



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

May 01-15, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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May 01, 2021

Business Recorder

PM wants CPEC to help usher in ISI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has emphasised that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) should usher in Import Substitution Industrialisation (ISI) and export-oriented industrialisation, adding that the country's policies should be framed accordingly. The prime minister chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress on CPEC, the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative, an official of the PM's Office said on Friday. Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed his satisfaction on the pace of ongoing projects, and reiterated the resolve to complete the CPEC at all cost.

The prime minister said the CPEC was a testimony of time tested and deep-rooted Pak-China friendship and will continue to take pre-eminence in government development strategy. He also directed to prepare youth to take up new jobs being created by incoming industry and high quality agri farms.

The prime minister was briefed about the progress of ongoing projects, in various sectors, under the umbrella of CPEC.

The meeting was informed that current government not only completed the on going projects started by the previous government, but was able to complete large number of significant projects in just two and a half years.

Regarding the infrastructure development projects, the meeting was informed that regardless of who started, most of the projects have been completed by the current government, Special Economic Zones including Rashakai, Dhabeji, Allama Iqbal Industrial City and Gawadar Industrial Zones are attracting foreign and local Investors.

It was also told that Chinese are expanding cooperation in the agriculture sector and livestock. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar, Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin, Minister for Industries Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiyar, Minister for Planning Asad Umar, Adviser to Prime Minister Abdul Razzak Dawood, National Security Advisor Dr Moeed Yousuf, Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chairman Board of Investment Atif Bukhari, Chairman CPEC Authority Lt-Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa (retd), and other high-ranking officials.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/01/1-page/884561-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistani PhD student calls for replicating Chinese flood control model in Pakistan

Pakistan should replicate and implement the China Sponge City model to combat the recurring floods, said Khansa Gulshad, a second-year Pakistani PhD student in flood control and management at Graduate School of China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR) on Friday.

The sponge city project, also known as green development interventions and green infrastructure in other countries, is a new urban construction model for flood management, strengthening ecological infrastructure and drainage systems.

The model has the advantages of alleviating urban flooding and water resources shortage, two chronic ills in Pakistan, Khansa Gulshad told CEN.

The heart of the sponge city construction lies in flood mapping. According to Khansa Gulshad, the purpose of the mapping is to locate the hazard- and flood-prone areas and find the proper site based on rainfall data, information of lakes and rivers and street views.

Drawing on flood mapping data, different infrastructures such as wetlands, woodlands and permeable pavements are constructed accordingly which can absorb the water during rainy days and release water in case of drought.

The model holds great potential to ease Pakistan's increasingly common urban flooding, such as the Karachi floods in August 2020, which took a heavy toll on people's security and property.

Khansa Gulshad emphasised the need for Pakistan to draw lessons and learn the latest technologies from China. With rich experience in flood control and management, China can help Pakistan develop the monitoring system to get rainfall data and river flow data to better harness floods.

She also expected more cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani universities in this regard to enhance Pakistan research prowess and help raise awareness of the sustainable green management of floods.

Khansa Gulshad obtained her master degree in geographic information engineering at Wuhan University. Her interest in flood control was spurred by her internship at the Pakistan Meteorological Department, where she acquired first-hand experience in flood projects.

After graduation from IWHR, Khansa Gulshad aims to join an organisation such as the disaster management authority or the meteorological department to combat floods along with research.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/751222/pakistani-phd-student-calls-for-replicating-chinese-flood-control-model-in-pakistan/>

The Nation

‘CPEC a testimony of deep-rooted Pak-China friendship’

Maqbool Malik

ISLAMABAD - Expressing his satisfaction on the pace of ongoing projects, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday reiterated the resolve to complete CPEC at all cost.

Chairing a high level meeting to review progress on CPEC, the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative, the Prime Minister said that CPEC was a testimony of time tested and deep-rooted Pak-China friendship and will continue to take pre-eminence in our development strategy.

According to details issued by the PM media office about the meeting, Prime Minister was briefed about the progress of ongoing projects, in various sectors, under the umbrella of CPEC.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar, Minister for Finance Shaukat Fayyaz Tarin, Minister for Industries Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiyar, Minister for Planning Asad Umar, Adviser to Prime Minister Abdul Razzaq Dawood, National Security Advisor Dr Moeed Yousuf, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chairman Board of Investment Atif Bukhari, Chairman CPEC Authority Lt General (retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa and other high ranking officials. The meeting was informed that the current government not only completed the ongoing projects started by the previous government, but was able to complete large number of significant projects in just two and a half years.

Regarding the infrastructure development projects, the meeting was informed that regardless of who started any project most of the projects have been completed by the current govt.

Special Economic Zones including Rashakai, Dhabeji, Allama Iqbal Industrial City and Gawadar Industrial Zones are attracting Foreign and local Investors. It was also told that Chinese are expanding cooperation in Agriculture Sector and livestock. He particularly emphasised that focus of industrialisation should be export oriented and import substitution and our policies should be framed accordingly. PM Khan also directed to prepare youth to take up new jobs being created by incoming Industry and high quality agri farms.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-01/page-5/detail-1>

Chinese Ambassador calls on Air Chief

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu here on Friday. According to a press release issued by the PAF media wing, the ambassador congratulated the Air Chief on assuming command of the PAF and said that Pakistan Air Force would achieve new heights and glory under his inspirational leadership. The Air Chief expressed his satisfaction on the existing cooperation between PAF and PLAAF and reiterated that this cooperation would be strengthened further. Various matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation were also discussed in the meeting.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-01/page-12/detail-9>

The News

Surge in Chinese jewelry market brings opportunities for Pak traders

SHANGHAI: Surge of jewelry market in China can bring opportunities for Pakistan gem traders, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday.

“In 2019, the jewelry market of China was around RMB 610 billion. In 2020, the consumer market went down due to the COVID-19.

However, from January to March this year, there is a 35 % increase in the jewelry market compared with the counterpart in 2019. I hope that many Pakistan jewelry brands can come over to China,” said Aqeel Ahmed, a Pakistan jewelry retailer who has been in China for more than 20 years. “My family used to be a gem supplier. After mining, we sort out, cut, polish and sell to brands all over the world. It’s not easy to come into retail, and the brand set is a marathon.”

After working on product R&D for 4 years and participating in around 200 marketing exhibitions and consumer understanding events in the past 10 years. Aqeel opened his first retail store in Shanghai last year, the business is going very well.

“Because we are small, we are moving very fast. Our sales during the first week this year increased by 200% compared with 2019. We believe that in the next 5 years, we will open about 30 stores in China. We are very positive about it.” He said.

“Pakistan is a land of gems, we have a lot of gems in various colors. Pakistan has the mining of 6% emerald of the whole world. The color of Pakistan emeralds is very deep green, which can only be found in Pakistan.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/828863-surge-in-chinese-jewelry-market-brings-opportunities-for-pak-traders>

PM reiterates resolve to complete CPEC at all costs

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday expressed his satisfaction on the pace of the ongoing projects and reiterated the resolve to complete the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at all costs.

He noted that the CPEC was a testimony of time-tested and deep-rooted Pak-China friendship and “would continue to take pre-eminence in our development strategy”.

He particularly emphasised that focus of industrialisation should be export-oriented and import substitution and our policies should be framed accordingly.

Imran Khan also directed to prepare the youth to take up new jobs being created by the incoming industry and high quality agriculture farms. The prime minister chaired a high level meeting to review progress on CPEC, the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar, Minister for Finance Shaukat Fayyaz

Tarin, Minister for Industries Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar, Minister for Planning Asad Umar, Adviser to Prime Minister Abdul Razak Dawood, National Security Advisor Dr Moeed Yousuf, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chairman Board of Investment Atif Bukhari, Chairman CPEC Authority Lt General (r) Asim Saleem Bajwa and other high ranking officials attended the meeting.

The prime minister was briefed on the progress of the ongoing projects, in various sectors, under the umbrella of the CPEC. The meeting was informed that the current government not only completed the ongoing projects started by the previous government, but was able to complete large number of significant projects in just two and a half years.

Regarding the infrastructure development projects, the meeting was informed that regardless of who started any project, most of them have been completed by the current government.

Special economic zones including Rashakai, Dhabeji, Allama Iqbal Industrial City and Gawadar Industrial Zones are attracting foreign and local investors. It was also told that Chinese are expanding cooperation in agriculture sector and livestock as well.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/828890-pm-reiterates-resolve-to-complete-cpec-at-all-costs>

May 02, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan, China, US, Russia ask Taliban to ‘fulfill counterterrorism commitments’

The Extended Troika on peaceful settlement of Afghan issue Saturday reiterated that the withdrawal of foreign troops should ensure a steady transition of situation in Afghanistan, besides stressing upon Taliban not to pursue their spring offensive.

The text of the joint statement was released by the governments of the United States of America, the Russian Federation, People’s Republic of China, and Pakistan following the Extended Troika on Peaceful Settlement in Afghanistan held in Doha, Qatar, on April 30.

Representatives of the Extended Troika, comprising US, Russia, China and Pakistan, met in Doha to discuss ways to support intra-Afghan negotiations and help the parties reach a negotiated settlement and a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire, foreign office spokesperson said in a press release on Saturday. According to statement, the Troika reiterated that there was no military solution in Afghanistan and a negotiated political settlement through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned process was the only way forward for lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The Troika met with representatives of Afghan negotiating team and of the Taliban. “We urge the Government of the Islamic Republic and the High Council for National Reconciliation to engage openly with their Taliban counterparts regarding a negotiated settlement. We do not support the establishment in Afghanistan of any government imposed by force,” it maintained.

It called upon the negotiating parties to make progress toward an inclusive political settlement and a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire. “We strongly advocate a durable and just political resolution that will result in the formation of an independent, sovereign, unified, peaceful, democratic, neutral and self-sufficient Afghanistan, free of terrorism and an illicit drug industry, which contributes to a safe environment for the voluntary, expeditious and sustainable return of Afghan refugees through a well-resourced plan; stability; and global security,” it added.

While acknowledging the widespread and sincere demand of the Afghan people for a lasting and just peace and an end to the war, it also noted April 14 announcement by the United States and NATO that US/NATO forces would begin a responsible withdrawal from Afghanistan by May 1, that conclude by September 11, 2021. “We reiterate that the withdrawal of foreign troops should ensure a steady transition of the situation in Afghanistan. We stress that, during the withdrawal period, the peace process should not be disrupted, no fights or turbulence shall occur in Afghanistan, and the safety of international troops should be ensured,” the statement said.

The Troika urged the Taliban to fulfill its counterterrorism commitments, including preventing terrorist groups and individuals from using Afghan soil to threaten the security of any other country; not hosting these groups and preventing them from recruiting, training, and fundraising.

It also expected the Afghan government to continue counterterrorism cooperation with the international community. “We reiterate our call on all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan to reduce the level of violence in the country and on the Taliban not to pursue a Spring offensive. We condemn in the strongest terms any attacks deliberately targeting civilians in Afghanistan and call on all parties to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law in all circumstances, including those related to protection of civilians,” it added.

It stressed that that diplomatic personnel and property should be inviolable, and the perpetrators of any attack or threat on foreign diplomatic personnel and properties in Kabul would be held accountable. It also extended its support to review the status of designations of Taliban individuals and entities on the UN 1988 sanctions, as stated in the UNSC resolution 2513 (2020). Practical measures to reduce violence and sustained efforts to advance intra-Afghan negotiations by the Taliban would positively affect this review process.

The extended Troika noted preparations by Turkey to host a conference of senior leaders of both Afghan parties in order to accelerate the intra-Afghan negotiations, and welcomed the United Nations and Qatar’s roles as co-conveners of this dialogue. The Troika further stressed upon all Afghans including the Government of the Islamic Republic and the Taliban to ensure that terrorist groups and individuals should not use Afghan soil to threaten the security of any other country. It also reaffirmed that any peace agreement must include protections for the rights of all Afghans, including women, men, children, victims of war, and minorities, and should respond to the strong desire of all Afghans for economic, social and political development including the rule of law.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/751597/pakistan-china-us-russia-ask-taliban-to-fulfil-counterterrorism-commitments/>

China, Turkey start work on new warships for Pakistan Navy

China and Turkey are preparing new warships for Pakistan to help modernise the naval force of the South Asian nation.

According to details, China has begun construction of a third 054A frigate for the Pakistan Navy. A ceremony to this effect was held at Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard.

On the other hand, keel laying ceremony of the second MILGEM Class Corvette being constructed for the Pakistan Navy was held at Istanbul Naval Shipyard in Turkey.

Chief Naval Overseer Pakistan Navy Commodore Ehsan Ahmed Khan speaking at the ceremony said the event is a defining moment to further cement the friendship between the two strategically aligned nations.

Pakistan Navy has concluded a contract for construction of four corvettes fitted with state of the art surface, sub-surface and anti-air weapons and sensors integrated through an advanced Network Centric Combat Management System.

The induction of corvettes will become a core element of Pakistan Navy's kinetic response to traditional and non-traditional challenges and to maintain balance of power in the Indian Ocean Region.

A spokesperson for the Pakistan Navy said both the ships being prepared by China and Turkey will be laced with modern technology, equipment and sensors. The spokesperson said the induction of these ships into the fleet will further strengthen the country's maritime defence and help maintain balance of power in the region.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/751563/china-turkey-start-work-on-new-warships-for-pakistan-navy/>

US, UK, China top destinations of Pak exports in three quarters

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

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

This was followed by UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$1507.344 million against the exports of \$1281.073 million last year, showing increase of 17.66 percent. China was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth \$1407.743 million during the months under review against the exports of \$1298.531 million during last year, showing decline of 8.41 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at \$1133.038 million against \$1035.960 million during last year, showing increase of 9.37 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at \$1085.837 million against \$1246.377 million last year, the data revealed.

During July-March (2020-21), the exports to Holland were recorded at \$830.484 million against \$776.703 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at \$746.328 million against \$790.377 million.

Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at \$558.624 million against the exports of \$592.065 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at \$595.258 million against \$685.222 million last year. The exports to Bangladesh stood at \$438.418 million against \$574.038 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$330.936 million against \$327.842 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at \$365.240 million against \$352.620 million. Pakistan's exports to Turkey were recorded at \$192.223 million during the current year compared to \$217.662 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at \$228.180 million against \$210.883 million, to Poland \$221.566 million against \$201.458 million whereas the exports to Australia stood at \$191.371 million during the current year against \$153.049 million during last year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/751473/us-uk-china-top-destinations-of-pak-exports-in-three-quarters/>

Dunya News

Pakistan's exports to China shot up by 64pc during Jan-March: Commercial Consular

BEIJING (Dunya News) – China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement Phase-II (CPFTA-II) effective since January 1, last year is now showing results. Pakistan's exports to China shot up by 64% during January-March 202, Commercial Consular, Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Badar Uz Zaman said. He made these remarks while participating in a recently held a brainstorming session online with representatives of Pakistani trading community to discuss how to secure a due share in the over \$2 trillion import market of China. The conference had particular significance in the backdrop of the updated China-Pakistan FTA. They stressed the need to robust efforts to take full benefits of the concessions granted by the Iron Brother to Pakistani traders under the CPFTA-II. However, the government officials told the traders that value-addition, certification and branding were all a must for penetrating the Chinese market, according to a report published by CEN. The Chinese authorities also offer generous help by training Pakistani traders and workforce to meet the required standards, they said. They also told the traders to appoint local agents for effective marketing and ensure active presence in trade exhibitions held in China. Pakistani traders asked the officials to organise sector-specific webinars with their Chinese fellows for them. On the occasion, RCCI President Nasir Mirza said that the CPFTA-II had opened up the door for Pakistani traders to the Chinese market. He said that the RCCI members were interested in exports of gems and precious minerals to China. Bilal Ahmad Butt, Consul General of Pakistan

in Hong Kong SAR, China told the traders that Hong Kong was a big consumer market with no local production. He said that traders in Hong Kong were particularly interested in importing gems and minerals from Pakistan. Hong Kong is also a big market for Pakistani fruits and vegetables, he said. They have also offered free training on value addition of gems, minerals and food items to Pakistani investors and workers, he said. Director of the Pak-HK Trade Forum Javed Iqbal said that Pakistani traders should invest in cold chain for food items, and value addition, packaging and certification for their goods to enter Hong Kong's market. He said that Hong Kong-based investors were keen to invest in Pakistan in these sectors. M Irfan, Trade and Investment Officer in Pakistan Consulate General in Guangzhou, said that Chinese language proficiency for effective marketing and branding were must for Pakistani traders to sell their products in China. He said that Pakistan had only recently established its mission in Guangzhou, but it was actively engaging with the local traders to connect them with Pakistani traders.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/599967-Pakistan-exports-China-shot-up-64pc-Jan-March-Commercial-Consular>

Pakistan Observer

Seven SEZs being established in Punjab: Buzdar

Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that for first time in the history of country, seven Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being established in Punjab and state-of-the-art facilities are being provided in Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Faisalabad. He was talking to Chairman Punjab Faisalabad Industrial Estates Development and Management Company (FIEDMC) Mian Kashif Ashfaq who called on him at CM's Office on Saturday and discussed the strategies to further accelerate the industrial process and to create ease in business. Speaking on the occasion, Usman Buzdar said that he will visit Faisalabad soon and launch development projects worth billions of rupees including the setting up of a modern Business Park over 300 acres of land having Expo centre and a golf club. He said that special incentives will be given for promoting the hotel business. He assured that all facilities will be provided to promote commercial activities in the Business Park. Projects like Furniture City, Health City and Weaving City will be launched besides inaugurating One Window Operation in Allama Iqbal Industrial City he added. The chief minister further stated that the foundation stone of different projects including Social Security Hospital, Medical College and Nursing Training Institute will also be laid. Work on the Apparel Park project will be started soon. He assured that the incumbent government will resolve the problems of investors on a priority basis. Buzdar said that foreign investors have shown great interest in Allama Iqbal Industrial City. He further maintained that the government has turned Punjab into a hub of economic activities and a role model for investment. He said that Punjab has taken lead in providing facilities as well as creating ease in doing business. Chairman FIEDMC Mian Kashif Ashfaq apprised Chief Minister about progress on development works being carried out in Special Economic Zone Allama Iqbal Industrial City linked with CPEC and about investment being made on large scale

in Industrial City. He said that a huge investment has been made in Allama Iqbal Industrial City in a short period.

<https://pakobserver.net/seven-sezs-being-established-in-punjab-buzdar/>

CPEC's pre-eminence

In the backdrop of unending rumours that Pakistan has adopted a policy of go slow on projects under the umbrella of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the expression of resolve by Prime Minister Imran Khan to complete the Corridor at all costs and that it would continue to take pre-eminence in our development strategy is reassuring and reflects true aspirations of people of Pakistan. Chairing a high level meeting to review progress on CPEC, he expressed satisfaction at the pace of ongoing projects. There can be no two opinions that the CPEC, the flagship project of Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has the potential to accelerate all-encompassing socio-economic development in the country as available evidence suggests it has already contributed to resolution of some of the most worrying challenges of Pakistan – chronic energy shortages and lack of infrastructure especially in the backward areas. As Pakistan is facing financial constraints, it was next to impossible for any government to arrange funds for a modern rail and road network, industrialisation and modernisation of agriculture – lofty goals that the CPEC is intended to achieve. Under transfer of knowledge initiative, experts from both sides exchange expertise in industrial, rural and urban development, job creation & SMEs, water resources management and treatment as well as agriculture uplift. It is because of huge size of the projects and their wide-ranging impact on national economy that makes the CPEC a historic opportunity to address socio-economic challenges of the country, improve standard of living of the people, create employment opportunities and create world-class infrastructure to promote regional connectivity and trade. There is, therefore, every reason not just to continue all projects already initiated under CPEC but include more in its framework given Chinese willingness to provide unlimited funding. There are, of course, some vested interests and multilateral institutions that keep on pressurising Pakistan on the issue of cooperation with China under CPEC highlighting unfounded concerns regarding phenomenal increase in country's debt burden (supposedly due to CPEC) but our leadership must base its policies and decisions on national interests alone. Propaganda notwithstanding no other country is willing to make as much investment as China is making to alleviate sufferings of the people of Pakistan and to create facilities that would take the country to the next phase of progress and development. It is encouraging that instead of falling into the trap of these vested interests, the Prime Minister has come to the conclusion that our policies would be focused on export-oriented and import substitution industrialisation besides imparting of latest training and skill to youth so that they could take up jobs being created by CPEC projects and initiatives. We hope that government would remove all hurdles in the way of full exploitation of the CPEC initiative and ensure allocation of its share of funds so that all projects are completed expeditiously as some of them are already behind schedule.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpecs-pre-eminence/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistani beef on bumpy road to China

BEIJING: According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-20, more than eight million rural households in Pakistan engage in livestock production which contributes to 35% to 40% of their total income. Pakistan has 208 million food animals, with a milk output of over 60 million tons and an annual production of 20 billion eggs, said Ministry of National Food Security and Research Animal Husbandry Commissioner Khurshid Ahmad. China's annual output of beef and mutton add up to 10 million tons, said Li Jinghui, Deputy Secretary General of China Animal Agriculture Association and President of White-feathered Broiler Alliance, adding that "China's per capita output is a few kilograms, which fails to meet domestic needs. That's why there are millions of tons of imports." China is a major meat importer while animal husbandry plays an important role in the economy of Pakistan; yet annual meat trade between the two countries is very small. So far, China has not opened the door of Pakistani beef import, as Pakistan is still on China's list of animals and their products in the countries and regions with a prevalent animal epidemic situation banned for entry. Can this barrier be broken through? Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) free zone has been most often mentioned by insiders and experts of animal husbandry industry in the two countries. In 2019, China and Pakistan signed the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Free Zone Agreement. Pakistani government is undertaking a vaccination programme to address the FMD issue. In this way, Pakistan is expected to move from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)'s Stage-2 category for countries (in which FMD is reduced to target areas) to Stage-3. Chinese research institutions are providing Pakistan with state-of-the-art technology, said He Cheng, a professor at China Agricultural University's College of Veterinary Medicine, adding that "with vaccines and training personnel, Pakistan can produce certified and FMD free meat and dairy products, which is our goal." On the site selection of FMD free zone, Shen Jing, Deputy General Manager of QYH Biotech, with China Animal Husbandry Industry as its shareholder, revealed that they plan to build the FMD free area in either Balochistan or Punjab.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2297777/pakistani-beef-on-bumpy-road-to-china>

The Nation

CPEC hydropower project achieves second-stage river closure

BEIJING - Suki Kinari (SK) Hydropower Project in the northwestern part of the country has achieved the second-stage river closure, entering a new phase of its dam construction.

The successful cut of the Kunhar River's main riverbed with the river being diverted to spillway is to create free-from-water working areas for construction of concrete dam of the power station under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), located in the Mansehra district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Calling the closure a key milestone of the 884-megawatt hydropower project, Jia Ancheng, general manager of China Gezhouba Group Overseas Investment Co., Ltd., a subsidiary of the

China Gezhouba Group Corporation which invests in and implements the project, attributed the achievement to the joint and hard efforts made by the Chinese and Pakistani constructors despite COVID-19.

Jia told the Chinese media that his company will continue to enlarge investment in Pakistan, deepen cooperation with the local governments in the sectors of power, transportation and environmental protection, thus facilitating the common development of the two countries.

With a total investment of about 1.96 billion U.S. dollars, the project started construction in January of 2017, and is expected to be completed in December, 2022.

