



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

December 01-15, 2020

A pilot project of PICS

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December 01, 2020

Business Recorder

Pakistan, China sign MoU on defence cooperation

ISLAMABAD: An MoU has been signed for enhancement of defence cooperation between the armies of Pakistan and China on Monday.

According to the military media wing, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Bajwa held a meeting with General Wei Fenghe, China's Minister of National Defence at the GHQ. He said Pakistan and China were on a road to enhance cooperative relations among the two brotherly countries.

During the meeting, COAS Bajwa and General Wei Fenghe discussed matters of mutual interest, regional security, and enhanced bilateral defence collaborations.

The visiting dignitaries appreciated Pakistan Army's sincere efforts in maintaining regional peace and provision of secure environment for the CPEC projects.

The COAS thanked the dignitary for China's unwavering support to Pakistan on all key issues at regional and international forums.

He said, "Pakistan Army greatly values our time-tested and brotherly relations with China. We have been standing together all along and our relations will be no different in wake of future challenges."

We have been standing together all along, and our relations will be no different in wake of future challenges, the COAS reiterated.

Earlier on arrival at the GHQ, the Minister of National Defence, laid a floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada.

A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Army presented the Guard of Honour to the visiting dignitary.

General Wei Fenghe, China's Minister of National Defence, who is on official visit to Pakistan, also visited Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi, where he met General Nadeem Raza, chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee.

Matters related to changing geo-strategic environment and further strengthening of security and defence cooperation between the two countries were discussed during the meeting. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to "Iron Brotherhood" and "All-Weather" friendship with continued efforts to forge deeper strategic ties for a shared future and security vision. Earlier, upon arrival at the Joint Staff Headquarters, a smartly turned out tri-services contingent presented the "Guard of Honour" to the visiting dignitary.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/01/1-page/860035-news.html>

Pakistan, China to sign PPA/IA of imported power project at Gwadar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China will sign on Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)/Implementation Agreement (IA) of 300-megawatt (MW) Imported Coal-Based Power Project at Gwadar in this month (December).

The decision of signing agreement has been taking in a meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) on Gwadar under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), here on Monday. The 5th JWG meeting between the governments of Pakistan and China on Gwadar was chaired by Planning Secretary Motahar Niaz Rana and China's Director General (DG) National Development and Reform Commission of China (NDRC) Ying Jiang under the video link. The Chinese side suggested signing the PPA/IA and landing lease agreement of the project as soon as possible to obtain financing and start the construction.

Then, Minister for Planning, Development, and Reform Khusro Bakhtyar and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Vice Chairman Ning Jizhe had inaugurated the 300MW coal power plant during their visit to Gwadar in November 2019. The letter of interest for the 300 MW coal-fired power project was issued in 2017, and the estimated cost of the project is \$542.32 million.

The CIHC Pak Power Company Limited is the developer of the project based on imported coal. The JWG also announced to expedite work on Gwadar projects. The East Bay Expressway will be completed by April 2021.

It was also said that the work on Gwadar Airport will be completed soon.

China will support Gwadar economic projects such as agriculture, livestock, and fisheries. Director General, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Ying Xiong in his opening remarks said that the development of the Gwadar is a priority and will be pushed forward with vigor and zeal. Chinese side appreciated the support provided by Pakistan in the port operationalization particularly enabling the Afghan transit trade through Gwadar. It was agreed that this step would greatly reduce the logistic cost and facilitate the transshipment trade.

The Chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Company Ltd (COPHCL) explained the development of the port in detail and highlighted renewed interest of the entrepreneurs in investing in Gwadar port and Free Zone area.

It was also informed that the Eastbay Expressway will be completed in 2021 and all pending issues have been resolved on priority. The Expressway will connect the port with the 2nd Phase of the Free Trade Zone (FTZ), which will facilitate the business climate of the zone and the port alike.

Other projects discussed included New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) and M-8 Motorway for seamless connectivity of Gwadar with the rest of the country and beyond. The progress on the NGIA was noted with satisfaction.

Other projects in the social sector discussed during the meeting include Pak-China Friendship Hospital in Gwadar and Vocational and Technical Institute in Gwadar. The secretary Planning Commission highlighted that the hospital project is of vital importance for the people of Gwadar and needs to be expedited. The secretary suggested to expedite work for timely completion of the project.

For the Vocational and Technical Institute, both sides agreed to push ahead creating job opportunities for the youth. For the development of Gwadar as a smart port city, it was reiterated that the provision of fresh water is of utmost importance. In this regard, the 1.2 MGD desalination plant project was termed critical. Both sides agreed to take necessary measure to complete the project in time.

The dredging of Berthing Areas is important for large vessels to access the Gwadar port, which will improve the operationally of the port.

For the construction of Breakwater, the timely completion of the project was stressed as a crucial intervention required for the fishermen community in Gwadar. The secretary Planning Commission proposed to divide the project in to two phases for better implementation of the project. The DG, NDRC replied in affirmative and appreciated the idea.

The Director General, NDRC applauded the development package and reiterated China's full support for the socio-economic well-being of Balochistan region.

The meeting was concluded with signing of the minutes along with finalisation of the agreed deliverables of the JWG on Gwadar for the forthcoming 10th JCC.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/01/3-page/860053-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistani scholar taps Pak, China coop in cotton research

Islamabad: Pakistan, China needed to collaborate with each other to exchange cotton Germplasm, so as to share knowledge and scientific approaches for having quality yield. This collaboration is imperative as Pakistan doesn't have cotton that is suitable for machine picking, and China's cotton is not that resistant to heat and drought," said Muhammad Tehseen Azhar, a Faculty member of Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), and Lecturer-Chair of Germplasm and Genetic Stocks, ICGI. The Gwadar Pro quoted him as having said, that lack of technology in Pakistan could be problematic for some time. "Pakistan is still on the list of developing countries, and there're lots of differences in cotton research between Beijing and Pakistan, like the lack of proper infrastructure in agriculture." "Farm work is mechanized in most parts of China, you know, from sowing to picking or harvesting, but Pakistan is still in the end of that line," he further mentioned.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-scholar-taps-pak-china-coop-in-cotton-research/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan, China to expedite work

ISLAMABAD: China and Pakistan on Monday again showed the resolve to expedite work to meet revised deadlines of Gwadar projects as almost all schemes in the port city - the kingpin of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) - remain behind schedule.

The fifth meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on Gwadar was held through video link in which both countries reviewed progress on projects related to Gwadar Port, road and air infrastructure, provision of water and health facilities.

Planning Secretary Mathar Niaz Rana and China National Development and Reforms Commission Director General Ying Xiong co-chaired the meeting, according to the Ministry of Planning and Development.

The planning ministry stated that it was agreed that work on Gwadar projects would be expedited. Power purchase agreement and implementation agreement for a 300-megawatt coal-fired power plant would be signed in December 2020 while the Eastbay Expressway project would be completed by April 2021, said the planning ministry.

It was mutually agreed that work on Gwadar Airport would be expedited for completion, the ministry stated, adding that China would support socioeconomic projects in Gwadar including the projects related to agriculture, livestock and fisheries. Discussions of the JWG on Gwadar will now be placed in the upcoming Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting that may finally take place in December. JCC is the highest decision-making body of CPEC but its meeting has been delayed for the last two months.

Government officials, who attended the meeting, told The Express Tribune that there was nothing new that would be presented to the next JCC meeting and a majority of Gwadar projects were lagging behind schedule.

These were New Gwadar International Airport, a five-million-gallon water desalination treatment plant, Gwadar Port's berth and breakwater projects, Eastbay Expressway project, a 300MW coal-fired power plant, Pak-China Friendship Hospital and a school.

The silver lining was the Gwadar Port that had become operational and Afghan transit trade had also started flowing through the port. The Gwadar Free Zone has attracted multiple investors and currently around 43 investors have registered with the free zone, of which five have completed construction work.

The JWG underlined the need for fast execution of relevant Gwadar infrastructure and assistance projects including the Eastbay Expressway, new airport, 300 MW coal-power plant, Pak-China Friendship Hospital and Gwadar Vocational and Training Centre, according to officials.

It was underlined during the meeting that there was a need to declare Gwadar Port as the Green Custom for Agriculture Cooperation to facilitate imports of wheat, sugar and fertilizer. The

government was required to complete the five-million-gallon-per-day water purification plant to meet Gwadar city's water requirements. China had also agreed to help Pakistan implement the project but despite a lapse of many years, the Environment Impact Assessment report by the Environment Protection Agency, Balochistan has not been approved, according to the officials.

In the sixth JCC meeting, Pakistan and China had agreed to expedite work on the dredging of berth area and channels at the Gwadar Port. This work is necessary to ensure safety of vessels. So far, no significant progress had been made and it was agreed that the berth project would now be taken up in the next JWG meeting, said the officials.

Similarly, in the sixth JCC, it had been decided to construct the breakwater and launch a joint feasibility study. The joint study had been completed but PC-I of the project had not yet been approved, they added.

The meeting was informed that so far 77% work had been completed on the Eastbay Expressway project and Chinese contractors would need more time to complete the work. But a planning ministry's public statement put the completion deadline at April 2021. Officials said a major obstacle to the Eastbay project was the construction of three additional bridges but a supplementary agreement for the additional work had not been signed yet.

During the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan last year, fishermen had protested and demanded the construction of additional bridges. But so far no tangible work had been done, said the sources.

Chinese authorities have also raised the issue of lack of access to telecommunication services in Gwadar, which according to them has created hurdles in the way of carrying out work at the new airport and has also created security concerns, according to the sources. So far, Pakistan has not installed a mobile tower that is necessary to provide connectivity at the site of Gwadar Port.

The meeting also reviewed the status of the 300MW coal-fired power plant to be set up in Gwadar. It was agreed that the power purchase agreement and implementation agreement would be signed in December. China has proposed that China Electric Power Construction Company will construct the project. However, financing agreement for the project has not yet been finalized, which may take a few more months.

Pak-China Vocational and Technical Institute, Gwadar also remains incomplete as so far only one-third of work on the project has been finished. Pak-China Friendship.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2274154/pakistan-china-to-expedite-work>

The Nation

President Alvi confers Nishan-e-Imtiaz on Chinese Defense Minister

President Dr. Arif Alvi has conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz Military on Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe in recognition of his services for further promoting and strengthens defense cooperation between Pakistan and China.

A special investiture ceremony was held at the presidency in Islamabad on Tuesday. It was attended by the federal ministers, the services chiefs and other senior ranking officials.

Earlier, General Wei Fenghe met Chief of army staff (COAS) general Qamar Javed Bajwa. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security and enhanced bilateral defense collaboration were discussed.

General Qamar Javed Bajwa said that Pakistan Army greatly values our time-tested and brotherly relations with China. We have been standing together all along, and our relations will be no different in wake of future challenges.

Visiting dignitary acknowledged and appreciated Pak Army's sincere efforts for the regional peace.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed for enhancement of defense cooperation between both the Armies.

<https://nation.com.pk/01-Dec-2020/president-alvi-confers-nishan-i-imtiaz-on-chinese-defense-minister>

Visitors shop at Pakistani pavilion at China-ASEAN Expo

BEIJING - A large number of visitors showed keen interest in Pakistani products displayed at Pakistan Pavilion set up in the exhibition area of the 17th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) being held in Nanning, Guangxi province China. Pakistan traders and businessmen exhibited jewellery, precious stones, marble, carpets, and furniture, handicrafts, and sports goods at the stalls set up in Pakistan Pavilion. During his visit to Pakistan Pavilion, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque interacted with Pakistani businessmen and appreciated their efforts to promote Pakistani products in China. Ambassador Haque said that Pakistan had been invited as a special partner country at the 17th CAEXPO which was an honor and a great opportunity to enhance trade and business relations not only with China but also with the ASEAN countries. "China-ASEAN bloc represents about two billion markets and as Pakistan has a very relationship with China and also very important and historic relationship with ASEAN countries, so our partnership and presence at the CAEXPO gives us a new way to expand our trade and investment relationship", he added. He expressed satisfaction over participation of such a large number of Pakistani traders in the CAEXPO despite Covid-19 pandemic and hoped that more businessmen would participate again in the next edition of the expo also as Pakistan was likely to be invited as the special partner in 18th CAEXPO as well. About China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said it was a pioneering project of the Belt and Road Initiative and many ASEAN countries were also part of it.

<https://nation.com.pk/01-Dec-2020/visitors-shop-at-pakistani-pavilion-at-china-asean-expo>

Express News

پاکستان چین کے ترقیاتی ماڈل کی تقلید کرنا چاہتا ہے، وزیر اعظم

وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان چین کے ترقیاتی ماڈل کی تقلید کرنا چاہتا ہے۔

وزیر اعظم عمران خان سے چینی وزیر دفاع اور اسٹیٹ کونسلر کی ملاقات کا اعلامیہ جاری کر دیا گیا جس کے مطابق چینی سول اور عسکری حکام 3 روزہ دورے پر پاکستان میں ہیں، اس اعلیٰ سطحی وفد کے دورے کا مقصد پاک چین تعلقات کو مزید مستحکم اور وسعت دینا ہے۔ وزیر دفاع نے چینی قیادت کا خصوصی پیغام وزیر اعظم کو پہنچایا اور چینی وفد نے پاکستان سے تعلقات کی مضبوطی کی اہمیت پر زور دیا۔

وزیر اعظم نے وزیر دفاع کے دورہ پاکستان کا خیر مقدم کیا اور کورونا کے دوران باقاعدہ اعلیٰ سطحی وفد کے تبادلے کی اہمیت پر زور دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ دونوں ممالک میں باہمی اعتماد، اور مشترکہ نظریات پر مبنی اسٹریٹجک شراکت داری ہے، پاکستان نے ہمیشہ ”وفاق چائینہ“ پالیسی پر مضبوطی سے عمل کیا اور بنیادی قومی مفاد کے امور پر چین کی حمایت کی۔

وزیر اعظم نے چین کے ترقیاتی ماڈل کی تعریف کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین کے ترقیاتی ماڈل نے لاکھوں لوگوں کو غربت سے نکال دیا ہے اور پاکستان بھی چین کے ترقیاتی ماڈل کی تقلید کرنا چاہتا ہے۔

عمران خان نے پاکستان کے قومی ترقیاتی اہداف کے حصول میں چین کی مستقل حمایت کو سراہا اور کوویڈ-19 سے نمٹنے میں چین کی کامیابی کی بھی تعریف کی۔

عمران خان نے چینی حکومت اور عوام کی جانب سے پاکستان کا تعاون کرنے پر شکریہ ادا کیا اور مسئلہ کشمیر پر چین کی اصولی حمایت کو بھی دل کی گہرائیوں سے سراہا۔

وزیر اعظم نے بھارتی اقلیتوں کے خلاف امتیازی سلوک، پر تشدد اقدامات، آرائیں ایس نظریے سے پیدا ہونے والے سنگین خطرے کی نشاندہی کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ مقبوضہ کشمیر میں بھارت نے غیر قانونی بے گناہ کشمیریوں کی تمام آزادیاں سلب کر رکھی ہیں۔ انہوں نے ہندوستان کے بالادست عزائم اور توسیع پسندانہ ایجنڈے کو اجاگر کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ بھارت کا ہندو بالادستی کا منصوبہ نخلے میں امن و استحکام کو متاثر کر رہا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2111773/1/>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان، چین ساتھ کھڑے، آئندہ چینجز سے بھی تعلقات پر فرق نہیں پڑیگا: آرمی چیف

اسلام آباد (سٹاف رپورٹر) پاکستان اور چین کی افواج کے درمیان دفاعی شعبہ میں تعاون کو فروغ دینے کیلئے مفاہمت کی یادداشت پر دستخط کئے گئے ہیں۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق چین کے وزیر برائے قومی دفاع جنرل وی فینگ کے گزشتہ روز دورہ جی ایچ کیو کے موقع پر یہ دستخط ہوئے۔ بیان میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ مہمان وزیر دفاع نے چیف آف آرمی سٹاف جنرل قمر جاوید باجوہ سے جی ایچ کیو میں ملاقات کی۔ دوران ملاقات باہمی دلچسپی کے امور، علاقائی سلامتی کی صورتحال اور دفاعی تعاون میں اضافہ جیسے موضوعات پر تبادلہ خیالات کیا گیا۔ مہمان وزیر دفاع نے علاقائی سلامتی اور سی بیگ کو تحفظ فراہم کرنے کیلئے پاک فوج کی مخلصانہ کوششوں اور کردار کو تسلیم کیا اور ان کی تعریف کی۔ چیف آف آرمی سٹاف نے تمام علاقائی اور عالمی فورموں پر کلیدی ایٹوز کے حوالے سے پاکستان کیلئے چین کی غیر متزلزل حمایت پر ان کا شکریہ ادا کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاک فوج چین کے ساتھ برادرانہ اور ہر آزمائش پر پورا اترنے والے تعلقات کو نہایت قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتی ہے۔ انہوں نے اس عزم کا اعادہ کیا کہ ہم ہمیشہ ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ

کھڑے رہے ہیں اور آئندہ چیلنجوں کے دوران بھی ہمارے تعلقات میں کوئی فرق نہیں پڑے گا۔ بعد ازاں دونوں ملکوں کی بری افواج کے درمیان دفاعی تعاون میں اضافہ کیلئے ایم او یو پر دستخط کئے گئے۔ قبل ازیں جی ایچ کیو آمد پر چینی وزیر دفاع نے یادگار شہداء پر پھولوں کی چادر چڑھائی۔ اس موقع پر انہیں گارڈ آف آزر پیش کیا گیا۔ جزل وی فیننگ نے گزشتہ روز چیئر مین جوائنٹ چیفس آف سٹاف کمیٹی جزل ندیم رضاسے بھی ملاقات کی۔ آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق بدلتے ہوئے جیوسٹریٹجک منظر نامہ اور دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان دفاع و سلامتی کے شعبوں میں تعاون بڑھانے کے موضوعات پر تبادلہ خیالات کیا گیا۔ طرفین نے مستقبل اور سلامتی کے مشترکہ ویژن کے لئے دونوں ملکوں کے درمیان مزید گہرے سٹریٹجک تعاون کی خاطر آہنی بھائی چارے اور سد ابہار دوستی کے عزم کا اعادہ کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-01/page-1/detail-34>

December 02, 2020

Business Recorder

Pakistan, China reiterate resolve to further consolidate friendship

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi said that Pakistan's friendship with China was the cornerstone of its foreign policy, and we wanted to further improve this relation, so as to address the security challenges being faced by the region.

Pakistan and China have reiterated their resolve to further consolidate their friendship for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

This was discussed at a meeting between the visiting Chinese Minister for National Defence, General Wei Fenghe, and President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Tuesday.

Welcoming the Chinese Defence minister, the president informed the delegation that Pakistan and China were great friends, and Pakistan strongly adhered to One-China Policy and supported China on issues of Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang, and South China Sea.

The president expressed concern over the Indian hegemonic designs that posed a threat to regional peace and stability.

The president also highlighted India's state-sponsorship of terrorism against Pakistan. President Dr Arif Alvi appreciated the economic progress made by China as well as the measures taken by the Chinese government in containing the Covid-19 pandemic.

He lauded the steadfast Chinese support to Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, including at international fora. He said that there was a huge scope for bilateral defence cooperation that needed to be further expanded for the mutual advantage of the two countries. Chinese Minister for National Defence General Wei Fenghe said that military relations between the two all-weather friends had made significant progress, and expressed the hope that his visit would further strengthen the defence cooperation.

He said that China wanted to share dividends of development with Pakistan that would help in the economic uplift of Pakistan.

He thanked the president for being the first foreign dignitary to visit China during March 2020 amid the Covid-19 pandemic as well as sending the medical equipment.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/02/3-page/860186-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan-China JWG reviews progress on development projects in Gwadar

The fifth Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Gwadar was held through a video link, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

The meeting reviewed the progress of projects in Gwadar. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the progress made in port development and the Chinese side appreciated the support provided by Pakistan in the port operationalization, particularly enabling the Afghan transit trade through Gwadar.

The meeting was co-chaired by Secretary Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (PD&SI) Mathar Niaz Rana from the Pakistan side and Director General, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Ying Xiong, from the Chinese side.

In his opening remarks, Director General, NDRC said that the development of the Gwadar was a priority and will be pushed forward with vigor and zeal. The Secretary, PD&SI acknowledged the continuous support extended by the Chinese government for the development of Gwadar and assured the Chinese side of Pakistan's unwavering commitment to accelerate the development projects in Gwadar.

It was agreed that this step would greatly reduce the logistical cost and facilitate the transshipment trade.

The Chairman, CoPHCL explained the development of the port in detail and highlighted renewed interest of the entrepreneurs in investing in Gwadar port and Free Zone area.

It was informed that the Eastbay Expressway will be completed in 2021 and all pending issues have been resolved on priority.

The Expressway will connect the port with the 2nd Phase of the Free Trade Zone (FTZ) which will facilitate the business climate of the zone and the port alike.

Other projects discussed included New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) and M-8 Motorway for seamless connectivity of Gwadar with the rest of the country and beyond. The progress on the NGIA was noted with satisfaction.

The Chinese side appreciated progress on the Energy Project in Gwadar. The Power Purchase Agreement of 300 MW Coal Power Project was made as a deliverable for the forthcoming 10th JCC.

The project, upon completion, will energize the industry in Gwadar and will improve the social and economic well-being of the local community.

Other projects in the social sector discussed during the meeting include Pak-China Friendship Hospital in Gwadar and Vocational & Technical Institute in Gwadar.

