



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

January 01-15, 2022

A pilot project of PICS

Table of Contents

01: January 01, 2022.....	03
02: January 02, 2022.....	09
03: January 03, 2022.....	13
04: January 04, 2022.....	16
05: January 05, 2022.....	19
06: January 06, 2022.....	28
07: January 07, 2022.....	36
08: January 08, 2022.....	42
09: January 09, 2022.....	47
10: January 10, 2022.....	50
11: January 11, 2022.....	56
12: January 12, 2022.....	59
13: January 13, 2022.....	67
14: January 14, 2022.....	73
15: January 15, 2022.....	82

Data collected and compiled by Rabeeha Safdar, Alishba Aslam and Zohaib Sultan

Disclaimer: PICS reproduce the original text, facts and figures as appear in the newspapers and is not responsible for its accuracy.

January 01, 2022

Daily Times

Heroes of CPEC

Muhammad Asif Noor

Successful execution of CPEC projects is due to the untiring efforts from unsung heroes of CPEC who have put their hearts and souls into making it a reality. These men and women with their iron-clad hands are building a community with a shared future for mankind. With their hearts made of gold, creating a path for peace and progress in the world. Without a skillful, dedicated, and passionate team, nothing can be implemented. A dream or a vision needs people who not only understand the idea fully but live and breathe with it to make it a living reality creating a shared future for mankind. CPEC with its game-changing ability is strengthened by the outstanding contribution of the people who are working with their hearts and souls.

These heroes of CPEC have recently been celebrated by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad where an award ceremony was hosted to recognize the efforts of the workforce on CPEC. A tribute was paid to these heroes of CPEC for their honesty, dedication, and commitment to CPEC. 27 staff members received these awards working on different CPEC projects including Gwadar port, energy, infrastructure, and other fields. Higher officials from both sides, staff of CPEC projects, and journalists attended the ceremony virtually.

The purposefully awarding ceremony reflects the Chinese patronage of CPEC projects and their employees including Pakistani nationals. Both sides recognize the important fact that progress comes with a skilled and highlighted motivated workforce. Recognition of this kind gives a confidence boost to the workforce and others also get inspired to work for the better. Since the inception of the CPEC projects, the design, planning, implementation, and all the other phases, both Pakistani and Chinese have worked a day in and out to make these dreams a reality.

It has been observed that from the length and breadth of Pakistan there is a network of communications working to support industries and connecting the markets to the global networks. Energy projects that boosted Pakistan's economy have achieved major progress despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Strong momentum of development at the CPEC enables timely completion of CPEC projects. CPEC is an important part of BRI and a milestone in the way of its global success.

During the pandemic, CPEC projects did not cut Pakistani labor nor withdrew the Chinese workforce during these challenging times. For the past eight years, China and Pakistan have been closely cooperating on CPEC. Any challenge comes what may, the CPEC remains active, thriving, and driving. Recently the 10th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on the CPEC in 2021 expressed satisfaction with CPEC projects.

During the ceremony, every high official appreciated the efforts, dedication, honesty, and integrity of the workforce employed at CPEC projects. The employees at the CPEC projects are not mere participants and developers of the CPEC but the witnesses and promoters of the history in a new geopolitical setting. These staff members of CPEC projects are an outstanding and iconic workforce that deserves recognition. China and Pakistan are closely consulting, deliberating, and executing the development policy with concrete results. This close cooperation is testified by exchange of congratulatory notes between the head of state to commemorate 70 anniversary of diplomatic relations on May 21, the third Pak-China Strategic Dialogue of Foreign Ministers on July 24, and telephonic communication between President Xi and Prime Minister Imran Khan to remain consistent with the development of CPEC projects.

After eight years of development, CPEC enters the maturity phase where its completed projects start giving tangible results while projects under construction are near completion. The web of roads, infrastructure, and energy projects gives impetus to the development of industrial zones, digital economy, blue economy, health, airport, agriculture, and climate change. Given the satisfactory pace of CPEC development, the 10th JCC established a new Joint Working Group on Information Technology Industry to tap the technological potential of Pakistan and China.

Meanwhile, the government of Pakistan is making utmost efforts to enable the success of CPEC and to reap the benefits of this game-changer. Pakistan introduced a new visa policy for Chinese nationals working on CPEC projects, established a Foreign National Security Cell to consolidate security for Chinese nationals, and set up a China-Pakistan Relations Steering Committee to resolve the issues about CPEC.

Prime Minister Imran Khan took personal care enabling industrial development under CPEC and held a series of meetings with Chinese investors and entrepreneurs. In sum, the success of CPEC is the aggregate of state responsibility and workforce of CPEC projects including executives and laborers. CPEC is helping to alleviate poverty and improve lives especially after the effective implementation of CPEC, Pakistan is expected to build an economic development environment that can offer more than 2.3 million employment opportunities.

CPEC is the near success of both China and Pakistan acting as a precursor of BRI's success. The projects such as Matiari-Lahore HVDC Transmission line enabled AC-DV hybrid power grid, Karot Hydropower project which started water storage, completion of Gwadar Technical and Vocational Institute, the launch of Rashakai Special Economic Zone, and construction of Northern part of Gwadar Free Zone are a real game-changer for socioeconomic development in Pakistan. The real heroes of CPEC are working tirelessly to make these dreams come true.

The writer is Founder (Friends of Belt and Road Initiative).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/862350/heroes-of-cpec/>

Sino-Pak envoys, academicians vow to boost ties

Bridging the gap between academicians, experts, and diplomats in commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between China and Pakistan, a video conference was held at Quanshan Campus of Jiangsu Normal University to strengthen bilateral ties in all areas, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

Talking on the occasion Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that Pakistan-China friendship was nurtured by the successive generations of leaders and people of the two countries and has withstood the test of time.

He further said that in recent years a special focus has been placed on enhancing bilateral trade and economic ties. Multifaceted cooperation with China was revitalized with the launch of CPEC which is the friendship project of the Belt and Road Initiative.” CPEC has contributed immensely to Pakistan’s national development by upgrading transport and communication networks, eliminating energy crisis and developing the Gwadar port”, he mentioned.

Moin remarks CPEC has now focused on deepening our cooperation on industrialization, social-economic development, agricultural revitalization, and poverty alleviation.” We are trying to expand our bilateral cultural exchanges and bringing the people of two countries together. This year, the two countries are celebrating the 70 years of diplomatic ties and we have organized around 140 events.

The focus has been endured cultural & education ties and people to people exchanges during these events,” the ambassador added.

Professor Dr. Amjad Abbas Khan Magsi from Pakistan Study Centre Punjab University said that the relationships have been established on the basis of mutual trust, cooperation and harmony and Pakistan should learn from Chinese experience especially since China has established its worldwide recognition in poverty alleviation by bringing millions of its population out of the vicious cycle of poverty.” We believe that through increased technology sharing and joint ventures we can benefit from the true spirit of mutual friendship. Focusing more on cultural and educational relationships especially the art and literature is need of the hour,” he added.

He further said that China has offered a quite good number of scholarships to Pakistani students and the number of Pakistani students studying in China has reached 30,000.

Similarly, Chinese students are studying in Pakistan especially at Punjab University at Ph.D. levels, and learning Urdu and regional languages, which will go long way in cementing the cultural relationships but also will be of greater help on the economic side.

The academicians, experts, and diplomats vowed that CPEC is an important project which helped Pakistan progress in all kinds of life especially in economic and education sectors, and enrichment of cooperation by win-win Chinese model will result in well connected, integrated region of shared destiny, harmony and development.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/862387/sino-pak-envoys-academicians-vow-to-boost-ties/>

China-Pakistan to deepen cooperation in aerospace, talent cultivation

China's North-western Polytechnical University (NPU), Xian, and Belt and Road Aerospace Innovation Alliance (BRAIA) will keep deepening the cooperation in aerospace scientific research and talent cultivation with universities and research institutes in China and Pakistan, President of NPU, Prof. Wang Jinsong said.

In his opening speech online at the 7th International Conference on Aerospace Science and Engineering successfully concluded in Pakistan, on behalf of the university and Permanent Secretariat of BRAIA, he recalled the fruitful cooperation between NPU and the conference host, Institute of Space Technology, Pakistan in recent years.

The three-day conference was hosted by the Institute of Space Technology (IST) and supported by the Government of Pakistan, the Pakistan Higher Education Commission, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and the Belt and Road Aerospace Innovation Alliance (BRAIA), and other organizations.

Twenty-five experts from more than 20 countries gave keynote speeches at this conference, and more than 50 experts from nearly 35 Pakistani universities and scientific research institutions also shared their research results and progress with the participants, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

The International Conference on Aerospace Science and Engineering was initiated by IST in 2009 and has become one of the most influential international conferences in the aerospace field in Pakistan, attracting scholars and experts from all over the world.

Since 2019, BRAIA has served as the supporting organization of the conference for two consecutive sessions.

The cooperation between NPU and Pakistani universities, research institutes can be traced back to many years ago, which has achieved fruitful results. Nowadays, NPU has maintained a close relationship with the National Engineering and Scientific Commission and more than ten universities including the National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) and IST of Pakistan, etc. As the Permanent Secretariat of BRAIA, NPU has strongly supported NUST to take the leading role in South Asia and become the BRAIA's first Regional Development Centre.

This also demonstrates that Pakistan is one of the important countries that NPU endeavors to collaborate with according to its envisioned global footprint. NPU aims to enhance the competence building for Belt and Road countries and regions based on the consensus achieved and the joint efforts made together with BRAIA and partners in Pakistan.

Aerospace Science and technology play a crucial role in promoting human society's technological progress and improving the well-being of people. For a long time, Pakistan has attached great importance to its development in the aerospace field. It has paid great attention to the application of satellite technology and space science and has achieved significant progress,

which also has strongly promoted Pakistan's telecommunications, broadcasting, distance education, and medical care, etc., especially benefited the lives of people in remote areas of the country, which greatly contributed to social advancement.

BRAIA established Joint Research Seed Fund Projects in 2020 to encourage and support multilateral research cooperation.

Scholars from IST and NUST respectively set up the joint research teams successfully with multiple BRAIA members from many other countries to work in the fields of micro-satellites, composite materials, aerodynamics and so on. These joint research teams take seed fund projects as a carrier to promote cooperation between China and Pakistan, make full use of advantages from both countries, develop high-level talents, and produce major scientific research results, with the focus on developing frontier technology and space science.

We look forward to further utilizing the respective strengths of China and Pakistan, complementing each other's advantages, and jointly promoting the rapid development of aerospace science and technology.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/862561/china-pakistan-to-deepen-cooperation-in-aerospace-talent-cultivation/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China sign \$100m grant MoU for repairment of National Highway-5

Islamabad: Pakistan and China have officially signed a grant agreement worth \$100 million for the purpose of repairing National Highway-5.

According to media report, the terms of the agreement state that China will provide grant assistance of 659.8 million yuan (approx. \$100 million) for the rehabilitation and repairment of 66 kilometers of N-5 between the Hala (Matiari district) and Moro (Nausharo Feroze district) regions of Sindh. The grant agreement signing ceremony was held at Economic Affairs Division in Islamabad on Thursday.

The project will help to improve road infrastructure and augment North-South connectivity. Minister for Economic Affairs Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar and Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong were also present on the occasion. The Minister lauded grant assistance extended by China for various infrastructure and socio-economic projects in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar said this project will increase connectivity between North and South. He thanked China for supporting Pakistan for the completion of the NH-5 project, fighting against Covid-19, and curbing the locust.

The Chinese Ambassador in his remarks said that cooperation in socio-economic development with Pakistan would continue. Earlier, the Chinese envoy called on National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser and informed about the advent of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-sign-100m-grant-mou-for-repairment-of-national-highway-5/>

The Express Tribune

China Study Centre inaugurated

Chinese Consul General in Karachi Li Bijian addressed the participants of the inauguration ceremony online

QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Syed Zahoor Ahmad Agha has said that Pakistan and China were reaching new heights in friendly relations, development of Gwadar Port and especially with the implementation mega project China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He expressed these views while addressing at ceremony of inauguration of China Study Center (CSC) at Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University (SBKWU) while the Chinese Consul General in Karachi Li Bijian addressed the participants of the inauguration ceremony online. On the occasion, the governor said that China was our best friend who has stood by Pakistan in every difficulty.

“We especially thank the entire Chinese nation and the Chinese government for their support on the China Study Center and other issues of goodwill,” he added. He said that the establishment of China Study Center for female students of Women’s University by the Chinese Embassy was a sign of deep friendship between China and Pakistan.

The governor said that China has undoubtedly made remarkable progress in a very short period of time and it has reached the pinnacle of development in various fields.

“We can also make progress by following China’s unique path,” he said. He said that the establishment of China Study Center (CSC) at Women’s University is a milestone in introducing new knowledge and research to the new generation.

He said that in order to make Pak-China relations stronger and more cordial, it was necessary to teach Urdu language to Chinese students which would help in strengthening people-to-people contacts and relations.

Addressing the participants of the inauguration ceremony online, the Chinese Consul General in Karachi (Li Bijian) said that China attaches great importance to its friendly relations with Pakistan and cooperated in the establishment and promotion of China Study Center at Women’s University as well as continuing to support in various fields.

He said that Chinese teachers would also be provided for the success and development of this institution.

Acting Vice Chancellor of Women’s University Dr Naid Haq highlighted the performance of the institution and the aims and objectives of the China Study Center. In the end, the governor formally inaugurated the China Study Center on the premises of Women’s University.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2336581/china-study-centre-inaugurated>

January 02, 2022

Pakistan Observer

79pc motorways and 68pc highways completed under CPEC

As many as 79% work on motorways and 68% on highways have been completed on eastern and western routes of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), according to Gwadar Pro. Both the Western and Eastern alignments will connect Khunjerab Pass to Gwadar.

The common alignment for all the three eastern, western and central routes including 790 km road from Khunjerab to Burhan and 193 km road from Hoshab to Gwadar has been completed already.

Burhan will be at the intersection of the Eastern and Western Alignment.

According to the officials in the Ministry of Communication, the distance of the Eastern route starting from Islamabad to Karachi is 1,419 km, out of which 79% work on motorways has been completed whereas 21% is left which is 306 km Sukkur Hyderabad motorway. This is the only patch left in the eastern route of CPEC. Sukkur Hyderabad motorway is expected to be complete in the next 30 months. The company which won the tender has already been allowed to start its construction.

On the other hand, the western route of CPEC starts from Islamabad to D. I Khan, then D. I Khan to Quetta, and from Quetta to Gwadar. Excluding the common alignment, the total length of this route is 1,714 km. Out of which 68% has been completed while 32% is under construction.

The Islamabad to D I khan motorway has been completed recently. The very important link of the western route of CPEC is D.I khan to Zoub and Quetta which is 540 km patch.

<https://pakobserver.net/79pc-motorways-and-68pc-highways-completed-under-cpec/>

The Express Tribune

Gwadar heads to a promising 2022

City makes huge progress in port operation, aims to become logistics hub

GWADAR: “I will grow up to become a doctor. I want to travel around the world and show them what we are capable of,” declared Habiba Qadir, a student of China-Pakistan Gwadar Faqeer Middle School, in an interview with the China Economic Net.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) reached an important milestone on November 13, 2016 with the first shipment of trade cargo from Gwadar Port to international destinations.

Five years on, Gwadar Port has entered 2022 with hope, determination and achievement.

“For those who have visited it before, they do realise that there has been a lot of development here,” Gwadar Port Authority Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani pointed out while reviewing the five-year journey of Gwadar Port.

Reaching to a bigger world

Gwadar has made huge progress when it comes to port operation and port economy.

“According to our plan, Gwadar will become the logistics hub in this region within five years,” China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) Chairman Zhang Baozhong said confidently.

There had been no single commercial shipping line connecting Gwadar Port for the past 10 years, and the port merely relied on government-diverted cargo with huge subsidised road transport, noted Baozhong.

But things have changed since COPHC took over the port and infrastructure improved, especially when Afghan transit cargo started going through Gwadar Port on January 14, 2020.

In spite of the negative Covid-19 pandemic impact on business development, more than 100,000 tonnes of Afghan cargo have been handled at the port.

“LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) ships and bulk cargo vessels can be seen coming frequently,” he underlined.

All these activities not only generated a lot of business opportunities for Pakistani stevedoring companies, transporters, customer clearance and many others, but also helped stabilise supply to Afghanistan and other landlocked countries in Central Asia.

Talking about Gwadar Free Zone, the first modern industrial park in Pakistan, Gwadar Free Zone Manager Dadaullah Yousuf said that until now 46 enterprises have been registered for investment in the free zone, mainly covering logistics, warehousing, halal food processing, agriculture, textile, etc.

Right now, Gwadar Free Zone phase-1 has been successfully completed, while work on the much larger phase-2, covering an area of 2,221 acres, has been started.

“More and more investors are showing keen interest in investing here,” Baozhong said.

Development benefits local community

The development of the economy relies a lot on people, and it also empowers people to lead a better life. Education, first of all, is the foundation.

China-Pakistan Gwadar Faqeer Middle School, donated by China Foundation for Peace and Development, has been in operation for five years with the sponsorship of COPHC.

Now, this school is one of the best in Gwadar. More than 700 boys and girls are attending the school to receive education.

Naseem Ahmad, descendant of land donator and teacher at China-Pakistan Gwadar Faqeer Middle School, told the China Economic Net that after the school had been made, the locals got more development programmes, and real estate and businesses have increased.

“We can say that this school has contributed as an integral part of our area.”

Port boosting local employment

“Almost 80% of our workers are locals,” Muhammad Saleem Butt, Head of Gwadar Port Operations GITL, told the China Economic Net.

“Actually almost 90% of our local staff was only capable of, maybe, the watchman job when they first came here,” noted Zing, Office Manager of China Business Centre in Gwadar, adding that there were not too many schools nor technical agencies in the city. As a big achievement, the construction of China Aid Technical and Vocational Institute of Gwadar Port was completed on October 1, 2021.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2336706/gwadar-heads-to-a-promising-2022>

Chinese investment to help enhance exports

Consul general terms Beijing main source of foreign investment in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: China is Pakistan’s largest trading partner and main source of foreign investment, remarked Pakistan’s Consul General in Shanghai Hussain Haider.

Speaking at an event titled “Looking back and going forward”, hosted by Xuzhou Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, Jiangsu Normal University and the University of Punjab, he said that Chinese investment could help enhance local manufacturing as well as exports to China and European Union on zero duty.

On the occasion, Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Moinul Haque underlined the role of academics and research in further cementing ties between the two countries.

“In today’s world, when international ties have become more complex, the role of academics and research work has assumed great significance,” he said.

Xuzhou Municipal People’s Government Deputy Mayor Wu Weidong added that the promotion of Belt and Road Initiative and bilateral cooperation with China would yield fruitful results in future.

“China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners and both countries enjoy historic and rock solid friendship,” he remarked. “In retrospect, Xuzhou and Pakistan have maintained close ties and a strong relationship.”

Jiangsu Normal University’s Pakistan Studies Centre Director Prof Sun Hongqi chaired the session.

Chinese Deputy Consul General in Lahore Peng Zhengwu pointed out that Jiangsu had injected new vitality into in-depth development of China-Pakistan relations.

Zhengwu said that he was willing to play an active role to support Jiangsu and Punjab for deepening their ties.

Jiangsu Normal University Deputy Chair University Council Professor Cen Hong reviewed the cooperative relationship established between Jiangsu Normal University and major educational institutions in Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2336696/chinese-investment-to-help-enhance-exports>

The Nation

Pakistan, China to enhance coop in IT, digital economy

ISLAMABAD - Experts at a seminar have said that more Pakistani youths could have access to professional education and training programs in information technology that could be further enhance manpower potential vital for national prosperity.

The China-Pakistan seminar on New Generation Information Technology was organized by the Chinese Institute of Electronics (CIE) to further strengthen all-round cooperation in IT and digital economy between both countries.

According to Gwadar Pro, on the occasion, representatives of the two sides expressed their hope that with the help of the seminar, more Pakistani youths could have access to professional education and training programs in IT.

Also, joint projects and initiatives should be launched to promote exchanges between academicians and professionals in the high-tech industry between Pakistan and China.

All participants expressed the hope that both countries should further strengthen cooperation in digital economy and information industry in the future, so as to achieve win-win results.

Experts from CIE, Pakistani Embassy in China, Beijing Global Talents Exchange Association, Bahria University, and Pak-China Study & Research Centre of Bahria University were present on the occasion.

As 2021 marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan, both countries are eyeing cooperation in IT and digital economy.

It is worth mentioning that Pakistan's Online National Pavilion was opened on China's leading e-commerce platform JD.com (Jingdong) to enhance the Pakistani high-quality products in China and promote bilateral trade last week.

Commenting on this, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian remarked at the routine press conference on December 28, 2021 that "We stand ready to work with Pakistan to step up cooperation on cross-border e-commerce and digital trade, facilitate more premium Pakistani specialties in entering China's market, take real actions to promote high-quality development of bilateral economic and trade cooperation and bring more benefits to the two peoples."

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-01-02/page-10/detail-6>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک مشرقی اور مغربی روٹ 2025 تک مکمل ہونے کی توقع ہے، وزارت مواصلات

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ نوائے وقت) وزارت مواصلات کے ذرائع کے مطابق چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے مشرقی اور مغربی روٹ پر اب تک موٹرویز پر 79 فیصد اور ہائی ویز پر 68 فیصد کام مکمل ہو چکا ہے، دو صف بندی یعنی مشرقی اور مغربی 2025 تک مکمل ہونے کی توقع ہے اور تیسری مرکزی صف بندی 2030 تک مکمل ہو جائے گی۔ ذرائع کے مطابق مغربی اور مشرقی دونوں صف روٹ درہ خنجراب کو گوادرس سے جوڑیں گے۔ خنجراب سے برہان تک 790 کلومیٹر سڑک اور ہوشاب سے گوادر تک 193 کلومیٹر سڑک سمیت تینوں مشرقی، مغربی اور وسطی روٹس کی مشترکہ الاائنٹمنٹ پہلے ہی مکمل ہو چکی ہے۔ برہان مشرقی اور مغربی روٹس کے چوراہے پر ہو گا۔ اسلام آباد سے کراچی شروع ہونے والے مشرقی روٹ کا فاصلہ 1419 کلومیٹر ہے جس میں سے موٹرویز پر 79 فیصد کام مکمل ہو چکا ہے جب کہ 21 فیصد رہ گیا ہے جو کہ 306 کلومیٹر سکھر حیدرآباد موٹروے ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-01-02/page-3/detail-22>

January 03, 2022

Business Recorder

Chinese coop help Pakistan cut cellphone imports

BEIJING: Chinese mobile phone manufacturing companies have played a crucial role in helping Pakistan bypass import of mobile phones in the year 2021.

For the first time in the history of Pakistan, in 2021, the production of mobile phones by local manufacturing plants surpassed the imports of mobile phones, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Sunday.

According to official data, during Jan-November 2021, the production of mobile phones by local manufacturing plants was 22.12 million while the imports remained at 9.95 million. In 2020, the number of locally manufactured mobile phones was 13.05 million against the hefty 24.51 million imports.

During Jan-November 2021, the local manufacturing plants assembled 9.03 million smartphones while the number of 2G mobile phones remained 13.09 million. As compared to 2020, the comparison to 2G sets has increased in 2021. In 2020, the number of locally manufactured 2G phones remained 10.98 million against 2.06 smartphones; similarly, in 2019 the number of locally assembled smartphones was 0.12 million and 2G phones were 11.62 million. According to PTA's data, currently, in Pakistan, the number of mobile 2G devices on the Pakistani network is 48 million while 52 million are smartphone users.

The top ten locally assembling/manufacturing brands include China's ITEL, VGO TEL, Infinix, Vivo, Tecno, QMEE, and Oppo the remaining three companies are mostly assembling parts imported from China.

During Jan-November 2021, ITEL manufactured 3.91 million mobile devices, VGO Tel 2.97m, Infinix 2.65m, Vivo 2.45m, Techno 1.87m, QMEE 0.86, and Oppo 0.67 million. In August 2021, for the first time 'Made in Pakistan' 4G smartphones were exported by Inovi Telecom to the Middle East. It was the beginning of the export of 'Made in Pakistan' mobile devices. In November 2021, Xiaomi, a Chinese mobile giant, announced a partnership with Airlink Communication to start manufacturing smartphones in Pakistan. The company will start manufacturing in the first quarter of 2022 and will produce 2.5 to 3 million handsets per year. According to experts, in 2022, more than 90% of cellphones sold in the country will be 'Made in Pakistan' and Pakistan will soon become one of the major exporters of cellphones.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/01/03/12-page/913841-news.html>

Dunya News

Launching ceremony of Pak-China Business Investment Forum held in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - The launching ceremony of Pak-China Business Investment Forum was held in the federal capital today (Monday).

According to details, the ceremony was attended by Pakistani and Chinese officials. Prime Minister Imran Khan was also part of the ceremony.

Pak-China Business Investment Forum has been formed with the collaboration of Board of Investment Pakistan and All Pakistan Chinese Enterprises. This is aimed at increasing Chinese companies' investment in Pakistan and promotion of business to business industrial cooperation.

Following the participation of over seventy companies in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Conference held in March last year, it was agreed in to establish a business forum with the cooperation of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and the Board of Investment to enhance business to business cooperation.

The forum consists of eighteen Chinese and nineteen Pakistani companies.

