



For Better Understanding on China-Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National Press

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January 01, 2021

Business Recorder

China to provide over 1m doses of the Covid-19 vaccine to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Thursday assured China's commitment to provide over one million doses of the Covid-19 vaccine to Pakistan for emergency use. The Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister stated this during a telephonic conversation with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

According to a statement of the Foreign Office, during conversation, Foreign Minister Qureshi emphasized that China had made remarkable achievement in developing Covid-19 vaccines, adding that the phase-III clinical trials of China's vaccine were progressing well in Pakistan. He maintained that the government had approved Sinopharm vaccine for emergency use in Pakistan, and expressed hope for its early availability from China.

"Foreign Minister Wang Yi assured that China would work to provide over one million doses of the vaccine to Pakistan for emergency use," the statement added.

"In order to reaffirm the depth and breadth of Pakistan and China's "All-Weather Strategic Co-operative Partnership", Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held a telephone call... The call lasted for an hour," it stated. During the conversation, it stated views were exchanged on Covid-19, bilateral relations, and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi reiterated that Pakistan was committed to "One-China" policy and firmly supported China on issues of its core interest including Taiwan, Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong, and South China Sea.

Qureshi underscored that the deep-rooted relationship between China and Pakistan was aimed at promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

The foreign minister underlined that both Pakistan and China were making strenuous efforts to contain and combat the Covid-19 and, in that regard, had established various mechanisms which were playing a useful role in controlling the pandemic, resuming economic growth and restoring supply chains across the region.

Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi about India's aggressive posture in the region and how New Delhi's bellicose and irresponsible policies were imperiling regional peace and stability.

The foreign minister also emphasized that Pakistan and China must continue to closely coordinate efforts to advance the shared objectives of peace, stability and economic development in Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Qureshi underscored that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was a transformational project, and the BRI and the CPEC would become the hub of trade and

economic activity, sustainable development and greater people-to-people exchanges. He underlined that Pakistan and China were taking relevant measures for timely completion of the CPEC projects.

He underscored that the 10th JCC meeting, to be held shortly, would play an instrumental role in that regard.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed satisfaction over Pakistan and China's cooperation on regional and international issues, and reaffirmed the vitality of the time-tested All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, which remained unaffected by the vicissitudes of the regional and international developments and continued to move from strength to strength. He expressed hope that the next year would witness further deepening of the Pakistan-China time-tested relationship.

Both foreign ministers agreed to maintain strategic communication and consultation, at all levels, to promote mutual goals of peace and stability in the region and beyond, and expressed commitment to further strengthening all-round cooperation and taking the bilateral relationship to a higher level for shared benefit of the two countries.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/01/01/15-page/863788-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan, China sign agreement for rehabilitation of national highway

China and Pakistan on Thursday signed an agreement worth \$100 million grant assistance for rehabilitation of National Highway (N-5) to improve road infrastructure and expand the North-South connectivity.

Under this agreement, Government of China will provide grant assistance of RMB 659.8 million (US \$100 million) for repair of four sections (66 kilometers in total) of National Highway (N-5) between Hala (Matiari district) and Moro district Naushahro Feroze) in Sindh province, said a press release issued by Ministry of Economic Affairs here on Thursday. Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan Nong Rong called on Minister for Economic Affairs Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtyar at his office. During the meeting, a Letter of Exchange (LoE) for "Rehabilitation of Specific Sections of National Highway N-5 Project" was also signed.

During the meeting, Pak-China economic relations, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects and other matters of mutual interest were discussed. The Minister for Economic Affairs lauded the grant assistance extended by Government of China for various infrastructure and socioeconomic projects in Pakistan.

The minister also appreciated the significant work of Joint Working Groups on socioeconomic development and transport infrastructure under CPEC. He highlighted that the socioeconomic projects agreed therein were in line with the vision of PTI government for socioeconomic uplift

of the common people and enhanced economic activities in the country. The minister also appreciated the Chinese assistance for combating corona pandemic and locust attack.

Both sides also discussed the progress of ongoing projects financed by the Government of China. The ambassador said that the National Highway 5 (N5) was an important road that extends from the south part to the north and west border in Pakistan and carries a large amount of traffic capacity. Unfortunately, this road was badly damaged by the record flood in 2010. At the request of the Pakistani government, the Chinese government helped repairing parts of N-5 and N-55 sections during 2011 and 2016. With the joint efforts by the Pakistani and Chinese workers, the rehabilitation work was completed at the end of 2016, and greatly improved the road conditions of the relevant sections. Considering the importance of the N-5 road, the Chinese government agrees to rehabilitate the remaining 66 kilometers of the N-5 road with Chinese grant in accordance with the previous bilateral agreement.

The ambassador added that the new Project of Rehabilitation of N-5 Road was the largest road project funded by Chinese grant in recent years in Pakistan. The implementation of this project will further increase the traffic capacity, while facilitating peoples travel along the route.

Construction of the project will also create considerable employment and promote businesses related building materials and transportation sectors along the route. The Chinese Embassy will work closely with EAD and other relevant departments to ensure the project starts at the earliest. He concluded with a Chinese saying, which means “to be rich, build roads first”. He hoped the full function of N-5 road will definitely bring fortune and prosperity to the Pakistani friends.

NHA projects:

National Highway Authority (NHA) striving for up-gradation of road infrastructure in the country has succeeded to complete several mega projects during the past two years.

The major road infrastructure projects accomplished in two years included among others Lahore -Abdul Hakeem Motorway (M-3), Sukkur-Multan Motorway (M-5) Havelian-Mansehra and Mansehra-Thakot section of Hazara Motorway also called E-35, Gojra-Shorkot and Shorkot-Khanewal section of Pindi Bhattian-Multan Motorway (M-4) and Lahore-Sialkot Motorway (M-11), an official of National Highway Authority (NHA) told APP on Thursday.

He said that 230 km Abdul Hakeem Motorway (M-3) which was opened for traffic in March 2019 costing Rs148.65 billion passes through districts of Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, Faisalabad, Toba Tek Singh and Khanewal. The cities and towns located along M-3 include Lahore, Sheikhpura, Mangtanwala, Nankana Sahib, Bucheki, Jaranwala, Syedwala, Tandalyanwala, Samundri, Mamon Kanjan, Muridwala, Toba Tek Singh, Rajana, Kamalia, Peer Mahal, Shorkot and Kot Islam, he said.

The NHA official said that in November last year, 392 km Sukkur-Multan Motorway (M-5), an important segment of China Pakistan Economic Corridor, was opened for traffic. The Multan-Sukkur Motorway has reduced travel time between Multan and Sukkur to a considerable extent.

The motorway, he said, would not only accelerate industrial growth but the agricultural sector will also be benefited at large and it would pave the way for socioeconomic uplift in south Punjab.

Another important road infrastructure project, 39 km Havelian-Mansehra section of the 118-km Havelian-Thakot motorway project was opened for traffic in November 2019, he said. The motorway section reduced the travel time between Islamabad and Mansehra by up to 2.5 hours, he said adding the controlled access motorway, and part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would in future serve as main route for the commercial traffic between the two countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/708447/pakistan-china-sign-agreement-for-rehabilitation-of-national-highway/>

Pakistan, China deepen cooperation to promote CPEC'S expansion

CPEC The second meeting of CPEC Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination was held in Urumqi, China.

The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Luo Zhaohui. The meeting reviewed the progress of the JWG since its inaugural meeting held on 9 April 2019 in Beijing.

The Foreign Secretary underscored that the CPEC is a transformational project and has opened up significant and far-reaching economic opportunities for Pakistan. There is complete national consensus on CPEC's indispensability for our national development efforts. In the first phase of CPEC, we have made major advancement in the domain of energy and infrastructure.

The Foreign Secretary added that the CPEC had entered its second phase with vigorous focus on industrialization, agriculture and socio-economic development. Pakistan hoped that the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being developed under CPEC will rejuvenate Pakistan's process of industrialization and further spur economic development. He reaffirmed the government's resolve to complete CPEC projects in a timely manner.

The Foreign Secretary hoped that the 10th JCC, to be held in the near future, will help create more economic opportunities and contribute to further expansion of CPEC projects. He reiterated that Pakistan would welcome relocation of industry from China and in that regard was instituting a regime to encourage inflow of Chinese investments to Pakistan.

Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood highlighted efforts made by the Pakistan government, think-tanks, academia, and the media to promote a factual, objective, and coherent view of the CPEC projects carefully and transparently designed through mutual consultations. He particularly underlined that there was a need for the international community to comprehensively and objectively analyze the impact of CPEC on Pakistan and the regional economy. Emphasizing that CPEC was a fiscally responsible project, he reiterated that both sides will welcome third party participation in CPEC projects through mutual consultations.

It was reaffirmed in the meeting that China and Pakistan will continue to work closely to promote CPEC's positive contributions and would encourage think-tanks, media and opinion-makers to understand and examine it as a case-study for international co-operation, economic development, and people-to-people exchanges. Foreign Secretary also welcomed efforts of academia community and policy experts to enhance sharing of best practices and experience in CPEC and BRI development through greater international communication and cooperation. The next round of JWG will be held in 2021 on mutually agreed dates.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/708337/pakistan-china-deepen-cooperation-to-promote-cpecs-expansion/>

Dawn News

Chinese, Pakistani FMs agree on need to deepen cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Thursday decided to deepen their cooperation and work together for peace and stability in the region.

This was agreed between the two countries during a telephone conversation between Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, which continued for an hour.

The conversation, the Foreign Office said, was arranged to “reaffirm the depth and breadth” of bilateral ‘All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership’ and exchange views on Covid-19, bilateral relations, and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

“Both foreign ministers agreed to maintain strategic communication and consultation, at all levels, to promote mutual goals of peace and stability in the region and beyond, and expressed commitment to further strengthening all-round cooperation and taking the bilateral relationship to a higher level for shared benefit of the two countries,” said the statement.

Foreign Minister Wang hoped that 2021 would witness further deepening of Pakistan-China ties.

It was being expected that Chinese President Xi Jinping would visit Pakistan in the early part of 2021. However, it now appears that the trip may not happen in the coming months as FM Qureshi has been invited to visit Beijing for “maintaining momentum of high-level exchanges”. Mr. Qureshi has accepted the invitation.

Chinese minister says Beijing will make over one million doses of Covid-19 vaccine available

“Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed satisfaction over Pakistan and China’s cooperation on regional and international issues and reaffirmed the vitality of the time-tested All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership which remained unaffected by the vicissitudes of the regional and international developments and continued to move from strength to strength,” the FO said.

Talking about efforts to deal with Covid-19, Mr. Qureshi recalled the bilateral mechanisms in this regard and said they were playing a useful role in controlling the pandemic, resuming economic growth and restoring supply chains across the region.

Mr. Qureshi informed his counterpart that Phase-III trials of Covid-19 vaccine produced by Chinese firm Can Sino were progressing well in Pakistan. He, moreover, told him that his government had approved another Chinese vaccine of Sinopharm for emergency use in Pakistan and hoped for its early availability from China.

The government has announced its decision to procure 1.2 million doses of the vaccine from the Chinese state-controlled firm.

Mr. Wang assured Mr. Qureshi that China would provide over one million doses of the vaccine to Pakistan for emergency use.

INDIA: The two ministers also discussed the threat posed by Indian actions to regional peace.

“FM Qureshi briefed State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi about India’s aggressive posture in the region and how New Delhi’s bellicose and irresponsible policies were imperiling regional peace and stability,” the FO said.

“The foreign minister also emphasized that Pakistan and China must continue to closely coordinate efforts to advance the shared objectives of peace, stability and economic development in Afghanistan,” it added.

Mr. Qureshi described the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as a “transformational project”, and hoped that BRI and CPEC would become “the hub of trade and economic activity, sustainable development and greater people-to-people exchanges”.

He said both countries were taking measures for timely completion of CPEC projects. He said the 10th JCC meeting, which would be held shortly, would play an instrumental role in taking CPEC further.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1598975/chinese-pakistani-fms-agree-on-need-to-deepen-cooperation>

Dunya News

US, UK, China top three destinations of Pakistani exports in five months

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

Total exports to the USA during July-November (2020-21) were recorded at US \$ 1855.564 million against the exports of US \$ 1744.463 million during July- November (2019-20), showing growth of 6.36 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth US \$ 773.837 million against the exports of US \$ 726.942 million last year, showing increase of 6.45 percent.

China was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth US \$ 615.731 million during the months under review against the exports of US \$ 727.480 million during last year, showing decline of 15.36 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at US \$ 615.539 million against US \$553.088 million during last year, showing increase of 11.29 percent while the exports to UAE were recorded at US \$ 565.202 million against US \$ 663.260 million last year, the data revealed.

During July-November (2020-21), the exports to Holland were recorded at US \$411.201 million against US \$420.714 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at US \$ 368.114 million against US \$ 432.561million.

Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at 288.122 million against the exports of US \$ 324.971 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at US \$ 289.997 million against US \$ 380.270 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at US \$ 219.825 million against US \$ 297.676 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at US \$ 173.848 million against US \$ 188.906 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at US \$ 176.097 million against US \$ 199.001 million.

Pakistan's exports to Turkey were recorded at US \$ 99.612 million during the current year compared to US \$123.692 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at US \$ 114.718 million against US \$ 114.916 million, to Poland US \$ 115.569 million against US \$ 108.735 million whereas the exports to Australia stood at US \$ 95.655 million during the current year against US \$ 81.536 million during last year.

Overall Pakistan's exports to all other countries witnessed decline of 7.13 percent in first five months, from US \$ 10.284 billion to US \$ 9.550 billion, the SBP data revealed.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/580956-US-UK-China-top-three-destinations-Pakistani-exports-five-months>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistani scholar dispels various misperceptions about China

An eminent writer and Director of China Study Center Shakeel Ahmad Ramay in a book dispelled various so-called myths about China and tried to create awareness about the country's political system.

The book was recently published on theme, 'Understanding China for Future Cooperation'. Talking to Gwadar Pro, Ramay introduced it saying that although China is doing a lot but there is little understanding about the systems of China among some countries and masses. The lack of

understanding about China leads to criticism and undue controversies and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is no exception.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-scholar-dispels-various-misperceptions-about-china/>

The News

CPEC to maximise chances of regional economic integration

BEIJING: China, Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is to maximize the chances of regional economic integration and enhance connectivity among neighboring countries.

This was stated by Chinese scholar and former Defense Attache in South Asian countries Cheng Xizhong in an article published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Thursday. In this connection, he referred to recent statement of Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood. In which he had stated that the CPEC will boost trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan, maximizing the chances of regional economic integration.

Prof. Cheng noted that Pakistan has already permitted Afghanistan to utilize Gwadar Port and Bin Qasim Port as a goodwill gesture to enhance the bilateral economic ties. According to him, the transit trade is also imperative for Central Asian states when it comes to connecting with Gwadar Port in near future.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/767496-cpec-to-maximise-chances-of-regional-economic-integration>

K2 Daily News

سپی سیک منضوبوں کی تکمیل کیلئے وڈ لائن کا آغاز کرنے کی ہدایت

پاک چین راہداری منضوبوں سے ترقی ہوگی، نئی راہیں کھلیں گی، منضوبوں میں رکاوٹ برداشت نہیں کی جائیگی

وزیراعظم عمران خان سی پیک منضوبوں کی تکمیل جلد کرنے کیلئے کوشاں ہیں، اسد قیصر کا اجلاس سے خطاب

اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) انٹرنیٹ ویب سائٹ 'کھیل کے لیے وڈ لائن دے دی اور کہا کہ آئے کی اور نئی راہیں کھلیں گی۔ انٹرنیٹ ویب سائٹ 'اسد قیصر نے سی پیک منضوبوں پر کام سیز کرنے کی منضوبوں میں کسی قسم کی رکاوٹ برداشت نہیں کی قیصر کی زیر صدارت اسٹیٹنگ کھلی برائے پندرہ چارٹ کرتے ہوئے تمام متعلقہ حکام کو منضوبوں کی جانے گی، سی پیک منضوبوں سے سونے میں ترقی رات ویک کنال کا (باقی صفحہ 7 پیج نمبر 24)



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia

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

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کیساتھ پاکستان کے تعلقات مزید مستحکم، بھارت کیساتھ بگڑ گئے، سینئر بھارتی سفارتکار

اسلام آباد (جاوید صدیق) پاکستان میں بھارت کے سابق ہائی کمشنر ٹی سی اے رگوان نے ایک مضمون میں لکھا ہے کہ بھارت کے ساتھ پاکستان کے تعلقات کشیدہ رہے ہیں لیکن دوسرے ملکوں خاص طور پر چین اور بھارت سے اس کے تعلقات بہت بہتر ہوئے ہیں بھارتی روزنامہ ہندوستان ٹائمز میں شائع ہونے والے اپنے تجزیہ میں سینئر بھارتی سفارتکار نے جو اس وقت بھارت کے تھنک ٹینک انڈین کونسل فار ولڈ افیئرز کے سربراہ ہیں لکھا ہے کہ چین کے ساتھ پاکستان کے تعلقات مزید مستحکم ہوئے ہیں اس کے مقابلے میں لدانخ میں سرحدی جھڑپوں کے باعث چین اور بھارت کے تعلقات بہت بگڑ گئے ہیں سابق بھارتی سفارتکار نے یہ بھی لکھا ہے کہ سعودی عرب اور متحدہ عرب امارات سے پاکستان کے تعلقات تناؤ کا شکار ہیں جس کی وجہ سے پاکستان معاشی طور پر اب چین پر زیادہ انحصار کرنے لگا ہے مسٹر رگوان نے یہ بھی کہا ہے کہ پاکستان افغانستان کے حوالے سے امریکہ کے ساتھ اپنے تعلقات بہتر بنانے میں کامیاب ہو اسے طالبان اور افغان حکومت درمیان مذاکرات کے پلیٹ فارم سے پاک امریکہ تعلقات بہت بہتر ہوئے ہیں امریکہ کو پاکستان کی افادیت کا احساس ہو گیا ہے یہ تعلقات ٹرمپ کے دور میں بہتر ہوئے ہیں پاکستان کو امید ہے کہ جو بائیڈن کی صدارت کے دوران پاکستان اور امریکہ کے تعلقات مثبت سمت میں گامزن ہوں گے سابق بھارتی ہائی کمشنر نے یہ بھی کہا ہے کہ داخلی طور پر پاکستان ڈیموکریٹک موومنٹ عمران حکومت کیلئے پریشانی کا سبب ہے لیکن خارجہ امور میں بھارت کے علاوہ پاکستان کے اہم ملکوں سے تعلقات میں مثبت تبدیلی آئی ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-01-01/page-1/detail-25>

January 02, 2021

Daily Times

CPEC helps pull people out of poverty through industrialization in Pakistan

The stunning achievement of poverty reduction has not only improved lives in China but its dividends are reaching the regions beyond China through Belt and Road Initiative, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday.

Pakistan as one of the important partners through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is receiving the uplift at the same time where the project is at the second phase focusing on lifting the people from poverty apart from focusing on agriculture and industrial cooperation.

Recently, an online international forum “International Forum on Sharing Poverty Reduction Experience” was held in Beijing. The forum was hosted by State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOP) and organized by International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), bringing together almost 200 representatives from 60 countries.

According to the report, celebrating and hosting such a conference on a global scale especially at the end of 2020 is symbolic in nature as the year is significant when China is completing its important millstone related to poverty alleviation. The main theme of this forum was about sharing poverty reduction experience with other fellow countries.

Among them were representatives from African and South East Asian countries. With a strong congratulatory note from President Xi Jinping highlighting the importance of the Chinese quest and miraculous development efforts to alleviate poverty, the forum was a true learning platform for many countries to know deeper the Chinese experience. The forum was a unique opportunity to know in depth about the strategies, methods and plans of how China has been able to alleviate poverty from its roots even after facing tremendous challenges on the way.

Message by President Xi echo the fact that how strongly the incumbent leadership paved the way through the wisdom of centuries and believe on the future and emerging trends, navigate the nation through the challenging times ahead. The milestone is marked with fanfare as the Communist Party of China is to celebrate 100 years of its foundation.

The year 2020 was a landmark year in China’s overall strategic goals set forth for the country. China has been hailed at all levels and standards of the world including World Bank, United Nations and other financial standards. Even the pandemic has not been able to stop China from its objective. While closely looking at China’s poverty reduction efforts at the domestic level, over the time period of 40 years of reform and later opening up, the individual has remained supreme and center of China’s strategies for development efforts.

The scale of China’s poverty alleviation is tremendous as it was 90 % in 1981 but in 2020 the poverty has been reduced to whooping 1%. This dramatic improvement in poverty reduction for the past years by China has contributed toward the global poverty eradication drive. This drive

was not only focus on metropolitan cities but remote villages across China and poorest of all families using effective strategies, technology, latest development tools and skills with focused approach and sustainable policies frameworks.

Despite numerous hurdles and challenges on the way of China's poverty eradication efforts are notable and novel for the rest of the world. In such a short span of time, managing the root causes of poverty, China has put forth an astonishing model of poverty alleviation program. This forum has also attracted international organizations to participate through video conference; and intergovernmental organizations, national and regional level NGOs learnt the ways and means by China achieve this miracle.

China's struggle against poverty alleviation and poverty reduction strategies set an example of honesty, commitment and perseverance of CPC under the leadership of Xi Jinping. It is purely evident in its nature as they have been courageous in uplifting rural areas from poverty by systematic and organized policy. The country now has a bulk of young population equipped with new technologies and innovative ways to contribute towards economy strategically for the ongoing industrial revolution.

At the same time the uneducated and elderly were supported through various programs by providing basic necessities of life and help to improve their living conditions. This goes true that the Chinese leadership is not taking rest at all and there is a lot to achieve. For them the end of poverty is the beginning of the improvement in the lives of the people through shared prosperity and destiny.

China is steady in its drive towards building an economic base for its populace that is not only helping the country at the domestic level but creating economic ripples across the globe. This entire exercise and assertive efforts by China at the domestic level have providing benefits to the region and beyond and Pakistan is no exception.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/708902/cpec-helps-pull-people-out-of-poverty-through-industrialization-in-pakistan/>

Pakistan Observer

Meaningful aid by China

IN a welcome development, China and Pakistan signed an agreement on Thursday under which the former would provide a \$100 million grant to the latter for rehabilitation of the strategically important N-5 (Karachi-Torkham National Highway), which would help improve road infrastructure and expand the North-South connectivity. The grant assistance is meant for repair of four sections (66 kilometers in total) of National Highway between Hala (Matiari district) and Moro district Naushahro Feroze) in Sindh.

