet the growing power demand in Karachi and its adjoining areas but will also allow KE to diversify its fuel mix. K-Electric is Pakistan’s only vertically integrated and private power utility managing generation, transmission and distribution. As the sole power provider to Pakistan’s largest city Karachi and its adjoining areas with over twenty million inhabitants, KE is committed to serving its customers and powering the country’s economic hub.

China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) specializes in the construction of power projects in generation, transmission and distribution and has more than 30 years of experience in the engineering industry with exposure in more than 47 countries. CMEC will be a shareholder as well as the selected engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractor in this project.

### **Pakistan Observer 29-04-2019**

#### **FTA with China to help boost local industry: Firdous**

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information and Broadcasting Firdous Ashiq Awan on Sunday said new Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China would help local manufacturers to boost export sector of the country.

Talking to media during her short stopover at Gujrat, she said that the industries of Gujrat, Gujranwala and Sialkot were facing difficulties and showing declining trend due to the bad economic policies of the previous regimes.

The special assistant said the new agreement would promote textile, food processing and manufacturing units which would eventually help local traders to export their products to China and other countries of the world.

This would also help reduce the gap between the country's import and export, she added. Firdous said Special Economic Zones (SEZs) would be set up in the country with the recent accords with China, adding that Gwadar would emerge as economic hub at international level.

She said Prime Minister Imran Khan was the first leader who was talking about the national interest in such an effective manner, while in the past, previous rulers only paid foreign visits for their vested interests.

Firdous said the government was working out various strategies to resolve socio-economic problems of the country. The poverty alleviation was the government's top priority, she added.

The special Assistant who was heading towards Sialkot accompanied with Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Azam Sawati was warmly welcomed in Sarai Alamgir and Gujrat by the Member of National Assembly Tashfeen Safdar and other party workers.—APP

### **Pakistan Observer 29-04-2019**

#### **President Xi pledges ‘unwavering support to Pak sovereignty Imran highlights CPEC’s next phase, its extension; Pakistan, China sign ML-1 railways agreement to lay down double track from Peshawar to Karachi**

Chinese President Xi Jinping reiterated his country's unwavering support to Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity at a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday.

Xi Jinping applauded the government's agenda for socio-economic development and people-centered progress. He affirmed that China-Pakistan ties would continue to acquire greater strength and deepen practical cooperation in the times to come. President Xi expressed China's appreciation for Pakistan's sustained and successful efforts in the fight against terrorism and to create a peaceful neighborhood.

Reaffirming ‘All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership’ between Pakistan and China, the two leaders exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relations in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

They affirmed the resolve to further strengthen their strategic cooperative partnership in all fields including political, security, economic and trade, and people-to-people exchanges. Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked President Xi for the warm and gracious welcome accorded to him in China and for China's steadfast support to Pakistan on all issues. The prime minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's support to China on all issues of its core interest. Imran Khan congratulated President Xi on the successful convening of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum, which is a practical manifestation of his far-reaching vision, and highlighted its significance as an important international platform for connectivity and sharing of experience among the BRI participating countries.



Reaffirming Pakistan's unflinching commitment to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the prime minister highlighted CPEC's next phase and its extension into new areas of agriculture, industrial development, and socio-economic uplift with livelihood projects.

The two sides also exchanged views on the regional situation, including in Afghanistan and South Asia. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora and resolved to further deepen communication and coordination at all levels. They also agreed to keep the momentum of high-level exchanges between the two countries.

PM Imran was accompanied by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Adviser on Finance Hafeez Shaikh, Adviser on Commerce Abdul Razzak Dawood, Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhtiar, Railways Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed, Minister for Water Resources Faisal Vawda, and Minister for P Prior to discussions with President Xi, the prime minister held a separate meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing.

The two leaders sat down for delegation-level talks which focused on range of bilateral issues, chief among them being CPEC and its related projects. Ministers and senior officials participated in the meeting between Prime Minister Imran and Premier Li at the conclusion of the BRF.

Both leaders reaffirmed the time-tested and strong friendship between Pakistan and China and exchanged views on the myriad facets of bilateral engagement, a statement from the prime minister's spokesperson said. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral collaboration in the context of CPEC and prospects of further deepening economic linkages. Priority

### **Pakistan Observer 29-04-2019**

#### **Success of Belt & Road forum**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping said the cooperation agreements worth more than \$64 billion were signed at a CEO conference during the 2nd Belt and Road Forum, which concluded in Beijing on Saturday. A total of 283 items of practical outcomes were achieved during the preparatory process and holding of the forum, Xi said in a statement before the media after his roundtable meeting with 37 heads of state and governments who took part in the meeting.

This achievement is indicative of resounding success of the forum and growing support and participation in the historic initiative of Belt and Road by President Xi Jinping. Participation of a number of countries in the forum, commitments expressed by heads of state and governments and agreements signed on the occasion is a clear proof that international community was viewing the project as an opportunity to transform lots of the people and participating countries. This is because the project will extend benefits all around the world and deliver common development by following established international rules and norms. Unlike other projects and initiatives by major powers that have hidden objectives and designs, BRI is a developmental project aimed at welfare of humanity and promotion of mutual good, peace and security through shared destiny. Despite the fact that Chinese are providing huge funding for projects and programmes under the umbrella

of BRI, Beijing is promoting the concept of mutual consultations and discussions to conceive and devise projects around the globe that can better the lot of local communities.

In an attempt to counter propaganda by vested interests, as seen in the context of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), President Xi and other top Chinese officials repeatedly sought to reassure partners and potential participants that Beijing does not intend to saddle them with high debts and wants BRI to benefit all parties involved. Signing of memorandum of understanding with various countries including Italy, Peru, Barbados, Luxembourg, Peru and Jamaica show that Belt and Road cooperation is in sync with the times, widely supported, people centered and beneficial to all. Prime Minister Imran Khan also highlighted this aspect when he pointed out that Pakistan was proud to be early partner of China in BRI. It is hoped that scope of BRI would be further expanded to include digital connectivity, mobility of labour, transfer of skills and promoting knowledge, innovation connectivity.

### **Pakistan Observer 30-04-2019**

#### **China's unwavering support**

CHINESE President Xi Jinping reiterated his country's unwavering support to Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity at a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan in Beijing on Sunday. Xi Jinping applauded the government's agenda for socio-economic development and people-centered progress. He also affirmed that China-Pakistan ties would continue to acquire greater strength and deepen practical cooperation in the times to come.

What Chinese President has conveyed to Prime Minister Imran Khan is not mere words but reflection of the practical cooperation and support in almost every walk of life. Apart from critical political support on different issues and forums, China has provided Pakistan valuable assistance in accelerating the pace of socio-economic progress and welfare of its people. The reiteration of Chinese support to Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity assumes significance as it comes in the backdrop of aggressive designs by India which went to the extent of launching air strikes inside Pakistan. No doubt, Pakistan responded firmly and strongly to Indian aggression and taught a lesson to the enemy but in the complex regional and global environment support by friends like China is meaningful. Besides declaration of support for the cause of Pakistan, Beijing has always been forthcoming to provide substantial military assistance to help Pakistan boost its defence capability. Some countries of the world are hesitant to extend the required defence cooperation despite Pakistan's role and cooperation in promoting global causes like fight against terrorism and peacekeeping but China has proved that it is a friend on which Pakistan can rely in all circumstances and situations. China's preference for Pakistan and its desire for strengthening its economy is also reflective in the decision of the Chinese leadership to pick Pakistan as the first country for cooperation under the Road and Belt Initiative of President Xi. The two countries moved quickly to give practical shape to the vision of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and despite conspiracies being hatched by some forces the project is progressing ahead delivering

fruits of development to the people of Pakistan. We hope that with the passage of time this cooperative mechanism would be taken to new heights for mutual good.

### **The Express Tribune 16-04-2019**

#### **Asad Umar highlights steps taken to woo investors**

ISLAMABAD: China is a reliable friend and its support is essential for socio-economic development of Pakistan, said Finance Minister Asad Umar.

Exchanging views with Ambassador of People's Republic of China Yao Jing who called on him on Tuesday, he briefed the envoy about the measures taken by the government for creating conducive environment for foreign investment.

He stressed that Chinese businessmen and investors would also benefit from the current environment by investing in various sectors of Pakistan, particularly agriculture, housing, health, education and energy.

The meeting centered on matters of bilateral importance and the need for further enhancement and expansion of bilateral cooperation was emphasized.

The two sides discussed the ongoing projects being executed under the umbrella of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

### **The Express Tribune 16-04-2019**

#### **Chinese loan data shared with IMF: Umar**

KARACHI: There was a lot of talk about Chinese debt and when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission came to Pakistan we shared data on the very first day, said Finance Minister Asad Umar.

“There is nothing really to hide. It is less than 10% of the public debt of Pakistan,” the minister said in a video interview with Bilal Lakhani for The Express Tribune.

Responding to a question on whether Chinese loans were an issue in IMF meetings, Umar said discussions were on policy measures and dealing with the extreme balance of payments crisis.

“There was a difference of opinion between us and the IMF and that's what was taking long.” Umar shared that there was never any doubt in what direction the government should be headed to fix the economy.

“You could not be running losses of 1.7% of GDP in the electricity and gas sectors. Similarly, the fiscal deficit, which is running at 6.5-6.6%, is not sustainable.” He added, “So the direction is clear that you have to close these gaps but we want to go beyond that. Survival is not good enough. We have to undertake structural reforms which take us on a path of sustainable growth where you are not going through these repeated cycles that Pakistan has been facing.”

Talking about rupee devaluation and stagnant exports, Umar said the impact would be witnessed from April.

“In April, the new season will start and that’s when you will start to see a pickup in exports, so this is the month, the time has arrived, so let’s hope the export numbers are better.”

### **The Express Tribune 19-04-2019**

#### **MoU signed for manufacturing Chinese vehicles**

KARACHI. A memorandum of understanding has been signed for the manufacturing of Chinese transport vehicles and related technology in Pakistan in order to reap benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Rawal Industrial Equipment and Malik Group of Companies entered into the agreement. Malik Group of Companies Chairman and CEO Malik Khuda Bakhsh and Rawal Industrial Equipment CEO Farrukh Kamal signed the MoU. Speaking on the occasion, Kamal said the plant for the manufacturing of transport vehicles and related technology was being established at Daud Khel in Mianwali district, which was situated on the CPEC route. The assembly plant will start production by the end of current year. Moreover, Bakhsh said his company had entered into the agreement owing to massive demand for buses for public transport in urban areas of Sindh including specialised vehicles required for the proposed Bus Rapid Transit project in Karachi. PPI



**The Express Tribune 20-04-2019**

# China says CPEC not for targeting any country

Announces to hold second Belt and Road Forum from April 25-27

BEIJING

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a multi-billion dollar flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is an economic cooperation programme and does not target any third country.

"We have stated clearly on many occasions that the BRI including CPEC is only an economic initiative and does not target any third country," he said during a press briefing in which he also announced that the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will be held here from April 25 to 27.

He said both the BRI and CPEC have nothing to do with the sovereignty and territorial

disputes, leftover from history between any two countries, adding, "Our cooperation will not undermine any party's position on those issues."

Wang said: "Now we are trying to achieve common prosperity through the cooperation under the BRI. Those issues left over from history must be separated from our efforts in this area." He said such cooperation would not undermine a country's basic position on sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Chinese foreign minister said a total of 37 heads of state or government and other leaders from Pakistan, Austria, Egypt, Italy, Nepal, and Laos will attend the forum. France, Germany, the UK, Spain, Japan, South

" Now we are trying to achieve common prosperity through the cooperation under the BRI

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

Korea, and the EU will send high-level representatives to the forum, he added.

Laos President Bounnhang Vorachith will also pay a state visit to China. Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the opening ceremony; deliver a keynote speech and host a state dinner in honour of world leaders.

On the second day of the

forum, President Xi will receive world leaders and hold a Leaders' Roundtable at Yanqi Lake, located at the foot of the Yanshan Mountains, in the northeast suburb of Beijing. The Chinese president will address the media at the end of the forum.

Wang said: "Belt and Road Cooperation, Shaping a Brighter Shared Future," will be the theme of the second BRF which is aimed to bring about high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road framework.

"More side events are planned for this year's forum, including 12 sub-forums focusing on practical cooperation. Also, a conference will be organised specifically for the business community for the

first time," he added.

He said the BRI has gained active response and participation since it was announced by President Xi Jinping in 2013; as many as 126 countries and 29 international organisations have signed cooperation agreements with China to jointly build the Belt and Road.

He said the total trade volume between China and participating countries has surpassed \$6 trillion, investment has exceeded \$80 billion and the 82 cooperation parks built by China and relevant countries have created nearly 300,000 jobs, bringing enormous development opportunities for the countries involved and laying a solid foundation for China to host the second forum. APP

**The Express Tribune 20-04-2019**

## 'CPEC to spark shared prosperity'

ISLAMABAD. Board of Investment Chairman Haroon Sharif has said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has helped in the development of a new economic geography that could lead to shared prosperity in the region. He was speaking to participants of the International CPEC Workshop organised by the National Defence University on Friday. More and more regions were using proximity as a competitive advantage and CPEC was facilitating the proximity-led development, Sharif said. Appreciating the relationship between Pakistan and China, he said the government wanted CPEC to be a multidimensional initiative to bring foreign direct investment parallel to infrastructure development. "Private capital is being attracted not only from China but also from the UAE, Qatar, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia," the BOI chairman said. OUR CORRESPONDENT



**The Express Tribune 20-04-19**

# China has invested \$19b in CPEC projects: Yao Jing

**Ambassador says mega project is moving forward with success despite challenges**

**A KHALID MEHMOOD**  
ISLAMABAD

An investment worth \$19 billion has been made in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, said Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing.

Addressing a seminar on 'CPEC 2015-2019: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward', he said that the past four years had been vital for the mega project, which progressed at a fast pace. Acknowledging that the project encountered many challenges, he said that Pakistan and China need to face them together.

"A lot of criticism was levelled at CPEC, which also became a victim of con-

spiracies," said Yao, adding that the project was moving forward with success and both countries have close cooperation.

He said that China was providing every possible resource to Pakistan for economic progress and noted that in this regard there were six working groups between the two countries. The ambassador added that the Pakistan-China economic framework was based on an extremely organised footing.

The Chinese ambassador pointed out that the foundation of cooperation and mutual progress was laid between the two countries while there were short-term and long-term projects in CPEC.

"Both the countries have entered a new stage of traditional friendship while Pakistan is an inevitable part of the Chinese foreign policy."

A total of \$13 billion were

" Both the countries have entered a new stage of traditional friendship while Pakistan is an inevitable part of the Chinese foreign policy

**Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing**

lent by Chinese commercial banks, while Chinese energy companies had invested \$6 billion by taking loans from banks, he added. He maintained that the Chinese energy companies will return the loan from the sale of produced electricity. The envoy added that the Chinese government gave Pakistan a loan of \$6 billion and its return payment will start in 2024.

The Chinese ambassador also added that there were 21 projects in CPEC; including ML-1 railway line and Gwadar airport.

**The Express Tribune 21-04-2019**

# Rs24b from CPEC funds goes to MNAs' schemes

Money handed over to Cabinet Division for allocation

SHAHBAZ RANA  
ISLAMABAD

The federal government has handed over Rs24 billion from the funds reserved for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other initiatives to the Cabinet Division for onwards discretionary spending on parliamentarians' schemes.

It took the planning, development and reform ministry two months to run through the process and address the objections raised by government departments before signing off the Rs24 billion cheque in favour of the Cabinet Division.

