



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

June 16-30, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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June 16, 2021

Daily Times

Economic, trade ties between China, Pakistan have expanded: Yao Jing

Former Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Yao Jing has said that the economic and trade exchanges between Pakistan and China have gradually expanded over the past 20 years.

“Personnel exchanges have continuously deepened. The joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative has been intensified and the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has achieved remarkable results,” former Chinese ambassador, who now serves as director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the People’s Government of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, told China Economic Net in an interview. “Moreover, China-Pakistan community of common destiny will become closer in the new era,” he added.

Yao Jing said Pakistan responded actively after the Belt and Road Initiative was proposed in 2013. “In 2015, China-Pakistan relations upgraded from a strategic partnership to All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, led by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and focused on Gwadar Port, energy, transportation infrastructure and industrial cooperation. The two countries formed a “1+4” layout of economic cooperation. On April 20, 2015, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project was officially launched, becoming a key part of the practical cooperation between the two countries to create a community of common destiny,” he further said. “Since then, the corridor has gradually become the first pilot area, demonstration area, and innovation area of the Belt and Road Initiative. Especially under the influence of the pandemic, the corridor construction has made a series of significant progress in overcoming the impact of the rising trend,” he added.

“I think it is a stage of consolidation and expansion, a stage where the economic development of China and Pakistan will truly benefit the lives of the two peoples from 2017 to 2020,” he said. “I believe that Pakistan’s support and participation in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, from the top leaders to the various government departments, are increasing unabated,” he went on to say. “That’s because the design of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and its actual role are completely motivated by Pakistan’s own economic needs and completely motivated by the need to improve the people’s livelihood in Pakistan,” he added.

Yao Jing, who has left from Pakistan for half a year, sits in the office of the People’s Government of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and contributes to China-Pakistan friendship in another way. In order to speed up the construction of the core area of the Belt and Road Initiative, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Party Committee and government have put forward a series of proposals, placing the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in a more important position and continuously promoting the development of economic and trade exchanges with Pakistan in a broader space. Xinjiang borders Pakistan. They are closely connected to each other both in history and in the present, in terms of culture and in economy and trade.

In the process of constructing the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, almost all the personnel, materials and equipments are transferred to Pakistan through Xinjiang. Many large enterprises directly build production bases in Xinjiang.

China provides Pakistan with this channel, which provides a good platform for Pakistan to expand its foreign economic and trade ties and expand its foreign relations. Pakistan can benefit from Xinjiang's stability and development. Xinjiang can also benefit from China-Pakistan economic and trade cooperation and the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. So this is a win-win and mutually beneficial result.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/773613/economic-trade-ties-between-china-pakistan-have-expanded-yao-jing/>

Govt allocates Rs23 billion for 17 CPEC projects under PSDP 2021-22

The federal government has earmarked Rs23 billion for 17 projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2021-22.

According to the budgetary documents, the government has allocated Rs5 billion for the construction of Zhob to Kuchlak Road-a part of CPEC Western Corridor, of which the total cost is estimated at Rs 63 billion.

Similarly the government allocated Rs 6 billion for the “Up-gradation of Pakistan Railways existing Main Line-1 (ML-1) and Establishment of Dry port near Havelian (2018-22) Phase-1”.

The government also earmarked Rs500 million for the project “Preliminary Design /Drawings for Up-gradation/Rehabilitation of Mainline (ML-I) and Establishment of Dry port Near Havelian under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Hiring of Design/ Drawing Vetting Consultants”. Likewise, for construction of KKH Phase-II Havelian-Thakot (118.057 KM) part of CPEC, an amount of Rs1.5 billion has been set aside.

For the land acquisition of Karachi-Lahore Motorway (Lahore-Abdul Hakeem, Multan-Sukkur, Sukkur Hyderabad motorway, the government has allocated Rs 4.611 billion. Likewise, the project “Land Acquisition and Resettlement for CPEC-Islamabad-Raikot Section (Phase-I), Havelian-Thakot (120.12 km), would get Rs50 million during the upcoming fiscal year.

The project “Nokundi- Mashkhel Road CPEC (Deposit Work)” would get Rs1.5 billion, whereas an amount of Rs 2 billion has been set aside for the project “Improvement and widening of Chitral-Booni-Mastuj-Shandur”. An amount of Rs500 million has been allocated for a project “5 MGD RO Sea Water Desalination Plant at Gwadar, Rs 400 million for “Gwadar Smart Environmental and Sanitation System and Landfill,” Rs150 million for “Academic Collaboration under CPEC Consortium of Universities”, and Rs684 million have been set aside for “Strengthening of Core Network & Expansion of PERN footprints through CPEC Optical Fiber (PERN-III)”.

The government also allocated Rs50 million each for the “Construction of Offices for Intelligence Bureau along with CPEC (Soost, Gawadar, Khuzdar, Turbat, Mansehra, Gilgit) and “Construction of Blacktop Road from CPEC Kharan Yak Mach Road to Gul Kharmagai, District Washuk”. For establishment of CPEC Support Unit for Projects and Activities in Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), the government allocated Rs 9.68 million, for Center of Excellence for CPEC,

PIDE, Rs150 million and for China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Support Project (CPECSP) at Ministry of Railways, an amount of Rs 200 million has been allocated.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/773787/govt-allocates-rs23-billion-for-17-cpec-projects-under-psdp-2021-22/>

Dawn News

Gwadar fishermen hold rally against grant of fishing rights to Chinese trawlers

Behram Baloch

GWADAR: Hundreds of fishermen, political workers and members of civil society staged a protest rally against the federal government for granting Chinese trawlers fishing rights in Gwadar by issuing them licenses.

The National Party and Baloch Student Organisation had called for the protest rally and sit-in in front of the Gwadar Press Club against the government's move.

The participants of the rally marched on the roads of the coastal town and later staged the sit-in.

Haji Fida Hussain Dashti, Faiz Nagori, Manzoor Qadir Bakhsh, Abid Rahim Sorabi, Muhammad Noor and leader of Gwadar's fishermen Khuda-i-Dad Waju spoke on the occasion.

Mr Waju said that fishermen of Gwadar were already facing violation of fishing limits by Sindh's fishing trawlers and now the federal government had allowed foreign trawlers to deprive the fishermen of Gwadar of their livelihood.

Speakers said the fishermen of Gwadar had vacated their fishing spots for the construction of the Gwadar port hoping that their economic conditions would improve once the port was ready, but now the federal government had issued licenses to Chinese trawlers which was badly affecting their livelihood. They urged the people to unite over the issue that was vital to the Gwadar people. They alleged that the provincial fisheries minister and the federal government officials, instead of supporting the stance of the local fishermen, were giving statements in favour of the Chinese fishermen.

They demanded of the government to cancel fishing licenses of Chinese trawlers to protect the livelihood of the local people.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1629558/gwadar-fishermen-hold-rally-against-grant-of-fishing-rights-to-chinese-trawlers>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC: Challenges in the Post-US withdrawal Geopolitical Scenario

Col (R) Muhammad Hanif

THE China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is China financed mega connectivity project, involving China's investment of over US \$ 60 billion, comprising the construction of

motorways/roads, railways, air, sea and dry ports, and laying of the fibre optic in Pakistan to connect the Kashgar city of Xinjiang autonomous region of China with the Gwadar port of Pakistan. The CPEC also includes the construction of electricity generation plants and industrial zones in Pakistan, and industrial and agricultural cooperation between China and Pakistan. The CPEC is an investment and trade oriented economic undertaking, and a pilot project of the China's Bridge and Road Initiative (BRI)), which is part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's concept of the shared development and destiny of China's neighbours and the world countries at large, as the BRI covers many continents and regions of the world. This concept is based on enhancing the connectivity and economic development of CPEC member countries through China's economic investment, which will help enhance mutual economic growth and trade to kill poverty and bring prosperity to all. The construction of the CPEC had started in 2015, after the CPEC agreement was signed between China and Pakistan during President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan, the same year. The CPEC based Chinese investment is a great opportunity for Pakistan's economic development, which came at a time when no other major economic power in the world had offered to make such a huge investment in Pakistan. Hence, the completion of the CPEC is a necessity for enhancing Pakistan's economic growth and increasing its forex reserves through CPEC-based trade benefits and exports, end poverty, pay Pakistan's huge foreign debt and to make it an economically strong and sovereign country. As part of the CPEC, many projects have already been completed in Pakistan, due to which electricity load shedding has drastically reduced and businesses are flourishing and the domestic connectivity and inland trade activities have multiplied. Also, container-based international trade to China, Pakistan and Afghanistan by using the Gwadar port has already started. Hence, Pakistan considers the CPEC as a purely economic-oriented project which must be completed on time to draw maximum economic benefits, and its opposition by some countries is just meant to undermine Pakistan's economic development. So far, the development of the CPEC has gone quite smoothly as the TPP-related terrorism in Pakistan was totally defeated by the Pakistan military, and the India sponsored terrorism in Pakistan using the Afghan soil and TPP and other terrorist groups based in Afghanistan was also well checked by the Pakistan Army. However, as the US President Biden has announced that all the US/NATO troops in Afghanistan will leave that country by 11 September 2021 to implement the US-Taliban Peace Accord-2020, and the Ghani Government-Taliban talks have not progressed, in view of Afghanistan's likely instability, the construction of the CPEC may face some new challenges. Also, President Biden's recent announcement in the G-7 summit forum on 12 June 2021 that the G-7 countries should jointly counter China's BRI project by providing an alternative to the affected countries may also have some negative implications for the CPEC. To be more specific, the post-US withdrawal geopolitical situation in South Asia and in the world may bring the following challenges for the development and use of the CPEC. If the Ghani Administration continues to use delaying tactics in the talks with the Taliban and no peace agreement is signed within a reasonable time frame, internal fighting will start and Afghanistan will become more unstable. The situation will be further complicated if the US/NATO countries start supporting the Ghani government forces by launching airstrikes

against the Taliban by using their military bases located in other countries, although they will not ultimately succeed in keeping the Ghani Government in power for more than one or two years. While the above-mentioned instability in Afghanistan will encourage India sponsored terrorism in Pakistan using the Afghan soil, it might also pose a threat to the manpower working on the CPEC, and a challenge for the Pakistan military to neutralize the threat. Also CPEC's progress to connect with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) through Afghanistan is likely to suffer. The situation can get complicated if to dent China's BRI, the US also starts pressuring Pakistan to compromise on the CPEC, being the pilot project of the BRI, as India will be encouraged to use the Afghan soil to destabilize the CPEC. In view of the above challenges, the following should be Pakistan's priorities. It should use its influence with the Afghan Government and the Taliban for the success of the peace process to bring stability to Afghanistan. If the Ghani government continues to delay the peace process for too long, and infighting continues, Pakistan should remain neutral, but alert to face threats to the development of the CPEC. Finally, the Taliban are likely to succeed in taking over Afghanistan militarily within one to two years and peace will prevail. In the process, Pakistan should not be deterred by any US pressures on the CPEC, as it will just be a temporary phase, since the US will not like to break its relations with Pakistan, as it needs it for the peace and stability in South and Central Asia and also in the Middle East and the Muslim world. Moreover Pakistan can also act as a mediator to reduce tension between the US and China. In this context, Pakistan should also make efforts to have a meaningful dialogue with the US to reset its relations with the superpower, without compromising on its relations with China

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-challenges-in-the-post-us-withdrawal-geopolitical-scenario-by-col-r-muhammad-hanif/>

CPEC & Chinese Green Development Model

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

MOST recently Prime Minister Imran Khan thanked Chinese President Xi for his strong message on World Environment Day, hosted by Pakistan this year. He also appreciated President Xi's leadership in combating climate change and biodiversity loss along with his offer to cooperate over ecosystem restoration. Undoubtedly, China's transition to a green economy has immense implications for sustainable development both domestically and worldwide due to which the government of Pakistan also desires to further transform China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into a green sustainable model of development. In this context, agricultural development, social development, health, housing collaborations and hydropower generation are inclusively included in CPEC Phase-II in the country. Green development is one of President Xi Jinping's top concerns. Right from the beginning he has been advocating China's comprehensive policies of clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient energy. Instead of considering GDP as the core focus of development, the Chinese President Xi has been tending to prioritize environmental protection in his governance philosophy and emphasizing the need to balance economic development and environmental protection. Previously, China mainly resorted to "end-of-pipe

solutions” pollution-control approaches that clean up pollutants at the point where they enter the environment in its environmental governance. Now it has been shifting to a more systematic approach of reforming the economic development mode by adjusting the structures of industry, energy consumption, transportation and land use. During its journey towards green China the Chinese government has been launching numerous far-reaching policies mainly 1970-1980 Environmental Protection Laws, 1990s, Sustainable Development Doctrines, 2000-2006, Harmony between Man and Nature, 2003-2012, Scientific Development Strategy, 2007-Present, Ecological Civilization. Its holistic model of green development has been targeting renewable energy, energy efficiency and industrial production in the last decade. Its overall strategy aims at a wide range of sectors, encompassing macro-level planning and the mobilisation of various stakeholder groups. The efforts and society’s push for a more environment-friendly development path have given birth to some unique Chinese concepts and implementation mechanisms. The current period can be considered as the ‘great leap-forward’ of China’s green economy agenda both conceptually and implementation-wise. In the conceptual domain, the term ‘ecological civilisation’ first appeared in the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party as part of the process to construct a well-off society. The concept received unprecedented political attention at the 18th National Congress in 2013 and was injected into the national development process, taking its place next to economic, political, cultural and social construction. China has made important progress. The prime example is the stimulus package of four trillion RMB, approximately US\$586 billion implemented in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. A significant share was earmarked for green investment, facilitating the rapid growth of China’s renewable energy sector and green jobs. The stimulus package contributed significantly to financing the beginnings of China’s green economy transition. Most recently, the central government has revised down its economic growth targets and passed a progressive environmental law, reflecting Beijing’s commitment to greening its economy. According to Chinese authorities (2020), Green Finances have been further increased up to 144 billion CNY by issuing green bonds in the first half of 2019 which was up to 62 percent from the previous years. Moreover, diversified but integrated policies such as Green Standards, Green Technologies, Green Factories, Green Products and last but not the least, Green Mindset have been announced and rigorously implemented throughout China which is now paying its dividends. Most recently, while addressing the international community through video link Chinese President Xi Jinping urged the international community to work together with unprecedented ambition and action to strive for a fair and reasonable system of global environmental governance featuring win-win cooperation and promote the sustainable development of humanity. He termed Earth as humanity’s shared home, and a sound ecosystem essential for the prosperity of civilisations. In the near past, while chairing a high official meeting the Chinese President Xi Jinping emphasized the strategic importance of green China and termed green mountains and rivers as mountains of silver and gold and called for a new approach to climate governance that highlights green recovery. As the world’s second-largest economy has entered a phase of high-quality development, green development has become a key component of its new vision of innovative,

coordinated, green, open and shared development. Critical analysis of the Chinese green policies reveal that in the past 10 years, China has ranked first in the world in increasing forest resources, with its afforestation area exceeding 70 million hectares. In China, 90 percent of terrestrial ecosystem types and 85 percent of key wild animal populations are under effective protection. By 2019, the country's carbon emission intensity had decreased 48.1 percent compared with 2005, reversing the trend of rapid carbon dioxide emission surge. Chinese President Xi pledged at the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September that China will strive to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. He called for upholding multilateralism and building synergy for global governance on the environment. The ambitious vision is also of global significance, because it will offer other developing nations an alternate path to prosperity rather than just following in the footsteps of developed countries. To achieve a fundamental improvement in environmental quality by 2035, China will endeavour to make production and lifestyles green throughout all areas of society. China's green ambitions will continue going forward: the forthcoming 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) is expected to drive decarbonization and indigenous tech innovation, however, without proposing overly ambitious climate actions. Being a prominent regional expert of CPEC & BRI, the scribe predicts that the concept of ecological civilization will gain more importance within China through practical applications that demonstrate genuine improvement in coordinated development, with benefits for people, communities, and nature which should be replicated in all the projects of CPEC. Interestingly, the ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 could not deter Chinese stride towards greater green development. During these difficult times of human survival and productive channels, China introduced numerous policies and strict control mechanisms to accelerate green development in the country, mainly Law on the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution by Solid Waste (April 2020), Master Plan for Major Projects in National Key Ecosystem Projects (April 2020), updated Green Financing Facility (May 2020) due to which coal investment is no longer eligible for green financing and last but not the least, guidelines on promoting climate change investments, innovations (October 2020) all indicate Chinese comprehensive plans towards achieving Green China goals. There is an urgent need to implement agricultural and rural vitalization mechanism including ecological restoration of the countryside in Pakistan especially in the ongoing mega projects under the flagship of the CPEC in the country. CPEC stands for quality-driven development thus due attention should be given on environmental constraints, and new opportunities too.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-chinese-green-development-model-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Special investiture ceremony held at Beijing

A special investiture ceremony was held at Embassy on 15th June 2021. Ambassador Moin ul Haque, on behalf of the President of Pakistan, conferred civil award of Pakistan upon "Tamgha-e-Imtiaz" Mr. Muhammad Suleman Mahsudin recognition of his outstanding services to Pakistan in further strengthening of Pakistan-China relations. Mr. Suleman is an officer from Commerce and Trade Group of Pakistan and is currently serving as Education Attache at Pakistan's