The agreement is reflective of addition of a new and meaningful chapter in the history of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. It assumes greater importance in view of an impression that China extends only loans and project assistance and not grants to other

countries. As pointed out by Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong (on the occasion of signing ceremony), the new project of Rehabilitation of N-5 Road was the largest road project funded by Chinese grant in recent years in Pakistan. N-5 is the economic lifeline of Pakistan but unfortunately Pakistan was facing difficulties in rehabilitation of the highway which was badly damaged in 2010 floods. Some of its portions were repaired with the assistance of China but work on the remaining sections could not be undertaken due to paucity of resources. In this backdrop, China came forward and offered grant assistance for the purpose, which would further increase the traffic capacity, while facilitating people's travel along the route. The decision of the Chinese Government is yet another proof of its commitment to extend all possible cooperation to Pakistan to improve internal and regional connectivity. Already, a number of projects under the umbrella of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have been initiated that would contribute to the socio-economic development of different regions of the country. It is also worth mentioning that China is also providing grant assistance for construction of a world-class airport at Gwadar. China's decision to extend debt relief worth \$732 million under G-20 debt relief initiative and provision of loans to boost foreign exchange reserves especially in view of emergency repayment to some other countries are all manifestations of its commitment to the welfare of the people of Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/meaningful-aid-by-china/>

The News

Pakistan shares dividends of China's poverty reduction experience

ISLAMABAD: The stunning achievement of poverty reduction has not only improved lives in China but also through its newly established Belt and Road Initiative is sharing the dividends to the regions beyond China, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday

Pakistan as one of the important partners through China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is receiving the uplift at the same time where the project is at the second phase focusing on lifting the people from poverty apart from focusing on agriculture and industrial cooperation.

Recently, an online international forum "International Forum on Sharing Poverty Reduction Experience" was held in Beijing.

The forum was hosted by State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOP) and organized by International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), bringing together almost 200 representatives from 60 countries. According to the report, celebrating and hosting such a conference on a global scale especially at the end of 2020 is symbolic in nature as the year is significant when China is completing its important millstone related to poverty alleviation.

The main theme of this forum was about sharing poverty reduction experience with other fellow countries and their statesmen.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/768004-pakistan-shares-dividends-of-china-s-poverty-reduction-experience>

K2 Daily News

چینی ویکسین جلد بلا معاوضہ دستیاب ہوگی، حکومت
 وائرس کے خلاف تحفظ کیلئے نجی شعبہ کو ویکسین درآمد کرنے کی اجازت دی ہے
 اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) پارلیمانی سیکرٹری کے نام شہریوں کو مفت فراہم کرنے کی سہولت ایک
 برائے قومی صحت ڈاکٹر ٹوشین حاد نے کہا ہے کہ انڈونیشیا میں انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومت نے 2021
 حکومت کو وائرس سے بچاؤ کی ویکسین ملک بھر کی دوسری سہولت (باقی صفحہ 7 پیج نمبر 14)

بقیہ 14 پیج
 تک بین الاقوامی مارکیٹ سے کووڈ۔ 19 کی
 ویکسین خریدنے کے لئے 150 ملین ڈالر کی
 ابتدائی رقم تقصیر کی ہے تاکہ 220 ملین کی آبادی
 کو حفاظتی ٹیپے لگائے جاسکیں۔ ڈاکٹر ٹوشین حاد کا
 کہنا تھا کہ چینی ویکسین کے ٹیسٹنگ ٹرائلز کا تیسرا
 مرحلہ جاری ہے اور بہت جلد ہی لوگوں کو بلا معاوضہ
 دستیاب ہو جائے گی۔ انہوں نے یہ بھی بتایا کہ
 حکومت نے کووڈ وائرس کے خلاف تحفظ کے لئے
 نجی شعبہ کو ویکسین درآمد کرنے کی اجازت دی
 ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ کووڈ وائرس سے بچاؤ کی
 ویکسین سب سے پہلے فرنٹ لائن عملے کو لگوانا
 کو لگائی جائے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ دوسرے مرحلہ
 میں 65 سال کے بزرگ افراد کو یہ ویکسین لگائی
 جائے گی اور بعد میں باقی لوگوں کو ویکسین لگائی
 جائے گی۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Front_Page&Date=2021-01-02

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Baqia&Date=2021-01-02

January 03, 2021

Daily Times

Gwadar Port paves way for socio-economic development of Balochistan

As one of the pillars of CPEC, Gwadar Port provides a series of convenience measures for investors and paving the way of tourism for socio-economic development in Baluchistan, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday.

The report quoting Chinese scholar Prof. Cheng Xizhong, stated that continuous development of CPEC, especially the construction of Gwadar Port, has brought new hope to Balochistan, which has been poor and backward for a long time and has also created conditions for the development of tourism and cultural industry in the province.

According to the report, at present, Gwadar Port has great potential in sewage treatment, power generation, entrepot trade of oil and gas, storage, and development of export bonded areas.

More than 30 investment companies from China so far have invested RMB 3 billion. The new airport and other infrastructure projects are under construction. In the future, the infrastructure level of Gwadar Port will reach a height. In terms of investment, in addition to the preferential measures of the federal government, the Balochistan government has also provided 23 years of tax exemption, 100% exemption of equipment import duties at the construction and operation stages of the project, 99 years of land lease, flexible visa management measures, supporting infrastructure and security measures.

At present, Balochistan has two special economic zones under development, namely Bostan special economic zone and Hub special economic zone. In the economic zones, the government has provided a series of incentive policies, including the preferential supply of natural gas, electric power and other infrastructure, friendly visa policy for enterprises entering the zones, one-time reduction and exemption of import tariff of machinery and equipment.

It is worth mentioning that the security situation in Balochistan has improved to a certain extent due to the government's effective measures. If Balochistan continues to make efforts to fundamentally improve its security situation, it will greatly attract international tourists and tourism and cultural industry will be greatly developed.

Prof. Cheng noted that the Balochistan government has launched seven projects to promote tourism in coastal areas of the province and work on these projects is in progress. This was disclosed at a meeting held on Thursday presided over by Balochistan Chief Minister Jam Kamal Khan Alyani.

The meeting discussed the promotion of tourism, culture and archeology and development schemes at tourist sites in Balochistan. A master plan has been prepared for the promotion of tourism and work on eco-tourism resorts is underway at seven places in the coastal areas of the province. As per the master plan, model beach parks will be established at Gaddani, Kund Malir, Ormara, Pasni and Gwadar to provide maximum facilities to tourists. The master plan for the development of tourism facilities in Ziarat and Shaban valleys has also been prepared. In Balochistan, tourism offices will be set up at divisional levels, and tourism information centers will be opened along major highways. The Balochistan government believes that the promotion of tourism, arts and culture will highlight the positive image of Balochistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/709385/gwadar-port-paves-way-for-socio-economic-development-of-balochistan/>

The Express Tribune

Despite odds, China continues to invest in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Year 2020 proved to be yet another period of misunderstanding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Rumors ruled the market and facts could not find a place in discussions. The situation aggravated in the wake of a disinformation campaign to malign CPEC and China-Pakistan relations.

The year started with negative reporting in the international and local media, and the year closed with another wave of negativity. Debt trap, slow pace of CPEC projects and rolling back of Chinese investment were the major allegations levelled to run the smear campaign.

The debt trap is a slogan which has been chanted for a long time. The purpose is to counter Chinese investment flow to Pakistan. First, it was used in Sri Lanka through a deliberate campaign. The purpose was to create fear among countries where China was planning to inject capital.

No doubt, Sri Lanka is going through a debt crisis. However, the Chinese investment has nothing to do with the crisis.

Dushni Weerakoon of Sri Lanka's Institute of Policy Studies and Sisira Jayasuriya, a professor of economics at Monash University, highlighted that China's share in the national debt was only 10%. Furthermore, over 60% of this 10% loan is at the concessionary rate of 2%. It is only a myth that Sri Lanka has to cede Hambantota Port to China.

The same strategy has been adopted to malign CPEC without paying any heed to data or analysis on CPEC investment. Such disinformation starts with reports of debt crisis in Pakistan and its weak foreign currency reserves. It is used to stir fear among people.

Then such conspiracy theories jump directly to CPEC without highlighting the debt contribution from Paris Club (\$10.924 billion), International Monetary Fund (\$7.68 billion), bilateral donors (\$24.352 billion), multilateral donors (\$39.392 billion) and international bonds (\$5.3 billion).

They manipulate data in such a way that puts all the blame on CPEC, though the contribution of CPEC-related investment is only 5.6%, which they intentionally ignore.

The same reports are highlighted and propagated through different media channels. Innocent minds of Pakistanis are trapped through these reports. Common people cannot understand the economic terminologies and the complicated debt data.

Even the ruling elite, decision-makers and businessmen cannot comprehend difficult statistics. Hence, they easily become victim of the smear campaign.

Second, the rolling back of Chinese investment is another false slogan which has been adopted in recent times. The disinformation campaign has accelerated following the Covid-19 outbreak.

The pandemic and its impact on the global economy and investment have provided a greater opportunity to manipulate data. Thus, it is necessary to understand the global dynamics before discussing CPEC.

The World Bank has projected that the global economy will shrink 5.2% in 2020. UNCTAD has forecast that the global foreign direct investment (FDI) will take a 40% hit, which will push the FDI down to less than \$1 trillion from \$1.5 trillion. Moreover, it can further contract by 5-10% in 2021.

Special focus

Despite all these odds and challenges, China is not sitting back. While first half of 2020 saw some turbulence, later China recovered and accelerated its investment.

Pakistan being the host to CPEC, the flagship project of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), got special focus. China started enhancing investment in CPEC and non-CPEC projects.

Among these, China and Pakistan launched two big hydroelectric power projects costing \$1.93 billion. It is a clean investment which will help Pakistan in many ways like cheap electricity, enhanced water storage capacity and availability of water for agriculture during lean periods.

Discussions on the ML-1 railway project are at advanced stages. China has also provided support through a currency swap arrangement.

Third, the pace of progress on projects is another subject of interest for the opponents of CPEC. A major reason behind this argument is the lack of evidence to prove fake news about debt trap and rolling back of CPEC investment.

However, the evidence suggests otherwise. CPEC is going on at a good pace, rather the project has expanded over the past two years. The setting up of CPEC Authority gave a fresh impetus to the project with expansion in the areas of cooperation.

In 2020, when the entire world was under the grip of the deadly pandemic and economic activities came to a standstill, Pakistan and China joined hands to maintain the pace of work and expand cooperation.

The M-4 motorway project was completed during that period. CPEC helped Pakistan to keep 40,000 of its workers engaged. Gwadar Port started functioning as a transit trade facility. The groundbreaking of Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone (SEZ) was performed and preparation for the groundbreaking of Rashakai SEZ has been finalized.

Pakistan and China also expanded cooperation under CPEC. First, social development was added to the basket and China committed more than \$1 billion. The programme will focus on skills development, healthcare, education and job creation.

In 2020, two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed in the fields of agriculture and science and technology. Besides, China offered to donate a date processing plant for Balochistan. The plant will play an important role in creating livelihood opportunities for the local people and enhancing export earnings for Pakistan.

Hence, the campaign against CPEC is unjustified and does not have any sound footing. It is suggested that the government should take immediate steps to improve communication about CPEC benefits for poverty reduction, industrialization and economic transformation.

The CPEC Authority is already working on it and it has improved the communication tremendously but there is a need to further accelerate the process.

Lastly, all players in the power structure should immediately stop making CPEC a subject of point scoring. It is hurting the project and interest of the country.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2278520/despite-odds-china-continues-to-invest-in-pakistan>

Nawaiwaqt News

کرونا وبا کا سی پیک منصوبوں پر کوئی اثر پڑا نہ کام روکا گیا: عاصم سلیم باجوہ

اسلام آباد (شہنشاہ) چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین لینٹینینٹ جنرل ریٹائرڈ عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک کے تحت پاکستان کی معیشت کو فروغ ملے گا جس سے ملک کے علاقائی ممالک سے رابطوں میں بہتری کے علاوہ صنعتی اور زرعی پیداوار میں بھی اضافہ ہو سکے گا۔ چینی میڈیا کو انٹرویو دیتے ہوئے سی پیک اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے پہلے مرحلے میں پاکستان کے بنیادی ڈھانچے کو مکمل کیا گیا جس میں بنیادی توجہ توانائی اور مواصلات کے انفراسٹرکچر پر تھی، راہداری کے دوسرے مرحلے میں صنعتوں کے قیام اور زراعت کے شعبے کا دائرہ وسیع کرتے ہوئے روزگار اور سرمایہ کاری کے مواقع پیدا کئے جائیں گے اور سی پیک کے فوائد کو ملک کے عام آدمی کو منتقل کرنے پر زیادہ توجہ مرکوز ہوگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم اپنی برآمدات میں اضافہ کریں گے جس سے ملکی معیشت کو بہت بڑا فروغ ملے گا۔ اس کے ساتھ زراعت کے شعبے میں روزگار کے مزید مواقع پیدا ہونے سے لوگوں کو فائدہ پہنچے گا اور کسانوں کی فصلوں کی پیداوار میں اضافہ ہوگا۔ سی پیک منصوبے کا پاکستان کے عوام کو بالآخر فائدہ ہوگا۔ سی پیک کے تحت صنعت سازی کو فروغ دینے کے منصوبے کی تفصیلات سے آگاہ کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ اتھارٹی نے نو خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کی نشاندہی کی ہے جس میں پوری دنیا کے سرمایہ کاروں کو صنعتیں قائم کرنے یا پہلے سے موجود صنعتوں کو وہاں منتقل کرنے کی دعوت دی جائے گی، جس سے ملک اپنی برآمدات میں اضافہ کرنے کے قابل ہو جائے گا۔ عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا کہ ملک کو ویڈیو 19 کی وبا سے متاثر ہوا ہے تاہم اس وبا کا سی پیک منصوبوں پر کوئی اثر نہیں ہوا پورے منصوبے پر کام جاری رہا اور کسی بھی منصوبے کو وبا کے باعث روکا نہیں گیا، انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ پاکستان میں سی پیک پر کام کرنے والے چینی کارکن خصوصی پروازوں سے پاکستان آئے تاکہ جاری منصوبوں کو مکمل کیا جاسکے۔ سی پیک سے علاقائی ممالک کے ساتھ رابطوں کو بہتر بنانے کے حوالے سے اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین نے کہا کہ افغانستان سے سامان پہلے ہی گوادرنڈر گاہ پر آنا شروع ہو چکا ہے وسطی ایشیائی ممالک نے بھی وزارت تجارت سے رابطہ کیا ہے تاکہ وہ اپنے سامان کو گوادرنڈر کے راستے منتقل کر سکیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ گوادرنڈر گاہ میں زبردست صلاحیت ہے جس میں ٹرانس شپمنٹ کی بہت بڑی استعداد ہے اس سے بہت سارے راستے کھلنے جارہے ہیں بہت ساری نئی کمپنیاں گوادرنڈر کے راستے تجارت شروع کرنے کے لئے ہمارے ساتھ اور متعلقہ وزارتوں سے رابطہ کر رہی ہیں۔ سی پیک کے فریم ورک کے تحت آئندہ بننے والے ریلوے منصوبے مین لائن ون (ایم ایل-1) کے بارے میں انہوں نے کہا کہ اس منصوبے سے نہ صرف پاکستان کے اندر مواصلاتی رابطوں میں اضافہ ہوگا بلکہ اس سے دیگر علاقائی ممالک اور ان کے ریلوے کے ساتھ بھی رابطے مربوط بنائے جائیں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-01-03/page-10/detail-8>

January 04, 2021

Daily Times

Investors start installing plants in Mohmand SEZ as part of CPEC

Mohmand, a Pakistani district bordering Afghanistan, is going to witness a new era of development as industrialists prepare to install marble processing plants at the special economic zone being developed under CPEC.

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday, Mohmand, and surrounding districts of Bajaur and Khyber, are rich in a vast variety of marble stones and other minerals. Even then, these districts are known for extreme poverty and unemployment. However, the Mohmand SEZ, expected to generate around 18,000 direct jobs, has the potential to make the district a hub of jobs and business opportunities instead.

Bilal Mohmand, an industrialist and convener of the standing committee on marbles and granite of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, or FPCCI, sought early provision of facilities to the SEZ. “I have started setting up my plant in the SEZ but there are no access roads or facilities like water supply and electricity”, he said.

Several other industrialists had also started installing marble processing plants, he added. The SEZ was firstly envisaged by Pakistan Stone Development Company, or Pasdec, as Mohmand Marble City to streamline the marble stone processing industry in the region and provide facilities for the purpose near the districts rich in these minerals. Later, it was designated as a full-pledged Special Economic Zone under CPEC keeping in view its ideal location, said Waqas Ansari, Project Manager (Marble Cities) at Pasdec.

The management of Mohmand Economic Zone was later handed over to the KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company, or KPEZDMC, a provincial government body, following two constitutional amendments, he said. He also said that this shift in authority delayed much-needed facilities including uninterrupted power supply and access roads.

A source in KPEZDMC said that the KP government wanted the project to become fully operational before July. Umar Shahid, a technical officer at KPEZDMC, said that tenders had been sought for the left-over works. A week ago, Tribal Areas Electricity Supply Company (TESCO) authorities visited the grid station being installed at the facility. On December 31, the KP chief minister Mehmood Khan while directing for early completion of facilities at the SEZ also asked the officials to start shifting marble plants on Warsak Road and scattered plants in Mohmand districts to the new facility. He was informed that of the 290 plots, 106 had been leased out already while the Warsak Road plants would be accommodated in the rest of the plots.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/709564/investors-start-installing-plants-in-mohmand-sez-as-part-of-cpec/>

Dunya News

Pakistan imports goods worth over \$4.5 billion from China in 5 months

ISLAMABAD (APP) - China topped the list of countries from where Pakistan imported different products during the first five months of the current fiscal year (2020-21), followed by United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore.

The total imports from China during July-November (2020-21) were recorded at \$4523.671 million against the \$4025.183 million during July-November (2019-20), showing an increase of 12.38 percent during the period, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by UAE, where from Pakistan imported goods worth \$2709.681 million against the imports of \$3070.454 million last year, showing negative growth of 11.74 percent.

Singapore was the at third top country from where Pakistan imported products worth \$1112.755 million against the imports of \$917.708 million last year, showing growth of 21.25 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani imports from Saudi Arabia stood at \$802.496 million against \$622.855 million during last year, showing growth of 28.84 percent while the imports from United State of America (USA) were recorded at \$793.269 million against \$729.116 million last year, showing increase of 8.79 percent, the data revealed.

The imports from Malaysia were recorded at \$447.679 million against \$392.199 million where as the imports from Kuwait were recorded at \$439.430 million against \$450.460 million last year.

During July-November, the imports from South Korea were recorded at \$436.964 million against \$290.545 million whereas the imports from Indonesia at \$409.550 million against \$425.935 million.

Pakistan's imports from Japan were recorded at \$407.361 million against \$510.999 million where as the imports from Switzerland stood at \$391.800 million against \$225.357 million.

Similarly, the imports from Germany during the period under review were recorded at \$389.302 million against \$389.059 million while the imports from Thailand stood at \$325.417 million against \$335.100 million.

Pakistan's imports from Qatar were recorded at \$313.609 million during the current fiscal year compared to \$794.654 million last year, whereas the imports from UK stood at \$304.800 million against \$297.747 million.

<https://dunyaNews.tv/en/Business/581387-Pakistan-imports-goods-worth-over-4.5-billion-from-China-in-5-months>

The Nation

Chinese claim line

Masood Ahmed Khan

The Sino-Indian border is divided into three sectors. The Western sector is known as the Aksai Chin sector (Ladakh), the Central sector, where China shares a border with Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, and the Eastern sector which comprises of the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. According to the Indian Ministry of Defense, the border between India and China is 4065 kilometers and according to an Indian ambassador to China, the border is 3488 kilometers. On the other hand, Chinese officials claim the border to be 2000–1600 kilometers less than what is believed by India's Ministry of External Affairs. This is the length of the boundary that separates Kashmir with Xinjiang and Tibet, which is not recognized by China.

On August 5, 2019, India revoked the special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by abrogating article 370 of Indian constitution. This was followed by an issuance of a new political map where Azad Kashmir was shown as a part of the newly created union territory of Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Gilgit-Baltistan and Aksai Chin as a part of union territory of Ladakh. According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, "China does not recognize the so-called union territory of Ladakh by India and opposes infrastructure construction in the disputed border area for military control purpose". During that time, India also took some steps in occupied Ladakh by constructing a road to link Daulat Beg Oldie and these developments were alarming to China who saw it as a clear threat to Aksai Chin. The Tibet-Xinjiang Highway was also considered a threat to Gilgit-Baltistan and CPEC.

In a classic move on June 15, 2020, China landed its troops in Galwan valley, the Pangong Tso and Nakula areas of North Sikkim. A bloody clash took place in Galwan where 23 Indian soldiers, including the commanding officer of 16 Bihar, were killed. Today, China has encircled the Indian army from Daulat Beg Oldie to Demchok and also dominates the newly constructed road to Daulat Beg Oldie. China has occupied 1000 square kilometers of area in Ladakh from Daulat Beg Oldie to Demchok. On September 10, 2020, China and India agreed to de-escalate through a deal brokered by Russia. Both parties agreed to five points to ease tension on Chinese terms. In the joint statement issued, there was no mention of the LAC or reference to the 1993 agreement. It was made clear by the Chinese that future talks will be based on the Chinese Claim Line of 1959.

Let us have a look at Chinese Claim line. In 1865, Ladakh was surveyed by a British, named Johnson, who marked all of Aksai Chin as a part of IIOJK. This line was never approved or recognized by the Chinese. In 1899, when China got Xinjiang, the British proposed a fresh demarcation known as the McCartney-McDonald Line which put Aksai Chin in Chinese territory, following the Karakoram Range as the border. In 1914, Tibet and Britain signed a treaty and the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Henry McMahon, drew a 550 miles border between British India and Tibet. However, China objected to the validity of the line since it was not a

signatory to this agreement. The British published the 1937 edition of Aitcheson's collection of treaties and the demarcated line, called Line of Actual Control, which China did not recognize. After independence India chose to take the Johnson Line as its border but China claimed Aksai Chin, in its entirety, as its territory.