The release of funds for parliamentarians' schemes belies the principles of prudent fiscal discipline and goes against Prime Minister Imran Khan's promise to protect taxpayers' money.

The latest status of the release of Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) funds up till April 19 shows that an amount of Rs24

billion has been sanctioned against the total allocation of Rs27 billion.

On February 19, the planning and development ministry had surrendered Rs24 billion from its demand number 137 (CPEC and other initiatives) for the current fiscal year. The money was surrendered in favour of the Cabinet Division for a scheme titled "Sustainable Development Goals Achievement Programme".

The PTI government has set up a steering committee, headed by Special Assistant to the PM on Political Affairs Naeemul Haq, to disburse funds for the development schemes recommended by MNAs for their respective constituencies.

Giving away public funds by using his discretionary powers is among many U-turns that Prime Minister Imran Khan has taken after coming into power.

The discretionary spending is also in violation of the

## ALLOCATION

# Rs29

billion will be the total spending on parliamentarians' schemes with the release of the additional funds

Supreme Court's verdict in a case involving former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf.

The amount of Rs24 billion, diverted from grant number 137 (CPEC and other initiatives), has been moved to the Cabinet Division's grant number 108, which already has an allocation of Rs5 billion.

With the additional Rs24 billion, the total spending on parliamentarians' schemes this year would be Rs29 billion.

The planning and development ministry had issued an

adjustment order in the PSDP 2018-19 on January 16, just a day after the Cabinet Division requested for the money.

The total amount sanctioned for development has increased to Rs25.8 billion after the release of the Rs24 billion. However, the finance ministry is not fully honouring all these authorisations.

About half of the total budgetary releases have been given to the National Highway Authority (NHA) and the Water Resources Division, according to the planning and development ministry. The NHA alone has been given a lion's share of Rs208.8 billion or 40% of the total releases as of this week.

Owing to the higher releases to the NHA, the foreign aid component of the PSDP has disproportionately increased. Against the annual foreign aid allocation of Rs144.3 billion, the component shot up to Rs174.6 billion. Of the Rs174.6 billion, an amount of Rs133.2 billion

The discretionary spending is also in violation of the Supreme Court's verdict in a case involving ex-PM Raja Pervez Ashraf

has been given to the NHA alone.

The share of foreign financing in development projects is 33.2% but it has historically remained at one-fifth of the total releases.

This will force the government to cut the rupee component of the PSDP from the approved level of Rs530 billion.

The annual development budget, which has been revised downwards for the current fiscal year, is Rs675 billion. The releases so far are equal to 77.7% of the development budget.

As of this week, Rs210 billion were given to all federal ministries for development

spending. The maximum amount – Rs53.3 billion – was given to the water resources ministry.

The States and Frontier Regions Division and the Higher Education Commission received Rs25.6 billion and Rs18.5 billion respectively.

A sum of Rs26.1 billion was handed over to the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, the National Transmission and Despatch Company received Rs11 billion.

The planning ministry released Rs24.1 billion and Rs13.5 billion for the Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan governments respectively.

The government gave Rs11.9 billion to the military for increasing security and Rs18.3 billion for temporarily displaced persons.

The releases for the Gas Infrastructure Development Cess Fund remained zero as was the case during the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's tenure.

**The Express Tribune 22-04-2019**

# Pakistani sinologist prepares master programme for promoting BRI

Traditional friendship between two countries must be passed on to future generations, says Awan

ISLAMABAD

Nearly 40 years later, 57-year-old Pakistani Zamir Ahmed Awan still vividly remembers the days he spent at Shanghai University in China as a machine engineering student.

"From 1980 to 1987, I stayed in China. At that time, the living conditions were less than ideal. But we got along quite well. The teacher treated us like her own sons," Awan recalled.

"At the time Pakistan's GDP was a bit higher than China's. But now I feel like China has raced 50 years ahead of Pakistan," he said.

Now Awan is a sinology professor at the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), one of the best univer-

sities in Pakistan. He has been working to establish a master's degree programme in Chinese studies, specializing in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"The main aim (of the programme) is to develop young Pakistanis and help them make contribution to the BRI," he said. "Our traditional friendship and the brotherhood between our two countries must be passed on to future generations."

Awan used to be a counselor at the Pakistani Embassy in China, in charge of exchanges in science, technology and higher education. He secured opportunities for more than 100 Pakistani students to learn in Chinese universities before returning to Pakistan in 2016.

"When I was back in Pakistan, I found lots of negative reports (about the BRI) in the media. This upset me a lot and I looked for ways to hit back," Awan said.

"When someone writes a nega-

**Awan secured opportunities for more than 100 Pakistani students to learn in Chinese universities before returning to Pakistan in 2016**

tive report, I write two positive ones in reply."

In 2013, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project was officially announced. As an important part of the BRI, the CPEC covers a wide range of bilateral cooperation in such fields as transportation, energy and industrial development. Led by growing funds into the project, China has become the biggest investor in Pakistan and its investment has created over 75,000 local jobs.

Awan also secured an agreement on internships for his students with the Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, the first major en-

ergy project under the CPEC. The construction of the power plant started in 2015 and completed in 22 months, now generating 9 billion kilowatts of electricity every year and filling about 25 percent of the power gap in Pakistan.

"We should send more of our NUST students here. They can learn a lot about the latest knowledge and technologies," Awan spoke highly of the China-built power plant.

With the internship program arranged, Awan is almost ready to enroll his new students. According to his plan, the master's programme will kick off in September and he believes that more young people in Pakistan will be drawn to the BRI.

"We have to concentrate our efforts to develop our domestic economy, and learn from China. The Belt and Road Initiative gives us an ideal development pattern," Awan wrote in the syllabus of the forthcoming program. XINHUA

### **The Express Tribune 24-04-2019**

#### **Pakistan exports sugar, rice to China under \$1b package**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has so far exported 150,000 tons of sugar to China while export of 200,000 tons of rice will be completed by June under the \$1-billion duty-free incentive package offered by Beijing, revealed Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile and Industry Abdul Razak Dawood

Briefing the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce on Tuesday, the adviser said China had extended the duty-free package for the export of rice, sugar and 350,000 tons of cotton yarn.

Committee Chairman Mirza Muhammad Afridi was of the view that the domestic textile industry would be hurt by the export of yarn as its prices would surge in Pakistan's market.

However, Dawood said Pakistan produced a huge quantity of cotton yarn so no such issue would arise. He added that textile-related industries were now giving good results as even closed factories had resumed production and there were hopes that textile exports would go up in coming days.

He informed meeting participants that he would be accompanying Prime Minister Imran Khan during the upcoming visit to China, where second phase of the free trade agreement (FTA) would be signed.

Under the agreement, Pakistan will get duty-free market access equivalent to that already enjoyed by member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) from China. "Although it took a long time to finalize the second phase of FTA, I would like to appreciate the Chinese government's support in this regard."

Senator Nauman Wazir pointed out that the government should get assurance from the Chinese side that it would not impose non-tariff barriers on imports from Pakistan.

Dawood pointed out that all such matters had already been discussed with China and he would further talk to Chinese authorities to get such assurances.

Talking about the performance of textile sector, Senator Shibli Faraz said the sector had become a 'spoilt child' by getting unnecessary subsidies. The productivity, efficiency and quality of the textile sector was not up to the mark despite getting huge subsidies and average monthly textile exports never exceeded \$1.2 billion in the past 20 years.

Endorsing the senator's stance, the adviser said the textile industry needed assistance around 15-20 years ago but now there was no need to offer any subsidy to the sector. However, he was of the view that the garment industry needed support owing to high prices of land, therefore, the government was mulling over extending long-term financing to garment manufacturers for the purchase of land and buildings to establish their industrial units.



Dawood told the committee that the government was engaged with Japan for the purchase of modern textile machinery and expressed hope that in the next six months an agreement would be finalised.

Senator Wazir suggested that the government should conduct a value chain analysis in the textile sector to find out the reasons behind the decrease in textile exports. He said commercial counselors in Pakistani embassies abroad should also be bound to give feedback from their respective countries in order to find out potential markets in various parts of the world.

“If we want to boost our exports beyond \$50 billion, we must have a look at areas other than textile,” Dawood remarked.

He pointed out that the engineering sector had a market share of over \$4 trillion across the globe and it could help increase Pakistan’s exports to the desired level.



**The Express Tribune 25-04-2019**

## Safeguard mechanism to be part of China-Pak FTA phase-II

PM aide says agreement to be signed on April 28, will protect local industries

ISLAMABAD

Unlike phase-I of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA), a comprehensive safeguard mechanism has been put in place for phase-II. The agreement is scheduled to be signed on April 28 in Beijing and is expected to protect the local industry of the country, said Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, and Industry Abdul Razak Dawood.

"There were no safeguard measures in the proper sense in CPFTA-I, now these have been put in place to protect the local industry," remarked the adviser, who is accompanying the prime minister in his visit to China. Under CPFTA-II, a 'sensitive list' comprising 1,700 items has been provided to safeguard the local industry, as export access into the Chinese markets and import protection were hallmarks of the new trade agreement, Dawood told APP.

The safeguard measure would also be utilised to save any industry in case it faces damages, while duties could also be imposed under this

mechanism in case balance of payment problems arise, he remarked.

The adviser said that after signing the second phase of CPFTA, Pakistan's exports to China would increase by \$500 million within a few months, while the trade volume would continue to increase in the years to come. Under the CPFTA-II, Pakistan would get market access at par with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The PM aide said that under the FTA, Pakistan would get duty-free access on 313 tariff lines, which will cover around \$40 billion Chinese imports.

However, he said, signing CPFTA with China was not sufficient to exploit the trade potential between both side, adding that there was a need to take more measures to promote bilateral trade and economic relations, he added.

Through modern digital ways, electronic data would also be exchanged for stopping under-invoicing under CPFTA, Dawood disclosed. He said that since Pakistan provided a favourable business environment, the government wanted Chinese investors to invest in different sectors and export their products to world markets, including potential African markets. APP

**The Express Tribune 27-04-2019**

# Imran backs BRI for global prosperity

PM proposes five-point road map; calls for joint efforts to fight climate change, corruption

BEIJING

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday urged leaders of the countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to focus on their peoples and undertake joint efforts aimed at addressing the impediments in the way of sustainable global growth.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation at the China National Convention Centre, PM Imran suggested a five-point road map, including joint efforts to fight climate change, establish tourism corridor and combat corruption.

Imran's road map also includes plantation of 100 billion trees to combat environmental degradation in the BRI, increasing people-to-people

BRI ROAD MAP, PAGE 8



**WARM WELCOME:** Prime Minister Imran Khan shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping, as China's first lady Peng Liyuan looks on, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. PHOTO: NNI

## WB to 'strengthen cooperation with Pakistan'

BEIJING. World Bank Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kristalina Georgieva on Friday pledged to further strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in areas of disbursements programme lending and the provision of guarantees for raising external funds.

During a meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan on the sidelines of the second Belt and Road Forum (BRF) in Beijing, Georgieva was apprised about the recent steps taken by the government to improve the economic and fiscal situation in the country.

WORLD BANK, PAGE 8

## THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 29-04-2019

### Past five years of CPEC in review

BEIJING: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative, was officially launched in 2013. President Xi Jinping, during his visit to Pakistan in April 2015, noted that the CPEC construction should play a leading role in the practical cooperation between the two countries, and determined the '1+4' layout of cooperation centering on the CPEC construction supported by the Gwadar port, energy, transportation infrastructure and industrial cooperation.

Practices in the past five years have proved that the CPEC construct is not targeted at specific regions or groups, but is aimed at the whole country of Pakistan and benefits all the people of Pakistan.

### Fruitful achievements in CPEC construction

CPEC has played a flagship leading and demonstration role in the Belt and Road construction. It has become a platform for all-round pragmatic cooperation between China and Pakistan.

### **Improving macroeconomic conditions in Pakistan**

CPEC has driven the development of Pakistan. The two-gap model proposed by economist Hollis B Chenery posits that developing countries must introduce foreign investments and stimulate exports to boost growth of their national economy. CPEC has solved the problem of limited investment capacity caused by insufficient savings and shortage of foreign exchange in Pakistan and provided a high-quality source of impetus for Pakistan's economic development. As of January 2019, CPEC included nine completed early harvest projects and 13 projects under construction, with a total investment of \$19 billion. It drove Pakistan's economic growth by one to two percentage points every year and created 70,000 jobs in Pakistan. The Chinese government provided \$5.874 billion in concessional loans to Pakistan, with a consolidated interest rate of only 2%, far lower than the average interest rate. The Chinese government also provided \$143 million in interest-free loans for the Gwadar East-Bay Expressway project and free assistance for some livelihood projects in Pakistan.

Thanks to favorable factors such as the CPEC construction, Pakistan's macroeconomic conditions have been improving and its economy has maintained a momentum of rapid growth. Over the past five years, Pakistan's GDP grew by an average of 4.77%, especially in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, when Pakistan's GDP grew by 5.8%, the highest rate in recent 13 years. Pakistan's annual foreign direct investment grew from \$650 million to \$2.2 billion, and the per capita annual income rose from \$1,334 to \$1,641.

### **Alleviating Pakistan's energy shortage**

Energy shortage is a hard nut to crack that restricts the economic development of Pakistan. It is a problem that previous Pakistani governments attached great importance to and most wanted to solve. The electricity gap cost Pakistan an annual average loss of \$13.5 billion in GDP, according to a study by PwC in 2012. Power shortage left Pakistan in the dark for a long time, with rolling blackouts across the country lasting about 10 hours a day in major cities and up to 22 hours in rural areas.

CPEC has regarded the alleviation of energy shortage in Pakistan as one of the important areas of construction since its launch. Currently, 12 projects with a total installed capacity of 7,240MW have been started or put into operation. Through five years of construction, energy projects under the CPEC framework added 3,340MW of electricity to Pakistan by early April 2019, accounting for 11% of the country's total installed electricity capacity, thus greatly alleviating the power shortage in Pakistan.

In addition to power generation projects, China built the Matiari-Lahore  $\pm 660$ kV HVDC Transmission Line Project in Pakistan – the second HVDC transmission line in the world – to address the aging of Pakistan's power grid.

### **Improving infrastructure connectivity in Pakistan**

The China Pakistan cross-border economic belt, linked by the China-Pakistan Karakoram Highway, has taken shape under CPEC. Through international logistics nodes such as Gwadar



Port, Karachi and Peshawar, Pakistan serves to transport products from western China to countries in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean via transit transport. Therefore, infrastructure connectivity is also one of the important areas in the early harvest projects of CPEC.

The Karakoram Highway Phase 2 (Havelian–Thakot section) is 118.124 km long, including 39.305 km of expressway and 78.819 km of secondary highway. The project officially started on September 1, 2016. Currently, more than half of the project has been completed.

The section from Sukkur, Sindh in the south to Multan, Punjab in the north, of the Karachi-Peshawar Expressway, is 392 km long, with a total investment of \$2.89 billion. The construction was undertaken by China State Construction Engineering Corporation. The project officially started in August 2016. The 33-km section from Multan to Shujabad was opened to traffic 15 months ahead of schedule on May 26, 2018. The entire Sukkur-Multan section is expected to be open to traffic in August 2019. The Karachi–Peshawar Expressway is designed with six lanes in two directions and a speed of 120 km/h. It will greatly improve the traffic in the two cities upon completion

The Lahore Orange Line rail transit project was put into trial operation on October 8, 2017. The line is 25.58km long and is organised into five carriages, each carrying 200 passengers. The train starts from Ali Town and terminates at Dera Gujran. The total distance is covered in 45 minutes with stops on 14 stations, compared with 2.5 hours of road travel between the two places. According to the design plan, the Orange Line will have a capacity of 250,000 passengers per day at the beginning of operation, which will be further increased to 500,000 passengers per day by 2025.

