



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

April 16-30, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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April 16, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese tech companies expect more cooperation with Pakistan

A workshop on “Hi-Tech Enterprises & Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System Software” was held online to promote Sino-Pak cooperation in scientific and technical field.

According to Gwadar Pro, it was co-sponsored by Beijing Global Talent Exchange Association, Zhongguancun Federation of Social Organizations and Government College University Faisalabad. The workshop was aimed at enriching the knowledge and expertise of young talents and academicians in the practical application of emerging technologies.

Muhammad Junaid, the Science and Technology Counsellor of the Embassy of Pakistan in China, commented that this workshop can be a good platform for two countries’ communication and cooperation. He also encouraged Chinese companies to provide more high-quality products and services to Pakistan. “As the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations establishment between China and Pakistan is around the corner, we planned a series of activities related to that and have discussed them with the Pakistani Embassy in China,” said Ding Zhifeng, executive chairman of Beijing Global Talent Exchange Association.

“We aim to promote educational exchanges, technological innovation and high-end talent cooperation between the two countries. We want to encourage more Pakistani students to study in China and start their businesses here,” he said.

Engr Jawed Salim Qureshi, Chairman of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC), highly appreciates the rapid development of engineering technology in China in recent years. He hoped that young Pakistani engineers can improve their professional skills in Pak-China cooperation programs.

The PEC also decided to give 0.5 credits to participants of the workshop, which will be helpful for young Pakistani engineers’ career promotion and Chinese companies engaging in engineering business to enter Pakistan. Chinese companies including WellinTech, Didi, Laiye, Beijing Aerospace Measurement and Control Company and Tianjin Ringpu Bio-technology company participated in the event.

After introducing their business, products and demands for talent, they communicated with Pakistan companies and expressed their expectation to further cooperate with Pakistan scientific research institutes and enterprises. They also offered to provide more advanced products and services to Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/746274/chinese-tech-companies-expect-more-cooperation-with-pakistan/>

Dawn News

SU, Chinese students share experience of varsity life

HYDERABAD: Sindh University and Chinese Sichuan Normal University organized a joint webinar for students on Thursday for sharing academic and research experiences as well as job opportunities.

Opportunities were being provided to the varsity students to interact with Chinese counterparts and share experiences with them and learn from them, said SU Vice Chancellor Dr Mohammad Siddique Kalhoro at the webinar organized at SU's Area Study Centre (ASC) in collaboration with Chinese Academy for Global Governance & Area Studies, Sichuan Normal University.

He said SU students' interaction with Chinese graduates would lead them to new heights of learning and understanding. The SU students could not be sent abroad due to Covid-19, therefore, it was better to facilitate them to learn new things through the webinar, he added.

The first session was moderated by Ghulam Murtaza Khoso and Ms Murk Lakhair. Chinese students gave detailed presentation on their university life, academic work, facilities being provided by the university, job opportunities after graduation and situation of universities in the backdrop of Covid-19. Dr Naureen Nazar Soomro presented her concluding remarks after the discussion.

The second session was moderated by Chinese Prof Li Zong and Ms Long Yating. The SU students answered questions regarding the SU life, academic work, services being provided and employment opportunities in the national job market after graduation.

Students of the two varsities were given ample time to interact with each other and discuss academic and research-related activities.

Later, Dr Li Yong said the idea fully worked and the universities succeeded in the interaction between students in the time of the pandemic.

He said the university students from both sides enjoyed discussion and showed keen interest in learning and sharing their experiences.

In closing remarks, Prof Huang of Sichuan Normal University said that such activities were crucial for students to provide them with international exposure.

He expressed the hope that the two varsities would continue such activities in future to benefit students of the respective universities.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1618434/su-chinese-students-share-experience-of-varsity-life>

Pakistan Observer

China to help set up Agri Research Centre at IUB

The Chinese news agency China Economic Net has appreciated the vision of the Vice-Chancellor of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Engineer. Prof. Dr Athar Mahboob for the promotion of agricultural research in the university. According to the spokesman of the university Shahzad Ahmad, a research centre will be set up at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture China and Sichuan Agricultural University China to promote inter-cropping technology. Prof. Dr Yang Wenyu has successfully experimented with corn and soybean inter-cropping which is becoming very popular in Pakistan. According to Engr. Prof. Dr Athar Mahboob, using this technology will help to meet the growing nutritional needs of Pakistan. Will get in particular, increasing the production of the edible oil can save valuable foreign exchange and improve the supply of food for livestock. Nature has provided Pakistan with the best natural source of solar energy which can make better use of inter-cropping technology. The Vice-Chancellor said that in view of these factors, Islamia University Bahawalpur has planned to set up the Chinese Agricultural Research Institute for research on intercropping technology. It has been decided to set up a research centre in collaboration with the university. In this regard, a memorandum of understanding will be signed with Sichuan University soon under which 20 students from Islamia University Bahawalpur will be sent to China for scholarship on PhD. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob said that the unprecedented development of the great friendly neighbouring country is a shining example for us to benefit from which students.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-to-help-set-up-agri-research-centre-at-iub/>

Karrot Hydropower Project to be completed by April 2022

Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque has expressed the confidence that Karrot Hydropower Project would be completed by China Three Gorges Corporation (CTGC) by April 2022, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. During his visit to the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydroelectric dam in Yichang, the ambassador had a meeting with Zhang Dingming, Executive Vice President of China Three Gorges Corporation (CTGC). Three Gorges Dam's administration presented its role in water management, flood control, and energy generation in China. Mr. Zheng said that during the Covid-19 pandemic, CTGC sent a medical team to Pakistan for solidarity with Pakistan in May 2020. This medical team provided medical services to the Chinese officials working on Karrot Hydropower Project and Pakistani staff and the local community there. He expressed his satisfaction with the government's support and vowed to complete the project on time despite Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://pakobserver.net/karrot-hydropower-project-to-be-completed-by-april-2022/>

The Nation

Pakistan committed to complete CPEC projects expeditiously: PM

ISLAMABAD - China will do its utmost to help Pakistan deal with the surge of Covid-19, including expeditious provision of vaccines.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong give this assurance to Prime Minister Imran Khan when he called on him here Thursday. During the meeting, Imran Khan said Pakistan is currently facing the third wave of Covid-19 and the government is taking necessary measures to combat it and has devised an elaborate plan of vaccination across the country.

He underscored the transformational significance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor and reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to expeditiously complete CPEC projects.

The Prime Minister congratulated Chinese leadership on successfully achieving the momentous goal of eradicating extreme poverty from China. He underlined that Pakistan is keen to learn from China's experience of poverty alleviation as well as development.

Imran Khan added that the people of Pakistan look forward to welcoming President Xi Jinping to Pakistan at the earliest convenience.

Ambassador Nong Rong conveyed cordial greetings of President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang and reaffirmed the resolve to further strengthen the Pakistan-China ties.

The Ambassador also reiterated invitation to the Prime Minister to visit China.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-16/page-2/detail-0>

April 17, 2021

Daily Times

China's coal-fired power station in Pakistan achieves zero carbon emission

China's coal-fired power plants in Pakistan made it possible to achieve ultra-low, even zero carbon emission, says a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Friday.

The issues of climate change partly caused by carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants has aroused wide concern of the international community, including Pakistan and China in recent years.

However, according to the report, China Huaneng Group Co., Ltd, (CHNG) indicated in an exclusive interview, that considering their project in Pakistan, Sahiwal power station, and their new achievement in China, coal-fired power plants have also been made it possible to achieve ultra-low, even zero carbon emission.

Last week, the 6th International Forum on Carbon Capture, Uses and Sequestration was held by CHNG and supervised by the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of China in Beijing.

At the event, scholar institutions and energy enterprises from China, Australia, America, UK, discussed and reported the latest academic achievements and applications of carbon capture, utilization and storage.

Jia YuanPei, spokesman of CHNG told Gwadar Pro after the forum that their IGCC coal-fired power project in Tianjin has implemented zero carbon emissions into the atmosphere. “Though IGCC is a demonstration project, it proves to us that zero carbon emission is possible. We’re working on its replicability and generalizability so that our other coal-fired power stations such as Sahiwal project are accessible to zero carbon emission,” he said.

Tianjin IGCC Power Station was put into operation in November 2012. With an installed capacity of 265,000 kilowatts, it is currently the most environment-friendly coal-fired power station adopting a two-stage pressurized dry coal gasifier and a batch of most advanced technologies.

Through the devices and technologies, the waste gas produced by burning coal is filtered and purified into high-purity carbon dioxide, which is then captured and stored as industrial raw material. “Now, Sahiwal project has joined the ranks of green coal-fired power projects with its high efficiency and carbon emission which have surpassed the world standards.

Once IGCC and related technologies are mature, they’ll be used in Sahiwal and other coal-fired projects in Pakistan. By then, the amount of carbon dioxide exhausted into the atmosphere by coal-fired power stations will have been effectively reduced. It will not only provide Pakistan with CO2 feedstock for industrial use, but will also make a significant contribution to the nation’s efforts on coping with climate change,” Jia said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/746425/chinas-coal-fired-power-station-in-pakistan-achieves-zero-carbon-emission/>

CPEC Authority chairman briefs governor on ongoing projects

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority Chairman Lt-Gen (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa called on Punjab Governor Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar at Governor’s House on Friday and briefed him about the ongoing Corridor projects and new economic initiatives.

Hailing the initiative as the bright future of Pakistan, the governor said that CPEC was a manifestation of Pak-China friendship and it would bring about economic prosperity in the country. He expressed the hope that all projects under CPEC would be completed on time.

The governor said the country had been put on the road to progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said CPEC was an important project that could change the destiny of the country and it had the support of the public as well as the government.

Governor Ch Sarwar said before the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) coming to power, there was talk of bankruptcy of the country. However, under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the PTI saved the country from bankruptcy and now its economy was improving. He said all

international economic institutions were acknowledging Pakistan's economic growth and stability today, adding that there was increased investment in all sectors including the industrial sector.

Acknowledging leadership abilities of Lt-Gen (retd) Asim Bajwa in effective running of the CPEC projects, the Punjab governor said the Authority had yielded excellent results under the leadership of Asim Saleem Bajwa.

The CPEC chairman said work on the CPEC projects was being expedited, adding that it was a pilot project of cooperation between Pakistan and China.

He expressed his resolve to complete all projects within stipulated time-frame, adding that Pakistan was heading towards economic growth and more employment opportunities were being created for people in the CPEC projects.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/746634/cpec-authority-chairman-briefs-governor-on-ongoing-projects/>

Pakistan Observer

Sichuan Province to boost China-Pakistan cooperation

The Sichuan Liaison Office of the China-Pakistan Business Council was unveiled here, aiming to promote China-Pakistan economic and trade cooperation, according to a report of China Economic Net on Friday. As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties, Sichuan Liaison Office plans to prepare a series of meeting and summits, including China (Chengdu)-Pakistan Economic, and Trade Exchanges Conference and the 11th China (Sichuan)-South Asia, and Southeast Asia Business Leaders Summit. Sichuan Liaison Office has also been committed to the China-Pakistan friendship since its establishment in 2020. In April 2020, the Office donated a batch of anti-pandemic supplies worth of RMB 2 million (\$306,400) to the Consulate General of Pakistan in Chengdu. In July 2020, the Office also donated 25,000 face masks to the government of Islamabad. The China-Pakistan Business Council, a bilateral economic and trade exchange mechanism, was jointly founded by CCPIT and FPCCI.

<https://pakobserver.net/sichuan-province-to-boost-china-pakistan-cooperation/>

CPEC SEZ to create over 200,000 employment opportunities for Pakistan

A special economic zone (SEZ) being constructed in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will create over 200,000 job opportunities for the locals, an official from the province has said. Chief Executive Officer of the state-owned Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company Javed Khattak told media that the Rashakai SEZ in the province is prioritized as a special economic park spreading over an area of about 1,000 acres near the provincial capital of Peshawar. The SEZ, a milestone of the implementation of industrial cooperation under the CPEC framework, will become an important trade hub, Khattak said. The official said that the SEZ will

have pharmaceuticals, textile, food and beverages, steel and various engineering related industries, and online applications for it are open. He said the strategic position of the province connecting the country to Afghanistan will be fully utilized and its abundant natural resources will find new markets thanks to the province's linkage to CPEC routes.—Xinhua

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-sez-to-create-over-200000-employment-opportunities-for-pakistan/>

The Nation

Ramzan shines in Xinjiang

Yasir Habib Khan

Despite the sinister western narrative of tarnishing the image of China against Islam and Muslims, Ramzan, the sacred Islamic month of fasting, is blossoming in Xinjiang as per the set tenets of Islam.

Followers of Islam have complete freedom to carry out their religious rites related to prayer offering, observance of Sehri (fast-holding time), Iftari (fast-breaking time) and Tarawi.

The manifestation of religious independence relished by Muslims in Ramzan as well as throughout the year in China especially Xinjiang comes to the international limelight when all Muslim states and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) acknowledge the reality that Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang are free to exercise their Islamic rights in Xinjiang and other parts of China.

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is an international organisation consisting of 57 member states, with a collective population of over 2 billion. It is “the collective voice of the Muslim world” and works to “safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world. Since March 2019 till date, OIC has taken the position in favour of Xinjiang. After a visit to Xinjiang, it released a report on human rights for Muslim minorities that praised China for “providing care to its Muslim citizens” and looked forward to greater cooperation with the PRC.

Such unanimity in Muslim world has exposed Western falsehoods in maligning Xinjiang for alleged Muslim persecution.

There are more than 24,000 mosques in Xinjiang, which means there is a mosque for every 530 Muslims. The region continues to improve public service in mosques, which brings great convenience to the worship of religious believers. For the convenience of Muslims, the mosques also provide tea, naan, fruits and other food for fasting people.

Some Western media outlets claim that Xinjiang prohibits Muslims from fasting. This is sheer slander and a smear campaign. These rumours spread by Western media are totally fabricated out of thin air to confuse right from wrong. Their sinister purpose is to stir up dissension among ethnic groups in Xinjiang and deliberately create the antagonism between China and Islamic countries. This evil act of stirring up enmity is extraordinarily despicable.

Where people's rights are respected, success is a must. In Xinjiang, the rising development policy of honouring the rights of the public is as visible as the sun. Xinjiang has never been more prosperous than it is now, with unprecedented achievements in socio-economic development and improvement of people's life.

The population of ethnic minorities have seen a steady increase. The Uyghur population grew from 10.17 million to 12.71 million, increased by 25 percent from 2010 to 2018, much higher than the 2 percent growth of the Han population and 22 percent growth of other minority populations. The languages, traditional cultures and customs of all ethnic minorities in Xinjiang have been well protected and inherited. All residents fully enjoy their rights and live a happy life in a stable environment.

Second, Xinjiang's economy is developing steadily and healthily. A series of key indicators from 2014 to 2019 saw continuous improvement, such as an average annual GDP growth rate of 7.2 percent, annual 9.1 percent growth in residential per capita disposable income, general public budget revenue increased from 128.33 billion yuan to 157.76 billion yuan, with an average annual growth rate of 5.7 percent. Xinjiang's infrastructure continues to improve. All prefectures and cities in Xinjiang have access to expressways, electricity and Internet.

Third, people's living standards in Xinjiang have improved significantly. More than 1.69 million rural housing projects and 1.56 million urban affordable housing projects have been completed and more than 10 million people have moved to new homes. Xinjiang achieves full coverage of compulsory education—from the first to ninth grade. The level of basic public services in urban and rural areas has been continuously improved, the social security system has been improved day by day, and the basic medical insurance coverage of residents has reached 99.7 percent. Xinjiang has implemented free health examinations for all citizens since 2016.

Fourth, Xinjiang has made decisive achievements in poverty relief. 3.09 million people have lifted out of poverty, and all the 32 impoverished counties have achieved poverty alleviation.

Fifth, the overall social situation continues to improve. There hasn't been any violent or terrorist case over the past four years. With a secure environment, the number of Chinese and foreign tourists to Xinjiang has hit a record of 150 million visits in 2018, marking a 40 percent year-on-year increase, 213 million visits in 2019, marking a 42 percent year-on-year increase.

Sixth, the legitimate rights and interests of the people of all ethnic groups are effectively protected in Xinjiang. They all enjoy the freedom of religious belief, legitimate rights to participate in governance, receive education, use ethnic languages, and inherit their own traditional culture.

Xinjiang-related issues are never about human rights, ethnicity or religion, but about combating violent terrorism and secession. Xinjiang has been faithfully implementing the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and lawfully taking preventive counterterrorism and de-radicalisation measures, which effectively protected Xinjiang's security and stability and residents' safety.

China protects workers' rights and has made a lot of efforts to provide training opportunities and jobs for people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, so as to encourage, assist and support them in shaking off poverty and living a better life through diligence and hard work. During the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chinese government also puts people and life front and centre and takes resolute, scientific and decisive measures to protect the safety and health of all people including Uyghurs to the greatest extent possible.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-17/page-6/detail-5>

April 18, 2021

Pakistan Observer

Work on Daraban SEZ along with CPEC Western route accelerated

In order to uplift backward and underprivileged southern parts of the province, the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) has expedited the completion of legal formalities to begin work on Daraban Economic Zone (DEZ) in Dera Ismail Khan. According to Gwadar Pro, DEZ is located right on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)'s western alignment linking KP and Balochistan province. The 3,125-acre DEZ would be one of the largest economic zones of the country. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) will develop and manage the economic zone. Last year, the KP Government proposed the inclusion of DEZ into CPEC. The zone is expected to be included in CPEC during the upcoming meetings of CPEC's principal decision-making body.

The provincial government has already acquired land for the economic zone and now the KPEZDMC legal teams are holding back-to-back meetings with the local administration for land consolidation of 3,125 acres in Daraban. "Land consolidation is only the last formality to hand over possession of the economic zone to KPEZDMC by the KP Government," Faisal Amin Khan Gandapur, a lawmaker from Dera Ismail Khan, told Gwadar Pro. He said that the economic zone will create jobs and boost the economy in the underdeveloped areas of both KP and Balochistan provinces. "It would be an ideal location for the foreign investors, as the zone is accessible from all over the country," he said.

<https://pakobserver.net/work-on-daraban-sez-along-with-cpec-western-route-accelerated/>

April 19, 2021

Business Recorder

Chinese trade team to visit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese trade delegation from Guangxi Province will visit Pakistan to explore new investment venues in different sectors including roads and infrastructure development, energy and power.

The delegation would also explore investment opportunities existing in IT, agricultural, industrial machineries, technology for construction sectors.

This was stated by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Shanghai Feiyun Culture Development Company who visited Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Capital Office Islamabad.

The delegation met Qurban Ali, Chairman FPCCI, while the other officer bearers were also presented in the meeting, said press release here on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Executive Officer of Shanghai Feiyun Culture Development Company said FPCCI was playing an important role in bringing the business communities and investors of Pakistan and China closer.

He said Qurban Ali himself took initiative to contact investors of Guangxi province and their government as well and drew their attention towards investment potential in Pakistan. The government of Guangxi Province also responded positively expressed their endeavor of full support and cooperation. The CEO expressed that their company was working hard on various projects with Pakistani brothers. Addressing the delegation Haji Qurban Ali said FPCCI would warmly welcome the Guangxi business delegation in Pakistan and would facilitate them in holding their business to business meetings in different sectors.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/04/19/2-page/882840-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC — a boon for all-weather Pak-China strategic partnership

The great initiative, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is swiftly exploiting immense potential in industrial cooperation between the two neighbouring countries, and the largest trading partner of Pakistan, China is making huge investment in the energy and infrastructure sectors here.

In terms of geo-economic growth, development and regional connectivity, CPEC has emerged as the largest bilateral investment project, and a boon for Pakistan as well as the landlocked regional countries in south Asia.

Pakistan and China are tied in multidimensional cordial relations on the basis of being good neighbours, and having mutual trust and understanding.

According to a document of the Ministry of Communication, the Pak-China bilateral trade reached US\$ 18 billion during 2018. With the official launch of CPEC, the bilateral relationship has been elevated to a higher level, aiming at enhancing connectivity and building up road and energy infrastructure between the two countries.

As we know, CPEC is a flagship project of Chinese President Xi Jinping's initiative of "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR).

The Year 2021 is being celebrated as a historic year as it marks the completion of 70 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the People's Republic of China. Pak-China diplomatic relations were established on 21 May 1951, according to the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS).

To commemorate this historic milestone in a befitting manner, both brotherly countries will organize a series of events throughout the year.

In this connection, friendly exchanges are taking place between Pakistan and China, and several high-profile cultural events, seminars are being organised to highlight people-to-people interactions.

Though both countries have been making policy adjustments from time to time in the light of global transformations, yet their mutual ties have continued to be in the best coordination and harmony. The world has witnessed that Pakistan and China are time-tested friends and they depend on one another to fulfill their strategic interests.

In the past, whenever Pakistan confronted any external, internal pressure or threat to its interests or security, China immediately extended full support to Pakistan in all fields.

At the international diplomatic fora, China has significantly supported Pakistan, like at Nuclear Suppliers Group, (NSG), the G-20, and during the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) sessions.

The first phase of CPEC has successfully accomplished its tasks on the road infrastructure and energy development projects in Pakistan. In the second phase, the initiative envisioned industrial cooperation, which has started bearing fruits, and is proving beneficial for development of economy of Pakistan.

CPEC and its related projects have brought forth many opportunities and resources for both the countries by promoting their profits and interests respectively. However, the mega project is being viewed negatively by our neighbouring country India and the US, who are making attempts to portray it negatively and sabotage it.

A document of Pak-China Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA -Phase-II) says that it will help deepen trade ties between Pakistan and China by expediting liberalization of trade and protecting and safeguarding mechanisms for domestic industry of Pakistan and trade products.

Dr Liaqat Ali Shah, CPEC Project Director, told APP that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government was securing great results from CPEC, adding that despite global economic challenges amid COVID-19 pandemic, a large number of unemployed youth were being provided internship opportunities in Pakistan, while the skilled professionals were already doing jobs under this mega project.

Replying to a question, Shah said that work on the second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor was under way at a fast pace, adding that defeating the debunkers, who had been trying to malign the incumbent authority on account of slow-down work on CPEC projects, was a great achievement.

Giving detail of the current projects in the Phase-II, he said that the groundbreaking of two mega hydel power projects worth \$11 billion had been held, speedy construction and development of the Gwadar port city was under way besides construction of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and ML-1 railway project. He said talks were also being held with the Chinese side on financial matters of \$7.2 billion, expanding the scope of CPEC by including science & agro-technology and tourism sector initiatives in it. He said that all these projects clearly showed that work on the game-changer initiative was going on in full swing.

To facilitate the local and foreign investors, the incumbent government, as per the CPEC Authority Bill-2020, is working round-the-clock to ensure smooth execution of industrial projects, he added.

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) President Mian Nasser Hyatt Magoo told APP that Pakistan and China were enjoying close and friendly relations since the establishment of their diplomatic relations, adding that over the years, the relationship had blossomed into an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, with CPEC at its core.

Pakistan considers China as one of its closest friends and partners and China considers Pakistan as its 'Iron Brother', he added.

Appreciating the PTI government, he said that setting up mega industrial projects under the 2nd phase of CPEC would change the fate of the country.

After becoming fully operational, the Gwadar port under CPEC would become a harbinger of massive export-import activity, and a new industrial gateway to both the Central Asian and Persian Gulf countries would open, he hoped.

Magoo, while replying to another query, said that the energy and goods transportation would engage the economic partnership of around 64 countries of Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

CPEC was a tower of economic success and a hope of the people of the whole region, having the scope of an advanced future to strengthen a digital economy, based on peace and prosperity, he said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/747125/cpec-a-boon-for-all-weather-pak-china-strategic-partnership/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China tea's blend a potential product for int'l market

“Broken tea from China and Pakistan can be blended and make new products for the international market,” said He Qingyuan, a senior official of Tea Research Institute, Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences. According to a China Economic Net’s report, Yunnan has many advantages in developing the black tea industry. “One is that the ecological environment is very good and the quality of tea is very high. Second, the variety of Yunnan black tea is very unique, which is rich in nutrients and contains very high levels of tea polyphenols and the aflavins.” He Qingyuan said. In Pakistan, the demand for broken black tea is high. “The main

producing areas of broken black tea in Yunnan are Lincang, Baoshan, and Dehong. Broken black tea is mainly used to make teabags. Its price is not high in China. Yunnan is also searching for ways to increase its export.” According to He Qingyuan, broken black tea has the highest level of mechanization among black tea products. “Tea trees are perennials and can only be planted artificially. Trimming and picking machines are used in tea garden management. After picking, tea leaves will be processed into broken black tea with CTC combined machines. The higher the degree of mechanization, the lower the cost. Mechanization can also guarantee the quality,” he said “Pakistan can produce high-quality broken black tea, and its climate is very suitable,” said He Qingyuan? “Most of the raw materials for broken black tea in Pakistan are a species called Assam tea, which was introduced from India, while the Indian Assam tea was originated from Yunnan.” He added. He Qingyuan agrees that industrial transfer or guidance from Yunnan to Pakistan can be a very effective way for Pak-China tea cooperation. “Internationalization requires the integration of international resources. For example, the famous tea company Lipton purchases broken black tea from Yunnan, India, Sri Lanka, and Kenya, and blends them into unique flavored products, which is very suitable for international consumption.” He believes China and Pakistan can also use this method to develop a new tea product and open the international market together.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-teas-blend-a-potential-product-for-intl-market/>

CPEC chief Asim Bajwa, Chinese envoy Nong Rong visit Rashakai SEZ

ISLAMABAD – CPEC Authority chairman Lieutenant General (ret'd) Asim Saleem Bajwa along with Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong visited Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ). Bajwa in a tweet said, “SEZ progressing well, provision of amenities, including power, gas, access road, security wall as per envisaged timelines”. He added that first Chinese industry had laid its foundations in the Rashakai economic zone. The SEZ Committee of Rashakai Special Economic Zone earlier this year allocated 40 acres of land to Century Steel Ltd owned by Fuzhou Julitaihe Inter-national Company of China with a planned investment of \$50 million.