The objective of the forum is to promote sustainable investment and export industry and development of modern technology in Pakistan.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/635307-Launching-ceremony-of-Pak-China-Business-Investment-Forum-underway>

The Express Tribune

Construction of 6 units begins at economic zone

Darra-based arms producers get special space

PESHAWAR: Construction work on six industrial units at the new industrial estate Jaloza Economic Zone started here on Sunday.

The traditional old sporting and hunting arms manufacturing cluster of Darra Adam Khel was especially accommodated in the zone.

The ground breaking ceremony for the new industrial units included four factories of the hunting and sporting arms manufacturing sector, one each of the medical equipment and packages was performed by the Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries & Commerce, Abdul Karim Khan during a ceremony held at the industrial estate.

Besides, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak, CEO Pakistan Hunting & Sporting Arms Development Company (PHSADC), a large number of businessmen particularly industrialists also attended the ceremony.

The newly inaugurated industrial units included Haroon Khan Arms Company, Gul Shareef and Sons Arms Company, Target Arms, Riaz Hussain Arms Company, Al-Shifa Medical Equipment and Golden Packages. All new industrial units are export oriented.

These industries will mobilize an investment to the tune of Rs1.6 billion and generate 500 employment opportunities.

In his inaugural speech, the Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries and Commerce, Abdul Karim Khan said that the swift one-window approval mechanism and quick implementation by KP-EZDMC was making Jalozai Economic Zone a fast-emerging zone towards industrial development.

He said that they take pride in accommodating and providing patronage to the traditional old skill of sporting and hunting arms manufacturing, particularly of Darra Adam Khel.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO KP-EZDMC, Javed Iqbal Khattak said that the zone was inaugurated six months back and in such a short period work on the development of infrastructure was continued. He said that one unit has already started operation while work on 54 others is in progress and will become functional soon.

He said that during the last one year, the company has started work on 6 new economic zones while work on 11 more economic zones were in the pipeline.

He said that plot allotment in Bannu Economic Zone has been started. Similarly, work on Karak Salt and Gypsum City has also begun.

The CEO said that work on 40 units in the Nowshera Economic Zone (Extension) has also been begun while Ghazi Economic Zone is reserved for big units.

In Hattar 5 new units are already operational and work on 35 more is in progress.

He said that an Italian investor is establishing a big steel unit with the name of Pak-Steel with the estimated investment of Rs.5 billion.

On the other hand Small Industries Development Board (SIDB) Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa has planned to establish new industrial estates in five districts of the province, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

The management of the board has directed administration of the concerned districts for early land acquisition for the purpose to establish the proposed industrial units as soon as possible.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2336844/construction-of-6-units-begins-at-economic-zone>

The Nation

Envoy sees good scope for Pakistan-China film production

Islamabad - Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moin-ul-Haque has said that Pakistan's film industry was experiencing a revival and there is a good scope for cooperation including joint productions between Pakistan and China in which the State Production Base of China Film Group Corporation could play an important role.

According to Gwadar Pro, as a part of the Embassy's endeavours to promote collaboration between Pakistan and China in areas of film and media, Ambassador visited the State Production Base of China Film Group Corporation Huairou District, Beijing.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that screening Pakistani movies this year as part of the celebratory events to mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries has generated a lot of interest for collaboration in the film industry.

The Ambassador was received by Lei Zhenyu, Chief Engineer and Manager, and other officials. He was given a tour of the Base and also briefed on its various facilities and services.

Lei Zhenyu said that the Base was equipped with state-of-the-art equipment focusing on film pre/post-production, including shooting, editing, audio recording, digital postproduction, and animation. He said Production Base was ready to offer technical cooperation to its Pakistani counterparts.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-01-03/page-4/detail-7>

January 04, 2022

Dawn News

CPEC committee to be briefed about projects' security on Thursday

Amir Wasim

ISLAMABAD: An in-camera meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is scheduled to be held on Thursday (Jan 6) to receive a briefing from military and civilian officials on security arrangements for CPEC projects.

The Senate Secretariat has issued a one-point agenda for meeting of the 21-member committee, comprising members of the Senate and National Assembly, headed by PTI Member of National Assembly (MNA) from Peshawar, Sher Ali Arbab.

Besides director general military operations (DGMO), commandants of the Special Security Unit (SSU) for CPEC from Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will be briefing parliamentarians about security of CPEC projects. Notices have also been issued to secretaries of the ministries of planning, defence and interior.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor and Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar will also attend the meeting.

The authorities have taken enhanced security measures for CPEC projects after recent incidents of terrorism in which Chinese engineers and workers were targeted in KP, Balochistan and Sindh.

On July 14, 2021, nine Chinese nationals and four locals were killed and 28 others injured when a coach carrying them to an under-construction tunnel site of the Dasu hydropower project fell into a ravine in the upper Kohistan area of KP after an explosion.

Speaking at a news conference, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi had revealed that a suicide bomber had attacked the bus carrying the Chinese workers and that some of those involved had been arrested.

Mr Qureshi had alleged that India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security (NDS) were behind the attack for which Afghanistan's soil was also used. He said the vehicle used in the attack was brought from Afghanistan and the suicide bomber, Khalid Sheikh, was also trained in Afghanistan. The incident had happened two months before the Taliban takeover of Kabul after the withdrawal of United States troops from the war-torn country.

Chinese engineers and workers, who had halted the work soon after the attack, have recently resumed work on the project.

Later, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed at a news conference said an attempt to damage Pakistan-China ties had been foiled in April, referring to the blast at Quetta's Serena Hotel where the Chinese ambassador had gone.

A Chinese national was shot at and wounded in a moving car by gunmen riding a motorbike in the Sindh Industrial Trading Estate (SITE) area of Karachi on July 28. Another Chinese man and a local driver remained unhurt in the incident.

In another incident, two boys were killed and four others, including a Chinese national, injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up while targeting a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Gwadar on Aug 20.

The Banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) Majeed Brigade had reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack. The attack took place when Chinese nationals, who were working on the under-construction East-Bay Expressway, were returning to their camp.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1667465>

The Nation

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

ISLAMABAD - The United States of America (USA) remained the top export destination of the Pakistani products during the first five months of current financial year (2021-22), followed by China and United Kingdom (UK). Total exports to the USA during July-November (2021-22) were recorded at \$2682.695 million against the exports of \$1855.712 million during July-November (2020-21), showing growth of 44.56 percent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$1018.129 million against the exports of \$615.738 million last year, showing increase of 65.35 percent. UK was the at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth \$943.859 million during the months under review against the exports of \$773.871 million, showing growth of 21.96 percent, SBP data revealed. Among other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at \$689.538 million against \$565.423 million during last year, showing increase of 21.95 percent while the exports to Germany were recorded at \$691.170 million against \$615.544 million last year, the data revealed. During July-November (2021-22), the exports to Holland were recorded at \$554.573 million against \$411.201 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$406.750 million against \$288.122 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$410.094 million against the exports of \$290.226 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$207.407 million against \$368.265 million last year. The exports to Bangladesh stood at \$316.664 million against \$219.813 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$210.368 million against \$173.848 million while the exports to Belgium stood at \$291.520 million against \$214.445 million. Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at \$164.136 million during the current year compared to \$176.101 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at \$159.586 million against \$114.656 million, to Malaysia \$150.539 million against \$71.324 million. Overall Pakistan's exports to all other countries witnessed an increase of 28.96 percent during the months under review, from \$9.561 billion to \$12.330 billion, the SBP data revealed.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-01-04/page-9/detail-1>

Book on Sino-Pak friendship launched

ISLAMABAD - As part of the celebrations of the 70 years of Pakistan and China diplomatic relations, the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing has organized a book launch event titled "You and Us - II" written by Lu Shulin, China's veteran diplomat and former Ambassador to Pakistan.

According to Gwadar Pro, the book contains impressions of leading Pakistani and Chinese politicians, diplomats, artists, and intellectuals about Pakistan-China friendship.

Embellished with the historical pictures and individual experiences of writers, it is aimed to pay tribute to the architects of Pakistan-China friendship and bequeath the finest traditions of bilateral ties to the younger generation of the two countries. The ceremony was attended by high-ranking Chinese officials, intellectuals, Mission's officers, and representatives of the media.

In his speech, Pakistani ambassador to China Moin ul Haque lauded Lu Shulin for his lifelong efforts to deepen Pakistan-China ties.

He highlighted that due to the efforts of people from all walks of life from both countries, Pakistan-China friendship has been strengthened and is finding due manifestation in ever-increasing political, economic, and cultural engagements between the two countries. Expressing his sentiments on the occasion, Mr Lu said that 'You and Us - II' is an ode to bilateral friendship between Pakistan and China and the officials and peoples of the two nations.

He highlighted that Pakistan occupies a special place not only in China's foreign policy domain but also in the hearts of Chinese diplomats.

<https://nation.com.pk/04-Jan-2022/book-on-sino-pak-friendship-launched>

January 05, 2022

Daily Times

China hails PM Khan's role in promoting trade, ties

China Tuesday appreciated Prime Minister Imran Khan and his government for attaching importance to the bilateral relations and promoting trade between the two countries.

"China appreciates the prime minister and Pakistani governments for the importance they attached to bilateral relations and promoting trade," Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing in his remarks on launching of Pakistan-China Business and Investment Forum.

The forum was formed in collaboration with Pakistan Board of Investment (BOI) and All Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association to increase investment by the Chinese companies in Pakistan and enhance business to business industrial cooperation.

The prime minister said that establishment of Forum would enhance ease of doing business between the Chinese and Pakistani companies and assured that the government and BOI were making full efforts to eliminate the blockages in this process and to further facilitate the Chinese investment.

Wang Wenbing said China was glad to see enhanced exchanges and cooperation between the two sides, adding, "We will strive to promote investment and trade to the benefit of both countries and peoples."

He said China and Pakistan were all weather friends and comprehensive cooperative strategic partners.

“With fruitful outcomes and cooperation, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was is an important platform and project under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI),” he added.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/863840/china-hails-pm-khans-role-in-promoting-trade-ties/>

Dawn News

NTDC reveals flaws in transmission line project under CPEC

Khalid Hasnain

LAHORE: The National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) has revealed that the commercial operation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor’s mega Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line Project it allowed to begin on Sept 1 last year was not in accordance with the Transmission Service Agreement (TSA).

The all-important project was launched without carrying out the Capability Demonstration Test (CDT) meant for testing the line’s installed capacity of evacuating 4,000MW from the power plants. While refusing to accord official approval to the Sept 1 Commercial Operation Date (COD) without fulfillment of the TSA in letter and spirit, the NTDC has also mentioned concerns raised by the project consultants over discrepancies in civil works, tower erection, material etc, Dawn has learnt.

“Actually, they (the NTDC top management) wrongly accepted the COD, allowing the commercial operation after conducting the 2,800MW evacuation test without carrying out the final test of the line’s designed / installed power evacuation capacity of 4,000MW in violation of the TSA. And now various issues have emerged in the wake of paying capacity charges to the Pak Matiari-Lahore Transmission Company (pvt) Limited (PMTCL), Line’s COD etc,” an official source told Dawn on Tuesday.

“The situation of Sept 1 COD of the country’s first 660kV High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission line seems to be serious,” the source claimed.

According to a letter of Jan 3, the NTDC General Manager (HVDC) informed his Managing Director about the latter’s direction (in the wake of Nepra’s letter) to speak on the prevailing issues related to the line. Observing the situation, the GM informed his boss that the project was signed between the NTDC and the M/S PMLTC for dispersal of 4,000MW power from the Matiari (Sindh) to Lahore. He further stated that the as per TSA agreement, the COD was to be completed after performance of 4,000MW power evacuation on Bi-Pole arrangement.

The HVDC GM further revealed that the NTDC’s Board of Directors (BoD), at its 187th meeting, authorised the NTDC MD to sign the addendum No.1 of TSA and addendum No.1 of the Operation & Maintenance (O&M) service agreement after fulfillment of all the codal formalities as approved by the ECC (Federal Government), conveyed vide ministry of energy

(power division) letter of April, 2021. Accordingly, he said, the aforementioned addendum was signed between the NTDC and the PMLTC in which the COD was fixed as on Sept 1.

“Due to certain constraints, the CDT couldn’t be performed at 4,000MW as per actual TSA agreement on Bio-Pole arrangement. The then NTDC MD constituted a committee for CDT due to prevailing constraints. Meeting of the committee was held and on the recommendation of the owner and independent engineers, committee agreed to perform the CDT at at 2,800MW to save time, and later at 4,000MW as and when the National Power Control Centre (part of NTDC) allows which is still pending as per TSA agreement requirement,” explains the GM’s letter.

He said, accordingly, a meeting was held among the NTDC and the companies concerned including the PMLTC in respect of new option of CDT test. It also agreed for allowing a conditional COD after carrying out CDT at 2,800MW without having any addendum in the TSA by the competent authority. However, the CDT at 4,000MW as per original TSA is still pending.

The officer through letter further quoted the engineer’s letter in which it pointed out a number of problems regarding civil and tower erection works, quality of tower material, stringing workmanship etc that are yet to be rectified by the company concerned despite reminders issued on Dec 14 and 24, 2021.

“Keeping in view the above, approval of the COD cannot be accorded until fulfillment of all codal formalities as required in TSA and rectification of the discrepancies as conveyed to the PMLTC for rectification before true-up of tariff by the authority,” reads the letter.

NTDC’s HVDC GM, MD and the BoD chairman were not available for comments despite calls made by this reporter.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1667650>

Pakistan Observer

BRI in 2020

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

CHINA-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI) are in full swing to achieve desired goals of greater regional connectivity, immense socio-economic integration, green energy development, new job generation and last but not the least poverty elimination in all the member countries with no hidden economic agenda and any secretive political scheme.

Both are the vivid reflection of ancient Chinese philosophy and Xi Jinping doctrine of “shared prosperity” because by sharing the world would become “prosper” in the days to come.

There are lots of socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic partnerships (RECP, The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership), US & EU sponsored active and free ASEAN, and last but not the least, military cooperation (AUKUS, QUAD) all are giving new meanings to

both the projects (CPEC & BRI) of the century. Unfortunately, divergent forces representing positive and negative energy are now at eye-ball to eye-ball.

In this connection, wide-spreading of the new variant Omicron is going to become a new regional flashpoint and global means of further division, and confrontation.

Last but not the least, US further socio-economic sanctions against China, Iran and many other countries and its perpetual China's containment policy are clearly indicating that the so-called "Empire" is falling and falling rapidly.

Thus socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic importance, relevance, significance, utility and simulation of CPEC and BRI are paramount which would hopefully create "strategic cushions" for regional as well as international economy during 2022 and beyond. CPEC phase-II is going to start in Pakistan very soon.

The Chinese President Xi Jinping has already pledged to "transform" the BRI into "green" which upholds the Chinese strong desire to protect the planet from looming threats of non-traditional climate change in the days to come.

In this regard, the annual speech of Chinese President Xi has once again shown China's responsibility as a major country to pursue international peace and protect sustainable development, and its resolution and action to promote building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Thus the role of Chinese BRI is "vital" to achieve regional connectivity and global peace and development during 2022 and beyond.

Undoubtedly, President Xi's speech inspired people around the world to love peace, to jointly protect peace, and to work together for common development and prosperity towards building a community with a shared future for mankind.

In this regard, the role of the BRI especially "green development" is obvious in 2022 and future too.

It seems that China will, in many ways, shape the course of humanity towards a more stable, peaceful and prosperous world in which its diversified but integrated policies and projects like CPEC and BRI would play an important role during 2022 and beyond.

Obviously, China made an important contribution to the world through its world-class performance in COVID-19 pandemic control and economic growth during 2020-2021.

During his keynote speech Chinese President Xi termed unity, solidarity and cooperation at regional as well as international level as essential "stimulating" actors to guide countries around the world to write a new chapter in building a community with a shared future for mankind.

In this context, BRI being the project of the century with unlimited socio-economic multiplier effects and "economic levellers" would be crucial during 2020 and in the years to come. China has declared a comprehensive victory in the battle against poverty, achieving an economic

“miracle” in the modern world of eliminating absolute poverty which is not only a Chinese miracle but also a major contribution to the world’s poverty reduction project and global development.

In addition to this one of the main objectives of the BRI is “drastic reduction” of poverty in all the member countries. Thus BRI has direct “economic correlation” with the reduction of regional as well as global poverty reduction proposition in 2022 and beyond.

According to official statistics (2020-2021), BRI countries, not including China, account for about 18 percent of global GDP and 26 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions.

In the coming two decades, however, BRI countries’ GDP average growth rate is expected to be twice that of the OECD, and investments in BRI countries are likely to comprise more than half of total investment worldwide. Since its inception eight years ago, BRI cooperation has been expanding to wider areas and delivering more benefits.

In the first ten months of 2021 China’s trade in goods with BRI partner countries succeeded to stop the overall downward trend and increased by 23 percent. The China-Laos Railway has now been incorporated and running. China-Europe Railway Express witnessed accelerated growth in freight services and cargo volume.

Moreover, numerous flagship projects like the Piraeus Port, the Gwadar Port, and the Hungary-Serbia Railway are making steady progress. The eighth Ministerial Conference of the FOCAC and the third Ministerial Meeting of the China-CELAC Forum have stimulated and guided the high-quality BRI cooperation to make more solid progress in Africa and Latin America.

It is evident that BRI 145 countries and 32 international organizations, it has now become “a belt of prosperity” and “a road to happiness” benefiting people across the globe.

Despite US and the Western fake and false propaganda, China is committed to work with all BRI countries to uphold the principle of rigorous consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, pursue open, green and clean cooperation by submerging the BRI with other countries’ development plans and initiatives.

It seems that with concerted efforts, the high-quality BRI cooperation will make new progress in 2022 and continue to yield fruitful outcomes in high standard, people-centered and sustainable development in all the member countries.

In this connection, Zhao Lijian, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, reaffirmed Chinese principled stance to promote a high quality construction of the BRI with all parties in 2022 and try to achieve fruitful results.

Zhao noted that the construction of BRI had marked a significant number of achievements since its official launch eight years ago, including several milestones in 2021. He termed BRI future prospects very positive and productive in 2022 and beyond.

It is suggested that due to surfacing of a new variant of covid-19 (Omicron) more sincere efforts should be initiated to practically implement the program of “Extended BRI Health Partnership” among the BRI member countries as soon as possible.

This scribe suggests that formation of a “BRI Health Bank” should be formed at once to protect the BRI from this new variant so that the journey of socio-economic prosperity, greater regional connectivity and last but not the least dreams of qualitative life may not be compromised during 2022.

The Chinese government must disseminate basic core strength of the BRI being an open, green and clean principle in all the regional and international mass media in a bid to mitigate the propaganda of the West and to obtain more sustainable achievements with high construction standards among all the member countries during 2022.

To conclude, China has been the stabilizer of world economic growth and its mega project CPEC and BRI are streamlining different phases of socio-economic development in all the member countries because both do not have any preferential list of communities, countries and continents.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-in-2020-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Nation

The fate of SEZs

Ahsan Munir

The first phase of CPEC had been all about developing infrastructure such as building roads and setting up power plants. Now, CPEC has entered its second phase, where special economic zones (SEZs) will be developed along the route. Four major SEZs have been initiated in the second phase—termed the industrialisation phase of CPEC. The four major SEZs are Rashakai SEZ in KP, Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Punjab, Bostan SEZ in Balochistan, and Dhabeji SEZ in Sindh.

Rashakai was inaugurated sometime back and it is reported that it’s being populated and will bring prosperity to the area, while the rest of SEZs are in various phases of land procurement and infrastructure development. For instance, Dhabeji technically, is still an industrial zone and is yet to be declared an SEZ. Further, the contract for developing Dhabeji as an industrial zone is still in litigation.

Recently, the government planned several roadshows chiefly with Chinese investors and urged them to invest in SEZs. They have been briefed about the investment opportunities available in Pakistan and possible joint ventures with various traditional industrial sectors such as textiles. However, the success of SEZs depends upon various factors, some of which are discussed.

First, Pakistan is going through a utilities crisis. Every day, electricity prices are increased. Similarly, Pakistan’s gas reserves are dwindling quickly, and no serious effort has been made in

the last many decades to discover new oil and gas reserves. Resultantly, we are suffering from gas shortages, which have become acute during winter. Gas supply is reduced to industry, and even the strong, influential export-oriented All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) has to go into extensive negotiations for uninterrupted gas supply. Thus it is not clear how the government will be able to make gas and other utilities available at competitive prices to new industries being set up in the SEZs.

Second, if we believe suitable infrastructure will be provided, the next question is of providing a suitably-trained workforce at these SEZs. The government is hoping that new industries would be set up and the transfer of technology would be facilitated. However, to absorb technology transfer, trained manpower with sufficiently developed analytical and critical skills is needed. Unfortunately, most of our technical and vocational training institutes are teaching outdated syllabi on obsolete machines. Our engineering universities are not generating students who can absorb the new knowledge which accompanies every new transfer of technology. This new knowledge accompanying technology is necessary to understand to operationalise the technology, troubleshoot it and customise it to local needs. Thus, our vocational and engineering universities need to be aligned to the needs of future industries being set up in the SEZs.

Third, different industries, such as a mix of heavy, medium and light industries, would be set up in each SEZ. And all of these industries would require different inputs such as raw materials, skilled manpower and others. Accordingly, each SEZ would require a different set of skills to support these industries. Thus, the important question is whether the SEZ management and their respective industries would be able to gather and retain the critical mass of skills required to efficiently and productively run SEZs.

Fourth, it has been an experience that government participation at any level ultimately generates bureaucracy. Although the federal and provincial governments have established independent SEZ management companies, for long-term sustainability these companies must be run under the management of industrial representatives who would populate SEZs, as they are the real stakeholders in the success of SEZs.

Thus, while it has been a few years since the initiation of CPEC projects, the federal and provincial governments are still struggling to put SEZs on the ground, and touring and approaching the investors to come. This homework should have been completed while CPEC was still in its first phase of laying down infrastructure. Therefore, now the governments, both at the federal and provincial levels, instead of a piecemeal approach, need to take an integrated approach to the development and population of SEZs. Consequently, along with searching for potential investors, the government should also be thinking about how it would be able to develop a critical mass of skills at these SEZs, overcome the utilities crisis, and align academic and vocational training to the needs of industries in these SEZs.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-01-05/page-6/detail-4>

The News

Pakistan, China satisfied with development of Gwadar Port, other projects

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China showed satisfaction over steady progress on various projects related to development of Gwadar Port city and its inclusion for Afghan Transit Trade.

According to official announcement made here Tuesday stating that the governments of Pakistan and China held meetings of the two Joint Working Groups on Gwadar and socio-economic development through video conferencing.

The 6th session of the Joint Working Group on Gwadar was co-chaired by Planning Development & Special Initiatives Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili and Ying Xiong, Director General of the National Development & Reforms Commission of China. Secretary Economic Affairs and Maritime Affairs, representatives of ministries of foreign affairs, aviation, defence, CPEC Authority, PPIB, GPA, government of Balochistan, GDA as well as representatives of their counterparts in China participated in the meeting. The meeting reviewed the implementation status of the CPEC projects in Gwadar and deliberated upon the future course of action with regard to development of Gwadar city, port and the free zone.

Both sides expressed satisfaction on steady progress made on various projects including full operationalisation of Gwadar Port and its inclusion in the Afghan Transit Trade route; finalisation of the Smart Port City master plan; completion of the Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute; substantial progress on Eastbay Expressway; commencement of work on New Gwadar International Airport and the Pak-China Friendship Hospital.

It was noted that Gwadar Free Zone Phase-1 had been successfully completed, while work on the much larger Phase – 2 covering an area of 2221 acres had been started. The meeting emphasised on the need for finalisation of marketing and investment plan for Free Zone along with its implementation strategy. The meeting was informed that the plan would soon be submitted for consideration of the Cabinet Committee on CPEC.

Chinese enterprises, including Zhejiang DRC, China Communication Construction Company, Zhejiang Seaport and Huazhang Technology made presentations during the meeting on their planned investments in Low Carbon Recycling Park, within the Gwadar Free Zone. Pakistan side assured the investors of full support and cooperation for their ventures.

It was noted that despite the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting travel restrictions, the projects in Gwadar were implemented at a steady pace. The meeting also took note of various operational issues faced by the projects during the course of the year. It was noted that several issues had been resolved through intervention of relevant authorities. Both sides resolved to address any remaining issues on priority.

The meeting was also informed that Pakistan government was actively implementing various projects, in close collaboration with the provincial government to ensure provision of all the necessary facilities in Gwadar. The projects include linking Gwadar to the national electricity

grid; provision of water to Gwadar city from nearby dams; establishment of University of Gwadar and Gwadar Safe City project and certain other projects in the socio-economic domain. The two sides resolved to redouble efforts for tapping full potential of Gwadar port and free zone as well as to make sure that the local population of Gwadar and surrounding areas fully benefit from these projects by utilising the massive opportunities being created in various sectors. The 3rd meeting of Joint Working Group on socio-economic development under CPEC was held under the co-chairmanship of Abdul Aziz Uqaili, Secretary, Planning Development & Special Initiatives and Deng Boqing, chairman, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) to review the progress of current projects and deliberated on potential new projects to enhance cooperation in the socio-economic development under CPEC. The Group was established in November 2018 under CPEC framework to ensure that economic dividends of CPEC projects reach the less developed areas and peoples' livelihood are improved.