Over the past five years, 51,000 direct jobs were created in the road infrastructure sector under CPEC projects, of which 48,000 were created specifically for local Pakistanis. Further, infrastructure projects are expected to spur the development of Pakistan's building-related industries and attract more foreign investment.

### **Gwadar Port on the fast track**

Gwadar Port has taken on a new look in the past five years. The port roads, storage yards, loading and unloading equipment, seawater desalination, oil supply and port monitoring facilities have been further improved. Five new container bridge cranes; 100,000-m<sup>2</sup> storage yards; container scanning equipment; the 220,000-gal desalination plant; two sewage treatment systems; 80,000-m<sup>2</sup> new green space; and the new LPG receiving station have made the port capable of handling bulk cargo, containers, roll-on roll-off cargo and LPG. The container liner service was officially launched at Gwadar Port on March 7, 2018. The Gwadar-Middle East Express was opened, connecting Gwadar with other major ports in the world.

The Gwadar Port Free Trade Zone covers an area of 923 hectares and is constructed in four phases in two zones, one north and one south. On January 28, 2018, the Gwadar Free Zone Phase 1 was formally completed and put into operation, and the investment attraction was also completed simultaneously. More than 30 Chinese and Pakistani enterprises, including hospitality, banking,



insurance, financial leasing, logistics, overseas warehousing, grain and oil processing, fishery processing and home appliance assembly, started working at the free zone. The direct investment exceeded RMB three billion. These enterprises will accomplish the annual output value of over RMB five billion and create more than 5,000 jobs after all being put into operation.

The Gwadar Faqeer Primary School, which was completed in September 2016, has developed rapidly, with a planned enrolment of 150 students and an actual enrolment of 500 students. The school achieved a pass rate of over 95% in the spring student examination in 2019, making it the best school in Balochistan in terms of teaching quality. In May 2017, the China-Pakistan Fraternity Emergency Care Centre assisted by the Red Cross Society of China was completed in Gwadar Port. The Chinese Red Cross Foundation sent three medical teams to work in the region. By the end of 2018, the centre received 2,302 Chinese and Pakistani patients.

The desalination plant for the Gwadar Free Zone was completed and put into operation in 2018, with a daily production capacity of 1,000 tons of drinking water. Gwadar's population grew from 60,000 to 130,000 in just five years.

### **Cross-border fibre optic project completed and opened**

The 820-km China-Pakistan Cross-Border Fibre Optic Project, which is laid between the city of Rawalpindi, Pakistan in the south and the Khunjerab Pass, China in the north, was completed and opened on July 13, 2018.

### **Promising future of CPEC construction**

2018 was an election year for Pakistan, when there was concern at home and abroad about whether Pakistan's attitude towards CPEC would change due to the change of government. Around the same time, there were some international opinions questioning CPEC, saying that a large amount of Chinese loans might plunge Pakistan into debt crisis. Facts over the past year have proved that the determination to build CPEC has not been shaken by the change of government in Pakistan and the debt crisis theory has been in tatters. In promoting the CPEC construction, China has always followed the principle of consultation, contribution and shared benefits, and given top priority to Pakistan's economic development and the vital interests of the Pakistani.

Based on Pakistan's future economic and social development priorities and people's needs, the future development path and cooperation direction of CPEC will be determined through consultation, with priority given to accelerating cooperation in industries, parks and agriculture, creating jobs, and improving people's livelihood.

### **Steadfast determination to build CPEC**

At the very beginning of the new Pakistani government, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said, "The new Pakistani government is advancing an ambitious reform agenda, and is willing to learn from China's experience in economic development, poverty alleviation, disaster reduction, anti-corruption, and environmental protection. Advancing CPEC is our top priority."

From November 2 to 5, 2018, Prime Minister Imran Khan made his first official visit to China and attended the first China International Import Expo in Shanghai. During his visit, the two countries reached important consensus and signed a joint statement on further strengthening China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and building a closer China Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.

Prime Minister Imran made it clear that the completed projects of CPEC are in the interest of Pakistan and will bring enormous social and economic development opportunities to the Pakistani people. Since China has lifted more than 700 million people out of poverty in the past decades, Pakistan is willing to learn from the Chinese government's poverty alleviation and reduction measures. Pakistan also hopes to strengthen cooperation in industry and agriculture to help unleash its greater development potential.

On March 20, 2019, China and Pakistan held the first strategic dialogue between foreign ministers and reached broad consensus. Qureshi noted that the Pakistani people are committed to promoting CPEC construction and expanding bilateral cooperation in various fields. State Councilor Wang Yi said that the CPEC project is expected to be expanded to a larger scope, including the western region, in Pakistan, according to the vision plan of CPEC construction agreed by both sides

### **Fallacy of smearing CPEC debunked**

Since the beginning of CPEC, rumors discrediting the project have been rampant. Some with ulterior motives accuse the mega project of exacerbating Pakistan's economic risks and claim that the country is falling into a "debt trap." The proportion of CPEC is very low in the foreign debt structure data released by the Pakistani government, which is not the cause of the debt problem of Pakistan at all.

More than 80% of the CPEC projects are funded by Chinese direct investment or use Chinese free assistance, while less than 20% use Chinese loans. "Instead of burdening Pakistan, CPEC has helped to boost its economy." In the next stage of CPEC development, cooperation will be strengthened with focus on people's livelihood. China will give more assistance to Pakistan in areas such as agriculture, education, medical care and drinking water. As the Pakistani people continue to reap tangible benefits from the achievements in CPEC construction and witness positive changes in their daily lives, the above rumors are debunked.

### **Clear priorities of CPEC cooperation**

As the CPEC construction is advancing, Pakistan's energy problem has been lessened dramatically, and the improvement in transportation infrastructure has laid a foundation for the industrial upgrading of Pakistan. Industrial cooperation will be the focus of the CPEC construction and development in the next stage, which will inject new impetus into the sustainable development of CPEC.

PM Imran noted that CPEC offers a "golden opportunity" for Pakistan to revitalize its economy and achieve development. The fundamental reason is that CPEC can significantly enhance the

overall competitiveness of Pakistan. In terms of China Pakistan industrial cooperation, China should, on the one hand, focus on China Pakistan industrial parks to enhance their industrial capacity and economic strength. On the other hand, China should encourage Chinese enterprises to take an active part in Pakistan's existing and mature industrial parks and mobilize the enthusiasm of Pakistan's national capital.

With "Made in Pakistan" as a breakthrough point, China will help accelerate the development of Pakistan's local industries, and promote export and import substitution of high value-added products, so as to make Pakistan's existing parks grow stronger.

Cooperation in agriculture will be deepened. 70% of Pakistan's population lives in rural areas, and is dependent on land. China's advanced agricultural technology and farming equipment will improve the agricultural production efficiency of Pakistan and increase the added value of agricultural products, so as to lift the farmers out of poverty. Given the dilemma of high inflation, currency devaluation and insufficient foreign exchange reserves in Pakistan in recent years, the development of agriculture will also help Pakistan increase foreign exchange income and realize international balance of payment.

The second textile expo was held in Lahore, Pakistan from April 11 to 14, 2019. Pakistan's textile industry accounts for 60% of the country's total exports, and Pakistan is one of the few countries in the world with a complete textile industry chain. The expo means a good opportunity for the development of Pakistani textile enterprises. Additionally, the second Gwadar Expo was successfully held on March 28 and 29, 2019. It attracted more than 200 exhibitors from China and Pakistan, and they signed cooperation agreements in shipping logistics, agriculture, animal husbandry, Muslim food processing and so on.

The new Pakistani government attaches great importance to the development of people's livelihood and aims to shape Pakistan into a just welfare state. CPEC, consistent with the local situation, has particularly given priority to benefiting the people. Energy projects have been completed to meet the needs of approximately 8.6 million households. The primary schools and China Pakistan medical centre near Gwadar have improved the education and medical conditions of the local people.

In the future, the two countries are expected to sign a series of agreements covering areas related to people's livelihood, including education, health, agriculture, water for irrigation, poverty alleviation, and human resources development. Hospitals have been set up in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, and vocational and technical training colleges have been established throughout Pakistan.

### **New challenges to CPEC construction**

Currently, CPEC construction has gradually shifted from energy and transportation infrastructure cooperation to industrial cooperation and industrial park construction. PM Imran has given prominence to promoting industrialization and employment in Pakistan, and laid greater emphasis on the western route of CPEC. Meanwhile, the international situation has also changed. Given the

overall situation, we should be clear that old challenges have not yet subsided and new ones are emerging in the CPEC construction.

First, the complex international political situation, especially the interference of external factors on CPEC, cannot be ignored.

Second, Pakistan has a serious fiscal deficit, a huge foreign debt and a heavy debt service burden. The capacity to provide supporting funds for CPEC construction has declined sharply and it is no longer feasible to expand infrastructure construction. Pakistan's new government wants to rein in huge capital spending, especially on projects that require large amounts of foreign exchange.

Third, the overall security situation in Pakistan has improved year by year, but terrorist attacks still occur frequently. Over the past year, violent and terrorist attacks launched by Balochistan separatists occurred frequently, with changes in form, geographical expansion and new features, and the threat to Gwadar Port and CPEC has increased.

Despite many challenges to the CPEC construction, it is the internal factors that are the root cause affecting the CPEC construction. When we realize and successfully eliminate the internal negative factors, external factors cannot really affect the process of CPEC construction.

### **THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE 29-04-2019**

#### **PM Imran rounds off China visit with a raft of accords**

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday met Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, the last day of his four-day official visit.

Prior to his meeting with President Xi, the prime minister and his delegation met Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and discussed bilateral issues and regional matters. Delegation-level talks were held with both Chinese leaders.

Reaffirming the 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership' between Pakistan and China, the two leaders exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relations.

They affirmed the resolve to further strengthen their strategic cooperative partnership in all fields — including political, security, economic and trade, and people-to-people exchanges.

PM Imran conveyed Pakistan's unflinching commitment to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the two sides discussed the mega infrastructure project's extension into new areas of agriculture, industrial development, and socio-economic uplift.

He said Pakistan would always extend support to China on all issues of its core interest. PM Imran thanked President Xi for the welcome accorded to the Pakistani delegation and for China's steadfast support to Pakistan on all issues.

President Xi also reiterated China's unwavering support to Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and appreciated the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-led government's agenda for socio-economic development and people-centered progress.

“Pakistan is China’s all-weather strategic cooperative partner. China and Pakistan are ‘iron friends’ and have always firmly supported each other on issues concerning each other’s core interests,” Xi said, adding that China takes Pakistan as a priority in its diplomacy.

No matter how international and regional situations change, China firmly supports Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty and national dignity, choosing its own development path suited to its national conditions, combating terrorist and extremist forces, striving for a sound external security environment, and playing a constructive role in international and regional affairs, Xi said.

Major progress has been made in bilateral cooperation in the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, finance, trade and other aspects, Xi said.

“In the next stage, China and Pakistan should make more efforts to advance the all-weather strategic cooperation,” Xi said, calling on both sides to deepen high-level contacts and mutual support, strengthen strategic communication, and promote high-quality cooperation in production capacity, infrastructure construction, people’s livelihood and trade within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has played an important role in Pakistan’s economic development and the improvement of people’s lives, Imran said, believing more and more countries will support and participate in the cooperation under the BRI.

Pakistan is willing to consolidate its traditional friendship with China, deepen pragmatic cooperation, and enhance communication and coordination with China in multilateral affairs, said the prime minister.

The two sides also exchanged views on the situations in South Asia. Xi expressed the hope that Pakistan and India can meet each other halfway and promote the stabilization and improvement of Pakistan-India relations.

China pledges ‘unwavering support to Pakistan’s sovereignty, territorial integrity’

In his meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said China is willing to work with Pakistan to intensify high-level contacts, deepen pragmatic cooperation, align the Belt and Road Initiative with Pakistan’s development strategy, and jointly build a closer China-Pakistan community with shared future.

China will further promote the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, expand bilateral cooperation in the areas of energy, environmental protection, industries and people’s livelihood, Li said.

China stands ready to enhance coordination with Pakistan in international and regional affairs to safeguard their shared interests and also that of other developing countries, said the Chinese premier

Pakistan is willing to work with China to expand cooperation of special economic zones under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor framework, strengthen cooperation in green development and



environmental protection, and intensify communication and coordination in international and regional affairs, PM Imran said, refuting the accusation that China has let Pakistan fall into debt trap.

The two prime ministers also witnessed the signing ceremony at which the Second Phase of the Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement was signed.

Never been as easy to invest in Pakistan as it is now: PM Imran

The MoUs/Agreements signed/exchanged on the occasion included: i) Second Phase of China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, ii) Declaration for Completion of Preliminary Design of Phase-I for Up-gradation of ML-1 and Establishment of Havelian Dry Port under CPEC, iii) MoU on cooperation in the field of Marine Sciences between the China Geological Survey (CGS), Ministry of Natural Resources of China, the Institute of Oceanography, Ministry of Science and Technology, iv) MoU between CIDCA and Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform on Implementation of the Projects under JWG of CPEC on Socioeconomic Development, v) China-Pakistan Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement, vi) Rashakai SEZ Joint Venture and License Agreement between KPEZMDC and CRBC. Agencies

### **The Nation 16-04-2019**

#### **Session on ‘CPEC: Educational and Cultural Connectivity’ on 20<sup>th</sup>**

ISLAMABAD - A literary session on ‘China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Educational and Cultural Connectivity’ will be held on April 20 at Pak China Friendship Centre. The session will be presided over by ShamsulMulk, former Chairman WAPDA. Renowned scholars including Dr Safdar Ali Shah, Director General CPEC HEC, and Dr TalatShabeer, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre Institute of Strategic Studies will be panelists of the literary session, said a press release.

Naveed Amaan’s book ‘Pin Point’ will also be unveiled during the session. Darkhashan Batool will give a presentation on CPEC while Syeda will present her paper on the songs and music regarding CPEC.

The session would be hosted by Hamayun Iqbal Shami, Chairman Pakistan Economic Forum. The CPEC is one of the vital projects which would bring economic stability in the country.

The literary discussions aimed to elaborate in details the cultural and literary connectivity between the two times tested friendly countries Pakistan and China.

### **The Nation 18-04-2019**

#### **Khusro seems not serious about Corridor: Sherry**

ISLAMABAD - Senator Sherry Rehman has said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor is a big and most important project of the country but the Minister of Planning does not seem serious about it.

The China Pakistan Economic Corridor is the most important project in Pakistan at this time and the attitude of the planning minister depicts the level of seriousness towards this important project, Senator Sherry Rehman said while chairing the meeting of the Senate Special Committee on CPEC.

She said during the visit of representatives of the political parties to China we were told by the Chinese that they do not understand Pakistan's planning about CPEC.

However, the representatives of the political parties assured the Chinese that they are all on the same page about CPEC, Senator Sherry Rehman said. She added that the project was at a very critical stage and that numerous questions are being raised both on national and international forums which need to be addressed. Senator Sherry Rehman further said that you have to tell the people that where the CPEC stands. "You have to tell all the stakeholders about the development of the CPEC," she added.

The Committee took strict notice of the absence of Minister of Planning, Development and Reform Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar and unanimously decided that the meeting cannot proceed without the minister's presence.

The secretary planning told the committee that the Minister of Planning, Development and Reform was attending a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) and was therefore not able to attend the special committee meeting.