Embassy in Beijing, People's Republic of China. He joined 38th Common Training Programme at Civil services Academy, Lahore and later after completing his specialized training programme, he subsequently joined Ministry of Commerce at Federal Secretariat where he served at several important positions. As the Education Attache, Mr Suleman was the member of the core team constituted to facilitate Pakistani students living under lock down in several provinces of China. He latter volunteered his services for a two-member solidarity mission to Wuhan, the epicenter of COVID-19 infection. He arrived at Wuhan in February when the viral epidemic was at its peak and number of reported infections were rising. During his 53 days stay at Wuhan during the lock down, he provided critical support and assistance to the Pakistani community members. He also maintained close contact with local Chinese authorities for provision of needed relief to Pakistanis living in Wuhan and Hubei province. Mr. Suleman Mahsud's dedication and selfless devotion was not only admired by Pakistani community but also won him respect in Chinese authorities. He, therefore, made a valuable contribution to deepen Pakistan – China all weathered strategic partnership. The event was attended by officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hubei FAO, China Foreign Affairs University and officers of Pakistan Embassy. A special investiture ceremony was held at Embassy on 15th June, 2021. Ambassador Moin ul Haque, on behalf of the President of Pakistan, conferred civil award of Pakistan upon "Tamgha-e-imtiaz" Mr. Muhammad Junaid in recognition of his outstanding services to Pakistan in further strengthening of Pakistan-China relations. Mr. Junaid is an officer of the Foreign Service of Pakistan and posted as Second Secretary at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, People's Republic of China. He joined the 42nd Common Training Programme at the Civil Services Academy as an officer of FSP, where he was the recipient of the coveted Exemplary Conduct Award. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he served at the China Desk prior to proceeding on Mandarin language training to China and subsequently joined the Embassy. Mr. Junaid is a lifelong student of Pakistan's foreign policy and particularly, the exemplary Pakistan-China all weather strategic cooperative partnership. Following the COVID-19 outbreak centered in the Chinese city of Wuhan, he was the part of the core team of the Embassy to provide relief to more than 1200 Pakistani nationals in the locked down areas. In February 2020, he was called to lead a special solidarity mission to the epicenter itself and spent 53 days in the locked down Hubei province, where his primary duty was to provide support and reassurance to the members of Pakistani community. He also maintained a close contact with the Embassy and concerned Chinese local authorities to provide immediate assistance to Pakistanis in need, hereby renewing the confidence of overseas Pakistanis in the Government through realizing the policy of according top priority to expatriate Pakistanis. The event was attended by the officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hubei FAO, China Foreign Affairs University and officers of Pakistan Embassy.— PR

<https://pakobserver.net/special-investiture-ceremony-held-at-beijing/>

The Nation

Timely completion of CPEC projects govt's top priority: PM

Islamabad - Terming timely completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects as government's foremost priorities, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said that steps are being taken for the promotion of investment in export industry in the country's Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

The Prime Minister stated while chairing a meeting on foreign investment in export industries under CPEC.

Imran Khan said that export industries besides providing jobs, increasing economic volume and the precious foreign exchange will also ensure the access of "Made-in-Pakistan" brand in the international market.

Chinese officials visa issues to be streamlined

The meeting was told that with the complete redressal of visa issues for Chinese officials coming to Pakistan under the CPEC, the Ministry of Interior was disposing of the new cases on daily basis, which was positively impacting the pace of CPEC.

The Board of Investment (BOI) briefed the meeting in detail about comprehensive strategy for the establishment of export industries in SEZs.

The meeting was apprised of the identification of possible foreign investors from China in different sectors and the incentives being offered to them for direct investment in Pakistan.

The meeting was told about the establishment of mobile assembly units by three big international mobile companies in Pakistan as well as their domestic consumption and the positive effects on exports.

Besides, the meeting was also briefed about the measures taken by the CPEC Authority, the Ministry of Industries and Production and BOI.

The meeting attended among others by Federal Ministers Shaukat Tarin, Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, Asad Umar, Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtiar, Ali Haider Zaidi, Advisor on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood, Special Assistants to PM Dr. Waqar Masood, Dr. Moeed Yusuf, Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa and Governor State Bank Raza Baqir.

Meanwhile, talking to Parliamentarians and public representatives from Mianwali on Tuesday, the Prime Minister said that uplifting backward class of society is first priority of the government.

He said steps are being taken to provide basic health, education facilities and equal development opportunities to general public.

convened to share their insights on green investments, green taxonomies, environmental and social risk management, and biodiversity. The event was co-hosted by the Beijing Institute of Finance and Sustainability (BIFS), the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), and the Mongolian Sustainable Finance Association (MSFA), with support from the UK PACT program. This event was a timely response to the many carbon neutrality announcements that developing countries have made recently, such as those along the Belt and Road, like Kazakhstan. It is imperative to examine their current capacity and future needs for achieving these goals. As a network for knowledge sharing and capacity building in green finance, the GFLP looked into this issue and launched the report, *Paving the Way for Green Finance Development in Central Asia*, which assessed the baseline of green finance progress in the region and developed recommendations for multiple stakeholders to scale-up green investments, including local governments and IOs. The report estimates that significant amounts of green finance and capacity building will be needed to achieve carbon neutrality goals in Central Asia, where economies rely significantly on fossil fuel related activities and therefore need deep and rapid energy transitions.

Jenny McInnes, Deputy Director of International Climate Finance, UK BEIS said in her opening remarks that, "UK PACT works in partnership with countries to accelerate the global climate transition. We need to raise the ambition and ability of all countries ahead of COP 26".

Jenny McInnes, Deputy Director, International Climate Finance, BEIS

In parallel to major announcements on carbon neutrality, major banks and financial institutions operating in the Belt and Road region have signed up to the Green Investment Principles (GIP) for the Belt and Road to improve their capacity for environmental risk management and look for green investment opportunities. During this event, the GIP launched its first regional chapter, chaired by Mr. Yaseen Anwar, the former Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), and hosted by AIFC Green Finance Center. The main aim of this regional chapter is to enhance engagement with local stakeholders, identify prospective GIP members and collect green projects to be shared among existing members as potential investments.

Dr Ma Jun, President of the BIFS and Chairman of China Green Finance Committee, stated, "the greening of the global economy requires the greening of every single administration, including the involvement of local institutions of emerging market economies. That gives us our motivation for the launching of this regional chapter".

Ma Jun, Chairman of China Green Finance Committee

"The core function of the chapter is to develop GIP knowledge and activities, build capacity for green and sustainable investment, as well as solve practical problems faced by investors and corporates who wish to make more green investments." Mr. Yaseen Anwar, Chairman of GIP Central Asia.

Yaseen Anwar, Chairman of GIP Central Asia

Experts from investment institutions in Kazakhstan, Mongolia and the UK shared cases of green investments, specifically promoting green investment with energy transition and infrastructure development. Sima Kamil, Deputy Governor of the SBP emphasized that extensive financial

resources would be needed to accelerate sustainability development and that they just launched a national program on environmental and social risk management.

Speakers under the green taxonomies session introduced different major green taxonomies in the world, where Sean Kidney, CEO of the Climate Bonds Initiative, shared the global trends of green taxonomy development. Ms. Raux from UNEP FI presented the results of their internal test application of EU taxonomy and walked through how a taxonomy aligned loan would be like. Experts from Mongolia and Kazakhstan also introduced their respective green taxonomies and implementation in their domestic markets.

As more and more banks have been aware of the role of Environmental and Social Risk Management (ESRM), Ms. Chuluunkhuu Baartar from Trade and Development Bank of Mongolia explained the bank's E&S risk assessment process and its integration in the banking system. Ms. Yuan Wei from IFC shared their approach for risk assessment — an ESMS pyramid which emphasized the role of top-down behavioral change from the management, and training and capacity building among the employees, as well as ESG policy and procedures as benchmarks. Bankers from the Development Bank of Kazakhstan assessed the opportunity and risk of renewable energy in the country and their impacts on the renewable energy projects.

The topic on the connection between biodiversity and the financial sector has been quite new. Experts from UNEP FI and WWF emphasized the importance of biodiversity and the accelerating crisis in nature by pointing out that the global living planet index reduced 68% from 1970 to 2016. Although biodiversity loss might cause financial risks, as presented by Nick Robins of the London School of Economics and Political Science and the NGFS from the perspective of central banking and financial regulation, nature and biodiversity protection would also create great financial opportunities, e.g. nature related debt, bonds & funds and other instruments were already found in market. BIOFIN expert Ainura Shalakhonova from UNDP Kazakhstan argued that financial support for biodiversity in Kazakhstan faced around 50% gap and the solutions for the gap could include ecotourism certification, carbon offsets, etc. (GFLP).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/774364/supporting-the-green-belt-and-road-gflp-collaborates-with-gip-to-launch-its-first-regional-chapter/>

The Nation

PCJCCI holds meeting with Chinese delegation

LAHORE - Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President S M Naveed has said that involvement of technology leaders is a must for producing research-backed products. Speaking at a meeting with five-member delegation from Jinan Technology University China on zoom, he said that Chinese model of involving academics and technocrats should be adopted to create more competitive products. Zhang Shoufeng headed the delegation that included Zhang Xiuhong, Xiao Jing, Zhang Min and Wang Li. During the meeting, proactive suggestions and proposals were shared in which both parties termed international cooperation a fundamental component for learning globally recognized best practices. It was informed that PCJCCI was contemplating to enter into partnerships with international technology leaders for providing opportunities to young scholars to generate fresh innovative startups. In this regard,

CPEC would help Pakistan achieve knowledge economy goals. Pakistan's image has to be improved to encourage more international partners to invest.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-17/page-8/detail-6>

Nawaiwaqt News

نیا بجٹ اور سی پیک کی روشن نئی منزلیں

بجٹ تقریر ختم ہوتے ہی مجھے سی پیک وائچ کے چیئر مین سمیع اللہ کافون آیا۔ وہ اپنے کاروباری ادارے سمیع حیات انٹرپرائز کے چیف ایگزیکٹو آفیسر کے فرائض بھی سرانجام دے رہے ہیں، یہ ادارہ سی پیک میں کام کرنے والی چینی کمپنیوں کے اشتراک سے کام کر رہا ہے۔ اس ادارے کی کامیابی اور سی پیک کی کامیابی دونوں ایک دوسرے سے بندھے ہوئے ہیں سمیع اللہ نے اچھل کر فون پر کہا کہ حالیہ بجٹ میں اور کچھ بھی نہ ہو تا اور صرف سی پیک کے منصوبوں کا ذکر ہو تا تو پھر بھی یہ ایک کامیاب بجٹ تصور کیا جاتا۔ میں چونک گیا کہ آخر اس بجٹ میں سی پیک کے بارے میں کیا لکھ دیا گیا ہے، میں نے سی پیک وائچ کے جنرل سیکرٹری شبیر عثمانی اور کو آرڈینیٹر سی ایم رضوان کی ڈیوٹی لگائی کہ وہ بجٹ کے اندر جھانکیں اور مجھے بتائیں کہ آخر سمیع اللہ صاحب کی باچھیں کیوں کھلی ہوئی ہیں۔ دونوں نوجوانوں نے بجٹ دستاویزات کی جانچ پڑتال کی اور جو کچھ بتایا اس سے میری آنکھیں بھی چمک اٹھیں۔

سی پیک ایک منصوبہ نہیں ایک گیم چینجر کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے، سی پیک کے ساتھ جڑے ہوئے چین کے عظیم الشان منصوبے دنیا کے تین براعظموں کو آپس میں تجارتی طور پر منسلک کریں گے۔ اس منصوبے میں سی پیک کو مرکزی اور اعصابی حیثیت حاصل ہے کیونکہ گواڈرے زیادہ گہرے پانی کی بندرگاہ چین کو اپنے ارد گرد کہیں نصیب نہیں ہے۔ سی پیک آج کے پاکستان کی بھی مستقبل کی نسلوں کی تقدیر بھی بدل کر رکھ دے گا، یہی وجہ ہے اس منصوبے کی مخالفت میں کئی طاقتیں سرگرم عمل ہیں، بھارت اسرائیل اور امریکہ کو سی پیک ایک آنکھ نہیں بھاتا اور وہ اسے ناکام بنانے کے لیے سرتوڑ کوششوں میں مصروف ہیں۔ سی پیک کے خلاف تخریب کاری اور دہشت گردی کے لیے افغانستان کی سر زمین استعمال کی جا رہی ہے۔ پاکستان کی مغربی سرحد پر درجنوں افغان شہروں میں بھارتی کونسل خانے قائم ہیں یہاں سے راکے سازشی اڈوں میں کلبھوشنوں کی فوج پاکستان میں دہشت گردی کے لیے لانچ کی جاتی ہے۔

سی پیک کے بارے میں پاکستان کے ارادے مصمم اور اٹل ہیں۔ سمیع اللہ صاحب کا بھی کہنا ہے کہ پاکستان اس پروگرام کو بھی وہی اہمیت دیتا ہے جو اس نے اپنے ایٹمی پروگرام کو دی تھی، پاکستان کو ایٹمی طاقت بننے سے روکنے کے لیے ایک دنیا بڑی چوٹی کا زور لگا رہی تھی لیکن پاکستان نے کسی مخالفت یا دشمنی کو خاطر میں لائے بغیر اسے مکمل کر دکھایا حتیٰ کہ ایٹمی دھماکوں سے روکنے کے لیے اربوں ڈالر کی امداد کو پاکستان نے پائے حقارت سے ٹھکرا دیا۔ ایٹمی پروگرام پاکستان کے ایمان کا حصہ تھا اسے پاکستان کسی قیمت پر ترک نہیں کر سکتا تھا۔ اسی طرح سی پیک بھی پاکستان کے ایمان کا جزو لاینفک ہے۔ پاکستان اس پروگرام کو بھی مکمل کرنے کا مصمم ارادہ رکھتا ہے، چین ہماری پشت پر ہے اس لیے پاکستان دنیا کی قسمت کو بدلنے والے اس پروگرام کی تکمیل کے لیے ڈٹا ہوا ہے۔

اب میں آپ کے سامنے شبیر عثمانی اور سی ایم رضوان کی ریسرچ رپورٹ کا خلاصہ پیش کرتا ہوں۔ ان نوجوانوں نے بڑی عرق ریزی سے بجٹ کے اعداد و شمار کو چھلنی سے چھان کر سی پیک کے منصوبوں کی تفصیل مرتب کی ہے۔ قوم کے لیے پہلی خوش خبری کی بات تو یہ ہے کہ سی پیک اتھارٹی کا بل پارلیمنٹ سے منظور ہو چکا ہے، اس طرح لیفٹیننٹ جنرل عاصم باجوہ کی مہارت اور راہنمائی سی پیک کے منصوبوں کی کامیابی کو یقینی بنائے گی۔ پی ایس ڈی پی کی مد میں سی پیک کے لیے ستاسی ارب روپے کی خطرہ رقم مختص کی گئی ہے۔ قارئین کے لیے میرا مشورہ ہے کہ وہ کیلکولیٹر ہاتھ میں پکڑ لیں اور پاکستان کے شمال مغربی اور جنوبی جغرافیے پر نظر

ڈالتے جائیں تو انہیں سی پیک کے منصوبے کا ایک جال بچھا ہوا نظر آئے گا۔ قراقرم کی چوٹیوں سے گوادر کی بندرگاہ تک موصلات کا ایک جدید ترین نظام تکمیل کے آخری مرحلے میں ہے۔ اس کی تفصیل کچھ یوں ہے۔ جھل جاہو سے بیلا سیکشن کے لیے ڈیڑھ ارب روپے۔ خضدار سے کچلاک سیکشن این 25 کو دو طرفہ کرنے کے لیے تین ارب روپے، حیدرآباد سے سکھر موٹروے کے لیے سات اعشاریہ سولہ ارب روپے، کراچی سے کوئٹہ کی چمن روڈ کی مرمت اور اس کو دو طرفہ کرنے کے لیے دس ارب روپے مختص کیے گئے ہیں۔ چترال اور شندور سے گزرنے والی روڈ کی مرمت اور اس کو چوڑا کرنے کے لیے دو ارب روپے۔ کراچی سے لاہور موٹروے کے کچھ سیکشن کی تعمیر کے لیے چار اعشاریہ اکٹھ ارب روپے۔ پاکستان ریلویز کی مرمت اور ڈرائی پورٹ کے لیے چھ اعشاریہ ستائیس ارب روپے۔ ایم۔ ۸ کا ہوشاب سے آواران کے سیکٹر کی تعمیر کے لیے دو ارب روپے، گوادر انٹرنیشنل ایئر پورٹ کی تعمیر کے لیے دو ارب روپے، ایسٹ بے ایکسپریس وے کی تعمیر کے لیے تین ارب روپے مختص کیے گئے ہیں اس کے علاوہ مزید کئی پروجیکٹس کے لیے بھی رقم مختص کر دی گئی ہیں جن کا کل اٹھتر ارب روپے بنتا ہے۔

قارئین یہ بحث میں دیے گئے سی پیک کے منصوبوں کی تفصیل کا صرف ایک حصہ ہے۔ کالم کی جگہ کم ہونے کی وجہ سے میں اس کا عشر عشر بھی بیان نہیں کر سکتا۔ میں جانتا ہوں کہ آپ ساری تفصیلات جاننا چاہتے ہیں، میں کوشش کروں گا کہ آئندہ کے کالموں میں باقی منصوبوں کی تفصیل بھی پیش کروں۔

سی پیک وراج کے سربراہ اور سمجھ حیات انٹرپرائز کے سی ای او سمیع اللہ کی خوشیاں بھیرے عرب کی موجودگی کی طرح ٹھاٹھیں مار رہی ہیں۔ سی پیک کے منصوبوں کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے میرے قلم سے روشنی پھوٹ رہی ہے۔ یہ روشنی پاکستان کے تابناک مستقبل کی عکاس ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-06-17/page-8/detail-1>

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Daily Times

PM to visit China next month

Naveed Miraj

Prime Minister Imran Khan is undertaking an important visit to China in the first week of next month in order to give further impetus to the projects under multi billion dollars China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

According to foreign office sources, the Prime Minister will hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing on the entire spectrum of bilateral relations with special focus on the CPEC related projects.

