



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

May 1 - 15, 2019

A pilot project of PICS

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May 01, 2019

Business Recorder

China terms Imran's visit highly productive

BEIJING: China highly appreciates the outcome of Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent visit to Beijing, hoping that it would open new avenues of bilateral cooperation. A spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Geng Shuang told reporters here on Tuesday that Imran Khan participated in the Belt and Road Forum and had meetings with Chinese top leaders.

The Prime Minister had fruitful meetings with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and Vice Chairman Wang Qishan. The two sides also signed a number of bilateral cooperation documents such as the "Protocol on Amending the Free Trade Agreement".

The spokesperson reiterated that Pakistan is China's all-weather strategic partner. In the words of Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said China and Pakistan are "iron buddies." Geng Shuang added, "China has always placed Pakistan in the priority direction of China's diplomacy. As a "hardcore" friend, the two sides have always firmly supported each other on issues involving core interests. Regardless of the changes in the international situation, we firmly support the Pakistani side in safeguarding national sovereignty and national dignity, supporting the Pakistanis to choose their own development path according to their national conditions, supporting the country to strive for a good external security environment. We also support the Pakistan in international and regional affairs for a constructive role.

The Chinese side appreciates the Pakistani government and people's resolute fight against terror and extremism, as well as the tremendous efforts and sacrifices made to this end. We call on the international community to treat Pakistan's efforts and contributions in the field of counter-terrorism objectively and fairly, and to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the Pakistani side. In the next stage, China is willing to deepen high-level exchanges and mutual support with Pakistan, strengthen strategic communication, promote high-quality development of cooperation in various fields within the framework of building a Belt and Road, and coordinate and cooperate closely in international affairs. All-weather strategic cooperation continues to push deeper." INP.

Pakistan Observer

New Body for CPEC

IT is truly heartening to note that the entire political spectrum in Pakistan is not only fully standing behind the multibillion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project but is also coming up with various proposals and suggestions to fully exploit its potential for the benefit of the country.

Sherry Rehman, Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on CPEC on Monday proposed forming a CPEC Authority to take advantage of opportunities offered by the mega project. Speaking at the Senate CPEC Committee and National Defence University's workshop on the lessons of developing a multi-partisan support for CPEC, Ms Rehman said we must take ownership of planning and ensure the trickle-down benefits permeate across all provinces. Given the size and potential of the CPEC, the establishment of a full-fledged independent Authority and inclusion of right kind of people in it can provide us the platform to do proper planning, monitoring and execution of all the projects. The Planning Ministry, at present, is not in a position to fulfill this task. Therefore, it will be better to establish a separate entity that ensures greater efficiency and transparency but also serves the purpose of enhancing coordination amongst provinces on all the corridor-related projects. Pakistan has benefited immensely from the CPEC over the last few years as it helped the country fill its infrastructure and energy gaps. Now it is entering the most crucial phase of establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) which, we are sure, will take the country towards rapid industrialization. The success of this phase will not only trigger economic activity and create thousands of jobs for our youth but also help address chronic economic issues by way of increasing exports. Thus the government should not have any objection to the establishment of a separate Authority on the CPEC to ensure fast tracking of all the projects. Both the Opposition and the Government need to sit down together and discuss the very shape and contours of the Authority.

The Nation

CPEC is the perfect opportunity for Pakistan to pivot to Africa

All Great Powers, including most recently even Russia and India, are increasingly expanding their influence in Africa as they seek to take part in the continent's expected growth across this century, and CPEC provides the perfect opportunity for Pakistan to pivot there too so long as the country's decision makers are aware of its many opportunities and successfully craft a comprehensive strategy for building mutually beneficial partnerships with those states.

Conceptual Basis

African countries don't normally come to mind when discussing Pakistan's future partners, but they should because CPEC is providing it with the opportunity to finally build mutually beneficial partnerships there. The flagship project of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) global vision of New Silk Road connectivity will eventually serve to facilitate Chinese-African trade across Pakistani territory, which has in turn made Pakistan and China's African partners interested in expanding relations with one another. Islamabad already took the step to commence Regional Maritime Security Patrols throughout the Red Sea-Gulf of Aden region across which CPEC-transiting African-Chinese trade will traverse, so the next step is to leverage the military relationships that Pakistan's building in this strategic maritime space to create economic opportunities for its businesses.

Most Likely Partners

In the Horn of Africa, Pakistan should follow what Russia's doing in Eritrea by building a logistics centre in that country, Sudan, Djibouti, or Somalia as a stepping stone for eventually linking up with regional giant Ethiopia, which is the continent's second-most-populous state and its fastest-growing economy. Moreover, the fast-moving political changes there under its new Prime Minister make it a promising country for any Great Power to deepen its engagement with, which might even be slightly easier for Pakistan than others because of Addis Ababa's very close working relations with their mutual partners in Beijing. Moving southward, other potential countries that Pakistan should endeavor to form strategic partnerships with are Kenya and South Africa, which are the best-performing ones in their given regions and also on excellent terms with China.

Economic Opportunities

Signing deals and announcing partnerships are only symbolic actions unless they're backed up by substance, which is why Pakistan should promote its domestic agricultural (including fertilizer) and textile products, among others, as suitable for the growing African marketplaces. The whole point of pivoting to Africa through CPEC isn't just for the sake of Great Power prestige, but to deliver something tangible to Pakistanis at home by showing them that CPEC is more than just a "highway" across their country for China's international trade with West Asian, European, and African countries. The rapidly growing economies in Africa provide limitless opportunities for commercial engagement with Pakistan so long as decision makers, entrepreneurs, and thought leaders are motivated to pursue them, which is why a change in thinking is urgently needed.

Military Dimensions

Expanding upon the concept of CPEC facilitating Pakistan's "Pivot to Africa", the military component of its partnership "scouting" via the Regional Maritime Security Patrols could also spread to the realm of bilateral training deals such as the sort that Russia and Pakistan recently reached with one another, albeit with Pakistan providing the training to its African partners under this arrangement. The Pakistani Armed Forces have proven their world-class capabilities in defeating terrorism, and sharing their experiences with African colleagues could be very useful to many of them as they try to thwart the threat that terrorists in their own countries pose. In addition, Pakistanis have decades of experience participating in African peacekeeping missions, who can help them create custom security solutions for the African partners that they train.

Cross-Continental Engagement

These possible partnerships don't have to be limited to the coastal states of the Afro-Bengal Ocean (referred to as the "Indian Ocean" in conventional parlance) most immediately connected to CPEC's Sea Lines Of Communication (SLOC), but should also include states along Africa's Atlantic coast such as its most populous country of Nigeria. Even with the Silk Roads not yet linking them together, Pakistan could pioneer partnerships with Nigeria and the other Muslim-

majority countries of the West Africa region by approaching them first and foremost from the security perspective and then eventually developing those incipient ties into an economic relationship. In other words, Pakistan's strategy towards West Africa is the reverse of what it should attempt in East Africa, where economic relations are prioritized, and military ones follow.

Integration Trends

Pakistan should also bear in mind that Africa is increasingly integrating its economic and security potential, the first-mentioned through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTFA) and the latter via the African Union's peacekeeping missions, but that some individual countries will still fulfill leading functions in each of these two categories. That's why Islamabad needs to plan its strategy in advance as opposed to "winging it" in order to make the best of its efforts. As a suggestion, the economic-military model that was previously described could be applied to several pairs of regional leaders and their neighbors in order to lay the basis for a comprehensive continental policy that eventually encompasses most of Africa and opens up a multitude of opportunities.

The Paired Approach

In any given order and in the framework of the regional leaders that should be focused on followed by their most attractive neighbors for Pakistan, these African countries are:

Ethiopia//Djibouti, Eritrea, Sudan

Kenya//Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia

South Africa//Mozambique, Madagascar, Botswana, Zimbabwe

Angola

Nigeria

Algeria

Egypt//Libya

As can be seen from the above, Pakistan's "Pivot to Africa" truly has the potential build a multitude of partnerships all across the continent, each of which could be facilitated in their own way by CPEC.

The Nation

RCCI hopes FTA-II will improve country's trade balance with China

RAWALPINDI - Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Malik Shahid Saleem has termed the 2nd stage of FTA with China a positive development and desired that it will improve Pakistan's trade balance with China. The conclusion of the second phase of China-Pakistan FTA during recent visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan would give further boost to trade and economic relations between the two countries, he added.

However, RCCI President cautioned that desired results can only be met once we have better competitiveness and quality standards at local market. We need concrete steps with continuity of policies to meet our export targets. Pakistan has given GSP plus status but could not materialize it with its true potential, he further added. He said the new list is not limited to textile specific products but also includes textile goods, leather, engineering, chemicals, furniture, auto parts, plastic, rubber, paper board, ceramic, glass, surgical instruments, footwear, wood, articles of stones, sea food, meat, tractors, home appliances etc.

Malik Shahid Saleem said that the real challenge is on both ends — import and export and the biggest problem is how to reduce imports.

The trade deficit between Pakistan and China was around \$15 billion and the government must take immediate steps to bring down imports from China and increase its export tariff lines. He said Pak-China FTA has mostly benefited China as trade balance has always been in favour of China, however, he stressed that Pakistani exporters should fully capitalize on huge Chinese export market to achieve better results for the economy. RCCI chief also stressed that Pakistani manufacturers should further improve quality of their products to improve exports with China.

CPEC being the flagship project of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) offered us a great opening here and the government should expedite the process of developing SEZs under CPEC so that private sector could make investments and setup joint ventures in these SEZs that would promote industrialization, boost exports and create plenty of new jobs in the country, he added.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Chief Executive Mian Kashif Ashfaq Tuesday greeted the Prime Minister Imran Khan for 4-day successful state visit to China promising revival of economic activities to help strengthening national economy. Presiding over a meeting of board of directors here Tuesday, he said that the top leadership of China has widely acknowledged the dynamic and sagacious leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and his good governance," says a press release issued here today.

The Nation

China opens up market for Pakistani goods

BEIJING-China has opened up its market for Pakistani goods, as there will be zero tariffs on more products and large cuts to duties on other products under the revised FTA, says a statement issued by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM), reports China Economic Net.

The two countries will gradually liberalize 75 percent of their total tariff lines compared with 35 percent in the previous version and cut duties on certain goods such as leather, clothes and seafood from Pakistan, the ministry said. Upgrades and revisions were also made to sections dealing with market access, investment, customs and other areas, it noted

China and Pakistan have signed an upgraded FTA, as the two close neighbours seek to further strengthen their bilateral economic and trade ties and deepen cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The second phase of the China-Pakistan FTA, signed during Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Beijing, also highlighted China's continued efforts to open up its market and expand BRI cooperation into more areas, analysts said.

"This will no doubt help boost trade between China and Pakistan," said Liu Ying, a research fellow with the Chong yang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China in Beijing, adding that Pakistan has huge potential in developing trade as it, with the CPEC, would be at the center of a massive flow of global commodities fueled by the BRI.

Trade between China and Pakistan reached \$19.08 billion in 2018, with Pakistani exports to China increasing 18.7 percent year-on-year to \$2.17 billion, Chinese official data showed. Trade in 2018 was 3.6 times that of 2006, before the original China-Pakistan FTA was signed. "This is a very significant move not just for the two countries but also for the BRI and global trade," said Liu.

She pointed out that the FTA also offers a great example of how BRI countries should pursue free trade and high-quality growth and how China will continue to open up its market for foreign companies, two key themes of the just-concluded Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF).

The upgraded China-Pakistan FTA "reflects the new pattern of China's active push for comprehensive opening and China's attitude and willingness to resolutely support free trade and economic globalization," an unidentified official with the MOFCOM said in a statement.

The News

Free trade with China: Pak industry protected, cabinet told

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's trade managers on Tuesday informed the federal cabinet that the protected list of items under second phase of China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) has gone up to 1,760 tariff lines or 25 percent of total imports on account of sensitive list and margin of preference.

However, it will remain the biggest challenge for the government to curtail yawning trade deficit with China that had already ballooned to \$15 billion. But this import largely related to fertilizers, raw material, bulbs, laptops and such items. Pakistan's exports to China are showing dismal performance and Adviser to PM on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood estimated before his departure to Beijing that Pakistan's exports could go up by \$500 million in first year.

However, the sources pointed out that there was no need to expect additional exports of \$500 million, but diversion in exports could happen at initial stage, but then the exporters could generate surplus to grab this opportunity at later stages. There has been an increase in the

protected list of Pakistan from 10 percent in phase- I of CPFTA to now 25 percent into phase-II that comes to around 1,760 tariff lines and covers 37 percent of Pakistan's imports from China.

It includes 25 percent sensitive list of 1,410 items (20 percent) and a list of 350 items given margin of preference (MoP) on the applicable rates (5 percent).

“The major protected industry includes textiles and clothing, iron and steel, auto, electrical equipment, agriculture, chemicals, plastics, rubber, paper and paper board, ceramics, glass and glassware, surgical instruments, footwear, leather, wood, articles of stones and plaster and miscellaneous goods. “In a nutshell, we have protected almost all of our industry,” a brief of the Ministry of Commerce states.

In the Phase I, Pakistan had already given substantial concessions on 60 percent of imports from China, and with this new phase in place, Pakistan will liberalize another 7 percent in the next 15 years. Most of concessions have been placed in the 15 years track. The 7 percent new liberalized trade constitutes raw materials, machinery and intermediate items which will in fact help the domestic industry to become more competitive.

China will be immediately eliminating tariffs on 313 most priority tariff lines which cover over \$8.7 billion worth of our global exports and \$64 billion worth of Chinese global imports.

Whereas, under the complete offer from China, over \$19 billion of our exports will be covered corresponding to \$1.6 trillion of the Chinese global imports. Under the 313 tariff lines, currently our exports to China are less than 2 percent of their total imports, and with these concessions we should expect to gain our market share by at least 10 percent which will come around \$6.5 billion per annum.

The 313 tariff lines constitute textiles and garments, seafood, meat and other animal products, prepared foods, leather, chemicals, plastics, oil seeds, footwear as well as engineering goods including tractors, auto parts, home appliances, machineries etc.

With the signing of this FTA, almost 95 percent of tariff lines will become part of the overall CPFTA framework and will therefore enable electronic data exchange on these tariff lines which also constitute 95 percent of the imports from China. Therefore, this will be great step forward in terms of curbing under invoicing and misclassification.

The revision of safeguard remedial measures will provide protection of maximum 23 years against an imports surge that may cause injury or threatens to cause injury to our local industry. The measures also allow Pakistan to put in place provisional safeguards for 180 days before even proving the injury or the threat to the injury.

Similarly, the safety valve of the balance of payments clause under the FTA has been introduced which would now allow Pakistan to raise tariffs if the country is in a balance of payments difficulty.

A Balance of Payment Clause has been included in the agreement to address any balance of payment difficulty, which was amiss in the first phase. In order to address under-invoicing and

mis-declaration, system of electronic data exchange has been agreed between the two sides and implemented.

- During the 11th Round held in April 2019, China agreed to immediately eliminating tariffs on 313 most priority tariff lines of Pakistan which cover over \$8.7 billion worth of Pakistan's global exports (13% increase in Pakistan's global exports coverage) and \$64 billion worth of Chinese global imports (additional \$40 billion).
- Under the complete offer from China, over \$19 billion of Pakistan, exports will be covered corresponding to \$1.6 trillion of the China's global imports.
- The 313 tariff lines constitute: textiles and garments, seafood, meat, animal products, prepared foods, leather, chemicals, plastics, footwear, engineering goods including tractors, auto parts, home appliances, machineries etc.

All major agriculture products and processed food important from local production and food security point of view have been protected.

During all rounds of negotiations, senior representatives of the FBR, EDB, Ministry of Textile, NTC and Food Security were present and were taken on board.

Jang News

چین سے آزاد تجارت، پاکستانی صنعتوں کو تحفظ، کابینہ کو آگاہ کر دیا گیا

اسلام آباد (رپورٹ: مہتاب حیدر) پاکستان کے تجارت سے متعلق اعلیٰ حکام نے وفاقی کابینہ کو آگاہ کیا ہے کہ چین سے آزاد تجارت پاکستانی صنعتوں کو تحفظ حاصل ہے، پاک چین آزاد تجارتی معاہدے (سی پی ایف ٹی اے) کے تحت محفوظ مصنوعات کی فہرست 1760 ٹیرف لائنز مجموعی درآمدات کے 25 فیصد تک پہنچ گئی ہے تاہم چین کے ساتھ منہ پھاڑے تجارتی خسارے کو پورا کرنا حکومت کے لئے بڑا چیلنج ہے جو بڑھ کر 15 ارب ڈالر تک جا پہنچا ہے۔ لیکن ان درآمدات کا بڑی حد تک تعلق کھاد، خام مال، بلک، لیپ ٹاپس اور اس طرح کی مصنوعات کی درآمد سے ہے۔ چین کے لئے پاکستانی درآمدات نہایت مایوس کن ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم کے مشیر تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد کی بیجنگ روانگی سے قبل یہ تخمینہ لگایا گیا ہے کہ پاکستان کی چین کے لئے برآمدات پہلے سال میں 50 کروڑ ڈالر تک جاسکتی ہے تاہم ذرائع نے نشاندہی کی کہ اس سلسلے میں اضافی 50 کروڑ ڈالر زماہیت برآمدات کی توقع عبث ہے لیکن ابتدائی مرحلے میں برآمدات کا رخ پھیر سکتا ہے۔

Jang News

ایم ایل ون ریل پروجیکٹ، لاگت 8172 ملین ڈالر، 2022 تک مکمل ہوگا

اسلام آباد (عاطف شیرازی نامہ نگار) وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے حالیہ دورہ چین میں طے پانے والے سمجھوتے کے ذریعے کراچی تا پشاور ایم ایل ون ریلوے منصوبے پر لاگت کا تخمینہ 8 ہزار 172 ملین امریکی ڈالر لگایا گیا ہے، معاہدے کے تحت منصوبہ 2022 تک مکمل ہوگا، معاہدے کے تحت ایم ایل ون ریلوے منصوبے کی تکمیل کے لیے چین رعایتی قرضہ (جی سی ایل) گورنمنٹ کنسٹریکشن لون فراہم کرے گا۔ جنگ کو دبیتاب دستاویزات کے مطابق ایم ایل ون منصوبے کے تمام ٹھیکے پیپراولز اور اوپن بڈنگ کے ذریعے کیے جائیں گے۔ منصوبہ پاکستان ریلوے اور چائنہ ریلوے انجنئرنگ گروپ کے زیر انتظام مکمل کیا جائے گا۔ حکومت کی جانب سے برطانوی دور کے بعد پشاور تا کراچی ایم ایل

ون بڑا منصوبہ قرار دیا جا رہا ہے ایم ایل ون ریلوے منصوبے کے تحت 1872 کلو میٹر کا ٹریک دو روہ کیا جائے گا۔ کراچی تا پشاور تمام ٹریک ڈبل کیا جائے گا۔ جس پر 160 کلو میٹر کی رفتار سے ٹرین چلے گی جس سے 24 گھنٹوں کی مسافت 14 گھنٹوں میں سمٹ جائے گی۔ جبکہ مال برادر ٹرین کی رفتار 120 کلو میٹر فی گھنٹہ کی جائے گی۔ سنگنلز کا تمام نظام کمپیوٹر ایزڈ ہو گا

Nawaiwaqt

چین پاکستان کو خلائی ٹیکنالوجی منتقل کرے گا، معاہدہ طے پا گیا

بیجنگ (این این آئی) پاکستانی خلا نوردوں کو خلا میں بھیجنے کی راہ ہموار ہو گئی ہے۔ پاکستانی اور چینی خلا نوردوں کو مشترکہ طور پر اب خلائی مشن پر بھیجا جائے گا اور چین پاکستان کو خلائی تحقیق میں مدد و تعاون فراہم کرے گا۔ غیر ملکی خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق چین کی خلائی تحقیق کے قومی ادارے سی این ایس اے کے جاری کردہ ایک بیان میں کہا گیا کہ معاہدے سے دونوں دوست ممالک کے درمیان تعاون کے ایک نئے دور کا آغاز ہو گا۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان طے پانے والے معاہدے پر چین اور پاکستان کے خلائی تحقیق کے اداروں کے سربراہان نے دستخط کیے۔ معاہدے کے مطابق دونوں ممالک مل کر سائنسی اور ٹیکنیکی ترقی کے تجربات کریں گے اور خلا بازوں کی تربیت کے ساتھ خلا نوردوں اور خلائی مشن کو خلا میں بھیجنے کے سلسلے میں مشترکہ طور پر تعاون کریں گے۔ چین کا خلائی تحقیقی ادارہ سی این ایس اے اور پاکستان کا خلائی تحقیقی ادارہ سپارکو، چین پاکستان اسپیس کمیٹی تشکیل دیں گے جس کی سربراہی خلائی اداروں کے سربراہان کریں گے

Express News

پاکستان کی خود مختاری کی حفاظت کے لیے تعاون جاری رکھیں گے، چین

بیجنگ: چین نے دہشت گردی اور انتہا پسندی کے خلاف پاکستان کے کردار کی تعریف کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کی خود مختاری کی حفاظت کے لیے تعاون جاری رکھیں گے۔ ایکسپریس نیوز کے نمائندہ خصوصی کے مطابق چین کے وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان جینگ شو انگ نے میڈیا بریفنگ کے دوران عالمی برادری سے منصفانہ انداز میں حقائق کا تجزیہ کرنے مطالبہ کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ عالمی برادری دہشت گردی کے خلاف پاکستان کی جدوجہد اور قربانیوں کی قدر کرے اور پاکستان کے ساتھ تعاون کو فروغ دیں۔ ترجمان چینی وزارت خارجہ نے مزید کہا کہ چین دہشت گردی اور انتہا پسندی کے خاتمے کے لیے پاکستان کی عظیم قربانیوں اور جدوجہد کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتا ہے۔ پاکستان ہمیشہ سے چین کی سفارتی ترجیحات میں شامل رہا ہے، دونوں ممالک اسٹریٹجک کو آپریٹو پارٹنر ہیں اور سفارتی تیمناذ پر ایک دوسرے کے موقف کی حمایت جاری رکھیں گے۔ چین پاکستان کی خود مختاری کی حفاظت کے لئے اپنا بھرپور تعاون جاری رکھے گا۔ ترجمان وزارت خارجہ نے صحافیوں کو بتایا کہ پاکستان کے وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے دورہ کے دوران بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم 2019 کی افتتاحی تقریب میں شرکت کی اور چین کے صدر، وزیر اعظم اور نائب صدر سے ملاقاتیں کیں اور تاریخی دستاویزات پر دستخط کیے۔ جینگ شو انگ نے مولانا مسعود اظہر کے بارے میں سوال کا جواب دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین نے متعدد بار مسعود اظہر کے بارے میں اپنا موقف واضح انداز میں پیش کیا ہے، ہم تمام فریقین کی مشترکہ کاوشوں سے یہ مسئلہ حل کریں گے

May 02, 2019

Daily Times

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the culmination of the trust that both countries have on each other

Beyond the hundreds of meetings and the agreements signed, photo-ops with three dozen heads of state, and promises of both private and public investment into infrastructure and trade, Xi took pains to underscore China's good intentions and commitment to transparency and building "high-quality, sustainable, risk-resistant, reasonably priced, and inclusive infrastructure", as he said during his keynote speech on the opening day of the forum.

The experts closely monitoring the China's mammoth initiative believe that the new BRI concept is a little different and improved version of the 'One Belt, One Road' (OBOR) with some readjustments.

"Zero corruption, green, multilateral, quality, sustainability are the new glossary terms of the Chinese president," said Bruno S Sergi, an instructor on the economics of emerging markets and the political economy of Russia and China at Harvard University and an associate at the Harvard Davis Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies.

No doubt these new terms point in the right direction. The BRI believers have the hope that the new glossary terms would not prove to be only the buzz words for the marketing effort. The forum has a little explanation of the mechanisms how the newly touted concepts would be translated into real meanings to make the BRI humanely and ecological sustainability. Otherwise, it would become counter-productively with all its ills.

For example, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has raised many questions on its financial and strategic transparency, sustainability and ecological cost. The native economists believe that it would add more financial burden to already debt trapped Pakistan.

Despite increasing acceptance for BRI some countries have reservations too. Malaysia has cancelled some BRI projects linked to widespread corruption. Turkey skipped the forum citing fears of debt-trap diplomacy. In Montenegro, BRI financing has drastically expanded national debt.

Italy has joined the initiative in March while many more EU countries are likely to sign up for the BRI ignoring the US lobby's hue and cry against BRI. So now we have 12 EU member states plus five Balkan nations committed to the BRI and wider business deals with Beijing. The Europeans exhort China to implement a real "level playing field," and everyone enthusiastically supports the EU-China Comprehensive Investment Agreement, which Brussels and Beijing had already pledged to sign before the end of 2020.

France and Germany are already talking about to form EU army to replace NATO. The main reason is cited the US administration's unilateralism that is proving unwise for the individual countries and also for the collective benefits. Many other financial and strategic phenomenon are proving gradual decline in the US influence globally.

About \$90 billion have been invested in multiple BRI-related projects that shows gradual acceptance of China's philosophy of economic cooperation and connectivity. China's total investment in the BRI projects is likely to rise up to several hundred billion dollars that China has loosely committed to.

President Xi has reiterated at the second BRF to address the concerns by committing to ensuring both environmental and financial sustainability in projects and investments. Linking the BRI to connectivity and cooperation, President Xi also assured to address the "challenges and risks confronting mankind", global economic growth, international trade and investment, governance, multilateralism, green development and innovation.

He committed to inviting 10,000 representatives of "political parties, think-tanks and non-governmental organisations", expand market access, enhance intellectual property protection, boost imports, engage in macro-economic policy coordination, and greater opening up.

It is too early to determine the exact benefits of the BRI what China is struggling for and putting its efforts in and giving commitments because the initiative a quite huge.

President Putin left nothing to doubt when he proudly proclaimed that Russia and the Eurasian Economic Union regional integration organization that it leads are strategically merging with China and its Belt & Road Initiative, with this process having unprecedentedly far-reaching strategic consequences for the supercontinent and 21st-century geopolitics as a whole.

Pakistan was one of those countries who endorsed the initiative at its initial stage. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the culmination of the trust that both countries have on each other. Both countries have signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) at the BRI. Let's watch and see who will benefit more from it while we see all local markets have already been saturated with the Chinese products of all sorts.

Daily Times

Imran Khan's visit to China and CPEC

The second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) was successfully held in Beijing last week. At the invitation of President Xi Jinping, 40 national leaders and heads of international organisations including Prime Minister Imran Khan attended the forum. The event was also attended by more than 6,000 representatives from 150 countries and 92 international organisations. The participants exchanged in-depth views under the theme 'Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future', reached extensive consensus on promoting

high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with refined principles, reassured priorities and stronger mechanisms.

First, reviewing and summarizing the progress and significance of Belt and Road cooperation. Belt and Road cooperation has created opportunities for common prosperity. Since Belt and Road Initiative(BRI)was proposed over five years ago, and especially after the first BRF in 2017, related parties have made concerted efforts to expand policy communication, upgrade infrastructure connectivity, advance economic, trade and investment cooperation, enhance financial cooperation and facilitate people-to-people exchange. The ‘early harvests’ of Belt and Road cooperation achieved so far have opened up greater space for national and global economic growth, provided a platform for enhancing international cooperation, and made a fresh contribution to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Second, establishing the goal of high-quality development of Belt and Road cooperation as President Xi Jinping pointed out that to achieve the high-quality development of Belt and Road cooperation, we should uphold the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. We are committed to supporting open, clean and green development and have agreed to act on the principles of high standard, people-centered and sustainable development. These common views have been written into the joint communiqué of the Round Table Summit of BRF, which has become an international consensus and will lead the parties to refine the blueprint of Belt and Road cooperation. The concept articulated by President Xi Jinping of acting on the principles of high international standard, ensuring commercial and financial sustainability of the progress has been widely recognised by the international community. So far, no country has fallen into a debt crisis because of BRI. On the contrary, many countries have stepped out of the ‘trap of poverty by participating in BRI.