In a reply to Nehru's memo of 1959, Chinese leader, Zhou Enlai wrote, "Towards the question of boundary settlement, calling the McMahon Line the 'British policy of aggression' cannot be considered legal". According to Nehru, the then Prime Minister, the border with China in the East runs along the McMahon Line and in the West, is based on long usage and customs. In 1954, Chinese maps showed Aksai Chin in its territory and resultantly, India produced its maps to counter the Chinese claim. Until 1950, India did not include Aksai Chin in its maps. In 1959, Chinese Premier, Zhou Enlai, wrote to Nehru explained the Chinese Claim Line. The line starts from the South East of the Karakoram Pass, runs along the East of the Depsang Plains, through the West of Hot Springs, Galwan valley, South bank of Pangong Tso and to Chang Chenmo River in the South. It was also suggested for either side to withdraw 20 kilometers thereby creating a buffer of 40 kilometers. Furthermore, it was proposed armed patrols should not be sent in these areas from where they had withdrawn.

Again in 1960, China further gave a precise location of the 1959 Claim line. China has made it clear that there will be peace only if India accepts Chinese Claim Line of 1959. According to a report in 'This Week in Asia' by Joe Thomas, assistant professor in Chinese studies at Madras University, "Accepting the Chinese 1959 proposed line would have meant an estimated loss of over 6000 square miles of territory for India". Talks at the military commander levels did not make any headway after the recent talks held at the Moldo border point facing Chushul. China's demand is for India to accept the 1959 Chinese Claim Line and also vacate the Southern bank of Pangong Tso and its position along the ridge line. India demands for a complete Chinese withdrawal from finger 4 on the Northern bank of the Pangong Tso. At present, India has deployed its Brahmos missile (500 km) to counter Chinese SAM deployment in Tibet. India has also deployed its T-90 tanks and BMP vehicles in the Chumar-Demchok sector and in view of Indian deployments; PLA has raised its combat levels to the second highest. Global Times of China wrote in an editorial, "If India wants peace, China and India should uphold the LAC of November 7, 1959."

<https://nation.com.pk/04-Jan-2021/chinese-claim-line>

'Pak-China to strengthen military ties'

China is willing to enhance Pak-China military ties to a higher level, said senior Colonel Tan Kefei, public relation officer at China's Ministry of National Defense (MND).

According to sources in a random press conference on December 31, Colonel Tan Kefei, highlighted cooperation and relationship between Pak-China military.

China-Pakistan "Sea Guardians 2020" joint maritime exercise and "Shaheen (Eagle) – IX" joint air force training were mentioned as common examples when Tan said the Chinese military has

made practical exchanges and cooperation firm with foreign ties with reference to military training.

He said, these joint exercises and training have added to the mutual trust and exchanges between the Chinese military and its foreign constituents, and improved realistic training of the Chinese soldiers.

Tan also said, from December 7 to 25, the China-Pakistan Joint Air Force Exercise "Shaheen (Eagle) - IX" was held at the Pakistani air base in Bholari.

The two sides exchanged a series of technical training during the joint exercise and achieved the mutual goals. China and Pakistan are all-time strategic cooperative partners.

The bilateral relationship will continue to improve in the future. In recent years, under the strategic guidance of their leaders, the two countries have developed reliable cooperation in various fields, firmly supported each other in issues covering core interests, and built a closer China-Pakistan community of shared future anew, says Tan.

He also emphasized that the military relationship between China and Pakistan serves as an important pillar for their bilateral relations.

Since the very beginning of this year, the two militaries have been successful in maintaining close high-level strategic communication and have carried out practical cooperation in related fields, checking their brotherhood and friendship enabling them to go through the odds together.

“The year of 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations. China is willing to strengthen ties like epidemic control, joint exercises, military equipment and technology, and logistics to push their military relationship to a higher level,” he added.

At the end of this media conference, this year, he added the Chinese military has been committed to its responsibility as the military force of a major power, it has executed in-depth international military cooperation, and has faithfully surpassed its international duties, says Tan. Moreover, he added leaving the obligations met, it opposed the hegemony, tyranny and bullying. He further added that our military has protected international justice, safeguarded world peace, and actively promoted the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

<https://nation.com.pk/04-Jan-2021/pak-china-to-strengthen-military-ties>

Jang News

چین سی پیک، گوادر پورٹ اور ایم ایل ون پراجیکٹ کیلئے پرعزم

کراچی (رفیق مانگٹ) چین کے وزیر خارجہ وانگ ڈی نے پاکستانی وزیر خارجہ کو بتایا ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان سی پیک بالخصوص گوادر پورٹ اور ریلوے اپ گریڈ کے منصوبے پر تعاون کو مزید بڑھائیں گے، وانگ ڈی نے کہا کہ ”آئرن برادر“ دوست کہنے کی اہمیت ہے۔ یہ اصطلاح دونوں ممالک کے مابین مضبوط تعلقات کو بیان کرنے کے لئے استعمال کی جاتی ہے۔ دونوں وزراء خارجہ کے درمیان فون پر ہونے والی بات چیت رواں ہفتے گوادر بندرگاہ پر مظاہروں کے بعد کی گئی جس سے انفراسٹرکچر کی ترقی کے حوالے سے دونوں

ممالک کو درپیش مشکلات کو واضح کرتی ہے۔ چینی اخبار نے لکھا ہے کہ گوادر بندر گاہ پر سکیورٹی ہاؤس نے چین پاکستان تعلقات کیلئے نیا تناؤ پیدا کر دیا۔ وزیر داخلہ بلوچستان نے مقامی لوگوں کے احتجاج کے بعد گوادر بندر گاہ کے آس پاس حفاظتی ہاؤس کی تعمیر روک دی۔ چینی اخبار ”ساؤتھ چائنہ مارنگ پوسٹ“ کے مطابق بلوچستان کے وزیر داخلہ ضیاء اللہ لاگو نے مقامی لوگوں کے احتجاج کے جواب میں گوادر پورٹ کے چاروں طرف ہاؤس بنانے کے منصوبے کو ختم کر دیا۔ یہ فیصلہ سی

پیک کو درپیش سکیورٹی، سیاسی و معاشی چیلنجوں کی ایک گھمبیر صورت حال ہے۔ کیونکہ دونوں ممالک 2021 میں 70 سال کے سفارتی تعلقات کا جشن منانے جا رہے ہیں۔ چین کے دوسرے کاروبار یہاں تک کہ پاکستان میں سفارتی مفادات کی طرح، گوادر کو دہشت گرد گروہوں کے متعدد حملوں کا سامنا کرنا پڑا۔ مہرین کا کہنا ہے کہ سکیورٹی خدشات کے علاوہ، سی پیک کو حالیہ برسوں میں دیگر چیلنجوں کا سامنا کرنا پڑا ہے، عمران خان نے ملک کے قرضوں کی پریشانیوں کے سبب انفراسٹرکچر میگا پروجیکٹس پر پابندی عائد کر دی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا خان نے سی پیک سے توجہ ہٹا کر کچھ دیگر بڑے انفراسٹرکچر پروجیکٹس جیسے ڈیموں اور بجلی گھروں پر مرکوز کر دی۔ سی پیک کی بجائے انہوں نے لوگوں کے معاش، زراعت اور تعلیم فوکس کر دیا۔ گوادر بندر گاہ 62 ارب ڈالر کے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) منصوبے کا حصہ ہے۔ رواں ماہ، میڈیا رپورٹس میں کہا گیا تھا کہ پاکستان نے سکیورٹی کو بہتر بنانے کے لئے بندر گاہ کے بڑے حصے کے گردی حفاظتی حصار کی تعمیر شروع کر دی ہے، ناقدین نے اس اقدام کو پاکستان کا پہلا سیل شہر قرار دیا، مبینہ طور پر کلو میٹر سے زائد پر خاردار ہاؤس تعمیر کرنے کا مقصد غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کا تحفظ ہے۔ اس بندر گاہ کو چلانے والی کمپنی ”پاکستان چائنا اور سیز پورٹ ہولڈنگ کمپنی“ کے چیف ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر نے بتایا ہے کہ اضافی حفاظتی اقدامات پر پاکستانی اور چینی حکام نے اتفاق کیا تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ بڑھتی ہوئی سکیورٹی کی وجہ سے، متعدد دہشت گرد حملوں کے باوجود گوادر میں کسی چینی شہری کو کوئی نقصان نہیں پہنچا۔ لیکن لاگو نے کہا کہ گوادر کے آس پاس ہاؤس مقامی لوگوں کی تنقید کی وجہ سے روک دیا گیا ہے۔ پاکستانی اخبار کے حوالے سے کہا گیا کہ مقامی لوگوں کو گوادر کے بارے میں فیصلہ کرنے سے دور نہیں رکھا جائے گا اور ہاؤس لگانے کے بارے میں فیصلہ مقامی لوگوں کو اس معاملے پر اعتماد میں لینے کے بعد لیا جائے گا۔ شنگھائی میں فوڈن یونیورسٹی میں جنوبی ایشیا کے مطالعہ کے پروفیسر ڈیوونگ نے کہا پاکستان خطرناک علاقوں خاص طور پر گوادر میں سکیورٹی کی صورت حال کو بہتر بنانے کے لئے کام کر رہا ہے۔ بعض مقامات پر سکیورٹی میں بہتری آئی ہے، لیکن حملے اب بھی برقرار ہیں۔ کوویڈ 19 اور 2021 کے آغاز میں عالمی معیشت کے غیر یقینی معاشی مستقبل کی وجہ سے مسائل اور بڑھ گئے ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/867261>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک سے ملک میں ترقی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی، جنرل (ر) عاصم باجوہ

رحیم یار خان (نمائندہ خصوصی) ڈسٹرکٹ سیکرٹری گڈ گورننس رانا مسعود مجید خاں کی چیئرمین سی پیک اتھارٹی جنرل (ر) عاصم سلیم باجوہ سے اسلام آباد میں ملاقات ملک کی موجودہ صورت حال سمیت سی پیک کے منصوبہ پر تفصیلی اور خوشگوار ماحول میں گفتگو ہوئی، ڈسٹرکٹ سیکرٹری گڈ گورننس رانا مسعود خاں نے کہا کہ سال 2021 پاکستان کی ترقی، عوام کے روزگار اور خوشحالی کا سال ثابت ہو گا۔ رواں سال میں عوام کو واضح تبدیلی نظر آئے گی۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان غربت کے خاتمہ سمیت مہنگائی، بیروزگاری، معاشی بد حالی کو ختم کرنے میں کامیاب ہونگے عوام کو پی ٹی آئی کی حکومت سے وابستہ توقعات پوری ہونگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ حکومتی اداروں میں گڈ گورننس قائم کرنے کے لیے وزیر اعظم کے ویژن کو پایہ تکمیل تک پہنچایا جا رہا ہے۔ میرٹ کی پالیسی کو ترجیح دی جا رہی ہے۔ جنرل (ر) عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پاک چائنہ اکنامک کوریڈور کی تکمیل خطے کا رخ خوشحالی ترقی کی طرف موڑ دے گی۔ ہ قوم کو اکنامک راہداری کی تکمیل کا خوشحال اور مستحکم معیشت کا تحفہ دیں گے۔ سی پیک سے ملک میں ترقی کی نئی راہیں کھلیں گی۔ ہم خطہ میں امن کے خواہاں ہیں سی پیک منصوبہ پاکستان کا ایک بہت بڑا منصوبہ ہے جس سے پاکستان خوشحال ہو گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-01-04/page-1/detail-22>

بھارت سی پیک سے خائف کیوں؟

سبھی جانتے ہیں کہ بھارتی حکمران پاکستان کے حوالے سے جو توسیع پسندانہ عزائم رکھتے ہیں، انہی کے تناظر میں پاکستان کیخلاف طرح طرح کے بے بنیاد الزامات گھڑتے رہتے ہیں۔ دیگر کئی قوتوں کی آنکھوں میں بھی پاک چین دوستی کھٹکتی آرہی ہے تبھی تو وہ سی پیک اور پاک چین تعاون کی راہ میں ہر ممکن رکاوٹیں کھڑی کر رہے ہیں اور یہ سلسلہ ان دنوں بھی پوری شدت سے جاری و ساری ہے، حالانکہ کسے معلوم نہیں کہ چین اور پاکستان کے مابین یہ تعلقات ایک مثالی نوعیت رکھتے ہیں اور ہر آنے والے دن کے ساتھ ان میں پختگی آتی رہی ہے۔ ایسے میں یہ توقع کی جانی چاہیے کہ مستقبل میں بھی پاک چین دوستی مزید گہری ہوگی اور مخالفین کی تمام سازشیں ناکامی سے دوچار ہوں گی۔

ماہرین کے مطابق پاکستانی معیشت کو ماضی قریب میں گرچہ کافی دھچکے پہنچے، سال 2020 اپنی تمام تر تباہ کاریوں کے ساتھ اب تاریخ کا حصہ بن چکا ہے اور دنیا بھر میں کورونا کی وجہ سے 11 ٹریلین ڈالر کا خسارہ ہوا جبکہ 18 لاکھ انسانی جانیں بھی اس موذی وبا کی بھینٹ چڑھ گئیں۔ اس کے علاوہ بھی تاحال کورونا کے حوالے سے تقریباً پوری دنیا ریڈ لارٹ پر ہے مگر یہ امر باعث اطمینان ہونا چاہیے کہ مجموعی طور پر وطن عزیز میں مثبت پیش رفت کا آغاز ہو چکا ہے جس کے ثمرات ہر سطح پر محسوس کئے جاسکتے ہیں۔ غیر جانبدار سنجیدہ حلقوں نے کہا کہ ہے اگرچہ اس ضمن میں بہت کچھ کرنا بھی باقی ہے مگر یہ کہنے میں غالباً کوئی عار نہیں کہ صورتحال قدرے خوش آئند ہے۔ اس ضمن میں یہ بات توجہ کی حامل ہے کہ ایک جانب سیاحت کے شعبے میں ملک میں نمایاں ترقی کا آغاز ہو چکا ہے جس کی سب سے بڑی دلیل یہ ہے کہ پچھلے کچھ مہینوں میں چین سے پاکستان آنے والے سیاحوں کی تعداد خاصی تیزی سے بڑھ رہی ہے۔ اس کی ایک وجہ یہ ہے کہ سی پیک کی بدولت بنیادی ڈھانچے میں قابل لحاظ حد تک بہتری آئی ہے، یہ بات بھی تعارف کی محتاج نہیں کہ عالمی اور علاقائی سطح پر سیاحت تب ہی فروغ پاتی ہے جب سفر کرنے والوں کو سہولتیں میسر ہوں، اس حوالے سے سی پیک نے گذشتہ کچھ عرصے سے جو کردار ادا کیا ہے اس کے نتیجے میں سیر و سیاحت کا شعبہ خاصی تیزی سے بہتری کی جانب راغب ہے۔ نہ صرف چین سے پاکستان آنے والے سیاحوں کی تعداد میں اضافہ ہو رہا ہے بلکہ موجودہ حکومت کی چونکہ ترجیحات میں بھی سیاحت سرفہرست ہے، اسی لئے کچھ عرصہ قبل قریباً 57 ممالک نے اپنی ویزہ پالیسی میں پاکستان کے لئے خصوصی طور پر نرمی پیدا کی اور اس ضمن میں مزید مثبت رفت کی توقع کی جا رہی ہے۔ یہاں اس امر کا تذکرہ بھی بے جا نہ ہو گا کہ چین نے گذشتہ چند عشروں میں عالمی سطح پر اقتصادی، دفاعی اور سفارتی شعبوں میں جو مقام حاصل کیا ہے اسے انٹرنیشنل ریلیشنز کی حالیہ تاریخ میں ایک معجزہ قرار دیا جاسکتا ہے اور ضرورت اس امر کی ہے کہ پاکستان کی حکومت اور عوام اپنے چینی بھائیوں کے تجربات سے خاطر خواہ استفادہ حاصل کریں اور اس دوستی سے بھرپور فائدہ اٹھاتے ہوئے وطن عزیز کو بھی انہی بلندیوں کی طرف لے جانے کی ٹھوس حکمت عملی مرتب کی جائے۔

اس تناظر میں صورتحال کا جائزہ لیتے مبصرین نے کہا ہے کہ درج ذیل باتوں پر توجہ دی جانی چاہیے۔ گذشتہ 15 سے 20 برس کے دوران تھائی لینڈ، لائوس، ویت نام، بنگلہ دیش، میانمار، کمبوڈیا، فلپائن، سنگاپور، ملائیشیا اور انڈونیشیا میں جو قابل رشک حد تک معاشی ترقی ہوئی ہے اس میں سیاحت کے شعبے نے ہر اول دستے کا کردار ادا کیا ہے، اس کے علاوہ بھی دنیا بھر میں سیر و سیاحت کے رجحانات تقویت پارہے ہیں اور مجموعی طور پر دنیا میں ٹورازم ان چند شعبوں میں سرفہرست ہے جو سب سے زیادہ تیزی سے پھل پھول رہے ہیں۔ ایسے میں اس امر کو خوش آئند قرار دیا جانا چاہیے اور امید کی جانی چاہیے کہ وطن عزیز میں اس ضمن میں مزید پیش رفت ہوگی۔

یہاں یہ امر بھی توجہ کا حامل ہے کہ بیرون ملک پاکستانی سفارت خانوں کو اس ضمن میں خصوصی کردار ادا کرنا ہو گا اور ٹورازم کو بھرپور معاونت فراہم کرنی ہوگی۔ اس بابت یہ امر خاص طور پر توجہ طلب ہے کہ مالڈیپ جیسے ساڑھے 4 لاکھ سے کم آبادی پر مشتمل چھوٹے سے ملک میں بھی ہوٹل اور سیاحت کے مراکز ہی ملک کو زرمبادلہ فراہم کرنے کا سب سے بڑا ذریعہ ہیں۔ ایسے میں پاکستان جہاں دنیا بھر کے بلند ترین پہاڑی سلسلوں سے لے کر صحرا تک سبھی کچھ موجود ہے وہاں اگر توجہ دی جائے تو ہوٹلنگ کے شعبے میں

خاطر خواہ مراعات اور سہولیات میسر کرنا غالباً پاکستان کی تقدیر بدلی جاسکتی ہے۔ البتہ یہ امر ملحوظ خاطر رہنا چاہیے کہ آگے بڑھتے ہوئے معاشرتی اور ملکی ماحول میں توازن برقرار رکھنا خاصا ضروری ہے، بہر حال یہ بات خاصی حوصلہ افزا ہے کہ وزیر اعظم اس ضمن میں خصوصی توجہ دے رہے ہیں اور کافی جانفشانی سے کام ہو رہا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-01-04/page-8/detail-9>

January 05, 2021

The News

China substantially contributes to enhance Pakistan's export

BEIJING: China substantially contributed to enhance Pakistan's export in the recent year, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Monday.

Pakistan's exports stood at \$2.357 billion in December 2020, up 18.3 percent from \$1.993 billion in the corresponding month of the previous year, which grew for the fourth consecutive month, according to data released by Pakistan Ministry of Commerce showed on January 1.

Pakistan achieved record exports in December 2020 with a growth of 18 percent over the previous year.

As per the report, Chinese scholar Prof. Cheng Xizhong commenting on it said, there are three main reasons for Pakistan's substantial export growth.

First, this shows the resilience of Pakistani economy. It is a vindication of the government's policy to keep the wheels of economy running during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The policies of the federal government of Pakistan are very wise, focusing on the prevention and control of the pandemic on the one hand and the economic recovery on the other hand.

At the same time, from the very beginning to now, the Imran Khan administration has strongly stressed on the importance of economy development, improvement of people's livelihood, increase of exports, and maintenance of a good state of finance, and roll out a series of policies and measures.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/769430-china-substantially-contributes-to-enhance-pakistan-s-export>

Jang News

چینی کمپنی پنجاب میں ٹائل سازی کی صنعت میں سرمایہ کاری کرے گی

چینی کمپنی اوریل سرامکس نے بھلوال انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ پنجاب میں ٹائل سازی کی صنعت میں سرمایہ کاری بڑھانے کا عندیہ دے دیا۔

پنجاب کے وزیر صنعت و تجارت اسلم اقبال سے چینی کمپنی اوریل سرامکس کے نمائندے دو جیان بن نے لاہور میں ملاقات کی ہے۔

ملاقات کے دوران چینی کمپنی نے بھلوال انڈسٹریل اسٹیٹ میں ٹائل سازی کی صنعت میں سرمایہ کاری بڑھانے کا عندیہ دیا ہے۔

دوجیان بن نے وزیر صنعت و تجارت پنجاب اسلم اقبال کو بتایا کہ حکومت اضافی بجلی اور گیس فراہم کرے تو ہمارے صنعتی یونٹ کی پیداواری صلاحیت بڑھ سکتی ہے۔
چینی کمپنی اوریل سرائکس نے نیا صنعتی یونٹ لگانے کے لیے 150 ایکڑ زمین کی فراہمی کا مطالبہ کر دیا۔

اس موقع پر صوبائی وزیر میاں اسلم اقبال نے کہا کہ صوبے میں نئی سرمایہ کاری لانا حکومت پنجاب کی سرفہرست ترجیح ہے۔

نہوں نے مزید کہا کہ سازگار ماحول کے باعث بیرونی سرمایہ کار سرمایہ کاری کے لیے صوبہ پنجاب کا رخ کر رہے ہیں۔

پنجاب کے وزیر صنعت و تجارت اسلم اقبال کا یہ بھی کہنا تھا کہ چینی کمپنی کو صوبے میں سرمایہ کاری بڑھانے کے لیے ہر ممکن سہولت دیں گے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/868029>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چائنہ اور سیز کمیونٹی کے وفد کی چیئرمین وزیر اعلیٰ شکایت سیل پنجاب سے ملاقات

اہور (نیوز رپورٹر) ناصر سلمان و انس چیئرمین وزیر اعلیٰ شکایت سیل پنجاب سے ان کے آفس میں پاک چائنہ اور سیز کمیونٹی کے سیکرٹری جنرل و فوکل پرسن چین، وزارت اور سیز شوکت علی صافی نے وفد کے ہمراہ ملاقات کی، ناصر سلمان نے شوکت علی صافی کی اور سیز پاکستانیوں کی خدمت کو سراہا، شوکت علی صافی نے ناصر سلمان کا پر تباہ استقبال پر شکریہ ادا کیا، تحریک انصاف کی حکومت اور وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے اور سیز پاکستانیوں کی مثالی خدمت کی، اور سیز پاکستانی موجودہ حکومت کی پالیسیوں سے خوش ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-01-05/page-2/detail-37>

January 06, 2021

Business Recorder

Qaiser for using G-B's potential for development under CPEC

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser said that Gilgit-Baltistan (G-B) had a huge natural potential, and it could be used significantly for development through public-private partnership (PPP) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He expressed these views in a meeting with Speaker G-B Assembly Amjad Hussain Zaidi at the Parliament House on Tuesday.

Speaker Qaiser congratulated Amjad Hussain Zaidi on assuming the office of the Speaker G-B Assembly.