They said the visit will be instrumental in further cementing Pakistan's economic, investment and strategic ties with China.

The sources said the Prime Minister will seek the assistance of Chinese leadership for promotion of Chinese companies' investment in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs). He will also brief the Chinese leadership about the incentives announced in the budget 2021-22 for promotion of investment in the SEZs

It merits mentioning here that Imran Khan recently launched Rashakai Special Economic Zone which has so far attracted Chinese investment worth \$ 128 million. The zone will be developed in three phases. About 247 acres of land would be developed in the first phase, 355 acres in the second phase and 399 acres in the last phase. 400 industrial units, including garments and textile,

domestic goods, electronics, electricity accessories, pharmaceuticals and others would be set up in the zone.

The sources said the Prime Minister wants early relocation of Chinese sunset industries to Rashakai and other economic zones in order to bolster the exports and revenues.

The sources said another project that will be in the limelight during the Prime Minister's China visit will be that of ML-1 which envisages upgradation of railways network from Karachi to Peshawar. They said the Prime Minister will seek early approval of \$ 6 billion dollars funds from the Exim Bank for start of work on this strategic project that will not only help check train accidents but also make Pakistan hub of regional trade.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/774787/pm-to-visit-china-next-month/>

Work in top 500 companies at my doorsteps: CPEC employee

“Can you imagine that? Now we can work in one of the top 500 companies at our doorsteps! That’s something,” said Yousuf Karim, who has worked for China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) for over 12 years, receiving plenty of praise for his speech in Chinese during a webinar titled “My Story with CPEC – Workers’ Perspective”.

The webinar, co-hosted by All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), China and National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China, was to highlight the role employees played under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque acknowledged that CPEC, a most prominent and successful flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), laid a sound foundation for boosting Pakistan’s economy and regional connectivity.

Expressing his gratitude to thousands of CPEC workers from China and Pakistan, he mentioned that CPEC showed resilience even during a global pandemic. “Under CPEC, no project has been suspended for construction, and no worker has been laid off,” he added.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong noted that CPEC has achieved major progress despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and CPEC has played a supporting role in combating the epidemic, stabilizing the economy and ensuring people’s livelihood in Pakistan.

“CPEC employees are practitioners, participants, witnesses and promoters of CPEC and also the backbone of CPEC,” he said, adding that next the Chinese embassy in Pakistan, together with relevant departments of China like NDRC, will work with Pakistan to help it realize industrialization and modernization, according to CEN.

Terming CPEC employees as pioneers, Ying Xiong, head of the External Affairs Coordination and Promotion Group of the Leading Group for the Promotion of the Belt and Road Initiative, mentioned that the corridor has brought US \$25.4 billion in foreign direct investment to Pakistan and created 75,000 jobs for the locals, serving as a focal point for China and Pakistan to drive practical cooperation.

Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa reviewed the progress on SEZs under CPEC. Extending his thanks to both Chinese and Pakistani workers who have made efforts for the country, he noted that the GoP had organized different staff training programs to prepare them

for future development and more related policies, laws, and construction plans are to be scheduled.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/774964/work-in-top-500-companies-at-my-doorsteps-cpec-employee/>

The News

The China factor

The G7 summit of the world's most powerful economies and democracies was recently held in Cornwall, Britain. The purpose of the summit, in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, was to play a leading role in resolving the problems facing the world today -- but the rapid rise of China dominated the meeting agenda.

Although most of the G7 summits are held behind closed doors, according to media reports, various issues related to China's growing influence in the region were also discussed. No doubt, China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is the largest economic project of the century. However, the US, on the occasion of the recently-held G7 meeting, has launched a global infrastructure plan to counter China's growing influence. Known as the Build Back Better World (B3W) initiative, the US-sponsored project aims to offer an infrastructure partnership with developing countries by providing support worth \$40 trillion by 2035.

According to the US, there also was a consensus during the G7 meeting on the need for a shared approach regarding human rights violations in China. Which is why the G7 leadership also criticized China for mistreating minority communities and protests in Hong Kong. In response, the Chinese Embassy in London has recorded a strong reaction on behalf of the Chinese government, stating that: "The days when global decisions were dictated by a small group of countries are long gone." The envoy emphasized that China always believes that countries, big or small, strong or weak, poor or rich, are equals, and that world affairs should be handled through consultation by all countries. In simple words, all countries in the world are honourable in their individual national status, and enjoy sovereignty in their internal matters.

The US is undoubtedly the world's number one economy and only superpower. According to analysts, the rapid growth of China will lead to transforming it into becoming the world's number one economic power by the end of the current decade. Its successful tackling of the Covid-19 challenge is in fact an example to be followed by the countries of the world.

Although US President Joe Biden ended many of the controversial policies of the Trump regime, the anti-China factor in foreign policy has apparently become more prominent. It seems that the US now intends to give China a tough time openly as was once practised against the Soviet Union. In my view, China has been recognized as a superpower rival and the US is now forming global alliances of like-minded countries against China.

Recently, Nato has warned of the emerging threats posed by China in the form of military and technological advancements. The US Senate has also recently passed a bill which also includes China-specific provisions.

On the other hand, it is a positive sign that not all G7 countries are in favour of going aggressively against China. Most Western countries enjoy cordial relations with China. That is why some heads of state had to clarify that the G7 is not hostile towards China.

Both the US and China are very significant for Pakistan on the diplomatic front. However, the first priority for us is to safeguard our own national interests. In the past, we have contributed a lot to world peace. Even today our foreign policy is based on establishing cordial relations with neighbouring countries and the international community on the basis of mutual respect and dignity. The current situation demands us to adopt a careful, practical and wise approach to handle such global issues.

The writer is a member of the National Assembly and patron-in-chief of the Pakistan Hindu Council.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/851079-the-china-factor>

Pakistani cherry-growers aim to take a bite at ripe Chinese market

ISLAMABAD: Soaked in summer sun, scarlet cherries glow softly in trees standing tall at the foothills of the Himalayas and Karakoram mountain ranges in Pakistan's northern Gilgit-Baltistan region, a land with ample varieties of fruits including sweet cherries, tangy apricots, and juicy pears during this part of the year.

Nourished by fresh glacial water, and ripened in golden sunbeams coupled with gentle breeze whirling to and fro in the lap of world's highest peaks, the cherries can relish the taste buds, and experts believe the cherries will also bloom the lives of people in the area if they reach in high-end Chinese and other markets of the world.

According to Pakistan's Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, cherry is grown at over 2,500 hectares of land in Pakistan with Gilgit-Baltistan and the southwestern Balochistan province being the two major cherry producing areas of the country, and Pakistan's collective yield of cherry in 2016 was over 6,000 tons.

Pakistan is currently not so competitive in terms of cherry production and processing as compared to some countries in the world, but the situation could get better if farmers in the cherry-growing areas are given proper guidance, knowledge and technology to meet the demands of international markets, experts say.

Pakistani cherry has not been so far able to reach any international market, except being sold in a few markets in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), because local farmers do not know the process and procedures to register their products in the international markets. And due to lack of knowledge, it is hard for them to get international certifications to access foreign high-end trading hubs.

Zulfiqar Ali Ghazi, 47, grows cherries in Gilgit and also exports the fruit to the UAE after collecting it from locals.

Ghazi, who has been associated with the cherry production and distribution business for more than one and a half decade, said in a conversation with Xinhua that currently there were 19 varieties of cherries in the Gilgit-Baltistan region, and only a few of them were suitable for export.

The government gave away many cherry plants to farmers this year to enhance the fruit production in the area and to support locals, he said, adding it was the right time to focus on growing the varieties, which were being demanded in international markets.

“The government should work on getting the international certificates to approve exports of cherries and help us develop a cold chain to preserve the cherries, whose current shelf life is seven to 10 days. Pakistani cherries have a huge potential, but they need urgent support to make their mark in international markets,” he said.

Talking to Xinhua, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam, said the cherry fruit had not made any significant entry into the international market despite having potential and the government was devising plans to uplift the agricultural sector, which would eventually benefit all farmers including the cherry producers.

“Distinctive flavor of our fruits will have an impact on high-end markets, and to achieve that target, we must have a system to regulate the standard and quality of cherries to meet the requirements of international markets, eventually leading to a greater international demand for it,” he said.

Pakistan's cherry production was small due to which it was not eyeing so many foreign markets except China, which was a big consumer of cherries, the minister said. He added the cooperation between the two countries in agriculture under the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor would also encourage Chinese investors to invest in the country.

“Many Chinese have shown interest in investing in Pakistan and if they invest in cherry growing areas in the form of corporate farming, value-addition and food processing, it will not only benefit the investors, but also create a win-win situation for local public too.”

Cherry prices were high in the Chinese market, and once Pakistani cherries entered the country, it would earn local farmers and others around them a big profit margin, encouraging them to increase planting, the minister added.

Worth of fruits grows manifold after drying them, brewing juices from them or making jams and jellies to enhance their value addition.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/851030-pakistani-cherry-growers-aim-to-take-a-bite-at-ripe-chinese-market>

K2 Daily



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

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

Nawaiwaqt News

نوجوانوں کو پاک چین دوستی سے روشناس کروانے کی ضرورت: خیال کاسٹرو

لاہور (سٹی رپورٹر) وزیر ثقافت پنجاب خیال احمد کاسٹرو اور ایڈیشنل چیف سیکریٹری پنجاب ارم بخاری کی زیر صدارت سترہویں سال کی پاک چین دوستی تقریبات کے حوالے سے اجلاس سیکرٹریٹ میں منعقد کیا گیا۔ ڈی جی پی آر ثمن رائے اور سیکرٹری ٹورازم، سیکرٹری ہاؤس ایجوکیشن اور سیکرٹری آئی اینڈ سی نے اجلاس میں شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر وزیر ثقافت خیال احمد کاسٹرو کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستانی نوجوان نسل کو پاک چین دوستی کی تاریخ سے روشناس کروانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ پاک چین دوستی کی سترہویں سالگرہ کی تقریبات شایان شان طریقے سے منائی جائیں گی۔ اور پاک چین سفارتی تعلقات کی تقریبات کا جشن تاریخی ہو گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/laure/2021-06-18/page-11/detail-15>

June 19, 2021

Business Recorder

Luring Chinese industry into Pakistan

That the Prime Minister's Office is working on "framing an effective strategy for Chinese industrial relocation in Pakistan" makes a lot of sense considering how the new finance minister stressed in a recent press conference the need to populate Specialised Industrial Zones (SIZs) and attract foreign investment. The timing is no doubt meant to take advantage of China's own process of transfer of its sunset industries to countries like Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia as its move up the technology ladder forces a recalibration of production priorities inside the country. That explains why the Board of Investment (BoI) believes that "devising an all-inclusive marketing strategy will not only facilitate existing but also promote new Chinese businesses in Pakistan."

It is being reported that everybody in government is taking very serious interest in the matter, all the way up to the prime minister, most likely because Beijing is our best bet of enhancing foreign investment inflows in the present environment; especially in the immediate- to medium-term. And if the Chinese must shift some of their industries elsewhere for reasons of their own, then it is in our best interest to offer them better terms than others to create a double coincidence of wants so that this process can then proceed quickly. For that to happen successfully, though, the government would have to restrict itself to the role of a facilitator and let the private sector take the lead in forging joint ventures with Chinese manufacturers that opt to set up shop in our SEZs.

Production from industries that relocate will be exported from Pakistan to China itself and other countries, of course, and joint ventures (JVs) would do best because Chinese manufacturers that have a share of the global market would remain engaged and involved in it. More than 40 state-owned as well as private Chinese companies participated in a BoI-arranged symposium on Chinese investment in Pakistan the other day, which is a very good sign, and seemed happy with what they saw and heard. That they then let the organisers know, in quite some detail, of some of the issues that they face and also offered suggestions is particularly encouraging because now both sides can look forward to delivering something tangible in successive rounds. This is a very precious window and successfully exploiting it might just bring the kind of foreign inflows that the economy really needs. Up until now the highest interest rate environment has given carry traders enough incentive to leverage themselves to the hilt and flood the local market with hot money; buoying the stock market and driving up the rupee for much of last year. But more solid assurances will be needed going forward, and more foreign direct investment (FDI) is usually the best answer to such dilemmas. Yet this is also going to be a time-barred window. And we will do nobody any favours even if we stitch together the best plans if we do it by the time Beijing has already made up its mind about other options.

Perhaps this is the opportunity everybody was waiting for to take the knife to all the red tape that strangles our 'ease of doing business' initiatives and also cut the bureaucracy down to its right size. This is something that has poisoned our investment climate since forever and even the Chinese have increasingly complained of it ever since the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) took off. Since we need serious foreign investment to stimulate the economy, and there's nothing better than facilitating Chinese industrial relocation in Pakistan at the moment, how successfully the government is in persuading them will determine how much money it is able to market into the country in the buildup to the next election. Hopefully, it will put the right pieces in the right squares and let the private sector take the lead, enabling it to enter into JVs with Chinese manufacturers where it can and overseeing the overall process from a distance that is comfortable for everybody. But it will have to decide quickly and move fast if it is going to keep up with the working speed of the Chinese.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/06/19/6-page/890279-news.html>

Daily Times

Pak-China friendship deeply embedded in hearts of both sides: Ambassador Moin

Pakistan-China friendship is deeply embedded in the hearts of people from both sides that enjoys wide support across the political spectrum in Pakistan, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said.

“It’s very important that we pass on these sentiments of friendship to our future generations,” he said in an interview with Xinhua.

Describing the 70th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations as an important milestone, the ambassador said most of the activities the two sides have been holding this year are intended for the people of the two countries, so that we can have a very broad-based recognition of our special ties.

“We are really proud of these special ties with China, expressions like iron brotherhood, and it has now transformed into an all-weather strategic partnership,” he noted. “No matter what the international geopolitics is, this relationship is constant”.

Bilateral cooperation in anti-pandemic fighting during very difficult times, he said, is another example of the special ties.

“When Covid-19 was spreading in China, our president came on a solidarity visit. And when we were affected, China came to help in a very big way. Pakistan was the first country to receive a donation from China”, he said.

The fourth batch of Covid-19 vaccines donated by the Chinese government arrived in Pakistan on June 2. So far, bilateral cooperation on Covid-19 has been expanding not only in the procurement of supplies from different Chinese companies, but also in setting up plants of developing vaccines in Pakistan, said the ambassador.

“We are working with them for new development of vaccines, transfer technology also. So it’s a very, very strong cooperation between our two countries and currently more than 90 percent of vaccines, which have been given in Pakistan, are all Chinese vaccines,” he said.

“We are very grateful to China for helping Pakistan and saving lives in Pakistan in this very difficult time,” he noted, adding that both China and Pakistan believe that only through cooperation and international solidarity can mankind address this challenge.

On economic cooperation, the ambassador regarded the Pakistan-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) as “a project which has transformed the landscape of the Pakistani economy”.

“In the first phase, we have focused on infrastructure and energy projects, (for example) the Gwadar port. And (in) the second phase we are now focusing on industrial relocation, agriculture, science and technology, and those projects which will directly help people, create jobs and improve the livelihoods (of Pakistanis),” he said.

Last week, the Pakistani government proposed its financial budget for the next fiscal year, which runs from July 2021 to June 2022, with plans to focus on the CPEC and sustainable development goals for the country’s economic development, creation of employment and poverty alleviation.

Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin said that the government will focus on the CPEC projects, including the Gwadar port and special economic zones to create jobs and push the growth wheel for the country.

(In this aspect) We hope that Chinese investors can come and set up their manufacturing plants and factories in these special economic zones, and benefit not only from a friendly atmosphere, but also from attractive incentive policies,” said the ambassador.

The two countries have come together to strengthen their relationship with more people-to-people ties, cooperate at the international level and enhance multilateralism, said Ambassador Moin, voicing hope that people will see the Pakistan-China relationship as “a factor of stability, because humanity is one. We have (a) shared future.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/775210/pak-china-friendship-deeply-embedded-in-hearts-of-both-sides-ambassador-moin-2/>

70-year Pak-China people-to-people exchanges hailed

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 70 years ago, no matter how the world and domestic politics have evolved, China and Pakistan have always understood, respected, trusted, and helped each other.

This was stated by Prof. Tang Mengsheng, Director of Center for Pakistan Studies at Peking University, in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

The friendship between our two countries, which has always been rock-solid and vigorous, is exemplary among state-to-state relations. In the past 70 years, China-Pakistan friendship has always taken firm and strong steps, step by step more steadily.

That is what we often say, China-Pakistan friendship is unbreakable,” Tang said.