Third, building a global partnership on connectivity, Connectivity is the key of Belt and Road cooperation. We will uphold multilateralism, work to foster a framework led by the BRF and underpinned by multilateral and bilateral cooperation in various areas. We will find greater complementary between the economic development initiatives and plans of interested countries and international organisations, step up bilateral cooperation and cooperation in third-party markets and continue to develop international transportation and trade links, in order to help more countries improve connectivity. So far, 127 countries and 29 international organisations have signed the documents with China on BRI cooperation, which has effectively promoted the development on the economic linkages.

Fourth; achieving fruitful outcomes on results-oriented cooperation, The BRI cooperation is result-oriented instead of becoming a talk show. In the run-up to and during the Forum, the parties reached 283 deliverables, a great many business representatives participated in the CEO conference and signed project cooperation agreements worth over US\$64 billion. China has signed more than 100 multilateral and bilateral cooperation documents with concerned countries, released the report on Belt and Road cooperation progress, the analysis framework on debt sustainability for Belt and Road projects as well as the report of the BRF Advisory Council etc.

A number of constructive suggestions on a high-quality and sustainable development of the Belt and Road on next stage were raised in Beijing.

This year's forum sends a clear message: more and more friends and partners are joining the Belt and Road cooperation out of their will, and the cooperation is enjoying wider popularity, higher quality and brighter prospects. The forum has pointed the direction for Belt and Road cooperation and created an important opportunity to promote global economic growth and achieve common prosperity. At the same time, the forum also built a bridge and stage for China to strengthen friendship and deepen bilateral re China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and 'iron brothers'. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an important pilot project of BRI and a landmark project for the cooperation between the two countries in the new era. Following his first visit to China last November, Prime Minister Imran Khan went to China for the second BRF and his meetings with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and Vice President Wang Qishan have further pointed out the direction of our all-weather strategic cooperation with clear-cut measures.

Regarding the bilateral relations, both sides positively evaluated the all-weather strategic cooperation. China firmly supported Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty and national dignity, choosing its own development path suited to its national conditions. The two sides agreed to maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges, deepen the exchanges and cooperation in politics, security, trade and investment, people-to-people contact and other fields, and firmly support each other on core interest issues.

Regarding the CPEC, the two sides reviewed the important consensus reached during Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China last year. This time, the two leaders made a top-level design for high-quality development of CPEC, underlining the importance of bringing policy synergy between BRI and the development strategy of Pakistan, with more focus on industrial cooperation and social uplift and livelihood projects. Prime Minister Imran Khan once again reaffirmed his support for CPEC. His remarks on jointly addressing climate change, building tourism and livelihood corridor, promoting anti-corruption drive, setting up poverty alleviation fund, expanding free trade and investment were also widely welcomed by all the participants at the forum.

Regarding regional and international issues, the two sides exchanged views on situations in Afghanistan and South Asia. China appreciated Pakistan's efforts in combating terrorism and maintaining regional peace. The two sides were satisfied with their close cooperation in international and multilateral forums and agreed to deepen communication and coordination at all levels.

During the forum, the leaders of the two countries witnessed the inking of six bilateral agreements. The two sides also agreed on 14 cooperation initiatives or documents covering transportation, customs, agriculture, postal services, energy, disaster reduction, technology, environmental protection, intellectual property and many other fields. 370 Chinese entrepreneurs attended the China-Pakistan Trade and Investment Forum held in Beijing and expressed

optimism about the development potential of Pakistan and willingness to take advantage of investment opportunities. All above-mentioned cooperation closely focused on industrial cooperation and social livelihood uplift as priorities of the next phase of the CPEC. It is also fully in line with the 'Naya Pakistan' proposed by the Pakistani government and the appeal of ordinary Pakistani people. It embodies the expectation and determination of China and Pakistan to integrate their interests and seek common development. It has injected new impetus into the development of China-Pakistan relations and the CPEC in the new era.

The BRI originated in China, but its opportunities and achievements are shared by the world. Pakistan is an important supporter and participant in the BRI. The high-quality development of BRI will create more opportunities for China-Pakistan relations and the CPEC. China is willing to work with the Pakistani government and its people to implement the consensus of the BRF and the outcome of the leaders' meeting. I believe, China and Pakistan, by working hand in hand will forge a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era, and contribute to a new and win-win chapter of Belt and Road cooperation.

Daily Times

Seminar highlights CPEC challenges and opportunities

The Centre of Excellence for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor on Thursday organised a seminar in collaboration with the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) on the topic of 'Would CPEC Spur Economic Growth?'

Addressing on the occasion, Sohail Jehangir Malik presented an overview of the bilateral interests of Pakistan and China, particularly related to the CPEC's geostrategic, geopolitical and now geo-economics realm. He maintained that the CPEC has played a positive role in eliminating energy shortfalls in the country. However, all the ambitious agendas pertaining to CPEC must be translated into reality with a pragmatic mindset keeping the potentials and pitfalls in the mind, he stressed. "CPEC is a huge opportunity for Pakistan considering the current financial woes Pakistan is facing, but how to leverage different facets of CPEC is still something that needs to be debated, researched and consulted with the Chinese counterparts," he said.

According to him, Pakistan still lacks institutional harmony, lack of capacity issues and lack of skill/vocational training along with disconnect of academia and lack of insight at the helm of decision making – some of the perennial bottlenecks which are impeding the CPEC take-off. Despite having a huge potential, CPEC needs rigorous research with the discernible trends beforehand so that a correct discourse can be mapped to reap the deserving benefits, he added.

Pakistan Observer

UNSC designates Masood Azhar as global terrorist China withdraws its opposition after consultations with Pakistan

Jaish-e-Muhmamad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar has been designated as a global terrorist under the United Nations Security Council resolution 1267. Azhar was blacklisted by UNSC sanctions committee after Pakistan and China dropped their objections to the latest proposal put forward by the US, UK and France to designate Masood as terrorist. Since 2008, the US attempted four times to list Azhar under the UNSC resolution 1267 but every time its move was thwarted by China

“The Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da’ish), al Qaeda, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities approved the addition of the entry specified below to its ISIL (Da’ish) and al Qaeda Sanctions List of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo set out in paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 2368 (2017) and adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,” the UNSC said in a statement following the decision.

Meanwhile, addressing a news conference on Wednesday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Dr Muhammad Faisal confirmed the development, saying the UNSC decision entails three steps i.e. assets freeze, arms embargo and travel restrictions.

Pakistan rejected earlier proposals to list the JeM chief as they lacked technical criteria and were aimed at maligning Pakistan and hindering the movement in occupied Kashmir, said Dr Faisal and added that the proposals had a political agenda. The FO spokesperson further said India is presenting this new development as its victory and confirmation of its narrative, but these claims are unfounded and false. He said recent proposals to list Azhar were motivated by Pulwama attack and aimed at undermining the legitimate freedom movement in the Indian Occupied Kashmir.

“Once politically motivated attempts to link it with the Pulwama incident and the legitimate Kashmiri struggle for the realisation of the right to self-determination were removed, the current amended listing proposal was approved,” he added.

China has called on the international community to fairly and justly see Pakistan’s endeavors and contributions in countering terrorism, and step up dialogue and cooperation with the country. Earlier in the day, a Pakistani official had said China withdrew its opposition after consultations with Pakistan. He further added that Pakistan agreed to the listing after its objections were addressed.

Meanwhile, China’s Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang has also reacted on the development, saying China always believes that the relevant work should be carried out in an objective, unbiased and professional manner and based on solid evidence and consensus among all parties.

“We commend the Pakistani government’s and people’s efforts in fighting terrorism and extremism and their great endeavors and sacrifices to this end,” Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson said. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan recently attended the second BRF in China and met President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and Vice President Wang Qishan, while both sides also signed many bilateral cooperation documents.

The Nation

China, Pakistan sign space exploration agreement

A newly signed space exploration agreement between China and Pakistan on manned space missions manifests their more profound cooperation on the peaceful use of outer space, experts said. The agreement, marking that cooperation between the two neighbours in space exploration has entered a new phase, China Economic Net reported, quoting a statement issued by the China National Space Administration (CNSA).

The agreement inked during the recent visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan will serve as a high-level foundation for cooperation in space science and exploration. Both nations will conduct scientific and technological experiments, astronaut training, along with manned space applications and achievement transformation.

The CNSA and the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission will establish a China-Pakistan space committee chaired by top officials from both sides to address future collaborative issues.

Since Pakistan is China's all-weather friend, China is willing to provide the know-how to foster Pakistan's technological development on the use of outer space, Lan Jianxue, said an associate research fellow at the China Institute of International Studies.

"China-Pakistan space cooperation will help Pakistan in terms of satellite monitoring of natural disasters and agricultural production, land and resources surveying, and waste handling in a microgravity environment," said Lan adding that China will also benefit from the cooperation, including for commercial applications of space technology, investment security and counter-terrorism.

In 2018, China sent two Pakistan satellites into orbit. The PRSS-1, Pakistan's first optical remote sensing satellite, and the PakTES-1A, a smaller observation craft, were both lifted into space by China's Long March-2C carrier rocket.

The current agreement signifies that their cooperation is not limited to infrastructure and resources it also concerns technology and innovation, Lan said.

The News

Did China take Pakistan into confidence?

Masood Azhar listing

ISLAMABAD: Chinese decision to lift its technical hold on listing Maulana Masood Azhar as a global terrorist flabbergasted diplomatic observers here Wednesday as the decision has come in less than a week of an important meeting between visiting Pakistan's top leadership and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing where the former had gone to participate in second Belt and Road International Forum (BRF).

The observers are intrigued with a question that did the Chinese president or the foreign minister of that country opted to take Pakistan and its visiting dignitaries, being from a very close friendly country, into confidence about changing of mind pertaining to the matter. Since an important minister from Pakistan was also in Beijing and he reached the Chinese capital ahead of his leadership and had meeting with his Chinese counterpart before the arrival of the leadership, it appears he too couldn't find a clue about the decision which is source of disquiet for Pakistan.

The Foreign Office spokesman in his hurriedly-called news conference on Wednesday evening didn't take the media into confidence on the aforementioned subject.

Meanwhile, sources hinted that some authorities in Pakistan had advance inkling of the matter at least two days ahead of the withdrawal of Chinese hold. According to Indian media reports, China that lifted its technical hold on listing Maulana Masood Azhar as a global terrorist by the United Nations, said on Wednesday that it took the decision after it found no objection to the listing proposal by the United States, the United Kingdom and France following a careful study of the revised materials. Indian media is portraying the decision as a great diplomatic victory but Islamabad has watered down the development. Indian media is insisting that "in a huge diplomatic win for India, the United Nations Wednesday designated Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Azhar as a 'global terrorist' after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist him. The 1267 al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council has detailed criteria for the listing procedures. China always believes that the relevant work should be carried out in an objective, unbiased and professional manner and based on solid evidence and consensus among all parties," a press release issued by Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said. "On this listing issue, China has been communicating with relevant parties in a constructive and responsible fashion. Recently, relevant countries revised and re-submitted the materials for the listing proposal to the 1267 Committee. After careful study of the revised materials and taking into consideration the opinions of relevant parties concerned, China does not have objection to the listing proposal," he said.

"The proper settlement of the above-mentioned issue again shows that in international counter-terrorism cooperation, we have to uphold the rules and procedures of relevant UN body, follow the principle of mutual respect, resolve differences and build consensus through dialogue, and prevent politicizing technical issues," he said.

"I would like to stress that Pakistan has made enormous contributions to fighting terrorism, which deserves the full recognition of the international community. China will continue firmly support Pakistan's efforts to combat terrorist and extremist forces," Geng said.

Meanwhile, as India's ruling BJP tried to take credit, the opposition parties raised question and lauded their bureaucracy's performance.

The News

Parliamentary panel to get briefing on CPEC

ISLAMABAD: A parliamentary panel gets on May 3 a comprehensive briefing from the secretaries of the Communications Ministry, Planning, Development and Reform, Power Division and Maritime Affairs on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Meanwhile, the CoE-CPEC holds a seminar on May 2 on "can CPEC be the much-needed engine for rapid pro-poor growth in Pakistan? The role of an elite Research Center of Excellence (CoE) in ensuring the success of this opportunity, Senior Policy Analyst Dr. Sohail Jehangir Malik, MSc (Economics) MADE (Agriculture Development Economics), PhD (Econometrics) will speak. e is a prolific development policy analysts and scholars of international repute.

A member of the Parliamentary Committee of the National Assembly on CPEC said that they want to know the fate of the mega projects under the multibillion game-changer venture amid credible reports that the work has been extremely slowed down over the past several months. "We will urge the concerned secretaries to expedite the progress on the CPEC projects so that the opportunity is not frittered away for any political reasons," he said.

In the meantime, the Senate Standing Committee on Aviation meeting on May 7 will consider the cases of Pakistan International Airlines employees who were recently dismissed from service by the management in the wake of fake degrees. It will hold a discussion on a point of public importance raised by Senator Behramand Khan Tangi "regarding corruption in the project of new Islamabad airport" as referred by the Senate on Nov 13, 2018.

The committee will also take into consideration a call attention notice moved by Senator Sherry Rehman regarding the violation of basic human rights and industrial relations act 2012 by imposing a ban on union activities through Essential Services Act 1952 as referred by the Senate on March 7, 2019. It will get a briefing by the Met department regarding early warning of weather forecast precautionary measures of expected heat wave and floods. The Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet will hold a session on May 6 to consider the matter of regularization of contractual medical staff at cardiac centre and bone marrow transplant centre of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Islamabad.

It will get a briefing on planning, operating mechanism and execution strategies of by Pakistan Standard and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA) mandatory for bidding and tendering to ensure

quality of products. It will also be informed by Pakistan Baitul Mal on a report alleging irregularities in distribution of relief packets to flood affected residents of district Chitral.

The parliamentary panel on federal education and professional training will on May 6 get a detailed briefing from the High Education Commission (HEC). The committee will be informed about the functions of Private Education Institutions Regulatory Authority (PEIRA) Islamabad. It will also examine alleged irregularities in the recent recruitments made in various cadres by the Allama Iqbal Open University.

The Functional Committee of the Senate will be briefed on May 7 about overall performance of Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) and be given province-wise and district-wise details including the tribal areas; its achievements and discoveries particularly regarding mineral deposits; and regular, contract, ad-hoc and on deputation basis with vacant posts.

Express News

مسئلہ کشمیر کا حل مذاکرات کے ذریعے نکلنا چاہئے، چین

چین کا کہنا ہے کہ مسئلہ کشمیر پر ہمارا موقف واضح اور پختہ ہے یہ مسئلہ دونوں فریقین کے درمیان مذاکرات کے ذریعے حل ہونا چاہئے۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ کے ترجمان گینگ شوئنگ نے اے پی پی سے بات کرتے ہوئے کہا مسعود اظہر کو ممنوعہ فہرست میں شامل کرنے کی منظوری کا مسئلہ کشمیر سے کوئی تعلق نہیں اور اس کا اثر مسئلہ کشمیر کے حوالے سے ہمارے موقف پر نہیں پڑے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا پاکستان نے دہشت گردی کے خلاف جنگ میں مثالی کردار ادا کیا ہے جسے بین الاقوامی برادری میں قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھا جانا چاہئے۔ ترجمان گینگ شوئنگ نے مزید کہا چین دہشت گردی کے خلاف پاکستان کی جانب سے اٹھائے گئے ہر اقدام میں پاکستان کی بھرپور حمایت جاری رکھے گا۔

Jang News

پاکستان اور بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم

گزشتہ دنوں میں چین کے دارالحکومت بیجنگ میں تھا جہاں حکومت چین کی جانب سے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم کے دوسرے بڑے اجلاس کا انعقاد کیا گیا، اس موقع پر دنیا بھر کے نمایاں ممالک سے تعلق رکھنے والے لیڈران، تھنک ٹینکس نمائندگان اور اہم اداروں کے سربراہان بھی موجود تھے، پاکستان کے اعلیٰ سطحی وفد کی قیادت کا اعزاز وزیر اعظم عمران خان کو حاصل ہوا۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبہ جسے پہلے ون بیلٹ ون روڈ بھی کہا جاتا تھا، بلاشبہ چین کی طرف سے رواں صدی کا سب سے بڑا ترقیاتی منصوبہ ہے جس کے تحت 66 سے زائد ممالک تجارتی بنیادوں پر آپس میں منسلک ہو رہے ہیں، ورلڈ بینک کی ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق یہ منصوبہ دنیا کی دو تہائی آبادی کو قریب لانے میں نہایت معاون ثابت ہو سکتا ہے۔ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے آج سے چھ سال قبل 2013ء میں اس عظیم الشان منصوبے کا اعلان کیا جو اب تیزی سے حقیقت کا روپ دھار رہا ہے، زمانہ قدیم کی شاہراہ ریشم کے نقش قدم پر دور جدید کے سلک روڈ اکنامک بیلٹ کا بنیادی مقصد چین کو سڑک اور ریل کی مختلف راہداریوں کے ذریعے ایشیا کے تقریباً تمام ممالک سے ملاتے ہوئے یورپ سے منسلک کرنا ہے، اس طرح میری ٹائم سلک روڈ کے تحت چین کو بذریعہ بحری راستہ افریقہ اور جنوب مشرقی ایشیا سمیت پوری دنیا تک تجارتی رسائی حاصل ہو جاتی ہے۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کا سب سے اہم ترین حصہ چین پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور (سی پیک) ہے جسے ہم پاکستانی پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کے نام سے بھی پکارتے ہیں، اندازاً 62 ارب امریکی ڈالر کی مالیت کا یہ ترقیاتی منصوبہ چینی سرحدی علاقے خنجراب سے گوادر بندرگاہ تک مشتمل ہے، اس منصوبے کی افادیت کے پیش نظر اسے نخط

میں بسنے والے لاکھوں کروڑوں باشندوں کی سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کی ضمانت بھی سمجھا جاتا ہے۔ روزنامہ جنگ میں شائع کردہ ایک رپورٹ کے مطابق پاکستان بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے سے سب سے زیادہ فائدہ اٹھانے والا ملک ہے کیونکہ سی پیک منصوبے نے گزشتہ پانچ برسوں کے دوران تیز رفتار ترقی کی رفتار برقرار رکھی اور ملک کی مائیکرو اکنامکس صورتحال بہتر بنانے میں مدد کی، سی پیک کی بدولت بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کو بھی تقویت ملی، بطور ابتدائی شراکت دار پاکستان کو اقتصادی بحران سے نبرد آزما ہونے کیلئے ہمسایہ دوست ملک چین کا تعاون بھی حاصل رہا، اس امر کا اعتراف خود وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے حالیہ اجلاس سے اپنے خطاب کے دوران کیا کہ پاکستان میں بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کی بدولت توانائی بحران پر قابو پایا گیا، وزیر اعظم نے اس موقع پر غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کو پُرکشش مواقع فراہم کرنے کی یقین دہانی کراتے ہوئے کہا کہ حکومت اقتصادی ترقی کے لئے نجی شعبے کی حوصلہ افزائی کر رہی ہے، ہم چین کے ساتھ بنیادی ڈھانچے، ریلوے، توانائی اور آئی ٹی میں تعاون میں اضافہ چاہتے ہیں جبکہ زراعت، صحت اور تعلیم میں تعاون کا فروغ بھی حکومتی ترجیحات میں شامل ہے، سی پیک منصوبے کے تحت گوادری تیزی سے دنیا کا اہم تجارتی مرکز بن رہا ہے، سی پیک کے اگلے مرحلے میں خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کا قیام بھی شامل ہے۔ سب جانتے ہیں کہ انڈیا راول سے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کا سخت ناقد ہے، انڈیا اس عظیم الشان منصوبے کی مخالفت کی بڑی وجہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری کو پاکستان کے زیر انتظام گلگت بلتستان کے علاقے سے گزرنے کو قرار دیتا ہے، راول برس بھی بھارتی قیادت نے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ فورم جیسے اہم عالمی اجلاس کا انہی تحفظات کی بناء پر بائیکاٹ کیا لیکن دوران اجلاس چینی وزارت سے منسوب ایک نقشہ سوشل میڈیا پر وائرل ہوا جس میں پاکستان کا نام شائع نہ کیا گیا بلکہ انڈیا کو نمایاں اہمیت دی گئی، میرے لئے سب سے تکلیف دہ امر یہ تھا جب میں نے حکومت چین کے میڈیا جاری کردہ نقشے میں آزاد جموں و کشمیر اور گلگت بلتستان کو انڈیا کا حصہ دیکھا، میں نے اس سنگین جسارت کی فوری نشاندہی اپنی اعلیٰ قیادت کو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ہمیں سرکاری سطح پر اس اقدام پر سخت احتجاج ریکارڈ کرانے کی ضرورت ہے، اگر آج ہم خاموش رہے تو کل یہی نقشہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کے تمام ممالک کی سرکاری دستاویزات کا حصہ بن جائے گا جس سے پاکستان کے مسئلہ کشمیر پر دیرینہ موقف کو سخت سفارتی نقصان پہنچنے کا اندیشہ ہے۔ چینی صدر کا تین روزہ اجلاس کے اختتام پر میڈیا بریفنگ میں کہنا تھا کہ حالیہ فورم کے دوران 64 ارب ڈالر سے زائد کے معاہدے کئے گئے ہیں لیکن روزنامہ جنگ میں شائع کردہ رپورٹ کے مطابق چار مالیاتی پروجیکٹس میں سے کوئی بھی پاکستان کے لئے نہیں ہے، متعدد ممالک کی شمولیت کے ساتھ ایک منصوبے کا ذکر کیا گیا، تاہم پاکستان اس میں بھی شامل نہیں ہے۔ یہ ایک حقیقت ہے کہ ہمارا قریبی ہمسایہ ملک چین اپنی کامیاب اقتصادی پالیسیوں اور انتھک محنت کی بدولت برق رفتاری سے عالمی طاقت کا درجہ حاصل کر رہا ہے لیکن ایک وقت تھا کہ دنیا کی بیجنگ تک رسائی پاکستان کی قومی ایئر لائن پی آئی اے کے بغیر ممکن نہیں تھی، ماضی میں بھی ہم نے چین کو امریکہ اور مغربی دنیا سے منسلک کرنے کیلئے اپنی خدمات پیش کیں، آج بھی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کا محور سی پیک منصوبہ ہے، چین پاکستان کو کتنی اہمیت دیتا ہے اسکا اندازہ بیجنگ آمد پر وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے استقبال سے لگایا جاسکتا ہے۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے میں ہماری کلیدی اہمیت کے تناظر میں اعلان کردہ عالمی منصوبوں میں پاکستان کو نمایاں مقام ملنا چاہئے، اس کیلئے ضروری ہے کہ ہم پاکستان کے مفاد کو مقدم رکھتے ہوئے سفارتی محاذ پر بہت زیادہ فعال کردار ادا کریں اور ماضی کی دقیانوسی پالیسیوں کو خیر باد کہہ دیں۔ سفارتی محاذ پر جرات مندانہ موقف ہی پاکستان کو عالمی سطح پر قائدانہ کردار ادا کرنے کے قابل بنا سکتا ہے۔

May 03, 2019

Daily Times

CPEC versus hostile narratives

Modern technology has been used, since its very inception, as a tool to drive and regulate how people form an opinion. In a web-ified society, social media has become a key driver for starting trends, whether social or political. It is now used even to influence an election process (the world saw traces of alleged Russian collusion in the US presidential elections). It is also being used as an instrument of war. These new virtual battlefronts are now seeing a war of narratives.

The West and the East have always been two different worlds. The West, mainly the US, has always sought to oppose the policies pursued by China. This appears to be natural as the two sides are competitors in many areas. The fracas has shown a swift shift into a new realm with the emergence of President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative. A new war of narratives is being waged against Chinese efforts to globalize the world after the US and its allies failed to do so. Instead of promoting a globalized world, Uncle Sam founded a capitalized world and laid the foundations of a debt-based economy. China's initiative to globalize the world through interconnectivity and development appears, on the other hand, set to bring prosperity worldwide.

The moment CPEC picked up pace in its development, narratives against it started surfacing on the internet. A variety of accusations were slung in order to attack the project. The project has been continuously attacked in the social media.

The US and its allies seem uncomfortable with the rapid growth and echo of the BRI. The web is now being used to launch moves to sabotage the esteem and the spirit of the project. It has been suggested that China will cripple Pakistan's economy and that the CPEC is another East India Company. The narratives are meant to poison the youth against the project.

The essential difference between the East India Company and the CPEC is their different dynamics. The Company was set up for trade but later started influencing and interfering in politics. The CPEC, however, does not represent trade. It is a bilateral agreement under the BRI umbrella. The conspiracy narrative would be interesting if there were a logical basis to it. They seem to stem from a hatred of Pakistan and China.

Daily Times

China will stand by Pakistan through thick and thin: Bao

Pakistan and China are time-tested friends as both countries have always supported each other in every sphere of bilateral relations, said Bao Zhong, head of Political and Press Section, Embassy of People's Republic of China, during a seminar on 'Second Belt and Road Forum Achievements and Prospects' organised by the Centre for Belt and Road Initiative and China Studies Institute

of Peace and Diplomatic Studies in collaboration with the Commission of Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS).

The seminar was organised in the backdrop of the second Belt and Road Forum held in Beijing where Prime Minister Imran Khan participated on the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

China will continue to stand by Pakistan in its development and prosperity drive for better future and peace, Bao Zhong said, adding that both countries stand united as iron brothers. She was of the view that Belt and Road Initiative is meant to promote high-quality development in the region and beyond. The initiative has attracted wide acceptability and popularity because the Chinese vision is to share the prosperity with inclusiveness and not by force, she said, adding that Beijing's policy is to promote cooperation through multilateralism and bilateralism with equal opportunity and development through joint collaboration.

Bao Zhong said with improved connectivity at physical levels like rail and roads, there are greater chances for people-to-people contacts which will lead to more understanding and dialogue and less confrontation. "The BRI and the related projects are result-oriented and not just a talking shop. For instance, as a result of these projects and development initiative, several hundred thousand of people will come out of poverty and will be able to provide not only jobs but also training opportunities," she added.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Dr Zameer Awan from China Studies Centre, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), said that CPEC and BRI are blessings for Pakistan. "These projects are meant to provide unprecedented development opportunities to not only Pakistan but also larger developing countries of the world participating or agreeing to the BRI and its spirit," he said. "It depends now on the participating countries that how much they can achieve from this initiative," he said. He was also of the view that in the past the world powers have failed to address the issues of the world but now they are looking towards China as a hope to solve their issues through its wisdom of peace, prosperity and shared destiny.

Dr Muhammad Munir from the National Defence University (NDU) was of the view that a negative propaganda campaign has been unleashed by the west and other countries against the BRI and CPEC, which is totally baseless. He said BRI and CPEC are meant to bring development and prosperity to those countries who are struggling to grow. "Instead of doing negative propaganda, such countries must contribute to this great initiative. They must join hands in development rather than putting the efforts down," he maintained.

Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies President Farhat Asif said that the institute is publishing latest updates on CPEC in Urdu and English languages for the larger audience in Pakistan and the world. She was of the view that students and faculty members apart from the civil society groups must think critically and should not blindly follow the negative propaganda. They need to learn about countries like China and their work ethics, values and ways to progress, she said, adding that Pakistan and China are true friends and brothers who have made their relationship iconic and visionary for the rest of the world. A large number of diplomats, students

and members of the civil society participated in the seminar, reflecting the keen interest among the people to know more about the initiative and urge to learn.

The Express Tribune

Islamophobia and China

While their manifestations are varied, religious intolerance and religious violence remain major problems in the world today. Within our part of the world, Hindus in India have become increasingly intolerant of their religious minorities, especially Muslims. Pakistan has its own share of religious and sectarian intolerance. Sinhalese Buddhists have also become aggressive in Sri Lanka, and the recent terrorist attack in the country will probably make matters worse.

While one may not think of China, with its marvelous economic growth led by a strong government, as a place which could be susceptible to religious intolerance, recent evidence indicates that Chinese populace is not immune to this malice either. China has, of course, come a long way over the past couple of decades in terms of allowing religious freedom. However, analysts of Chinese social media have noted the disturbing growth of Islamophobia in the country. Such trends are significant given the rise of social media in China, which has profoundly affected how people acquire information, and express their opinions. While still restricted, social media trends do provide significant insight into what the public is thinking on issues which are not considered ‘sensitive’ topics by the Chinese State.