The Secretary, MoPD&SI highlighted that the hospital project is of vital importance for the people of Gwadar and needs to be expedited.

The Secretary suggested expediting work for timely completion of the project. For the Vocational & Technical Institute, both sides agreed to push ahead to create job opportunities for the youth.

For the development of Gwadar as a smart port city, it was reiterated that the provision of fresh water is of utmost importance. In this regard, the 1.2 MGD Desalination plant project was termed critical. Both sides agreed to take the necessary measures to complete the project in time.

The dredging of Berthing Areas is important for large vessels to access the Gwadar port which will improve the operation of the port. For the construction of Breakwater, the timely completion of the project was stressed as a crucial intervention required for the fishermen community in Gwadar.

The Secretary, PD&SI proposed to divide the project into two phases for better implementation of the project. DG, NDRC replied in affirmative and appreciated the idea.

The Secretary PD&SI also appreciated the projects under Corporate Social Responsibility including Fraternity Emergency Care Centre of the Red Crescent Society of China, Pak-China Faqeer Colony School and other initiatives of the China Overseas Port Holding Company.

At the end, the Secretary, PD&SI apprised about other social sector development projects, being undertaken by the government of Pakistan under the Prime Minister's development package for South Balochistan.

The Director General, NDRC applauded the development package and reiterated China's full support for the socio-economic well-being of the region.

The meeting was concluded with signing of the minutes along with finalization of the agreed deliverables of the JWG on Gwadar for the forthcoming 10th JCC.

The meeting was also attended by other senior officials of the ministry of PD&SI, representatives of the Government of Balochistan, Civil Aviation Authority, Board of Investment, and Ministry of Maritime Affairs amongst others.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/696476/pakistan-china-jwg-reviews-progress-on-development-projects-in-gwadar/>

Dawn News

Islamabad and Beijing vow to boost defense cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Tuesday vowed to deepen their cooperation for tackling threats to regional peace and stability.

This was the highlight of Chinese Defense Minister Gen Wei Fenghe's meetings with Pakistan's civilian leadership during which both sides pointed to the growing threats to regional security from India's hegemonic designs.

Gen Wei is on a three-day trip to Pakistan, which is part of Chinese military's regional outreach in the midst of tensions with India. His Pakistan leg of the trip followed his visit to Nepal.

Military leaders of Pakistan and China had a day earlier signed a memorandum of understanding for enhancement of defense cooperation.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, in his meeting with Gen Wei, recalled India's "unilateral and illegal actions of August 5, 2019" through which it annexed occupied Kashmir, to emphasize how ruling BJP's "belligerent actions, discriminatory measures against Indian minorities", and freedom curbs were threatening regional peace.

Chinese minister holds meetings with civilian leadership

He called for deepening bilateral "strategic communication and coordination" to deal with the emerging challenges and threats.

President Dr Arif Alvi told Gen Wei that one of Pakistan's major considerations for cementing ties with China was to address challenges for regional peace.

He recalled that ties with Beijing were the "cornerstone" of Pakistan's foreign policy.

"The president expressed concern over the Indian hegemonic designs that posed a threat to regional peace and stability. He also highlighted India's state-sponsorship of terrorism against Pakistan," the presidency said in a statement.

Dr Alvi said there was a huge scope of defense cooperation that needed to be further expanded for mutual advantage.

The Chinese defense minister, in his conversations in Islamabad, noted the progress made in defense ties between the two "all-weather friends" and expressed the hope that his visit would further strengthen that cooperation.

Gen Wei, moreover, underlined that the South Asia and Arabian Sea Region needed peace, stability and economic development and called for Pak-China collective efforts to protect and promote common interests.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1593518/islamabad-beijing-vow-to-boost-defence-cooperation>

Pakistan Observer

China supports Pakistan enhancing trade with ASEAN countries

China supports Pakistan enhancing its trade with other ASEAN member countries, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday quoting Pakistan's ambassador Moin Ul Haq.

The ambassador stated this during his meeting with Pakistani entrepreneurs and traders based in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Guangdong Province of China on the sideline of the ongoing 17th China ASEAN Expo.

According to the report, he informed that President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi addressed the opening session of the 17th CAEXPO along with leaders of ASEAN member countries. He said that the participation of Pakistan in the CAEXPO as a special cooperation partner is an extremely important opportunity.

“We have also a historical tie with ASEAN countries. So, having cooperation with China and ASEAN countries is very beneficial for Pakistan economic development,” he added. Pakistan has set up its pavilion at CAEXPO, which will enable Pakistan to enhance trade not only with China but also with ASEAN countries.

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, entrepreneurs from Pakistan were not able to participate in this year’s CAEXPO. However, the Ambassador expressed the hope that next year Pakistan will be invited again as a special partner country in the 18th CAEXPO. The business community thanked the ambassador for supports to set up booths at the Expo. They also shared their problems and gave useful suggestions to further improve trade and people to people relation between China and Pakistan.

The Consul General of Pakistan to Guangzhou Dr. Diyar Khan and Commercial Counselor Muhammad Irfan were also present.—Courtesy GT

<https://pakobserver.net/china-supports-pakistan-enhancing-trade-with-asean-countries-2/>

AJK, Chinese company sign pact for Azad Pattan Hydropower Project

ISLAMABAD - The water use and implementation agreements for Azad Pattan Hydropower Project being constructed under the umbrella of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were signed on Tuesday.

The project agreements comprising Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Implementation Agreement (GoAJ&K IA) and GoAJ&K Water Use Agreement (GoAJ&K WUA) were signed by Zafar Mahmood Khan, Secretary Electricity AJ&K and Li Xiaotao, CEO of Azad Pattan Power Private Limited.

The Government of Pakistan Implementation Agreement, Government of Punjab Water Use Agreement and Tripartite Power Purchase Agreements of the Project had already been signed in the presence of the Prime Minister of Pakistan in July this year. The signing of water use and implementation agreements will further pave the way for achievement of Financial Close of the Project.

The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan, Federal Minister for Power Omer Ayub Khan, Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar, Chairman CPEC Authority, Lt. Gen (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa, Chief Secretary AJ&K Dr. Shahzad Khan

Bangash, Managing Director Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB) Shah Jahan Mirza, federal and provincial ministers, and others attended the ceremony.

With an investment of over \$ 1.35 billion this project will generate 700.7 megawatts of electricity.

Letter of Support (LOS) was issued by PPIB to Azad Pattan HPP which is a Run-off-the River Scheme on River Jhelum located at dual boundary between AJ&K (District Bagh) and Punjab (District Rawalpindi). China Gezhouba Group and Laraib Group Pakistan are the shareholders of the Project. The consortium of lenders consists of China Development Bank, China Construction Bank, Industrial & Commercial Bank of China and Bank of China.

Azad Pattan Project is being implemented by PPIB under the Policy for Power Generation Projects 2002 on built, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) basis for a term of 30 years after which it will be transferred to the GoAJ&K free of cost.

The project while bringing in valuable foreign direct investment, will provide energy of about 3,266 GWh per year to the national grid by 2027.

The Project also will play crucial role in stimulating local economy by providing employment and business opportunities during its construction periods.

Furthermore, the Governments of AJ&K and Punjab will earn significant amount of revenue on account of taxes, fees, etc while during operation period water use charges of approx. Rs 1.5 billion would be shared equally by both governments on annual basis.

<https://nation.com.pk/02-Dec-2020/ajk-chinese-company-sign-pact-for-azad-pattan-hydropower-project>

Jang News

پی آئی اے کا چین سے کارگو پروازوں کا معاہدہ

پی آئی اے اور چین کی اورینٹل اسکاٹی ایوی ایشن کے مابین کارگو چارٹر معاہدہ طے پا گیا، معاہدے کے تحت پی آئی اے اسلام آباد اور لاہور سے ارچی کیلئے ہفتے کی سات چارٹر کارگو پروازیں چلائے گی۔

قومی ایئر لائن (پی آئی اے) کے ترجمان عبداللہ خان کے مطابق چار پروازیں اسلام آباد اور تین پروازیں لاہور سے ارچی کے لیے چلائی جائیں گی۔

معاہدے کی دستاویز پر پی آئی اے کی جانب سے جنرل نیچر چارٹرز اور اورینٹ اسکاٹی کی جانب سے مینجنگ ڈائریکٹرز وائٹنگ نے دستخط کئے۔

پی آئی اے ترجمان کا کہنا ہے کہ کوویڈ کے دوران کارگو مارکیٹ بہت بڑھی ہے اور پی آئی اے اس موقع سے بھرپور استفادہ کرنا چاہتا ہے۔

اس بارے میں سی ای او، پی آئی اے ارشد ملک نے کمرشل ڈپارٹمنٹ کو خصوصی ہدایات دی ہیں کہ متبادل ذرائع سے آمدنی کو بڑھایا جائے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/852771>

December 03, 2020

Business Recorder

CPEC a transformational initiative

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China Wednesday underscored the need for a strong economic partnership with China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as the transformational initiative in this regard.

The consensus was reached during a meeting of China's newly-appointed Ambassador Nong Rong with Minister for Economic Affairs Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtyar here, according to a statement of the ministry. The Minister for Economic Affairs congratulated the ambassador on his appointment to Pakistan and hoped that Pakistan-China ties will further deepen and strengthen based on his experience and professionalism. During the meeting, Pakistan-China economic relations, cooperation in fighting Covid-19, the CPEC, and matters of mutual economic interests were discussed. The Minister for Economic Affairs appreciated the assistance extended by the Government of China to fight the pandemic.

He underlined that Pakistan and China were strategic partners and both countries supported each other on the issues of their core interest.

It was discussed that the strategic partnership should set the basis for strong economic partnership. The CPEC is a transformational initiative in this regard.

The minister stated that the agriculture was one of the key sectors for the Pakistan's economy, and emphasised that Pakistan and China should deepen and expand co-operation in the agriculture sector under the CPEC umbrella to enhance productivity and value addition. The minister hoped that the 10th JCC would be successful and that the implementation of important socio-economic, energy, transport, and infrastructure projects, and special economic zone development would be expedited.

Ambassador Nong appreciated the minister's support and expressed that Pakistan-China relations would grow further under the leadership of the two countries. He conveyed Government of China's full support to the CPEC, and resolved that Pakistan and China should further deepen cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral institutions.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/03/7-page/860327-news.html>

Dawn News

Rs 388bn cross board optic fiber project under CPEC cleared

ISLAMABAD: The Central Development Working Party (CDWP) on Wednesday cleared five development projects at a cumulative cost of about Rs54 billion including Rs38bn second phase of a project for laying cross-border optic fiber cable with China.

At a meeting presided over by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Mohammad Jehanzeb Khan, the CDWP itself approved four development projects with cumulative estimated cost of Rs16bn and referred for approval to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) the Rs37.91bn Optic Fiber Cable (OFC) Project along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Route (Khunjerab-Gwadar-Karachi).

The objective of the project is to provide alternate path for international connectivity through Northern border of Pakistan with China and ensure continuous uninterrupted connectivity between Northern and Southern borders of the country by establishing multiple rings for secure and uninterrupted communication network etc.

CDWP also approves four more projects costing Rs16bn

Under the financial rules in vogue, the CDWP is empowered to itself approve projects costing no more than Rs10bn while projects of higher estimated costs are approved by Ecneec once the CDWP clears them on technical grounds.

The meeting also agreed 50:50 sharing of Covid-19 Responsive and Other Natural Calamities Control Programme with provinces. The project had already been cleared but financing shares remained unsettled. The federal share of the project would now be Rs70bn.

The CDWP agreed with the recommendations of the committee for the project titled “Covid-19 Responsive and Other Natural Calamities Control Programme” worth Rs70bn with proposed changes. The PC-1 of this project will facilitate the national programme to improve facilities at 50:50 basis financial supports to all the provinces in district and tensile headquarters level hospitals, public health surveillance separately for both human and animals, National Programme for Water Sanitation and Hygiene and Improvement in local infrastructure. AJK and GB will also be covered under the project financing.

The meeting approved a project related to Physical Planning & Housing titled “Construction of Islamabad High Court Building at Islamabad (Revised)” worth Rs4.989bn. It involves construction of Islamabad High Court on an already acquired plot measuring 220,000 sq.ft at sector G-5, Islamabad. The scope of works includes: construction of courts, auditorium, car parking, road & paths, plumbing works and wood works etc.

Two projects related to education were presented to the committee. First project namely “Support to Basic Education Development Project AJ&K” worth Rs5.97bn and second project titled “Basic Education for All Project AJ&K” worth Rs1.58bn were approved by the CDWP.

The meeting also approved a Rs3.482bn worth of project namely “Establishment of National Aerospace Science & Technology Park”.

Two Position Papers related to Industries and Commerce were also approved in the meeting. These included “Establishment of Hub Special Economic Zone” worth Rs2.288bn and “Remodeling and Expansion of Karachi Expo Center” at a cost of Rs2.677bn.

Another Position Paper related to water resources namely Nai Gaj Dam with an estimated cost of Rs46.555bn was also approved. The project envisaged construction of 194 ft high central core earth fill dam with a gross storage capacity of 0.30 million acre-feet and live storage of 0.16 MAF to irrigate 28,800 acres.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1593711/rs38bn-cross-border-optic-fibre-project-under-cpec-cleared>

Pakistan Observer

Shibli for enhancing Pak-China media, cultural cooperation

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz in a meeting with Chinese Ambassador, Mr. Nong Rong, emphasized enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and China in the fields of media and culture.

Mr. Nong Rong called on the Minister I&B here on Wednesday. The Minister while calling for promoting cultural linkages said cooperation in film sector needed special focus. In this context Senator Shibli Faraz mentioned the launch of Pakistani movie “Parvaz Hai Junoon” in China on 13th November saying it had been hailed by Chinese public and film professionals. “We would like to strengthen cooperation in the field of film as this is one of the vital mediums to promote and protect the core values and cultural heritage of any society.” Minister also conveyed the desire of the Film Producers Association of Pakistan for a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to discuss film cooperation.

Information Minister said that CPEC is an important project for both China and Pakistan as it strengthens and promotes regional connectivity.

Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said, is keen to expedite various CPEC projects. Minister also emphasized the need to highlight benefits of CPEC projects for the general public. “We are eagerly looking forward to the projects under the 2nd phase of CPEC; particularly those related to the agriculture sector,” the Minister said. We would like to benefit from Chinese expertise and know how to develop our agriculture sector and enhance crop yield. Development of agriculture sector would contribute to food security, the Minister added. Information Minister also put forth proposals for training of media personnel in modern media concepts.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong said that Chinese side would extend all possible cooperation for enhancing media ties. He said China has plans to invite a Pakistani media delegation to visit different cities of China once the Covid-19 pandemic subsides.

Chinese Ambassador also emphasized close coordination between media of the two countries to rebut negativities about the CPEC projects.

Information Minister on this occasion extended invitation to his Chinese counterpart to visit Pakistan to explore avenues for furthering cooperation in the fields of media and information. Both sides stressed the need to be in constant liaison to strengthen ongoing cooperation.

<https://pakobserver.net/shibli-for-enhancing-pak-china-media-cultural-cooperation/>

The Nation

Pak-China relations will grow further: Chinese envoy

ISLAMABAD- Pakistan and China on Wednesday discussed the economic relations between the two countries, cooperation in fighting COVID-19, CPEC, and matters of mutual economic interests.

China's newly appointed Ambassador Nong Rong called on Minister for Economic Affairs Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtyar. Minister for Economic Affairs congratulated the Ambassador on his appointment to Pakistan and hoped that Pakistan-China ties will further deepen and strengthen based on his experience and professionalism. During the meeting, Pakistan-China economic relations, cooperation in fighting COVID-19, CPEC, and matters of mutual economic interests were discussed.

The Minister for Economic Affairs appreciated the assistance extended by government of China to fight the pandemic. He underlined that Pakistan and China are strategic partners and both countries supported each other on the issues of their core interest. It was discussed that the strategic partnership should set the basis for strong economic partnership. CPEC is transformational initiative in this regard.

The minister stated that the agriculture is one of the key sectors for the Pakistan's economy and emphasized that Pakistan and China should deepen and expand co-operation in the agriculture sector under CPEC umbrella to enhance productivity and value addition.

The minister hoped that the 10th JCC will be successful and that the implementation of important socio-economic, energy, transport, infrastructure projects and special economic zone development will be expedited.

Ambassador Nong appreciated the minister's support and expressed that Pakistan – China relations would grow further under the leadership of the two countries.

<https://nation.com.pk/03-Dec-2020/pak-china-relations-will-grow-further-chinese-envoy>

The News

China's smart classroom acclaimed in Pakistan amid rising COVID-19

ISLAMABAD: China's smart classroom was acclaimed in Pakistan amid rising COVID-19 cases, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

“China’s smart classroom has improved our learning efficiency and enriched our learning methods and contents amid the pandemic,” noted Pakistani student Khan, expressing gratitude to the state-of-the-art facility.

With academic backing from Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech), China, Pakistan’s Lahore University of Engineering and Technology (UET Lahore) successfully deployed the country’s first smart classroom, namely, Weidong Smart Classroom last July.

Fully sponsored by China’s Weidong Cloud Education Group, it is also a flagship project of International Centre for Higher Education Innovation under the auspices of UNESCO (UNESCO-ICHEI).

Ever since the first outbreak of COVID-19 in Pakistan, 15,000 students from UET Lahore had conducted distance learning activities at home via the platform. As the second wave of coronavirus grips Pakistan, the smart classroom became an important aid to local teachers and students when it comes to distance learning. “We used to lecture students one by one on IT, but this offline teaching was extremely inefficient, and some might be dissatisfied with our teaching.

With the help of China’s smart classroom, we could record our classes and share them with more students.

Besides, we could interact with students during this pandemic time; it did help a lot,” said Pakistani IT teacher Naeem, adding that homework can also be given out online and the education continues from home.

As per student Khan, they can take lessons whenever and wherever they want, and they feel free to communicate with their classmates and teachers during the second wave of the coronavirus, which feared by global as well as local experts, is to worsen during winter. More importantly, the recorded classes can be played repeatedly and different lectures are open to them, which means they are powered with more education resources. According to operators from Weidong Cloud Education Group, as the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) is promoting institutions of higher learning to seek way towards the digital transformation, this project enables administrators, teachers, students and technicians to exchange ideas and communicate in the field of information and communications technology (ICT).

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/752981-china-s-smart-classroom-acclaimed-in-pakistan-amid-rising-covid-19>

CPEC projects expected to pick up pace soon

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Economic Affairs Khusro Bakhtyar on Wednesday expressed hope that implementation of projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework would be expedited.

Bakhtyar hoped that the joint cooperation committee meeting that is scheduled for December would be successful and that the implementation of important socioeconomic, energy, transport, infrastructure and special economic zone projects would be expedited.

“Agriculture is one of the key sectors for the Pakistan’s economy... Pakistan and China should deepen and expand cooperation in the agriculture sector under CPEC umbrella to enhance productivity and value addition,” the minister said during a meeting with China’s newly appointed Ambassador Nong Rong.

Economic minister hoped that Pakistan-China ties would further deepen and be strengthened.

“Pakistan and China are strategic partners and both countries supported each other on the issues of their core interest,” he said.

The \$60 billion CPEC kick-started five years back concentrating mainly on construction of roads and motorways and power plants to ensure energy security in the wake of massive power shortfall. Within a last couple of years, a series of power projects transformed the country into energy-surplus destination from the power-deficient one.

Special economic zones are the next phase of development after early harvest projects under the CPEC. Government is expecting \$1.3 billion worth of exports revenue from industrial chemicals through establishing SEZs dedicated to biotechnology.

However, the second phase of industrial and agriculture cooperation has yet to be made practical with debt burden on Pakistan’s economy frequently being questioned.

During the meeting, Pakistan-China economic relations, cooperation in fighting COVID-19, CPEC, and matters of mutual economic interests were discussed. The meeting agreed that the strategic partnership should set the basis for strong economic partnership.

Ambassador Nong said Pakistan-China relations will grow further under the leadership of the two countries. He conveyed government of China’s full support to CPEC and resolved that Pakistan and China should further deepen and cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral institutions.

CPEC framework envisaged 10,000 megawatts of production capacity.

In the first phase, a total of 1,544 km of roads have been constructed and 1,456 km are under construction. In the energy sector, 5,320 MW of electricity has been added to the national grid, while work on 7 projects with 4,170 MW power projects is nearing completion. Additional projects of 2,844MW are planned. Also, cross border optical fiber project which stretches over 820 km linking Khunjrab to Rawalpindi has already been completed.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/752681-cpec-projects-expected-to-pick-up-pace-soon>

Jang News

سی پیک، چین کی جانب سے صنعتی شعبوں کی ترقی کیلئے پیشرفت شروع

کوئٹہ (اسٹاف رپورٹر) پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری منصوبوں پر تیزی سے کام جاری، صنعت کے شعبہ کی ترقی میں چین کا اپنا کردار ادا کرنے کا فیصلہ رپورٹ کے مطابق چین نے تو انائی کے شعبے میں پاکستان کی غیر معمولی معاونت کے بعد انڈسٹری کی ترقی میں بھی اپنا کردار ادا کرنے کا فیصلہ کرتے ہوئے پیشرفت شروع کر دی ہے اور آنے والے دنوں میں اس میں تیزی لائی جائے گی پلاننگ اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ کے حکام نے بتایا گیا ہے کہ دوست ملک نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبوں کے تناظر میں پاکستان کی استعداد بڑھانے کیلئے عملی اقدامات شروع کر دیئے ہیں چین کی جانب سے اب انڈسٹری کی ترقی کیلئے کردار ادا کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا گیا ہے اور اس کے لئے اپنے نجی شعبوں کو متحرک کیا جا رہا ہے۔ منصوبہ بندی کے تحت چین کی انڈسٹری کا پاکستان منتقلی بھی شامل ہے جس سے نہ صرف پاکستان میں روزگار کے مواقع پیدا ہوں گے بلکہ ٹیکنالوجی کا حصول بھی میسر آئے گا چین کی کمپنیوں نے ہوم ورک کے بعد پاکستان میں کام بھی شروع کر رکھا ہے اور اس میں مزید تیزی لائی جائے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/852994>

December 04, 2020

Business Recorder

Terrorists being used by New Delhi to target CPEC: DG ISPR

ISLAMABAD: The director general Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said India is targeting the international image of Pakistan when they try to target the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In an interview with Global Village Space, the military spokesperson, Major-General Babar Iftikhar, said terrorists are being used by New Delhi to target the project and the manpower associated with the CPEC's construction, however, he said the measures taken by Islamabad to safeguard the project have proven to be effective and India has not been able to retard the progress of this project.