After he graduated from Urdu Major, Department of Eastern Languages and Cultures, Peking University in 1974, Prof. Tang Mengsheng participated in the construction of the Karakoram Highway, also called “Pak-China Friendship Highway” in Pakistan, as a translator.

As Tang recalled, the highway builders riding in open-backed trucks left from Xinjiang Province, China. On the road full of potholes, their trip was extremely hard. But to their great relief, upon their arrival, they were warmly greeted by long-waiting local people.

Despite the tough living conditions, the local people always took good care of them. Back in those days, they lived in areas near Hunza and Gilgit, where the roads were built along the mountains with little farmland nearby.

In order “neither to interrupt local people’s daily lives, nor to bring harm to interests of local people”, the construction team’s food supply was brought from China.

“Peaches and apricots were abundant along the highway, thus local people would give these fruits to our workers. Some even brought eggs from their families to us. Whatever difficulties we encountered, people there were always ready to help us, “Tang recalled.

In addition to the harsh living conditions, endless dangers were also faced by builders. On his way back from Islamabad one day, Tang and his colleagues encountered a landslide.

They had to move step by step, treading on the fallen gravels; at the most dangerous place, they tied each other with ropes for safety. A careless move would lead to lethal falling off.

“I had met only a few hazards, but our highway builders dealt with dangers all the time. As the level of mechanization was still very low in the 1970s, we still relied largely on manual carts to carry stones and gravels around. They worked very hard,” Tang said.

“However, it is encouraging to see that highway builders from both China and Pakistan worked side to side, shedding blood and sweat, through freezing winters and scorching summers, brought into existence this highway among cliffs on the Karakoram.

The establishment of this highway is not only a representation of the friendship between China and Pakistan, but also a miracle in world history of highway building,” Tang said.

Hard work will always pay off. Four years later, Tang returned to China in 1978. When he went back to this ever-so-familiar highway 40 years later in 2016, not only his old friends but also some new acquaintances told him about how greatly this highway changed their lives.

“I ran into a waiter at the counter of Serena Hotel in Islamabad. After some words, I learned that he is from Chitral, a place where we passed by on our way to build the highway. He told me that if it were not for the Karakoram Highway, he would not have the chance to walk out of the mountains and see the world. “Tang recalled.

“In 2017,” Tang said, “I encountered a lady from Pakistan Electric Power Company. Her hometown is on the north side of Hunza, a very remote area. Because of the Karakoram Highway, she was able to go to school in Gilgit, which is more than seventy miles away from home. Later she studied abroad in U.K. and became an engineer after returning to Pakistan.”

Touching stories are always alike. Tang added that aside from the tangible benefits to many local people, this highway had also facilitated cross-border trade. While the road used to be seasonal, and always blocked by heavy snow in winter, now it is open all year round.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/775189/70-year-pak-china-people-to-people-exchanges-hailed/>

Chinese investment in BRI countries surges 13.8pc in 5 months

China’s outbound direct investment (ODI) into countries involved in the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has continued to increase, expanding 13.8 percent year-on-year in the first five months of 2021 to \$7.43 billion.

According to official data, outbound investment into manufacturing and information transmission sectors continued to grow. The manufacturing sector attracted \$7.2 billion in the first five months, up 11.8 percent year-on-year.

Investment by China’s local enterprises reached \$32.75 billion, up 3.8 percent from a year earlier and accounting for over 75 percent of the total ODI in the period, said the Chinese Ministry of Commerce.

The ambitious multi-trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (also known as the ‘New Silk Road’), announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, aims to boost connectivity and cooperation between East Asia, Europe and East Africa. It is expected to significantly expand global trade, cutting trading costs in half for the countries involved.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/775420/chinese-investment-in-bri-countries-surges-13-8pc-in-5-months/>

Pakistan Observer

Gandhara's Smile: the tour of cultural relics in Pakistan' launched in Beijing

A new book launch titled “Gandhara’s Smile: the tour of cultural relics in Pakistan” was organized by Embassy of Pakistan in collaboration with School of Foreign Studies, Peking University at the Embassy here on Friday. The book launch is part of the celebratory activities to mark the 70th years of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. The book launch focused on the academic research on Gandhara civilization and publication of “Gandhara’s Smile conducted by a team of renowned Chinese scholars and experts from Peking and Renmin universities led by Prof. Duan Qing and Associate Professor Zhang Jiamei during their visit to various archaeological sites in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Pakistan to China, Moin ul Haque appreciated the School of Foreign Studies, Peking University and the experts for introducing Gandhara civilizational linkages which existed between Pakistan and China along the ancient silk route. He said that the year 2021 is a special year when Pakistan and China are celebrating 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties and the launch of this book is an opportune moment to celebrate the achievements of ancient Gandhara civilization as the common heritage of two countries. The ambassador informed that the Department of Archeology of Pakistan and the Palace Museum, Beijing were discussing to hold a seminar on ancient civilization of Pakistan and China in August this year. “We also hope to hold a grand exhibition of Gandhara artifacts in China at the Palace Museum in late 2022 or 2023”, he added. He congratulated the team of renowned Chinese scholars and researchers who have been part of the publication the great book. He also expressed gratitude to members of the Shanghai Publication Group who traveled from all the way from Shanghai to be part of this event. The Ambassador promised to extend Embassy’s complete support and assistance in continuation of exploration and research in Pakistan. Later, Prof. Duan Qing presented the book to the ambassador. The event was attended by academicians from School of Foreign Languages, Peking University, and International Academy for Chinese Culture, Jinghua School, CENGAGE learning publishing group, media representatives and officers of Embassy. Pakistan-China friendship is deeply embedded in the hearts of people from both sides that enjoys wide support across the political spectrum in Pakistan, Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said. “It’s very important that we pass on these sentiments of friendship to our future generations,” he said in an interview with Xinhua. Describing the 70th anniversary of Pakistan-China diplomatic relations as an important milestone, the ambassador said most of the activities the two sides have been holding this year are intended for the people of the two countries, that we can have a very broad-based recognition of our special ties. “We are really proud of this special ties with China, expressions like iron brotherhood, and it has now transformed into an all-weather strategic partnership,” • he noted. “No matter what the international geopolitics are, this relationship is constant”. Bilateral cooperation in anti-pandemic fight during very difficult times, he said, is another example of the special ties. “When COVID-19 was spreading in China, our president came on a solidarity visit. And when we were affected, China came to help in a very big way

Pakistan was the first country to receive donation from China”, he said. The fourth batch of COVID-19 vaccines donated by the Chinese government arrived in Pakistan on June 2. So far, bilateral cooperation on COVID-19 has been expanding not only in the procurement of supplies from different Chinese companies, but also in setting up plants of developing vaccines in Pakistan, said the ambassador.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/gandharas-smile-the-tour-of-cultural-relics-in-pakistan-launched-in-beijing/>

The Nation

Govt to purchase 27.5 million Covid-19 vaccines from China

Islamabad - The government on Friday made an agreement with China for the purchase of 27.5 million covid-19 vaccines to administer to the population in the country. Officials at the Ministry of National Health Services (NIH) said that under the agreement vaccines including Sinopharm, CanSino and SinoVac have been purchased. Officials said that under the agreement 23 million doses of Sinopharm, 2 million manufactured vaccines and raw material from CanSino and 2.5 million doses of Sinovac have been purchased and vaccine doses will reach the country in the month of December. Meanwhile, Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) in a statement issued urged government to maintain the continuance uninterrupted supply of vaccine at vaccine centers. So, people should not get disappointed, PMA said. It said that the availability of vaccines should be ensured ,otherwise, the vaccination process will get slow and it could take years to achieve the goal of vaccinating 75pc population of the country. PMA also said that it advises people to get vaccinated as soon as possible and not listen or pay attention to misunderstandings and myths related to covid-19 vaccine. “It is not harmful in any way. The people who do not get them vaccinated could face the intricacy of the disease,” said the statement. It also said that PMA requested all businessmen to get themselves, their families and workers vaccinated. People who are in public dealing should get vaccinated, teachers, bankers, marriage hall, catering staff, NADRA staff and staff of all private and government offices should get vaccinated immediately. It further stated that the burden in hospitals is decreasing and numbers of ventilators are vacant. The curve of the pandemic is going down due to which the government is opening all sectors, PMA added.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-19/page-12/detail-0>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاکستان اور چین میں زراعت میں تعاون سے شعبے کو فروغ ملے گا، فخرم امام

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) وفاقی وزیر قومی غذائی تحفظ و تحقیق سید فخرم امام نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان زراعت میں تعاون سے اس شعبے کو خصوصی فروغ ملے گا، پاکستان میں چینی سفارت خانے کی رہنمائی میں پہلا چین پاکستان زرعی اور صنعتی تعاون سے متعلق انفارمیشن پلیٹ فارم کا باقاعدہ آغاز جنوری 2020 میں کیا گیا۔ اس پلیٹ فارم نے زراعت میں دو طرفہ تعاون اور تبادلے کو فروغ دینے کے لئے ایک مواصلاتی چینل کی حیثیت سے فعال طور پر کردار ادا کیا ہے۔ پاکستان میں چین کے سفارت خانے،

وزارت غذائی تحفظ و تحقیق، چین پاکستان اکنامک کوریڈور اتھارٹی، چین پاکستان زرعی تعاون اور تبادلہ مرکز اور دونوں ممالک کی زراعت سے متعلق کمپنیوں کی مشترکہ کاوشوں کے نتیجے میں پاکستان میں مرچ کو فروغ دینے کے لیے مرچ کی کاشتکاری کا منصوبہ شروع کیا گیا ہے۔ منصوبے کے فروغ میں تیزی لانے کے لیے آج چین پاکستان اور صنعتی تعاون پلیٹ فارم کے زیر اہتمام ایک کانفرنس / ویبنار کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ وفاقی وزیر قومی غذائی تحفظ و تحقیق سید فخرم امام نے بطور مہمان خصوصی شرکت کی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-19/page-10/detail-28>

June 20, 2021

Daily Times

First convention of Pakistan Professionals Forum China held in Beijing

The first convention of Pakistan Professionals Forum China (PPFC) jointly organized by Beijing Global Talent Exchange Association and Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing was held at the Embassy of Pakistan here on Saturday.

A large number of Pakistani professionals from academia, international organizations, multinational corporations and high-tech enterprises participated in the event held as a part of the celebrations to mark 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. Speaking at the occasion, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque said that Pakistan Professionals Forum China has been constituted to provide Pakistani professionals community a platform to exchange views on emerging technologies, innovations, business models and academic research vis-a-vis its application in development of our country.

The platform would help in assimilating and communicating Chinese innovative and pragmatic ideas to relevant sectors in Pakistan for increasing their capacity, efficiency and productivity

The PPFC would also act as a bridge for promoting friendly ties and people to people exchanges between China and Pakistan, he added.

The ambassador also briefed the audience about the current status of relations between Pakistan and China, particularly progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) flagship project. He said that over 140 different events will be held in Pakistan and China to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries during this year, adding, over 60 events have already been organized.

Thanking the members of the Pakistani community for their constructive role in promoting Pakistan's interests and as well as for their contributions in national development of Pakistan, the Ambassador assured them of Embassy and Consulate Generals full support.

In his opening remarks, Global Ambassador for International Cooperation Beijing Global Talent Exchange Association, Isa Khattak informed the participants about the objectives of the holding of the first convention.

He said, with an active cooperation of participating professionals, the convention is aiming to secure a sustainable platform where professionals can share their experiences, ideas and expertise for pursuing mutually beneficial and long lasting relations, which will in turn maximize future opportunities for the Pakistani youth.

He also expressed gratitude for the ambassador and his team for providing a platform to Pakistan professionals living across China to discuss ways and means to further enhance unity and cooperation among them.

Leading Pakistani professionals from academia, information technology, automobiles industry, international organizations and high-end enterprises including Dr. Kashif Shareef, Dr. Mohsin Rafique, Dr. Sajid Khursheed, Ms Aisha Jagirani, Shoukat Hussain, Syed Mubashir Hussain Shah, Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, and Talha Bin Ali Khan gave thematic presentations on opportunities for bilateral cooperation in their sectors and gave relevant recommendations. The Ambassador assured them of full support for following up on their suggestions. Earlier, Counsellor/HOC, Naeem Iqbal Cheema welcomed the participants on behalf of the Embassy of Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/775870/first-convention-of-pakistan-professionals-forum-china-held-in-beijing/>

Pakistani jewelry, carpets, handicrafts displayed during Pakistan Cultural Week

Pakistani jewelry, carpets, home-textile, handicrafts, footballs and other products have been displayed during Pakistan Cultural Week being held to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

Consulate General of Pakistan, Shanghai and Hongqiao Pinhui Shanghai jointly organized the cultural week which will last until June 24. This cultural week focuses on showcasing different Pakistani products including jewellery, carpets, home-textile, handicrafts and footballs etc. The event will enable Shanghai citizens to appreciate the charm of Pakistan's culture without leaving Shanghai.

Among many exhibitors, a Pakistani Jewelry Brand WINZA, CEO, Aqeel Ahmed Chaudhry showcased a high couture jewelry collection of diamonds, rubies and emeralds. As an exhibitor of China International Import and Expo (CIIE) for two consecutive years, WINZA has signed up to participate in the fourth CIIE in 2021, and the booth area will double that of previous years.

Hongqiao Pinhui and WINZA signed an agreement of intention for future brand cooperation and outlet opening.

According to Aqeel Chaudhry, Hongqiao Pinhui, as an important functional platform for building Hongqiao International Open hub and the main platform for Shanghai to undertake the role of one-stop trading service main platform for CIIE exhibitors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/776034/pakistani-jewelry-carpets-handicrafts-displayed-during-pakistan-cultural-week/>

The Express Tribune

100 acres of pilot Chilli project under Pak-China alliance completed

A pilot Chilli farm project under the Pakistan China Condiments Industry Alliance (PCCIA) successfully completed 100 acres of plantation, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Chairman Asim Saleem Bajwa said on Sunday. The chilli contract farming project was launched

with the joint efforts of the China Embassy in Pakistan, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority, China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation and Exchange Centre and the agriculture related companies from both countries. Taking to his official Twitter handle, the CPEC chairman revealed that the next phase of the project aims to cultivate a total of 3,000 acres. The project also seeks to modernise the agriculture sector in Pakistan, including new seeds to enhance the crop yield, provide skill development to farm labour as well as processing and its export. Bajwa also shared a video explaining the agricultural project and the vision with which the PCCIA was formed. The video disclosed that on January 26, Chinese technicians left from Chengdu (the capital of southwestern China's Sichuan province) for the Indus River Basin to provide all-round technical support for the growth of Chinese chilli peppers. "Pakistan is an agricultural country with fertile land resources, suitable climate and outstanding demographic dividend," said one of the technicians seen in the video. Speaking about chili farming in Pakistan, Fatima Group Director Marketing Khurram Javed said that the group had dedicated one of their progressive farming lands for the project. "We are doing experimentation on how it works out in the Pakistani environment ... and by results we will see how to scale it up and take it forward," he maintained.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2306319/100-acres-of-pilot-chilli-project-under-pak-china-alliance-completed>

The Nation

Work on 300MW Gwadar power plant in full swing

ISLAMABAD - Work is in full swing on a 300 megawatts coal-fired power plant which will be functional by October 2023, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

Around 150,000 people of Gwadar will be free from electricity and water problems by the end of 2023 under the 2050 Master Plan of Gwadar.

The power plant, an independent power producer, is one of the key energy projects on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

While addressing a meeting with members of Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan, Shahzeb Khan Kakar, Director-General of Gwadar Development Authority, said that the project aims to improve the reliability of local power supply and gradually solve the current situation of economic development and urban construction in the Gwadar region being restricted by the shortage of power.

"We are currently spending millions of dollars a year to generate electricity from diesel generators. I hope the plant will be put into operation soon to solve the port's power problem," said Zhang Baozhong, Chairman of China Overseas Ports Holding Company.

The power plant is of great significance to deepening the energy cooperation between China and Pakistan, boosting the development of the Belt and Road Initiative, improving the overall power structure of Balochistan, and promoting local economic construction in Gwadar Port.

At present, China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), the project investor and constructor, is actively promoting the operation of the project.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-20/page-4/detail-1>

Minister announces inauguration of Pakistan China Condiments Industry Alliance

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research Syed Fakhar Imam on Saturday announced inauguration of Pakistan China Condiments Industry Alliance stressing that the chilli farming project will enhance its production in the country.

A statement issued said that under the guidance of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, the first China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information Platform was officially launched in January 2020.

The platform has actively played the role as a communication channel to boost bilateral cooperation and exchanges in agriculture. In the joint efforts of the China Embassy in Pakistan, Ministry of National Food Security and Research, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority, China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation and Exchange Centre and the agriculture related companies from both countries, the chilli contract farming project has been launched.

To accelerate the promotion of the project, a conference/webinar was organized by the China-Pakistan and Industrial Cooperation Platform today and Syed Fakhar Imam, Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research participated as a guest speaker.

The Minister said that cooperation between Pakistan and China in agriculture will give boost to the sector. China has advanced in the agriculture sector and Pakistan can learn from China by adopting their farming techniques. He further said that research institutions be upgraded, technology transfer, value addition, marketing and public private partnership are some of the areas which can be worked on for the benefit of the both countries.

He said that the Chilli Project will be helpful in enhancing the chilli production in Pakistan. He further added that bilateral cooperation will enhance agriculture productivity resulting in an increase in the export of agriculture products of the country.