Consider, for instance, how mainstream coverage of the recent New Zealand attacks posted on Chinese social media (such as Weibo which has nearly 450 million users) was barraged with anti-Muslim comments. Hateful comments, describing Muslims as “cancer cells” for example, aren’t representative of the Chinese populace’s views in its entirety of course many social users also posted rebuttals to these hateful assertions. Yet, many of the “most-liked” comments on several Chinese sites contained similar vitriol.

Al Jazeera has recently pointed out how the Christchurch shooting is not the only incident which reveals the prevalence of Islamophobia in Chinese cyberspace. Early last year, a Chinese actress of Kazakh descent posted on Weibo that she didn’t celebrate the lunar New Year and was bombarded with threats, which prompted her to leave the social website altogether.

The Chinese censorship mechanism has shown nowhere some level of scrutiny towards this online hate speech, which in part shows how the Chinese government does not consider anti-Muslim sentiments to be a serious problem.

Yet, Islamophobia in China is not confined to social media, of course. There are 20 million Muslims in China. Besides Uighur Muslims, who continue facing serious repression in Xinjiang, Hui and other Chinese Muslims, who are more integrated in China, are now also feeling some discomfort. Several Chinese provinces have removed halal food standards, a move heralded by government officials as fighting an alleged ‘pan-halal’ trend in the country.

China's Foreign Ministry recently defended actions of mass detention of Muslims Uighurs by stating that such actions are in line with the international community's attempts to combat terrorism and prevent it from spreading. Other Chinese officials have also issued problematic statements claiming that detention is meant to re-educate and "cure" Uighurs, and to turn them into "normal people".

Viewing Islam as the cause of "extremism" is not exclusive to China, of course. Post-9/11, many other countries view Islamic identity with increasing suspicion and stigmatization, aiming to surveil and curb religious expression in the attempt to combat 'extremism'.

As China now enters the second phase of its Belt and Road initiative, for which it is partnering with several Muslim countries, one hopes that its policymakers will begin acknowledging this problem and aim to assess and address its underlying causes.

The Nation

BRI a road map to global prosperity

Prime Minister's visit to China to attend Second Belt and Road Forum has been quite successful from the perspective of signing of free trade agreement between the two countries according to which China has agreed to extend same preferential treatment to Pakistani imports as it has given to the ASEAN Countries. It will not only reduce the imbalance in bilateral trade between the two countries but would also enhance badly needed export potential of Pakistan. The two countries were also able to formally sign MOU for ML-1 project for building double railway track from Peshawar to Karachi. The visit also provided an opportunity for interaction between Prime minister Imran Khan and the top Chinese leadership in which both sides expressed their unflinching resolve to consolidate the gains of cooperation between them under CPEC and also exploring new vistas of cooperation.

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

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

Pakistan is the major partner and beneficiary of CPEC, a flagship project of BRI and as rightly pointed out by Prime Minister Imran Khan its benefits have already started having their impact on Pakistan's economy through increased supply of energy and development of infrastructure

which has enabled the two countries to shift greater focus on socio-economic uplift, poverty alleviation, agricultural cooperation and industrial development emulating the Chinese model of poverty alleviation. He was right on mark to assert that this cooperation and collaboration for transformational change was characterized by deep-rooted friendship, partnership and brotherhood with China which remains strong, resilient and unbreakable and stood tall in the face of every challenge.

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

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

Foreign direct investments are a preferred substitute for loans. They act as a propeller for generating employment and enhancing the GDP growth. For Pakistan which is already groaning under the unbearable weight of foreign loans, foreign direct investments are like a life line and all efforts need to be focused on that aspect. The special economic zones to be set up along the corridor have the potential for acting as a catalyst to transformational change in the economic profile of Pakistan and could create a win-win situation both for Pakistan and would be investors in those zones. That was the strategy adopted by China to lift 800 million people out of poverty and achieved upper middle-income status.

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

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

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

The Nation

LCCI for survey to have awareness about needs of Chinese market

LAHORE Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Almas Hyder has said that second phase of free trade agreement between the two countries was an opportunity to get share in Chinese imports of over \$ 1.74 trillion.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of 3-day Pakistan Coating Industry Show at Expo Center on Thursday, he urged business community to concentrate on product diversification and quality for getting maximum benefits from the duty free access to the Chinese market.

Thousands of products have been displayed at more than 250 stalls from local and foreign exhibitors.

Almas Hyder said that China was one of the leading economies of the world. “Increase in Pakistan’s export to China means increase in our participation in international trade that will certainly improve our economic growth”, he said, adding, jump of \$ 6 billion in exports from Pakistan to China was expected after second phase of FTA.

He called for a survey to have awareness about the needs of Chinese market. He said that it would help industry to develop and modify the products according to the demands of Chinese consumers. He said that ease of doing business was an important factor and to secure space in Chinese and other markets around the globe. “It is a good omen that government is well aware of the importance of ease of doing business and trying to change the scenario,” he said.

About Pakistan Coating Industry Mega Show, LCCI President said that it was a proof of the fact that Pakistan has all resources and abilities to organize international events. He said that frequency of exhibitions should be enhanced as these were the best to catch the attention of international buyers.

The News

Worries over China debt overstated: Ishrat

ISLAMABAD: The so-called debt overhang for Pakistan from its participation in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), part of the ambitious Chinese Belt and Road Initiative, is overstated, according to a top official.

“The propaganda is not based on facts but on perception,” said Ishrat Husain, adviser to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Institutional Austerity. He was addressing a seminar at the 52nd Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank on the topic: “Is debt sustainability a cause for concern?”

Reeling out numbers, Husain said that of the \$45 billion total package from China under CPEC in 2015, as much as \$35 billion was for financing power projects in the power-deficit country. “The Chinese government got no extra concessions, the money was brought in as FDI and commercial loans were taken by the Chinese companies. There is no loan obligation on Pakistan,” said Husain. About \$6 billion was in the form of a government-to-government loan at 2% interest rate, he said.

Of the total national debt of \$100 billion, only \$11 billion is owed to China, according to him. Pakistan’s annual investment programme, including both public and private, added up to \$50 billion and the CPEC was only a small part of it, he pointed out. “The Chinese have been very understanding and cooperative. CPEC has put us back on track and we’re determined to put our house in order,” Husain said.

Speaking in the same panel, ADB President and Chairperson Takehiko Nakao said that the BRI, of which CPEC is a part, is a very natural idea to expand the connection between East Asia, Central Asia, Europe and Africa.

“There are merits over investment but at the same time we have to be careful... we must find good projects with good returns even if the lending is to the government. Otherwise it will cause concern over repayment,” he said.

The News

Belt and road

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), formerly known as 'One Belt One Road', is China’s biggest development project, linking more than 66 countries to ensure economic cooperation. According to the World Bank, this project can be very beneficial to connect two-thirds population of the world.

The mega project, announced by the Chinese president six years ago in 2013, is now becoming a reality very rapidly. The initiative is actually a strategic attempt to enhance regional connectivity and embrace a brighter future. Following the ancient Silk Road, the BRI project aims to connect China with other regional countries through a network of roads and rail tracks. Similarly, the Maritime Silk Road focuses on sea routes in order to foster collaboration in Southeast Asia, Oceania, and Africa.

The most important part of the Belt & Road project is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This development project, worth \$62 billion, is expanded from the Chinese borderline area of Khunjerab to the Gwadar Port. The project is supposed to guarantee the socio-economic development of millions of people living in this region.

According to a report published in Jang, Pakistan is the only country to get maximum benefits from this One Belt, One Road project. CPEC had kept the momentum of rapid growth from last five years and helped to improve the micro economic situation of the country. China has supported Pakistan to tackle the economic challenges and energy crisis. Even, this fact has been acknowledged by Prime Minister Imran Khan in his recent speech in Beijing.

In the international scenario, Pakistan is considered a close ally of China. The CPEC project is transforming Gwadar into the world's most important economic hub. Special Economic Zones are also scheduled to be established in the next phase of the CPEC project. However, I feel that Pakistan did not receive due importance during the Belt & Road Forum. India is a strong opponent of the One Belt, One Road project since day one and one of the reasons behind Indian resistance to this great mega project is the passage of the CPEC route through the Gilgit-Baltistan region. This year again, India boycotted the One Belt, One Road forum. Ironically, during the session of BRI forum, a project map, attributed to a Chinese ministry, went viral on social media where Pakistan's name was not mentioned but India's name was highlighted in a prominent way.

It is a matter of serious concern for every patriotic Pakistani citizen to see Jammu & Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan as part of Indian Territory on the map. Understanding the sensitivity of the issue, I immediately identified this to my top leadership and suggested that we needed to record an official protest at the highest level.

The Chinese president, during the media briefing after the concluding session, informed that cooperation agreements worth more than \$64 billion were signed during this BRI forum, but according to a report published in Jang, there is not a single project directly with or for Pakistan. According to the newspaper, analysts are of the view that Pakistan was deliberately ignored during the recently-held Belt & Forum because China is more interested to develop close relationship with India in the perspective of its economic interests.

China is achieving the status of a global superpower due to its successful economic policies and hard work, but there was a time when world access to Beijing was not possible without the Pakistani national flag-carrier, PIA. In the past, we also cooperated with China to connect with the US and the West. Today, CPEC is the most important project under the Belt and Road Initiative.

We want to enhance bilateral cooperation with China in the fields of infrastructure, railway and IT sector; and agriculture, education and health are also included in the priorities of present government. However, to achieve respect and dignity in the eyes of the international community, it is also very necessary to play a very proactive role at the diplomatic front.

Express News

چین پاکستان میں " فوجی اڈہ " قائم کر سکتا ہے، پینٹاگون

واشنگٹن: امریکی وزارت دفاع پینٹاگون نے انکشاف کیا ہے کہ چین پاکستان میں فوجی اڈہ قائم کرنے پر سنجیدگی سے غور کر رہا ہے۔ غیر ملکی خبر رساں ادارے 'اے ایف پی' کے مطابق امریکی ادارے پینٹاگون نے اپنی سالانہ رپورٹ میں دعویٰ کیا ہے کہ چین اپنے عالمی منصوبے 'ون بیلٹ ون روڈ' کے تحفظ کے لیے پاکستان میں فوجی اڈہ قائم کرے گا۔ امریکی کانگریس کے رپورٹ میں کہا گیا ہے چین فوجی اڈہ طویل عرصے سے اپنے دوست اور قابل اعتماد ممالک میں قائم کرے گا جن میں ممکنہ طور پر پاکستان، خلیجی ریاستیں، جنوب مشرقی ایشیا اور مغربی بحر الکاہل کے علاقے شامل ہیں۔ اس وقت چین کا بیرون ملک ایک فوجی اڈہ ہے جو افریقی ملک جبوتی میں قائم ہے جب کہ گزشتہ برس چین کی جانب سے افغانستان کے شمال مغربی علاقے واخان راہداری پر ملٹری بیس بنانے پر غور کیا جا رہا ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ چین نے دنیا بھر کے 152 ممالک کے ساتھ تجارتی روابط کے لیے ون بیلٹ اور ون روڈ منصوبے کا آغاز کیا ہے جس میں بیلٹ سے مراد زمینی رابطہ جب کہ روڈ سے مراد بحری گزرگاہ ہے۔ اس منصوبے کا مکمل نام سلک روڈ اکاؤنٹ بیلٹ اور 21 سینچری میری ٹائم سلک روڈ ہے۔ پینٹاگون رپورٹ میں مزید کہا گیا ہے کہ چین اپنے عالمی تجارتی منصوبے ون بیلٹ ون روڈ پر وجیکٹ کی حفاظت کے لیے فوجی اڈے کے قیام کے لیے سنجیدگی سے سوچ رہا ہے۔

May 04, 2019

The Express Tribune

Geopolitics and the BRI

The second Summit on China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), held in Beijing from April 26 to 27 and attended by several world leaders from more than 150 countries, provided an opportunity to showcase China's mega project aimed at promoting global growth and prosperity.

But critics, led by the US, used the occasion to castigate the BRI as a manifestation of China's "geo-political ambitions" that would force developing countries into a "debt trap". At the heart of this controversy is whether the BRI is a benign Chinese endeavor to promote greater international connectivity for shared economic development or a tool to dominate Asian, African and Latin American countries. This issue is of paramount importance for Pakistan since CPEC is the flagship project of the BRI and an example to be emulated by other developing countries. Therefore, the BRI needs to be placed in its true context.

Unveiled by President Xi in 2013, "as a foreign policy priority", the BRI seeks to "revive and reinvigorate the ancient Silk Roads that connected China with Eurasia. To actualize this initiative, China set up development oriented financial institutions and planning mechanisms to accelerate the construction of infrastructure connecting China with neighboring regions and build a "Silk Road Economic Belt and a Maritime Silk road to form a new pattern of all-around opportunities".

The China Development Bank alone earmarked nearly one trillion US dollars by 2015 for over 900 projects involving transportation, infrastructure and energy. The Chinese Export-Import

Bank pledged financing for more than 1,000 projects in 49 countries as part of the BRI. The total Chinese financial outlay is estimated at about three trillion dollars. Today over 80 countries are directly part of this initiative while scores of others, including several members of the EU, are also involved. These countries spread from and across Asia, Europe, Africa and Latin America — a total of around 63 per cent of the world's population with a collective total of over 21 trillion dollars of global output.

Guided by China's policy of "harmonious rise" to superpower status and "win-win cooperation" with partnering countries, President Xi has maintained that "exchange will replace estrangement; "mutual learning will replace clashes" and "coexistence will replace a sense of superiority". More pointedly Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi stated that "the BRI is not a geo-political tool but a platform for cooperation".

The BRI grand design is unprecedented in scale but not unique. Such linkages have been suggested before. In the aftermath of the Iraq invasion, American officials spoke of their goal to "revive ancient ties between South and Central Asia...to create new links in the areas of trade, transport, democracy, energy and communications".

Later, in 2011, then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton proposed creating a "new Silk Road — an international network of economic and transit connections". But these proved to be mere statements of intent rather than substantive policies backed up by financial commitments.

More recently, Trump's Secretary of State Pompeo announced an enhanced US regional role in the "Indo-Pacific" as "one of the greatest engines of the global economy" for which he announced 113 million dollars in new initiatives a minuscule amount compared to China's trillion dollars investments.

The reality is that a declining US, and under Trump an unreliable partner to boot, does not carry the same influence as a rising China. Unable to compete in the global marketplace, the US has resorted to building pressure against China.

Instead of accepting China (and Russia) as equal partners to evolve a new stable international order, the US has resorted to building military alliances and trade wars to contain and confront China. A key part of this strategy is to demonize China as a "predatory state" that is using the BRI to entrap poor countries through increasing their debt burden. American-dominated international financial institutions like the IMF and the World Bank are being used to spread such allegations.

But this canard has been exposed by objective Americans themselves. For example, of the overall debt for African countries, estimated by the China-Africa Research Initiative at Johns Hopkins University amounting to 143 billion dollars, the majority of this debt is owed to non-Chinese lenders mainly Western banks.

The total debt of Latin American countries, according to the Global Development Policy Centre, "financing from China alone did not appear to be driving borrowers above the IMF's debt

sustainability threshold”. Similarly, the controversy generated about Sri Lanka’s Hambantota Port which was allegedly surrendered to China due to non-payable debts of 46 billion dollars, it was revealed that actually only 10 per cent of the debt is owed to China. In short, according to these analysts, as reported in The New York Times of April 27, “fears that China is deliberately preying on countries in need are unfounded”.

Pakistan’s own example is a case in point. While Secretary Pompeo fulminated that the US will not allow the IMF to bail out Pakistan so that it could pay off its Chinese loans, the fact remains that over 80 per cent of Pakistan’s debt are owed to Western lenders including the US and IMF, not to China.

Aside from the debt burden argument, the US has resorted to a massive disinformation and destabilization campaign within Pakistan through its proxies and touts to mislead Pakistanis about CPEC. It has also enlisted its Indian acolytes to oppose CPEC, by promoting terrorism through the BLA and the TTP, such as attacks on Chinese workers and the Chinese Consulate in Karachi. In this effort, the Gwadar port has also been projected as a Chinese naval base rather than what it actually is — a commercial port for trading and trans-shipment purposes.

Undoubtedly, in any project the size of the BRI, there will be shortcomings which President Xi acknowledged at the recent Summit, calling for transparency and zero tolerance for corruption. But to argue that the BRI is a geo-political power grab by China to challenge the US belies its real purpose and exposes America’s own vulnerabilities in a changing world order.

The Nation

Trafficking to China

In less than three months, law enforcement agencies in two different cases in different cities arrested Chinese nationals over charges of human trafficking. In the latest incident, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in Faisalabad acted to stop the smuggling of girls to China. While commenting on the recent arrests, FIA maintained that the suspects had long been involved in trafficking girls to China. A similar case arose in late February this year when a Chinese national was apprehended after the woman accompanying him claimed that her parents had sold her.

Nevertheless, Pakistan should not take these two incidents lightly. The victims of human trafficking are often helpless once they have been taken and are made to face some of the worst conditions a human can imagine.

Given that Chinese will come to Pakistan in large numbers once China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) starts operations, new challenges of law and order will emerge. Human trafficking is one such challenge. Therefore, it is imperative for law enforcement agencies to be extra vigilant on this front. At the same time when Pakistani authorities need to be on their toes, China also needs to go an extra mile in deterring such elements and groups that are involved in the illegal practice of human smuggling.

It will be more appropriate for both states to come up with a joint mechanism regarding the law enforcement challenges that will emerge, as the citizens of the two nations will exchange visits after CPEC becomes fully operational. Probably, the two countries have given the least consideration to the law and order issues that will emerge in the wake of CPEC working full throttle. However, for now, the two sides need to take appropriate action to bust this ring not only for the sake of the trafficked people but also for keeping the bilateral ties free of controversies.

The Nation

CPEC: Economic prosperity for Pakistan

With the promise of international opportunities and unlimited resources, Pakistan has embarked on a journey of economic growth. Being the 23rd largest economy in the world by Purchasing Power Parity, Pakistan has now picked up the pace in collaboration with the economic partners from around the world. The state now possesses the strength to boost its semi-industrialized economy and gain acknowledgement over its manufacturing, agriculture, and trade capabilities.

For a country on the verge of becoming a strengthened economy, Pakistan has solidified its foundations, embracing the framework of regional connectivity through the Pakistan China Economic Corridor.

Apart from its major trading attributes contributing towards the prosperity of the two countries, CPEC will also enable local industries to flourish. Moreover, nine industrial zones under Special Economic Zones (SEZs) would be completed soon to promote industrial growth in the country by providing more lenient economic and tax policies.

CPEC also includes a number of initiatives in Pakistan. Being the last land-stop before the Arabian sea, Gwadar has always been considered as a goldmine for possessing the geographical characteristics of a natural deep sea port. It is now the central nexus on which all of CPEC is geared towards. However, connecting a path from this edge of the Pakistan all the way to China meant developing a mammoth transportation network. This is where One Belt One Road (OBOR) comes in. OBOR is a project to recreate the old Silk Road, which flourished during the Han Dynasty in China between 207 BCE and 220 CE. The initiative will also develop major industrial, agriculture, and energy centers across its wake. The 300 Megawatt Gwadar Coal Power Project is listed among the significant energy projects totaling 12,335 MW that are being installed.

CPEC will also contribute towards the improvement of peoples' lives in Pakistan and China by promoting bilateral connectivity, construction projects, economic and trade opportunities, logistics and local trade in the region. CPEC will open doors to immense economic opportunities not only to Pakistan but will physically connect China to the markets of Asia, Europe and beyond. Almost 80% of China's oil is currently transported from the Straits of Malacca (the

distance is almost 16,000 km and takes 2-3 months), with Gwadar becoming operational, the distance would be reduced to less than 5,000 km.

International Recognition is already apparent as Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman on his recent visit to Pakistan announced to set up the world's third largest oil refinery in Pakistan's Deep water port of Gwadar. Development of the project is underway in collaboration with the Chinese partners. Furthermore, the Crown Prince and PM Imran Khan signed eight memorandums of understanding estimated at around \$20 Billion.

As the next stage of CPEC development starts, private investors and firms are flocking to Gwadar with their expertise, experience and capital to make the most of this unprecedented opportunity. An organization that has contributed a fair bit of its pioneering real estate development expertise in Pakistan, Rafi Group is also looking towards an optimistic future of the country.

The Group's latest milestone is developing a real estate project of international standards located on the major artery of Gwadar, The Makran Coastal Highway, known as "Green Palms Gwadar". This high class project promises international standards, facilities and amenities once completed. Green Palms Gwadar will become the go-to place for anyone looking to invest in a lucrative real estate project. As CPEC opens its gates to the nation and the whole world Akin to the megalopolis of Shenzhen (the city upon which Gwadar's development is based) once the Infrastructure is placed, industrialization and services shall follow along with a series of mass mobilization towards this economic goldmine.

The development of Green Palms Gwadar is underway with the vision to provide unparalleled facilities to investors from all over the world and also cater to the lifestyle needs of Pakistanis from within and out of the country.

As the Prime Minister said on his recent visit to the very Important BRI Forum in Beijing, "Pakistan's Gwadar once a small fishing village, is rapidly transforming into a commercial hub and Gwadar Airport will be the largest in the country. The CPEC will change the destiny of the Pakistani people".

He would know as he had only recently inaugurated the \$230 Million Gwadar International Airport, Initiated the Naya Pakistan Housing Project in Gwadar along with community development services which include but are not limited to health, education, security and other facilities on his visit there.

May 05, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Chinese students complete their degrees from NUML, IIU Students to make maximum use of their stay, studies in Pakistan: Yao Jing

Chinese Students Association in Pakistan in collaboration with Embassy of the People's Republic of China on Saturday organized first-ever "Graduation ceremony of Chinese Overseas students 2019" here on Saturday at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan, Yao Jing, Chairman Pakistan-China Institute Mushahid Hussain Sayed, former Ambassador in China, Riaz Khokhar, Director General of PNCA, Jamal Shah, Advisor MAD HEC, . Noor Anna Malik and a large number of students participated in the event.

Director China Cultural Center in Pakistan, Zhang Heqing, International Islamic University's Professor Dr. Aqdas Naveed Malik, First Secretary of Embassy of China Pan Yuqi, Head of Confucius Institute Mr. Zhang Dao Jian, Engr Waheed Ahmed Mangi, Prof Dr. Abu Bakar Bhutta along with other eminent guests were also present at the graduation ceremony of Chinese Students.

The graduation ceremony was hosted in three languages including Chinese, English & Arabic. Certificates & Shields were also distributed to all 156 Chinese Overseas Students. Addressing the graduation ceremony Ambassador Yao Jing welcomed the guests and students. Congratulating students, he expressed his best wishes to all the graduates who have completed their graduation from NUML & International Islamic University (IIU). He said they were the future of China and during their stay in Pakistan they must have developed friendly relations with Pakistani students and general people which will also be helpful for development in the different areas of Pakistan and China.

Mr Yao Jing termed the recent visit of Prime Minister Mr Imran Khan highly important where he met with Chinese President along with business community of China. Chairman Pak-China Institute Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said it was great pleasure to see the first graduation ceremony of Chinese students. Congratulating the students, he said it was a special day as Chinese students graduated in Pakistan. He asked them to carry not only torch of knowledge but friendship, harmony and co-existing between Pakistan and China. He said that today ceremony was organized in connection with 40 years celebrations. He told students that he studied in China 40 years ago and so far has made almost 85 to 90 visits to China.

He said that remarkable transformation that we see in China is a tribute to the hard work, determination of the Chinese people. The event was organized on the occasion of commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the May 4 Movement of The Development History of Chinese Students Association Pakistan. It was the first graduation ceremony organized for all

Chinese overseas students in Pakistan where total 156 students were graduated and 4 of them completed their PhD degrees. Chinese students & children also presented songs and dance performances during the graduation ceremony.

The Express Tribune

No truth in reports China setting up military bases in Pakistan: Qureshi

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has refuted reports that Beijing is mulling setting up military bases in Pakistan.

On Thursday, the United States Defense Department had stated that China was seeking to establish military bases around the world to protect its investments in its ambitious One Belt One Road global infrastructure program.

The Pentagon report said that China will seek to establish additional military bases in countries with which it has a longstanding friendly relationship and similar strategic interests, such as Pakistan, and in which there is a precedent for hosting foreign militaries.

“The baseless claims are being spread by the enemies of Pakistan including India,” Foreign Minister Qureshi said while speaking to the media in Multan on Saturday.

The minister said that New Delhi had also failed to link the Pulwama incident with the United Nations Security Council resolution to list Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) chief Maulana Masood Azhar as a global terrorist.

Commenting on Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM), he said no one can cast doubts on patriotism of residents of erstwhile FATA, who he added, had always been a part of Pakistan.

“[However] our security agencies have evidence against certain individuals for receiving funding from Afghan and Indian intelligence agencies ... they want to destabilize the country.”

Commenting on domestic politics, Qureshi said that a “gang of four” was taking all decisions in Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) after Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif stepped down as the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairman. Earlier on May 2, Shehbaz decided to abandon the chairmanship of the parliament’s key accountability forum. “It is interesting how he [Shehbaz] decided to step down from the PAC chairmanship overnight,” he said, adding that even PML-N leaders had no idea that the PAC chairman would be replaced.

The federal minister said the government would raise the issue in the National Assembly on May 6. “We have heard that this ‘gang of four’ doesn’t even take the parliamentary members on board before taking decisions,” Qureshi said.

He questioned the reasoning given on Shehbaz’s decision, saying, “If his health does not allow him to continue, then why he isn’t relinquishing the post of opposition leader ... if he is healthy enough to serve on that post then why not as the PAC chairman too.”

Qureshi asked how the PML-N leader decided to leave the post after fighting so hard to head the committee. The foreign minister went on to say that even the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leadership was not taken on board on nomination of Rana Tanveer for the now vacant post.

The Express Tribune

All Chinese industrial units in Pakistan to get special status

LAHORE: All Chinese industrial units established in Pakistan will be given the status enjoyed by factories set up in the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) regardless of the part of the country where such units are set up, announced Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industries, Production and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood.

He made the announcement while speaking at a seminar titled "Business opportunities under the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement" on Saturday. "Projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor were initiated on a government-to-government basis, but they have now transformed into a business-to-business model," he said. "Although SEZs have not yet been completed in Pakistan, Chinese investors are free to establish their factories anywhere in the country and I will grant the status of SEZ to all these factories."

He voiced hope that the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement would be implemented from July 2019. He pointed out that through the FTA, China provided Pakistan access to its markets on the same terms as those offered to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) member states and called for reaping maximum benefits.

He requested all the chambers of commerce and industries nationwide to thoroughly examine the FTA and make recommendations to the ministry for further improving it. "If any Pakistani industry suffers damage due to the FTA, we will utilize the 'safeguard' clause under the agreement," Dawood remarked.

Under the agreement, the additional 313 tariff lines of Pakistan, which have been given duty-free access, have a total value of \$64 billion in China. "If we are able to get even 10% share in the \$64-billion market, our exports will surge sizably," Dawood said.

Currently, China's overall imports amount to \$2.1 trillion and according to Chinese President Xi Jinping, the number can swell to \$5 trillion by 2023.

The PM adviser was of the view that Pakistan had a great opportunity to enhance exports to China in the areas of textile, leather, seafood, electronics and others. However, he added, in order to capture China's market, Pakistan had to improve quality of its products, "only then it will be able to enhance export revenues." 30 projects being proposed for Qatari investment: Dawood

Talking about the upcoming budget, the adviser informed the audience that the government was not considering any import or regulatory duty relief on finished products.

“However, we are working on reducing import duties on raw material, but it is premature to comment how much reduction is on the cards,” he said. “I will meet officials of the Federal Board of Revenue on Tuesday to discuss the issue.”

Dawood regretted that in the past 10 years, the country underwent a de-industrialization phase and former finance minister Ishaq Dar never took notice of it. “The country has to take care of local industries as it does not want to join the club of import-oriented economies,” he added.