Once getting functional, the CPEC project will annually generate some 3.21 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity, replacing 1.28 million tons of coal and reducing 2.52 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year, according to Huang Senlin, Quality, Health, Safety and Environment Management (QHSE) Director of the project.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-02/page-8/detail-3>

The News

Booklet of Iqbal's poetry in Chinese language launched in Beijing

BEIJING: A booklet containing select verses of Allama Muhammad Iqbal in Chinese language was launched at Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday.

This event is part of festivities to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. Pakistani Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque hailed Iqbal's philosophical depth, political acumen and artistic brilliance.

He said that Iqbal's message has a universal appeal and it transcends the narrow limitations of creed and nationality and that his contributions to philosophy and literature are a common heritage of the mankind.

Ambassador Moin expressed the hope that this book would popularize Iqbal in China and deepen cultural linkages between the two countries.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/829288-booklet-of-iqbal-s-poetry-in-chinese-language-launched-in-beijing>

Express News

چین سے آنے والی کورونا ویکسین برطانوی وائرس کے خلاف بھی مؤثر ہے، وزیر صحت پنجاب

صوبائی وزیر صحت ڈاکٹر یاسمین راشد کا کہنا ہے کہ چین سے آنے والی ویکسین برطانوی قسم کے وائرس سے بچاؤ کیلئے مؤثر ہے۔

لاہور میں پریس کانفرنس کرتے ہوئے پنجاب کی وزیر صحت ڈاکٹر یاسمین راشد کا کہنا تھا کہ لاہور انتظامیہ ایس او پیز پر عملدرآمد کرانے میں مبارکباد کی مستحق ہے، شہر کے 30 علاقوں میں اسمارٹ لاک ڈاؤن نافذ ہے اور مثبت کیسز کی شرح میں کمی آئی ہے، لاہور میں ہمارا لاک ڈاؤن سب سے موثر رہا ہے۔

ڈاکٹر یاسمین نے کہا کہ ابھی تک صرف ایک مریض میں برازیل اور ایک میں ساؤتھ افریقہ کا وائرس پایا گیا ہے، ہم نے جو ویکسین منگوائی ہیں تمام موثر ہیں، موجودہ کورونا وائرس برطانوی قسم کا ہے، چین سے آنے والی ویکسین برطانوی قسم کے وائرس سے بچاؤ کیلئے موثر ہے۔

صوبائی وزیر کا کہنا تھا کہ 8 فیصد سے زائد مثبت کیسز والے شہروں میں تمام ایس او پیز پر عمل ہو گا، افطاری کے بعد سحری تک سب کچھ بند کرنے کا بہت بڑا فائدہ ہوا ہے، صوبے میں ہر قسم کے اجتماعات پر پابندی عائد ہے، رمضان بازار سمیت مارکیٹس صبح 9 سے شام 6 بجے تک کھلے ہیں، ڈی ایچ کیو اسپتالوں میں تمام سہولیات مہیا کی گئی ہیں، سرکاری اسپتالوں میں 758 اور نجی اسپتالوں میں 391 مریض ہیں، آج 81 فیصد وینٹی لیٹرز پر مریض موجود ہیں، گورنوالہ میں 100 فیصد وینٹی لیٹرز زیر استعمال ہیں اور آج مزید 5 وینٹی لیٹرز بھیج رہے ہیں، ملتان اور گجرات میں 88 فیصد اور سرگودھا میں 80 فیصد مریض وینٹی لیٹرز پر ہیں، نجی اسپتال بھی کورونا سے نمٹنے کیلئے صوبائی حکومت کی مدد کر رہے ہیں، نجی اسپتالوں سے 3 سو بیڈز بھی فری کورونا مریضوں کیلئے مل گئے ہیں۔

یاسمین راشد نے کہا کہ پنجاب ویکسین لگانے میں تمام صوبوں سے آگے ہے، ہمارے پاس 21 لاکھ ڈوز آئی تھیں، 8 لاکھ 33 ہزار ویکسین موجود ہے 2 لاکھ 19 ہزار ہیلتھ ورکرز کو ویکسین لگ چکی ہے، نجی اسپتالوں کے ہیلتھ کیئر ورکرز کی بھی ویکسین کر رہے ہیں، ہر اسپتال میں ہیلتھ کیئر ورکرز کے لئے ویکسین موجود ہے، مجموعی طور پر 78 ہزار لوگوں کو کورونا ویکسین لگائی گئی ہے، ہوم ویکسی نیشن پنجاب کے علاوہ کہیں نہیں ہو رہی، صحافیوں کی ویکسی نیشن کے لئے ہم کام کر رہے ہیں، 50 سال سے زائد عمر کے افراد کی بھی واک ان ویکسی نیشن شروع کر دی ہے، گزشتہ ہفتے ایور تاج 55 ہزار روزانہ ویکسین لگائی گئی، ویکسین کی تین کروڑ ڈوزز کا آرڈر ہو چکا ہے وہ ساتھ ساتھ ملتی رہیں گی، ہمیں اس مہینے میں بیس لاکھ مزید ویکسین مل جائے گی، این سی او سی نے ہمیں روزانہ 80 ہزار ویکسی نیشن کا ہدف دیا ہے، ایکسپوسینٹر میں بیک اپ کیلئے 280 ایچ یو ڈی بیڈ فعال کر دیے ہیں، آکسیجن ڈیمانڈ کا اس وقت کوئی پر اہم نہیں، کابینہ کمیٹی نے اجازت دی ہے کہ اسپتالوں میں آکسیجن جزیئر لگا سکتے ہیں،

<https://www.express.pk/story/2173759/1/>

May 03, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan has huge opportunity to export beef to Chinese market

As China has a supply gap of beef and Pakistan has sufficient capacity, it is hoped that Pakistani beef will soon enter the Chinese market, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-20, more than 8 million rural households in Pakistan engage in livestock production which contributes to 35% to 40% of their total income. Over the years, animal husbandry has surpassed farm production and become the biggest contributor to value-added agriculture.

Pakistan has 208 million food animals, with a milk output of over 60 million tons and an annual production of 20 billion eggs, Khurshid Ahmad, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, said. Compared with Pakistan, China is a large meat

importer. In 2020, China's beef production reached 6.72 million tons, and the import volume reached 2.1183 million tons with an increase of 27.65%, setting the beef import record.

China's annual output of beef and mutton adds up to 10 million tons, said Li Jinghui, Deputy Secretary General of China Animal Agriculture Association and President of White-feathered Broiler Alliance, adding that "China's per capita output is a few kilograms, which fails to meet domestic needs. That's why there are millions of tons of imports." The report says, China is a major meat importer while animal husbandry plays an important role in the economy of Pakistan, yet annual meat trade between the two countries is very small.

So far, China has not opened the door of Pakistani beef import, as Pakistan is still on China's "List of Animals and Their Products in the Countries and Regions with A Prevalent Animal Epidemic Situation Banned for Entry". Chinese research institutions are providing Pakistan with state-of-the-art technology, said He Cheng, a professor at China Agricultural University's College of Veterinary Medicine, adding that "with vaccines and training personnel, Pakistan can produce certified and FMD free meat and dairy products, which is our goal."

On the site selection of FMD free zone, Shen Jing, Deputy General Manager of QYH Biotech, with China Animal Husbandry Industry as its shareholder, revealed that they plan to build the FMD free area in either Balochistan province or Punjab province, and carry out the construction with the support of Chinese customs and quarantine agencies. There is a long history of animal husbandry cooperation between China and Pakistan. As early as 1974, Guangxi province, China, imported 50 Nili-Ravi buffaloes, popularly known as "black gold" of Pakistan, initiating the bilateral scientific and technological cooperation.

Chen Yiyi, President of Royal Group, a leading buffalo milk production and processing enterprise in China, led a Chinese business delegation to Pakistan, the hinterland of buffalo milk production around the world, in April. Touching upon his visit to Pakistan, Chen said that Pakistan lacks products with high added value and deep processing, while China needs to import high-quality products.

As Pakistan has such resources, if the two countries can cooperate, it will definitely be mutual beneficial. He divided the cooperation into two stages. "In the initial stage, we can carry out technical exchange and cooperation. In the second stage, we hope to set up a factory in Punjab province to produce products for export to China." In order to facilitate Chinese enterprises' investment, the China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information Exchange Platform was officially launched in January 2021.

To provide more exchange and cooperation opportunities for enterprises of the two countries, the platform plans to hold several online seminars in different fields be held this year. The report added that Karachi is the traditional fishing hub of the eastern fisheries of Pakistan. Li Bijian, Chinese Consul General in Karachi, said Chinese enterprises are welcome to invest in Pakistan's fishery industry. He also put forward five requirements.

Firstly, partners of Chinese and Pakistani should strictly abide by each other's laws and regulations. Secondly, the two sides should conduct training and capacity building on an equal and mutually beneficial basis. Thirdly, technology transfer should be based on commercial terms, i.e. strict protection of intellectual property rights. Fourthly, partners should work together to ensure that their investments are protected and guaranteed. Banks in both countries should lend as much as possible to small and micro businesses so that they can successfully set up and operate their businesses.

Fifthly, Pakistan should create a favorable investment environment and welcome and accept the relocation of manufacturers and manufacturing industries. From the point of view of China and other countries, Pakistan should introduce relevant policies to encourage foreign investment and strengthen policy continuity.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/751779/pakistan-has-huge-opportunity-to-export-beef-to-chinese-market/>

Dunya News

Mass vaccination centre being set up at Pak-China Friendship Centre

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Spokesperson of the Ministry of Health on Sunday said that a mass vaccination centre is being set up in Pak-China Friendship Centre in Islamabad, Dunya News reported. He said that arrangements at the vaccination centre are in the final stages. The spokesman said that the Pak-China vaccination centre will be opened in a week. The spokesman said that the Pak-China vaccination centre will be able to vaccinate up to 10,000 people daily.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/600024-Mass-vaccination-centre-being-set-up-at-Pak-China-Friendship-Centre>

The Nation

Eastbay Expressway Gwadar expected to complete in October, says Asim Bajwa

ISLAMABAD - Work on the Eastbay Expressway Gwadar project is in final stage that would be completed by October 2021, Chairman CPEC Authority Lt Gen (Retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa said on Sunday. In his tweet, Asim Bajwa said that the 14.5 kilometres offshore expressway had already been completed while the remaining 4.5 Km onshore road was under construction and 92 per cent of work had been completed. He said the project which is being executed under CPEC will connect the port with the second phase of the Free Trade Zone (FTZ) which will facilitate the business climate of the zone and the port alike. The expressway will also provide primary connectivity of the port and its free zone with the network of national highways. The Expressway will ensure smooth logistic transportation of import, export and transit goods, he added.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-03/page-9/detail-2>

Express News

اسلام آباد/ بیجنگ چودھویں پنج سالہ منصوبے میں پاک چین تعاون سے امن و ترقی کا فروغ ہوگا، چینی سفیر

چین اور پاکستان کو ”چودھویں پنج سالہ منصوبے“ سے فائدہ اٹھا کر اپنی اپنی خوبیوں کو بروئے کار لاتے ہوئے مشترکہ مفادات پر مبنی تعاون کے ساتھ ساتھ علاقائی ربط و ضبط اور امن و ترقی کو باہم مل کر فروغ دینا چاہیے۔ یہ بات پاکستان میں چینی سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے چائنا میڈیا گروپ کو حال ہی میں دیئے گئے ایک انٹرویو میں کہی۔ نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان اپنی اپنی خوبیاں رکھتے ہیں اور دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان بنیادی تنصیبات، تجارت، صنعت اور زراعت سمیت دیگر شعبوں میں قریبی تعاون برقرار ہے۔

چودھویں پنج سالہ منصوبے پر عمل کے دوران دونوں ممالک کو نئے ترقیاتی ڈھانچے کی تشکیل کرنی چاہیے جس سے نہ صرف چین کی اقتصادی ترقی کو فروغ ملے گا بلکہ پاکستان کو مزید گنجائش، مزید کھلا تجارتی ماحول اور مزید مواقع میسر آئیں گے۔ گزشتہ چھ سال سے چین مسلسل پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا تجارتی شراکت دار رہا ہے اور سات سال سے پاکستان میں سب سے زیادہ سرمایہ کاری کر رہا ہے۔

رواں سال چین پاکستان کے سفارتی تعلقات کے قیام کی 70 ویں سالگرہ منائی جا رہی ہے۔ چینی سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے کہا کہ پاکستان میں چینی سفار تھانہ اس موقع سے فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے چین پاکستان تعاون کو مزید فروغ دینے کی کوشش کرے گا۔

نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے امید ظاہر کی کہ چین پاکستان انسداد و باک تعاون عالمی انسداد و باک کے تعاون کی مثال بنے گا۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک نے جنوبی ایشیا، وسط ایشیا اور مغربی ایشیا میں باہمی رابطوں کو مضبوط بنایا ہے اور مشترکہ ترقی کو فروغ دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ وہ سی پیک کے تعاون میں تیسرے فریق کی شرکت کا خیر مقدم کرتے ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2174124/10/>

May 04, 2021

Business Recorder

Delegation of Huawei meets president

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for promoting Knowledge-Economy and digitalization of government organizations to enhance the efficiency of work and service delivery.

The president stated this while talking to a delegation of Huawei, led by the Vice President of Huawei Middle East Region, Li Xiangyu, which called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Monday. He said that Pakistan was blessed with immense talent and resources and the government was making serious efforts to channelise this potential in the right direction.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr Arshad Mahmood, Secretary Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Farah Hamid, Additional Secretary Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication, Ali Sher Mehsud, and other senior officials of the government while the Chairman PM's Task Force on

Science and Technology Dr Attaur Rehman attended the meeting via video link. Li Xiangyu gave a presentation about the role of his organization in the promotion of IT skills in Pakistan. He informed that Huawei had contributed to Pakistan's economy by providing 10,000 jobs and paying \$120 million in taxes to the government from 2018 to 2020, besides spending \$6 million to support disaster-relief efforts of the government. He highlighted that his organization had contributed to Pakistan's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) talent by providing 10,000 certifications in 2020.

Li Xiangyu informed that the Ministry of IT&T in collaboration with Huawei would train over 1,000 government employees to achieve Digital Pakistan initiative. He apprised the meeting that the government officials would be registered and enrolled for training programs which would be conducted through Huawei Experts.

President Arif Alvi appreciated the initiative of Huawei to provide training and ICT skills to the people of Pakistan. He asked the Ministry of IT&T to develop an action plan and set timelines for launching training programmes for the government employees to train them in fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Technology, Big Data, Blockchain, Neural Networks and Communication Technologies.

He urged the Ministry of IT&T to come up with more innovative ideas and enhance collaboration with Huawei for early realization of Digital Pakistan Initiative.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/04/6-page/884857-news.html>

Daily Times

COAS, Chinese envoy discuss Afghan peace process

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa has said that the Pakistan Army greatly values its friendly relations with China.

The army chief said this during a meeting with Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong who called on him at General Headquarters (GHQ) on Monday, said a press statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Matters of mutual interest, recent developments in Afghan peace process, progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), regional security and current situation of Covid-19 were discussed during the meeting.

According to the military's media wing, the COAS thanked the dignitary for China's contribution towards the fight against Covid-19 in Pakistan.

The Chinese ambassador appreciated Pakistan's sincere efforts for peace and stability in the region, especially Afghan peace process.

Earlier on Saturday, the Extended Troika on Peaceful Settlement in Afghanistan, comprising the US, Russia, China and Pakistan, has called upon the Afghan parties to progress towards an inclusive political settlement and a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire.

The call was made in a joint statement issued by the extended Troika after talks in a meeting in Doha on Saturday.

Senior officials from the United States, Russia, China and Pakistan held talks with representatives of the Afghan government and Taliban in Doha in an attempt to break the deadlock in the intra-Afghan talks, as the US and NATO forces began troop withdrawal from the war-torn country from Saturday. The Pakistani delegation was headed by Ambassador Muhammad Sadiq while special envoys of the US, Russia and China represented their respective countries.

“We do not support the establishment in Afghanistan of any government-imposed by force, consistent with the Joint Statement of the March 18 Expanded Troika,” according to the statement.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/752085/coas-chinese-envoy-discuss-afghan-peace-process/>

Pakistan, China agree to enhance bilateral business connectivity

Pakistan and China have signed the bilateral partnership to increase cultural ties and understanding between the business community and people of both sides. The memorandum of understanding was signed by Director China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) Dr. Talat Shabir and Chief Executive Officer of RINSTRATECH Amir Jahangir, said a press release issued here on Monday.

The Video Content Competition on Pakistan China relationship will be launched to promote culture and trade between the two countries. Speaking at the occasion, Director General (DG) Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) Ambassador Azaz Ahmad Chaudhary said “The ISSI provides a platform for quality policy input through informed research, objective analysis and dialogue on regional and international issues affecting peace, security and development of Pakistan.

“We are confident that this partnership will create knowledge resources among the youth and the business community alike while providing strategic direction for policy makers” he said. Chief Executive Officer RINSTRATECH Amir Jahangir said “In this new era of information engagement it is important to build the vocabulary and understanding around the partnerships that both Pakistan and China are striving for. Amir Jahangir this cooperation between CPSC and RINSTRATECH will set a new benchmark for understanding around the future challenges for our international partnerships.

Amir said that RINSTRATECH is the outcome of the thought leadership of Dice Foundation USA’s Creative Arts and Media Initiative (DICE CAM). He informed that it is part of Dice Foundation’s National Innovation Basket (NIB) program, which aims to create media as cornerstones of Pakistan’s growth strategy. Amir said that RINSTRATECH is Pakistan’s first short-form digital media platform for on-demand streaming and for creation of user generated original content on iRINSTRATECH. He said that RINSTRATECH gives content creators access to a large Pakistani

community around the globe, and it has been able to create a unique platform that offers dramas and films, while enabling users to generate their own content on the same platform. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) said that RINSTRA It also has a feature for Content Competition where, more than 100 academic institutions in Pakistan are competing on various thematic areas. The Fest feature of the application has provided some of the leading Film Festivals to partner with RINSTRA for digital viewing of their films and documentaries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/752158/pakistan-china-agree-to-enhance-bilateral-business-connectivity/>

The Nation

Four hydro power projects to attract \$7.7b investment

ISLAMABAD - Four hydel power projects, under the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), would be completed at a cost of \$7.7 billion in next six years.

Official in the CPEC Authority said that in order to fulfill the electricity requirements and to produce atmosphere friendly clean and green energy, numerous hydel power projects with installed capacity of 3,428 MW are being completed under the second phase.

The projects would help generating thousands of new jobs besides providing affordable clean electricity to the consumers.

Nine coal-based energy projects completed in the first phase are contributing 5,320 MW to the national grid which are largely helping to overcome the load shedding problem in the country.

The CPEC Authority official informed that 720 MW Karot Hydro Power Project is in final stages and is likely to be completed within the current year at a cost of \$700 million. The project would provide clean energy to 5 million people and would create 4500 job opportunities.

Similarly another CPEC-Sukki-Kenari Hydro Power Project would also start contributing 884 MW of clean electricity to the national grid by next year, the officials told APP, adding that the total cost of this project is \$2 billion.

Similarly work on the \$1.5 billion Azad Pattan Hydro Power Project is underway and this 700 MW power project would be completed in 2026.

The 1124 MW Kohala Hydro Power Project would be completed by 2027 at an estimated cost of \$2.5 billion, the official said, adding that the CPEC is helping Pakistan in overcoming the power shortage and reducing reliance on the imported fuel.

Located in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the Kohala Hydro Power Project would create some 5000 job opportunities. The official added that the foreign investment of \$2.4 billion would be the highest in the country by the Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

This project would produce five billion clean and green electricity units for the consumers of Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the official added.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-04/page-9/detail-7>

The News

Climate change can be alleviated under CPEC

BEIJING: Climate change can be alleviated under China, Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said Shen Lei, the executive secretary of China Society of Natural Resources (CSNR), a scholar of Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) in an interview to Gwadar Pro.

He said, "Pakistan has committed more than its share on climate change." At the world leaders' climate summit on April 22, Malik Amin Aslam, assistant to the prime minister of Pakistan on climate change, promised a 60% clean energy share by 2030.

"The target is higher than expected. But, according to Shen Lei, under the CPEC, it is entirely possible for Pakistan to achieve this goal with the support of technology, investment and equipment," that, "in the process of achieving carbon neutrality, Pakistan should strengthen energy and economic cooperation under CPEC."

Shen added, "Pakistan is rich in clean energy resources, but the degree of development is low, and the supply and demand are seriously unbalanced. Moreover, its power grid around the country is behind with large transmission loss. Energy structure adjustment is an effective way to solve the problem of energy shortage in Pakistan.

With the increase of distributed renewable energy generation, it is very important to fully invest and upgrade the power grid for the safe accommodation of volatile clean power."

The World Bank believes that Pakistan should add 24,000 megawatts of wind and solar power in the next 10 years, including 6,700 megawatts of wind power and 17,500 megawatts of solar power, which can save \$1 billion in annual power generation costs while improving energy supply security for Pakistan.

Shen said, "Obviously, the vigorous development of clean energy will not only make a great contribution to coping with the challenge of global climate change, but also bring a lot of benefits for Pakistan to improve the ecological environment, create economic growth opportunities and improve the quality of life of residents."

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/830353-climate-change-can-be-alleviated-under-cpec>

K2 Daily



ایپورٹ کی اجازت ہے تو ایکسپورٹ کی کیوں نہیں؟ بارڈر پاس ایک سال کیلئے جاری ہونا چاہیے

تاجروں کا معاشی استحصال ہو رہا ہے، ایس او بیو کیساتھ بارڈر کھولنے کیلئے اقدامات کئے جائیں، پاک چائنہ ٹریڈ ایسوسی ایشن

گت (تماندہ خصوصی) گورنمنٹ گلٹ میں پاک چائنہ ٹریڈ ایسوسی ایشن
گت (تماندہ خصوصی) تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے ایڈیشنل لیڈرز
کے اظہار میں چائنہ بارڈر گزراپ کی بندش سے متعلق ہائے گئے اجلاس میں پاک
بارڈر کے ذریعے تجارت کرنے والے تمام کاروباری تنظیموں کے ممبروں کو مطلع کر کے
کلیئرنگ ایجنسی سمیت گت ہلز اور مطلع کر کے (جائی 7 ستمبر 7) (جائی 7 ستمبر 7)

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2021-05-04

Nawaiwaqt News

چین، پاکستان میں مختلف شعبوں میں قریبی تعاون برقرار ہے، سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ

بیجنگ (شہنوا) پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے چائنا میڈیا گروپ کو انٹرویو دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان کو "چودھویں پانچ سالہ منصوبے" سے فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے اپنی اپنی صلاحیتوں کو بروئے کار لاتے ہوئے مشترکہ مفادات پر مبنی تعاون کو فروغ دینا چاہئے اور مل کر علاقائی انٹر کنیکشن اور امن و ترقی کو فروغ دینا چاہیے۔ نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے کہا کہ دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان بنیادی تنصیبات، تجارت، صنعت اور زراعت سمیت دیگر شعبوں میں قریبی تعاون برقرار ہے۔ چودھویں پانچ سالہ منصوبے پر عمل کے دوران دونوں ممالک کو نئے ترقیاتی ڈھانچے کی تشکیل کرنی چاہئے جس سے نہ صرف چین کی اقتصادی ترقی کو فروغ ملے گا، بلکہ پاکستان کو مزید گنجائش، مزید کھلا تجارتی ماحول اور مزید مواقع میسر آئیں گے۔ گزشتہ چھ سال سے چین مسلسل پاکستان کا سب سے بڑا تجارتی شراکت دار رہا ہے اور سات سال سے پاکستان میں سب سے زیادہ سرمایہ کاری کر رہا ہے۔ چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ امید ہے چین پاکستان انسداد و باہر کا تعاون عالمی انسداد و باہر کے تعاون کی مثال بنے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک نے جنوبی ایشیا، وسطی ایشیا اور مغربی ایشیا میں انٹر کنیکشن کو مضبوط بنایا ہے اور مشترکہ ترقی کو فروغ دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے تعاون میں تیسرے فریق کی شرکت کا خیر مقدم کیا جاتا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-05-04/page-6/detail-22>

May 05, 2021

Business Recorder

CPEC Authority chief highlights 'western alignment'

KARACHI: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority Chairman Lt-General Asim Saleem Bajwa (retd) on Tuesday said that road connectivity projects under CPEC will be completed in the next two and a half years as work on central, eastern and western alignments is in full swing. Addressing the business community at Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Bajwa said CPEC is Pakistan's national project and the nation is connected to it. "No power on the earth can stop CPEC from accomplishment," he said.