The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Nong Rong said that Chinese companies have planted about 100 acres of chilli crop in punjab province through cooperation of their Pakistani partners and it is being planned to expand this area in the next few years and set up a chilli processing factory in the future to improve the livelihood of the local farmers, and raise production of chillies for local production and export.

The Federal Minister for National Food Security also announced the inauguration of Pakistan China Condiments Industry Alliance which will promote bilateral cooperation in the field.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-20/page-14/detail-3>

Express News

کورونا وائرس کی مزید ویکسین چین سے پاکستان پہنچ گئی

پی آئی اے کا خصوصی طیارہ کورونا وائرس کی مزید ویکسین چین سے لیکر اسلام آباد پہنچ گیا۔

ترجمان پی آئی اے کے مطابق حکومت کی ایما پر پی آئی اے کی خصوصی پرواز 15 لاکھ 50 ہزار ویکسین چین سے لے کر پاکستان پہنچ گئی، پی آئی اے کے 6852 چین سے صبح اسلام آباد پہنچی جہاں ویکسین کی نصف تعداد آف لوڈ کرنے کے بعد طیارہ دوپہر میں کراچی کے لیے روانہ ہو گا۔

ترجمان کے مطابق پی آئی اے 22 جون کو ایک خصوصی طیارے کے ذریعے 20 لاکھ مزید ویکسین پاکستان لائے گی جب کہ پی آئی اے اس ریلیف آپریشن کے لئے بوننگ 777 طیارے استعمال کر رہا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2192421/1/>

پاک چین دوستی کا سفر

عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی خارجہ پالیسی کا منفرد پہلو یہ ہے کہ اس مملکت نے ہمیشہ بیرونی تعلقات میں قومی مفاد کے علاوہ اصولوں کو فوقیت دی ہے اور موجودہ دور میں دنیا کی ترقی یافتہ ترین ممالک میں شامل ہونے کے باوجود خود کو ترقی پذیر ممالک کے مفادات کے ساتھ وابستہ رکھا ہے۔

چین کی خارجہ پالیسی کا نمایاں پہلو یہ بھی ہے کہ وہ بین الاقوامی تعلقات میں پرامن بقائے باہمی اور ایک دوسرے ممالک کے اندرونی معاملات میں عدم مداخلت کے اصول پر بھی کاربند رہتا ہے۔ مذکورہ اصول انڈونیشیا کے شہر بندوم میں منعقد ہونے والی کانفرنس میں وضع کیے گئے تھے۔

کانفرنس کی قیادت کی دوڑ میں چو این لائی، جو اہر لعل نہرو پر بازی لے گئے تھے۔ اس کانفرنس کے نتیجے میں غیر وابستہ تحریک اور افریقائی عوامی استحکام کی تنظیم کا قیام عمل میں آیا تھا۔ پاکستان اور چین میں دوستی کے سفر کے آغاز کا سہرا وزیراعظم لیاقت علی خان کے سر پہ جنہوں نے چین کی نوزائیدہ ریاست کے قیام کے بعد نہ صرف اسے تسلیم کیا بلکہ سفارتی تعلقات بھی استوار کیے۔

اس سال پاکستان اور چین اپنے سفارتی تعلقات کی سات دہائیوں کی تکمیل کا جشن منا رہے ہیں۔ پاکستان، عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی ریاست کو تسلیم کرنے والے اولین ممالک میں شامل ہے۔ اکتوبر 1949 میں چین کی آزادی کے اعلان کے بعد سرد جنگ کے دور میں، جب مغربی ممالک خصوصاً امریکا اشتراکیت کے خلاف ہر محاذ پر نہایت زور شور کے ساتھ صف آرا تھا، شہید ملت کی حکومت کی جانب سے اس شدید مخالفت کے باوجود چین کو تسلیم کرنا اور بعد ازاں دونوں ممالک کے مابین سفارت خانوں کا تبادلہ وہ اقدام تھے۔

جنہوں نے پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان دوستی کی مضبوط بنیاد قائم کی، جس کا سفر آج بھی جاری ہے بلکہ اس میں روز بروز باہمی روابط کے فروغ کے نئے در کھلتے جا رہے ہیں۔

ان مشترکہ اقدامات کی روشن مثال ہے۔ CPEC پاکستان چین اقتصادی راہ داری

یہاں یہ امر قابل ذکر ہے کہ کسی بھی عمارت کی مستحکم بنیاد اس کی پائے داری کی علامت ہوتی ہے جس کا اندازہ اس امر سے لگایا جاسکتا ہے کہ 1950ء کی دہائی کے اولین سال میں جب مغرب نے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی حقیقی ریاست کے بجائے چپانگ کانٹریٹک کی قوم پرست حکومت کو جو فارموسایا تائیوان تک محدود تھی، کو متبادل کی حیثیت سے

تسلیم کر رکھا تھا اور نام نہاد قوم پرست چین کو اقوام متحدہ کی سیکورٹی کونسل میں ویٹو پاور کے ساتھ مستقل نمائندگی دی ہوئی تھی جس کا اختتام اس وقت ہوا جب 1971ء میں اقوام متحدہ کی جنرل اسمبلی میں پاکستانی وفد کے قائد محمود علی نے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی رکنت کی قرارداد پیش کر کے منظور کرائی۔

قبل ازیں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے امریکی قیادت کے ساتھ مکالمے کی ابتدا میں بھی پاکستان کا اہم کردار ہے جب امریکا وزیر خارجہ ہنری کسنجر نے پاکستان کے راستے چینی قیادت سے گفتگو کے لیے سفر اختیار کیا تھا۔ بعد ازاں اس کا اعادہ امریکی صدر رچرڈ نکسن نے کیا۔

تاریخ کے حقیقی مطالعے سے معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ امریکا چین کے درمیان تلخی کی فضا میں کمی آنے لگی تھی جب چین اور سوویت یونین میں اشتراکی نظریات کی یگانگت کے باوجود مارکسزم کی تشریح میں اختلاف شروع ہو گیا تھا اور چین کی کمیونسٹ پارٹی نے نظریے میں ترمیم پسندی کا سوویت یونین کو طعنہ دینا شروع کر دیا تھا۔

عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے قیام کے بعد سے ہی پاک چین دوستی کا سفر رکاوٹوں کے باوجود بتدریج جاری رہا۔ 1957ء میں پاکستان امریکا کا باقاعدہ حلیف تھا لیکن وزیر اعظم حسین شہید سہروردی اور وزیر اعظم چو این لائی نے ایک دوسرے کے ممالک کے سرکاری دورے کیے، جو سرد جنگ کے ماحول میں بظاہر ایک مشکل اقدام تھا۔ 1960ء کی دہائی کے وسط میں پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان سیاسی روابط میں مزید اضافہ ہوا، جب الجزائر کی نوآزاد ریاست کے سربراہ احمد بن بلا کی دعوت پر چو این لائی، ڈاکٹر سوئیکار نو اور ایوب خان کو جمال الدین ناصر کے ساتھ تیسری دنیا کی کانفرنس میں شرکت کے لیے الجزائر جانا تھا۔

اس کانفرنس کے ایجنڈے میں تیسری دنیا کے ترقی پذیر اور غیر وابستہ ممالک کی علیحدہ تنظیم کے قیام کا مقصد شامل تھا۔ انڈونیشیا کے صدر ڈاکٹر سوئیکار نو پہلے ہی اقوام متحدہ کو خیر باد کہہ چکے تھے۔ انہوں نے اعلان کیا تھا کہ تیسری دنیا اپنی علیحدہ اقوام متحدہ تشکیل دے گی۔ چو این لائی، ڈاکٹر سوئیکار نو اور ایوب خان مصر پہنچے تاکہ جمال عبدالناصر کے ہمراہ مذکورہ کانفرنس میں شرکت اور اس کے ایجنڈے کو بروئے کار لانے کے لیے الجزائر پہنچیں، مگر ابھی وہ روانہ ہوئے ہی نہ تھے کہ اس دوران اچانک الجزائر میں احمد بن بلا کی حکومت کا تختہ الٹ دیا گیا اور اس طرح تیسری دنیا کی اقوام متحدہ کا خواب شرمندہ تعبیر نہ ہو سکا۔ صدر احمد بن بلا کی حکومت کو ہٹانے کے لیے ہیردنی آشیر باد کے ذریعے اندرونی عناصر کو استعمال کیا گیا۔

تاریخ کے مطالعہ سے معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ اقوام متحدہ میں برسر اقتدار مستقل ممالک جن کو اس ادارے کی کسی بھی کاروائی یا اقدام کے طور پر مسترد کرنے کا ایک طرفہ اختیار حاصل تھا، یہ برداشت نہیں کر سکتے تھے کہ ایک اور اقوام متحدہ کے قیام کی وجہ سے ان کے اقتدار میں کمی واقع ہو۔ یہاں یہ امر بھی قابل ذکر ہے کہ عوامی جمہوریہ چین اس وقت تک اقوام متحدہ کارکن نہیں بنا تھا بلکہ اس وقت سلامتی کونسل میں ویٹو پاور کے حامل مستقل اراکین، دوسری جنگ عظیم میں ایک دوسرے کے اتحادی رہے تھے، ان ممالک کا غیر مرئی گٹھ جوڑ مشترکہ مفادات کے لیے جاری تھا۔

پاکستان اور چین کے مابین گہرے سیاسی تعلقات کے ساتھ ساتھ با معنی اقتصادی تعلقات کا سفر بھی تاریخ کا نمایاں باب ہے۔ چین نے پاکستان کی اقتصادی ترقی میں قابل قدر کردار انجام دیا ہے۔ خاص طور پر صنعتی شعبے میں چین کا تعاون انتہائی اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ ہیوی مینیکل کمپلیکس اس کی ایک بڑی مثال ہے جب کہ دفاعی شعبے میں بھی چین کا تھنڈر کی شمولیت اس کا جیتا جاگتا ثبوت ہے۔ JF تعاون نمایاں ہے۔ پاک فضائیہ میں

اب جب کہ پاک چین اقتصادی راہ داری پر تیزی کے ساتھ کام جاری ہے تو قیام ہے کہ جوں جوں راہ داری کے مراحل طے ہوتے جائیں گے پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات مضبوط سے مضبوط تر ہوتے جائیں گے۔

مضمون کے آغاز میں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی بین الاقوامی تعلقات میں جس اصولی پبندی کا ذکر کیا گیا ہے، جموں و کشمیر کے بین الاقوامی تنازعے میں چین کا تعمیری کردار اس کی ایک روشن مثال ہے، جب کہ حال ہی میں فلسطین میں اسرائیلی بربریت کے خلاف چین کی سفارتی پیش رفت بھی اس امر کا بین ثبوت ہے کہ چین ہر مشکل وقت میں تیسری دنیا کی اقوام کے ساتھ پامردی کے ساتھ کھڑا رہتا ہے۔

پاک چین دوستی کا ذکر ہو مگر پروفیسر احمد علی کے اس تناظر میں کلیدی کردار کا ذکر نہ کیا جائے تو یہ سخت نا انصافی ہوگی۔ لیاقت علی خان نے بیجنگ میں پاکستانی سفارت خانہ کھولنے کے لیے جس شخصیت کا انتخاب کیا وہ پروفیسر احمد علی تھے۔ وہ چین کی آزادی سے ایک سال قبل 1946 سے 1948 تک نیوچائنا سینٹرل یونیورسٹی میں انگریزی ادب کے پروفیسر کی حیثیت سے کام کرتے رہے تھے جس کی وجہ سے چین کے دانشوروں میں نہ صرف جانے پہچانے جاتے تھے بلکہ سیاسی سطح پر بھی ان کے روابط وسیع تھے۔ انہوں نے قدیم چینی زبان کی شاعری کا انگریزی میں ترجمہ کیا تھا جو شاہ کار کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ پروفیسر احمد علی کو کمیونزم کے نظریات کا بھرپور ادراک تھا۔ وہ برصغیر میں ترقی پسند ادب کی تحریک کے بانیوں میں شامل تھے۔

پروفیسر احمد علی نے چین کے دارالحکومت میں پاکستانی سفارت خانے میں بحیثیت ناظم الامور اپنے غیر معمولی سفارتی کیریئر کا آغاز کیا۔ ان کی کاوشوں سے پاکستان اور چین کے دوستانہ تعلقات کو ایک مستحکم بنیاد فراہم ہوئی جس کا اندازہ اس امر سے لگایا جاسکتا ہے کہ بیجنگ میں پاکستانی سفارت خانے میں منعقد ہونے والی یوم آزادی پاکستان کی پہلی تقریب میں چین کے وزیر اعظم چو این لائی بطور خاص شریک ہوئے تھے۔

چین کے ساتھ دوطرفہ تعلقات کے فروغ میں پاکستان کی شراکت بھی اہمیت کی حامل ہے۔ پاکستان نے کبھی امریکا کے دو چین نظریے کو تسلیم نہیں کیا۔ پاکستان کی قومی فضائی کمپنی پاکستان انٹرنیشنل ایئر لائنز ان اولین فضائی کمپنیوں میں شامل ہے جنہوں نے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے مختلف شہروں میں اپنی پروازوں کا اہتمام کیا تھا جس کے ذریعے سرد جنگ کے انتہائی کٹھن دور میں چین کو بیرونی دنیا خاص طور پر افریقی ممالک سے اپنے تعلقات استوار کرنے کا موقع ملا تھا۔

پاکستان اور چین کے مابین دوستانہ مراسم کے سفر میں تو اتر کے ساتھ آنے والی حکومتیں جن میں ذوالفقار علی بھٹو، میاں نواز شریف، محترمہ بے نظیر بھٹو کے علاوہ جنرل ضیاء الحق اور جنرل پرویز مشرف کی غیر جمہوری حکومتیں بھی شامل تھیں، لیکن چین کے حوالے سے سب کی پالیسی یکساں تھی اور آج بھی ملک کی سیاسی جماعتیں، ان کی قیادت اور مقتدر ادارے سب اس حوالے سے ایک بیچ پر ہیں۔

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Business Recorder

SEZs exempted from minimum turnover tax

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government has exempted Special Economic Zones (SEZs) from minimum turnover tax as Chinese and other investors expressed reservations saying that when SEZs are exempted from all taxes then why is this tax still applicable, official sources told Business Recorder.

The Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act, 2012 was made for establishment, development and efficient operation of SEZs providing a legal and regulatory framework to encourage domestic

and international investors for promotion and establishment of industrial infrastructure and for other related matters.

To incentivize such investment, the said Act provides certain fiscal and allied benefits to the SEZ investors, i.e. Zone Enterprises and Zone Developers. One such fiscal incentive, is “Exemption from all taxes on income”, given to both Zone Developer and Zone Enterprises under sections 36 & 37 of the said Act.

In the 6th meeting of the Board of Approvals held on October 7, 2020 under the chair of the Prime Minister, it was highlighted that despite explicit exemption provided under sections 36 and 37 of the Special Economic Zones Act of 2012 and section 126E of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001, in reality, all SEZ enterprises are being subjected up to 1.5% turnover tax under section 113 of the said Ordinance.

In the meeting, attention was invited to section 113(3)(a) of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001, under which Turnover Taxes are being charged.

The zone enterprises and developers are required to incur heavy depreciation costs in the first few years of their coming into operation. Imposition of turnover taxes diminishes any sale proceeds that they may be making in these nascent years. These taxes along with depreciation costs diminish the profitability of the enterprises and may set them up for failure right at the onset of their operations.

According to sources, with regards to CPEC SEZs, several Chinese investors have shown reservations, as local as well as foreign investors do not understand imposition of turnover taxes when the benefits stated in the SEZ Law provide exemption from all taxes on income. After deliberating upon the issue at length in the aforementioned meeting under the Chair of the Prime Minister, in the presence of Advisor to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue and Chairman FBR, it was unanimously decided that the issue requires interpretation of the law therefore it may be referred to Ministry of Law. Accordingly, the case was referred to the Ministry' of Law for opinion on October 21, 2020.

Resultantly, in the light of provisions of SEZ Act 2012 and Income Tax Ordinance 2001, Ministry of Law clarified that the “exemption from all taxes on income” available to the zone developers and zone enterprise includes exemption from minimum turnover tax.

Consequently, the clarification thus received was communicated to the FBR for needful action. However, despite clarification from the Ministry of Law and Justice, the minimum turnover tax is still being charged from the SEZ enterprises, as highlighted by various investors. Regardless of the clarification provided by the Ministry of Law, the FBR has proposed that if the Federal Government intends to extend exemption from minimum turnover tax to the entities in the SEZs, it may be granted by making appropriate amendments in clause 11A of the Income Tax Ordinance 2001 through the forthcoming Finance Bill.

However, BoI is of the considered view that the ‘exemption from income tax’ is already inclusive of ‘exemption from minimum turnover tax’, whereas grant of exemption from minimum turnover tax in the manner proposed by FBR, will make it a new incentive to the SEZs, which might have unwarranted repercussions.

A similar proposal for exemption from minimum turnover tax was earlier taken up with the FBR to give effect in the Finance Bill 2020. However, the proposal was not agreed by the FBR.

BoI, being the SEZ Secretariat, argues that investment, whether foreign or local, must be encouraged by provision of fiscal incentives in letter and spirit. Therefore, it has proposed that if the SEZ Act 2012, provides for an exemption from all taxes on income including minimum turnover tax, then it should be provided to the investors, by issuance of a simple clarification by FBR to all its field formations, rather than treating it as a new incentive.