Jang News

چین کیساتھ آزاد تجارتی معاہدے پر جولائی سے عمل درآمد ہونے کا امکان

لاہور (خبر ایجنسی) وزیر اعظم کے مشیر برائے تجارت، ٹیکسٹائل، انڈسٹری، پیداوار اور سرمایہ کاری عبدالرزاق داؤد نے کہا ہے کہ قومی امکان ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے مابین طے پانے والے آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے پر جولائی 2019ء سے عملدرآمد شروع ہو جائے گا، چین نے آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے میں اپنی مارکیٹوں تک آسیان ممالک کی طرز پر رسائی دی ہے جس کا ہمیں بھرپور فائدہ اٹھانا چاہیے، آئندہ بجٹ میں تیار مصنوعات کی درآمد پر ڈیوٹیوں اور ریگولیٹری ڈیوٹیوں میں ہرگز کمی نہیں کی جائے گی تاہم صنعتی ترقی کیلئے آئندہ بجٹ میں خام مال کی درآمد پر ڈیوٹیوں کو کم کرانے کیلئے آئندہ منگل کو ایف بی آر حکام سے ملاقات ہوگی۔ لاہور ایکسپو سینٹر میں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان طے پانے والے آزادانہ تجارتی معاہدے کے موضوع پر منعقدہ سیمینار سے خطاب اور میڈیا سے گفتگو میں عبدالرزاق داؤد نے کہا کہ جاپان اور کوریا کی مارکیٹوں تک رسائی کیلئے بھی بات چیت کریں گے اور اس ضمن میں 17 جولائی کو جاپان جانوں گا اور اس کے بعد کوریا کا دورہ ہوگا، آزاد تجارتی معاہدوں پر تمام چیئرمین اور ایسوسی ایشنز ان کا جائزہ لیں اور ہماری رہنمائی کریں کہ اس ضمن میں مزید بہتری کے لئے کیا اقدامات کیے جاسکتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اگر پاک چین آزاد تجارتی معاہدے سے پاکستان کی کسی صنعت کو نقصان پہنچے گا تو ہم اس معاہدے کے تحت سیف گارڈز کو استعمال کریں گے۔ چین سے معاہدے کے تحت ہمیں 313 مصنوعات کی برآمدات کی اجازت ملی ہے اور چین کی ان مصنوعات کی سالانہ 64 ارب ڈالر کی درآمدات ہیں، اگر ہم اس میں سے 10 فیصد شیئرز بھی قابو کر لیں تو پاکستان کی برآمدات میں کئی گنا اضافہ ہو سکتا ہے۔

May 06, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Chinese embassy opens Visa Centre in Islamabad

The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan will entrust Chinese Visa Application Service Center in Islamabad (Visa Center) to offer visa and attestation facilitation services from Monday. Its purpose is to further facilitate people to people exchanges between China and Pakistan and provide applicants with more comfortable environment and more efficient services, The Visa Centre is responsible for handling various consular documents and applications, including ordinary visas, attestation, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR visa applications, biometric information collection and collection of attestation fees on behalf of the Chinese Embassy (including express and urgent fees), passport/visa collection and answering applicants' questions among other services, in line with the requirements of the Chinese Embassy.

The relevant details are hereby notified as follows: The Visa Center will be on trial operation from May 06 to May 10, 2019. During this period, applicants with ordinary passports can submit their applications to the Visa Center or the Chinese Embassy. If you apply for the Chinese visa at the Visa Center, you need to go to the Visa Center's website, fill in the application form and make an appointment.

The Visa Center will be officially opened on May 13, 2019. After May 13, 2019, the Chinese Embassy will no longer accept ordinary visa, attestation, Hong Kong SAR and Macao SAR visa applications. Applicants will have to submit the above-mentioned applications through the Visa Center.

The address of the Visa Center is as follows: Gerry's Building, Adjacent to Punjab Cash and Carry, Park Road, Chatta Bakhtawar, Chak Shahzad, Islamabad. Email: islamabadcenter@visaforchina.org Website: www.visaforchina.org Business timing: 09:00-16:00 from Monday to Friday (holidays would be announced separately).

Those applicants who hold diplomatic or official passports, or who apply for Chinese diplomatic, official, courtesy or talent visas, may submit their applications directly to the Chinese Embassy after filling up application form online and making an appointment at the Chinese Embassy website.

The Chinese Embassy will continue to accept applications such as notarization, passport and travel permit applications. The business hours at the Chinese Embassy for submitting and collecting these cases will be from 08:30 to 12:00 (holidays will be announced separately). For details, please consult the Consular Section of the Chinese Embassy website. According to the arrangement of reciprocal exemption of visa fees, the Chinese Embassy does not charge consular fees for visa from Pakistani citizens. The Visa Center will charge consular fees for attestation fees including urgent fees payable to the Chinese Embassy.

The Express Tribune

China's overseas bases

The dynamics between Pakistan and China have been closely followed by world powers and continue to be watched. The US and India — the latter not being a world power in the regular sense but certainly carrying the potential — have been particularly interested. The US Defense Department has released a statement that China may strategize the establishment of military bases in Pakistan and other countries with which it has friendly ties in order to protect the expansion of its One Belt One Road (OBOR) Project. This has been a silent nervous cry for the last couple of years by the Pentagon, and Delhi has also alluded to this before. The former has rivaled Beijing since President Trump uprooted policies and offended the Chinese government, seeing China's growth as a threat to US status as world economic power. Paralleling that envy is the high-tension relationship between Pakistan and India, hence the reason why China's relationship with Pakistan seems to be a perpetual 'talk of the town'.

Pakistan and China have a healthy relationship at present. Islamabad has not thus far expressed opposition to rumors of a Chinese base in Pakistan. Pakistan lives and grows vicariously through Chinese expansion and development. However, it is cautioned to remain skeptical. Pakistan has far to travel before its systems are developed, even if infrastructure, metros and buildings are erected at a fast pace. The expansion of militaries is very much a money game, which we do not have. China allegedly seeks to build bases in order to protect its economic expansion Project OBOR, by capitalizing on its existing friendships, which are centered on extracting economic benefit.

By building beyond its one overseas military base currently, in Djibouti, China is poised to become a superpower. All said, the better military protection will work to benefit Pakistan, being ill-equipped to handle the security situation on homeland as China pumps more money on our soil.

The Express Tribune

Past five years of CPEC in review

BEIJING: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative, was officially launched in 2013. President Xi Jinping, during his visit to Pakistan in April 2015, noted that CPEC construction should play a leading role in the practical cooperation between the two countries and determined the '1+4' layout of cooperation centering on CPEC construction supported by Gwadar Port, energy, transportation infrastructure and industrial cooperation.

Practices in the past five years have proved that the CPEC construct is not targeted at specific regions or groups, but is aimed at the whole country of Pakistan and benefits all the people of Pakistan.

Fruitful achievements in CPEC construction

CPEC has played a flagship leading and demonstration role in the Belt and Road construction. It has become a platform for all-round pragmatic cooperation between China and Pakistan.

Improving macroeconomic conditions in Pakistan

CPEC has driven the development of Pakistan. The two-gap model proposed by economist Hollis B Chenery posits that developing countries must introduce foreign investments and stimulate exports to boost growth of their national economy.

CPEC has solved the problem of limited investment capacity caused by insufficient savings and shortage of foreign exchange in Pakistan and provided a high-quality source of impetus for Pakistan's economic development.

As of January 2019, CPEC included nine completed early harvest projects and 13 projects under construction, with a total investment of \$19 billion. It drove Pakistan's economic growth by one to two percentage points every year and created 70,000 jobs in Pakistan.

The Chinese government provided \$5.874 billion in concessional loans to Pakistan, with a consolidated interest rate of only 2%, far lower than the average interest rate. The Chinese government also provided \$143 million in interest-free loans for the Gwadar East Bay Expressway project and free assistance for some livelihood projects in Pakistan.

Thanks to favorable factors such as the CPEC construction, Pakistan's macroeconomic conditions have been improving and its economy has maintained a momentum of rapid growth. Over the past five years, Pakistan's GDP grew by an average of 4.77%, especially in the 2017-2018 fiscal year when Pakistan's GDP grew by 5.8%, the highest rate in recent 13 years.

Pakistan's annual foreign direct investment grew from \$650 million to \$2.2 billion and the per capita annual income rose from \$1,334 to \$1,641.

Alleviating Pakistan's energy shortage

Energy shortage is a hard nut to crack that restricts the economic development of Pakistan. It is a problem that previous Pakistani governments attached great importance to and most wanted to solve.

The electricity gap cost Pakistan an annual average loss of \$13.5 billion in GDP, according to a study by PwC in 2012. Power shortage left Pakistan in the dark for a long time, with rolling blackouts across the country lasting about 10 hours a day in major cities and up to 22 hours in rural areas.

CPEC has regarded the alleviation of energy shortage in Pakistan as one of the important areas of construction since its launch. Currently, 12 projects with a total installed capacity of 7,240MW have been started or put into operation. Through five years of construction, energy projects under the CPEC framework added 3,340MW of electricity to Pakistan by early April 2019, accounting for 11% of the country's total installed electricity capacity, thus greatly alleviating the power shortage in Pakistan.

In addition to power generation projects, China built the Matiari-Lahore ± 660 kV HVDC transmission line in Pakistan – the second HVDC transmission line in the world – to address the aging of Pakistan's power grid.

Improving infrastructure connectivity in Pakistan

The China-Pakistan cross-border economic belt, linked by the China-Pakistan Karakoram Highway, has taken shape under CPEC. Through international logistics nodes such as Gwadar Port, Karachi and Peshawar, Pakistan serves to transport products from western China to countries in the Middle East and the Indian Ocean via transit transport.

Therefore, infrastructure connectivity is also one of the important areas in the early harvest projects of CPEC. The Karakoram Highway Phase-2 (Havelian-Thakot section) is 118.124km long, including 39.305 km of expressway and 78.819 km of secondary highway. The project officially started on September 1, 2016. Currently, more than half of the project has been completed.

The section from Sukkur, Sindh in the south to Multan, Punjab in the north, of the Karachi-Peshawar Expressway, is 392km long, with a total investment of \$2.89 billion. The construction was undertaken by China State Construction Engineering Corporation.

The Lahore Orange Line rail transit project was put into trial operation on October 8, 2017. The line is 25.58km long and is organised into five carriages, each carrying 200 passengers. The train starts from Ali Town and terminates at Dera Gujran.

Over the past five years, 51,000 direct jobs were created in the road infrastructure sector under CPEC projects, of which 48,000 were created specifically for local Pakistanis. Furthermore, infrastructure projects are expected to spur the development of Pakistan's building-related industries and attract more foreign investment.

Gwadar Port on the fast track

Gwadar Port has taken on a new look in the past five years. The port roads, storage yards, loading and unloading equipment, seawater desalination, oil supply and port monitoring facilities have been further improved.

Five new container bridge cranes; 100,000-m² storage yards; container scanning equipment; the 220,000-gallon desalination plant; two sewage treatment systems; 80,000-m² new green space; and the new LPG receiving station have made the port capable of handling bulk cargo, containers, roll-on roll-off cargo and LPG.

The container liner service was officially launched at Gwadar Port on March 7, 2018. The Gwadar-Middle East Express was opened, connecting Gwadar with other major ports in the world.

The Gwadar Port Free Trade Zone covers an area of 923 hectares and is constructed in four phases in two zones, one north and one south. On January 28, 2018, the Gwadar Free Zone Phase 1 was formally completed and put into operation, and the investment attraction was also completed simultaneously.

Cross-border fibre optic project completed and opened

The 820km China-Pakistan cross-border fibre optic project, which is laid between the city of Rawalpindi, Pakistan in the south and the Khunjerab Pass, China in the north, was completed and opened on July 13, 2018.

Promising future of CPEC construction

2018 was an election year for Pakistan, when there was concern at home and abroad about whether Pakistan's attitude towards CPEC would change due to the change of government. Around the same time, there were some international opinions questioning CPEC, saying that a large amount of Chinese loans might plunge Pakistan into debt crisis.

Facts over the past year have proved that the determination to build CPEC has not been shaken by the change of government in Pakistan and the debt crisis theory has been in tatters.

In promoting the CPEC construction, China has always followed the principle of consultation, contribution and shared benefits, and given top priority to Pakistan's economic development and the vital interests of Pakistanis.

Steadfast determination to build CPEC

At the very beginning of the new Pakistani government, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said, "The new Pakistani government is advancing an ambitious reform agenda, and is willing to learn from China's experience in economic development, poverty alleviation, disaster reduction, anti-corruption and environmental protection. Advancing CPEC is our top priority."

Prime Minister Imran Khan made it clear that the completed projects of CPEC are in the interest of Pakistan and will bring enormous social and economic development opportunities to the Pakistani people. Since China has lifted more than 700 million people out of poverty in the past decades, Pakistan is willing to learn from the Chinese government's poverty alleviation and reduction measures. Pakistan also hopes to strengthen cooperation in industry and agriculture to help unleash its greater development potential.

New challenges to CPEC construction

Currently, CPEC construction has gradually shifted from energy and transportation infrastructure cooperation to industrial cooperation and industrial park construction. PM Imran has given prominence to promoting industrialization and employment in Pakistan, and laid greater emphasis on the western route of CPEC.

Meanwhile, the international situation has also changed. Given the overall situation, we should be clear that old challenges have not yet subsided and new ones are emerging in the CPEC construction.

First, the complex international political situation, especially the interference of external factors on CPEC, cannot be ignored.

Second, Pakistan has a serious fiscal deficit, a huge foreign debt and a heavy debt service burden. The capacity to provide supporting funds for CPEC construction has declined sharply and it is no longer feasible to expand infrastructure construction. Pakistan's new government wants to rein in huge capital spending, especially on projects that require large amounts of foreign exchange.

Third, the overall security situation in Pakistan has improved year by year, but terrorist attacks still occur frequently. Over the past year, violent and terrorist attacks launched by Balochistan separatists occurred frequently, with changes in form, geographical expansion and new features, and the threat to Gwadar Port and CPEC has increased.

Despite many challenges to the CPEC construction, it is the internal factors that are the root cause affecting the CPEC construction. When we realize and successfully eliminate the internal negative factors, external factors cannot really affect the process of CPEC construction.

The Nation

Belt and road initiative: an overview

A lot of rumors have been doing rounds to assess the ultimate aims of China behind Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a mega project started in 2013 by Xi Jinping. It is indeed described as the most significant economic and infrastructural project in recent world history. It can also be compared with the Marshall Plan because China will be able to further its strategic interests through BRI. China can counter US hegemony in the world through the institutions associated with BRI. In this regard, South Asia and Pakistan are vital for China to materialize BRI in its true essence.

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can have far-reaching ramifications not only for China but for Pakistan as well. It will also boost trade in Central Asia and beyond. However, there are some challenges for the Pakistani government vis-a-vis CPEC. Instability in Baluchistan can hamper the dividends of this mega project. Baloch separatists want to undermine CPEC. Natives fear that foreigners and outsiders will flood Baluchistan and they will turn into a minority in their homeland. None of the governments took pains to redress these legitimate concerns. Eventually, this allows India to fill this vacuum. Kulbhushan's arrest from Baluchistan attests this assertion. The other major problem in Baluchistan is sectarian violence. The recent atrocity in Hazarganji is a glaring illustration. Hazara community is paying with their blood for decades. These bigots and terrorists do not want CPEC to flourish.

Myopic politicians cannot see beyond the immediate horizon. The incumbent government left no stone unturned to demonize CPEC while in opposition. Xi Jinping had to postpone his visit to Pakistan in 2014 due to PTI's 'dharna'. Some believe that there is a proper campaign to vilify CPEC by hostile elements, and this current economic crisis is engineered to subvert CPEC. Debt traps, corruption charges, instability and terrorism, are the standard tools to retard this project.

The progress on CPEC cannot be isolated from the situation in Afghanistan. Peace in Afghanistan is viable for Baluchistan, for CPEC, and ultimately for the region. Those who see BRI as a threat to their strategic interests do not want a peaceful Afghanistan. America has allowed IS or Daish to thrive under its watch. The US wants to restrict China to this region by engaging it in countering terrorism. The peace process initiated by America through Zalmay

Khalilzad with Afghan Taliban will impact on the future of Afghanistan, the future of this region, and the future of BRI.

India is playing on both sides of the fence in BRI. It is opposing CPEC due to its lame concerns vis-a-vis Gilgit Baltistan. However, India is a part of BRI through BCIM corridor, but the work progress on that corridor is not up to the mark due to India's uncertain stance. That is why China is focusing more on CMEC. This corridor will provide China with a land-route to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is also crucial for BRI. It can be a maritime hub in the coming days. It will be beneficial for China's landlocked provinces. However, internal politics in Bangladesh is making it challenging for China to see the completion of CMEC promptly. Awami League, the incumbent government, is considered to be an Indian ally. Moreover, Bangladesh's economy needs to rely on America because it is the major importer of Bangladesh's garments. So, the strategic environment impedes prospects with China.

Hambantota port in Sri Lanka helped the opponents to term BRI as 'debt trap' because Sri Lanka was unable to pay. Detractors use it as a case study for vulnerable countries. But it's a unique case. China has provided debt reliefs to more than 80 projects in the past. Hambantota port will enable China to keep an eye on offshore energy supply route.

It is believed that China wants a corridor consisted of China, Pakistan, India, Iran and Kazakhstan. Landlocked Central Asian states are much dependent on Russia for trade. Bilateral trade is minimal in Central Asia. This corridor will connect Central Asian nations to the rest of the world. These states will be transit states in operations, and the process will promote and bolster trade in the region as well. This corridor can connect Europe to the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, and South-East Asia and beyond. Central Asia was the part of the erstwhile Soviet Union, so the political environment there is more suitable to China. This corridor can be an instrument for a prosperous Xinjiang, where instability exists for decades.

The response from Russia is yet to come. Central Asian states cannot be divorced from Russian influence. If China gets more leverage through the corridor mentioned above, Russia can respond by countering Chinese dominance in the region.

Opportunities always come with challenges. Political instability, corruption, economic crisis, conspiracies by different countries to settle the strategic scores, terrorism and extremism, uneven bilateral relations between the states, and inconsistencies in policies by respective governments is the major obstacles for BRI.

May 07, 2019

Business Recorder

**ML-1 will be upgraded from Peshawar to Karachi under CPEC Project:
Senate told**

ISLAMABAD: The Senate was informed on Tuesday that ML-1 will be upgraded from Peshawar to Karachi under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Project. Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid told the house during question hour that this project will see replacement of existing track with new one and the installation of new signaling system. He said feasibility study is being carried out to revive Peshawar-Torkham rail track. He said the feasibility study will be completed in a period of three months. He said we have increased freight trains from eight to twelve.

He said Pakistan Railways is playing a vital role in the transportation of goods across the country. Recently, it has transported imported fertilizer to different parts of the country for the Ministry of Industry and Production. He said other private companies are also approaching Pakistan Railways for the transportation of fertilizer from ports to the upcountry. He said that there is also a plan to lay track at Thar on built operate and transfer basis.

Minister of State for Interior Shehryar Afridi rejected reports that the personnel of Khasadar force and Frontier Constabulary in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are not being provided with salaries.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan said the government is considering further enhancing the budget of Frontier Constabulary, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the upcoming fiscal budget. He said Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television Network are assets of the country.

He said a proposal is under consideration to upgrade Radio stations of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation with new digital equipment. He said an amount of three billion rupees is estimated for up gradation of radio stations. When asked about those working on contract basis in Radio Pakistan, Ali Muhammad Khan said that it is the policy of PTI government to employ people on permanent basis as per the rules and regulations. He strongly criticized the policy of hiring people on contract basis.

He said the national broadcaster is allocating sufficient time to highlight the issues of women and children in Urdu and as well as the regional languages. To another question, Ali Muhammad Khan told the House that fifteen special police stations have been established across the country to deal with cyber-crimes. He said we also made cyber-crime wing fully functional by paying the outstanding salaries of its staff. He said about 15350 complaints regarding cyber bullying and harassment were received by the cyber-crime wing during 2018-19. He said that over 8124 complaints have been addressed and 176 persons arrested.

Responding to a calling attention notice moved by Siraj-ul-Haq, Leader of House in the Senate Shibli Faraz said international increase in the prices of petroleum products and devaluation of currency has led to increase in the prices of petrol, diesel and LNG in the country. He, however, said that our petrol and diesel prices are still lower than those in India and Bangladesh.

Dunya News

Pakistan to get \$6.5b share from Chinese imports under CPFTA-||

ISLAMABAD (APP) – Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood on Tuesday said under the recently signed China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement-II (CPFTA) Pakistan would get \$6.5 billion annual share of total Chinese imports of \$64 billion.

“We get the same status in CPFTA-II as has been given to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries for exploiting the entire 313 duty free tariff lines provided by the China to access its market,” he said while talking to anchor-persons here at in Ministry of Commerce. Secretary Commerce Sardar Ahmed Nawaz Sukhera was also present.

The advisor said Pakistan had to face trade deficit with China after the latter signed FTA with ASIAN countries in 2010-11. However, now the duty-free export of 313 tariff lines provided a huge opportunity to Pakistan to decrease trade deficit with China, he added. He said Vietnam had increased its exports to China after signing of the China–ASEAN FTA.

Replying to a question, he said under the CPFTA would turn around Pakistan’s economy, particularly export-based industry. The local exporters now had a big opportunity to capture the Chinese market. The government was taking steps to make the Pakistani products competitive in the international market, he added.

The adviser said a two-pronged strategy had been evolved for proper execution of the CPFTA and to exploit the 313 tariff lines to the maximum. “We want to increase our exports to China and also bring the Chinese investment to Pakistan.”

Razak said China wanted to relocate its industry in other countries and the government desired to get maximum Chinese industrial units shifted to Pakistan.

He said, “We missed the first phase 10 ten years ago when China shifted its industry mostly to ASEAN countries, especially Vietnam and Malaysia.” Now in the second phase, China wanted to shift the garments, leather and home appliances industry, he added.

He said Pakistan could export key products like textiles, leather, engineering goods, electronics, plastics, sea food, apparel, foot ware and jewelry under the 313 tariff lines.

Replying to another question, he said, “We successfully negotiated and finalized terms and conditions to safeguard the local industry and get the period of 15 years to gradually open the some potential areas of local industry for trade with China.”

He said if any industry was hurt, Pakistan could get measures to protect the particular industrial unit for 90 days. He said iron, steel, agriculture, plastic, ceramics and surgical goods would need protection and safeguards.

Pakistan Observer

CPEC will facilitate regional integration

PRIME Minister Imran Khan's recent visit to China brings to an end the chaotic eight months in the economic sector. He was accompanied by a high-powered ministerial delegation. He attended the 2nd Belt and Road Forum (BRF) and the Opening Ceremony of the Beijing International Horticulture Exhibition 2019. He also participated in Leaders' Roundtable, the theme of the Roundtable was: "Boosting Connectivity to Explore New Sources of Growth." He had an opportunity to interact with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang and as well as other leaders from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Malaysia, Ethiopia and Kyrgyz Republic.

The Prime Minister and his delegation attended various side meetings and shown intense interest to participate in the activities of this Forum. During these meetings, the two sides reviewed the regional and international issues as well as entire range of bilateral relations including the CPEC. Leadership of the two countries reiterated the determination to further strengthen the economic relations in all dimensions. Pakistani delegation also interacted with their Chinese counterparts and Ministers from the BRF participating countries. Following the meeting with Chinese leadership a number of MoUs and agreements were signed between the two sides, including the conclusion of the 2nd Phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement – 313 items and an agreement on ML-1.

Prime Minister Imran Khan emphasized the importance of BRF for Pakistan and proposed four new areas for Belt and Road cooperation: (i) digital connectivity; (ii) mobility of labour; (iii) cultural connectivity; and (iv) sharing best practices in knowledge and innovation. The Premier also held meetings with Managing Director of IMF and the CEO of the World Bank which may be helpful for the forthcoming negotiations in Islamabad. Another important highlight of the visit was a meeting of China-Pakistan Trade and Investment Forum planned to bring together a large number of Pakistani and Chinese entrepreneurs. The Forum, which was attended by Vice-Chairman of National People's Congress Mr. Zhang Chunxian, provided a platform for the participants to explore the immense business and investment potential of Pakistan. The business-to-business meetings on the sidelines of the Forum resulted in signing of 14 agreements/contracts. The current visit to China provided an important opportunity to exchange views with the Chinese leadership on bilateral and regional issues; to coordinate on the implementation of Phase-II of CPEC that includes industrial cooperation and socio-economic development; and to invite Chinese businessmen and investors to explore the immense potential of Pakistani market.

China's all these economic activities have to be seen in the scenario that China is rebalancing its economy—from manufacturing to services, from investment to consumption and from exports to domestic services means a slower but more sustainable growth path. Pakistan is third largest trading partner of China—accounting for close to 20 percent of overall trade. So clearly, a slowing Chinese economy means fewer exports from Pakistan. The free trade agreement is one of steps towards it. China is moving up towards value added chain, so it will reduce its production of some labour-intensive goods. This is an opportunity for Pakistan, but Pakistan needs to retool its economy and train its people to capitalize this opportunity.

This is an important time—“a moment of opportunity”—for Pakistan, a country undergoing an economic transformation that can place it well among the ranks of emerging market economies. Over the past few years, economic dynamism in the world economy has gradually been shifting—from advanced economies to emerging markets.

Every year, more than two million young people enter the job market in the country. This could be a tremendous opportunity for growth. However it also presents challenges to absorb so many new job seekers when the global economy is growing slowly. In this environment, Pakistan needs to rely on the strength of its own policies to generate more growth and jobs, and to join the group of dynamic emerging markets. Indeed, putting in place strong policies to boost growth is an urgent task. This can be done by promoting private investment, strengthening exports and raising productivity. Private investment in Pakistan today accounts for only 10 percent of the economy. In emerging markets however, the average is about 18 percent. Pakistan's exports are about 10 per cent of GDP; emerging markets' exports are nearly four times high. Pakistan can do better.

For instance, continuing support for projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor will not only promote growth and job creation, but will also facilitate regional integration. Increasing transparency and accountability and removing red tape can help. Simplifying procedures to open new businesses enforce contracts and pay taxes can go a long way in promoting growth. The extensive exchange of views with the Chinese leadership during this visit, once again, affirmed the vitality of the time-tested, all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, which remains unaffected by any adverse regional and international development and continues to move from strength to strength.

The Express Tribune

CPEC debt trap — fiction or reality?

Alarm bells are ringing! Pakistan's public debt is piling up, with the external debt now touching \$100 billion and the public debt-to-GDP ratio fast approaching 80 per cent. The recently released regional economic outlook by the IMF warned that Pakistan's \$27 billion worth of external debt is due to mature in two years, signaling increased risk of debt distress.

With a new narrative taking shape in the West that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is creating a debt trap for developing economies, many are quick to link Pakistan's ballooning debt to loans incurred under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The example of Hambantota port in Sri Lanka is often cited in this context, which was handed over to Chinese firms on a 99-year lease under a renegotiated loan settlement.

It is, therefore, important to take an objective look at this issue from Pakistan's perspective and answer some fundamental questions. What are the government's liabilities stemming from CPEC projects? Have they added considerably to Pakistan's public debt? And if Pakistan would somehow face a repayment issue, are the Chinese likely to take over our assets?

The CPEC portfolio includes both government-to-government loans and private commercial investments. There are a total of 22 early harvest projects within CPEC, totaling an investment of \$18.9 billion. Out of these, the government loans amount to about \$6 billion. The rest is private investment split between equity worth \$3 billion and commercial loans worth \$9 billion. These commercial loans, though form part of Pakistan's total external debt and liabilities, are not guaranteed by the government. In fact, the State Bank of Pakistan figures show that Pakistan does not have any outstanding guaranteed private-sector external debt.

For the CPEC-related government loans, the composite interest rate is around 2 per cent with a repayment period of 20-25 years. This means that the annual repayment on account of these loans stands at the most around \$368 million a year or equivalent to merely 2.5 days of our import bill. Considering that these loans have all been used to finance infrastructure, this doesn't seem like a high price.

Moreover, the CPEC-related government borrowing constitutes about six percent of Pakistan's total public external debt. In comparison our multilateral debt is about four-five times as high, excluding the outstanding IMF debt, which amounts to another six billion dollars. Pakistan's debt problem is therefore way larger than CPEC.