On eastern alignment of CPEC, Bajwa said only one section (Sukkur-Hyderabad) was left that had already been launched by the Prime Minister Imran Khan recently.

He said the request for proposals of that project would be completed under public private partnership mode and floated within a month and after that the ground work would be started. "Now our full focus is on western alignment," he said, adding motorway from Islamabad to Dera Ismail Khan (DI Khan) was at final stage while the DI Khan to Zhob motorway project had also been approved by the Chinese side.

Similarly, he said, the ground work on road from Zhob to Quetta had also been started whereas Quetta to Khuzdar, Khuzdar to Awaran and Hoshab, and Khuzdar-Basima roads were also under construction and all of them would be connected with different areas of Balochistan and Sindh with Gwadar. Within next three years, all those routes would be connected, he added.

Bajwa said the western alignment passed through remoter areas where there was extreme poverty. The road projects under CPEC would improve connectivity and create new job opportunities for the people lining along the roads, he said, adding that would ultimately bring prosperity in the area.

The CPEC Authority chairman said, "We are now moving beyond energy and road infrastructure to agriculture, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), tourism, science technology and information technology." He said the poverty alleviation could be ensured through the abovementioned measures being executed under CPEC phase-II.

In agriculture sector, he said, "We are moving towards corporate farming and community farming for which we are working with the provinces."

Similarly in industrialization sector Rashakai and Faisalabad, the work was in full swing and number of industries were being installed.

In Rashakai SEZ, he said 1,000 acre of land had been allocated but some 2,000 applications had so far been received for which 3,600 acres of land was required.

Bajwa said a Canadian and German joint venture had applied for Allama Iqbal SEZ Faisalabad. Similarly, a group of Pakistani American doctors was also interested in electro medical equipment manufacturing, he said, adding likewise lot of people were interested in Dhabeji zone in Sindh which was more suitable for many investors because of easy approach to Karachi Port. With respect to the industrial development under CPEC, Bajwa said keeping in view the rising interest of foreign investors in the Gwadar Free Zone, the government had decide to launch second phase of the zone spanning over an area of 2,200 acres.

In his welcome address President KCCI Shariq Vohra said that the business community of Karachi wants to play an important role in the CPEC. "The purpose of inviting you is to build working relationship, and get to know as to how Karachi's industrialists can offer services in this game changer project," he said.

Despite challenges and international conspiracies, the CPEC is moving forward as power generation, road construction, fibre optics and other projects are proof that this project will be a game changer for the country.

Zubair Motiwala, Chairman Businessmen Group, said: "We have been running the business community in Karachi for 23 years. We are going to connect with the world by road under this flagship project of belt and road initiative. We have Northern Bypass, Southern Bypass and Lyari Expressway which need to be connected directly with the ports.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/05/12-page/885102-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC & ASEAN

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

During recent months many regional countries have showed their keen interest to join the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is indeed good omen for macro-economy of Pakistan. It seems that the new “geo-economy” doctrine of Pakistan has played a vital role in this regard. Moreover, rapidly changing geopolitical realities and geostrategic new dimensions have now changed the dynamics of regional connectivity and of course global engagement. Thus journey from geopolitics to geo-economics has been started. Indonesia has now shown keen interest to join the CPEC. Due to constant “structural economic reforms”, Indonesia is widely rated as a future “economic giant”. It is the “largest economy” in Southeast Asia. Now it is the world’s “7th largest economy” by Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) and a member of the “G-20”. It hopes that it may be the “5th largest economy” in the world by 2030 and fourth soon after. On a market exchange rate basis, Indonesia ranks “16th” in the world but will likely enter the top ten by 2030. Thus it has a beneficial economic proposition with Pakistan & CPEC. Thus mutual cooperation in diverse sectors of economy, trade & commerce, joint venture, FDI, agriculture, science & technology, private sector, tourism, education and energy is brighten in which the CPEC may play a major role of mutual convergence.

Indonesia’s Ambassador to Pakistan Adam M Tugio appreciated Pakistan’s strategically location at the juncture of South Asia, Central Asia and Middle East which has vast potential to emerge as a hub of regional connectivity and economic activity. Thus CPEC is the connecting hub for the regional countries. While delivering a keynote speech in the CGSS sponsored international webinar the Indonesian envoy has welcomed Pakistan’s efforts to enhance regional connectivity and development through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He highlighted immense potential of CPEC to create diverse investment opportunities and promote industrial, financial and agricultural cooperation. On its part the Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) has been advocating benefits of sustainable regional connectivity through the benchmark of the CPEC. this regard its continued online internship programs, interactive dialogues, meaningful seminars/conferences and webinars pertaining to different countries like Indonesia, Egypt, Hungary, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and China is projected the real potential of Pakistan’s economy and positive, productive and participatory role of the CPEC. He outlined that the preferential trade agreement (PTA) signed between the two countries in 2012 was not just a start to elevate the bilateral trade volume but also a manifestation of common desire to further develop special ties through enhanced economic cooperation. In this context, joining of Indonesia with CPEC would further strengthen scope and utility of Pak-Indonesia bilateral relations in the days to come. He highlighted his country’s structural reforms and measures to make PTA equally favourable for both countries, Indonesia agreed in 2019 to grant unilateral concessions on 20 additional tariff lines of Pakistan’s export interest. He termed education as one of the potential areas which can benefit people of the two countries. He said the two nations fully

realised the importance of cooperation at multilateral forums. Tugio showcased that both countries had worked closely on major regional and global issues and continued to work with mutual coordination and cooperation at important regional forums including the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and the ASEAN regional forum. He was of the opinion that ASEAN and Pakistan have great potential for cooperation in various sectors as Pakistan's total trade with ASEAN of over \$7 billion suggests that there is huge scope for Islamabad to scale up its economic engagement with ASEAN. Most recently, Pakistan persuaded foreign investors to invest in the country and the CPEC projects offered lucrative incentives towards Industrial transformation. During the most recently held webinar jointly organised by Embassies of Pakistan and China in Jakarta, Pakistan's Board of Investment (BOI) presented Investment opportunities in China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It offered an opportunity to jointly explore the promising prospects of CPEC and to devise a way forward to bolster regional economic cooperation. The participants vowed to further advance industrial cooperation among Pakistan, China and Indonesia.

Director Project Management Unit (PMU), Asim Ayub presented a detailed presentation on CPEC and briefed the audience about Industrial Cooperation under CPEC, various incentives available to investors under Special Economic Zones (SEZ) act. He further said that Pakistan also offers sole enterprise option. He emphasized that Pakistan is fully focused towards Industrial transformation and investors should take benefit of the lucrative incentives. Addressing the webinar, Chairman BOI Atif Bokhari highlighted immense investment potential of the CPEC which has entered in its second phase and efforts are now focused on forging Business to Business (B2B) and Person to Person (P2P) collaborations in the form of industrial & socio-economic cooperation. He pinpointed Pakistan's liberal investment regime which allows 100 percent repatriation of profits, dividends and capital. In addition, Pakistan is actively pursuing development of SEZs and is offering attractive fiscal incentives including 10 year tax holiday on income & custom duty exemption on import of capital goods to both developers & enterprises. He projected that the government has launched conducive policies for electric vehicles, mobile manufacturing and construction sectors in a bid to enhance investment profile of Pakistan. He encouraged Indonesian & Chinese investors to be part of the shared future of industrialization & economic prosperity through the realms of CPEC. Ambassador of China Xion Qian remarked that CPEC is a landmark project and it offers valuable opportunity to the three countries to explore trilateral cooperation & untapped business opportunities. The participants identified that Pakistan & Indonesia can explore collaboration in the field of textile, food processing, agricultural products, infrastructural development, chemical & pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, gemstones, iron & steel to name a few, as Indonesian companies have vast experience & expertise in these areas. The Indonesian speakers stated that their companies can help Pakistan in establishing downstream industry and also assist with value added products. Secretary BOI Fareena Mazhar stated that Pakistan is taking several reform initiatives to streamline our business processes and offer a conducive business environment to both local and foreign investors. Fareena shared that Pakistan would welcome Indonesian investment in sectors such as

food & agriculture, value added textile, tourism, construction and also encourage investors to explore the electric vehicle sector as Pakistan offers tremendous scope for setting EV manufacturing units. Being prominent regional expert of the CPEC & BRI I submit that Pakistan and Indonesia should further strengthen their bilateral economic cooperation, and trade & commerce activities through the flagship projects of the CPEC. Artificial Intelligence (AI), digitalization, tourism, education, energy & food cooperation, and health may be the preferential areas for mutual cooperation. Even goals of mutual massive industrialization, persuasion of green energies, hydropower generation and last but not least, infrastructure may be points of mutual convergence under the umbrella of CPEC between the two countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-asean-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Some Enlightening Facts from China's Economic Development Since Reform and Opening Up

Tang Mengsheng

China was once one of the poorest countries in the world. In 1978, China's per capita GDP was only US \$ 156, and 80% of Chinese people lived in rural areas. In 1981, 84% of Chinese people lived below the international poverty line of \$ 1.25 a day. In 1982, Pakistan's per capita GDP was US \$ 240, while China's per capita GDP was only US \$ 190. However, since the reform and opening up, after 40 years of rapid development, China's per capita GDP in 2019 has exceeded \$ 10,000. China has staged an economic miracle out of poverty. China's development experience proves that poverty is not the fate of developing countries. As long as there is a strong and powerful leadership, choose a good development path for national development, channelize the enthusiasm and creativity of the people for nationwide economic development, it will definitely get rid of poverty and the country will become rich and strong. This is the first lesson from China's development. For developing countries, eradicating poverty and improving people's living standards are top priorities. The population of developing countries is concentrated in rural areas. In the past, 80% of people in China lived in rural areas. Today, 70% of people in Pakistan still live in rural areas. Therefore, to get rid of poverty in developing countries, rural changes must be implemented. Agriculture is the leading sector of the economy of developing countries. In addition to providing and meeting people's food needs, agriculture can also provide raw materials for the secondary industry and make market contributions to economic growth. Agriculture plays an active role in the overall economic growth through production and consumption. Higher productivity in agriculture can increase the income of the rural population, and the increase in net agricultural income is a driving factor for industrialization. China's reform and opening up began in the rural areas, which has laid a solid foundation for China's economic development. Getting rid of poverty and achieving development needs to start with the promotion of agricultural modernization. This is the second lesson from China's development. To develop the economy, get rid of poverty, and achieve national development, it is not enough to develop agriculture alone. It is also necessary to simultaneously promote the country's industrial development. As a result of China's reform and opening up, agriculture has developed

rapidly, farmers' lives have continued to improve, and agricultural products have greatly enriched the market. At the same time, the rural population has continued to migrate to cities and enter the modern industrial system. After the first stage of development, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has entered the stage of industrial cooperation and industrial park construction. Actively promoting China-Pakistan industrial cooperation will inevitably promote the process of Pakistan's industrial modernization and is the right track for Pakistan's economic development. Since 1978, China has gained an important experience in industrialization and urbanization on the basis of rural reform, and through vigorously developing modern service industries. This is the third lesson. Adjusting the relationship between the government and the market has always been accompanied by the process of the transformation of government functions in China and by bringing efficiency and effectiveness in allocating resources. In the past 40 years, the government has gradually rationalized its relationship with the market and enterprises in the process of changing its functions. It has changed from direct intervention in the micro-economy to macro-management. Power rests with markets and enterprises, while government facilitates market players and creates a good development environment. Here, it is mandatory that officials of government departments must go out of the office, go to the remote areas in the countryside, factories and enterprises, understand the problems and difficulties faced by farmers and entrepreneurs, help them solve problems, eliminate difficulties, and plan development. However, allowing play to the market and respecting the autonomy of enterprises does not imply that the government's control is weakened. On the contrary, the government strengthens market supervision, especially during and after the event, to ensure the orderly and healthy development of the market economy. This is the fourth lesson from China's development.

<https://pakobserver.net/some-enlightening-facts-from-chinas-economic-development-since-reform-and-opening-up-by-tang-mengsheng-prof-center-for-pakistan-studies-of-peking-university/>

The Nation

Webinar stresses Sino-Pak coop in animals, fishing sectors

ISLAMABAD - Leading experts in livestock and fishery sectors from Pakistan and China have called for modernising these sectors in Pakistan by upgrading infrastructure and building a substantial supply chain through joint enterprises with China, technology transfer and talent cultivation.

They expressed these views at a webinar on Chinese and Pakistani animal husbandry and fishery cooperation, says a report by Gwadar Pro Tuesday.

The experts discussed bilateral cooperation in the educational and industrial programmes in this regard, and possible measures to enact such cooperation.

Syed Fakhar Imam, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, pointed out "multiple challenges" in tapping the rich repertoire of livestock and fishery resources in Pakistan.

He called for modernising the country's livestock and fishery industries through joint enterprises with China, technology transfer.

The challenges are echoed by Dr Muhammad Akram, President, Fisheries Development Board, Ministry of Pakistan National Food Security and Research (MNFSR), and Dr Khurshid Ahmad, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, MNFSR.

According to Dr Ahmad, Pakistan is home to 208 million food animals with an annual milk yield exceeding 60 million tons and an annual production of 20 billion poultry eggs.

He said, the quality and yields of such livestock and fishery products can be further improved with Chinese technologies to build capacity, and with joint research efforts in genetic improvement and other animal and fishery sciences.

In terms of the livestock sector, Li Jinhui, Deputy Secretary General of China Animal Agriculture Association and President of China Broiler Alliance, said, "China is the largest importer of beef and a major importer of mutton and chicken. This presents enormous opportunities to Pakistan to enhance its beef and mutton exports."

Shen Jin, Deputy General Manager of QYH Biotech Co., Ltd., cited FMD-free zones as an effective countermeasure against FMD. Under the MoU on combatting FMD signed between China and Pakistan in 2019, China will help Pakistan establish FMD-free zones in Punjab and Balochistan to ensure the health of the food animals.

"Now we have (some) expertise available in the university, which can facilitate the private sector in adopting new technologies," said Dr Masood Rabbani.

Ma Zhuojun, Director of International Cooperation at Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, showed how China has achieved the sustainable aquaculture through the Aquaculture Improvement Projects (AIP).

To facilitate bilateral cooperation in the animal husbandry and fishery sectors, Li Bijian, Consul General of China to Karachi, advised Chinese companies to conduct training and capacity building "on equal footing" with Pakistan, and he also urged Pakistan to ensure a safe and favourable business environment to attract more Chinese investments.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-05/page-10/detail-10>

Jang News

گوا اور پورٹ پر تیزی سے کام ہو رہا ہے، عاصم سلیم باجوہ

چیئر مین چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری اتھارٹی عاصم سلیم باجوہ کا کہنا ہے کہ سی پیک منصوبوں کی فہرست شیئر کر دیں گے، گوا اور پورٹ پر تیزی سے کام ہو رہا ہے۔ عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے اپنے ایک بیان میں کہا ہے کہ ہم اپنی مدد آپ سے اپنی تعمیر کا عزم رکھتے ہیں، سی پیک منصوبے کو مکمل کرنے کے لیے ملکی اعلیٰ قیادت پر عزم ہے، سی پیک کے پہلے مرحلے میں کئی اہم منصوبے مکمل ہوئے۔

عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا ہے کہ ویسٹرن روٹ پر چینوں کے ساتھ مل کر کام کر رہے ہیں، آئندہ تین سال میں تمام روٹس فعال ہو جائیں گے، ویسٹرن لائن کے فعال ہونے سے غربت کا خاتمہ ہوگا، روگار فراہمی کے لیے افرادی قوت کی تربیت ضروری ہے۔

انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں کام جاری ہیں، اسپیشل اکانومک زون میں سرمایہ کاروں کی بڑی دلچسپی ہے، منسٹری آف میری ٹائم کے ساتھ مل کر کام کر رہے ہیں۔

عاصم سلیم باجوہ کا کہنا تھا کہ ہم ملک کے ہر چیئیر آف کامرس میں جا کر مشاورت کر رہے ہیں، ملکی چیئیرز سے مشاورت کا آغاز کر دیا ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/921888>

May 06, 2021

Daily Times

Experts call for boosting Sino-Pak cooperation in irrigation sector

Enhanced Sino-Pak cooperation in irrigation sector is need of the time, China Economic Net (CEN) quoted experts as having said.

The experts noted that the International Monetary Fund, Pakistan has been ranked third among countries facing acute water shortage. The availability of water is only compounded by the conventional and highly wasting way of irrigation. To resolve this issue, Pakistan has tried to export advanced irrigation products and technologies from overseas to empower the agriculture sector, the mainstay of the Pakistani economy.

After two failed attempts to introduce efficient irrigation solutions from European countries, Pakistan turned to China for help in terms of efficient irrigation products and technologies. In 2004, Xinjiang Tianye Group, a leading Chinese enterprise specialising in efficient irrigation and water saving drip irrigation technologies, initiated the first-of-its-kind irrigation cooperation between China and Pakistan by setting up drip irrigation demonstration zones in Pakistan and holding training sessions in drip irrigation for the Pakistani people at the invitation of the Pakistani government.

Due to successful pilots of the project, bilateral cooperation was expanded to research institutes. The China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR), for example, was responsible for the design for efficient irrigation for onions in 2011 in Punjab and held training sessions on the theoretical and operational know-how of efficient and water-saving irrigation for the Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) in 2012.

The 14 years of cooperation has corroborated the efficiency and efficacy of Chinese high efficient irrigation technologies in Pakistan. However, high irrigation solutions have merely been used in parts of Pakistan on an experimental basis, which takes a heavy toll on Pakistan's embattled "more crop per drop" efficient irrigation campaign. What are the hurdles between China-Pak cooperation in efficient irrigation? What can be done to expedite the popularisation of efficient irrigation in Pakistan? To debunk these myths, China Economic Net (CEN) interviewed two experts to shed a few insights.

“Chinese irrigation solutions promoted by Tianye have proved a success in demonstration zones in Pakistan. But a lack of investments has made it hard to popularize the efficient irrigation solutions.” commented Li Huijuan, senior engineer at National Water-saving Irrigation Engineering and Technology Research Center (Xinjiang). This view is echoed by Dr Gong Shihong, Deputy-Director of Department of Irrigation and Drainage, China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR).

A single company is too fragile to transform the entire sector. The Pakistani government should incentivize more companies to invest in the popularisation of efficient irrigation solutions, said Dr Gong, who led a delegation to hold training sessions on high efficient irrigation in Pakistan in 2012. A second factor lies in the limited range of efficient irrigation solutions available in Pakistan, Ms Li told CEN. Although the government of Punjab has worked with World Bank to subsidize small-scale farmers to install sprinklers and drip irrigation systems, enormous farmers still refrain from adopting such efficient irrigation systems because of the high maintenance costs ensued.

Li explained, Pakistani farmers tend to use irrigation accessories such as drip tapes and drippers from Israeli and European countries, which is six times the cost of Chinese solutions and is beyond the price range of the farmers. To motivate more farmers to use efficient irrigation solutions and further popularize the “more crop per drop” efficient irrigation campaign in Pakistan, more affordable and desirable high efficient irrigation solutions should be introduced to the Pakistani market.

The key lies in boosting the communication between Chinese and Pakistani irrigation companies, said Dr Gong. “Chinese high efficient irrigation solutions hold great potential to help popularise the drip irrigation in Pakistan. Cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani irrigation companies in this regard will familiarise more farmers with affordable, desirable Chinese irrigation solutions and motivate more farmers to adopt efficient irrigation. Realising the importance of B2B communication, Xinjiang Tianye signed a strategic memorandum of understanding with the Fatima Group in October, 2019, Li revealed. With the support of the Fatima Group, Tianye’s irrigation technologies have been introduced to Bela, Balochistan and are likely to find their way in more farmlands in the future, said Li.

Dr Gong told CEN, an International Cooperation Office has been recently established by a Chinese water-saving association to facilitate and promote more such cooperation. The office will serve as a bridge between Chinese and Pakistani irrigation enterprises by exploring the needs of Pakistani people and companies and communicating them to Chinese companies so that they can provide customised irrigation solutions for Pakistan, commented Dr Gong. Government-level promotion will also be part of the answer to an efficient irrigation-oriented future. “In China’s case, the government promotes the efficient irrigation technology and encourages the investments from companies which in return introduce irrigation technologies to farmers.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/752975/experts-call-for-boosting-sino-pak-cooperation-in-irrigation-sector/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC's western route

The country has started reaping benefits of the projects being executed under multi-billion dollars China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and it will be unfair not to appreciate efforts being put in by Chairman CPEC Authority Lt Gen Asim Bajwa (Retd) to accelerate work on various projects under the mega project that is envisaged to change economic landscape of not only Pakistan but the whole region. Speaking to businessmen at the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Asim Bajwa said western alignment routes of the CPEC would be completed in around three years. Giving further details, he said work on western alignment is underway on route from Islamabad to Dera Ismail Khan and from Dera Ismail Khan to Zhob. Indeed under the CPEC, Pakistan with the cooperation of Chinese friends has developed state of the art road infrastructure in the form of motorways and expressways, which has improved connectivity within the country. As regards the western route it will go through remote areas where poverty ratio is higher and industrial development is very low. In this backdrop, the completion of this alignment will change fate of those areas and bring prosperity in the lives of people there. We are confident that western route will also be completed within the given timelines. The second phase of CPEC particularly focusing on agriculture and rapid industrialisation is very important for Pakistan to move towards self-reliance and come out of the debt trap. We therefore will stress that engagement level should further be increased with China to uplift these two important sectors of the economy. Progress has been made on establishment of Special Economic Zones and it is important that all facilities are extended there to attract investment from China as well as other parts of the world. During talks with the leadership of other countries, we need to extensively brief them about these SEZs and the benefits they can accrue by wooing their investors and companies to invest in them. At the same time, we must remain alert to disruptive element that misses no opportunity to hurt this mega project.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpecs-western-route/>

May 07, 2021

Business Recorder

Fitch seeks viewpoint on China's future role in bilateral financing

ISLAMABAD: Fitch Ratings- Hong Kong, an international sovereign rating agency, which is conducting Pakistan's sovereign rating review exercise, has sought Pakistan's viewpoints on China's future role in bilateral financing.

The rating agency has sought answers to over two dozen questions from different line Ministries to finalise its rating review exercise.

The questions raised with Ministries are as follows: (i) Ministry of Finance - what is the estimate for economic growth in FY 2021 and forecast for FY 22?. How will the most recent wave of the Coronavirus impact growth outlook? What do you view as the biggest non-Coronavirus risks to the growth outlook? What is your outlook for the current account deficit? A strong pick-up in imports has driven a widening of the trade deficit, despite recent export growth. What is driving the strong acceleration in import growth and does this pose potential risk for external finances? Remittances have so far helped offset the rising trade deficit. What led to the sharp rise in remittances despite global pandemic shock? Do you expect the high level of remittances to be sustained?