Senator Javed Abbasi said that when the minister has not come to attend the meeting therefore the committee should not proceed. The government is not sincere with CPEC, he added. There is no point to continue the meeting when the minister has not come to attend it.

Briefing on the implementation status of 8th JCC of CPEC meeting and Special Economic Zones (SEZs) was on the agenda of the meeting but it was not discussed due to absence of the minister and meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was attended by Senator Nuzhat Sadiq, Senator Dr Sikandar Mandhro, Senator Dr Asad Ashraf, Senator Syed Muhammad Ali Shah Jamot, Senator Mohammad Azam Khan Swati, Senator Atta ur Rehman, Senator Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Nasir, Senator Mir Kabir Ahmed Muhammad Shahi, Senator Muhammad Javed Abbasi and senior officers of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform, Board of Investment (BOI) and the Power Division

### **The Nation 20-04-2019**

#### **China hints at collaboration with PBM**

Islamabad - China on Friday announced exploring more avenues of collaboration with Pakistan Bait ul Mal (PBM).

Addressing a ceremony to donate TVs and LCDS to PBM, Second Secretary of Chinese Embassy Islamabad said that people of China feel pain for the Pakistanis and was always ready to mitigate the sufferings of marginalized segments of the Pakistani society.

In his welcome address, Managing Director PBM, Aon Abbas briefed about the ongoing projects in healthcare, education and rehabilitation sectors.

The moot was told that PBM is running 38 sweet homes where around 4000 orphan children are being provided accommodation, food, clothing, education and other basic necessities, free of cost.

Discussing the future plans, Abbas showed his commitment to achieve the target of enrolling 10,000 orphan children by adding more sweet homes, within shortest span of time, as envisioned by Prime Minister of Pakistan.

While acknowledging the support of Chinese delegation, Managing Director hoped for the long term partnership and said Chinese companies may support the deprived populace, further, under Corporate Social Responsibility projects.

PBM Consultant Syed Umair Ali also highlighted options where Chinese companies could help in the social protection projects for Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal.

Economic and Commercial Counselor of China in Pakistan applauded the PBM services for providing social protection to marginalized segments of the society.

The representatives of Chinese enterprises handed over the LCD TVs, sports kits and stationary items to Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal. This equipment will help fulfilling the recreational and educational needs of PSH Children.

Chinese Economic and Commercial Counselor in Pakistan, Wang Zhihua, Second Secretary Chinese Embassy in Pakistan Li Wenqing, Chairman All Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association, Li Zhihuai along with other members of Chinese delegation were given a warm welcome on arrival at PBM head office.

### **The Nation 20-04-19**

#### **Chinese CG, PSMA team call on industries minister**

LAHORE - Chinese Consul General Long Dingbin called on Minister for Industries & Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal at the office of Punjab Board of Investment & Trade on Friday. Bilateral economic cooperation, investment of Chinese companies and various matters of mutual interests came under discussion during the meeting.

Mian Aslam Iqbal said that Pak-China friendship has converted into economic cooperation. He said the government has created investment-friendly environment in the province with provision of every possible facilities.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Pakistan Sugar Mills Association called on Minister for Industries and Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal at Civil Secretariat on Friday.

Secretary Industries, DG Industries and Cane Commissioner were also present in the meeting that discussed payment to sugarcane growers, provision of sugar in Ramzan bazaars at subsidized rates and availability of sugar in the open market. Mian Aslam Iqbal said there was no shortage of sugar in Punjab. He said sugar would be provided at Ramzan bazaars at subsidized rates..

## **The Nation 23-04-2019**

### **Pakistan important to China over and above CPEC: Envoy**

Chinese leadership looking forward to visit of PM Khan

ISLAMABAD - China Monday said Pakistan was an important partner for Beijing over and above the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

Speaking at a news conference here, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing said Prime Minister Imran Khan's upcoming visit to China was significant and it will help to further enhance the existing friendly ties.

"It is not only due to CPEC. Pakistan is an important country for us (China) for other reasons too. CPEC is based on mutual interests," he said.

Prime Minister Khan will be visiting China from April 25-28 on a three-day official visit at the invitation of President Xi Jinping, the Foreign Office had earlier announced.

The envoy said the Second Belt and Road Forum was to be held in Beijing from April 25 to April 27. Leaders including heads of states and governments from 37 countries would attend the forum's roundtable summit.

"Pakistan being a major partner of Belt and Road Initiative is the most important of all," the envoy said. Under FTA, China will provide market access to 90% of Pakistani commodities on zero-rated duties

"The Chinese Prime Minister and President are looking forward to visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China where he would also hold bilateral meetings with the Chinese leadership to build more consensus on bilateral trade ties," he added.

Belt and Road Forum provides a platform to countries participating in BRI for exchanging views and experiences on regional connectivity; policy synergy; socio-economic development and trade and commerce.

During the visit, the prime minister will be accompanied by a ministerial delegation. He will deliver a keynote speech in the opening ceremony of the Belt and Road Forum and participate in the Leaders' Round Table. He would also hold meetings with several Heads of State, Government and corporate and business leaders.

The prime minister would also hold bilateral meetings with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang. Pakistan and China will also sign several MoUs and agreements to enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse areas.

PM Khan will attend Beijing International Horticulture Exhibition-2019 and address Pakistan Trade and Investment Conference in Beijing.

This will be the second visit of the Prime Minister to China. He had earlier paid a state visit to China in November last year.

Yao Jing said the Chinese leadership was looking forward to PM Imran Khan's visit. "Prime Minister Imran Khan's upcoming visit to China will provide an opportunity to both the countries to further explore new vistas of cooperation," he added.

The ambassador said both the countries are set to begin the second phase of Free Trade Agreement. Under the FTA, Jing said, China will provide market access to 90 per cent of Pakistani commodities on zero rated duties, while Pakistan will give market access to 65 per cent tariff lines.

Yao Jing said the FTA between Pakistan and China would be signed on April 28 besides other important agreements related to CPEC during visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

He said the second round of FTA had finally concluded after eight years of negotiation between the two countries and the final agreement would be signed by the commerce ministers of the two countries during the visit of Pakistan's PM.

The envoy said under the CPEC's industrial cooperation, first Special Economic Zone at Rashakai was going to be inaugurated later this month where 20 factories would be installed initially.

He assured that the employment in the SEZs would be taken from the local resources and latest technology would be transferred from China to Pakistan.

He informed that cooperation under industrial and social sectors would be the main focus of second phase of CPEC.

"There are six areas under social sector including education, health, agriculture, water, irrigation, and poverty alleviation in which around 26 new projects will be initiated in Pakistan," he said.

Jing said two model villages would be built in Pakistan under social sector cooperation of CPEC aimed at uplift the living standard of low income segment of the society.

With respect to the multi-billion Railway ML1 project, the envoy said that the technical aspects of the project had already been finalised and this project would hit the ground soon.

He also invited the neighboring countries to become part of the mega project as it was not only beneficial for China and Pakistan but for the whole region.

Jing said under 11 out of 22 projects had already been completed while work on the remaining 11 projects was going fast adding that on all of these projects an amount of \$19 billion had been invested by the Chinese side out of which \$13 billion were comprised of commercial loans whereas the remaining loan of \$6 billion was concessionary loan to be paid by the Pakistani government with a repayment period of 25-30 years.

### **The Nation 24-04-2019**

#### **Cabinet approves 'better' free trade accord with China**

ISLAMABAD - The Federal Cabinet which met in the chair of Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday gave its go-ahead to the government to sign Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China in order to protect the interest of the local industry.



Briefing reporters after the meeting, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan said that a better Free Trade Agreement will be signed with China in order to protect our local industry.

The proposed FTA will be signed by the two countries during three-day official visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China beginning from Thursday.

Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan said that Advisor on Commerce Abdul Razzak Dawood briefed the cabinet that 450 Pakistani businessmen will visit China to look for business opportunities that would translate into more production, job opportunities and poverty reduction in the country.

She said that the cabinet members congratulated the Prime Minister on his successful visit to Iran which was extremely important in present context. She noted that the government wants to increase our trade with immediate neighbors to reap the bilateral benefits. She said the visit also proved successful in removing the misunderstandings between the two brotherly countries.

About the recent increase in the prices of drugs, Special Assistant on Information said that cabinet was informed that efforts are being made to bring the drugs prices down in consultation with all stakeholders.

She said that Special Assistant to PM on National Health Services Dr Zafarullah Mirza briefed the cabinet on his findings regarding increase in prices of drugs and said a meeting with pharma companies and other stakeholders will be held soon to bring down the prices of medicines in the country.

She said the Cabinet meeting was told that additional amount charged by these companies will be recovered by the government and submitted in Pakistan BaitulMaal. This amount will be used to provide free treatment to poor patients of various diseases.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister said the cabinet was briefed on inflation and rising prices of essential items. The cabinet also decided to check on prices of essential items during the holy month of Ramazan and keep an eye on hoarders and cartels. She said the inflation during the last eight months of this government is still less comparing with the same period of previous two governments.

Firdous Ashiq Awan said the Prime Minister directed all ministers to introduce policies in public interest and improve their performance in order to resolve the issues faced by public.

Firdous said the cabinet also discussed the LNG agreements signed by previous government which were expensive and not in interest of Pakistan. She said the new LNG agreements will be transparent and based on competitive pricing.

The cabinet endorsed the policies of Prime Minister Imran Khan and his vision of democracy that is free from corruption and functions only to empower the common man and reduces their issues. Meanwhile, Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh has directed FBR to modify and refine the tax amnesty scheme for Asset Declaration for making it more attractive and persuasive before it is put up to the cabinet for approval.

## **The Nation 24-04-2019**

### **313 items: China accepts duty-free access demand**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China have agreed to China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement-II (CPFTA-II) and agreement in this regard will be signed on April 28, during the Prime Minister's upcoming visit to China.

China has agreed in principle to extend duty free access on additional 313 tariff lines under the proposed CPFTA-II and an agreement in this regarding will be finalized during PM upcoming visit there, said Advisor for Commerce, Textile, Industry and Production, and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood while talking to media here.

Flanked by chairman Board of Investment Haroon Sharif, Razak Dawood said that during Chinese foreign minister visit to Pakistan in September 2018 China agreed to Pakistan's proposal of 313 products duty free accesses but in November 2018 the Chinese side refused to give this facility to Pakistan.

"Earlier when we asked them for the duty free access for 313 Pakistan products Chinese were not ready but now they have agreed to all our demands," "I will say that what we have asked for has been given by Chinese," said the Advisor to PM. After the cabinet approval to China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement-II (CPFTA-II), it will be finalised during the four-day visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China, Dawood said.

Following the agreement it will be forwarded to the concerned Chinese authorities for rectification. However, the minister said that he doesn't know about the Chinese procedure or time frame of the approval. "It may take one month or three months, I don't know," he said.

Abdul Razak Dawood said that Prime Minister Imran Khan would leave for China on April 25 to participate in the 2nd Belt and Road Forum (BRF).

The details about CPFTA-II have been agreed which PM is going to sign during his upcoming visit to China, said the advisor to the Prime Minister.

Dawood said that in the CPFTA-I there were no correct safeguard measures to protect Pakistan industry but in CPFTA-II the government has put safeguards for local industries.

Pakistan has been provided the same treatment as available to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). "With a duty waiver on more Pakistani products the country has now a level playing field with member states of the ASEAN in exports to China."

He said under the agreement, apart from textile sector, other sectors of economy like auto parts, furniture, chemical, engineering goods, etc, would have access to Chinese market duty-free.

Razak Dawood said that both countries have agreed on liberalization of 75 percent tariff lines and 90 percent trade value. "As a result of the agreement initially we are expecting \$500 million exports will be increased during next 18 months," said the said

The government is all set to implement electronic origin data exchange under the agreement which will enable real time recording of trade between the two countries and help curb under-invoicing and ill-practicing, he added.

He said the theme of the second BRF is “Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future.” The main purpose is to promote the high-quality development of Belt and Road cooperation, which is the common aspiration of countries participating in the initiative, he added.

He further said that the PM will also discuss with Chinese side the setting up of the Eastern Route on the CPEC along with North-South route,” he said.

Chairman BOI, Haroon Sharif said that 100 companies have initially approval them but 22 Chinese companies have either incorporated or are incorporating in Pakistan and relocation of Chinese industry to special economic zones (SEZs) is also on the cards. He further said that a meeting of Board of Approval is likely in the next 21 days to take important decisions related to investment.

### **The Nation 26-04-2019**

#### **China’s Belt and Road initiative to embrace a second global gathering after six years of glory**

Almost six years after China put forward the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), thousands of delegates from over 100 countries, including nearly 40 government leaders, are expected to gather in Beijing in late April to discuss on the fruits and prospects of the grand vision.

The second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation is under the theme of “Belt and Road Cooperation, Shaping a Brighter Shared Future”.

The past six years recorded the milestones of the BRI since it was first proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in the fall of 2013, rightly after which multiple countries raised their hands to join the cooperation.

The vision and actions on jointly building the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road was released in March 2015, in which China explained to the world the philosophy and plans of the Belt and Road cooperation.

In the following December, a new multilateral financial institution, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, was established under the framework of the BRI, and so far it has reaped better-than-expected consensus and fruits.

In May 2017, the first Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation hosted by Beijing drew a roadmap for future cooperation by yielding a list of deliverables, which includes 76 items comprising 279 concrete results in five key areas, namely policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity.

Statistics indicated that nearly all of the 279 concrete outcomes have been completed or turned into regular work. The string of efforts has rewarded the Belt and Road Initiative with more voice

and discourse in international community. Many en-route countries have included the vision into their development plans as they perceive it as a cooperation platform fueling their growth.

So far, 124 countries and 29 international organizations have signed cooperation agreements with China on the BRI. According to an International Finance Forum (IFF) survey published last year, the 5th anniversary of the Initiative, almost every interviewed organization confirmed the vital role played by the Belt and Road construction in promoting local and regional economic growth.

Thanks to the accelerated Belt and Road cooperation, countries along the route are making historical leaps forward. It offered East Africa with its first motorway, provided the Maldives with its first inter-island bridge, enabled Belarus to produce passenger vehicles, and connected landlocked Kazakhstan to the sea.

Thanks to the proposal, Southeast Asia is constructing a high-speed railway, and the Eurasian continent is benefiting from the longest-distance freight train service.

In the eyes of global enterprises and public, the BRI has brought a huge number of practical cooperation projects and created whole new markets and employment opportunities. A framework consisting of six corridors and six channels serving multiple countries and ports is taking shape, as the railway linking China with Laos and Thailand, the rail line connecting Hungary to Serbia, the high-speed railway between Jakarta and Bandung, the Gwadar port, and a series of other demonstrative projects have made concrete progress.

Such visible accomplishments further cemented the confidence in the BRI of each party. “China’s ‘Belt and Road’ program is showing up in the earning calls of some companies around the world,” the CNBC said in its report. The General Electric forecasted that the company would register double-digit growth in revenues in the Belt and Road countries in coming years.

In addition, financial giant Citigroup is offering comprehensive services for companies investing in the Belt and Road countries. The 82 economic and trade cooperation zones established by Chinese enterprises in en-route countries have created nearly 300,000 local jobs.

Over the past 6 years, the Belt and Road construction has brought dramatic changes to countries along the route. Thanks to the BRI, villagers who once lived in the mountains of Laos for generations can make a living from other occupations besides farming and hunting. The children there, with the electricity generated by BRI projects, have now said goodbye to the old days when they had to read under kerosene lamps.