But there is another more important question: does Pakistan face a serious risk of assets seizure in case it faces a repayment problem?

Very recently, Rhodium Group, a US-based research organization, reviewed 40 cases of China's external debt renegotiations. And here is what they found.

Although financial distress and demand for debt renegotiations is quite common for developing countries, asset seizure is a very rare occurrence. In fact, besides Hambantota, there is only one other reported case of asset seizure from Tajikistan in 2011 and even that was not confirmed.

Instead, debt renegotiations with China have led to more balanced outcomes such as deferment, change of loan terms and deadlines, refinancing or even write-offs or debt forgiveness. For larger loans, deferment, refinancing or renegotiated terms appear to be the most likely outcome and the examples include the \$21.3 billion renegotiated transaction for Angola, \$1 billion for Ecuador, \$3.3 billion for Ethiopia, \$2.2 billion for Mongolia and \$3 billion for Ukraine.

It is evident that the talk of BRI and debt trap leading to asset seizures is not well founded and in fact the evidence suggests otherwise. It is high time that we move away from such baseless discussions and instead focus on developing a robust industrial cooperation framework, which in turn could help us capitalize on CPEC's connectivity to increase our exports and investment inflows.

The Express Tribune

FTA with China will be a challenge for industries: Dawood

ISLAMABAD: The second phase of free trade agreement (FTA) with China was not going to be easy as no market research was conducted before finalizing the agreement, remarked Adviser to PM on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood.

Talking to journalists on Monday, he said although Pakistan got access to Chinese markets, the real challenge would be to bring domestic industries on a par with international standards.

“China has asked for time till July 1 for implementation of the agreement,” he added. Dawood was of the view that the FTA would not be easy and it may adversely impact some industries, while others may flourish. He pointed out that under the China-Pakistan FTA phase-II, Pakistan had got a level playing field with member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in exports to China. Also, Pakistan has received duty-free market access for its 313 tariff lines. The adviser shared with the media that China had also asked for concessions and it would get access to Pakistani markets for a period of 15 years. He gave assurances to industrialists that safeguard measures to protect local industries had also been included in the FTA.

Dawood emphasized the need for strengthening the National Tariff Commission, adding that efforts were also needed to attract more investors from China.

The Express Tribune

Pakistan's only deep-water port enters phase II of expansion

KARACHI: Hutchison Ports Pakistan, the country's first and only deep-water port capable of berthing the world's largest container vessel has entered into its second phase of expansion.

“The expansion will enhance the installed capacity to handle 3.4 million containers of 20-foot length each by the end of 2020 compared to 1.5 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) at present,” General Manager and Head of Business Unit Captain Syed Rashid Jamil said while briefing a group of journalists at the expansion site on Monday.

A four-lane railway cargo track of around 4-5 kilometers inside the port facility, coupled with an increase in installed capacity of power production are also included in the second phase expansion plan.

The deep-water port is located at the Karachi Port Trust (KPT). It is a subsidiary of Hutchison Port Holdings of Hong Kong which enjoys 90% shareholding. KPT is a partner in the project. Some local transport and logistics firms have the rest 10% shareholding in the port. The port began commercial operations in February 2017.

Total cost of the project would be \$1.4 billion, which includes KPT's share of \$800 million and Hutchison Ports Pakistan's (HPP) contribution over \$600 million.

So far, HPP has spent \$450-500 million. "Estimates suggest that it would be spending close to \$750-800 million by the time the second phase gets completed," stated reliable sources.

The firm has opted for expansion despite the growth rate of cross-border transportation of the containerized cargo remaining flat at around 3.4 million TEUs in calendar year 2018 and it shrank 5% in the first four months (January-April) of the current year.

"We are expanding containerized cargo handling capacity as per our original plans of 2007 when we signed and initiated the project on built, maintain and transfer basis," Jamil added.

The port is capable of berthing the world's largest container vessel of 25,000 TEUs as it has a depth of 18 meters at the outer approach channel and 16.5 meters on the berth side. So far, it received the largest ever container ship of 11,923 TEUs – the China India Express – in December 2018.

Earlier, Pakistan was unable to handle containerized vessels of more than 8,000 TEUs.

The reliable sources noted that growth in the cross-border transportation of containerized cargo shrank in the current year after the incumbent government imposed conditions on fast moving consumers goods (FMCGs) sector including printing details and ingredients, halal certificate and expiry date on the products packaging.

The deep-water port has a 28-megawatts (MW) diesel-based captive power plant. It would increase the power production capacity by 8MW in the second phase.

China, the single largest trading partner of Pakistan, has remained the biggest source of containerized cargo transportation at the deep-water port. Besides, it also transports import and export containerized cargo to and from Europe and the US.

The Express Tribune

Pakistan gets advantage in phase-II of FTA with China

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Textile Industry was informed on Monday that Pakistan had comparative advantage in the recently signed China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) phase-II as compared to the agreement signed in 2006.

The CPFTA phase-II was concluded after the 11th round of negotiations in April 2019 and was signed during Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent visit to China in which Pakistan got tariff

relaxation and duty-free market access for 313 tariff lines, said Ministry of Commerce Joint Secretary Shafiq Shahzad while briefing the committee.

The meeting was chaired by Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi and discussed a five-point agenda including the CPFTA-II at the Parliament House.

Briefing the committee, Shahzad said Pakistan first entered into the FTA with China on November 24, 2006, which came into force in July 2007. Bilateral trade between the two sides reached \$17.2 billion in 2017-18 as Chinese exports to Pakistan grew from \$3.5 billion to \$15.7 billion from 2006-07 to 2017-18.

He said phase-I of the FTA concluded in five years by the end of 2012 under which Pakistan liberalized tariffs on 35.6% tariff lines whereas in the second phase 19.9% of tariff lines were liberalized with tariff rate of 5% or less.

He told the meeting that after impact assessment, and consultation with public and private-sector stakeholders between 2016 and 2019, it emerged that finalizing the agreed phase-II of the tariff reduction modalities (TRM) would be a great challenge.

During negotiations, Pakistan expressed dissatisfaction over the lopsided outcome of the FTA phase-I, highlighting unequal gains due to erosion of the margin of preference. It maintained that phase-II negotiations should be independent of phase-I and should be based on the principle of “less than reciprocity” in favour of Pakistan, he said.

According to the joint secretary, Pakistan also sought unilateral concessions on priority items from the Chinese side as a sign of goodwill to address the country’s concerns.

Apart from that, Pakistan also successfully sought revision of the safeguard measures (SGMs), which could be applied to temporarily restrict the import of a product, which caused injury or threatened to cause injury to a domestic industry.

In phase-I, he pointed out, the SGMs were limited to the absolute increase in imports, but now “these can be applied to relative increase in imports as well”.

The Nation

MPs for protecting industry after signing FTA-II with China

ISLAMABAD - A parliamentary committee on Monday recommended the government to protect the domestic industry of the country after signing the second phase of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China.

Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Textile Industry has noted that in cases like these where local industry is producing efficient products, it should be protected and export on similar items should be banned to promote indigenous people and employment. The meeting was given a briefing on the China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement Phase-II by the ministry of commerce and textile industry and the duty free access granted by China to Pakistan. The Committee was

told that extensive sessions with local industry and associations were held and opinion from all stakeholders was taken. The FTA-II not only gives free access to a huge market but also has provisions for protecting our local industry. The Committee noted that in cases where local industry is producing efficient products, it should be protected and export on similar items should be banned to promote indigenous people and employment. Under the CPFTA-II, China has provided immediate liberalization on 313 tariff lines which goes to \$64 billion of China's global imports and 83% of Pakistan's global exports.

China will be immediately eliminating tariffs on 313 highest priority tariff lines which cover over \$8.7 billion worth of Pakistan's global exports and \$64 billion worth of Chinese global imports whereas, under the complete offer from China, over \$19 billion of Pakistan's exports will be covered to \$1.6 trillion of Chinese global imports. Under the 313 tariff lines currently our exports to China are less than 2% of their total imports, and with these concessions Pakistan should expect to gain market share by at least 10% which will come to around \$6.5 billion per annum. The 313 tariff lines constitute textiles and garments, seafood, meat and other animal products, prepared foods, leather, chemicals, plastics, oil seeds, footwear as well as engineering goods including tractors, auto parts, home appliances, machineries etc.

Senate Standing Committee on Commerce and Textile Industry in its meeting has called for uniform criteria for all provinces in terms of election and representation in the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The Committee has also observed that the tenure of one year for the president of FPCCI is insufficient and almost all the time is spent in the next election campaign. The Committee members were of the view that the chambers of commerce have to be vibrant and have the primary task of promoting business and trade. The FPCCI was asked to come up with its proposal on the same.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi here at the Parliament House on Monday and was attended among others by Leader of the House Senator Shibli Faraz, Senators Nauman Wazir Khattak, Mian Ateeq Shaikh, Dilawar Khan, Ghous Muhammad Niazi, Ahmed Khan, Secretary Commerce Ahmed Sukhera, President FPCCI, Executive Director SLIC, acting CEO NICL and officials from the ministry and bodies.

The Committee was given a detailed briefing on the role and functions of FPCCI. The need to have a data and policy analysis wing and a formal mechanism to share recommendations among FBR and FPCCI and the commerce industry was emphasized. The members asked the FPCCI about the frequency of sharing recommendations and proposals and the percentage of their acceptance. Members agreed that before entering into any agreement thorough engagements and sessions should be held with chambers, associations and all stakeholders to get concrete proposals before finalizing the agreement.

Jang News

چین تیزی سے اپنی فوجی طاقت بین الاقوامی طور پر بڑھا رہا ہے، پینٹاگون

لاہور (صابر شاہ) ور جینیا میں واقع امریکی محکمہ دفاع کے ہیڈ کوارٹرز پینٹاگون نے اپنی رپورٹ ”2019 چائنہ ملٹری پاور“ میں قرار دیا ہے کہ اُس کی آبدوزیں باقاعدگی سے کراچی کو استعمال کر رہی ہیں اور اگست 2017 میں افریقہ میں جبوتی میں پہلا فوجی اڈا بنانے کے بعد اب چین مغربی ایشیا، جنوب مغربی ایشیا اور مغربی بحر الکاہل تک اپنے فوجی اڈے پھیلا سکتا ہے۔ جبوتی میں زیادہ تر فرانسسی اور عربی بولی جاتی ہے جو اپنی جھاڑیوں والے جنگل، آتش فشاں اور خلیج عدن کے ساحلوں کی وجہ سے جانا جاتا ہے۔ تقریباً دس لاکھ لوگوں کی آبادی والے اس ملک میں دنیا کا تیسرا سب سے زیادہ تیزی سے بڑھتا ہوا ملک ہے۔ شمال میں ایریٹریا، جنوب مغرب میں ایتھوپیا اور جنوب مشرق میں صومالیہ ہے۔ باقی کی سرحد پر مشرق میں بحیرہ احمر اور خلیج عدن واقع ہے۔ بہت سے امریکی اور بھارتی میڈیا ہاؤسز نے پینٹاگون کی اس رپورٹ کو اٹھایا ہے، جس میں پیپلز لبریشن آرمی آف چائنا کے مستقبل کے عسکری ارادوں پر روشنی ڈالی ہے۔ پینٹاگون کی رپورٹ کا حوالہ دیتے ہوئے ایک معروف بھارتی میڈیا ہاؤس ”ٹائمز آف انڈیا“ نے لکھا کہ چین اپنی جنگی صلاحیتوں کو جدید خطوط پر استوار کر رہا ہے ان میں جوہری میزائلز اور آبدوزوں سے سائبر وائر فیئر اور اینٹی سیٹلائٹ ہتھیار شامل ہیں جبکہ جنوبی ایشیا میں بھارت کے خلاف پاکستان کو موثر طریقے سے استعمال کیا جا رہا ہے

بڑے بھارتی اخبار نے کہا کہ چین نے ہائپر سونک میزائلز تیار کر لیے ہیں جو آزاد کی رفتار سے پانچ گنا تیزی سے سفر کر سکتے ہیں۔ رپورٹ کے مطابق چین دنیا بھر میں مزید فوجی اڈے بنا سکتا ہے تاکہ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ پراجیکٹ میں اپنی سرمایہ کاری کو تحفظ دے سکے۔ دو حاسے کام کرنے والے الجزیرہ ٹیلی ویژن نے بھی پینٹاگون کی رپورٹ کو اٹھایا۔ اس نے کہا: بیجنگ کے پاس بیرون ملک اس وقت صرف ایک فوجی اڈہ ہے۔ لیکن کئی دیگر کی منصوبہ بندی کی جا رہی ہے جس میں پاکستان بھی شامل ہے، کیونکہ یہ ایک عالمی سپر پاور بنا چاہتا ہے۔ ٹیلی ویژن چینل نے مزید کہا: ”چین کے ترقیاتی پراجیکٹ یعنی ون بیلٹ، ون روڈ (اوبور) سے غالباً بیرون ملک فوجی اڈے بنیں گے تاکہ اوبور پراجیکٹس کو سیکیورٹی فراہم کی جائے۔ چین ایسے ممالک میں اضافی فوجی اڈے قائم کرے گا جن کے ساتھ اس کے طویل مدت سے دوستانہ تعلقات اور سٹریٹجک مفادات ہیں جیسا کہ پاکستان اور ایسے ممالک جہاں غیر ملکی افواج کی میزبانی کی مثالیں موجود ہیں۔ دوسرے ممالک کی جانب سے اس کو شش کورو کا جاسکتا ہے۔ لیکن فوجی اڈوں کیلئے ہدف مشرق وسطیٰ، جنوب مشرقی ایشیا اور مغربی بحر الکاہل ہو سکتا ہے۔“

Jang News

سی پیک کے تحت 12 خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کی تعمیر کی حکمت عملی تیار

اسلام آباد (تنویر ہاشمی) سی پیک کے تحت 12 خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کی تعمیر کرنے کی حکمت عملی مرتب کی گئی ہے جن میں سے پہلے مرحلے میں 7 اور دوسرے مرحلے میں پانچ اقتصادی زونز تعمیر کیے جائیں گے، ذرائع کے مطابق آئندہ دو برسوں میں چار خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کی تعمیر کی جائیگی سب سے پہلے خیبر پختونخوا میں ریشمی اقتصادی زونز تعمیر کیا جائے گا، ذرائع کے مطابق خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کی تعمیر میں تاخیر کی متعدد وجوہات ہیں جن میں گیس، پانی، بجلی اور دیگر سہولیات کی بروقت فراہمی کا نہ ہونا ہے، مشیر امور تجارت عبدالرزاق داؤد کے مطابق بہت سی چینی کمپنیاں خصوصی اقتصادی زونز میں سرمایہ کاری کرنا چاہتی ہیں اور پاکستان میں منتقلی کے بعد نہ صرف پاکستانی برآمدات میں اضافہ ہو گا بلکہ پاکستان میں روزگار کے ہزاروں مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔

Nawaiwaqt

چین کیساتھ فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ سے تجارتی خسارہ کم کر سکتے ہیں: شاہ فیصل

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) چین کے ساتھ فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ کا دوسرا فیڑ پاکستان کیلئے ایسے مواقع لیکر آیا ہے جن سے استفادہ کر کے ہم اپنے تجارتی خسارے کم کر سکتے ہیں۔ یہ بات پاک چین جو اینٹ چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر شاہ فیصل آفریدی نے گزشتہ روز چیمبر میں جائزہ اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ اجلاس میں پاک چین جو اینٹ چیمبر کے سینئر نائب صدر احمد حسنین سمیت متعدد دیگر ممتاز اراکین بھی موجود تھے۔ شاہ فیصل آفریدی نے کہا کہ حالیہ ایف ٹی اے نے سیشل اکنامک زونز میں ہونیوالی چینی سرمایہ کار کے ساتھ ملکر ایسی فضا ہموار کر دی ہے جس سے پاکستان نہ صرف ایک مضبوط صنعتی بنیاد تشکیل دے سکے گا بلکہ اپنی ایکسپورٹ کو بھی سرپلس پیداوار اور منڈیوں کے حوالے ترقی دے سکے گا۔ انہوں نے بتایا کہ چین نے ایف ٹی اے کے تحت پاکستان کو اپنی منڈیوں میں ۰۹ فیصدی رسائی دے دی ہے جبکہ بدلے میں پاکستان کی صرف ۵۶ فیصدی منڈیوں میں رسائی مانگی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ یہ شرائط پاکستان کے حق میں ہیں جس سے فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے پاکستان اپنی بین الاقوامی تجارت کا توازن اپنے حق میں موڑ سکتا ہے۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے پاک چین جو اینٹ چیمبر کے سینئر نائب صدر احمد حسنین نے کہا کہ ہم ابھی تک اقتصادی حوالے سے مغرب کی طرف دیکھ رہے ہیں حالانکہ حالات بتا رہے ہیں کہ اکیسویں صدی مغرب کی نہیں بلکہ ایشیاء کی صدی ہے، جس میں سی پیک گیم چینچر کے طور پر عالمی تجارت میں ابھر رہا ہے۔

May 08, 2019

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China need mechanism to put CPEC on strong footing: Mei Guanqun

Pakistan, China needed to develop a viable coordinating mechanism in order to put the economic corridor project on a strong footing. This was stated by a senior research fellow of World Economics Division of China Center for International Economic Exchanges while evaluating the sustainability of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In his article published in China Daily on Tuesday, he said the CPEC's construction should be treated as an open project of broad international interests. He pointed out that the CPEC, the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, is now making significant progress. With quite a few major projects already under construction or completed, it will significantly enhance the sustainable development of Pakistan's economy.

But even so, he asserted the two sides should also address the stresses and problems created by the corridor to ensure that this project will further develop on a firm and sustainable basis. The article says, "The reality tells us that we urgently need to appoint personnel who are familiar with Pakistan's economy, its international strategy, and its Islamic culture, and enhance our communication strength, which may include jointly establishing a coordinating mechanism for communication.

We should consider providing information about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor on a regular basis, such as its construction progress, debt situation, future prospects, and the benefits it has brought to the people, to counter negative voices. For this purpose, we also need to encourage the Chinese media to set up branches in Pakistan to convey China's voice, Chinese beliefs and culture to Pakistan.

We also need to streamline the corridor construction tasks. In doing this, we should first gradually shift the emphasis from large-scale infrastructure construction to developing industries and establish industrial parks, with more weight put on the role of the market in attracting non governmental and private investment.

Then we need to strengthen communication ties and keep up with the times in cooperating with the Pakistani side, so as to promote the integration of the new development strategies of the two countries. This calls for balancing what we can do at different times while further reinforcing the independent and objective evaluation of investment projects. Finally, it is important to give more weight to projects that will improve the livelihoods of ordinary people in Pakistan. Pakistanis who know and understand China well should be brought on board to influence more people in Pakistan.

The corridor should be seen not only as a matter concerning China and Pakistan, but as one concerning the interests of other related parties. That means construction of the corridor should be treated as an open project of broad international interests, so that all parties will become active forces promoting construction of the corridor. This means properly handling the China-India-Pakistan triangular relationship, for India is a key third party in the construction of the corridor. We should then make efforts to get more international organizations and countries interested in participating. This may help form a "China-Pakistan +" framework.

The Express Tribune

Dawood for attracting Chinese industry

ISLAMABAD: Yet again a golden opportunity is at hand for Pakistan to attract and help relocate various Chinese industries in the country in the wake of China's decision to shift its industry outside the country, said Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce, Textile, Industry and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood.

While briefing the media on China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) on Tuesday, he added that China wanted to establish its industry outside the country which provided Pakistan an opportunity to exploit this wave for shifting a bulk of Chinese industry to Pakistan.

He was of the view that Pakistan lost the chance ten years back when China was transferring its industry and shifted a bulk to Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries especially Vietnam and Malaysia. He said this was the second time when China was transferring its industry to other countries and Pakistan could take advantage of this move.

“We missed the first wave 10 years ago and should take advantage of the current opportunity,” the adviser stressed. In this way, he said Pakistan would be able not only to increase its exports but also bring Chinese investments in the country.

The Nation

Pakistan to get \$6.5 billion annual share from Chinese imports

ISLAMABAD - Advisor to the Prime Minister on Commerce Abdul Razak Dawood on Tuesday said under the recently signed China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement-II (CPFTA) Pakistan would get \$6.5 billion annual share of total Chinese imports of \$64 billion.

“We get the same status in CPFTA-II as has been given to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries for exploiting the entire 313 duty free tariff lines provided by the China to access its market,” he said while talking to anchor-persons here at in Ministry of Commerce. Secretary Commerce Sardar Ahmed Nawaz Sukhera was also present.

The advisor said Pakistan had to face trade deficit with China after the latter signed FTA with ASIAN countries in 2010-11. However, now the duty-free export of 313 tariff lines provided a huge opportunity to Pakistan to decrease trade deficit with China, he added. He said Vietnam had increased its exports to China after signing of the China–ASEAN FTA. Replying to a question, he said under the CPFTA would turn around Pakistan’s economy, particularly export-based industry.

The local exporters now had a big opportunity to capture the Chinese market. The government was taking steps to make the Pakistani products competitive in the international market, he added. The adviser said a two-pronged strategy had been evolved for proper execution of the CPFTA and to exploit the 313 tariff lines to the maximum.

“We want to increase our exports to China and also bring the Chinese investment to Pakistan.”

Razak said China wanted to relocate its industry in other countries and the government desired to get maximum Chinese industrial units shifted to Pakistan.

He said “We missed the first phase 10 ten years ago when China shifted its industry mostly to ASEAN countries, especially Vietnam and Malaysia.” Now in the second phase, China wanted to shift the garments, leather and home appliances industry, he added.

He said Pakistan could export key products like textiles, leather, engineering goods, electronics, plastics, sea food, apparel, foot ware and jewelry under the 313 tariff lines.

Replying to another question, he said, “We successfully negotiated and finalized terms and conditions to safeguard the local industry and get the period of 15 years to gradually open the some potential areas of local industry for trade with China.”

He said if any industry was hurt, Pakistan could get measures to protect the particular industrial unit for 90 days. He said iron, steel, agriculture, plastic, ceramics and surgical goods would need protection and safeguards.

The Nation

Gwadar: COPHC makes a difference

Over the decades, Gwadar was in the dark. Light of education was dim. Local people had little hope for a better future. Eventually fortune descended. As a result a school, located in most backward area devoid of basic studying facilities, marked the dawn of new era of educational excellence making everyone sit up and take a notice. Students of school obtained 95 percent passing percentage in national examination first time in the history of Gwadar as well as Balochistan province.

All credit goes to China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), Pakistan which did the wonder by making available best learning services to primary and middle students after establishing Pakistan-China Friendship School in Gwadar.

Given the adverse situation teeming with impoverishment, where people do not dream to educate their kids as they know neither government has resources nor they have financial capacity to make things happen, such high scores are stunning. It is definitely a breakthrough that will go a long way in equipping the local people with excellent education to help them keep pace

Zhang Baozhong, Chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), Pakistan laid bare the facts that Gwadar port development was not limited to terminal handling capabilities, storage, logistics, road, airport and free zone rather it worked for ensuring decent life for local community.

Initially school had primary level with size of 150 students. Later it got upgraded to middle class extending the capacity of 573 students.

China Fund for Peace and Development (CFPD) teamed up with COPHC to construct the school in Gwadar on the donated land by a 65-year old local man named Shair Mohammad, who had contributed his 752 square meters land to promote education in the area. With the cost of around \$ 1 million, school was built in 10 months. The school was built by a subsidiary of China Communications Construction Company Ltd. (CCCC), CCCC-FHDI Engineering Co., Ltd. During the construction process, the local people continued visiting the site every day, anxiously waiting for completion of the new school. The local people applauded Chinese for their kind gesture and offered a lot of help.

On 26 August, 2016, school became a reality. On 1 September, 2016, Nawaz Sharif, then Prime Minister visited Gwadar, and inaugurated the school with then Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong. COPHC donated books to help the school in setting up its library and hundreds of school uniforms to all students according to local standard.

According to the request of the CFPD and the government of Gwadar, the school management committee was established by China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC), Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) and Deputy Commissioner of Gwadar. Chairman of COPHC, Zhang Baozhong took the post of the Chairman of committee. COPHC is working very hard to make school into a model school.

Meanwhile, COPHC has been sparing no effort to transform Gwadar port into a state of art seaport in the world. Millions of dollars have been poured in to renovate port facilities since 2013 and now the port has improved to its remarkable capacity.

The business promotion of Gwadar Free Zone has been started and the first edition of investment guide has already been officially issued. The Free Zone Phase II, III, IV will develop into manufacturing zone, focusing mainly on agriculture processing, fish processing, marble processing, halal food processing, and refrigerated storage/cold chain. There are container yards for warehousing of international purchasing, transit/distribution, packing/labeling, stuffing & destuffing, trans-shipment, light end-assembly/re-assembly, and supporting services for value added exports. To provide one window solution, financial services assistance for the investors is now fully functional.

December 29, 2016, the 6th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting on Long- Term Planning of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) held in Beijing Mr. Zhang Baozhong, chairman of COPHC apprised of development of Gwadar Port and said with sufficient wisdom and courage, COPHC overcame lots of difficulties and achieved unprecedented success in the operation of port, the construction of Free Zone, investment attraction and livelihood projects, etc.

Seeking inspirations from COPHC's success in Pakistan-China Friendship School, Balochistan government and Chinese company CMEC are heading to construct new schools in Gwadar employing prefabrication technology under a public-private partnership programme.

Balochistan CM Jam Kamal Khan Alyani and CMEC General Manager Li Kan held a parley to discuss modalities and line of action to make things happen. The Chinese company has intended to assist Gwadar to transfer its agriculture system to new technological advancement. It promised to transfer modern agriculture techniques to students besides awarding them scholarships for higher studies in China.

With a view to make Gwadar port fully functional, a number of projects are making headway. Among them, key projects feature construction of Gwadar International Airport, construction of East-Bay Expressway, Infrastructure development for Free Zone, construction of breakwaters, dredging of berthing areas & channels, coal-based Power Plant, Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute, potable water, China-Pakistan Friendship Hospital (Up-gradation of existing 50 bedded hospital), Clean & Green Gwadar and Gwadar Smart Port City Master Plan. Projects are in different stages of completion. Some just commenced and some are ready to takeoff.

On the shores of the Arabian Sea in the western province of Balochistan the Gwadar Port is strategically a well located port to ensure increasing trade in the region. The Port is located at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, just outside the Straits of Hormuz, near the key shipping routes accommodating a flow of more than 18 million barrel oil per day and a large quantity of bulk, break-bulk and containerized cargo.

In the east, the port neighbours the emerging Indian and South East Asian economies. On land, the port springs the Pak-China Economic Corridor and has connectivity with all major markets of Pakistan which will be further extended to neighboring markets of China, Iran, Afghanistan, and other landlocked CAR's market in due course of time.

The News

Book on One Belt, One Road launched

LAHORE: A ceremony to launch latest book “One Belt One Road –Hands on Small Enterprises” by UMT Director General Abid HK Sherwani, Dr Hassnain Javed (PITAC) and Mr CaiLi of China) was held at Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Centre (PITAC), Lahore.

According to a press release, the book launching ceremony was chaired by Abdul Razak Dawood, Adviser to Prime Minister, for Commerce, Textile, Industry & Production and Investment. Director General UMT Abid HK Sherwani, Adviser PITAC Dr Hassnain Javed, Rector Dr Muhammad Aslam and Pro-Rector UCP Dr Nizamud Din were also present. The ceremony was also attended by national and international scholars, writers, senior industrialists, media persons and students.

This book provides an overview and analysis of Pakistan's and China's small and medium enterprises and a down-to-earth analysis of the One Belt One Road initiative, focusing on how this venture opens up avenues for cross-border small and medium enterprises of the two brotherly countries. One important lesson that emerges from this research is that Pakistan's industrialization is possible under CPEC.