BoI has proposed that the Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet may direct the FBR to implement the exemption from minimum turnover tax being a tax on income, exemption from which is available to both SEZ developers and its enterprises.

The sources said, when the minutes of ECC held on May 21, 2021 came under discussion for ratification in the cabinet on June 8, 2021, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce & Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood pointed out that the decision of ECC in case titled 'exemption from minimum turnover tax under Special Economic Zones Act 2012' had been recorded incorrectly as it was approved and not deferred.

After brief discussion, Cabinet also ratified the ECC decision in case titled 'Exemption from Minimum Turnover Tax under Special Economic Zones Act 2012', submitted by BoI, with the stipulation that the case was approved by the ECC and not deferred. The minutes of ECC may be corrected accordingly.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/06/21/1-page/890437-news.html>

CPEC: back to work?

While the government is planning to spur GDP growth of around 5 percent in the next fiscal through increased public spending and promoting private investment, recent developments indicate that the renewed focus on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) of late can play a role in ensuring that growth targets are met. While the sweet rhetoric of old CPEC days has been missing under current administration, it appears there is a realization to finally get things moving on the ground again.

With the approval of the CPEC Authority Bill in the Senate last month, now comes the hard part where expectations have to be met that mega projects (in the fields of transportation, power, port development, etc.) will be expedited to the satisfaction of relevant Chinese authorities. Time will tell, but it becomes crucial for this government to make CPEC phase-2 a success, and a key ingredient of success in this case is to ensure that wheels of the bureaucracy find ways to collaborate with the new arrangement.

For his part, the PM has himself declared CPEC completion a “top priority”. The government is gradually working to remove procedural bottlenecks and financial constraints in the way of operationalizing Special Economic Zones. Investors in China are being approached in a targeted manner to market the opportunities and incentives offered under CPEC SEZs. Similarly, visa issues being faced by the Chinese are also being sorted out. The new finance minister has also expressed the need to expedite CPEC projects, especially in transportation-related and SEZ projects.

But all eyes are on the fate of multi-billion-dollar ML-1 project (official title: “Rehabilitation & Up-gradation of Karachi-Lahore Peshawar (ML-1) Railway Track”). The ~1,800km long project had been approved by the ECNEC last year in August, and the government has allocated Rs9 billion in the next budget. The project seems to enjoy broad political support as well. Recall that when the deadly train accident took place earlier this month, the government argued that ML-1 would resolve the “track” issues, whereas the opposition slammed the government for not starting the project. If ML-1 is indeed the only solution that everyone seems to be resigned to, then this project better commence soon. However, this project of significance, which has been for years under bilateral discussions, has hit funding snags. The project cost – final figure is unclear at the moment with estimates varying from \$6.8 billion (official CPEC website) to \$9.3 billion (as stated by the new finance minister in his post-budget press conference) – needs to be financed mostly by a loan from China.

However, the two countries need to come to an agreement over the financing terms and conditions. How long it will take seems uncertain. Both sides have reaffirmed in their public statements that ML-1 would be launched soon. The Chinese ambassador, who has recently conveyed China’s desire to work with all political parties on CPEC, has been optimistic about bilateral economic cooperation. This year marked the 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan bilateral relations. So, a breakthrough is possible. President Xi couldn’t visit last year. Maybe the environment will be more conducive later this year. Given the shifting geopolitical sands, Pakistan needs to be careful in preserving its economic promise. The country must protect its territory from violence that can potentially spill over here after a post-NATO troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. While improving US-Pak relations are a good omen, it remains to be seen if there will be an American security footprint here and how China will react to it. Winds of change are blowing in the region, but there is a need to put the economy first this time around.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/06/21/13-page/890534-news.html>

June 22, 2021

Business Recorder

Tarin assures Chinese Ambassador

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin said on Monday that the government would provide full facilitation to the Chinese companies in Pakistan to ensure long-term and sustainable

foreign investment in the country, which would lead to economic growth, peace, and prosperity for Pakistan.

The finance minister stated this during a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong.

The finance minister, while extending a warm welcome to the Chinese ambassador, stated that Pakistan and China enjoy a long-term, broad-based, and multi-dimensional relationship. He also expressed the commitment of the present government to further strengthen economic relations with China, and briefed the Chinese ambassador about the measures introduced in the recent budget for ensuring inclusive and sustained economic growth in the country.

The minister has expressed the hope that not only the Chinese government but the Chinese entrepreneurs would also like to enhance their investment in the field of finance, industry, and agriculture development of Pakistan.

The finance minister and the Chinese ambassador both agreed to take the bilateral relations of both countries to the next level, in order to ensure sustained economic growth.

He also briefed the Chinese ambassador that increase in exports was the top-most priority of the government.

He particularly referred to the budget proposals, which would specifically promote exports in the long run and usher in growth in the economy.

Rong informed about the progress of Chinese investments in the CPEC-related projects, and expressed the desire of the Chinese government to invest more in all sectors to lift the economic standing of Pakistan.

He re-affirmed the commitment of the Chinese government to overcome any obstacle in deepening the bilateral ties between the two countries.

Tarin conveyed full assurance on behalf of the government of Pakistan to extend complete support in enhancing the level of economic cooperation between the two countries.

He stressed upon the need for economic uplift of the entire region and emphasised that Pakistan is willing to play its role in this endeavour.

Both sides agreed to hold regular review meetings to ensure fast track implementation of the ongoing projects.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/06/22/7-page/890591-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Promising cooperation with China

TWO latest reports speak volumes about the ever-expanding relationship between Pakistan and China and the commitment of the two countries to take it to new heights despite conspiracies

being hatched by some powers that keep on spreading false propaganda on different aspects of this mutually beneficial cooperation. A report of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said that the inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) in May jumped by 63 per cent to \$198.3 million compared to \$121.4m in the same month last year and that with \$728 million China remained the biggest investor in Pakistan. And in a tweet, Chairman CPEC Authority Asim Saleem Bajwa said that a pilot Chilli farm project under the Pakistan-China Condiments Industry Alliance (PCCIA) successfully completed 100 acres of plantation. There are clear indications that the Chinese assistance and investment is helping Pakistan accelerate the pace of socio-economic progress and modernize various sectors of the economy. China is making a huge investment of \$62 billion to finance numerous projects in the realm of energy, transport infrastructure, agriculture, and industrial zones and Chinese investors are making a beeline to invest in these zones and especially in Gwadar, which is a hub of CPEC-related activities. The transport network consisting of world class roads, pipelines and railway lines would connect Kashgar to Gwadar and in the process transforming the lot of the hitherto neglected and backward regions of Pakistan. It is acknowledged even by critics that the CPEC offers a rare opportunity to address some of the country's longstanding bottlenecks to sustained economic growth, not least its chronic energy deficit, poor transportation infrastructure and connectivity, and weak industrial development. It is worth mentioning that in the education sector, China is extending cooperation in university scholarships and vocational training programmes that would contribute a lot in promoting research and development and equipping Pakistani manpower with modern skills. Similarly, modernization of the agriculture sector with the Chinese assistance would help exploit its full potential with prospects of resolving economic woes of the country. The successful completion of the Chilli project and plan to expand the project to three thousand acres of land shows the cooperation in agriculture would lead to increase in productivity and economic prosperity for farmers. Chinese firms are also investing in large hydro-power projects that would not only help conserve water but also generate electricity at economical rates. We hope that the Government of Pakistan would prioritize cooperation with China in the field of fisheries as the country can meaningfully increase its exports by modernizing this sector. Besides cooperation in fisheries, expediting progress on ML-I and establishment of industrial and IT parks should form the agenda item during the next visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China.

<https://pakobserver.net/promising-cooperation-with-china/>

Buzdar, Bajwa discuss CPEC projects, agri farming

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority Chairman Lt Gen (r) Asim Saleem Bajwa on Tuesday held a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar and discussed progress on ongoing projects under CPEC and corporate agri farming in the province. Buzdar, during the meeting, said that the projects were underway on a priority basis in transparent manner. Special economic zones were also being established and Chinese investors were being provided facilities in the zones, the chief minister said, adding that CPEC would strengthen the economic landscape of Pakistan. Lt Gen (retd) Bajwa also termed the CPEC projects vital for the

national economy. He also expressed satisfaction over the progress of the projects in Punjab. He emphasized a need to promote agri-farming under CPEC as Punjab had great potential in this field.

<https://pakobserver.net/buzdar-bajwa-discuss-cpec-projects-agri-farming/>

Editor-in-Chief Pakistan Observer Faisal Zahid Malik meets China's acting Consul General

LAHORE – Editor-in-Chief Pakistan Observer Faisal Zahid Malik Saturday held a meeting with the acting Consul-General of China in Lahore, Peng Zhengwu. Both Malik and Zhengwu discussed the bilateral ties between the two nations and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the meeting held at the consulate general. Mr. Faisal Zahid Malik, on the occasion, termed CPEC a transformational project, adding that the multi-billion dollar project is indispensable to strengthen Pakistan's economic landscape. The Chinese official appreciated the efforts being made by the publication to promote Pak-China friendship. He also lauded the services of the founder of Pakistan Observer, late Mr. Zahid Malik (SI) in the field of journalism and religion. Mr. Faisal also presented a copy Mazameen-e-Quran (Subjects of Quran) authored by Mr. Zahid Malik (late) to the acting Consul General. Mr. Peng Zhengwu also gave a gift to the visiting dignitary as a goodwill gesture.

<https://pakobserver.net/editor-in-chief-pakistan-observer-faisal-zahid-malik-meets-chinas-acting-consul-general/>

The News

What caused Pakistan to revise guidelines about double-dose Chinese vaccines?

KARACHI: Issuing revised guidelines for the double-dose Chinese vaccines Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHS,R&C) Monday said the gap between two doses would now be six weeks instead of four weeks, causing confusion and indignation among thousands of people who had approached the vaccination centers for their second jabs.

Thousands of people were refused their scheduled second dose of Sinopharm and Sinovac on Monday after the vaccination resumed following its suspension on Sunday due to shortage of vaccines. Now those needing the second jab are being advised to come after two weeks following revision of the guidelines related to timeline between the two shots. The new guidelines caused confusion and indignation among the people, who fear that delay could render their first dose ineffective or deprive them of timely immune response of the vaccines.

Confirming issuing the revised guidelines, for both the Chinese vaccines, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan said plenty of Sinovac doses available in the country, while more were coming, but added the revised guidelines would provide some flexibility in the

timing. "Plenty of SV are available; more are in the pipeline. It would provide some flexibility in timing. Will help in some situations," SAPM Dr. Sultan responded when asked if the shortage of vaccines was behind the revision of guidelines for the vaccines in Pakistan.

Pakistan received another shipment of 1.5 million doses of Sinovac vaccine from China on Sunday which were distributed among all the provinces and other federating units immediately allowing vaccination to resume at the main Covid-19 vaccination centers. But officials admitted they have limited stocks of Sinopharm vaccine left with center and the provinces, and the stockpile was not sufficient to cover the second dose of the vaccine, therefore people were being advised to come after two weeks for their second shot.

Confirming that shortage of vaccines was the main reason behind enhancing the gap between two doses, a senior official of the NHS,R&C said the shortage had compelled them to increase the gap between two doses but claimed "that instead of decreasing efficacy, delayed second dose could provide immunity." The "delayed second dose gives better immune response in general. China has successfully experienced that," a senior NHS official claimed.

The NHS officials told The News said that an agreement has been reached between Pakistan and the Pfizer-BioNTech for supplying 13 million doses of Covid-19 mRNA vaccine by the end of July 2021. Similarly, Pakistan is also in the final stages of procuring 10 million doses of Russian Sputnik V. Its shipment is likely to reach Pakistan by the end of current month or first week of July, they added.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/853333-what-caused-pakistan-to-revise-guidelines-about-double-dose-chinese-vaccines>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک: پھونکوں سے یہ چراغ بجھایا نہ جائیگا

سی پیک کے مخالفین کی قطار میں اب امریکی صدر جو بائیڈن اور یورپی یونین والے بھی شامل ہو گئے ہیں۔ پاکستان کا ایٹمی اور میزائل پروگرام دنیا کو ہضم نہیں ہو رہا تھا، اب وہ پاکستانیوں کے منہ سے روٹی کا لقمہ بھی چھیننا چاہتے ہیں۔

گزشتہ دنوں لندن میں یورپی یونین کا ایک اجلاس ہوا جس میں امریکی صدر جو بائیڈن نے بھی شرکت کی۔ یہ ان کا پہلا برطانوی دورہ بھی تھا، اس سمٹ کا نفرنس کا سب سے بڑا ایجنڈا یہ تھا کہ چین کے بڑھتے ہوئے تجارتی اثر و رسوخ کا راستہ کس طرح روکا جائے۔ قارئین جانتے ہیں کہ چین نے بی آر آئی کا ایک شاندار منصوبہ ترتیب دیا ہے جس کے ذریعے دنیا کے تین براعظموں کو تجارتی روابط میں منسلک کیا جائے گا، اس کے لیے نئی شاہراہیں تعمیر کی جائیں گی اور ریلوے لائنوں کا جال بچھایا جائیگا۔ اس امر میں کوئی شبہ نہیں کہ چین نے بی آر آئی کی جان سی پیک کے طوطے کے اندر ہے۔ اور گوادر کی گہرے پانیوں کی بندرگاہ بی آر آئی کے منصوبے کی کامیابی کی کنجی ہے۔ سی پیک وہ مختصر ترین روٹ ہے جس کے ذریعے چین کو گوادر کی بندرگاہ تک رسائی حاصل ہو سکتی ہے، جہاں سے وسیع و عریض دنیا چین کے قدموں تلے ہوگی۔ اب اگر امریکی صدر اور یورپی یونین والے چین کے منصوبے کو ناکام بنانا چاہتے ہیں تو انہیں سی پیک کے طوطے کا گلہ گھونٹنا پڑے گا اور گوادر بندرگاہ کی چابی اپنے قبضے میں لینا ہوگی، اس طرح یورپی یونین کا اصل ہدف بی آر آئی نہیں سی پیک ہے جو پاکستان کیلئے گیم چینجر کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے۔ یہ ہماری خوش نصیبی ہے کہ پاکستان کی پارلیمنٹ نے سی پیک کا بل منظور کر لیا ہے، بل کی منظوری کے بعد

سی پیک اتھارٹی باقاعدہ طور پر معرض وجود میں آچکی ہے اور لیفٹیننٹ جنرل ریٹائرڈ عاصم سلیم باجوہ جیسی مہان شخصیت کو اس کا سربراہ مقرر کیا گیا ہے۔ جنرل عاصم باجوہ کو یہ کریڈٹ حاصل ہے کہ انہوں نے وزیرستان میں شہر پسندوں اور دہشت گردوں کا صفایا کیا۔ اور جب وہ آئی ایس پی آر کے سربراہ تھے تو افواج پاکستان نے ضرب عضب کے تحت شمالی وزیرستان میں آخری دہشت گرد کو بھی جنم رسید کر کے دہشت گردی کا قلع قمع کر دیا تھا۔ اتنا بڑا معرکہ امریکہ اور نیو افواج بھی دنیا میں سرانجام نہیں دے سکیں۔ ان صلاحیتوں سے بہرہ مند جنرل عاصم باجوہ سی پیک کو نئے افق کی بلندیوں تک پہنچا سکتے ہیں۔ سی پیک کی مخالفت میں صدر جو بائیڈن اور پورپی یونین تو بعد میں آئی، سابق وزیر اعظم میاں نواز شریف نے تو محاذ سب سے پہلے کھول دیا تھا اور جنرل عاصم سلیم پر من گھڑت الزامات لگائے۔ ان کے جھوٹے پاپول یوں کھلا کہ انھوں نے گوجرانوالہ کے جلسے میں درجنوں مرتبہ کہا کہ پتہ ہے جنرل باجوہ کتنی تنخواہ لیتے ہیں، پھر کہا میں بتاتا ہوں وہ پینتیس لاکھ لیتے ہیں اور قومی خزانے کو نچوڑ رہے ہیں۔

دوسری طرف جنرل باجوہ نے کاشف عباسی کے پروگرام میں واضح طور پر کہا کہ وہ پینتیس لاکھ نہیں بلکہ سات لاکھ روپے لے رہے ہیں جو کہ خصوصی گریڈوں کی تنخواہ ہے۔ یہی تنخواہ ہمارے دوست شعیب بن عزیز بھی پنجاب میں سابق چیف منسٹر شہباز شریف کے میڈیا ایڈوائزر کے طور پر لیتے رہے اور کئی سول پور و کریٹ بھی اسی گریڈ کی تنخواہیں لے رہے ہیں۔ میاں نواز شریف کا ایک الزام جھوٹا ثابت ہونے پر قارئین اندازہ لگا سکتے ہیں کہ ان کے باقی الزامات بھی کس قدر جھوٹے ہیں۔ اب سی پیک کی مخالفت صدر جو بائیڈن کے میدان میں اتارنے کے بعد میاں نواز شریف کی باجھیں کھل گئی ہیں اور ان سے زیادہ کون خوش ہو گا کہ اب سی پیک کی مخالفت ان کی پشت پناہی کیلئے امریکہ اور پورپی یونین جیسی بڑی طاقتیں بھی میدان میں اتر آئی ہیں۔