The Rashakai SEZ comes under the multi-billion dollar CPEC project and is the first industrial cooperation project between both countries. The SEZ will create 200,000 direct and indirect jobs and is expected to attract Rs347 billion of investment. The project by the Chinese iron industry is expected to produce 0.25 million tonnes of steel products per annum while it will help creating around 1,000 direct and indirect jobs. In January, the Board of Investment (BoI) said 10MW of electricity had already been arranged through 11kV feeder at the Rashakai zone, while work was underway for the 160MW, 132 kV grid station. The Rashakai SEZ is termed as game-changer for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to its proximity to the Torkham border and Central Asia.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-chief-asim-bajwa-chinese-envoy-nong-rong-visit-rashakai-sez/>

Jang News

چین سے مزید 20 لاکھ کورونا ویکسین خوراکیں آئندہ ہفتے پاکستان پہنچنے کا امکان

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) چین سے کورونا ویکسین کی مزید 20 لاکھ خوراکیں آئندہ ہفتے پاکستان پہنچنے کی توقع ہے، اور آئندہ ہفتے پاکستان پہنچنے والی ویکسین میں سائنوویک کی پہلی کھیپ بھی شامل ہوگی۔ سائنوفارم اور سائنوویک ویکسین پر مشتمل 20 لاکھ خوراکیں 21 اپریل سے 23 اپریل کے درمیان پاکستان پہنچیں گی، 20 لاکھ ویکسین ڈوز میں سے 15 لاکھ پاکستان کی طرف سے خریدی گئی ہیں جب کہ 5 لاکھ ویکسین ڈوز چین کی طرف سے بطور تحفہ ہوں گی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق مئی کے شروع پاکستان کی طرف سے خریدی گئی ویکسین کی مزید خوراکیں پاکستان پہنچیں گی۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/914192>

April 20, 2021

Business Recorder

Pak-China Friendship Tree Plantation launched

PESHAWAR: "Sino-Pak Friendship is growing like a lush green tree and giving both shelter and fruits." This was stated by Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Nong Rong while informally exchanging views after launching Pak-China Friendship Tree Plantation 2021 at Civil Officer's Mess Peshawar on Monday organized by Pakistan-China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Chapter.

Ambassador Nong Rong who was visiting first time Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province since taking over the ambassadorial responsibilities was warmly received by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Akbar Ayub Khan, Secretary Local Council Board Khazir Hayat Khan, Director-General Peshawar City District Government Mian Shafiqur-Rehman, Patron PCFA Tasleem Hussain, President PCFA Yousaf Ayub Khan along with PCFA-Khyber officer-bearers.

Ambassador Nong Rong formally launched Pak-China Friendship Tree Plantation 2021 drive as a part of PCFA-Khyber's plan to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of establishment of Pakistan-China Diplomatic Relations.

The initiative was appreciated by the Ambassador Nong Rong and was informed that this plantation will be across the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province during 2021- the year marking 100 successful years of Communist Party of China, which played vital role in China's economic development & social prosperity and become a living example for rest of the world. While speaking on the occasion Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for LG&RDD Akbar Ayub Khan welcomed the Ambassador Nong Rong on his first visit of province. Akbar Ayub Khan appreciated the efforts of Pakistan-China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in further strengthening relationship and urged that we should put all efforts to translate these friendly relationship for benefits of peoples like how China bring economic prosperity for the

masses across China and recently control the COVID-19 successfully we should learn from the experience of China for the greater benefits of our country.

He also appreciated the efforts of PCFA Khyber for launching Pak-China Friendship Tree Plantation 2021 drive and mentioned that as per vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister Mahmood Khan we are committed to further environment friendly activities by plantation across the province.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-General Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani said that this association was established in 1970 as Pak-China Students Friendship Association and was having the Red Book of Chairman Mao then play an active role in twining of Peshawar Urumqi, Abbottabad-Kashgar as sister cities in 1985 and 2007 respectively and recently at provincial level we have launched a Essay competition to celebrate 70th Anniversary of Pak-China Diplomatic Relations with support of Culture Section of Chinese Embassy started from 5th April to 5th May 2021.—
PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/04/20/2-page/882966-news.html>

Daily Times

Foundation stone of first Chinese industry laid

First Chinese industry on Monday laid its foundation in the CPEC Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and have started work in the Zone. Chairman China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Lt. General (ret'd) Asim Saleem Bajwa visited the site along with Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong. In his tweet Asim Bajwa said the SEZ was progressing well and all the amenities including power, gas, access road, security wall were being provided as per envisaged time lines. Meanwhile, an official of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment told APP that the SEZ Committee of Rashakai Special Economic Zone had allocated 40 acres of land to Century Steel (Pvt) Ltd, which was owned by Fuzhou Julitaihe International Company. The Century Steel has to invest US \$ 50 million and will produce 250,000 tons steel products at their plant in the Rashakai SEZ.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/747554/foundation-stone-of-first-chinese-industry-laid/>

Pakistani livestock can tap over \$8b Chinese bovine meat market

A report issued by Pakistan Business Council identifies various issues for redressal to enable Pakistani livestock traders to capture a significant portion of the \$8.2 billion bovine meat market next door.

According to Gwadar Pro, the report, “Scaling up bovine meat exports of Pakistan”, presents a sectoral review of livestock trade and meat processing in Pakistan. It notes that China imported \$8.2 billion worth of bovine meat in 2019, but Pakistan had no share in this huge market despite geographical proximity and concessions offered by the Chinese government.

The report states that Pakistan could not take advantage of the enormous Chinese markets as it lacked quality and phytosanitary standards. It also mentioned that the prevalence of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in animals was another barrier for Pakistan to venture into the Chinese beef market.

Interestingly, only a couple of weeks ago, China granted a license to the first ever Pakistani company to export heat-processed meat into China. The Organic Meat Company, a Karachi-based firm, obtained the license after it had the latest plant to eliminate the FMD virus in meat via heat. The facility was also installed by Chinese experts. The report states that the Pakistani government is, however, undertaking a vaccination programme and making an animal quarantine zone in the desert of Cholistan to address the FMD issue.

This way, Pakistan is expected to move from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)'s Stage-2 category for countries (in which FMD is reduced to target areas) to Stage-3.

In the third stage, the FMD virus is curtailed via an organised national Official Control Program. "Once Pakistan achieves the Stage-3 status, the opportunity to export beef to larger markets like China will open up", the report states. Access to the Chinese market will provide Pakistan with a good opportunity to enter a large market in future. China has granted Pakistan duty-free access to bovine meat under China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement-II (CPFTA-II) in 5 of the 6 categories, the report stated.

China applies a 13% Value-Added Tax on imports of beef products. For WTO member countries, the most-favoured nation duty rates range from 25% for frozen carcasses to 12% for most beef products and offal. But Pakistan has a significant duty advantage over other competitors, except for the fresh bovine carcasses, it has duty-free access to the Chinese market for the rest of categories, the report says.

There is a high market potential for Pakistan in China. With rising income levels, consumption of bovine meat will keep increasing in China. Moreover, due to the outbreak of African Swine Fever in China, the domestic production of pork fell which encouraged substitution to beef.

The domestic production of beef in China is unable to keep up with the rise in domestic demand, which provides Pakistan with an opportunity for market expansion, the report concludes. It is relevant to mention here that in March, the Chinese Counsellor General at Karachi Libijian invited Pakistan livestock traders to take advantage of the Chinese market.

He had assured his full support in this regard and had also pointed out the enormous opportunities for Pakistani exporters under the upgraded China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/747543/pakistani-livestock-can-tap-over-8b-chinese-bovine-meat-market/>

Dawn News

Work on CPEC project progressing: Chinese envoy

PESHAWAR: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Monday said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project was well on course to its completion.

Talking to reporters at China Window during his visit to Peshawar, Mr Nong said in its first stage the CPEC focused on energy and infrastructure projects which were successfully completed.

He said that most of energy projects built under the CPEC had been completed and China provided one-third of Pakistan's electricity requirement during the Covid-19 pandemic at the lowest price.

The ambassador said that under the CPEC's infrastructure component Lahore's Orange Line Metro had been completed. He said that some cargo for Afghanistan was coming through Gwadar port.

He said they were constructing and planning several new projects and more and more good news was in the pipeline.

Mr Nong said that some students from Pakistan could not go back to their classrooms in China due to restrictions related to Covid-19, but they could continue their education online. He said that the cooperation between the two countries on the provision of vaccine was going very smoothly.

50 schools damaged during militancy in Khyber to be rebuilt

He said that he also visited the Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) which was very important among the CPEC projects. He said both sides had attached great importance to this SEZ.

Mr Nong also met KP Chief Minister Mahmood Khan. They inaugurated a project for reconstruction of damaged schools in the merged districts.

In the first phase of the project, 24 schools for boys and 26 for girls, which were fully damaged during militancy in Bara tehsil of Khyber district, will be reconstructed.

The project's estimated cost is Rs2.323 billion, out of which Rs868 million will be provided by Pakistan, while \$10.29m will be contributed by the Chinese government.

On the occasion, the secretary of the elementary and secondary education department and the Chinese officials concerned signed a document for implementation of the reconstruction project.

Earlier, the chief minister and the Chinese ambassador were briefed about different aspects of the reconstruction project.

CM Khan thanked the Chinese government for its support to the KP government in the reconstruction of damaged schools. Speaking on the occasion, he said the CPEC was a great example of Pak-China friendship.

He said the Rashakai SEZ would be inaugurated soon which would boost industrial activities in the province and create employment opportunities. Mr Nong said the Chinese government wanted to further strengthen its ties with Pakistan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1619242/work-on-cpec-project-progressing-chinese-envoy>

CPEC promises development in Dera

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Dera Ismail Khan division commissioner Amir Latif has said the multibillion dollar CPEC project would bring socioeconomic prosperity in Dera district.

Talking to Dawn here on Monday, he said work on the CPEC route passing through Dera Ismail Khan had almost been complete. He said as soon as some remaining sections were completed the route would be opened to traffic. He said the project would change the destiny of the people for the better. Amir Latif said with the completion of the route distance between Dera Ismail Khan and Islamabad would be reduced to only 280 kilometres.

He said provision of facilities to the citizens during Ramazan was his priority. He said the provincial government was ensuring that consumers got quality food items at affordable rates in the fasting month. He said sasta bazaars had been set up in all the district headquarters of the Dera division. He said he was personally visiting the sasta bazaars, and had directed the district administrations to provide all possible facilities to the consumers.

The Dera commissioner said the Covid-19 situation in the district was under control, and urged the people to observe precautions to help stop the spread of the pandemic.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1619188/cpec-promises-development-in-dera>

Pakistan Observer

Pak, China working jointly for transparency in CPEC projects

Pakistan and China are jointly working to ensure transparency in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, said chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB) (Retd) Justice Javed Iqbal, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. The two friendly countries aimed to eliminate even a shadow of corruption in the execution of the CPEC projects. They are working on this. The CPEC projects will be made corruption free. Anyone found in corruption will be punished severely," he said at a meeting. He directed NAB officers to utilize all available resources to take mega corruption white collar crime cases to a logical conclusion. "Out of 179 mega corruption cases, 63 were concluded by accountability courts due to vigorous prosecution of the bureau, whereas 95 mega corruption cases are still under trial," he said while chairing a meeting held to evaluate the overall performance of NAB at the NAB Headquarters, an official statement said on Saturday.

Javed Iqbal said NAB had tremendous regard for the business community as it plays a vital role in the prosperity of the country. He said the NAB is a people-friendly institution. The NAB performance has been lauded by reputed national and international institutions. NAB has become a role model for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries in eradication of corruption as Pakistan has become the first chairman of the SAARC Anti-Corruption Forum. He said NAB was the focal organization of Pakistan under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and Pakistan is the only country with whom China has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for eradication of corruption.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-working-jointly-for-transparency-in-cpec-projects/>

The Nation

KP CM, Chinese envoy inaugurate schools' reconstruction project

PESHAWAR - Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong Monday inaugurated the project of reconstruction of damaged schools in the newly merged tribal areas.

A ceremony in this regard was held here at Chief Minister's House Peshawar which was attended by provincial cabinet members Shahram Khan Tarakai, Abdul Kareem, Chairman CPEC Authority, Asim Saleem Bajwa, Additional Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir, administrative secretaries of concerned departments and other high-ups.

On this occasion, Secretary Elementary and Secondary Education Department and concerned Chinese Authorities signed a document regarding implementation of the reconstruction project.

Earlier, the Chief Minister and Chinese Ambassador were briefed in detail about the different aspects of reconstruction projects.

In the first phase of the project, a total of 50 schools fully damaged during militancy in Bara Tehsil of Khyber district will be reconstructed. These schools include 24 schools for boys and 26 for girls. The total estimated cost of the reconstruction project is Rs 2323 million, out of which Rs 868 million will be provided by the Government of Pakistan while 10.29 million US dollars will be provided by the Chinese Government. The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the Chinese government for its support extended to the provincial government in the reconstruction of damaged schools in the newly merged areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister said that China is a time tested friend of Pakistan, and China Pakistan Economic Corridor Project is a great example of Pak-China friendship. He added that, his government highly appreciated the assistance being provided by Chinese Government for the reconstruction of damaged schools in tribal districts.

He termed the provision of quality educational facilities to the public as an integral part of his government's agenda and said that the incumbent government was taking result oriented steps under a well devised education strategy to provide conducive learning environment to students.

He stated that pragmatic steps were being taken to provide missing facilities in schools besides hiring of thousands of teachers. Mahmood Khan said that a flagship project of the incumbent government under CPEC portfolio, Rashakai Special Economic Zone would be inaugurated soon which would boost industrial activities in the province and create employment opportunities.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong, on the occasion, said that Pakistan-China friendship is deeper than sea and higher than mountains, adding that Chinese Government is desirous to further strengthen mutual ties. The Chinese Ambassador further said that Peoples' Republic of China also wanted to work with Pakistan for poverty alleviation and economic development in the country.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-20/page-3/detail-7>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کیساتھ کمیونیکیشن کو منظم شکل دینے کی ضرورت ہے: صدر پاک چین چیئرمین

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) کرونا کی عالمی وبا کے تناظر میں چین کے ساتھ مستحکم کاروباری روابط کی بقاء کیلئے ڈیجیٹل کمیونیکیشن کے ذرائع کو منظم شکل دینے کی ضرورت ہے۔ یہ بات پاک چین چیئرمین آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر ایس ایم نوید نے گزشتہ روز سال اینڈ میڈیم انٹرنیشنل ڈیولپمنٹ اتھارٹی 'سمیڈا' کے ای کامرس ماہرین کے ساتھ ایک اجلاس کے دوران کہی۔ اس موقع پر پاک چین چیئرمین کے سینئر نائب صدر داؤد احمد، نائب صدر خالد رفیق چوہدری اور سیکرٹری جنرل صلاح الدین حنیف بھی موجود تھے۔ ایس ایم نوید نے بتایا کہ پاک چین چیئرمین نے اپنے ممبرز کو ای کامرس اور ڈیجیٹل رابطوں سے آگاہ کرنے کیلئے ای کامرس ماہرین سے مشاورتی نشستوں کا سلسلہ شروع کر رکھا ہے۔ انہوں نے اس حوالے سے سمیڈا کے تربیتی پروگراموں کی بھی تعریف کی اور کہا کہ ایس ایم نوید کو کاروباری ابلاغ کیلئے ڈیجیٹل ذرائع پر عبور حاصل کرنے کیلئے ای کامرس کے ماہرین کا ایک ایسٹبلشمنٹ ورک تشکیل دیا جانا چاہیے جو ایس ایم نوید کو اس حوالے سے ہمہ وقت آن لائن معاونت کیلئے دستیاب ہو۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-04-20/page-10/detail-4>

April 21, 2021

Business Recorder

Sino-Pak ties to be strengthened more in future: envoy

Amjad Ali Shah

PESHAWAR: The China-Pakistan relations will continue to grow in the years to come as the two countries celebrate 70 years of diplomatic ties, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rongsaid on Tuesday.

Speaking to journalists here after visiting the "China Window", the envoy said the Chinese Cultural and Information Centre based in Peshawar was playing vital role in introducing Chinese culture in KP province.

"We are grateful to China Window for holding a special function on the occasion of 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations," Nong Rong said.

The Chinese envoy visited various sections of China Window and appreciated the efforts of the administration.

The Chinese Ambassador inaugurated the website, wrote letters on the Pak-China Friendship Wall and recorded his impressions in the guest book.

Talking to reporters at China Window during his visit to Peshawar, Nong said in its first stage the CPEC focused on energy and infrastructure projects which were successfully completed.

He said that most of the energy projects built under the CPEC had been completed and China provided one-third of Pakistan's electricity requirement during the Covid-19 pandemic at the lowest price.

Nong said that some students from Pakistan could not go back to their classrooms in China due to restrictions related to Covid-19, but they could continue their education online. He said that the cooperation between the two countries on the provision of vaccines was going very smoothly.

Nong also met KP Chief Minister Mahmood Khan. They inaugurated a project for reconstruction of damaged schools in the merged districts.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/04/21/7-page/883159-news.html>

Dawn News

Railway project sent to Chinese bank for approval of \$6bn loan

Khalid Hasnain

LAHORE: The Chinese government has sent Pakistan's first modern railways' infrastructure project — Main Line-1 (ML-1) — to the Exim Bank of China for approval of a \$6 billion loan after all technical, administrative and other issues have finally been resolved, paving the way for launching civil work on this scheme within this year.

“The latest on the \$6.8 billion ML-1 project is that a finance committee comprising Chinese officials has sent the case related to \$6 billion loan approval of the project to Exim Bank. Since the remaining \$800 million will be provided by the government of Pakistan as equity, the total \$6.8 billion will be spent on completion of the entire rail-related infrastructure, mainly the line, fencing, civil works etc,” Pakistan Railways Federal Secretary / Railway Board Chairman Dr Habibur Rehman Gillani said while talking to Dawn on Tuesday.

“We appreciate our Chinese counterparts for taking the ML-1, a project to be executed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), seriously by resolving various issues in consultation with senior Pakistani officials concerned,” Mr Gillani added.

The construction of ML-1 project in three phases had been approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne) in its meeting held in August last year. The actual cost of the project was initially \$9bn, including equity amount of the government of Pakistan. But later, it was reduced gradually to \$6.8bn.

“The cost was reduced since money included / allocated earlier for train sets / rolling stock etc was not needed during completion period of the project,” the chairman explained. When the project will reach nearing completion, another project proposal regarding procurement of train sets / rolling stock etc would be prepared and approved separately, he maintained.

Mr Gillani said once the loan was approved by the Exim bank, the project would be sent to respective Chinese ministries dealing with the railways and planning / development related matters. This whole process would take a couple of months, after which the ministry would be able to initiate the international bidding / tendering process for execution of the project.

The project would have upgrade of ML-1 from Karachi to Peshawar and Taxila to Havelian (1,872km), laying of new track with improved sub grade for 160km/per hour, rehabilitation and construction of bridges, provision of modern signalling and telecom systems, conversion of level crossings into underpasses/flyovers, fencing of track, establishment of dry port near Havelian and upgrade of Walton Training Academy (Lahore).

It will create 24,000 direct (20,000 local labour/technical experts and 4,000 Chinese experts) jobs and reduce travel time from Karachi to Lahore from 18 to 10 hours.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1619407/railway-project-sent-to-chinese-bank-for-approval-of-6bn-loan>

Pakistan Observer

China’s Royal Group plans to set up dairy processing plant in Pak: Chen

Pakistan is rich in buffalo breeds, buffalo research, and buffalo milk manufacturing. To leverage its advantages and enhance Pakistan-China cooperation in this field, hope to set up a dairy processing plant in Pakistan,” • President of Royal Group, Chen Yiyi said on Tuesday. “If regulations permit, we are willing to share China’s experience and embryo technology,” Chen said in an interview after completing a week-long visit to Pakistan. “In the foreseeable future, the rapid growth of animal husbandry will impose more pressure on dairy producers, so it’s imperative for us to improve buffalo’s varieties through new technologies and work with Pakistani partners to promote the output of the entire animal husbandry industry,” he added.

Chen introduced that China’s practice in the animal husbandry industry over the past 30 years has shown that a proportional introduction of gene technology and embryo technology is conducive to the rapid growth of the agricultural population and the improvement of population quality. China’s experiences and technologies in this respect will be beneficial to the re-development and upgrading of Pakistan’s animal husbandry in terms of quality and quantity, CEN reported. In addition to technological cooperation, Chen informed that he is also willing to develop dairy products processing and industrial research in Pakistan to meet the demands of its domestic market and seek export to the Chinese and international markets. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-royal-group-plans-to-set-up-dairy-processing-plant-in-pak-chen/>

CPEC capitalizes on Pakistan's ideal location at crossroads of regional markets: Haque

Pakistan is a proud partner of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) through its flagship programme of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which capitalizes on Pakistan's ideal location at the crossroads of regional markets and the government's policy of geo-economics to act as transit corridor for trade, energy pipelines and tourist flow, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said. Speaking at the 20th Session of Boao Forum for Asia's inaugural banquet held in China's Hainan province, Ambassador Haque noted that China's BRI offered a new mode of win-win collaboration, partnership and connectivity in a world of increasing geopolitical uncertainty and rising inequalities both within and among the nations. Ambassador Haque congratulated the forum on its 20th anniversary this year, adding, the 20th session was taking place amidst an unprecedented global health crisis and economic meltdown, which makes cooperation inescapable in an interconnected and interdependent world. A prosperous future for humanity in today's world could only be built through dialogue, solidarity and mutually beneficial cooperation. He thanked the government and people of China for the critical medical assistance provided during the Covid outbreak last year as well as the current supply of Chinese vaccines to confront the second spell of the pandemic.

The 20th Session of Boao Forum for Asia opened on 18 April in Boao city of Southern Hainan province of China under the theme of "A world in Change: Join Hands to Strengthen Global Governance and Advance Belt and Road Cooperation". Boao Forum is China's premier international platform for dialogue and economic integration in Asia, which traditionally brings together political and corporate leaders and other experts from China and around the world. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, this year's session was curtailed in its format and scale. Pakistan, which is a founding member, was represented by the Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque. According to Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the primary task before this year's session is to help Asian countries and the world build consensus on development and restore and reshape growth confidence while ensuring pandemic prevention and carrying forward economic cooperation and regional integration under the Belt and Road Initiative. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-capitalizes-on-pakistans-ideal-location-at-crossroads-of-regional-markets-haque/>

China-Iran deal and CPEC

By Naveed Aman Khan

THE China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is one of the constituent corridors of the Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB). CPEC is the biggest, most ambitious, and most developed part of China's Belt and Road Initiative; Chinese policymakers under the leadership of great President Xi Jinping have dubbed it as the flagship project of the BRI. The rapprochement between China and Iran is likely to have far-reaching effects on South Asia, especially Pakistan. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) continues to expand in scale and scope.

Recently, details of a 25-year strategic partnership between China and Iran came to light, inspiring a furious debate among Iran's netizens. The plan calls for up to \$400 billion in investments spread over 25 years in telecommunications (5G), infrastructure, banking and free trade zones and controversially, a vast expansion in military cooperation to include intelligence sharing and weapons design. Amid all the hurrah from Iran, there has been a conspicuous silence from the Chinese side, and it would be wise to wait for official confirmation from China before rushing to judgement on leaked documents from Iran. While both China and Pakistan have framed CPEC as a "win-win" investment package, geopolitics play a more significant role than either side will admit. China's energy needs are rapidly growing and Chinese policymakers fear the U.S. Navy's ability to disrupt oil supplies coming from the Middle East. Such disruptions could have a deleterious impact on China's economy, which is dependent on energy imports, especially in times of conflict.

If brought to fruition, CPEC's Gwadar-Kashgar pipeline project could solve China's Malacca dilemma and present an alternative, dependable land route to satisfy China's growing energy needs, all while accelerating the Go West development program. Recent tension between the United States and China has further raised the importance of developing an alternate route, despite the significantly higher costs of such an undertaking. Since its formal launch in 2015, CPEC has sought to address Pakistan's longstanding infrastructure needs and power shortages. Over the last five years, China has funded the construction of multiple roads in the country, while Chinese State-owned enterprises have set up power plants.

In the long run, a network of roads, pipelines and railway lines will link the southern port city of Gwadar in Pakistan's Balochistan province to Kashgar in western China's Xinjiang region, opening up new avenues for trade. Developing the transport infrastructure is a formidable challenge as the route passes through some of the world's most inhospitable terrains. The natural outgrowth of CPEC seemed to be constrained by India's funding of the Chabahar port project in Iran. To India, Chabahar, which is located only 170 kilometres from Gwadar, presented an opportunity to interrupt China's "String of Pearls" from Southeast Asia to the Middle East and gave CPEC a little room to grow. The proposed China-Iran deal and India's unceremonious exit from a Chabahar railway project has upended Delhi's strategic fiat. Without Chabahar, India loses its primary lever of influence into Afghanistan and Central Asia. From Ladakh to Iran, India finds its strategic interests under siege. These developments undoubtedly play to Pakistan's advantage. Much like Iran's relationship with China, the Sino-Pakistani relationship is profoundly asymmetrical, CPEC being the breathing manifestation of such asymmetry.

While overcoming the natural barriers to expanding trade along the CPEC route remains a challenge, the evolving scenario could see Pakistan become the conduit for Iranian oil and gas headed to China, presumably through a pipeline from Balochistan to Xinjiang. Whether Pakistan can use this intermediary status to enhance strategic leverage and renegotiate the terms of some of the CPEC projects remains to be seen. Over the last two years, political uncertainty, IMF-imposed austerity, and concerns over Pakistan's increasing current account deficit have cast a

growing pall over CPEC's expansion. Publicly, both sides highlight the significant progress that has been made on CPEC and Prime Minister Imran Khan recently vowed to complete CPEC "at all costs." Over the last month, there has been a flurry of activity and agreements on two stalled hydro-electric projects have been signed. Despite the progress, there are significant irritants in the relationship. A leaked report accuses Chinese state-owned enterprises of financial "malpractices," including inflating construction costs on two of the coal-based power projects.

Chinese SOEs have yet to respond to these accusations amid calls for renegotiating some of the power purchase agreements (PPAs). The Iran-China deal could, in theory, provide more leverage to Pakistan in these negotiations. The China-Iran deal is a natural partnership for all parties: China gets cheap Iranian oil and Iran gets a financial lifeline. Pakistan could become the transit hub of China's Middle East trade and energy supplies, while India is under pressure from all sides. India has once again had its regional strategic ambitions thwarted. CPEC has the potential to be internationalized, but the question remains whether Pakistan can capitalize on the situation and use its favourable position linking China and Iran to spur additional Chinese investment, on more favourable terms. If Pakistan can use its strategic location to become the economic backdoor to China's western provinces, the answer will be a definite yes. China and Iran's new deal is a big win for Pakistan and a bigger loss for India. The China-Iran deal may also incentivize Pakistan to repair relations with Iran, which have traditionally been strong.

Recently, relations have been strained by accusations that Iran has not done enough to deal with Baloch insurgents operating out of eastern Iran. It is worth noting that Iran makes similar accusations about Pakistan. Then there are concerns that are out of Pakistan's hands. In a statement released last month, the U.S. State Department threatened sanctions on Chinese companies doing business with Iran, and sanctions could have a direct spill over effect on CPEC itself. The Thar coal project in Sindh, which Pakistan hopes will make the country self-sufficient in power generation, is dependent on technology from the U.S. firm General Electric. Sanctions on Chinese partners might make them wary of continuing to provide equipment to develop Thar.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-iran-deal-and-cpec-by-naveed-aman-khan/>

CPEC: A Successful Model of Trans-regional Development

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

DESPITE Western propaganda, right from the beginning, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been "striving" hard to convince regional as well as international power brokers about its immense socio-economic utility, scope and prospects.