The NA speaker said that the projects under the CPEC would usher in a new era of development and prosperity in the region.

He said that G-B's role in the CPEC was pivotal.

He further said that the G-B had a huge natural potential, which could be used to significantly increase the development of the area.

He proposed a committee in the G-B Assembly to oversee the projects in the area.

He also informed that public and stakeholders' engagement was imperative for achieving the desired results of the CPEC.

He informed that in that regard, a series of consultations with stakeholders, intelligentsia, government officials, and the business community, and a sitting would also be arranged in Gilgit, tentatively, in March this year.

He said that a component in the CPEC amounting to \$1 billion had been reserved for education, vocational training, and tourism development, therefore, in order to fully materialise the financial allocation necessary planning be done for its full utilisation.

He said that the people's sense of deprivation would be eradicated by redressing the injustices done to them in the past. He said that G-B was an integral part of Pakistan, and the incumbent government was committed to the development and prosperity of the area. He said that the government of Pakistan had initiated priority steps for its social-economic development.

Meanwhile, G-B Speaker Amjad Hussain Zaidi thanked the speaker National Assembly and appreciated his sentiments for the development of the region.

He said that undoubtedly the CPEC project was the guarantor of development and prosperity of Pakistan especially G-B.

He said that the people of G-B had reposed confidence in the PTI in the recent elections, and the government would try to come up to their expectations.

Zaidi said that as per the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, steps were being taken on priority basis for the development of the G-B.

He said that G-B had been blessed with immense tourism potential, and provision of infrastructure in the tourism sector could further improve the living standards of the people of the area.

He said that with the timely completion of ongoing projects under the CPEC, the goals of economic development in G-B could be achieved.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/01/06/18-page/864486-news.html>

Daily Times

European NGO uncovers Indian disinformation campaign against China, Pakistan

A report released by a Brussels-based NGO has uncovered an ongoing Indian disinformation campaign launched to discredit nations in conflict with India in Asia, in particular Pakistan but also China to lesser extent.

The report released in early December said it uncovered two Indian organizations creating and spreading disinformation against China to reinforce anti-China sentiment in India, China Global Television (CGTN) reported.

Titled Indian Chronicles, the report was released on December 9 by EU DisinfoLab, an independent non-profit organization focused on tracking sophisticated disinformation campaigns. The report named Srivastava Group (SG), an Indian holding company, and Asian News International (ANI), India's largest video news agency, as the operation's main players.

Since 2005, SG has published fake news on hundreds of fake media outlets to reinforce pro-Indian and anti-Chinese feelings in India, according to the report.

Last year, EU DisinfoLab researchers reportedly uncovered 265 pro-Indian sites operating across 65 countries, and traced them back to the New Delhi-based SG.

The report described how fake media websites and NGOs run by SG lobbied members of the European Parliament to write op-eds taking pro-India stances, often against China, which were then published on the SG's news websites.

ANI then disseminated and repackaged the fake news or op-eds to multiply the repetition of online negative content about China, according to the report. The disinformation is ongoing, according to the report, which adds that the operation's mission is to discredit nations in conflict with India in Asia, in particular Pakistan but also China to a lesser extent.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/710290/european-ngo-uncovers-indian-disinformation-campaign-against-china-pakistan/>

Pakistan Observer

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects to march forward despite Covid-19 pandemic: envoy

Following the uncertainties brought by the Covid-19 pandemic which has affected the entire global economy, speculation as to whether the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a key project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), will continue according to schedule has become louder.

However, despite this speculation and the global pandemic, CPEC projects will march forward based on the consensus reached between the leadership of the two countries, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque told the Global Times in a recent interview. The ambassador's comments came after some Indian media reported that China is backing away from its initial financial commitments to Pakistan under the CPEC, citing data of Boston University researchers in the US.

However, Chinese Foreign Ministry denied these "groundless reports," saying that as an important pilot project of the BRI, CPEC has maintained a positive momentum since its inception in 2013.

According to Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian, the CPEC projects are being advanced as the two sides held the second meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group on International Cooperation and Coordination.

The ambassador, who also attended the meeting, told the Global Times that during the meeting, the two countries reaffirmed that the CPEC is an open and inclusive initiative that welcomes third party participation.

“We therefore invite third parties to join us in this ‘transformational project’ which is bringing a new hope of economic prosperity to the people of Pakistan and the broader region,” said the Pakistani envoy.

Progress amid pandemic

According to Haque, 19 projects under CPEC have been completed and 28 are under implementation.

Citing the Lahore Orange Line Metro project, Haque said that the project, the first mass-transit project of its kind in Pakistan which was launched in October, would provide efficient and affordable transport services to the 10 million residents of Lahore.

“Another important project like the Matiari-Lahore transmission line is set to be put into operation early next year. Some of the key projects in Gwadar like Eastbay Expressway, Gwadar International Airport, Desalination Plant and Power Plant are also moving ahead smoothly,” he said.

COVID-19 pandemic has posed a severe threat to many businesses, Haque adding that amid these extraordinary times of disrupted international travel and supply lines, there was initially some slowdown in the work on CPEC projects.

However, he said, this was primarily due to the special measures taken for epidemic- prevention and safety of the workers. Thereafter, the work has continued on all projects in a way to make up for the lost time.

According to Haque, the CPEC project has entered a phase II period, in which agriculture, science and technology, vocational training and tourism will be prioritized. The projects in these areas, which are also in line with socio-economic agenda of Pakistani government, would help in poverty alleviation and improving individual livelihoods.

Under Phase II, an important dimension is industrial relocation for which nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being established along the route, he said.

“These SEZs through the provision of quality infrastructure and favorable policies offer attractive opportunities for enterprises from China and other countries to set up their businesses and manufacturing facilities,” Haque added.

CPEC has been and remains a central pillar of Pakistan’s overall socio-economic development strategy. Even during the pandemic, CPEC mega projects such as the Lahore Orange Line, Azad

Patan Hydropower Project, Rashakai SEZ, Peshawar-Karachi motorway and Gwadar have all made substantial progress.

The ambassador's comments were echoed by a Chinese manager who is working for the Gwadar port.

"Amid the pandemic, we made sure that there was not a single COVID-19 case among 3,000 Chinese and local employees, which guaranteed the operation resumption and ensured the port's development," a manager of Gwadar port surnamed Lin told the Global Times. "We expanded our business scope which includes cargo transshipment service for Afghanistan. The expansion not only increased the cargo throughput, but also ensured the goods supply for Pakistani and Afghan people," Lin added.

Bright future Citing Indian Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, the Times of India reported recently that Pakistan has become a pawn in China's policy and its military dependence on China would increase further in view of the debt due to the CPEC. "China-Pakistan friendship is a factor of peace and stability in the region. It is not directed against any third country," Haque said.

"It is ironic that a senior Indian military official would make such an absurd statement, when in recent years India itself has become a stooge of the West, playing a second fiddle in their strategy to contain China," Haque added.

Haque also denied Western media speculations that connect CPEC with so-called "debt traps."

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-economic-corridor-projects-to-march-forward-despite-covid-19-pandemic-envoy/>

The Nation

Pak-Xinjiang connectivity enhanced under CPEC

ISLAMABAD - Despite the Covid-19 outbreak, Xinjiang region has developed tourism, promoting connectivity with Pakistan under the CPEC.

According to a report by Gwadar Pro, the boom of Xinjiang tourism, a cultural corridor is constructed to link tourism of Pakistan and China. The connectivity will contribute to prosperity of the tourist economy and local poverty alleviation.

In 2020, tourist attractions in Xinjiang have an all-round update. Among them, 19 scenic spots got 4A level and Karamay World Devil City Scenic Spot got 5A level.

On December 28, Narati Tourist Resort was recognized as one of the 15 national tourist resorts of China selected in 2020, and became the first national tourist resort in Xinjiang.

Meanwhile, 3 routes in Xinjiang were selected as 2020 top 10 self-driving tour routes.

As one of the 3 selected routes, "Symphony silk road" which provides a smooth transition between Chinese culture and Pakistani culture, meanwhile constructs geological connectivity

between the two countries, links Chinese famous cultural spots such as Xi'an, Kashgar, Hotan, and so on to Pakistan.

The experience of Xinjiang's tourism has provided a new train of thought for Pakistan to develop tourism under pandemic and cultural globalization context also created opportunities for tourism connectivity between Pakistan and China under CPEC.

Yang Xiao long, a famous Chinese traveler who used to travel to Pakistan by motorcycle through Xinjiang many times, said that Xinjiang plays an irreplaceable role in CPEC tourism connectivity.

<https://nation.com.pk/06-Jan-2021/pak-xinjiang-connectivity-enhanced-under-cpec>

Chinese company keen to set up a new industrial unit

LAHORE-Representative of Chinese Company Oreal Ceramics WO Jianbin called on Provincial Minister for Industries and Trade Mian Aslam Iqbal here on Tuesday and discussed matters relating to investment. Director PBIT Suhail Saleem was also present. The Chinese company has shown interest in investing in the tiles industry in Bhalwal Industrial Estate and production capacity can be increased if the additional supply of electricity and gas is provided. It also demanded to provide 50-acre land for setting up a new industrial unit. The minister welcomed the new investment plans and reiterated that the promotion of investment is the top priority of the government. The government will provide every possible facility to maximize the investment in the province; he said and directed the relevant officials to provide every possible facility to the Chinese company for setting up a new industrial unit. The new investments help in poverty alleviation and overcoming the chronic issue of unemployment in the province, concluded the minister.

<https://nation.com.pk/06-Jan-2021/chinese-company-keen-to-set-up-a-new-industrial-unit>

Express News

کراچی پیکینج پر عمل درآمد شروع، چین سے 52 جدید فائر ٹینڈرز بندرگاہ پیکینج گئے

وفاقی حکومت کی جانب سے کراچی کو دیئے گئے فائر ٹینڈرز کراچی پورٹ پیکینج گئے، ڈیکسن نامی جہاز 52 جدید فائر ٹینڈرز لے کر کراچی کی بندرگاہ پیکینج گیا جو کاسکو شپنگ ایجنٹ ٹرمینل منتقل کیے جائیں گے۔

کے پی ٹی ذرائع کے مطابق فائر ٹینڈرز منگل کی شب تک آف لوڈ کر لیے جائیں گے، چین سے درآمد شدہ فائر ٹینڈرز وزیراعظم پاکستان کی جانب سے کراچی کے لیے پیکینج کے تحت کے ایم سی کے سپرد کیے جائیں گے۔

ان میں 50 فائر ٹینڈرز اور 2 باؤرز شامل ہیں۔ فائر ٹینڈرز میں 7 ہزار لیٹر پانی ذخیرہ کرنے کی گنجائش موجود ہے۔ فائر ٹینڈرز پر خصوصی پاور واٹر نوزل نصب ہیں جو اونچی عمارتوں میں لگی آگ بجھانے کے لیے موزوں ہے۔

نئے فائر ٹینڈرز کی آمد سے کراچی میں آتشزدگی کے واقعات سے ہونے والے جانی و مالی نقصان کو کم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی کیوں کہ کراچی میں فائر ڈپارٹمنٹ کے 44 ٹینڈرز میں سے بمشکل 14 فعال حالت میں ہیں اسی طرح 25 فائر اسٹیشنز میں سے 11 ہنگامی حالت میں حرکت میں آنے کی صلاحیت رکھتے ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2126240/1/>

Jang News

چین کی فوشان یونیورسٹی نے بلتیس گل کو ان کی اعلیٰ تحقیق اور تدریس کی بناء پر ”لنگنن پروفیسر چیئر“ کے اعزاز سے نوازا

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) چین کی فوشان یونیورسٹی نے حال ہی میں جامعہ کراچی کے تحقیقاتی ادارے ڈاکٹر محمد اجمل خان انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف سسٹیم اینڈ ہیلو فائٹ یوٹیلٹیز میں سربراہ پروفیسر ڈاکٹر بلتیس گل کو ان کی اعلیٰ تحقیق اور تدریس کی بناء پر ”لنگنن پروفیسر چیئر“ کے اعزاز سے نوازا ہے۔ اس اعزاز کے ساتھ پروفیسر بلتیس گل کی مذکورہ بالا جامعہ اور جامعہ کراچی کے درمیان سائنسی معلومات اور تحقیقات کے تبادلہ میں معاون کردار ادا کریں گی۔ پروفیسر بلتیس گل گذشتہ 26 برسوں سے تدریس و تحقیق میں مصروف ہیں۔ اس دوران انہوں نے شورش زدہ زمینوں کو قابل کاشت بنانے اور غیر روایتی ”ہیلو فائٹ“ فصلوں کے استعمال پر متعدد تحقیقی پروجیکٹس مکمل کئے۔ وہ اب تک چھ کتب اور 123 تحقیقی مقالہ جات تصنیف کر چکی ہیں جو شورش زدہ زمینوں پر تحقیق کے حوالے سے ایک نمایاں حیثیت رکھتے ہیں۔ ان کی تصنیفات کی اہمیت کا اندازہ ان کے 3800 انڈیکس سے لگایا جاسکتا ہے۔ 36h سے زائد حوالہ جات، 144 اپیکٹ فیلڈ اور

پروفیسر بلتیس گل 10 سے زائد پی ایچ ڈی مقالہ جات کی بھی سرپرستی کر چکی ہیں، ان کو 2005ء میں پاکستان اکیڈمی آف سائنسز کا گولڈ میڈل اور 2012 تا 2015ء کے دوران یونیورسٹی کی تحقیقی چیئر کی صدارت بھی عطا کی گئی۔ پروفیسر بلتیس گل کا نمایاں کارنامہ ایک غیر روایتی فصل کی دریافت ہے جو خشک اور شورش زدہ بنجر زمینوں پر بطور چارہ کاشت کی جاسکتی ہے اور غذائی خود انحصاری کی تکمیل میں معاون ثابت ہو سکتی ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/868258>

January 07, 2021

Daily Times

Construction giant of China shares experience with Pakistan

“The natural, geographical and cultural environments of China and Pakistan are very different from each other, so during construction, we worked out measures to adapt to local conditions and shared our construction experience with our Pakistani friends,” this was stated by Dong Zhihong, deputy general manager of Asia Pacific Division, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

Take the mountainous areas in Pakistan as an example. “It is difficult to conduct construction work there as the geological conditions are not that favorable.” Therefore, “blasting, protection, and support of high slope, tunneling and excavation technologies are applied to the construction project site after certain improvement and optimization,” Mr. Dong added.

As per Dong, a joint venture led by CCECC signed a construction contract for the upgrade and renovation of the main runway 18L-36R of Allama Iqbal International Airport (AIAP) with

Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) last August. At present, the commencement order was issued by the employer, and work including the takeover of the site, the construction of temporary camps for administration office and dormitory, the construction of temporary facilities (batch plant, canteen), and the removal of existing avionics facilities on the runway was completed.

Also, a mobilization meeting held last November had CCECC employees ready for 24-hour non-stop day and night construction, with workers running on two shifts and machines running to ensure quality and quantity of timely completion. “The ratio of local employees on site is very high, and the ratio of Chinese and Pakistani employees is about 1:5 to 1:10 according to different types of work, which creates a lot of employment for the locals,” Dong further mentioned. “CCECC also has an edge in water supply and rail transportation, so we are also looking for good investment opportunities in Pakistan in days to come, such as highways, water supply plants, power plants, and so on,” noted Dong.

CCECC Pakistan Branch was officially established in 2015 and has been committed to strengthening the construction of CPEC. It has undertaken the implementation of five projects worth about 600 million, focusing on infrastructures like roads and airport runways. As one of the pioneering Chinese companies entering the international market, CCECC is now developed into a large-scale state-owned enterprise with Chinese National Super Grade Qualification for railway project engineering and has been listed.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/710741/construction-giant-of-china-shares-experience-with-pakistan/>

Dawn News

Call for exploitation agriculture potential under CPEC'

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Wednesday called for strengthening the agriculture sector under the CPEC framework by observing that this diminishing sector has the potential source of employment for the people of the country.

The committee, chaired by Sher Ali Arbab, emphasized that Pakistan needs not to rely on China for technological transfer rather boost its capacity building. The country needs to enhance the areas of research to encourage indigenous technological innovations and modernize its agriculture sector, the meeting noted.

The committee observed that the research which is being generated by Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) to enhance agricultural production needs to be collaborated with Ministry of Commerce and other concerned to check economic viability of the agricultural commodities so that Pakistan's vast agriculture potential could be utilized in enhancing agricultural exports.

Moreover, it was noted that China imports meat worth \$48 billion from other countries. Since Pakistan has huge potential in the livestock and other food processing items, there is an exigency

of meeting international food standards and initiating negotiations with China to remove anomalies and enhance local exports in these areas. The committee observed that these steps would allow Pakistan's engagement with China to become more prolific and constructive under the CPEC framework.

The committee heard a briefing by Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research Ghufuran Memon and PARC Chairman Dr Muhammad Azeem Khan concerning the council and other projects in the agriculture sector. Sharing 10-year development targets under CPEC, Dr Khan briefed the committee that PARC's aim is to make Pakistan a cotton exporting country rather importing cotton from other countries thereby saving foreign exchange worth \$1.5bn.

Besides renovation of existing orchards, introduction of new varieties, reducing post-harvest losses, improving value chain and development of rural industries are major proposed interventions.

The committee members also paid visit to the exhibition at National Agriculture Research Centre where a comprehensive briefing was given to the committee on agro-tech company, aquaculture and fisheries programme, honeybee research institute, alternative energy use in agriculture and vegetable and fruit crops cultivation processes.

The committee members remarked that farmers were the major stakeholders of agriculture sector, and it is a matter of concern that seeds of various crops were not being provided to farmers on time.

In this regard, the committee suggested that bottlenecks need to be removed to ensure fair and timely distribution of crops seeds to the farmers so that by resolving farmers' issues agricultural productivity could be enhanced.

Speaking on the occasion, Arbab said that selected groups of farmers from all provinces and regions would be invited to convey their concerns to PARC so that their problems could be resolved.

The committee was also of the view that the vast potential of agriculture sector if exploited prudently and effectively will vehemently alter the socio-economic landscape of our country, bring lasting economic benefits and strengthen the process of industrialization under CPEC framework.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1600132>

The Express Tribune

Alvi urges completion of projects in Gwadar

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has underlined the need for utilizing Gwadar Port Free-Zone area for transit trade with Afghanistan and stressed the need for ensuring speedy flow of the traffic at the deep seaport.

The president urged the authorities concerned to accelerate development activities and remove any hindrances in this regard through consensus-building and consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

Alvi received briefings about the progress in work on the Gawadar city Master Plan and operationalization of the port on Wednesday. He was also briefed on the 60-acre free zone area at Gawadar which will include recreational facilities, hospitals, schools and multiple industries.

In their briefings, Gawadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani and Director General Gawadar Development Authority (GDA) Shahzaib Khan Kakar highlighted the development works at Gawadar Port and the Gawadar city.

The president underscored the importance of “strategy and vision” for the successful completion of national projects. He regretted a slow pace of development in Gawadar in the past and urged timely completion of all infrastructure and industry related projects as per the given timelines.

The president was also briefed about the 19 kilometers Eastbay Expressway, which will connect the port with the Coastal Highway and help carry cargo without disturbing the local population, said a statement issued here.

Alvi urged the GDA and the GPA to expedite the work on the port as well as the city of Gawadar. He advised both the organizations to consider the needs of local fishermen in the Master Plan. He also thanked the Chinese government for constructing China Business Center (CBC) in Gawadar.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2279017/alvi-urges-completion-of-projects-in-gwadar>

The Nation

Pakistan shouldn't rely on China for agriculture technological transfer

Islamabad-Parliamentary Committee on CPEC Chairman has Wednesday said that Pakistan needs not to rely on China for technological transfer rather boost its capacity building and enhance the areas of research to encourage indigenous technological innovations and modernize its agriculture sector.

29th meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was held in National Agriculture Research Centre, under the Chairmanship of MNA Sher Ali Arbab. Committee chairman was briefed by PARC Chairman regarding 10 years development targets under CPEC.

The Committee was briefed by Ministry of National Food Security & Research Secretary and, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council Chairman regarding Pakistan Agricultural Research Council and other projects related to the agriculture sector.

The PARC Chairman while sharing 10 years development targets under CPEC, briefed the Committee that PARC aims to change Pakistan from cotton import country to cotton export

country and save foreign exchange of \$1.5 billion. Besides renovation of existing orchards, the introduction of new varieties, reducing post-harvest losses, improving value chain and development of rural industries are major proposed interventions. The Committee also paid a visit to the exhibition at National Agriculture Research Centre where a comprehensive briefing was given to the Committee by concerned regarding Agrotech Company, aquaculture and fisheries program, Honeybee Research Institute, alternative energy use in agriculture and vegetable and fruit crops cultivation processes.

“We need to strengthen this diminishing sector under CPEC framework,” The committee Chairman remarked. It is therefore imperative that Pakistan needs not to rely on China for technological transfer rather boost its capacity building and enhance the areas of research to encourage indigenous technological innovations and modernize its agriculture sector.

The Committee observed that the research which is being generated by PARC to enhance agricultural production needs to be collaborated with Ministry of Commerce and other concerned to check economic viability of that agricultural commodities so that Pakistan’s vast agriculture potential could be utilized in enhancing agricultural exports. Moreover, it was noted that China imports meat worth \$48 billion from other countries. Taking Pakistan’s huge potential in livestock and other food processing items into account, there is an exigency of meeting international food standards and initiate negotiations with China to remove anomalies and enhance Pakistan’s exports in these areas. This is how Pakistan’s engagement with China can be made more prolific and constructive under CPEC framework.

The Committee remarked that farmers are the major stakeholders of the agriculture sector. It is concerning that seeds of various crops are not being provided to farmers timely. Some members of the parliamentary committee also pointed toward the inequitable distribution of seeds. The members also alleged that the seeds were available on the private stores instead of the NARC centers. However, the allegation was rejected by the official of NARC, saying that the member was talking about the new variety of Garlic seed G1. The new variety was developed by the PARC within three years and was not sold to anyone. They have planted the new seeds in 25 acres area within PARC and will be available for next years. The stores who were selling Garlic seeds saying as G1 was lying. They were selling some other Garlic seed as G1 variety, the official added.

The committee said that bottlenecks in this regard need to be removed to ensure fair and timely distribution of crops seeds to the farmers so that by resolving farmers’ issues agricultural productivity could be enhanced and agriculture sector could be made more beneficial for these important stakeholders. In the light of these issues, Hon. Chairman remarked that selected group of farmers from all provinces and regions would be invited to convey their issues to PARC so that their problems could be resolved and recommended to Members to send the list of issues which they believe are important to be addressed so that Committee may take up those issues with PARC and resolve them accordingly.