In November, the country's top diplomat and the military spokesperson presented a dossier detailing India's involvement in terror attacks in Pakistan.

The proofs including video clips and audio clips, along with documents, were presented during the media conference of Indian handlers and terrorists communicating with each other and Indian intelligence handlers passing on instructions to terrorists in Pakistan.

When asked about the increase in ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC), Maj Gen Iftikhar said New Delhi is "always looking for some kind of an excuse to raise the temperature". He added that false flag operations, where India tries to put blame on Pakistan, is a norm. After the suicide bombing in occupied Kashmir's Pulwama, India immediately blamed Pakistan for the attack in which at least 40 Indian security personnel were killed.

Indian media and government officials, without any evidence, blamed Islamabad for the worst attack in the occupied valley in decades.

The botched Balakot air strike by the Indian Air Force happened soon after the attack. “What is there? What have they found, have they shared anything with the rest of the world? No. This is what I am trying to say, whatever is happening inside in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir, frankly, they are in a state of denial, and that is causing them the kind of trouble that there is,” said the military spokesperson referring to the recent Nagrota incident in occupied Kashmir.

Referring to fake news and propaganda originating out of India, the military spokesperson said it is a “major challenge”, especially on social media.

He, however, said the “best way to handle this is transparency, the best way to handle this is to not leave any information voids, the best way to handle this is passing on credible information, and that is exactly what we are trying to do here”.

He said on social media when the origin of fake news and propaganda is looked into, it is found that most of the accounts are Indian in origin.

“Only recently they have unearthed a major effort by the Indians in the form of EU Disinformation lab and the way they’ve been trying to prop up different issues across the world. So, unfortunately, it is a major onslaught and a major part of the fifth-generation warfare. In the case of Pakistan, I think that Pakistan is being subjected to this fifth-generation warfare and hybrid applications in a massive way, and we are aware of that.”

“When we talk of fifth-generation warfare, my understanding is that you use all elements of national power, within a particular state to concentrate on maybe two or three major spheres.”

Maj-Gen Iftikhar added that in Pakistan’s case, the country’s economy is being targeted and the other area of focus is the information domain.

“In the information domain, pick out one little incident which has anything to do with Pakistan and specifically to do with Pakistan Army and look at how it gets viral. I mean there have been several hashtags in the last six months that were even reported, I mean very trivial news, which were even reported by international news organizations, and they were pushed vehemently by the Indian accounts.”

Elaborating further, the DG ISPR said New Delhi has been targeting the country in the “diplomatic domain, in the information domain, of course, the military engagements on the Line of Control (LOC), in the economic domain, financially and in lawfare”.

Maj-Gen Babar Iftikhar stated that the aim of the government is better border management in the country’s west, and said 83pc of the Pak-Afghan border has been fenced, and added that the fencing would be completed by the end of the current month.

“As far as the Western border is concerned, our aim has been to ensure better management of this border. So after we were through with the operations that we were doing, right now there is not a single inch of land along the Western border which is not being manned by our soldiers.” When asked about the status of fencing on the border with Iran, the military spokesperson

revealed that 30pc of the Pak-Iran border has been fenced, and the process will be completed by December 2021.

Not giving a specific number, Maj Gen Iftikhar said fencing has reduced terrorist incidents in Pakistan and they have “decreased massively”.

He also said that Islamabad does not blame Kabul for the attacks originating from Afghan territory as Pakistan understands the capacity issues that Afghanistan faces.

“There has been a massive effort by the Indian side to create some kind of disturbance inside Pakistan, especially in the border regions. Again, they are also trying to target the fencing over there, the way we are trying to fence the border.”

Referring to the ongoing Afghan peace process, the DG ISPR reiterated that Pakistan will continue to facilitate the peace talks and Islamabad remains optimistic for its future.

“We have tried to facilitate this to every extent that we could, and everybody has acknowledged that, the Afghan government, the US government, they all acknowledged that Pakistan has played the most positive role in trying to bring them on the table, try to facilitate the talks and to take this peace process to a logical conclusion, so that is our role in it, and that is what we will continue doing.”

Praising the joint civil-military run NCOC, the spokesperson said “a lot of capacity building” has taken place since the start of the pandemic and Pakistan Army has assisted the civil government whenever the need has arisen.

He also expressed satisfaction regarding the handling of the second wave of the pandemic. “The second wave as it is coming, we should be tackling it well.”

“And as we go through it, I must acknowledge the role of the front line health workers, who have fought through this, and who are again on the front lines. I would also like to make a special mention of how the media has helped in educating the masses about what this pandemic is all about, and how to keep yourselves safe in these circumstances.”

He, however, urged caution, and said the people should be extremely careful during the second wave of Covid-19.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/04/3-page/860444-news.html>

Daily Times

ML-1 railway line project to turn Pakistan into a global business hub

ML-1 railway line project will turn Pakistan, particularly Peshawar into a global business hub & help open up Central Asia, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Thursday.

Ad by Value impression

According to the report, experts call ML-1 project a “game changer of CPEC” and predict that in future Peshawar city will be the center of business activities. Not only Pakistan, but the countries of Central Asia, wherein many are land-locked, will also benefit from it.

For the rehabilitation and upgradation of the 1,872-kilometer railway line, the Government of Pakistan’s Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved ML-1 project worth \$ 6.8 billion on August 5, 2020.

As per the plan, the Chinese Government under CPEC would provide 90% of the financing of the project. The project is also expected to generate 150,000 jobs in the country. Basharat Waheed, the CPEC project head in Ministry of Railways told CEN, “The entire track from Karachi to Peshawar would be upgraded.

The worn-out earthworks under the existing 150-year-old railway line will be completely uprooted and fresh sleepers and rails would be installed with new earthworks with an estimated lifespan of at least 50 years”. He said the existing railway line between Shadra Lahore to Peshawar was single-track, so it would be doubled. The majority of the old bridges under ML-1 from Karachi to Peshawar would be reconstructed or renovated.

All of the curves between Lalamusa Punjab and Karachi would be realigned to allow the track to withstand a speed of up to 160km/hour. All 665 crossings over the existing ML-1 would be replaced with flyovers or underpasses while both sides of the line would be fenced. In transiting the cities, the railway line would be protected via concrete walls. “From Peshawar to Karachi, a modern computer-operated signaling system would be installed to minimize the risk of accidents,” Basharat Waheed said.

He added, “Under the new project, the three different traffic control systems would be integrated into a single centralized system in Lahore, and for communication, an optical fiber from Karachi to Peshawar would be laid along ML-1”.

According to Basharat Waheed, the main objective of ML-1 is to maximize the number of freight trains, as goods trains are the main source of income for a rail system. He said that the current axle load of 23 tons would be increased to 25 tons per axle while “increasing the number of freight trains from 4 to 20 is our future target”.

Basharat Waheed said, “Basically, economic development is linked with freight services. The luxurious journey of ML-1 will also attract thousands of passengers”. Pakistan Railways’ future planning includes connecting Peshawar with Afghanistan via railway line. “ML-1 will become the center of economic activities.

Syed Irfan Kamal of Dynamic Logistic International (DLI) Peshawar believes that ML-1 project will boost business activities in the city. Ashfaq Khattak, who in the past served as Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of Pakistan Railways told CEN that with the completion of ML-1, trade and commerce activities would increase in Peshawar city. “Peshawar will become a dry port and a business hub,” he said. According to Pakistan Railways Director Public

Relations Quratul Ain, ML-1 was expected to be completed in three different phases over an eight-year period. That is a great sign of hope for people who have not got these facilities since hundreds of years, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/697420/ml-1-railway-line-project-to-turn-pakistan-into-a-global-business-hub/>

Pakistan Observer

China claims major progress in infrastructure of CPEC

Beijing: China on Thursday said it was making progress in infrastructure and energy projects being built under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). “CPEC is an important pilot programme in China and Pakistan joint efforts to build the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and there has been a major progress recently especially in infrastructure and energy projects,” Chinese Foreign Ministry’s Spokesperson Hua Chunying said in response to a question about speech of Chairman of CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa at the 11th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IIICF) in Macao Special Administrative Region.

“Many roads were built creating job opportunities and boosting economic development in relevant area and benefiting the people there. It has been applauded by people in Pakistan,” she added.

Hua Chunying said that after Covid-19 broke out, the CPEC projects went on as usual playing an important role in Pakistan’s presumption of economic growth. The recent meeting of ‘14th Five Year Plan’ blueprinted the future development.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-claims-major-progress-in-infrastructure-of-cpec/>

Pakistan’s maiden appearance at 17th China-ASEAN Expo

Sultan M Hali

THE 17th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and the concurrent China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit concluded on November 30, 2020 in Nanning, the capital city of South China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, a total of 86 investment projects worth 263.87 billion RMB or Yuan (around 40.1 billion U.S. dollars) were signed at the four-day event, an annual increase of 43.6 percent, according to data released by the Expo’s Secretariat at the closing ceremony. China’s President Xi Jinping, in his opening address, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people and also in his own name, extended hearty welcome and warm greetings to all the guests attending in person or via the Internet. He stated that this year’s CAEXPO, themed “Building the Belt and Road, Strengthening Digital Economy Cooperation”, aimed to deepen China-ASEAN cooperation on the digital economy, promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and inject new vitality into the economic and social development of both sides.

The investment projects in the fields of health, big data, logistics, new manufacturing, new materials, new energy and finance, accounted for 85.3 percent of the total. With an exhibition area of 104,000 square meters, this year's expo set up 5,400 booths for 1,668 enterprises, including Fortune 500 and industry-leading companies. In addition, 1,956 enterprises from China and abroad participated virtually in the event. More than 150 trade and investment promotion activities were held both online and offline during the expo. Pakistan participated for the first time as a special partner country. At a briefing in Beijing, China's Foreign Office Spokesperson, Hua Chunying, when asked to comment on Pakistan's maiden participation at the prestigious event as a special partner country, was sanguine. She responded that Pakistan has been actively supporting and participating in the China-ASEAN Expo for many years. The Expo has served as a platform for Pakistan to strengthen economic and trade cooperation with China and ASEAN. This year, for the first time, Pakistan was invited to attend the Expo as a special partner of the China-ASEAN Expo. Pakistan's President Arif Alvi delivered a video speech at the opening ceremony of the China-ASEAN Expo and the China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, expressing Pakistan's sincere wish to further strengthen cooperation with China and ASEAN. Hua Chunying reiterated that Pakistan is China's good neighbor, good friend and good brother connected by mountains and rivers and it is China's all-weather and all-round strategic cooperative partner. Pakistan is geographically close to ASEAN countries. She emphasized that China is ready to make joint efforts with Pakistan and ASEAN to deepen economic and trade cooperation between China, ASEAN and Pakistan so as to achieve win-win results. The heartening aspect of this year's CAEXPO witnessed an increasing number of companies in the region striving to expand their footprints in the Chinese market despite the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. The outcome of this enhanced participation is that they are also invigorating the region's digital economy through cross-border e-commerce, including live streaming sales, online shops and sub-applications on mobile devices. The participants had to undergo tough regimen of COVID-19 tests, yet a record number of participants showed up displaying their faith in China. COVID-19 has changed the entire lifestyle globally, from travelling to participation in events, dining and especially in conduct of business, holding conferences, seminars and summits. Information technology is enabling people to conduct their interaction, whether commercial or social, online. Coming back to four-day CAEXPO, online distributors held sway since demand by online retailers has risen considerably. The participating distributors relied on live streaming using major Chinese e-commerce platforms, including Alibaba-backed Taobao, Pinduoduo and JD. Com, as well as video-sharing social networking service Douyin. Many distributors used the online selling channel on Mini Program, a sub-application built within China's social networking giant, Wechat to solicit more business opportunities.

Chinese organizers of the CAEXPO must be taking comfort and pride in the fact that their live streaming platforms served the participants well since China's live streaming market is a trend now. Because of the pandemic, clients prefer using live streaming to make purchases. Despite western propaganda to the contrary, China has managed to contain COVID-19 and its economy

is bouncing back. Since it is a huge market, it attracts a lot of attention from Asian manufactures and service providers. CAEXPO provided a very good platform for distributors as well as manufacturers to enter into the Chinese market, while it simultaneously served as a very good window for them to promote their products and services to international players from the Occident and the Middle East, many of whom were present at the event. Many regional participants find it prudent to tether their fortunes with China since it attracts all the big players in the world to come to China. There is optimism about a bright prospect for digital economy in not only China, but also the whole Asia, thanks to the signing of the landmark Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which includes the 10-member ASEAN, and other five signatories including China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Since the beginning of this year, China-ASEAN regional economic cooperation has exhibited strong resilience and vitality despite the impact of the COVID-19, becoming the most successful and dynamic model of Asia-Pacific regional cooperation. The next event, the 18th China-ASEAN Expo is preliminarily scheduled for September 10 to 13, 2021, with Laos continuing as the Country of Honor and Pakistan the Special Partner Country.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-maiden-appearance-at-17th-china-asean-expo/>

China-Pakistan defense cooperation conducive to promoting rebalance of power in South Asia: Global Times

Beijing: The Indian reaction over security and defense cooperation between China and Pakistan was obviously an over-interpretation of actual situation as it was conducive to promoting the rebalance of power in South Asia.

The security and defense cooperation between China and Pakistan can help enhance the confidence of other South Asian countries to strengthen their strategic independent capability by reinforcing their national defense construction, according to an article published by Global Times here on Thursday.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to further deepen cooperation between the two countries was inked during Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe's visit to Islamabad. It soon caught the eyeballs of Indian media, particularly its tabloids.

This pack of sensationalists argued that the new defense deal was signed by China and Pakistan to harm their "common foe – India." They claimed that it "is changing military dynamics in South Asia."

This is obviously an over-interpretation of the actual situation. Since China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners, it is natural for the two countries to not only keep high-level strategic mutual trust, but also deepen their military and defense cooperation. Such interactions do not necessarily have any connection with considerations regarding India. Due to the pandemic, some senior Chinese officials' foreign visits have had to be postponed. It is highly likely that Wei's Pakistan tour was planned long time ago, but only realized until now. It

is a tour to maintain strategic cooperative partnership between Beijing and Islamabad – nothing more, nothing less.

It's hoped politicians and pundits in India will not continue to think that China-Pakistan ties are aimed at India – and create antagonistic actions from this wrong-headed rhetoric. It could backfire from being a fantasy and materialize into a reality. That won't be good news for India. The world witnessed huge changes in geopolitics this year. More are immediately in the making. India is also gradually setting aside its traditional principle of nonalignment, while getting increasingly closer to anti-China forces, especially the US. For China, if cooperation with Pakistan can constitute a certain kind of deterrent toward India, it may be considered as a good approach to balance regional powers.

But in fact, as the two countries seem to keep their high-level defense cooperation, their joint work in military field is far from reaching the level of that in a real all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. There is much room for improvement in this regard. Both China and Pakistan are shouldering the task of safeguarding their national security and territorial integrity. The two good neighbors need to enhance their national strategic deterrent capabilities and upgrade their conventional militaries.

Over the years, the national security of some small and medium-sized countries in South Asia has confronted challenges. Border tiffs have emerged from time to time. New Delhi has decided to make provocative moves toward its neighbors on border issues. A case in point: the sudden release, in November 2019, of a new Indian political map which includes a part of territory claimed by Nepal.

The security and defense cooperation between China and Pakistan can thus help to enhance the confidence of other South Asian countries to strengthen their strategic independent capability by reinforcing their national defense construction. This is conducive to promoting the rebalance of power in South Asia.

The timing is also important. Some terrorist groups are exploiting the pandemic to build their strength and support networks. China-Pakistan military cooperation can also help combat terrorist and extremist forces that have been spreading to some parts of South Asia and China's western periphery.

However, several Indian media outlets are saying that the MOU will change the "military dynamics in South Asia." Such analysis made by India is not surprising. After all, the country has long seen the normal cooperation between China and Pakistan as a thorn in its flesh. The development of China-Pakistan relations has its own rhythm and logic. Unfortunately, India simply cannot stay calm or observe it without using a zero-sum game mentality. India's concern is always about whether its hegemony in South Asia and its sphere of influence will be affected. But the country should understand that its position and influence ultimately depends on its own governance ability and its own country's development – not on other external factors. Moreover, no country should be in other country's sphere of influence or become someone's

satellite state as all eight countries in South Asia, including India, are members of the United Nations. They are all independent, equal and sovereign states.

India will eventually find that there is no room for its mentality of striving for sphere of influence to survive. Such logic will not be acceptable to any other country in this era.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-defence-cooperation-conducive-to-promoting-rebalance-of-power-in-south-asia-global-times/>

The Express Tribune

Tech transfer key to promoting clean energy

ISLAMABAD: Technology transfer would play a key role in promoting much-needed renewable energy transition in Pakistan.

It was observed by speakers at an online meeting titled “Potential role of Chinese and Pakistan leaders in the renewable energy transition of Pakistan”, organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), in collaboration with the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO).

Highlighting the role of various stakeholders, GEIDCO Development Bureau senior manager Zhang Xuan said it was important to promote and sustain green and low carbon sustainable development.

“Therefore, the government, private sector and civil society need to work together to support this sustainable transition,” she added.

Shedding light on the importance of such initiatives, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade Chief Executive Officer Hassan Daud said, “Pakistan is focusing on using indigenous energy sources and having diversified energy supply sources in accordance with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) long-term plan.”

He added that renewable projects were thriving in Pakistan and technology transfer and shifting of manufacturing units to solar power were of paramount importance to the sustainable clean energy transition in Pakistan. “Therefore, the government is willing to support Chinese state-owned and private companies in the best possible manner,” he mentioned.

GEIDCO Power Planning Research Acting Division Director Dr GAO Yi informed meeting participants that both the SDPI and GEIDCO were looking forward to clean energy transition in Pakistan.

The overall trend of renewable energy in South Asia, she said, was set to bring a significant drop to the cost of energy in the coming 30 years and the subsequent increase in energy demand would result in significant economic development in the region with huge potential of energy trade.

United Energy Power Limited (UEP Wind) Pakistan Director Tanveer Mirza was of the view that the renewable energy sector was relatively new in Pakistan but had developed at a very fast pace and had been luring investment from multilateral and other financial institutions.

However, the renewable energy sector in terms of policy and implementation has a lot of gaps.

He stated that the potential for manufacturing solar PVs and LED lights was greatly available for local consumption and export.

Speaking on the occasion, TBEA Company, China, International Business Director Shao Shan said, “Establishment of a long-term relationship and partnership between the two countries is the need of the hour.”

SDPI Head of Environment and Climate Change Unit Dr Imran Khalid earlier highlighted that greenhouse gas emissions and energy availability needed to be considered while drafting a policy for quick energy transition in Pakistan.

“Think tanks need to provide technical and social research support as well as communication support to ensure that the clean energy transition is sustainable,” he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2274533/tech-transfer-key-to-promoting-clean-energy>

India engaged in 5GW to harm CPEC: ISPR

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan military has said that India is massively engaged in 5th generation warfare to tarnish Pakistan’s image at the international level to harm the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as “they [Indians] don’t want to let the project become successful”.

"The Indians are targeting Pakistan in diplomatic, economic, military, information and law domains as they have decided that there are such timelines after which CPEC becomes irreversible so it should be retarded before that time limit," Inter-Services Public Relations Director General Major General Babar Iftikhar said in an interview with the Global Village Space (GVS) – an international media outlet – published on Thursday.

Maj Gen Iftikhar said that there were a lot of dimensions to the security of the CPEC project. “Alhamdulillah, we have taken all-out measures. Pakistan Army has raised two divisions for the project's security whereas eight to nine regular regiments are maintained for the protection of the routes of the entire corridor,” he said, adding that paramilitary forces were also part of the security apparatus for the CPEC routes.

"We are taking every possible measure to secure CPEC where our Chinese counterparts have expressed their satisfaction on the security measures."

To a question, he said that India perceived CPEC as a game changer for the region as it would provide connectivity to the entire region. "[In this scenario], Pakistan became a connectivity hub after the inception of this project. This project has the ability and potential to bring prosperity to the whole region and it’s not only a mere North West thing."

He said CPEC was an economic initiative which was visible from its name. However, Indians were uncomfortable and had very strange arguments about the project, he added.

To a query on 5th generation warfare, the ISPR DG explained that it employed all tools of national power and focus on two main spheres, which in Pakistan's case were economy and information domains.

“Anything related to Pakistan Army was erroneously shared and propagated to endorse the malicious propaganda of enemy countries.”