It has the power to "revolutionize" local as well as regional economies. Its composition has the power to convert "poverty" into "prosperity".

It has the ability to brighten the "productive channels" as well as future from the "deep darkness" by generating more and more energy supplies.

In this regard Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan has already termed the CPEC, the “economic future” of Pakistan which shows its immense ability to transform economies through capacity building measures, nurturing of human capital, generation of new jobs, eradication of poverty, massive eco-friendly industrialization and last but not the least, abundant supplies of energies. Thus it is a game and fate changer project.

It has been positive, productive and participatory to nurture the spirits of development and dialogue.

Now it seems that at last “Mexican waves” of Western dissemination of disinformation has been converted into trans-regional convergence and the CPEC is ready to cross the various “seas” & shores” to land in the heart of Europe, “Hungary”.

Interestingly, Hungary is the “first” European country to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with China on jointly promoting the construction of the “Silk Road Economic Belt (SREB)” and the 21st Century “Maritime Silk Road (MSR)” which has now brightened its scope to become part of the CPEC.

The Hungarian government has always actively supported and participated in the BRI to synergize the country’s “Eastern Opening” policy with the BRI, and attached great importance to the “17+1” cooperation mechanism, which has played a leading role in enhancing China and Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) cooperation.

Thus CPEC provides “ample” opportunities to Hungarian public and private sectors to invest in numerous projects of it for a “win-win proposition”.

In this regard, the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the flagship project of the CPEC offer a remarkable opportunity for profitably setting-up and conducting their business to the Hungarian businessmen for extending their business in Pakistan.

For further strengthening of bilateral relations the Embassy of Pakistan in Budapest, in collaboration with the All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF), developed an initiative to launch a ‘Hungary-Pakistan Trade and Economic Window (HPTEW)’ on 25 March 2021.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and his Hungarian counterpart Peter Szijjarto jointly inaugurated the HPTEW and the first Hungary-Pakistan business forum in the month of March 2021.

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

The Hungarian Foreign Minister agreed with Foreign Minister Qureshi that boosting linkages in all areas, particularly the economy, trade and enhanced people-to-people exchanges, would lead to fully realizing the economic potential between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Szijjarto said that Hungary's policy of opening towards the East would provide a good impetus to Pakistan-Hungary relations in which CPEC would play an important role.

The HPTEW is indeed an innovative concept of commercial diplomacy for the further strengthening of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Hungary and also sincere effort on part of Pakistan to make the CPEC an international brand of progress and prosperity.

On its part, Chinese government does not have any reservation on the inclusion of any third party/country in the ongoing mega projects of the CPEC in the country.

The HPTEW consists of 12 points aiming at introducing potential business companies, entities and individuals of both the countries through a structured format.

It aims to serve as a 24/7 online platform that will be fully supported by the two governments through respective embassies.

It also aims to unlock and bring the true potential of the highly lucrative markets in Pakistan and Hungary in which CPEC would be "point of convergence" in the days to come.

The HPTEW is a futuristic initiative which is expected to unfold and evolve further in coming months and years, as it is likely to become a reliable standard tool for the private sector entities interested in doing business in Pakistan, Hungary or both.

It offers an entirely new model and way of doing business in an efficient, transparent and cost-effective manner.

Thus "innovative partnership" of the CPEC would be "launching pad" for Pak-Hungarian economic partnership in the days to come.

Hungary offers immense opportunity for Pakistani businessmen and investors because of its strong and innovative economy, high GDP, its strategic location at the heart of Central and Eastern Europe, its comparative advantage in modern technologies and expertise in the agricultural, food industry and last but not the least, environmental industry particularly in the field of water resource management, urban development and engineering technologies and industry, and achievements in science and technology, sports, culture would widen scope of bilateral relations and speed-up volumes of trade and brighten the chances of FDIs in the ongoing projects of the CPEC especially in the energy generation field.

Its participation in the CPEC phase-II would be a "valuation addition".

Hungarian MOL is one of the largest foreign investors in Pakistan, supplying a significant portion of the country's energy needs through the extraction of oil and natural gas.

Eximbank has opened a USD 83 million credit line to finance cooperation between Hungarian and Pakistani companies.

Advanced negotiations are now underway in medical device manufacturing, the food industry and cyber-security.

Hungarian Commercial Counsellor in Pakistan, Istavan Grafi, termed Pakistan as one of the important trade partners of Hungary with the ability to further strengthen mutual trade and economic ties.

The Centre of Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) has been striving hard to brand the CPEC as “greater” regional & trans-regional “connectivity” platform and is now launching an innovative idea of “Knowledge Corridor” by starting international online internship program about Hungary, highlighting the strength of its economy, industry, infrastructure development, digitalization, AI and willingness to join the CPEC.

Even the Daily Pakistan Observer has been contributing a great job as a “brand media ambassador” of the CPEC in Pakistan through its intensified mass media campaigns successfully mitigating onslaught of Western propaganda.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-a-successful-model-of-trans-regional-development-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Nation

Envoy lauds ‘China Window’ for promoting Chinese culture

Peshawar - Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Tuesday lauded the role of Peshawar-based Chinese Information and Cultural Centre ‘China Window’, in promotion of Chinese culture and assured for full support to the centre.

“We will continue our support to this institution in future as well and hope that the China Window will also try to do its best in bringing the people from different schools of thought of both the countries closer to each other in future too,” he remarked.

“We also acknowledge with appreciation the conduct of a prestigious ceremony to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationships between the People’s Republic of China and Pakistan,” said Nong Rong.

He was talking to media representatives on the eve of his visit to China Window. Some senior diplomats of the Islamabad-based Chinese Embassy, prominent entrepreneurs and social figures of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa besides Chief Executive Officer of KP Board of Investment Ehsan Daud Butt and Administrator of China Window Amjad Aziz Malik were also present on the occasion.

The Chinese envoy during his visit to China Window went round its various sections and galleries and appreciated the services of the administration.

He also watched a documentary on socio-economic uplift with keen interest. Nong Rong also cut a cake as a pleasant gesture of his visit to China Window. A traditional Kulah (turban) was presented to the ambassador on behalf of the China Window while Amjad Saleem Butt presented a preserved Markhor as a gift on behalf of Managing Director of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tourism Corporation Junaid Khan.

Meanwhile, the Chinese ambassador also formally launched the Web Portal of China Window, signed the China Wall and also inked his remarks in the visitors' book. "All this makes me truly impressed," he concluded.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-21/page-10/detail-6>

Trial run of China electric bus conducted in Karachi

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan completed a 15-day trial run of the K9 pure electric bus recently in Karachi, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

Co-produced by China's leading new energy vehicle manufacturer BYD and its Pakistani partners, it is the first pure electric bus in Pakistan and the first formal commercial vehicle in Sindh province.

Sindh Transport Minister Syed Awais Qadir Shah said: "We are very excited to welcome Pakistan's first pure electric bus. The successful trial run of the bus in Karachi marks an important step towards electrification.

"We plan to add 100 such buses within this year, and hope that in the future, pure electric buses will be available all over the country."

The K9 bus can take 35 passengers and plans to carry out local commercial operations in Karachi in the future, allowing residents along the route to experience more convenient and cleaner daily travel.

During the trial operation period, the bus was widely appreciated by the public and became a green scenery line in Karachi.

Zhang Jie, Assistant General Manager of BYD Asia-Pacific Automotive Sales Division, said: "It's a great honour to put BYD's electric bus K9 into operation in Karachi. I believe that Karachi will become a model of green city in Pakistan, bringing people smarter, safer, and clean travel experience."

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain has also expressed his support for the province's initiative to promote green travel.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-21/page-10/detail-7>

April 22, 2021

Daily Times

Another smear campaign against China

Munir Ahmed

The global smear campaign against China continues. The overriding objective is to hinder the country's economic progress and political outreach, particularly under its BRI (Belt and Road Initiative); which offers connectivity to Central Asia and beyond, including Europe. Since CPEC

(China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) is considered the driving force behind the entire BRI project, Pakistan risks finding itself in the crosshairs. Indeed, enhanced bilateral cooperation with China is proving contentious for the US and some of its allies.

No doubt, the US has played a significant role in Pakistan's socio-economic development. According to USAID, the development agency delivered close to \$7.7 billion in the last decade to assist energy, education and health sectors, community resilience while boosting the strategic ties. Yet the problem here in Pakistan is that analysts remain puzzled as to how this figure was reached. After all, the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act (2009), which initially pledged \$7.5 billion in civilian aid, was reduced by the Trump administration to just \$4.1 bn. Thus no one really knows how much was actually spent on compensating political scavengers in Pakistan to protect US regional interests. Or, indeed, the definitive break-down of social sector investment.

This US narrative of vast financial aid tranches being handed over to Pakistan has gained momentum as the country moves further towards China. In its wakes, malicious campaigns have begun emerging, prompting experts to urgently warn Pakistan to strike a balance with other regional players to safeguard against economic and strategic conflicts. Yet the majority of the citizenry here, either fortunately or unfortunately, favour strong ties with China due to the latter's support in their country's hour of need. By contrast, the US is seen as exploiting this region to serve its own vested interests, dating back to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan some 40 years ago.

The US resents the systematic loss of goodwill towards it, especially as a rapidly rising China is winning the popular vote. This may explain why Pakistan has to repeatedly clarify that it is not switching bloc alliance

The US resents this systematic loss of goodwill, especially as a rapidly rising China is winning the popular vote. This may explain why Pakistan finds itself having to clarify every other day that it is in no way switching bloc alliance. It may also throw light on the widespread anti-China campaigns that have been gaining ground here, particularly after the inking of the CPEC project. More recently, these have focused on Covid-19, as the country grapples with the third wave of this global pandemic. The underlying 'message' is that this virus did not originate in bats but is, rather, man-made and that China has hoodwinked the whole world on this front. Social media is being used to spread this propaganda.

The rising curve of the Covid infections and deaths have created a climate of fear and confusion in Pakistan, despite cases being drastically under-reported. The WHO lists Pakistan as the world's least Corona-testing country. Meaning that the on-the-ground situation would be recognised as being even more serious if testing were conducted as required. The unfortunate fallout of which would be to lend credence, in the public imagination, to claims that China deliberately created this virus

If left unchecked, this smear campaign will become impossible to contain. One damaging social media disinformation drive involved a WhatsApp message alleging that a Japanese Nobel

Laureate had ‘confirmed’ that China manufactured Covid on the grounds that had it been natural, the virus would have only affected those countries with similar temperatures, instead of spreading to snowy climates and deserts alike. This message first appeared back in February 2020 and as of May of the same year, it had been shared more over 10,000 times in multiple languages. Keep in mind that the scientist in question publicly refuted the allegations last April. Moreover, another false assertion is the claim that he had worked in a laboratory in Wuhan, whereas the gentleman has only worked in Japan and the US.

Thus myself and others who are affiliated with the ‘Friends of China’ group have mobilised to report such malicious messages to the relevant social media platforms. Nevertheless, it is every citizens’ duty to exercise extreme caution when forwarding such messages. Particularly those that target China within the Pakistan context.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/748063/another-smear-campaign-against-china/>

Chinese entrepreneurs show interest in investing in buffalo milk sector

Buffalo milk could add to Pakistan’s forex as Chinese entrepreneurs show interest for investment in this sector, it was reported by China Economic Net (CEN) quoting Chen Yiyi, President of China’s Royal Group.

Chen Yiyi told China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information Platform (CPAIC) after a week-long visit to Pakistan that the country is rich in buffalo breeds, buffalo research, and buffalo milk manufacturing. “To leverage its advantages and enhance Pakistan-China cooperation in this field, we hope to set up a dairy processing plant in Pakistan,” Chen added.

Gu Wenliang, Agriculture Commissioner of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan told CEN that Pakistan is the fourth largest milk producer in the world, with buffalo milk accounting for 60%. There are about 41 million buffaloes in Pakistan and the milk yield is higher than that in China.

According to an economic survey report of the Pakistani government, in the fiscal year of 2019-2020, the output of buffalo milk in Pakistan reached 256,000 tons. In 1974, Pakistan gifted 50 Nili-Lafite Buffaloes to China. Statistics provided by the Buffalo Research Institute show that the average milk yield of the first generation of Niza buffaloes, which was obtained by crossing the Buffalo of Pakistan with Chinese native female buffaloes, was 2083.8 kg, with the highest daily output of 13.4 kg. However, with the passage of time, milk production declines year by year. Strengthening cooperation with Pakistan in the future is one of the ways for Chinese enterprises to maintain or expand the production of high-quality buffalo milk.

Whether Pakistan can export live buffalo is the focus of Chinese enterprises. “It is not allowed to export live animals in Pakistan so far,” noted Dr. Khurshid Ahmad, Animal husbandry commissioner of Ministry of National Food Security and Research at a meeting held by CPAIC. In this condition, the Chinese enterprise has to make a detour to import Pakistan’s buffalo oocytes and frozen sperm.

However, Pakistan is faced with several conundrums in the technological front. Pakistani insiders who received the Chinese delegation said due to limited domestic demand, the embryo breeding technology of Buffalo in Pakistan is falling behind and commercial export has not yet been realized.

Pakistan hopes to introduce Chinese buffalo embryo breeding technology and strengthen cooperation in buffalo breeding and export of high-quality frozen sperm and embryos. “If regulations permit, we are willing to share China’s experience and embryo technology,” Chen said. China’s experiences and technologies in this respect will be beneficial to the re-development and upgrading of Pakistan’s animal husbandry in terms of quality and quantity.

In addition to technological cooperation, “We are also willing to develop dairy products processing and industrial research in Pakistan to meet the demands of its domestic market and seek export to the Chinese and international markets.

Investment in processing plants is first and foremost to meet Pakistan’s domestic demand. Although Pakistan is a major milk producer, it still spends 20 billion rupees every year to import milk and other dairy products.

According to the economic survey report of the Pakistani government, 15% of Pakistani milk production was wasted due to improper transportation and lack of refrigeration equipment in the fiscal year 2019-2020.

Pakistan Dairy Association says that the export of dairy products and milk in Pakistan can actually reach USD 30 billion while the export value in the fiscal year 2020 is only USD 680 million. To improve the processing capacity of dairy products and reduce foreign exchange losses, “the Pakistani governments at all levels have been dedicated to improving the investment environment in the past five years and that has facilitated investors.” Chen said.

Xiao Ziqi, a member of the delegation who is experienced in agricultural investment, said that in Pakistan the purchase price of pure buffalo milk is RMB 4-5 per kilogram, which varies slightly from region to region. In contrast, the purchase price of buffalo milk in China is about 2-3 times that of Pakistan. If Pakistan’s buffalo milk can be exported to China, it will not only add to Pakistan’s foreign exchange reserve but also provide a more favorable price for Chinese consumers.

The window has been open to Pakistan for export. Pakistan’s dairy products and beef, which have been suffering from foot-and-mouth disease, may have two breakthroughs this year: in February, China’s Huiyu Group and Nestle Pakistan signed a memorandum of understanding to import Nestle cream from Pakistan.

In April, a Pakistani company announced that it had been approved by China Customs to export 300 tons of beef after heat treatment to China. If it is done, it will become the first company in Pakistan to obtain such approval. Royal Group is not the first Chinese dairy enterprise to enter Pakistan. With the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, dairy companies such

as Liaoyuan Dairy, Yili, and Shengyuan have tried to lay out Pakistan one after another with some given up and some gained a firm foothold.

Chen said that with the cooperation between the two governments further strengthened and the investment environment of Pakistan improved, “we think this is a more appropriate time to invest in Pakistan. In the next decade, buffalo milk will usher in more business opportunities.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/748317/chinese-entrepreneurs-show-interest-in-investing-in-buffalo-milk-sector/>

Dunya News

CPEC offers huge opportunities for Chinese, Indonesian investors: BOI

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – The board of Investment (BOI) on Thursday said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) provide excellent opportunities in various fields for Chinese and Indonesian investors to play their due role in this major economic and industrial project. The Board of Investment (BOI) presented Investment opportunities in CPEC during a webinar jointly organized by Embassies of Pakistan and China in Jakarta. Chairman Board of Investment (BOI), Atif Bokhari , Ambassadors of Pakistan and China to Jakarta Xion Qian, Deputy Minister for Coordination and Mining, Chairman KADIN, DG NDRC, Deputy Chairman BKMP, Deputy Director CIECC were part of the webinar, said a press release issued by BOI here. The event highlighted the achievements of the CPEC as the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and apprised the audience about the project s inclusiveness to third party participation. Addressing the webinar, Minister of State/Chairman BOI, Atif Bokhari appreciated the organizers for holding such a meaningful webinar on CPEC. Atif Bokhari shared that CPEC has entered in its second phase and efforts are now focused on forging Business to Business (B2B) and peer-to-peer (P2P) collaborations in the form of Industrial and socio-economic cooperation. Briefing about Pakistan s liberal investment regime, Chairman stated that Pakistan allows 100 percent repatriation of profits, dividends and capital.

In addition, Pakistan is actively pursuing development of SEZs and is offering attractive fiscal incentives including 10-year tax holiday on income and custom duty exemption on import of capital goods to both developers and enterprises. He further stated that the Government has launched conducive policies for Electric Vehicle, mobile manufacturing, Construction sectors in a bid to enhance investment profile of Pakistan. He concluded by encouraging Indonesian and Chinese investors to be part of the shared future of Industrialization and economic prosperity. Pakistan Ambassador to Jakarta Muhammad Hassan underscored the importance of the webinar as a meaningful platform that offers an opportunity to all sides to understand and explore potential avenues. Ambassador of China Xion Qian remarked that CPEC is a landmark project and it offers valuable opportunity to the three countries to explore trilateral cooperation and untapped business opportunities. The participants identified that Pakistan and Indonesia can explore collaboration in the field of textile, food processing, agricultural products, infrastructural development, chemical and pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, gemstones, iron and steel to

name a few, as Indonesian companies have vast experience and expertise in these areas. The Indonesian speakers stated that their companies can help Pakistan in establishing downstream industry and also assist with value added products. Federal secretary BOI Ms. Fareena Mazhar applauded the efforts of the organizers for arranging the webinar. She stated that Pakistan is taking several reform initiatives to streamline our business processes and offer a conducive business environment to both local and foreign investors. Ms. Fareena shared that Pakistan would welcome Indonesian investment in sectors such as food and agriculture, value added textile, tourism, construction and also encourage investors to explore the Electric Vehicle sector as Pakistan offers tremendous scope for setting EV manufacturing units. A detailed presentation on CPEC was delivered by Project Director PMU, Asim Ayub. He briefed the audience about Industrial Cooperation under CPEC, various incentives available to investors under SEZ act and Pakistan also offers sole enterprise option. He emphasized that Pakistan is fully focused towards Industrial transformation and investors should take benefit of the lucrative incentives. The webinar offered an opportunity to jointly explore the promising prospects of CPEC and to devise a way forward to bolster regional economic cooperation. The participants vowed to further advance Industrial cooperation between Pakistan, China and Indonesia.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/598481-CPEC-offers-huge-opportunities-for-Chinese-Indonesian-investors-BOI>

Jang News

چین کے نئے سیکورٹی بلاک ”ہمالیائی کوڈ“ کے قیام کا امکان

کراچی (رفیق مانگٹ) بھارت، امریکا، آسٹریلیا اور جاپان پر مشتمل سیکورٹی بلاک ”کوڈ“ کے مقابلے میں چین بھی نیپال، پاکستان اور افغانستان کے ساتھ مل کر اپنا سیکورٹی بلاک ”ہمالیہ کوڈ“ شروع کرنے والا ہے۔

چینی میڈیا اور دیگر تھنک ٹینکس کی رپورٹوں کے مطابق چین پہلے ہی متعدد ہمالیائی ممالک کے ساتھ سلامتی اور تزویراتی (اسٹریٹجک) تعاون پر کام کر رہا ہے، اب اس شراکت داری کو باقاعدہ ”ادارہ سازی“ میں تبدیل کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ تجزیہ کاروں کا کہنا ہے کہ روس کے ساتھ، باضابطہ اتحاد مشکل ہو گا۔

چین کی ابھرتی طاقت کے جواب میں بھارت، امریکا، آسٹریلیا اور جاپان پر مشتمل چار جہتی سیکورٹی ڈائلاگ (کوڈ) کا قیام عمل میں آیا جس کا بنیادی مقصد رکن ممالک کے درمیان بحری صلاحیت اور تعاون بڑھانا تھا لیکن اس کے ایجنڈے میں وسعت آگئی۔

واشنگٹن اور اس کے اتحادیوں کی طرف سے غیر معمولی اقدامات کے بعد لبرل بین الاقوامی آرڈر کو خطرہ لاحق ہو گیا ہے، چین کی اس گروپ بندی پر گہری نظر ہے۔

ماہرین کے نزدیک بیجنگ بھی ایسا سیکورٹی گروپ قائم کر سکتا ہے۔ بلکہ وہ اسد اد ہشت گردی اور ماحولیاتی تبدیلی جیسے عالمی چیلنجز پر توجہ رکھے گا۔

کوڈ کی پہلی کانفرنس گزشتہ ماہ مارچ میں ہوئی جس میں چاروں ممالک کے رہنماؤں نے 2022 کے آخر تک پورے بحر الکاہل میں کوڈ 19 ویکسین کی ایک ارب خوراک فراہم کرنے کا وعدہ کیا اس اقدام کو وسیع پیمانے پر چین کی ویکسین ڈپلومیسی کے خلاف دیکھا گیا۔

امریکی تھنک ٹینک کا کہنا ہے بیجنگ نے روس کے ساتھ فوجی مشقوں اور سفارت کاری کے ذریعے تعاون مضبوط کر کے اس بلاک کو جواب دیا ہے، چین اور روسی وزرائے خارجہ کی کوڈ سربراہی کانفرنس کے بعد چین کے جنوب مغربی صوبہ گوانگشی میں ملاقات ہوئی۔

تاہم روسی وزیر خارجہ سیرگئی لاوروف نے گذشتہ ہفتے ہندوستان کے دورے پر دونوں کے درمیان مکمل فوجی اتحاد کی خبروں کو مسترد کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ ماسکو جامع تعاون میں دلچسپی رکھتا ہے۔

مارچ کے اوائل میں، چین کی وزارت دفاع نے بھی کہا کہ بیجنگ ماسکو کے ساتھ فوجی اتحاد بنانے کا کوئی منصوبہ نہیں رکھتا ہے، انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ دونوں ممالک اتحاد اور تیسرے ممالک کو نشانہ نہ بنانے کے اصول پر عمل پیرا ہیں۔

بیلاروس کے انسٹی ٹیوٹ برائے اسٹریٹجک ریسرچ کے تجزیہ کار، یوری یارمولسکی نے ایک مضمون میں لکھا کہ حالیہ پیشرفت بیجنگ کو کوڈ کا مقابلہ کرنے کیلئے چین، نیپال، پاکستان اور افغانستان پر مشتمل ”ہمالیہ کوڈ“ تشکیل دینے پر مجبور کر سکتی ہے۔ مضمون نگار کے مطابق دہلی کے ایک تھک ٹینک نے نومبر میں ہمالیہ کوڈ کی اصطلاح استعمال کی تھی۔ یارمولسکی بھارت میں بیلاروس کی طرف سے سابق سفیر بھی رہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ اس وقت چینی کوڈ اصولی طور پر موجود ہے، لیکن بحیرہ جنوبی چین میں فوجی مداخلت، تائیوان کی آزادی کی حمایت، جیسی سرخ لائنیں عبور ہونے کے صورت میں یہ بلاک ایک حقیقت بن سکتا ہے۔

انہوں نے کہا، جب تک بیجنگ کے قومی مفادات کے تناظر میں کینبرہ، نئی دہلی، ٹوکیو اور واشنگٹن خاص سرخ لکیروں کو عبور نہیں کرتے، ہمالیہ کوڈ صرف ایک نظریہ ہی رہے گا۔

چین پہلے ہی نیپال، پاکستان اور افغانستان کے ساتھ سلامتی اور اسٹریٹجک تعاون پر شراکت دار ہے۔ تقریباً ایک دہائی سے، بیجنگ اور اسلام آباد 62 ارب امریکی ڈالر کے منصوبے سی بیک پر کام کر رہے ہیں۔ فریقین نے اپنی مشترکہ سرحد کے اطراف سیکیورٹی چیلنجوں سے نمٹنے میں بھی تعاون کیا ہے۔

نیپال کو بیجنگ سے براہ راست غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری اور معاشی امداد موصول ہوتی ہے، چین نے نیپال میں پیرامیٹری پولیس فورس کے لئے ایک تربیتی اکیڈمی بھی کھولی ہے جو تبت کے ساتھ اپنی سرحد کی حفاظت کرتی ہے۔ دونوں ممالک کی فوجوں نے ماضی میں بھی انسداد دہشت گردی کی مشقیں کیں۔

نیپال ہمالیہ میں چین اور بھارتی علاقائی تنازع کے تناظر میں ایک مضبوط گڑھ ہے، سکیانگ میں سلامتی کو یقینی بنانے اور استحکام کو برقرار رکھنے کے لئے افغانستان ایک اہم عنصر ہے جس کے ساتھ اس کی 76 کلومیٹر طویل سرحد مشترک ہے۔

چین کی وزارت دفاع نے 2018 میں کہا تھا کہ وہ افغانستان کی دفاعی اور انسداد دہشت گردی کی کوششوں کی حمایت کرتے ہیں۔ افغان محققین کے مطابق بیجنگ نے 2016 سے 2018 تک افغان حکومت کو 70 ملین امریکی ڈالر سے زیادہ کی فوجی امداد فراہم کی ہے۔

امریکہ میں جارج میسن یونیورسٹی کے پروفیسر مارک این کاؤز کا کہنا ہے اسلام آباد میں امریکی مخالف موقف جو پاکستان کی سرزمین پر امریکی فوجی کارروائیوں سے پیدا ہوا ہے جسے دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ کا نام دیا جاتا ہے اس وجہ سے پاکستان چین کے ساتھ اتحاد کرنے کے لئے تیار اور قابل ہے۔ جب تک بھارت دونوں ممالک پاکستان اور چین سے متصادم ہے، اسلام آباد اور بیجنگ کے پاس ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ تعاون کرنے کی مضبوط وجوہات ہوں گی۔

گزشتہ سال ہندوستان اور چین کی مشترکہ سرحد پر تنازع اور بھارت اور پاکستان کے مابین کشمیر تنازع ہے۔ دہلی کے تھک ٹینک کے ماہر کے مطابق چین نے پہلے ہی نیپال، پاکستان اور افغانستان کو 19 کواڈ پر بات کے لئے اکٹھا کرنے کی کوشش کی ہے۔

ماہرین کا کہنا ہے کہ چین کے ”ہمالیائی کوڈ“ کا مقصد خطے میں بھارتی سرگرمیوں میں توازن کرنا ہے۔ چین کی اس گروپ بندی میں روس، پاکستان، وسطی ایشیائی ممالک، ایران اور ترکی بھی شامل ہو سکتے ہیں۔

کمزور معیشتیں، کمزور فوجی صلاحیتیں اور ملکی مسائل اور چیلنجوں کے باوجود ان ممالک کے چین کے ساتھ دوستانہ تعلقات ہیں، تاہم یہ ضروری نہیں کہ وہ اچھے اتحادی بن جائیں۔

ماہرین کا کہنا کہ امریکی انخلا کے بعد چین اس وقت طالبان کے ساتھ کام کرنے پر راضی ہوگا، جب وہ ایغور مسلمانوں کی حمایت نہیں کریں گے۔ مکمل طور پر تمام شرائط داروں کے ساتھ مل کر چین متبادل کو اڈ بنانے کے لئے اپنا اتحاد کر سکتا ہے، یا چین کو اڈ کا اپنا ورژن تشکیل دے سکتا ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/915697>

چینی کمپنیوں کو سرمایہ کاری پر زیادہ سہولیات دی جائیں گی، وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان

وزیر اعلیٰ بلوچستان جام کمال نے کہا ہے کہ چینی کمپنیوں کو بلوچستان میں سرمایہ کاری پر زیادہ سہولیات دی جائیں گی۔

اعلامیہ کے مطابق چینی سفیر نے بلوچستان میں ترقی کے لئے حکومتی اقدامات کو سراہا۔

انھوں نے کہا کہ پانی فراہمی کی اسکیموں، صحت اور تعلیم کے شعبوں پر کام جاری ہے۔

چینی سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے کہا کہ گوادر بندرگاہ پر چین کے تعاون سے 150 بستروں کا اسپتال تعمیر کیا جا رہا ہے۔ بندرگاہ سے گوادر شہر تک سڑک کی تعمیر مکمل ہو چکی ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/916114>

April 23, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese firm to build 82MWs hydropower plant in Chitral

China's Sinohydro will build a run-of-the-river hydropower plant in Chitral of Pakistan's northern KP province to produce 82MWs, or 380 GWh per annum, of clean energy at the cost of \$200 million, Gwadar pro reported on Thursday.