The Committee further added that vast potential of the agriculture sector if exploited prudently and effectively will vehemently alter the socio-economic landscape of our country, bring lasting economic benefits and strengthen the process of industrialization under CPEC framework. Therefore more focused and integrated efforts are required to revive the agriculture sector and further utilize its potential for ensuring inclusive economic growth and development. Members of Parliamentary Committee on CPEC have raised the issue of inequitable distribution of seeds by Pakistan Agricultural Research Centre (PARC) saying that the new variety of seeds were missing from the NARC Centers but were available in private stores. Chairman Parliamentary Committee on CPEC, after the briefing, emphasized that we must first address the existing agricultural infrastructure in Pakistan and its shortcomings so that in the light of modern agricultural knowledge and experience comprehensive and sustainable strategies can be formulated and solutions to the shortcomings in agriculture can be found on a modern scientific basis.

The meeting was attended by Noor Alam Khan, MNA Sadaqat Ali Khan Abbasi, Umer Aslam Khan, Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak, Ghous Bux Khan Mahar, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Mehnaz Akber Aziz, Raza Rabani Khar, and Senator Mir Kabir Ahmed Muhammad Shahi.

<https://nation.com.pk/07-Jan-2021/pakistan-shouldn-t-rely-on-china-for-agriculture-technological-transfer>

Express News

سی پیک کو نشانہ بنانے والے کون ہیں؟

پاکستان کے پہلے مسائل کم نہیں کہ اُس پر ہر روز ایک نیا ”کٹنا“ کھول دیا جائے۔ موجودہ دور میں میڈیا سے جتنا پروپیگنڈہ کیا جا رہا ہے، اس سے قبل شاید ہی کیا جاتا رہا ہو۔ اچھے بھلے ہیرو کو ولن اور ولن کو ہیرو بنا دیا جاتا ہے۔ ایک مدت کے بعد یہ راز کھلتا ہے جسے ہم ہیرو سمجھتے رہے، وہ تو رہبر کے روپ میں رہن تھا۔ پاکستان میں بھی ایسا ہی ہے۔ سی پیک کی مثال لیجئے۔ جس دن سے اس کا آغاز ہوا ہے، اس دن سے یہ پروپیگنڈے کی زد میں ہے۔ بھارت کی جانب سے یا کسی اور پڑوسی ملک کی جانب سے اگر کوئی پروپیگنڈہ کیا جائے تو سمجھ میں آتا ہے، لیکن جب یہی زہریلا پروپیگنڈہ ہماری ہی قوم کے ناپختہ اذہان کو بھونکانے کا موجب بن جائے اور وہ دشمن کی زبان بولنے لگ جائیں تو پھر جواب دینا فرض عین ہے، فرض ہے، جس کی بروقت ادائیگی ضروری ہے۔ میں استاد محترم رضی صاحب کا مشکور ہوں کہ ان کی رہنمائی حاصل رہتی ہے۔ ابھی کا تازہ پروپیگنڈہ یہ ہے کہ ”سی پیک اصل میں پاکستان کو قرضوں کے جال میں پھنسانے کی سازش ہے“۔

سب سے پہلے تو یہ سمجھیے کہ دور یا ستوں کے مابین قرض بابت کیسے تعلقات ہو سکتے ہیں؟ پہلا تو ریاست کا ریاست سے قرض ہوتا ہے۔ سی پیک میں یہی قرض شامل رہا تھا۔ اس حوالے سے چین نے گزارش کی تھی کہ یہ قرض صرف پاکستان کے لیے ہے اور آپ نے مہربانی کر کے کسی سے اس کا ذکر نہیں کرنا ہے۔ اس میں نہ ہونے کے برابر شرح سود تھی اور بہت سی جگہوں پر شرح سود تھی ہی نہیں۔ موجودہ حکومت کو سیلوٹ ہے کہ اس نے ”مہینہ طور پر“ ان قرضوں کی ساری معلومات آئی ایم ایف کے ساتھ شیئر کر دی۔ آئی ایم ایف کا دوسرا مطلب امریکا ہی ہے۔ آئی ایم ایف کا ایشیائی ممالک اور مشرق وسطیٰ میں کیا کام ہے؟ کسی کو سمجھنے کی جتنو ہے تو مصر کے ماڈل کو پڑھ لے۔ یہ معلومات کے لیک آؤٹ ہونے پر چین کا کیار د عمل تھا، وہ ہم کسی اور کالم میں بتائیں گے۔ سر دست قرض کی دوسری قسم کو دیکھتے ہیں۔

دوسری قسم ہوتی ہے جس کو پروجیکٹ لون کہا جاتا ہے۔ یہ کیا ہوتا ہے؟ یہ قرض بہت بڑے بڑے منصوبے بنانے کے لیے فراہم کیے جاتے ہیں۔ مثال کے طور پر ایک ڈیم بنانا پاکستان جیسی ریاست کے بس کی بات نہیں ہوتی ہے۔ اس کا ابتدائی ہی کئی بلین روپے کا ہے، تو غریب معیشت ایسی باتیں افورڈ ہی نہیں کر سکتی۔ لیکن یہ معاملات ضروری بھی ہوتے ہیں تو اس کے لیے مختلف سوسائز سے قرض حاصل کیا جاتا ہے۔ ان میں پہلی ترجیح مقامی بینک، ٹیکس نیٹ وغیرہ شامل ہوتے ہیں۔ اس کے بعد بین الاقوامی بینکنگ سے بات کی جاتی ہے یا پھر دوست ممالک سے درخواست کی جاتی ہے۔ ہم نے پروجیکٹ لون کے لیے چین سے درخواست کی۔ چین نے یہ درخواست اپنے بینکنگ چینل سے پوری کروا دی، جہاں بین الاقوامی شرح سود زیادہ سے زیادہ 3 فیصد تک ہے۔

اب قرض کی تیسری قسم ہوتی ہے۔ وہ ریاست آپ کے لیے قرض کا بندوبست کر دیتا ہے۔ آپ کو سو روپے چاہئیں۔ آپ نے دوست سے بات کی۔ دوست نے کہا کہ تم فلاں بندے سے 100 روپے لے لو، باقی میں دیکھ لوں گا، تم نے مجھے یہ پیسے اتنی مدت میں واپس کرنے ہیں۔ یہی یہاں بھی ہوا تھا۔ ہم نے سعودیہ کو قرض واپس کرنا تھا، ہم نے بنگلیں جھانکیں، سارے ہی دوست ممالک جو ماضی میں ہماری مدد کرتے آئے ہیں، انہوں نے انکار کر دیا۔ ہم نے اس کے لیے بھی چین کا درکھٹھٹایا۔ چین نے یہ ضرورت بھی 3 یا ساڑھے 3 فیصد کمرشل انٹرسٹ ریٹ کے ساتھ اپنے ہی بینکنگ چینل سے پوری کروادی۔

اب مجھے سمجھائیے کہ سری لنکا کی بندرگاہ کاسی پیک سے یا ان قرضوں سے کیا تعلق ہے؟ میجر گرو اوریا ہی سمجھا دے کہ کیسے اُس نے یہ تعلق نکال لیا ہے؟ سری لنکا اور چین کے معاملات اس حوالے سے بالکل ہی الگ تھے۔ ہاں یہ ہے کہ سری لنکا کی اس بندرگاہ پر موجودگی سے بھارت کو خطرہ ہے۔ لیکن توپوں کا رخ پاکستان کی جانب کیوں کر دیا؟ مجھے تو یہ بھی شک ہوتا ہے کہ کل کو بھارت اپنی بڑھتی ہوئی آبادی کا ذمے دار بھی پاکستان کو ہی نہ ٹھہرا دے۔

پاکستان کی قسمت کہہ لیجئے کہ پاکستان جس جگہ موجود ہے، وہ اس خطے کی قیمتی ترین جگہ ہے۔ اس کا اندازہ شاید 1958 تک کسی کو بھی نہیں تھا اور جب اندازہ ہوا تو اس کے بعد سے ہی یہ خطہ غیر مستحکم ہے۔ سی پیک دنیا کے قیمتی ترین روٹس میں سے ایک ہے۔ ایک طرف سمندر ہے اور دوسری جانب خشکی کا لمبا راستہ۔ جس کو اگر طریقے سے استعمال کیا جائے تو یورپ تک رابطہ ہو سکتا ہے۔ یہ تو سب ہی کو علم ہے کہ سب سے سستا راستہ خشکی کا ہوتا ہے اور اس کے بعد سمندر کا چھوٹے سے چھوٹا راستہ سب سے سستا ہوتا ہے۔ ہم نے اس سے قبل عرض کیا تھا کہ آنے والے دنوں میں ہمسائیوں کے علاوہ ترکی اور روس بھی اس بیٹ میں شامل ہوں گے۔ ترکی اس بیٹ میں شامل ہونے کے لیے سنجیدہ ہو چکا ہے۔ اس کی وجہ یہ ہے کہ جس سمندری راستے سے ترکی آج تجارت کر رہا ہے، وہ اسے سی پیک کے روٹ کی نسبت 60 فیصد تک مہنگا پڑتا ہے۔ اسی طرح روس بھی یورپ تک سی پیک کے راستے جانا چاہتا ہے۔ ون بیٹ، ون روڈ کا خواب یہی ہے۔

ایسے حالات میں جب روایتی دوست قرض واپس مانگ رہے ہیں تو چین ہمیں مزید قرض بھی دینے کو تیار ہے۔ اس کی کیا وجہ ہے؟ اس کی ایک وجہ تو یہ ہے کہ چین کا پاکستان کے ساتھ بزنس انٹرسٹ ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ چین کا اس خطے میں اسٹریٹیجک انٹرسٹ بھی ہے۔ اس سوال کا جواب تلاش کیجئے کہ کیوں امریکا اس وقت چین کو سمندری راستوں میں گھیر رہا ہے؟ سی پیک چین کی بقا کے لیے بھی ضروری ہے کہ اگر چین کا ایک دروازہ مختصر وقت کے لیے بند ہوتا ہے تو دوسرا دروازہ کھلا رہے گا اور اگر دونوں دروازے ہی کھلے رہیں گے تو ظاہر ہے کہ چین کو دہرا فائدہ ہو گا۔

اب یہ نقطہ بھی یاد رکھئے گا کہ جہاں بھی تیز رفتاری سرمایہ کاری ہوتی ہے، وہاں پر قرضوں کا جال نہیں بچھایا جاسکتا، کیونکہ ایسی صورت میں قرض دینے والی پارٹی ہمیشہ نقصان میں رہتی ہے۔ پاکستان نے چین کا قرض واپس کرنا ہے۔ درست ہے۔ لیکن اس قرض کی واپسی میں لمحہ موجود میں دستیاب سہولیات شامل ہیں۔ سی پیک میں کوئی قرض کا جال نہیں ہے، یہ پرافٹ اینڈ لاس کی گیم ہے اور یہ ایک الگ بحث ہے کہ اس پرافٹ اینڈ لاس میں کون کتنا پرافٹ میں ہے اور کسے کتنا پرافٹ ہونا چاہیے تھا۔

امریکا اور بھارت تو سی بیک کے کاندھے پر بندوق رکھ کر چین کو لازمی نشانہ بنائیں گے، لیکن یہ آوازیں پاکستان سے کیوں بلند ہو رہی ہیں؟ کیا ان کے علم میں یہ معلومات اور معاملات نہیں ہیں؟ کیا یہ ان کے زر خرید ایجنٹ تو نہیں، جن کا کام ہی جھوٹی اطلاعات پھیلا کر کنفیوژن پیدا کرنا ہے؟ کون ہیں یہ لوگ؟

<https://www.express.pk/story/2126543/464/>

January 08, 2021

Dawn News

CPEC body wants axle load policy implemented

ISLAMABAD: The Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Thursday expressed concerns over the impediments in implementation of axle load policy, which can cause exponential damage to road infrastructure and have huge cost implications.

The committee in its meeting held here recommended that the Ministry of Communications may resolve such impediments by calling consultative meeting with all transport departments of provinces and regions, industrialists and other stakeholders to seek their input and implement the policy in true spirit. This, according to the committee chairman MNA Sher Ali Arbab, was necessary to protect road infrastructure and facilitate smooth regulation of trade.

Various government officials such as the additional secretary of Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, additional secretary of Ministry of Interior, additional secretary of Ministry of Communications, joint secretary of Ministry of Water Resources and Member (Water) Wapda briefed committee members of agenda items of the Committee on previous and current axle load policy in Pakistan.

The policy oversees road infrastructure projects under CPEC framework and international best practices. The committee was a comprehensive briefing on Chashma Right Bank Canal.

The CPEC committee also took up issuance of work visas to Chinese workers.

During the briefing from the officials concerned on previous and current axle load policy in Pakistan, the committee chairman remarked that facilitating trade and enhancing investments in Pakistan were long-term envisaged goals of CPEC.

“Success of CPEC hinges upon effective and timely operationalization of Gwadar and Special Economic Zones,” he stressed.

The committee further observed that Chasma Right Bank Canal could be a viable and inventive project for agricultural production.

It was agreed that after the completion of feasibility study on Chasma Right Bank Canal, the committee would thoroughly examine the project.

“If need be, the negotiations with Chinese government would be initiated to place the project under CPEC framework,” Sher Ali Arbab suggested.

He also remarked that the efforts made by Interior Ministry to avoid delays and expedite the issuance of work visas by introducing online facility would significantly benefit Pakistan to ensure smooth movement of people, commodities and marked increase in trade and investment.

“People of Afghanistan desire to invest in Pakistan. By introducing such facilities, Pakistan would be able to attract more investment from Afghanistan, which due to absence of provisions in Pakistan is diverted to other neighboring countries,” he argued.

Avoiding procrastination in issuance of work, medical and education visas to foreigners would not only facilitate Pakistan’s trade with other countries but also bolster the country’s bilateral relations with neighboring nations, members of the committee observed.

The committee deferred the briefing on Gwadar Fencing Project to provide sufficient time to the department concerned for preparing an inclusive briefing in the next meeting.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1600333>

The Nation

China to work with Pakistan, other neighbors on health issues

On Friday, China said that it will work with Pakistan and other neighboring countries to make greater contribution in building a regional community with shared future for health.

This was stated by Chinese Foreign Ministry s Spokesperson Hua Chunying during her regular briefing in Beijing, while responding to a question about China s recently held meeting on anti-epidemic cooperation with Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The spokesperson said China, Pakistan Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh held the first meeting on anti-epidemic cooperation and poverty reduction cooperation on Wednesday last.

It was a follow up of the China, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal Foreign Ministers meeting in last July, she added.

<https://nation.com.pk/08-Jan-2021/china-to-work-with-pakistan-other-neighbors-on-health-issue>

The News

Vaccine from China to reach by January end

Islamabad : The first shipment of COVID-19 vaccine is likely to reach Pakistan by the end of this month, said Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of National Health Services Dr Nausheen Hamid on Thursday.

She didn't specify the vaccine to be procured by the country. However, experts insist it will be the Sinopharm vaccine made in China.

The parliamentary secretary also said the government was preparing a database of frontline health workers to be vaccinated against the virus free of charge in the first phase. Science and

technology minister Fawad Chaudhry had revealed on December 31 that the cabinet's special committee had decided about the purchase of the COVID-19 vaccine from Chinese company, Sinopharm. 'Initially, 1.2 million doses will be purchased from Sinopharm,' the federal science minister said in a tweet.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/770898-vaccine-from-china-to-reach-by-january-end>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے میں 3 سپیشل اکنامک زونز پر کام شروع ہو چکا: عاصم سلیم باجوہ

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) سی پیک اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین جنرل (ریٹائرڈ) عاصم سلیم باجوہ نے کہا ہے کہ سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کے تحت علامہ اقبال انڈسٹریل سٹی فیصل آباد، ڈھابگی سپیشل اکنامک زون اور رکشٹی اکنامک زون کے نام سے تین سپیشل اکنامک زونوں میں کام شروع ہو چکا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کی ترجیحات میں جدید ٹیکنالوجی کی منتقلی سب سے زیادہ نمایاں ہے تاکہ پاکستان میں جلد عالمی معیار کا صنعتی انقلاب لایا جاسکے۔ انہوں نے اس امر کا اظہار پاک چین جو اینٹ چیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری کے صدر ایس ایم نوید سے ملاقات کے دوران صنعتکاری کے فروغ کیلئے سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے کی ترویج و ترقی پر بات چیت کرتے ہوئے کیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کے تحت ٹریڈ اینڈ انویسٹمنٹز آفیسر کی تقرری انتہائی صاف اور شفاف طریقے سے عمل میں لائی جا رہی ہے اور پہلے چھ ماہ کے دوران تسلی بخش کارکردگی نہ دکھانے والے افسران کو فارغ کر دیا جائے گا۔ علاوہ ازیں سی پیک اتھارٹی کے چیئرمین نے بتایا کہ ہم پاکستان میں ٹورازم کو فروغ دینے کیلئے بھی بھرپور کوششیں کر رہے ہیں اور اس مقصد کیلئے پاکستان آمد پر ویزوں کے اجراء کی فہرست کو بڑھا کر پچاس ممالک تک کر دیا گیا ہے۔ اس موقع پر ایس ایم نوید نے کہا کہ چائنہ پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور (سی پیک) کا منصوبہ جنوبی ایشیا کے تمام ممالک، بالخصوص پاکستان کیلئے ایک بڑا گیم چینیجر منصوبہ ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک کا پہلا مرحلہ توانائی اور انفراسٹرکچر کے منصوبوں پر مشتمل تھا جبکہ دوسرا مرحلہ پاکستان اور چین کے اشتراک سے سپیشل اکنامک زونز کی تشکیل اور زرعی سیکٹر سے متعلقہ مشترکہ منصوبوں پر مبنی ہے۔ جنرل (ر) عاصم سلیم باجوہ اور ایس ایم نوید نے کرونا بحران سے نمٹنے کیلئے چین کی اخلاقی اور طبی امداد کا بھی اعتراف کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-01-08/page-1/detail-12>

January 09, 2021

Daily Times

Biomass energy to be new starting point for CPEC energy cooperation

The de-coal initiative launched by Prime Minister Imran Khan requires the country to develop clean energy to fill the energy gap.

In this process, "Biomass energy cooperation will be a new starting point for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) energy cooperation", Zhang Dayong, secretary-general of the Biomass Energy Industry Part Association (BEIPA), said on Friday.

Biomass energy, generated by utilizing effluent and waste, has become one of the most commonly used renewable sources of energy in the last two decades, second only to hydropower in the generation of electricity.

It accounts for almost 15% of the world's total energy supply and as much as 35% in developing countries. Biomass energy has huge potential in the process of coal removal and carbon reduction.

Zhang said in an interview, "It is environmentally friendly, due to biomass energy being a green, zero-carbon fuel, which will contribute greatly to the carbon-neutral goal," China Economic (CEN) Net reported.

"In addition, it can be utilized in a diverged manner. Unlike clean energy such as photovoltaic, wind power and hydropower, which are limited to power generation, biomass energy can also produce heat, oil and gas, even integrate business intelligence," he added. Finally, biomass energy, which is closely and directly related to citizens' daily life, has a strong attribute of people's livelihood. It can take advantage. Pakistan is an agricultural country with a large population. It has abundant resources such as waste in urban and rural areas, and a huge energy market, so it is suitable to develop biomass energy which can alleviate multiple problems in Pakistan such as electricity shortage, climate change, and polluting emission.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/711454/biomass-energy-to-be-new-starting-point-for-cpec-energy-cooperation/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan-China trade in iffy times

PAKISTAN-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been striving hard to continue trade relations between business communities of Pakistan and China despite prevailing Corona pandemic. Besides organizing online webinars and workshops, a mega exhibition titled as "Pakistan-China Industrial Expo 2020" was also arranged last month in Royal Palm Country Club Lahore, which was open to the visitors of both the countries offline as well as online. The exhibition led the way in delivering the most exquisite opportunities for all participants in different sectors including CNC machinery, construction machinery, new energy, building material, agricultural machinery, plastic machinery, hardware, chemical and auto parts. Pakistan and China share close and friendly relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations in May 1951. Over the years, this relationship has blossomed into an "All Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership". The two neighbouring countries' bilateral relationship and trade is characterized by feelings of mutual trust, respect and goodwill toward each other. There is a regular, highest-level exchange of visits between the two countries. Pakistan-China strategic cooperation has grown in the last several decades. According to the statistics of Pakistani customs, so far, China has been Pakistan's largest trade partner and the second export destination country for consecutive years, and topping the FDI original country for consecutive years. Along with the constant upward trend of the China-Pakistan trade, a rising concern on trade deficit with China has been echoing in the Pakistani business communities.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister has apparently denied the idea that in the aftermath of the corona virus pandemic there will be any stopping of trade between Pakistan and China. In an interview

with Global Times in Beijing, he said that amid virus outbreak, the two great nations maintained transport and trade ties. He said that China had shared her experience battling the deadly coronavirus with Pakistan and had sent teams to assess the situation and provided testing kits in thousands. Just a few days after the visit of Pakistan's President to China, where he shook hands with Xi Jinping during this period of physical distancing, the Chinese government sent medical supplies that have already arrived in Karachi. The most sought after item in many countries today is the planeload of supplies: 500,000 face masks, including 50,000 N-95 masks, donated to the provincial government. President's visit, the first by any nation to go to Beijing following the Covid-19 outbreak, was seen by diplomacy experts as a sign of Pakistan's unity at a difficult time for China.

Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Pakistani Senate, said, "Not only did we display trust in our friendship, but it was a scientifically sound decision, as there is not a single Covid-19 case coming from China in Pakistan." It appears the decision has yielded results. China is offering Pakistan preferential treatment in providing the medical supplies desperately needed. The medical equipment sent by China today and in high demand in Pakistan is on the wish-list of all doctors worldwide. By the morning of 30 March 1,593 confirmed cases of corona virus were present in the country. In Pakistan, Digital marketing and trade do not have many professionals and this field is still relatively new. Pakistan-China trade is directly connecting the companies from both countries and providing them chance for business match-making. Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry has always been on the forefront to server cross-border business delegations through its special services which includes but not limited to direct interaction with top business leaders of China-Pakistan through digital meeting, Business match-making, offering conversational Chinese language course for removing language barrier, Capacity building of local entrepreneurs with the collaboration of Chinese experts under the auspices of National Productivity Organization. Under the prevailing global pandemic it is important to strengthen the bilateral trade between two nations. To increase the trade, many initiatives have been taken to digitally link Pakistan-China companies with Chinese enterprises of electronics, auto-spare parts, machinery, metal, industrial parts, and hardware primarily to strengthen bilateral trade of industries under the promotional package of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The concept of online business interaction is to provide contemporary solutions for carrying out normal business operations by avoiding physical concentration of business people. —The writer is an industrialist and currently also President Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-trade-in-iffy-times/>

The News

China's changes resonate with grassroots Pakistanis

BEIJING: China's changes resonate with grassroots Pakistanis, says report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Friday.