Both sides expressed satisfaction on steady progress of the 1st Batch (17 Fast Track) projects and 2nd Batch (10 Priority) projects despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The convener (Pakistani side) thanked the government and people of China for their generous support to Pakistan for tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, especially the timely supply of vaccines. He also thanked the Chinese counterparts for their support and assistance to the government of Pakistan for socio-economic development. The chairman of CIDCA (Convener of Chinese side) reiterated China's strong support for the people and government of Pakistan and stated that the two iron brothers have always helped & supported each other. He recalled Pakistan's support to China in the early phase of the pandemic and said such help is highly valued. Pakistani side shared the proposed 3rd batch of projects for consideration of Chinese counterparts. The projects were finalised after due consultations with stakeholders including all provinces, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan. It was decided to further enhance bilateral cooperation and implementation mechanism by constituting sub-committees at working level on both sides. The meeting was attended by representatives of federal ministries and all the provincial governments, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan and 11 relevant departments of government of China. The embassies of the two countries also joined the meeting.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=42516>

Express News

چین سے 50 ہزار میٹرک ٹن پوریادراآمد کرنے کی منظوری

چین سے 50 ہزار میٹرک ٹن پوریادراآمد کرنے کی منظوری دے دی گئی۔

کابینہ کی اقتصادی رابطہ کمیٹی نے چین سے 50 ہزار میٹرک ٹن پوریادراآمد کرنے اور گاڑیوں سمیت دیگر اشیاء کی درآمد کیلئے ٹیرف میں ردوبدل کی بھی منظوری دیدی ہے۔

کابینہ کی اقتصادی رابطہ کمیٹی کا اجلاس گزشتہ روز وزیر خزانہ شوکت ترین کی زیر صدارت منعقد ہوا، اجلاس میں تین نکاتی ایجنڈے پر غور ہوا۔

اجلاس میں ای سی سی نے گاڑیوں سمیت دیگر اشیاء کی درآمد پر عائد کسٹمز ڈیوٹی و ٹیکسوں میں ردوبدل کی منظوری دیدی ہے ای سی سی نے پیٹرولیم ڈویژن کیلئے مشروط طور پر ٹیکنیکل سپلیمنٹری گرانٹ کی منظوری بھی دے دی ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2267532/1/>

January 06, 2022

Business Recorder

CPEC projects

NAVEED BUTT

China invested over \$25bn, generated 75,000 jobs: envoy

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong said China had invested over \$25 billion in Pakistan on the CPEC projects generating 75,000 jobs, producing 5500kw of electricity, and building over 500 kilometres of roads and highways.

The ambassador expressed these views, while addressing the launching ceremony of “All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA) Sustainable Development Report, 2021”, organised at the Chinese Embassy, here on Wednesday.

The Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) and the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA) launched the annual “APCEA Sustainable Development Report, 2021”. The event was attended by over 100 participants and featured five speeches, including the chief guest, Sadiq Sanjrani, chairman Senate of Pakistan; Yang Jiandou, chairman APCEA, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, chairman Senate Defence Committee and Pakistan-China Institute; Khalid Mansoor, Special Assistant to PM on CPEC, Economic Minister Xie Guoxiang and Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan.

The APCEA represents 200 Chinese companies working in Pakistan.

Speakers also welcomed the upcoming visit of the Prime Minister Imran Khan to China in early February, as it would strengthen the bilateral bond.

Hailing the launch of the report as a good step towards enhancing the understanding of work being done by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan, the speakers appreciated the role of the APCEA and the PCI for documenting the report, which will serve to promote facts and information regarding the role of Chinese enterprises in Pakistan.

Ambassador Rong said that last year, China and Pakistan held series of celebrations to reinvigorate their time-tested friendship as it marked the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Both sides have supported each other in their fight against the global pandemic and pushed forward high quality development of the CPEC, he said.

In his keynote speech, Sadiq Sanjrani, chairman Senate said that through this report, the people will learn more about the CPEC and the opportunities being created by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan.

Terming the CPEC a game changer, he said the project will create trade linkages and economic opportunities in the whole region. Moreover, he said that after overhauling the infrastructure and alleviating the energy crisis in the first phase, the CPEC phase two will initiate an era of industrialization in the country.

He urged the APCEA to closely coordinate with the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Pakistan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said that the APCEA report will serve the purpose of presenting facts and nullifying the fiction being propagated by the adversaries of China about the CPEC.

He pointed towards the recently passed “Strategic Competition Act” by the US Senate through which the US has allocated \$300 million for a “Countering China Influence Fund”.

Against this backdrop, he advised the companies to brace themselves for any disinformation campaigns.

He also lauded the upcoming development related to slashing of the long bureaucratic red tape of 37 rules and regulations and said that it would facilitate and ease the work of Chinese enterprises.

Sayed criticised the boycott of Beijing Olympics by certain Western countries as biased and based on double standards.

He said 2022 is the year of Pakistan’s Platinum Jubilee, in which, Pakistan-China ties have always been centre-stage.

Khalid Mansoor, special assistant to the PM on CPEC, said that he has seen at first hand, the difference being created by the work of Chinese enterprises in Pakistan.

Through the CPEC, the dream of Thar Coal energy became a reality.

The CPEC Authority, he said, is working tirelessly to remove any bottlenecks, which may emerge during the execution of the CPEC projects. He said the prime minister had ordered the removal of 37 regulations for a one-window operation for foreign investors and the prime minister personally would be taking briefings on the CPEC projects progress every 15 days. Xie Guoxiang, Minister Counsellor of Economic Affairs of Chinese Embassy said the trade and economic cooperation between two countries has been further cemented since the start of the CPEC.

Chinese enterprises, he maintained, have done marvellous work, which can be clearly seen in the report being launched today.

Yang Jiandou, chairman APCEA said that Chinese enterprises have pursued sustainable development strategies in Pakistan and their role is not limited to building motorways and constructing power projects.

He said that the Chinese enterprises have improved people's livelihood, implemented eco-friendly development, joined hands with Pakistani counterparts to fight pandemic, and helped in developing local education.

He said that the leadership of the APCEA has been committed to enhance the connectivity between Chinese enterprises and the local business bodies.

The report launching was attended by a packed audience representing CEO of Chinese enterprises, including Senator Kauda Baber from Balochistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/01/06/1-page/914151-news.html>

Daily Times

Gwadar to get 3,200 solar power generation units with Chinese help

Gwadar will get about 3200 solar power generation units with Chinese help, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

An agreement to this effect was approved between China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority and Chinese Ministry of Environment by the Federal Cabinet on Tuesday. This will help to resolve electricity issue in Gwadar. Recently, Planning Minister Asad Umar said solar panels would be provided in Gwadar with Chinese help and the project would be started in March.

To support the Pakistani government, China will install 3,200 solar panel units in various houses in Gwadar. "The project is being carried out with direct help of China," Asad Umar announced.

He elaborated that the 3,200 solar units will be arriving in Pakistan from China at the end of January, 2022 and the installation of the panels would be completed by the end of March. Umar pledged that he will personally monitor and keep the data of the process of installing the solar panels to ensure that everyone in Gwadar benefit from the solar electricity. On Tuesday, Fawad Chaudhry told journalists that the agreement had been approved by the federal cabinet and will be implemented to benefit the Gwadar people.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/864326/gwadar-to-get-3200-solar-power-generation-units-with-chinese-help/>

Dunya News

ECC approves import of 150,000 tons of fertilizer from China: Fawad

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Thursday announced that Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has approved 150,000 tonnes of fertilizer from China.

Fawad Chaudhry, in a tweet, said that from January, 600,000 tonnes of locally produced urea will be start to hit the markets and a ship carrying 50,000 tonnes of urea from China will also arrive by February 10.

The minister reiterated that despite very high prices in the international market, country's farmers will not face any shortage of the fertilizer.

<https://dunyanews.tv/amp/english/635728.php>

Pakistan Observer

Senate Chairman launches Chinese enterprises report

Pakistan-China Institute and All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA) launched the annual 'APCEA Sustainable Development Report 2021' during an event organized at the Chinese Embassy.

The event was attended by over 100 participants and featured five speeches, including the Chief Guest, Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Yang Jiandou, Chairman APCEA, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee & Pakistan-China Institute, Khalid Mansoor, Special Assistant to PM on CPEC Economic Minister Xie Guoxiang and Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan.

APCEA represents 200 Chinese Companies working in Pakistan. Speakers also welcomed the upcoming visit of the Prime Minister to China early February, as it would strengthen the bilateral bond.

Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani in his keynote speech said that through this report, the people will learn more about CPEC and the opportunities being created by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan.

Terming CPEC as a game changer, he said the project will create trade linkages and economic opportunities in the whole region. Moreover, he said that after overhauling the infrastructure and alleviating the energy crisis in the first phase, CPEC Phase two will initiate an era of industrialization in the country.

To harness the opportunities brought by the second phase, he advocated for enhancing communication with Chinese enterprises. He urged APCEA to closely coordinate with the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Pakistan.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee & Pakistan-China Institute said that APCEA report will serve the purpose of presenting facts and nullifying the fiction being propagated by the adversaries of China about CPEC.

Ambassador Nong Rong, said that last year, China and Pakistan held series of celebrations to reinvigorate their time tested friendship as it marked the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Both sides have supported each other in their fight against the global pandemic and pushed forward high quality development of CPEC. He said China had invested over \$25 billion in

Pakistan on CPEC projects generating 75,000 jobs, producing 5500 kw of electricity and building over 500 kilometers of roads and highways.

Khalid Mansoor, Special Assistant to PM on CPEC, said that he has seen at first hand the difference being created by the work of Chinese enterprises in Pakistan.

Through CPEC, the dream of Thar Coal energy became a reality. CPEC Authority, he said, is working tirelessly to remove any bottlenecks which may emerge during the execution of CPEC projects.

Guoxiang, Minister Counselor of Economic Affairs of Chinese Embassy said the trade and economic cooperation between two countries has been further cemented.

<https://pakobserver.net/senate-chairman-launches-chinese-enterprises-report/>

The Express Tribune

PM to visit China early next month

PM's aide says Imran has ordered removal of bottlenecks, hindering Chinese investment

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan had ordered removal of red-tape hindering Chinese investment in Pakistan, as he prepared to visit Beijing next month to further cement the bilateral ties, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Khalid Mansoor said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the launching of the Chinese enterprises report, Mansoor said that the prime minister ordered the removal of 37 regulations to ensure one-window operation for foreign investors. He added that the prime minister would personally be taking briefings on progress on CPEC projects every 15 days.

The annual 'APCEA Sustainable Development Report 2021' has been launched by the Pakistan-China Institute (PCI) and the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA) at a ceremony at the Chinese Embassy. The APCEA represents 200 Chinese companies working in Pakistan.

Mansoor said that he had seen first-hand the work of Chinese enterprises in Pakistan. Through CPEC, the dream of Thar Coal energy became a reality, he said. The CPEC Authority, he added, "is working tirelessly to remove any bottlenecks which may emerge during the execution of the CPEC projects."

The event was attended by over 100 participants and featured five speeches, including Yang Jiandou,

Chairman APCEA, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Defence Committee and the Pakistan-China Institute, Khalid Mansoor, Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong and Minister Counselor of Economic Affairs of Chinese Embassy Xie Guoxiang.

The participants were informed that Prime Minister Imran would visit China in February. On the occasion, the speakers welcomed the upcoming visit of the prime minister to China in early February, as it would strengthen the bilateral bond.

Hailing the launch of the report as a good step towards enhancing the understanding of the work being done by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan, the speakers appreciated the role of the APCEA and the PCI for documenting the report.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said that the APCEA report would serve the purpose of presenting facts and nullifying the fiction being propagated by the adversaries of China about CPEC. He pointed to the recently-passed “Strategic Competition Act” by the US Senate through which the US had allocated \$300 million for a “Countering China Influence Fund”.

Against this backdrop, he advised the companies to brace themselves for any disinformation campaigns. He also lauded the upcoming development related to the slashing of the long bureaucratic red-tape of 37 rules and regulations and said that it would facilitate and ease the work of Chinese enterprises.

Senator Sayed criticised the boycott of Beijing Olympics by certain Western countries as biased and based on double standards. He said that 2022 is the year of Pakistan’s Platinum Jubilee, in which Pakistan-China ties had always been at the Centre-stage.

Ambassador Nong Rong, said that last year, China and Pakistan held series of celebrations to reinvigorate their time-tested friendship as both the countries marked the 70th anniversary of the bilateral diplomatic relations.

Both sides had supported each other in their fight against the global pandemic and pushed forward high quality development of CPEC, he said. China had invested over \$25 billion in Pakistan on CPEC projects generating 75,000 jobs, producing 5500kw of electricity and building over 500 kilometres of roads.

Xie Guoxiang told the ceremony that the trade and economic cooperation between two countries had been cemented since the start of CPEC. Chinese enterprises, he maintained, had done marvellous work which could be clearly seen in the report.

Yang Jiandou, Chairman APCEA said that Chinese enterprises had pursued sustainable development strategies in Pakistan and their role was not limited to building motorways and constructing power projects.

The Chinese enterprises had improved people’s livelihood, implemented eco-friendly development, joined hands with Pakistani counterparts to fight pandemic, and helped in developing local education. Moreover, he added, the leadership of APCEA had been committed to enhance the connectivity between Chinese enterprises and the local business bodies.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2337394/pm-to-visit-china-early-next-month>

The Nation

After ‘big success’ in local cell phone manufacturing, Pakistan eyes to increase exports

ISLAMABAD- Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood Wednesday said Pakistan achieved “big success” in the manufacturing of mobile phones in 2021, with local production exceeding imports for the first time, and the country was now eyeing expansion into exports.

Pakistan, a net importer of mobile phones prior to 2016, produced 22.12 million handsets during January-November 2021 and imported 9.95 million during the same period, data from the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) shows. In 2020, Pakistan’s import of mobile phones was 24.51 million compared to 13.05 million sets produced locally.

Various Chinese mobile phone manufacturers have played a key role in Pakistan’s production boom in 2021, according to the PTA.

Local manufacturing plants assembled 9.03 million smart phones while the number of 2G mobile phones was 13.09 million.

“I would say that our whole venture into manufacturing mobile phones has been a big success,” Dawood, adviser to the Prime Minister for commerce, said in an interview with Arab News on Wednesday.

“It has been very successful because we now see that every month the number of mobile phones coming into the country is decreasing and the numbers that are being produced and sold locally is increasing.”

The PM’s aide said the record levels of local manufacturing were achieved under a new “conducive policy” introduced by the current government.

The Mobile Device Manufacturing Policy 2020 set a 49 percent localization target by June 2023, including 10 percent localization of parts of the motherboard and 10 percent localization of batteries.

“We have developed a policy for local assembling of mobile phones ... We are currently looking at becoming a world class assembler of mobile phones,” Dawood said. “We are right now concentrating on low-end mobile phone sets and we hope that soon we will be able to start getting into high-end phones with world class companies.”

He said after achieving a milestone in manufacturing, Pakistan was eyeing exports to regional countries and Africa. We have started on an export journey, one or two containers have already moved out of the country. Our strategy is to get our mobile phone exported on a sustainable basis,” Dawood said.

“Our strategy is that we export to Afghanistan, the Central Asian Republics and to Africa and as we become more and more experienced, we would be diversifying into the higher end market. We’re hopeful that [we can do this on a] sustainable basis sometime this year, 2022.”

Pakistan’s mobile phone imports increased by 51 percent to over \$2 billion during the last fiscal year while the import bill increased by 18 percent during the current fiscal year, July-November 2021, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-01-06/page-9/detail-5>

CPEC investments top \$25b: Chinese envoy

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said yesterday the investments under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor were more than \$ 25 billion.

Speaking at an event here organised by the Chinese embassy where the Pakistan-China Institute and All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association launched the annual ‘APCEA Sustainable Development Report 2021,’ the envoy said China and Pakistan held series of celebrations to reinvigorate their time tested friendship as it marked the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

The event was attended by over 100 participants and featured five speeches, including the chief guest, Senate of Pakistan Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani, APCEA Chairman Yang Jiandou, Senate Defence Committee Chairman and Pakistan-China Institute Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Special Assistant to PM on CPEC Khalid Mansoor, Minister Counsellor (Economic and Commercial) Xie Guoxiang and Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong. APCEA represents 200 Chinese Companies working in Pakistan.

Ambassador Nong Rong said that China and Pakistan held series of celebrations last year to reinvigorate their time tested friendship as it marked the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Both sides have supported each other in their fight against the global pandemic and pushed forward high quality development of CPEC.

Annual ‘APCEA Sustainable Development Report 2021’ launched

He said China had invested over \$25 billion in Pakistan on CPEC projects, generating 75,000 jobs, producing 5500 kW of electricity and building over 500 kilometres of roads and highways.

Special Assistant to PM on CPEC Khalid Mansoor said that he had seen at first hand the difference being created by the work of Chinese enterprises in Pakistan. Through CPEC, the dream of Thar Coal energy became a reality.

CPEC Authority, he said, is working tirelessly to remove any bottlenecks which may emerge during the execution of CPEC projects.

He said the prime minister had ordered the removal of 37 regulations for a one window operation for foreign investors and the prime minister personally would be taking briefings on CPEC projects progress every 15 days.

In his keynote speech, Senate of Pakistan Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani said that through this report, the people will learn more about CPEC and the opportunities being created by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan. Terming CPEC as a game changer, he said the project will create trade linkages and economic opportunities in the whole region. He urged APCEA to closely coordinate with the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Pakistan.

Senate Defence Committee Chairman and Pakistan-China Institute Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed said that APCEA report will serve the purpose of presenting facts and nullifying the fiction being propagated by the adversaries of China about CPEC.

He pointed towards the recently passed ‘Strategic Competition Act’ by the US Senate through which the US has allocated \$300 million for a ‘Countering China Influence Fund’. Against this backdrop, he advised the companies to brace themselves for disinformation campaigns.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed criticised the boycott of Beijing Olympics by certain Western countries as biased and based on double standards. He said 2022 is the year of Pakistan’s Platinum Jubilee, in which Pakistan-China ties have always been Centre-stage.

Earlier, Chinese Embassy’s Minister Counsellor

of Economic Affairs Xie Guoxiang said that the trade and economic cooperation between two countries has been further cemented since the start of CPEC. Chinese enterprises, he maintained, have done marvelous work which can be clearly seen in the report being launched today.

APCEA Chairman Yang Jiandou said that Chinese enterprises have pursued sustainable development strategies in Pakistan, and their role is not limited to building motorways and constructing power projects. The Chinese enterprises have improved people's livelihood, implemented eco-friendly development, joined hands with Pakistani counterparts to fight pandemic, and helped in developing local education, he added.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-01-06/page-12/detail-4>

January 07, 2022

Daily Times

Pakistan-China Friendship Farm

Yasir Habib Khan

In a bid to ramp up efforts for enhanced agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China under Phase-II of the golden CPEC project, another milestone progress has finally taken shape in the conceptual launch of Pakistan China Friendship Farm.

After coming into existence, Pakistan China Friendship Farm has set the tone and fervency in Pakistan-China Agriculture cooperation. For the intangible birth, formalization and materialization of the Farm, Okara (a city in Punjab), known as the land of agriculture, has been chosen as a pioneer. Without any doubt, credit for this exercise goes to Chinese Consulate Lahore, under the leadership of acting Consul General of the People's Republic of China, Peng Zhengwu, and Okara Farmers leader and provincial lawmaker, Muneeb ul Haq.

The Farm is designed to play a pivotal role in integrating Chinese agro-based companies with Pakistan farmers, agriculturists, exporters and businessmen to help tap all avenues in the domain of digital and corporate agriculture that are still unexplored

Given the scenario, Pakistan farmers are going to be the main beneficiary of Chinese innovative agriculture advancements, digitalization, intercropping, seed technology, state of art agro-industrial machines, laser land levelling techniques, Hybrid crops mechanism. Chinese Modern livestock and Dairy developments are the others benefits to be availed by Pakistan traders.

The average yield of wheat is only three tons per hectare in Pakistan, but it can be improved substantially through the high-yield, anti-drought variety.

In terms of the conceptual launch of Pakistan China Friendship Farm, acting Consul General of People's Republic of China Lahore Peng Zhengwu visited Okara on the special invitation of MPA Muneeb ul Haq and MNA Fiaz Zafar. Mr Peng was accompanied by a Chinese delegation.

The delegation was welcomed with traditional zeal and pump shown by local people, political leaders, farmers, businessmen, and traders. Petals of flowers were showered as a token of love with China. People also chanted slogans "Pakistan is proud of friendship with China," and "Pak-China Friendship, Live Long".

Later, Mr Peng Zhengwu inaugurated a state-of-the-art digital X-Ray machine donated by China to the OPWA foundation. He was given a briefing of the machine's operations by the staff.

He also inaugurated "Shanghai Under Pass" in downtown Okara. Afterwards, the Chinese delegation visited the Municipal Corporations office where he was presented the "Key of City." Guests also made him wear a traditional turban and Dhooti (traditional Punjabi costume worn around the abdomen that cover complete legs till ankle and it is not stitched from centre).

After the Chinese delegation was seated on a grand stage, a charged crowd interacted with it.

Addressing the gathering, Acting Consul General of the People's Republic of China Lahore Peng Zhengwu said that relevant theoretical framework for the further materialization of Pakistan China Friendship Farm is to be designed in consultation with agro-based Chinese companies and Pakistan farmers and traders in the coming days.

He said that currently, Pakistan China Friendship Farm will only be having its symbolic presence. "After some time progresses, both Chinese enterprises and Okara agriculturists will conceptualize the Farm into a platform for the groundbreaking of their agriculture joint ventures," he added. He said that it is an initiative to provide a chance to let Pakistan and China

traders and farmers put their act together for laying the foundation of modern agriculture in Pakistan. He remarked that CPEC, which was the signature project of BRI initiated by Chinese President Xi Jinping, was a combined project of both Pakistan and China that would greatly benefit the region.

MPA Ch Muneeb ul Haq and senior member Ch Fiaz Zafar while addressing the gathering requested China to invest in Okara terming city land of corn, land of potato, land of rice and other essential crops in Pakistan

They demanded that Okara be made a twin city with a Chinese city and set up an industrial park. They requested that Okara be turned into a solar city and for the formation of an Agricultural forum here. At the end to commemorate the occasion, the Acting Consul General and his delegates were presented with shields.

Under CPEC phase-II, Pakistan and China have already signed MoU to enhance cooperation in the agriculture sector. The agreed areas of joint working under the MoU include technology transfer and collaboration in R&D, enhancing agriculture trade, cooperation in agro-industry, livestock and dairy.

The facts are that the average yield of wheat is only three tons per hectare in Pakistan, which can be improved substantially by taking the high-yield, anti-drought variety with resistance to insects and pests through Chinese cooperation. As for rice cultivation, China's hybrid rice technology is recommended. For sugarcane and potato, the virus-free tissue culture sapling is a good choice.

China has many technologies suitable for crops in Pakistan, including compound planting, smart agriculture, water-saving irrigation and greenhouse. Recently, two Pakistani students from China's Sichuan Agricultural University used the maize-soybean strip intercropping technology in Punjab, which has achieved satisfactory results by now. The greenhouse planting can also promote the development of vegetables, edible fungus and flowers in Pakistan. Taking advantage of agricultural machinery and agricultural materials, China's fertilizer and pesticides, Pakistan should go for green pesticides and organic fertilizers to reduce pollution from the agricultural non-point source.

It is also encouraging that China and Pakistan are closely working together to promote agriculture products trade. To date, China and Pakistan have signed quarantine risk protocols for rice, citrus and mango. The two sides need to accelerate the signing of protocols for onions, potatoes and cherries.

The last one is for Pakistan to make good use of e-commerce, and strengthen commercial promotions and marketing to make more Chinese know more about its high-quality agriculture products.

It is hoped that with agriculture cooperation, the Pakistan-China trade imbalance might be improved and the bilateral trade could soon reach more than \$30 billion. If it reaches \$100 billion with several years of effort, Pakistan will become China's largest trading partner in the

South Asian subcontinent. The Pakistani government and enterprises should strengthen promotion in the Chinese market by participating in exhibitions and holding exhibitions so that Chinese importers and consumers can better understand the superior Pakistani products. Lastly, while actively exploring the Chinese market, Pakistan needs to take further measures to improve transportation, product packaging, inspection and quarantine.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/864804/pakistan-china-friendship-farm/>

Pakistan Observer

Mega-projects in Gwadar to be completed this year

Gwadar has multiple mega projects underway under China-Pakistan out of which several are expected to be completed in 2022.

According to Gwadar Pro, some of the mega projects to be finished this year include Pakistan-China friendship hospital consisting of 300 beds. The work on hospital is expected to be finished by December this year.

The second project is Gwadar East bay expressway which will connect Gwadar Port to Makran coastal highway. The six-lane expressway will be completed by April 2022. The third important project is provision of water to Gwadar city from nearby dams to meet the future water demand of the city.

<https://pakobserver.net/mega-projects-in-gwadar-to-be-completed-this-year/>

The Nation

Four coal-based power projects under CPEC's banner completed

ISLAMABAD - Under the banner of CPEC framework, as many as four coal-based power projects have already been commissioned while remaining five projects are at different stages of implementation.

Official sources told APP here that a total of nine coal-based power generation projects were agreed between Pakistan and China. Through Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB), four projects having 4620MW capacity have started supplying electricity to the national grid system, they said.

Work was being carried out on remaining projects having 3600MW capacity, they added. They said the commissioned projects included 1320MW Sahiwal Coal Power Project, 1320MW Port Qasim Coal Power Plant, 1320MW Hub Coal Power Plant and 660MW Thar Coal based Engro Power Project.