The ISPR DG regretted that a trivial news item was reported by the international media that was actually perpetrated from India. He was referring to the social media top trend civil war in Karachi that stormed Twitter resulting in news items reported by the global media.

He noted that 90% of negative press was generated from Indian websites. In the prevailing misinformation spree, the Indian media had lost its credibility to a larger extent by propagating fabricated and concocted news.

They were also lobbying before Pakistan's appearance in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary. "India is targeting Pakistan from different directions to target the trajectory Pakistan has for the future," he added.

The ISPR DG said, “The threat perception in Pakistan is very clear that India is equipping itself with advanced technological gadgets as all the defense treaties [with other countries] are offering those facilities.

The defense spending disparity between Pakistan and India, he said, was 1:9. The world must realize that any imbalance of power in South Asia would impact the region and the entire world.

During the interview, the ISPR DG also dilated upon diverse security and defense-related issues linked with regional peace and stability, including Afghan peace process and the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Major Gen Iftikhar shed light on the Indian designs in IIOJK and along the Line of Control (LoC.), saying that India wanted to externalize what was going inside the country.

It had been continuously trying to tag the indigenous freedom struggle of the people of IIOJK as terrorism.

He said that the matter started with the revocation of Article 370 of Indian Constitution in August, 2019, stripping the valley of its special status. "Ever since, India has been facing negative press."

The DG said the dossier presented by Pakistan would be flagged at all global fora to highlight Indian state-sponsored terrorism on its territory. “The dossier brings forth the proofs of India as a state sponsoring terrorism, vindicating what Pakistan has been saying for long.”

He said the world had taken note of the dossier and started discussing it. "Despite a lot of Indian efforts, an objective analysis of the dossier has been started by the global community" and that objectivity was a major plus, he added.

On terrorist attacks from across the Afghan border, the ISPR DG said, "Pakistan is in regular contact with the Afghan government over the matter" as Islamabad realizes that Kabul has capacity issues and never blames them for the terrorism from across the border.

On the western border fencing project, Major Gen Iftikhar said, "Our aim has been to ensure better management of this project. The fencing has been carried out in one of the most difficult terrains of the area as it has been a very porous border."

"About 83% of the Pak-Afghan border has been fenced and would be completed by the end of this month," he added. "Pakistan has also initiated border fencing in Pak-Iran border area of its western borders whereas 30% of the fence has been carried out and will be completed by December 2021."

He explained that some areas were snow clad in the bordering region, where posts would be manned in a different way. A complete management of the western borders would be ensured, which would help control smuggling and other crimes and would have major dividends for the country.

The ISPR DG said that two world class border terminals among five would be established at Torkham and Chaman border terminals to improve border management and trade. The western border, he said, would be completely fenced to contain terrorist activities from across the border and border crimes.

To a query about the impact of fencing along the western border, he said that the number of terrorist incidents had decreased massively.

He said India was making massive efforts to create disturbance inside Pakistan, with mainly targeting border areas. The border management Initiative showed its significance for new military-civil leadership. Prime Minister Imran Khan announced a new border management force, which would be raised under the Ministry of Interior and would centrally manage the national borders from all routes of land and water.

To a question, he said: "Pakistan's role in the Afghan peace process is of a facilitator and has done what it can in the best of her capacities."

It was optimistic about the future course of the peace process as it believed that only Afghans had the right to decide what would happen next in the peace negotiations, he added.

"All the parties, including the Afghan and the US governments, had acknowledged Pakistan's role in the Afghan peace process and said Pakistan played the most positive role in bringing the Afghans, including the Taliban and the Afghan government, to the table to hold talks."

The ISPR DG also explained the military diplomacy doctrine followed by the current army leadership. "Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa's vision about military diplomacy is that we need peace within and around us, which has been received very positively."

Pakistan's military leadership, he said, had reached all the military leaderships in the region and around.

"Our military engagements with China, the Gulf region, the US and Russia have been done to explore new venues and take Pakistan's international image to a new level."

The outreach, whether it was for military training, strategic venues and others, was giving many dividends to Pakistan, he added. (With additional input from app)

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2274581/india-engaged-in-5gw-to-harm-cpec-ispr>

The Nation

CPEC laid sound foundation for modernization of Pakistan's economy

BEIJING - China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as one of its most prominent and successful flagship projects of the Belt and Road Initiative, has laid a sound foundation for the modernization of Pakistan's economy, said Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque.

"In the next phase, the convergence of traditional and digital infrastructure would be essential for unleashing the potential for growth in diverse areas such as agriculture, science and technology, industrial relocation and vocational training," he made these remarks while addressing the opening ceremony of the 11th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IIICF) in Macao at the invitation of the China International Contractors Association (CHINCA). Haque said that the CPEC's growth and success had highlighted the centrality of modernizing infrastructure to achieve sustainable development goals. He called on enterprises and private capital to play a greater role in enhancing international connectivity alongside govts, financial institutions and MDBs.

Speaking on the theme of "Challenges and Opportunities: Outlook on International Infrastructure Development in the post-COVID-19 era", Ambassador Haque praised China's positive economic growth, which was reflective of its effective pandemic control and prudent economic policies. He expressed confidence that China would continue to drive global economic growth and recovery after the pandemic. Ambassador Haque noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had changed the modes of life and work, and new modes of infrastructure investment would play a key role in post-pandemic recovery. The opening ceremony and theme forum were addressed by the Chief Executive of the Macao SAR, Vice Minister for Commerce, as well as senior executives from MDBs and enterprises. A video message from Chairman CPEC Authority, Asim S. Bajwa, was also played at the event.

<https://nation.com.pk/04-Dec-2020/cpec-laid-sound-foundation-for-modernisation-of-pakistan-s-economy>

December 05, 2020

Business Recorder

Pakistan-China relationship

To say that the Pakistan-China relationship is a close, deep and continuing one would be to state what has been obvious for many years. Chinese Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe's three-day visit therefore was expected to help deepen our mutual relations even further, and so it has proved. General Wei had embarked on an outreach mission in the region in the light of China's currently tense relations with India pertaining to the two countries' long-standing border disputes. General Wei travelled to Pakistan after visiting Nepal, a South Asian country sandwiched between China and India. While in Islamabad, General Wei interacted with the civilian and military leadership, and the outcome was a consensus on deeper cooperation for regional peace and stability, while taking on board India's apparent hegemonic designs in the region. The military leadership signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the distinguished guest's delegation for enhanced defence cooperation. The importance of this step can be understood if the drying up if not dried up traditional source of defence procurement and aid, i.e. the US-led west, is taken into account. Given the efforts to wind down if not resolve the conflict in Afghanistan, in which the US in particular has begun to appreciate Pakistan's role in the peace initiative, Pakistan no longer enjoys the same pre-eminence as before in Washington's eyes. China can fill this emerging gap in significant ways. Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan during his meeting with General Wei laid stress on the threat to regional peace and stability posed by India's illegal annexation of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on August 5, 2019. He also dilated on the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) actions and blatant discrimination against religious minorities in India, particularly Muslims, and curbs on freedoms that threatened to spill over into tensions regionally. The PM argued for deepening bilateral strategic communication and coordination between Pakistan and China as two closely knit neighbours. President Arif Alvi too expressed similar sentiments during his interaction with the distinguished guest.

China has stood like an iron friend by Pakistan's side through thick and thin for many years. The mutual trust and friendship between the two neighbours has only deepened over time. Both countries support each other's concerns and stances on every international forum. So far, so good. But there are also real or potential differences that need to be addressed in order to avoid misunderstandings. China's Road and Belt Initiative, of which the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a part, has much promise and mutual benefit if properly framed and handled. China's need is to provide an outlet to the sea that is one-third of the distance to its eastern seaboard for its troubled western province of Xinjiang. This is a Muslim-majority province that could not escape the growth of Islamic fundamentalist movements that had the region in their grip as a corollary of the Afghan wars. The Chinese have been very patient with us over the presence in erstwhile FATA of Uighur Islamic fundamentalist elements, who were only eliminated from our soil during the military operations against our Taliban. The Chinese have

been attempting over the years to wean us off our obsession with Islamic fundamentalist groups as extensions of state power and policy in the region, an obsession that has yielded us more costs than benefit. CPEC has often been dubbed a ‘game changer’, but there are some serious issues with the project that need addressing. First and foremost, CPEC represented a golden opportunity to help the backward regions of Pakistan to catch up with its developed parts through the aegis of the western route passing through relatively underdeveloped Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. With hindsight, it could be argued that the western route has yet to attract equal attention as the eastern one, which passes through Punjab and Sindh, already relatively better developed. More attention therefore needs to be paid to the western route, including Special Economic Zones in which Pakistani businesses too are accommodated along with Chinese ones. Gwadar Port promises much, but local grievances regarding their share of the benefits of this development need attention. Similarly, given the simmering sub-nationalist insurgency in Balochistan, the benefits of CPEC, should they begin to appear and be enjoyed by the local populations along the route, could undercut the insurgents’ critique with arms of what they dub as another plan to exploit their land and resources for others or the state. Inclusive development of CPEC could go a long way towards mitigating resentment and grievances, deliver tangible benefits to the populace along the route, and help dull the edges of armed confrontation in Balochistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/05/10-page/860636-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC projects to usher KP in new era: NA Speaker

National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser Friday said timely completion of CPEC related projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) would open new avenues of prosperity and economic stability all over the country.

The speaker made these remarks while chairing a high-level meeting, held at the Parliament House to review progress on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related projects in KP, said a news release. He asked the departments concerned to strive for early and timely completion of CPEC related projects in the province.

The meeting was told that Rashakai Economic Zone would be inaugurated soon. Moreover, matters pertaining to Dera Ismail Khan Economic Zone came under discussion. Transformation of the Dera Ismail Khan Economic Zone into a special industrial zone and the Peshawar Circular Railway projects were also discussed in detail.

A steering committee with Federal Minister for Defense Pervaiz Khattak its chairman has been formed to oversee the work on various projects including Chasma Right Bank Canal, Chak Dara Highway, DI Khan motorway, and Peshawar Circular Railway Projects.

The meeting was attended by various federal and provincial ministers including Pervaiz Khattak, Asad Umar, Ali Àmeen Gandapur, Taimur Saleem Jahgra and officers from CPEC regulatory Authority and other relevant departments.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/697879/cpec-projects-to-usher-kp-in-new-era-na-speaker/>

The Nation

Committee formed to oversee work on CPEC related projects

ISLAMABAD - Reviewing the CPEC related projects for its completion; a special Parliamentary body yesterday formed a committee to oversee work on projects including Chasma Right Bank Canal.

The high-level Parliamentary meeting, chaired by Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser, assigned task to Federal Minister for Defense Pervaiz Khattak to coordinate with Federal Ministers Asad Omar, Muraad Saeed, Provincial Minister Taimur Saleem Jahgra and MNA Yaqoob Sheikh for early completion of CPEC related projects in KPK. This committee would oversee the work on projects of Chasma Right Bank Canal, Chak Dara Highway, DI Khan motorway, and Peshawar Circular Railway Projects.

While chairing the high level meeting in the Parliament House Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser emphasized timely completion of these projects. He also said that CPEC would open new avenues of prosperity and economic stability all over the country especially in KPK. Speaker further said that concerned departments should strive for early and timely completion of CPEC related projects in KPK.

The Participants unanimously discussed that Rashakai Economic Zone should be inaugurated soon. Further, the matters pertaining to D.I Khan Economic Zone were also discussed in the meeting and D I Economic Zone be transformed into special industrial Zone. The Peshawar Circular Railway projects were also discussed in detail.

The meeting was attended by Federal and Provincial Ministers, Pervaiz Khattak, Asad Omar, Ali Àmeen Gandapur, Taimur Saleem Jahgra, Member National Assembly Yaqoob Sheikh and officers from CPEC regulatory Authority, WAPDA, and Pakistan Railways also attended the meeting.

<https://nation.com.pk/05-Dec-2020/committee-formed-to-oversee-work-on-cpec-related-projects>

Webinar on market opportunities for handicrafts in Chinese market held

KARACHI - Trade Development Authority of Pakistan in collaboration with Handicraft Association of Pakistan and Trade and Consul General Trade and Investment of Pakistan in Shanghai organized a webinar on market opportunities for handicrafts products in the Chinese market.

Consul General Trade and Investment Shanghai, Hussain Haider told the participants that Shanghai textile museum agreed to hold exhibition of Pakistani handicrafts and textiles on May 18, 2021, which will later be expanded to other cities in China. Talking about market opportunities in Shanghai and the YRD region, Consul General Shanghai also mentioned that next year a permanent Pakistan pavilion in Shanghai will be set up in China Pilot Free Trade Zone Shanghai, which will be excellent opportunity for handicraft manufacturers to display their product. Similarly, the China International Export Expo is planned to be held in November 5 - 10, 2021 and this will also provide an opportunity for the promotion of Pakistani handicraft products.

Consul General Shanghai gave an overview of the handicraft products and its sub-categories that are high in demand in the YRD region in China. He briefed about the tariff structure, the regulatory regime, major suppliers to China, and the potential handicraft products that Pakistan can export to in China. He asked the participants to actively engage with the trade mission in Shanghai and to share their product portfolios so that matchmaking exercise can be done.

Director General TDAP Islamabad Shahzad Ahmed Khan told the participants that this is the second webinar in a series of webinars with trade and investment officers abroad for tapping market opportunities in the handicrafts sector. The first four countries identified for these webinars are China, Japan, Hong Kong, and South Korea.

In the Chinese markets, TDAP has already held a webinar separately with Trade and Investment Counselor Beijing, and plans to hold a webinar with Trade and Investment Officer Chengdu.

According to Director General TDAP Islamabad, the purpose of these webinars is to find potential exporters of handicrafts products suitable for that particular market. These exporters will then participate in a second round of webinar with the same trade and investment officer in which matchmaking exercise will be conducted with these sellers and buyers of handicraft products abroad who will be brought in by the trade and investment officer.

Ms Shireen Arshad Khan, founder Handicraft Association of Pakistan, highlighted the importance of value addition in handicrafts. Ms Masooma Sibtain, Chairperson Committee on Women Economic Reforms, stressed upon the capacity building aspect of handicraft products and said that synergized effort is required among government departments.

A highly interactive session took place in the end in which suppliers of handicraft products in Pakistan directly engaged with the trade mission so that they can prepare themselves to effectively tap the Chinese market.

<https://nation.com.pk/05-Dec-2020/webinar-on-market-opportunities-for-handicrafts-in-chinese-market-held>

December 06, 2020

Daily Times

Chinese agricultural technology helps achieve good harvest in Pakistan

Maize-soybean strip intercropping technology, an advanced agricultural technology introduced from China, achieved good harvest in various demonstration plots in Pakistan both under irrigated and rain fed conditions.

According to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN), the data indicated that the yield per hectare of the intercropping system was equivalent to the yield of crops on 1.5 hectares of the sole cropping system.

Therefore, the intercropping system is more profitable in obtaining a higher net income with less input.

More specifically, under irrigated conditions, in Vehari, the yields of intercropped maize and soybean respectively reached 7,608 kg/ha and 1,029 kg/ha, and in Bahawalpur, the data is 7,219 kg/ha and 887 kg/ha.

In sole cropping system in Bahawalpur, maize and soybean produced 1537 kg and 7894 kg per hectare.

Under rainfed conditions, at PMAS-Arid Agriculture University's research farm, intercropped maize and soybean produced 4969.4 kg/ha and 940.1 kg/ha, while sole cropped maize and soybean produced 6052.75 kg/ha and 1263.5 kg/ha.

In the coming season, a larger scale of demonstrations around 50 hectares will be arranged at more research institutes and universities.

In addition to National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) and PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, and Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, etc. will join this technology demonstration as well.

Moreover, enterprises like Nizami Industries will also arrange a plot on 25 acres of land, the report added.

Meanwhile, the Cloud signing ceremony of the Sino-Pakistan International Gene & Cell Technology Research & Transformation Center Project was held here, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

The initiative by the Biotech & Biomedicine (Shenyang) Group and Dynamic Engineering and Automation Group Pakistan has added new impetus to deepening the cooperation between both countries in gene and cell health.

According to the report, it is a comprehensive project of Gene & Cell Technology Research & Transformation between the two countries.

Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counselor of the Pakistani Embassy in China, said on the occasion that through the epidemic, we realize that there is much room for improvement in medical technology in Pakistan.

Li Junyuan, Deputy Director of Belt and Road Initiative Construction Promotion Center of National Development and Reform Commission, stressed that this collaboration is an important step for China to actively support Pakistan in responding to the epidemic and improving public health care.

It is also helpful to make new contributions to building a closer, more beneficial and higher-quality China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/698190/chinese-agricultural-technology-helps-achieve-good-harvest-in-pakistan/>

Gwadar port to be gateway to economic development: Governor

Sindh Governor Imran Ismail during a visit to Gwadar Port on Saturday said that efforts of the Pakistan Navy and other institutions have started bearing fruit.

The governor said that the port will definitely prove to be a gateway to economic development. He said that the port will play a greater role in the regional trade and connectivity.

He said that the international transit activities have already started with the arrival of the first fish cargo at the Gwadar port for onward shipment to China. He expressed his happiness and satisfaction over the development, saying Gwadar port to have a greater role in the regional cooperation on trade and goods.

Commander West of the Pakistan Navy Rear Admiral Jawad Ahmed briefed the governor about the operational preparedness of the Gwadar Port, ongoing and future plans and other related affairs.

It is pertinent to mention here that the first fishing vessel with 200 tons of fish arrived at the Gwadar port from international waters a couple of weeks ago. The FBR said that operations have begun at the Gwadar port.

Meanwhile, Sindh Governor Imran Ismail in a felicitation message on the occasion of 'Sindhi Cultural Day' has said that the footprints of culture of Sindh are found approximately 5000 years ago. He said, "We wear Ajrak to tell the world how much we are proud of our culture."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/698063/gwadar-port-to-be-gateway-to-economic-development-governor/>

The News

Pakistan has no zero-sum view of ties with China, West, says Maleeha

LONDON: Pakistan sees an opportunity for improved relations with the US under a Biden administration and hopes it will lead to more stable and broad-based ties, former Ambassador Dr Maleeha Lodhi said in a wide-ranging presentation to a think-tank here.

In her address by Zoom to the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), the ex-envoy to the UN, UK, and US, Maleeha Lodhi ranged over a wide canvas describing the geo-political trends that shape Pakistan's foreign policy choices and regional dynamics that present imposing challenges.

She made it clear that Pakistan had made a strategic choice in forging a closer relationship with China, now cemented by China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), but that did not mean it had a zero-sum view of its relations with the West.

Ambassador Lodhi said that rising tensions between the US and China have a direct bearing on Pakistan. Even as Islamabad does not want this confrontation to affect its relations with either of the two countries that, she said, is easier said than done especially in view of Washington's strategy to parley India as a strategic counterweight to China and Modi's India prepared to side openly with the US. She said she hoped Washington would have a more balanced policy approach towards South Asia because lack of an even-handed approach to the region would have a destabilising effect and would not help promote regional peace and stability.

Maleeha described Pakistan's most imposing foreign policy challenge to be management of relations India in the aftermath of the Modi government's repressive actions in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K). She described the grim situation there in detail urging the international community to act to ensure an end to human rights abuses there. She said Pakistan regards aggressive moves by India on the Line of Control (LoC) and covert actions to promote terrorist activities in the country as a toxic mix of actions that have sent tensions soaring to a record high and have ruled out any dialogue.

On Afghanistan, Maleeha asserted that Pakistan has a vital stake in the success of the intra-Afghan talks that can end war in the country which has over decades proved so destabilising for the region and left Pakistan with a host of problems including millions of refugees. There is also a danger she explained if an agreement is not reached between the Afghan parties and international forces leave the country, this could plunge the country into another phase of civil war and instability. This is a nightmare scenario, but one that Pakistan may have to prepare itself for.

On the Middle East, she said Pakistan would welcome the US rejoining the Iran nuclear deal as indicated by President-elect Biden. She also described how Pakistan had sought to balance its relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/754471-pakistan-has-no-zero-sum-view-of-ties-with-china-west-says-maleeha>

Antidumping duty on Chinese fibers impedes Pakistan's exports growth

KARACHI: Pakistan couldn't benefit from the US trade restrictions on China to increase exports due to much reliance on cotton-based textiles contrary to the growing global demand of manmade fibres, analysts said on Saturday.

Ehsan Malik, chief executive officer of Pakistan Business Council (PBC) said the country's export portfolio is largely cotton based, whereas there is a fastest growth in demand of manmade fibres in the international market and the US, , the biggest destination for Pakistani goods.

Malik said China is the cheapest supplier of manmade fibres, "but Pakistan has not been able to benefit by importing this to make apparel as it is not feasible after paying anti-dumping duty, which even exporters have to pay."

"We have not benefited as much from the US trade restrictions on China as others have," he said. "Countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh import Chinese and other makes of manmade fibres to become substitute suppliers to China in the US."

In April, the US imposed new trade restrictions on China after the infection outbreak.

Although exports have recovered to pre-COVID monthly level of \$2 billion in September, October and November, this recovery was due to low value-added apparels and home textiles.

"The improvements in textile exports seem to be compensating for lower food imports," said Faizan Ahmed, head of research at BMA Capital. "The improvement trend in monthly exports is likely to continue going forward. Appreciation in value of Bangladeshi Taka, timely refund disbursements, availability of cheap financing and support to the sector is resulting into improved numbers."

Exports rose 7.7 percent to \$2.2 billion in November from \$2 billion in the same month of last fiscal year, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. In July-November, exports increased 2.1 percent to \$9.7 billion.