Jang News

چین نے پاکستانی لڑکیوں کی اسمگلنگ کانوٹس لے لیا، تحقیقات کیلئے پاکستانی اداروں سے تعاون کا اعلان

راولپنڈی، بیجنگ (نمائندگان جنگ / ایجنسیاں) ایف آئی اے کے ہیومن ٹریڈنگ سیل نے پاکستانی لڑکیوں سے شادی کرنے اور ان سے جسم فروشی کرانے والے گروہ کے چینی سربراہ سمیت مزید 17 افراد کو گرفتار کر لیا۔ جبکہ چین نے پاکستانی لڑکیوں کی اسمگلنگ کانوٹس لینے ہوئے پاکستانی اداروں سے تحقیقات میں تعاون کا بھی اعلان کیا ہے، تفصیلات سے ہوشیار رہنے کی تاکید کی ہے۔ چینی سفارت خانے کے مطابق 'غیر قانونی اداروں' کے مطابق چینی وزارت خارجہ نے پاکستان اور چین کے شہریوں کو رشتہ کروانے والے چین غیر قانونی رشتہ کرنے کے کاروبار کے حوالے سے پاکستان کے قانون نافذ کرنے والے اداروں کے ساتھ تعاون کر رہا ہے۔ چینی بیان میں لوگوں سے کہا گیا ہے کہ وہ ایسے عناصر کے ہاتھوں بے وقوف نہ بنیں اور اگر ایسی کوئی سرگرمی ان کے نوٹس میں آئے تو متعلقہ اداروں کو مطلع کریں۔ چینی سفارت خانے نے اس امید کا اظہار بھی کیا کہ پاکستان

اور چین کے برادرانہ تعلقات کے تحفظ کیلئے حقیقت پر مبنی رپورٹنگ کی جائے گی، دوسری طرف چین میں پاکستانی سفیر مسعود خالد نے اس معاملے پر چینی حکام کو تفصیلات سے آگاہ کیا ہے، ادھر ایف آئی اے کے مطابق ہیومن ٹریڈنگ سیل راولپنڈی نے کارروائی کرتے ہوئے 3 چینی باشندوں سمیت 7 افراد کو گرفتار کر لیا جن میں گینگ کا سربراہ چینی باشندہ سوگنچو پونگ بھی شامل ہے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق ڈی جی ایف آئی اے کے سامنے دو خواتین پیش ہوئیں جن کی درخواست پر ایف آئی اے اسلام آباد نے انکو اٹری شروع کی، گرفتار کیے جانے والوں میں 2 جوڑے بھی شامل ہیں جبکہ دو چینی باشندوں نے دو پاکستانی لڑکیوں کو اپنی بیوی ظاہر کیا۔ پاکستانی خواتین سے شادی اور ان سے جسم فروشی کا مکروہ دھندہ کرانے والے گروہ کے اب تک گرفتار ہونے والے ملزمان کی تعداد 19 ہو گئی۔ ڈپٹی ڈائریکٹر ایف آئی اے کامران علی کے مطابق گرفتار ملزمان خود کو جعلی طور پر مسلمان ظاہر کرتے اور پاکستانی خواتین سے شادی کر کے ان سے جسم فروشی کراتے تھے جبکہ ملزمان خواتین کے اعضا بھی فروخت کرنے میں ملوث تھے۔

Nawaiwaqt

پاکستان میں ایسے افراد کا تقرر کیا جائے جو معیشت کو سمجھتے ہوں: چائنہ ڈیلی

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی بیک) کو مضبوط بنیادوں پر استوار کرنے کے لیے پاکستان اور چین کو قابل عمل معاون میکنزم کی ضرورت ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار ایک چینی سینئر ریسرچ فیلو نے اپنے ایک مضمون میں کیا ہے، جو گزشتہ روز چائنہ ڈیلی میں شائع ہوا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا ہے کہ سی بیک کی تعمیر عالمی مفادات کے وسیع تناظر میں کھلی اور شفاف طریقے سے ہونی چاہیے، سی بیک بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کا ایک اہم منصوبہ ہے، جو اب نمایاں ترقی کر رہا ہے، جس کے تحت چند منصوبے پہلے ہی زیر تعمیر ہیں یا مکمل ہو چکے ہیں، اس سے پاکستانی معیشت کی پائیدار ترقی میں نمایاں اضافہ ہو گا، تاہم اس کے باوجود انہوں نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ دونوں ممالک اس راہداری منصوبے کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے پیدا شدہ مسائل کو حل کرنے پر زور دیں، تاکہ یہ منصوبہ پائیدار بنیادوں اور مزید ٹھوس ترقی پر آگے بڑھ سکے۔ مضمون میں مزید کہا گیا ہے کہ حقائق یہ بتاتے ہیں کہ ہمیں فوری طور پر ایسے افراد کا تقرر کرنے کی ضرورت ہے جو پاکستانی معیشت، اس کی بین الاقوامی حکمت عملی، اس کی اسلامی ثقافت کو بہتر طور پر سمجھتے ہوں تاکہ ہمارے رابطوں کو مزید فروغ دے کر مضبوط بنایا جاسکے، اس کے لیے ایک مشترکہ معاون میکنزم رابطے کے لیے موجود ہونا چاہیے، ہمیں سی بیک پر معلومات باقاعدہ بنیادوں پر فراہم کرنے کے بارے میں سوچنا چاہیے، جیسا کہ اس منصوبے کی تعمیر میں پیشرفت، قرض کی صورت حال، مستقبل کا منظر، عوام کو پہنچنے والے فوائد، منفی خیالات کا مقابلہ کرنے کے لیے باقاعدہ بنیادوں پر معلومات فراہم کی جانی چاہئیں

May 09, 2019

Business Recorder

Chinese envoy slams terrorist attack in Lahore

ISLAMABAD: “Pakistan is a peaceful country and the security situation has certainly improved over the past few years” said the Chinese Ambassador, Yao Jing, in a meeting with Federal Minister of Interior, Brig Ijaz Ahmad Shah (retd). He strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Lahore and extended condolences to the entire nation on behalf of China and its people. The ambassador appreciated the role of Government of Pakistan in developmental projects with specific emphasis on CPEC. He said that focus of cooperation was primarily based on two areas that include Industrial and Social Development.

Elaborating the social factor, Brig Ijaz Ahmad Shah (retd) added that the Prime Minister's vision has been quite focused on poverty alleviation and improving education sector, says a press release issued here on Wednesday.

Yao Jing proposed that a MoU may be signed to enhance ministry level coordination with Chinese Ministry of Public Security to further strengthen the collaboration on both ends. The MoU will be principally centering on capacity building and technical development of relevant organizations. While discussing the investment and tourism potentials, the Federal Minister for Interior said that Pakistan is now open to 175 countries around the globe which is a milestone achievement of the present government. "We will work together for betterment of our people," the minister said in response to Chinese offer of expanding the horizons of mutual ties.—PR

Pakistan Observer

Propaganda about CPEC debt

DELIBERATE attempts are being made by some foreign circles and their local connections to create misunderstanding about the huge developmental project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has become a symbol of friendship between the two most trusted friends and neighbours. After failure of their designs to cause hurdles in the way of implementation of this gigantic project, they are now propagating that CPEC would become a debt trap for Pakistan and the country would find it difficult in near future to repay the loans obtained for various developmental projects under the umbrella of the Corridor. A study carried out by Pakistan Observer and background discussions with a number of prominent neutral economists and analysts show that contrary to the propaganda by these vested interests, the CPEC loan constitutes just a fraction of total foreign debt of Pakistan and there was no question of the country falling under any debt trap due to these loans because of their favourable terms and longer period of repayment. According to official data, 42 percent of Pakistan's long-term debt comes from loans from multilateral institutions, and Chinese loans account for only 10 percent. China has also offered preferential interest rate of two per cent to Pakistan which is far low than being charged by most of the Western countries or multilateral institutions. Unlike IMF loan, which has much shorter maturity period, the repayment period for Chinese loan under CPEC is 20 to 25 years and Chinese have a track record of sorting out repayment issues in a humane manner through extension in repayment period, renegotiation of terms of loans and even write offs in genuine cases. It is also to be worth-mentioning that all Chinese loans under CPEC is not government-to-government credit as this constitutes just \$6 billion in the case of 22 early harvest projects and the rest is private investment. Commercial loans, though part of Pakistan's total external debt and liabilities, are not guaranteed by the Government of Pakistan. These facts and figures clearly prove that there would be no serious debt issue, as propagated by vested interests, due to CPEC loans. In fact, these loans have been provided for infrastructure and other projects like power generation, which would contribute immensely to GDP growth rate and accelerate the socio-economic progress of the country.

Pakistan Observer

China to work on strengthening ties with Pakistan: Yao Jing

“Pakistan is a peaceful country and the security situation has certainly improved over the past few years” said the Chinese Ambassador, Yao Jing, in a meeting with Federal Minister of Interior, Brig (R) Ijaz Ahmad Shah. He strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Lahore and extended condolences to the entire nation on behalf of China and its people. The Ambassador appreciated the role of Government of Pakistan in developmental projects with specific emphasis on CPEC. He said that focus of cooperation was primarily based on two areas that include Industrial and Social Development.

Elaborating the social factor, Brig. (R) Ijaz Ahmad Shah added that the Prime Minister’s vision has been quite focused on poverty alleviation and improving education sector. Mr. Yao Jing proposed that a MoU may be signed to enhance Ministry level coordination with Chinese Ministry of Public Security to further strengthen the collaboration on both ends. The MoU will be principally centring on capacity building and technical development of relevant organizations. While discussing the investment and tourism potentials, the Federal Minister for Interior said that Pakistan is now open to 175 countries around the globe which is a milestone achievement of the present government. “We will work together for betterment of our people” The Minister said in response to Chinese offer of expanding the horizons of mutual ties.

The Express Tribune

Ministry discusses issues relating to Pak-China trade

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are working hand in hand to further expand the range of cooperation in trade, industry and tourism sectors that will ultimately prepare the base for economic uplift of the whole region, said Ministry of Communications Federal Secretary Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui.

He was speaking at the conclusion of a meeting on ‘International Road Transport’ on Wednesday. In order to promote bilateral trade relationship between Pakistan and China in context of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the meeting continued for two days at the Ministry of Communications.

Matters relating to expansion of trade ties and facilitation of transportation for passengers and goods between the two countries were discussed in detail. On the first day, issues pertaining to exchange of information about China-Pakistan international transport volume during 2018 was focused besides the present condition of Karakoram Highway and restoration of Kashgar-Gilgit Bus Service. In addition to this, introduction of bus service from Lahore and Islamabad to Kashgar, routine bilateral talks on regular basis and granting of multiple entry visas to the drivers/crew members were also discussed.

The meeting also reviewed problems being faced by the transport companies and made recommendations of facilitation measures to be initiated by both sides. The proposal for keeping the Pak-China border open seven days a week was also considered.

The News

Pakistan, China to cooperate in trade, tourism sectors

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Secretary for Communications, Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui, has said that Pakistan and China are hand in hand to further expand range of cooperation in trade, industry and tourism sectors that will ultimately prepare the ground for economic uplift of the whole region.

He was speaking on occasion of signing agreed minutes on conclusion of today's experts group meeting on International Road Transport at the Ministry of Communications here (Tuesday) today. Senior Joint Secretary Ministry of Communications, Altaf Asghar, and leader of Chinese delegation Lin Ping, Deputy Party Secretary of Transportation Department, Xinjiang, signed the minutes.

In order to promote bilateral trade relationship between Pakistan and China in context of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), meeting of Pakistan-China Working Level Experts Group on International Road Transport continued two days at Ministry of Communications. Matters relating to expanding trade ties and facilitating transportation of passengers and goods between the two countries were discussed in detail.

The Pakistan side was led by Senior Joint Secretary, Ministry of Communications, Altaf Asghar, while senior officers from ministries of Communications, Foreign Affairs, Interior and Commerce, National Highway Authority, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, National Logistic Cell and Northern Areas Transport Cooperation participated.

Likewise, Lin Ping, Deputy Party Secretary of Transportation Department of Xinjiang led the 8-member Chinese delegation, while high ups from International Road Transport office Xinjiang and other officers of relevant Chinese departments participated in the meeting.

On the first day, working level experts group of both the sides discussed in details matters relating to exchange of information about China-Pakistan international transport volume during 2018, present condition of Karakoram Highway, restoration of Kashgar-Gilgit Bus Service and start of Bus service from Lahore and Islamabad to Kashgar, routine mechanism for holding of bilateral talks on regular basis and grant of multiple entry visas to the drivers/crew members.

The meeting also reviewed problems being faced by Transport companies and facilitation measures by both the sides. Proposal for opening of Pak-China border seven days a week was also considered. It was told that due to extreme weather conditions at Khunjerab Top, Pak-China border remains closed almost four months affecting the trade. Both the sides discussed to make efforts for minimizing this closure time.

It was told in the meeting that construction work of Havelian-Thakot section is in progress and hopefully will be completed by March 2020. The meeting also reviewed to obtain services of more than one bus operators from both sides that will ultimately pave the way to ensure quality services for cross border transportation of passengers & freight. In order to expand the range of trade relationship between Pakistan and China and to facilitate transportation of passengers and goods, both the sides desired implementation of Bilateral Road Transport Agreement in an effective manner. On conclusion of experts' level meeting both the sides signed the agreed minutes.

Dunya News

Pakistan's exports to China increase 3.93pc in 8 months

ISLAMABAD (APP) – Pakistan's exports of goods and services to China grew by 3.93 percent during the first eight months of the current fiscal year compared to the corresponding period of last year, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported.

The overall exports to China were recorded at \$1150.523 million during July-February (2018-19) against exports of \$1107.004 million during July-February (2017-18), PBS data revealed. On the other hand, the imports from China into the country during the period were recorded at \$6633.191 million against \$7326.706 million last year, showing negative growth of 9.46 percent in first eight month of current fiscal year. Based on the trade figures, the trade of goods and services with China witnessed decrease of 11.85 percent in deficit during first eight months of ongoing fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

The deficit during the period under review was recorded at \$5482.668 million against \$6219.702 million during same period of last year, the data revealed. The commodities that contributed positively growth in exports included fish frozen exports of which grew from \$23.563 million last year to \$44.048 million during the current fiscal year, showing growth of 86.93 percent.

The exports of rice also increased by 77.70 percent, from \$71.829 million to \$127.645 million whereas the exports of flour, meal and meat (not for human) increased by 132 percent, from \$8.959 million to \$20.786 million.

The exports of fruits nuts grew by 437.15 percent, from \$0.681 million to \$3.658 million while the exports of refined copper and copper alloys increased by 515.35 percent, from \$5.908 million last year to \$36.355 million, the data revealed. Over all Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 0.16 percent in eight months, from \$19.486 billion to \$19.454 billion, the SBP data revealed.

Meanwhile, the commodities that contributed positively growth in imports included rice imports of which grew from US \$3.829 million last year to US \$9.311 million during the current fiscal year, showing increase of 143.17 percent.

The imports of ginger, saffron, turmeric, thyme, bay leaves and curry also increased by 4.70 percent, from \$26.706 million to \$27.963 million whereas the imports of nitrile- function compounds increased by 14.69 percent, from \$66.659 million to \$76.457 million.

The imports of palm oil and its fractions also increased by 358.68 percent, from \$0.881 million to \$4.041 million whereas the imports of carbon NES increased by 106.73 percent, from \$3.963 million to \$8.193 million.

The imports of tomatoes prepared or preserved NES increased by 20.67 percent, from \$2.549 million to \$3.076 million whereas the imports of heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen hetero-atom(s) also increased by 25.18 percent, from \$26.212 million to \$38.814 million. The overall imports in the country decrease by 4.85 percent, from \$43.004 billion to \$41.032 billion.

Jang News

کروٹ ہائیڈرو پراجیکٹ سے بجلی کی پیداوار 2021 میں شروع ہوگی

بیجنگ (اے پی پی) پنجاب میں دریائے جہلم پر بنائے جانے والے کروٹ ہائیڈرو پاور پراجیکٹ پر تعمیراتی کام دو سال میں مکمل ہو گا جبکہ اس سے بجلی کی پیداوار اپریل 2021ء میں شروع ہوگی، 2 ہزار سے زائد افراد کو روزگار ملے گا، ایک چینی اخبار نے تعمیراتی فرم چائنہ تھری گار جز کارپوریشن کے حوالے سے رپورٹ میں بتایا ہے کہ اس منصوبے پر 1.74 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی جائے گی جس سے ملک کے اندر بجلی کی کمی کا مسئلہ کافی حد تک حل ہو جائے گا۔ 720 میگاواٹ بجلی کے اس منصوبے پر کام کا آغاز 2015ء میں کیا گیا جس کی تکمیل پر اس سے سالانہ 3.2 ارب کلوواٹ آور ماحول دوست بجلی پیدا ہوگی

Jang News

سی پیک ریشمنی اکنامک زون کا سنگ بنیاد رکھنے کی تیاریاں مکمل

پشاور (ارشاد عزیز ملک) پاکستان چین اقتصادی راہداری کے تحت ریشمنی میں خیبر پختونخوا حکومت کے فلیگ شپ منصوبے اسپتال اکنامک زون کا سنگ بنیاد رکھنے کی تیاریاں مکمل کر لی گئی ہیں۔ وزیراعظم عمران خان آئندہ چند روز میں 1000 ایکڑ پر مشتمل اسپتال اکنامک زون کے تعمیراتی کام کا باقاعدہ افتتاح کریں گے۔ چائنہ روڈ اینڈ برتن کارپوریشن (سی آر بی سی) ریشمنی اکنامک زون میں انفراسٹرکچر کی تعمیر پر 130 ملین ڈالر خرچ کرے گی جس کی تکمیل سے صنعتی زون میں اربوں روپے کی ملکی اور غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری متوقع ہے۔ اسپتال اکنامک زون میں دو لاکھ سے زائد افراد کو روزگار کے مواقع ملیں گے۔ ریشمنی اسپتال اکنامک زون موٹروے ایم ون ریشمنی انٹر چینج پر واقع ہے جو برہان انٹر چینج کے ذریعے سی پیک سے ملتا ہے جبکہ کرنل شیر خان انٹر چینج سے سوات ایکسپریس وے کے ذریعے دیر، چترال اور شندور کو آپس میں ملاتا ہے کے پی ایزمک کے چیف ایگزیکٹو سعید احمد نے تصدیق کی ریشمنی خصوصی صنعتی زون کے تعمیراتی کام کا باضابطہ افتتاح بہت جلد وزیراعظم عمران خان اور چین کے اعلیٰ حکام کریں گے

K2 News

ایران سی پیک میں اہم کردار ادا کرنے کو تیار ہے، مہدی ہنردوست

پاکستان اور ایران کے درمیان دوطرفہ اقتصادی تعلقات ہونے پائیس، معاون خصوصی پٹرولیم

ایرانی سفیر یوٹو مشیر پٹرولیم کی ملاقات میں وزیر اعظم کے حالیہ دورے اور خطے کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) پاکستان میں تعلقات میں وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی پٹرولیم محمد ہار نے ایرانی سفیر مہدی ہنردوست نے کہا ہے کہ ایران سی پیک میں اہم کردار ادا کرنے کو تیار ہے، تہران اور تمام میں تعاون ہوگا ایران اور پاکستان کے درمیان اسلام آباد باہمی تعلقات کو مستحکم کرنے کے خواہشمند دوطرفہ اقتصادی تعلقات (ہائی سٹیج 7 بجے نمبر 40)

ہونے پائیس۔ بدھ کو وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی پٹرولیم محمد ہار نے ایرانی سفیر مہدی ہنردوست نے ملاقات کی ملاقات میں وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے حالیہ دورے ایران اور دوطرفہ تعلقات، خطے کی مجموعی صورتحال اور پائیس دیکھنے کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا ملاقات میں دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تعلقات کے استحکام اور فروغ پر بھی بات چیت ہوئی۔ اس موقع پر ایرانی سفیر مہدی ہنردوست نے کہا کہ تہران اور اسلام آباد باہمی تعلقات کو مستحکم کرنے کے خواہشمند ہیں، سی پیک میں ایران بھی اہم کردار ادا کرنے کو تیار ہے۔ اس موقع پر محمد ہار نے کہا کہ ایران اور پاکستان کے درمیان دوطرفہ اقتصادی تعلقات ہونے پائیس، پٹرولیم مصنوعات کی اسٹاک کی سرحد پر روک تمام میں تعاون ہوگا۔

Nawaiwaqt

پاکستان، بھارت میں اختلافات امن کیلئے خطرہ، مذاکرات سے مسائل حل کریں: چینی وزیر خارجہ

بیجنگ (آن لائن) چین نے ایک دفعہ پھر پاکستان اور بھارت کو مشورہ دیا کہ وہ اپنے مسائل کو پر امن طریقے سے حل کرنے کیلئے مذاکرات کی میز سجائیں۔ خطے میں امن خوشحالی اور ترقی کیلئے لازمی ہے کہ برصغیر کی دونوں کلیدی طاقتیں ایک دوسرے کے قریب آکر اختلافات کو دور کر کے مسائل کی طرف اپنی توجہ مبذول کریں۔ چین کی ہمیشہ سے یہ کوشش رہی ہے کہ بھارت پاکستان اپنے مسائل کو بات چیت کے ذریعے حل کریں اور سرحدوں پر امن قائم رکھنے کیلئے اقدامات اٹھائیں۔ ملکی خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق چینی وزیر خارجہ نے صحافیوں کے ساتھ گفتگو کے دوران کہا چین خطے میں طاقت کے توازن کو برقرار رکھنے کا ہمیشہ سے حامی رہا ہے اور کسی بھی ملک کے اندرونی معاملات میں

مداخلت کی کوشش نہیں کرتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا ہم آزاد تجارت پر یقین رکھتے ہیں، تاہم جنوبی ایشیا کے ملکوں کو چاہیے کہ وہ اپنی ضرورتوں کو پورا کرنے کیلئے خود انحصاری کے نقش قدم پر چلنے کی کوشش کریں نہ کہ دوسرے ممالک پر انحصار رکھیں۔ چینی وزیر خارجہ نے جمیش محمد کے سربراہ کو سیکورٹی کونسل کی جانب سے دہشت گرد قرار دینے کی کارروائی کی حمایت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ مہذب دنیا میں تشدد کیلئے کوئی جگہ نہیں ہے انہوں نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے مابین دوستی دن بدن مضبوط و مستحکم ہوتی جا رہی ہے بھارت چین کے درمیان تعلقات کی بہتری کا دعویٰ کرتے ہوئے چینی وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کے مابین تعلقات نہایت ہی خوشگوار ہیں اور ان میں دن بدن بہتری آرہی ہے انہوں نے بھارت پاکستان کے مابین اختلافات کو خطے کے امن کیلئے خطرہ قرار دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک کا چاہیے کہ وہ اپنے مسائل حل کرنے کیلئے بات چیت کا سلسلہ شروع کریں اور سرحدوں پر امن قائم کرنے کیلئے اقدامات اٹھائیں چینی وزیر خارجہ نے کہا کہ چین کی کشمیر پالیسی میں کوئی تبدیلی نہیں آئی۔ انہوں نے کہا بھارت پاکستان کے درمیان جس قدر تعلقات بہتر ہوں گے خطے کیلئے وہ اتنا ہی مفید ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt

چینی طلباء و طالبات نے پاکستانی جامعات سے ڈگریاں حاصل کر لیں 156

اسلام آباد (جاوید صدیق) 156 چینی طلبہ اور طالبات نے پاکستان کی یونیورسٹیوں سے تعلیم حاصل کرنے کے بعد ڈگریاں حاصل کر لی ہیں۔ چار چینی طلبہ نے پاکستانی یونیورسٹیوں سے پی ایچ ڈی بھی کی ہے۔ چینی طلبہ کو ڈگریاں دینے کی تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر یاؤ بنگ نے کہا کہ چینی طلبہ نے پاکستان میں تعلیم کے دوران پاکستانی دوست بنائے ہیں یہ دوستیاں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تعلقات کو مستحکم بنانے میں معاون ثابت ہوں گے۔ چینی سفیر نے چینی طلبہ کو مشورہ دیا کہ وہ پاکستان کو اپنے دلوں میں رکھیں۔ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دوستی کو مستحکم بنانے کیلئے محنت کریں

May 10, 2019

Dawn News

Experts review CPEC trade activities

ISLAMABAD: Experts from Pakistan and China on Thursday reviewed problems related to the volume of traffic and trade activities on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Communications ministry's senior joint secretary Altaf Asghar and leader of the Chinese delegation and party secretary of the transportation department Xinjiang Lin Ping signed the minutes. The two-day talks between working level expert groups from Pakistan and China were aimed at promoting bilateral trade through the CPEC.

On the first day of the meeting, both sides discussed in details matters relating to exchange of information about China-Pakistan international transport volume during 2018, the present condition of the Karakoram Highway, restoration of the Kashgar-Gilgit bus service, and start of bus service from Lahore and Islamabad to Kashgar, routine mechanism for holding of bilateral talks on a regular basis and grant of multiple entries visas to the drivers/crew members.

The meeting also reviewed problems being faced by transport companies and facilitation measures by both the sides. A proposal to open the Pak-China border seven days a week was also considered.

The meeting was told that construction work on Havelian-Thakot section was in progress and hopefully would be completed by March 2020. The meeting also reviewed a plan to obtain services of more than one bus operator from both sides that would ultimately pave the way for ensuring quality services for cross-border transportation of passengers and freight.

In order to expand the range of trade relationship between Pakistan and China and to facilitate transportation of passengers and goods, both sides desired implementation of the bilateral road transport agreement in an effective manner.

Speaking on the occasion, Communications Secretary Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui said that Pakistan and China were on the same page to further expand the range of cooperation in trade, industry and tourism sectors that would ultimately prepare the ground for economic uplift of the whole region.

Altaf Asghar led the Pakistan delegation which comprised senior officers from the ministries of communications, foreign affairs, interior and commerce, National Highway Authority, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, National Logistic Cell and Northern Areas Transport Cooperation. Lin Ping led the eight-member Chinese delegation that included officials from the international road transport office Xinjiang and other officers of relevant Chinese departments.

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China trade ties to benefit whole region: Siddiqui

Federal Secretary Communications Shoaib Ahmad Siddiqui said that Pakistan and China are hand in hand to further expand range of cooperation in trade, industry and tourism sectors that will ultimately prepare the ground for economic uplift of the whole region. He was speaking on occasion of signing of agreed minutes on conclusion of two days experts group meeting on International Road Transport at Ministry of Communications here. Senior Joint Secretary Ministry of Communications Altaf Asghar and leader of Chinese delegation Lin Ping, Deputy Party Secretary of Transportation Department, Xinjiang signed the minutes.

In order to promote bilateral trade relationship between Pakistan and China in context of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), meeting of Pakistan-China Working level Experts Group on International Road Transport continued for two days at Ministry of Communications. Matters relating to expanding trade ties and facilitating transportation of passengers and goods between the two countries were discussed in detail.

The Pakistan side was led by Senior Joint Secretary Ministry of Communications Altaf Asghar, while senior officers from Ministries of Communications, Foreign Affairs, Interior and Commerce, National Highway Authority, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, National

Logistic Cell and Northern Areas Transport Cooperation participated. Likewise Lin Ping, Deputy Party Secretary of Transportation Department of Xinjiang led the eight-member Chinese delegation, while high ups from International Road Transport office Xinjiang and other officers of relevant Chinese departments participated in the meeting. On the first day, working level experts group of both the sides discussed in details matters relating to exchange of information about China-Pakistan international transport volume during 2018, present condition of Karakoram Highway, restoration of Kashgar-Gilgit Bus Service and start of Bus service from Lahore and Islamabad to Kashgar, routine mechanism for holding of bilateral talks on regular basis and grant of multiple entries visas to the drivers/crew members. The meeting also reviewed problems being faced by Transport companies and facilitation measures by both the sides.

Proposal for opening of Pak-China border seven days a week was also considered. It was told that due to extreme weather conditions at Khunjerab Top, Pak-China border remains closed almost four months affecting the trade. Both the sides discussed to make efforts for minimizing this closure time.

It was told in the meeting that construction work of Havelian-Thakot section is in progress and hopefully will be completed by March 2020.

The meeting also reviewed to obtain services of more than one Bus Operators from both sides that will ultimately pave the way to ensure quality services for cross border transportation of passengers and freight.