The under process projects included 330MW Thar Coal, 1320MW Thar Coal, 330MW Thar Coal and 300MW imported coal while 1320MW Thar Coal was included in Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP). It is pertinent to mention here that the grand total of coal-based power project is 8,220MW.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-01-07/page-9/detail-7>

Ownership of locals for CPEC vital to reap benefits: MPs body

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Thursday noted that the confidence of the local people over State institutions and their ownership for CPEC is mandatory to achieve the fruits of this flagship project and in this regard highlighted that SOPs for security personnel at various check-posts especially in Balochistan could be re-evaluated.

The committee that met under the chairmanship of Sher Ali Arbab here, noted, “We need to build the trust of local people by protecting their honour and dignity, apprising them of the benefits of shared development resulting from CPEC, empowering them economically while ensuring security.”

The committee was briefed by Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs, Additional Secretary Planning, Additional Secretary Defence, Additional Secretary Interior, Commandant Special Protection Unit, Punjab Police and Commandant, Special Combat Unit, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Police regarding a single point agenda on the security of CPEC.

The committee chairman remarked that given the importance of economic stability, we have to pursue the policy of geo-economics by now onwards. Pakistan, in this day and age, direly needs investments and businesses to flourish under CPEC. Undoubtedly, the goals envisaged under CPEC inevitably hinge upon the security of CPEC by which we can boost the confidence of investors and attract massive investments in Pakistan. He added ensuring robust security of CPEC is of vital importance, therefore, all the quarters concerned need to eliminate bottlenecks pertaining to the security of CPEC and ensure that CPEC culminates in the attainment of desired results.

Additional Secretary Interior informed the committee that after the outbreak of Dasu attack, Government of Pakistan had taken comprehensive overview of security, filled the gaps by introducing new initiatives while taking concrete measures to ensure foolproof security of CPEC.

The Committee highlighted that SOPs for security personnel at various check-posts especially in Balochistan could be re-evaluated. The confidence of locals over State institutions and their ownership for CPEC is mandatory to achieve the fruits of this flagship project.

The Committee decided that in continuation of this meeting, another meeting would also be convened next week on security of CPEC. The meeting was attended by Noor Alam Khan, Umar Aslam Khan, Mir Khan Muhammad Jamali, Nafeesa Inayatullah Khan Khattak, Ghous Bux Khan Mahar, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Mehnaz Akber Aziz, Zahid Akram Durrani, Muhammad Aslam Bhootani.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-01-07/page-12/detail-4>

The News

APCEA report launched to ensure Sino-Pak common development

ISLAMABAD: The launching ceremony of All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association (APCEA) Sustainable Development Report 2021 was held, aimed at promoting Sino-Pak common development.

According to Gwadar Pro, the sustainable development report issued by the APCEA for the first time summarizes the practices and achievements of its member enterprises in fulfilling their economic contributions, environmental protection and social responsibilities in the process of investment and operation in Pakistan.

It embodies the sustainable concept of common development between China and Pakistan.

The ceremony was attended by notable figures of the leading Pakistani and Chinese leadership. In their speeches, the honorable guests lauded the consistent efforts of team APCEA and PCI that went in the launch of this report which is a remarkable way of showcasing the achievements secured by CPEC phase I.

Terming CPEC as a game changer, Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate of Pakistan said that through this report, the people will learn more about CPEC and the opportunities being created by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan.

He underscored the project will create trade linkages and economic opportunities in the whole region. "Moreover, after overhauling the infrastructure and alleviating the energy crisis in the first phase, CPEC Phase two will initiate an era of industrialization in the country.

To harness the opportunities brought by the second phase, communication with Chinese enterprises is advocated to be enhanced."

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong underlined that last year, China and Pakistan held series of celebrations to reinvigorate their time-tested friendship as it marked the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Both sides have supported each other in their fight against the global pandemic and pushed forward high quality development of CPEC.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=43326>

January 08, 2022

Daily Times

China, Pakistan step up cooperation on water-saving agriculture

China, Pakistan step up cooperation in water-saving agriculture, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. In this connection, a 14-day online training course on water-saving agriculture for Pakistan kicked off.

The training course is sponsored by Chinese Ministry of Commerce and organized by the international exchange center of Yangling Demonstration Zone, Shaanxi Province China.

The 48 trainees are from Pakistani universities and institutions. At the training course, they will communicate and discuss the water-saving irrigation technique and the development trend of water-saving agriculture with Chinese experts from Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University, China.

Yangling has made active exploration in water-saving irrigation, integration of water and fertilizer and efficient use of water resource in recent years, achieved remarkable result and accumulated a lot of experience, according to He Ling, a senior official of Yangling Demonstration Zone. He hoped China and Pakistan could share the experience and methods in water-saving agriculture, deepen the pragmatic cooperation and make more contributions to the development of China and Pakistan's modern agriculture." This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Pakistan. We hope this training will enhance the two nations' exchanges and understanding and boost the extensive cooperation of scientific research institutions in modern agriculture," said Sun Jinghu, vice-director of Commerce Department, Shaanxi Province, when attending the opening ceremony of the training.

Yangling Agricultural High-tech Industry Demonstration Zone is China's first national agricultural high-tech industry demonstration zone. The China Yangling Agricultural High-tech Fair, is one of the most influential agricultural science and technology exhibitions in the country.

With the goal of serving rural areas, farmers and agriculture, it has become an important platform for showcasing new agricultural sci-tech achievements at home and abroad, promoting the industrialization of high-tech agricultural products and strengthening international exchange and cooperation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/865490/china-pakistan-step-up-cooperation-on-water-saving-agriculture/>

Pakistan-China Friendship Farm

Yasir Habib Khan

In a bid to ramp up efforts for enhanced agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China under Phase-II of the golden CPEC project, another milestone progress has finally taken shape in the conceptual launch of Pakistan China Friendship Farm.

After coming into existence, Pakistan China Friendship Farm has set the tone and fervency in Pakistan-China Agriculture cooperation. For the intangible birth, formalization and materialization of the Farm, Okara (a city in Punjab), known as the land of agriculture, has been chosen as a pioneer. Without any doubt, credit for this exercise goes to Chinese Consulate Lahore, under the leadership of acting Consul General of the People's Republic of China, Peng Zhengwu, and Okara Farmers leader and provincial lawmaker, Muneeb ul Haq.

The Farm is designed to play a pivotal role in integrating Chinese agro-based companies with Pakistan farmers, agriculturists, exporters and businessmen to help tap all avenues in the domain of digital and corporate agriculture that are still unexplored

Given the scenario, Pakistan farmers are going to be the main beneficiary of Chinese innovative agriculture advancements, digitalization, intercropping, seed technology, state of art agro-industrial machines, laser land leveling techniques, Hybrid crops mechanism. Chinese Modern livestock and Dairy developments are the others benefits to be availed by Pakistan traders.

The average yield of wheat is only three tons per hectare in Pakistan, but it can be improved substantially through the high-yield, anti-drought variety.

In terms of the conceptual launch of Pakistan China Friendship Farm, acting Consul General of People's Republic of China Lahore Peng Zhengwu visited Okara on the special invitation of MPA Muneeb ul Haq and MNA Fiaz Zafar. Mr Peng was accompanied by a Chinese delegation.

The delegation was welcomed with traditional zeal and pump shown by local people, political leaders, farmers, businessmen, and traders. Petals of flowers were showered as a token of love with China. People also chanted slogans "Pakistan is proud of friendship with China," and "Pak-China Friendship, Live Long".

Later, Mr Peng Zhengwu inaugurated a state of the art digital X-Ray machine donated by China to the OPWA foundation. He was given a briefing of the machine's operations by the staff.

He also inaugurated "Shanghai Under Pass" in downtown Okara. Afterwards, the Chinese delegation visited the Municipal Corporations office where he was presented the "Key of City." Guests also made him wear a traditional turban and Dhooti (traditional Punjabi costume worn around the abdomen that cover complete legs till ankle and it is not stitched from centre).

After the Chinese delegation was seated on a grand stage, a charged crowd interacted with it.

Addressing the gathering, Acting Consul General of the People's Republic of China Lahore Peng Zhengwu said that relevant theoretical framework for the further materialization of Pakistan China Friendship Farm is to be designed in consultation with agro-based Chinese companies and Pakistan farmers and traders in the coming days.

He said that currently, Pakistan China Friendship Farm will only be having its symbolic presence. "After some time progresses, both Chinese enterprises and Okara agriculturists will conceptualize the Farm into a platform for the groundbreaking of their agriculture joint ventures," he added. He said that it is an initiative to provide a chance to let Pakistan and China traders and farmers put their act together for laying the foundation of modern agriculture in Pakistan. He remarked that CPEC, which was the signature project of BRI initiated by Chinese President Xi Jinping, was a combined project of both Pakistan and China that would greatly benefit the region.

MPA Ch Muneeb ul Haq and senior member Ch Fiaz Zafar while addressing the gathering requested China to invest in Okara terming city land of corn, land of potato, land of rice and other essential crops in Pakistan

They demanded that Okara be made a twin city with a Chinese city and set up an industrial park. They requested that Okara be turned into a solar city and for the formation of an Agricultural forum here. At the end to commemorate the occasion, the Acting Consul General and his delegates were presented with shields.

Under CPEC phase-II, Pakistan and China have already signed MoU to enhance cooperation in the agriculture sector. The agreed areas of joint working under the MoU include technology transfer and collaboration in R&D, enhancing agriculture trade, cooperation in agro-industry, livestock and dairy.

The facts are that the average yield of wheat is only three tons per hectare in Pakistan, which can be improved substantially by taking the high-yield, anti-drought variety with resistance to insects and pests through Chinese cooperation. As for rice cultivation, China's hybrid rice technology is recommended. For sugarcane and potato, the virus-free tissue culture sapling is a good choice.

China has many technologies suitable for crops in Pakistan, including compound planting, smart agriculture, water-saving irrigation and greenhouse. Recently, two Pakistani students from China's Sichuan Agricultural University used the maize-soybean strip intercropping technology in Punjab, which has achieved satisfactory results by now. The greenhouse planting can also promote the development of vegetables, edible fungus and flowers in Pakistan. Taking advantage of agricultural machinery and agricultural materials, China's fertilizer and pesticides, Pakistan should go for green pesticides and organic fertilizers to reduce pollution from the agricultural non-point source.

It is also encouraging that China and Pakistan are closely working together to promote agriculture products trade. To date, China and Pakistan have signed quarantine risk protocols for

rice, citrus and mango. The two sides need to accelerate the signing of protocols for onions, potatoes and cherries.

The last one is for Pakistan to make good use of e-commerce, and strengthen commercial promotions and marketing to make more Chinese know more about its high-quality agriculture products.

It is hoped that with agriculture cooperation, the Pakistan-China trade imbalance might be improved and the bilateral trade could soon reach more than \$30 billion. If it reaches \$100 billion with several years of effort, Pakistan will become China's largest trading partner in the South Asian subcontinent. The Pakistani government and enterprises should strengthen promotion in the Chinese market by participating in exhibitions and holding exhibitions so that Chinese importers and consumers can better understand the superior Pakistani products. Lastly, while actively exploring the Chinese market, Pakistan needs to take further measures to improve transportation, product packaging, inspection and quarantine.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/864804/pakistan-china-friendship-farm/>

Pakistan Observer

Pak-China experts discuss translation of Urdu and Chinese classics

The China-Pakistan Classics Translation and Publication will turn out to be a flagship literary project for both the countries and the classics written in Urdu and Chinese languages will be made available to the readers of the two countries after their translation.

Former President of China Publishing Group, Chairman of Taofen Foundation, Vice-Chairman of the Publishers Association of China, Nie Zhenning, expressed these views during a preliminary online meeting of the experts of the two countries.

The Chinese government will give the highest priority to make it a success, he said. The virtual meeting was organized by the Pakistan Academy of Letters.

Chairman of the PAL Dr Yousuf Khushk while reciprocating the same warmth and enthusiasm said the China-Pakistan Classics Translation and Publication was a unique project and would further enhance the literary ties between the two countries.

After the introduction of experts, the procedural steps of the implementation plan of the Memorandum of Understanding of Mutual Translation and Publication Project were discussed by the experts.

Pakistan's senior writer and human rights icon Kishwar Naheed, former Chairman of the PAL and acclaimed poet Iftikhar Arif, Director General National Language Promotion Department Dr Rauf Parekh, Assistant Professor, Department of Pakistani Languages AIOU, Dr Hakim Ali Buriro, Director PAL, Muhammad Asim Butt, Editor Urdu PAL, Mr. Akhtar Raza Saleemi, represented Pakistan side while Xie Shouguang, Deputy Director of Social Sciences Academic Press, Lu Shulin, Former Ambassador Extraordinary, Xiao Long, Curator of Shanxi University

Library, Liu Shuxiong, Professor of for South Asia Studies, Yuan Nan, Editor-in-Chief of Yilin Press Ltd, Liu Qinju, Deputy Director of Phoenix Publishing & Media, Xu Chen, Project Coordinator of Phoenix Publishing & Media Inc. Global Business Department, Wang Yuqiang represented Chinese side.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-experts-discuss-translation-of-urdu-and-chinese-classics/>

Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar to finish by Dec this year

Pak-China Friendship Hospital, Gwadar, being constructed under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, will be completed by December this year.

Being financed by the Chinese government, the hospital, being established over 68 acres of land, would be equipped with modern medical facilities for the people of the area.

Some 40 local jobs would be generated after completion of the hospital whereas civil work had started by November 2020 and would be completed by December 2022, an official said.

He said that one out of six medical blocks (each 50 bed) along with 20 percent of the residential blocks was completed.

The remaining medical blocks, nursing and paramedical institutes, medical college, central laboratory and other allied facilities would be constructed with a supply of medical equipment and machinery, he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-friendship-hospital-gwadar-to-finish-by-dec-this-year/>

Centre for BRI China, Pakistan Studies to be established in Zhejiang

Belt and Road Consultants Pvt Limited, a Pakistani trading company and BIM Service Center from Hangzhou Province signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish the Center for Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China and Pakistan Studies in China's Zhejiang. The MoU entails that a liaison office will be established in Zhejiang, Hangzhou for the Center.

Both companies collaborate on the importance of the business model transformation and innovation that are required in the architecture, engineering, construction industry, ICT, media, entertainment industry, tourism and education fields.

Muhammad Asif Noor, CEO, Belt and Road Consultants Pvt Ltd and Jiang Hong Shen, Founding Director of Zhejiang Province BIM Service Center and Professor of Zhejiang University of Science and Technology signed the MoU, a press release issued here Friday said.

Both Chinese and Pakistan business enterprises establish this important Centre for business cooperation and explore the possibilities of collaboration through market research and optimization.

The main objective of this collaboration is to establish this Centre as a platform to drive the initiatives for collaborative projects for Pakistani and Chinese communities. The Center will act as an IT Hub, new education facilities, digital economy research center, film and culture town,

infrastructure modernization projects, tourism facilities, and their construction and coordination with various resources, including human resources skills development. The aim of the Center is also to build economic empowerment of the communities and fight poverty.

The companies from both sides recognize the comprehensive capabilities of China engineering companies in the infrastructure and will encourage the Pakistan companies to learn from the experiences of China.

According to the agreement, both companies will encourage business cooperation between Zhejiang and Pakistan as both communities have a huge population base and tourism resources. Large scale exchange of businesspeople will help boom the economy growth, detonate large scale investment and trade activities and increase the understanding of each other.

Belt and Road Consultants Pvt Ltd (BRC) is a leading company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). The main objective of BRC is to provide assistance to local businessmen and foreign investors from the participant countries of the BRI to invest in and outside Pakistan. BRC, through well-knitted linkages within the participant countries of BRI at the public and private levels, is aiming to provide consultancy services in the areas of Culture, Education, Science and Technology, Media, Research and Development, Tourism, Transportation, Exchange of Ideas, Goods, and Services

BIM Service Center is a Zhejiang, Hangzhou-based is a state-owned Chinese service center. The main task is to develop various service projects to enable individuals to build skills for business. The motivation is to have win-win cooperation and open up a better future.

The MoU will further progress the initiatives by the Government of Pakistan and China in the direction to improve trade and investment partnership between the two countries, said the press release.

<https://pakobserver.net/centre-for-bri-china-pakistan-studies-to-be-established-in-zhejiang/>

January 09, 2022

Dawn News

IMDC, Chinese varsity to collaborate in medical education

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Medical and Dental College (IMDC) and Anhui Medical University (AHMU) China have entered into an agreement to initiate academic collaboration.

According to a statement, IMDC Managing Director Yasir Khan Niazi and AHMU President Dr Cao Yun Xia signed the agreement on Friday.

IMDC chairman and Dr Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital (ANTH) owner Dr Ghulam Akbar Khan Niazi inaugurated the Pakistan-China Cross Cultural Educational Exchange Center by unveiling a plaque.

Both the medical institutions have agreed to open Pakistan-China Cross Border Educational Exchange Centre so that the medical students in Pakistan and China can benefit from the experience and skills of the top-notch medical practitioners in both countries.

The management of both the institutes said they would also cooperate in medical research so as to benefit from the latest developments in the fields of science and medicine.

Second Secretary of Pakistan Embassy in China Mohammad Junaid also attended the ceremony.

Dr Cao Yun Xia said Anhui Medical University was almost completing 100 years of its existence and had a large number of teaching hospitals associated with it where advanced treatment, research and educational services were being provided.

Yasir Niazi told media that this agreement had opened a new phase in which both the countries were further cooperating from government to government, diplomatic and infrastructure cooperation to the cooperation in the fields of medical education, research and student exchange.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1668386>

Pakistan Observer

Economy-class Chinese umbrellas a relief in rainy winter

As the umbrella business is one of the most profitable jobs on rainy days, “Made in China” umbrellas are selling like hot cakes in the Pakistani markets during the ongoing winter season.

Chinese umbrellas are designed in different colors, shapes and sizes. Prices vary depending on size and quality.

Office goers, students, workers, teachers, farmers, peasants and people from all walks of life use Chinese umbrellas.

“Since morning, I have sold around two dozen umbrellas,” Naveed Ahmad, a shopkeeper in Chakdara told Gwadar Pro, adding, “More rain means more money, especially when it is the first rain of the winter”.

<https://pakobserver.net/economy-class-chinese-umbrellas-a-relief-in-rainy-winter>

The Nation

IMDC, Chinese university join hands for academic collaboration

ISLAMABAD - The Islamabad Medical and Dental College (IMDC) of Pakistan and Anhui Medical University (AHMU) of Chinese province Hefei Anhui here on Saturday entered into an agreement to initiate academic collaboration. According to press statement issued here, Managing Director IMDC, Yasir Khan Niazi and President AHMU Dr. Cao Yun Xia signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations. On the occasion, Chairman IMDC and Dr Akbar Niazi Teaching Hospital (ANTH), Dr. Ghulam Akbar Khan Niazi inaugurated the Pakistan-China Cross Cultural Educational Exchange Center to enable medical students in Pakistan and China benefit from the experience and skills of the top-notch medical practitioners

in both countries. The management of both institutes said that they would also cooperate in medical research so as to benefit from the latest developments in the fields of science and medicine.

The ceremony was also attended by Muhammad Junaid, Second Secretary of Pakistan Embassy in China, who expressed great pleasure on this collaboration. He also appreciated IMDC's cervical cancer campaign and collaboration with China regarding improvement of healthcare delivery in Pakistan. On the occasion, Dr. Cao Yun Xia said the Anhui Medical University was about to complete 100 years of its existence and had a large number of teaching hospitals associated with it where advanced treatment, research and educational services were being provided.

Yasir Niazi said that the agreement had opened a new phase by moving from government to government, diplomatic and infrastructure cooperation to cooperation in the fields of medical education, research and student exchange.

He further added that IMDC and ANTH were making every effort to strengthen healthcare sector of Pakistan through international collaborations and that IMDC intended to join the consortium of educational institutes.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-01-09/page-13/detail-1>

Express News

چین میں پھلتی پھولتی اردو زبان

ڈاکٹر چانگ جیامی، جن کا پاکستانی یا اردو میں نام 'طاہرہ' ہے ڈیپارٹمنٹ آف سائٹھ اینڈ اینٹھین سٹڈیز، سکول آف فارن لینگویجز، پیکنگ یونیورسٹی میں ایسوسی ایٹ پروفیسر کی حیثیت سے خدمات انجام دے رہی ہیں۔

اس کے ساتھ وہ اردو ڈیپنگ اینڈ ریسرچ سیکشن کی ڈائریکٹر کی ذمہ داریاں بھی نبھاتی ہیں۔ 2004 سے 2018 کے دوران انہوں نے مختلف ادبی کانفرنسوں میں شرکت اور کلچرل ایکسچینج پروگرامز کے تحت کئی مرتبہ پاکستان کا دورہ کیا۔ 2019 میں وہ وزٹنگ اسکالر، سنٹر فار ریلیجس سٹڈیز، پرنسٹن یونیورسٹی، امریکہ کے ساتھ منسلک رہیں۔

ان کے کئی تحقیقی آرٹیکلز سائٹھ اینڈ اینٹھین سٹڈیز، اورینٹل سٹڈیز، ایریا سٹڈیز جرنل آف پیکنگ یونیورسٹی، لٹریچر اینڈ ہسٹری آف ویسٹرن ریجن میں شائع ہو چکے ہیں۔ انہوں نے ٹریک آن انگریزی ٹیچرز اور پاکستان کی منتخب نظموں کا ترجمہ کیا ہے جو شائع ہو چکی ہیں۔ وہ کتاب 'گندھارا کی مسکراہٹ'، اے ٹور آف پاکستان مانومنٹ' کی چیف ایڈیٹر اور ایک دوسری کتاب 'شی جن پھنگ دی گورننس آف چائے' کے اردو ترجمہ کے لیے قائم ریویو گروپ کی ممبر بھی ہیں۔ اس کے علاوہ انہوں نے چین میں اور چین سے باہر کئی تحقیقی پروجیکٹس میں حصہ لیا ہے۔

انٹرویو ڈاکٹر طاہرہ، سربراہ شعبہ اردو، پیکنگ یونیورسٹی، بیجنگ، چین

سوال: آپ کی اردو زبان سے آشنائی کب ہوئی؟

جواب: اردو سے میرا تعلق یا تعارف 1997 میں ہوا جب میں اردو زبان سیکھنے کے لیے پیکنگ یونیورسٹی میں داخل ہوئی۔ اور اس وقت سے لیکر اب تک یہ تعلق قائم اور پھل پھول رہا ہے۔

سوال: اردو زبان سیکھنے کا شوق یا خواہش کب پیدا ہوئی؟

چین میں ہم پرائمری سکول سے انگریزی زبان سیکھتے ہیں، اور اس کے ساتھ کوئی ایک غیر ملکی زبان بھی سیکھنی ہوتی ہے۔ تو اس وقت مجھے غیر ملکی زبان میں دلچسپی پیدا ہوئی۔ مجھے پانچ یا چھ زبانوں میں سے کسی ایک کا انتخاب کرنا تھا۔ ان میں جاپانی، منگولین، ویت نامی، کورین، عربی اور اردو شامل تھیں۔ تو میں نے اردو کا انتخاب کیا کیونکہ یہ ہمارے ایک اچھے دوست اور پڑوسی ملک کی زبان تھی۔ باقی زبانیں منگولیا، جاپانی، کورین، ویت نامی ہمارے ریجن کی تھیں اور کسی نہ کسی حد تک چینی زبان سے مماثلت رکھتی تھیں۔ تو میں نے سوچا کہ مختلف زبان ہونی چاہیے۔ تو اس لیے میں نے اردو کا انتخاب کیا۔

سوال: چین میں رہتے ہوئے اردو زبان کیسے سیکھی؟

میں چونکہ بیکنگ یونیورسٹی کے شعبہ اردو کی طالبہ تھی، تو زیادہ زبان تو اپنے شعبہ سے ہی سیکھی۔ اُس وقت زیادہ تر فلمیں بھی پاکستان سے آتی تھیں۔ میرا نام ہے محبت اور آوارہ وغیرہ یہ فلمیں پاکستان کی تھیں جن کی چین میں نمائش ہوئی۔ تو ان سے اردو سیکھنے میں مدد ملی۔ اُس وقت پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان تسلسل کے ساتھ دُفود وغیرہ آتے جاتے تھے۔ تو اس طرح آہستہ آہستہ اردو زبان سیکھتے رہے۔ اس وقت پاکستان سے محبت بھی اردو زبان سیکھنے کی وجہ بنی۔

سوال: اردو زبان سیکھنے کے دوران ابتدائی مراحل میں کس قسم کی مشکلات پیش آئیں؟

<https://www.express.pk/story/2267697/10/>

January 10, 2022

Business Recorder

CPEC: Gwadar likely to have 50-bed modern hospital by Dec

ISLAMABAD: Under the game changer China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Project, the Chinese government is financing the Pak-China Friendship Hospital being established over 68 acres of land which would be equipped with a modern medical facility for the people of the port city of Gwadar.

The project has been proposed for implementation of Phase-II of 50-beds hospital to be constructed under the Gwadar Development Authority (GDA) Business Plan (Federal PSDP), an official source told APP while updating on the mega project.

The Hospital would create employment opportunities for the local masses as a total of 40 local jobs would be generated whereas civil work had started by November 2020 which was expected to be completed by December 2022, he said.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/01/10/3-page/914594-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Faisalabad Industrial Zone gets power grid station, gas pipeline

A 132KV grid station and a gas supply line at CPEC's Allama Iqbal Industrial City have been inaugurated by Federal Minister of Energy Hammad Azhar, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday.