Total exports are expected between \$23 to 24 billion this fiscal year, according to industry estimates. Improvements are mainly coming from textile exports, both in terms of quantity and prices.

The central bank projects export values in the range of \$23.4 to 23.8 billion in FY2021 – higher than the \$22.5 billion recorded in FY2020. The government set an annual export target of \$22.7 billion.

"The sustainability of this momentum will depend on how the world aggregate demand improves and the global economies recover from coronavirus pandemic," said Malik.

"Demand in the west for the cheaper spectrum of apparel has not suffered as much as it has for higher value-added textiles. Also people working and staying at home are renewing towels, bed-sheets more often than they did hitherto."

PBC chief said growth sustainability depends on normalcy in western markets following the rollout of coronavirus vaccines.

Exports to the United States rose to \$1.4 billion in July-October FY2021 from \$1.4 billion a year ago, according to the State Bank of Pakistan, which has not released July-November data.

Exports to China fell to \$462.2 million in July-October FY2021 from \$586.3 million in the corresponding period of last fiscal year.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/754172-antidumping-duty-on-chinese-fibers-impedes-pakistan-s-exports-growth>

December 07, 2020

Daily Times

Balochistan's vegetables, fruits have huge potential for export to China

The vegetables and fruits of Baluchistan have great potential for export to China, says a report carried by Gwadar Pro on Sunday. Baluchistan produces major vegetables and some other fruits like Cherry at national level to earn the title of being “fruit basket of Pakistan”.

According to the report, although it is sparsely populated, Baluchistan is the largest production base for apples, apricots, almonds, plums, pomegranates grapes, etc in Pakistan.

Liaquat Shahwani, Spokesperson Govt. of Baluchistan told Gwadar Pro that the establishment of a date processing unit at Panjgur is expected to undergo implementation shortly.

This intervention will add value to the commodity which is grown largely in the area but growers are deprived of legitimate profit margins, as they have to sell the raw Dates at throw away prices in the local markets.

“Proper processing shall also open up export opportunities. The initiative is also believed to boost much needed economic activities including employment in the far-flung area of Panjgur,” he said. The export potential of not only Dates but Onions as well are promising by all means.

Liaquat Shahwani stated that more than half million tons of Onions are annually produced in Baluchistan which if exported to China shall go a long way in uplifting the socio-economic standing of onion growers who usually sustain heavy losses due to local market gluts during the harvest season. “Government of Baluchistan is giving due importance to the uplift of agriculture sector in development plans by making resources available for productivity enhancement, value addition and marketing of all major fruits produced in the province.

All these interventions are aimed at the well-being and prosperity of young farmers who are expected to take charge of the farming from their elders in times to come.” He further mentioned, the report added.

According to another Gwadar Pro's report, Pakistani business community in China said they are looking forward to serve the country in a big way, provided they get the government's support. This was stated by Mir Faisal Yaqoob, a Pakistani businessman who have been in China for 24 years. He came here in 1996.

He told Gwadar Pro in an interview that in 2001, he set up his own company in Yiwu. Before that, he was helping with his cousin's business in Urumqi. "If we only talk about Pak-China trade, Urumqi is a hub for transportation. Xinjiang province is agriculture-based, so people there are much involved in the agriculture business.

Other things are not very easily available in the market." Mir described the difference between the two cities. "Yiwu is a showroom for all of the commodities in China, where you can find products varies from needles to airplane parts."

"Manufacturers like opening their showroom in Yiwu since more visitors tend to come here. Businessmen can stay in Yiwu for only two to three days and get everything they want. It can save a lot of time, which is the most important thing for trade," he said.

Due to his extensive business experience in China, three years ago, Mir was elected as the chairman of Pakistan China Chamber of Commerce, while the chamber of commerce is still in the process of registration.

"More than two years ago, we put the chamber case in civil affairs with the recommendation of Pakistan embassy in China. We are still waiting for its final approval." "If we make a team, we can do big things. To make the team, we need supports from our government." According to Mir, there are already more than 150 member companies in PCCC.

"We have already discussed with a few departments and business communities in China who want to do joint ventures or start businesses in Pakistan. We can also help Pakistani manufacturers get a platform in China and improve Pakistan export. These are also the things we can do for our government." "Pakistani government officials in China must keep in touch with the business community in China, especially the chamber of commerce and work together. Then we can do big things for our country," he suggested.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/698581/balochistans-vegetables-fruits-have-huge-potential-for-export-to-china/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistanis in China wish to serve country in a big way

Yiwu, China: Pakistani business community in China is looking forward to serve the country in a big way, provided they get the government's support. This was stated by Mir Faisal Yaqoob, a Pakistani businessman who has been in China for 24 years. He came here in 1996. He told Gwadar Pro in an interview that in 2001, he set up his own company in Yiwu. Before that, he was helping with his cousin's business in Urumqi.

“If we only talk about Pak-China trade, Urumqi is a hub for transportation. Xinjiang province is agriculture-based, so people there are much involved in the agriculture business. Other things are not very easily available in the market.” Mir described the difference between the two cities. “Yiwu is a showroom for all of the commodities in China, where you can find products varies from needles to airplane parts.”—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistanis-in-china-wish-to-serve-country-in-a-big-way/>

December 08, 2020

Pakistan Observer

Govt. in talks with China, Russia to get Corona vaccines: Faisal

Islamabad: Health authorities are negotiating with China and Russia, among others, to procure Corona virus vaccines, Prime Minister’s aide Dr Faisal Sultan said on Monday. “We are in talks with China, Russia and some other countries for procurement of the [Covid-19] vaccine after narrowing down our priority list,” Dr Sultan, the special assistant to the prime minister on health (SAPM), told Anadolu Agency.

The vaccine, he said, would be available in Pakistan sometime between January and March next year, and administered to health workers and senior citizens in the first phase. “There is nothing final yet; however, I can tell you that we have to rely on more than one source,” the SAPM said. “We will procure the vaccine only after its efficacy and safety is proven.”

While Russia has started the distribution of its Sputnik V Covid-19 shot nationwide, China is testing its vaccines in many countries, and supply deals are being signed. Islamabad has already earmarked an initial sum of \$150 million to purchase the doses. In a press conference earlier this month, Dr Sultan had said that the authorities will request the government to approve more funds if required. Last week, Nausheen Hamid, the parliamentary secretary for health, said all citizens would be administered Covid-19 vaccines free of charge, and the drive will begin in the second quarter of 2021.

According to Dr Sultan, the vaccine will be administered to citizens in stages: frontline healthcare workers will be the first priority; in the second stage, the elderly and at risk-population, in addition to other healthcare workers, will get the vaccine; and the common public will receive the vaccine in the third stage.

Pakistan has witnessed a spike in Covid-19 cases and deaths in recent weeks. The country recorded 3,795 new infections today, the highest single-day tally since July 3. The total caseload in the country of 220 million people has reached 420,294, including 8,398 related deaths. Pakistan has tested about 5.8 million people for the virus to date.

<https://pakobserver.net/govt-in-talks-with-china-russia-to-get-corona-vaccines-faisal/>

The Nation

Disabled passengers rejoice at CPEC's Metro Train

ISLAMABAD - Disabled passengers rejoice at recently launched CPEC's Orange Line Metro Train (OLMT), Lahore, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Monday.

According to the report, Roshan Khan is visually-impaired person but he is very happy because his eyesight disability is, now, no more impediments in his independent travelling.

He got his ride on public transport from Darogawala and disembarked on Ali Town without any human support.

This assistance-free commutation becomes possible due to Orange Line train, the first mass transit rail project completed and launched under CPEC, that is already a source of socio-economic fortunes for the people of Pakistan. He does not have eyes to see the majestic outlook of Metro Train Lahore but he can easily feel its life-changing impacts on the communities of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Talking to CEN, he said that he dreamt an accessible society that offered free approach to public transport. "Metro Train Lahore has materialized the dream unimagined few days back," he stated.

"Despite visually-challenged person, I wanted my fundamental right of inclusive transportation facilities. Technically, the right is enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan but its provision is dysfunctional. On October 26, it has come out of its inactiveness," he added.

"Frankly speaking credit goes to CPEC's metro train, another manifestation of bonanza bestowed by China, a good friend of Pakistan," he spelled out. He appreciated the bumpy strips that mark the edge of Metro's platforms for those who can't see.

It merits to mentioning here that Metro Train Lahore is the first public transport equipped with basic accessibility facilities for blind and mobility-challenged people. Other public transport areas, especially Lahore Railway Station, Metro Bus, private bus terminals are yet to be made PWDs-friendly.

On December 03 International Day of Persons with Disability was celebrated around the globe. Pakistan also marked the day. But this time sense of immerse proud prevailed.

Reason is Metro Train Lahore, one of the best public-centric projects, especially for differently-able people.

"By action Pakistan has promoted an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities ensuring freely accessible transport facilities to them," Hamayat Ali, an official of NGO, Punjab Persons with Disability, said.

The metro train also helped Punjab to fulfill its commitment to mainstream PWDs as government passed legislation on January 10, 2020 that is aligned with sustainable development goals and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Punjab Mass Transit Authority (PMA) GM Operations Muhammad Uzair Shah said that this happened first time that using embossed surfaces on pedestrianised pathways, mobility-challenged passengers had been enjoying commutation facilities on metro train independently.

<https://nation.com.pk/08-Dec-2020/disabled-passengers-rejoice-at-cpec-s-metro-train>

CPEC projects to be completed in time: Asim Bajwa

ISLAMABAD - Chairman CPEC Authority Lt Gen ® Asim Salim Bajwa has said that the CPEC Authority was committed to ensuring that CPEC projects are completed on time. He said this during a meeting with Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood here yesterday.

The CPEC Authority chief hoped that the 10th JCC, likely to be held in near future, will create more economic opportunities and contribute to further expansion of CPEC projects.

He reaffirmed that Pakistan would welcome relocation of industry from China and in this regard will institute a regime that could encourage inflow of Chinese investments to Pakistan.

It was also reiterated in the meeting that post-COVID-19, through collective efforts of China and Pakistan, CPEC would become the hub for the regional trade and connectivity and will deepen people-to-people exchanges at a wider level.

During the meeting, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood Pakistan and China are firmly committed to the timely completion of the CPEC projects and making it a high-quality demonstration project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

He maintained that CPEC energy and infrastructure projects had created thousands of jobs and had boosted industrial growth and productivity.

It testified to the fact that CPEC's contribution to strengthen Pakistan's economic landscape has been real and substantial, he emphasized.

The foreign secretary underlined that Pakistan's focus in the next Phase of CPEC was on industrialization and socio-economic development, areas that will create vast job and growth opportunities for the common people. Three out of the nine CPEC SEZs, namely Rashakai, Dhabeji and Allama Iqbal, have been prioritized and Pakistan would welcome foreign direct investment in those projects.

The Foreign Secretary underlined that the government was particularly focused on strengthening agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China. In this regard, a plan of action, detailing the contours of this collaboration, was already being discussed between the two governments.

The foreign secretary hoped that the plan of action will be expeditiously implemented.

<https://nation.com.pk/08-Dec-2020/cpec-projects-to-be-completed-in-time-asim-bajwa>

China keen to work with Pakistan in field of energy, power projects under CPEC

Islamabad - The Chinese Ambassador, Nong Rong, has Monday said that China is keen to work with Pakistan in field of energy including power projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The newly appointed Ambassador of China to Pakistan, H.E Nong Rong has expressed these views in a meeting with Federal Minister for Energy Omar Ayub Khan. Omar Ayub Khan welcomed the Chinese Ambassador in his office. Chairman CPEC Authority Gen. (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa and Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Power Tabish Gauhar & Secretary Power Ali Raza Bhutta were also present at the meeting. During the meeting, both sides reviewed the progress of power projects under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) & agreed to continue the cooperation in the field of energy in the mutual interest of both countries. Federal Minister for Energy Omar Ayub said that lowering the cost of power generation is the prime focus of our government.

The Minister highlighted the provision of power & energy to the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and said that it would boost economic activity along with the creation of thousands of new jobs in the country. The Minister also appraised the Envoy about the initiatives by the current government to curb the distribution & transmission losses in the power sector. He said that the focus of our government is to lower the cost of power generation by increasing Renewable Energy. He said that sustainable & affordable structure of energy tariffs will be beneficial for the positive economic trajectory of the country. The Chinese Ambassador while appreciating the government's commitment to reform the energy sector said that China is keen to work with Pakistan in the field of energy including power projects under CPEC. He thanked and appreciated the efforts of the Government of Pakistan and the Ministry of Energy to expedite the progress of power projects under CPEC.

<https://nation.com.pk/08-Dec-2020/china-keen-to-work-with-pakistan-in-field-of-energy-power-projects-under-cpec>

The News

Post-COVID-19: CPEC to become trade hub, says FO

ISLAMABAD: In the post-COVID-19 scenario, through collective efforts of both the countries, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will become the hub for the regional trade and connectivity and will deepen people-to-people exchanges at a wider level, local media reported. It was reaffirmed in the meeting between Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and CPEC Chairman Lt Gen (R) Asim Saleem Bajwa.

The foreign secretary said that the CPEC was a transformational project, and there was a complete national consensus on CPEC's indispensability for Pakistan's national development efforts.

“Pakistan and China are firmly committed to the timely completion of CPEC projects and making it a high-quality demonstration project of BRI [Belt and Road Initiative],” he said.

Reviewing the progress of CPEC projects, the foreign secretary maintained that CPEC energy and infrastructure projects had created thousands of jobs and had boosted industrial growth and productivity. It testified to the fact that CPEC's contribution to strengthening Pakistan's economic landscape has been real and substantial, he emphasised.

The foreign secretary underlined that Pakistan's focus in the next phase of CPEC was on industrialisation and socio-economic development, areas that will create vast job and growth opportunities for the common people. Three out of the nine CPEC SEZs, namely Rashakai, Dhabeji and Allama Iqbal, have been prioritised and Pakistan would welcome foreign direct investment in those projects.

Lt Gen (r) Bajwa underscored that the CPEC Authority was committed to ensuring that CPEC projects were completed on time. He hoped that the 10th JCC, likely to be held in the near future, will create more economic opportunities and contribute to further expansion of CPEC projects. He reaffirmed that Pakistan would welcome the relocation of industry from China and in that regard will institute a regime that could encourage the inflow of Chinese investments to Pakistan.

The foreign secretary underlined that the government was particularly focused on strengthening agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China. In that regard, a plan of action, detailing the contours of this collaboration, was already being discussed between the two governments. The foreign secretary hoped that the plan of action will be expeditiously implemented.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/755457-post-covid-19-cpec-to-become-trade-hub-says-fo>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان اور چین کی فضائی افواج رواں ماہ مشترکہ مشقیں کریں گی

اسلام آباد (سہیل عبدالناصر) پاکستان اور چین کی فضائی افواج رواں ماہ مشترکہ مشقیں کریں گی۔ گزشتہ برس پاکستان کے خلاف بھارت کی فضائی جارحیت اور پاکستان کے دندان شکن جواب کے باعث پاک چین مشقوں کی اہمیت دوچند ہو جاتی ہے۔ چین کی وزارت دفاع نے ان مشقوں کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ فضائیہ کے ترجمان نے اس حوالے سے تادم تحریر کوئی جواب نہیں دیا۔ ذرائع کے مطابق چین کی جانب سے ان مشقوں میں لڑاکا طیارے، دشمن کے حملوں کی ٹینگی اطلاع دینے والے ارلی وارننگ نظام، ٹرانسپورٹ طیارے اور متعدد دیگر فضائی اثاثے حصہ لیں گے۔ باور کیا جاتا ہے کہ لڑاکا طیاروں میں جے ٹن سی، جے ایون، الیکٹرانک وار فیئر نظام کے حامل وائی این جی (جی ایکس ایون)، مشقوں میں حصہ لینے والے بیڑے کا حصہ ہوں گے۔ واہر رہے کہ اس سلسلہ کی گزشتہ مشق میں روسی ساختہ ایس پو تھری، جے ٹن، جے ایون، جے ایون، جے ایچ سیون، اور جے 500 ارلی وارننگ کے حامل جی طیاروں نے حصہ لیا تھا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-08/page-1/detail-4>

وفاقی وزیر داخلہ اعجاز شاہ نے بھی چین کی آزمائشی ویکسین لگوائی

لاہور (آئی این پی) وفاقی وزیر داخلہ اعجاز شاہ نے بھی کلینیکل ٹرائل کی چین سے آنے والی کرونا ویکسین لگوائی۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق چین کی تیار کردہ انسداد کرونا ویکسین کے ٹرائل پاکستان سمیت مختلف ممالک میں جاری ہیں اور اب تک معروف شخصیات سمیت ہزاروں افراد رضاکارانہ طور پر آزمائشی ویکسین لگوا چکے ہیں۔ کرونا ویکسین لگوانے والے رضاکاروں میں وفاقی وزیر داخلہ اعجاز شاہ کا نام بھی شامل ہو گیا ہے جنہیں کلینیکل ٹرائل فیز تھیری کی ویکسین لگائی ہے۔ وائس چانسلر یونیورسٹی آف ہیلتھ سائنسز پروفیسر جاوید اکرم کا کہنا ہے کہ وزیر داخلہ اعجاز شاہ کو یونیورسٹی آف ہیلتھ سائنسز میں ویکسین لگائی گئی جبکہ اعجاز شاہ کے عملے کو بھی کرونا سے بچاؤ کی ویکسین لگائی گئی ہے۔ پروفیسر جاوید اکرم کے مطابق کہ یونیورسٹی میں 2 اکتوبر سے کرونا ویکسین کے ٹرائل جاری ہیں، اور اب تک 7 ہزار سے زائد افراد پر کرونا ویکسین کے ٹرائلز کیے جا چکے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-08/page-1/detail-17>

December 09, 2020

Business Recorder

CPEC will bring prosperity to the region: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani said the friendly relations between Pakistan and China were setting new direction of socio-economic development, and the CPEC would bring prosperity to the region.

Talking with Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong here on Tuesday, the chairman Senate said the exchange of parliamentary delegations had enhanced bilateral social, political, and economic relations.

He said parliamentary democracy played a pivotal role in strengthening bilateral contacts. Sanjrani said the promotion of people-to-people contacts would further strengthen economic partnership.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese ambassador said the two countries' vision of development and the CPEC would turn this region into a hub of international trade. He said Pakistan was a very important country for China, and "we are jointly making efforts for regional development."

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/09/12-page/861078-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC to support livestock sector to end poverty in Pakistan

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can support Pakistan's livestock sector to mitigate poverty, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday.

The CPEC's road network is about three thousand kilometers long, and in some areas along the route, a lot of potential exists to develop the livestock sector and to establish farming business, the report said quoting Hafiz Wasi Muhammad Khan, executive member of the Pakistan Agriculture Scientist Forum and renowned agriculture expert in Pakistan.

In an interview to Gwadar Pro, Wasi spoke about the importance of creating a new regional economy along CPEC's route as an effort to address issues of poverty and underdevelopment.

He also suggested that China may consider providing machinery and technology to build those areas, particularly for livestock development. This will create a positive image for CPEC and help create an economic cycle that can be good for both China and Pakistan.

The beneficiaries of this project will be the underprivileged people who will be gainfully employed through economic activities generated by CPEC. It will also lead to the reduction of poverty in those regions," he contended.

Hafiz Wasi also emphasized that Pakistan needs to do a lot of internal reforms to gain long-term benefits from CPEC. He was of the view that Pakistan must understand the requirements of the Chinese market in the livestock sector.

When Pakistanis know Chinese demand in that sector, they will be able to introduce better regulatory measures to export products to the Chinese market.

He added that Pakistan needs to improve its agriculture sector with the help of China, which has introduced far-reaching reforms in enhancing its agricultural productivity.

It is good development that a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture between China and Pakistan has already been established.

That JWG must examine different areas to revitalize Pakistan's agricultural economy. If Pakistan can meet China's quarantine regulations, there is huge scope for Pakistan's livestock and agriculture sector to grow and open up export opportunities of millions of dollars, he added.

He added, "the CPEC is slowly changing the economic and poverty profile of Pakistan. It is built along a long area, which could see tremendous economic growth in the years ahead. Due to this mega project, another area getting a lot of attention is the desert and mountain agriculture."

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/699421/cpec-to-support-livestock-sector-to-end-poverty-in-pakistan/>

Dunya News

Pak-China joint air exercise Shaheen-IX starts at Operational Air Base

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Pak-China Joint Air Exercise "Shaheen-IX" started on Wednesday at an Operational Air Base of Pakistan Air Force (PAF).

According to a statement issued by Pakistan Air Force (PAF), the contingent of People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF), comprising combat Pilots, Air Defense Controllers and technical ground crew was participating in the exercise.

The opening ceremony of the exercise was jointly witnessed by Deputy Chief of Air Staff (Operations), PAF Air Vice Marshal Waqas Ahmed Sulehri and Assistant Chief of Staff, PLAAF Major General Sun Hong.

Major General Sun Hong said: “The Joint Exercise will improve the actual level of combat training and strengthen practical cooperation between the two Air Forces”.

Welcoming the Chinese contingent, Air Vice Marshal Waqas Ahmed Sulehri said: “The joint exercise will provide an opportunity to further enhance interoperability of both the Air Forces, thereby fortifying brotherly relations between the two countries.”