For budget wing the following questions were posed: could you provide an update on your fiscal estimates for the full FY 21? What are we likely to see in terms of budget targets in the upcoming FY 22 budget? Is the government planning additional fiscal support measures in response to current wave of the pandemic? How much is the virus resurgence likely to dampen revenue? What is the government's current medium-term fiscal strategy?

Questions posed to Ministry of Finance External Finance (EF) Wing: How is the current sixth review of the IMF program progressing? Are there any potential areas of disagreement with the Fund? What are the prospects for the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and Nepra Acts being passed through parliament?

China has been a key source of bilateral financing, particularly as Saudi Arabia did not roll over its deposits at the SBP. What role do you expect China to play going forward?

Debt Office: Please provide an outline of external debt servicing amortization and interest payments over the coming years. Are there concrete plans to request additional funding under the Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI)? What do you view as the key risks to meeting the external debt service obligations? Do you anticipate any issues with the rollover of short-term debt? How do you evaluate the most recent bond issuance in terms of market demand and yields? Do you plan to tap international markets again this year? Any prospects for issuing of Panda bond or Sukuks?

DSSI has been extended another 6 months. How much do you estimate will be the savings for Pakistan over the final 6 months of Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)? What has been the total benefit for Pakistan in the first two rounds of DSSI?

Have there been discussions with bilateral creditors for more substantial debt relief / restructuring? Has Pakistan considered joining the G-20's Common Framework?

Outline the government's current debt management strategy. Is there sufficient access to financing from the domestic private sector given the higher deficits resulting from the Covid shock? How have recent issuances on domestic markets performed? What have been recent trends in non-resident participation in domestic government bond markets? How much additional external financing is required to meet budget financing needs?

Ministry of Health: How is the vaccine rollout progressing?

Power Division: What is the progress towards addressing circular debt, particularly regarding the power tariff adjustments?

Ministry of Commerce: What are the prospects for export growth over the next couple of years? What policies is the government taking to help support the export outlook?

BoI/CPEC Authority: What is the outlook for FDI and how does the government plan to attract more FDI inflows? What are the current plans with regard to CPEC related projects, as well as future infrastructure investment projects?

FBR: could you provide more details on the tax reforms and adjustments that are likely to be proposed as part of the FY 22 budget? How supportive will these measures be in boosting revenue collection over the medium-term? Are you concerned about any economic headwinds arising from the tax reforms as the economy emerges from the pandemic? Is the government planning additional fiscal support measures in response to current wave of the pandemic? How much virus resurgence is likely to dampen revenue?—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/07/1-page/885344-news.html>

Shehbaz meets Chinese ambassador

ISLAMABAD: PML-N President and National Assembly Opposition Leader Shehbaz Sharif visited Chinese High Commission and met with the Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong, said a press release.

Former Prime Minister Shahid Kahqan Abbasi, Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal, Senator Mushahid Hussain and PML-N Secretary Information Marriyum Aurangzeb also accompanied him.

This was Shehbaz's first meeting with the Chinese Ambassador after his appointment which was held in a pleasant, lively and friendly environment. Shehbaz welcomed the ambassador and congratulated him on his appointment.

He said China is like second home to Pakistanis and vice versa.

He expressed how that this relationship between iron brothers would strengthen and deepen in coming days.

Calling China an exemplary partner and friend of Pakistan, he said, during Nawaz Sharif's term in government this friendship transformed into a lasting and strong economic partnership. This, he said marked a new era of Pakistan China ties that turned the friendship that was deeper than oceans, higher than the Himalayas, and sweeter than honey into a bond of iron brotherhood.

Shehbaz while thanking China and its people said that China helped Pakistan in an exemplary way during the pandemic. From sending masks, medics and gear to donating vaccines, thus role

of China should be recorded in golden words in the history. He said no words could be enough to thank for this.

He said every Pakistani so proud of its Chinese brethren and only a true friend could have helped in this manner.

The PML-N president did the Belt and Road Initiative's Flagship project CPEC is not just an instrument of prosperity for Pakistan but for the entire region.

He paid rich tribute to the resolve of President Xi Jinping and the commitment of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that could transform the future of not just the people of the two countries but of the region.

Nawaz Sharif made it possible only within 3 years that majority of CPEC projects were either completed or were nearing completion.

All this was achieved during an ailing economy and 18 hours of power outages but China held Pakistan's hand and took it on the path to prosperity and development.

Shehbaz expressed gratitude to God Almighty that the Chinese diplomats were safe in the Quetta Blast.

This was a conspiracy to derail the ties between two countries.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/07/4-page/885362-news.html>

Dunya News

Asad Umar stresses need for JVs between investors of Pak, China in CPEC SEZs

ISLAMABAD, May 7 (APP):Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Friday emphasized the need for joint ventures between the investors of Pakistan and China in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being established in Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said that the SEZs under CPEC would provide maximum facilities to foreign investors. He was talking to Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong who called on him. Matters related to bilateral relations and projects under CPEC and the upcoming Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) came under discussion. While discussing the progress of CPEC projects it was noted that work on Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Faisalabad and Rashakai SEZ was progressing smoothly and a large number of investors had shown interest in investments in these Economic Zones. The ambassador said that the Chinese side would continue to actively encourage investors to benefit from investment opportunities in these Zones. Progress of various other infrastructure projects was also discussed.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/600824-Asad-Umar-stresses-need-for-JVs-between-investors-of-Pak-China-CPEC->

The Nation

CPEC showing maturity in cementing Sino-Pak ties: Haroon

Islamabad - The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has shown maturity and stability in the two countries' already deep-rooted high-level friendship, said Haroon Sharif, former Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment in Pakistan, yesterday.

“Since its launch, the CPEC has significantly improved Pakistan’s infrastructure and power sector. CPEC has welcomed investment especially in agriculture and logistics sectors. It is a game changer as it has brought employment, prosperity and socio-economic development to the country, even to the region,” said Haroon Sharif told China Economic Net (CEN).

He said that the roots of the friendship are very deep and caring. It has multiple facets. “We have had rather a romantic relationship that we have seen the role of China for Pakistan at the global level and vice versa.”

The former minister mentioned that along with the socio-economic developments under the CPEC, human interaction between Pakistanis and Chinese has also increased, which is proving to be very helpful for people to understand each other from many angles beyond traditional ways. Sharif added, “The real people’s partnership will take place when they understand each other’s language and culture.” As Chinese universities are already attracting Pakistani students, two- or four-years’ studying made them have much deeper understanding of Chinese culture and people.

Sharif advised to scale up knowledge corridor by opening joint universities. Chinese faculty should come to Pakistan. By this way, the interaction of people will increase.

“In order to convert this interaction into knowledge, we have to make some investments in media, education and culture, like television stations and joint collaboration in films,” said Sharif.

CPEC is also appealing to foreign investors as the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan has been briefing what is happening at Gwadar port, the progress of various projects. Foreign investors from Saudi Arabia and Qatar are watching CPEC closely, he added.

Agriculture will be a priority for their investment, according to Sharif, as Pakistan is an agricultural country with big potential and these countries have to import all the foodstuffs from abroad. If Pakistan gets their investment and increase agriculture sector productivity to grow enough food stuff (with China’s technologies), and then these countries can meet their needs by importing food from Pakistan.

“China’s model of development is very fascinating,” Sharif said. He thought that the reason why China has developed so fast lies in its reform and opening-up policy.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-07/page-10/detail-5>

CPEC an instrument of prosperity for entire region, says Shehbaz

ISLAMABAD - PML-N President and National Assembly Opposition Leader Shehbaz Sharif visited Chinese Embassy here and met with the Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong on Thursday.

Former Prime Minister Shahid Kahqan Abbasi, Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal, Senator Mushahid Hussain and PML-N Secretary Information Marriyum Aurangzeb also accompanied him.

This was Shehbaz's first meeting with the Chinese Ambassador after his appointment which was held in a pleasant, lively and friendly environment. Shehbaz welcomed the Ambassador and congratulated him on his appointment. He said China is like second home to Pakistanis and vice versa. He expressed the hope that this relationship between iron brothers would strengthen and deepen in coming days.

Calling China an exemplary partner and friend of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif said during Nawaz Sharif's term in government this friendship transformed into a lasting and strong economic partnership.

This, he said marked a new era of Pakistan China ties that turned the friendship that was deeper than oceans higher than the Himalayas and sweeter than honey into a bond of iron brotherhood.

Shehbaz's hardwork in Punjab was very impressive and praiseworthy: Nong Rong

Shehbaz while thanking China and its people said that China helped Pakistan in an exemplary way during the pandemic. From sending masks, medics and gear to donating vaccines, thus role of China should be recorded in golden words in the history, he said. He said no words could be enough to thank China for this. He said every Pakistani so proud of its Chinese brethren and only a true friend could have helped in this manner.

The PMLN President said the Belt and Road Initiative's Flagship project CPEC is not just an instrument of prosperity for Pakistan but for the entire region.

He paid rich tributes to the resolve of President Xi Jinping and the commitment of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that could transform the future of not just the people of the two countries but of the region. Nawaz Sharif made it possible only within 3 years that majority of CPEC projects were either completed or were nearing completion, he added.

All this was achieved during an ailing economy and 18 hours of power outages but China held Pakistan's hand and took it on the path to prosperity and development, he stated. Shehbaz expressed gratitude to Allah Almighty that the Chinese diplomats were safe in the Quetta blast. This was a conspiracy to derail the ties between two countries, he stated.

He said protection of all Chinese people in Pakistan was the responsibility of Pakistan government. The Chinese Ambassador appreciated Shehbaz visit and accorded him a warm

welcome. He welcomed the delegation. He said that he already knew Shehbaz because of his Punjab Speed fame in China.

He said Shehbaz's hardwork as CM Punjab was very impressive and praiseworthy.

Nong Rong said he could not keep himself away from praising Shehbaz for his ability to deliver because he knew this from personal experience as he was a mayor in China himself. He said the two countries can benefit from Shehbaz Sharif's idea, methods and performance in future. Nong Rong said Nawaz Sharif was an old friend of China and Beijing does not forget its friends, he added.

He expressed good wishes for Nawaz Sharif.

The Chinese envoy said he endorsed Shehbaz's perspective that nations cannot progress without industrialisation and industrial production.

For this the philosophy of Industrial Zones can take this vision forward, he said.

Referring to his visit to Sahiwal power project he praised it and appreciated Shehbaz Sharif's efforts.

He said this project is considered the most speedily built project not just in Pakistan but all over the world which was inaugurated In May 2017, 6 months before it s scheduled time.

The envoy invited Shehbaz to China to attend the 100 years of Chinese Communist Party foundation in July.

Shehbaz thanked the Ambassador for the invitation and assured that Pakistan and PML-N will ensure that this day is celebrated wholeheartedly.

He also pledged that the Communist Party of China and PML-N ties will grow closer and will grow stronger.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-07/page-12/detail-2>

The News

China like second home to Pakistanis & vice versa: Shahbaz

LAHORE: PML-N President and National Assembly Opposition Leader Shahbaz Sharif visited the Chinese High Commission and met Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong here on Thursday.

Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, PML-N Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal, Senator Mushahid Hussain and PML-N Secretary Information Marriyum Aurangzeb accompanied him.

This was Shahbaz's first meeting with the Chinese ambassador after his appointment, which was held in a pleasant environment. Shahbaz welcomed the ambassador and congratulated him on his appointment. He said China is like second home to Pakistanis and vice versa. Calling China an exemplary partner and friend of Pakistan, he said during Nawaz Sharif's term in government, this friendship transformed into a lasting and strong economic partnership. This, he said, marked

a new era of Pakistan-China ties that turned the friendship deeper than oceans, higher than the Himalayas and sweeter than honey.

Thanking China and its people, he said China helped Pakistan in an exemplary way during the coronavirus pandemic. From sending masks, medics and gear to donating vaccines, the role of China should be recorded in golden words in the history. He said every Pakistani is so proud of Chinese brethren and only a true friend could have helped in this manner. He said the Belt and Road initiative's flagship project CPEC is not just an instrument of prosperity for Pakistan but for the entire region. He paid rich tribute to the resolve of President Xi Jinping and the commitment of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif that could transform the future of not just the people of the two countries but of the entire region.

Nawaz Sharif made it possible only within 3 years that the majority of CPEC projects were either completed or were nearing completion, he said, adding that all this was achieved during an ailing economy and 18 hours of power outages but China held Pakistan's hand and took it to the path to prosperity. He thanked God Almighty that the Chinese diplomats were safe in the Quetta Blast. This was a conspiracy to derail the ties between the two countries, he said, adding that the protection of all Chinese people in Pakistan is the responsibility of the Pakistan government. The Chinese ambassador appreciated Shahbaz's visit and accorded him a warm welcome. He said he already knew Shahbaz because of his Punjab Speed. He said Shahbaz's hard work as the CM Punjab was impressive and praiseworthy. He said he could not keep himself from praising Shahbaz for his ability to deliver because he knew this from personal experience as he was a mayor in China himself.

Nong Rong said the two countries can benefit from Shahbaz Sharif's idea, methods and performance in the future. He said Nawaz Sharif is an old friend of China and Beijing does not forget its friends. He expressed good wishes for Nawaz Sharif. He said he endorsed Shahbaz's perspective that nations cannot progress without industrialisation. For this, the philosophy of industrial zones can take this vision forward. Referring to his visit to the Sahiwal power project, he praised Shahbaz Sharif's efforts. He said this is considered the most speedily-built project not just in Pakistan but all over the world, which was inaugurated in May 2017, six months before its scheduled time.

The envoy invited Shahbaz to China to attend the 100 years of the Communist Party of China in July 2021. Shahbaz thanked the ambassador for the invitation and assured that Pakistan and the PML-N will ensure that this day is celebrated wholeheartedly. He pledged that the Communist Party of China and the PML-N will grow closer.

Meanwhile, Shahbaz Sharif met British High Commissioner to Pakistan Dr Christian Turner here on Thursday. Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and PML-N Information Secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb were present in the meeting.

Shahbaz appreciated British assistance to Pakistan during the coronavirus pandemic. He extended his condolences to the British high commissioner for the COVID-19 deaths in Britain.

He said that at a time when the pandemic has gripped the entire world, the mankind needs to work together against this scourge as it concerns the survival of humanity. He said Britain and Pakistan have a long history of bilateral relations. A unique aspect of this relationship is that for Pakistanis, the UK is like a second home.

The Pakistani community in the UK is playing a vital role in promoting ties between the two countries, he said, adding that boosting cooperation between the two countries is in their mutual interest. He extended his condolences to the duke of Edinburgh and the royal family on the death of Prince Philip. A minute's silence was observed for the late Prince Philip.

Issues of regional importance, especially the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, were also discussed. Dr Christian Turner wished Shahbaz all the best and a happy Ramazan.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/831755-china-like-second-home-to-pakistanis-vice-versa-shahbaz>

CPEC shows maturity, stability strengthening Sino-Pak friendship

ISLAMABAD: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) showed maturity and stability in the two countries' already deep-rooted high-level friendship, said Haroon Sharif, former Minister of State and Chairman of the Board of Investment in Pakistan.

Since its launch, the CPEC has significantly improved Pakistan's infrastructure and power sector, he said in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN). Referring to the CPEC, he said it strengthened the friendship to a great extent, he said, "The roots of the friendship are very deep and caring. It has multiple facets. We have had a rather romantic relationship that we have seen the role of China for Pakistan at the global level and vice versa.

"On thinking of China in my student years, the first thought was the China-Pakistan friendship," recalled Haroon Sharif. "Along with the socio-economic developments under the CPEC, human interaction between Pakistanis and Chinese has also increased, which is proving to be very helpful for people to understand each other from many angles beyond traditional ways, Sharif said.

According to the CEN, Sharif added, "The real people's partnership will take place when they understand each other's language and culture." As Chinese universities are already attracting Pakistani students, two- or four-years' studying made them have much deeper understanding of Chinese culture and people.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/831779-cpec-shows-maturity-stability-strengthening-sino-pak-friendship>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی سفیر سے ملاقات: وزیراعظم سفیروں کی تفحیک نہ کریں، شہباز شریف

شکر گڑھ، ہیڈ راجکاں، جام پور، اسلام آباد (نامہ نگاران + نمائندہ نوائے وقت + نوائے وقت رپورٹ) صدر مسلم لیگ (ن) اور اپوزیشن لیڈر شہباز شریف چینی سفار تھانے پہنچے اور چینی سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ سے ملاقات کی۔ مختلف امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ احسن اقبال، شاہد خاقان عباسی، مریم اورنگزیب اور سینیٹر مشاہد حسین بھی موجود تھے۔ شہباز شریف برطانوی ہائی کمشنر کرسچن ٹرنز سے بھی ملے۔ انہوں نے کرونا کے دوران برطانوی امداد کو سراہا اور وائرس سے ہلاکتوں پر تعزیت کی اور کہا انسانیت کی بقا کیلئے ملکر کام کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ برطانیہ کیساتھ تعلقات کی طویل تاریخ ہے۔ یو کے دوسرے گھر کی مانند ہے۔ پاکستانی کمیونٹی دو طرفہ تعلقات، مفادات کے فروغ کیلئے اہم کردار ادا کر رہی ہے۔ علاقائی اہمیت کے معاملات، افغانستان سے غیر ملکی افواج کے اخلاسمیت اہم امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ صدر مسلم لیگ (ن) نے پرنس فلپ کے انتقال پر تعزیت اور ایک منٹ خاموشی اختیار کی۔ کرسچن ٹرنز نے ہیپی رمضان کیلئے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کیا۔ شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ وزیراعظم کی سفیروں کے خلاف بے احتیاطی پر مبنی گفتگو سن کر دکھ ہوا۔ ہمارے سفار تکار مشکل حالات میں کٹھن چیلنجز کے تحت کام کر رہے ہیں۔ وزیراعظم کو سفیروں کی بہادرانہ کوششوں میں حوصلہ افزائی کرنی چاہئے۔ ان کی تفحیک نہ کریں۔ وزیراعظم کی سفیروں کے خلاف گفتگو بلا جواز اور غیر ضروری تھی۔ دریں اثناء سابق وفاقی وزیر دانیال عزیز نے ماڈل ٹاؤن میں شہباز شریف سے ملاقات کر کے رہائی پر مبارکباد دی۔ اور جموں و کشمیر الیکشن کے حوالے سے مشاورت کی۔ شہباز شریف نے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ ایک شخص کی ہٹ دھرمی اور ضد نے ملک کی بنیادیں ہلا کر رکھ دی ہیں۔ آٹا چینی اور دیگر بنیادی اشیاء عوام کی پہنچ سے دور ہیں۔ دامن صاف ہے۔ جلد موجودہ حکومت کا خاتمہ ہونے والا ہے۔ ضلع راجن پور کو مسلم لیگ (ن) کا گڑھ بنائیں گے۔ یہ بات شہباز شریف نے جزل سیکرٹری مسلم لیگ (ن) سردار اویس خان لغاری سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہی۔ سید علیم شاہ بھی موجود تھے۔ واضح رہے کہ سابق ڈپٹی سپیکر پنجاب اسمبلی شیر علی گورچانی اور ان کے والد پرویز گورچانی نے الگ ملاقات کی جبکہ ڈیرہ اور راجن پور کے عہدیداران پارٹی کارکنان نے جزل سیکرٹری مسلم لیگ سردار اویس احمد لغاری کی سربراہی میں ملاقات کی اور تحفظات سے آگاہ کیا۔ اپوزیشن لیڈر شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ چینی سفیر اور برطانوی ہائی کمشنر کے ساتھ نتیجہ خیز گفتگو ہوئی۔ چین اور برطانیہ پاکستان کے قابل اعتماد ترقیاتی شراکت دار ہیں۔ پاکستان کے برطانیہ اور چین کے ساتھ سٹریٹجک تعلقات ہیں۔ شہباز شریف نے پی ڈی ایم کے سربراہ مولانا فضل الرحمن کو ٹیلی فون کر کے مزاج پر سی کی۔ ملکی صورتحال، باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ شہباز شریف اور مولانا فضل الرحمن نے عید الفطر کے بعد ملاقات پر اتفاق کیا۔ شہباز شریف، جمہرات کو پارٹی کے مرحوم رہنماؤں سینیٹر مشاہد اللہ خان اور سابق صوبائی وزیر راجہ اشفاق سرور کے گھر گئے اور ان کے اہلخانہ سے تعزیت اور فاتحہ خوانی کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ راجہ اشفاق سرور پارٹی کا ایک قیمتی اثاثہ تھے۔ نواز شریف، شریف خاندان اور پاکستان مسلم لیگ (ن) کے لئے ان کی وابستگی ناقابل فراموش ہے۔ دریں اثناء شہباز شریف نے مشاہد اللہ خان کی وفات پر ان کے صاحبزادے ڈاکٹر افنان اللہ خان اور اہلخانہ سے تعزیت، فاتحہ خوانی کی اور کہا کہ مشاہد اللہ خان سے ایک بھائی کا رشتہ تھا۔ ان کی وفات ایک ذاتی دکھ اور پارٹی کا بڑا نقصان ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-05-07/page-1/detail-33>

May 08, 2021

Daily Times

Winners of essay contest on 70th anniversary of Sino-Pak ties announced

Winners of an essay competition on 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations have been announced, according to Gwadar Pro.

The competition was co-organized by Chinese Consulate-General in Lahore and Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR). At the concluding ceremony winners were announced with cash prizes and special appreciation certificates.

Deputy Consul General Lahore Peng Zhengwu released his special message through video in which he said “on behalf of Chinese Consulate General Lahore, I would like to congratulate Institute of International Relations and Media Research, its Chairman Muhammad Mehdi and President Yasir Habib Khan on holding a successful Essay Competition in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.”

“It is a great honor for Chinese Consulate General Lahore to sponsor and collaborate with Institute of International Relations and Media Research in a befitting arrangement of Essay Competition participated by a large number of people from all walks of life,” he added.

Through Essay Competition, he said that contestants shed light on how Pak-China relations form the basis of equality, harmony, trust and brotherhood. “Participants’ writing expressions have inculcated a sense in all and sundry that during 70 years relations, Pakistanis vote of confidence on China and Chinese vote of confidence on Pakistan are unflinching. I must appreciate the understanding of contestants about Pak-China joint cooperation on both regional and international landscapes. Signifying success of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, they also illustrated collaborations on the Covid-19 pandemic challenges and Chinese’s vaccine support to Pakistan,” he added.

In connection with a series of events to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China, he said that he hopes that Institute of International Relations and Media Research will continue to organize more programs to highlight exclusivity and inevitability of relationships that epitomized mutual progress in every sector. “Lastly, I would also like to express my tributary remarks for winners in recognition of their meritorious written dexterity and mettle. I wish them the best of luck in all their future endeavors,” he added.

IIRMR Chairman Muhammad Mehdi and President Yasir Habib Khan said that essay completion aimed to inculcate the sense of warmth and depth of Pak-China relations which opened many corridors of cooperation from CPEC to COVID-19 bilateral coordination, Educational joint mechanism as well as synergic frameworks on Agro-based technology, industrialization, People to People contact, cultural exchanges, B2B businesses, G2G joint ventures and Special Economic Zones.

First, second and third positions were held by Ayesha Ahmed, Minahil Ali and Aman Habib respectively.