“Things had improved a lot here,” noted Asif Jalil, a Pakistani businessman and restaurant owner based in Beijing, adding that 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan and he wishes China to emerge as a beautiful country.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/771622-china-s-changes-resonate-with-grassroots-pakistanis>

January 10, 2021

Daily Times

Rawalpindi ring road project to facilitate CPEC

The Rawalpindi Ring Road (RRR) project will facilitate the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route as it will be linked with Hakla-DI Khan (M14) Interchange.

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday, all industrial materials and freights can move to and from CPEC route through this ring road.

This connection also explains the development of new industrial zones, warehouses, and dry ports along the ring road economic corridor. And the CPEC zone included in the project will be developed near Hakla-D. I Khan Interchange, which will comprise Industrial Estate II, Logistic Hub II, Dry Port, Ware Houses, and a Truck Terminal.

The long-awaited Rawalpindi Ring Road Project, a scheme that is the harbinger of a new era of development and prosperity in the region, is going to be launched soon. Recently the administration has completed the survey of land for 40 kilometers long Rawalpindi Ring Road track while identification of the land for the project has also been completed.

Commissioner Rawalpindi Capt. (r) Muhammad Mehmood said earlier that the main objective of the ring road is to improve economic connectivity and road transport efficiency in the twin cities. According to the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) chairman, Prime Minister Imran Khan will lay the foundation stone of Rawalpindi Ring Road Project (RRRP) early this year.

Efforts will also be made to develop economic zones along Rawalpindi Ring Road on public-private partnership basis. Fruit and vegetable wholesale markets, goods and public transport terminals, and cattle markets will be part of the project. As per the latest reports on the Rawalpindi Ring Road alignment, the highway will start at the Radio Pakistan Building on National Highway 5 (GT Road) and merge with the Margalla Road near Sangjani Interchange on the Peshawar-Islamabad Motorway.

Taking the route through M-1 Motorway, Rawalpindi Ring Road will lead to Islamabad International Airport and then loop around the eastern route of CPEC initiative to head towards Margalla Road while passing close to Sangjani Interchange. The project will have interchanges at eight different locations including Radio Pakistan, Rawat, Chak Beli, Adyala, Chakri, M2 Mor, Islamabad International Airport (IIA) and Sangjani.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/711790/rawalpindi-ring-road-project-to-facilitate-cpec/>

Rimdan marketplace to link Iran to CPEC: CFITZO chief

Chahbahar Free Industrial Trade Zone Organization (CFITZO) chief, Abdolrahim Kordi has said that Rimdan Marketplace will connect Iran with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Talking to an Iranian news agency on Saturday, Abdolrahim Kordi reiterated that Rimdan Border Marketplace in Dashriari city will connect Iran with the economic corridor of China and Pakistan and play a leading role in developing and promoting bilateral trade ties.

Not only Rimdan Border Marketplace will provide suitable grounds for Iranian traders and producers to get access to Pakistan market, but it also creates a connection link to the joint economic corridor of Pakistan and China, he opined.

After five years of continuous activity as well as approval and implementation of development of this area, suitable grounds have now been provided for activity in this free zone, the CEO said.

Emphasizing the significance of Rimdan Border Marketplace as a free zone separate from Chahbahar, Kordi stated, “Launching Chahbahar-Gwadar railway through Rimdan Border is a need and for this purpose, land area as large as 130ha was allocated for construction of first phase of this project.”

By the completion of national steel and petrochemical projects, Chahbahar will be turned into an industrial and economic hub in the country, CEO Kordi added.

A few days ago, deputy of Sistan and Baluchistan Governor Abouzar Kosari in his meeting with newly-appointed consul general of Pakistan in Zahedan, said that Iran-Pakistan cooperation has doubled with the reopening of the Rimdan border.

Referring to the importance of relations between the two countries, Abouzar Kosari said that with the reopening of the Rimdan border, economic and cultural growth can be witnessed, because Iran and Pakistan have long-standing historical, economic, and cultural relations.

The consul general expressed hope that with the reopening of the Rimdan border, the two countries will see the growth and development of relations more.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/711689/rimdan-marketplace-to-link-iran-to-cpec-cfitzo-chief/>

The Nation

China and Pakistan could promote digital economy through CPEC

High-level and high-quality cooperation between China and Pakistan could boost the sharing of technologies and experience of the digital economy.

It will also facilitate the building of a community of digital economy under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said a Chinese scholar Prof. Cheng Xizhong according to China Economic Net (CEN). Cheng Xizhong stated that Pakistan is known as the land of opportunity as it has tremendous and unmatched potentials. While technology-enabled

innovation is the major spur to productive growth, rapid advances in technology are enabling new business opportunities.

As in the case, Pakistan`s efforts on the digital growth path will improve the business environment, attract domestic and foreign investment and accelerate the development of the national economy. As he pointed earlier, it was the right choice to go ahead with “Engage Africa.” Prof. Cheng reaffirmed that Pakistan's commitment to the development of the digital economy is another right choice.

One right choice after another entails the wisdom and correctness of the policies made by the Imran Khan administration which gives Pakistan great hope for fast economic development. Why has China's economy recovered so quickly and so did that of Pakistan's? He believed the digital economy is the answer. In the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital economy with its strong vitality and great development potential has effectively hedged the downward pressure of economy in some countries including China and Pakistan.

Hence, it's time we give full play to the engine of the digital economy to achieve high-quality development. The digital economy is an important path to activate the consumer market and strengthen the real economy. Digital technology has given birth to new Internet models such as live broadcast economy, cross-border e-commerce, Internet finance, and new industries such as online education, Internet health care, and online office. As a result, it creates a large number of individual and micro-economies, new employment space and opportunities, and more convenient digital products and services.

Digital technology heralds the beginning of a new era, and it will usher in broad prospects for development in the form of the digital economy. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi recently had an hour-long telephone conversation. Both foreign ministers expressed strong commitment to further strengthening all-round cooperation and taking the bilateral relationship to a higher level for the shared benefit of the two countries.

Prof. Cheng maintained that as Prime Minister Imran Khan is expected to launch the first phase of Pakistan's Instant Payments System, said the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Dr Reza Baqir while steering the third nation-wide stakeholders' meeting on Digital Financial Services.

<https://nation.com.pk/10-Jan-2021/china-and-pakistan-could-promote-digital-economy-through-cpec>

January 11, 2021

Daily Times

China's Sinopharm seeks approval from Pakistan for Covid vaccine

China's Sinopharm has sought permission from Pakistan for emergency use of its Covid-19 vaccine in the country.

Sinopharm has applied for registration of its coronavirus vaccine to the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP). The Chinese vaccine firm has submitted the complete data of the clinical trials of its vaccine to the DRAP.

A session of the DRAP registration board is expected to be held this week, according to sources at the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan. The registration board may approve or reject the vaccine for emergency use in Pakistan. The approval from the Drug Regulatory Authority will allow the use of the Chinese vaccine in Pakistan, according to sources.

Earlier, Pakistan had announced to purchase 1.2 million doses of the corona vaccine from China. Sinopharm, a state-run Chinese firm, is developing two Covid-19 vaccines.

Earlier, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Health Dr Faisal Sultan said on Saturday that Pakistan is in talks with five international coronavirus vaccine producing companies for the purchase.

Talking to a private television channel, Dr Faisal said that Islamabad is in contact with five companies of the three countries of the world including China, United Kingdom and Russia to get the Covid-19 vaccine.

The vaccine, he said, would be available in Pakistan in March, and administered to health workers and senior citizens in the first phase. He said that the government will also run a special campaign before launching the Covid-19 vaccination programme.

The federal cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan recently allowed the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination to purchase Covid-19 vaccine.

According to details, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Health Dr Faisal Sultan briefed the cabinet on the current Covid-19 situation in Pakistan.

It is to be noted that the ECC had already approved a supplementary grant for the advance purchases of the vaccines. Pakistan has planned to vaccinate health workers and senior citizens in the first phase in a bid to save them from the deadly pandemic.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/712027/chinas-sinopharm-seeks-approval-from-pakistan-for-covid-vaccine/>

China Overtaking as the World's Biggest Economy

Muhammad Rafiq

In its 12th edition on the 'World Economic League Table-2021', published by the UK based consultancy group, Center for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), it has been predicted that China's economy is likely to overtake the US economy in the year 2028 to be the world's biggest economy. The report unravels that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has cost GDP of \$ 6 trillion in 2020. COVID-19 has adversely impacted the world economies by, build-up of national debt, decline in demand, and low supply hitting investment and productivity. During pandemic times, China has outperformed its rivals. Therefore, CEBR expects that China's economy would surpass US economy now by 2028, five years earlier than predicted before.

China has very effectively combated the corona virus catastrophe with its strategy based on clarity, timely decision, scientific and logical approach, strict lockdown, no allegations and assistance to the world. Billions of dollars have also been earned by China in the process.

Consequently, China would become an upper-income country (per capita threshold of \$ 12536) now, by 2023. Rise of China as a global economic power is miraculous. It is hard to find an example in human history; the way China has lifted its 700 million people out of poverty within a period of 35 years. In year 2000, China's share in global GDP was barely 3.6%, which has now increased to 17.8%. Here, it is relevant to highlight some of the guiding principles of China's economic policy that propelled its economic journey towards the global giant position.

By concentrating on economic restructuring, China took up intensified efforts to adjust the development patterns of different industries, different regions, urban and rural areas. It was also endeavored by China to stabilize and strengthen agriculture as a foundation of the economy and develop the service industry. Then, the informalization of the national economy and society was also carried out.

Making reforms, opening up to the outer world and technological progress aggregately served as the driving force in economic progress of China. Institutional obstacles were broken to motivate the productive forces. Integration of education, science, and technology with the economy has been wonderful approach.

The basic starting point was making improvement in the lives of the people. Priority was given to raise people's living standards by creating more jobs, increasing personal income, rationalizing income distribution and making improvement in the social security system.

However, the biggest initiative for China's economy is its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that is a mammoth project launched in 2013, to connect Asia with Africa and Europe via land and maritime routes along six corridors. Under BR, China aims at improving regional integration through transportation, energy and infrastructure projects that would increase trade and stimulate economic growth. So far, over 125 countries have joined BRI. China has already spent over \$ 200 billion on various BRI projects across all continents. Morgan Stanley has estimated that China's overall expenses on BRI could be around \$ 1.3 trillion by 2027. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is flagship project of BRI with an investment of over \$ 60 billion that connects China to Pakistan's Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea.

The most distinctive feature of China's success story is its 'soft power' in sharp contrast to the Western colonialism. Certainly, China too seeks influence but by being more humanistic. China is absolutely non-interventionist and non-usurping, without any killing or destruction. By building bridges, ports, railways and highways, China is not making countries dependent but becoming interdependent while enhancing the prospects of cooperation, stability, conflict resolution and regional integration. No coercion is there on the part of China. It was Steve Job who himself decided, China never asked Apple to go to Shenzhen to produce iPhones. China has introduced its 'soft power' to the world without any strings attached. Unlike traditional imperial powers, China does not like to grab assets for speculation purpose. Instead, China makes foreign direct investment (FDI) by patience. Chinese come with their workers and engineers and actually do some serious work. They create a base and build and build. The time horizon of their investment is 20 to 30 years.

In a nutshell, China has the will, resolve and potential to emerge as global economic superpower by 2028, as has been predicted by the Center for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), in its recent report.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/712093/china-overtaking-as-the-worlds-biggest-economy/>

Dawn News

Closure of China border brings economic woes for GB people

GILGIT: Hundreds of people affiliated with the Pakistan-China border trade face economic hardship following suspension of trade and travel between the two countries through the Khunjerab pass.

The trade bodies have appealed to the government to devise a mechanism to mitigate their losses by ensuring smooth continuation of trade activities from the upcoming season.

They said the exchequer had suffered around Rs8 billion revenue losses as the CPEC-related shipments halted following the border closure throughout 2020.

Under the protocol agreement, the border remains open from April to November.

Shaban Ali, a local trader, told Dawn that he had purchased Rs5 million worth goods, including walnuts and almonds, from China markets in 2019, but could ship them to Pakistan as the Khunjerab pass was closed following coronavirus outbreak in November 2019.

He said after the border closure the loaded containers had to be unloaded at various warehouses in China.

“As the border remained closed throughout the last year the prices of goods I purchased in China fell in the local markets because of increase in value of the Chinese currency against the Pakistani rupee and arrival of fresh products in the market,” he said.

He said he had no option but to sell the products in China at cheap rates, suffering huge losses.

Hussain Ali, another trader, said the extended closure of the border had caused him massive losses.

Mehboob Rabbani, president of Hunza Chamber of Commerce and Industries, told Dawn that thousands of people, including traders, transporters, labourers and hotel owners, had suffered losses due to the border closure.

He said approximately 30 per cent of GB people depended on the border trade.

Mr Rabbani said export of local products like jewellery, minerals, dry fruits and cherries to China also suffered battering last year.

Mohammad Ayub Waziri, president of Nagar Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said about 3,000 containers travelled to and from China annually, and their suspension has badly hit the GB economy.

Mr Waziri said prices of Chinese items, which were usually available at cheap rates, had also gone up in the local markets.

He said a total 180 containers were stranded in China when the border was closed in November 2019, and only 66 could travel to Pakistan when the border was temporarily opened. He said the traders were still paying storage rents and bearing other expenditures in China.

He lamented that Pakistani traders had to pay five times higher the rents to the Chinese companies to transport stranded containers to Pakistan during the temporary opening of the border.

He said the Chinese transporters dropped the containers at the Khunjerab top, and the traders had to bear extra expenditures to ship the containers from Khunjerab to the Sost port.

Meanwhile, according to the Pakistan Customs officials, only 66 containers, including equipment related to Covid-19 and machinery, could be delivered from China to Pakistan during the temporary opening of the border in 2020.

An official of Pakistan Customs on condition of anonymity told Dawn that in 2019 season, Rs6.4 billion were collected in respect of customs duties at the Sost port, and it was expected to cross Rs8 billion mark in 2020 if the border remained opened.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1600923/closure-of-china-border-brings-economic-woes-for-gb-people>

The News

Chinese embassy announces essay contest

Islamabad : In order to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan, an essay writing competition titled ‘My Story of China-Pakistan Friendship’ is being organised by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, says a press release.

The contest has been organised in collaboration with Overseas Chinese Association of Pakistan, Ex-Chinese Association Rawalpindi Pakistan, Overseas Chinese Association Gilgit-Baltistan, All Pakistan Chinese Overseas Youth Federation, Huashang Weekly and China-Pakistan Educational Cultural Institute. The Deadline for submission of the contest is March 31, 2021.

The guidelines for contests include: the stories of friendship witnessed in Pakistan and China; feelings and impression about Chinese and Pakistani culture, customs, history, and natural geography; inspiring stories about your experienced with regards to the exchanges and cooperation between China and Pakistan in various fields; heartwarming stories about the joint fight against the epidemic.

Chinese personnel in Pakistan and Pakistanis from all walks of life are eligible for this contest. The language of the essay could be either Chinese or English. The word count should not be about 1000 words. The participants are allowed to send upto three related pictures in high definition, along with a brief text explanation of the picture.

The contestants can submit in Word documents in Chinese to mabinedu@163 .com and in English to salman.sem.tsinghua@hotmail.com. The contestants should provide relevant

information along with the essay like your name, gender, date of birth, occupation, contact phone number, email address.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/772399-chinese-embassy-announces-essay-contest>

Express News

چینی کورونا ویکسین کی پاکستان میں آزمائش کامیاب

پاکستان میں کورونا کیخلاف چین کی تیار کردہ ویکسین کی طبی آزمائش کا تیسرا مرحلہ اختتام کے قریب ہے اور اسے انتہائی کامیاب ٹرائل قرار دیا جا رہا ہے۔ سرکاری حکام کے مطابق ویکسین لگوانے والے تمام رضا کاروں کی طرف سے کوئی سنگین مضر اثر کی شکایت نہیں کی گئی جس کے بعد اس ویکسین کو پاکستانی عوام کیلئے محفوظ اور پر اثر کہا جا سکتا ہے۔ یہ آزمائش پاکستان کے پانچ طبی مراکز میں تین ماہ قبل ایک ساتھ شروع کی گئی تھی، قومی ادارہ صحت کی ہیڈ آف ویکسین پروڈکشن ڈاکٹر غزالہ پروین کا کہنا ہے کہ اس ٹرائل میں پورے پاکستان میں 18 ہزار رضا کاروں کی ضرورت ہے اور اب تک 16 ہزار سے زائد رضا کار شامل ہو چکے ہیں۔

غزالہ پروین کا مزید کہنا تھا ابھی کینیڈا کی ایک لیبارٹری اس ویکسین کی کارکردگی کا حتمی تجزیہ کریگی، اب پاکستان میں آزمائش کے نمونے وہاں جانا شروع ہو گئے ہیں اور امید ہے فروری کے آخر میں یامارچ کے آغاز میں اسکی تجزیاتی رپورٹ بھی آجائے گی۔

نجی انٹرنیشنل اسپتال میں ویکسین ٹرائل کے اعلیٰ تحقیق کار ڈاکٹر اعجاز خان نے بتایا کہ مختلف طبقات سے تعلق رکھنے والے افراد نے ٹرائل میں حصہ لیا۔

قومی ادارہ صحت کی ڈاکٹر عمیرہ نصیر نے کہا طبی آزمائش پاکستانی آب و ہوا میں پاکستانی لوگوں پر کی جا رہی ہے، ریکومینڈ ناول کورونا وائرس ویکسین (ایڈیو وائرس ٹائپ 5 ویکسین) نامی یہ ویکسین کین سائٹو بائیو اور بیجنگ کے انسٹیٹیوٹ آف بائیو ٹیکنالوجی چائنہ نے مشترکہ طور پر تیار کی ہے۔

ادھر چینی ساختہ کورونا ویکسین کی پاکستان لانے کی تیاریاں حتمی مرحلہ میں داخل ہو گئیں، چینی ادویہ ساز گروپ سائینوفارم نے کورونا ویکسین پاکستان لانے کی اجازت مانگی اور کورونا ویکسین رجسٹریشن کیلئے ڈرگ ریگولیشن اتھارٹی آف پاکستان (ڈریپ) کو درخواست دیدی ہے، ڈریپ رجسٹریشن بورڈ کا منظوری کیلئے اجلاس آئندہ ہفتے ہونے کا امکان ہے، پاکستان سائینوفارم سے کورونا ویکسین کی 12 لاکھ خوراکیں خریدے گا۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2128476/1/>

Nawaiwaqt News

شاہین فائیو، چینی پائلٹوں نے پاکستانی فضا کی مہارتوں سے بہت کچھ سیکھا

اسلام آباد (جاوید صدیق) پاکستان میں حال ہی میں منعقد ہونے والی پاک فضائیہ اور چینی ایئر فورس کی مشترکہ مشقوں ”شاہین فائیو“ میں چینی پائلٹوں نے پاکستانی پائلٹوں سے ان کی فضائی حربی مہارتوں اور تجربہ سے بہت کچھ سیکھا ہے۔ یہ بات سی سی ٹی وی کی ایک حالیہ رپورٹ میں بتائی گئی۔ رپورٹ میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ چین کے جے 10 سی اور جے ایون سی قسم کے جیٹ طیاروں نے مشترکہ مشقوں میں حصہ لیا۔ ان طیاروں میں بھارت کے رافیل اور ایس 30 قسم کے طیاروں کو فرضی جنگ کے ذریعے سیمولٹ کیا جا سکتا ہے۔ ایک چینی تجربہ نگار نے سی سی ٹی وی میں اپنا تجربہ دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ حال ہی میں ہونے والی فضائی مشقوں میں چین کے ایون بی جیٹ طیاروں، کے جے 500 ایواکس طیاروں کے

علاوہ وائی 8 الیکٹرانک وارفیئر صلاحیت رکھنے والے طیاروں نے شرکت کی۔ چین کے ایک ایوی ایشن ایکسپریٹ نے گلوبل ٹائمز کو بتایا کہ چین کے درمیانے سائز کے جے ایف ٹین سی قسم کے جیٹ طیاروں کے اندرونی حربی صلاحیتیں موجود ہیں جو بھارت کے رافیل طیاروں میں ہیں جبکہ چین کے جے ایون قسم کے جیٹ طیاروں میں بھارت کے ایس بی 30 قسم کے طیاروں کی جنگی صلاحیتیں موجود ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-01-11/page-1/detail-30>

January 12, 2021

Daily Times

Sino-Pak medicine cooperation booming under health corridor

With the establishment of the China-Pakistan health corridor and more and more join hands in the medicine field, traditional medicine cooperation between the two countries is booming. A Gwadar Pro's report says authorities of the two countries are speeding up efforts to develop new drugs based on traditional Chinese medicine prescriptions to boost the fight against the pandemic. It is worth mentioning that more than 92 percent of confirmed COVID-19 patients in China had used traditional medicine, according to a white paper released by the Chinese central government. "Pakistan is in a very good time in the pharmaceutical sector. Even during COVID-19, there is some medicine taken from Pakistan to China.

Many companies are also exploring the markets in the development of new medicines and traditional medicines to fight against the disease," said Dr. Syed Iftikhar Hussain, senior vice president of Agribyt and pharma consultant in CPEC related medicinal crops projects in Lahore. "There are more than 3700 types of medical plants that have been identified in Pakistan. We even have some high-valued medicines that are not available in China." According to Syed, agricultural zones of pharmaceutical plants are widely scattered in Pakistan, yet there are hardly any qualified personnel to access the areas to take care and collect the plants. Syed and his team planed a program to solve the problem. "From those areas, there are young generations who graduated from big cities like Islamabad and Lahore. Now we are giving them the apprenticeship training program. The youngsters will then be the inspector supervisor to the areas to collect the information of the plant species and production. They will also help the local farmers to plant and collect the medical plants scientifically." "With the information collected, a network of suppliers can also be established. The role of middleman will be minimized and further boost up of marketing values of medical plants." He said. Syed also told us that the system that China has developed to grow the sample medicine is certainly a role model for Pakistan. "Medicinal and nutritional crops, cultivation, processing, value-added packing, efficient market supply chain, manpower training and R&D are all potential domains to be considered and worked out utilizing the bilateral corporate resources." he said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/712341/sino-pak-medicine-cooperation-booming-under-health-corridor/>

The News

ATC indicts five for attacking Chinese consulate

KARACHI: An Anti-Terrorism Court on Monday framed charges against five suspects for allegedly facilitating an attack on the Chinese Consulate in Karachi in 2018.