Shaheen-IX was the ninth in the series of Joint Air Exercises which is conducted each year in both countries on alternate basis.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/577347-Pak-China-joint-air-exercise-Shaheen-IX-starts-at-Operational-Air-Base>

Pakistan's imports from China tops list; trade increases over \$3570m in 4 months

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

The total imports from China during July-October (2020-21) were recorded at US \$ 3570.360 million against the US \$ 3145.098 million during July-October (2019-21), showing an increase of 13.52 percent during the period, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by UAE, where from Pakistan imported goods worth US \$ 2188.122 million against the imports of US \$ 2468.414 million last year, showing negative growth of 11.35 percent.

Singapore was the at third top country from where Pakistan imported products worth US \$ 871.086 million against the imports of US \$ 727.840 million last year, showing growth of 19.74 percent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani imports from Saudi Arabia stood at US \$ 634.207 million against US \$ 505.339 million during last year, showing growth of 25.50 percent while the imports from United State of America (USA) were recorded at US \$ 573.501 million against US \$ 523.520 million last year, showing increase of 9.54 percent, the data revealed.

The imports from Kuwait were recorded at US \$ 376.881 million against US \$ 365.169 million where as the imports from South Korea were recorded at US \$ 338.495 million against US \$ 235.196 million last year.

During July-October, the imports from Malaysia were recorded at US \$ 327.854 million against US \$ 329.016 million whereas the imports from Switzerland at US \$ 325.852 million against US \$ 183.090 million.

Pakistan's imports from Indonesia were recorded at US \$ 313.445 million against US \$ 325.351 million where as the imports from Japan stood at US \$ 298.539 million against US \$ 443.697 million.

Similarly, the imports from UK during the period under review were recorded at US \$ 247.254 million against US \$ 244.175 million while the imports from Qatar stood at US \$ 242.264 million against US \$ 706.237 million.

Pakistan's imports from Thailand were recorded at US \$ 235.545 million during the current fiscal year compared to US \$ 273.910 million last year, whereas the imports from Oman stood at US \$ 170.313 million against US \$ 109.087 million.

[https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/577129-Pakistan-imports-China-tops-list-trade-increases-\\$3570m-four-months](https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/577129-Pakistan-imports-China-tops-list-trade-increases-$3570m-four-months)

Pakistan Observer

Experts: Joint air force training reflective of China, Pakistan friendship

Beijing: The China-Pakistan joint air force training amid the Covid-19 pandemic reflects the profound friendship between the two countries, which is conducive to improving the comprehensive combat capability of the two militaries, Chinese experts said on Tuesday. A batch of Chinese air force troops left for the Pakistan Air Force base near Karachi to participate in a joint air force exercise "Shaheen-IX", a week after the Chinese defense minister's visit to the country, according to Global times.

The Chinese defense ministry announced that China and Pakistan would hold the joint air force training dubbed 'Shaheen-IX,' which would last until the end of December. According to the ministry, the joint training, part of the 2020 China-Pakistan military cooperation plan, will play a positive role in promoting military relations, deepening practical cooperation between the air forces of the two countries, and improving the actual level of combat training of the two forces.

The first training was held in March 2011, in Pakistan, and the last one was held in Northwest China in August, 2019, and had lasted for half a month. The training in 2019 involved some 50 aircraft, a number of personnel and complete combat units.

<https://pakobserver.net/experts-joint-air-force-training-reflective-of-china-pakistan-friendship/>

The Express Tribune

62nd Gwadar Day celebrated in Balochistan

QUETTA: The Pakistan Navy along with the people working at Gwadar port city celebrated the 62nd Gwadar Day with traditional zeal and fervor.

This day is celebrated every year to mark the merger of Gwadar with Pakistan. Various activities were held under the auspices of Pakistan Navy and Commander Coast (COMCOAST), Vice Admiral Zahid Ilyas who was the chief guest at the event.

While interacting with the notables and people of Gwadar, the chief guest highlighted Pakistan Navy's commitment for the development of the coastal region. He also underscored rigorous efforts of Pakistan Navy to ensure maritime security of Gwadar Port and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In the historical context, Gwadar was formally handed over to Pakistan in 1958 by Oman. Initially, a naval platoon led by Lt Iftikhar Ahmed Sirohey of Pakistan Navy landed at Gwadar and unfurled Pakistan's flag.

The 62nd Gwadar Day began with an impressive flag hoisting ceremony held at PNS AKRAM, Gwadar which was largely attended by the elders and notables of the port city.

Various activities were organized by Pakistan Navy including a boat rally, hovercraft maneuvers, demonstrations by the Special Service Group (Navy) and Naval Aviation at the beach front.

The enthusiasm of the local people remained prodigious throughout and a large number of spectators enjoyed the events.

Gwadar Day celebrations were aimed at rekindling the awareness about the history of Gwadar among the masses. A large number of audience including civil dignitaries and military officials also witnessed the activities.

It is pertinent to mention that corona virus precautionary measures were observed throughout.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2275224/62nd-gwadar-day-celebrated-in-balochistan>

The Nation

CPEC opening new avenues of progress

ISLAMABAD - Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser yesterday said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would create new opportunities for employment besides providing new avenues for enhanced trade and travel.

“CPEC would usher in new era of socio-economic development for both countries. Early completion of CPEC related projects will ensure regional socio-economic stability and it will be winning both for Pakistan and China,” said Speaker National Assembly in a meeting with Chairman CPEC authority Gen (Retd) Asim Saleem Bajwa. Lauding the performance of CPEC authority, Speaker Asad Qaiser has said that early completion of CPEC related projects would usher in the new era of prosperity for common people especially in KPK. He said that CPEC would create new opportunities for employment and would provide new avenues for enhanced trade and travel. He emphasized for early completion of DI Khan Motorway and Chasma Right Bank Canal projects. Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa briefed the Speaker about various ongoing projects of CPEC. He said that Rashakai Economic Zone would soon be inaugurated.

He also mentioned that all other projects including DI Khan Motorway project would soon be completed as all Government Department are prioritizing CPEC related projects.

He said that CPEC would support trade, commerce and industrial Sectors.

Meanwhile, Amir Masood Deputy Chief of Air Staff, also called on Speaker National Assembly.

He lauded the welfare services of Pakistan Air Force and Rasheed Memorial Trust in Islamabad which is the state of the art facilitation centre for the needy and destitute of the society.

Later on Prof. DR. Shana Urooj Kazmi Vice Chancellor Women Swabi University also held a meeting with him.

Speaker Asad Qaiser stressed on the need for enhanced facilities for women education in the country especially in Swabi. He said that Women University can be a harbinger of change for inculcating the spirit of hard-work and sincerity.

<https://nation.com.pk/09-Dec-2020/cpec-opening-new-avenues-of-progress>

December 10, 2020

Daily Times

Chinese companies working to develop slaughterhouses in Pakistan

Chinese companies want to develop slaughterhouses in Pakistan, as a step forward contributing to beef export, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

According to the report, China, reflected in high domestic prices, the overall demand for beef remains strong. Recently, efforts are being made to help Pakistan beef enter China.

“There are already many smart people in the Chinese city of Chengdu who want to develop slaughterhouses in Pakistan,” said Mahmood Akhtar, deputy consul general of Pakistan in Chengdu.

He told Gwadar Pro that the quarantine authorities in Beijing are likely to visit Pakistan and see the slaughterhouse there.

“Because Pakistan is not so advanced in slaughter technology and farming, with the help of Chinese investors in Pakistan, they can secure the disease-free animals and provide the modern techniques of slaughtering and preservation of the meat and the cold chain.”

We already sent a lot of business people who are interested, and they are looking forward to finding the right partners because it’s a completely new development in need of local partners who are familiar with the local environment,” he said.

“To export Pakistan beef to China, the most difficult issue is the FMD, the breeding conditions there doing meet our requirements,” said Li Hongwu? President of Pakistan Sichuan Chamber of Commerce.

They have been making effort to bring slaughterhouses to Pakistan for a long time.

The export of fresh products also requires the construction of supporting facilities such as cold storage.

However, Pakistan's electricity supply was unstable before. "According to Li Hongwu, the member companies of PSCC planned to go to Pakistan at the beginning of this year to open up the entire beef export chain from breeding to marketing, and gradually solve the existing problems, but the plan was suspended due to COVID-19.

"The breeding industry in Pakistan is still in a primitive stage without large-scale and modernization. To meet the export standards, we can provide technical guidance and equipment and open the export market.

But we still need to cooperate with many local companies, since we cannot bring workers from China. There is still a long way to go," he added.

Meanwhile, according to another report, Pakistan exports to China have increased by 30% during last month, resulting in the improvement of trade balance between the two countries.

To address issue of trade deficit, the major concern of Pakistani side, China has proactively taken a lot of measures to maintain a balanced trade relation with Pakistan between the two sides.

The report says, China is keen to expand more market access for Pakistani products and organizes varieties of trade promotion activities in Pakistan and China every year.

Adviser to Prime Minister for Commerce and Investment Abdul Razzaq Dawood had stated in a tweet that during Nov 2020, Pakistan's exports to China increased considerably.

This healthy trend is an indication that our exports are re-gaining their momentum. It was advised that the exporters should aggressively market their products in geographically diversified areas.

Giving a good start, the governments of the two countries had slashed tariffs on more than 300 categories of imported items that are widely used as raw material for the export of goods.

According to the report, along with the constant upward trend of China-Pakistan trade, a rising concern on trade deficit with China had been echoing in the Pakistani business communities.

It is pertinent to mention that the main reason behind the trade imbalance has to be the structural problems in nature between industries of two countries.

China has a strong manufacturing base to export goods as compared to import. Up to now, China turns to be the largest trading partner of more than 120 countries and regions in the world, and China has never intentionally pursued the trade surplus, not with any trade partner.

Therefore, It is time to dedicate some technical and financial resources to drawing a full map to determine how exports to the entire world, and more specifically to China, can grow. It is up to

the subject specialists to come up with viable options for reducing Islamabad's trade deficit with Beijing and improve trade balancing, the report added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/699923/chinese-companies-working-to-develop-slaughterhouses-in-pakistan/>

China Pakistan Traditional Chinese Medicine Technical Training Course 2020 held at Qingdao Binhai University

On December 7, the opening ceremony of the International Training Program “China Pakistan Traditional Chinese Medicine Technical Training Course 2020” was held in the Digital Classroom of Qingdao Binhai University.

The International Training was sponsored by Qingdao Binhai University, co-organized by Services Institute of Medical Sciences. Qingdao Binhai University Vice President Liu Lianxin, Deputy Director of Academic Affairs Office De Tieying, Dean of Medical School Li Xiuyan, and Director of Foreign Affairs Office Qiao Shibao participated from China Side. Vice President of College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan & Ex-Principal of SIMS Professor Mahmood Ayyaz, Professor of Surgery Prof. Waris Farooka, from the Services Institute of Medical Sciences, Vice President of Qingdao Binhai University South Asia campus & One Belt One Road Ambassador Dr. Muhammad Shehbaz, Lecturer Dr. Ali Abbas, Economic Affairs magazine CEO Mr. Sohail Chaudhry, Muhammad Javed Iqbal, Muhammad Ali Akbar Translator, other leaders and more than 50 people including teachers and students from China and Pakistan participated in the opening ceremony.

At the opening ceremony, Vice President Liu pointed out that China and Pakistan are good friends and iron brothers. There is a Chinese saying that you can see the truth in adversity. In February 2020, at the beginning of the Chinese people's united fight against the epidemic, Pakistan, as China's “iron Brother”, overcame its own difficulties and actively sent all the reserved PPE's to us from the government to the private sector, and donated urgently needed epidemic prevention materials to China. This made us very much Moved, this reflects the deep brotherly friendship between China and Pakistan. At the same time, as one of China's national quintessence, traditional Chinese medicine is rooted in China's traditional culture for thousands of years and is profound. The content of this training course for suitable Chinese medicine techniques is rich and diverse. I hope that everyone can have a basic understanding of Chinese Traditional medicine through this rare opportunity. At the same time, Pakistani students are also welcome to study in Qingdao Binhai University to study our Chinese Traditional medicine. Principal Ayaz Mahmood expressed his gratitude to Qingdao Binhai University for the careful organization of this training event, and emphasized that both China and Pakistan have ancient civilizations and long histories, as well as splendid and rich cultural traditions. This training class provides a great opportunity for Pakistani teachers and students, especially young students, to learn about Chinese and Pakistani culture and Traditional Chinese Medicine. I look forward to the complete success of the Qingdao Binhai University's TCM training course

for Pakistan. I hope that the two Institutes will continue to jointly organize such activities in the future, promote the deepening of exchanges between the two schools, and wish the long-lasting friendship between China and Pakistan. Dr. Muhammad Shehbaz, Ambassador of One Belt One Road and Vice President of Qingdao Binhai University South Asia Campus on this occasion said that this is great opportunity for Pakistani students to learn basic and advance Techniques and theory of TCM. He said that today is historical day and he is feeling immense pleasure to be the host, organizer and Trainer for this course from Pakistan side. In the future he will play also an important role to arrange such kind of training course for the Pakistani students to decrease cultural barrier between two countries.

Dean Li Xiuyan of the School of Medicine pointed out that Chinese medicine has a long history and unique characteristics. This 14-day training course on Traditional Chinese medicine techniques will be live broadcasted online.

It will systematically and comprehensively explain the basic theory and advanced practical knowledge and main points of Chinese medicine to Pakistani teachers and students in a theory + practical training method. The content involves meridian and acupuncture General monographs, and various massage techniques, Tuna, moxibustion techniques, and compression techniques. I hope that students can study hard, increase their interest in learning Chinese medicine and master the basic knowledge and techniques of Chinese medicine.

It is reported that this Traditional Chinese Medicine Technical Training course project is one of the 49 national projects approved by the Ministry of Education and the Department of International Cooperation and Exchanges according to the requirements of the 2020 education foreign aid work and after expert review. It is also the first Chinese medicine Technical Training course for our School.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-traditional-chinese-medicine-technical-training-course-2020-held-at-qingdao-binhai-university/>

Governor lauds initiatives of China Consulate for Karachi

Karachi: The Governor Imran Ismail, lauded efforts and initiatives of Consulate General being taken for Kara-chi, especially with consultation of Young Leader and ex-elected councilor Mustafa Karani, and Yousuf Karani, who in short time has achieved immense credibility because of his sincere efforts as a Councilor. While expressing his views during ceremony at Governor House,

Consul General of the People's Republic of China Li Bijian, reaffirmed China's unshaken support for betterment of Karachi, and emphasize the need of increased joint efforts & projects for Pakistan's economic hub.

Two sets of Tractor & Trolley worth Rs. 5.2 million donated by Consulate General of P.R China in Karachi will be used in areas of District East's (Mehmooodabad, Baloch Colony, Shabbirabad, Shaheed-e-Millat, Gulistan-e- Jauhar), District Korangi's (Natha Khan, Shah Faisal, Landhi

Zone) and District Central's (North Nazimabad, Buffer zone, Sakhi Hasan) with assistance of local MPAs.

<https://pakobserver.net/governor-lauds-initiatives-of-china-consulate-for-karachi/>

Nawaiwaqt News

وفاقی وزیر تعلیم سے چینی سفیر کی ملاقات، تعلیمی میدان میں تعاون پر اتفاق

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) وفاقی وزیر تعلیم و پیشہ ورانہ تربیت و قومی ثقافتی ورثہ شفقت محمود سے چین کے پاکستان میں نئے سفیر لونگ رونگ نے ملاقات کی۔ وفاقی وزیر نے نئے چینی سفیر کو خوش آمدید کہا اور امید ظاہر کی کہ ان کی تعیناتی سے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دیرینہ دوستی مستحکم ہوگی اور تمام شعبوں میں بہتری آئے گی۔ شفقت محمود نے کہا کہ چین میں لاکھوں پاکستانی تعلیم حاصل کر رہے ہیں۔ جنہیں چینی حکومت کا تعاون حاصل ہے۔ یہ اس بات کا ثبوت ہے کہ دونوں ممالک تعلیم کے شعبے میں ترقی کے منازل حاصل کر رہے ہیں۔ شفقت محمود نے کہا کہ پاکستانی حکومت چین سے ملکر تعلیمی شعبہ (ووکیشنل ٹریننگ) پر کام کرے گی جو پہلے ہی سی پیک کا حصہ ہے۔ انہوں نے پاکستانی فلم پرواز ہے جنوں کی چین میں نمائش کو دونوں ممالک کے درمیان ثقافت کی مزید مضبوطی کا پیش خیمہ قرار دیا۔ چینی سفیر نے وفاقی وزیر کا یقین دلایا کہ کرونا ویکسین پاکستان کو ترجیحی بنیادوں پر مہیا کی جائے گی تاہم ابھی اس کے ٹرائل جاری ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-10/page-8/detail-65>

December 11, 2020

Daily Times

Chinese govt. companies, ANGCC Consortium keen to invest \$ 8 bln in Ravi City project, PM told

Prime Minister Imran Khan was on Thursday told that the Chinese government and companies were keen to invest \$ 3 billion in the Ravi City projecting in Lahore and that the investment did not include any kind of loan.

Besides, he was informed, that ANGCC – a Global Investment Consortium, had also offered to invest \$ 5 billion in the project on partnership basis.

The prime minister, who was presiding over a meeting of the working group of Ravi Riverfront Urban Development Authority (RUDA) and Pakistan Islands Development Authority (PIDA), was told that in order to further speed up the progress on the Ravi City project, a board had been constituted and work on the project would start in January.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Information and Broadcasting Senator Shibli Faraz, Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Haider Zaidi, Special Assistant to the PM on Political Communication Dr Shehbaz Gill, Naya Pakistan Housing Authority (NPHA) Chairman Lt Gen. ® Anwar Ali Haider and Deputy Chairman Maj Gen ® Ameer Aslam Khan, and Pakistan Islands Development Authority Chairman Imran Ameen. Sindh Governor Imran Ismail, Advisor to the Punjab Chief Minister Dr Salman Shah, Special Assistant to the Punjab CM Dr Firdous

Ashiq Awan, RUDA Chairman Rashid Aziz, Punjab chief secretary and senior officers concerned also attended the meeting through video link. The prime minister stressed that Ravi City, being an unprecedented and first of its kind mega project, would address the increasing problems of Lahore. Its completion would not only provide the facilities of potable water, appropriate sewerage, clean environment and modern housing to the citizens of Lahore, but also help create job opportunities and develop local and national economy, particularly the industries through huge foreign investment.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/700124/chinese-govt-companies-angcc-consortium-keen-to-invest-8-bln-in-ravi-city-project-pm-told/>

Indian plot of systematic disinformation drive against Pakistan, China uncovered

A massive operation to serve Indian interests by targeting international institutions through a systematic disinformation campaign against Pakistan and China has been uncovered by an EU based organization.

“The operation’s mission is to discredit nations in conflict with India in Asia, in particular Pakistan but also China to a lesser extent,” a study conducted by EU DisinfoLab, an independent NGO said. The operation was a follow up to a preliminary investigation published in 2019.

This network is active in Brussels and Geneva in producing and amplifying content to undermine – primarily – Pakistan. The operation codenamed “Indian Chronicles” resurrected dead media, dead think-tanks and NGOs. It even resurrected dead people, the report revealed.

The network is part of the sinister propaganda campaign, part of its Fifth Generation Hybrid Warfare – 5GW, against Pakistan with an objective to create chaos in the country.

According to the EU DisinfoLab – the Indian Chronicles is a 15 year-long operation running since 2005; under which over ten UN Human Rights Council accredited NGOs, were resurrected including the resurrection of Prof. Louis B. Sohn, a prominent figure in human rights, who died in 2006. The report has been dedicated in his name. The study discovered several identity thefts, including the names of Martin Schulz, former president of the European Parliament or the photo of James Purnell, a former UK Government minister. It also included over 750 fake media outlets, covering 119 countries; and over 550 domain names registered.

The NGO – EU DisinfoLab focuses on researching and tackling sophisticated disinformation campaigns targeting the EU, its member states, core institutions, and core values, said the operation began in 2005 and was still ongoing till this date.

The study, of the 15-year influence operation, was conducted through open-source investigation and shows that the operation led by the Srivastava Group was amplified by Indian news media outlet – Asian News International – ANI.

Other long-term objectives of the plan included reinforcement of pro-Indian and anti-Pakistan, and anti-Chinese, feelings, within India. While internationally it aimed at consolidating the power and improving perception of India, to damage reputation of other countries and ultimately benefit from more support from international institutions such as the EU and the UN.

To achieve this objective the operation focused on the support to minority and human rights NGOs and think-tanks, use of Members of the European Parliament to create a mirage of institutional support from European institutions to these minority groups, in favour of Indian interests and against Pakistan and China.

It also had an active presence in Geneva and the United Nations' Human Rights Council through: side-events and demonstrations in support of minority rights; impersonation of extinguished UN-accredited NGOs or use speaking slots reserved to various NGOs whose original missions seem totally unrelated.

The creation of fake media in Brussels, Geneva and across the world and repackaging and dissemination via ANI and obscure local media networks in at least 97 countries – to multiply the repetition of online negative content about countries in conflict with India, in particular Pakistan.

According to the details provided by the EU DisinfoLab, last year, a network of 265 fake media in 65 countries reproducing negative content against Pakistan online was uncovered.

The network was created by malicious actors who were behind “EP Today”, a fake European Parliament magazine active in Brussels since 2006.

The self-proclaimed “magazine for the European Parliament in Brussels” was serving as a “honey pot” for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and other politicians who could use it to publish their views – particularly those that serve Indian interests and undermine Pakistan. Some of these MEPs and other politicians attended United Nations side-events, press conferences and demonstrations in Geneva organized by minority-rights NGOs all set-ups by the same actors, such as the European Organization for Pakistani Minorities.