The Turtonas-Uzghor hydropower project will be executed by Uzghor Hydropower Pvt. Ltd., a consortium of China's hydropower giant Sinohydro and Pakistan's Sachal Group.

The project site is located 5 kilometres away from the existing 108MWs Golen Gol HPP on Golen Gol River, a tributary of Mastuj river in Pakistan's north-most district of Chitral. Chitral is adjacent to Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region, which borders China.

On April 19, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) approved the tariff petition of the sponsors, thus allowing the Sinohydro-led consortium to go ahead with the project. The project will be completed in four years after the commencement of the civil works, according to an official document of NEPRA as per the Gwadar pro's report.

The Private Power Infrastructure Board (PPIB) has already approved the project design, feasibility study, and financial proposal of the project. The National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) has also allowed interconnection of the project with the transmission line of the existing Golen Gol HPP, which is an additional advantage in the execution of the project, NEPRA stated.

The relevant body of KP province has declared the project as environment-friendly, it further stated. Sinohydro is a global leader in hydropower generation and has also executed several

successful projects in Pakistan. The Uzghor hydropower project will be executed under independent hydropower producer (IHPP) mode under a 30-year post-completion period.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/748591/chinese-firm-to-build-82mws-hydropower-plant-in-chitral/>

Pakistan Observer

BOI presents investment opportunities in CPEC in a webinar

Board of Investment presented Investment opportunities in CPEC during a webinar jointly organized by Embassies of Pakistan & China in Jakarta. MOS/Chairman BOI, Ambassadors of Pakistan & China to Jakarta, Deputy Minister for Coordination & Mining, Chairman KADIN, DG NDRC, Deputy Chairman BKMP, Deputy Director CIECC were part of the webinar. The event highlighted the achievements of the CPEC as the flagship project of Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) & apprised the audience about the project's inclusiveness to third party participation. Addressing the webinar, MOS/Chairman BOI Mr. Atif Bokhari appreciated the organizers for holding such a meaningful webinar on CPEC. Mr. Bokhari shared that CPEC has entered in its second phase and efforts are now focused on forging B2B & P2P collaborations in the form of Industrial & socio-economic cooperation. Briefing about Pakistan's liberal investment regime, Chairman stated that Pakistan allows 100% repatriation of profits, dividends and capital. In addition, Pakistan is actively pursuing development of SEZs and is offering attractive fiscal incentives including 10-year tax holiday on income & custom duty exemption on import of capital goods to both developers & enterprises. He further stated that the Government has launched conducive policies for Electric Vehicle, Mobile manufacturing, Construction sectors in a bid to enhance investment profile of Pakistan. He concluded by encouraging Indonesian & Chinese investors to be part of the shared future of Industrialization & economic prosperity. Pakistan Ambassador to Jakarta H.E. Muhammad Hassan underscored the importance of the webinar as a meaningful platform that offers an opportunity to all sides to understand and explore potential avenues. Board of Investment presented Investment opportunities in CPEC during a webinar jointly organized by Embassies of Pakistan & China in Jakarta. MOS/Chairman BOI, Ambassadors of Pakistan & China to Jakarta, Deputy Minister for Coordination & Mining, Chairman KADIN, DG NDRC, Deputy Chairman BKMP, Deputy Director CIECC were part of the webinar. The event highlighted the achievements of the CPEC as the flagship project of Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) & apprised the audience about the project's inclusiveness to third party participation. Addressing the webinar, MOS/Chairman BOI Mr. Atif Bokhari appreciated the organizers for holding such a meaningful webinar on CPEC. Mr. Bokhari shared that CPEC has entered in its second phase and efforts are now focused on forging B2B & P2P collaborations in the form of Industrial & socio-economic cooperation.

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<https://pakobserver.net/boi-presents-investment-opportunities-in-cpec-in-a-webinar/>

China keen to invest in five extraordinary fields of KP: Envoy

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said that China was greatly interested in investing in five extraordinary fields of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province including olives, honey, fresh and dry fruits, saffron and precious stones, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. In a meeting here with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Shah Farman, the envoy expressed full support of the embassy for promoting the natural resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with Chinese companies, said an official statement. Chairman China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority Lt. general Asim Saleem Bajwa (retd) was also present on the occasion.

The Chinese Ambassador showed great interest in working in the five fields for investment, said the statement. During the meeting, the Governor apprised the ambassador of investment opportunities in five extraordinary fields of the province. “These fields include olives, honey, fresh and dry fruits, saffron and precious stones,” the Governor said. He mentioned investment in these fields will create vast employment opportunities, eventually resulting in economic growth. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the third-largest province in the country with an average contribution of 10% to the Pakistani economy. In fact, the economy of the province reaps a hefty revenue from three major sectors – agriculture, industry, and services. Moreover, the mining sector and forestry also play a major role in generating revenue from the province. Despite a number of internal as well as external hiccups in the economic activity in the province, the people of the province have managed to maintain an average of 4.5% growth rate. Among the major sectors in which Khyber Pakhtunkhwa makes a contribution, the agriculture sector is the most prominent. The agriculture sector accounts for around 22% of the provincial Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs around 44% of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s labor force.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-keen-to-invest-in-five-extraordinary-fields-of-kp-envoy/>

The Nation

China condemns Quetta blast

Islamabad - China has strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Quetta, expressing condolences to the unfortunate victims, and sympathy to the injured. Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong was leading a delegation on a visit in Quetta on the same day. When the attack occurred, the Chinese delegation was not in the hotel. Till present, no reports of casualties of Chinese citizens in the attack have been received.

Meanwhile, a case of bomb blast in the parking of a local hotel in Quetta has been registered in the Counter Terrorism Development (CTD) police station on Thursday.

According to CTD officials, the case has been registered under 302,324, 324 QD, 427 PPC. The case is also included section of the Explosives Act and Seven ATA. The case has been registered on complaint of SHO of the concerned police station within the limits of the crime scene.

Earlier, the site of the blast was declared a crime scene and sealed off.

According to police, 5 people were killed and 10 injured in the blast of Wednesday night.

Separately, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on National Security and Strategic Policy Planning Dr Moeed Yusuf on Thursday expressed his grief over death of five people during the Quetta terrorist attack.

In his message on social networking site Twitter, he extended condolence and prayed for the departed souls of the martyrs.

“My prayers and condolences for the martyrs of the terrorist attack in Quetta,” he said in his tweet.

Moeed added, “We remain resolute and steadfast in the face of any enemy nexus that seeks to rekindle terrorism.”

The SAPM resolved that we as a nation would Insha’Allah (God willing) continue to defeat all nefarious designs of any kind against Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-23/page-5/detail-5>

Chinese investors keen to invest in mining, power sectors

ISLAMABAD - A visiting delegation of Chinese investors from Sichuan Province on Thursday expressed keen interest for investing in different sectors of Pakistan’s economy, particularly exploiting huge opportunities existing in power generation and mining sectors.

The delegation visited Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and met with Chairman Haji Quran Ali and Coordinator Miza Abdul Rahman.

Chinese investors expressed their desire to invest in mining, minerals sector and small power projects as there was broad investment potential in the fields of mines and minerals, hydropower, agriculture, tourism, construction and industry. Speaking on the occasion, Qurban Ali called upon the foreign investors to take advantage of these opportunities, adding that FPCCI will facilitate them.

He said that the friendship between Pakistan and China was getting stronger with every passing day, adding that trade and investment relations between both the countries would further strengthen. He assured the delegation that FPCCI will provide all kinds of assistance, including providing information to investors in every sector.

He said that many Chinese groups were investing in Pakistan in different sectors including mines and minerals, tourism, construction, hydropower which were also being given special attention by the government. He said that the friendly relationship between Pakistan and China was like a soul and a body, adding that FPCCI was trying to bring both Pakistani and Chinese businessmen closer to each other.

Talking to delegation, Mirza Abdul Rehman, Coordinator, FPCCI said that Pakistan was a fast growing country with vast investment opportunities and there was consistency in Pakistan's investment policy.

FPCCI was playing its full role in promoting investment in Pakistan, he said, adding that CPEC project from China was a great gift for the people and business community of Pakistan. Domestic and foreign investors were taking special interest in CPEC project and its related economic zones, he said, adding that 'we are trying to bring the business community of the two countries closer together.'

The head of delegation thanked Qurban Ali and Mirza Abdul Rehman and expressed his keen desire to invest in mines and minerals, besides investing in 10 to 25 MW power projects.

Our company has been working in the granite and marble sector and the power sector also, he said, adding that Sichuan Group also has an office in Islamabad which has investors from various companies whose companies were working in various economic fields in Pakistan. He said that both the countries were committed for further improving trade relations and hoped, in future, there will be substantial growth in bilateral trade between the two countries.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-23/page-9/detail-5>

Nawaiwaqt News

بھارت سمیت دشمن قوتوں سے سی پیک، ترقی و استحکام، ہضم نہیں ہو رہا: گورنر

لاہور (نیوز پورٹ) گورنر پنجاب چوہدری محمد سرور نے کہا ہے بھارت سمیت امن دشمن قوتوں سے سی پیک اور پاکستانی ترقی اور استحکام ہضم نہیں ہو رہا مگر ہم ان کو کامیاب نہیں ہونے دیں گے۔ دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں تمام ادارے، سیاسی اور مذہبی جماعتوں سمیت 22 کروڑ پاکستانی ایک بیچ پر ہیں۔ وہ جمہوریت کے روز صوبائی وزیر میاں خالد محمود سمیت تحریک انصاف کے مختلف اضلاع سے آنے والے وفد سے ملاقات کے دوران گفتگو کر رہے تھے جبکہ اس موقع پر عوامی فلاح و بہبود کے مختلف منصوبوں سمیت دیگر ایشوز کے بارے میں بات چیت کی گئی۔ گورنر پنجاب چوہدری محمد سرور نے کہا اس بات میں کوئی شک نہیں کہ بھارت دہشت گردوں کا سب سے بڑا سہولت کار ہے مگر پاکستانی قوم امن کے تحفظ اور دہشت گردوں کیخلاف مضبوط کھڑی ہے۔ چوہدری محمد سرور نے کہا کہ کونسل میں ہونیوالی دہشت گردی کی جتنی بھی مذمت کی جائے وہ کم ہے۔ نہ صرف دہشت گردوں بلکہ انکے سہولت کاروں کا بھی پاکستان سے مکمل صفایا کیا جائے گا۔ گورنر پنجاب نے کہا کہ جب سے سی پیک کا منصوبہ شروع ہوا ہے پاکستان دشمن قوتیں اسکے خلاف سازشیں کر رہی ہیں۔ مگر ہم نے ایسے عناصر کو ہمیشہ ناکام بنایا ہے۔ سی پیک کے تمام منصوبوں کو بروقت مکمل بھی کیا جائے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-04-23/page-6/detail-20>

April 24, 2021

Daily Times

CPEC progressing smoothly amid pandemic

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

China Pakistan Economic Corridor, the symbol of modern development and progress under the dynamic Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has emerged as corner stone of growth in Pakistan.

The commitment of China and Pakistan with the passion of friendship having the history of seven decades have been pushing forward the smooth construction of CPEC projects illustrating the deep understanding between two sides.

With the significant results of first phase, the CPEC entered into the 2nd phase of its development by innovating the local growth models and transforming the overall trajectory of sustainable development.

CPEC under the concept of shared future of mankind holding high the banner of peace and development have helped the country to develop the socio economic outlook positively featuring the strategic planning to pursue the regional and international partnerships.

The smooth development and the results cultivated under CPEC have gained the attention of international financial institutions and other global bodies that have projected the economic indicators of Pakistan positively for the upcoming decades.

In the only initial 7 years, CPEC attracted the direct investment of more than \$25 billion that helped in tackling the worst energy crisis in the country and laid the foundation for the construction of modern highways and motorways including the completion of Pakistan's first electric-powered public transport project known as Orange Line Metro Line (OLMT) that opened the doors for innovative sub ways.

The smooth functioning of this multi-billion dollars also maintained the pace of development and progress amidst the sudden outbreak of COVID-19.

Pakistan is one of the fortunate country that have contained the spread of COVID-19 pandemic with the quick preparedness and the effective monitoring mechanism launched by the government.

American business magnate and philanthropist Bill Gates, World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and others lauded Pakistan's efforts in the fight against COVID-19 outbreak.

The Chinese assistance to Pakistan under Health Silk Road (HSR) concept regarding the provision of CPVID-19 testing kits and the vaccines have also helped Pakistan to contain the pandemic to a certain level.

The implementation of smart lock down in affected areas helped Pakistan not to put overall lock down on the economic system and the industries.

This strategy helped government to keep the work going on CPEC projects with the strict implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

With the consistent consultations and coordination, both governments contained the challenges of COVID-19 that helped to continue the work on CPEC without putting any kind of halt on projects by maintain existing number of jobs.

With the mutual collaboration the impact of COVID-19 on CPEC was controlled enough and the withdrawal of workforce was avoided that supported in maintaining the momentum of work pace.

Not a single case of COVID-19 was reported from CPEC sites that shows the highest level of preventive measures were adopted to keep the CPEC facilities free from pandemic.

The mutual trust of both in the context of time tested friendship proved as the manifestation for the timely implementation of projects that even global pandemic could not hurt the pace of CPEC.

Worthy to note is that BRI have come up as the only project that was working on its pace for fulfilling the needs of development in various countries during the COVID-19.

It has been recognized as a kind of initiative that did not face any halt during pandemic and was even providing new jobs for the locals in respective countries.

Amidst the worst health crisis, through the construction of BRI, China is sharing the benefits of its reforms and opening up policies with the partner countries who have joined the journey towards the development of shared destiny.

China maintains the pace of work under BRI to promote cooperation and dialogues among countries along Silk Road that is setting up a new type of global partnership based on mutual benefits.

The efforts of Chinese government and people during the pandemic for injecting a new momentum to development process under BRI shows that the dream of building the global harmonious society is not far away. The continuous work on BRI shows that China with the support of partner countries will continue to employ the solid efforts for market advantages of all.

In order to defeat the impacts of pandemic on the global economies, the spirit of Silk Road is being maintained so that the harmonious, inclusive and mutually beneficial results can be gained at all cost.

The benefits cultivated under CPEC including the creation of more than 70,000 direct jobs for the locals, contribution of 1 to 2 percentage points to the country's GDP growth, development of Gwadar port as a regional trade hub, thousands of scholarships for Pakistani students,

establishment of vocational training centers, under construction Gwadar airport and others are the manifestation that the projects on ground are moving ahead smoothly without any barriers.

Indian and western media always try to project the development of CPEC negatively in their reports for their vested interests. Contrary to their reports, people of Pakistan are enjoying the various benefits of CPEC and now the second phase is set to boost Pak-China cooperation in agriculture and initiate an era of industrialization through establishment of Special Economic Zones.

Indian media and counted number of western media outlets with the exaggerated analysis of so called experts are trying to undermine the development of CPEC for their own reasons.

These are the media outlets who have never sent their correspondents to visit Pakistan to observe the genuine development work going on in reality. It is the dire need of the time to counter the propaganda reports of those media groups by projecting the countless benefits gained with the development of CPEC. The presentation of credible information regarding CPEC is highly significant to counter the misguided narratives presented by a group of media outlets.

Pakistani and Chinese media outlets should establish a joint strategy to refute the baseless reports by those media groups and should present the comprehensive reports on CPEC development timely for the appetite of local and international audience.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/748844/cpec-progressing-smoothly-amid-pandemic/>

Pakistan needs to play the geo-strategic game

Col (R) Muhammad Hanif

In the post-Cold war era, while the US emerged as the only world's only superpower, Russia had quickly consolidated its position as a leading military power. While China focused on economic development based on reforms initiated in 1979 — it also started building economic and technological ties with the US and the EU.

Since 2001, the US has been fighting the global War on Terror in Afghanistan while also managing its military interventions in the civil war conflicts in the Middle East. Meanwhile, China's economic advancement has been gathering rapid pace. Hence, as of 2020, China was fast on its way to becoming a global economic and technological hub, second only to the US.

Also, China has resolved its major border dispute with Russia and signed agreements of strategic partnership and major oil and gas pipelines deals with Moscow. China has also developed voluminous investment and trade relations with Japan, India, and South Korea. Since 2014, China has signed heavy infrastructure-related investment agreements with the CARs (Central Asian Republics), ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations), South Asia, the Middle East, African countries as well as Iran and Europe.

In 2014, China inked the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) agreement with Pakistan, the cornerstone of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) mega-project. Recently, China has vowed to

build close politico-economic relations with the Gulf countries and recently signed a 25-year strategic partnership agreement of with Iran, involving the import of oil and gas and the construction of major infrastructure projects.

Based on China's recent consolidation of relations with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iran, and Biden's decision to rejoin the 2015 Iran nuclear deal — Saudi Arabia and the UAE are seeking to further strengthen their relations with Pakistan

From 2000-2020, whereas Russia had strengthened its oil- and gas-supported economy, it had also resisted EU and NATO eastward expansion, including the tilt towards the CARs, and defended its interests in the Middle East, particularly in Syria through military intervention. Simultaneously, Russia has developed good relations with China, India, Pakistan and also with EU countries by signing gas pipeline construction deals with Germany and Eastern European countries, as well as with Turkey and Iran.

While fighting in Afghanistan, whereas, the US, in the initial years, praised Pakistan's performance as a non-NATO ally, later it repeatedly asked the country to do more. Perceiving India as its strategic ally for the 21st century to contain China's rise, Washington welcomed India's economic investment in Afghanistan, which New Delhi exploited to sponsor terrorism in Pakistan.

To secure Indian support against China, the US entered into the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement, which came into force in 2008. Later in 2010, came the broad spectrum strategic partnership pact. India also became a part of the US Indo-Pacific strategy and was declared a close defence partner of the US. When President Trump declared China an enemy country in 2020, India also joined the QUAD Group (alongside the US, Japan and Australia), a potential anti-China military alliance. But, despite these agreements with the US, India has also maintained its strategic partnership with Russia as well as heavy trade relations with China.

In the meantime, Pakistan consolidated relations with China, Turkey, the Gulf countries, Iran, Russia and the CARs. In 2014, while Pakistan signed the CPEC agreement with China, it also signed a gas pipeline construction deal with Russia. Pakistan also continued to further strengthen its economic and defence relations with the US and EU powers.

In 2020, Pakistan facilitated the US-Taliban talks, to end the stalemated and long Afghan war. This culminated in the US and the Taliban signing an agreement on February 20, 2020; under which US troops would withdraw from Afghanistan by 1 May 2021, though this deadline has since been pushed forward. Seeing the Taliban's resilience in fighting the war and their ability to defeat ISIS — Iran, Pakistan, the CARs, Russia and China also accepted the group as major stakeholder in Afghanistan and the broader region.

In view of Pakistan's expertise and success in fighting terrorism, Iran, the CARs and Russia have also started strengthening their relations with Pakistan. And due to India's negative role in the region, while the US has ignored it during talks with the Taliban the world's media condemned

New Delhi's unilateral annexation of Occupied Kashmir in August 2019 and the UNSC permanent members asked India to resolve the Kashmir dispute with Pakistan through talks.

As President Biden has announced on September 11, 2021 as the final date for complete and unconditional US and NATO troop withdrawal, to facilitate this and retain American influence in Afghanistan in the future — US Secretary of State Blinken has spoken to COAS, Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa to seek Pakistan's assistance. Russia's foreign minister also visited Pakistan at the beginning of April to strengthen bilateral ties despite India's opposition.

Also, based on China's recent consolidation of relations with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iran, and Biden's decision to rejoin the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are seeking to further strengthen their relations with Pakistan. Indeed, the Saudi crown prince has already invited Prime Minister Imran Khan to visit Saudi Arabia and Pakistan-UAE foreign ministers have recently met frequently.

The above discussed geopolitical and economic scenario, suggests that Pakistan has the following foreign policy options to advance its relations with various countries without any major constraints. Pakistan should endeavour to make intra-Afghan dialogue a success to stabilise Afghanistan and connect CPEC with the CARS. While Pakistan should further cement its CPEC-based strategic partnership with China, it should also build economic, technological and defence relations with Russia. Pakistan should also advance its economic and defence ties with Turkey, Gulf countries, Iran, Egypt, CARs, SAARC countries, Malaysia and Indonesia.

At the same time, as the US and EU need Pakistan for peace and future influence in Afghanistan and the Muslim world, Islamabad should also strengthen its economic and defence relations with these countries as well as Japan and South Korea. And, Pakistan should also be ready to develop good relations even with India, provided that it reverse its policy in -held Kashmir and is willing to resolve the Kashmir dispute, through a dialogue with Pakistan, based on the UNSC resolutions on Kashmir.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/748716/pakistan-needs-to-play-the-geo-strategic-game/>

Pak students in China take part in learning aid program

In a learning aid program, several Pakistani students in China met online with the primary and secondary school students in a once-impoverished county in southwestern China.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, the introductory session held last week was part of a study assistance program organised by the Silk Road School (SRS) of Renmin University of China (RUC) in a bid to help children at a minority community in Yunan Province learn English and to consolidate the achievements of poverty alleviation.

“The fun element for me in that session was the struggle of the kids despite having pronunciation problem. Some kids were too shy to speak”, said Maria Nazeer, a Pakistani participant admitted to the School in 2019.

Teachers from the recipient schools welcome such assistance. “Students can truly feel the charm of this international language by talking with foreign speakers”, acclaimed Li Mei from the Yingpan Middle School.

For long, lack of native speakers as English teachers and chances to communicate in English in real-life scenario has been constraining students’ foreign language competence in these remote regions. By pooling the resources of students from the “Silk Road” countries and university teachers, the young English learners are motivated to put what they’ve learned into practice, and Pakistani students have an opportunity to develop a comprehensive understanding towards China.

Education programs constitute a critical part of China’s poverty alleviation endeavors. Behind it is the Chinese philosophy that to become better off, one should not only enrich his wallet, but also his mind. Now China has won the final battle against extreme poverty, but efforts for people’s all-round development have not ceased.

Maria Nazeer echoes with that idea. “I believe that if a nation is educated enough, then it does not see poverty as a big issue, rather it cultivates its ways towards progress by the knowledge and skills that it has.”

RUC SRS intends to form long-terms ties with the Yingpan Middle School and Biyuhe Primary School aided by distant teaching devices. “SRS provided us an opportunity to volunteer for Chinese kids and help them in improving their English language. So far, it was only one session based on introduction class but I am looking forward to having more of it”, said Maira Nazeer, adding that she is willing to assist the students as far as she could.

The Silk Road School (SRS) of Renmin University of China(RUC), established in 2018, mainly cultivates master’s students from countries and regions along BRI. Maria Nazeer enrolled on the program attracted by its courses and opportunities to learn more about China. Lectures and various field studies provided by the School have allowed her to acquire first-hand knowledge on the country’s history, dynamics, social norms and governing philosophy.

Having been exposed to a variety of cultures, she is ready to practice kindness to all the humans irrespective of their physical appearances or nationalities. “I intend to give back to society what it has given me so far by serving it through any legit means – be it a volunteer work or any random acts of kindness and I am sure about it.” Participants of the first session also include students from Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Ghana, Serbia, Ireland, Liberia, the United States, Cameroon, Sri Lanka, and Italy.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/748806/pak-students-in-china-take-part-in-learning-aid-program/>

The Nation

Chinese company to invest \$2.4b in CPEC Kohala Hydel Project

ISLAMABAD - The government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Chinese Three Gorges Company on Friday signed agreements related to 1,124 megawatt Kohala Hydel Power Project- Implementation and Water Usage under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The project would attract a foreign investment of \$2.4 billion under the umbrella of CPEC.

This was announced by CPEC Authority Chairman Lieutenant General (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa on his Twitter handle.

“Signing ceremony for 1,124 MW Kohala Hydel Power Project- Implementation and Water Usage Agreements held between AJK Government and China Three Gorges Company,” the Chairman CPEC Authority tweeted.

Federal Minister of Energy Hammad Azhar, AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider and other officials were present on the occasion. The Kohala Hydropower Project, a proposed run-of-the-river high-head project, will be located near Kohala in Azad Kashmir.

The agreement for the project was finalised in 2020 and later it was formally signed in a ceremony attended by the Pakistani prime minister and Chinese ambassador.

China Three Gorges Corporation (CTGC), the state-owned hydropower developer, had won the right to develop a hydroelectric dam in Pakistan on January 7, 2015. It will be Chinese company’s largest investment in Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-24/page-12/detail-6>

Government to import 3m concentrates for CanSino vaccine

Rahul Basharat

ISLAMABAD - The government aims to import three million concentrates in National Institute of Health (NIH) to formulate, sterilise and pack the Chinese single shot novel coronavirus (COVID-19) CanSino vaccine, The Nation learnt on Friday.