In order to expand the range of trade relationship between Pakistan and China and to facilitate transportation of passengers and goods, both the sides desired implementation of Bilateral Road Transport Agreement in an effective manner. On conclusion of experts level meeting both the sides signed the agreed minutes.

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan to become energy sufficient within three year, says Power China

Resources chief New venture would be industrial parks: Sheng Yuming

Pakistan is likely to become an energy sufficient country in coming three years. This was stated by Chairman, PowerChina Resources Limited and Port Qasim Coal-Fired Power Plant, Sheng Yuming while talking to journalists here on Thursday.

He added that once all the electricity projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) starts injecting power, Pakistan will be in position to work on other developmental projects and economic growth. Sheng Yuming said that “this is how China started its way to progress and development”.

Replying a question, he said that after the success of Port Qasim Power-Plant, now the company is looking into other investment opportunities in power sector. He added that PowerChina

Resources Company will explore future investment in Industrial Parks, Hydel Power, Wind Power, Solar and other sectors. Port Qasim power plant was the first power project under CPEC. Briefing the media, he said that two projects of Port Qasim Power Plant with capacity of 2×660 MW exceeded 10 billion kWh electricity generation.

The construction of the project officially started on May 21, 2015 and the understanding of the project was signed between Pakistan and China in 2015, on the occasion of President Xi's visit to Pakistan.

Responding to a question about the impact of Pakistani rupee devaluation over Port Qasim Plant operations, he stated that despite the rupee depreciation, the plant did not transfer the load of losses to Pakistani consumers as per the terms of coal imports.

Talking about debt faced by Pakistan, Mr. Sheng said that the circular debt is a major problem which is also impacting Power China now and working closely with the NTDC and CPPA as circular debt is throbbing the company too. He said that around US\$ 150 million areas of Port Qasim Power Plant with the CPPA. "We need our overdue payments to ensure our operations are not affected. Hope things would soon settle down amicably," he added. Chairman Power China said that the company over the past years has paid US\$ 240 Mln to government of Pakistan in terms of duties and taxes that helped Pakistan to strengthen its economy.

Company CEO Mr Guo Guangling, on the occasion said that at PowerChina had hired 4000 Pakistani youth to the plant construction. He added training and human development is also a goal of the company. Replying the query of the correspondent, about environment protection measures, Vice President Mr Sun Shuhua said that Power China had adopted best international standards and most modern technology to ensure generation of clean and green energy as "shared responsibility. He added that there are normally two impacts of coal power i.e. impact in air, and in water. We are currently using supercritical technology which is the most advance technology in the world to ensure clean energy.

We also cater to China's environment standard which is again the highest in the world," he said and added that Power China had invested a huge amount to ensure clean energy. He said that the company invested USD\$ 500 million in mangroves trees near the plant with 1/5 ratio on site to ensure the protection of environment and make it green.

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan to get advanced technology under CPEC: Cheng Xizhong

Special Economic Zone (SEZ) will enable Pakistan to get foreign capital and advanced technology, said Professor Cheng Xizhong of Southwest University of Political Science and Law.

It will also expedite Pakistan towards industrialization and modernization. It is expected that a formal groundbreaking ceremony of Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), the first project for

implementation of industrial cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), will be held soon. With increasingly concrete progress having been made in the development of the CPEC, a flagship project of “Belt and Road Initiative” (BRI), the focus of corridor development will gradually transit from infrastructure construction to industrial development under full discussion and consultation between China and Pakistan. Quoting Cheng Xizhong, China Economic Net said that on top of everything else, it should be fully recognized that the construction of the 22 energy and transportation infrastructure projects in the first phase of the CPEC has created favorable conditions for the comprehensive development of Pakistan, including SEZs.

As the development of the CPEC gains momentum in the second phase, especially with the construction of the SEZs, new changes are expected to take place in Pakistan. In his comments, Cheng Xizhong, the development of the SEZs in cultivating scale economy by mass production and enhancing export of industrial products will bring a lot of financial interests to Pakistan. Bilateral cooperation will be lifted to multilateral cooperation. Given that huge business opportunities will be generated under the development of SEZs, a flock of investors and foreign investments from many countries will flow into Pakistan in a large scale. The influx of foreign capital and advanced technology will expedite Pakistan towards industrialization and modernization. More-over, a large amount of employment opportunities will be created. Experts estimate that Rashakai SEZ will create 200,000 employment opportunities. If all the nine SEZs are put into operation, at least 1.8 million job positions will be provided to the local residents.

Cheng Xizhong who is also senior Fellow of the Chahar Institute added, “livelihood concerns will be gradually alleviated. Deng Xiaoping, Chief Architect of China’s Reform and Opening-up, once stated that development is the absolute principle. Only through development can we solve people’s livelihood problems and enable the broad masses of people to get rid of poverty and embark on the road of prosperity

The Express Tribune

CPEC’s first power project mired in financial difficulties

KARACHI: The first-ever power project set up under the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is facing financial trouble as some of its working capital is stuck in circular debt and it faces notable losses on the import of coal fuel in the wake of massive rupee depreciation.

Answering queries through a translator, Port Qasim Electric Power Company (PQEPC) Chairman Sheng Yuming said the circular debt in the power sector of Pakistan had remained a very challenging issue. His company, which operates two coal-fired power plants of 660 megawatts each, is also “facing the challenging problem of payment of arrears by Pakistan”.

“We have around \$150 million (over Rs21 billion) late payments now,” he said, while responding to media queries at first anniversary of the start of commercial operations of the imported coal-fired power project set up at a cost of over \$2 billion. The project kick-started commercial operations on April 25, 2018

The money stuck in circular debt is equal to about three-month sales revenue of the company, it is learnt. Pakistan’s circular debt stood at around Rs603 billion as of late March 2019.

“The delayed payment of tariff is a big issue for us every day,” said Sheng, who is also the chairman of PowerChina Resources Limited – the parent company of PQEPC.

“We are trying our best to generate more power and get more tariff payment timely as you know that this is a power plant, we have to import coal from the international market, also we have to repay debt to the financing banks,” he said.

“Top officials of the National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) and Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) have tried their best to pay our tariff bill on time,” he revealed.

The power project has produced over 10 billion kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity since the first of its two power plants was synchronized in November 2017. The production came close to 10% of the entire nation’s power consumption in Pakistan, he estimated.

He said the rupee had continued to depreciate against the dollar for several months and it caused them notable losses on the import of coal – the fuel for power production.

“We have to cope with that (devaluation). To be frank, the devaluation against the dollar... has caused us a lot of losses,” he said.

The losses caused by currency depreciation cannot be transferred to Pakistan as per the agreement. “I believe the depreciation is a short-term and temporary trend (in Pakistan),” he said.

Pakistan has let the rupee depreciate by 34% to Rs141.3 to the US dollar since December 2017.

“Coal comes to around 80-85% of the total cost of power production at the plant,” another company official told The Express Tribune on the sidelines of the event. “The rupee depreciation has wiped out our possible (net) profit in the first year of operations.”

Sheng said PQEPC was the first power project under CPEC. Power China Resources has been operating in Pakistan for the past 30 years and has undertaken several engineering projects. “This (PQEPC) was our first investment project,” he said.

Sheng pointed out that they were exploring new investment opportunities in Pakistan these days. “We are engaged in negotiations for new projects. However, no new project has been finalised yet.”

“Power China is looking for projects that are good for Pakistan including industrial parks,” he said.

Responding to a question on the impact of geopolitics on CPEC, Sheng called the China, Pakistan and Indian relationship a sensitive matter. “China did not invite Indian officials to its last Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) investment forum held recently in China and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan led a delegation to visit China.”

“China and Chinese firms fully support economic development in Pakistan,” he said, adding the two neighboring countries had remained all-weather friends

K2 News



May 11, 2019

Business Recorder

Belt, Road initiative delivers crucial capital for infrastructure development

KARACHI: A grim outlook for corporate earnings in 2019, increased country debt, the US-China trade war, Britain's exit from the European Union, and challenges to the independence of the Federal Reserve and other central banks are but a few of the dire issues weighing on policy-makers, and provide a compelling backdrop to a possible global economic recession. But several measures could be adopted to protect countries from these vulnerabilities and accumulate the necessary resources to stimulate sustainable growth.

US financier Michael Milken created the 'junk bond' market in the 1980s to enable smaller, non-rated companies to access capital. Besides triggering novel capital market opportunities for investors this stimulated overall economic growth through new jobs and increased consumer purchasing power. The rise of the risk-reward ratio added another dimension to asset allocation strategies, as improved availability of data gave added comfort to investors when increasing their risk appetite in the search for higher returns.

Analogous to Milken's strategy, China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative gives access to capital for those connected emerging markets that have not had the necessary investment grade ratings to tap international bond markets. These economies have never had the opportunity to attract offshore investors who require ratings dictated by their corporate policies. Nor do those investors have a high enough risk appetite to venture into uncharted emerging markets.

Infrastructure, the core of Belt and Road funding, is and has been the engine of growth for most economies. The 19th century industrial revolution transformed agrarian-based economies into technological and manufacturing-based ones. In the case of the US, this shift, accelerated again in the 1930s by President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal and the expansion of the domestic transportation network, made the country the leading global economy in the 20th century.

The lack of quality infrastructure has hampered the economic development that many Belt and Road-related countries sorely need. For example, the shortage of power in Pakistan has impaired GDP growth rates of up to 3 percent. The absence of a developed transportation network for refrigerated trucks for distribution of agricultural products results in a 50 percent loss of perishable products. The Belt and Road initiative can play at least a key role in filling these economies' substantial financing gap. The collective resources of multilateral institutions can also be leveraged to fill financing gaps and alleviate the concerns of risk-averse private sector participants.

Certain countries have already felt the benefits of new employment opportunities and improved productivity thanks to Belt and Road projects. In 2017, the Greek port of Piraeus handled more than 4m containers for onward distribution to Europe, Germany's Duisburg Inner Harbour has become the world's largest inland port, and more than 10,000 companies are now operating across Africa through an expanding transportation network of rail and roads. More than \$60bn of new business has been generated across a range of operations, including: increased investment and tourism into Africa; new housing in Indonesia; power projects in Bangladesh; roads in Pakistan and Kazakhstan; and rising global and intraregional trade in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The Belt and Road makes available ample resources and opportunities to stimulate production and inclusive growth, as well as to preserve regional economic stability. Payments settlement risk can also be reduced by using the renminbi as an alternative currency. Exogenous shocks remain a risk, and regional economies must install policies and systems to mitigate such threats. The Belt and Road offers the necessary ingredients to restore confidence and some stability in the international monetary system, while simultaneously generating new jobs and reducing poverty in many emerging markets.—PR

Dunya News

Minister sets timelines to resolve pending issues of CPEC

(APP) – Minister for Planning, Development and Reform Makhdum Khusro Bakhtyar has said that the incumbent Government was committed to accelerate implementation of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and set timelines for authorities concerned for resolving all the pending issues related to the projects.

The Minister expressed these views while chairing the progress review meeting on CPEC here on Friday. Chinese ambassador Yao Jing, PD CPEC Hassan Daud and senior officials from both sides were also present in the meeting.

During the meeting, projects of Orange Line, Eastbay Expressway, 300 MW coal based power plant at Gawadr and Kohala Hydropower were deliberated upon. Each project was discussed and scrutinized in detail and majority of the issues were resolved instantly.

For remaining pending issues, the Minister directed the authorities concerned to resolve them within strict timelines and progress be reported on monthly basis. Talking about Eastbay Expressway, the Minister said that the demand of local fishermen at Gwadar has been accepted and all efforts will be made to ensure timely completion of this project of national importance.

The Minister said that the Government was committed to development of Gwadar adding that provision of electricity and clean drinking water to Gwadar was top most priority and all efforts will be made to expedite the start of 300 MW coal based power plant.

Khusro Bakhtyar noted that CPEC was progressing in the right direction and the present government has expanded its scope in consultation with Chinese Government to focus on industrialization, agriculture cooperation and socio-economic development.

The Chinese ambassador appreciated the commitment of Government of Pakistan for resolving all pending issues and fast tracking the CPEC projects. He also appreciated the new issue based progress review mechanism for effective scrutiny and monitoring of progress on CPEC projects.

Pakistan Observer

China to support Pak operation against human traffickers Embassy says no evidence of Pakistani women being forced into prostitution

Chinese Embassy in Pakistan has responded to media reports that several Chinese nationals were taken into custody for alleged fraud, forgery of documents, human trafficking, sale of organ and forcing Pakistani women into prostitution after contracting marriages. A statement issued by the embassy spokesman Friday said China's position on the issue of transnational marriage is very clear, that is to protect legitimate marriages and combat crimes. "If any organization or individual commits a crime in Pakistan under the banner of the cross-border marriage, China supports the Pakistani side to crack down on it according to Pakistani laws."

The Ministry of Public Security of China sent a task force to Pakistan to carry out law enforcement cooperation with the Pakistani side, it said. The spokesman further added that the Chinese government conducted investigation into the claims but found no forced prostitution or sale of human organs for those Pakistani women who stay in China after marriage with Chinese. "China will further strengthen cooperation with the law enforcement agencies in Pakistan,

effectively combat crime, so as to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the two peoples, and jointly safeguard China-Pakistan friendly relations.”

“It is worth noting that several media reports have fabricated facts and spread rumors.” The spokesman urged media to seek truth from facts, be objective and fair. “We hope the people of China and Pakistan do not believe the rumors. We will never allow a few criminals to undermine China-Pakistan friendship and hurt the friendly feelings between two peoples,” it concluded.

Pakistan Observer

CPEC trade activities

EXPERTS from Pakistan and China on Thursday reviewed problems related to the volume of traffic and trade activities on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The two sides held a detailed discussion on the issues during signing of minutes of the two-day expert groups meeting on international road transport at the communications ministry.

The topics that the expert groups covered during their crucial meeting make it clear that the two sides are quite serious in improving the infrastructure and facilities and removing bottlenecks in the way of fast-tracking of trade activities. These included exchange of information about China-Pakistan international transport volume during 2018, the present condition of the Karakoram Highway, restoration of the Kashgar-Gilgit bus service, and start of bus service from Lahore and Islamabad to Kashgar, routine mechanism for holding of bilateral talks on a regular basis and grant of multiple entries visas to the drivers/crew members. Resolution of problems being faced by transport companies and the proposal to open the border seven-day a week would also contribute towards increasing trade activities to the mutual benefit. These and other related issues need to be sort out expeditiously through regular consultations and follow up as it is transportation and trade activities as well as industrial cooperation that would give real meaning to the benefits of CPEC. These would lead to creation of much-required job, economic and tourism opportunities and as a result backward areas come at par with other regions.

The Nation

Chinese VP to visit Pakistan this month: FM

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Friday said Chinese vice-president would visit Pakistan this month during which agreements related to agriculture would be finalised. Speaking at an Iftar-dinner held in honour of Farmers Association of Pakistan (FAP), he said the Chinese vice president would visit from May 26 to 28. “We want to enhance private partnerships with China.”

Qureshi, who is also the chairman of FAP, said China imported 95,000 million tons of soya beans from America annually. If Pakistan supplied soya beans to China as per their needs then both the countries could benefit from it, he added.

He said FAP members recently paid an informative visit to China to chalk out ways for mutually enhancing bilateral trade between the two countries. Qureshi said it was time to introduce latest machinery, equipment and modern research in the field of agriculture.

Pakistan had a lot of potential in the field of fisheries and it could help China in that field, he said and added Pakistan had the potential to enhance bilateral relations with China in the field of tangible goods and textile accessories.

He said that Pakistan wanted to have an economic diplomacy with other countries and ministries of finance, commerce, industry and foreign affairs should work together in that regard. He lauded FAP saying it could help the country in bringing revolutionary changes in the field of agriculture.

Jang News

پورٹ قاسم پاور پلانٹ پر بجلی کی پیداوار کی طرح صاف ماحول کو بھی اہمیت حاصل ہے، شنگ یو منگ

کراچی (نیوز ڈیسک) پاور چائناریسورس لمیٹڈ کے چیئر مین شنگ یو منگ نے کہا ہے کہ پورٹ قاسم پاور پلانٹ پر بجلی کی پیداوار کی طرح صاف ماحول کو بھی اہمیت حاصل ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ پورٹ قاسم میں کونکر سے چلنے والے پاور پلانٹ جس سے 10 ارب کے ڈبل پوائنٹ بجلی پیدا ہو رہی ہے سے نہ صرف پاکستان کے بجلی کے بحران پر قابو پایا جاسکے گا بلکہ اس سے پیدا ہونے والی آلودگی سے بچنے کیلئے بھی اقدامات کو برابر کی اہمیت دی گئی ہے۔ چین کے ایک خبر رساں ادارے کے مطابق پورٹ قاسم پاور پلانٹ ابتدائی طور پر لگائے جانے والے پاور پروجیکٹس میں سے ایک ہے جسے سی بیک کے تحت پاکستان میں بجلی کی کمی کو پورا کرنے کیلئے لگایا گیا ہے۔ پلانٹ کی پہلی سالانہ تقریب کے موقع پر چینی میڈیا سے بات کرتے ہوئے شنگ یو منگ نے کہا کہ پلانٹ پر ماحول کو صاف رکھنے کا معیار مقامی معیار سے بہتر ہے۔ واضح رہے کہ پاور چائناریسورس لمیٹڈ پورٹ قاسم پاور پلانٹ کی مرکزی اسٹیک ہولڈر ہے۔

May 12, 2019

The News

Imran chosen to address BRF after President Xi as 'special' gesture

ISLAMABAD: China has very close ties with Pakistan and accords high importance to these relations, as was evident from the very warm welcome given to Prime Minister Imran Khan during his recent visit to attend the Belt and Road Forum.

Lijian Zhao, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Chinese Embassy, told a local private news channel that Prime Minister Imran Khan was chosen from amongst 40 international guests and he was one of the seven leaders to address the inaugural session. Lijian Zhao said the prime minister delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the BRF after the address of President Xi

Jinping as a "special" gesture. He said although there were several sessions, Imran Khan was chosen to speak at the outset, signifying the importance China gives to its ties with Pakistan.

Prime Minister Imran Khan paid an official visit to China from April 25-28 at the invitation of President Xi Jinping to attend the Second Belt and Road Forum (BRF) and the opening ceremony of the Beijing International Horticulture Exhibition 2019.

Lijian Zhao said Prime Minister Imran Khan also attended a banquet hosted by President Xi Jinping for the world leaders the same evening.

He said the multilateral event also had a bilateral component and the prime minister, accompanied by ministers and senior officials, separately met President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqian.

He said the prime minister and his delegation were hosted to a banquet by Vice President Wang Qishan. During the meetings, the two sides reviewed the entire range of bilateral relations, including CPEC, and reaffirmed the resolve to further strengthen the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership in all dimensions. The prime minister's second visit to China provided an important opportunity for exchange of views with the Chinese leadership on bilateral and regional issues and to invite Chinese businessmen and investors to explore the immense potential of Pakistani market.

Jang News

چینی کمپنی ایم تھری انڈسٹریل سٹی میں 70 ملین ڈالر لگائے گی

فیصل آباد (نمائندہ جنگ) چینی کمپنی اوریل سرامکس ایم تھری انڈسٹریل سٹی کے سیشنل کنٹاک زون میں 70 ملین ڈالر کی براہ راست سرمایہ کاری کرے گی۔ اس سلسلے میں فیصل آباد انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ ڈویلپمنٹ اینڈ مینجمنٹ کمپنی کے نئے چیئرمین میاں کاشف اشفاق اور چینی کمپنی اوریل سرامکس کے سی ای او مسٹر لیو جنگ شنگ کے مابین فیڈلک میں مفاہمتی یادداشت پر دستخطوں کی تقریب ہوئی۔ اس موقع چیئرمین فیڈلک نے کہا کہ علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل کی آباد کاری کے عمل کو تیز کرنے کیلئے غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاروں کو ایک چھت کے نیچے تمام ضروری سہولتیں فراہم کی جارہی ہیں اور آنے والے دنوں میں اس کام کو مزید تیز کیا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ فیڈلک چینی کمپنی کو جگہ مہیا کرنے کے ساتھ ساتھ صنعتکاری کیلئے بین الاقوامی معیار کی سہولتیں فراہم کرے گی۔ سی ای او مسٹر لیو جنگ شنگ نے بھرپور تعاون کرنے پر میاں کاشف اشفاق اور فیڈلک کی پوری ٹیم کا شکریہ ادا کیا اور کہا کہ اوریل سرامکس چینی کی ایک سرکردہ سرامکس کمپنی ہے جسے ہر قسم کی سرامک اور پورسلین ٹائلز بنانے کا وسیع تجربہ حاصل ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ صنعتکاری کیلئے جگہ فوری طور پر مہیا کی جارہی ہے جبکہ تین ماہ کے دوران موقع پر ترقیاتی و تعمیراتی کام شروع کر دیا جائے گا۔ انہوں نے مزید بتایا کہ یہ ادارہ اپنی صنعتیں سرگرمیوں کیلئے چار سو سے زائد افراد کو روزگار بھی مہیا کرے گا۔ اس موقع پر فیڈلک کے چیف آپریٹنگ آفیسر عامر سلیمی کے علاوہ مسٹر ایلین، فیصل قاسمی اور محمد ذوبیر بھی موجود تھے

Nawaiwaqt

چینی صدر شی جن پنگ کی صنعتی برانڈز کی مضبوطی کے حوالے سے خصوصی ہدایت
 بیجنگ (اے پی پی) چینی صدر شی جن پنگ نے چینی صنعتی برانڈز کی مضبوطی کے حوالے سے ہدایت دی ہے۔ اس ہدایت کی روشنی میں 2017ء کے بعد دس مئی کو "چینی برانڈز" کا دن مقرر کیا گیا۔ رواں سال دس مئی کو برانڈز کی مضبوطی سے ملک کی ترقی نامی حکمت عملی اتحاد کے قیام کی تقریب بیجنگ میں منعقد ہوئی جو ہزار سے زیادہ چینی صنعتی و کاروباری اداروں مشتمل ہے۔

Nawaiwaqt

سی پیک میں استعمال ہونے والے سامان کی پہلی کھیپ کراچی پہنچ گئی
 کراچی (نوائے وقت نیوز) چین سے سی پیک پراجیکٹ میں سامان کی بڑی اور بھاری پہلی کھیپ کراچی بندرگاہ پہنچ گئی ہے۔ ذرائع کے مطابق چین سے سی پیک پراجیکٹ میں نئی کوچر کی تیاری کے لیے سامان کی بڑی اور بھاری پہلی کھیپ کراچی بندرگاہ پہنچ گئی ہے جس کی 24 گھنٹوں میں ان لوڈنگ شروع کی جا رہی ہے، نئی ریلوے کوچر کارنگ میرون بتایا جا رہا ہے۔ ریل کی کوچر کے یہ تمام اسپینر پارٹس ہیں جنہیں ریلوے کیرتج فیکٹری میں اسمبل کیا جائے گا

May 13, 2019

Business Recorder

CPEC to be completed at all costs despite impediments: Qureshi

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has categorically stated that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be completed at all costs despite impediments being created in its way by certain elements. He was responding to the points of opposition members in the National Assembly on Monday, who raised concerns on the recent attack on a hotel in Gwadar.

The Foreign Minister said the enemies of Pakistan who want to stoke instability in the country will be defeated and the country will be put on the path of economic development. He appreciated Pakistan Army for timely responding to the attack on the Gwadar hotel and eliminating the terrorists there. He said there is complete national consensus on the mega corridor project and the entire nation and the parliament will foil any conspiracy of the enemy against it. He said the completion of CPEC will increase Pakistan's regional connectivity and open new vista of cooperation with the central Asian states.

Dunya News

Courts sends 11 Chinese nationals on 14-day judicial demand

LAHORE (Dunya News) – A district and sessions court in Lahore has Monday sent 11 Chinese nationals involved in fake marriages with Pakistan girls on 14-day judicial remand to jail. The suspects have been accused of blackmailing and forcing Pakistani girls into indecent activities after marriage in China.

The accused were presented before the court by the Federal Investigation Agency after two-day physical remand. Judicial Magistrate Amir Raza conducted the hearing. The FIA submitted the investigation report in the court which revealed that the suspects worked in the form of an organized group with the help of Pakistani agents.

The Chinese men married Pakistani girls and later forced them into prostitution, the report said. Let it be known that the FIA had arrested 13 suspects including 11 Chinese nationals on May 8. Two Pakistanis – Shaukat Ali and Muhammad Ansar – are already on judicial remand.

The Nation

Anti-CPEC elements involved in terror acts: Qureshi

Multan - Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mahmood Qureshi said yesterday that anti-Pakistan and CPEC elements were involved in terrorism as some powers did not want stability in Pakistan.

“We need to think as to why there is a sudden surge in terrorism. Some powers don’t want to see CPEC making progress,” he added, while talking to media here. He said, “We did not talk without investigation. We talk with utmost responsibility and that’s why we did not level allegations against India. India blamed Pakistan for Pulwama attack but failed to prove it.” He said, “If RAW or NDS were found involved in terrorism incidents we will chase them.” He said that even though Indian jets emerged from behind the clouds, Pakistani falcons shot them down.

The FM revealed that Chinese Vice President was coming to Pakistan on May 26. “Mutual projects in the fields of agriculture, agri-research, labour, training and many other fields will be signed. It will increase employment opportunities in Pakistan,” he added.

Qureshi said although Pakistan was passing through a difficult time, yet PTI government would complete its five-year term. He claimed that the government did not want to go to IMF but the circumstances forced it to go there. He further explained that financial deficit was at its peak, investment had stopped, unemployment was touching record high and the situation was deteriorating fast. He said that all the former governments relied upon indirect taxes and our imports were higher than the exports. “National kitty was empty and circular debt for the last five months, worth Rs806 billion was there. Although friendly countries extended all out support, still we needed to go to the IMF,” he further explained the circumstances. He claimed that the government was striving for soft IMF conditions with a view to offering maximum relief to the masses.

Referring to the South Punjab secretariat, he disclosed that the government had allocated Rs. 680 million for South Punjab secretariat and it would become functional in next financial year. He accused PML-N of dividing people in the name of South Punjab province, saying the Nawaz League never wanted to create the province. He revealed that the PTI had constituted a committee comprising Sami Ullah Chaudhry, Sardar Nasar Ullah Dareshak and Pir Zahoor Qureshi which would table South Punjab province bill in the assembly today.

To a query, he claimed that the PTI government did not support the persons involved in May 12 tragedy. “The case is in the court and whatever verdict comes, it will be acceptable to all,” he declared. He said that the PTI government had taken the dummy local government system to its logical end. He added that all local government representatives from Chairman to Councilors lamented about the absence of powers. He said that the government had passed local government act 2019 which would make the local government representatives independent and devolution of power would be ensured. He disclosed that 30 per cent of Punjab’s budget would automatically go directly to the local governments.

Qureshi claimed that the projects launched by the incumbent government were public friendly. He claimed that the previous government spent Rs. 54 billion on Multan Metro but the people got no benefit from it. He said that the foundation stone of Nishtar-11 had been laid and the 1000-bed hospital project would be completed at a cost of Rs4 billion which would benefit the people at large.

The News

Plan made for security of Chinese workers

KOHAT: The district administration has made a comprehensive security plan for the protection of the Chinese working on projects being executed with the cooperation of China. The district administration has also issued a security alert to provide security to the Chinese nationals working on various projects in the district.

District Police Officer Wahid Mahmood visited the Kohat Cement Factory and inspected the security arrangements there. He also instructed the local police stations to collect the data of the local workers to carry out background checks. The DPO directed the police officials to make foolproof security arrangements at the accommodation and travel routes of the Chinese workers.

Meanwhile, the DPO visited various churches in the Kohat city to review the security arrangements during the Sunday church service. He assured the management of the churches that foolproof security would be provided to them churches. On the occasion, Wahid Mahmood directed the cops deployed outside the churches to wear bulletproof backs and helmets and avoid using cell phones during duty.