The organizations created by the Srivastava Group in Brussels organized trips for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to Kashmir, Bangladesh and the Maldives. Some of these trips led to much institutional controversy, as the delegations of MEPs were often presented as official EU delegations when they were in fact not travelling on behalf of the Parliament. The actors orchestrating Indian Chronicles are directly tied – and again not at all transparently – to the creation of three informal groups in the European Parliament, namely the “South Asia Peace Forum”, the “Baloch Forum” and “Friends of Gilgit-Baltistan”. They hold press conferences and events within and in front of the European Parliament. Organizations like WESTT – the Women Economic and Social Think-Tank – have drafted and suggested parliamentary questions to the European Commission, along with articles for fake EU magazines such as EP Today. These served as a honey pot to attract a growing number of MEPs into a pro-India and anti-Pakistan discourse, often using causes such as minorities' rights and women's rights as an entry point. A

new fake media with fake journalists supposedly covering European affairs, yet essentially providing a platform for MEPs to sign pro-Indian articles. In less than 6 months of existence, already 11 MEPs have written or endorsed op-eds at a remarkably high pace for EU Chronicle.

The only valuable coverage these op-eds receive, comes from an immediate repackaging by an Indian press agency – ANI (Asian News International), often quoting these op-eds as genuine articles from “independent media EU Chronicle”.

Without Times of Geneva and 4 News Agency which stopped their activities following our previous investigation, ANI – which is considered as one of the biggest news agencies in India and the largest television agency of India – remains the only press agency to extensively cover the activities of dubious

While following the coverage – and often distortion – by ANI of its content produced in Brussels and Geneva, the DisinfoLab discovered the Big News Network and the World News Network – an entire network of 500+ fake local media in 95 countries that helped reproduce negative iterations about Pakistan and or China. The content produced was primarily targeted at Indian nationals, with an extensive coverage of these barely known “media”, MEPs and “NGOs” in Europe.

The investigation revealed how the activities of a fake “zombie-NGO” and that of a fake specialized media can be repackaged, distorted and amplified by malicious actors to influence or disinform globally, using loopholes in international institutions and online search engines.

The EU DisinfoLab concluded its report by expressing concern over “the continuation of Indian Chronicles which – despite our first report and wide press coverage – has pursued its 15-year long operation and even recently launched EU Chronicle, a fake EU outlet.” “This should serve as a call to action for decision-makers to put in place a relevant framework to sanction actors engaging in disinformation and abusing international institutions. It is possible that the absence of messages from the institutions affected by Indian Chronicles provided the space and opportunity to reinvent itself.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/700128/indian-plot-of-systematic-disinformation-drive-against-pakistan-china-uncovered/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC flagship project of Pakistan, China: Moeed

Islamabad: CPEC is a flagship project of Pakistan and China. This was said by SAPM on National Security, Dr. Moeed Yusuf while meeting China’s Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Thursday in his office.

Both dignitaries discussed matters related to China Pakistan relationship. Speaking during the meeting, the SAPM said that the cordial relations between the two countries are setting a path of economic progress in the region.

China and Pakistan are united at all fronts and both countries are working jointly for regional development. The SAPM discussed the Indian dossier. He added that India is trying to sabotage CPEC. But together Pakistan and China are ensuring that Indian attempts will fail. Dr. Moeed Yusuf said that Pakistan is focusing on economic diplomacy and economic security. He mentioned that Prime Minister Imran Khan has constituted an Economic Outreach Apex Committee for this purpose. SAPM mentioned that purpose of economic outreach is coordination among various relevant federal ministries, provincial departments and others and for achievement of targets. The Chinese Ambassador said that Pakistan need to develop Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being set up under the transformative CPEC. Pakistan has special relations and comprehensive strategic partnership with China.

The SAPM underlined the need for China and Pakistan to constantly give message to the world that we stand united against all challenges. Both sides also agreed to increase collaboration among think tanks of their countries and to devise a plan for this purpose.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-flagship-project-of-pakistan-china-moeed/>

The Nation

CPEC vital to boost trade with outer world: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD - Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Thursday said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would play a vital role in enhancing connectivity among Central Asia, South Asia, Middle East, Northern Africa and Europe.

He said that Pakistan was committed to getting access and bringing economic movement on fast track with Central Asia.

He was addressing an international conference titled 'Re-imagining the Silk Road: Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan in the Age of Connectivity' through video link. The event was held in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.

Sanjrani said that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan take the bilateral relations between each other very important. He said that the conference provided an opportunity to discuss important bilateral matters. He also said that both countries have brotherly relations with each other but the volume of trade between the two was low. He urged the need to increase this trade volume.

Stressing the need to increase bilateral and economic relations between the two countries, the chairman Senate said that it was the age of connectivity and they should get benefit of connectivity opportunities to take forward the process of progress and development. He said that Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) provides an opportunity to Central Asian countries to get benefit of economic corridor. He said that CPEC has provided new opportunities to increase connectivity among the countries of the region and the project has emerged as a game changer for the area. "More than 3 billion people would get benefit of the project," he said.

Chairman Senate argued that Pakistan was a peaceful country and has given numerous sacrifices to attain peace. “Pakistan understands the importance of peace, development and prosperity in the region,” he said adding that it has supported on-going Afghan peace process at every level. “Peace is importance to increase connectivity and cooperation in the region,” he said.

Sanjrani said that Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan would have to make joint efforts for economic development under the CPEC.

The foreign minister of Kyrgyzstan and members of the parliament also participated in the conference besides others.

<https://nation.com.pk/11-Dec-2020/cpec-vital-to-boost-trade-with-outer-world-sanjrani>

December 12, 2020

Business Recorder

Steering committee formed to oversee CPEC in KP

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser has approved the establishment of a steering committee under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Defence Pervez Khattak to oversee the CPEC-related projects in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

The steering committee would oversee and resolve the issues related to Chasma Right Bank Canal Project, Peshawar-DI Khan Motorway, and Chakdara-Chitral Road (Dir Motorway). The committee has also been mandated to oversee the expeditious execution of the CPEC projects in KP and their timely completion. Federal Ministers Ali Amin Gandapur, Faisal Vawda, Murad Saeed, and KP Provincial Minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra, MNA Yaqoob Sheikh, and additional chief secretary KP will be the members of the steering committee.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/12/11-page/861453-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Hua: China-Pakistan relations become stronger in economic, trade development

Beijing: China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and the bilateral relations between the two countries have become even stronger in economic and trade development, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Hua Chunying said on Friday. “China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. The bilateral relations have become even stronger in economic and trade development,” she said in response to a question asked by reporter.

In particular, CPEC, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, as an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation and a flagship for bilateral cooperation, has registered new progress in its building and generated more and more social benefits, she added.

Hua Chunying said that the Chinese side stood ready to work together with Pakistan to advance cooperation in Belt and Road initiative, facilitate the high-quality building of CPEC, enhance policy communication, connectivity, trade, investment, and people-to-people exchanges for both sides in all sectors, so as to jointly achieve greater development and bring more benefits to the two peoples.

According to statistics, the exports from Pakistan to China have increased by 30 percent month on month in November 2020, improving trade balance between the two countries.

Under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Phase-II signed between the two countries, China has expanding more market access to Pakistani products.

China has also organized a number of trade promotion activities for Pakistani products. Recently, Pakistan was invited to participate as a special cooperation partner country in China-ASEAN Expo held in Nanning, Guangxi Autonomous Region of China wherein Pakistan Pavilion was set up to promote Pakistani goods.

Earlier, Pakistan also attended the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai last month. A number of Pakistani businessmen and traders showcased precious stones, handicrafts and furniture.

China also topped the list of countries from where Pakistan imported different products during the first four months of the current financial year.

<https://pakobserver.net/hua-china-pakistan-relations-become-stronger-in-economic-trade-development/>

Market opportunities for handicrafts products in China

Chengdu: Trade Development Authority of Pakistan in collaboration with Handicraft Association of Pakistan, Acting Consul General of Pakistan in Chengdu, and Trade and Investment Counselor of Pakistan in Guangzhou organized a webinar on market opportunities for handicrafts products in the Chinese market.

Acting Consul General Chengdu, Mahmood Akhtar told the participants that the area of China that comes under the Chengdu Consular districts is a USD 1.16 trillion economy that holds tremendous potential for Pakistani handicraft producers. He suggested to potential exporters that they should develop multiple tiers of products classified along the lines of price and quality and market each separately.

<https://pakobserver.net/market-opportunities-for-handicrafts-products-in-china/>

The Nation

CPEC becomes an important pilot project of BRI: China

BEIJING - China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners and the bilateral relations between the two countries have become even stronger in economic and trade development, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Hua Chunying said on Friday.

"China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. The bilateral relations have become even stronger in economic and trade development," she said in response to a question. In particular, CPEC, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, as an important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation and a flagship for bilateral cooperation, has registered new progress in its building and generated more and more social benefits, she added.

Hua Chunying said that the Chinese side stood ready to work together with Pakistan to advance cooperation in Belt and Road initiative, facilitate the high-quality building of CPEC, enhance policy communication, connectivity, trade, investment, and people-to-people exchanges for both sides in all sectors, so as to jointly achieve greater development and bring more benefits to the two peoples.

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Earlier, Pakistan also attended the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai last month.

<https://nation.com.pk/12-Dec-2020/cpec-becomes-an-important-pilot-project-of-bri-china>

The News

New steering committee to oversee CPEC projects in KPK

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has approved constitution of a steering committee under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Defence Pervez Khan Khattak to oversee the

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The steering committee would oversee and resolve the issues related to Chasma Right Bank Canal Project, Peshawar DI Khan Motorway, Chakdara Chitral Road (Dir Motorway). The

committee is also mandated to oversee expeditious execution and timely completion of the CPEC projects in KPK.

According to a notification, Federal Ministers Ali Amin Gandapur, Faisal Vawda, Murad Saeed and Provincial Minister Khyber Pukhtoonkhaw Taimur Saleem Jhagra, MNA Yaqoob Sheikh, Additional Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be the members of the committee.

The steering committee would hold its maiden meeting on December 14 in the Parliament House, Islamabad and take up Chashma Right Bank Canal project.

The decision to constitute the steering committee was taken at a recent meeting held between Speaker National Assembly and Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mehmood Khan as it was felt that CPEC projects were going slow for procedural and coordination flaws.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/757414-new-steering-committee-to-oversee-cpec-projects-in-kpk>

December 13, 2020

Business Recorder

Sales tax on services

ISLAMABAD: Patrind Hydropower Limited has sought same concessions available to CPEC projects, if the government of AJK wants to collect sales tax on construction services and O&M services from July 2015.

In a letter to the AJK government and federal government, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Waqar Ahmad Khan has asked the government to resolve this dispute as early as possible. The company claims that at the time of signing of the Implementation Agreement (IA) between the President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir for and on behalf of the Azad Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Council and the Company on February 11, 2012, there was no sales tax on construction services or on operation & maintenance service. The IA also granted change in tax protections to the sponsors pursuant to section 9.2 of the AJ&K IA.

The company GOAJK imposed Sales Tax on construction services and operation and maintenance services in July 2015. This resulted in huge sales tax incidence upon the EPC contractor of the project, which was not accounted for in the negotiated agreements and accordingly were also not envisaged in the project cost.

The company which is establishing 147 MW hydropower project, also noted that GOAJK has provided concession to CPEC projects to a levy of just 1% of Sales Tax on construction services for hydro power projects in AJ&K.

The Sales Tax on Services (both Construction and O&M) fall within the definition of change in tax pursuant to the AJ&KIA. Government of Pakistan through PPIB also concurs with this applicability of change in tax in this case.

The Company has been facing serious pressure from the AJ&K Revenue Service for the payment of the Sales Tax while the GOAJK has remained silent on the issue of change in Tax. The issue has been lingering on since 2015 and must be resolved through serious interaction between the Company and the GOAJK.

The company argues that it had proposed earlier that since change in tax provision would lead to a net zero gain for the GOAJK, a solution in the following order of priority may be agreed between the parties: (i) Sales Tax on construction services for the hydropower projects should be withdrawn/exempted with retrospective effect from July 2015;(ii) if it is not possible to give exemption with retrospective effect, "change in tax" pursuant to AJ&K IA should be accepted and book settlement is made in the books of GOAJK without any cash exchange; and (iii) if GOAJK wants to create some revenue stream, it may legislate to provide the same concession to the company as given to CPEC projects, ie, 1% Sales Tax on construction services and O&M Services with effect from July 2015.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/13/1-page/861465-news.html>

Daily Times

Pak, China committed to take CPEC to new heights: Asad

Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Saturday said Pakistan and China would work together to take the mega China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project to new heights. “The great nations of Pakistan and China will work together to strengthen CPEC to take it to a higher level for mutual prosperity of both nations”, he said in a tweet. He informed that he would personally hold four meetings in next fortnight to address all outstanding issues of CPEC projects. Earlier, the Embassy of China in Pakistan said through its official twitter account that the Chinese companies were committed to the new phase of CPEC cooperation under guidance of two governments. It also appreciated Asad Umar and Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Bajwa for meeting with representatives from CPEC projects to discuss ways forward.

Swat and Xinjiang inching closer through growing business links

The people of Swat valley and China’s region Xinjiang are getting closer to each other, through their growing business contacts, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

According to the report, the two sides enjoy centuries-old cultural and business ties. If someone looking for a variety of Chinese goods in northwestern Pakistan, the Mingora bazaar in the Swat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) is the right place. From clothing, footwear, baby toys,

watches, cellphones, and their parts to electrical equipment, Mingora's markets are flooded with quality Chinese goods.

Shaukat Sharar, Swat-based architect and historian told CEN that the people of Swat have been traditionally traveling through GB to Xinjiang to bring goods. According to him, some people from both the regions had also entered into marital relations and "there is still some Pashtun population in Xinjiang".

Currently, Mingora Bazaar is home to a number of markets and shops selling Chinese products. Popular markets dealing in Chinese goods in Mingora city, include Swat China Market, Pak-China Market, Mehmood Khan China Market, Shanghai Cloth Market, and Abaseen Plaza, etc. There are hundreds of shops and street vendors in Mingora city selling Chinese products. The majority of the shopkeepers use the suffix or affix of the word "China" while naming their businesses, e.g. "Pak-China Cloth Centre", "Insaf-China General Store", "China Traders", "China Toys Center", and "China Hosiery Store".

Riaz Ahmed is a trader in Mingora city who runs his business over Kanju Road and sells umbrellas. He started his business in 1992 and to become a successful trader, he learned the basics of the Chinese language as well. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, he has not visited China since early 2020. "Earlier, groups of traders from Swat would regularly visit China to buy goods but now we place orders over the phone and receive goods via cargo service," he told CEN, adding that due to coronavirus, business activities have reduced by almost 40%.

According to Riaz Ahmad, the majority of traders from Swat import goods from Kashgar (Xinjiang), Hangzhou, Yiwu (Zhejiang), and Guangzhou cities. Until 2002-03, the traders of Swat would use only land routes to import Chinese goods.

Muhammad Ali, age 68, is one of those shopkeepers who started visiting China by land route in 1989-90. First, a hi-ace (van) would take them to Gilgit from Swat; from Gilgit, they would travel to Sost in small vehicles followed by their journey to Khunjerab Pass (border crossing between China and Pakistan).

Adnan Ali, a senior official of the Swat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) told CEN that thousands of people in Swat valley earn their livelihood in trading Chinese goods. According to him, around 800 shops are selling Chinese products in Mingora city.

At least 3,000 people are directly involved in these businesses while thousands of others indirectly earn from the business of importing and selling Chinese products. "Around 300 businessmen from Swat go directly to China for business purposes while many others place orders via phone and receive their products via cargo service," he said.

Mingora city attracts customers from all around KP and from Punjab province as well. "Here we find a variety of products while prices are comparatively cheaper," Shahida Bibi told CEN. She had come to Swat China Market from Lower Dir district.

Saleem Rehman traveled 108 kilometers from Mardan city in KP to buy baby toys for his shop from Mehmood Khan China Market in Mingora. The business community of Mingora demands the Government of Pakistan to start direct flights from Kabal Airport Swat to China to reduce travel expenses and time, the report added

The Express Tribune

China again bails out Pakistan to pay Saudi debt

Shahbaz Rana

ISLAMABAD: China has again bailed out Pakistan as it agrees to immediately provide \$1.5 billion financing line to repay the \$2 billion Saudi Arabia debt, sources told The Express Tribune.

Out of \$2 billion, Pakistan is now set to return the \$1 billion on coming Monday, said the sources in the finance ministry and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). The remaining \$1 billion is due in January, they added.

However, this time around, China has not given the loan from its State Administration of Foreign Exchange, commonly known as SAFE deposits, nor has it extended a commercial loan, said the sources.

Instead, both the countries have agreed to augment the size of a 2011 bilateral Currency-Swap Agreement (CSA) by an additional 10 billion Chinese Yuan or around \$1.5 billion, the sources said. This has increased the size of the overall trade facility to 20 billion Chinese Yuan or \$4.5 billion.

The CSA is a Chinese trade finance facility that Pakistan has been using since 2011 to repay foreign debt and keep its gross foreign currency reserves at comfortable levels instead for trade related purposes.

The benefit of this arrangement will be that the additional \$1.5 billion Chinese loan will not reflect on the book of the federal government and it will not be treated as part of Pakistan's external public debt.

Spokespersons for both the SBP and the finance ministry neither denied nor confirmed the development. The spokesperson for the central bank ducked the questions while the ministry of finance said that it was a "bilateral confidential matter".

The Express Tribune had sent questions to the SBP about the CSA and a delay in uploading data on currency circulation, M2, on its website. "The M2 data will be updated soon on the website" was the terse response of the central bank, while maintaining silence on the question of currency deal.

What is CSA?

The bilateral Currency Swap Agreement was reached between the SBP and the Peoples Bank of China (PBOC) in December 2011 “in order to promote bilateral trade, finance direct investment and provide short-term liquidity support”, according to the central bank.

The original agreement had been renewed in December 2014 for a period of three years with overall limit of 10 billion yuan or \$1.5 billion. It was further extended in May 2018 for a period of three years, with the amount being increased to 20 billion Yuan or \$3 billion.

This agreement will expire in May next year, which the central bank has decided to request China to further extend it for three more years.

The central bank’s financial statement for the year 2019-20 showed that the SBP utilised 20 billion yuan or Rs475 billion.

Pakistan paid Rs20.5 billion in interest to China on using the \$3 billion trade finance facility in the last fiscal year alone, showed the central bank’s financial statement.

China has become Pakistan’s largest creditor for the past few years. The trade facility, originally meant to promote bilateral trade in respective local currencies, has been used for paying foreign debt.

The \$3 billion money is part of the current \$13.4 billion in foreign currency reserves held by the central bank, the SBP had confirmed to The Express Tribune last month.

After coming into power, Prime Minister Imran Khan had twice flown to Saudi Arabia to secure the package, which provided space to the first-timer PTI government to negotiate a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Saudi Arabia had agreed to provide \$6.2 billion worth of financial package to Pakistan for three years. This included \$3 billion in cash assistance and \$3.2 billion worth of annual oil and gas supply on deferred payments.

As per the agreement, the Saudi cash and oil facility was for one year with an option to roll over the amount at the end of the year for a period of three years.

The Kingdom has claimed back its money ahead of the schedule. Pakistan was paying 3.2% interest on the \$3-billion facility, according to the information that the Ministry of Finance shared with the National Assembly.

The Saudi oil facility has already been suspended, while Pakistan has also paid back Saudi Arabia \$1 billion out of the \$3 billion in May this year. Pakistan returned \$1 billion to Saudi Arabia after taking equal amount of loan from China.

The government has also not been able to get the suspended \$6 billion IMF programme restored, which is making it difficult for it to continue uninterrupted foreign inflows. The sources said if the IMF programme is not restored in the near future, the World Bank inflows may start drying up.

The IMF is not bending on two conditions of introducing a mini-budget and increasing electricity tariffs, which has complicated matters for Prime Minister Imran Khan whose government is already facing criticism for a constant high inflation.

The programme loans from the other two multilateral creditors were also critical to return \$10.6 billion in maturing loans in the current fiscal year, excluding the Saudi Arabian and the UAE debt.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2275770/china-again-bails-out-pakistan-to-pay-saudi-debt>

December 14, 2020

Business Recorder

Sindh governor lauds efforts, initiatives of Chinese CG

KARACHI: The Governor Imran Ismail, lauded efforts and initiatives of Consulate General taken for Karachi, especially with consultation of Young Leader and Ex-Elected Councillor Mustafa Karani, who in short time has achieved immense credibility because of his sincere efforts as a Councillor.

Consul General of the Peoples Republic of China Li Bijian, reaffirmed China's unshaken support for betterment of Karachi, and emphasise the need of increased joint efforts & projects for Pakistan's economic hub.

Two sets of Tractor & Trolley worth Rs 5.2 million donated by Consulate General of P.R China in Karachi will be used in areas of District East's (Mehmoodabad, Baloch Colony, Shabbirabad, Shared-e-Millat, Gulistan-e- Jauhar), District Korangi's (Natha Khan, Shah Faisal, Landhi Zone) and District Central's (North Nazimabad, Buffer zone, Sakhi Hasan) with assistance of local MPA's.

PM Focal Person for Karachi Mega Projects MNA Najeeb Haroon, Advisor to Ministry of Maritime Affairs Mahmood Moulvi, Legend Olympian Samiullah Khan, prominent television artist Farhan Ali Agha and MPAs were also present at the occasion.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/14/5-page/861555-news.html>

181 Pakistani exhibitors participate in China-South Asia online expo

BEIJING: Around 181 Pakistani online exhibitors are participating in the everlasting China-South Asia Online Expo 2020 kicked off in Kunming, Yunnan province of China.