The document of the country’s vaccine roll plan available with The Nation said that health authorities are working on local production of the COVID-19 vaccine to reduce dependence on procurement of the vaccine from other countries.

“In this regard, NIH will import the technology from China to formulate, sterilise and pack the single shot CanSino vaccine for which trials were also conducted in Pakistan,” said a senior official.

The document available and presented in the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said that the federal government has reached an agreement with CaSinoBio regarding shared production of the vaccine.

“Three million concentrates will be imported initially, and the National Institute of Health will formulate, sterilise and pack imported material locally,” said the document.

The document said that Pakistan had already played a crucial role in the development of this single shot, game-changing vaccine when the phase-III trial of CanSinoBio was conducted at five different sites.

Officials informed that if the country achieved local production of the CanSino vaccine, it will be able to vaccinate 20 million people in the ongoing year.

Earlier, Executive Director (ED) NIH Maj. Gen Aamer Ikram had informed the National Assembly (NA) Standing Committee on National Health Services (NHS) that NIH will soon get the strength of manufacturing the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine here.

Briefing the committee ED NIH Maj. Gen Aamer Ikram said that the NIH will soon get the capacity of manufacturing single dose Chinese COVID-19 vaccine CanSino here in the institute.

The document about private sector procurement of the COVID-19 vaccine said that private sector’s administration of the vaccine is not a replacement of the government’s roll out plan which continues uninterrupted.

It added that if governments across the world are struggling to procure the vaccine, the private sector does not stand a chance to procure sufficient doses to scale up to a mass immunisation initiative.

It said that for the foreseeable future, the private sector would only be able to procure insignificant quantities.

The document said that imposing restrictions and excluding the private sector from the vaccination drive would only have a limited number of people getting vaccinated.

It also added that those who are under 60 and have the ability to pay are getting vaccinated right away instead of waiting for their turn in the government’s age wise phased roll-out (in line with global practice); ultimately this is reducing the spread of disease and the burden on the healthcare system, albeit in small pockets.

The document presented in the NCOC said that the federal government has facilitated the private sector in procurement by engaging with DRAP and other respective health departments.

According to the document, there are 1200 COVID vaccination centres out of which 871 are active, 22 mass vaccination centres established with a daily average target of 5000 vaccinations.

It also added that protocols for waste collection, segregation, interim storage, transportation and environment friendly disposal of the waste are ensured.

Spokesperson Ministry of NHS Sajid Hussain Shah talking to The Nation said that the government is taking every step for the safety of the public. He said that the government has taken initiatives of procuring the vaccine and now has stepped ahead for its local production.

He also said that despite all these efforts, the public has to follow SOPs to control the virus spread at maximum.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-24/page-13/detail-3>

Nawaiwaqt News

آزاد کشمیر میں چینی کمپنی کیساتھ معاہدہ، اڑھائی ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری ہوگی، حماد اظہر

اسلام آباد (نیوز پورٹر) حکومت آزاد کشمیر اور معروف چائیز کمپنی تھری گار جزی کی ذیلی کمپنی کوہالہ ہائیڈرو ایکٹرک کمپنی کے درمیان کوہالہ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ پر عملدرآمد کے حوالہ سے واٹریوزا گریمنٹ پر دستخط ہو گئے۔ معاہدہ سے آزاد کشمیر کو سالانہ اڑھائی ارب روپے واٹریوز تاج چارجز کی شکل میں ملیں گے۔ چھ سے آٹھ ہزار مقامی افراد کو روزگار ملے گا۔ کمپنی ماحولیاتی مضمرات سے نمٹنے کے لیے واٹریوزا گریمنٹ کی تعمیر، سورج ٹریڈنگ پلانٹ کی تنصیب، واٹریوزا گریمنٹ سمیت ماحولیاتی تحفظ کے جامع پلان پر عملدرآمد کرنے کی پابند ہوگی، جس کی گرانٹی حکومت پاکستان نے بھی دی ہے۔ حکومت آزاد کشمیر کو سالانہ ٹیکسز کی مد میں اربوں روپے آمدن بھی ہوگی۔ پراجیکٹ کی لاگت پانچ کھرب روپے ہے جبکہ پراجیکٹ 1100 میگاواٹ بجلی پیدا کرنے کی صلاحیت رکھتا ہوگا اور اس سے سالانہ پانچ ارب یونٹ بجلی پیدا ہوگی۔ تکمیل کے تیس سال بعد حکومت آزاد کشمیر کو پراجیکٹ منصوبہ منتقل ہو جائے گا۔ معاہدے پر دستخط کے موقع پر وزیراعظم آزاد کشمیر، حماد اظہر، عاصم سلیم باجوہ و دیگر اعلیٰ بھی شریک تھے۔ اس موقع پر وزیراعظم آزاد کشمیر نے کہا پاکستان کا توانائی بحران ختم کرنے اور اس کی خوشحالی کے لیے کشمیریوں نے ہمیشہ قربانیاں دیں۔ حکومت آزاد کشمیر کا مطالبہ ہے سی پیک کے ایک اور بڑے پراجیکٹ مانسہرہ، مظفر آباد، میرپور منگلا پر فوری کام شروع کیا جائے۔ وفاقی وزیر حماد اظہر نے کہا یہ 1124 میگاواٹ کا منصوبہ ہے اور اس پر اڑھائی ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری ہوگی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-04-24/page-3/detail-6>

April 25, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan receives 0.5m doses of Sinopharm vaccine from China

Another Pakistan Air Force (PAF) special plane carrying 0.5 million doses of Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine from China arrived on Saturday.

The special plane carrying the vaccine arrived at Islamabad's Nur Khan Airbase. This was the eighth Covid-19 vaccine consignment that arrived from China. China previously gifted 1.5 million vaccine doses to Islamabad. Separately in another development, three Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) planes have left for China Saturday to bring 1 million more vaccine doses. On Thursday Pakistan had received another shipment of 500,000 doses of a SinoVac coronavirus vaccine from China. Pakistan on April 18. had reached an agreement for the procurement of China's CoronaVac vaccine.

Coronavac vaccine has been prepared by the Sinovac Life Sciences of China. The firm has assured providing the vaccine according to the needs of Pakistan. CoronaVac, inactivated vaccine, comprises two doses and is stored at minus-two to eight degree Celsius temperature,

sources said. China had allowed emergency use of the CoronaVac in July 2020 According to sources, Pakistan will receive two million doses of Covid vaccine from China by April.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/749164/pakistan-receives-0-5m-doses-of-sinopharm-vaccine-from-china/>

Tech institutes to be established around new SEZs: Asim Bajwa

Clusters of Tech Institutes would be established around the new Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being constructed under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Chairman CPEC Authority Lt. General (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa said on Saturday. The new clusters would help creating numerous new jobs. “Preparting youth for jobs in CPEC projects is our top priority under comprehensive plan,” Bajwa said in his tweet. “Gwadar Technical Institute to cater for new industry in free zone is coming up fast,” he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/749270/tech-institutes-to-be-established-around-new-sezs-asim-bajwa/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC emerges as boon for Pakistan, China strategic partnership

The great initiative, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is swiftly exploiting immense potential in industrial cooperation between the two neighbouring countries, and the largest trading partner of Pakistan, China is making huge investment in the energy and infrastructure sectors here. In terms of geo-economic growth, development and regional connectivity, CPEC has emerged as the largest bilateral investment project, and a boon for Pakistan as well as the landlocked regional countries in south Asia. Pakistan and China are tied in multidimensional cordial relations on the basis of being good neighbors, and having mutual trust and understanding. According to a document of the Ministry of Communication, the Pak-China bilateral trade reached \$ 18 billion during 2018. With the official launch of CPEC, the bilateral relationship has been elevated to a higher level, aiming at enhancing connectivity and building up road and energy infrastructure between the two countries.

As we know, CPEC is a flagship project of Chinese President Xi Jinping’s initiative of “One Belt, One Road” (Belt and Road Initiative). The Year 2021 is being celebrated as a historic year as it marks the completion of 70 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and the People’s Republic of China. Pak-China diplomatic relations were established on 21 May 1951, according to the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS). To commemorate this historic milestone in a befitting manner, both brotherly countries will organize a series of events throughout the year. In this connection, friendly exchanges are taking place between Pakistan and China, and several high-profile cultural events, seminars are being organized to highlight people-to-people interactions. Though both countries have been making policy adjustments from time to time in the light of global transformations, yet their mutual ties have continued to be in the best coordination and harmony.

The world has witnessed that Pakistan and China are time-tested friends and they depend on one another to fulfill their strategic interests. In the past, whenever Pakistan confronted any external, internal pressure or threat to its interests or security, China immediately extended full support to Pakistan in all fields. At the international diplomatic fore, China has significantly supported Pakistan, like at Nuclear Suppliers Group, (NSG), the G-20, and during the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) sessions. The first phase of CPEC has successfully accomplished its tasks on the road infrastructure and energy development projects in Pakistan. In the second phase, the initiative envisioned industrial cooperation, which has started bearing fruits, and is proving beneficial for development of economy of Pakistan. CPEC and its related projects have brought forth many opportunities and resources for both the countries by promoting their profits and interests respectively. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-emerges-as-boon-for-pakistan-china-strategic-partnership/>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک کے تحت نوجوانوں کیلئے روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کرنا اولین ترجیح عاصم باجوہ

اسلام آباد (این این آئی) چیئر مین سی پیک اتھارٹی عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک منصوبوں کے تحت نوجوانوں کیلئے روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کرنا ہماری اولین ترجیح ہے۔ سماجی رابطے کی ویب سائٹ ٹوئٹر پر اپنی ٹویٹ میں چیئر مین سی پیک اتھارٹی عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبوں کے تحت نوجوانوں کیلئے روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کرنا ہماری اولین ترجیح ہے۔ عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے نئے اکنامک زونز کے گریڈ ٹیکنیکل انسٹی ٹیوٹ کو اپ گریڈ کیا جائیگا، گوادر ٹیکنیکل انسٹی ٹیوٹ اکنامک زون میں نئی صنعت کی ضروریات پوری کرنے کیلئے سامنے آرہا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2170663/1/>

April 26, 2021

Business Recorder

Work on CPEC Western route in full swing: Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority Lt-General Asim Saleem Bajwa (retd) on Sunday said work on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Western route was in full swing.

He said the Hakla-DI Khan motorway was near completion and would likely be opened for traffic in August/September this year.

“Hakla- DI Khan Motorway construction work is in full swing, current progress is 86 percent. Will be commissioned by Aug/Sep,” he said in his tweet. The Chairman informed that with priority on the Western route now, two other segments (Zhob-Quetta, Hoshab-Awaran) had already been started.

According to an official in CPEC Authority, under the CPEC, some 1,100 kilometre roads had been completed while 850 kilometres were under construction.

On the Western route, he said, the four-lane Hakla-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway was in the final stages. Its total length was 285 kms, which had been divided in five packages. The first 55 kms package would be completed on priority, which started from Yarik near D I Khan and ended at Rehmani Khel, the official told APP.

The National Logistics Company (NLC) has completed all infrastructure work of the motorway by keeping in view the international standards.

The infrastructure work included construction of road, two Interchanges at Abdul Khel and Yarik, six underpasses, four bridges, residential facilities and other development works.

The motorway passes mostly through deserted areas where there is dearth of green areas, so around 150,000 trees have been planted along the motorway.

The motorway would not only provide a fast and comfortable travelling facility for the commuters, but it would also link National Highways N-50 and N-55 with the motorway at DI Khan, he said. After the completion, the travelling time between Islamabad and DI Khan would be reduced from existing over five hours to only two and half hours, the official added. He said the second part of the western corridor, Yarak-Zhob-Quetta, was 540kms long and would decrease the distance from Islamabad to Quetta to only 830km and would reduce travel time to eight hours.

Similarly work on the 146 kilometres Hoshab-Awaran motorway has also been started which would improve connectivity with Gwadar port besides improving life standards of the people living along the road. Talking about the overall progress of CPEC, the Authority's official said the mega project would move forward with more pace during the current year and the years ahead, which would further strengthen the bilateral relations between Pakistan and China.

Their strategic relationship, which was being strengthened with every passing day, was of great importance both on regional as well as international fronts, the official said.

He said in the next phase, work on four important sectors, including industry, agriculture, socio-economic development and Gwadar New City would also be done at a fast pace. The official said nine out of 22 energy projects had been completed, while five mega electricity projects in Thar, Kohala, Azad Pattan and others were in the pipeline. After completion of all the projects, Pakistan would not only become self-sufficient in the energy with addition of 17,000 MW electricity to the national grid, but would also be able to export it.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, in a recent statement, had also expressed satisfaction over the progress of CPEC projects, the official said.

He said at present, work on four Special Economic Zones (SEZs) was underway. Some 2,000 local and foreign investors had expressed intent to invest in the Rashakai SEZ. The Rashakai Zone, the official said, would spread over 1,000 acres of land. The Federal Government had

decided to develop it into three phases. About 247 acres of land would be developed in the first phase, 355 acres in the second phase and 399 acres in the last phase.

Similarly, 210MW electricity would be provided to the zone in three phases whereas the government had also allocated Rs 1.203 billion for provision of gas, the official said. He said over 400 industrial units, including garments and textile, domestic goods, electronics, electricity accessories, pharmaceuticals and others would be set up in the zone.

Similarly, the official said the Allama Iqbal Zone Faisalabad was being completed on priority, which would create around 250,000 jobs for the locals. He said the Gwadar Port had now become operational. The Eastbay Expressway, linking Gwadar to Makran Coastal Highway, had been completed.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/04/26/3-page/883782-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Sichuan Liaison Office unveiled to boost Pak-China economic, trade cooperation

The Sichuan Liaison Office of the China-Pakistan Business Council was unveiled in Chengdu, Sichuan province, aiming to promote China-Pakistan economic and trade cooperation. As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties, Sichuan Liaison Office plans to prepare a series of meeting and summits, including the 11th China (Sichuan)-South and Southeast Asia Business Leaders Summit, according to China Economic Net. Sichuan Liaison Office has also been committed to the China-Pakistan friendship since its establishment in 2020. In April 2020, the Office donated a batch of anti-pandemic supplies worth of RMB 2 million (\$306,400) to the Consulate General of Pakistan in Chengdu. In July 2020, the Office also donated 25,000 face masks to the government of Islamabad. The China-Pakistan Business Council, a bilateral economic and trade exchange mechanism, was jointly founded by China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI). It is designed to strengthen the two nations' economic and trade cooperation and investment. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/sichuan-liaison-office-unveiled-to-boost-pak-china-economic-trade-cooperation/>

Jang News

قومی ایئر لائن کی دو خصوصی پروازیں چین سے 10 لاکھ ویکسین لیکر اسلام آباد پہنچ گئیں

اسلام آباد (وفاقی ٹی وی) پی آئی اے کی دو خصوصی پروازیں 10 لاکھ کورونا ویکسین لے کر اسلام آباد پہنچ گئیں، چیف ایگزیکٹو پی آئی اے ایئر مارشل ارشد ملک نے کہا کہ پی آئی اے کے تین طیاروں نے چین سے 10 لاکھ ویکسین ڈوزیز پاکستان پہنچانے کا فریضہ مکمل کیا، این سی اوسی اور این ڈی ایم اے کے ایما پر پی آئی اے انتظامیہ نے تین طیارے

گزشتہ روز چین روانہ کئے تھے۔ سی ای او پی آئی اے ارشد ملک نے کہا کہ ہر مشکل وقت میں پی آئی اے اپنی قوم کے شانہ بشانہ کھڑی ہوتی آئی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کرونا ایک عالمی بحران ہے اس سے بچاؤ کیلئے مل کر اقدامات کرنے ہوں گے، پی آئی اے اس سلسلے اپنا قومی کردار ادا کرتی رہے گی۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/917742>

کورونا: تباہ کاریاں اور چینی ویکسین

پاکستان میں کورونا وائرس کی تیسری لہر پہلی دونوں لہروں سے زیادہ نقصان دہ اور مہلک ثابت ہوئی ہے۔ اس کا اندازہ نیشنل کمانڈ اینڈ آپریشن سینٹر کے تازہ ترین اعداد و شمار سے لگایا جاسکتا ہے جن کے مطابق گزشتہ 24 گھنٹوں کے دوران کورونا وائرس کی وجہ سے 157 پاکستانی شہری جان سے ہاتھ دھو بیٹھے۔ یہ مارچ 2020ء سے اب تک پاکستان میں کورونا وائرس سے ایک دن میں ہونے والی سب سے زیادہ اموات ہیں۔ یہ لہر اسلئے بھی سنگین صورتحال اختیار کر چکی ہے کہ اب بچے بھی اس مرض کا شکار ہو رہے ہیں۔ اسلام آباد کے بعد لاہور سمیت پنجاب کے 5 اضلاع میں کورونا کے خلاف احتیاطی تدابیر پر عملدرآمد کو یقینی بنانے کیلئے فوج سے مدد طلب کر لی گئی ہے۔ حکومت کا کہنا ہے کہ بازار، شاپنگ مالز، پبلک ٹرانسپورٹ اور تعلیمی اداروں سمیت مکمل لاک ڈاؤن پر غور کیا جا رہا ہے لیکن اس بارے میں حتمی فیصلہ سب سے مشاورت کے بعد کیا جائیگا۔ سربراہ این سی او سی کے مطابق مریضوں کی تعداد گزشتہ جون کی نسبت 30 فیصد زیادہ ہے جسکی وجہ یہ ہے کہ 79 فیصد آبادی ایس او بیز پر عمل نہیں کر رہی، دستیاب آکسیجن 90 فیصد زیر استعمال ہے، درآمد بھی کر لیں تو درپیش چیلنج سے نمٹنا مشکل ہے۔ کورونا وائرس کی اس قدر سنگین صورتحال میں اچھی خبر یہ ہے کہ چین سے ایک اور خصوصی طیارہ سانسو فارم کورونا ویکسین کی پانچ لاکھ خوراکیوں پر مشتمل کھیپ لیکر نورخان ایئر بیس پہنچ چکا ہے۔ دوسری طرف ایک ہی دن میں پی آئی اے کے تین خصوصی طیارے کووڈ 19 کی دس لاکھ ویکسین لینے چین پہنچ گئے ہیں۔ چین نے ہر بار کی طرح اس مشکل گھڑی میں بھی پاکستان کا ساتھ دیکر سچی دوستی کا حق ادا کیا ہے۔ تمام اہل وطن کو بھارت میں برپا قیامت سے سبق لیتے ہوئے احتیاطی تدابیر پر سختی سے عملدرآمد کو یقینی بنانا چاہئے کہ فی الوقت اسی طرح دباؤ پھیلاؤ کو محدود کیا جاسکتا ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/917624>

Nawaiwaqt News

گواڈرپورٹ کے بعد وٹھلی اکنامک زون کی تیاری شروع

پاکستان میں متعین چین کے سفیر عزت مآب نوگ روگ نے گزشتہ دنوں پشاور کا دورہ کیا، چینی سفیر کی حیثیت سے تعیناتی کے بعد یہ پشاور کا ان کا پہلا دورہ تھا۔ اس دورے میں انہوں نے وزیر اعلیٰ محمود خان سے ملاقات کی، خیبر پختونخواہ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ اور اکنامک زونز منیجمنٹ کمیٹی کے عہدے داروں سے وٹھلی اکنامک زون کے حوالے سے بریفنگ لی، باڑہ میں دہشت گردی کے دوران تباہ کئے جانے والے سکول دوبارہ تعمیر کرنے سے متعلق ایک منصوبے کا افتتاح کیا، گورنرشاہ فرمان سے ملاقات کی اور پاک چائنہ فرینڈ شپ ایسوسی ایشن کی تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ اس دوران انہوں نے پشاور میں

قائم چینی ثقافتی مرکز چائنہ ونڈو اور تاریخی عجائب گھر کا دورہ بھی کیا اور میڈیا کے نمائندوں سے ملاقات کی۔ پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات اور خاص طور پر چائنہ پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے حوالے سے چینی سفیر کا دورہ پشاور اس لئے بھی اہم قرار دیا جاسکتا ہے کہ انہوں نے جہاں پاک چین کے مثالی تعلقات کا مزید مستحکم کرنے کی کوششیں شروع کر رکھی ہیں وہیں سی پیک کے حوالے سے عوام کے اذہان میں جو خدشات پائے جاتے ہیں انہیں بھی دور کرنا چینی سفیر کی اولین ترجیح تھی۔ یہ ایک روزہ دورہ انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل اس لئے بھی قرار دیا جاسکتا ہے کہ آنے والے دنوں میں پشاور اور خیبر پختونخواہ کی اہمیت جو سمندر سے دوری کی وجہ سے ماضی میں کم ہو آرتی تھی اب وٹھلی

سپیشل اکنامک زون اور سی پیک کے باعث افغانستان اور وسطی ایشیائی ممالک تک تجارت کی غرض سے بڑھ گئی ہے۔ یقینی طور پر ریشمی اکنامک زون سمیت صوبے کے دیگر کئی اضلاع میں صنعتی بستیوں کا قیام اور یہاں لگنے والے کارخانوں کی پیداواری برآمدات بلاشبہ خطے کی معاشی و اقتصادی ترقی اور عوام کی خوش حالی میں معاون ثابت ہوں گی۔

چینی سفیر نوگ روگ کے دورہ پشاور کے دوران ان کے ہمراہ چین کے دیگر سفارت کار بھی موجود تھے۔ اس دورے کے سلسلے میں پہلا اجلاس وزیر اعلیٰ سیکرٹریٹ میں منعقد ہوا جس میں پٹی اکنامک زون منیجمنٹ کمیٹی کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر جاوید اقبال خٹک نے چینی سفیر کو ریشمی اکنامک زون میں ہونے والی پیش رفت سے آگاہ کیا سی پیک اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین لیفٹننٹ جنرل ریٹائرڈ عاصم سلیم باجوہ بھی اجلاس میں موجود تھے۔ چینی سفیر کو بتایا گیا کہ ریشمی صنعتی بستی میں تمام مطلوبہ سہولتوں کی فراہمی کا کام تیزی سے جاری ہے اور اس صنعتی بستی کے لئے الگ کمیٹی بنا دی گئی ہے۔ جس کے بعد ایک چینی سٹیل مل نے کام شروع کر دیا ہے اور آنے والے دنوں میں مزید کارخانے لگنا شروع ہو جائیں گے۔ خیبر پختونخواہ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر حسان داؤد بٹ نے چینی سفیر کو بتایا کہ سرمایہ کاروں کو سہولتیں فراہم کرنے کے لئے تمام وسائل بروئے کار لائے جا رہے ہیں۔ اس موقع پر صوبائی ایڈیشنل چیف سیکرٹری تشکیل قادر نے بھی صوبائی حکومت کی جانب سے صنعت کاروں کو دی جانے والی سہولتوں سے چینی سفیر کو آگاہ کیا۔ نوگ روگ نے صوبائی حکومت کی جانب سے کئے جانے والے اقدامات پر اطمینان کا اظہار کیا تاہم تجویز پیش کی کہ خام مال بندرگاہ سے فیٹری تک لانے کے لئے صنعت کاروں کو مفت سہولت فراہم کی جائے اس سلسلہ میں پہلے بھی فیصلہ ہوا تھا تاہم اب اس پر عمل درآمد کی ضرورت ہے۔ صوبائی حکومت کی جانب سے انہیں یقین دلایا گیا کہ اس معاملے کو دیکھا جائے گا۔ اس حوصلہ افزاء اجلاس کے بعد چینی سفیر نوگ روگ نے عاصم سلیم باجوہ کے ہمراہ وزیر اعلیٰ خیبر پختونخواہ محمود خان سے ان کے دفتر میں ملاقات کی اور باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔

وہ ان ملاقات کے بعد صوبائی پلاننگ ڈپارٹمنٹ کے سیکرٹری نے باڑہ میں دہشت گردی کا نشانہ بننے والے سکولوں کی دوبارہ تعمیر سے متعلق ایک منصوبے سے آگاہ کیا۔ منصوبے کے پہلے مرحلے میں ضلع خیبر کی تحصیل باڑہ میں دہشت گردی کی وجہ سے تباہ شدہ 150 سکولوں کو دوبارہ تعمیر کیا جائے گا، جن میں 24 بوائز سکول اور 26 گرلز سکولز کی تعمیر نو شامل ہے۔ منصوبے کا مجموعی تخمینہ لاگت 2323 ملین روپے ہے جس میں سے 868 ملین روپے حکومت پاکستان فراہم کرے گی جبکہ 1455 ملین روپے چینی حکومت فراہم کرے گی۔ یہ منصوبہ جنوری 2023 تک مکمل کیا جائے گا۔ وزیر اعلیٰ محمود خان نے پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی ہر آزمائش پر پوری اتاری ہے اور سی پیک منصوبہ پاک چین دوستی کی ایک زندہ مثال ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ فنا کے ضم شدہ اضلاع میں تباہ شدہ سکولوں کی تعمیر نو میں تعاون فراہم کرنے پر وہ چینی حکومت کے مشکور ہیں اور چینی حکومت کے تعاون کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں۔ وزیر اعلیٰ کا کہنا تھا کہ صوبے میں تعلیم کا فروغ موجودہ حکومت کی اولین ترجیحات کا ایک اہم حصہ ہے۔ صوبائی حکومت سکولوں کو اپ گریڈ کرنے، سکولوں میں ناپید سہولیات کی فراہمی کو یقینی بنانے، تدریسی عملے کی کمی کو پورا کرنے اور ان کی تربیت کیلئے بھرپور اقدامات اٹھا رہی ہے۔ محمود خان نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے تحت موجودہ حکومت کے فلیگ شپ منصوبے ریشمی اسپیشل اکنامک زون کا بھی جلد افتتاح کیا جائے گا جس سے صوبے میں صنعتی سرگرمیوں کو فروغ دینے اور روزگار کے نئے مواقع پیدا کرنے میں خاطر خواہ مدد ملے گی۔ اپنی گفتگو میں چینی سفیر نوگ روگ نے کہا کہ چین کی حکومت پاکستان میں غربت کے خاتمے اور معاشی ترقی کے شعبوں میں بھی کام کرنے کی خواہاں ہے۔