Because of the BRI, Alice became one of the first female train drivers in Kenya and it greatly improved the living condition of her family. Now she has embarked on a new path of life, earning three times more than what she used to earn before. The Germany-based Duisburg port posted a sales revenue of 250 million euros in the 2017 fiscal year, handling 30 percent more of cargos. The old industrial base which used to be headache with the recession of traditional growth momentum is now regaining vitality under the assistance of the BRI.

The BRI stands as an innovative creation in the complicated system of global development and governance, as it is a developing country-proposed initiative that upholds the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. It also represents a phenomenal practice in the realm of modern global governance.

Up to now, the co-construction of the BRI, as well as its core ideas have been included in the outcome documents of important international institutions such as the United Nations (UN).

The BRI not only involves economic cooperation, but also aims to improve the development model of the world economy through economic cooperation, make globalization healthier and further promote the development of national and global governance, said António Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN.

A new railway line for freight trains between Luxembourg and China's Chengdu was recently launched, with the first train carrying 41 containers loaded with European mechanical and electrical products, food and medical apparatus to the expanding Chinese market.

Many people believe that the expanding China-Europe freight service not only stands for an engine to reshape the current trade and economic landscape, but also signifies that the BRI is providing the world with energy to fight against protectionism and isolationism by connecting countries together.

### **The Nation 26-04-2019**

#### **CPEC umbrella projects: Pakistan, China likely to sign three agreements**

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China are likely to sign three agreements related to CPEC umbrella projects, Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), socio economic development cooperation and agriculture cooperation, on April 28.

Agreement for the establishment of Pakistan's first SEZ at Rashakai, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa will be finalized during the Prime Minister Imran Khan's ongoing visit to China, official sources told The Nation here Thursday. Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reforms Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar has already announced that Rashakai Special Economic Zone will be inaugurated next month.

Prime Minister Imran Khan left on Thursday (today) for China to participate in the 2nd Belt and Road Forum (BRF). China and Pakistan will finalize the initiative of the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) during the Prime Minister Imran Khan's ongoing visit of to China.

The second agreement is related to CPEC socio economic development cooperation, said the source. Pakistan and China have shortlisted 27 projects to be funded with China aid under CPEC socio economic development cooperation and the agreement will be signed on April 28. The 27 shortlisted projects will be executed under first phase of CPEC socio economic development cooperation, said the source.



The Chinese experts group had recently concluded a 12 days tour to Pakistan where they have shortlisted several projects to be funded with the Chinese grant in the provinces and regions under CPEC. Now an MoU on the projects is likely to be signed in upcoming Belt and Road Forum.

The Chinese delegation headed by Du Zhenli, comprising of 13 experts from socio economic development field, arrived here during last week of February and was here for around 12 days. China has agreed to extend a grant of one billion dollars for the socio economic development under CPEC and the projects in six identified areas will be funded through China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).

The provinces and regions had submitted around 100 projects to the Chinese experts to secure grant for the socioeconomic development under CPEC. The projects submitted by the provinces and AJK include, in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, health, solarization of water supply schemes, telemedicine, smart schools etc said the source. However all of them are small projects which are worth Rs 100 million to Rs 300 million, the source said. The experts discussed the finalization of action plan with Pakistani experts, said the source. The finalization of MoU will help to launch pilot projects in the selective districts of the country.

After due consideration, the expert group had shortlisted some projects and it has decided that in first phase it will start the execution of projects with shortest implementation time. For example, the source said, there was a demand of establishing burn centers from all the provinces and regions, therefore it was decided to execute these projects in the first phase. The project is easy to execute and can be completed within few months, said the source. The 3rd agreement will be signed for agriculture cooperation, the source said. Under agriculture cooperation, the establishment of Mouth and Foot disease free zone in South Punjab will be signed on April 28, said the source. Besides CPEC cooperation an agreement on China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement-II (CPFTA-II) will also be signed on April 28.

### **The Nation 26-04-2019**

#### **ML-I project to create 150,000 jobs: Sheikh Rashid**

ISLAMABAD - Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed Thursday said that Mainline-I (ML-I) project from Peshawar to Karachi would create 150,000 job opportunities including 20,000 technical experts in the country.

Addressing a press conference here, the minister said that with the completion of ML-I between Pakistan and China, the project would bring revolution not only in Pakistan Railways but also in the country.

Sheikh Rashid said that Pakistan and China would sign the preliminary design of ML-1 project during the current visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Beijing. Congratulating the nation, the minister said that he has initiated this project in 2006 and now by the grace of Almighty Allah, the project is going towards the agreement between both the countries. "I will try my level best to sign

the Mainline-II (ML-II) with the Chinese government during this visit of prime minister that will also create numerous job opportunities,” Sheikh Rashid added.

The minister thanked the prime minister, former minister for Finance Asad Umar, employees of Pakistan Railways and other stakeholders, who supported in the project.

Sheikh Rashid said that the ML-I would be completed in three phases and after the completion of the project, the minimum speed of the train would be 160 kilometers per hours.

### **The Nation 26-04-2019**

#### **FM Qureshi visits Huawei’s Beijing research centre**

BEIJING, China (PR) Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi visited Hua-wei’s Beijing Research Centre and met with Huawei Pakistan CEO Saif Chi.

They discussed how to leverage ICT to better facilitate Pakistan’s economic de-velopment and serve local communities. During the visit, the foreign minister was briefed on Huawei’s latest business devel-opments. In addition, Huawei’s technical experts explained the latest developments of Huawei’s 5G, Artificial Intelligence, E-Class room, E-health and mobile phone technologies to the foreign minister.

Using Huawei’s telepresence system, the foreign minister also spoke with Huawei Pakistani staff who was about 3,900 kilometers away in Huawei’s Is-lamabad Office.

The Huawei Pakistan CEO said, “Hua-wei will continue to contribute in Paki-stan by creating more jobs and bringing latest ICT technologies to Pakistan.” He also briefed the foreign minister that Huawei has established a Technical Sup-port Centre in Islamabad which has cre-ated 600 jobs.

The foreign minister appreciated the job Huawei has done in Pakistan and hoped that Huawei could bring more investment and advanced technology to Pakistan, cre-ate more jobs for the local people.

Huawei Beijing R&D centre is one of its biggest R&D which occupies 73,934.7 square meters with more than 10,000 R&D experts. A lot of foreign delegations visited the centre during the “2nd Belt & Road forum”.

### **The Nation 27-04-2019**

#### **PM presents plan for joint BRI action**

Beijing - Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday asked the participant countries of the Belt and Road Initiative to join hands in fighting climate change by planting 100 billion trees, establish tourism corridor and combat corruption.

Addressing the Opening Ceremony of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation here at the China National Convention Center, he suggested a five-point roadmap to direct efforts and focus on the peoples of the participating countries and achievement of sustainable.

Speaking on the theme of “Shaping a Brighter Future”, Prime Minister Khan told the gathering comprising around 37 world leaders the urgency to create a poverty alleviation fund and the importance of efforts to further liberalize trade and investment flows.

The three-day meeting is being attended by 5,000 participants from more than 150 countries, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, UK Chancellor Philip Hammond, and the heads of state of the 10 Asean [Association of South-east Asian Nation] states. The United States has sent a low-level delegation, while India opted not to attend.

Premier Imran Khan used the occasion to invite the foreign leaders and delegates to avail of Pakistan's liberal foreign investment regime. He urged them to focus in particular on infrastructure, railways, dams, IT and manufacturing.

#### Five-point plan

Elaborating on his proposed plan, the prime minister called for joint efforts to mitigate climate change. He recalled how the provincial government in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has successfully planted a billion trees and said that the President of Chile has also mentioned this initiative.

“We [have also] launched a nationwide project to plant 10 billion trees. I suggest we launch a joint project to plant 100 billion trees [in all BRI states] in the next two years, so that we can mitigate the effects of climate change for our coming generations.”

Imran Khan, who has been very vocal about encouraging tourism in the country, suggested establishment of a BRI Tourism Corridor to promote people-to-people contact and inter-cultural understanding.

He also suggested setting up of an office of Anti-Corruption Cooperation to combat the scourge of white-collar crime. Khan, who won a popular vote in last year's general elections on the promise to combat corruption, pointed to the world leaders that “white-collar crimes are devastating the world.”

Speaking about the importance of fighting poverty, he spoke for creating a Poverty Alleviation Fund that can supplement individual national efforts in the fight against poverty and malnourishment.

“In Pakistan, we have recently launched a targeted poverty alleviation programme called Ehsas, or feeling.” He said it was aimed at emulating China's spectacular success in lifting 800 million people out of poverty within a matter of decades.

Prime Minister Imran Khan also called for making concerted efforts to further liberalize trade and investment flows encouraging private sector and businesses to collaborate in public projects.

Khan congratulated President Xi Jinping and the government of People's Republic of China for organizing the important event and said as the Belt and Road transforms from vision into reality, the gathering has provided a useful platform for taking stock and setting the agenda.

"In a world of geopolitical uncertainty, of rising inequality and barriers to trade, the BRI offers a model of collaboration, partnership, connectivity and shared prosperity," he said. He added that the BRI marks a new and distinct phase in the onward march of nations of the world along the path of globalization.

"The presence of so many world leaders today is proof that we choose hope over despair and cooperation over confrontation." He said 122 states and 49 international organizations have signed on to BRI's vision and described it a historic and monumental development.

Prime Minister Khan said Pakistan was proud to have partnered and pioneered with China in this transformational endeavor. "We have been among BRI's earliest and most enthusiastic proponents."

He said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, one of BRI's major components and one of its earliest manifestations, has made substantial progress. "Pakistan's energy supplies have increased massively. Our critical infrastructure gaps are being plugged. Gwadar, once a small fishing village, is transforming rapidly into a commercial hub." He said the Gwadar Airport will be the largest in the country.

The premier said together Pakistan and China were entering the next phase of CPEC with greater emphasis on socioeconomic uplift, poverty alleviation, agricultural cooperation and industrial development. "We are expanding the frontiers of knowledge through closer engagement and deeper cooperation in the fields of education, innovation and technology."

He said Special Economic Zones were being set up, along the length of the Corridor, and would offer opportunities for investments for Pakistani, Chinese and foreign entrepreneurs.

The prime minister said supplementing the next phase of CPEC the two countries would sign an expanded Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement.

"We are changing Pakistan's economic landscape and Insha-Allah the destiny of our people. I want to thank China and its leadership for their unwavering support for Pakistan," Imran Khan said. "Our deep-rooted friendship, partnership and brotherhood with China remain strong, resilient and unbreakable, standing tall in the face of every challenge."

Imran Khan said China's marvelous civilization has given the world wisdom, harmony and prosperity. "It has gifted to humanity, great inventions, art and aesthetics and a culture of compassion and co-existence", and recalled the famous Chinese proverb: 'The Ocean is vast because it rejects no rivers.'

He said Pakistan will continue to work on the basis of mutual respect and equal opportunity, with China and other BRI partners, for a better future of our people. "Pakistan will partner with all those

who share the vision for a peaceful and prosperous world. We will work together to realize a future of hope and happiness," Imran Khan told the gathering.

‘CPEC a blessing’

The prime minister on Friday also addressed the participants of a reception hosted in his honour by China International Cultural Communication Center here in Beijing.

Khan said that the whole country was behind the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as this flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative had come as a blessing for Pakistan. “The CPEC has given us an opportunity to catch up with other nations and attract investment from China and other countries,” he said.

He observed that China was the fastest growing economy in the world now and so obviously China was main home from where the government hoped to invite investors. He however said that because of CPEC, other countries were now looking to invest in Pakistan.

The prime minister said, in the beginning, the CPEC was just a road and a couple of power stations for energy. But now it has gone far ahead. He said his government was looking forward to Chinese investment in special economic zones, which were in the process of being set up in Pakistan.

“These special economic zones are part of CPEC and we are hoping the investment from China and the relocation of Chinese industries in these special economic zones,” he added.

He pointed out that labour cost in Pakistan was low as compared to China and Pakistan would really benefit from the relocation of certain industries in Pakistan which would help increase exports and achieve economic prosperity.

Pakistan, he said, was focusing to establish peace and stability in the region and hoping for a political solution of Afghanistan through dialogues between the relevant parties. He said that peace and stability in Afghanistan was in the best interest of Pakistan as whatever happened in Afghanistan affects Pakistan border areas.

About relations with Iran, he said, “We have a decent relationship with Iran and we are trying to strengthen it.” He hoped that after the general elections in India, the two countries would resume dialogue. He remarked that unless there was peace and stability, the region could not achieve economic prosperity.

The prime minister said that the relationship between Pakistan and China had always got stronger as both the countries stood with each other in difficult times. “China has always been there for our most difficult times. And therefore there was a very strong relationship between the people of Pakistan and the people of China.”

Earlier, Chairman, China-Pakistan Friendship Association, ShaZu Kang welcomed the prime minister and his delegation for their visit to China and expressed the confidence that the relationship between the two countries would further grow in the future.



### **The Nation 27-04-2019**

#### **China lauds ISPR efforts for promoting ties**

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Acting Ambassador Lijian Zhao has said that his country acknowledges and appreciates the consistent efforts of Inter-Services Public Relations for promoting China-Pakistan relations. In a tweet after meeting with Director General ISPR Major General AsifGhafoor on Friday, he said it is always a great pleasure to visit the Director General ISPR. During the meeting, the Chinese Acting Ambassador appreciated Pakistan's role particularly the ISPR for promoting Pak-China ties. He was of the view that both the countries should continue to maintain cordial relations in different fields as defence, diplomacy and trade.

### **The Nation 27-04-2019**

#### **China to promote FTAs among BRI countries: Xi**

BEIJING - China will encourage signing high-standard free trade agreements, while promoting friendly environment for international cooperation, this was declared by President Xi Jinping in his key-note address, delivered here at the inaugural session of three-day 2nd Belt and Road Forum.

He called on participants of the Belt and Road Initiative to continuously advance the initiative along the path of high-quality development.

Xi asserted that the open, green and clean approaches should be adhered to and the goals of high-standard, livelihood-improving and sustainable development should be achieved.

Xi highlighted building infrastructure of high quality, sustainability, risk resilience, reasonable pricing, inclusiveness and accessibility under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Calling infrastructure the cornerstone of connectivity and a bottleneck of development confronting many countries, Xi said building infrastructure with such standards could help countries give full play to their advantages in resources and better integrate into the global supply, industry and value chains for interconnected development.

China will negotiate and sign high-standard free trade agreements with more countries, Xi said.

China will support 5,000 people from innovation sector in Belt and Road countries in conducting exchanges, training programs and joint researches in the next five years, Xi said.

China will work with other participants of the Belt and Road Initiative to promote scientific and cultural exchanges, set up joint science labs, build science and technology parks, and promote transfer of technologies.

China will allow foreign investors to operate businesses in more sectors with controlling or full stake, Xi said

China will step up protecting the legitimate rights and interests of foreign owners of intellectual property rights, and prohibit the forced transfer of technology. China will create a business environment in which the value of knowledge is respected, Xi said.

China will increase imports of goods and services on a larger scale. China will further lower its tariff rates.

He said the country would continuously open up its market and welcome quality products from around the world. China is willing to import more competitive farm produces, finished products and services, he said.

China will not engage in beggar-thy-neighbor currency devaluation. China will continue to improve the exchange rate formation mechanism of its currency, the renminbi, and keep the exchange rate generally stable on a reasonable and balanced level, he said.

China attaches great importance to the establishment of a constraint mechanism for the fulfillment and implementation of international agreements, and the modification and improvement of laws and regulations in accordance with the need of further opening-up, Xi added.