Federal Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar said that the current government is trying to solve the problems of the people at their doorsteps, and providing uninterrupted power supply to the consumers is their top priority.

New grids are essential for the development of domestic industries. Unemployment will be overcome with the growth and development of the industry. Pakistan's economic indicators are positive.

The pace of economic growth is 5%. The government, aware of the rising cost of living, is working day and night to tackle it. "Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development and Management Company is taking steps to provide facilities to the industries which are commendable," He added.

Rs.600 million has been spent on the grid station at (M3) industrial Estate, revealed by the Chief Executive Officer Faisalabad Electric Supply Company Engineer Bashir Ahmad at the inauguration ceremony.

Chairman of FIEDMC Zafar Iqbal is more optimistic about the installation of new grid stations. He believed that a gas pipeline was also being laid to cater to the needs of industries to be established in this industrial estate, and now more connections from electricity grid station and gas pipeline would be given to local and foreign investors.

At the Inauguration ceremony Chairman All Pakistan Textile Processing Mills Association Hafiz Ehtisham Javed, other investors, government officials, and businessmen were also present.

<https://pakobserver.net/faisalabad-industrial-zone-gets-power-grid-station-gas-pipeline/>

Good bye 2021

Imtiaz Rafi Butt

THE year 2021 was nothing short of revolutionary and historical in multiple facets. In various areas of life, events took place that have a lasting effect on the fate of humanity and the planet for decades.

2021 was a year that was reminiscent of the human condition; a convoluted amalgam of pessimism with optimism, hope with fear, death and life, darkness and light.

The major narrative that comes out sends a message for future generations, that even when there is injustice, suffering and challenges in the world and in our home country, there are people who are bearers of light, there are professions that are seeking the cure, and with the right mind set, it is within grasp.

Looking back, 2021 showed up the new avenues of improvement and success and what lies beneath if we fail.

On an International level, the year started with two major events. The height of the covid-19 pandemic and the U.S presidential election.

Failure during the pandemic, record level deaths in the U.S contributed towards the downfall of the Trump administration.

On the finalization of results, Trump supporters stormed the White house and the whole world saw, the strongest democracy of the West, reduced to ashes at the hands of hooligans and white-supremacist thugs.

It was an event that will haunt the U.S and the Republicans for decades. All this while the health systems in U.S, Europe and the U.K failed miserably.

Deaths mounted in the thousands and infection rates overwhelmed the hospitals. All this was happening amid news of vaccinations being introduced, trying to achieve maximum adult populations before they reached ICUs.

2021 was a race against time across the world. On the other hand, poorer countries were able to cope with the pandemic congruent to their discipline.

Loss of control in public gatherings and not following Covid social guidelines lead to a catastrophe in India.

Around April, India and Delhi in particular lead to a number of deaths that were unprecedented.

Oxygen cylinders went short. Hospitals were overrun. Funeral pyres filled the sky with smoke across many Indian cities.

It was a scene of horror and soul searching, when even Pakistan offered help, amid the worst pandemic scenarios in any country.

Similar scenes were seen in France, Italy, Mexico, Spain and African countries. Slowly, the vaccines took hold and the number of deaths dwindled.

On the eve of new year, one banner in Delhi read “ajeeb saal tha, kissi ke sapne ley gaya, kissi ke apnay ley gaya” (it was a strange year, it took away dreams from some and took loved ones from some).

Another event that shocked the world was the exit of the U.S Forces from Afghanistan and the sweeping force of the Taliban take over.

After 20 years of war, the U.S, NATO and its allies had replaced the Taliban with a stronger Taliban.

According to experts, this was the end of U.S occupation across seas. The lesson was learned.

The embarrassment to the Western World who took active war in the Afghan invasion became absolute in 2021.

Pakistan took a solid stance. The Indian efforts to bolster its ties to Karzai and Ashraf Ghani were thwarted.

The puppet Government proved to be an actual delusion of the Pentagon. Later, American Generals had to justify and cut out a sorry figure in explaining the failure and miscalculated exit from Kabul.

It was not like Saigon in Vietnam, it was much worse. As the whole world saw, there were people falling from an American Jet as it took off from Kabul. A memory that haunts all U.S allies in the effort of so called “War on terror”.

All the equipment supplied by Western allies and the people who supported the U.S forces, left at the mercy of the Taliban.

Pakistan took a proactive role and engaged the Taliban and new year eve has seen improvement in ties between Pakistan on this front.

On the side of Asia, China made strides during 2021. Beijing handled the pandemic with mechanical efficiency.

It was the first country to open lockdowns and initiate commercial activity. European countries and particularly the U.S blamed China for hiding the origins of the pandemic in the Wuhan area, but China was not hindered.

Economic activity began and 2021 saw the resurgence of trade. In the few months’ time, supply lines that had been suspended in 2020 were reinvigorated.

Silicon and metal raw materials went short giving rise to shortages and souring prices. Fuel and Natural gas supply chains were disrupted. In the peak time, Petrol stations ran dry in cities like London.

Prices came back and then inflated beyond reasonable market rates. Emergency meetings of OPEC countries resolved the matter by increasing supply to stabilize markets.

The World came to know that sustainability through alternate clean energy sources are still a far cry.

But China made all the right choices. It advanced its investment schemes in Asia and Africa.

It strengthened the position on Taiwan and Hong Kong. Non-state actors working against China were tackled in earnest and the position of China on International affairs became loud and clear in the United Nations.

Near the end of 2021, the Chinese representative to the United Nations demanded action against the United States of America for war crimes it had committed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

A change of perspective no doubt. In Pakistan, there was a mix of good and bad events. Imran Khan inherited a dismal situation of the economy and tried his best to steer Pakistan out of bankruptcy.

His notable achievements include reforms in taxation and encouraging a business-friendly environment.

Imran Khan made strenuous efforts in securing deferred oil payments from Saudis and investments from overseas Pakistanis.

Remittances have been at an all-time high. All this was done despite inheriting a deeply troubled state of the economy from previous regimes.

The country was able to avert a disaster due to sound policies of the Imran Khan and the NCOC in view of the pandemic.

Avoiding complete lockdowns and imposing targeted smart lockdowns saved a multitude of jobs and livelihoods. Even in the highest point of the pandemic, hospitals kept functioning and oxygen supplies along with vaccines were available.

Pakistan a debt of gratitude to China was the marvelous assistance that came from Beijing. In the same spirit, Pakistan kept progressing on its significant projects under CPEC and OBOR.

The civil-military co-ordination led to many dividends for the national economy. However, there were many setbacks owing to national and international factors and the economy suffered like never before. Commodity, utilities and the worth of the Rupee dropped considerably and the worst is feared in the future.

IMF program dominated the financial side of the PTI Government and tax burden on the common man is increasing by every passing day.

There were some accomplishments in terms of the national health card scheme, the legislation for women and overhauling of the education structure in the country, but the vision of “Naya Pakistan”, has become a humorous gig. The last year of PTI Government did not bring the change it promised and its supporters remained at a loss for justification.

2021 was a year that concluded the performance of the Government and highlighted the shortcomings of the society at large.

2022 is year, which is, in a way a last chance to fix that which is clearly broken and perhaps in need of the Old Pakistan instead of the new.

—The writer is Chairman Jinnah Rafi Foundation, based in Lahore.

<https://pakobserver.net/good-bye-2021-by-imtiaz-rafi-butt/>

The News

COVID-19 slowed down CPEC implementation, says SAPM

Khalid Mustafa

ISLAMABAD: The CPEC projects have slowed down because of Covid-19 pandemic during the PTI government and now the authorities are in contact with their counterparts in China to expedite the projects and play their roles to complete the financial closures of some important projects.

Prime Minister Imran Khan is also scheduled to visit Beijing in February apparently to attend the 2022 Winter Olympics Games opening ceremony, but he will also meet the top Chinese leadership there on expediting the CPEC projects implementation. However, the premier's visit also depends on how Omicron – the new variant of Covid-19 — behaves in February and to which extent its wave spreads. Khalid Mansoor, Special Assistant to PM on CPEC Affairs, told this to The News in an exclusive interview on Sunday. “Out of \$53 billion, the amount of \$25 billion has so far been invested by China. The CPEC projects will be completed by 2030,” he said.

Mansoor said there are some hiccups with regard to financial closures of various projects and in ascertaining the cost of the mega railway project of ML-1. The ML-I project includes up-gradation and doubling of Main Line-1 (ML-1) from Karachi to Peshawar and Taxila to Havelian (1,733 km), laying of a new track with improved subgrade for 160 km/h, rehabilitation and construction of major bridges, provision of modern signaling and telecom systems, conversion of level crossings into underpasses/ flyovers and fencing of track.

“And to this effect, we have asked the authorities in China to hold competitive bidding among interested Chinese parties to determine the cost of the project. Currently, one side says that the cost of the project stands at \$9 billion and the other side says it should be hovering around \$6.8 billion.”

When asked what if the Chinese companies gang up and make any kind of cartelization to keep the ML-1 project's cost at a higher side, Mansoor said it was not possible as there was always a cutting edge competition among the Chinese companies to get the contract. He said that power projects of 5,300MW installed under the CPEC umbrella are operational while projects of 5,500MW are in the pipeline, which will come on stream in the next 6-9 months. So far, the projects of \$16.3 billion have been completed, which include 5,320 MW projects, HVDC line from Matiari to Lahore and 3.8 MTPA TCB-II Mine in Thar, 1,800km road infrastructure and 820-km optic fiber.

Talking about the International Airport at Gwadar, he said that 26 percent construction work has got completed and the airport will come on stream in the third quarter of 2023.

Mentioning about a coal-based power plant of 300 MW to be set up in Gwadar, he stated that there was an issue of financial closure, which has been delayed and he himself has just talked to his counterpart in China to play a role in meeting the financial close of the project. Mansoor admitted that Chinese companies, which set up power plants under the CPEC umbrella, are irked at the authorities in the Power Division over delayed payments and to this effect he has multiplied efforts to set up a revolving fund, ensuring timely payment to the Chinese companies.

In the wake of the circular debt that reached Rs2,415 billion in the power sector, the Power Division has failed to pay back the returns to Chinese companies on time. So far, the Power Division has delayed the payments of Rs220 billion out of which ECC had approved Rs50 billion for immediate payment to Chinese companies. The revolving fund amount will be equal

to 22 percent of the invoices the Chinese companies will generate. The Chinese companies are also irked at increasing the withholding taxes to 25 percent from 7.5 percent. He said that the Chinese companies have invested in power projects under the 2015 power policy, but now the withholding tax which was at 7.5 percent has been increased to 25 percent.

Asked if the Chinese companies have agreed to alter their power purchase agreement, which were revised by IPPs installed before and under 1994 and 2002 power policies, SAPM Khalid Mansoor said that Chinese companies have invested in setting up power plants under the 2015 power policy and there is no question of asking them to alter their agreements as this will be tantamount to breaching the 2015 power policy. “The Foreign Direct Investment always lands in the country keeping in view long term policies. And foreign investors hesitate to invest in those countries which negate their own policies.”

Coming to the failure in providing basic facilities of electricity, gas and drinking water in Gwadar, he said that locals are the biggest stakeholders and he himself was trying his best to set up 50 MW LNG or LPG based power plant and to this effect he has engaged the COPHCL (China Overseas Port Holding Company Limited).

This project can be built in 6-8 months at the electricity tariff of 7-8 cents per unit. At present, Gwadar is getting electricity from Iran. From Iran more electricity is being negotiated for which the transmission line is being laid down. And to this effect, NTDC’s official team is right now in Tehran. The NTDC will also lay down a 132kv transmission line by mid of 2023.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=44315>

January 11, 2022

Business Recorder

Chinese embassy distributes flood relief package in Gwadar

KARACHI: In the first week of January, Gwadar witnessed heavy precipitation which resulted in a flood like situation. Many houses were collapsed, lives of local populace threatened and property severely damaged. The Balochistan government announced state of emergency and Gwadar was declared a ‘Calamity-Hit District’.

Chinese embassy, together with the Chinese enterprises in Gwadar took prompt action by collecting and distributing edible items to local families in order to get their lives back to normalcy. China Overseas Ports Holding Company organized a supporting team which consists of local employees. Amid the torrential rain, the support team continued their efforts by outreaching far-flung areas of the districts which have traditionally remained deprived and untouched. Such endeavors on the part of Chinese and the corresponding response from the Pakistani side, signalizes the deep-rooted strength of China-Pakistan ties.

The affectees on receiving the package were very thankful to Chinese brothers and the embassy for coming to their rescue in no time.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/01/12/3-page/914843-news.html>

Daily Times

Beijing hybrid wheat sees bumper harvest in Pakistan

Beijing hybrid wheat had bumper harvest in Pakistan's semi-arid climate, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday.

“The year 2022 is the 10th year that Beijing hybrid wheat has entered Pakistan.

In 2021, the promotion of Beijing hybrid wheat in Pakistan made new progress. We introduced a new experimental species, which can achieve a good harvest in semi-arid conditions,” said Prof. Zhang Shengquan from Beijing Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences (BAAFS), while talking to Gwadar Pro.

BAAFS and Peshawar Agricultural University continued to carry out scientific and technological cooperation in 2021, and new progress has been made in the adaptation of Beijing hybrid wheat to Pakistan agriculture.

This would greatly alleviate Pakistan's food crisis and meet the country's huge demand for wheat.

BAAFS studied the response of Beijing hybrid wheat in Pakistani climate conditions, and screened out two hybrid wheat combinations that had increased yield in Pakistan for four consecutive years and achieved high resistance to rust disease, with the average yield increase of 37.8% and 24.3% in four consecutive years.

Besides, five other combinations were selected that increased production in Pakistan for 3 consecutive years.

In addition to high yield and disease resistance, Beijing hybrid wheat also passed the test of dry climate and delayed sowing in order to adapt to the climate of Pakistan. In 2021, through further research, the project team determined that the hybrid wheat could achieve higher biological and economic yields than the conventional wheat varieties.

In a semi-arid climate with deficient irrigation, the hybrid wheat could perform better than local varieties even if the sowing date was delayed.

According to the project, China and Pakistan have jointly evaluated thousands of Beijing hybrid wheat varieties and identified some very good varieties with high yield, disease resistance and drought resistance, with yield potential of about 6000-8000 kg/ha, which is 122-196% higher than the average yield of current common wheat in Pakistan.

In the future, the large-scale promotion of Beijing hybrid wheat will be hoped to help greatly increase the wheat production level in Pakistan, increase the income of the local residents, and eventually achieve domestic self-sufficiency in wheat production.

The Pakistan's relevant scientific research units and industrial enterprises have done a lot of preparation for the promotion of Beijing hybrid wheat, and the next three years will be the key period for the promotion.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/866772/beijing-hybrid-wheat-sees-bumper-harvest-in-pakistan/>

Pakistan Observer

Politicising the 'apolitical' Winter Olympics

Zain Farooq

Earlier last year, the Biden Administration announced that it was blocking the import of certain materials that are used in solar panels from a company in Xinjiang over false allegations of forced labour.

The Xinjiang region is a major production hub for many companies that supply the world with parts needed to build solar panels.

Clearly this diplomatic boycott initiated by the United States is a political manipulation. The US is playing a negative role in politicizing sports, creating divisions and provoking confrontations.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington tweeted that politicians calling for a boycott are “doing so for their own political interests and posturing.” “In fact, no one would care about whether these people come or not, and it has no impact whatsoever on the #Beijing2022 to be successfully held,” the embassy said.

China's Mission to the United Nations called the boycott a “self-directed political farce.” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has accepted the invitation to attend the Beijing Winter Olympics depicting support and neutrality, ignoring Olympic boycott.

China's Ambassador to Pakistan has said his country appreciates Pakistan for being against the “politicization” of sports after Islamabad's comment that the Beijing Winter Olympics would offer “a spectacular and colourful gala to sports enthusiasts around the world.

The Olympic Games symbolize sportsmanship, team spirit, unity, effort, struggle, and maintaining grace in competition whatever the results are.”

In response, China's Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Pong on Sunday said that his nation appreciates Pakistan for being against the “politicization” of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

Western anti-China politicians have shown a defensive Cold War mentality aimed at politicising the sports. This is a clear violation of the Olympic spirit and a challenge to all people who love the Olympic Movement.

It has also been clarified that the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics is not a stage for “Grandstanding of Politicians.”

China is ready to deliver a streamlined, safe and splendid Olympics to the world! France defied other member nations, announcing that it will send high-level officials to this winter's Beijing Olympics. Over recent months, China's government has been in overdrive to combat allegations of human rights abuses in Xinjiang.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson has dismissed the charges of genocide as “the most preposterous lie of the century, an outrageous insult and affront to the Chinese people, and a gross breach of international law and basic norms governing international relations.”

It's easy to write this off as propaganda! There are no abuses, much less a genocide; the people – whether Han, Uyghur, or other ethnic groups – are happy, prosperous and grateful to the Chinese Communist Party. Xinjiang is not as dark as the West governments say. People's life is getting better and better. Ordinary Xinjiang people are very supportive of such efforts.

The government is helping their economy and trying to lift them out of poverty. China has been mobilizing all parts of the country to support Xinjiang in the past few years.

Almost every city needs to support a county or a region in Xinjiang. Westerners might feel that the Xinjiang issue will cause more divisions in China, but in fact it has united the majority of people in China.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has repeatedly shown support for the Chinese government regarding its policies in Muslim-majority Xinjiang province, also praising the country's one-party system as offering a better model for societies compared with electoral democracy.

The pain-point of the “diplomatic boycott” seems to be the undeniable achievements of the Communist Party of China; they have actually beaten all Western democracies in the way they have brought up merit in their society.

—The writer is contributing columnist, based in Lahore.

<https://pakobserver.net/politicising-the-apolitical-winter-olympics-by-zain-farooq/>

January 12, 2022

Pakistan Observer

CPEC M-15 connects safer, more resourceful places for enjoying

Hazara Motorway of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) connects the best destinations for enjoying snowfall with safety and comfort, experts familiar with Pakistan's scenic northern areas told Gwadar Pro.

Saeed Akbar, CEO of Travel Asia Adventure, a firm which facilitates tourists in northern areas, said that Siran Valley in Mansehra district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province was the most suitable place for enjoying snowfall during winters. Its only at a two-hour hassle-free drive from Islamabad through the CPEC Hazara Motorway (M-15).

This is one of the most beautiful valleys in the country with lush green meadows, peaks, forests and rivers, which make it a perfect place to visit round the year, especially when it is snowing, he said. Popular tourist hotspots like Chattar Plain, Battal and Shinkiari have dedicated interchanges on M-15 and fully-developed tourism facilities including hotels and restaurants, he said. Travelling through the mesmerising Hazara Motorway is a feast in itself, he added.

Amjad Qamar, a communication expert from Mansehra, said that M-15 had made it convenient for people of KP, northern Punjab and Islamabad to enjoy snowfall in the Siran Valley and go back home during the same day.

The Valley has vast plains and broader roads with no concerns of parking or accommodation, he said. Also, it is easy to reverse the vehicle and go back if weather condition gets bad, he said.

In December and January, people flock to northern areas of the country to witness the snowfall, with Murree, Mansehra and Swat being the top spots for winter tourism.

Murree, a hill station in northern Punjab, receives the biggest influx because of close proximity to Islamabad. However, tourists have been complaining of scarcity of resources including water, accommodation and parking facilities due to limited capacity because of the hilly terrain.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-m-15-connects-safer-more-resourceful-places-for-enjoying/>

Seminar on CPEC organized by PU CSAS

A seminar on “CPEC, and the Geo-Strategic Impact of Gilgit-Baltistan: Challenges and Prospects” was organized by Punjab University Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS) here on Tuesday.

Assistant Professor, Karakoram International University Department of International Relations, Dr Mir Waheed Akhlaq was the keynote speaker while Director CSAS Prof Dr Umbreen Javaid, faculty members and MPhil/PhD scholars attended the event.

Addressing the participants of the event, the guest speaker highlighted the core aspects of China-Pakistan relations and the impact on regional integration. He also highlighted centrality of CPEC in shaping the regional and global political environment and alignments.

He reiterated the need to resolve the long standing issues pertaining to Gilgit-Baltistan. The region’s constitutional, economic and social development should be prioritized in order to reap the full fruits of CPEC.

Dr. Mir Waheed said that uplifting the living standard of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan would help strengthen economic cooperation and political alliance foreseen by the Chinese and Pakistani policymakers.

<https://pakobserver.net/seminar-on-cpec-organized-by-pu-csas/>

BRI: Kazakhstan the linchpin of China's Belt and Road Initiative

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Republic of Kazakhstan is the “birth place” of the One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI) thus it has strategic relevance to it. It was launched during Chinese President Xi Jinping's September 2013 visit to Astana, highlighting Kazakhstan's critical transit role in China's pivot to the world and especially Europe.

Undoubtedly, BRI projects are spreading economic feel good gestures and sentiments in the Central Asia Region and look highly promising, in terms of increased connectivity, expanded regional trade and modernize their obsolete transport infrastructure. Thus BRI has been increasing their potential of trade and commerce, integration of socio-economic development and last but not the least eradication of poverty.

Right from the beginning, China considers the BRI as the way to deliver public goods, promote global connectivity and portray itself as a responsible stakeholder since its inception in 2013.

Unfortunately, Kazakhstan is now passing through difficult times because of foreign infiltration and external aggression as termed by its President, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. Economic activities remain closed for a while. Industrial projects and production channels have been halted but speedy response of the national forces have now thrown out all the terrorists and criminals from these installations. At last sanity prevailed and propagated false and fake hybrid war against Kazakhstan has now been diminished.

Thank God! Kazakhstan has successfully eradicated all rogue elements and peace and stability has been largely restored. The government of Kazakhstan, being the sovereign guarantor to all FDIs & FPIs, has assured all multinational companies and foreign investors that their sponsored projects and investment are safe and secured. In this connection, the Chinese government has shown solidarity with Kazakhstan and pledged its constant support.

Kazakhstan is the largest landlocked country and the 9th in the world. It shares a border to the East with China. It borders Russia to North and Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and Iran to the South. It has an ideal “geographical” location for connecting China and the West through important routes under the flagship of BRI. Today two of the six economic corridors of BRI pass through Kazakhstan connecting China with Europe, Iran and Western Asia. Mainly the New Eurasian Land Bridge and the China-Central Asia-West Asia Corridor pass through it.

In this context, BRI comprises 51 mega projects of US\$35 billion in Kazakhstan, in which US\$3.5 billion is invested in the International Centre for Border Cooperation Khorgos and a dry port on the eastern border with China. Its remarkable investment includes the Shalkar-Beyneu Railways, the Zhezkazgan-Suksanl Railways, the Kuryl Seaport, the Unified System of Management “NOMAD” and Almaty-Sha Railway Line, Almaty bypass railways etc. Thus Kazakhstan is the “jewel” of BRI in Central Asia and beyond.

Moreover, Kuryk Seaport has direct access to railway tracks which has already enhanced its “strategic” value. The port is well located at the intersection of the East-West and North-South trade corridors (Iran, India and Russia) creating one of the fastest multinational routes for cargo delivery. It is meant to perform multi tasks mainly to increase Kazakhstan’s trade activities with Caspian Sea Region (CSR) and transit potential of the Caspian Sea.

The Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (TITR), a 6500 kilometre long corridor, links Asia with Europe and passes through countries including Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. It is meant to coordinate all transporters along with the route from Asia to Europe and vice versa.

Furthermore, the Khorogos International Centre for Border Cooperation has been one of the important projects of BRI which supports Kazakhstan’s state program of Nurly Zhol. It is indeed an entry point for Chinese goods shipped for Asia and Europe. Thus Kazakhstan has an important place in BRI which has already further enhanced its socio-economic ties, geopolitical affiliation and geostrategic orientation with China. It has actually further diversified its energy supplies.

Through its infrastructure investment and the construction of the world’s largest “dry port,” a railway depot and logistics centre meant to process Chinese rail traffic in the border town of Khorgos, Beijing pins the success of the BRI’s land routes on Kazakhstan’s cooperation.

Since the start of BRI in 2013, Kazakhstan has become a focal point in China’s strategy in Central Asia to develop overland trade routes with Europe. Now Kazakhstan has become an important part of Chinese foreign policy. Kazakhstan has huge energy resources which has now further enhanced its role as a regional political and security partner.

The ongoing projects of BRI in Kazakhstan reflect its pursuit of “multi-vector” foreign policy, which seeks to develop a network of different political and economic relations with various countries.

It is home to the world’s 12th largest oil reserves, Kazakhstan presents an important opportunity for China to diversify its energy needs and lessen its dependence on oil tankers travelling through the Straits of Malacca. Indeed, resources from Kazakhstan’s extractive industries make up the majority of its exports.

Kazakhstan’s exports gas and crude petroleum to China which accounted for \$2.35 billion in 2019, over a third of the value of the country’s total exports to China. Gas and oil pipelines physically connect China to Kazakhstan and Central Asia more broadly and supply China with a stable source of energy. The country’s abundant mineral and oil wealth and its proximity to China make it an important source of natural resources to help fuel China’s economic growth.

BRI is among the world’s most ambitious infrastructure projects ever conceived. It is a union of development and investment initiatives that would stretch from East Asia to Europe.

Initially, it was two-pronged: the overland Silk Road Economic Belt, and the Maritime Silk Road. On land, Beijing aims to connect the country's hinterland to Europe through Central Asia; the maritime component will build ports and railways to connect the fast growing Southeast Asian region to China's southern provinces.