سی پیک کو ناکام بنانے کے لیے امریکہ کی حکمت عملی یہ ہو گی کہ وہ کہے گا پاکستان چین کا دامن چھوڑے، ہم پاکستان کو زیادہ امداد دیں گے۔ مثال کے طور پر وہ پاکستان کو پیشکش کر سکتے ہیں کہ آپ چین کے ایم ایل ون منصوبے کو ترک کریں اور اس کی جگہ ہم سے بلٹ ٹرین کا منصوبہ لے لیں۔ اسی طرح گوادیر کے منصوبوں کیلئے بھی بڑی بڑی امداد کی پیشکش کر سکتے ہیں۔ دنیا کے باقی ممالک کو بھی ایسے ہی لالچ دیئے جاسکتے ہیں۔ مگر امریکہ نہیں جانتا کہ پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی آزاد اور غیر جانبدار ہے اور وہ کسی بڑی طاقت کا طفلی نہیں ہے۔ مگر چین کے ساتھ اس کی دوستی کے بیٹھال اور لازوال رشتے قائم ہیں۔ پاک چین دوستی قراقرم کی چوٹیوں سے بلند اور بحرہ عرب کی گہرائی سے زیادہ گہری ہے، یہ ستر سال کا قصہ ہے آج یا کل کی بات نہیں۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان کئی بار پاک چین دوستی کو خراج تحسین پیش کر چکے ہیں۔ پاک چین دوستی پر وہ کوئی سمجھوتہ کرنے کو تیار نہیں، پاکستان کے دفاع کو تھنڈر طیاروں اور الخالد ٹینکوں نے ناقابل تہنیر بنایا۔ پاکستان کی ایٹمی طاقت اس پر مستزاد ہے، اب کوئی دشمن پاکستان کی طرف میلی آنکھ سے نہیں دیکھ سکتا۔ اب پاکستان کو معاشی اور تجارتی سطح پر مستحکم کرنے کیلئے سی پیک کا کردار بے حد اہم ہے۔ جنرل عاصم سلیم باجوہ کی سربراہی میں سی پیک اتھارٹی پاکستان کو روشن مستقبل سے ہمکنار کرنے کیلئے گوں ناگوں منصوبوں کی تکمیل کرے گی۔

وزیر اعظم پاکستان عمران خان اور ان کی کابینہ مبارکباد کی مستحق ہے کہ اس نے سی پیک کا بل منظور کیا اور اسے پارلیمنٹ سے بھی منظور کرایا۔ وزیر اعظم عمران خان پورے عزم کیساتھ سی پیک کی پشت پر کھڑے ہیں اور اس کی مدد سے وہ پاکستان میں ایک حقیقی معاشی انقلاب لانے کیلئے پرامید ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-22/page-4/detail-8>

June 23, 2021

Business Recorder

CPEC complements country's efforts of geo-economic shift: Qureshi

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said Pakistan has recalibrated its priorities from geo-politics to geo-economics, and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

(CPEC) complements the country's renewed efforts of geo-economic shift with emphasis on economic integration and regional connectivity.

Addressing the virtual session of Asia and Pacific High Level Conference on Belt and Road Cooperation, chaired by State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi, Qureshi said that Pakistan highly appreciates the strong and unwavering support, from President Xi Jinping and BRI partners, in this journey towards shared prosperity.

“We welcome partner countries in the Asia and Pacific region, together with our many friends elsewhere, to contribute to and benefit from our cooperation on the Belt and Road. As avowed by Prime Minister Imran Khan at the Second Belt and Road Forum, Pakistan as the host of the BRI's flagship project, will also do its part as we join hands to realize our countries' shared vision of a clean and green Belt and Road development,” he said.

Qureshi also endorsed President Xi Jinping's declaration of making COVID-19 vaccine a global public good, dispel notions of stigmatization, and reject vaccine nationalism.

“We should make collective endeavors to ensure equitable and affordable supply of vaccine to developing countries. Therefore, we fully endorse the initiatives for ‘Belt and Road Partnership on COVID-19 Vaccines Cooperation’ and ‘Belt and Road Partnership on Green International Development’ being launched today,” he added.

He pointed out that two centuries after the industrial revolution, the world has finally come to realize that humanity can and must seek harmonious co-existence with nature.

He said that the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic are a great opportunity not only to rebuild better, but also greener.

“We must seize this opportunity to transform our economies into ones that are development-oriented and environmentally sustainable,” he said, adding that the developed countries must fulfill their commitments under the Paris Agreement to support developing countries in their climate action and to mobilize 100 billion US dollars annually in climate finance as they have promised.

To recover from the adverse economic impact of the pandemic, he added that Pakistan has launched the “Green Economic Stimulus Initiative” as a part of its efforts.

This stimulus has already generated 85,000 green jobs-a number we plan to increase by another 100,000 by the end of this year, he added.

To mitigate the effects of climate change, Qureshi added that Pakistan has launched one of the most ambitious a forestation and reforestation drives in the world.

“We have already planted one billion trees and mangroves out of a target of 10 billion. Our mangrove cover has expanded three-folds in the last ten years. We exceeded our target in the first phase of Bonn Challenge 2020 of restoring more than 865,000 acres of degraded landscapes in our Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. We have now voluntarily pledged to restore nearly 2.5 million acres by 2023, including in urban areas,” he said.

In the wake of emerging global and regional environment, he added that Pakistan has recalibrated its priorities from geo-politics to geo-economics.

“CPEC, the flagship project of the BRI, complements Pakistan’s renewed efforts of geo-economic shift with emphasis on economic integration and regional connectivity,” he said, adding that in line with Prime Minister Imran Khan’s “Green Vision”, which aligns perfectly with President Xi Jinping’s vision for Green China, turning CPEC into Green CPEC is a priority for Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/06/24/11-page/890938-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistan hails 100 glorious years of CPC

Pakistan highly values the 100 glorious years of Communist Party of China (CPC) and wishes to participate in its celebrations. On July 1 this year, the CPC will celebrate its 100 years of glorious presence ever since its founding in 1921. Born out of a meeting of a few young revolutionary leaders on a small boat, CPC has led the nation towards a road for peace, prosperity, independence, liberation and a strong stable country, according to a report carried by China Economic Net (CEN).

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between both countries. Prime Minister Imran Khan has praised China’s fight against poverty and recalled the need to learn from the experience of China. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as an important active pillar of BRI is focusing on building industries, revamping the agricultural outlook and helping Pakistan to gradually come out of its socio-economic challenges. “History has shown that CPC is truly deserved to be called the glorious political party representing the true wishes and aspiration of the Chinese people. Over the past 100 years, CPC has made remarkable efforts with patience and continues hard work coupled with the wisdom of leaders, and made achievements in reforms, development and revolution,” the report stated.

The CPC has contributed towards strengthening China’s political stability, health, education, socio-economic development and in all diverse sectors. This day while CPC and Chinese people will celebrate the founding day, more than 1.4 billion people are moving ahead with full strength, wisdom and confidence towards a new beginning of the rejuvenation of the Chinese people. CPC has remained at the front, from poverty alleviation to national rejuvenation and modernization. Since the opium war in 1840, Chinese people have passed through tremendous challenges and devastation. However, Chinese people stood firm against all odds. There were threats from foreign powers and internal turbulence at that time but with revolutionary mindset and perseverance, they took destiny into their own hands to change the course of their history. In those challenges and difficult times, a few young and strong men of wisdom pursued their dreams for their nation and followed their heart for the destiny of freedom.

The CPC has also immensely contributed to providing visionary leadership to the country, where we have seen towering figures like Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Deng Xiaoping, Liu Shaoqi, Zhu De, and currently President Xi Jinping who have led and steered the nation to the new heights.

The CPC core strength is based on the presence of young people with great revolutionary ideas especially ideas about the future. Currently, there are more than 90 million members and most of them are young people believing the vision and mission of the party and contributing towards the wellbeing of the country.

Based on five principles of peaceful coexistence, the CPC has also adhered to the ideals of mutual respect, independence, equality, non-interference in other's internal affairs and mutual ways to learn the experience of the political parties and organizations across the world. Through Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), COVID-19 vaccine support, development projects and initiatives in the developing countries. With the vision and ideals of creating a community of shared future, China and the visionary leadership of CPC has made all-important development and peaceful steps.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/777403/pakistan-hails-100-glorious-years-of-cpc/>

Pakistan Observer

Operationalizing Gwadar Port – challenges and way forward

Taber Bilal Haider

GWADAR Port is a jewel in the crown of CPEC. It is likely to handle 400-500 million tons of cargo annually. Mind it, Karachi and Port Qasim, both can handle 120 million tons annually as of today. Gwadar Port is also critical for the Chinese economic interests in the Indian Ocean, as the Chinese western region (north of Pakistan) will ultimately depend on the import/export of their cargo through this port. Unfortunately, the port is yet to take off despite having been operational since 2007 with a very few ships bringing cargo. This poor performance is the cause of concern for Pakistan's economic interests and needs immediate attention. There are many challenges to make Gwadar Port fully operational. First, the port is not yet fully connected through land routes with China, Afghanistan and CARs. Although a lot of road infrastructure has been built in Pakistan, a major portion of KKH passing through Pakistan is still not ready for heavy traffic. Moreover, all world ports have an efficient railway system backing up the road network. The same is absent in Gwadar. Putting railways is critical for Gwadar Port, hence, Pakistan and China need to make it a priority. Another shortcoming at Gwadar Port is the absence of quality repair and maintenance facilities for visiting ships. All competitors of Gwadar including Salalah, Duqm, Jebel Ali or Bandar Abbas etc., have this facility. Duqm port has a ship repair Yard & Dry Dock facility which can provide maintenance support to even an Aircraft carrier. Without this crucial facility, no shipping line will be comfortable to operate their ships from Gwadar Port. Gwadar Port's operational depth in the channel is 11.5m and plans to dredge the same to 14m. This increase in depth will facilitate bringing in ships of 70,000 tons. Although it appears decent as far as the medium-size ships are concerned, but it limits deep-draft ships. Moreover, competitors of Gwadar Port have an edge because of various reasons including the availability of deeper waters in the channel as well as alongside operational berths. Duqm Port has a 19m approach channel depth with 18m guaranteed depth alongside berth, making it attractive for large size vessels. Jebel Ali Port has an operational depth of 11.5m for the inner

basin and 14m for the outer basin, Bandar Abbas Port's depth is between 11.5-14m , Chabahar Port's available depth varies between 2-11m, while Salalah Port is with 18m depth. Gwadar Port has only 3 operational berths since its opening in 2007. On the other hand, Chabahar has 10 berths of various sizes, Bandar Abbas has 30 berths, Jebel Ali with 67 berths and Salalah Port has 24 berths. Unfortunately, Singapore, China and Pakistan did not add a single berth to Gwadar after the initial Phase-I construction in 2007. Gwadar Port will require more than 100 berths to tackle the 500 million tons of cargo, envisaged by the year 2050 onwards. Gwadar Port is not a natural port but has been built on reclaimed land. Usually, it requires around 20 years to utilize reclaimed land for large scale construction but the Chinese have developed a technique to utilize reclaimed land in 3-5 years. In addition to adding finger piers/berths, dredging approach channel to the desired depth, putting navigational marks for the ship's operations, Gwadar needs a workable master plan at the earliest. But the most important issue remains, i.e. execution. The modest estimate suggests that it will need a colossal fund and at least a 20-30 years' construction period for adding the desired number of berths. All major ports of the world also house offices of shipping lines, stevedore companies, freight forwarders, classification societies, seamen recruitment companies in addition to government infrastructure of customs, banks, insurance and other related departments.

All these are simply absent or have elementary setups at Gwadar. Similarly, ships need various types of fuel and other logistics upon arrival. Gwadar Port infrastructure is also not yet adequate to support a large number of ships' visits. The use of Gwadar Port as a transshipment hub is usually debated in maritime circles. Transshipment ports require large areas close to the Port Complex for stowage of containers, warehouses and industrial setup to support the transshipment activity. Gwadar needs to develop all these facilities, simultaneously to accrue the benefit of this port in a true sense. Another challenge for Gwadar port is the non-availability of drinking water, adequate electricity and gas supply. Similarly, Gwadar city lacks basic civic amenities like a sewage system, water and wastewater treatment plants, hotels, recreational facilities, hospitals, good quality schools and colleges including vocational training institutes. Gwadar also faces a harsh climate around the year which also necessitates plantation drive on priority. It is a fact that Pakistan's successive leadership since 1947 have been the victim of "Sea blindness" and their main focus has always been on "land". Developing any number of inland land projects will not yield desired economic dividends compared to developing maritime infrastructure. The government needs to give priority to the operationalization of "Gwadar Port" to harvest the true benefit of CPEC. History is witness to the fact that the nations that understood the importance of developing maritime power have attained global power status, be it the Muslims of the early era, Chinese in the 15th century, Dutch, Portuguese, Spanish, British and now the United States. They all have only one thing in common, i.e. giving due importance to the maritime sector. Both Pakistan and China have high hopes from the Gwadar Port. However, high hopes have not been translated into a workable plan to expedite the operationalization of Gwadar Port. We understand that China can expedite the timelines and build mega infrastructures expeditiously but Ports are

not built in years but decades. It is, therefore, needed that both brothers sit down and develop a comprehensive plan of action for the operationalization of Gwadar Port on priority.

<https://pakobserver.net/operationalizing-gwadar-port-challenges-and-way-forward-by-baber-bilal-haider/>

Tourism under CPEC in Northern Areas

Prof Abdul Shakoor Shah

TOURISM industry has contributed \$7.6 trillion to the global economy, which is 10.2% of the global GDP. It generated 292 million jobs some years back. Tourism in Northern Areas is increasing annually. Over 50 millions domestic tourists are forecast by PTDC. It manifests a lot of potential in the industry. According to WTTC, the tourism industry contributed 5.9% to national GDP creating 3.9 million jobs in 2019. If the tourism industry develops to the level of China, its contribution rate to GDP will increase by 5.1% to 11%, and additional 2.37 million jobs will be created. CPEC has proven itself the Asian Giant. Along with other benefits, it will usher in a new era of tourism. In the past, Pakistan did not attract too many international tourist arrivals. CPEC has changed the scenario. Pakistan received a 37 % increase in tourism visa applications due to CPEC in previous years. Northern Areas are unmatched in beauty. Kashmir is known as earthly paradise. It embodies the poetry of nature, which no human language can interpret in words. Northern Pakistan is a hub of tourism. Unique landscape, pristine nature and world's most famous mountain ranges are there. The Himalayas, Karakorum & the Hindukush, K-2, the world's second highest peak, also lies here. 5 over 8000 meter peaks, 101 over 7000 metres and 5100 Glaciers are located here. It carries 2200 sq. miles of snow-covered area and 119 lakes. High altitude forests, 4 national parks, 09 game reserves, 3 wildlife sanctuaries, 230 species of birds, 54 species of mammals, 20 species of freshwater fish, 23 species of reptiles, 6 of amphibians, 6592 sq.km of forests which constitutes 9.1 % of the total area of GB. It offers 20 species of fresh-water fish, 5 ethnic groups and 5 ethnic languages with 36 dialects. It tenders 7 Asia Pacific Heritage Conservation, UNESCO and British Airways award winning historical sites, 23 historical forts and 75 polo grounds. 65 archaeological sites, more 39,000 plus rock carvings and inscriptions are awaiting tourists from all over the globe. Year-long festivals in GB, indigenous music, centuries-old culture of hospitality and acceptance of visitors are fascinations for tourists. There is much more than mentioned for tourists in Northern Areas. Annually, more than 1.5 million tourists visit AJK. It has more than 100 heritage and archaeological sites based on the footprints of Dogra, Sikh, Buddhist and Mughal. Religious tourism can be promoted if infrastructure bottlenecks are removed. Azad Tourism App and Tourism Smart Card have been introduced for tourists by AJK. Two museums in Muzaffarabad and Mirpur are underway. CPEC provides an opportunity to connect AJK and GB to the outside world. AJK has been designated 5 projects under CPEC. M4 under CPEC will increase the connectivity within Azad Kashmir and will open the avenues for the Diasporas to invest in AJK. A highway connecting Gwadar with Xinjiang passes through four provinces of Pakistan, GB and AJK. It will be the shortest route from Central Punjab to CPEC, through AJK, shortening the existing route by 50 km and saving

around 4 to 6 hr travel. Tourism will lead to industrial development by contributing to the economic development of Kashmir. Lack of infrastructure development and insufficient structures hinder tourism potential. CPEC will further reduce the distances and develop tourism through its various projects. AJK and GB will be equally linked to international trade, local and international tourists and the local market will also be brought into the mainstream. Local mining, wood, food, fruit, herbs, mountaineering and cottage industries will flourish. Railway link between Dina, Jhelum and Mirpur under CPEC is under consideration which will boost tourism in Mirpur and linking districts. The new route via Khunjerab Pass would be around 350km shorter than the existing one. It would pass through Shigar, Skardu and Astor districts of GB and connect to AJK capital. This route can be linked with Neelum Valley (AJK) via Shonter. An 'industrial zone' like Mirpur is also under consideration for AJK capital. It will help tourism in the linked valleys of the capital. Shonter Tunnel is another natural route to GB via the Neelum Valley. It must be completed under the CPEC umbrella. Neelum Valley runs parallel to the Kaghan Valley. Both the valleys can be linked Under CPEC via local routes. A part of Nanga Parbat Massif falls in Neelum Valley which is dominated by "Sarwaali Peak" (6326 meters) the high mountain in Azad Kashmir. We can link Baboon Top to Patlian and Rati-Gali Lake of Neelum Valley via mule-track. It will not only reduce the existing distance, but also create jobs for local people. We can also link Rati-Gali Lake to Naran Kagan valley via mule-Track. From Rati Gali tourists can move to Kaghan valley and vice versa. Through local routes we can offer a triple package to tourists from Naran Kaghan to Neelum Valley via Rati-Gali and then from Neelum to GB via Shonter Pass. Shouner Tunnel will not only reduce the distance between GB. The route is also significant for trade and defence. The journey to GB via Neelum Valley, Shouner Pass is shorter than Via Rawalpindi. Sharda is the historical and cultural hub of tourism. Opposite to it is Surgan Nullah along which a track leads to Kaghan Valley. Via this route the visitors can also move to Naran Kagan after visiting Neelum Valley or vice versa. Kel is also a base camp for mountaineering activities up to "Sarwaali Peak" and "Sarwaali Glacier" (about 25 kms long) which is said to be the highest peak and biggest glacier of Azad Kashmir. Guris valley is also situated very close to the Burzil Pass which leads into Astore district of the GB. Burzil Pass is another natural route to link AJK to GB under CPEC projects. Muzaffarabad Industrial Zone under CPEC will boost tourism in the linking valley. Chikar is 46 Km from Muzaffarabad, we can promote tourism through newly born Zilzaal Lake. Kotli is linked with Mirpur Industrial Zone and M4 under CPEC. Pearl Valley of Poonch is linked with Azad Pattan, where a hydro project under CPEC is finalized. It is also linked with Muzaffarabad, the expected industrial zone under CPEC will benefit Poonch dually. Rawalakot, Banjosa Lake and Toli peer can be linked to CPEC via Azad Pattan Mangla Lake, Ramkot Fort and linking districts and valleys are directly linked to Mirpur Industrial Zone under CPEC which will boost tourism.