Appreciation certificates were bagged by Ayan Khurram, Mehqish Muzaffar, Naseem Baloch, Hashim Bin Aqib, Ibrahim Kashif, Muhammad Faiz Umair, Usman Tariq, Muhammad Saqib, Ali Raza, Waleed Ahmed Shahzad.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/753655/winners-of-essay-contest-on-70th-anniversary-of-sino-pak-ties-announced/>

Youth leaders see CPEC promoting Pak-China people to people ties

Youth leaders in a conference have noted that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is promoting Pak-China people to people ties.

In commemoration of 70 years of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations, the Pakistan China Institute organized a webinar titled “Future leaders in shaping Pakistan-China relations”.

The conference was arranged under Friends of Silk Road initiative, said a statement issued here Friday.

The webinar was arranged to understand and facilitate bilateral youth exchanges under the CPEC as it enters its second phase. This was the first-of-its-kind bilateral dialogue aimed at engaging youth of both countries.

An illustrious panel of eight speakers, including young parliamentary leaders, Senator Quratulain Marri and Senator Dr Afnanullah Khan, participated in the Webinar. The keynote speakers were divided into two sessions, which was moderated by Qianli Liu, while opening remarks were given by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director Pakistan China Institute.

The conference was divided into two sessions with different themes. The theme of session one was “Pakistan-China Future Cooperation: A Perspective of Young Leaders” whereas, session two was themed as “People to People Connectivity: Role of media and culture”

The event was moderated by Qianli Liu, Editor of Guancha, who highlighted 70 successful years of Pakistan-China relationship in shaping the future of the region.

While talking about youth exchanges, she said youth development does not distinguish on race, ethnicity, and religion, and so must be taken forward.

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of Pakistan China Institute, in his opening remarks talked about how since Friends of Silk Road’s establishment in February 2019, the platform has brought prominent members of political parties, business groups, students, civil society, members of academia and media together to enhance connectivity among people.

He highlighted that these exchanges are a fundamental pillar of Pakistan-China relations, as the bond between two countries is rooted in its peoples.

Moreover, he highlighted the need for the youth to expand and enhance this beautiful, inherited bilateral strategic relationship for the next 70 years.

While talking about CPEC, Sayed said this mammoth project will engineer social equity revolution in the country.

Dr Afnan Ullah Khan spoke on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence: How Pakistan can learn from China? He quoted President Xi Jinping who had emphasized the need to promote the

deepened integration of internet, big data, and artificial intelligence with the real economy, and added that Pakistan needs to learn from the Chinese model to harness big data for making better-informed decisions, such as enhancing gross domestic product growth.

Bayazeed Kasi, Advisor to the PTI on CPC Affairs spoke on the role of youth in building a community of shared future.

Recounting his interactions with youth in Balochistan, Kasi highlighted that Pakistan's youth is more than eager to contribute to Pak-China iron brotherhood.

However, he highlighted that as 65% of Pakistan's population consists of youth, more opportunities need to be provided to them so they can contribute towards strengthening Pakistan-China relations. He highlighted that academia needs to train and provide a platform to the youth so they are motivated to work for the welfare of people.

He concluded by saying, "An untrained worker can never make a building and so we need to train our youth on the lines of contributing towards Pakistan-China."

Dr Lou Chunhao, Deputy Director and Associate Research Professor of the Institute of South Asian Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary Relations, spoke on Pakistan-China Cooperation: Challenges & Opportunities.

After congratulating the panel on 70 years of Pakistan-China relations, he highlighted four areas of opportunities for Pakistan and China. These were political commitment, which is a prerequisite; economic cooperation, a solid foundation for Pak-China relations; Strategic convergence, shared convergent ideas, and Covid 19, against which he thinks Pakistan and China have put up a strong front.

Senator Quratulain Marri showed a good grasp over women empowerment and CPEC as she advocated for female inclusion in CPEC-related projects.

She presented China as a model country which falls at top 30% of Global Gender Gap Index, and said Pakistan can learn from this.

She advocated that while CPEC presents a number of opportunities, women empowerment can only come about after female perspectives are catered to, such as in Thar coal power plant.

Senator Marri said, "An increase of women employment by 25%, creates a GDP growth of 33%, and Pakistan needs to work towards achieving this if it wants to make CPEC a tangible reality for the people at the grass-root level."

Dr Hina Aslam, Associate Research Fellow at SDPI recounted her own experience of studying in China as she talked on Breaking Barriers – Studying in China.

She highlighted that her contribution towards Pakistan-China relations has been through teaching Chinese language courses in Pakistan, after completing her Master's in China.

She also shed light on the need to closely look at the environmental aspect of CPEC to make it a more sustainable project, something for which stakeholders in both Pakistan and China have shown motivation for.

Wang Benqian, Deputy General Manager of China Road and Bridge Corporation talked about the Role of CPEC in enhancing mutual understanding.

As he recounted his 10 years' experience living in Pakistan, he highlighted that CPEC should not only be built on land but in the hearts of people, as is envisioned by President Xi Jinping as well.

He said CPEC will serve as a prerequisite for enhanced political and economic cooperation, and people to people cultural exchanges.

Yu Xiao, Research Fellow, Tsinghua University shed light on People to people ties: The pivot of Pakistan-China Friendship by terming BRI as a demonstrable Chinese commitment towards global youth.

He labeled CPEC as an optimizer of existing realities. He said that CPEC can only be successful if both Pakistan and China can jointly set examples of cross-border cooperation through enhanced cooperation between its people.

Zoon Ahmed Khan, News Anchor at China Economic Net and a Research Fellow at Tsinghua University talked on bridging the communication gap between people of China and Pakistan by labeling CPEC as a uniting factor towards bridging the communication gap.

She highlighted that the two countries need to invest in their youth if they want to engage with them. She added "In order to enhance the scope of CPEC, we need to incorporate more perspectives, especially by including youth."

Moreover, she said in order to create a sustainable CPEC framework, there needs to be a thorough understanding of the Chinese perspective.

The online event lasted for two hours and thirty minutes, including an hour-long question answer session among 50 participants.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/753671/youth-leaders-see-cpec-promoting-pak-china-people-to-people-ties/>

Pakistan and China's \$15-bn meat market

Yasir Habib Khan

With multiple challenges, Pakistan is edging closer to making its debut as a meat exporter country, with an eye firmly on China's meat market which is worth around \$15 billion annually. Recently, Pakistan company "Organic Meat Company Ltd" (TOMCL) received the official approval for registration with Chinese Custom Authorities to make a start to export heat treated beef meet to China.

Along with new development, arduous efforts are on the way as special focus is likely to be furnished on how Pakistan can get status of international meat export country in upcoming Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting under CPEC framework on agriculture and Livestock. Further thrust is going to be made on full activation of China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) phase II that incentivises Pakistan exports items including meat and Chinese's assistance to vaccination & training to Pakistan exporters and Livestock growers.

With maturity in coordination and affinity between China and Pakistan on Joint Working Group (JWG) on agriculture with its sub-sector Livestock, however there are array of challenges that are impediments in the progression of Pak-China meat trade scenario.

These formidable challenges signify Pakistan's inability to develop Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) free zones. Internationally, unless a country receives FMD-free certification it cannot export. There are a global set of standardisations, especially Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures for human health which are binding on all WTO countries. Pakistan falls short of SPS compliance. Others regulations regarding farming, quarantining, slaughtering, processing, packaging and refrigerating that Pakistan has to fulfill are unmet so far.

At present, it is reality that Pakistan does not qualify to export meat to China as Pakistan has yet to meet multiple rules & regulations and certain global benchmarks set as eligibility criteria for international meat exporters including Pakistan in the world.

Internationally, unless a country receives FMD-free certification it cannot export. There are a global set of standardisations, especially Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures for human health which are binding on all WTO countries. Pakistan falls short of SPS compliance

As per perception of Pakistan Livestock & Dairy Development Board, China, world's largest import market, which happens to share a border with us, has been providing Pakistan competitive access to its meat market. Under CPEC framework, beside others meat export to China might be a game-changer. Anyhow, big hurdle in the way is FMD free zone. Once this technical trade barrier is put to end, Pak-China meat trade will boom.

Meanwhile All Pakistan Meat Exporters & Processors Association (APMEPA) mentioned that Pakistan had tremendous credentials to exploit its meat export to China provided looming threat on dwindling animal production was addressed, breeding was increased on modern lines and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Free Zones were established to uplift Pakistan image as animal disease free country.

It is true that Pakistan cannot export meat to China. Reason is that China has international protocols including FMD zones, SPS and others for all those wanting to gain status of meat exporter to China. Pakistan is struggling hard to fulfill them. Since challenges are haunting Pakistan, China has laid down incentives and policies in collaboration with government of Pakistan to unleash era of meat export as soon as possible.

In order to negotiate the challenge in connection with Chinese vision, Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar during reviewed the preparatory work before the 10th meeting of JCC – the highest bilateral decision-making body of CPEC, has issued clear direction to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research to select need-based specific agricultural projects for taking up with the Chinese counterparts and the foot and mouth disease-free zone for Balochistan before the conduction of JCC huddle.

During the recent visit of Chinese Vice President Wang on May 26-28, 2019, several memoranda of understanding were signed, one of which was regarding the establishment of an FMD (foot and mouth disease) free zone where vaccination would be administered. This will open opportunities for Pakistan in the export of meat and help in balancing trade deficit with China.

Pakistan at present stands at Stage II of FMD and expects to move to Stage III after the FMD-free zones are set up to control and eradicate the epidemic.

In January, 2020, former Chinese ambassador Yao Jing offered Pakistan to collaborate in removing non-tariff trade barriers to its farm exports, based on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) concerns during his meeting with Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar, minister for national food Security and research. “China has a great demand for meat and poultry and it could be lucrative international market for Pakistan and both countries must work together for removal of technical barriers like SPS and quarantine requirements,” former Chinese ambassador said.

Currently, meat from Pakistan is exported to Gulf countries, Vietnam and Malaysia. Minister Bakhtiar said a memorandum for the establishment of food and month disease free zone is currently negotiated by both the sides.

China signed FTA-II with Pakistan that came into effect last year. According to the estimates of ministry of commerce, the FTA-II will provide the opportunity to Pakistan to increase its exports to China by \$4-6 billion in next five years. CPFTA will eliminate tariff on 313 tariff lines which will cover over \$8.7 billion worth of Pakistan’s global exports and 90 percent of Chinese global imports. Prime Minister’s Adviser for Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood said on Twitter that the Chinese government had agreed to immediately reduce duties to zero per cent on 313 tariff lines. New list included meat and others various items.

Pakistan’s non-compliance with the international food safety and quality standards is still a biggest challenge. A special programme for improving Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) facilities and quality inspection services, in compliance with WTO, which demands for the establishment of an integrated National Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (NAPHIS), is pending. NAPHIS has been proposed to act as a national food safety, animal and plant health regulatory body. If NAPHIS comes into action, it will fulfil the requirement of international accreditation. The EU has also urged for setting up NAPHIS, in compliance with international safety and quality standards.

In terms of exploring meat export to China, Pakistani livestock boasts rich endowment with the world’s 2nd largest herd size of Buffaloes, 7th largest of Cattle, 4th largest of Goats and 12th

largest of Sheep. Moreover, Pakistan is a meat loving country with per capita consumption of red meat of c. 8.4 kg per annum. With the increasing trend towards hygiene and rising middle class of Pakistan, this is expected to grow in the coming years. By 2029, both meat production and consumption are expected to grow by 25 percent.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/753547/pakistan-and-chinas-15-bn-meat-market/>

China and Pakistan: good brothers and true friends

Farooq Awan

* Ambassador Nong Rong says CPEC has contributed significantly to Pakistan's economy, social development and connectivity

* US must respect China's core interests and work with it to jointly maintain world peace and development

* Hong Kong entirely China's internal matter

* Allegations of genocide and forced labour in Xinjiang 'lies of the century'

Pakistan and China are time-tested strategic cooperative partners and the bilateral brotherly relations have witnessed new highs since the launch of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) some six years back. The current year is of special importance for the two countries as upcoming May 21 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.

Ambassador of People's Republic of China in Islamabad Nong Rong exclusively talked to Daily Times on issues ranging from CPEC to Covid-19 cooperation as well as the baseless propaganda campaign unleashed by the Western nations who are not only jealous of Pakistan-China exemplary relations but are also fearful of China's unprecedented growth on the economic front and growing influence in the world affairs.

Q: US President Joe Biden has suggested launching an initiative by the so-called 'democratic' countries to counter China's Belt and Road initiative. How do you see this proposal at a time when Western nations are ganging up against China while fearing its unprecedented growth on the economic front and growing influence in the international affairs?

A: China sticks to develop relations with other countries based on mutual respect and equality, win-win cooperation, and is committed to building of a new type of international relations and a community with a shared future for mankind. The CPEC, being the pilot project under the BRI, has made remarkable progress in recent years, contributing significantly to Pakistan's economy, social development, and connectivity, with great benefit made to the country and the region.

The suggestion made by the US to band together democratic countries to fund infrastructure is by no means comparable to the BRI. It is in essence to pursue confrontation between blocs and targeting to the third country. This initiative is driven by "America First" mentality, which is significantly different with BRI serving as public good to benefit the local people. The US

pursuit of Cold War mentality and confrontation between blocs are bound to be rejected as they run counter to the trend of the times and the common aspiration of regional countries.

Q: China-US relations are facing severe tests as President Joe Biden has taken an extraordinarily tough line with China. How do you see China's relation developing with the US under Biden?

A: Interaction between China and the US concerns global peace, stability, development and prosperity. With challenges in the era of globalization and the post-pandemic era, China and the US should have more dialogue and cooperation rather than game and confrontation. Both countries should fulfill obligations and responsibilities as major countries. China is willing to respond to the expectations of all parties and continue to make its own efforts to this end.

Regarding the arguments of competition, cooperation and confrontation repeatedly put forward by the US on its relations with China, China's position is consistent and clear. China welcomes dialogue on the basis of equality and mutual respect. China does not approve of one-upmanship in the world, and does not accept that one country has the final say in world affairs. China welcomes cooperation if there is the need, but cooperation needs to take into account each other's concerns and mutual benefit. It cannot go in the fashion of one side unilaterally raising conditions and making lists. China will not evade competition if it is needed, but competition should be fair and just and abide by market rules, and refrain from setting obstacles, abusing power, and depriving others of their legitimate right to development. If there is still confrontation, China will deal with it calmly and face it fearlessly. We resolutely resist gross interference in China's internal affairs, and oppose unlawful unilateral sanctions imposed on the basis of lies and false information. China will not compromise or retreat, as it sticks to the basic norms of international relations and stands for the interests of many developing, small and medium-sized countries. China definitely has the right to fight back since every country must defend national sovereignty and dignity.

Dialogue is better than confrontation, and cooperation is better than confrontation. As President Xi Jinping put it, China will work with the US to uphold the spirit of non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation, and advance a China-US relationship featuring coordination, cooperation and stability. We urge the US to truly respect China's core interests and take a correct view of China's development, actively respond to the expectations of regional countries and the international community, work with China to show what a major power should be like, and jointly maintain regional and world peace, stability and development.

Q: Unfortunately, Pakistan has been facing a tense situation on its eastern border for decades due to jingoistic attitude of India, especially under Narendra Modi. India has border disputes with China as well. Do you think India's irresponsible attitude is a major stumbling block in the way of peace and development in South Asia region?

A: It is the legitimate right for every country to safeguard its own sovereignty and territorial integrity. Since the founding of PRC, China has firmly safeguarded its national sovereignty, security and development interests. In the meanwhile, China has demarcated boundary with 12

of its 14 land neighbours through friendly negotiations, turning land borders into bonds of friendly cooperation.

The merits of what happened on China-India border are very clear. None of the responsibility for tension and confrontation lies with China. We are against any provocations, and hope the other side can take real actions to restore peace and stability in the border areas. To resolve border differences peacefully through dialogue is a prerequisite for a country to win the trust of its neighbors and stand with dignity in the region. This principle applies to all countries.

Q: On March 30, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress deliberated on and adopted the amendments to Annex I and II to the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR. Some countries including the UK and US have accused this move as a breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, undermining Hong Kong's democracy and the freedoms of the Hong Kong residents, and breaking China's international obligations. What is your comment?

A: Hong Kong is China's Hong Kong. The well-known "one country, two systems", "one country" is the prerequisite. Hong Kong affairs are entirely China's internal affairs. In recent times, in order to achieve the lasting prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, China has made positive progress in laws and systems in terms of safeguarding national security and ensuring that patriots govern Hong Kong. The improvement of the electoral system is to better reflect the broad and balanced political participation of Hong Kong residents, and to better take into account the interests of all classes, sectors, and aspects of society, which is conducive to improving the governance efficiency of the Hong Kong, and is conducive to improving Hong Kong's political, social and business environment as well as rule of law.

We firmly oppose foreign interference in China's internal affairs, and oppose the distorted interpretation and malicious discredit to the efforts made by the Central Government of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government. During the 150-plus years of British colonial rule, Hong Kong residents had suffered much suppression. There was no human rights or democracy at all. May I ask, during that period, why did Britain and the United States does not propose the issue of human rights and democracy in Hong Kong? Obviously, what they care about is not Hong Kong people. They merely use the Hong Kong issue as a card, trying to hinder the rapid development of China and Hong Kong. The relevant parties should stop playing double standards, stop looking with colored glasses, and stop politicizing the Hong Kong issue. We firmly believe that Hong Kong will usher in a brighter future.

Q: The United States and some Western countries claim that China's actions in Xinjiang constitute what they call "genocide". This has angered the Chinese people. What's your comment on this? Please introduce the social and economic development of Xinjiang in recent years.

A: Allegations of "genocide" and "forced labor" are lies of the century. They were ugly farces directed by a handful of colluding individuals in the political, media and academic fields. These people have never been to Xinjiang. They have no idea what a beautiful place it is and how

residents are enjoying their lives. Xinjiang's Uyghur population more than doubled in the past 40 years. Have they ever seen this kind of genocide? Xinjiang's development and progress over the years is all-round, supported by facts and data. No country should use this accusation as a political label for rumor-mongering and malicious manipulation.

In recent years, Xinjiang has made unprecedented achievements in economic and social development and improvement of people's livelihood. From 2014 to 2019, the GDP of Xinjiang increased from 919.59 billion yuan to 1.36 trillion yuan, with an average annual growth rate of 7.2 percent. The per capita disposable income in Xinjiang increased by an average annual rate of 9.1 percent. People in Xinjiang are living and working in peace and contentment. Today the region has not seen a single violent terrorist case for more than four consecutive years. The legitimate rights and interests of the people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang have been protected. All ethnic groups have the same legal status and enjoy various rights in accordance with the law, including participation in the management of state affairs, freedom of religious belief, receiving education, using their own languages, and preserving their traditional culture.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque recently paid a visit to Xinjiang. He spoke highly of the all-round development of Xinjiang and was particularly impressed by the development of transportation and agriculture. He visited mosques and got briefing from the Imam. He told the reporting, saying that "the notable and important thing is that there is freedom of religion in China, and it is enshrined in the Constitution of China. He criticized the propaganda made by the outsiders against Xinjiang. We sincerely welcome people from various sectors in foreign countries to visit Xinjiang and see the beautiful scenery, people's happy life and the region's economic development. Rumors cannot spread when people are truly well-informed. Justice will always prevail.

Q: The third wave of the pandemic in Pakistan keep spreading, and vaccines play a key role in helping Pakistan fight the epidemic. What kind of vaccine cooperation has China and Pakistan carried out? How do you evaluate the significance of the vaccine cooperation between the two parties?

A: China and Pakistan are good brothers and true friends. In the face of the sudden outbreak of the Covid-19, China and Pakistan have been helping each other by every mean. China has always regarded Pakistan as priority for anti-pandemic cooperation and has provided Pakistan with a large amount of material and financial assistance. China will continue to provide support within its capacity for Pakistan's fight against the COVID. Pakistan is the first country to receive vaccine aid from Chinese government and military. China has provided 2 million doses of vaccine to Pakistan, and the Chinese military will provide an additional 250,000 doses of Cansino vaccine. At the same time, we will also start vaccine production cooperation with Pakistan and set up a plant to sub package vaccine in Pakistan. This will effectively help Pakistan improve its vaccine self-supply capacity and further reduce its price.

China will continue to regard Pakistan as its top priority for vaccine cooperation. In the next step, China will provide assistance within its capacity for Pakistan's vaccination plan, continue to

deepen cooperation in vaccine supply and phase III clinical trials, to help Pakistan overcome the pandemic at an early date and build a China-Pakistan health community.

Q: At present, there are less than 300 days left before the Beijing Winter Olympics. What is the current progress of preparations? Is it affected by the new crown epidemic? Please tell us more details.

A: The 2008 Beijing Olympics was a complete success, which received strong support and active participation from Pakistan. Today, the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games has entered the sprint phase, and all preparations are progressing smoothly, especially the deployment of COVID-19 pandemic prevention and control, which was termed as “a miracle” from the praise made by the International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach. China is well-known for its ability to host big events. The international community has great expectation and good confidence in the success of the Beijing Winter Olympics, which is of special significance for strengthening cultural exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. We firmly oppose the attempts to politicize the Olympic Games out of political motivations. We are willing to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Pakistan and warmly welcome Pakistani athletes to participate in the Beijing Olympics.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/753685/china-and-pakistan-good-brothers-and-true-friends/>

The Express Tribune

China reluctant to approve \$6b ML-I loan

ISLAMABAD: Expressing concern over Pakistan’s growing debt, China has shown reluctance to approve \$6 billion loan for the Mainline-I (ML-I) railway track -- the single largest project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor -- according to the record of a meeting and senior Pakistani officials. The construction of ML-1 project in three phases had been approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne) in its meeting held in August last year. The actual cost of the project was \$9bn initially, including equity amount of the government of Pakistan. But later, it was reduced gradually to \$6.8bn. “Beijing conveyed its concerns during a meeting held on March 30 to discuss financing modalities of the project,” the officials added. Moreover, the officials said China also termed the total project cost of \$6.8 billion at the lower side, which Islamabad is now willing to increase further by 15% or \$1 billion. The sources said that in the last meeting, Chinese authorities were wary of Pakistan’s ability to service its debt. The concerns have now also been reflected in the meeting records. “The Chinese side have sought clarification regarding the possibility of raising further debt by Pakistan during currency of the IMF programme. The Pakistani side clarified that debt situation is being monitored and there is no restriction under the programme to raise debt for viable projects,” Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Dr Jehanzeb Khan told The Express Tribune while responding to a question. The Chinese sides also showed its reservations over restrictions imposed by Group 20 nations and the International Monetary Fund which, in Beijing’s view, could undermine the ML-1 project, according to discussions that take took place in the last ML-I

Financing Committee meeting held on March 30th. “The Chinese side expressed concerns about Pakistan’s debts, including IMF’s requirements for the Pakistani government to avail loans and about the impact of restrictions under the G-20 Debt Servicing Suspension Initiative (DSSI) on the financing of the ML-I project,” showed a correspondence between Pakistan and China. Pakistan’s public debt has jumped to 87.2% of the Gross Domestic Product at the end of the last fiscal year and the country is consuming over 60% of tax revenues in debt servicing. It was 72.5% of the GDP when the PML-N tenure ended about three years ago. Pakistan has also availed the G-20 temporary debt relief worth \$3.5 billion from July 2020 through December 2021 which, according to Beijing, was a signal of weakening debt repayment capacity. “However, Pakistani authorities tried to remove the reservations shown by their Chinese counterpart,” the officials told The Express Tribune. The Pakistani side stated that the IMF has not imposed any restriction on loans for the ML-I project and that country’s foreign debt was largely under control and the government has the ability to repay the debts, according to the documents. The Pakistani side held that the implementation of the ML-I project would bring multiple benefits to Pakistan Railways, in addition to improving the financial situation of the company. The ML-I project includes dualization and upgrading of the 1,872km railway track from Peshawar to Karachi and is a major milestone for the second phase of CPEC and its construction is facing a delay of over three years. The government has planned to complete the ML-I project in various packages, spanning over almost 10 years and aimed at spreading the loan over a longer period due to concerns expressed by the IMF. China also highlighted the dilapidated financial condition of Pakistan Railways that do not allow it to take \$6 billion new debt on its books. The negotiations to secure the loan have been going on for the last over one year but so far no conclusion has been reached. The project is facing delays of over three years against the original schedule agreed between the two countries.