Meanwhile, President Xi's speech was highly welcomed by the participating dignitaries from 40 countries, stating that it has set a new road-map for the international cooperation and ensuring better living of conman man.

### **The Nation 28-04-2019**

#### **CPEC not a transaction but transformation: PM**

BEIJING - Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday said Pakistan lying at the crossroads of important regions has always played a role to connect ideas, cultures and commerce.

Speaking at Leaders' Roundtable Session of 2nd Belt and Road Forum here, he called for enhancing connectivity to further expand the scope of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"We should consider digital connectivity, mobility of labour and transfer of skills, cultural links and knowledge and innovation connectivity to further expand the scope of the BRI," Khan said, lauding Chinese President Xi Jinping for giving the BRI vision to break barriers, connect people, integrate economies and share prosperity.

To implement these additional areas of connectivity, he said, the BRI countries should establish a tourism corridor for cultural tourism exchanges. "They should develop programmes for improving the skills of labour from labour surplus countries to assist the labour deficient countries," he suggested.

PM Khan said they should also create multilingual digital platforms for connecting producers, consumers and skilled job seekers. He said connectivity has been a part of Pakistan's heritage and the CPEC is giving it modern shape in the 21st century.

“Pakistan is privileged to have been an early partner of China,” he said, adding under the CPEC, “we are building highways, modernizing rail network, setting up power plants, establishing a port and special economic zones.” He added, “The CPEC is not a transaction rather it is a transformation of our society”.

PM Khan was of the view that the connectivity of Gwadar port with China’s Xinjiang region will provide a shorter route for China’s imports, reduce the cost for Chinese companies and develop western China as well.

Khan-Wang meeting

Prime Minister Imran Khan along with his delegation met Vice President of China Wang Qishan here on Saturday. The vice president hosted a banquet for the prime minister and the Pakistani delegation on behalf of President Xi Jinping.

The delegation included Minister for Foreign Affairs Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Minister for Water Resources Muhammad Faisal Vawda, Minister for Planning Khusro Bakhtiar, Advisor on Finance Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh and Advisor on Commerce Abdul Razaq Dawood.

The prime minister is currently on a four-day visit to China for attending the second Belt and Road Forum and to meet the Chinese leaders.

### **The Nation 29-04-2019**

#### **Pakistan, China sign six accords**

BEIJING - A total of six MoUs and agreements were signed between Pakistan and China at the conclusion of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s second visit to China.

The PM, who was in Beijing on a four-day visit to attend the 2nd Belt and Road Forum (BRF), also met with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and President Xi Jinping on Sunday. The signing ceremony was witnessed by PM Imran and Premier Li.

The most important accords signed on the occasion were the Second Phase of the Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement, which aims at enhancing bilateral trade between the two countries, and the declaration for completion of phase-I initial design for up gradation of Karachi-Lahore-Peshawar train track (ML-1) and establishment of Havelian dry port under CPEC.

Other agreements and MoUs included those related to economic and technical cooperation between the two countries, cooperation in marine sciences, and implementation of socio-economic development projects under JWG of CPEC.

Rashakai SEZ joint venture and license agreement between KPEZMDC and CRBC was also signed. Besides these state level agreements, 16 MoUs and agreements were signed between Pakistani and Chinese companies during the investment forum.

Khan- Li meeting

Before signing of the agreements, Prime Minister Imran Khan held a bilateral meeting with Premier Li Keqiang at the conclusion of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum (BRF). The two prime ministers were accompanied by ministers and senior officials during the meeting.

They reaffirmed the time-tested and strong friendship between Pakistan and China and exchanged views on the myriad facets of bilateral engagement, especially the collaboration in the context of CPEC and prospects of further deepening economic linkages.

PM Khan extended felicitations to the Chinese leadership on the successful holding of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum (BRF). Noting the depth and breadth of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), he said it was of immense significance for the world in terms of connectivity and shared prosperity.

The prime minister underscored the importance of CPEC for Pakistan's economy and noted with satisfaction its expansion into new areas of development – including industrial development, livelihood projects, social uplift, and agriculture – in line with the priorities of his government. He hoped that Chinese investment in Specialized Economic Zones (SEZs) would expand Pakistan's industrial base and assist in diversifying its export basket.

Underlining the steady growth of bilateral cooperation since Khan's last visit to China in November 2018, Premier Li Keqiang expressed satisfaction at the positive momentum of CPEC projects. He hoped that the conclusion of the Second Phase of China-Pakistan FTA would further boost their trade and economic relations.

The two sides agreed to further deepen cooperation in diverse fields including politics, security, economy, education, science and technology, culture, and people-to-people relations. It was agreed to maintain the existing momentum of high level exchanges between the two countries.

The two leaders also exchanged views on regional issues including peace efforts in Afghanistan and peace and stability in South Asia. They agreed to closely coordinate in their endeavours.

#### Khan-Xi meeting

In his meeting with President Xi Jinping here on Sunday, Prime Minister Imran Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's unflinching commitment to China Pakistan Economic Corridor and congratulated President Xi on the successful convening of the 2nd BRF.

The two leaders were accompanied by ministers and senior-level delegations during the meeting held at Great Hall of the people. They reaffirmed 'all-weather strategic cooperative partnership' between Pakistan and China and exchanged views on the entire gamut of bilateral relations in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked President Xi for the warm and gracious welcome accorded to him in China and for China's steadfast support to Pakistan on all issues. He also reaffirmed Pakistan's support to China on all issues of its core interest.

Reaffirming Pakistan's unflinching commitment to CPEC, the prime minister highlighted CPEC's next phase and its extension into new areas of agriculture, industrial development, and socio-economic uplift with livelihood projects.

President Xi Jinping reiterated China's unwavering support to Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and appreciated the government's agenda for socio-economic development and people-centred progress. He affirmed that China-Pakistan ties would continue to acquire greater strength and deepen practical cooperation in the time to come.

The two sides also exchanged views on the regional situation, especially in Afghanistan and South Asia. President Xi expressed China's appreciation for Pakistan's sustained and successful efforts in the fight against terrorism and towards creation of a peaceful environment.

Both sides expressed satisfaction over the close cooperation between the two countries at multilateral fora and resolved to further deepen communication and coordination at all levels. They also agreed to keep the momentum of high-level exchanges between the two countries.

Speeding up the trains!

Pakistan and China yesterday signed an agreement for the expansion and reconstruction of existing Karachi-Lahore Peshawar (ML-1) railway track. The document was signed by Railways Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed and Chinese Envoy to Pakistan Yao Jing.

In a statement from Beijing, Sheikh Rashid said it is a great day in history of Pakistan Railways as he said that under this project a double track from Peshawar to Karachi will be laid. The minister said speed of train on the new track will be 160 kilometer per hour.

According to the project details available on CPEC website, the entire track of 1,872 kms would be doubled and a computerized signaling and control system would be installed. The speed of passenger trains would be raised from the existing range of 65-110km/h to 160 km/h. However, the freight trains would operate at 120 km/h.

### **The News 20-04-2019**

#### **China says Silk Road not geopolitical tool, understands concerns**

BEIJING: China's Belt and Road project is not a "geopolitical tool" or a debt crisis for participating nations, but Beijing welcomes constructive suggestions on how to address concerns over the initiative, the government's top diplomat said on Friday.

Beijing will host a Belt and Road summit next week which 37 foreign leaders will attend, including some of China's closest allies, though the United States which has been critical of the project is only sending low level representatives.



The Belt and Road Initiative, as it is formally called, is a key initiative of President Xi Jinping, and envisions rebuilding the old Silk Road to connect China with Asia, Europe and beyond with massive infrastructure spending.

But it has proved controversial in many Western capitals, particularly Washington, which views it as merely a means to spread Chinese influence abroad and saddle countries with unsustainable debt through nontransparent projects.

The United States has been particularly critical of Italy's decision to sign up to the plan last month, during Xi's visit to Rome, the first for a G7 nation. Chinese State Councillor Wang Yi, the government's top diplomat, told reporters that the Belt and Road scheme had brought real benefits to participating countries. "This partnership relationship is not a geopolitical tool, but a platform for cooperation," he said.

"You can't put hats like 'debt crises' onto the head of the Belt and Road, and this is not something any participating country would recognize," Wang added. "Of course, there is a development process for the Belt and Road. You can't get there in one step, and it's unavoidable it will cause some worries during its development.

So we welcome all sides to come up with constructive suggestions," he said. The number of foreign leaders at the April 25-27 summit is up from 29 last time, mainly from China's closest allies like Pakistan and Russia but also Italy, Switzerland and Austria.

The United States will not send high-level officials, a US State Department spokesman said earlier this month, citing concerns about financing practices for the initiative.

Wang said there would be Americans at the summit, made up of diplomats, state-level officials, executives and academics, though he did not give details.

"We welcome any country that is interested to take part. When the United States participates, or whether it participates, is up to them to decide," he added.

While the United States and China are currently working to end a bitter trade war, they have numerous other areas of disagreement, including human rights and U.S. support for self-ruled Taiwan.

China on Monday condemned as "slanderous" criticism US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made of Beijing's policies in South America last week. "The United States has no plans to send high-level officials from Washington to the Belt and Road Forum," a US Embassy in Beijing spokesman said.

"We call upon all countries to ensure that their economic diplomacy initiatives adhere to internationally-accepted norms and standards, promote sustainable, inclusive development, and advance good governance and strong economic institutions."

At the first Belt and Road summit two years ago, the United States submitted a diplomatic note to China complaining about North Korea's participation, though since then Washington and Pyongyang have sought to re-set ties, including with two summits between their leaders.

Wang said North Korea would also take part in this year's summit, but gave no further details. "I think this is normal as it's an economic cooperation initiative. All countries have the freedom to attend, but I think they don't have the right to prevent any other country from participating. This is an open, inclusive platform." More than 150 countries are sending delegations, and there will be some 5,000 guests, Wang said.

### **The News 20-04-2019**

#### **'B2B ties can take CPEC to next level'**

ISLAMABAD: Yao Jing, ambassador of People's Republic of China to Pakistan, said win-win B2B (business-to-business) cooperation and enhanced P2P (people-to-people) contacts should follow the foundational G2G (government-to-government) phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to achieve next level.

He was speaking at a seminar "CPEC 2015-2019: Achievements, Challenges and the Way Forward" which was jointly organised by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, CPEC Economic Forum, and Pakistan Institute of Management (PIM).

The seminar also marked the fourth anniversary of CPEC agreement between China and Pakistan.

The ambassador said as many as 26 new CPEC initiatives were on the way as well.

The focus of new CPEC investments would shift from G2G interactions to B2B and P2P cooperation, eventually encouraging the private sector investors from both the countries to play their part especially in the areas of industrial and social development, he added.

"The energy projects under CPEC have contributed to a GDP increase of about one percent in Pakistan so far, but the real dividends of the megaproject would unfold with time, eventually helping in releasing economic pressures on Pakistan considerably," he said.

### **The News 20-04-2019**

#### **'CPEC to reposition Pakistan'**

ISLAMABAD: Board of Investment Chairman Haroon Sharif said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has helped shape a new economic geography that could lead to proximity-led development and shared prosperity in the region.

He was speaking to the participants of the International CPEC Workshop organised by the National Defence University on Friday.

Sharif said more and more regions were using proximity as a competitive advantage and CPEC was facilitating proximity-led development. Appreciating the relationship between Pakistan and China, he said the government wanted CPEC to be a multidimensional initiative to bring foreign direct investment parallel to infrastructure development.

“Private capital is being attracted not only from China but also from UAE, Qatar, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia,” he added.

### **The News 23-04-2019**

#### **Pakistan to access 90pc of Chinese market**

ISLAMABAD: Stating that CPEC is entering into the second phase after five years, China’s Ambassador Yao Jing has said that Beijing agreed to provide 90 percent market access to Pakistani commodities under the revised Free Trade Agreement (FTA) while in return Islamabad would provide only 65 percent access of its market share to the Chinese side.

He outlined three major initiatives going to be signed during the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan in terms of broadening of relations between two sides, including industrial cooperation and launching of the first Special Economic Zone at Rashakai, kick-starting social sector cooperation with 20,000 scholarships for education and finalizing technical level agreement on Railways’ ML-1.

“The upcoming visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China will help CPEC to enter into second phase of its implementation. Both the countries are expected to sign the second FTA that took almost eight years to finalize. China has agreed to provide 90 percent of its market access and in return Beijing will get market share of 65 percent,” China’s Ambassador in Pakistan Yao Jing said while addressing a news conference here at the Chinese Embassy on Monday.

He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was scheduled to participate in the upcoming Belt and Road Forum (BRF) from April 25 to 27 in Beijing. He hoped that the revised FTA would be finalised during the upcoming visit of PM Imran Khan.

When the ambassador was asked about total utilization of funds under CPEC so far and future prospects for next three to five years when Pakistan will be entering into fresh bailout package from the IMF, the Ambassador replied that there were 22 projects being financed through CPEC out of which 11 projects completed while work was in progress on remaining 11 projects.

Total borrowing for all these projects, he said, stood at \$19 billion but there was a need to understand Chinese model, adding that the projects having value of \$13 billion were in shape of commercial loans. He cited example of one power project with capacity of 1300MW as Chinese company got borrowing of \$1 billion from Chinese development bank and another Qatari company arranged financing of \$1 billion and both entered into joint venture by investing \$2 billion. Now the electricity produced by this power plant was sold to national grid and they were responsible to pay back their respective borrowed money, he added.

The remaining \$6 billion out of total \$19 billion was obtained as Government to Government (G to G) loan by Pakistani side, he said and added that there would be zero payment against this loan over next 3 to 5 years period because the grace period for repayment was given 5 to 7 years while repayment period ranged from 25 to 30 years.

On the question of third party participation in CPEC, the Ambassador said that both leaders from China and Pakistan would explore possibilities for entering more countries into CPEC on the basis of principles of consultation with each and secondly it should be beneficial for both sides. Two weeks back they established committee for exploring possibilities of international cooperation and leaders of Pakistan and China would explore possibilities in this regard.

He said that he was completely satisfied with the progress on CPEC projects. He said that Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) was commercial and economic development project. He said that they would welcome India to join this initiative that was aimed at promoting peace and development in the region. “We can wait if they want to remove their concerns,” he added.

On Afghanistan, he said that without peace and stability, the development projects could not be executed. About Karachi Circular Railways (KCR), he said that it was still on the agenda and there were different options including loans, BOT and others to find out financing model. As Pakistan is negotiating with the IMF for fresh package so its financial model will be finalised.

The Chinese envoy said that Prime Minister Khan along with other heads of state and government and organization will attend the “Second Belt and Road Forum” (BRF) scheduled to be held on April 25-27 in Beijing.

“There is complete understanding between Pakistan and China that the CPEC is fruitful for both the countries” he added. “Progress on CPEC is satisfactory, relations between PTI led government and China can be judged from the facts that Prime Minister Imran Khan is undertaking second visit during his nine month duration of government,” he added.

He said that leadership of China would also hold bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Imran Khan to discuss issues beneficial for both the countries. He was of the view the event would also provide opportunities to interact with the world leadership.

About the upcoming BRF, he said, that 12 thematic forums and a CEO conference would be held on April 25, the opening ceremony and a high level meeting on April 26 while the leaders’ roundtable is scheduled on April 27. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan would also attend inauguration of international horticultural exhibition along with the other leaders during his visit. He said that Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres and Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Ms Christine Lagarde will attend the forum. Senior representatives of France, Germany, Britain, Spain, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the European Union will also participate in the event.