اجلاس کے بعد وزیر اعلیٰ خیبر پختونخواہ محمود خان اور چینی سفیر نوگ روگ نے ضم شدہ اضلاع میں تباہ شدہ سکولوں کی دوبارہ تعمیر کے منصوبے کا باضابطہ افتتاح کیا۔ افتتاحی تقریب میں صوبائی وزیر شہرام خان ترکئی، وزیر اعلیٰ کے معاون خصوصی عبدالکریم، چیئرمین سی پیک اتھارٹی عاصم سلیم باجوہ، ایڈیشنل چیف سیکرٹری تشکیل قادر، متعلقہ محکموں کے انتظامی سیکرٹریز اور دیگر متعلقہ حکام نے شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر سکولوں کی تعمیر نو کے منصوبے پر عمل درآمد سے متعلق محکمہ تعلیم اور متعلقہ چینی حکام کے مابین معاہدے پر دستخط بھی کئے گئے۔ اب اگلے دو سالوں میں توقع ہے کہ دہشت گردی کی وجہ سے تباہ ہونے والے سکول اب دوبارہ تعمیر ہوں گے اور بچوں کی بڑی تعداد زیور تعلیم سے آراستہ ہو سکے گی۔ اس کے لئے بلاشبہ اہل خیبر پختونخواہ اپنے برادر ہمسایہ ملک چین کی حکومت کے احسان مند رہیں گے۔

اپنے دورے کے اگلے مرحلے میں چینی سفیر نوگ روگ گوز خیر پختونخواہ سے ملنے گورنر ہاؤس گئے۔ گورنر شاہ فرمان اور چینی سفیر کے درمیان ملاقات میں شاہ فرمان نے مہمان کو پشاور آمد پر خوش آمدید کہا اور پاک چین دوستی کو مزید مستحکم کرنے میں ہر ممکن تعاون کا یقین دلایا۔ ملاقات میں چیئر مین سی پیک اتھارٹی لیفٹیننٹ جنرل (ر) عاصم سلیم باجوہ بھی موجود تھے۔ گورنر خیر پختونخواہ نے چینی سفیر کو صوبہ میں 5 شعبوں زیتون، شہد، تازہ اور خشک میوہ جات، زعفران اور قیمتی پتھروں کی انتہائی استعداد سے متعلق آگاہ کیا۔ گورنر شاہ فرمان کا کہنا تھا کہ چین کیلئے مذکورہ 5 شعبوں میں تجارت و سرمایہ کاری کے بہترین مواقع موجود ہیں، مذکورہ شعبوں کو فروغ دینے سے اقتصادی ترقی اور روزگار کے وسیع مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔ چینی سفیر نے مذکورہ شعبوں میں کام کرنے پر دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا اور کہا کہ ایک بہترین تعلقاتی نظام کی بنیاد پر مذکورہ 5 شعبوں میں کام کا آغاز کیا جائیگا، مذکورہ شعبوں کیلئے حکومتی اور اطراف کے تاجروں کی سطح پر جامع اسٹریٹیجی تشکیل دی جائیگی۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ ان شعبوں میں کام کیلئے چینی سفارتخانہ چائے کمپنیوں کو ہر ممکن پالیسی تعاون فراہم کرے گا اور چینی کمپنیوں کو پاکستانی زیتون اور قیمتی پتھروں کی اہم استعداد سے فائدہ اٹھانے کی توجہ دلائی جائے گی۔ اس موقع پر گورنر خیر پختونخواہ شاہ فرمان نے پاک چین تعلقات کو مثالی قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے عوام کے درمیان برادرانہ و دوستانہ تعلقات ہیں اور دونوں ممالک کے عوام اقتصادی و سماجی ترقی کیلئے ملکر کام کرنے کیلئے پرعزم ہیں۔ یہ ملاقات انتہائی خوشگوار رہی۔

چینی سفیر نے پشاور میں قائم چینی ثقافتی و اطلاعاتی مرکز چائے و نڈو کا دورہ بھی کیا، جہاں چینی سفارت کاروں کا پرتپاک استقبال کیا گیا۔ چینی سفیر نوگ روگ نے چائے و نڈو کے مختلف شعبے دیکھے اور انتظامیہ کی کاوشوں کو سراہا، انہیں چائے و نڈو کی خصوصی دستاویزی فلم بھی دکھائی گئی جس میں انہوں نے گہری دلچسپی لی، انہوں نے پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کے ستر سال مکمل ہونے کی خوشی میں ایک کاناس موقع پر چینی سفیر کو چائے و نڈو کی جانب سے امتیاز احمد علی نے روایتی کلاہ لنگی پہنائی۔ امجد سلیم ہٹ نے کے پی ٹورازم کارپوریشن کے ایم ڈی جنید خان کی جانب سے مارخور بنا خصوصی سوہنتر کا تحفہ پیش کیا جبکہ امجد عزیز ملک نے خصوصی یادگار چینی سفیر کو پیش کی۔ چینی سفیر نے چائے و نڈو کی ویب سائٹ کا بھی افتتاح کیا اور پاک چائے فرینڈ شپ وال پر دست خط کرنے کے علاوہ مہمانوں کی کتاب میں اپنے تاثرات درج کئے۔ اس موقع پر انہیں بتایا گیا کہ مرکز کے قیام کے بعد سے اب تک 26 ہزار سے زیادہ افراد مرکز کا دورہ کر چکے ہیں۔ چینی سفیر نے منتظمین کی خدمات کو سراہا اور چائے و نڈو کے لئے اپنا ہر ممکن تعاون جاری رکھنے کا اعلان کیا۔ چینی سفیر سے پرنٹ اور الیکٹرانک میڈیا کے نمائندوں سے ملاقات کا اہتمام بھی کیا گیا تھا اور بڑی تعداد میں میڈیا نے اس بریفنگ میں شرکت کی۔ چینی سفیر نوگ روگ نے کہا کہ دورہ پشاور میں انہیں بڑی اپنائیت ملی ہے خاص طور پر انہیں یہ جان کر بہت خوشی ہوئی کہ پشاور میں قائم چینی ثقافتی و اطلاعاتی مرکز چائے و نڈو صوبے میں چینی کلچر کو متعارف کرنے میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہا ہے اس کی خدمات کا اعتراف کرتے ہوئے اس کے ساتھ تعاون جاری رکھا جائے گا امید ہے چائے و نڈو مستقبل میں بھی دونوں ممالک کے عوام و مختلف مکاتب فکر کے لوگوں کو قریب لانے میں اپنا کردار ادا کرے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کے 70 سال مکمل ہونے پر چائے و نڈو میں خصوصی تقریب منعقد کرنے پر ہم چائے و نڈو کی مشکور ہیں۔ چائے و نڈو کے دورے سے متعلق اپنے احساسات کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ چائے و نڈو سنٹر کا دورہ کر کے انتہائی خوشی ہوئی ہے چائے و نڈو کلچرل، آناک اور سی پیک کی سطح پر باہمی تعاون کی عمدہ مثال ہے، انہوں نے اس موقع پر پاک چین دوستی کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے چائے و نڈو کے ساتھ ہر ممکن تعاون کو یقینی بنائیں گے۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ وہ چائے و نڈو سے بہت متاثر ہوئے ہیں۔ سی پیک سے متعلق ایک سوال کے جواب میں چینی سفیر ناگ روگ نے کہا کہ سی پیک پر کام کی رفتار کم نہیں بلکہ بہت جلد اس عظیم منصوبے کے ثمرات پاکستان کے عام لوگوں تک پہنچنا شروع ہو گئے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی کی تاریخ سات دہائیوں پر محیط ہے دونوں ملکوں کی اعلیٰ قیادت باہمی ترقی پر یقین رکھتی ہے پاکستان اور چین آپس میں بھائی ہیں، ہر مشکل دور میں ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ رہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین نے کورونا وائرس کی صورتحال میں بھی پاکستان کے ساتھ باہمی تعاون کو یقینی بنایا ہے، خصوصی طور پر کوویڈ ویکسین کے سلسلے میں پاکستان سے تعاون کر رہے ہیں۔ اجتماعی

کوششوں سے کوویڈ کو شکست دیئے۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ ریشمی صنعتی زون سی پیک کا اہم منصوبہ ہے چین ریشمی صنعتی زون کی ترقی میں اپنا بھرپور کردار ادا کرے گا اور نچ لائن، گوادر پورٹ اور دیگر ترقی کے منصوبوں میں چین تعاون کر رہا ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے منصوبہ ترقی کے ساتھ منازل طے کر رہے ہیں سی پیک سے جڑے نئے منصوبہ بھی زیر غور ہیں سی پیک سے جڑے بہت منصوبے ہیں۔ بہت خوش خبریاں عوام کو ملیں گی کوویڈ پر قابو پانے کے لئے ہر ممکن اقدامات اٹھائے ہیں۔ ان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ چین میں زیر تعلیم پاکستانی طلباء کی مشکلات کے خاتمے پر توجہ دی جائے گی۔ نوگ روگ نے کہا کہ کرونا ویکسینیشن چین میں بہتر انداز میں جاری ہے جس سے سفری صورتحال میں بہتری آئے گی طلباء اور کاروباری طبقہ کی چین آمد کا سلسلہ شروع ہو گیا ہے۔ جس سے دونوں ممالک میں مزید تعاون کو فروغ حاصل ہو گا انہوں نے کہا کہ جیسے حالات بہتر ہوں گے دونوں ممالک کے طلباء باآسانی سے آجائیں گے دوسری جانب طلباء کی سہولت کے لئے آن لائن کلاسیں بھی شروع کر دی گئی ہیں۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ وہ وزیر اعظم عمران خان اور آرمی چیف سے کئی ملاقاتیں کر چکے ہیں جس کے حوصلہ افزاء نتائج سامنے آئیں گے۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ پشاور وہ پہلی بار آئے ہیں جہاں گورنر اور وزیر اعلیٰ سے ملاقاتیں انتہائی مفید ہیں اور انہیں یقین ہے کہ سی پیک کا خیر پختہ نواہ کو بھی بہت فائدہ پہنچے گا اور انہیں خوشی ہے کہ صوبائی حکومت نے انہیں اپنے ہر ممکن تعاون کا یقین دلایا ہے۔ پاک چین دوستی میں میڈیا کا اہم کردار ہے سی پیک کو بھرپور توجہ مل رہی ہے اس سلسلہ میں انہوں نے میڈیا سے بھی مثبت رپورٹنگ کی توقع کا یقین ظاہر کیا۔

چینی سفیر نوگ روگ نے پاک چین فرینڈ شپ ایسوسی ایشن کی جانب سے منعقدہ تقریب میں بھی شرکت کی۔ صوبائی وزیر بلدیات اکبر ایوب نے مہمان سفیر کا استقبال کیا۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پاک، چین جیسی سدا بہار دوستی کی مثال دنیا بھر میں نہیں ملتی جو ہمیشہ رہے گی۔ اکبر ایوب خان نے تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے چین کے سفیر نوگ روگ کو خیر پختہ نواہ کے پہلے دورے پر خوش آمدید کہا اور اس امید کا اظہار کیا کہ نوگ روگ پاکستان میں اپنی سفارتی تعیناتی کے دوران دونوں ممالک کے درمیان دوستی و دو طرفہ تعلقات کو مزید گہرائی اور وسعت دیں گے بالخصوص چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) منصوبے کی تکمیل میں تیزی آئے گی۔ نوگ روگ نے پاک چین دوستی کو سدا بہار اور پھلدار شجر سے تشبیہ دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین پاکستان ہمسایہ ممالک کے درمیان دوستی کے رشتے پر 'موسمی تغیرات' اثر انداز نہیں ہوتے۔ اس موقع پر سید علی نواز گیلانی نے دونوں ملکوں کے عوام میں دوستی کی انجمن کا تعارف پیش کیا اور کہا کہ 1970 میں پاک چین سٹوڈنٹس فرینڈ شپ ایسوسی ایشن کے قیام سے آغاز ہونے والا دوستی کا سفر آج بھی جاری ہے جس نے کامیابی کے کئی سنگ میل عبور کئے ہیں۔

اپنے ایک روزہ دورے کے آخری مرحلہ میں چینی سفیر نوگ روگ اور چینی سفارت خانہ کے دیگر اہل کاروں نے پشاور کے تارن عجائب گھر کا دورہ کیا۔ ڈائریکٹر آرکیالوجی عبدالصمد نے معزز مہمان کا استقبال کیا۔ چینی سفیر کو بتایا گیا کہ عجائب گھر کی تاریخ بہت پرانی ہے اور گندھارا کا مرکز ہونے کے ناطے اس عجائب گھر کو دنیا بھر میں شہرت حاصل ہے۔ چینی سفیر نے یقین ظاہر کیا کہ پشاور کا یہ تاریخی عجائب گھر مستقبل میں چینی سیاحوں کی توجہ کا بھی مرکز رہے گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-04-26/page-7/detail-0>

April 27, 2021

Business Recorder

China, Pakistan sign HOC for 3rd batch of Covid-19 vaccine

TAHIRAMIN

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Monday signed the Handing over Certificate (HOC) for the third batch of Covid-19 vaccine aid under which the Chinese government provided 500,000 vials of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Omar Ayub Khan witnessed the HOC signing ceremony along with the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong.

Under the first and second batch of the Covid-19 vaccine donation, one million doses of Sinopharm vaccine were donated by the Chinese government.

This will help to vaccinate the priority population and control the spread of pandemic. The minister also discussed bilateral economic relations between the two countries with the ambassador.

During the meeting, Pakistan-China economic relations, implementation of the CPEC projects, and other matters of mutual interest were discussed.

The Minister for Economic Affairs at the outset re-iterated the firm commitment of the government of Pakistan to the security of all Chinese persons working on different projects in Pakistan.

The minister lauded the Chinese government for supporting infrastructure and energy projects in Pakistan.

The minister emphasised that after development of necessary infrastructure the focus should be towards industrialisation and poverty alleviation.

He highlighted that the socioeconomic projects agreed therein are in line with the vision of incumbent government for socio-economic uplift of the common people and enhanced economic activities in the country.

The progress of the ongoing projects was also discussed which is satisfactory, despite, the pandemic situation. The minister also appreciated the Chinese assistance for combating the Covid-19 pandemic and locust attack.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong conveyed his best wishes to the Minister for Economic Affairs for assuming new portfolio.

Ambassador Rong also reaffirmed Chinese support to Pakistan on issues of mutual interest. He reiterated that the Chinese government will continue supporting the Pakistan government to tackle the Covid-19.

Both sides reiterated strong commitment towards further expanding bilateral economic cooperation.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/04/27/3-page/883910-news.html>

Daily Times

RCCI to hold China-Hong Kong virtual forum on April 29

Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) will organize the “Virtual International Trade Forum “China-Hong Kong Chapter on April 29. Chamber President Nasir Mirza said that commercial and trade consular from Pakistan and abroad would participate in the event to

apprise the business community about trade and export opportunities in China and Hong Kong markets. He said that Pakistan would have to find new markets to boost exports, adding “Exports have been badly affected due to the Corona pandemic, but we have to advertise our products and potential through virtual platforms”, he informed.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/749912/rcci-to-hold-china-hong-kong-virtual-forum-on-april-29/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan carries huge potential of its citrus export: CPAIC

Pakistani kinnow industry has witnessed a breakthrough last week as Iran has lifted restrictions on the import of Pakistani kinnow, Gwadar Pro reported on Monday. Pakistan is one of the top citrus producers in the world. Citrus contributes about 30% to the country’s total fruit output. Last year, Pakistan earned its highest export revenue from kinnow of \$222 million amounting to 370,000 tonnes, according to a report on Pakistani citrus industry released by the China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information Platform (CPAIC). The report also points out that most of the citrus fruits produced by Pakistan are consumed in foreign markets. Among the exported varieties, kinnow is the most important one. However, as old varieties are wearing out, kinnow quality is worsening.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-carries-huge-potential-of-its-citrus-export-cpaic/>

Omar lauds China for supporting infrastructure, energy projects in Pakistan

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Mr. Omar Ayub Khan witnessed the signing ceremony of a Handing over Certificate (HOC) for ‘Third Batch of Covid-19 Vaccine Aid’ along with Nong Rong, Ambassador of Republic of China in Pakistan. Under this batch, Government of China provided 500,000 vials of Covid-19 vaccine under grant assistance. Under the first and second batch of Covid-19 vaccine donation, 1 Million doses of Sinopharm vaccine were donated by the Chinese Government. This will help to vaccinate the priority population and control the spread of the disease. Moreover, the Minister discussed the bilateral economic relations between the two countries with the Ambassador in his office. During the meeting Pakistan-China economic relations, implementation of CPEC projects and other matters of mutual interest were also discussed. The Minister for Economic Affairs at the outset re-iterated the firm commitment of the Government of Pakistan to the security of all Chinese persons working on different projects in Pakistan. The Minister lauded the Government of China for supporting infrastructure and energy projects in Pakistan. The Minister emphasized that after development of necessary infrastructure the focus should be towards industrialization and poverty alleviation. He highlighted that the socio-economic projects agreed therein are in line with the vision of the incumbent government for socio-economic uplift of the common people and enhanced economic activities in the country. The progress of the ongoing projects was also discussed which is satisfactory despite the pandemic situation. The Minister for Economic Affairs also appreciated the Chinese assistance for combating Covid-19 pandemic and locust attack. Chinese Ambassador

Mr. Nong Rong conveyed his best wishes to the Minister for Economic Affairs for assuming new portfolio. Ambassador Nong Rong also reaffirmed Chinese support to Pakistan on issues of mutual interest. He reiterated that the Government of China will continue supporting the Government of Pakistan to tackle the Covid-19. Both sides reiterated strong commitment towards further expanding bilateral economic cooperation.

<https://pakobserver.net/omar-lauds-china-for-supporting-infrastructure-energy-projects-in-pakistan/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan, China urged to improve fruit quality

LAHORE: Pakistan and China can collaborate to launch fruit quality enhancement centres, fruit processing units, dehydration plants and cold storage chains to prepare Pakistani fruits in line with international standards for export to global markets, said Pak-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President SM Naveed. Speaking at a think tank session on Monday, he said that the fruit sector of Pakistan had enormous potential that could be beneficial for both countries. “There is a dire need to form a preliminary research team in order to put ideas into practice.” He emphasised that the aim was to import fresh, processed and dry fruits from Pakistan, which would be re-exported to the rest of the world after value addition. Speaking on the occasion, PCJCCI Senior Vice President Daud Ahmed said that Pakistan produced a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, with total annual production estimated at nine million tons. This includes 438,000 tons of mangoes, 525,000 tons of apples, 126,000 tons of guavas, apricots and other such fruits, and 1.914 million tons of bananas, grapes, pomegranates, pears and dates.

PCJCCI Vice President Khalid Raffique Choudhry pointed out that unfortunately, due to lack of advanced processing and packaging techniques, nearly 50% of the total fruit production was being wasted during harvesting, transportation, grading and processing for value addition and while reaching markets for export of fresh fruit and value-added products. He added that the major operational activities in the process that needed attention included sorting, washing, waxing, drying, grading and packaging. PCJCCI Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif added that it would be a great initiative if China established fruit processing and value addition plants in Pakistan, which would be beneficial for both countries. Highlighting the prospects of joint ventures in mango cultivation, he said that with a total area of 167.5 thousand hectares under mango cultivation, it was the second major fruit crop of Pakistan after citrus and the country was ranked fourth in the world in mango production.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2296836/pakistan-china-urged-to-improve-fruit-quality>

Quetta hotel blast — a strategic strike on CPEC

The notorious Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a terrorist entity in the Pakistan-Afghanistan region, claimed the heinous Quetta Serena hotel bomb blast in southwestern Balochistan province. The TTP claimed responsibility over social media app Telegram, preferred by

extremists owing to its lack of censorship. The attack's timing was deliberately designed and comes just as Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Iranian President Hasan Rouhani inaugurated the Pishin-Mashad crossing along the Pakistan-Iran border to enhance trade. Bolstering bilateral and barter trade through this new commercial gateway tremendously benefits the citizens of Balochistan reducing smuggling routes. Establishing trade epicentres along the Pakistan-Iran border seemingly displeased New Delhi which activated Indian sponsored assets. Indian sponsored terrorism in Balochistan is an open secret: a reality of which Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav is a living breathing proof, arrested on charges of terrorism and espionage for India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), whose case escalated to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague. The terrorist TTP stages a comeback aided, abetted and bank-rolled by hostile agencies such as India's RAW. The terror attack in Quetta also comes two weeks after the US chargé d'affaires for Pakistan, Angela Aggeler, visited Gwadar to explore Pak-US investment opportunities. That too ruffled many feathers. The Quetta blast demonstrates that it's not going to be easy for Islamabad to make Balochistan an epicentre of its aspired pivot to "geo-economics". The Quetta blast was strategically timed and calculated coinciding with a high-profile delegation visit involving the Chinese ambassador, Nong Rong. India attacks Chinese interests in Pakistan as India's society, geography and politics are fraught with fault-lines. New Delhi believes that its 19 separatist movements are supported by China, from Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir to northeastern India, from the Southern 'Red Corridor' of the Naxalites and West Bengal to the 'seven sister' states bordering Nepal and Bangladesh. TTP's Indian sponsored Quetta blast seeks to instigate instability in Pakistan to derail a fragile Afghanistan peace process, which is already fraught with 'spoilers' and is witnessing delays in the Istanbul Conference and the Heart of Asia process.

By staging this terror attack, the TTP — and their backers — seek to undermine the stability of Balochistan, a central artery of CPEC, a \$54-billion flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, terror antics will further cement the Pak-Chinese ties. China has extended all-out support to Pakistan in its efforts to liberate Jammu and Kashmir from the illegal occupation of India. This explains the People Liberation Army's (PLA) troops seizing critical land mass from India in Ladakh, a part of IOK, forcing India to a ceasefire on Chinese terms. The Quetta blast is also construed as a diversion tactic deployed by the ruling BJP government to appease the Indian intelligentsia as the country implodes from within. India is beset by acute oxygen shortages as Covid-19 cases increase with alarming alacrity, and a farmer's protest still rages on infernally challenging Narendra Modi like never before. Much to Delhi's chagrin, CPEC highly favours China, offering it unparalleled access to a \$1 trillion market in Central Asian economies and vital inroads into South Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The deep-sea port of Gwadar is the jewel in the crown offering Beijing direct access to the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea, strategically reducing China's dependence on the choked Malacca Straits and the increasingly conflict-prone South China Sea routes, furnishing Beijing with shorter routes for lucrative energy imports from the Gulf, thereby lowering shipping costs and transit times. CPEC runs inimical to India's perceived interests as New Delhi believes that once operational, CPEC

will reduce Delhi's sphere of influence in Central Asia and Afghanistan and in occupied Kashmir. CPEC also places a spotlight and internationalizes the Kashmir dispute over which India has calculatedly taken a backseat after a chorus of global condemnation following its illegal annexation in 2019. India seeks to divisively deploy an Israeli model in Kashmir forcing a demographic change on Kashmir through forced Hindu settlements. CPEC is thorny for India since it courses through Gilgit-Baltistan, which during Partition was aligned with Kashmir, and Azad Kashmir which India claims constitutes disputed territory — an assertion outright rejected by China. TTP attacks act as a warning to regional stakeholders and investors that they are regaining the prowess to target things Pakistan dearly values and that they are backing separatist Baloch factions like the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA). The TTP is staging a comeback. In 2021 alone, the militant outfit took responsibility for 33 attacks in Pakistan, from the brutal attacks killing two policemen in Islamabad and Rawalpindi to attacks on female NGO workers in North Waziristan's Mir Ali and South Waziristan where TTP's Hafiz Gulbahadur group is particularly active. Intelligence reports suggest that the TTP is reactivating its sleeper cells nationwide. After operations Zarb-e-Azb and Radd-ul-Fasaad raids, TTP terrorists sought sanctuary in Afghanistan. Several factions which drifted away from the TTP after Fazlullah's leadership have now returned under the new Emir, Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud, seeking unification. All this bolsters TTP's operational and logistical prowess. Fazlullah was not a Mehsud Taliban (the founders of TTP pertain to the Mehsud tribe) and that debilitated his grip over TTP. The TTP augmented its blood-letting as well as propaganda. In a desperate attempt to regain relevance, the terrorist outfit issued a stinging patriarchal statement against the Aurat March, trying to cash in on misogynistic sentiments.

To date, the Pakistani state's strategic retort to TTP and similar terrorist groups was limited to militaristic kinetic operations. However, given rising extremism, witnessed only last week on Pakistan's streets where police officers were taken hostage, the time is ripe for the state to craft a 'soft power' based counter-extremist narrative aspiring to win over 'hearts and minds'. This requires grassroots-based re-education, reasserting of the social contract, bridging of the chasm between an isolated elite and the masses, as well as a fairer distribution of resources. This is a generational and civilisational calling of a lifetime that can truly transform the fate of Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2296818/quetta-hotel-blast-a-strategic-strike-on-cpec>

Pakistan, RCEP and an integrating Asia

Only a few years ago when CPEC was launched, it was hoped that it would usher in a new era of industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China. The special economic zones (SEZs) would provide the well-needed state-of-the-art industrial infrastructure, with world-class regulatory environment, hosting industries from China and beyond, promising technology transfer and industrial upgradation. The second phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA-II) was supposed to provide the much-needed preferential access for Pakistan to the world's largest consumer market. And the more ambitious of us thought that it would be Pakistan's gateway to global value chains, finally redefining the country's industrial capabilities. Six years after CPEC

launch, however, these dreams remain unrealised. Although at least three SEZs are under development and CPFTA-II has been signed, we still have to witness large-scale relocation of industries from China. This lack of progress can be attributed to our snail-paced bureaucracy, the pandemic, Pakistan's own economic crisis and recent changes in our foreign policy. But while Pakistan is reconfiguring its approach towards CPEC, the world has not been standing still. On November 15, 2020, 15 countries — 10 ASEAN members as well as Japan, New Zealand, Australia, South Korea and China — signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. RCEP encompasses 29% of world's GDP, 27% of global trade and one-third of world population. This mega-regional partnership is expected to bring East Asia together in terms of trade and economic cooperation like never before. In particular, the unified rule of origin under RCEP would mean that products manufactured as per the RCEP-originating criteria will be able to move freely within the bloc, with only a single certificate of origin, significantly reducing time, complications and costs of managing regional value chains (RVC). This will make these countries more integrated and competitive, in turn attracting more investment.

But as East Asia will reap the benefits of this deep trade integration, what will be its implications for Pakistan? With RCEP countries becoming more competitive, Pakistan's relative market access to these countries, especially China, could suffer, leading to loss of exports to regional competitors. Considering that almost one-sixth of our exports are destined for RCEP countries, such erosion could be significant. Moreover, as RCEP members become more attractive for investment on the back of improved competitiveness, Pakistan will become relatively less attractive for FDI. Pakistan's FDI inflows have been declining after CPEC infrastructure investments have dried up and this could take a further toll over the next few years. Most importantly, in the longer run, as the world is organizing itself into new trade blocs, Pakistan could be isolated and lose out on the longer-term benefits of trade integration. But with new challenges also come new opportunities. The RVC under RCEP will still have opportunities for other countries to plug in. The threshold for regional value content under RCEP is 40%, which means that there would be space to have 60% content from elsewhere and still qualify for duty-free treatment within the bloc, which could provide a gateway for Pakistan to plug into these strengthened RVC. Furthermore, RCEP will be open for accession by any country and will therefore provide an opportunity to Pakistan to join, especially with China's support.