In a meeting held on March 30, Pakistan again expected that the loan currency would be a combination of RMB and the US dollar, covering 85% of the project cost, with an interest rate comparable to the infrastructure project under CPEC and promised that the Pakistani government would provide guarantees. The share of each currency has not been indicated in the revised term sheet. China wants to give the \$6 billion loan in RMB, as it competes with global dominance of the US dollar. “Pakistan has not yet accepted the Chinese stance of getting a mix of commercial and concessionary loans,” said the sources. Both the sides have not converged on the loan payback period. China has proposed 15 to 20-year payback period, including a five-year grace period. Pakistan has asked for a 25-year repayment period, including a 10-year grace period. The Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong, on Friday met with Minister for Planning Asad Umar and discussed matters related to bilateral relations and projects under the CPEC and the upcoming Joint Cooperation Committee meeting, according to a Planning Ministry handout. But the handout was silent on the the 10th JCC meeting date, which Pakistan has been trying to hold since October last year. The sources said that Asad Umar pointed that a deal on ML-I was important to showcase the JCC as a successful event. The sources added China was reluctant to hold the JCC until it is assured that CPEC is fully back on track. Both the sides have now agreed

that a joint roadmap to push forward the ML-I project implementation that will entail confirming financial terms, launching bidding process and concluding the commercial contract, will be finalised.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2298879/china-reluctant-to-approve-6b-ml-i-loan>

The News

Pak Army receives second batch of corona vaccine from Chinese military

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani military received a second batch of COVID-19 vaccines from the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), China Military Online reported Friday.

Pakistan Army received the first batch of the vaccine from the Chinese PLA on February 8, becoming the first foreign military to get the COVID-19 vaccine from the Chinese military.

The vaccine was provided with the approval of the Central Military Commission, and at the request of the Pakistani military, according to China Military Online.

Meanwhile, the first batch of China's CanSino COVID-19 vaccines that the Pakistani government purchased in bulk also reached Pakistan a few days ago, CanSino Biologics told the Chinese media.

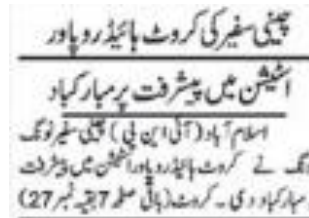
The bulk vaccines will now help Pakistan manufacture the vaccine locally to support the country's fight against COVID-19, the company told Xinhua.

The third phase trials of the CanSino vaccine had been conducted in Pakistan and it is the second Chinese COVID-19 vaccine that Pakistan approved for emergency use in the country.

Currently, Pakistan is facing a third wave of COVID-19 and the positivity rate has seen a sharp rise, forcing the authorities to continue tightening the anti-pandemic measures and facilitating the vaccination drive.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/832292-pak-army-receives-second-batch-of-corona-vaccine-from-chinese-military>

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Nawaiwaqt News

سات دہائیوں سے پاک چین تعلقات مضبوط تر ہوئے، چیئرمین سینیٹ

اسلام آباد (نیوز پورٹ) چیئرمین سینیٹ محمد صادق سنجرانی نے کہا ہے کہ چین کے ساتھ تعلقات ہماری خارجہ پالیسی میں اہم مقام رکھتے ہیں اور جبہ کہ تمام سیاسی جماعتیں چین کے ساتھ دو طرفہ تعاون اور دوستی پر یکجا ہیں۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے پاکستان چین دوستی کے 70 سال مکمل ہونے پر خصوصی پیغام میں کیا۔ انہوں نے پاکستان اور چین کی عوام کو مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ گزشتہ سات دہائیوں کے دوران دونوں ممالک کے مابین تعلقات مضبوط سے مضبوط تر ہوئے ہیں۔ دوستی اور اعتماد کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے محمد صادق سنجرانی نے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک نے ہر مشکل وقت میں ایک دوسرے کا ساتھ دیا ہے اور گزشتہ برس دنیا کے پارلیمانوں میں پاکستان کا ایوان بالا پہلا پارلیمان تھا جس نے چین کی تعریف کے حوالے سے قرارداد پاس کی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان نے چین کے ساتھ اظہار یکجہتی اور پاکستان کو سپورٹ کرنے کے حوالے سے دو قراردادیں بھی پاس کی ہیں۔ یہ امر انتہائی حوصلہ افزا ہے کہ شی جن پنگ کی قیادت میں چین نے شاندار ترقی کی منازل طے کی ہیں اور ان کے دور حکومت میں پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات نے نمایاں فروغ پایا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کی بدولت دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات میں ایک نئے دور کا آغاز ہوا ہے اور یہ بات خوش آئند ہے کہ سی پیک کا پہلا فیئر مکمل ہو چکا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-08/page-12/detail-20>

وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی اسد عمر سے چین کے سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ کی ملاقات

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) پاکستان میں چین کے سفیر نوٹنگ روٹنگ نے وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی اسد عمر سے ملاقات کی، اجلاس میں دو طرفہ تعلقات، سی پیک کے تحت منصوبوں اور اورجے سی سی کی آئندہ میٹنگ کے حوالے سے بات چیت کی گئی، اجلاس میں نوٹ کیا گیا کہ علامہ اقبال خصوصی ڈون اور ریشمی ڈون کا کام تسلی بخش طریقے سے آگے بڑھ رہا ہے وفاقی وزیر نے دونوں ممالک کے سرمایہ کاروں کے درمیان ان ڈون کے حوالے سے مشترکہ منصوبوں پر زور دیا، چینی سفیر نے کہا کہ ان کا ملک سرمایہ کورون کو راغب کرنے کے لئے کوشاں رہے گا، ملاقات میں منصوبوں کی پیشرفت کا جائزہ لیا گیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-08/page-12/detail-17>

May 09, 2021

Business Recorder

Chinese textile Co signs deal with GB govt to train 2,000 workers

LAHORE: A Lahore-based Chinese textile company Challenge has signed an agreement with the Gilgit-Baltistan government to train 2,000 workers and provide jobs to them in its factory in Lahore.

The signing ceremony of the agreement between the Chinese investment company and the government of Gilgit-Baltistan was held in Islamabad in which the managing director of China Karen Chen and the representative of the government of Gilgit-Baltistan signed the agreement. Qamar Bobi, a famous businessman who played a vital role in bringing Chinese investment in Pakistan was also present there.

Speaking on the occasion, Karen Chen, Managing Director, Challenge Group, said that as per the agreement, 2,000 workers would be selected from Gilgit-Baltistan and after training, they would be given jobs in textile establishments in Lahore where the employees would be provided accommodation and food free of cost.

Karen Chen said that with an investment of \$150million, Lahore-Multan Road is being set up.

The textile unit is employing 3000 people while Lahore-Kasur Road is being set up with \$450 million.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/09/2-page/885530-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

60pc work of Suki Kinari Hydro Power Project completed

The Suki Kinari Hydro Power Project worth US \$ two billion being completed at a cost of US \$ two billion under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework is expected to become operational by December 2022. Around 60 percent work of the 884 MW hydro power project in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province has been completed. It has also achieved the second-stage river closure, entering a new phase of its dam construction, according to a report published by CEN. Suki Kinari Hydropower Project is the largest independent hydro power producer in Pakistan, expected to generate 3,081 GWh million units per year. The project is expected to increase power generation capacity by more than five percent. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government will earn approximately Pakistani 1.5 billion rupees per year water use in the form of royalty. The province will receive additional 113MW electricity in its share after completion. Suki Kinari is a run-of-the-river largest private sector hydropower project located on Kunhar River in the Kaghan Valley of District Mansehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The project poses minimal environmental and social impact because it is a run-of-the-river project. It is considered one of the most cost-effective hydropower schemes in the region due to its high design head of 900 meters and relatively short intake structure crest. The Kunhar river originates and traverses through the whole length in Pakistani territory which ensures 100 percent uninterrupted flow through the project life. The project will generate maximum power for up to four hours daily. This project is being supported and closely monitored by the governments of Pakistan and China due to its importance. Chinese company 'China Gezgouba Group Corporation' initiated the work on Suki Kinari Hydropower Project in 2017. The project is being built on a "Build-Own-Operate and Transfer" basis in accordance with the Government of Pakistan's Policy for Power Generation Projects 2002. The total operational life of the project is 100 years and the company will hand

over the Suki Kinari hydropower project to the Government of Pakistan after 30 years. During this period, the company will be responsible for its maintenance and other expenditures. The potential for energy generation from Kunhar River was first identified around 1960. In 1959, Charles T Main US consultants were engaged by the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) to study this potential. In January 1960, they issued a report entitled “Kunhar River Project-Kaghan Valley”.

<https://pakobserver.net/60pc-work-of-suki-kinari-hydro-power-project-completed/>

The Express Tribune

Circular debt also hits CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) power projects are also hit by the circular debt and the government has not been able to clear Rs188 billion due payments in breach of a bilateral energy framework agreement. Although, the outstanding payments are only 18.4% of the billed amount, it has started affecting the financing models of the Chinese sponsors of the Independent Power Producers (IPPs), set up under the CPEC agreement. “Pakistan has so far paid Rs832 billion on account of power purchase price to the Chinese IPPs,” Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Energy Tabish Gohar told The Express Tribune. Gohar said that the Central Power Purchase Agency Guaranteed (CPPA-G) could not clear Rs188 billion worth dues. The outstanding amount is only 18.4% of the total billed amount of Rs1.02 trillion, which is not a very large sum, he added. The PM’s aide said that 82% payment ratio was very good given the fact that total outstanding circular debt has increased to Rs2.6 trillion. Under the CPEC Energy Framework Agreement, Pakistan was supposed to set up a CPEC Revolving Fund equal to 22% of monthly invoice, which shall be backed by the sovereign guarantees provided by the Ministry of Finance. The purpose of the fund was that in case the power purchaser fails to make payments, the dues of the Chinese firms will be settled against this account to ensure uninterrupted payments to Chinese sponsors of energy projects. Pakistan and China had signed CPEC Energy Framework Agreement in November 2014. “We could not establish the Revolving Fund,” said Gohar. The circular debt, which was Rs1.15 trillion in June 2018, has swelled to Rs2.6 trillion. The government has now made a three-pronged strategy to reduce this debt to June 2018 level in the next two years. The strategy that talks about improving efficiency, timely payment of subsidies and increasing tariffs has yet to test the waters. Under CPEC, a 300 megawatts coal-fired power plant has also been planned to be set up in Gwadar, which is now facing significant delays. One of the reasons behind delay in start of the construction work on the Gwadar coal project was default on the guarantees issued by China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinasure), said Gohar. Sinasure had charged 7% fee on the insurance of the loans given to the Chinese companies that set up CPEC power projects. But Gohar said that Gwadar imported coal project should not be constructed. If firm commitments have been given, these would be honoured, he added. Against an investment of \$300 million in the project, Pakistan would return \$1 billion in the next 20 years, said the special assistant. Gohar maintained that the Gwadar power plant-II would not be installed, as the government has banned imported-coal

based power projects. Gohar said that the Power Division proposed that the government can provide electricity to Gwadar by extending National Transmission and Dispatch Company network. The project can be funded from the budget, he added. Gohar said that the government has also downgraded the Chashma-5 nuclear power project from a committed to a candidate project. This has been done under the National Electricity Policy, being approved as part of a loan condition of the World Bank. “The nuclear generation capacity additions, shall be incorporated in the IGCEP on the basis of cross-sectoral decisions by way of consultative process, taking into account inter alia, economics of generation, resultant tariff, and demand of the sector,” according to the policy. Gohar said in future only those nuclear power projects will be set up, which are economically viable. In case some projects are strategically important then the Ministry of Finance will have to allocate budget. The government now plans to undertake only those projects that have achieved letter of support and are required to fulfill COD deadlines, projects that have specific timelines under the government to government and multilateral arrangements. The government also has a plan to China to consider restructuring of the \$3 billion IPPs repayments for 10 to 12 years. The initiative is part of the hosts of proposals that the PTI government is exploring to minimise tariff increase requirements estimated in the range of Rs4.60 to Rs5.65 per unit under a recently approved Circular Debt Management Plan. China has set up 12 power plants under CPEC and the repayments of the Chinese debt are included in the electricity tariffs.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2299004/circular-debt-also-hits-cpec-projects>

The News

Pakistan benefits from Chinese maize-soybean strip intercropping tech

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chancellor of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) Athar Mehboob visited demonstration of maize-soybean strip intercropping technology at Khairpur Tamewali, Bahawalpur.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), he explored all the demonstrative plots to check both crops’ growth and greenness. “We need to learn from our Chinese brothers how they modernize their agriculture and how they increase the yields with less resource,” he said.

Seeing Chinese agricultural technology’s successful localization in Pakistan, “here I want to say thanks to the Chinese President Xi Jinping who introduced China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Pakistan,” Athar Mehboob said.

He also expressed gratitude to Professor Yang Wenyu of Sichuan Agricultural University, and Dr. Gu Wenliang, Agricultural Commissioner, Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, for their generous support.

Dr Gu twitted about the visit that “I also have full confidence that this technology would change the edible oil production in Pakistan soon.” “We desperately want to sign MoUs with Chinese

universities to learn from their high-yielding experience. We are ready to provide all the facilities to Chinese professors and scientists if they are interested to do any research in Pakistan.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/832777-pakistan-benefits-from-chinese-maize-soybean-strip-intercropping-tech>

Express News

گردشی قرض سے سی پیک کے منصوبے بھی متاثر

اسلام آباد : سی پیک کے پاور پروپوزیشن بھی گردشی قرضے سے متاثر ہوئے ہیں جب کہ حکومت واجب الادا 188 ارب روپے کی ادائیگی نہ کر سکی۔

پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے پاور پروپوزیشن بھی گردشی قرضے سے متاثر ہوئے ہیں اور حکومت واجب الادا 188 ارب روپے کی ادائیگی نہیں کر سکی ہے جو دو طرفہ انرجی فریم ورک معاہدے کی خلاف ورزی ہے۔

اگرچہ واجب الادا رقوم مجموعی رقم 18.44 فیصد ہیں تاہم ان کی وجہ سے سی پیک معاہدے کے تحت قائم کردہ آئی پی پی کے چینی اسپانسرز کا فنانسنگ ماڈل متاثر ہونے لگا ہے۔

وزیر اعظم کے معاون خصوصی برائے توانائی تالیش گوہر نے ایکسپریس ٹریبون سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاکستان چینی آئی پی پی پیز کو بجلی کی خرید کے عوض اب تک 832 ارب روپے کلیئر نہیں کر سکی۔ 188 (CPPA-G) ارب روپے ادا کر چکا ہے۔ تاہم ان کا کہنا تھا کہ سیٹل پاور پراجیکٹس گارنٹیڈ

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ واجب الادا رقم 10.2 کھرب روپے کی مجموعی رقم کا صرف 18.4 فیصد ہے اور کوئی زیادہ بڑی رقم نہیں ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ ادائیگیوں کا 82 فیصد تناسب اس تناظر میں بہت اچھا ہے کہ مجموعی گردشی قرض 26 کھرب روپے تک پہنچ چکا ہے۔

سی پیک انرجی فریم ورک ایگریمنٹ کے تحت پاکستان کو ماہانہ بل کے 22 فیصد کے مساوی سی پیک ریو لوٹنگ فنڈ قائم کرنا تھا۔ اس کا مقصد یہ تھا کہ اگر خریدار ادائیگیاں کرنے میں ناکام رہے تو چینی فرموں کو اس فنڈ سے ادائیگی کر دی جائے۔

تالیش گوہر کا کہنا تھا کہ ہم ریو لوٹنگ فنڈ قائم نہیں کر سکے۔ جون 2018ء میں گردش قرض 11.5 کھرب روپے تھا جو اب بڑھ کر 26 کھرب روپے تک پہنچ چکا ہے۔ آئندہ دو سال کے دوران گردشی قرض کو جون 2018ء کی سطح پر لانے کے لیے حکومت نے سہ جہتی حکمت عملی تشکیل دی ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2176147/6/>

چینی کمپنی گلگت کے 2 ہزار روز کرز کو تربیت دے گی

چینی ٹیکسٹائل کمپنی گلگت بلتستان کے دو ہزار مزدوروں کو تربیت فراہم کرے گی جب کہ تربیت لاہور میں قائم چینی کمپنی چیلنج ٹیکسٹائل کی جانب سے دی جائے گی۔

چینی ٹیکسٹائل کمپنی چیلنج نے گلگت بلتستان حکومت سے ایک معاہدہ کیا ہے، جس کے تحت 2000 روز کرز کو تربیت دینے کے بعد لاہور میں اپنی فیکٹری میں ملازمتیں دی جائیں گی، معاہدہ کی تقریب اسلام آباد میں ہوئی جس میں چیلنج گروپ کی مینیجنگ ڈائریکٹر کیرن چن اور گلگت بلتستان حکومت کے نمائندے نے معاہدے پر دستخط کئے، گلگت بلتستان کے وزیر اعلیٰ خالد خورشید اور بزنس مین قمر خان بولہ بھی موجود تھے۔

کیرن چین نے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ گلگت بلتستان سے 2000 ورکرز کا انتخاب کیا جائے گا پھر انہیں تربیت دینے کے بعد لاہور میں قائم ٹیکسٹائل اداروں میں ملازمتیں دی جائیں گی جہاں ملازمین کو رہائش اور کھانا بھی مفت فراہم کیا جاتا ہے۔

کیرن چین نے کہا کہ 150 ملین ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری سے لاہور ملتان روڈ پر قائم ٹیکسٹائل یونٹ میں 3000 افراد ملازمت کر رہے ہیں جبکہ لاہور قصبہ روڈ پر 450 ملین ڈالر کی لاگت سے چیپنج فیشن ایکسپورٹ پارک قائم کیا جا رہا ہے جہاں پانچ ہزار سے زائد افراد کو روزگار ملے گا۔

گلگت بلتستان کے وزیر اعلیٰ خالد خورشید نے چینی کمپنی کا شکریہ ادا کیا کہ انہوں نے ہمارے علاقے کی عوام کے لئے روزگار کے مواقع فراہم کئے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2176143/6/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین سے آزادانہ تجارت کے تحت پاکستانی برآمدات میں 64 فیصد اضافہ

پر عمل درآمد کے بعد جنوری تا مارچ (II پی ایف ٹی اے۔) اسلام آباد (اے پی پی) یکم جنوری 2021ء سے چین پاکستان آزادانہ تجارت کے معاہدہ کے دوسرے مرحلہ 2021ء کے دوران چین کو کی جانے والی پاکستانی برآمدات میں 64 فیصد اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ بیجنگ میں پاکستانی سفارتخانہ کے کمرشل قونصلر بدر الزمان نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین آزادانہ تجارت کے معاہدہ کے دوسرے مرحلہ پر عمل درآمد کا آغاز یکم جنوری کو ہوا تھا جس کے بعد رواں سال کی پہلی سہ ماہی کے دوران چین کو کی جانے والی قومی برآمدات 64 فیصد بڑھی ہیں۔ چائینہ انٹرنیک نیٹ (سی ای این) کی رپورٹ کے مطابق چین کی درآمدی مارکیٹ کا حجم دو کھرب ڈالر سے زیادہ ہے اور پاکستان اس سے خاطر خواہ استفادہ کر سکتا ہے۔ بدر الزمان نے کہا کہ چین کی بڑی درآمدی مارکیٹ سے استفادہ کیلئے تجارتی برادری کو کردار ادا کرنا چاہئے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-09/page-8/detail-0>

May 10, 2021

Daily Times

Sinovac vaccine: one million more doses arrive

Another stock of one million doses of Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine arrived in Pakistan from China through a special plane of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA).

The federal government has expedited the imports of Covid-19 vaccines after the virus spread intensifies in the country. Prior to the arrival of fresh stock, six special planes of the national carrier had brought millions of vaccine doses to Pakistan.

Sources told that Pakistan has purchased the Sinovac vaccines from a Chinese pharmaceutical company and the stock arrived at Islamabad airport. Earlier on May 9, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) had announced that Pakistan received nearly 12 million doses of corona vaccine so far. The country has received overall 11.9 mln doses of China's Sinopharm, Sinovac and CanSino Covid-19 vaccines and AstraZeneca from the COVAX, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) said in its statement.

COVAX had provided 1.23 mln vaccine doses of Oxford University's AstraZeneca, the NCOC further said. "Large consignments of corona vaccine are expected in Pakistan this month," NCOC said. "Pakistan will receive one million doses of Sinovac on May 09, (tomorrow), while 1.5 mln doses of Sinovac will reach Pakistan between May 13 to 15," according to NCOC.

The country will also receive 1.5 mln more doses of Sinovac at the end of this month, NCOC said. Pakistan's umbrella body to tackle the Covid-19 crisis has advised people above 60 years of age to get vaccinated as people above 60 are more vulnerable to the disease. It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan will also prepare a Chinese coronavirus vaccine locally from this month.

Strict adherence to SOPs

National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Sunday directed the provincial governments to use all resources and ensure strict implementation of Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during the lockdown.

A meeting of the NCOC was held with Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar and Lt Gen Hamooduz Zaman Khan in the chair in Islamabad to discuss the overall Covid-19 situation in the country.

The meeting decided that tourism points all across the country will remain closed from 8th to 16th May. All travel nodes leading to tourist/picnic spots will also remain closed. All routes to the tourist spots will be closed including northern areas, Seaview and other coastal areas, according to NCOC.

Shopping malls, markets, hotels and restaurants will also be closed including the hotels and restaurants located in the surroundings of picnic places.

However, the restrictions will not be applied to food services, grocery, petrol pumps, bakeries, medical stores and other shops of essential commodities.

However, groceries shops, Bakeries and Sweet shops are allowed to remain open on daily basis till 06:00 pm for the duration from 8 to 16 May 21. Tandoors and milk shops will remain open 24 /7 with immediate effect.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/754413/sinovac-vaccine-one-million-more-doses-arrive/>

The Nation

Silk Route to KKH and CPEC

Masud Ahmad Khan

The Silk Route refers to all the routes leading west out of China to Central Asia, the Middle East, the subcontinent and beyond. In 1877, Baron Ferdinand coined the term Silk Route as he produced maps during his stay in China and depicted trade routes between China and Europe. Marco Polo was the one who claimed to have travelled the entire length of the Silk Route, from

Europe to China, in the 13th century. Mule caravans for centuries carried silk, tea and other goods from China to be bartered for gold and spices from the subcontinent.

According to Rajatarangini, a link between Kashmir and Xinjiang, especially including the kingdoms of Khotan and Kashgar, has existed since ancient times. The locals call the route, to Kashgar from Gilgit, the Silk Route which starts in Gilgit along the Hunza River, reaches the Passu village and then crosses the river towards the Kilk pass to enter Taghdumbash (Xinjiang) and then to Tashkurgan, Yarkand and Kashgar. Hunza was a transitory point as it was used by caravan travelers and pilgrims.