It is feared that prolonged unrest in Kazakhstan could also derail advancing bilateral ties and deepening BRI cooperation between both sides, including the long-discussed China-Kazakhstan permanent comprehensive strategic partnership.

To conclude, the BRI, however, is not only an initiative; it is a response to former US President Barack Obama's 'pivot to Asia'; and to the growing salience of the Indo-Pacific maritime geography as well. Unfortunately, the Indo-Pacific Region has become central to the security and foreign policies of world countries like the US, Japan, Australia, India, the UK, France, Germany and the countries of ASEAN. A series of security pacts namely QOUD and AUKUS have further deteriorated regional security.

It seems that China is now working to strengthen global economic links to its western regions, which historically have been neglected. Promoting economic development in the western regions is seen as a priority. So is securing long-term energy supplies from Central Asia and the Middle East role of Kazakhstan is paramount.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is linchpin and both countries should work jointly to eradicate all irritants of socio-economic prosperity in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-kazakhstan-the-linchpin-of-chinas-belt-and-road-initiative-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

CPEC transforming the development patterns of Pakistan

Muhammad Zamir Assadi

China and Pakistan – two very immediate and close neighbors having the brotherly relationship of seven decades – have transformed the potential of unique partnership under the umbrella of splendid diplomacy.

In the journey of bilateral relationship spanning around the meaningful and productive benefits, both nations are marching ahead towards achieving the common agenda of peace, stability, development and prosperity.

The development of bilateral relationship between two nations always proved that Pakistan is China's cooperative and strategic partner and both sides have nurtured the relationship as exemplary in the world of diplomacy.

The leadership of both sides from day one of establishing relationship have stressed on the bright prospects of the bilateral cooperation and have gained for the public on both sides with mutual understanding and consultations.

With the passage of the time, the relationship bound and coated with trust between two sides have put a positive impact on various sectors for the development while Pakistan always stood at front for cultivating benefits for its people.

China, with its magnificent development in every sector always extended its experience towards Pakistan to provide investment for infrastructural upgradation including energy projects, vocational and agricultural development, building of Gwadar port, modern transportation projects including Orange Line Metro, educational, medical and cultural exchanges and other sectors.

As a flagship project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has helped Pakistan break the energy and transport infrastructure bottlenecks, and injected strong impetus into its economic development.

Pakistan always ranked among the top countries that benefited from China's investment and rich experience of development that made Islamabad able to upgrade its various sectors.

CPEC by integrating the economies and connecting the technology of both sides has been strengthening the people-to-people contact at a rapid level that has emerged as the epitome of friendship.

China by generously sharing its resources with Pakistan under a bilateral cooperative working platform has been cultivating enormous benefits for the country by exploring the real potential in the pursuit of prosperity.

The magnanimous development under the 1st and 2nd phase of CPEC has been pushing forward the realization of national transformation that is also spreading the enthusiasm among people for the sustainable development.

The ongoing process of CPEC development at rapid scale is also facilitating the technological and industrial progress in the country that is also accelerating the national rejuvenation.

BRI, with its vast scope of cooperation introduced the new era of development under CPEC has also generated more 80 thousand job opportunities for the locals that has energized the labor market as well.

The CPEC by leading the development strategy has put the country into the new development era that strengthened the iron-clad friendship between the two countries with its recognition as a cornerstone of prosperity.

China's developmental plans led by Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have helped many countries including Pakistan to push forward the agenda of development respectively.

As per one of the reports, it is reported that 141 countries and 32 international organizations, including 19 UN agencies, have participated in the BRI. The worldwide recognition of BRI has also generated the message that the international community wishes to support the development agenda led by China being implemented with mutual consultation based on a win-win situation.

Amid the wave of unilateralism and protectionism by the US and western countries, China introduced the new development plan of BRI which attracted the countries in need of financial and technological assistance at large. The success of BRI and its international acceptance at a large scale is directly connected with its nature of elements including cooperation and meaningful consultation with its volume of trade, investment with member countries.

The global nature of BRI broadened the scope of bilateral cooperation under its umbrella that goes beyond infrastructure and trade as it has been strengthening cultural, educational and scientific exchanges as well very significantly. Since the start of BRI, this development plan has successfully become a central topic by generating the productive results for the member countries across the globe as it has introduced the new models of cooperation that does not attach any kind of strings to it. The acceptance of the international community for BRI belongs to its tremendous green development that has been meeting the criteria of United Nations green development strategy.

The commitment of China towards equality, peace and mutual benefits has been fostering the economic and cultural ties which is shaping the new patterns of development.

The smooth development of BRI in more than 141 countries has also rejected the so-called debt trap claims of western countries and attracted more countries to be a part of this development plan. The member countries of BRI also remained on top in receiving China's outbound direct investment expanded from 13.8 percent year on year to 7.43 billion U.S. dollars.

China's investment in BRI member countries into manufacturing and information transmission sectors have helped various nations to upgrade their technologies and cultivate maximum benefits. International community is expecting more and more financial and technological assistance from China as the development patterns of the 2nd largest economy of the world has become the buzzword.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-transforming-the-development-patterns-of-pakistan-by-muhammad-zamir-assadi/>

The Express Tribune

Collaboration with China to help in ginger cultivation

Report suggests Pakistani scientists should interact with Chinese experts through CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Collaboration with Chinese scientists through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) programme can help in successful cultivation of ginger in Pakistan.

“A team of scientists including breeders, soil scientists, economists, etc should be funded to develop new ginger varieties suitable for the local environment,” said a Planning Commission report titled “Cluster Development Based Agriculture Transformation Plan Vision-2025”.

According to the report, the team should interact with Chinese scientists through the CPEC programme to import ginger germplasm and develop appropriate management practices to

achieve the target yield at least equal or higher than the world average within the speculated period.

The Planning Commission, from the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, report also suggests that certain tracts in Mansehra district of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province can perhaps suitably meet the ginger cultivation requirements.

The pH level of the soil in the district is around 6.8 and it has a large tract of sloppy land suitable for ginger cultivation. The temperature and humidity level of the district during March-May remains in a reasonable range suitable for ginger cultivation.

A Chinese survey in the past also substantiated these claims, the report added.

Due to the negligence of policymakers in relation to the improvement in the ginger value chain, ginger production in Pakistan has dried down, and the country now completely relies on its imports by spending over \$70 million per annum.

The export of processed ginger from Pakistan, which is mainly re-exported, does not compensate for its high imports. As a result, the trade deficit is ballooning over time because of the consumers' increasing preference for ginger consumption, dwindled ginger supply from domestic sources and the increase in import prices.

According to statistics, global production of ginger recorded in 2019 was 4.1 million tons. India leads global production, however, China topped the world's exports.

China's ginger cultivation area is about 30,000 hectares with a total yield of harvested produce of more than 2 million tons.

The world's export of ginger reached \$855 million in 2017, which is growing at the rate of 17% per annum. The top importers of ginger are the United States and Pakistan.

Pakistan imports ginger mainly from China, Thailand and India. Being a neighbouring and friendly country, it is most feasible for Pakistan to import ginger from China.

Recently, Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) Chairman Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali, with Senator Dr Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, inaugurated the first-ever ginger cultivation during the ginger harvest workshop at Balkasar, Chakwal.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2338271/collaboration-with-china-to-help-in-ginger-cultivation>

K2 Daily News

1962 کی جنگ کے دوران ہارسے اردناہل پردیش (جنوبی جبت) پر چینی PLA فوج نے قبضہ کر لیا تھا یہاں تک کہ وہ آسام کے علاقے تیز پری تک آگئے تھے۔

لدارخ کے علاقے اسکاٹی جن میں چینی فوج 38000 مربع کلومیٹر کے علاقے پر قابض ہوئی تھی۔ چین نے لدارخ اپنے عمل وقوع کے اعتبار سے بہت اہمیت رکھتا ہے اور چین کی قومی شاہراہ G219 اسکاٹی جن سے گزرتی ہوئی تبت جاتی ہے۔ چین نے ایک چھ روپا سڑک تعمیر کی ہے جو کہ مرکزی شاہراہ کو اسکاٹی جن کے تمام علاقوں سے ملاتی ہے۔ 15 جن 2020 کو چین نے متبوضہ خیمبر کے علاقے گلوان میں حملہ کر کے 16 ہزار رینٹ کے 22 بھارتی قومی مار دئے اور گلوان کا ایک بڑا حصہ چین کے ہاتھ آ گیا۔ چین اب گلوان، ہاٹ پریک، وائی جیشن، چنگوگ، سو، پوچک اور دوسپانگ کے علاقوں میں اپنی پوزیشن مستحکم کر چکا ہے۔ اس وقت لدارخ کا 1000 مربع کلومیٹر علاقہ چین کے کنٹرول میں ہے۔ بھارت کی سیاسی اور فوجی قیادت نے سرحد کو کوشش کی کہ اس کشیدگی میں کمی آئے اور ایسا عمل نکلے جس سے بھارت کی جنگ ہنسانی نہ ہو۔ دفاعی سطح پر بہت سے مذاکرات ہوئے جس کے نتیجے کو گروہ اور چنگوگ خیمبر میں فوجی تفتیات میں چند تبدیلیاں ہوئیں۔ ان مذاکرات میں جو اہم معاملات پر بات ہوئی ان میں پٹرول پمپ 15 پر جنگ بندی اور دوسپانگ کے میدانی علاقوں میں کشیدگی میں کمی شامل تھی۔ ان مذاکرات کا نام منظر براہوتی سیکلر اور تو تک سیکلر میں ہونے والے واقعات تھے۔ مذاکرات کا تیسروں اجلاس اس سال اکتوبر میں پٹنل مولدھ سردھ میں پٹنل جزل میٹن اور چینی میجر جزل زاک زلمدون کے درمیان ہوا۔ جس کا دورانیہ 8 گھنٹے تھا۔ مگر یہ مذاکرات نتیجہ خیز ثابت نہ ہو سکے۔ چین کا کہنا



ہے کہ بھارت کے مطالبات غیر منقول ہیں۔ ان مذاکرات کی ناکامی کے نتیجے میں بھارتی فوج کو دوسری سرحدیاں بھی لدارخ میں گزاری ہوں گی۔ بھارتی آرمی چیف نے مان لیا ہے کہ چین اب وہاں سے نہیں جائے گا۔ چین ویٹرن خیمبر کماٹو کے ترجمان نے کہا ہے کہ چین کی طرف سے بھر پور کوشش کی گئی کہ سردی کشیدگی اور تازہ کاری کی آگے لدارخ کی سرحدیں بہت سخت ہوئیں اور 10 ڈی او بی برف میں درجہ حرارت منفی 40 تک گر جاتا ہے۔ بھارتی 14 کور جس کے ڈے لائن آف کنٹرول کے مشرقی اور مغربی دونوں سیکلر تھے، اب صرف مشرقی سیکلر سنبھالے گی۔ 14 کور ٹینک، آرٹری اور میزائل سے لیس ہے۔ بھارتی فوج کی دن کور جس کا مقصد صرف پاکستان میں Deep Strike کرنا تھا، اسے اب لدارخ میں لائن آف کنٹرول پر strike کرنے کی ذمہ داری بھی دے دی گئی ہے۔ چینی فوج نے وہاں ہاتھوں ذلت کے بعد بھارت نے وہاں انڈیا سیکلر اور پلوں کی تعمیر شروع کر دی ہے۔ لدارخ کی اہمیت کے پیش نظر بھارت نے سرحدوں کی تعمیر بھی شروع کی ہے تاکہ افواج اور الماک کی جلد ترمیم کو ممکن بنایا جاسکے۔ 6.5 کلومیٹر طویل سڑک کی تعمیر عمل ہو چکی ہے جو سونا مرگ جاتی ہے۔ سونا مرگ کو 14.2 کلومیٹر دراز شہر سے ملانے والی 14.2 کلومیٹر طویل ڈوبیل سڑک پر کام جاری ہے۔ اس

چین نہیں جانے والا ہے

بریکنگ نیوز مسعود احمد

حساب سے ہر فوجی پر ایک لاکھ روپے خرچ ہوں گے۔ گزشتہ سال بھارت کا افواج کی دیکھ بھال کی مدد میں 900 کروڑ خرچ ہوا تھا، اور اس سال کا تخمینہ 1900 کروڑ سے زائد ہے۔ چین نے اپنے علاقے میں تمام لاجسٹک سپلا کر رکھے ہیں اور یہ علاقے پر قابض رہنے کی بہتر پوزیشن میں ہے۔ بنیادی طور پر چین نے اس علاقے میں نئی دفاعی تبدیلیاں کر کے بھارت کو کڑا چیلنج دیا ہے۔ بھارت اپنی کڑور فوج، اندرونی انتشار اور معاشی کمزوری کے ساتھ PLA سے بھرپور آڑا ہونے سے گریز کر رہا ہے۔ بھارت جنگی اور دفاعی اعتبار سے چین سے کسی طرح متاثر نہیں کر سکتا ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ساتھ بھارت 11 ہزار ہری جنگ کے پروپینڈے بھی کر رہا ہے۔ یہ لدارخ، سیانچ اور کارگل کی طرف سے پاکستان اور چین کے مشترکہ آپریشن کے خدوہ سے بھی کاٹنا ہے۔ اس خطرے کے پیش نظر جزل رات CDS بھارتی افواج کی تنظیم نو کی منصوبہ بندی کر رہا ہے۔ چین کو اصل دفاعی خطرہ بھارت سے نہیں بلکہ مغربی بحر اوقیانوس اور چین کے جنوبی سمندروں میں امریکی فوج کی موجودگی سے ہے۔ بھارت نے چین کو روکنے کے لئے امریکی فوج سے اتحاد کر لیا ہے۔ امریکہ چین کو سپر پاور نہیں بننے دینا چاہتا اور اس کی طاقت کو چیلنج کرتا رہتا ہے۔ چین کو روکنے کے لئے دنیا بھر میں فوجی اتحاد ہے۔ چین اور اس کے شاہلیں QUAD ان میں سے ایک ہے۔ بھارت نے چین کی طاقت کا صحیح اندازہ لگانے میں کچھ غلطیاں کی ہیں، جیسا کہ امریکہ نے افغانستان میں کیے اور مسائل کا شکار ہوا۔ حالات جو بھی ہوں چین بھارت کو کھنکھنوں پرسلے آیا ہے اور بھارت نے چین کو اس کے قابض ٹیٹلے کا کنٹرول پیش کے لئے دے دیا ہے۔

پرائیویٹ کا افتتاح بھارتی وزیر اعظم مودی نے مئی 2018 میں کیا تھا۔ ڈوبیلا کا علاقہ پاکستانی فوج کے گارڈ رینج میں ہے۔ بھارت نے اس علاقے میں مزید افواج تعینات کر دی ہیں جو کہ سردیوں میں بھی وہیں رہیں کیونکہ PLA یہ علاقہ خالی نہیں کرے گی۔ افواج کے ہاتھ جانے کے مقصد مزید علاقے کو چینی افواج کے ہاتھ جانے سے روکنا ہے۔ شدید سردی میں افواج کا اٹھنا بھارت کے مالی اثرات بہت بڑھا دے گا۔ بھارتی پراسٹھال ہونے والے آلات، کپڑے، ٹینٹ، اسٹیل، آلات، میکانوں کے ذخیرے کو رکھنے کی جگہ بھرنے اور C-17 اور C-130 جی ایلاروں کا بکثرت استعمال بھارت کے مالی اثرات میں اضافہ کرے گا۔ سخت موسمی حالات میں افواج اور الماک کی دیکھ بھال انتہائی مشکل عمل ہے۔ بھارت کا دفاعی بجٹ 73 ارب ڈالر ہے جبکہ چین کا 252 ارب ڈالر ہے۔ بھارت کے کل دفاعی بجٹ کا 60 فیصد صرف افواج اور الماک کی دیکھ بھال میں صرف ہوتا ہے۔ لدارخ بھارت کے ہاتھ سے نکل رہا ہے اور انہیں لدارخ کو بھارت کے لئے اور زیادہ اثرات کرنے پڑیں گے۔ انڈیا ٹوڈے کے مطابق بھارت کو 350 سے 400 کروڑ صرف مشرقی لدارخ میں تعینات افواج کو خصوصی گرم کپڑے مہیا کرنے کی مدد میں خرچ کرنا ہوں گا۔ اس

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Editorial&Date=2022-01-12

January 13, 2022

Daily Times

China-funded 1.2 MGD ROD Plant to be set up in Gwadar

A 1.2 Million Gallon per Day (MGD) Reverse Osmosis Desalination (ROD) Plant will be set up at Gwadar with a Chinese grant of more than Rs 2 billion to resolve the water shortage in the area.

Federal cabinet has approved the 1.2 MGD ROD Plant for Gwadar. The project will be completed with the help of China. It is aimed at providing fresh potable water for the people of the Gwadar city.

Originally, the federal government had approved the development scheme for desalination of water based on a 50:50 % cost-sharing formula by the federal and Balochistan's provincial governments respectively.

The federal government had also released its funding of Rs 138 million in 2006-2007 but the project could not be installed. Later the cost of this project was revised upwards to Rs 978 million which went up further as the plan is being implemented.

The population of Gwadar city has no reliable and sustainable access to drinking water for a very long time. Their main source of water is Ankara Dam which due to frequent droughts is unable even to meet the drinking water requirements of the city's population. The current water requirement of the Gwadar City is 4.2 MGD per day while supply from the government source is 2.0 MGD.

Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry contended that the water project will eliminate the shortage. "The people of Gwadar will have access to clean water now," he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/867826/china-funded-1-2-mgd-rod-plant-to-be-set-up-in-gwadar/>

Dunya News

PM Imran embarks on three-day visit to China on February 3

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Prime Minister Imran Khan will pay a three day visit to China from February 3 to attend the opening ceremony of Winter Olympics Games, Beijing 2022 at the invitation of Chinese leadership.

Addressing a weekly press briefing on Thursday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said that Prime Minister Imran Khan, during his visit, will have interaction with the Chinese leadership to further strengthen Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership and to exchange views on regional and international issues.

The spokesperson said Pakistan looked forward to the successful Winter Olympics in Beijing.

Asim Iftikhar said Pakistan welcomed the Global Development Initiative put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping as a timely and good intention step to facilitate implementation of the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

He noted it will help promote international cooperation required to overcome the triple challenge faced by the world including Covid-19, related economic crisis and climate change.

The Spokesperson said the Global Development Initiative will open up new avenues of collaboration with developing countries in support of their post pandemic economic recovery as well as long term sustainable growth. He said Pakistan and China were strong development

partners and “we look forward to further strengthen this partnership under China’s Global Development Initiative”.

Responding to a question, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said Pakistan remained committed for peaceful relations with its neighbours including India. He, however, said the onus was on India to create an enabling environment for dialogue. He regretted that there was no visible change in the hostile attitude and negative behaviour of India.

The Spokesperson said Pakistan will continue to highlight Kashmir dispute and the rights of oppressed Kashmiri people at all the international forums.

It was reprehensible that Indian occupation forces were continuing with the killing spree in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Since the start of this year, at least 15 Kashmiris had fallen victim to extra-judicial killings in fake encounters and so-called cordon-and-search operations. At least 210 Kashmiris were martyred in 2021. India was also shamelessly targeting journalists and human rights defenders.

The spokesperson said there was a real possibility that India might stage another false flag operation to complicate the current situation. He said, “we continue to alert our friends in international community about this prospect”.

He called on the international community to take immediate notice of the Indian state-terrorism in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and hold India accountable for the egregious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in IIOJK. He said India must allow unhindered access to international human rights and humanitarian organizations to conduct independent investigations in the IIOJK.

Talking about Afghanistan, the spokesperson said urgent action was required to avert a humanitarian disaster there.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/636752-PM-Imran-embarks-on-three-visit-to-China-on-February-3>

Pakistan Observer

CPECI cheers for Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games

Two Pakistani student representatives from the China-Pak Educational Cultural Institute (CPECI), a Chinese Language & Cultural School, came to Faisal Mosque, Islamabad to shoot a cheer video to wish the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games a complete success.

Ma Heju, Chairman, CPECI said that teachers and students from CPECI firmly believe that China has the confidence and ability to contribute a wonderful, extraordinary and outstanding Olympic Games to the world.

Ma Bin, Principal of CPECI highlighted that Beijing will become the only city of “double Olympics”. In 2008, China presented the most wonderful Summer Olympic Games in history.

According to Mr Chen Tiantang, Vice Principal of CPECI the school will carry out publicity activities in Pakistan, hold poetry and art competitions to cheer for the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games, share the Beijing Olympic Games with people from all walks of life in Pakistan, and promote exchanges between both countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpeci-cheers-for-beijing-2022-olympic-winter-games/>

Express News

کووڈ 19 کی چینی دوا کے پاکستان میں کامیاب تجربات

(Jinhua Qinggan) بین الاقوامی مرکز برائے کیمیائی و حیاتیاتی علوم (آئی سی سی بی ایس)، جامعہ کراچی کے تحت کووڈ 19 کے علاج میں روایتی چینی دوا 'جینہوا کینجن گرینولس' کی طبی آزمائشیں کامیابی سے مکمل کر لی گئی ہیں۔ (Granules)

تفصیلات کے مطابق، ڈاکٹر پنجوانی سینئر فارماکیولوجی میڈیسن اینڈ ڈرگ ریسرچ (پی سی ایم ڈی) جامعہ کراچی کے سینئر فارماپو ایکوی ولینس انسٹریٹو اینڈ کلینیکل ریسرچ (سی بی ایس سی آر) کے تحت کووڈ 19 کے مریضوں کے علاج میں روایتی چینی دوا 'جینہوا کینجن گرینولس' کی کامیاب طبی آزمائشوں (کلینیکل ٹرائلز) کے نتائج کا اعلان پیر 17 جنوری 2022 کی صبح بین الاقوامی مرکز برائے کیمیائی و حیاتیاتی علوم (آئی سی سی بی ایس) جامعہ کراچی میں ایک تقریب کے دوران کیا جائے گا۔

صوبائی وزیر صحت و بہبود آبادی سندھ ڈاکٹر عذرا فضل چٹوہو ان نتائج کا اعلان کریں گی۔

پاکستان میں ٹریڈیشنل چائیز میڈیسن کے ٹرائلز کا آغاز انڈس اسپتال کے تعاون سے پچھلے سال کیا گیا تھا۔

یہ بات آئی سی سی بی ایس جامعہ کراچی کے سربراہ اور کو آر ڈی نیٹرز جنرل کومسٹیک، پروفیسر ڈاکٹر محمد اقبال چوہدری نے آج ڈاکٹر پنجوانی سینئر میں کلینیکل ریسرچ کے ماہرین کے ایک اجلاس سے خطاب کے دوران کہی۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ جینہوا کینجن گرینولس دوا جو شیپنگ فارماسیوٹیکل کمپنی نے بنائی ہے جو چین میں کووڈ 19 کے مریضوں کے علاج کے لیے استعمال ہوئی تھی جبکہ اس دوا کی فائٹوکیمسٹری ایچ ای جے ریسرچ انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف کیمسٹری، جامعہ کراچی میں کی گئی تھی۔

ان کا کہنا تھا کہ ان کلینیکل ٹرائلز کے نتائج کا باضابطہ اعلان پیر 17 جنوری 2022 کے روز آئی سی سی بی ایس، کومسٹیک اور وزارت صحت و بہبود آبادی سندھ کے علاوہ متعدد چینی کمپنیوں کے اشتراک سے کیا جائے گا۔

اس تقریب میں ڈاکٹر عذرا فضل چٹوہو، پروفیسر ڈاکٹر عطاء الرحمن (ایف آر ایس)، شیخ الجامعہ کراچی پروفیسر ڈاکٹر خالد محمود عراقی، پروفیسر ڈاکٹر محمد اقبال چوہدری، پاکستان میں چینی سفیر نانگ رونگ، چین میں پاکستان کے سفیر معین الحق، سینئر فارماپو ایکوی ولینس کے انچارج اور اس تحقیق کے مرکزی محقق پروفیسر ڈاکٹر رضاشاہ، بین الاقوامی مرکز جامعہ کراچی کی قائم مقام ڈائریکٹر پروفیسر ڈاکٹر فرزانہ شاہین، چینی اسکالر ڈاکٹر یو وینگ اور دیگر چینی ماہرین بھی خطاب کریں گے۔

جن میں 1402 ایسے رضاکار شریک کیے گئے جو کووڈ 19 میں مبتلا تھے۔ واضح رہے کہ یہ طبی آزمائشیں بین الاقوامی سطح پر باقاعدہ رجسٹر کروائی گئیں

نزلہ، زکام اور کھانسی کے مریضوں کو 'جینہوا کینجن گرینولس' دن میں تین مرتبہ، ہر کھانے کے بعد، ابلے ہوئے پانی میں حل کر کے پلائی جاتی ہے۔ اس دوا کی ہر خوراک صرف 5 گرام پر مشتمل ہوتی ہے جبکہ یہ علاج زیادہ سے زیادہ 10 دن تک جاری رکھا جاتا ہے۔

کراچی میں طبی آزمائشوں کے دوران 150 رضاکاروں کو اصل 'جینہوا کینجن گرینولس' دوا دی گئی، 150 کو فرضی دوا (پلاسہو) دی گئی، جبکہ 102 رضاکاروں کو دوا دینے بغیر مشاہدے میں رکھا گیا۔

بیر کے روز پریس کانفرنس میں ان ہی آزمائشوں کی تفصیلات میڈیا کے سامنے پیش کی جائیں گی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2270842/9812/>