If Pakistan chooses to join RCEP, it could be a new start for the country towards embracing trade integration and putting an end to inward looking protectionist policies. But in order to benefit from RCEP, first we have to become more competitive, which is easier said than done. RCEP offers both a glass half full and a glass half empty for Pakistan. It depends on us how we choose to look at it. But closing our eyes to these transformational changes around us are no more an option.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2296815/pakistan-rcep-and-an-integrating-asia>

The News

China to provide 500,000 vaccine vials under third batch

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Monday signed handing over the certificate for providing the third batch of 500,000 vials of COVID-19 vaccine under grant assistance.

Earlier, China had provided one million doses of vaccine to Pakistan under the first and second batch.

According to an official announcement made here on Monday, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Omar Ayub Khan witnessed the signing ceremony of a handing over certificate for ‘Third Batch of COVID-19 Vaccine Aid’ along with Chinese envoy Nong Rong to Pakistan. Under this batch, China provided 500,000 vials of the COVID-19 vaccine under grant assistance. Under the first and second batch of COVID-19 vaccine donation, one million doses of Sinopharm vaccine were donated by the Chinese government. This will help vaccinate the priority population and control the spread of the disease. Moreover, the minister discussed the bilateral economic relations between the two countries with the ambassador in his office.

During the meeting Pakistan-China economic relations, implementation of CPEC projects and other matters of mutual interest were also discussed. The Minister for Economic Affairs at the outset re-iterated the firm commitment of the government to the security of all Chinese persons working on different projects in Pakistan. The minister lauded China for supporting infrastructure and energy projects in Pakistan. The minister emphasized that after development of necessary infrastructure the focus should be on industrialization and poverty alleviation. He highlighted that the socio-economic projects agreed therein are in line with the vision of the incumbent government for socio-economic uplift of the common people and enhanced economic activities in the country. The progress of the ongoing projects was also discussed which is satisfactory despite the pandemic situation.

The minister also appreciated the Chinese assistance for combating COVID-19 pandemic and locust attack. Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong conveyed his best wishes to the minister for assuming new portfolio. He also reaffirmed Chinese support to Pakistan on issues of mutual interest. He reiterated that China will continue supporting Pakistan to tackle the COVID-19.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/826775-china-to-provide-500-000-vaccine-vials-under-third-batch>

April 28, 2021

Business Recorder

BoI holds ‘CPEC Industrial Cooperation Textile Business to Business webinar’

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to promote business alliances and sectoral matchmaking between private enterprises of the textile sector of Pakistan and China, the Prime Minister’s Office, Board of Investment, Pakistan, organised a “CPEC Industrial Cooperation Textile Business to Business

(B2B) Webinar” in collaboration with China Council for International Investment Promotion (CCIIP) and China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) on Tuesday.

The webinar offered a platform for analysis of industry trends, bilateral investment opportunities and potential collaborations between companies of the two countries.

Secretary BoI Fareena Mazhar, Executive Director General BoI Khashihur Rehman, Project Director CPEC Industrial Cooperation of BOI Asim Ayub, Deputy President CNTAC Xu Yingxin, Author of Textile Industrial Diagnosis Report, Dr Du Zhen Li, Deputy Director General of Asian Department of the Ministry of Commerce of China, Wei Yan, Deputy GM, ICBC (Karachi Branch), Zhang Hongpeng, Director, China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), Wang Lu, Chairman, FIEDMC, Mian Kashif Ashfaq, Director General (Textile Wing), Textile Industry Division, Pakistan, Kanwar Usman, Secretary General, All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), Shahid Sattar participated in the webinar.

The opening remarks were delivered by the Executive Director General BoI, Khashihur Rehman. He stated that the webinar marks actualisation of the MOU signed in 2008 between the BoI and the CCIIP and it will be integral in advancing B2B and P2P ties under CPEC Industrial Cooperation.

In this context, he informed the participants that to facilitate business to business (B2B) matchmaking, BoI is also working on the development of an Online B2B portal which will assist potential domestic and foreign investors and serve as a one-stop database of available public and private sector investment projects.

Secretary BoI Mazhar stated that the webinar aims to rejuvenate the process of enhanced B2B matchmaking between Pakistani and Chinese enterprises.

She appreciated the overwhelming support of China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) and the Ministry of Commerce of the People’s Republic of China.

Owing to the sector’s financial gains many international companies including Chinese enterprises are already operational in the country.

She shared that “Challenge Apparel” a Chinese company has been successfully operating in Pakistan for years and now plans to expand with an additional investment of over \$150 million. She apprised the audience about Pakistan’s advantageous investment policies pertaining to the SEZs, EV, mobile device manufacturing policy and emphasised on Pakistan’s commitment to facilitate B2B matchmaking.

Mazhar underscored that the CPEC Industrial Cooperation follows an all-inclusive policy and is open for third-party participation.

The inclusion of trade and investment officers in the webinar was to apprise them about investment opportunities under CPEC, so the same could be communicated to investors in their respective countries. She concluded by welcoming export-oriented hi tech Chinese enterprises to invest in Pakistan.

Project Director PMU and Moderator for the event, Asim Ayub stated that the webinar mark's the initiation of an unprecedented partnership involving the BOI, CIECC, CNTAC, CCIIP and the Ministry of Commerce, China. He informed the audience that the Textile Diagnostic Study conducted by CIECC on Pakistan's Textile Sector in 2019 was very well received by the Pakistani side, however, there exists a need for a follow up action plan to reap more pragmatic and mutually beneficial outcome.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/04/28/7-page/884064-news.html>

Daily Times

China pledges to continue providing vaccine to Pakistan till final defeat of virus

China on Tuesday pledged to stand with Pakistan to provide support to control the third wave of Covid-19 and continue supply of vaccines to help the all-weather strategic cooperative partner till final defeat of the deadly virus.

“As an all-weather strategic cooperation partner, China will continue to stand with Pakistan to provide support and help to the best of our capability for the final defeat of the virus,” Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing.

He said on April 26 the Chinese government delivered to the Pakistani government a new batch of vaccine assistance. “This is a new measure of China to fulfill our pledge to make vaccines a global public good and to help our Pakistani friends to fight the virus.”

The third batch of one million doses of Chinese government-donated vaccines was airlifted from Beijing to Islamabad by special aircraft on Saturday and was handed over to the Pakistani authorities during a ceremony on Monday.

Earlier, the Chinese government aided two batches of vaccines to Pakistan, and the Chinese military also donated a batch of vaccines to the Pakistani Army. And Pakistan has also purchased several consignments of Covid-19 vaccines from China.

According to official sources, another consignment of one million doses of Covid-19 vaccines is also likely to transport from China to Pakistan later this week.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/750049/china-pledges-to-continue-providing-vaccine-to-pakistan-till-final-defeat-of-virus/>

Five Pak-China MOUs signed at 2021 SCO Expo

Five China-Pak MOUs were signed at 2021 SCO International Investment and Trade Expo's Forum held at Qingdao for promoting Special Economic Zone (SEZ) ties. According to China Economic Net, the forum on Local Economic and Trade Cooperation opened on Monday. At the opening ceremony, the five MOUs were signed that included sister cities' interaction and bank cooperation. “At the crossroads of the Middle East, Central and South Asia regions, Pakistan's

geo-economic location puts us as the economic hub for global developmental projects. The Government has incentivized industries and investment. The rate of return in business is much higher than the global average with leading Multinational Corporations (MNCs) making higher profits than elsewhere,” said Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin-ul-Haque while addressing the ceremony.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/750289/five-pak-china-mous-signed-at-2021-sco-expo/>

Extraction plant for oilseeds being set up near Rashakai SEZ

An oilseeds extraction plant near CPEC’s flagship Rashakai SEZ is being established with a hefty amount of Rs. 600 million. This will be on the background of rising demand for vegetable oils in China and concessions granted to Pakistani exporters under the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement-II.

A report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday says China has eliminated tariffs on 313 major export items from Pakistan under the upgraded FTA, which also includes various seed oils. The plant is being set up by Engineer Syed Mehmood. The first-of-its-kind facility in KP shows how big opportunities have been brought about by the China-driven investment to Pakistan’s smallest and second-most deprived province. The plant will be the second one of its nature in Pakistan, an official said.

Syed Mehmood told Gwadar Pro that the \$4 million plant will have a capacity to extract 300 tones of oil per day from oilseeds including soybean, palm, canola, olive, or sunflower. “At this stage, we have Afghanistan and Central Asian republics as our export targets. However, in the long run, we are eyeing the enormous Chinese market for our products,” the investor said. “We also have a plan to invest in Rashakai SEZ to further expand our production capacity after a sustainable export channel is established with China,” he said.

Syed Mehmood said that initially, they will rely on imported raw soybean and other oilseeds as the domestic production will not be sufficient to withstand their demand. “However, the locally-grown soybean and olives will greatly benefit us in terms of competitiveness,” he said.

The Pakistani government is robustly promoting olives plantation in the country, especially in KP province. Nowshera, where the plant is being established, has been declared as the most suitable region for olives, where Prime Minister Imran Khan launched a campaign for olive cultivation in March.

According to the data of the General Administration of Customs, China’s olive oil imports in 2019 were 53,699 tons, up 35.64% year on year, China Economic Net (CEN) earlier reported.

In an article published in CEN, Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law, stressed that technical assistance in olive cultivation and olive oil production should be the focus of China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation under the second phase of CPEC given the enormous potential of Pakistan.

A media's report, quoting Director of KP olive trees project Ahmed Syed, stated that over 4.4 million hectares of land were available for olive plantation in Pakistan. Ahmed said that Spain was producing about 45% of the world's total edible oil from olive cultivation on only 2.6 million hectares of land.

China has also offered assistance to Pakistan in the cultivation of soybean. The CEN hosted an online event on agricultural cooperation in mid-March between the two Iron Brothers, which had a full session on soybean cultivation.

China's soybean imports surpassed 100 million tonnes during 2020, according to a report of Global Times, which cited Customs' data. Iqbal Sarwar, an official of KP Economic Zones Development and in charge of the export processing zone where the Aziz Oils and Solvents Pvt. Ltd. is being established, said that the plant will also process oilseeds for several other products.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/750287/extraction-plant-for-oilseeds-being-set-up-near-rashakai-sez/>

Moot deliberates potential of textile cooperation between Pakistan, China

In a bid to promote business alliances and sectoral matchmaking between private enterprises of the textile sector of Pakistan & China, the Prime Minister's Office, Board of Investment, Pakistan, organized a "CPEC Industrial Cooperation Textile Business to Business (B2B) Webinar" in collaboration with China Council for International Investment Promotion (CCIIP) and China National Textile & Apparel Council (CNTAC) on Tuesday, 27th April 2021. The webinar offered a platform for analysis of industry trends, bilateral investment opportunities & potential collaborations between companies of the two countries.

Secretary BOI, Ms Fareena Mazhar, Executive Director General BOI, Mr. Khashih ur Rehman, Project Director CPEC Industrial Cooperation of BOI, Mr. Asim Ayub, Deputy President, CNTAC, Mr. Xu Yingxin, Author of Textile Industrial Diagnosis Report, Dr. Du Zhen Li, Deputy Director General of Asian Department of the Ministry of Commerce of China, Mr. Wei Yan, Deputy GM, ICBC (Karachi Branch), Mr. Zhang Hongpeng, Director, China Road & Bridge Corporation (CRBC), Ms. Wang Lu, Chairman, FIEDMC, Mian Kashif Ashfaq, Director General (Textile Wing), Textile Industry Division, Pakistan, Mr. Kanwar Usman, Secretary General, All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA), Mr. Shahid Sattar participated in the webinar.

The opening remarks were delivered by Executive Director General BOI, Mr. Khashih ur Rehman. He stated that the webinar marks actualization of the MOU signed in 2008 between BOI & CCIIP and it will be integral in advancing B2B & P2P ties under CPEC Industrial Cooperation. In this context he informed the participants that to facilitate business to business (B2B) matchmaking, BOI is also working on the development of an Online B2B portal which will assist potential domestic and foreign investors and serve as a one-stop database of available public and private sector investment projects.

Secretary BOI, Ms. Fareena Mazhar welcomed the participants and stated that the webinar aims to rejuvenate the process of enhanced B2B matchmaking between Pakistani and Chinese enterprises. She appreciated the overwhelming support of China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China. Owing to the sector's financial gains many international companies including Chinese enterprises are already operational in the country. She shared that "Challenge Apparel" a Chinese company has been successfully operating in Pakistan for years and now plans to expand with an additional investment of over USD 150 million.

She apprised the audience about Pakistan's advantageous investment policies pertaining to SEZs, EV, Mobile device manufacturing policy and emphasized on Pakistan's commitment to facilitate B2B matchmaking. Ms. Mazhar underscored that CPEC Industrial Cooperation follows an all-inclusive policy and is open for third party participation. The inclusion of Trade & Investment Officers in the webinar was to apprise them about investment opportunities under CPEC so the same could be communicated to investors in their respective countries. She concluded by welcoming export oriented hi tech Chinese enterprises to invest in Pakistan.

Project Director PMU & Moderator for the event, Asim Ayub stated that the webinar mark's the initiation of an unprecedented partnership involving the BOI, CIECC, CNTAC, CCIIP and the Ministry of Commerce China. He informed the audience that the Textile Diagnostic Study conducted by CIECC on Pakistan's Textile Sector in 2019 was very well received by the Pakistani side, however there exists a need for a follow up action plan to reap more pragmatic and mutually beneficial outcome. The same point was taken up in the 5th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Industrial Cooperation under CPEC held in December 2020.

Mr. Asim Ayub further stated that the webinar was first of a series of webinars which would be held on mutually agreed priority sectors between Pakistan and China to keep steering the initiative of industrial cooperation under CPEC. He informed the participants about the inception of CPEC & the magnitude of its growth and possibilities. He stated that B2B joint ventures are intrinsic to the success of CPEC & SEZs & BOI will extend full support to Chinese investors for successful materialization of their projects in Pakistan.

Wei Yan, Deputy DG of Asian Department PRC highlighted that Pakistan and China share a strong and historic relationship at many levels & CPEC as the flagship project of Belt & Road Initiative will elevate the economic relation between the two countries. He also briefed about the status of various projects under CPEC umbrella.

Ms. Yao Wenping, Executive VP CCIIP also reiterated CCIIP's commitment to promote industrial progress that will resultantly bolster economic growth via employment & investment opportunities. She expressed satisfaction with the progress of multiple ongoing projects in Pakistan.

"ICBC will provide financial advisory services, MNA & financing for competitive expansion" stated Zhang Hongpeng, Deputy DG ICBC.

Author of Textile Industrial Diagnosis Report, Dr. Du Zhen Li, delivered a detailed presentation on the textile sector of Pakistan wherein he conducted a SWOT analysis of the textile sector and shared that with the amelioration of the Covid-19 situation, a joint team of Pakistani and Chinese Experts will be formulated to undertake matchmaking of textile enterprises from both sides.

While talking about Pakistan's 3rd textile policy that is currently in process, Director General Textile Industry Division, Pakistan, Mr. Kanwar Usman shared that the policy envisions full utilization of home grown cotton to boost value added exports & carve a name for Pak in global textile & apparel supply chain. He also stated that Pakistan textile export during covid 19 increased by an impressive 9%.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/750295/moot-deliberates-potential-of-textile-cooperation-between-pakistan-china/>

Dawn News

China, five S. Asian nations ponder over cooperation during pandemic

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Ministers of China and five South Asian countries including Pakistan on Tuesday held their virtual dialogue on promoting cooperation against Covid-19 pandemic.

The meeting was part of the series of meetings hosted by China since July last year on cooperation against the pandemic and economic revival.

The meetings are being seen as Beijing's fresh outreach to the region.

Besides Pakistan and China, the other countries that participated in the meeting were Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Wang Wenbin at the daily media briefing in Beijing, hailed the conference as "latest example" of China and South Asian countries standing in solidarity to fight the epidemic and resume economic and social development.

He said the anti-Covid-19 meetings between China and South Asian countries have since last year resulted in "enhanced cooperation" cooperation among the participating countries.

The latest meeting took place as many South Asian countries including Pakistan are witnessing Covid-19 spike that has claimed thousands of lives.

China says the meeting was held to inject new impetus into regional efforts to defeat the virus and achieve sustainable development.

India, which has been worst hit in the latest wave, was invited to join the forum. "China keeps the door wide open for the participation of other South Asian countries, including India in the spirit of openness, inclusiveness and win-win cooperation," Wenbin said.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, while speaking at the meeting, emphasized greater collaboration between the participating countries of the dialogue against Covid-19 pandemic, poverty alleviation and in providing disaster relief.

"The pandemic is a common challenge requiring joint efforts," he underscored.

He said that the key deliverables of the Conference included China-South Asia Emergency Supplies Reserve, China-South Asia Poverty Alleviation Cooperative Development Centre and China-South Asia E-Commerce Cooperation Forum on Poverty Alleviation in Rural Areas.

Mr Qureshi said these initiatives will equip participating countries to better respond to health emergencies and natural disasters, and will be helpful in eradicating poverty.

He underlined that economic and human security stands at the centre of regional development paradigm.

The foreign minister stressed the need to ensure equitable and affordable supply of vaccine as ‘global public good.’

He further called for discouraging stigmatization and insinuations on the origin of the virus.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1620696/china-five-s-asian-nations-ponder-over-cooperation-during-pandemic>

Pakistan, China partner for boosting textile sector

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Tuesday launched a critical partnership for the promotion of business alliances and sectoral match-making between private enterprises of textile sectors in the two countries.

The Board of Investment (BoI) organised a “CPEC Industrial Cooperation Textile Business to Business (B2B) Webinar” in collaboration with China Council for International Investment Promotion (CCIIP) and China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC) on Tuesday.

The webinar offered a platform for analysis of industry trends, bilateral investment opportunities and potential collaboration between companies of the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, BoI Secretary Fareena Mazhar said the webinar aimed to rejuvenate the process of enhanced B2B matchmaking between Pakistani and Chinese enterprises. She appreciated the overwhelming support of CNTAC and the Chinese ministry of commerce. Owing to the sector’s financial gains many international companies, including Chinese enterprises, are already operational in the country.

She disclosed that Challenge App-arel, a Chinese company, has been successfully operating in Pakistan for years and now it plans to expand with an additional investment of over \$150 million.

The BoI official invited export-oriented hi-tech Chinese enterprises to make investments in Pakistan.

She informed the private sector enterprises about Pakistan’s advantageous investment policies pertaining to SEZs, electric vehicles, cellular device manufacturing policy and emphasised Pakistan’s commitment to facilitate B2B matchmaking. Ms Mazhar underscored that ‘CPEC Industrial Coope-ra-tion’ follows an all-inclusive policy and is open for third party participation.

BoI Project Director Asim Ayub informed the meeting that the Textile Diagnostic Study on Pakistan’s Textile Sector in 2019 was very well received by the Pakistani side. However, there exists a need for a follow-up action plan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1620776/pakistan-china-partner-for-boosting-textile-sector>

Govt urged to focus on China, Far East for potato exports

Aslam Piracha

OKARA: Local potato growers should start cultivation in September and harvest the crop in November to export it to China where the yield matures a couple of weeks later.

The proposal is part of the recommendations of a committee tasked with formulation of potato export policy, forwarded to Agro Wing (AW) working under the federal commerce ministry.

Potato Research & Development Board (PR&DB) chairman and vice president the Potato Growers Association (PGA) Maqsood Ahmad Jutt, who is also a member of the newly-formed five-member committee to devise the five-year policy on potato export, shared this with Dawn.

The committee, he said, was formed at a webinar held around a week ago, presided over by Advisor to Prime Minister for Commerce Mr Razak Dawood. Other participants included federal commerce secretary, Potato Research Institute (PRI) Punjab director, patron in chief of the Vegetable Export Association (VEA) Pakistan and others.

He said that he also proposed that potato export to China should be prioritised because the containers under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were available at cheaper rates to local exporters.

He said he also proposed enlistment of the markets of Philippines, Thai Land and Indonesia for export of the local potato.

Jutt regretted that despite Holland accepting no potato exports from Pakistan, we import all our potato from the country, urging the policy-makers to focus on the issue.

He also deplored the government sector's indifference towards collecting authentic data on crop cultivation and yield which provides the basis for formulation of an effective export policy.

The proposals sent separately by each committee member will be taken up at the next meeting.

At the webinar, Mr Dawood agreed to constitute a permanent Potato Research Council, instead of the board, comprising all stakeholders to resolve the crop-related issues, Jutt said.

The other four members of the committee include Punjab PRI Director Dr Ijazul Hasan VEA patron Hatim Khan and Mr Adnan Asad, a member of the American Business Council, Karachi.

Meanwhile, PGA-Pakistan president Mian Siddique has said Okara, Pakpattan, Sahiwal and Kasur districts should be given special attention because of their massive share in the country's potato production.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1620729/govt-urged-to-focus-on-china-far-east-for-potato-exports>

Pakistan Observer

China, Pak discuss ways to enhance B2B matchmaking in textile industry

Chinese and Pakistani officials and businessmen on Tuesday discussed ways to advance business-to-business (B2B) matchmaking in textile industry under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Khashih ur Rehman, executive director general of Pakistan's Board of Investment (BOI), said during a webinar that the event will help in advancing B2B ties under CPEC industrial cooperation. The CPEC industrial cooperation textile B2B webinar was co-

organized by BOI, China Council for International Investment Promotion (CCIIP) and China National Textile and Apparel Council (CNTAC). It was attended by senior officials and textile entrepreneurs from Pakistan and China. “To facilitate B2B matchmaking, the BOI is working on the development of an online B2B portal which will assist potential domestic and foreign investors and serve as a one-stop database of available public and private sector investment projects,” Rehman said. While appreciating the overwhelming support from the CNTAC and China’s Ministry of Commerce, Secretary of BOI Fareena Mazhar called for enhanced B2B matchmaking between the Pakistani and Chinese textile enterprises. “Owing to the sector’s financial gains, many international companies including Chinese enterprises are already operational in the country,” she said. Project Director of the Project Management Unit of the BOI Asim Ayub said that B2B joint ventures are intrinsic to the success of CPEC and the special economic zones, and the BOI will extend full support to Chinese investors for successful materialization of their projects in Pakistan. On the occasion, CNTAC deputy director Xu Yingxin called for enhancing industrial cooperation between China and Pakistan under CPEC, especially in the textile sector. In addition to analyzing the textile sector of both countries and discussing the investment opportunities, notable textile companies from both sides also presented their projects requiring cooperation and held discussions for potential matchmaking.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pak-discuss-ways-to-enhance-b2b-matchmaking-in-textile-industry/>

The Nation

60pc work on Basima-Khuzdar Road completed: CPEC Authority chief

ISLAMABAD - Chairman CPEC Authority Lt Gen (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa has said that 60 percent work on Basima-Khuzdar Road has been completed.

“South Balochistan roads in focus, Basima-Khuzdar Road Progress 60%, Hoshab-Awaran Road construction has started,” Asim Bajwa said in a tweet here yesterday.

He also said that they will improve Gwadar’s connectivity with North as per the PM’s vision of uplifting remote areas especially South Balochistan.

The Basima-Khuzdar Road project is located in District Khuzdar in Baluchistan province. The project is having 2-lane highway from Basima to Khuzdar with 110-km length and will cost Rs 19.19 billion. The road would link Khuzdar with N-85 to also serve Gwadar’s China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route.

Similarly, in his tweet, the Chairman CPEC Authority said that construction work on Hoshab-Awaran Road is in progress. Gwadar Ratoder Road project (M-8) located in Baluchistan & Sindh provinces. The sections of M-8 from Gwadar to Hoshab and Ratoder to Khuzdar have been constructed. Now work on the construction of section from Hoshab-Awaran has started.

The Hoshab-Awaran project is an integral part of CPEC Central Alignment which connects Gwader Port with the Sindh province. Ground breaking ceremony of Hoshab-Awaran, Section of

M-8, was executed by Prime Minister Imran Khan on November 13, 2020. The length of Hoshab-Awaran Project is 146 km and it will be completed in three years with an estimated cost of Rs19.857 billion.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-28/page-12/detail-6>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک کے باعث ملک میں وسیع پیمانے پر معاشی سرگرمیاں پیدا ہو گئی: حکام اتھارٹی

اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) منصوبے کے باعث ملک بھر میں وسیع پیمانے پر معاشی سرگرمیاں پیدا ہو گئی۔ چین کی حکومت کے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو (بی آر آئی) کے باعث پاکستان علاقائی اقتصادی سرگرمیوں میں اہم فریق بن گیا ہے۔ سی پیک اتھارٹی حکام نے اے پی پی کو بتایا کہ اس منصوبے سے نہ صرف تجارت کے ذریعے اربوں ڈالر کی آمدن ہو گی بلکہ انفراسٹرکچر ڈویلپمنٹ، پاور جنریشن، ٹرانسپورٹیشن، ریلویز، زراعت، سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی اور سیاحت کے شعبوں میں منصوبوں کے علاوہ ہزاروں مقامی افراد کو روزگار کے مواقع میسر آئیں گے۔ حکام کے مطابق سی پیک کے اہم منصوبوں میں پاکستان اور چین کے مشترکہ منصوبے کے ذریعے ملک بھر میں زیر تعمیر خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کی تعمیر ہے۔ اس منصوبے کی اہمیت کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے کئی دیگر ممالک نے بھی اس منصوبے میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے تحت خصوصی اقتصادی زونز پر تعمیری کام زور و شور سے جاری ہے، ان منصوبے کی اہمیت کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے کئی ممالک سرمایہ کاری میں دلچسپی لے رہے ہیں جس سے معاشی سرگرمیاں بڑھیں گی۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کے تحت خصوصی اقتصادی زون پورے ملک میں بنائے جا رہے ہیں ان زونز کا بنیادی مقصد چینی صنعت اور سرمایہ کاری کو راغب کرنا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-04-28/page-6/detail-7>

April 29, 2021

Business Recorder

Entire area alongside CPEC western route to be developed: PM

QUETTA: Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Wednesday the government was focused on bringing a revolution of prosperity in Balochistan through projects of infrastructure and human development.

Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony here of three roads under the National Highway Authority (NHA), the prime minister said Balochistan had been long neglected in the past, and the government would take every step to minimize the suffering of locals.

Imran Khan said despite financial constraints, his government was committed to diverting funds towards the development of Balochistan.