Nawaiwaqt

سی بیگ کے تحت 7 مخصوص اقتصادی زونز کی تیز تعمیر کیلئے حکمت عملی مرتب، نوٹیفیکیشن جاری

اسلام آباد (آن لائن) سرمایہ کاری بورڈ نے آئندہ 2 سال کے دوران پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی بیگ) کے تحت تعمیر کیے جانے والے 7 مخصوص اقتصادی زونز کی تیز ترین تعمیر کیلئے جامع حکمت عملی مرتب کر لی ہے۔ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبے (سی بیگ) کے سیکرٹریٹ کے طور پر سرمایہ کاری بورڈ نے 9 مخصوص اقتصادی زونز کی نشاندہی کی تھی تاہم 7 زونز کا نوٹیفیکیشن جاری کیا گیا ہے۔ سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے چیئرمین ہارون شریف نے کہا ہے کہ ان اقتصادی زونز میں زمین کے حصول، یوٹیلٹی سروسز،

سیکورٹی اور بنیادی ڈھانچے کے مسائل کے خاتمے کیلئے ہنگامی اقدامات کیے جائیں گے تاکہ مقررہ وقت میں ان کی تکمیل کو یقینی بنایا جاسکے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مسلم لیگ (ن) کی سابق حکومت نے خصوصی زونز کی تعمیر کے حوالے سے مسائل کے خاتمہ پر کوئی توجہ نہیں دی تھی جس سے ان کی تعمیر میں تاخیر ہوئی

May 14, 2019

Dawn News

Pakistani team off to China for APG meeting

ISLAMABAD: A 10-member official delegation has left for Guangzhou, China, to attend “Face-to-Face Meeting” of the Asia-Pacific Joint Group (APG) — a regional affiliate of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) — where it will defend Pakistan’s efforts against money laundering and terror financing.

The delegation led by Finance and Revenue Secretary Mohammad Younas Dagha comprises director generals of the foreign affairs ministry, National Counter Terrorism Authority and Financial Monitoring Unit (FMU), a joint secretary of the interior ministry, chief customs of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), executive directors of the State Bank of Pakistan and Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan and a director of the Federal Investigation Agency.

The APG meeting is scheduled for May 15-16 in Guangzhou. Pakistan has already submitted a report of its actions and activities taken against proscribed organisations and strengthening of systems to block illegal flow of funds that could be used against any state or considered a threat to global financial systems.

Ten-member delegation will defend Islamabad’s efforts against money laundering and terror financing.

Before the delegation’s departure, the government revised its national risk assessment of the corporate sector, strengthened customs procedures on borders and inland movement of funds and assets and put nine more entities on the list of proscribed organisations to build a robust case of its exit from FATF’s grey list.

A senior government official said the internal control of the banking and non-banking financial institutions, insurance companies and stock exchanges had been strengthened on the directives of the federal government and the SBP to check and curb the possibility of money laundering and terror financing. The accounts openings are now subject to additional checks to keep a check on the proscribed entities.

The government had last week ordered creation of a specialized directorate of Cross Border Currency Movement (CBCM) in Islamabad to maintain a data base of currency seizures. All the model customs formations are required to report on a prescribed format each currency seizure on a fortnightly basis. These reports are then shared with the FMU and FBR on a monthly basis or when called for. The new CBCM will also maintain and update database of the suspicious

transaction reports and ensure information sharing with the law enforcement agencies, FMU and FBR on a real time basis.

A Data and Risk Analysis Cell has also been created to conduct regular analysis of data pertaining to currency seizures, currency declarations, banking transactions, benami accounts, transaction, etc, and continuously update measures to combat money laundering.

Investigating officers have also been designated to institute money laundering cases emanating from STRs or currency seizures or from other sources and complaints filed in courts. It has been decided that investigation and prosecution of cases will be conducted under the Anti-Money Laundering Act 2010, Customs Act of 1969 and Criminal Procedure Code 1898.

Last week, the government placed nine fresh entities on the list of proscribed organisations, taking the tally to 71. Seven of them were declared proscribed for being affiliated with Jamaatut Dawa (JuD), while two were affiliates of the Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF). The new entrants to the list of banned outfits are: Al Anfal Trust (Lahore), Idara-i-Khidmat Khalaq (Lahore), Al Dawatul Irshad (Lahore), Al Hamd Trust (Lahore and Faisalabad), Mosque and Welfare Trust (Lahore), Al Madinah Foundation (Lahore), Muaz bin Jabal Education Trust (Lahore), Al Eesar Foundation (Lahore), Al Rehmat Trust Organisation (Bahawalpur) and Al Furqan Trust (Karachi).

In March this year, the law enforcement agencies had launched a major crackdown on Jaish-e-Mohammad, JuD, FIF and other banned outfits and taken over control of their assets throughout the country under the international pressure increased through the Paris-based FATF.

The investigating officers have been directed to focus on personal and family association with any religious, political, social organisations or groups, travel history, past record and professional history of the individuals while investigating money laundering cases in general and currency seizure cases in particular.

The investigation officers are also required to study motives and linkages of each currency smuggling case with any of the associated offences such as trade-based money laundering, capital flight, hundi/hawala and examine if there is any linkage of terror financing related to transnational terrorist networks or United Nations-designated entities and individuals.

The possibilities of involvement of any foreign networks other than transnational terrorist networks have also been given top priority for investigation and to see if cash smuggling is actually used by the proscribed entities. The data from advance declarations from airports, airlines, ports and borders are also being gathered.

An APG delegation had last month expressed serious reservations over insufficient physical actions on ground against the proscribed organisations to block flow of funds and activities and most of the recent activities were targeted to bridge those shortcomings.

The Express Tribune

Chinese firm investing in Faisalabad signs land deal

FAISALABAD: Best possible facilities are being offered to foreign investors to ensure speedy colonization of Allama Iqbal Industrial City and in this connection more steps are underway to attract maximum foreign direct investment (FDI), said Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) Chairman Mian Kashif Ashfaq.

Addressing a ceremony to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between a Chinese company, Oreal Ceramics, and FIEDMC on Monday, Ashfaq said that FIEDMC will provide land to the Chinese company in the special economic zone (SEZ) of M3 Industrial Estate, while Oreal Ceramics will invest \$70 million as FDI.

He said best facilities are being offered in the M3 zone, which will certainly encourage other foreign investors to set up their units and earn sizable profits from their investments.

This industrial estate is providing state-of-the-art and internationally-compliant facilities in the “safest zone of Pakistan”, he said, adding that investors would be in a position to immediately set up their units and start their production.

“On the other hand, these units would create new job opportunities,” he added.

The chairman assured Chinese investors that more facilities would also be extended to them so that they could set up their units and work in a peaceful environment.

Oreal Ceramics CEO Lue Chue Ching said Oreal is one of the leading and state-of-the-art units, which has a vast experience in manufacturing ceramics and porcelain tiles with innovative colors and designs.

He said that due to strict quality control, their products are in great demand in different developed countries.

Regarding the local setup of Oreal Ceramics, he said FIEDMC will provide them land very soon, while physical construction work on the site will be started within the next three months.

This unit will offer 400 jobs to local youth, Lue shared, adding that he will convince other Chinese companies to come here and set up their units to earn sufficient profit from their investment.

The Nation

Chinese Dy FM conferred Hilal-e-Quaid Award

ISLAMABAD - The Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing on Monday hosted a special investiture ceremony wherein Vice Foreign Minister of China Kong Xuanyou was conferred Hilal-e-Quaid-e-Azam, the civil award of Pakistan.

Ambassador of Pakistan in China Masood Khalid conferred the award, on behalf of the President of Pakistan, in recognition of Kong Xuanyou's services towards Pakistan and further strengthening of Pakistan-China relations, said a Press release received here.

Kong Xuanyou is currently serving as Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs for Asia and Special Representative of the Chinese Government on the Korean Peninsular Affairs in Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China.

Earlier, he was Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2015 to 2017.

Kong Xuanyou has been a great friend of Pakistan and an ardent advocate of Pakistan-China friendship.

He has earnestly worked to promote and reinforce all weather friendship between China and Pakistan and has cultivated good will for Pakistan in different spheres of influence in China.

In his capacity as Assistant Minister and Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs for Asia, Kong led the Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue aimed at promoting bilateral relations between the two countries. Kong and his team had contributed enormously to achieving positive outcomes from regular high-level visits between Pakistan and China, including historic visit of President Xi Jinping to Pakistan in April 2015 and the launch and subsequent consolidation of CPEC. The event was attended by the officers of Pakistan Embassy and Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs along with media representatives.

Nawaiwaqt

بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ ممالک میں انسداد قدرتی آفات کیلئے بین الاقوامی سائنسی یونین قائم

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چینی سائنسدانوں نے قدرتی آفات کی روک تھام کیلئے بین الاقوامی سائنسی یونین قائم کر دی، یونین کا مقصد "دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ" سے وابستہ ممالک میں قدرتی آفات کے سدباب کیلئے اور ان سے نمٹنے کیلئے ان ممالک اور علاقوں کی صلاحیت کو بہتر بنانا ہے۔ چائنہ ریڈیو انٹرنیشنل کے مطابق دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ "سے وابستہ مختلف ممالک اور علاقوں کے قدرتی ماحول میں بہت فرق ہے۔ ان میں اکثر آفات آتے رہتے ہیں۔ علاوہ ازیں متعدد ممالک کی معیشت ترقی یافتہ نہیں جس کی وجہ سے انکی آفات سے نمٹنے کی صلاحیت بھی کمزور ہے۔ قدرتی آفات کا سدباب اور ان کی روک تھام دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ سے وابستہ ممالک اور علاقوں کو درپیش ایک مشترکہ مسئلہ ہے۔ اسی تناظر میں گیارہ اور بارہ تاریخ کو بیجنگ میں منعقدہ "دی بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ" انسداد آفات اور پائیدار ترقی کے حوالے سے ایک بین الاقوامی کانفرنس میں چین کے متعدد اعلیٰ تعلیمی اداروں نے آفات کے سدباب کے لیے بین الاقوامی سائنسی یونین کے قیام کی تجویز پیش کی۔ جس میں پاکستان، اٹلی، نیپال اور سری لنکا سمیت تیس سے زائد سائنسی و ٹیکنیکی اداروں اور اعلیٰ تعلیمی اداروں نیز بین الاقوامی علمی تنظیموں نے شمولیت اختیار کی۔

Nawaiwaqt

چین کے نائب وزیر خارجہ کیلئے ہلال قائد اعظم کا اعزاز

بیجنگ (صبح نیوز) چین کے نائب وزیر خارجہ کونگ شوان یو کی پاکستانی سفارت خانے آمد، صدر پاکستان کی جانب سے انہیں ہلال ”قائد اعظم“ کا اعزاز دیا گیا، اعزاز پاک چین دوستی کیلئے گراں قدر خدمات کی انجام دہی پر دیا گیا۔ صدر پاکستان کی نمائندگی پاکستانی سفیر مسعود خالد نے کی۔ اس موقع پر مسعود خالد نے کہا کہ اعزاز پاک چین دوستی کے سلسلے کی ایک کڑی ہے

May 15, 2019

Daily Times

CPEC: External violence and internal opposition

Chinese leadership is keen to develop Gwadar as fast as circumstances will allow. For them, the ultimate objective is to reinforce partnership with Pakistan through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), of which Gwadar is the inalienable symbol. We are here for the long-term friendship and not for commercial profits. This is the resounding and reassuring message out of Beijing.

The fact that Pakistan received a \$2 billion soft loan even during the eight-week caretaker government testifies to the “unwavering” Chinese commitment to this “special friend,” goes the argument in Beijing.

But, and this is a ‘big’ but; for realising the objectives in a fast changing geo-strategic environment, we expect Pakistan to act fast and coherently. If anti-CPEC bureaucrats and politicians continue to treat CPEC with their obsolete Planning Commission regime, and thereby stall implementation, how can we move forward? This concern, despite the high-profile April visit by Prime Minister Imran Khan, is ringing through circles that are the eyes and ears for President Xi Jinping and his close cohorts.

A case in point is the proposed 300MW power plant for the entire Gwadar town and its free industrial zone. Following foot-dragging either by the provincial government or the powers that be on providing free land for the project, Power China, the company supposed to construct the plant, has finally leased the land apparently at twice the market price.

But NEPRA in Islamabad remains another big hurdle. It has thus far refused to revise the rates it has offered to the power company, which the latter says is ridiculous in view of the small capacity (300MW) and the difficult operational environment.

Strangely, the existing average rate for private power plants hovers around 10 cents per unit. The 1,320MW plant at Port Qasim also sells power to the national grid at nearly 8.5 cents per unit. But NEPRA refuses to go beyond the seven cents it has offered to Power China.

Our president is determined to push for CPEC implementation as much as he can, said a business executive. All of us have been told to forget about profits and focus only the completion of what “we have promised.”

But frustration of the private Chinese companies over tardy bureaucratic responses to situations that require prompt decision-making seems to be fuelling frustration. And this may at some stage dent Xi’s determination, is the fear resonating in Beijing’s business and academic circles.

These executives of some of China’s huge corporations have a definite moot point; with no water and no electricity, how can the Pakistani government hope to sell Gwadar as the most critical link in the CPEC chain?

With no signs of electricity in sight for at least another two years, there is also little hope for the construction of the new airport and the setting up of industries at Gwadar.

The launch of the full scale construction of the new airport is also conditional upon the power plant. If NEPRA and Power China could settle down on the power tariff today, it would still take at least two years to construct and commission the plant only partially, experts say.

Even the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are generating considerable debate among Chinese business managers. In China, the government takes care of land, water, energy and even hiring of staff for the services’ sector at every new SEZ to set the stage for investments.

But in Pakistan, private foreign businesses burn heels to get permissions, often after doling out “incentives” to officials and politicians involved. We see the SEZs torn among the federal and provincial governments as well as NEPRA, OGRA, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Finance. Some Chinese academics also quoted the current Sindh chief minister on the issue of land for the new railway track. How can the central government bring investment and the local chief minister turn it into a provincial subject? a business tycoon asked. He should have leapt at the opportunity instead of digging his heels on the land issue, he quipped.

“How can you attract business when they have to deal with so many authorities? In China or even Bangladesh, all you need is to bring in capital and the rest is taken care of by one central authority as a one-window to provide all requisite documentation,” he said. Look at the astronomical cost of the delay in the construction of the Gwadar airport and the proposed power plant. Urgent issues such as Gwadar airport, the power plant and the scarcity of water require deft and non-bureaucratic handling failing which the dream of industrial and social sector development could easily go sour. Both the prime minister and the GHQ must work jointly to prevent what detractors of CPEC are desperately trying.

Pakistan Observer

PCJCCI for Chinese taxation model in Pakistan China made taxation central to economic development agenda and community uplift goals

Pakistan's Tax system should be revamped in line with Chinese Taxation model, which is based upon growth instead of the regulatory pressures. It was stated by Shah Faisal Afridi, President Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry while presiding over a high level meeting with the executive committee members of PCJCCI. Ahmed Hasnain Senior Vice President, Salahuddin Hanif, General Secretary and a number of the executive committee members were present in the meeting. Afridi was of the view that administrative reforms are essential in the tax system and attention should be paid to re-designing of tax recovery system. He also gave a briefing on the proposed tax reforms roadmap based on the Chinese Taxation model.

President PCJCCI said that there was a need to create an optimal balance between a tax regime and the growth of business to create an investment friendly environment along with an effective mechanism for leveraging enough revenue for public service. He told that that China had undergone a splendid Community development on the bases of its Taxation Reforms and Pakistan can make a paradigm shift to have a business friendly taxation system by following Chinese taxation reforms. China made Taxation central to the economic development agenda and community development goals he said adding that China had employed Taxes as the principal means to transfer resources from private to public use.

Ahmed Hassanain, Senior Vice President of PCJCCI, while expressing his views, informed that in Pakistan only 0.3pc of the population is paying income tax, which is one of the lowest ratios in the world. Around 7 million Pakistanis are estimated to be eligible to pay income tax, but practically only less than 0.5 million people pay the tax. He regretted that the prevailing taxation system was a source of harassment and a way of corruption for the business community, which needs to be replaced with better taxation models of the world including the Chinese model that has proved to be the most successful. Salahuddin Hanif, General Secretary PCJCCI, giving his inputs on this occasion said, "China, the socialist state has fulfilled the needs of society from cradle to grave. Child care, education, job placement, housing, subsistence, health care and elder care are largely provided and administered through state-owned enterprises". He told that particularly the reform of value-added tax (VAT) had boosted China's service sector and developed its position as the "world's factory."

He said that VAT reform was designed to replace business tax in manufacturing sector to protect the tax revenue of local governments. The executive committee members were of the unanimous views that once equity and fairness in tax system had been demonstrated by the state, enforcement as well as compliance would dramatically improve.

US-Iran tension & threat to CPEC

AT the successful completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) tension between US and Iran in the region is intensifying drastically. At this stage future of CPEC will be in danger if after Afghanistan, America starts another war in this region with Iran. Gulf and Oman waters are surrounded by American warships. Presence of American B-52 jets in the Middle East is horrifying the situation. America is waging yet another war along sensitive border of Pakistan. At the same time suicidal attack in Lahore and terrorist attack in a 5-Star hotel of Gwadar are part of current anti-Pakistan and anti-CPEC great game and design. Alarming recent Gwadar hotel attack is the sixth in a month in Balochistan. Balochistan Liberation Army and Taliban have claimed the responsibility of these terrorist incidents. After recent press conference of DG ISPR Major General Asif Ghafoor, Pashtoon Tahafaz Movement (PTM) will definitely add fuel to the fire at this stage.

Mounting new phase of terrorism in the country will worsen the situation in the region. Iranian economy-struggling government will no longer be in the position to counter American military might. Pakistan's politically inexperienced present government will not be in a position to handle the situation and save the country from torrential impact of terrorism and US- Iran war. From Gwadar how Chinese cargo ships will easily and safely pass through this tumultuous water. The Iranian government marked the one-year anniversary of the US decision to withdraw from the multilateral agreement that capped its nuclear program by announcing that it would no longer comply with elements of the deal, a move that prompted US to impose new sanctions. This tit-for-tat exchange followed the dispatch of a US aircraft carrier strike group to the region following reports that Iran or its proxies were preparing to attack US interests in the area. Stakeholders must step up efforts to deescalate tension as the prospects for conflict rise.

Donald Trump has worked since taking office to kill the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name of the 2015 multinational agreement that constrained Iran's nuclear ambitions. Trump withdrew the US from the agreement and then began to steadily turn the screws of Iran, putting sanctions on its economy to force comprehensive changes in virtually all aspects of Iranian foreign policy. The US seeks to push Iranian oil exports, the foundation of its economy, to zero thus far, they have fallen to 700,000 barrels a day, considerably less than the 1 million to 1.5 million barrels needed to sustain its economy. Iran has honoured its commitments under the deal despite the US withdrawal and the pressure campaign. Earlier this week, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned that if his country did not get relief from sanctions within 60 days, Iran would resume enrichment of Uranium to a level higher than that allowed by the JCPOA.

The threat is directed not at the US. It targets primarily Europe and then Russia also, China and other countries that do not support US decision. It aims to get them to break with the US and support the original deal. Europe tried to develop a scheme that would allow companies that want to trade with Iran to avoid US sanctions. It has largely failed, with most businesses deciding that US anger outweighs potential profits in Iran. Now the hope is that Russia, China and India,

each of which is a major consumer of Iranian oil and whose governments are inclined to resist US unilateral sanctions, will pick up the slack. European Union diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini and France, Germany and Britain, the three European nations in the deal, responded with a joint statement in which they strongly urge Iran to continue to implement its commitments under the JCPOA in full as it has done until now and to refrain from any escalatory steps. They added, “We reject any ultimatums and we will assess Iran’s compliance on the basis of Iran’s performance regarding its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA.”

President Hassan Rouhani said that his government remained committed to the nuclear deal. “We will not start breaching commitments and waging any war,” he declared. “But we will not give in to bullying either.” Most observers credit President Rouhani for seeking a middle ground that will spur negotiations, not kill the deal. The US is not so inclined. It replied to the move within hours, ordering still more sanctions on exports of Iranian iron, steel, aluminium and copper a sector that accounts for about 10 percent of the country’s export revenue. Trump then tweeted that he still looks forward to a meeting with Iranian leaders one day to work out an agreement, but “Iran can expect further actions unless it fundamentally alters its conduct.”

That two-month deadline may not be the most important factor. After receiving intelligence reports that allegedly warned of possible attacks by Iran or its proxies on US targets, America dispatched an aircraft carrier strike force, bombers and other assets to the region to deter any attempts. Previously, US had concluded that Iran was prepared to wait out America, avoiding provocations in the hope that Trump would lose the 2020 election and a new president would seek a better relationship. It is unclear what prompted the new US analysis, prompting fears that some in the US are spoiling for a fight and a chance to promote regime change in Iran. The immediate danger now is an accident or miscalculation with so many forces in the area.

Pakistan has limited room for maneuver in this situation. It has reduced its own imports of Iranian oil after obtaining a waiver when sanctions were first imposed and is now following the situation closely. We hope to use our traditionally friendly relations with Iran to solve problems through dialogue and achieve peace and stability in the region. Pakistan needs to monitor US-Iran situation very keenly to avoid damage to it and thus CPEC. China and Russia should play their pivotal role very timely before it is too late. Quitting from Afghanistan after eighteen years, killing hundreds of thousands of human beings and coming in gulf with new agenda will be very unwise US decision. For peaceful, safe and stable Pakistan by all means we need to pull up the socks now.

China-pain in whose neck

THE recent arrest of 13 Chinese men from Lahore is a hot-topic nowadays. With a mix feeling of fear, apprehension and of surprise, the topic is being discussed everywhere from offices to the markets. Some of the ‘learned analysts’ are trying their best to name this incident as ‘hazards’ of the CPEC. They are trying to make the people realize that after the completion of the CPEC, the ‘insurgency’ of the Chinese people into our Pakistani society would grow more serious and would become a grave threat to our social system. Some people are of the opinion that by the

time the CPEC starts its complete working, the number of Chinese workers would increase many times. The Chinese do drink as wine is not prohibited in their social set-up; their religion does not stop them from eating donkey and dog-meat, so they do eat it. The increasing presence of Chinese in Pakistani society would attract the locals towards their 'bad-habits', some people fear.

All these apprehensions might be somewhat close to reality but let us look at the other side of this picture. People all over the world do migrate to other countries; some for a short time span and some for their whole life but it always depends upon the individual, how deeply he accepts the foreign culture and how forcefully he affects the society he has become the part of. According to a report in 2012 there were more than 5000 students in China and in 2016, this number reached 19,000. Pakistani students studying at Chinese universities, make Pakistan the fourth largest source of international students in the country. The main disciplines of studies include medicine; engineering, economics and management. Pakistanis in China consist largely of temporary residents, including international students and cross-border traders. Usually they are concentrated in the Xinjiang autonomous region of northwest China. The report further says that in 2017 there were approximately 14335 Pakistanis in China but most of them stayed there on a temporary basis.

Let us cast a look at the present number of Chinese in Pakistan which was somewhere around 20,000 in 2013 and in 2018 it was reaching the figure of 60,000. This increase in number of Chinese in Pakistan is directly linked with the ongoing completion work on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. This fact must also be kept in mind that in 2018 the total population of Pakistan was 200,813,818 whereas the total population of China in 2018 was around 1,415,045,928. The question here arises is very interesting; did the Pakistanis in China start eating dogs and donkeys and taking wine during their stay there? Did the Chinese give up eating frogs, monkeys and snakes following the Pakistani Muslims? There could be a few examples on both sides but a few ones are never ranked as the 'Standard'. If 13 out of 60000 (2018) Chinese are found guilty of deceiving Pakistani girls, it does not mean that all Chinese in Pakistan are temperamentally of the same nature.

The problem which is bothering some internal and external 'well-wishers' of Pakistan is not the presence of Chinese in Pakistan but the CPEC which is being termed as the 'game-changer'. It is neither China nor the Chinese; it is simply the CPEC which has become a pain in the neck for the world around. Forces hostile to Pakistan are not happy over materialization of CPEC; the dreamlike project. The most important reality regarding this project is that it would provide Pakistan an opportunity of getting free from the clutches of the West, politically, financially and militarily. It would help Pakistan in coming out of a state of dependence. Experts say that CPEC will prove itself a connector of different cultures and civilizations and it would guarantee collective economic development to all those who join it. Direct and indirect foreign investment is also expected in bulk. The CPEC would further minimize the role of India in the present geopolitical scenario because Pakistan would become the focus of all attention.

It is a bitter reality that internationally, countries like the US are frightened of the CPEC because this project has brought Pakistan and China more close to each other molding them into a new identity. US is frightened that after the completion of this project, her role in Afghanistan would simply come to an end and her dream of making India the 'Regional Super Power' would also reach a catastrophic ending. Now a new wave of defaming China and the CPEC for the criminal activities of some Chinese individuals seems a part of the same movement which had once started with the killing and kidnapping of Chinese engineers and laborers working on the CPEC route in Pakistan.

The News

Cross-cultural marriages: China stops issuing visas

ISLAMABAD: Amidst rising complaints of human smuggling in the garb of cross-cultural weddings, China has decided to withhold the visas of Pakistani women planning to travel to China with their spouses. A Chinese diplomat said the embassy had alerted Pakistani authorities after witnessing an unusual increase in wedding visa applications this year.

“Last year, 142 Pakistani women applied for such visas after marrying Chinese nationals,” Lijian Zhao, deputy chief of mission at the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, said while talking exclusively to Urdu News. He said this year 140 Pakistani brides had applied for this category of visa so far. He said China was investigating all 142 cases of weddings that took place in 2018, and initial investigations revealed that in a few isolated cases the couples were experiencing trouble. “We are trying to determine if there are any problems. We are ready to help those girls if there is an issue.”

Zhao also mentioned a complaint by a Pakistani wife who wrote a letter to a Pakistani federal minister complaining of torture. After receiving the letter, he said, the Chinese authorities probed the matter but found no evidence of torture. The couple later divorced, after which the diplomat said the local government in China provided the Pakistani women with a train and air ticket to travel back home. She arrived back in the country on May 2. Lijian Zhao, however, denied media reports about Pakistani women being trafficked and subjected to forced prostitution and organ sale in China.

“Lies are being spread on the internet and the media that the Pakistani girls are being sent to China for forced prostitution or sale of organs. It is totally fabricated and for sensational purposes. There is no evidence for it,” he said. Zhao asked the Government of Pakistan to review its visa-on-arrival policy for Chinese businessmen, as some marriage bureaus in Pakistan were misusing it. In addition, he said, the Pakistani authorities should probe the institutions and chambers of commerce and industry, which were inviting fake businessmen, who were in reality coming to the country to find wives, not to do business.

The News

Expansion of rail track: Parliamentary panel seeks Pak-China accord details

ISLAMABAD: A parliamentary committee has sought details of the agreement signed by Pakistan with China concerning expansion and reconstruction of Karachi-Lahore-Peshawar rail track.

The National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways headed by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) lawmaker Mueen Wattoo meets on May 17 and 20 to take up a heavy agenda.

Last month, Pakistan and China inked an agreement for the expansion and reconstruction of existing Karachi-Lahore Peshawar (ML-1) railway track. It was signed by Minister for Railways Sheikh Rashid and Chinese envoy to Pakistan Yao Jing in Beijing.

According to the project details available on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) website, the entire track of 1872 km from Karachi to Peshawar would be doubled. The speed of passenger trains would be raised from 110 km per hour to 160 km per hour. However, the freight trains would operate at 120 km per hour. Computer-based signaling and control system will also be installed.

As per the requisitions received under rule 225(4) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly from the members of the standing committee, its chairman convened the two meetings.

The first session will discuss the fiscal situation of Pakistan Railways in the first six months of the current government, benefit-cost ratio of newly launched passenger trains, and methodology of feasibility studies undertaken to launch new trains; and take a briefing on railways targets and deficit. It will be provided detail of new memorandums of understanding, if any, signed with China or any other country.

In the second meeting on May 20, the forum will discuss the report on the punctuality of trains in the last three years and financial viability of creating new jobs in Pakistan Railways.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly Standing Committee on Commerce and Textile meeting on May 16 will get a briefing on crop loan/insurance schemes and export policy.

It will also be briefed and given the work plan for boosting agricultural exports; enhanced access to international markets; international trade in agriculture and organic products; and branding and intellectual property rights for agro-industry.

The committee will take into consideration the letter/public petition received from Pakistan People's Party leader Nafisa Shah concerning the blockade on date crop exports from Pakistan