ایک حصہ اب حکومت نے مکمل کر کے ملک کے غیر ترقی یافتہ علاقے کے لوگوں کو آگے بڑھنے کا موقع فراہم کیا ہے۔ اب اس روٹ کے کھلنے کے بعد اس علاقے میں جدید تعلیمی ادارے اور جدید ہسپتال قائم ہوں گے اور لوگوں کو ہر کام کے لیے لاہور کے گھنٹا گھر کا رخ نہیں کرنا پڑے گا۔

پاکستان اور چین ایک دوسرے کے آزمودہ دوست ہیں۔ ان کے تعلقات کی قربت کا مقابلہ ہمالیہ کی بلندی سے کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ چین نے ون بیٹ ون روڈ کے منصوبے کے ذریعے دنیا کے تین براعظموں کو تجارتی روابط میں استوار کرنے کا منصوبہ بنایا تو اس کی بنیاد سی پیک پر رکھی گئی۔ سی پیک وہ شاہراہ ہے جو صدیوں سے مشرق اور مغرب کے درمیان تجارت کے لیے کام آ رہی ہے۔ تاریخی طور پر اسے سلک روٹ یا شاہراہ ریشم بھی کہا جاتا ہے۔ اب سی پیک کا مرکز نقطہ گوادری کی بندرگاہ کو بنایا گیا ہے جو ارد گرد کے پورے خطے میں گہرے پانیوں کی واحد بندرگاہ ہے۔ گوادری کی تعمیر و ترقی سے نہ صرف مقامی طور پر انقلاب آنے کا بلکہ پورے ملک کو مجموعی طور پر اس سے مستفید ہونے کا موقع ملے گا۔ بد قسمتی سے نون لیگ نے پنجاب میں اپنی حکومت کی وجہ سے اپنے علاقے کو ترقی و تعمیر کا محور بنایا جس کی وجہ سے سندھ کے اندرونی حصے اور پنجاب کا ڈی جی خان اور خیبر پختونخوا کے ڈیرہ اسماعیل خان اور قبائلی علاقے پسماندگی کا شکار رہے۔ ان علاقوں کے منصوبوں کو ترجیحی طور پر مکمل نہ کیا گیا۔ نون لیگ کی حکومت کا خاتمہ ہو تو اس نے پروپیگنڈا شروع کر دیا کہ پی ٹی آئی کی حکومت نے سی پیک کو روک دیا ہے۔ اس ضمن میں ایک وفاقی وزیر کے بیان کا بھی حوالہ دیا گیا کہ سی پیک کو تین سالوں کے لیے پس پشت ڈالا جائے گا۔ نون لیگ نے موجودہ حکومت کے ایک اور بیان کو اچھا لاکا کہ سی پیک منصوبوں پر از سر نو مذاکرات کر کے نظر ثانی کی جائے گی۔ حکومت نے ہر چند ان الزامات کی تردید کی اور اس تاثر کو زائل کرنے کی کوشش کی مگر کورونا کی وبا پھینکا رہی تھی، لوگ موت کے چنگل میں جا رہے تھے، یوں حکومت کے مثبت پروپیگنڈے پر کسی نے کان نہیں دھرے۔ نون لیگ نے یہاں تک پروپیگنڈا کیا کہ چینی حکومت بد ظن ہو کر اپنی تعمیراتی کمپنیوں کو واپس لے جا چکی ہے۔ اس دوران ایک ڈیم پر کام کرنے والے چینی انجینئروں کے خلاف دہشت گردی نے بھی جلتی پر تیل کا کام کیا اور چین نے امن و امان کی صورتحال یقینی بنانے تک وقتی طور پر کام روک دیا۔ ایک بد قسمتی یہ بھی ہے کہ ملکی اپوزیشن چیخ و پکار اتنی زیادہ کرتی ہے کہ حکومت کو اپنے مثبت کاموں کی تشہیر کا موقع بھی نہیں ملتا۔ اپوزیشن ہر روز کوئی نیا فتنہ کھڑا کرتی۔ کبھی لانگ مارچ، کبھی دھرنا، کبھی مہنگائی مارچ، کبھی آڈیو ویڈیو لیکس۔ اپوزیشن کے ڈراموں کا سرکس لگا ہوا ہے اور حکومت کو کچھ پتا نہیں چلتا کہ وہ اپنے اچھے کارناموں کی تشہیر کرے یا اپوزیشن کے الزامات کی صفائی پیش کرے یا الٹا اپوزیشن پر بلیم گیم کی یلغار کر دے۔ اس ساری صورتحال میں میرے جیسے شخص کو گہرے غور و خوض کے بعد یہ پتا چلانے میں کامیابی ہوتی ہے کہ حکومت کے ہاتھوں اچھے کام بھی انجام دیے جا رہے ہیں۔ سی پیک کے مغربی روٹ کا افتتاح کوئی معمولی کارنامہ نہیں۔ اس سے صاف ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ نہ تو سی پیک کو بیک کیا گیا ہے اور نہ چینی کمپنیاں بوریا بستر لپیٹ کر واپس چلی گئی ہیں۔ صاف ظاہر ہے کہ سی پیک پر کام معمول کے مطابق جاری ہے اور جو کمی پیشی ماضی کی حکومت نے چھوڑی تھی اس کی تکمیل کے لیے ہر ممکن کوشش جاری ہے۔

سی پیک ہماری زندگی اور موت کا سوال ہے۔ سی پیک چین کے لیے بھی زندگی اور موت کا سوال ہے۔ سی پیک مکمل ہو گا اور ان شاء اللہ ہو گا تو چین کا عظیم الشان منصوبہ جس سے تین براعظموں کو تجارتی روابط میں استوار ہو سکتے ہیں اس کے بھی مکمل ہونے کا امکان نظر آئے گا۔ دنیا اس وقت تجارتی جنگوں میں الجھی ہوئی ہے۔ سی پیک کے مقابلے میں امریکہ اور یورپ نے بھی متبادل منصوبہ بندی کر رکھی ہے جس سے صاف ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ اس منصوبے کی اہمیت کتنی بڑی ہے کہ اس کے مقابلے کے لیے امریکہ اور یورپ کو میدان میں اترا پڑا مگر صد افسوس کہ امریکہ اور یورپ ٹرین نکلنے کے بعد ریلوے اسٹیشن پر پہنچے۔ چین اپنے منصوبے کو پایہ تکمیل تک پہنچانے کے قریب ہے اور امریکہ اور یورپ ابھی شروعات میں الجھے ہوئے ہیں۔ ان کی یہ بھی کوشش ہے کہ سی پیک کے خلاف شکوک و شبہات پیدا کیے جائیں اور لوگوں کو اس سے مایوس کر دیا جائے۔ بھارت بھی مغربی ملکوں کی طرح سی پیک کا سب سے بڑا دشمن ہے، اس نے سی پیک منصوبوں کو ناکام بنانے کے لیے دہشت گردی کا بازار گرم کر رکھا ہے۔ اس ضمن میں کلجھوش کا دہشت گردی کا نیٹ ورک رنگے ہاتھوں پکڑا جا چکا ہے۔ بلوچستان لبریشن آرمی علی الاعلان بھارت سے دہشت گردی کی ٹریننگ لے رہی ہے۔ ستم ظریفی یہ ہے کہ پاکستان کی سیاسی

جماعتیں صرف حکومت کی دشمنی میں سی پیک کے خلاف بیانات دے رہی ہیں۔ مناسب تو یہ تھا کہ ہماری اپوزیشن سیاسی جھگڑے الگ رکھتی اور ملک اور عوام کی معاشی ترقی کے منصوبوں پر کوئی حرف نہ آنے دیتی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2022-01-13/page-10/detail-11>

January 14, 2022

Business Recorder

CPEC SEZs open to entire world: SAPM

KARACHI: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Affairs, Khalid Mansoor Thursday said that during the initial stage of the CPEC, power was too expensive because of the furnace oil cost, which could directly hit the country's balance of payment position.

Addressing the second day of "The Future Summit," organized by the Nutshell Group in collaboration with the Martin Dow Group, Mansoor said the CPEC is not China-centric. From their viewpoint, it is all about regional connectivity. Apart from China, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are open to entire world. "We will soon hold international conference on CPEC significance," he added.

Mansoor further said that by 2030, China Pakistan Economic Corridor project will open countless doors of foreign investment in Pakistan that will benefit the country's economy. As already, not only China but also other countries and business leaders across the globe are giving enormous attention to this multi-faceted and magnanimous project of mega development.

Douglas Corley, Founder DHB Global and CEO, Alaunius Technologies and Global Panel Member, MIT Technology Review said that during the severe wave of coronavirus pandemic, three pillars have gained excessive importance which are government vs governance, rebuilding trust and adapt to drive business with continuity.

He also said that the role of technology is indispensable to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 whereas it is the primary responsibility of the leadership to ensure safe products.

In line with what's coming next, Douglas also highlighted merger of healthcare with climate change innovation, data rush and the influence of crypto currency in the future."

Senator Dr Musadik Malik while expressing his views during the second day of The Future Summit said "there was a time when television created a magic around all the nook and corners in the world, then the emergence of the mobile phones grasped the market."

Senator also said that the role of policy makers is predominant for decisive decision making and anticipation of future in the most systematic manner.

Senator Malik also highlighted the significance of electronic chips which are being used in healthcare to monitor and closely check the patient's condition from time to time. This shows the extent to which technology has impacted the lives of the humans.

Malik also said that "one must imagine future in a different way and then devise strategies accordingly, keeping into consideration your vision and mission and by means of innovation you drive your life towards future. Trends are visible to everyone, what trends we see in healthcare discusses that the burden of illness is increasing as people are living longer and countering several diseases.

Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment, Muhammad Azfar Ahsan said, "I utter this with due responsibility that Pakistan's economy is reinvigorating at fast pace."

Azfar said that the incumbent government is taking all possible measures for improving and boosting the country's economy by increasing the level of the exports and added that it is highly significant to refine the entire process of corporate governance.

Chairman BoI also said that the business community's role is decisive in the economic growth of Pakistan and the doors of BOI are always open for them.

The incumbent government has paid immense attention to ensure business friendly policies at all the levels without any discrimination. Investors' friendly policy of the incumbent government resulted in the economic development in the recent years.

Azfar added that BoI is taking on board multiple sectors that will aid a lot in attracting huge foreign investment in Pakistan under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

President Institute of Business Management IoBM and Management Association of Pakistan, Talib S Karim while recalling the time when Covid pandemic unearthed said that the biggest challenge for the educational institutions was to get adept with the usage of virtual and online learning system which was successfully adhered in letter and spirit in order to avoid any loss of studies due to the rising wave of the coronavirus endemic.

Dr Shahid Mahmud, Chairman and CEO Interactive Group of Companies in his remarks praised the efforts of the Nutshell Group and the Martin Dow Group for organizing such a mesmerizing moot.

He said Pakistan will become fifth economic power of the world in the coming years.

CPEC will be instrumental in bridging the robust relationship between South Asia and Africa among diversified communities and businesses.

Dr Shahid said "my perception on CPEC is that in the years ahead, we will become such kind of a nation on which China will depend upon."

China has pushed its economy by fully utilizing manpower effectively and efficiently to explore numerous opportunities all around the globe, the CEO Interactive Group said.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/01/14/1-page/915076-news.html>

Daily Times

Dedicated web portal launched to monitor CPEC projects

Pakistan Space & Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO), together with the Planning Ministry has developed a web portal and mobile application through which progress on various projects of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) can be monitored.

According to Gwadar Pro on Thursday, “SUPARCO has complemented this capability with an indigenously developed mobile application that a user from Planning Commission of Pakistan can install on his/her cell phone and monitor the progress on CPEC projects,” an official statement stated. Through the dedicated web portal from where users can easily browse, place orders and directly download satellite imagery right from their desktop. It is state of the art portal with advanced imaging options for the professionals. In addition to CPEC projects, the dedicated portal can be used for monitoring of other projects as well.

The launching ceremony for Web Portal and Mobile App was held on Wednesday at Pakistan Planning and Management Institute Islamabad. Federal Minister Asad Umar, Chairman SUPARCO Major General Amer Nadeem, senior officers of Planning Ministry and stakeholders from public and private sectors attended the launching ceremony. Asad Umar said that satellite system can be used to monitor the “quantitative and qualitative condition of projects and that how well it can be integrated with project management,” adding that satellite technology improved communication and helped diagnose potential problems enabling timely decisions.

Chairman SUPARCO Maj Gen Amer Nadeem highlighted the significance of Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite-1, saying that it has made the nation self-reliant in addressing a myriad of socio-economic development and monitoring challenges of the country.

Last month, Asad Umar had stated that weak Monitoring & Evaluation (P&E) system in Planning Commission always resulted in delay/inefficiency in PSD Projects implementation causing massive overrun, increase in cost, and wastage of taxpayer money as well.

The introduction of the dedicated web and mobile application will help the commission monitor and execute different projects on time.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/868436/dedicated-web-portal-launched-to-monitor-cpec-projects/>

Dawn News

Chinese manufacturers mull relocating units to Pakistan: Khalid Mansoor

Kazim Alam

KARACHI: China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) tsar Khalid Mansoor said on Thursday Chinese businesses have shown willingness to relocate their production facilities to Pakistan if the ongoing trade war between China and the United States escalates further.

Speaking at a conference of business leaders, the special assistant to the prime minister on CPEC affairs said two to three investors have approached him for the possible relocation of their manufacturing units to Pakistan. “[They said] create a vocational and training institute [as] we’re going to need 100,000 talent of Pakistan in the next one year,” he said.

Replying to a question about China refusing to invest in coal-based projects, Mr Mansoor said the policy directive from Beijing doesn’t apply to pre-approved energy projects.

He said the country is looking for “scalability” in indigenous coal production, which will not only reduce the per-tonne price of the fuel but also bring down the cost of power.

Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company Ltd has been mining 3.8 million tonnes of coal every year since 2019. It currently sells its entire output to Engro Powergen Thar Ltd, the country’s only coal-based 660MW power plant that burns the indigenous fuel.

The mining company is set to double its output to 7.6m tonnes per annum by June this year. The expansion will coincide with the commissioning of two 330MW power plants by Thar Energy Ltd and ThalNova Power Thar Ltd. The third phase of the mine expansion will take the output to 12.2m tonnes of coal per annum by June 2023. The increased output will meet the fuel demand of a 660MW power plant that the Lucky Group is building at Port Qasim.

“I’ve been one of the biggest proponents of Thar coal,” said Mr Mansoor who played a key role in envisioning the coal-based power plants when he served as CEO of The Hub Power Company Ltd.

The next step towards scalability is the gasification and liquefaction of Thar coal, he said. “We’re importing close to 18m tonnes of coal per annum for cement and brick kilns. [We need] some kind of blending to achieve scalability,” he said, adding that Thar coal will now be transported to fertiliser plants where they will gasify it for making fertiliser.

Dismissing the view that the pace of progress under CPEC has slowed down, Mr Mansoor said projects worth \$28 billion are being developed in its second phase, which follows the implementation of \$25bn projects during the first phase.

“Close to 4,000-plus megawatts of renewable energy projects are getting implemented. A majority of these projects are at very, very attractive loans by China,” he said, noting that the average cost of Chinese funds for all CPEC-related projects is less than two per cent per year.

He reiterated that local, Chinese and other international investors receive equal benefits for setting up businesses in Special Economic Zones (SEZs). However, Mr Mansoor criticised local investors for their tendency to acquire land in SEZs and then postpone the establishment of an actual business unit on it. “It’s not correct if you just take the land [and] restrict other investors,” he said.

In response to a question about taxpaying businesses turning into non-taxpaying ones because of wholesale fiscal incentives for setting up projects within SEZs, Mr Mansoor said governments incentivise businesses through tax breaks and easy access to utilities all over the world.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1669340/chinese-manufacturers-mull-relocating-units-to-pakistan-khalid-mansoor>

Pakistan Observer

SEZs to remove hindrances in economic growth: Aslam

Punjab Minister for Industries and Commerce, Mian Aslam Iqbal has said that Special Economic Zones are the engine of economic growth and the economic difficulties are being reduced by promoting industries. He said that development work in industrial estates should be completed on time. The target of 100% colonization of industrial estates will be achieved in any case. While issuing instructions to CEOs of PIEDMC, FIEDMC and MD PSIC here on Thursday, Mian Aslam Iqbal said that during the past regimes, property business has been conducted in the name of industrialization, but now every plot in industrial estates will have an industrial unit.

<https://pakobserver.net/sezs-to-remove-hindrances-in-economic-growth-aslam/>

The Express Tribune

CPEC – a ray of hope for Pakistan

Experts project country will witness industrialisation, end of energy crisis

KARACHI: Terming China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a jewel in the crown of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), experts have emphasised that it carries the potential to transform the destiny of Pakistan for good.

They were optimistic that the energy projects being implemented in Tharparkar district under CPEC would add another 3,500 megawatts to the national grid over the next six to nine months, thus aiding the country in getting out of the energy crisis.

At a dialogue titled “CPEC – The Way Forward” on Thursday, the experts made an attempt to address the issues and misconceptions prevailing among the masses regarding CPEC, besides projecting its positive outlook.

Highlighting the brighter side, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor revealed that new energy projects under CPEC added around 5,300MW to the national grid, while multiple projects were at the planning phase which, once operational, would enhance the capacity by 4,144MW.

Regarding infrastructure, he mentioned that construction work on Gwadar International Airport was around 26% completed.

Similarly, there were two more projects, namely Main Line-1 (ML-1) and Karachi Comprehensive Coastal Development Zone (KCCDZ), which he hoped would be executed soon.

With the advent of second phase of CPEC, the region would witness enhanced industrial cooperation and connectivity, he mentioned, voicing hope that Pakistan would also be attracting foreign investment.

Pakistan has a total of nine SEZs and a free zone at Gwadar, Mansoor pointed out and added that currently, the development of four SEZs – one in each province – and the free zone was the priority.

Terming the Gwadar Free Zone crucial, he was of the view that it could become the regional trade hub in future, because of its strategic location and deep-sea port.

Around 46 enterprises registered in the Gwadar Free Zone phase-1 (covering an area of 60 acres), of which 10 industrial units were currently operational, he underlined.

Issues/ misconceptions

Rejecting the perception that CPEC was only China-centric, Mansoor emphasised that SEZs were open for investors globally, as the prime focus was on regional connectivity.

Regarding foreign investment, he revealed that investors had to obtain 37 approvals and NOCs in order to move to the country, which was a hectic process. Pertaining to this, amendments to the SEZ Act were approved by the cabinet last week, which would legally empower the management of every SEZ to obtain approvals for Chinese investors, he revealed.

Mansoor held the view that the lack of execution was the main issue, and not the lack of opportunities, as “we have been presented with a lot of opportunities”.

From the legal standpoint, CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP Legal Director Hassan Aslam Shad highlighted the bureaucracy and domestic legal framework as the two issues impeding the investment regime in the country.

“Historically, bureaucracy in Pakistan has stymied a number of important initiatives like CPEC,” he said, adding that either the country should reform the bureaucracy or remove the bottlenecks from it.

He suggested that Pakistan should work on capacity building through reforms in the legal education system, as “lawyers need to advise the government and private investors on the requirements under CPEC phase-2 contracts”.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2338635/cpec-a-ray-of-hope-for-pakistan>

The Nation

Govt to hold int’l conference on CPEC significance soon: Khalid

KARACHI - The fifth edition of Pakistan’s largest corporate event ‘The Future Summit’, organised by the Nutshell Group in collaboration with the Martin Dow Group, concluded at a local hotel yesterday in Karachi.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs, Khalid Mansoor, while addressing The Future Summit, said: “During the initial stage of CPEC, power was too expensive because of the furnace fuel cost which could directly hit country’s balance of payment.” SAPM Khalid Mansoor

also emphasized that CPEC is not China centric rather it is all about regional connectivity. “We will soon hold international conference on CPEC significance,” he added.

PM aide on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor further said that by 2030, China Pakistan Economic Corridor project will open countless doors of foreign investment in Pakistan that will benefit the country’s economy. As already, not only China but also other countries and business leaders across the globe are giving enormous attention to this multi- faceted and magnanimous project of mega development.

Addressing on the second day of The Future Summit, Douglas Corley, founder DHB Global and CEO, Alaunius Technologies and Global Panel Member, MIT Technology Review said that during the severe wave of coronavirus pandemic, three pillars have gained excessive importance which are government vs governance, rebuilding trust and adapt to drive business with continuity.

He also said that the role of technology is indispensable to mitigate the impact of covid whereas it is the primary responsibility of the leadership to ensure safe products.

In line with what’s coming next, Douglas also highlighted merger of healthcare with climate change innovation, data rush and the influence of cryptocurrency in the future.”

Senator Dr Musadik Malik, while expressing his views during the second day of The Future Summit, said: “There was a time when television created a magic around all the nook and corners in the world, then the emergence of the mobile phones grasped the market.”

Senator also said that the role of policy makers is predominant for decisive decision making and anticipation of future in the most systematic manner.

Senator Malik also highlighted the significance of electronic chips which are being used in healthcare to monitor and closely check the patient’s condition from time to time. This shows the extent to which technology has impacted the lives of the humans. Malik also said that “one must imagine future in a different way and then devise strategies accordingly, keeping into consideration your vision and mission and by means of innovation you drive your life towards future. Trends are visible to everyone, what trends we see in healthcare discusses that the burden of illness is increasing as people are living longer and countering several diseases.

Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, in his remarks at the concluding session of The Future Summit, said “ I utter this with due responsibility that Pakistan’s economy is reinvigorating at fast pace.”

Azfar said that the incumbent government is taking all possible measures for improving and boosting the country’s economy by increasing the level of the exports and added that it is highly significant to refine the entire process of corporate governance.

Chairman BOI also said that the business community’s role is decisive in the economic growth of Pakistan and the doors of BOI are always open for them. The incumbent government has paid immense attention to ensure business friendly policies at all the levels without any

discrimination. Investors' friendly policy of the incumbent government resulted in the economic development in the recent years.

Azfar added that BOI is taking on board multiple sectors that will aid a lot in attracting huge foreign investment in Pakistan under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Addressing at 'The Future Summit', President Institute of Business Management IoBM and Management Association of Pakistan Talib S.Karim while recalling the time when COVID pandemic unearthed said that the biggest challenge for the educational institutions was to get adept with the usage of virtual and online learning system which was successfully adhered in letter and spirit in order to avoid any loss of studies due to the rising wave of the coronavirus endemic.

Dr Shahid Mahmud, Chairman and CEO Interactive Group of Companies, praised the efforts of the Nutshell Group and the Martin Dow Group for organizing such a mesmerizing moot. He said Pakistan will become fifth economic power of the world in the coming years.

CPEC will be instrumental in bridging the robust relationship between South Asia and Africa among diversified communities and businesses. Dr Shahid said: "My perception on CPEC is that in the years ahead, we will become such kind of a nation on which China will depend upon." China has pushed its economy by fully utilizing manpower effectively and efficiently to explore numerous opportunities all around the globe, CEO Interactive Group said.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-01-14/page-9/detail-0>

The News

SAPM scraps propaganda CPEC a debt trap for Pakistan

KARACHI: A top official overseeing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) affairs on Thursday came down hard on the propaganda the landmark 'game-changing' project was a debt trap for Pakistan, terming it totally unwarranted and in stark contradiction to facts.

"Pakistan received loans at an average cost of less than two percent for big projects, which is either lower or at par with what Pakistan receives from Europe, America or the World Bank," said Khalid Mansoor, Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on CPEC Affairs, speaking at 'The Future Summit'.

The 5th edition of Pakistan's largest corporate event was hosted by Nutshell Group in collaboration with Martin Dow Group at a local hotel.

Mansoor said \$25 billion had already been invested in Pakistan under the CPEC, while energy projects under the CPEC had added 5,300 MW to the national grid and another 3,500 MW would also be available soon.

In 2013, when the discussion on CPEC had started, Pakistan was facing its worst period of electricity load-shedding and the economy of the country crippled, he said.

“And whatever power was there, it was very expensive because the choice of fuel in Pakistan was one of the worst,” Mansoor said adding that 38-40 percent of the energy fuel mix was imported furnace oil, which was creating balance of payments issues as well as making Pakistani exports uncompetitive since energy cost was too high.

He said that Pakistan needed to bring in coal to correct the energy fuel mix because it was the most viable choice of fuel and the country had the seventh largest coal reserves in Thar.

However, none of the world powers was ready to fund coal projects, so China helped Pakistan.

“... this was helping them achieve their ancient dream of the Silk Road,” Mansoor said adding, “China ... wanted to develop their western route since their trade, which mostly happens through eastern route, faced many choke points and is expensive too.”

Mansoor said coal projects under the CPEC were World Bank compliant.

“Pakistan produces one-third of its energy requirements from renewables such as hydel power and has one of the lowest contributions to world pollution,” he said. While defending coal power projects under the CPEC, the special assistant said the country also produced its electricity through furnace oil, which was contributed more to pollution as compared to either imported or Thar coal.

Mansoor said in the aftermath of the economic war between America and China, the latter was relocating its manufacturing facilities and Pakistan could also benefit from that. “China is planning to end its silicon chip dependence on American sources by 2030,” he said adding, “Such things can certainly help Pakistan too, but for that Pakistan needs to prepare a hundred thousand of talented persons to avail it.”

Hassan Aslam, Legal Director, CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP, in highlighted the significance of the Belt and Road Initiative of which CPEC was a part.