The Ambassador said, second BRF was greatly welcomed worldwide with some 5,000 participants from more than 150 countries and 90 international organizations having confirmed their attendance, covering areas from five continents and different walks of life such as government, civil society, business and academia. He said that the forum would voice the firm support for multilateralism and open world economy, enrich the principles of cooperation of the Belt and Road initiative, build a network of partnership and establish more mechanisms for high-quality development.

He said that Belt and Road Initiative has received strong endorsement and warm support of the international community. So far, a total of 124 countries and 29 international organizations have signed BRI cooperation documents with China.

The ambassador said that at the global level, the BRI is well aligned with the UN 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, thus forming a synergy of policies to promote global development.

### **The News 24-04-2019**

#### **China wins Belt and Road fans but criticism persists**

BEIJING: President Xi Jinping will lead a hard sales push at a Beijing summit this week, to corral more countries into a global infrastructure project at the core of China's superpower ambitions and win over those who see a strategic threat.

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) envisages massive investments in maritime, road and rail projects across 65 countries from Asia to Europe and Africa that collectively account for 30 percent of global GDP. If fully realised, it could shape the world economic and geopolitical landscape for decades to come. But its scope and ambition have divided Europe, while US officials have called it a "vanity project", and detractors have warned that it is laden with debt risks and opaque deals favoring Chinese firms and labour. Despite the criticism, momentum appears to be on Xi's side, with leaders from 37 countries flocking to Beijing for the three-day summit beginning Thursday.

It's the second such event, with an inaugural 2017 summit bringing 29 leaders together. - Italy breaks ranks - China added a key nation to its Belt and Road roster when Italy became the first G7 member to sign on to the project last month. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte will participate in the summit and Switzerland appears set to sign on with President Ueli Maurer flying to Beijing. Russian President Vladimir Putin and other leaders from Europe, Asia and Africa will also attend, but major EU nations are sending ministers and the United States said it would not have a high-level delegation.

Since Xi launched Belt and Road in 2013, China has invested \$90 billion in projects while banks have provided between \$200 billion and \$300 billion in loans, according to Xiao Weiming, a Chinese government official overseeing Belt and Road. Examples of debt trouble abound. Sri Lanka turned over a deep-sea port to China for 99-years after it was unable to repay loans. Pakistan needs an international bailout. And Montenegro has had to make difficult choices after taking on crushing Chinese debt to pay a Chinese company to build a new highway. It has also become an election issue in some countries.

Chinese officials say the projects foster development in poor countries and Xiao dismissed "debt trap" warnings as repeating "the same old tune". Foreign Minister Wang Yi denied last week that the project was a "geopolitical tool", though he admitted that "jointly building the Belt and Road is a developing process, it won't happen overnight, and there will inevitably be some troubles." Italy rolled out a red carpet for Xi Jinping in Rome last month and signed a memorandum of understanding on the Belt and Road, with Beijing planning to invest in Italian ports. The NATO member country's ascension drew consternation in Brussels and Washington and even within the leadership of Rome's ruling coalition — Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini said Italy would be "no-one's colony".

For China, the initiative is both a practical solution to economic issues at home and a way to expand its global influence — a key concern for Xi, who frequently trumpets the goal of a "great rejuvenation of the



Chinese nation”. It “alleviates a lot of the built up excess industrial capacity that results from the Chinese economic model,” said James Bowen of the Perth US-Asia Center. “Chinese workers need jobs and China has materials that need to be exported and built out in other countries rather than in China.”

The World Bank estimates that Belt and Road funded infrastructure could marginally boost trade and officials there say it is offering funding in areas where it is sorely needed. But the money comes as loans instead of aid, requiring countries to pay China back for the massive projects its companies and people build. Pushing back has proved a successful election issue in Asia, including in Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Malaysia, as the trademark infrastructure push is used to whip up fears about eroding sovereignty

### **The News 24-04-2019**

#### **Customs to verify Pak-China FTA certificates electronically**

KARACHI: Pakistan Customs on Tuesday announced that going forward Pak-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) certificates would be verified electronically to expedite the clearance of consignments at the port as the manual procedure was causing long delays.

MrsSurrैया Butt, Chief Collector Appraisalment (South), in a meeting with the representatives of Karachi Customs Agents Association (KCAA), directed the concerned officials to start verifying these certificates through Electronic Data Exchange (EDE), henceforth.

During the discussion, the KCAA representatives explained to the collector that manual confirmation of the FTA certificates, being a tedious procedure, took several days, delaying the consignment clearance. The Free Trade Agreement between Pakistan and China was signed in 2006 and came into force in 2007. Pakistan has granted duty and tax concessions on large number of tariff lines but those are subject to certificates issued by Chinese authorities.

Recently, Pakistan and Chinese customs started exchanging information of consignments data through the EDE in order to avoid misuse of the facility.

The KCAA representatives said the EDE had been implemented and the FTA certificates should be verified through such online information. The chief collector agreed to the suggestion and issued instructions in this regard. Mohammad Amin Essani, president KCAA, headed the customs agents’ team at the meeting, while Arshad Khurshid, general secretary KCAA, was also present on the occasion.

The customs side was represented by Wajid Ali, Collector of Customs MCC-Appraisalment (East), Dr Nadeem Memon, Collector of Customs MCC-(Port Qasim), Mumtaz Ali Khoso, and Additional Collectors of Customs of MCC-Appraisalment (East) & (West). The chief collector on the occasion said the collection of legitimate taxes in a friendly environment and trade facilitation was the main focus and top priority agenda of Pakistan Customs.

She assured the agents of full cooperation of her department to resolve the issues being faced by the trade on spot through open door policy.

Besides online verification of the FTA certificates, the Pakistan Customs also agreed to simplify refund process. It was also decided to process the refund claims through online system instead of manual system.

### **The News 25-04-2019**

#### **Qureshi meets Chinese FM, discusses mutual, regional issues**

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Pakistan Shah Mahmood Qureshi met State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China Wang Yi in Beijing, says a press release on Thursday.

Both sides stressed that they regard developing China-Pakistan relations as a diplomatic priority, and are committed to strengthening All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries and building a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era. The Chinese side appreciated efforts made by the government and people of Pakistan in firmly combating terrorism and extremism, and supported Pakistan in implementing its National Action Plan and important measures taken recently in this regard.

The Chinese side called on international community to view Pakistan's counter-terrorism efforts and contributions in an objective and fair manner, and to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with Pakistan. The Chinese side reiterated its steadfast support for Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national dignity, choosing its development path according to its national conditions, and establishing a better security environment. The Chinese side appreciated Pakistan's constructive role on international and regional issues. Both sides agreed to further strengthen their coordination and cooperation on international and regional matters, and to keep close communication and collaboration in multilateral forums including the UN, multilateral financial institutions, the SCO and Saarc. Both sides believed that a peaceful, stable, cooperative and prosperous South Asia is in the common interest of all parties, and emphasized the importance of dialogue in resolving all disputes and issues in this region on the basis of mutual respect and equality.

The two sides underlined that China-Pakistan relationship was a factor of stability in the regional and international situation and reaffirmed their resolve to continue to strengthen it in all areas.

### **The News 26-04-2019**

#### **China defends Belt and Road but vows to battle debt**

BEIJING: China launched on Thursday a staunch defence of its Belt and Road global infrastructure project as it opened a summit with a pledge to ease concerns about debt linked to its signature foreign policy.

President Xi Jinping's pet project is a reboot of the ancient Silk Road to connect Asia to Europe and Africa through massive investments in maritime, road and rail projects. The initiative offers

to bring much-needed modern infrastructure to developing countries, but the United States has dubbed it a “vanity project” and critics warn it is a “debt trap” favoring Chinese companies.

Huang Kunming, a member of China’s powerful Politburo, said at the opening of the three-day Belt and Road Forum in Beijing that there have been “some misunderstandings and unfounded rumors” about BRI that they hope to clear up. But in a nod to the concerns over loans, Finance Minister Liu Kun said China would release a framework to “prevent debt risks,” according to state-owned China Securities Journal. The “debt sustainability analysis framework” encourages Chinese financial institutions and BRI countries to voluntarily improve debt management levels, the report said.

China must properly address “issues of environmental protection and debt management that the international community pays close attention to,” said Zheng Zhijie, governor of the China Development Bank. The state policy bank has doled out much of the Belt and Road-related loans since 2013, with Zheng saying it had extended \$190 billion in financing to 600 projects.

International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde said Liu’s announcement and China’s increased focus on the long-term success of BRI projects were “very welcome steps in the right direction.” Lagarde told the forum that “sound financial regulation, transparent rules for investment, and attention to fiscal sustainability” were needed to successfully open capital markets, according to her prepared remarks.

Leaders from 37 countries have begun to arrive in Beijing for the three-day forum, with officials from scores of other nations in attendance. Russian President Vladimir Putin and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, whose country became the first G7 member to sign up to Belt and Road, are among the headliners. But EU powers Germany and France are sending ministers instead, while the United States has not dispatched any officials from Washington. “We call upon all countries to ensure that their economic diplomacy initiatives adhere to internationally-accepted norms and standards, promote sustainable, inclusive development, and advance good governance and strong economic institutions,” a US embassy spokesperson said.

### **The News 27-04-2019**

#### **Belt and Road Forum: Pakistan, China one on tackling corruption**

BEIJING: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said Pakistan and China were entering the next phase of the multibillion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which would focus on lifting people out of poverty. In his keynote address at the second Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, Imran Khan said the next phase of CPEC would focus on socio-economic uplift, poverty alleviation, agricultural cooperation and industrial development.

“We are expanding the frontiers of knowledge through deeper cooperation in the fields of education, innovation and technology. (Under) CPEC, special economic zones will be set up,” the premier said.

Putting forward five points to further expand the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the prime minister said joint efforts were needed to tackling of white-collar crime, mitigate the adverse impact of climate change, establish BRI tourism corridors to promote people-to-people and intercultural understanding, poverty alleviation fund and concerted efforts to further liberalize trade and investment.

He said the BRI offers a model of collaboration, partnership, connectivity and shared prosperity, and called for joint efforts towards addressing obstacles on the way to sustainable growth.

Pakistan is amongst BRI's earliest and most enthusiastic proponents, the premier said, adding that the CPEC project has addressed Pakistan's energy and infrastructure gaps. Imran said both the countries are signing the second phase of Free Trade Agreement to further bolster bilateral trade and economic relations. He thanked China and its leadership for extending unwavering support to Pakistan, and said relations between the two countries remain strong and stand tall in the face of any challenge. The premier said Pakistan will continue to work on the basis of mutual respect and equal opportunity with China and other BRI partners.

Imran also invited international investors to make use of Pakistan's liberal investment regime and participate in the country's economy, particularly in infrastructure, railways, dams, IT and manufacturing sectors.

Among the leaders in attendance are Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, whose country became the first G7 member to sign up to Belt and Road. But EU powers Germany and France are sending ministers instead. The United States, which sent a senior White House official to the first BRI summit in 2017, has not dispatched any officials from Washington.

The prime minister is visiting the country on the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Addressing the summit earlier, Xi rejected accusations that the BRI is a "debt trap" and a geopolitical tool for Beijing's ambitions of becoming a global superpower.

"The Belt and Road is not an exclusive club," Xi said. In a nod to the concerns over loans, he said "we also need to ensure the commercial and fiscal sustainability of all projects so that they will achieve the intended goals as planned."

Xi Jinping said his global infrastructure project will have "zero tolerance" for corruption.

He also offered soothing remarks to the US over subsidies, the yuan and trade as the two sides head into fresh high-level talks next week.

"Everything should be done in a transparent way and we should have zero tolerance for corruption," Xi said at the gathering of 37 world leaders.

According to a draft of the final communiqué obtained by AFP, the leaders will encourage multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions to support projects "in fiscally sustainable ways" and mobilize private capital in line with local needs.

"We emphasize the importance of economic, social, fiscal, financial and environmental sustainability of projects," the draft says.

Imran Khan also held a meeting with World Bank Chief Executive Kristalina Georgieva on the sidelines of the summit.

The World Bank chief executive pledged to further strengthen cooperation with Pakistan in the areas of disbursements programme lending and guaranteed provision for raising external funds.

Imran Khan informed the World Bank CEO about the recent steps taken by his government to improve the country's economic and fiscal situation. He also apprised the official about the socio-economic measures taken by the government, including launch of the 'Ehsaas' social welfare programme, to lift the people out of poverty. The premier appreciated the role played by the World Bank in regional connectivity, poverty alleviation, financial management, provisional projects, Dasu and other infrastructure projects and ease of doing business.

Imran Khan also met the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde during his official trip to China.

After the meeting, the IMF director, in a social media post, said that she was glad to meet the Pakistani premier in a meeting where a comprehensive policy package was discussed to alleviate Pakistan's economy.

"We discussed prospects for a comprehensive policy package and international financial support to help stabilize the economy of Pakistan, and also the need to strengthen governance and protect the poor," she said.

Meanwhile, addressing a luncheon hosted by China-Pakistan Friendship Association and International Cultural Communication Centre in Beijing, Imran Khan said the entire country is backing CPEC.

"Because of CPEC other countries are now looking to invest in Pakistan. The whole country is behind CPEC and supporting it. China is our main hope for investment," he said.

Speaking about China and its advancements, the premier said, "Chinese universities have developed intelligence in various technologies and they are far ahead of every other country."

"China is a very unique country," the PM said, adding, "It is the only country in history to take 700 million people out of poverty. We want to learn from China and are collaborating with them to take Pakistan out of poverty."

The prime minister further said economic zones are part of CPEC. "Certain Chinese industries will be part of the economic zone. We are looking forward to Chinese investments and relocation of certain Chinese industries," he said.

The premier added that Pakistan wants to learn from China how they have industrialized and raised the standard of living.



On the subject of Afghanistan, Imran said Pakistan wants a peaceful solution to the issue.” “Pakistan wants a peaceful solution to the issue between Taliban and the Afghan government so that there can be peace in the country. Whatever happens in Afghanistan affects Pakistan,” he said.

The premier added the only problem right now is the issue with India. ‘We are hoping we can return to dialogue after the election in India,’ he said.

Concluding his talk, the prime minister said the relationship between Pakistan and China has grown stronger. “We know that whenever there have been difficult times, China has always been there for Pakistan, which is why there is a strong relationship between our people,” he said.

### **The News 27-04-2019**

#### **China’s Xi aims to soothe Belt and Road fears**

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping sought Friday to bat away concerns about his ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, saying his global infrastructure project will have “zero tolerance” for corruption while vowing to prevent debt risks.

In a speech kicking off a BRI summit, Xi also offered soothing remarks to the US over subsidies, the yuan and trade as the two sides head into fresh high-level talks next week. Xi’s signature foreign policy aims to reinvent the ancient Silk Road to connect Asia to Europe and Africa through massive investments in maritime, road and rail projects — with hundreds of billions of dollars in financing from Chinese banks.

It offers to bring much-needed modern infrastructure to developing countries, but critics say it is riddled with opaque deals favoring Chinese companies while saddling nations with debt and environmental damage.

“Everything should be done in a transparent way and we should have zero tolerance for corruption,” Xi said at the gathering of 37 world leaders which ends Saturday. China has also rejected accusations that Belt and Road is a “debt trap” and a geopolitical tool for Beijing’s ambitions of becoming a global superpower.

“The Belt and Road is not an exclusive club,” Xi said. In a nod to the concerns over loans, he called for the “commercial and fiscal sustainability of all projects” so they achieve their intended goals.

According to a draft of the final communiqué obtained by AFP, the leaders will encourage multilateral development banks and other international financial institutions to support projects “in fiscally sustainable ways” and mobilize private capital in line with local needs. “We emphasize the importance of economic, social, fiscal, financial and environmental sustainability of projects,” the draft says.