The prime minister, who arrived here on a day-long visit, launched the projects including construction of 162-kilometre Ziarat-Harnai road, the 23-kilometer dualization of Quetta Western Bypass (N-25) and construction of 11-kilometer Dera Murad Jamali Bypass (N-65). The prime minister said that compared with the 1,100 kilometres of roads constructed by previous governments in 15 years, his government completed 3,300 kilometers in two-and-a-half years.

He said the entire area along the western route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would be developed.

Imran Khan said caring for humanity was the main driving force that placed the nation at high pedestal of morality.

He regretted that had serious steps taken in past, the country would have undergone immense development.

He termed “elite capture” responsible for the economic divide in the society and stressed the need for a model of development for all, including rich and poor.

Imran Khan said Balochistan suffered apathy of previous rulers who had the mindset to ignore the province.

However, he said, his ideology was about making Pakistan rise by uplifting its weaker segments. He said China’s development and its strategy to bring people out of poverty was exemplary and added that Pakistan could learn from the same model.

He said that after Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, the government was expanding the network of Rs0.1 million health insurance per household in Punjab and Gilgit Baltistan, and said the same would be discussed with the coalition government of Balochistan.

He said the project of direct subsidy to farmers on seeds and fertilizer under Kisan Card had been launched while 80 percent data of deserving families had been registered for Ehsaas socio-welfare programme.

Balochistan chief minister Jam Kamal Khan said during the last 15 years, the previous governments left several development projects in tandem, while the incumbent was focused on their completion.

He emphasized on enhanced connectivity of Quetta with Naseerabad and Sibbi through dualization to facilitate farmers and traders from adjoining areas.

He said the construction work on roads and dams would ensure the development of militancy-hit areas that had long witnessed unrest and suffering.

He said the provincial government was spending Rs35 billion out of its own resources for the development of Balochistan besides the Rs20 billion allocated by the federal government.

Minister for Communication Murad Saeed said the projects would usher in a new era of development in the province.

He said that Imran Khan started the western route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor from Balochistan, turning the dream of prosperity into reality.

The prime minister was also given a briefing on the overall situation of Balochistan and the development projects.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/04/29/12-page/884280-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistani and Chinese scholars deliberate over ecological issue

Pakistani and Chinese scholars deliberate upon ecological issues plaguing the world today, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

A written proposal was released on a World Earth Day themed forum anchored by the Communications University of China (CUC), where Pakistani and Chinese scholars exchanged their opinions on ecological issues. The proposal, centered around green, healthy, and sustainable development, calls for augmented awareness of a community with shared future in international academia.

Academic Network for a Community with Shared Future, sponsor of the forum, pledges unsparing efforts in promoting dialogue among civilisations and contributing to sustainable development through joint efforts. Pakistani representative Maryam Raza delivered a speech on “Working Together to Tackle Environmental Challenges in pursuit of Clean, Green and Resilient World”. Noting the repercussions of non-traditional security threats on nations, she stressed the wide range of existing non-traditional security threats emanating from social, economic, and environmental risks. Melting of glaciers, rising temperature, climate change, carbon emission, pollution, pandemics, and other wide range of environmental threats are occurring more frequently than ever. To deal with these issues, a global network is needed to apply integrated approaches.

She also highlighted new perspectives to analyze the particular discourse. As we are undergoing changes in world order, sustainable policies are required to tackle environmental challenges in modern times. In this aspect, constructive engagement would benefit all parties involved in the pursuit of a clean, green, and resilient world.

Li Huailiang, Dean of the CUC Institute for a Community with Shared Future, proposed suggestions on global environment governance on two fronts. First, countries should adopt a broader vision and strive for win-win benefits on the basis of mutual respect and shared responsibility. Secondly, nations should strike a balance between environmental sustainability and economic pursuit. Instant economic reward should not be the sole guide to action. Rather, only sustainable approaches can bring long-term prosperity.

Following the forum, specific multilateral approaches to tackle global challenges including climate change were further discussed. Technology-informed trans-institutional solutions were recommended for consolidated financial and human resource capabilities. By establishing public-private partnership, stimulating quick-to-market knowledge transition, and promoting knowledge and data sharing, governments are enabled to make use of the existing technologies to meet the needs of the people and soften the impact of the environmental crisis on people’s lives. For this purpose, the three “R” strategy, i.e., react in the short term, resolve in the midterm and reinvent in the long term could be a potential path.

It was proposed that stepping forward, a clean energy framework for cooperation should be established; new technologies should be co-created to fight climate change; and common grounds should be sought for common commitments.

Representatives of Tanzania, Ethiopia, Germany, Malaysia, and South Korea also participated in the online international forum.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/750409/pakistani-and-chinese-scholars-deliberate-over-ecological-issues/>

Dawn News

China reiterates support to Pakistan in Covid-19 fight

Anwar Iqbal

UNITED NATIONS: China has assured Pakistan and other South Asian nations of its continued cooperation in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic by providing both medical supplies and economic assistance, says a joint statement issued at the UN headquarters in New York.

China gave this assurance at a video conference on the joint response to Covid-19 on Tuesday, attended by the foreign ministers of China, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

“The foreign ministers appreciated China’s efforts in addressing this challenge. China would act on President Xi Jinping’s important statement on making the vaccines a global public good and carry out continued vaccine cooperation with the participating countries in a flexible manner, including co-production of Covid-19 vaccines,” the joint statement said.

The foreign ministers also agreed to closely follow the Covid-19 situation in India and expressed their willingness to provide needed support through respective channels in consultation with India.

The foreign ministers noted that Covid-19 was a common enemy of humankind and urged all nations to “step up solidarity and cooperation to win the final victory over it”.

China told other participants that it was ready to provide continued medical supplies and technical assistance to all five nations.

The participants reiterated their firm support to the World Health Organisation in the fight against Covid-19 and acknowledged that “tracing the origin of the virus is a matter of science and a global mission”. They also opposed politicising the issue.

The foreign ministers agreed that vaccines, as a key weapon to defeat Covid-19, should be distributed in accordance with the principle of equity and justice. They warned that “vaccine nationalism” will hinder the global efforts to defeat Covid-19 and increase the “immunity gap”.

The foreign ministers recognised the serious impact of Covid-19 on the global economy and its complex implications for the sustainable development of all countries.

They agreed to deepen Belt and Road cooperation, open their borders under the premise of pandemic prevention and control for smooth trade.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1620955>

Pakistan Observer

Murad: Western Route of CPEC will be completed during present govt era

Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed has said that the Western Route of China Pakistan Economic Corridor was undertaken from Balochistan by the present government and this dream of prosperity has been turned into reality. The Western Route of the CPEC will also be completed during the present regime. He was expressing views on occasion of Ground Breaking of dualization of Quetta Western Bypass, Construction of Dera Murad Jamali Bypass and Ziarat Mor-Kach-Harnai-Sanjavi road projects of National Highway Authority, Ministry of Communications, today. Mr. Murad Saeed said, during the previous fifteen years, 1100 km long highways were planned. While during the last two and half years, 3300 Km long national highways projects were planned and work started on them. He said, the present government has turned the dream of western route of the CPEC into reality and this route will be completed during the present government. He said work on Zhob-Khuzdar project has been started while D.I.Khan-Zhob project has been approved and work will be started soon. The Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed recalled that Basima-Khuzdar and Hoshab-Awaran projects have also been started. Work on 796 km long dualization of Chaman-Quetta-Karachi-Highway will be started this year. Construction and extension of national highways and motorways in Balochistan will not only pave the way for socio-economic uplift of far long areas of Balochistan but it will also cast far reaching positive effects on the economy of the entire region, the Federal Minister added. Giving details of the projects, Chairman National Highway Authority Capt ® Muhammad Khurram Agha said, 22.7 Km long dualization of Quetta Western ByPass project will be completed at contract cost of Rs. 3938.78 million. This two lane additional carriageway will be completed in 24 months. 15 bridges and 34 culverts will also be constructed. More than 1715 jobs will be created due to this project.

Completion of this project will ease out traffic congestion and reduce travel time by 30-45 minutes which will result in vehicles operating cost savings. He said, 11Km long Dera Murad Jamali ByPass will be completed at contract cost of Rs. 1456.3 million. Consisting of 2 lanes, the bypass will be completed in 18 months time period. One bridge and 31 culverts will be built in this project.

<https://pakobserver.net/murad-western-route-of-cpec-will-be-completed-during-present-govt-era/>

Gwadar's connectivity

THE strategically located Gwadar port is all set to become regional hub of trade and tourism. To achieve this objective, it is heartening to see that government is giving special emphasis to improve connectivity with the port city. Chairman CPEC Authority Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa (Retd) in a tweet on Tuesday said about 60 percent construction work of Basima-Khuzdar road had been completed while construction of Hoshab Awaran road has also started. The 146kms Hoshab-Awaran Project is an integral part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) central alignment that connects Gwadar Port with Sindh. The project is expected to be completed in

three years at an estimated cost of Rs20 billion. Other road infrastructure projects that have improved connectivity in the area include Quetta-Hoshab, Surab-Quetta, Gwadar Hoshab and Ratodero-Khuzdar roads. Chairman CPEC Authority deserves appreciation for accelerating pace of work on CPEC related projects. He also keeps updating about progress on the CPEC projects and that indicates how much importance the country gives to these corridor project. Indeed future of Pakistan is linked with this mega project that will ultimately take the country towards rapid industrialisation. There should be no compromise on implementation of Gwadar master plan, which envisages holistic development of the port city. Provision of all facilities there will really attract investments in high tech industries and take their products to the Middle East and other destinations. We understand both Pakistan and China have ambitious plans for Gwadar, which will definitely be turned into reality to achieve the cherished dream of making this deep-sea port into a centre of trade. Similarly Gwadar is an ideal place to emerge as an attractive tourist destination due to its beautiful beaches, sea life, large open spaces and its proximity to the Gulf. The beaches in Gwadar are finest in the world, offering sunshine round the year. These beaches can be developed and exploited by hotel, recreational and tourist industry to their high prospects.

<https://pakobserver.net/top-news/>

Nawaiwaqt News

حکومت سی پیک سمیت توانائی منصوبوں کی جلد تکمیل کیلئے کوشاں ہے، حماد اظہر

اسلام آباد (وقائع نگار خصوصی) وفاقی وزیر توانائی (پاور ڈویژن) حماد اظہر نے این ٹی ڈی سی اور پاک ٹیاری۔ لاہور ٹرانسمیشن لائن کمپنی کے مابین 660 کے وی ہائی وولٹیج ڈائریکٹ کرنٹ ٹیاری۔ لاہور ٹرانسمیشن لائن سی پیک منصوبے کے معاہدے میں ضمیمہ / ترمیم کی معاہدے پر دستخط کی تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ یہ تقریب بدھ کو پاور ڈویژن کے کانفرنس روم میں منعقد کی گئی۔ ضمیمہ / ترمیم کی معاہدے پر دستخط اقتصادی رابطہ کمیٹی (ای سی سی) کی منظوری کے بعد کیے گئے۔ نئے ٹرانسمیشن سروس ایگریمنٹ کے تحت، ٹرانسمیشن لائن کی مطلوبہ کمرشل آپریشن تاریخ (آر سی او ڈی) کو یکم مارچ 2021 سے یکم ستمبر 2021 تک بڑھا دیا گیا ہے۔ آپریشنز اور میٹنننس سروس ایگریمنٹ میں بھی ایک اور ضمیمہ شامل کیا گیا۔ اضافی معاہدوں پر دستخط کے نتیجے میں بجلی صارفین کو فائدہ پہنچے گا۔ اس موقع پر وفاقی وزیر برائے توانائی جناب حماد اظہر نے کہا کہ موجودہ حکومت سی پیک سمیت توانائی کے منصوبوں کی جلد تکمیل کیلئے کوشاں ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ سی پیک کامیگ پراجیکٹ ہے جس کی تکمیل سے ملک کے جنوب سے شمال کی طرف میرٹ آرڈر کی نسبتا سستی بجلی لانا ممکن ہو جائے گا جس کا فائدہ تمام بجلی کنزیومر کو ہو گا۔ معاہدے پر دستخط پیٹنگ ڈائریکٹر این ٹی ڈی سی انجینئر ڈاکٹر خواجہ رفعت حسن پیٹنگ ڈائریکٹر نے کیے۔ معاون خصوصی برائے (Ms Zhang Lei) پرائیوٹ پاور انفراسٹرکچر بورڈ، شاہجہان مرزا اور چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر پاک ٹیاری لاہور ٹرانسمیشن کمپنی مس ٹریاگ لی پاور اینڈ ولیم جناب تائش گوہر، وفاقی سیکرٹری برائے پاور ڈویژن علی رضا بھٹہ سمیت پاور ڈویژن، چینی کمپنی، پی پی آئی بی اور این ٹی ڈی سی کے سینئر عہدیدار بھی تقریب میں موجود تھے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-04-29/page-8/detail-0>

ترقی کے ضامن اس منصوبے کو سبوتاژ کر نیوالی قوتوں پر سخت نظر رکھنے کی ضرورت

سی بیگ حکام کا ملک میں وسیع معاشی سرگرمیاں پیدا ہونے کا عندیہ اور اس سے حاصل ہونیوالے ثمرات

چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے کے باعث ملک بھر میں وسیع پیمانے پر معاشی سرگرمیاں پیدا ہوں گی۔ چین کی حکومت کے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو کے باعث پاکستان علاقائی اقتصادی سرگرمیوں میں اہم فریق بن گیا ہے۔ سی بیگ اتھارٹی حکام نے سرکاری خبر رساں ادارے اے پی پی کو بتایا کہ اس منصوبے سے نہ صرف تجارت کے ذریعے اربوں ڈالر کی آمدن ہوگی بلکہ انفراسٹرکچر ڈویلپمنٹ، پاور جنریشن، ٹرانسپورٹیشن، ریلویز، زراعت، سائنس و ٹیکنالوجی اور سیاحت کے شعبوں میں منصوبوں کے علاوہ ہزاروں مقامی افراد کو روزگار کے مواقع بھی میسر آئیں گے۔ حکام کے مطابق سی بیگ کے اہم منصوبوں میں پاکستان اور چین کے مشترکہ منصوبہ کے ذریعے ملک بھر میں خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کی تعمیر ہے۔ اس منصوبے کی اہمیت کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے کئی دیگر ممالک نے بھی اس منصوبے میں سرمایہ کاری کیلئے دلچسپی کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی بیگ) کے تحت خصوصی اقتصادی زونز پر تعمیری کام زور و شور سے جاری ہے، جس کی تکمیل سے ملک میں معاشی سرگرمیاں بڑھیں گی۔ دریں اثناء چیئر مین سی بیگ اتھارٹی جنرل عاصم سلیم باجوہ کا کہنا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم کا جنوبی بلوچستان کی ترقی کا خواب حقیقت بن رہا ہے۔ جنوبی بلوچستان میں سی بیگ کے تحت سڑکوں کی تعمیر پر توجہ مرکوز ہے۔ عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے سماجی رابطے کی ویب سائٹ ٹوئٹز پر اپنے بیان میں کہا ہے کہ بسیم خضدار شاہراہ پر 60 فیصد کام مکمل کر لیا گیا ہے جبکہ ہوشاب آوارن روڈ پر بھی کام شروع کر دیا گیا ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ شاہراہوں کی تعمیر سے شمال سے گوادریک رسائی آسان ہوگی۔

سی بیگ بلاشبہ پاکستان کی ترقی و خوشحالی کے ساتھ ساتھ خطے میں گیم چینجر کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ اس منصوبے کا ایک مرحلہ پایہ تکمیل کو پہنچنے کے بعد دوسرے مرحلے کا آغاز ہو چکا ہے۔ پاکستان کو توانائی کی قلت کا سامنا رہا ہے۔ سی بیگ کے تحت توانائی کے 22 میں سے 9 پراجیکٹس مکمل ہو گئے ہیں۔ باقی تیزی سے کام ہو رہا ہے۔ ہمیں توانائی کی کمی کو پورا کرنے کے ساتھ اسکی کم خرچ پیداوار کو یقینی بنانا اور آلودگی سے بچنا ہے۔ سی بیگ کے تحت صنعتی زون بھی قائم کئے جا رہے ہیں۔ اگلے مرحلے میں صنعت و زراعت، سماجی اور معاشی شعبہ کی ترقی اور گوادریک سٹی کے حوالے سے پیشرفت ہو رہی ہے۔ پشاور سے کراچی تک ایم ایل ون ریلوے لائن بچھا کر سفر کو تیز تر اور آسان کیا جا رہا ہے۔

شاہراہوں کی تعمیر جاری ہے۔ ہر منصوبے کے ساتھ بڑی تعداد میں لوگوں کا روزگار وابستہ ہو چکا ہے۔ سی بیگ کی تکمیل کے بعد کاروباری سرگرمیوں میں خاطر خواہ اضافہ ہو گا۔ پاکستان کو کوریڈور کی حیثیت حاصل ہوگی۔ دنیا کے بڑے حصے کی تجارت پاکستان کے ذریعے ہوگی جس سے روزگار کے مواقع بڑھیں گے۔ کاروبار میں اضافہ ہو گا۔ ہمارے آج کے مسائل میں بیرون زرگاری اور مہنگائی سرفہرست ہیں۔ مہنگائی کے تناسب سے آمدن میں اضافہ ضروری ہے۔ سی بیگ کے باعث مہنگائی اور بیرون زرگاری سے نجات ممکن ہے۔

آج کچھ لوگوں کی طرف سے حقوق کے حصول اور محرومیوں کی بات کی جاتی ہے۔ ایسی باتیں درست ہیں مگر ان کو لے کر کچھ قوتیں سادہ لوح عوام کو گمراہ کرنے کی سازشیں کرتی ہیں۔ لوگوں کو ریاست کیخلاف کھڑے کرنے کیلئے سرگرم ہوتی ہیں۔ کچھ انکی باتوں میں آکر ریاست کیخلاف بولتے نظر آتے ہیں، ان کو آسانی سے سمجھایا جا سکتا ہے۔ ایسا حکومت اور خصوصی طور پر پاک فوج کی طرف سے کیا جاتا رہا ہے اور کیا جا رہا ہے۔ بہت سے لوگوں کو قومی دھارے میں لایا گیا ہے۔ انکی محرومیوں کو دور کرنے کی ہر ممکن کوشش کی گئی ہے۔ اب سی بیگ کے منصوبوں کے ذریعے بلوچستان میں ترقیاتی کام جاری ہیں۔ تعلیم اور صحت کے منصوبوں پر کام ہو رہا ہے۔ دشوار گزار علاقوں میں شاہراہوں کی کہیں تعمیر ہو رہی ہے اور کہیں تکمیل ہو گئی ہے۔ سی بیگ کے منصوبوں کے تحت تمام صوبوں میں یکساں کام ہو رہے ہیں۔ بلوچستان میں خصوصی طور پر امن کے ساتھ ساتھ خوشحالی بھی آرہی ہے۔ علیحدگی پسندی کی بات کر نیوالے رضامندی سے قومی دھارے میں شامل ہو رہے ہیں۔ ایسی صورت حال پاکستان کے دشمنوں کیلئے ناقابل برداشت ہے۔ انکی طرف سے سی بیگ کو سبوتاژ کرنے کی سازشیں اسکے آغاز کے ساتھ ہی شروع ہو گئی تھیں۔ سی بیگ کیخلاف سب سے زیادہ سرگرم بھارت رہا ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے ایک دوسرے پر اٹوٹ اعتماد کے باعث دشمن کی سی بیگ کیخلاف ہر قسم کی سازشیں ناکام بنائی گئی ہیں۔ یہ بھارت ہی ہے جو بدستور پاکستان اور چین کے مابین غلط فہمیاں پیدا

کرنے کیلئے سرگرداں ہے۔ اسکی طرف سے پاکستان میں چین کے مفادات پر حملے کرائے گئے۔ حالیہ دنوں چینی سفیر کوئٹہ کے دورے پر گئے تو جس ہوٹل میں وہ قیام پذیر تھے، اس پر حملہ کرایا گیا۔

سی پیک پاکستان کی ترقی کی ضمانت کا منصوبہ ہے جو دشمن کے سینے پر سانپ بن کر لوٹ رہا ہے۔ اس منصوبے کیخلاف جتنی بھی سازشیں کی گئیں، انہوں نے پاکستان اور چین کو مزید قریب کر دیا ہے۔ دشمن بہر حال کمزور پہلوؤں کی تلاش میں ہے، ہمیں نہ صرف کمزوریوں کو دور کرنا ہے بلکہ سازشوں کا مقابلہ کرنے اور انہیں ناکام بنانے کیلئے فول پروف پلاننگ بھی کرنا ہوگی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-04-29/page-10/detail-6>

April 30, 2021

Daily Times

PIA transports another one million doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Pakistan from China

Three special flights of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) carrying a fresh batch of one million doses of COVID-19 vaccine left here on Thursday for Pakistan as the country is combating the third wave of pandemic.

The fresh consignment is in addition to one million doses of COVID-19 vaccine transported to Pakistan from China by three planes of the national flag carrier on April 25 Qadir Bux Sangi, PIA Country Manager for China told APP.

Giving details, he informed two special planes with corona vaccine left the Chinese capital early Thursday morning while the third special flight was scheduled to depart for Islamabad in the evening.

So far, the Chinese government has provided three batches of vaccines to Pakistan, and the Chinese military also donated a batch of vaccines to the Pakistani army. The Pakistani authorities have also purchased vaccines from China.

Meanwhile, China has pledged to continue an uninterrupted supply of vaccines to help Pakistan defeat the deadly virus.

It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan began a vaccination drive last month with over a million doses of Sinopharm vaccines donated by China.

Islamabad received the first COVID-19 vaccine consignment after a military aircraft transported it from Beijing on February 1, this year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/750862/pia-transport-another-one-million-doses-of-covid-19-vaccine-to-pakistan-from-china/>

CPEC new route to boost trade, development, tourism: report

The 153-km-long Chitral-Shandur road will help boost trade activities, development and tourism in Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan, according to a Gwadar Pro's report.

The new alternate route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will minimize the burden of Karakoram highway. Prime Minister Imran Khan has formally inaugurated a multi-billion project to widen and reconstruct the Chitral-Shandur-Gilgit road. He said the project would not only help in the development of Chitral and Gilgit-Baltistan but would also open up scenic areas to national and international tourists.

The report added, the construction would be completed in four phases. The maximum width of the road presently is around 6 to 7 meters which will be extended to 30 meters. The project would cost about Rs17 billion.

Chitral-Shandur Road, known as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Highway S-2, is a provincial highway which extends from Chitral in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to Shandur in Gilgit-Baltistan province.

The road starts from the town of Chitral and continues alongside the Chitral River to the north pole. It crosses the old chew bridge and goes along with a number of villages of lower Chitral. These villages include Denin, Moroi, Kari, Istangol, Baranis, Reshun, Zait, Kuragh, Charun, Junalikoch, Booni (across the river), Parwak and Mastuj. From Mastuj the road splits into two, continuing to the north pole to Yarkhun road which ends in the last valley of Broghil.

While taking the south pole, it takes the travelers through the valley of Laspur starting from the village Harchin, Gaht, Balim, Sor-Laspur and then Shandur Top which is also the polo ground situated at the highest altitude. From Shandur the road continues to enter the valley of Gilgit-Baltistan and the villages of Ghizer valley.

The CPEC new route will also give access to the Central Asian states of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan & Kyrgyzstan bypassing Afghanistan, hence giving Pakistan a direct link to Central Asia.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/750920/cpec-new-route-to-boost-trade-development-tourism-report/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC to help increase cultivation of dates

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will help increase Pakistan's dates cultivation, according to a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. The CPEC is poised to usher in a new era of trade and growth, Pakistani date growers pin their hopes on its different projects to help bring revolution in date farming. The newly built motorways under CPEC are making the dates' market accessible to farmers and helping them bring the latest machines and modern farming tools to their farms in remote parts of the country. The report says, the consumption of dates, especially in its natural form, is an essential part of the Ramadan diet; dates are an unmissable part of iftar (breaking of fast) and Suhur (pre-dawn meal). Dates are the third largest horticulture

crop in Pakistan, which is found in all four provinces of the country. Pakistan produces one of the best dates in the world and the country has the potential to become a leader in date production and export; however, due to connectivity problems, lack of suitable agricultural machinery and date processing units, the desired results have not been achieved so far. According to the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), dates are cultivated over 99 thousand hectares of land with productions of around 540,000 tons annually. Pakistan ranks sixth in dates' productions in the world with over 300 date varieties in the country including Dhakki, Dhakki Dried, Shareefa, Muzawati, Kupro, Hillavi, Aseel and Rabbi Etc. As the name Dhakki shows, these dates with exotic taste are cultivated in the Dhakki area of D.I Khan District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Dhakki has established itself in national and international markets; however, market access is one of the problems that discourage farmers from growing dates on a large scale. Hakla-D.I Khan Motorway (M-16), under CPEC, is near to its completion. The 292-kilometer motorway will provide the farmers of Dhakki and other adjoining areas with easy access to the market. "Motorway would bring our products to the main markets of the country," date grower Arsalan Baloch told Gwadar Pro and he added, "Farmers would no longer be exploited to sell their products at low prices." According to Arsalan Baloch, the farmers would now utilize the motorway and would grow dates on all of their cultivable lands. "We would be able to frequently invite agriculture experts from Islamabad and other cities to examine our crops," Mr. Baloch said.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-to-help-increase-cultivation-of-dates/>

The Nation

USA, UK, China top three destinations of Pakistani exports in 3 quarters

ISLAMABAD - United States of America (USA) remained the top export destination of the Pakistani products during the first three quarters of financial year (2020-21), followed by United Kingdom (UK) and China.

Total exports to the USA during July-March (2020-21) were recorded at \$3563.734 million against the exports of \$3103.817 million during July-March (2019-20), showing growth of 14.81 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$1507.344 million against the exports of \$1281.073 million last year, showing increase of 17.66 percent.

China was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth \$1407.743 million during the months under review against the exports of \$1298.531 million during last year, showing decline of 8.41 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at \$1133.038 million against \$1035.960 million during last year, showing increase of 9.37 percent, while the exports to UAE were recorded at \$1085.837 million against \$1246.377 million last year, the data revealed. During July-March (2020-21), the exports to Holland were recorded at \$830.484 million against

\$776.703 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at \$746.328 million against \$790.377 million.

Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at \$558.624 million against the exports of \$592.065 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at \$595.258 million against \$685.222 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at \$438.418 million against \$574.038 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$330.936 million against \$327.842 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at \$365.240 million against \$352.620 million.

Pakistan's exports to Turkey were recorded at \$192.223 million during the current year compared to \$217.662 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at \$228.180 million against \$ 210.883 million, to Poland \$221.566 million against \$201.458 million whereas the exports to Australia stood at \$191.371 million during the current year against \$153.049 million during last year. Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed increase of 2.29 percent in three quarters, from \$18.280 billion to \$ 18.699 billion.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-04-30/page-9/detail-5>