With the passage of time, the Silk Route was replaced the Karakoram Highway (KKH). The plans for the construction of the KKH were made in 1958 to 1959. Work on the construction started in 1966 and the Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) was created for this purpose. At the peak of construction, Pakistan had some 15,000 men working while the Chinese side also numbered in thousands. KKH was completed in 1978, and officially opened on May 1, 1986. The construction of road was completed in 15 years and it runs through some of the world's most rugged terrains, superb landscape and breathtaking panorama.

The road passes through the Himalaya, Hindukush and Karakoram ranges and much of the highway follows the old Silk Route. 810 Pakistani and 82 Chinese workers lost their lives during construction. The importance of Gilgit-Baltistan has increased with its construction as well as with the start of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). CPEC is a project of the Belt and Road Initiative to promote economic cooperation through the Gwadar port, energy, infrastructure and industrial cooperation. The 64 billion dollar project includes a network of roads and railway infrastructure along with hydro power plants. CPEC will link Kashgar in the Xinjian region with the port city of Gwadar in Pakistan. The distance from Gwadar to Khunjerab is 2463 kilometers and the Gwadar port will save at least more than 16,000 kilometers of distance for China. The project is likely a game changer for Pakistan in general and Gilgit-Baltistan in particular.

CPEC will bring about a lot of changes in the region, particularly in regards to infrastructure, construction of roads and hydro power projects. It would formalise business opportunities for the people of Gilgit-Baltistan who are already doing business with China and remain in continuous contact with the Chinese region of Xinjian for business activities.

India is continuously raising a question on the construction of CPEC by stating that Gilgit-Baltistan is a disputed region. India is feeling threatened by the Chinese presence next door as well as by CPEC. It has been confirmed that India has established a special cell at the cost of 500 million dollars to sabotage CPEC. Last year, Foreign Minister Qureshi said that India is spending 800 crores in Balochistan with the intent to damage CPEC and has recruited 700 members of the militia.

The Gilgit-Baltistan government has already been warned by the federal government of potential terrorist attacks in the region to sabotage the CPEC. The US also has concerns about CPEC and

is wanting to contain China. CPEC has been included as a full-fledged subject at the US National Defence University. The hostile factions carrying out terrorist attacks against Chinese and Pakistan interests are trying to give the message that the project is not safe. The recent attack at the parking of the Serena Hotel is just an example.

Earlier, India was also involved in terrorist attacks on the Pearl Continental Hotel in Gwadar and the Chinese consulate in Karachi. India is beyond any doubt, directly involved in terrorism—especially in Balochistan. Pakistan has already exposed India’s nefarious design against CPEC. DG ISPR last year exposed India’s links, financing, training and sponsorship of terrorism to the world. Pakistan’s security forces will continue to thwart all hostile attempts to sabotage the project and destabilise the country.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-10/page-6/detail-4>

Pakistani beef export to grab sufficient place in Chinese market

BEIJING - As China has a supply gap of beef and Pakistan has sufficient capacity, efforts are being made for Pakistani beef to enter into the Chinese market and grab a sufficient place of the product opening a wide opportunities of export to the neighbouring country.

China is a large meat importer of beef. In 2020, China’s beef production reached 6.72 million tons, and the import volume reached to 2.1183 million tons with an increase of 27.65 per cent, setting the beef import record. At the same time, China’s chicken import volume nearly doubled as compared with that in 2019.

China’s annual output of beef and mutton added up to 10 million tons, said Li Jinghui, Deputy Secretary General of China Animal Agriculture Association and President of

White-feathered Broiler Alliance. He added, “China’s per capita output is a few kilograms, which fails to meet domestic needs. That’s why there are millions of tons of imports”.

China is a major meat importer while animal husbandry plays an important role in the economy of Pakistan; yet annual meat trade between the two countries is very small. So far, China has not opened the door of Pakistani beef import, as Pakistan is still on China’s

“List of Animals and Their Products in the Countries and Regions with A Prevalent Animal Epidemic Situation Banned for Entry,” according to a report published by CEN.

In 2019, China and Pakistan signed the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Free Zone Agreement. Pakistani government is undertaking a vaccination programme to address the FMD issue. In this way, Pakistan is expected to move from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)’s Stage-2 category for countries (in which FMD is reduced to target areas) to Stage-3.

The Chinese research institutions are providing Pakistan with state-of-the-art technology, said He Cheng, a professor at China Agricultural University’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

He added, “With vaccines and training personnel, Pakistan can produce certified and FMD free meat and dairy products, which is our goal”.

On the site selection of FMD free zone, Shen Jing, Deputy General Manager of QYH Biotech, with China Animal Husbandry Industry as its shareholder, revealed that they plan to build the FMD free area in either Balochistan province or Punjab province, and carry out the construction with the support of Chinese customs and quarantine agencies.

At the same time, he said they would further explore the possibility of information and personnel exchange, promote the use of vaccines and the establishment of standards, and advance the mutual recognition of standards.

Food and fodder should go ahead of troops and horses. Vaccine is a key element in the construction of FMD free zone. At present, the FMD vaccines, approved by Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, mainly comes from China, Russia and Western Europe.

Masood Rabbani, Vice Chancellor of University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS), proposed an idea to realize the localization of FMD vaccines with the help of China.

“We have a vaccine research institution in Pakistan, and we can accept investment from Chinese enterprises to build processing facilities to produce foot-and-mouth disease vaccine,” he said.

As an enterprise exporting FMD vaccines to Pakistan in 2019, Shen Jing also plans to bring Chinese vaccine technology to Pakistan. “We will build a veterinary vaccine factory in Gwadar Port, Pakistan. The annual output of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine is expected to be 700 million doses. It is not only used in Pakistan, but also exported to the Middle East and South Asian countries.”

Gwadar Port sits at the southern end of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. As a Chinese enterprise deeply involved in Gwadar Port, Zhang Baozhong, the chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Company, put forward a new idea.

He suggested that China and Pakistan make decisions as soon as possible and take Gwadar Port as a green channel for agricultural cooperation. “That is to say, we can carry out corresponding inspection and quarantine in Gwadar Port. After the products are transported to Chinese ports, no further inspection and quarantine is required. In this way, these goods can reach Chinese consumers directly.”

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-10/page-9/detail-0>

China-Pakistan to issue commemorative stamps to mark 70th anniversary of ties

BEIJING - China has decided, in cooperation with Pakistan, to issue a set of commemorative stamps on May 21 to mark seven decades of the establishment of their diplomatic relations.

The commemorative stamps include two pieces, featuring Zhuhai Port, China and Gwadar Port, Pakistan, says State Post Bureau of China.

7.1 million units of the commemorative set will be in circulation from May 21. The stamps contain distinctive elements of Zhuhai Port and Gwadar Port. Setting blue as the characteristic hue, artists used graphic design techniques to present the beautiful scenery of the two ports through a bird's-eye view.

According to CEN here on Sunday, the stamps are special-shaped, with two stamps being linked together, forming the visual effect of waves undulating and flags flying. Up in the left-hand corner is the name of the stamp combined with red/green, the basic colors of the national flags of China and Pakistan. Overall the design is simple and smooth, full of dynamic. Zhuhai, one of the earliest 4 special economic zones of China, is now listed as one of the Key Cities of Greater Bay Area Cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area. Zhuhai Port is one of the 24 major ports along the coast of China and one of the five major ports in Guangdong Province.

It is adjacent to Hong Kong and Macau and has the highest 150,000-ton main waterway in the Pearl River Delta and a comprehensive logistics system integrating 'river, sea, land, railway and air'. It is an important port node of 'Belt and Road Initiative.' Gwadar, located on the shores of the Arabian Sea in the western province of Balochistan, Pakistan, is a node of several key shipping routes from the African European continent to the eastern Pacific and Asia via the Red Sea, the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf. It is an important part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

To mark the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan on May 21, 1951, both countries are organizing a series of events throughout 2021 to commemorate the historic milestone in a befitting manner.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-10/page-15/detail-2>

The News

70 years of diplomatic relations: Pak-China Institute organises webinar

Asim Yasin

ISLAMABAD: In commemoration of 70 years of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations, the Pakistan-China Institute has organised a webinar titled "Future leaders in shaping Pakistan-China relations".

The conference was arranged under the Friends of Silk Road initiative and the webinar was arranged to understand and facilitate bilateral youth exchanges under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as it enters its second phase.

This was the first-of-its-kind bilateral dialogue aimed at engaging the youth of both countries.

An illustrious panel of eight speakers, including young parliamentary leaders, Senator Qurratul Ain Marri and Senator Dr Afnanullah Khan, participated in the webinar. The keynote speakers were divided into two sessions, which was moderated by Qianli Liu, Editor of Guancha, while

opening remarks were given by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director Pakistan China Institute.

The conference was divided into two sessions with different themes. The theme of session one was “Pakistan-China Future Cooperation: A Perspective of Young Leaders” whereas, the second session was themed as “People-to-People Connectivity: Role of media and culture” The event was moderated by Qianli Liu, Editor of Guancha, who highlighted 70 successful years of Pakistan-China relationship in shaping future of the region. About youth exchanges, she said that youth development doesn’t distinguish on race, ethnicity, and religion, and so must be taken forward.

Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute, in his opening remarks, talked about how since Friends of Silk Road’s establishment in February 2019 has brought prominent members of political parties, business groups, students, civil society, members of academia and the media together to enhance connectivity among people. He highlighted that these exchanges are a fundamental pillar of Pakistan-China relations.

Moreover, he highlighted the need for the youth to expand and enhance this beautiful and inherited bilateral strategic relationship for the next 70 years. While talking about CPEC, Sayed said that this project will engineer social equity revolution in the country.

Dr Afnan Ullah Khan spoke on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence: How Pakistan can learn from China?

He quoted President Xi Jinping, who had emphasised the need to promote the integration of internet, big data and artificial intelligence with the real economy, and added that Pakistan needs to learn from the Chinese model to harness big data for making better-informed decisions, such as enhancing GDP growth.

Bayazeed Kasi, Adviser to PTI on CPEC Affairs, spoke on role of youth in building a community of shared future. Recounting his interactions with youth in Balochistan, Kasi highlighted that Pakistan’s youth is more than eager to contribute to Pak-China iron brotherhood. However, he highlighted that as 65 per cent of Pakistan’s population consists of youth, more opportunities need to be provided to them so they can contribute towards strengthening the Pakistan-China relations.

He highlighted that the academia needs to train and provide a platform to the youth so they are motivated to work for the welfare of people. He concluded by saying, “An untrained worker can never make a building, so we need to train our youth on the lines of contributing towards boosting Pakistan-China ties.”

Dr Lou Chunhao, Deputy Director and Associate Research Professor of the Institute of South Asian Studies at the China Institutes of Contemporary Relations, spoke on Pakistan-China Cooperation: Challenges & Opportunities.

After congratulating the panel on 70 years of Pakistan-China relations, he highlighted four areas of opportunities for Pakistan and China. These were political commitment, which is a prerequisite, economic cooperation, a solid foundation for Pak-China relations, strategic convergence, shared convergent ideas, and Covid 19, against which he thinks Pakistan and China have put up a strong front.

Senator Quratulain Marri showed a good grasp over Women Empowerment and CPEC as she advocated for female inclusion in CPEC-related projects. She presented China as a model country which falls at top 30pc of Global Gender Gap Index, and said that Pakistan can learn from this. She advocated that while CPEC presents a number of opportunities, women empowerment can only come after female perspectives are catered to, such as in Thar coal power plant.

Senator Marri said: “An increase of women employment by 25pc, creates a GDP growth of 33pc, and Pakistan needs to work towards achieving this if it wants to make CPEC a tangible reality for the people at the grass-root level.”

In session 2, Dr Hina Aslam, Associate Research Fellow at SDPI, recounted her own experience of studying in China as she talked on Breaking Barriers – Studying in China. She highlighted that her contribution towards Pakistan-China relations has been through teaching the Chinese language course in Pakistan, after completing her Master’s in China.

She also shed light on the need to closely look at the environmental aspect of CPEC to make it a more sustainable project, something for which stakeholders in both Pakistan and China have shown motivation for.

Wang Benqian, Deputy General Manager of China Road and Bridge Corporation, talked about the Role of CPEC in enhancing mutual understanding. As he recounted his 10 years’ experience living in Pakistan, he highlighted that CPEC should not only be built on land but in the hearts of people, as is envisioned by President Xi Jinping as well.

He said CPEC will serve as a pre-requisite for enhanced political and economic cooperation and people-to-people cultural exchanges.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/833205-70-years-of-diplomatic-relations-pak-china-institute-organises-webinar-by-asim-yasin>

Award ceremony of drawing contest for Chinese & Pakistani students held

BEIJING: The award-giving ceremony of the China (Henan) and Pakistan (Balochistan) drawing contest for Middle School Students and the Sister School contract signing ceremony was held online in Zhengzhou and Gwadar simultaneously, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.

The ceremony was organized by China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) and co-hosted by the People’s Government of Henan Province, the Government of Balochistan and the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan.

The report stated that the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties is around the corner.

In the beginning of 2021, the drawing contest themed “Pakistan in my heart” and “China in my heart” had started among students of the Affiliated Middle School of Henan Normal University, Zhengzhou No. 122 Middle School and Gwadar Faqeer Middle School.

Nearly 20,000 Chinese and Pakistani teens attended the contest to depict their understanding and expectation of each other’s country, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Huo Jinhua, Vice Governor of Henan Province addressed the ceremony and presented prizes to the winners.

“Henan, the cradle of the Chinese Nation and Civilization, is an important province in China in terms of population, society, economy, science and technology.

Attaching great importance to China-Pakistan friendly relations, Henan devotes to developing bilateral economy, establishing sister city ties, and promoting cultural exchanges with Pakistan,” said Huo Jinhua, Vice Governor of Henan Province at the ceremony.

Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, congratulated the winners at the ceremony.

He underlined that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners, sharing weal and woe. “As the flagship project of BRI, CPEC has made great contributions to Pakistan’s economic development and regional interconnection.

CPEC construction is putting more emphasis on social welfare and people’s livelihood,” he added.

Moin-ul-Haque, Pakistani Ambassador to China also addressed the ceremony, stating Pakistani people will never forget the selfless assistance given to Pakistan by the Chinese government and people.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/833201-award-ceremony-of-drawing-contest-for-chinese-pakistani-students-held>

Jang News

چین سے سائنوویک ویکسین کی ایک اور کھیپ پاکستان پہنچ گئی

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار خصوصی) چین سے سائنوویک ویکسین کی ایک اور کھیپ پاکستان پہنچ گئی، قومی ایئر لائن کا خصوصی طیارہ مزید 10 لاکھ ویکسین چین سے لے کر پاکستان پہنچ گیا۔ ملک میں کرونا کی شدت میں اضافے کے باعث ویکسین درآمد تیز کر دی گئی ہے۔ اس سے قبل پی آئی اے کی چھ خصوصی پروازیں لاکھوں ویکسین پاکستان لے کر پہنچیں ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/924430>

May 11, 2021

Business Recorder

Trust in digital society

KARACHI: Catherine Chen, Corporate Senior Vice President and BOD Member at Huawei, has underscored how building trust in a digital society will require the joint efforts of policymakers, regulators, and the private sector.

Her comments came during a speech at the St. Gallen Symposium, an annual gathering of current and future leaders from across the globe. The annual gathering of current and future leaders celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, welcoming 1,000 participants in the three-day cross-generational dialogue. Chen joined political leaders and representatives of transnational organizations to exchange their views on the theme of this year's symposium, "Trust Matters".

"As more devices feature connectivity, more services go online, and more critical infrastructures rely on real-time data exchanges, so must governments worldwide ensure that everyone is protected by the highest security standards. Only a common set of rules can guarantee a level of security that creates trust in technology," Chen said.

The event's participants agreed that trust is inherently built on openness and transparency, and that it is time to take concrete, actionable steps to address the common challenges and risks that have emerged in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/11/3-page/885737-news.html>

Daily Times

Chinese firm to train Pakistani workers

Chinese textile company Challenge signed an agreement with the Gilgit-Baltistan government to train 2,000 workers and provide them jobs in its factory in Lahore, according to Gwadar Pro.

Managing Director of the Chinese company Karen Chen and representatives of the government of Gilgit-Baltistan signed the agreement. Qamar Bobi, a businessman who played a vital role in bringing in Chinese investment in Pakistan, was also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Karen Chen said that as per the agreement, 2,000 workers would be selected from Gilgit-Baltistan and after training, they would be given jobs in textile establishments in Lahore where the employees would be provided accommodation and food free of charge. Chen said the textile unit employs 3000 people. Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid thanked the Chinese company for providing employment opportunities to the people of the region.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/754781/chinese-firm-to-train-pakistani-workers/>

The Nation

Enhanced Pak-China cooperation in irrigation sector needed: Chinese experts

BEIJING - The irrigation solutions promoted by a Chinese company have proved a success in demonstration zones in Pakistan. But a lack of investments has made it hard to popularise the efficient irrigation solutions, said Li Huijuan, senior engineer at National Water-saving Irrigation Engineering and Technology Research Centre (Xinjiang) and manager of the International Water-saving department at Xinjiang Tianye group.

This view is echoed by Dr Gong Shihong, Deputy-Director of Department of Irrigation and Drainage, China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR).

A single company is too fragile to transform the entire sector. The Pakistani government should incentivise more companies to invest in the popularisation of efficient irrigation solutions, said Dr Gong, who led a delegation to hold training sessions on high efficient irrigation in Pakistan.

A second factor lies in the limited range of efficient irrigation solutions available in Pakistan, Ms Li told CEN.

Although the government of Punjab has worked with World Bank to subsidise small-scale farmers to install sprinklers and drip irrigation systems, enormous farmers still refrain from adopting such efficient irrigation systems because of the high maintenance costs ensued.

Ms Li explained that Pakistani farmers tend to use irrigation accessories such as drip tapes and drippers from European countries, which is six times the cost of Chinese solutions and is beyond the price range of the farmers.

Pipes need to be removed for ploughing and land preparing prior to each crop and this puts a heavy burden on the farmers who already struggle financially to install the irrigation system, Dr Gong further elaborated. In essence, there has been a lack of communication between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises in this regard.

To motivate more farmers to use efficient irrigation solutions and further popularise the “more crop per drop” efficient irrigation campaign in Pakistan, more affordable and desirable high efficient irrigation solutions should be introduced to the Pakistani market.

The key lies in boosting the communication between Chinese and Pakistani irrigation companies, said Dr Gong.

“Chinese high efficient irrigation solutions hold great potential to help popularise the drip irrigation in Pakistan. Chinese irrigation tapes will greatly bring down the maintenance costs of the drip system which requires regular maintenance. Unlike European machines, our irrigation systems are relatively easier to operate because we adapt the machines to the needs and requirements of the farmers wherever possible.”

Cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani irrigation companies in this regard will familiarise more farmers with affordable, desirable Chinese irrigation solutions and motivate more farmers to adopt efficient irrigation.

Realising the importance of B2B communication, Xinjiang Tianye signed a strategic memorandum of understanding with the Fatima Group in October, 2019, Ms Li revealed.

With the support of the Fatima Group, Tianye's irrigation technologies have been introduced to Bela, Balochistan and are likely to find their way in more farmlands in the future, said Ms Li.

Dr Gong said that an International Cooperation Office has been recently established by a Chinese water-saving association to facilitate and promote more such cooperation.

The office will serve as a bridge between Chinese and Pakistani irrigation enterprises by exploring the needs of Pakistani people and companies and communicating them to Chinese companies so that they can provide customised irrigation solutions for Pakistan, commented Dr Gong.

Government-level promotion will also be part of the answer to an efficient irrigation-oriented future. "In China's case, the government promotes the efficient irrigation technology and encourages the investments from companies which in return introduce irrigation technologies to farmers. This cycle is further strengthened at later stages when the farmers relish in the advantages of the efficient irrigations and motivate companies to innovate themselves. This will hold true for Pakistan." stated Dr Gong.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-11/page-8/detail-1>

The News

Freight rates surge on Chinese demand for containers

KARACHI: As the Chinese demand for containers ramps up, there is a sharp surge in freight rates to hurt profitability of Pakistani exporters, it was learnt on Monday.

All Pakistan Shipping Association (APSA) Chairman Asim Siddiqui said the freight rates for containers shot up by around 300 percent, and this is the case in the entire region.

"China is the only country in the world posting high growth and their demand for containers to export Europe and America has increased. Moreover, the Chinese exporters are willing to pay higher rates, so the shipping companies are deploying their resources to China," Siddiqui said.

Ikhtiyar Baig of Baig Group of Companies said there is a shortage, because not many containers are coming to Pakistan. Due to Covid, the cycle has not established.

Baig said the exporters have to pay \$4,500 for a 40ft container to Germany, which used to be \$1200. "Country's exports are flourishing and will cross \$2.0 billion/month this year but the exporters would not make profits as their margins are being eaten up by the cartel of shipping lines."

Baig said the exporters had talked to Adviser to the Prime Minister for Commerce and Investment Minister Razzak Dawood and urged the ministry to take measures in breaking the monopoly and cartelisation of the shipping lines.

Siddiqui said freight rates in the region are directly linked with China and rates in China are up. “Lines are moving their containers to China because they are getting higher rates.”

He however, negated the impression that there was any shortage of containers. “There is no shortage of empty containers, just the rates are high.”

Siddiqui said lockdown in Europe was another factor for limited supply of empty containers because the goods exported had not been consumed. “Europe was closed for the last six months and containers were not coming back. Once the Europe’s retail sector opens, the containers piled up there would be emptied and return.”

An industry official said the freight for shipment to the US is hovering around \$6,000/container, which used to be around \$2,000 few days ago. “It is now shipping companies’ turn to make the money,” a freight agent said.

“Due to deteriorating situation in India and Bangladesh, most of the textile and garments orders had moved to Pakistan and the industry is running on full capacity.”

The official said export shipments are piling up as there is a shortage of containers and higher freight rates.

Pakistan’s importers and exporters pay \$5-6 billion every year in international freight charges to the shipping companies. International Federation of Freight Forwarders Association outgoing president Babar Badat believes that freight charges would stay at current levels and if they actually came down, they would not fall as low as they were during the pre-pandemic times.

Badat said many shipping companies have gone bankrupt around the world and many others have been operating in losses for about three to four years. “The world has enjoyed trade at a low freight in the pre-pandemic days.”

Trade bodies claim the regional and international shipping companies have formed a cartel to impose exorbitantly high freight charges in a bid to cash in on the post-COVID situation.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/833463-freight-rates-surge-on-chinese-demand-for-containers>

May 12, 2021

Business Recorder

Renovation project of waste heat recovery power plant

BEIJING: An agreement on a renovation project of a waste heat recovery power plant was signed between China Sinoma Energy Conservation Limited (Sinoma EC) and Lucky Cement last weekend.

The generating capacity of the two power stations - Lines CD and 01 (former AB) of the Pezu Plant in Darra Pezu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - utilising waste heat is expected to increase by about 4MW after the transformation.

The agreement came after a contract entered between the two sides on a 7500t/d supporting power station project with waste heat of cement in late March this year, according to China Economic Net (CEN) on Tuesday.

Sinoma EC, a patent-holding company specialised in energy-saving and emission-reduction, started cooperation with Lucky Cement in 2008. Since then, it has undertaken several projects, including the Pezu Lines AB and CD waste heat recovery power plant with a generating capacity of 10 MW respectively, the 15 MW Karachi Line EFG power plant with waste heat, Karachi Line H waste heat boiler extension, etc.