Aslam said that the judiciary in Pakistan needed to understand that Pakistan should be in line with the international system, adding, there should be a ‘Shared Approach’ to manage differences in order to prevent them from becoming disputes.

“In some cases, Pakistan courts have deemed international contracts null and void, which doesn’t happen elsewhere. It discourages international investment in the country.”

He said that international contracts rest on sovereign pillars and no foreign investor will come to a country, which does not fulfill its international commitments, which needs to be changed.

He said Pakistan judiciary should be encouraged to enter into judicial cooperation agreements with other countries. It will enable the Pakistan judiciary to understand the legal trends that exist in different countries.

He praised the government of Pakistan for taking this shared approach by establishing the CPEC joint operation committee, which was the highest body at state level between Pakistan and China.

“And then we have the China Pakistan Business Forum and CPEC Business Council,” he said adding that there was no doubt that CPEC was a project that could change the destiny of Pakistan.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=45586>

January 15, 2022

Business Recorder

Gwadar will replace Dubai, predicts SAPM on CPEC

KARACHI: Gwadar as a very attractive venue for investors from all over the world with the best master plan of Gwadar city, will replace Dubai in near future.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs and Minister of State, Khalid Mansoor in his briefing about the latest developments on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects at Pakistan Stock Exchange, on Friday said that water supply and electricity issues at Gwadar will be resolved soon.

About 200 MW electricity would be provided from two different transmission lines to be completed by the end of 2023.

With the help of China, under social uplift fund for the locals, solar panels would be installed on more than 3000 houses in the vicinity of Gwadar.

Similarly, water supply system was being constructed to connect Gwadar with Mirani Dam. Socio-economic uplift of the locals at Gwadar was the top priority of the government. Many schemes were on its cards under CPEC, Public Sector Development Programme and public-private partnership.

He shared his experience as Head of Thar Coal project wherein he did many things for improved life of the locals and one could see big change in the areas around Thar Coal Mine and Thar power projects.

He presented review of CPEC’s First Phase-I which started in 2015 and was completed in scheduled time. It was initially meant to overcome power shortage in Pakistan and upgrade infrastructure. Till date, 5300 MW power had been added to the national pool from coal-fired power plants at Tharparkar and from other sources of renewable energy. From Lahore to Matyari, 880 kms-long transmission line project was near its completion. Now, he emphasized, power was available and the private sector should focus on industrialization.

He mentioned that in 2013, no country/institution was ready to finance Thar coal project and through CPEC Pakistan convinced China to finance and partner in this mega project. The work on the projects under phase-I started in 2015. Besides, Thar coal and Gwadar development projects including its port, two other mega projects under CPEC were laying of optic fibre cable from Islamabad and ML-1 Railway Line from Peshawar to Karachi.

CPEC programme had four parts: 2015 was described as the period of energy and infrastructure development, 2020 as the period of market cultivation, 2025 as the period of expansion and development, whereas 2030 was the period of maturity and that mechanism of sustainable economic growth would be evolved.

Khalid Mansoor said fast development was being done at nine special economic zones in the country; under CPEC.

He said Second Phase of CPEC had been launched with vision to accelerate social-economic development by bringing industrial, technological and agricultural revolution through Chinese investment and transfer of technology.

He said ten joint working groups had been made for different sectors to transform the CPEC ideas into reality.

“We are going to make Pakistan as an international manufacturing hub,” he reaffirmed.

He expressed his satisfaction over the security situation in the country and the credit mainly went to Pakistan armed forces.

He said China’s belt-road initiative covered 68 countries of three continents having 62 percent population of the world.

Pakistan Stock Exchange Chairperson, Dr Shamshad Akhtar also shared her experience as member of the World Advisory Group nominated by the World Bank.

She said renewable energy projects would hold more significance in BRI.

PSX’s Managing Director, Farrukh H. Khan moderated this interactive session.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2022/01/15/5-page/915259-news.html>

Daily Times

Agreement between Chinese, Pakistani medical varsities signed

A signing ceremony between Anhui Medical University (AHMU) and Islamabad Medical and Dental College (IMDC), along with the Unveiling Ceremony of “AHMU-IMDC China-Pakistan Cross-cultural Educational Exchange Center” was held in Anhui, as per Gwadar Pro’s report.

It’s the first official cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani medical universities.

Pakistan and China have a long history of cooperation in the medical field, especially medical education. Many Pakistani students have been coming to China for studies in medical related majors.

China has become the most popular selection for foreign students because of its rapid development in the medical sector and cutting-edge technology equipped hospitals.

Ahmed Waqas, Dean of the International department of IMDC, as a senior Pakistani doctor in China, said building such a cooperation has been his dream. “I always felt that there is still a lack of people-to-people contact between the two countries, especially in the field of medicine.

We both countries have a lot to share and learn from each other. After the COVID-19 epidemic and international travelling restrictions, our students suffered a lot and we need to take our collaboration with medical universities in China to a closer level,” he said.

This cooperation agreement between IMDC and AHMU includes academic, cultural and research cooperation, students exchange program at all levels, short and diploma degree course in specialized medical fields, collaboration of affiliated hospitals in clinical and basic medical sciences, off shore campus establishment and joint training programs, joint establishment of an education exchange center.

According to Cao Yun Xia, principal of AHMU, the university, with a history of 95 years, is one of the top medical universities in China. It has 15,000 teaching and medical staff and more than 20,000 students, including more than 5,000 master and doctoral students.

Seven of its disciplines are ranked in the top 1% of ESI worldwide. AHMU has cooperated with about 40 universities in 16 countries, and has more than 400 international students.

In addition, AHMU have established a “medical alliance” with 100 hospitals in Anhui province, with 13 affiliated hospitals, more than 20,000 beds and 10 million outpatient visits annually.

In addition, vice president of AHMU, Liang Chao Zhao, second secretary of Pakistani Embassy, Muhammad Junaid, and other high officials also attended the ceremony. Chairman and Managing Director of IMDC, Yasir Niazi and other faculty members of IMDC attended online.

<https://dailymtimes.com.pk/868933/agreement-between-chinese-pakistani-medical-varsities-signed/>

Pakistan assumes chairmanship of Group of 77, China

Pakistan assumed chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China (G-77) for the year 2022, on Friday. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi presided over the proceedings of the opening segment of the handover ceremony held in a virtual format, which was also attended by the outgoing Chair Foreign Minister of the Republic of Guinea, UN Secretary-General, and President of the UN General Assembly.

Speaking on the occasion, the Foreign Minister lauded the significant contributions made by G-77 towards advancing the economic and social objectives of developing countries in international development negotiations at the United Nations and beyond. He stressed the need to retain cohesion and unity in G-77’s collective endeavours to promote prosperity in conditions of equity and equality.

The Foreign Minister offered concrete ideas for addressing the triple crisis being faced by the world today- the COVID-19 pandemic; the related economic downturn; and the threat posed by climate change.

On COVID-19 pandemic, the Foreign Minister highlighted that the public health crisis had affected the developing countries disproportionately. He called for universal distribution of vaccine as the best response to the mutating virus.

Regarding the pandemic-induced global economic recession, the Foreign Minister underscored the need for mobilizing resources from all possible sources including debt restructuring; fulfillment of the 0.7 percent ODA target; redistribution of the \$650 billion new SDRs; and larger concessional finance from the IMF and the multilateral development banks, as well as by curbing the illicit outflow of trillions of dollars from developing countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/868997/pakistan-assumes-chairmanship-of-group-of-77-china/>

Dawn News

Cheap labour attracting Chinese investments, says Khalid Mansoor

KARACHI: The cost of labour in Pakistan is two times less than that in China, which makes the former an attractive destination for Chinese capital, according to Khalid Mansoor, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Delivering a presentation at the Pakistan Stock Exchange on Friday, Mr Mansoor said China is witnessing a scarcity of skilled labour because of its internal migration trends. Its human resource problem is accentuated because of the one child policy that was in place until recently. In contrast, Pakistan's population is fairly young and growing, which makes the local workforce more affordable for Chinese investors.

Mr Mansoor said various projects under CPEC were progressing at a fast pace alongside the development of nine special economic zones (SEZs) as well as a free zone in Gwadar. He dispelled the impression that SEZs give preference to Chinese investors, adding that German and Dutch businesses along with a large number of local companies have invested in these zones to benefit from a range of fiscal incentives.

“Our vision under CPEC is of export orientation plus import substitution to make Pakistan a manufacturing hub,” he said.

Following the conclusion of the early-harvest stage of CPEC (2015-20) that solved the energy deficit problem, the ongoing phase is focused on developing manufacturing and industrial capacities until 2025, he said. The final phase, which will begin in 2025, will ensure that CPEC-propelled economic growth is long-term and sustainable, he added.

The SAPM noted power plants of 5,300 megawatts are already in place while projects of 3,500MW will become operational within the current calendar year. Power plants of another

4,000MW are in the planning stage, he said, with new capacities mostly in the renewable segment.

He said 26 per cent development work for the international airport in Gwadar has already been achieved. The government has built the 1,800-kilometre Karakoram Highway and laid an optic fibre line of 820-km under CPEC, he said. Slum dwellers in Machar Colony will be relocated in a respectful manner to develop the Karachi Comprehensive Coastal Development Zone at a cost of \$3.8 billion, he added.

Mr Mansoor highlighted that the one-window operation to help foreign investors has eliminated the need for seeking as many as 37 separate approvals required under the previous system.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1669522/cheap-labour-attracting-chinese-investments-says-khalid-mansoor>

Probe into misuse of petroleum imports from China begins

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Amid reports of the misuse of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA), the government on Friday ordered all oil marketing companies (OMCs) to provide evidence-based data on the import of petrol from China.

Under the CPFTA renegotiated in 2019, the government had issued statutory regulatory orders on Dec 31, 2019 that abolished tariff on import of petrol. As such, there was no customs duty on the import of petrol from China with effect from Jan 1, 2020. Normal petroleum imports from all other sources, mostly the Middle East, attract 10pc customs duty while similar deemed duty is applicable on production from local refineries.

This results in a price saving of about 10pc on petrol imports from China. However, this price differential is retained by the OMCs as windfall profit instead of its benefit to the exchequer or the consumers. Depending on the international petrol price published in Platt's Oilgram, the gap normally works out between Rs9-12 per litre.

OMCs ordered to provide two-year buying data under CPFTA

“It has been observed that a number of OMCs have imported motor spirit [petrol] from China under the CPFTA,” said the Ministry of Energy in a letter to Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC), an umbrella association of about two dozen refineries and oil companies.

It asked the OCAC to ensure that the OMCs provide complete details of their petrol imports for the last two years, starting from Jan 1, 2020 to Jan 1, 2022 within 10 days. Complete details have been sought about the name of cargo, port of origin where the product was loaded, quantities in litres, offloading port along with the date of decanting and the customs duty paid.

Interestingly, the key purpose of the free trade agreement signed on April 28, 2019 was the promotion of fair trade competition.

China itself is a net importer of petroleum products including petrol and transportation cost to Pakistan is relatively higher than that of the Middle East. Yet this provides a substantial cushion to the OMCs. The current position under the CPFTA is valid for four years – starting Jan 1, 2020 to Dec 31, 2024.

This happens despite the fact that local refineries had been crying over low capacity utilisation throughout the year, and at times complete closure of their refining facilities, mainly because of higher import of petroleum products. Three out of five local refineries have stopped operations over the last couple of weeks.

Last month, the local refineries had told the government that domestic production of petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD) could potentially go up by 60pc and 48pc, respectively, at a significant foreign exchange saving provided the local refineries were operated at optimum capacity.

The oil import bill, particularly of refined petroleum products, has been the largest chunk of about 83pc increase in imports in the first five months of the current fiscal year, causing unrest among the government ranks as money and share markets plummeted last month.

The local refineries had been agitating their operational challenges because of lower furnace oil off-take by power producers despite their extremely low storages than contractually required and large import quantities of both petrol and diesel by OMCs.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1669524>

Pakistan Observer

China and RCEP: Another Regional & Global Economic Stabilization

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

THE Chinese process of regional socio-economic integration and global economic stabilization and stimulation has now become a hot topic in the mass media. Unfortunately, the Western geopolitics is busy in mudslinging which will achieve nothing but a greater economic downturn for them.

From cost savings to greater market access, there will be clear benefits for all the member countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as the world's largest trade deal has been operationalized from January 1, 2022.

RCEP is an important agreement that will boost trade collaboration and integration within the region.

It will allow for greater transparency and facilitate services exports in areas such as professional services, computer and business services as well as logistics and distribution. It is a free trade agreement between the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) members plus Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

According to Chinese official data (January 2022) it has further enhanced the economic potential of China's exporting provinces in the first week of implementation of the RCEP pact, as companies across China are thrilled at the tangible RCEP benefits. It seems that the recent economic boost and trade and commerce acceleration is the outcome of the recently implemented mega trade deal of RCEP. Interestingly, since the RCEP officially came into force on January 1, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) issued 275 RCEP certificates of origin for 135 Chinese enterprises from 18 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. Thus economic stabilization and stimulation flourishes.

In this connection, the RCEP pact took effect in Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Japan, Laos, New Zealand, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam on January 1, 2022. Interestingly, South Korea will follow on February 1, but Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines have yet to ratify the deal. However, seven ASEAN members and five other partners, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand which account for 30% of the world's economy have ratified the RCEP. The RCEP eliminates tariffs on about 90% of traded goods and standardizes many customs, investment, IP and e-commerce regulations.

It is hoped that by forming a single set of trade rules and simplifying complex issues such as rules of origin (CoO), the RCEP will further enhance the development of Regional Value Chain Systems (RVCS).

According to HSBC's latest report (December 2021), the RCEP covers nearly a third of the global population and about 30% of its global gross domestic product, but this is expected to rise to 50% by 2030. Thus economic prospects of the RCEP are positive which will also benefit macro-economy of all the participating countries in the days to come.

Interestingly, India withdrew from the deal at the end of 2020 amid concerns its economy could be flooded with cheap Chinese goods and farmers could be hurt by agricultural imports from Australia and New Zealand. Moreover, India's rejection of the RCEP is more about geopolitics instead of geo-economy.

Furthermore, the RCEP will promote trade and attract investments to all participants in ASEAN indeed. Hopefully it will further promote intra-region free trade. It will open a new chapter for regional economic and trade ties.

It estimates that trade is an important driver of growth for Asia, and RCEP's commencement will put Asia back on its pre-COVID growth trajectory. Intra-Asian trade, already larger than Asia's trade with North America and Europe put together, will receive a further boost with RCEP's standardized rules of origin. Moreover, RCEP will make it easier for firms to use Southeast Asia as a production base, and could accelerate the diversification of supply chains and the reallocation of FDIs already underway in Asia.

The pact should also help streamline existing free-trade agreements in Asia-Pacific and strengthen intraregional trade linkages. Additionally, foreign businesses may also benefit from

building production facilities in lower-cost ASEAN markets to make use of RCEP trade rules and preferences when trading within the region.

Beijing also said the deal will serve as “powerful leverage” for keeping trade and foreign investment stable in 2022, as it will expand exports of Chinese products while helping speed up China’s industrial transformation. Hainan Yanghang Industrial Company in South China’s Hainan Province has become the first enterprises to enjoy the zero tariff policies under RCEP.

It seems that the RCEP agreement will gradually lift tariffs for China’s imports of coconut milk, pineapple products and paper products from ASEAN countries. Consequently, RCEP will boost investment opportunities between China and other member states, as it ushers in wider access for foreign investors and increases policy transparency.

Imports and exports between China and the other 14 RCEP members totalled 10.96 trillion Yuan (US\$1.72 trillion) in the first 11 months of 2021, accounting for 31% of China’s total foreign trade value.

During 2022, ASEAN developing countries such as Brunei, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam which have ratified the agreement will eliminate about 75% of their tariffs on imported products from China. The remaining tariffs will be gradually eliminated over 20 years.

To conclude, it is suggested that RCEP should further consolidate different rules of origins in ASEAN+1 FTAs so that RCEP partners may take advantage of preferential tariffs. This is particularly important for the development of high-tech value chains such as electronics and automobiles, where parts and components are manufactured in different countries in the region. Therefore, the relatively high tariff liberalization coupled with harmonized rules of origin in RCEP should not only save costs and increase profits for traders, but also facilitate ASEAN firms’ participation in the regional and global value chains.

The RCEP is the largest economic bloc in the world. Even without India, the countries in the RCEP account for 30% of the world’s population, 29% of global GDP, 27% of global trade, and 29% of foreign direct investment (FDI). By comparison, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) without the US (now called the CPTPP) represents only 7% of the world’s population, 13% of global GDP, 15% of trade, and 20% of FDI. Thus economic and Trade and commerce comparative advantage of the RCEP is obvious as compared to other regional as well as global trade pacts.

Despite some regional speculations, global manipulations and propagation, the traditional labour-intensive sectors in Southeast Asia will also be benefiting from the RCEP, such as mechanical and textile industries.

RCEP is a giant step towards regional socio-economic transformation, trade and commerce integration, mobilization of investment and last but not the least, boost to exports. Greater economic stabilization and stimulation is the way forward because an ongoing human saga in the shape of a series of Coronas (Delta and Omicron) has badly damaged the global economy. Thus

the role of China is paramount in which its mega projects like BRI, CPEC and free trade agreements RCEP would play a vital role for regional as well as international economic recovery.

— The writer is Director, geopolitics & economics and regional expert of Indonesia & ASEAN.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-and-rcep-another-regional-global-economic-stabilization-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Chinese experts discuss joint skills training with NSU

Two Chinese experts from Tang International Education visited the National Skills University Work-shops/Laboratories. They delivered a presentation about initiating Sino-Pak Joint Technical Education Programs in collaboration with Chinese leading technical education colleges.

During the deliberations session chaired by the NSU Vice Chancellor and attended by various departments Chairpersons, it was agreed that the NSU would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with this Chinese group upon deliberating this at the NSU Technical Advisory Council level.

Under the Sino-NSU collaboration, the National Skills University will initiate a three-year diploma program having two years of training at the NSU and one at Chinese technical universities.

Students will pay regular fees. Scholarships will be available for meritorious and deserving students. For Chinese training, they will only pay air-fare, logistics, and tuition fee at Chinese Technical Institutions will be subsidized.

The admission criteria for this joint diploma offered by the Sino-NSU will be a first division or equivalent in the Matriculation examination. The initial offering will be in three disciplines, including Automotive, Electrical, and Information Engineering Technologies.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-experts-discuss-joint-skills-training-with-nsu/>

The Express Tribune

Mansehra town thrives as CPEC stirs economic activities

People from other areas start settling in Qalandarabad in search of better livelihood

ISLAMABAD: The robust growth of business and commercial activities being witnessed in Qalandarabad, a small town in Mansehra district in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, is an example of how China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is transforming economic landscapes of the areas it covers.

In Qalandarabad, a town between Abbottabad and Mansehra, the M-15 (Hazara Motorway of CPEC) connects with the historic N35 (Karakoram Highway or China-Pakistan Friendship

Highway). This junction has become a new centre of economic activities as people from the surrounding hilly areas as well as Kohistan district of K-P have started settling here in search of better livelihood.

“The town has grown enough during the past few years after the inauguration of CPEC M-15 and people do not need to travel to Mansehra or Abbottabad for shopping now,” a trader said.

Safdar Hussain, a local resident, said that a few years back, this small town was famous for its German-run charity hospital, Bach Christian Hospital, but now it is known for its growing commercial activities.

He said that Hazara Motorway not only improved financial position of local investors but also motivated outsiders to establish their businesses in the town.

“The town is growing so fast that it might compete with the historic cities of Mansehra and Abbottabad soon,” he claimed.

Qalandarabad Trade Union President Malik Amjad said that although local population is not much, the town has become a pivot for more than 25 union councils of Mansehra and many others of Abbottabad, due to which the business activities are galloping.

Nisar Ahmed, a grocery store owner, said that there were only a few scattered grocery stores in Qalandarabad, but now it has multi-story commercial plazas where everything is available for customers.

Naseema Bibi, a customer from Behali union council, said that she did not like traveling to Mansehra for shopping, which was not only hectic but also time consuming.

“However, after CPEC passed from the area, the town has grown enough. Now, I do not need to go elsewhere for shopping,” she said.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2338779/mansehra-town-thrives-as-cpec-stirs-economic-activities>

The Nation

Developing Gwadar Port

Aiyza Javaid

The Gwadar Port is viewed as a flagship project under the umbrella of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The development of Gwadar Port, located in Southwestern Pakistan is opening avenues for global prosperity and regional connectivity. China has been successfully implementing its own experience pertaining to the development of its coastal areas when it comes to development of Gwadar port. Being a multi-billion dollar project of CPEC, the development of the port entails effective and timely operationalisation from Chinese experts and engineers.

The coastal development in the project of Gwadar is deemed to be highly beneficial not only for Pakistan and China but also for the population of South Asia. A scenario of geographical, economic and regional equilibrium is attained due to the development of Gwadar port, thereby crafting a plausible and favourable environment for the establishment of new trade routes with different countries across the globe. The concept of inclusive and collaborative efforts is emphasised as part of this project of the uplift of the port. Technological innovation is boosted as part of the project, thereby enhancing the quality of the research and the development of different organisational departments of Pakistan.

In addition, long-lasting peace, harmony and stability is aimed to be achieved as part of the completion of the port. Importantly, it can be seen that several vocational training institutes, model schools for children and a university have been established in Balochistan as part of this project. The infrastructure, as a result of the project has been tremendously improved; hence increasing direct access to markets for the local population.

The quality of the life of the population in the region will also see a considerable improvement resulting from the project. The installed capacity of the three desalination plants as part of the project is estimated to be 5 million gallons of clean drinking water for the local population. It is likely to provide safe and hygienic drinking water to the local population.

The health and medical facilities for the local people of the region will also be improved with the establishment of the Pak-China Friendship Hospital under the umbrella of the Gwadar project. Furthermore, the installation of the coal-powered plant as part of the project of development of Gwadar port is expected to provide nearly 300 megawatts of electricity to the local population in the province. It will generate economic independence and flourish the small and medium enterprises of the province.

The development has been fully active in the creation of more than 40,000 jobs for the local population of Balochistan. The New Gwadar International Airport, to be operational in 2023, has opened up multiple jobs for the people of the region as well.

The above-mentioned expected developments in Gwadar port related to commercial, financial and economic activities has helped to remove the negative impression of Gwadar port both locally and abroad. The development is characterized with multiple challenges from both local and external forces. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen the security of the region in order to accomplish the objectives of the master plan.

The local authorities are active in accelerating the provision of resources and investment related to the effective and timely completion of the project. There must also be continuous support from law enforcement agencies to counter the threats from militants in the province. It will ensure a conducive and healthy environment for investment and trade in Gwadar. Indeed, the completion of the port project will be deemed as a prime milestone of CPEC's development.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2022-01-15/page-6/detail-2>

The News

CPEC open for all countries, says PM's aide

KARACHI: Khalid Mansoor, PM's special adviser on CPEC Affairs, on Friday said the economic corridor was not centric to any single partner and apart from China; Pakistan would welcome investments from all other countries.

“CPEC [China Pakistan Economic Corridor] is not China-centric. It is available for any kind of investment from EU, UK, USA, and other countries,” Mansoor said.

He was talking to capital market participants at Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on CPEC affairs where he gave a presentation on the background, scope, and latest developments of the corridor, while highlighting its completed and in-process phases.

He provided information regarding nine special economic zones (SEZs) being developed under CPEC, adding that Allama Iqbal Industrial City near Faisalabad had started production while Dhabeji SEZ was also functional.

“Along with China, Germany, the UK, Netherlands, and other countries had invested at the Allama Iqbal Industrial City.”

He said Pakistan was also involved in infrastructure development and ‘not all the work was carried under CPEC’ highlighting that the road network was also developed under PSDP (Public Sector Development Programme).

Mansoor gave a briefing to the participants stating that CPEC was a project to attract investment, industry, and technology centers from all over the world. He said the foremost thing needed to be understood was that the CPEC roadmap was ‘not something going to be concluding soon’.

It started in 2015 and is projected to develop by 2030. It is an ongoing project meant to promote bilateral & regional connectivity, regional economic integration, investment, trade, and logistical cooperation, he added.

He further stated the first phase of the project until 2020 involved a period of market cultivation to remove the major bottlenecks to economic social development addressed to boost economic growth.

“In this phase, the goal was to address the power generation shortfall in Pakistan which has been overcome today.”

He informed that the second phase was the medium term, which would continue until 2025 and involves developing industrialisation and manufacturing in the country. “This is what Pakistan needs to turn around its economy.”

Mansoor was of the view that the long-term project which would continue from 2025 until 2030 was the ‘period of maturity’ wherein a mechanism would be developed for sustainable economic

growth. He said Pakistan's strategic importance had increased manifold envisaging that the CPEC was going to be flagship of the dream of connecting the world.

Manoor said Gwadar as a very attractive venue for investors from all over the world with the best master plan of Gwadar City, will replace Dubai in near future. He said water supply and electricity issues at Gwadar will be resolved soon.

About 200 MW electricity would be provided from two different transmission lines to be completed by the end of 2023. With the help of China, under social uplift fund for the locals, solar panels would be installed on more than 3,000 houses in the vicinity of Gwadar. Similarly, water supply system was being constructed to connect Gwadar with Mirani Dam.

The session was also attended by PSX chairperson Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, CEO & MD PSX Farrukh H. Khan, capital market participants and heads of research, investment banks & brokerage houses.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=45983>