The accused include Ahmed Hasnain, Muhammad Aslam, Nadir Khan, Ali Ahmed and Abdul Latif, who are said to be associated with the ethnic insurgent group the Balochistan Liberation Army. They were taken into custody by the Counter-Terrorism Department in January 2019 for allegedly providing tactical and logistics support to the attackers.

According to the investigation officer, Latif and Aslam had confessed to the crime before a judicial magistrate a week after their arrest. However, during the hearing at the ATC-VII, all of the accused denied the charges and opted to contest the case. Three heavily-armed militants had attacked the Chinese Consulate located in the high-security zone of Clifton's Block-4 on November 23, 2018. Four people, including security personnel and visa seekers, were killed in the ambush.

The attackers, later identified as Abdul Razzaq, Raees Baloch and Afzal Baloch, were also killed in the ensuing gun-and-grenade fight with the police. A large numbers of weapons, ammunition and explosives were recovered from the attackers. Besides the indicted suspects, the police had also booked BLA chief Hyrbyair Marri and other leaders Kareem Marri, Bashir Zaib, Aslam Baloch, Noor Bakhsh Mengal, Rehman Gul, Nisar, Gaindi, Sheikhu Sharif, Hamal, Agha Sher Dil and Munshi. All of them have been declared proclaimed offenders in the case.

The court on a the previous hearing had ordered the police to approach the Interpol for the arrest of Hyrbyair, who is living in exile and allegedly masterminded the attack from a foreign country. The judge also issued perpetual warrants of arrest for the absconders.

The judge had also ordered confiscation of all movable and immovable properties belonging to the absconders and directed the investigation officer to release their sketches to seek public help in tracing them. Previously, the IO had told the court that neither Nadra nor the Election Commission of Pakistan had any identification data of the absconders.

According to the charge sheet, the attack was carried out by the BLA in connivance with Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing to damage the relations between Pakistan and China and to disrupt the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project.

It added, the attackers were constantly in contact with Hyrbyair and other suspects, the alleged facilitators, of the terrorist attack. It said that four Kalashnikovs, two improvised explosive devices, detonators, hand grenades, explosive material and bullets were also seized from the attackers.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/772946-atc-indicts-five-for-attacking-chinese-consulate>

January 13, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese companies asked to invest in Pakistan with technology transfer

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President leading a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) visited the Embassy of China in Islamabad.

He held a meeting with Xie Guoxiang, Minister Counsellor (Economic and Commercial) to discuss possibilities of further improving bilateral trade and investment relations between Pakistan and China.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that Pakistan and China enjoyed strategic friendship which could be further strengthened by developing strong trade and economic relations between the two countries.

He said that Pakistan was a growing market for business activities and it was the right time for Chinese companies to transfer technology to Pakistan and set up JVs and industrial units in our country. This way, Chinese investors could export their products to many markets of the world including South Asia, Middle East, Europe and Africa. He said that China was the world's second largest economy with annual trade of trillions of dollars, but Pakistan's exports to China were around \$2 billion.

He said that Pakistan's exports to China could increase to \$23 billion only if China provided one percent share in its supply chain through importing raw materials and intermediate goods from Pakistan.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that Pakistan's automobile, IT & telecom, industry, agriculture and construction sectors possessed tremendous potential for Chinese investors. He said that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) of Pakistan offered tax holiday for many years, zero duty on import of machinery and plants and 4-year payment plan to investors, therefore.

He stressed that Chinese investors should explore JVs and investment in these SEZs to earn lucrative returns. He said that China was quite advanced in the agriculture sector and urged to help Pakistan in improving its per acre yield by sharing its agro machinery and technology with our country.

He urged the Embassy to streamline its visa policy for Pakistani business community so that they could easily visit China to explore business collaborations with Chinese counterparts. He said that ICCI was working with the government for One Window facility for investors and assured that ICCI would fully facilitate Chinese investors in connecting them with right partners in Pakistan.

Speaking at the occasion, Xie Guoxiang, Minister Counsellor (Economic and Commercial), Embassy of the People's Republic of China said that 2nd phase of CPEC has started cooperation in industrial and agriculture sectors, health and digital technology between China and Pakistan that would boost its economy. He emphasized that Pakistan should focus on improving its infrastructure that would attract more Chinese investors to Pakistani market.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/712690/chinese-companies-asked-to-invest-in-pakistan-with-technology-transfer/>

Power breakdown: CPEC power plants stay protected, resume full load supply

In the face of Pakistan's intense power breakdown, CPEC power plants stayed completely protected without developing any fault setting a precedent of quick and reliable resumption of operation.

According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday, the power plants have stepped into re-startup process and are gearing up to resume full load supply to the entire Pakistan. Equipped with enhanced reliability system and latest automatic protection technologies, CPEC power plants are in position to restore its seamless functionality allowing their power mechanism to get reconnected with national grid system in order to pull 220 million people out of darkness.

It merits mentioning that owing to China-based advanced technology that meets international standards, CPEC power plants have not developed a single fault in spite of sudden interruption of supercritical pressure and high temperature. The report added, a trip was witnessed at 11:41 pm on January 9, at the Guddu thermal power plant. The next moment frequency which remains normally at 49.5 Hertz fell to zero. Under cascade, one after another, power plant safety systems began to shut themselves down.

This led to series of shutdown in other power plants including CPEC coal-powered and renewable energy power plants. Benefiting from modern safety and security system that switches off quickly the entire power plant once encounters any malfunctioning transmitted by other linking power plants, CPEC power plants resume full load supply very quickly.

In an exclusive interview, Xiao Xin, DCEO of Port Qasim Coal-Fired Power Plant said that the power system breakdown caused a shutdown of all power plants, however CPEC power plants like Port Qasim, Sahiwal, CPHGC had taken real-time response by using the latest automatic protection technologies. "Immediately after the restoration of transmission systems and technical limits, all CPEC power plants stepped into re-startup process and are gearing up to resume full load supply to entire Pakistan at the earliest," he asserted.

He maintained that CPEC power plants had been operating in a very stable and reliable manner. "Thanks to their best engineering quality and sound operation techniques, no similar faults like this which may lead to a national system breakdown have been seen in CPEC projects up to today," he mentioned. In last 5 years, he said that CPEC had helped Pakistan in resolving shortage at power supply side. "For the next phase, China and Pakistan can further cooperate in improving the transmission and distribution system, in order to enhance the reliability of power supply," he informed.

Replying to a query, he said, "In the whole grid system, there should be some spare power plants running at minimum load. When the system has issues, these spare power plants can start to full load immediately. It is called Spanning Reserve. However, NTDC grid has no spare plants."

Zhang Jun, CR from China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG), said that China was ready to disseminate its rich experience and technical expertise in controlling and maintaining power system with its all-weather friend, Pakistan. "On the basis of vast hands-on credentials, we know how to restore the operation keeping the supply protected from any glitch," he said. "Since Pakistan needed to upgrade its electricity mechanism as well as transmission & distribution system to fend off future power outage, Chinese enterprises will help Pakistan make things happen," he added.

As Pakistan's power system experienced breakdown in winter several times in the past, Ma Desheng of Matiari-Lahore Transmission Project termed the poor weather condition as one of the possible reasons for the massive blackout. He said that in order to revamp Pakistan's power transmission network, there are many projects under construction by NTDC which will further strengthen the power grid after its completion.

Pakistan's first and mega High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) project – Matiari-Lahore transmission line – has been in process to complete testing period. After its commercial operation, Pakistan will experience new phase of life. The \$1.68 billion project is the first HVDC project in the country and the second in the world.

Power division experts have linked power outage to the imperfection in load safeguard system and fragile maintenance of transmission lines at the Guddu power station. Situation worsened as National Grid had no spanning reserves mechanism, experts said.

In 2013, 2015 and 2017, electrical blackouts had plunged the country into darkness. Spanning reserves has an anchoring role in warding off power breakdowns. In developed economies, when a power plant goes out of the system, the spanning reserves come into action and maintain the system without any jerk. So far investigation is underway to find the exact reason for the power failure.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/712692/power-breakdown-cpec-power-plants-stay-protected-resume-full-load-supply/>

Dawn News

Chinese vaccine registration soon as trial nears end

ISLAMABAD: As the novel coronavirus continues to claim dozens of lives a day in Pakistan, the only hurdle in importing the Covid-19 vaccine from Chinese state-owned company Sinopharm will be removed soon with its Phase-I trial in Karachi reaching the final stage, it emerged on Tuesday.

In a separate development, the federal government has decided to implement the Medical Teaching Institutions (MTI) Ordinance in three major hospitals of Sindh and one major hospital of Punjab after it had been introduced in Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (Pims), Islamabad, where employees have been protesting against the move for past several weeks.

Unlike clinical trial, Phase-I trial is requirement before administration of jabs in country

According to the National Command and Operation Centre, 2,408 more people tested positive for Covid-19 and 41 deaths were reported in a single day, while 320 ventilators are occupied across Pakistan. The data shows that 58 per cent ventilators in Multan are occupied, followed by Bahawalpur's 50pc ventilators, Islamabad's 36pc ventilators and Peshawar's 32pc. The NCOC puts the number of active cases across the country at 34,007.

Explaining the current status of vaccine trial to Dawn, a member of Scientific Task Force on Covid-19 constituted in March last year, Dr Ghazna Khalid, said: "We have almost completed the trial, as only 10 volunteers have been left." She said that there was a requirement to hold a

small Phase-I trial of the vaccine so it was decided to hold the trial at International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), Karachi, with the collaboration of Indus Hospital.

“In the meantime the process of vaccine registration with the Drap is also going on and it is matter of days to get approval from Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (Drap) for the emergency procurement of vaccine,” she said.

Asked about the sample size of the trial, she said it (Phase-I trial) should not be confused with clinical trial as so far vaccine had been administered to one million persons in China, Dubai and Abu Dhabi so there was the requirement of a small trial, which is called Phase-I trial. “Vaccine has already been approved after clinical trial and it is easier to store. However we have nothing to do with the price so I am not aware about it,” she said while replying to another question.

Dr Ghazna said the efficacy of the vaccine was 86 percent and there was 100pc prevention of severe infections.

The Scientific Task Force on Covid-19, which is headed by renowned scientist Prof Dr Attaur Rehman and comprises Dr Ghazna Khalid, Prof Dr Javed Akram, Prof Al Fareed Zafar, Prof Iqbal Choudhary, Prof Dr Khalid Khan and Prof Mariam Riaz Tarar, was constituted by Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry on March 24, 2020.

Later on December 30, 2020 a special cabinet committee for procurement of Covid-19 vaccine, chaired by federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar, decided to procure 1.1 million doses of vaccine from the Chinese company, ‘Sinopharm’. It was also announced that the vaccine would be provided to 500,000 frontline healthcare workers as two doses would be given to each worker and the margin of spoilage was 10pc.

While talking to Dawn, ICCBS Director Prof Dr Iqbal Choudhary said the trial was being done on 150 healthy volunteers to see how vaccine reacts on different ethnic groups.

He said: “Drap will issue an emergency authorisation for the use of vaccine soon as the government has decided to import the vaccine but once the Phase-I trial, which is also called ‘Safety Trial’, will be completed it will become possible to start commercial import of the vaccine as well.”

Dr Choudhary said safety study was in final stage, and after completion, findings would be shared with both Drap and the Chinese company.

An official of Drap, requesting anonymity, said most of the requirements had already been fulfilled.

“We have demanded sale agreement of vaccine and data of Phase-I trial to place the cases in front of registration board. Once documents will be completed, approval for emergency procurement will be given,” he added.

Hospitals

Meanwhile, the federal government has decided to introduce MTI in four hospitals of Sindh and Punjab.

Promulgated by President Dr Arif Alvi in November 2020, the MTI Ordinance has already been implemented in Pims, Islamabad. It suggests that the hospitals will be run through Board of Governors (BoG). According to the Ordinance, the BoG will deal with all affairs of the hospitals once they become MTI. The BoG will have overall superintendence and control over the functions of the hospitals and employees would lose status of civil servants.

However, employees of Pims believe that the hospital has been ‘privatized’ as it will have to generate its own revenue to meet expenses. They have been protesting against the Ordinance for several weeks.

According to a notification, issued by the Ministry of National Health Services and available with Dawn, as many as four hospitals have been added in the Schedule of the MTI Ordinance 2020.

Three hospitals —Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Center (JPMC), National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) and National Institute of Child Health (NICH) — are located in Karachi (Sindh) and the fourth hospital — Sheikh Zayed Postgraduate Medical Institute — is located in Lahore (Punjab).

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1601219>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC: Iran and Central Asia

Most recently, due to its paramount development orientation and sky-high peace outlook the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has become a hot topic and a befitting trans-regional mega project for greater socio-economic and energy integration. Various countries of West Asia namely Iran and Afghanistan and the Central Asian States (CIS) Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have now shown keen interests to join the CPEC.

In this context, various interactive and meaningful spells of negotiations/meetings have already been held in Islamabad. The assertive stance of Iranian Ambassador H.E. Dr Syed Muhammad Hussaini and consequent visit of Foreign Minister Jawad Zarif and meeting with Prime Minister Imran Khan and the COAS General Qamar Bajwa showing Iranian government’s desire to join the CPEC, all indicate western expansion of this mega project.

Iranian Foreign Minister and big business delegation requested to open various new border openings between the two countries for the further strengthening of bilateral trade & commerce, foreign direct investment, joint ventures and, above all, people-to-people contacts. In this regard, most recently, another border opening at Rimdahn (Gwadar) has been made which is situated just 130km away from Chabahar Sea Port (CSP).

It will further enhance the inflow of petroleum products, fruit, vegetable and construction material trade in the days to come. Iranian side also requested for another border opening at Pishin-Quetta. Most recently, the Center of Global Strategic Studies (CGSS) held an international webinar on the topic of Pakistan-China-Iran: Trilateral Cooperation, & Opportunities and Way-forward during which Iranian Ambassador H.E. Syed Muhammad Hussaini once again reaffirmed his government's desire to become part of the CPEC.

Iranian Ambassador also briefed about the opening of Iran-Afghanistan Railway project which has further enhanced their connectivity and inflow of trade and commerce. It is their first shared railway network. The CPEC ML-I Railways project will also be connected with Afghanistan in the future, so the importance of the CPEC has further increased manifolds.

The train route so far links the Iranian city of Khaf with the Afghan town of Rozanak about 150 kilometres away but is scheduled to be expanded to reach Herat, Afghanistan's third-largest city.

On the other hand, for the further strengthening of regional connectivity, the governments of Turkey, Iran and Pakistan have decided to revive a transnational rail service linking Istanbul, Tehran and Islamabad in 2021. The ITI transnational railroad is expected to enhance connectivity with China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by providing a rail connection between China and Turkey. CPEC is the flagship mega-project of the BRI.

During his annual speech, the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, singled out enhanced ties with South Asia, and pointing out that "today we have taken the first practical steps to implement the project for the construction of the Trans-Afghan transport corridor, which will connect Central Asia with the Indian Ocean. Its implementation will serve to ensure stability and sustainable economic development throughout the region.

To materialize the dreams of greater regional connectivity, peace and harmony, the government of Pakistan signed a joint request letter seeking a \$4.8 billion loan from international financial institutions for a mega railway project to connect Pakistan with Uzbekistan via Afghanistan and later to other Central Asian states. The said railway joint project has already been approved by the Presidents of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. It hopes that the project will help improve regional trade and connectivity through Afghanistan to the Central Asia Republics.

The signing ceremony was attended by Uzbekistan's Minister for Transport Makhkamov Ilkham and senior Pakistan government officials. During the meeting, Imran Khan affirmed Pakistan's eagerness "to establish closer ties with Central Asia in diverse sectors of trade, investment, energy and people-to-people contacts. Prime Minister Khan upheld Pakistan's strong commitment to deepen bilateral cooperation.

On his part, Uzbek Minister highlighted Uzbekistan's desire to improve bilateral trade and commercial ties and connectivity with Pakistan. He also discussed rail and road cooperation and explored region's direct access to the seaports.

The \$4.8 billion trans-Afghan railway line “Mazar-e-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar” project consists of a 573-km long railway track, connecting Peshawar to Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif all the way to Uzbekistan. Pakistan would operate the routes from Peshawar to Torkham beyond which Afghanistan and Uzbekistan would operate it. It will transform Pakistan as the economic hub for the Central Asian Republics. In this connection, the heads of the railway administrations of Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan had a meaningful meeting in Tashkent to discuss an ambitious railway line to offer the countries of South and Central Asia access to promising markets in Asia and Europe in December 2018.

Pakistan Minister for Railways Azam Khan Swati showcased salient features of the said trilateral project connecting Pakistan Railways with Afghanistan and Uzbekistan and will include both passenger and cargo high-speed trains. It hopes that the said project will provide a new impetus to Pakistan Railways after the country’s most expensive \$6.8 billion Mainline-1 (ML-1) project to upgrade 2,655km tracks under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The trilateral rail project opens up “a new window of opportunity for all the CIS.

Most recently, during a meeting between Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov and Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce, Mr Abdul Razak Dawood, both sides discussed the historical bilateral relations. They resolved to increase the volumes of trade. Since the CPEC stands for greater regional connectivity and immense socio-economic prosperity and energy cooperation, Turkmenistan also desires to enhance trade relations with Pakistan.

Hence, the Ministry of Commerce is developing a strategy to incorporate Turkmenistan as part of efforts to integrate five Central Asian Republics with Afghanistan and Pakistan. H.E. Turkmenistan Ambassador showed keen interest in holding the sixth meeting of Pakistan-Turkmenistan Joint Governmental Commission during 2021.

Furthermore, the Turkmen side also discussed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Gwadar and Turkmen ports. The Commerce Adviser appreciated Turkmenistan’s proposal for the transit of its goods through Gwadar and Karachi ports through railways and road transportation.

Being a prominent regional expert on CPEC & BRI, I term greater socio-economic and geopolitical realization of the various regional countries towards the CPEC a good omen for achieving greater regional connectivity. Even President Arif Alvi underlined the need of utilizing Gwadar Port as a free zone area for transit trade with Afghanistan and Balochistan in addition to Karachi ports which will be further connected with all the Central Asian countries. So CPEC holds the key to Pakistan’s future, socio-economic prosperity and greater regional connectivity in the future.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-iran-and-central-asia/>

Gwadar: The History and Future

IN December 2020, the 5th Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Gwadar, which includes representatives of multiple Ministries from Pakistan and their counterparts in the Chinese Government, reviewed the progress of up-gradation of Gwadar and showed satisfaction over the pace of projects. Gwadar, even though challenges still remain, remains a point of mighty potential for Pakistan. The Imran Khan government is finally playing its cards right. Gwadar and CPEC are being processed unhindered by political and social ups and downs. The internal as well as external conditions are conducive for Gwadar. The focus should now be on, keeping all parties involved in harmony and keeping an eye on the ball.

Gwadar has a chequered history. Initially, a part of Oman, Pakistan acquired Gwadar in 1958. From the start, Gwadar's potential was identified for being an excellent site for a deep seaport. Many decades passed, Gwadar could not be instigated as it should have been. In the late 1990s, surveys and reports were completed with joint cooperation of China. Gwadar development projects kicked off around 2005. After the announcement of CPEC, Gwadar became the focal point for China and Pakistan. In time, this focus shifted from just two countries to the whole region.

Gwadar sits overlooking the oil-rich nations of the Middle East. On the land side, it can form linkages with the Central Asian States. China can revive the old silk route with Gwadar being a part of both land linkage and maritime access. CPEC and OBOR are now in full swing and Gwadar are at the heart of both. The private sector has been convinced of its importance and potential. The real estate market is booming and multiple housing projects are being installed. Gwadar Green Palms is one of those key projects that are making Gwadar liveable for Pakistanis from all corners.

Gwadar was being developed considering that Chabahar port of Iran would attempt to overshadow its progress as a rival. Scholars and geopolitical experts were of the view that Iran would make all efforts to revive its economy through their own deep seaport and sabotage Gwadar for its own gains. All those rumours have now been put to sleep. China took the upper hand and by offering a larger stimulus package for Iran and Chabahar. Now, Gwadar and Chabahar ports are not being developed as regional rival port cities but as twin cities. It is a cementing act that combines the progress and development of Pakistan and Iran. Furthermore, Balochistan and Gwadar are now set to be a focal area with respect to the Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline, which will further address the energy needs of the country in future and earn due revenue for neighbouring Iranians. Hit by American and UN sanctions, China and Pakistan projects in the port city and Baluchistan are a sigh of relief and hope for economic revival in Iran.

The cooperation between Pakistan and China in Gwadar is now beyond technical and infrastructure. The ties are now more social and emotional than before. The Chinese development sector firms are making state-of-the-art hospitals, schools and housing and telecommunication networks. It is a massive uplift of the whole city. Motorways are linking

Gwadar to all important cities. Train lines are making travelling back and forth from Gwadar, much more accessible. The desalination plants are attracting investors to seek water distribution networks. Salt is more abundant which can be supplied to nearby cities.

The special economic zones are a safe haven for new manufacturing facilities. Major businesses and investors are taking a keen interest in tax-free incentives being offered. The export sector is taking hold in Gwadar. Garments and food exporters are considering making Gwadar their supply chain endpoint. There is a mushroom growth in private projects and their completion is being monitored by the CPEC Authority being an independent arm of the Government of Pakistan. The establishment of an independent Authority addresses the concerns of the Chinese Government and implementation on CPEC and Gwadar uplift must not be affected by political events. In the same spirit, the head of CPEC Authority is a very senior retired officer of the Pakistan Army.

In all these achievements and milestones, one must not lose sight of the larger picture. In this massive overhaul of facilities in Gwadar, the local Baloch population must not be excluded. There still remains a deep sense of loss, betrayal and manipulation among certain sections of the population of Balochistan. The city needs to involve indigenous people. International experts have developed a consensus of the fact that only sustainable development is true development and true development is not possible without the inclusion of the common man.

This is the greatest challenge for the Government of Pakistan and Gwadar. Security personnel have been deployed at every facility in the port city. There are clear risks of violence and extremism. The income inequality is at its worst in the underdeveloped regions of Balochistan. The Government of Pakistan and Imran Khan must come up with an out-of-the-box solution to share the benefits of the deep seaport and its potential with the people of Balochistan. There is a delicate balance which exists between security concerns and inclusion of the most advantaged section of the society, in and around Gwadar.