Waste thermal energy is one of the largest sources of inexpensive and clean energy available. Waste heat power generation, or Waste Heat to Power (WHP), is the process of recovering waste heat and using it to generate power with no combustion and no emissions. In cement plants, heat generated through rotary kiln preheater (PH) and AQC exhaust hot gases are used to generate steam in steam generator (Boiler) which is further used to generate electricity/power through steam turbo generator (STG).

Recovery of waste heat helps reduce energy costs for industrial processes. By using the waste heat to generate emission-free electricity, industrial users can put wasted energy back into the process that created it, route the power somewhere else in the facility, or sell it to the grid to support clean energy production, distribution and use. Moreover, such practices are in conformity with the initiative to build a green CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor). Due to the upgraded epidemic control protocols, Lucky Group appointed Muzamil, head of the Pezu Waste Heat Power Plant to complete the signing ceremony in a simplistic way with Chinese counterparts Wang Jianfeng, Vice Director of Marketing Department of Sinoma EC International Engineering Branch, and Marketing Manager Liu Geng.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/12/2-page/885835-news.html>

Cultural Heritage Protection

China, Pakistan, Afghanistan sign cooperation accords

BEIJING: China, Pakistan and Afghanistan on Tuesday co-signed the first Asian bilateral cooperation agreements on Asian Cultural Heritage Protection during an online workshop. According to the document “China-Afghanistan and China-Pakistan Joint Statements on Cooperation in the Asian Initiative for Cultural Heritage Conservation,” the three countries will carry out all-round cooperation in joint archaeology, preservation and restoration of cultural property, conservation, management, and sustainable development of world cultural heritage sites, exchange ideas for exhibitions and preservation technology and the prevention of

trafficking of cultural property, Li Qun, head of China's National Cultural Heritage Administration (NCHA), said at the conference.

The three countries will work to establish partnerships among grotto temples across Asian countries and plan a number of joint exhibitions of grotto temple artifacts and an exhibition on the Silk Roads to help promote the culture and art of grottoes temples.

Both Afghan Acting Minister of Information and Culture Mohammad Tahir Zuhair and Joint Secretary of Pakistan's National Heritage and Culture Division Muhammad Murid Rahimoon expressed their great willingness to promote the development of Asian cultural heritage. Tahir Zuhair noted that Afghanistan was an important hub on the ancient Silk Road, and had a brilliant and rich cultural heritage. But due to wars, many cultural sites had been damaged and needed to be restored.

An employee surnamed Dang from the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage told the Global Times on Tuesday that China and Afghanistan might co-launch cultural artifacts restoration efforts after the COVID-19 pandemic to help restore some grottoes in Afghanistan, as archaeologists from Pakistan were more interested in learning to use cutting-edge technologies such as 3D scanning and digital modeling.

In October, China will also hold the Asian Cultural Heritage Protection Dialogue in Beijing.—
APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/05/12/7-page/885855-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan part of Silk Road community building initiative: report

A conference on the second anniversary of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative was held here that was attended by Song Tao, Minister of the International Department Central Committee of CPC (IDCPC), according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

Chen Zhou, Deputy Minister of IDCPC, Ahmed Farooq, Pakistani Minister Counselor to China, and ambassadors to China from Laos, Lebanon, Mongolia, Namibia and Nepal also participated in the event.

At the event, the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (CFPA) announced that after their aid in 2020, they are planning to donate 10,000 Panda Packs which contain living materials to Pakistani children in 2021 under the Silk Road Community Building Initiative.

Faqeer Primary School in Gwadar founded by CFPD, China-Pak Medical Corridor jointly initiated by Chinese Medical Association (CMA) and Pakistani Medical Association (PMA), MoU signed by All-China Environment Federation (ACEF) and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), the Panda Pack Project and other Pak-Chin cooperation under the Silk Road Community Building Initiative was mentioned as successful cases at the event. China NGO

Network for International Exchanges (CNIE) and China Foundation for Peace and Development (CFPD) jointly initiated the conference.

The Silk Road Community Building Initiative launched in 2019, focusing on people-to-people exchanges and cooperation on people's livelihood, has led to more than 300 projects and established nearly 600 partnerships among NGOs in BRI countries. On Sep 6th 2019, the Silk Road Community Building Initiative for China-Pakistan (Xinjiang & Balochistan) was launched in Urumqi. Farooq told Gwadar Pro after the event, Pakistan is a part of the Silk Road Community Building Initiative. The conference today is a manifestation of the community of shared future. Mutual cooperation on people's livelihood benefits everyone, not just one person," he added.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/755419/pakistan-part-of-silk-road-community-building-initiative-report/>

Pakistan Observer

China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation under the Framework of CPEC

Prof Tang Mengsheng

Data from 2018-2019 fiscal year indicates that agriculture contributes 18.5% to Pakistan's GDP and provides 38.5% of total jobs. Of total agricultural output, plantation output accounts for 38.7% and livestock accounts for 57.79%. It is fair enough to say that agriculture serves as a major propellant of Pakistan's economy and an important element of Pakistanis' livelihood.

Going forward, agriculture will be one of the key cooperation areas of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

I. Significance of China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation

China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation is the basis for a stable Pakistan's Economy.

Agriculture is important to Pakistan's national economy, as is demonstrated by: first and foremost, it is a pillar export industry, earning a big portion of foreign exchange for Pakistan; besides, supporting other sectors of economy to grow. About 60% of the aggregate agricultural supply goes to households for consumption, and the rest 40% is purchased by other economic sectors for further processing. Arguably, a stable Pakistan's economy is impossible without its agricultural development. What's more, agriculture is a sector with comparative advantage in Pakistan, as it can bring economic benefits and reduce poverty within a short time.

China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation embodies "Eagerness to Help Friends in Need".

Pakistani government attaches importance to agricultural production, and has taken proactive measures to reduce its costs while improving efficiency. For instance, the government has earmarked funds for introducing full industrial chains of agricultural production factors, supporting scientific research on agriculture, reducing agricultural taxes and fees, initiating water conservancy projects, as well as improving the level of mechanization of agricultural production,

which have yielded positive results. However, according to the 2016 population census across Pakistan, the population was still growing rapidly at an average annual rate of 2.4%, presenting a higher demand for the nation's agricultural modernization. China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation is the key to overall collaboration between the two countries. China and Pakistan enjoy considerable cooperation potential in various fields including agriculture, rural development and enhancing the capacity of farmers. Moreover, we are yet to tap into the cooperation in agricultural technology. Agricultural cooperation is now a priority for the mutual collaboration between the two countries. By investing in Pakistan's agriculture, many Chinese enterprises have benefited from initial success, and bilateral agricultural trade volume has been steadily increasing. China would encourage more enterprises to invest in this field, as well as encourage more agricultural research institutes and experts to carry out cooperation with their counterparts in Pakistan.

II. Ideas for China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation

Agricultural cooperation under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor should suit Pakistan's agricultural development conditions. By adapting to local conditions, building on strengths and avoiding weaknesses, we can align the development of food crops and that of the cash crops, to mutually reinforce farming and livestock husbandry, so that a virtuous circle could be formed.

The Basis of Existing China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation

China and Pakistan have a long history of cooperation in agricultural information exchange and training, agro-processing, agricultural machinery manufacturing and maintenance, pesticide management, etc. Our cooperation is built on a solid foundation, under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to promote related industries' development along the Corridor. China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation will help Pakistan to break through the bottlenecks of agricultural development, and boost Pakistani agricultural products' export to China and other countries. Besides, Chinese enterprises engaged in deep processing of agricultural products, agricultural machinery and agro- industry will consider to invest or to set up factories in Pakistan. Leading enterprises among them will also explore the possibility to invest in agricultural industrial parks along the Corridor, and build such parks into demonstration platforms of China-Pakistan agricultural industrialization cooperation. Promote the Plantation of

Sea Rice in Pakistan through Agricultural Cooperative Enterprises

Sea rice plantation will be promoted especially in coastal areas in Pakistan. We will recommend and support scientific research institutes from China, like Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Zhongnong Sea Rice (Shenzhen) Biotechnology Co., Ltd., to carry out experiments on popularizing sea rice in Pakistan which has proven successful in China. This special kind of rice can grow in saline land like tidal flats. It can absorb salt and ameliorate soil, thus is able to promote a virtuous ecological cycle. Besides, it can be used to feed livestock. This kind of rice contains more protein and other nutrients, and is especially suitable to be cultivated in the

southern parts of Sindh and Balochistan. We are also thinking about setting up agro-technology enterprises in Pakistan, which will seek cooperation with local land owners in establishing farms to further promote our projects.

Promote Pakistani Agriculture towards Modernization, industrialization and Market-Orientation

Focusing on the northern parts of Punjab and Sindh, we will promote agriculture modernization and industrialization, as well as agricultural products' export in the region. For agriculture to develop, we must capitalize on advanced technology, and combine it with both traditional and modern agriculture practices.

Netherlands has built a tulip base in Pakistan to meet market needs in Pakistan and the wider region.

We can learn from this, and build Islamic food industry parks, promote floral landscaping, leafy and fruity vegetables and their deep processing, for the Middle East market.

Promote the Development of Pakistani Livestock Husbandry

Pakistan enjoys a good base for developing livestock husbandry. It accounts for 10-12% of total GDP, and 38% of total agricultural output volume. Apart from that, Pakistan is also a leading milk producing country, and its share of large livestock per capita is among the highest in Asia. Chinese enterprises can take an active part in Pakistani livestock husbandry and relevant deep processing projects, and seek to extend the industrial chain, so that products can not only satisfy Pakistani market, but also be exported to other countries in Asia and Middle East.

III. Recommendations for China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation

China and Pakistan are highly complementary in agricultural resources, market and technology. To deepen bilateral cooperation under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would help to promote agricultural development in Pakistan, and also to mitigate trade imbalance between our two countries.

Strengthen Cooperation on Agricultural Science and Technology and Agricultural Equipment

Pakistan attaches great importance to cultivating agricultural technology experts and developing relevant technologies. Many universities are conducting agriculture-related research, and these universities can serve as a platform for China and Pakistan to cooperate on agricultural science and technology. Our two parties could, for example, spread modern agricultural technology through remote learning; set up modern agricultural parks and agricultural skills training centers in Pakistan; work with Pakistan National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) to breed new cotton varieties, and conduct other agricultural science and technology partnerships for adverse-weather-conditions (drought, for instance)-resistant crops.

Led by provincial level agricultural sectors in Pakistan, our two parties could capitalize on modern agricultural technology to promote “intensive farming” so as to increase grain output.

China would like to provide agricultural machinery and technology that suits Pakistani geography and agricultural production conditions, and organize necessary trainings.

We would also encourage Chinese enterprises to engage in agricultural machinery manufacturing, assembly and maintenance through investment in Pakistan, so as to improve industrialization scale of agricultural machinery in Pakistan and maximize social and economic benefits of China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation in equipment manufacturing.

Plan Agricultural Development in Line with Local Conditions

Pakistan's agricultural resources are geographically specific, in that water, temperature, solar radiation and soil vary significantly among different provinces. Different climate zones have specific crops suitable to grow so we should plan agricultural development in line with local conditions. For example, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and northern parts of Pakistan have unfavorable conditions for plantation, outdated production methods and low production efficiency, but they have greater potential to develop livestock husbandry than that of agriculture, so we need to put emphasis on developing livestock husbandry there. Besides, we may also consider establishing seafood, canned meat and other non- staple food processing projects in Gwadar. Punjab and Sindh, on the other hand, are relatively flat in landscape, and we may consider establishing vegetables, flowers and fruit supply chains as well as juice and jam factories in Lahore and surrounding areas. Products manufactured here could be exported to Middle East and East Africa, which are close to Pakistan, and it will help to increase Pakistan's foreign exchange income.

To Build an Export Base for Deep-Processed Agricultural Products Relying on Improved Agricultural Infrastructure

Development economics tells us that, relying on improved national energy and transport infrastructure, is an efficient way to improve aid efficiency and benefit people by fostering local agricultural development, especially by improving water supply and irrigation system. The construction of Pakistan's artificial irrigation system began when Pakistan was colonized by Britain. The system is well-developed; however, some canals need to be renovated to optimize operational efficiency. China and Pakistan may consider to start by improving infrastructure of irrigation, transportation and warehousing of Indus River Basin, and then gradually introduce advanced technology to achieve specialization and scale management, with an aim to build Punjab and Sindh into a deep processing base of agricultural products like wheat, rice, mango, pomegranate and others that can be exported to China, Europe, West Asia, Southeast Asia and other countries and regions.

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<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-agricultural-cooperation-under-the-framework-of-cpec-by-prof-tang-mengsheng/>

CPEC & Pakistan's 'Vision East Asia' policy

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

RAPIDLY changing regional as well as international socio-economic deals/agreements, geopolitical scenarios and geostrategic compulsions have now encouraged policymakers in the country to “diversify” its foreign policy options and means of “engagements” through “rigorous” commercial diplomacy by “showcasing” the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as an effective tool for greater socio-economic prosperity, regional connectivity, poverty eradication, job generation and last but not the least, food and energy cooperation. In this context, massive transformation from “geopolitics” to “geo-economy” has played a decisive role.

Most recent “non-binding” resolution of the European Union stressed the need of reviewing trade relations with Pakistan and ending its eligibility for the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) status has “reinforced” “validity” of Pakistan’s Vision East Asia Policy” which may be useful to further strengthen bilateral relations in terms of trade and commerce, joint ventures, FDIs, education, culture, artificial intelligence, digitalization and last but not the least, textiles etc with ASEAN and other important countries of the region.

Moreover, since CPEC “phase-II” is going to be started very soon, Pakistan would now have opportunities to collaborate with China and 60 other countries partnering in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in which most of the “ASEAN” countries are part of it. The ASEAN Visions 2020 & 2025 are highly integrated and cohesive; competitive, innovative and dynamic with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation and a more resilient, inclusive and people-oriented, people-centred community, integrated with the global economy and Pakistan is not any exception. Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi emphasized that Pakistan would continue to “deepen” and “further” strengthen political, economic and cultural ties with ASEAN and its member states in line with its ‘Vision East Asia’ policy. Pakistan enjoys close, friendly ties with all ASEAN members and its historic and deep-rooted relations starting from ancient times to the modern era, tracking back to abiding linkages forged during the time of the “Gandhara Civilization”. Pakistan is now a Sectoral Dialogue Partner (SDP) and an active member of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Pakistan has ample destinations of “Gandhara tourism” which may be showcased to all the ASEAN countries for the further trade & commerce. Today, ASEAN is a “dynamic” trade bloc of 10 members, spanning over an area of 4.4 million square kilometres, a population of over 649 million and a GDP exceeding \$3.1 trillion makes it the third largest economy in Asia and sixth in the world. It is a region of geostrategic importance to the world. Each year some US\$5.3 trillion worth of global trade passes through ASEAN’s waterways to close to 15 million barrels of oil passing through the Malacca Strait daily. Close “Naval cooperation” between Pakistan and ASEAN may be a giant step in the right direction for further strengthening of the blue economy, seaport cooperation etc. Massive urbanization, demographics and technologies are the salient features of the ASEAN. Large “infrastructure investment” estimated to be US\$600 billion per year till 2022 in which ASEAN-6 alone Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam are projected to run a digital

economy worth US\$ 200 billion by 2025. Thus it offers a lot for the region and beyond. Close cooperation in innovations, AI, green energies, digitalization, service sector and banking & financial sectors may be taken as preferential sectors between Pakistan and ASEAN. Economically, the six largest ASEAN nations namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines are expected to witness positive real GDP growth rates in 2021. According to the IMF (April, 2021) with continued expansion of trade and gradual recovery in the tourism sector and construction activities, Singapore's GDP growth is forecast to increase to 5.8pc in 2021. Similarly, Malaysia is set to witness a growth of 7.1pc in 2021, an uptick from -5.2pc in 2020. Global Data (May 2021) forecasts Vietnam to be the fastest growing economy with a real GDP growth of 8.5pc in 2021. Intra-Asian trade has been meagre in comparison, focused largely on raw material or components in Asia. Trade in final products and services have been too costly because of tariffs or complicated because of non-tariff barriers. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership [RCEP] has been started to change this dynamic and make trade within Asia easier which may be a good omen for Pakistan Vision East Asia Policy.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-pakistans-vision-east-asia-policy-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Nation

China remains top importer among other countries during 3rd quarter: SBP

ISLAMABAD - China topped the list of countries from where Pakistan imported different products during the first three quarter of financial year (2020-21), followed by United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore.

The total imports from China during July-March (2020-21) were recorded at \$9074.105 million against the \$6967.724 million during July-March (2019-20), showing an increase of 30.23 per cent during the period, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said.

This was followed by UAE, where Pakistan imported goods worth \$4962.008 million against the imports of \$5265.142 million last year, showing negative growth of 5.75 per cent.

Singapore was the at third top country from where Pakistan imported products worth \$2208.545 million against the imports of \$1752.843 million last year, showing growth of 25.99 per cent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani imports from United State of America (USA) stood at \$1774.043 million against \$1684.482 million during last year, showing growth of 5.31 per cent while the imports from Saudi Arabia were recorded at \$1600.956 million against \$1103.846 million last year, showing increase of 45.03 per cent, the data revealed.

The imports from Malaysia were recorded at \$879.465 million against \$730.272 million whereas the imports from Kuwait were recorded at \$1007.367 million against \$790.272 million last year.

During July-March, the imports from South Korea were recorded at \$917.073 million against \$522.239 million whereas the imports from Indonesia at \$844.441 million against \$817.173 million.

Pakistan's imports from Japan were recorded at \$1072.571 million against \$845.149 million whereas the imports from Switzerland stood at \$851.519 million against \$444.420 million.

Similarly, the imports from Germany during the period under review were recorded at \$796.000 million against \$753.736 million while the imports from Thailand stood at \$759.919 million against \$550.731 million.

Pakistan's imports from Qatar were recorded at \$884.264 million during the current fiscal year compared to \$1353.676 million last year, whereas the imports from UK stood at \$575.054 million against \$529.922 million.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-12/page-8/detail-4>

May 13, 2021

Daily Times

New third Covid vaccine developed by Chinese researchers underway at Al shifa: Rahmat Khan

Al-Shifa Trust President Major General (retd) Rehmat Khan on Wednesday said that last stage human trials of coronavirus vaccine developed by Chinese multinational Anhui Zhifei Longcom Biopharmaceutical Co Ltd are successfully underway at the Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital, which would be available to public soon. Around 8000 volunteers were initially recruited for trials, and no serious underlying medical issues was reported during ongoing trials and it is effective in triggering immunity response, he said while speaking to a private news channel. He made it clear that the results from trials of Chinese Academy of Sciences' (CAS) Covid-19 vaccine candidate, ZF2001, showed that it was safe and triggered immune responses. A state-of-the-art Clinical Research Unit has already been established at Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital and trials will be completed soon, he added. He hoped that the vaccination process in Pakistan will be accelerated after the successful completion of the trials of the new Chinese vaccine.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/755820/new-third-covid-vaccine-developed-by-chinese-researchers-underway-at-al-shifa-rahmat-khan/>

The Nation

88pc work on CPEC power project completed: Asim Bajwa

Islamabad - Chairman CPEC Authority Lt-Gen (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa has said that 88 percent work on Karot Hydropower Project, a corridor umbrella project, has been completed. Asim Bajwa in a tweet yesterday said that 88 percent work on 720 MW Karot Hydropower Project (1st CPEC Hydropower Project) with an investment of \$ 1,720 million, has been completed. The

expected completion of the project is April 2022, he informed. Chairman CPEC Authority further said that the location of the project is River Jhelum (Punjab/ AJK) and currently local direct employment from the project is 5,000.

Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) is the sponsoring agency of the project, while Karot Power Company Ltd is the executing agency of the project. The financial close of the project achieved on 22nd February 2017.

In his recent visit to PPIB Federal Minister for Energy, Muhammad Hammad Azhar was informed that construction work of two large size hydropower IPPs projects with the accumulated generation capacity of 1604 MW will be completed by December 2022. The 720 MW Karot power project is at advance stages of construction work and is likely to be completed within next financial year.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-13/page-2/detail-1>

Pakistan admires ever-green friendship with China: NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD - Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser on Wednesday said that early completion of CPEC-related projects would bring unprecedented socio-economic progress in the country. The government was determined to strengthen its ties with China on the basis of mutual cooperation and progress.

The NA Speaker expressed these views while talking to Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong, who called on him in Islamabad. Asad Qaiser said that Pak-China friendship was ever-lasting and was based on mutual trust and cooperation in every socio-economic field. He stressed on increasing parliamentary diplomacy between the two countries. He also invited Chairman National People Congress of China to attend a seminar to highlight the benefits of CPEC which would be organised in Lahore. He said that such seminars would be organised all over the country including four provinces, AJK and GB.

While commenting upon the efficacy of CPEC, he said that CPEC would ensure socio-economic development not only of Pakistan but of the whole region. He also mentioned that project of Rashakai Economic Zone and ML-1 project would bring new economic opportunities and these would also open new avenues of employment. He said that Parliament of Pakistan was supervising the progress of all ongoing projects of CPEC.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong said that successful completion of CPEC would strengthen already strong bound between both nations. He also remarked that in the Second Phase of CPEC, cooperation in the field of agriculture, science and technical areas would be enhanced.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-13/page-3/detail-5>

FTA-II with China to help increase Pak exports

LAHORE - The second Free Trade Agreement (FTA-II) with China would provide an opportunity to Pakistan to increase its exports to China by \$4 to 6 billion in next three years.

Pakistan Businesses Forum (PBF) Vice President Ahmad Jawad told media here that after implementation of the FTA-II, Pakistan has been now allowed to export more than 1,000 products to China with zero duties. The new facility is particularly benefiting the agriculture, leather, confectionery items, and other sectors.

As in the 1st quarter of 2021, Pakistan's exports to China rose to \$888 million as compared to \$526 million during corresponding months of 2020, showing an increase of 69 percent. Pakistan exports to China grew by 17.5 percent reaching \$2.12 billion during last year.

Similarly in a major development, Pakistan has won China's approval for meat export after a private sector company established a heat treatment facility to remove virus, if any, from export consignments.

"China has a great demand for meat and poultry, and it can be lucrative international market for Pakistan and both countries must work together for removal of technical barriers like SPS and quarantine requirements," he added.

In terms of exploring meat export to China, Ahmad Jawad mentioned, Pakistani livestock boasts rich endowment with the world's 2nd largest herd size of buffaloes, 7th largest of cattle, 4th largest of goats and 12th largest of sheep.

The PBF Vice President said that China and Pakistan had potential for symbiotic trade relations, whereby China could take advantage of the low-cost production resources available in Pakistan, and Pakistan could benefit from the technology and financing that China had to offer.

Jawad briefed media men that China had a population of more than 1.3 billion people. The economic growth in the past three decades had resulted in sustained growth in consumer incomes, consumption and urbanization. This had increased the demand for food, with US \$1 trillion worth of food consumed every year. This is projected to increase by another US \$500 billion in the next 10 years. "Rising incomes has also led to changes in food consumption patterns, with a demand for higher diversity, quality and imported food. Since 2009, China's food imports have been increasing at an average rate of 15 percent per annum which is an opportunity for us," he argued.

He said now Pakistan was likely to start export of cherry, onion, potato, mangoes and kinnow and other agricultural products to China in good volumes which was a good opportunity for Chinese too due to unique taste of Pakistan fruits.

The PBF Vice President further stated, "What we seek from China is to give us technology and value addition; touching \$100 billion amount of bilateral trade in next decade should not be difficult for both countries".

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-05-13/page-8/detail-5>