International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde welcomed China’s plans to create a debt “sustainability framework”. Calling for a “BRI 2.0”, Lagarde said in a speech the scheme needs

“increased transparency, open procurement with competitive bidding, and better risk assessment in project selection.”

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan, who said his country was an “enthusiastic” supporter of Belt and Road, called for the creation of an office for anti-corruption cooperation. The two countries are building the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a multi-billion-dollar project linking China’s northwest to the Arabian sea port of Gwadar.

Eric Olander, managing editor of the non-partisan China Africa Project website, said there is no data to back up claims that BRI worsens debt problems, but US criticism has had an impact.

“I think the president wants to change that narrative so he can rebrand and reposition BRI away from the debt issue and more towards China’s development story that he wants to tell,” Olander told AFP.

Khan, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, whose country became the first G7 member to sign up to Belt and Road, are among the leaders attending the summit.

EU powers France and Germany, which have taken a careful stance about BRI, sent cabinet members, with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian saying the Silk Road must be “a two-way street”.

Putin called for a global response against protectionism, unilateral sanctions and “trade wars” — veiled criticisms of the United States. Washington, which sent a senior White House official to the first BRI summit in 2017, has not dispatched any officials.

US officials have dismissed BRI as a “vanity project” and rebuked Rome for signing up to the scheme. With US negotiators heading to China for a new round of trade talks next week, Xi repeated a pledge to increase imports and vowed to abolish “unjustified” subsidies to Chinese firms — both key US demands.

Since Xi launched BRI in 2013, China has invested \$90 billion in projects while banks have provided up to \$300 billion in loans, according to Chinese officials.

Examples of debt trouble abound.

Sri Lanka turned over a deep-sea port to China for 99 years after it was unable to repay loans. Pakistan needs an international bailout. Pushing back has proved a successful election issue in Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Malaysia, as the Chinese project was used to whip up fears about eroding sovereignty.

## **The News 28-04-2019**

### **Rs91tr accords signed at 2nd Belt and Road Forum**

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping said the cooperation agreements worth more than Rs91 trillion (\$64 billion) were signed at a CEO conference during the 2nd Belt and Road Forum which concluded here on Saturday.

A total of 283 items of practical outcomes were achieved during the preparatory process and the holding of the forum, Xi said in a statement before the media after his roundtable meeting with 37 heads of state and governments who took part in the meeting. Earlier in the day, Xi called for joint efforts of all parties to promote high-quality development of the Belt and Road (BRI) initiative at the leaders' roundtable meeting of the forum. In his address at the roundtable meet, Xi said his trillion-dollar BRI initiative should benefit all around the world and deliver common development by following established international rules and norms.

He again stressed that the BRI would focus on common development of all the participating countries and their people. "We must implement the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits to see that all voices are heard, all reached their full potential and all stand to benefit," the Chinese president said.

The BRI must be open, clean and green and follow high standards, people centered sustainable approach, he said, adding that it should be aligned to the United Nations' sustainable development agenda.

"Align our cooperation with universally accepted rules, standards and best practices and pursue social and economic progress and environmental protection in a balanced way. The BRI should be beneficial to all and deliver common development," Xi said.

"More and more friends and partners will join in Belt and Road cooperation. The cooperation will enjoy higher quality and brighter prospects."

Xi and other top Chinese officials repeatedly sought to reassure partners and potential participants this week that Beijing does not intend to saddle them with high debts and wants BRI to benefit all parties involved. A joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of the summit said that leaders had agreed to project financing that respects global debt goals and promotes green growth, in line with a draft seen by Reuters last week.

In a separate statement China said it signed a memorandum of understanding with various countries including Italy, Peru, Barbados, Luxembourg, Peru and Jamaica.

"All of this shows that Belt and Road cooperation is in synch with the times, widely supported, people centered and beneficial to all," Xi said.

Those who attended the BRF meeting included Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan and heads of several Asian, African and Latin American countries besides heads of the UN and the IMF. India and the US skipped the meeting.

India, which boycotted the first BRF meeting held in 2017 over its objections to the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) being laid through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, skipped its second edition for the same reasons.

The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of the BRI.

This time the US has emerged as a fierce critic of the BRI, asserting that its predatory financing is leaving the smaller countries in heavy debt.

The concerns grew louder after China acquired Sri Lanka's Hambantota port for a 99-year lease as a debt swap.

Addressing the roundtable meeting, Prime Minister Imran Khan said CPEC was a source of transformation for Pakistan and the country was privileged to have been an early partner of China.

The premier stressed the need for further boosting connectivity under the umbrella of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

"We should also consider digital connectivity, mobility of labour and transfer of skills, cultural links and knowledge and innovation connectivity to further expand the scope of the BRI," PM Imran said.

"To implement these additional areas of connectivity the BRI countries should establish a Tourism Corridor for cultural tourism exchanges. They should develop programmes for improving the skills of labor from labor surplus countries to assist the labor deficient countries. We should also create multi-lingual digital platforms for connecting producers, consumers and skilled job seekers," he added.

"Pakistan is at the cross-roads of important regions. Throughout our history, we have connected ideas, cultures and commerce," he continued.

"Connectivity has been a part of our heritage and the CPEC is giving it a modern shape in the 21st century."

Imran further said, "President Xi Jinping has given the BRI vision to break barriers, connect people, integrate economies and share prosperity."

"Pakistan is privileged to have been an early partner of China. Under the CPEC, we are building highways, modernizing rail network, setting up power plants, establishing a port and special economic zones."

"CPEC is not a transaction rather it is a transformation of our society," the premier asserted.

PM Imran Khan noted that the connectivity of Gwadar port with China's Xinjiang region will provide a shorter route for China's imports, reduce the cost for Chinese companies and develop western China as well.

## **The News 28-04-2019**

### **Xi says to reject protectionism, open up Belt and Road**

Beijing: Chinese President Xi Jinping urged dozens of world leaders on Saturday to reject protectionism and invited more countries to participate in his global infrastructure project after seeking to ease concerns surrounding the programme.

Addressing 37 leaders from Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America, Xi made a new pitch for his cherished Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as he kicked off the last day of a three-day forum.

The world's number two economy has been fighting a festering trade war with the United States for months, and Xi has long sought to take the mantle of the new world power open to multilateral cooperation and globalization.

"We need to build an open world economy and reject protectionism," Xi told leaders including Russian President Vladimir Putin, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and Pakistan's Imran Khan seated around a large round table at the idyllic Yanqi Lake retreat at the edge of Beijing.

A draft communiqué for the forum seen by AFP similarly pledges to "reject protectionism" and "unilateralism" in an oblique swipe at President Donald Trump's "America first" presidency. US officials were not sent to the summit.

Xi's signature foreign policy aims to reinvent the ancient Silk Road to connect Asia to Europe and Africa through massive investments in maritime, road and rail projects -- with hundreds of billions of dollars in financing from Chinese banks.

"We need to encourage the full participation of more countries and companies, thus expanding the pie of common interests," Xi said.

But critics say BRI is a plan to boost Beijing's global influence, riddled with opaque deals favoring Chinese companies and saddling nations with debt and environmental damage.

The United States, India and some European nations have looked at the project with suspicion.

So far Chinese companies and workers have emerged as the primary beneficiaries as they are tapped to build the China-financed infrastructure in other developing countries.

BRI projects have faced pushback in some countries. In Malaysia, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad cancelled some planned works and renegotiated a rail project cutting 30 percent off the price tag.

But Mohamad and other leaders attending the summit had fulsome praise for BRI.

The draft communiqué says BRI will welcome developed countries and international investors to participate in the projects.



Xi batted away some concerns at the opening ceremony Friday, saying the BRI will have "zero tolerance" for corruption while vowing to ensure the financial sustainability of projects and further open China's economy.

"Faced with this rising resistance for the past year and a half and this debt image ... China is trying to reposition (BRI) and send a reassuring message," said Nadege Rolland, a senior fellow at the National Bureau of Asian Research, a US-based think tank.

But "let's see how it is put into practice," she said. China's finance ministry released guidelines Thursday for assessing financial risk and debt sustainability to apply to projects in BRI countries.

But the document notes that countries already facing payment problems or in the process of restructuring payments "does not automatically mean that debt is unsustainable in a forward-looking sense."

During a state banquet Friday night, Xi called on attending world leaders to band together in the face of setbacks.

"Certainly, while building the Belt and Road Initiative, we will face difficulties and there will be twists and turns," he said.

"No matter a smooth or challenging way, we need to continue the spirit of partnership, not forget our initial intention of cooperation and move forward unwaveringly," he said.

### **The News 29-04-2019**

#### **China can exclude BCIM from list of BRI covered projects**

ISLAMABAD: China could exclude Bangladesh-China-India- Myanmar (BCIM) Economic corridor from the list of projects covered by Chinese gigantic project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) umbrella.

Well placed diplomatic sources pointed out to The News here on Sunday that in an annex tagged with the Joint Communiqué of the Leaders' Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum (BRF), which concluded in Beijing a day earlier, the Chinese foreign ministry website has not listed the BCIM as a project covered by the BRI--the giant connectivity initiative spearheaded by China to revive the ancient Silk Road across Eurasia and Africa.

Instead, South Asia is covered by three major undertakings-- China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC), the Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan Multi-dimensional Connectivity Network, including Nepal-China cross-border railway.

India, for the second time under false pretext has not officially participated in the BRF as CPEC a flagship of the BRI. The 2800km BCIM corridor proposes to link Kunming in China's Yunnan province with Kolkata, passing through nodes such as Mandalay in Myanmar and Dhaka in Bangladesh before heading to Kolkata. Significantly, a report titled, "The Belt and Road Initiative Progress, Contributions and Prospects," released by the Leading Group for Promoting the Belt and

Road Initiative of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on April 22 does list the BCIM as a BRI project.

“Over the past five years or so, the four countries of the BCIM have worked together under India leadership to build this corridor in the framework of so-called joint working groups and have planned a number of major projects in institutional development, infrastructure connectivity, cooperation in trade and industrial parks, cooperation and opening up in the financial market, cultural exchange, and cooperation in enhancing people’s wellbeing,” says the report. The project is also working to counter South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) which has become practically non-functional due to India’s negative attitude and its efforts for keeping Pakistan away from heading the association.

Last September, the BRI had got a high-octane boost when Myanmar facing the heat from the West because of the Rohingya refugee crisis inked an agreement with Beijing to establish the CMEC. The 1,700km corridor provides China yet another node to access the Indian Ocean. The CMEC will run from Yunnan Province of China to Mandalay in Central Myanmar. From there it will head towards Yangon, before terminating at the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on the Bay of Bengal.

Last August, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) opened a new centre in Yangon, which could help fund some of the CMEC driven projects, China’s state-run Xinhua news agency had reported. The CMEC will also reduce Beijing’s trade and energy reliance on the Malacca straits the narrow passage that links the Indian Ocean with the Pacific. Chinese planners worry that the military domination over the Malacca straits of the United States a country with which it is already engaged in a trade war can threaten one of China’s major economic lifeline. The Nepal-China Trans-Himalayan connectivity network listed by the annex starts from Chengdu, from where it is linked to Tibet by the Sichuan-Tibet Highway, or the Sichuan-Tibet Railway. It is proposed that the railway from Tibet will be further extended to Kathmandu, via Ya’an, Qamdo, Lhasa and Shigatse. Chinese planners visualize that railway will be eventually connected with the Indian railway network, linking China and India across the Himalayas.

### **The News 29-04-2019**

#### **Xinjiang crackdown at the heart of China’s Belt and Road**

KHORGOS, Kazakhstan: Traders travel freely through the bustling Khorgos special economic zone that straddles the Kazakhstan-China border, but signs on the Chinese side bear a blunt warning -- no veils or long beards allowed. It’s a stark reminder of the severe security policies that China has imposed on mostly Muslim ethnic minorities in its vast border region of Xinjiang, which it considers crucial to the success of President Xi Jinping’s cherished Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The gateway to Central Asia and key project partner Pakistan, Xinjiang is at the heart of the globe-spanning trade infrastructure programme. A series of riots, bombings and stabbings blamed on ethnic Uighurs over the years prompted authorities to launch a massive security crackdown in the far western region. "The BRI is an important factor behind the central

government's urge to bring the restive region of Xinjiang once and for all under its control," said Adrian Zenz, an independent German researcher specializing in Xinjiang.

### **The News 30-04-2019**

#### **CPEC realities**

Amidst major cuts in developmental spending, questions have been plenty about the fate of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Reports have indicated that many CPEC projects are receiving no funding from the government. In this context, Prime Minister Imran Khan has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to CPEC as part of his participation in the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing. If anything, Khan extended the scope of Pakistan's CPEC commitments and even brought back good news vis-a-vis Pakistan's trade relationship with China. The news of the second stage of the Free Trade Agreement between Pakistan and China on paper shows an agreement that is favorable to Pakistan: 90 percent of Pakistani exports to China will receive no tariffs, while 65 percent of Chinese exports to Pakistan will receive no tariffs. However, the gulf in trade balance of around \$10 billion is such - in addition to the gap in technological proficiency and scale of industrialization – that the ostensibly favorable FTA could actually lead to Pakistan's trade deficit with China worsening. The only way it can work is for Pakistan to expand its production capacity and the competitiveness of its exports in the international market.

The ability to address this gap in favour of Pakistan will depend on how the first Special Economic Zone (SEZ) under the CPEC agreement will be built. The crucial question will be whether it will be Chinese companies or Pakistani ones that will be the key investors in the SEZ planned in Rashakai, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Beijing has helped out Pakistan amidst the ongoing fiscal crisis – and its long-term investments in Pakistan mean that China is likely to be invested in the stability of Pakistan's economy. Increasing Chinese participation in the economy could be a way to ensure that commitment. However, opening up the economy more to a powerful economic country comes with risks. If Chinese investors are to get long-term tax breaks in SEZs inside Pakistan, then the benefit to Pakistan of these projects must be re-evaluated. However, China is expanding its role in socio-economic development projects, which has long been the purview of Pakistan's Western allies with a \$1 billion agreement.

The news that the ambit of CPEC is expanding will be seen as good, but one must wonder how this will play out at a time when the government faces severe fiscal challenges and a feeling of a lack of direction in terms of economic policymaking. The policy dimension is only one of the challenges moving ahead. The impact of such agreements on Pakistan's economic health needs to be evaluated impartially – instead of believing the hyperbole. Pakistan is now five years into the CPEC agreements, which is sufficient time to begin to make objective assessments of the costs and benefits of the project to the country's economy.

## **The News 30-04-2019**

### **Traders hail Pak-China FTA's 2nd phase**

LAHORE: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Monday congratulated the government for signing the second phase of the free trade agreement (FTA) with China, and termed it a beginning of an “Economic Revolution” in Pakistan.

In the letters written to Prime Minister Imran Khan, advisors to PM on finance and commerce, and State Bank of Pakistan governor, LCCI President Almas Hyder said it was up-to the private sector how to develop products according to the needs of the Chinese market.

He said a jump of \$6 billion in exports from Pakistan to China was expected after the FTA, but to achieve this target, the country required \$3 billion for industrial expansion and infrastructure.

“Availability of running capital is one of the major issues being faced by the industrial sector,” he said, suggesting the State Bank of Pakistan to make available a special window for borrowing at lowest interest rates, especially for engineering and food industries. The LCCI office-bearers said the exemption from the payment of sales tax on imported plant and machinery for Greenfield projects should also be granted to Brownfield projects.