The Concept of Gwadar as Dubai and Singapore of tomorrow will not come from the construction of high rise buildings, lofty offices and busy factories, but by putting a sense of satisfaction among the people of Balochistan. Gwadar, before it becomes the jewel of Asia, must become a beacon of hope, success and happiness for Baloch people.

In the past, Gwadar was largely a subject of political rifts. Deadlocks delayed the initiation of much-needed projects. During the Musharraf regime, Gwadar actually became the root of conflict instead of becoming an icon of progress. The present Government is doing a commendable job at the coordination, construction, security and development side of Gwadar but the implementation of all this progress must be translated to the most downtrodden sections of people in Gwadar.

In this context, the SME sector should be readily encouraged. Technical training programs must be launched on an emergency basis. The unskilled labour should be transformed into semi-skilled and fully able labour which can take up jobs in complex industrial units involving the

production of end-use products. Affordable housing and subsistence allowance with job offers from the public sector is another lagging area.

It can only thrive when its local population begins to take an active part in its flourishing future. The world is watching countries like China, Iran, Middle Eastern States, Central Asian States and many others are interested, but it rests upon the people of Pakistan and the government machinery to ensure that the hopes and fears of Baloch people are duly addressed.

The revival of the people will come before the greatness of the city. We can simply imagine a Dubai-like Gwadar and work our way backwards, the future is full of potential but it cannot be achieved without a remarkable present for the people living in and around the port city. In fulfilling the wishes of foreign states and Pakistanis from large cities, it must be noted that the future of the city lies in an egalitarian win-win situation especially for the people of Balochistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/the-future-of-gwadar/>

Remote Pak-China online agri training to be arranged

University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) will set up a learning and coaching center that will pave the way of arranging remote Pak-China online agriculture training.

The Center will be a model farm where students and farmers would be imparted training about the use of modern technology for agriculture.

Spread over 12 acres, the learning and coaching center, and model farm would be set up under academia-industry linkages, says a report published by Gwadar Pro.

<https://pakobserver.net/remote-pak-china-online-agri-training-to-be-arranged/>

The Nation

Talks underway with Chinese company for vaccine: Asad

ISLAMABAD - Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar has said the government was promptly taking decisions to procure the anti-Covid vaccine.

Briefing the media persons here on Tuesday, he said talks were being held with a Chinese company for procurement of the vaccine. The Minister said initially the vaccine will be administered to the healthcare staff which will be followed by other people.

Umar said that health workers will be the first ones to be injected as soon as the vaccine comes in. "But until that time, you have to keep following SOPs and the precautionary measures given by the government," he appealed to the public.

He said the government's timely decisions and the responsibility demonstrated by the masses have greatly contributed to check spread of the contagion in the country. He said that statistics have proven that the policies implemented by the government to curb the Coronavirus spread have been successful.

The Federal Minister, who also heads the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), appealed the people to continue to follow the precautionary measures so as to avoid the devastation caused by the virus in the US and other western countries.

He said the government opted for a smart lockdown policy in the wake of first wave of Covid-19 to protect the lives and livelihoods. He said complete lockdown policy adopted by some of the regional countries added to their economic woes.

He said the government's handling of Covid-19 was appreciated by several world institutions including the World Health Organization and World Economic Forum.

Asad Umar pointed out that in the first week of the second wave starting from November 30, the number of cases across Pakistan was rapidly increasing. "From January 7, we saw that the number of patients in the hospitals has gone down," he added. "In the second week of December, 2,511 people were admitted to hospitals and required oxygen, while over 300 were in critical care. But after that, you see that the cases go down and people going to hospitals decrease. Why? Because the government was quick in taking steps to curb the virus," the minister pointed out.

Meanwhile, Pakistan on Tuesday morning reported 2408 new Covid-19 cases and 41 deaths in the country — a downward trend in number of cases and casualties. Islamabad, GB and AJK collectively reported 112 new cases and 2 deaths, according to the NCOC. Islamabad reported 98 cases and 2 deaths, GB 2 cases while AJK reported 12 cases during the past 24 hours. GB has not reported a Covid-19 fatality for the last 16 days. Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan collectively reported 241 new cases and three new deaths. KP reported 224 new Coronavirus cases and three deaths, while Balochistan reported 17 cases. So far, KP has recorded 61,648 cases while Balochistan's number stands at 18,429. Punjab reported 508 new Covid-19 cases and 7 deaths. The total number of cases in the province has now reached 146,016, while death toll stands at 4,299.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-01-13/page-1/detail-2>

Improvement in infrastructure to attract more Chinese investors

ISLAMABAD - Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, ICCI president who was leading a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), visited the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad and held a meeting with Xie Guoxiang, Minister Counsellor (Economic and Commercial), to discuss possibilities of further improving bilateral trade and investment relations between Pakistan and China. Fatma Azim, senior vice president, and Abdul Rehman Khan, vice president ICCI, were in the delegation. She Hua Shiang, Gong Dahui and others were also present at the occasion.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that Pakistan and China enjoyed strategic friendship which could be further strengthened by developing strong trade and economic relations between the two countries. He said that Pakistan was a growing market for business activities and it was the right time for Chinese companies to transfer technology to Pakistan and set up JVs and industrial units

in our country. This way, Chinese investors could export their products to many markets of the world including South Asia, Middle East, Europe and Africa. He said that China was the world's second largest economy with annual trade of trillions of dollars, but Pakistan's exports to China were around \$2 billion. He said that Pakistan's exports to China could increase to \$23 billion only if China provided one percent share in its supply chain through importing raw materials and intermediate goods from Pakistan.

Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan said that Pakistan's automobile, IT & telecom, industry, agriculture and construction sectors possessed tremendous potential for Chinese investors. He said that SEZs of Pakistan offered tax holiday for many years, zero duty on import of machinery and plants and a 4-year payment plan to investors, therefore, he stressed that Chinese investors should explore JVs and investment in these SEZs to earn lucrative returns. He said that China was quite advanced in the agriculture sector and it should help Pakistan in improving its per acre yield by sharing its agro machinery and technology with our country. He said that the Embassy should streamline its visa policy for Pakistani business community so that they could easily visit China to explore business collaborations with Chinese counterparts. He said that ICCI was working with the government for One Window facility for investors and assured that ICCI would fully facilitate Chinese investors in connecting them with right partners in Pakistan.

Speaking at the occasion, Xie Guoxiang, Minister Counsellor (Economic and Commercial), Embassy of the People's Republic of China, said that 2nd phase of CPEC has started cooperation in industrial and agriculture sectors, health and digital technology between China and Pakistan that would boost its economy. He emphasized that Pakistan should focus on improving its infrastructure that would attract more Chinese investors to Pakistani market. He informed that the Department of Commerce of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China intended to hold an online conference on January 22, 2021 to promote trade cooperation between China and Pakistan that would focus on garment and textile industry, textile machinery & equipment, agricultural products and urged that Pakistani business community should attend it to explore business collaboration with Chinese counterparts. Both sides also discussed signing of an MoU of cooperation between ICCI and Chinese Capital Chamber of Commerce & Industry to promote business linkages between the two countries.

<https://nation.com.pk/13-Jan-2021/improvement-in-infrastructure-to-attract-more-chinese-investors>

January 14, 2021

Daily Times

Moin tells Chinese firm CEO of Pakistan's intention to buy vaccine

Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin Ul Haque on Wednesday informed the Chinese firm CanSino Biologics Inc that the country will be approaching the regulatory authorities to put measures for obtaining compliance with the coronavirus vaccine made by the pharmaceutical company.

The ambassador gave the assurance during a visit to the headquarters of Tianjin-based CanSino Biologics Inc, said a press statement issued on Wednesday.

During the visit, Haque met with the company's Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO Yu Xuefeng. The two officials expressed satisfaction at the Stage-III clinical trials of CanSino Covid-19 vaccine candidate in Pakistan with local partner AJM Pharma.

The officials agreed that as the trials are nearing completion, relevant measures for regulatory compliance in line with the laws and regulations of Pakistan would be brought regarding the vaccine.

The meeting was also attended by Senior Vice President of CanSino International Business Operation, Pierre Armand Morgon via video link from Lausanne, Switzerland.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/712985/moin-tells-chinese-firm-ceo-of-pakistans-intention-to-buy-vaccine/>

Pakistan Observer

Ambassador Haque meets CanSino Chairman

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque paid a visit to the headquarters of Tianjin-based CanSino Biologics Inc. and had a meeting with the company Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO Yu Xuefeng . During the meeting, they expressed satisfaction at the Stage III clinical trials of CanSino COVID-19 vaccine candidate in Pakistan with local partner AJM Pharma. As the trials were nearing completion, it was agreed to put in place relevant measures for regulatory compliance in line with the laws and regulations of Pakistan. Senior Vice President of CanSino International Business Operation, Pierre Armand Morgon has also joined the meeting via video link from Lausanne, Switzerland.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/ambassador-haque-meets-cansino-chairman/>

The Nation

China donates medical supplies to fight Covid-19

ISLAMABAD - A delegation of China International Culture Exchange Center (CICEC) has donated a batch of medical supplies to support fighting against COVID-19. According to a report by Gwadar Pro, the donation was given during a ceremony held at the Pakistan embassy in Beijing yesterday.

Meanwhile Pan Wen, Deputy Director of International Liaison Department CICEC, had a conversation with Pakistani ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque.

The batch of supplies includes 30,000 masks (15 boxes), 2 boxes of kn95, PPE suits, 3000 boxes of Chinese herbal medicines, and nucleic acid test kits.

On the occasion, Pan said, “Seeing the lingering epidemic situation in Pakistan, CICEC feels obliged to donate some prevention and control supplies as a sign of support. We shall stand united in our fight against Covid-19 and emerge victorious together.”

Pan said, “China and Pakistan are iron brothers and our friendship has withstood changes in International situation and stayed firm and stronger as always. The Year 2021 marks the 70th year of the establishment of China and Pakistan diplomatic relations.” It is a new start and opportunity for Pak-China multi-field cooperation.

We hope to seize the moment to engage in Culture exchange programs with Pakistan including the international sea port forum, which is already in preparation.”

“We would also like to invite Pakistani artists to display their paintings and art pieces in the Arts Exhibition hall of CICEC to promote culture exchanges,” he said.

The ambassador Haque said, China TCM is playing very important role in combating Covid-19 and he, his family and personnel in embassy also is using it for immunity and nutrition.

“We are willing to boost the cooperation in Chinese traditional medicines because CTM is a valuable treasure trove of medical wisdom,” he added.

He said, due to the 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic ties is coming soon, enhancing culture and people-to-people exchanges would help to cement our relationship between generation to generation.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-01-14/page-10/detail-5>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک کا دوسرا مرحلہ پاکستان کی معیشت کو فروغ دے گا، چینی سفارتکار شی گائوشیانگ

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چینی سفارت خانے کے منسٹر کونسلر (معاشی اور تجارتی) شی گائوشیانگ نے کہا ہے کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے دوسرے مرحلے سے پاکستان کی معیشت کو فروغ ملے گا۔ انہوں نے کہا سی پیک کے دوسرے مرحلے نے چین اور پاکستان کے مابین صنعتی اور زرعی شعبوں، صحت اور ڈیجیٹل ٹیکنالوجی میں تعاون شروع کر دیا ہے۔ گواڈر پروکے مطابق انہوں نے کہا اس سے پاکستان کی معیشت کو تقویت ملے گی، پاکستان کو اپنے بنیادی ڈھانچے کو بہتر بنانے پر توجہ دینی چاہئے جو زیادہ سے زیادہ چینی سرمایہ کاروں کو پاکستانی مارکیٹ کی طرف راغب کرے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ چین کے سٹیلیاگ ایغیور خود مختار خطے کے محکمہ تجارت کا ارادہ ہے کہ چین اور پاکستان کے مابین تجارتی تعاون کو فروغ دینے کے لئے 22 جنوری 2021 کو ایک آن لائن کانفرنس کا انعقاد کیا جائے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس کانفرنس میں گارمنٹس اینڈ ٹیکسٹائل انڈسٹری، ٹیکسٹائل مشینری اور آلات، زرعی مصنوعات پر توجہ مرکوز کی جائے گی اور اس پر زور دیا کہ پاکستانی تاجر برادری چینی ہم منصبوں کے ساتھ کاروباری تعاون تلاش کرنے کے لئے اس میں شرکت کرے۔ اس سے قبل صدر اسلام آباد چیئرمین آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری (آئی سی سی آئی) سر الیاس خان کی قیادت میں ایک وفد نے اسلام آباد میں چین کے سفارتخانے کا دورہ کیا انہوں نے شی گائوشیانگ کے ساتھ ایک ملاقات کی جس میں پاکستان اور چین کے مابین دو طرفہ تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری تعاون کو مزید بہتر بنانے کے پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-01-14/page-10/detail-25>

January 15, 2021

Business Recorder

NA panel for local ownership of CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: The Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) observed that it was important to address concerns of the local people where projects are being proposed because local ownership of the projects is highly necessary.

The 1st (in-camera) meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Committee on CPEC was held at Parliament House on Thursday under the convenership of Noor Alam Khan. The Sub-Committee was constituted to scrutinise the socioeconomic development projects under a \$1 billion grant by the Chinese government to launch pilot projects in the selective districts of the country to reduce poverty.

The committee further observed that there is a greater need for establishing the strongest coordination among federal and provincial/regional departments, so that everyone could be on board about the development activities taking place under the socio-economic development projects, and the people of less-developed areas fully own the projects implemented under the CPEC framework.

The Committee further recommended that while keeping ground realities in view, we need to look into our requirements.

Pakistan needs to learn from remarkable Chinese experiences and focus on the capacity building and enhancement of skills, rather than only imparting and installing technological infrastructure. This is how our manpower can become self-sufficient in all areas of socio-economic development.

Moreover, while highlighting the importance of Balochistan and to further scrutinise the projects, the Committee decided to convene a meeting by tomorrow (Friday) specifically related to projects for Balochistan under the CPEC framework.

The committee was briefed by additional secretary, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, special joint secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, chairman, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, chairman, Higher Education Commission, rector, Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology, and concerned from provinces and regions regarding the projects completed and under progress in provinces and regions covering six areas of socio-economic development i.e. agriculture, medical health, poverty alleviation, education, vocational education, and water supply schemes. The Committee remarked that the socio-economic development projects under \$1 billion grant by the Chinese government were envisaged to alter the socio-economic landscape of the country, eliminate the prevailing sense of deprivation among marginalised provinces and regions by ensuring shared prosperity and bringing positive changes in the lives of the people. It is, therefore, undeniably important to propose need-based projects having tangible end results

and ensure maximum adherence to timelines, so that Pakistan could make the most out of this grant. The meeting was attended by MNAs Mehnaz Akber Aziz, Raza Rabbani Khar, and Zahid Akram Durrani.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/01/15/3-page/865754-news.html>

Daily Times

Having surmounted multiple challenges, CPEC cruises into high gear in 2021

Pakistan Stock Exchange Having surmounted wide-ranging challenges, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has cruised into high gear in 2021 gaining traction in the potential areas that constitute modern future of Pakistan.

Upholding the supremacy of transparency, corruption-free and fast-track progress, action plan of CPEC 2021 is a buzzword on national and international landscapes, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. From the onset, CPEC 2021 has focused on agriculture-centric growth, SEZs, Gwadar, ML-1, Rail network, B2B businesses, entrepreneurship, pharmaceutical industry, CPFTA-11, de-carbonization, trade, renewal energy, Optic Fiber Cable, Science & Technology, Eco-Tourism, Culture, new media, skill development, employment generation, and high-tech infrastructure.

In a first media briefing of 2021, Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan said loud and clear that CPEC in 2021 would boost up agricultural sector as Pakistan was an agriculture country. He reiterated his admiration for China to adopt Chinese model of development as the best model for Pakistan. “If we can learn from any country in the world, it is China. The speed with which China developed in the last 30 years is something we can learn from,” he added.

Mushahid Hussain Syed, Senator, Chairman, Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and Pakistan-China Institute said that with the first phase of CPEC already a success story, the best of success was yet to come in 2021. New Year has lot of promise & potential for CPEC, for instance, launching SEZ, relocation of Chinese industry, agriculture & education, plus it’s the 70th Anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Pakistan & China which means more people-to-people contact. “The major challenges are the ability of the Pakistani system to cut through bureaucratic red-tapes so that projects are taken forward unimpeded, to protect CPEC projects & personnel by provision of adequate security and to counter fake news and propaganda emanating from India and its Western patrons against BRI/CPEC,” he added.

Hassan Daud Butt, former CPEC Project Director and CEO KPBOIT & SEZA said that 2021 was crucial year as the world was looking at COVID-19 cure and measures to rebound from economic crisis. “It is expected that ML-1 project will make a sound start. Meanwhile development work in Rashakai, dhabheji and Faisalabad to gain momentum in adequate manner. Gwadar development is also shaping well with at least 10 investors keen to work with port holding company. East bay express will also be completed and work on Gwadar Airport, hospital and vocational center has been accelerating steadily and positively,” he added and opined that 2021 would be an important year overall.

Senator Azam Khan Swati, said that CPEC 2021 would see kick-start of ML-1 project creating employment opportunities for the locals and improving the logistics infrastructure in the country. He said ML-1 would cover 80 percent of Pakistani territory and 78 percent of the population of

Pakistan. CPEC 2021 eyes on corporate farming, seed technology, remote sensing, geographical information system, food processing and pre- and post-harvest handling.

It puts thrust on storage of agricultural produce, genetic resources of crops, livestock and poultry, selection and breeding of new breeds of animals and new varieties of plants, feed for fisheries and aquaculture, research and development of new high-yield varieties, precision agriculture and pest and disease control. Under Agro-based cooperation, efforts are afoot to build a center for sustainable pest management in plants in Pakistan, focusing on all-round plant protection cooperation, including monitoring and early warning technology, research and development, mutual recognition of standards (thus paving the way for enhanced food exports from Pakistan to China), personnel training and emergency prevention and control.

Under the framework, a joint cotton research laboratory would be set up in Multan at a cost of Rs. 186 million to help improving the productivity of the agriculture sector by increasing cotton cultivation area and production. It will also help in development of climate resilient cotton varieties that will ensure reliability and productivity. The project will help farmers by lowering the need to invest in insecticides and pesticides and will help alleviate poverty in rural Punjab.

Measures are being doubled down for establishing a learning and coaching center and a model farm where students and farmers would be given training about the use of modern technology for agriculture. Spread over 12 acres, the learning and coaching center, and model farm would be set up under academia-industry linkages. Optimizing Joint Working Group (JWG) on Science and Technology under CPEC after President Arif Alvi visited China in March last year, 2021 will deliberate projects under this category and recommendations that have been provided by the experts. In this regard a science and technology park on biotechnology is being built in Jhelum. The land is being provided by the Pakistani government. Modalities for the project have been worked out and that it will be based on the model of the center of excellence of COMSATS at the Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology (TIB).

This year progress is going ahead as “CPEC Science Communication Network” has already been launched on December 3rd 2020 for the 5th Academic Forum on China-Pakistan Scientific, Technological and Economic Cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative jointly by the Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU), Beijing Science and Technology Association (BAST), Beijing Academy of Science and Technology (BJAST) in collaboration with Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), and Pakistan Scientific & Technological Information Center (PASTIC).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/713444/having-surmounted-multiple-challenges-cpec-cruises-into-high-gear-in-2021/>

Pakistan Observer

Parliamentary panel for initiating need-based uplift projects

A subcommittee of the Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor on Thursday called for initiating need-based projects with tangible end results under the \$1 billion Chinese government grant for socioeconomic development of the country.

During the maiden meeting of the subcommittee, with its convenor Noor Alam Khan in the chair, the lawmakers stressed the need for ensuring maximum adherence to timelines of the projects so that Pakistan could make the most out of this grant.

The meeting scrutinised the projects under grant aimed at launching pilot projects in the selective districts of the country to reduce poverty. It was briefed on the projects – completed as well as under-progress – in provinces and regions, covering 6 areas of socioeconomic development – agriculture, medical health, poverty alleviation, education, vocational education and water supply schemes.

The committee noted that the development projects were envisaged to alter socioeconomic landscape of the country, eliminate prevailing sense of deprivation among marginalised provinces and regions by ensuring shared prosperity and bringing positive changes in the lives of the people.

“It is, therefore, undeniably important to propose need-based projects having tangible end results and ensure maximum adherence to timelines so that Pakistan could make the most out of this grant,” the committee said, according to a press release issued here.

The committee further observed that it is important to address concerns of local people where projects are being proposed because local ownership of the projects is highly necessary, the press release added.

“In this regard, there is a greater need for establishing the strongest coordination among federal, provincial and regional departments so that everyone could be on board about the development activities... and the people of less-developed areas fully own the projects implemented under CPEC.”

While keeping ground realities in view, the committee recommended that “Pakistan needs to learn from remarkable Chinese experiences and focus on the capacity building and enhancement of skills rather than only imparting and installing technological infrastructure”.

<https://pakobserver.net/parliamentary-panel-for-initiating-need-based-uplift-projects/>

The News

COVID-19: China stops PIA flights for 3 weeks

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has halted flights to China in the wake of the second wave of coronavirus in China.

According to the details, the flights were cancelled after 10 Pakistani passengers tested positive for COVID-19, a PIA spokesman confirmed the suspension of the flights.

According to local media sources, China has also imposed a temporary travel ban on Pakistani passengers. PIA operates two weekly flights to China.

One person died of the coronavirus in China eight months later, prompting restrictions to be lifted in affected Chinese cities due to the spread of the virus.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/774569-covid-19-china-stops-pia-flights-for-3-weeks>

Jang News

چین، روس اور کوریائی کمپنیوں کی اسٹیل ملز میں دلچسپی

اسلام آباد (اپنے نامہ نگار سے) چین، روس اور کوریائی کمپنیوں کی اسٹیل ملز میں دلچسپی، حکام نے کہا کہ اراضی کا فیصلہ رواں ماہ، نجکاری کیلئے ٹینڈرز مارچ میں جاری کیے جائیں، وفاقی وزیر نجکاری محمد میاں سومرو کی زیر صدارت اعلیٰ سطح کا اجلاس گزشتہ روز ہوا، اجلاس میں وزارت کے حکام نے شرکت کی، اجلاس میں وزارت نجکاری کے آئینی معاملات، دفتری امور کو جدید خطوط پر استوار کرنے سے متعلق امور سمیت دیگر معاملات پر تفصیلی مشاورت بھی کی گئی، وفاقی وزیر نجکاری کو بتایا گیا کہ پاکستان اسٹیل ملز کی بحالی کے حوالے سے چین، روس اور کوریائی ممتاز سرمایہ کار کمپنیوں سمیت مختلف سرمایہ کاروں سے روزانہ کی بنیاد پر بات چیت ہو رہی ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/872314>