Among them, there are a lot of Pakistani food companies, which were uncommon in the Kunming expo before, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.

Without the limitation of space, the display of commodities this year becomes more varied. There are also exhibitors displaying fresh seafood products, which were never seen on the offline expo before.

“Online expo has more potential. In the offline exhibition, I cannot display all of my products, while the online expo gives me opportunities to show more,” said Farooq Ahmed, a Pakistani exhibitor of a clothes company.

Farooq informed that one disadvantage of online expo is that people can copy others’ products or make fake products more easily.

“Exhibitors in Pakistan may find it hard to participate in the online expo if they have no contact with the organizer. I heard that our commercial counselor in Beijing was making efforts to inviting more Pakistani exhibitors to participate”, Farooq said.

The official website of the online expo showed that 181 Pakistani online exhibitors participate in the online expo. Among them, there were a lot of Pakistani food companies, which were uncommon in the Kunming expo before.

“The organizer is also asking me whether I am interested in online business.”

Farooq told us that it was expected that the organizers would help the exhibitors to open the online business in China after the expo.

“Cooperating with JD.com, we have developed a digital platform for this online expo with the functions of exhibiting, negotiating and trading,” said Zhao Ruijun, head of the Department of Commerce of Yunnan Province.

“After the expo, the platform will keep providing online services for the exhibitors.”

It is worth mentioning that his year, free online booths were provided to all exhibitors.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40040672>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی بی کے میں تیزی کیلئے پرویز خٹک کی زیر قیادت سٹیئرنگ کمیٹی کا پہلا اجلاس آج ہوگا

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) پاکستان چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی بی کے) منصوبوں کی جلد تکمیل کے سلسلے میں عارضی روکاؤ ٹیس ختم کرنے کیلئے پر عزم ہے، سی بی کے منصوبوں میں تیزی کیلئے پرویز خٹک کی زیر قیادت سٹیئرنگ کمیٹی کا پہلا اجلاس (آج) پیر کو ہوگا، اسٹیئرنگ کمیٹی اپنی پہلی میٹنگ میں چشمہ رائٹ بینک کینال پروجیکٹ پر غور کرے گی۔ گواد پرود کے مطابق وزیر برائے منصوبہ بندی ترقی و خصوصی اقدام اسد عمر نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین میگا سی بی کے پروجیکٹ کو نئی بلندیوں پر لے جانے کے لئے مل کر کام کریں گے۔ اسد عمر نے کہا کہ وہ سی بی کے منصوبوں کے تمام حل طلب مسائل کو حل کرنے کے لئے آئندہ دو ہفتوں میں ذاتی طور پر چار اجلاس بلائیں گے۔ انہوں نے ایک ٹویٹ میں کہا کہ پاکستان اور چین کی عظیم اقوام سی بی کے کو مضبوط بنانے کے لئے مل کر کام کریں گی تاکہ اسے دونوں ممالک کی باہمی خوشحالی کیلئے ایک اعلیٰ سطح پر لے جایا جاسکے۔ انہوں نے چند دن قبل کوئلہ سے گیس اور کوئلے سے مائع منصوبوں پر کام کرنے والی تمام کمپنیوں کے ساتھ ملاقات کی تھی۔ اس ملاقات کے دوران اسد عمر نے کہا کہ اس نئی ٹیکنالوجی کو شامل کرنے سے مقامی توانائی کے وسیع ذخائر بروے کار لائیں گے اور پاکستان کی توانائی کے تحفظ کو بڑھانے میں ایک طویل سفر طے ہوگا اور اس مقصد کے لئے ایک پالیسی فریم ورک تیار کیا جا رہا ہے۔ اس سے قبل ہفتے کے روز پاکستان میں چین کے سفارت خانے نے کہا کہ چینی کمپنیاں پاک چین حکومتوں کی رہنمائی میں سی بی کے تعاون کے نئے مرحلے کے لئے پر عزم ہیں۔ اپنے آفیشل ٹویٹر اکاؤنٹ پر ایک پیغام میں سفار تجا نے اسد عمر اور چیئر مین سی بی کے اتھارٹی عاصم سلیم باجوہ کی تعریف کی

کہ جنہوں نے سی پیک پروجیکٹس کے نمائندوں سے ملاقات کے لئے مختلف طریقوں پر تبادلہ خیال کیا جائے تاکہ آگے بڑھا جاسکے۔ متعدد چینی کمپنیاں سی پیک پروجیکٹس پر کام کرنے میں بیوروکریٹک رکاوٹوں کے بارے میں شکایات کرتی رہی ہیں۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے حال ہی میں معاملات طے کرنے اور سی پیک سے متعلق منصوبوں پر کام تیز کرنے کا حکم دیا تھا۔ انہوں نے خاص طور پر صوبہ بلوچستان میں سی پیک منصوبوں پر کام کرنے میں آسانی پیدا کرنے کی ہدایت کی۔ گوادر پروکے مطابق صوبہ خیبر پختونخوا میں سی پیک سے متعلق منصوبوں کی نگرانی کے لئے پاکستان کے وزیر دفاع پرویز خٹک کی زیر قیادت اسٹیئرنگ کمیٹی (آج) پیر کو سی پیک منصوبوں پر کام کو تیز کرنے کے لئے اپنا پہلا اجلاس کرے گی۔ ایک سرکاری بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ اسٹیئرنگ کمیٹی اپنی پہلی میٹنگ میں چشمہ رائٹ بینک کینال پروجیکٹ پر غور کرے گی۔ اسپیکر قومی اسمبلی اور وزیر اعلیٰ خیبر پختونخوا محمود خان کے مابین حالیہ اجلاس میں اسٹیئرنگ کمیٹی کے قیام پر اتفاق کیا گیا جب انہیں محسوس ہوا کہ ہم آہنگی اور روابط میں فقدان کی وجہ سے سی پیک پروجیکٹ سست رفتار سے آگے بڑھ رہے ہیں۔ اسپیکر قومی اسمبلی اسد قیصر نے خیبر پختونخوا میں سی پیک منصوبوں کی نگرانی کے لئے وفاقی وزیر دفاع پرویز خٹک کی سربراہی میں اسٹیئرنگ کمیٹی کے قیام کی منظوری دی۔ اسٹیئرنگ کمیٹی چشمہ رائٹ بینک کینال پروجیکٹ، پشاور ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان موٹروے اور چکدرہ چترال روڈ (دیر موٹروے) سے متعلق امور کی نگرانی اور مسائل حل کرے گی۔ کمیٹی کو کے پی کے میں سی پیک منصوبوں پر تیزی سے عمل درآمد اور ان کی بروقت تکمیل کی نگرانی کا بھی اختیار دیا گیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-12-14/page-10/detail-17>

The News

Pakistan to remove hitches CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has vowed to remove hitches in quick completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday.

According to Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, Pakistan and China would work together to take the mega CPEC project to new heights.

Asad Umar said he would personally hold four meetings in the next two weeks to address all outstanding issues of CPEC projects. “The great nations of Pakistan and China will work together to strengthen CPEC to take it to a higher level for mutual prosperity of both nations”, he said in a tweet.

The minister had held a meeting on Thursday with all the companies working on coal to gas and coal to liquid projects. During the meeting, Asad Umar said induction of this new technology will unlock vast local energy reserves and go a long way in enhancing energy security of Pakistan and for this purpose a policy framework was being developed.

Earlier on Saturday, the Embassy of China in Pakistan said the Chinese companies were committed to the new phase of CPEC cooperation under guidance of two governments. In a message on its official twitter account, the embassy appreciated Asad Umar and Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa for meeting with representatives from CPEC projects to discuss ways forward.

Several Chinese companies have been complaining about bureaucratic hurdles in smooth working on the CPEC projects. Prime Minister Imran Khan recently ordered to settle the issues

and expedite work on the CPEC-related projects. He especially directed to facilitate the working on the CPEC projects in the Balochistan province.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Defence Minister Pervez Khattak-led steering committee to oversee CPEC-related projects in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province will hold its maiden meeting on Monday (December 14) to expedite the work on the CPEC ventures.

The steering committee will take up the Chashma Right Bank Canal project in its first meeting, an official statement said.

The establishment of the Steering Committee was agreed at a recent meeting between Speaker National Assembly and Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mehmood Khan after they felt the CPEC projects were moving ahead at a slow pace due to procedural and coordination flaws.

Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser had approved establishment of a steering committee under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Defence Pervez Khattak to oversee the CPEC related projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The steering committee would oversee and resolve the issues related to Chasma Right Bank Canal Project, Peshawar-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway and Chakdara Chitral Road (Dir Motorway).

The committee has also been mandated to oversee the expeditious execution of the CPEC projects in KPK and their timely completion.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/758427-pakistan-to-remove-hitches-cpec-projects>

December 15, 2020

Business Recorder

China exports 52 state-of-the-art fire trucks to Karachi

BEIJING: A Chinese company has exported a batch of 52 state-of-art fire-trucks to Karachi to enhance fire-fighting and rescue level of the port city.

This batch of fire vehicle, manufactured by Guangdong Yongqiang Aolinbao International Fire Truck Co Ltd is different from traditional fire-trucks that can only stop and spray water. These vehicles are convenient and available, flexible, and easy to operate, according to Sina.com, a Chinese news website here on Monday.

A demonstration of vehicle functions and a demonstration of high-pressure water gun fire extinguishing were conducted during the send-off ceremony.

The project is part of the infrastructure development of Karachi, the largest city in Pakistan and it is the largest fire truck procurement project in Pakistan in the past 30 years.

The project, supervised by Prime Minister Imran Khan, adopted global bidding. The companies from different countries competed on the same stage to win this goal.

It said, the successful export this time is not only a testimony of the friendship between China and Pakistan, but also will accelerate the pace of Dongguan's manufacturing of fire-fighting equipment to go abroad and serve the global fire-fighting industry, demonstrating the strong strength of Dongguan manufacturing to the world.

According to the report, the export of the fire-fighting vehicle will contribute to a sound China-Pakistan relationship. The new fire truck products will greatly enhance Pakistan's fire-fighting and rescue capabilities, further promote the Karachi City Government's fire-fighting emergency rescue level, and provide strong hardware support for the safety of Karachi citizens. Guangdong Yongqiang Aolinbao International Fire Truck Co Ltd was established in 2005 and is one of the well-known manufacturers of emergency mobile fire rescue equipment in China. The company locates in the field of emergency equipment services, establishes a trustworthy value image, and is committed to solving industry problems. After more than ten years of development, Olinbao products occupy a certain position in China's high-end emergency fire-fighting and rescue vehicle market and have become preferred equipment for airports and petroleum and petrochemical companies.

The company has five major product series, including special airport fire trucks, elevating fire trucks, fire fighting trucks, emergency rescue fire trucks, and combat support fire trucks, with more than 200 product categories.

The company uses all-aluminium alloy non-framework and stress-free structure technology series of fire trucks to inject a new concept into China's fire-fighting field, creating a new era of light weight and high-power fire-trucks.

It said, the company will continue to respond to approach more cities in Pakistan and provide more services to more cities and people in Pakistan.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2020/12/15/15-page/861748-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistanis can avail logistic discount at China expo

Pakistani exhibitors can get logistics discount while getting an online store by participating in a free exhibition at China-South Asia Expo, being held in Kunming, Yunnan Province of China, said Hao Yishan, deputy director general of the Department of Commerce of Yunnan Province.

“There are only two South Asia pavilions and two Southeast Asia pavilions in the offline China-South Asia Expo. Only less than 1,000 foreign exhibitors can participate, while online expo has no such limitation,” said Hao Yishan who is chiefly responsible for the organization of the Expo, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday.

Every year, Pakistani traders are always active participants, and TDAP and FPCCI give great support to us. Hao Yishan informed that there were 168 Pakistani booths in the year 2018 and 224 booths in 2019. “According to the latest statistics, there are 218 Pakistani exhibitors this

year, including 192 companies and 26 professional buyers. JD Logistics also provides Pakistani exhibitors with freight subsidies for the logistics within China,” he said.

According to Hao Yishan, this year’s exhibition maintained its popularity and influence, and the number of exhibitors in each country has exceeded its numbers in previous years. “In the following years, we plan to hold China-South Asia Expo in both online and offline format. When the exhibitors register for the offline expo, we will also provide online expo services for them, like buy one get one free.”

“Holding a 7-day expo with 365-day online service is our aim.” Hao Yishan told that his team is discussing how to provide and maintain online services after the exhibition. “Participating in our exhibition is almost equivalent to having an online store. There are currently 10,000 companies on our online platform. We hope that as our services develop, the number can exceed 20,000 or 30,000.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/701788/pakistanis-can-avail-logistic-discount-at-china-expo/>

China committed to support PM Imran Khan’s Vision for Green Pakistan’

Three-member delegation led by the China’s Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong Monday called on the Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam and discussed various matters of bilateral interest including environmental sustainability, climate resilience and renewable energy, according to a press statement issued here on Monday.

“We have discussed in detail various matters for enhanced bilateral cooperation and opportunities pertaining to the fields of post-Covid-19 green economic recovery in Pakistan by enhancing investment in nature-based solutions and green job creations, environmental sustainability, climate resilience, forest management, air pollution, water conservation and disaster risk reduction,” Malik Amin Aslam said.

Meanwhile, China’s ambassador said that his government is also committed to extend support to the green vision of Prime Imran Khan and his remarkable green initiatives including the Green Stimulus, a post-COVID-19 green recovery initiatives for restoring people’s lives and livelihood affected by the pandemic.

Chinese Ambassador told PM’s aide Malik Amin Aslam that it’s heartening that Prime Minister’s Imran Khan’s vision for green Pakistan is perfectly aligned to the Chinese President Xi Jinping’s vision for green China. “However, we as a Chinese government see a huge scope and opportunities of working jointly to promote the common green vision for enhanced environmental sustainability and climate resilience against various adverse impacts of climate change on water, energy, food, health and education sectors,” the Chinese ambassador said.

Both sides also agreed to make China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a model green belt and road initiative by calling it China-Pakistan Green Economic Corridor, so that environment is taken care of while implementing the game-changer project of regional connectively and economic development.

Malik Amin Aslam informed the ambassador that an ambitious Protected Areas Initiative, approved by the Prime Minister, has been already launched under the umbrella programme ‘Clean Green Pakistan’, which is the present government’s historic milestone for nature conservation and promotion of nature-based solutions and creation of green jobs in the country. It aims to expand the country’s protected areas cover from 13 percent to more than 15 percent by 2023 and create 5,000 green jobs across the country that are viewed as crucial in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, while at the same time safeguarding the country’s natural resources.

While sharing more details of the green and clean Pakistan initiatives launched under the Prime Minister’s Imran Khan’s vision for Clean and Green Pakistan, Malik Amin Aslam told the Chinese envoy Nong Rong that the climate change ministry has kicked-off several flagship programmes and projects including the world’s largest afforestation programme of 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Programme, Clean Green Pakistan Programme, Protected Areas Initiative, Plastic-Free Pakistan Initiative, Recharge Pakistan Initiative as a part of the country’s efforts to achieve environmental sustainability and climate resilience through conservation and protection of environment, forests and wildlife, wherein community and youth engagements are being assigned the top priority.

The Chinese envoy appreciated the present government’s green and clean initiatives, ambitious 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Programme, protection and conservation programmes of environment, wildlife and Pakistan recharge programme for enhancing country’s resilience against deleterious fallouts of climate change on water, energy, agriculture, food security, energy, health, education and lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable rural and mountain communities. China’s ambassador Nong Rong remarked that Pakistan’s green and clean initiatives are truly inspiring initiated despite tight economic conditions.

“Its really incredible and inspiring that despite limited financial resources, Pakistan has launched world-acclaimed green stimulus initiative, which has led to creation of thousands of green jobs for those rendered unemployed due to COVID-19 pandemic,” the the ambassador stressed during the meeting with PM’s aide Malik Amin.

He told the PM’s aide that the Chinese government, however, would deploy its financial, technological and knowledge resources to support Pakistan through its experiences in overall COVID-19 crisis management and post COVID-19 green recovery through enhanced investment in green sectors including forestry environmental protection and climate change resilience through mitigation and adaptation initiatives in the country’s climate-vulnerable socio-economic sectors.

Malik Amin Aslam also told the the Chinese ambassador that he appreciates his government’s interest and its offer to extend support to the green and clean initiatives launched under the Prime Minister Imran Khan vision for clean and green Pakistan under the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami Programme for overall environmental conservation and protection and Pakistan’s climate resilience building.

“It’s, of course, our pleasure to hear that the Chinese government is looking towards opportunities for jointly working and sharing its experiences regarding promotion of clean and renewable energy, environmental conservation, air pollution mitigation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, efficient water management and disaster risk reduction,” Malik Amin emphasised.

He remarked that the world today has been forced to accept that it is the destruction of wildlife habitats as well as the degradation of the world’s ecosystems that are the root cause of the pandemic — COVID-19.

“However, this ongoing catastrophe is painfully reminding us that collectively we no longer have a choice but to take care of the natural limits and boundaries of our coexistence with other species. Nature, while reclaiming lost space, seems to be rebalancing our relationship with it,” he highlighted.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/701768/china-committed-to-support-pm-imran-khans-vision-for-green-pakistan-2/>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی آئی آئی ای چین پاک تجارت کو فروغ دینے کا انجن ہے، پاکستانی قونصل جنرل

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) شنگھائی میں پاکستان کے قونصل جنرل حسین حیدر نے کہا ہے کہ چائنہ انٹرنیشنل ایمپورٹ ایکسپو (سی آئی آئی ای) چین پاک دو طرفہ تجارت کو فروغ دینے کے انجن کے طور پر کام کرے گی۔ چائنا کنٹیکٹ نیٹ کو ایک انٹرویو دیتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ حال ہی میں اختتام پذیر ہونے والی سی آئی آئی ای نے پوری دنیا کو کاروباری مواقع فراہم کیے۔ حسین حیدر نے عالمی وبا کے دوران بین الاقوامی تجارت کو دوبارہ سے تقویت دینے میں چین اور سی آئی آئی ای کے اہم کردار کو سراہتے ہوئے کہا کہ درآمدات کے لئے وقف کردہ پہلی اور واحد ایکسپو کی حیثیت سے سی آئی آئی ای پوری دنیا کے کاروباری اداروں کو زبردست مواقع فراہم کرتی ہے جو تجارت کو فروغ دینے اور ترقی کے ایک اہم انجن کے طور پر کام کرتی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ میں مختلف ممالک سے آنے والی مصنوعات کی وسیع رینج سے بہت متاثر ہوا، یہ سی آئی آئی ای دورہ میں ایک بہت اچھا تجربہ تھا۔ اگلے سال سی آئی آئی ای کے منتظر ہیں توقع کرتا ہوں کہ پاکستانی کاروباری ادارے اس ایکسپو کو زیادہ اہمیت دیں گے کیونکہ یہ نہ صرف عالمی سامعین کو مصنوعات دیکھانے کے مواقع فراہم کرتی ہے بلکہ دوسرے ممالک کی مہارت سے سیکھنے کا موقع بھی ملتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا میں چین میں رہ رہا ہوں اور میں یہ کہہ سکتا ہوں کہ جہاں تک معیار کا تعلق ہے تو آسمان ایک حد ہے۔ یہ میگا ایونٹ یقینی طور پر اور بھی بہتر ہوگا اور خریداروں اور بیچنے والوں کی بڑی تعداد کو راغب کرے گا۔ اس سی آئی آئی ای میں توقع ہے کہ چین کو پاکستان کی چیری کی برآمدات اگلے سال سے شروع ہوں گی، زراعت پاکستان کا ایک مضبوط شعبہ ہے، جو پاکستان کی جی ڈی پی کا تقریباً 19 فیصد ہے اور آدھے سے زیادہ بے روزگاروں کو ملازمت فراہم کرتا ہے۔ حسین حیدر نے کہا پاکستان زرعی وسائل سے مالا مال ہے، اور ہم بہت سارے پھل پوری دنیا میں برآمد کرتے ہیں۔ یہ دیکھنا اچھا ہے کہ پاکستانی پھل چین بھی آرہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے آم اور کونو جیسے پھلوں کے علاوہ، ویلیو ایڈڈ مصنوعات جیسے جوس اور پروسسڈ فوڈز کو بڑی مقدار میں چین کو برآمد کرنے کے امکان پر بھی روشنی ڈالی۔ چین پاکستان آزاد تجارتی معاہدے کا دوسرا مرحلہ دو طرفہ تجارت کو فروغ دینے میں کلیدی کردار ادا کرے گا۔ کم جنوری 2020 کو ہونے والے آزاد تجارتی معاہدے نے دونوں ممالک کی بیشتر مصنوعات کی برآمدی دلچسپی کا احاطہ کیا ہے۔ حسین حیدر کے مطابق ایف ٹی اے پاکستان میں مزید

چینی سرمایہ کاری کو راغب کرے گا۔ ایف ٹی اے کی وجہ سے اگر چینی کاروباری افراد پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کرتے ہیں تو وہ بیشتر چینی مسلمان اور مشینری پاکستان کو درآمد کر سکتے ہیں۔ پاکستان میں مینوفیکچرنگ کے بعد وہ چین کو صرف یا انتہائی کم نرخوں پر مصنوعات برآمد کر سکتے ہیں۔ یہ چینی سرمایہ کاروں کے لئے بہت منافع بخش ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2020-11-15/page-10/detail-17>