<https://pakobserver.net/tourism-under-cpec-in-northern-areas-by-prof-abdul-shakoor-shah/>

SAU China awards scholarships to 20 students of IUB

The Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU), China has awarded scholarships to 20 students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) who had applied for PhD studies at SAU. According to IUB spokesman Shahzad Ahmad Khalid, Sichuan Agricultural University China announce 20 scholarships yearly for the students of the IUB through a Memorandum of Understanding recently signed by both universities. Sichuan Agricultural University announced the award of scholarship to all 20 students who applied through this joint academic program of both universities. These scholarships are worth Rs 80 million which will be provided by the Sichuan Agricultural University to the students of the IUB. IUB Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr Athar Mahboob has termed this development a historic achievement paving the way for brilliant students to pursue higher studies in a top-ranked foreign University. He also offered special thanks to the management of the Sichuan Agricultural University for showing great benevolence and announcing 20 scholarships on yearly basis for students of the IUB on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Sino-Pak diplomatic ties further strengthening the relations between the two great neighbouring nations. The vice chancellor also praised the efforts of Dr Muhammad Ali Raza who worked hard to materialize scholarships program, faculty.

<https://pakobserver.net/sau-china-awards-scholarships-to-20-students-of-iub/>

Chinese BRI and US-led B3W

Muhammad Usman

IN 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping formally unveiled his dream worldwide project; BRI premised on a win-win formula economically for all who choose to join it with no template to secure political gain. It was not only global in scope, being mammoth in outlay and far and wide in reach but also unique in its approach, free of political orientation and duress, rare in occurrence, irresistible in charm/returns and diverse, multilateral and giant in its effects. It is fundamentally a development and investment initiative in construction, transport, energy, aviation and telecommunication sectors and attracted investments roughly to the tune of \$3.7 trillion across the countries/continents involving 139 countries. As anticipated, though belatedly, it has finally encountered a stumbling block or a counterweight led by the US with G-7 countries on its back; B3W — Build Back Better World. It is an official challenger to Chinese BRI and expected to catalyse hundreds of billions of dollars for infrastructure investment for low/middle income countries across the globe with more emphasises on environment and climate, labour safeguards, transparency and anti-corruption. Its estimates are being talked about in terms of need of investment related to developing countries in infrastructure which exceeds \$39 trillion. Notwithstanding aversion of China, an enterprise of stunning proportion as of BRI, is bound to arm China with an awesome ability to leverage its influence across the globe as well as erode the ascendancy/mastery of the US and the West in more ways than one. China is eating our lunch, said Joe Biden without mincing his words. At the recent Summit of G-7 countries, he emphatically called upon all participants to join hands to fend off the challenge of China and

managed to have countenance of all G-7 countries over the B3W project to out general China in the realm of BRI. A comparison of both may make relevant study for developing countries or for seriously affected countries collaterally or otherwise as a result of fierce tug and pull between the two. Pakistan also falls in the latter category. On one side, if CPEC, being the flagship project of BRI, holds plenty of roses, then, on other side, it also embodies a range of thorns. One of the cornerstones of BRI which China kept was its non-confrontational approach to pursue it. In concept, it is laudable but in realpolitik, it is faulty and impractical. It is not built on lofty ideals of puritans. It is moved by titans impregnated with animal instincts until met with a compatible or superior force. Man has to fight it out even more for a right cause because it threatens the existence of evil forces and they come together harder to save their thrones and turfs. Driven by said motivation, probably China has not kept enough number of contingencies or variety therein to deal with such a situation. To the contrary, the US would deal China with a mix of coercion, intimidation, incentives and competitiveness. Being still largest economy of the world with a robust scientific technological base and a purse full of affluence of G-7 countries coupled with enough number of arrows and slings in its arsenal, US could exert pulls to persuade or dissuade targeted developing countries to abandon bandwagon of China and hitch their wagons with its caravan. It has ingress in the state apparatus of developing countries to the extent of regime change. It has effective sway over world financial institutions and international watchdogs to twist their arms. It has military presence on nodal points worldwide to oversee globally bound cargo ships or trucks. Reportedly, its leverage is at work to entice Russia to stand aside and watch its deal with China from afar. It has countries like Japan on its orbit which could go many steps ahead in antipathy of China. Contrarily, China seems bereft of such a company. The altruism and amiability were hallmarks of BRI. Undoubtedly, it was a rare stuff and capable of outstripping imperialism of the US and the West which is their enduring legacy, however, these lost their way considerably at implementation in a number of countries. Now there exist varying degree of reservations about cost, risk of debt stress, transparency, jobs and use of local raw material/resources. The US has already started using misgivings arising out of these issues to discredit China in tandem with its hullabaloo on alleged unfair trading practices, intellectual theft and violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by China. It is needless to mention that international media is on its beck and call and Chinese media pales in comparison. The combined effect of all above, could extract a heavy toll in relation to BRI while also giving way to B3W to take off appreciably. Apparently, China seems in denial mode. It is still calling the US not to make China an imaginary enemy out of its pure economic pursuits. Their path is of economics only, not of confrontation however, there is no reason to disbelieve that deep-down, they are not contemplating how to counter aggressiveness of US aimed at scuttling the BRI. They have to revert back to altruism in true letter and in spirit if they have to do it successfully. They need to show largesse in dealing with developing countries economically. Possibly it is an imperative in order to have them enough incentives in accompanying them in the face of pressure, mounted by the US and its allies. More importantly, at international stage, they have to garner political influence and station its enough military presence at nodal/choke points worldwide to back their

deed by force. A big deed as of BRI is laughed at, ridiculed and eventually, forced to exit if not backed by force. — The writer, a retired Lt Col, is a senior columnist based in Islamabad.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-bri-and-us-led-b3w-by-muhammad-usman/>

The Nation

Pak-China chilli farming coop to further boost agri sector

ISLAMABAD - Experts at a webinar have said that cooperation between China and Pakistan in the agriculture sector would help the two states ensure food security, improve livelihood, and contribute to the overall social-economic development.

They expressed these views during the webinar themed “Pakistan Chilli Contract Farming Project Promotion & Inaugural Conference of Pakistan-China Condiment Industry Alliance” which was participated by Chinese and Pakistani experts, China Economic Net reported yesterday. They discussed the potential of Pak-China agricultural cooperation, especially in chilli farming.

“China and Pakistan are complementary in agricultural production technology, project management, machinery and tools, and product consumption, which created broad space for practical agricultural cooperation between the two countries,” said Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong during the webinar.

As per agricultural cooperation, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said, now a plan of over 20 projects is being implemented to modernize the agriculture sector in Pakistan, including new seeds to increase the crop yield, upgrading of irrigation system, promotion of agri-based industry for value addition and setting up global chain network.

“Value addition, marketing, and public-private partnership are some of the areas which can be worked on by the businessmen of both countries,” Syed Fakhar Imam, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Pakistan, said, adding that the bilateral cooperation will enhance agricultural output and improve quality, enabling Pakistani commodities to reach international markets.

The Pakistan Chilli Contract Farming Project, carried out by China Machinery Engineering Corporation(CMEC) and Sichuan Litong Food Group, has shown great performance after trial farming in Pakistan.

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong praised the chilli farming project, saying it has planted 100 acres of chilli in Punjab in the first half of this year, and plans to grow 3000 acres altogether in the second half of this year by expanding to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh.

Nong added that the project is expected to produce more than 8,000 tons of dried chillies with a net income of more than 100,000 rupees per acre for local farmers. Based on this, it will further develop downstream deep processing industries and create more employment opportunities.

As Chen Li, GM of Litong Food Group introduced, in Phase-I of the Pakistan Chilli Contract Farming Project, China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation Pilot Zone is to be set up in 5 years, while in its Phase II, it is expected to grow 30,000 acres of chilli and build pigment extracting plant, with an industrial output value of USD 200 million.

Chen added that in Phase III, a China-Pakistan food industrial park is planned to be established in 5 to 10 years, to promote the condiment industry in both countries.

<https://nation.com.pk/23-Jun-2021/pak-china-chilli-farming-coop-to-further-boost-agri-sector>

June 24, 2021

Daily Times

Pak-China enjoy enviable diplomatic relations: Usman Buzdar

Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar has said that Pakistan and China enjoy enviable diplomatic relations and these relations stood every test of time over the past seven decades.

Addressing a special ceremony to mark 70 years of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan at the Chief Minister Secretariat here on Wednesday, he said Pak-China relations touched new heights under Prime Minister Imran Khan, adding that China stood by Pakistan in every difficult hour. The ceremony was attended by provincial ministers including Abdul Aleem Khan, Mian Mehmood-ur-Rasheed, Raja Basharat, Mian Aslam Iqbal, Akhter Malik, Khayal Ahmad Kastro and others.

Holding flags of both the countries in their hands during the ceremony, Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar and the provincial ministers expressed their immense pleasure over this long journey of friendship between the people of the two countries and prayed for the longevity of the diplomatic relations. The participants raised slogans 'Long Live Pak-China Friendship'.

Buzdar, speaking on the occasion, said the 10 years of diplomatic bond was a tale of mutual love, respect and sincerity between the two countries, adding that both the countries enjoyed unparalleled relations.

He said innovation, research and hard work were the secret of China's progress, adding that Pakistan is lucky to have a friend in China.

He said the Chinese model teaches a lesson of hard work to the Pakistani nation and this lesson must be passed on to the next generations, adding that hard work was the only royal road to progress and prosperity.

Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar said that this strong bond of diplomatic relations between the two countries will be taken forward with renewed zeal and commitment.

Provincial Minister Culture Khayal Ahmad Kastro, speaking during the ceremony, said ceremonies were being held across the province to commemorate 70 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China, adding that Pakistan enjoys strong cultural, diplomatic and friendly ties with China.

He said various cultural ceremonies will be held in the provincial metropolis to mark the historic occasion in the diplomatic history of the country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/778207/pak-china-enjoy-enviable-diplomatic-relations-usman-buzdar/>

China welcomes closer ‘Belt and Road’ partnerships

China is willing to work with all parties to build a closer “Belt and Road” partnership, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday in a written address to the Asia and Pacific High-level Conference on Belt and Road Cooperation.

Xi said the purpose of proposing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is to inherit the Silk Road spirit, jointly build an open cooperation platform and provide new impetus for the cooperation and development of all countries.

According to Xi, China has signed cooperation agreements with a total of 140 countries under the BRI in eight years.

Hailing the pragmatic progress achieved, President Xi said all parties have actively enhanced connectivity in policy, infrastructure, trade, finance and people-to-people ties.

He said a partnership for all-dimensional and composite connectivity has been set up, which opened up new prospects for common development.

“Facing the COVID-19 outbreak that caught us all by surprise, we have been supporting and assisting each other in the most difficult times and pushed forward the construction of the BRI, conveying confidence and strength to the international community and making an important contribution to global cooperation against the pandemic and economic recovery,” Xi said.

The Chinese president reiterated that the joint pursuit of the BRI should follow the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, pursue open, green and clean cooperation, as well as pursuing high-standard cooperation to improve people’s lives and promote sustainable development.

As China enters a new development stage, follows a new development philosophy and fosters a new development paradigm, Xi believes it will provide more market opportunities, investment opportunities and growth opportunities for its BRI partners.

Voicing China’s willingness to build a closer BRI partnership, Xi called for adhering to the road of solidarity and cooperation, connectivity and common development, and jointly promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/778239/china-welcomes-closer-belt-and-road-partnerships/>

The Nation

PPP delegation greets Chinese envoy on CPC anniversary

ISLAMABAD - PPP Vice President Senator Sherry Rehman along with senior party leaders including Senator Raza Rabbani, Secretary General PPP Farhatullah Babar and Central Secretary Information PPP Faisal Karim Kundi called on Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong on Wednesday

to extend their greetings on the auspicious occasion of the Chinese Communist Party's (CPC) 100th anniversary.

The PPP leaders discussed areas of mutual cooperation, presented felicitations from PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Asif Ali Zardari and thanked the CPC for donating invaluable vaccine supplies to Pakistan which is a proof of China's everlasting friendship with Pakistan.

They vowed to further strengthen the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and lauded China's efforts on the CPEC project.

The delegation discussed the strong ties between the CPC and PPP and said that PPP was fully committed to realising the dream of this great platform which would connect the two countries.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-24/page-4/detail-4>

2m doses of Sinovac Covid-19 vaccine arrive

Tahir Niaz

ISLAMABAD - A fresh batch of two million Covid-19 vaccines arrived in Pakistan from China on Wednesday. The vaccines were handed over to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at the Islamabad Airport, according to the officials. A special PIA aircraft, PK 6852 flew from Beijing to Islamabad on Wednesday carrying the Covid-19 jabs. The consignment was part of the emergency orders the federal government had placed to overcome a countrywide shortage of jabs. "China as a time tested friend of Pakistan has taken special measures to ensure uninterrupted supply of vaccines to Pakistan," said the NCOC. On June 20, a special consignment of 1.55 million Sinovac anti-Covid vaccine doses had arrived at the Islamabad airport through a special PIA flight. The NCOC further said that another consignment of two to three million doses of the Chinese vaccine will be reaching Pakistan in the next week. Meanwhile, Pakistan reported 930 new coronavirus cases and 39 deaths during the past 24 hours. The country's Covid-19 tally has reached 950,768. The country's death toll climbed to 22,073 after 39 more people succumbed to the deadly disease.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-24/page-12/detail-4>

China to extend cooperation for up-gradation of PSC sports facilities

LAHORE - Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong has said that China will extend every possible cooperation to Pakistan for the up-gradation of sports facilities here at the Pakistan Sports Complex (PSC). In a meeting with the Director General, Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Col (r) Muhammad Asif Zaman here at his office, the ambassador said China would also extend cooperation in training of the sports coaches and athletes, said a PSB spokesman here on Wednesday. He also appreciated Pakistan for taking keen interest to organize different sports activities and other functions to mark the 70th anniversary of Pak-China Friendship. Earlier, the DG PSB extended a warm welcome to the ambassador. During the meeting, he said that China

has built this Sports Complex almost 35 years ago. “Now Pakistan hopes that China will extend every possible cooperation in improving this sports arena,” he said. The DG also exchanged views with the ambassador on the post COVID-19 pandemic sports scenario and celebrations of the 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations. The ambassador also visited different sports venues at the Pakistan Sports Complex. At the end, both officials also agreed upon the nomination of focal persons to carry forward the proposed plans for the sports cooperation.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-24/page-16/detail-5>

June 25, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese vessels sought shelter to survive monsoon at Gwadar Port

Five Chinese fishing vessels at Gwadar Anchorage calling for emergent shelter from the monsoon of the Indian Ocean were slandered by Indian media as pillagers of fishery resources in Pakistan. However, such an allegation seemed to be on shaky ground, according to Gwadar Pro.

As per the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in Karachi, the five Chinese fishing vessels at Gwadar Anchorage were calling for emergent shelter from the monsoon of the Indian Ocean on May 27. The aforesaid Chinese vessels were only 5 nautical miles away from the Gwadar port and have informed all the relevant authorities such as Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA), Model Customs Collectorate Gwadar (MCC Gwadar), Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) and Balochistan Fisheries Department (Fisheries) on June 4.

According to the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in Karachi, these Chinese vessels would like to stay at Gwadar Anchorage and Gwadar Port to maintain machines, replenish stocks, etc. The Chinese crew, who took shelter from the monsoon, told Gwadar Pro that the fishing boat arrived in the international waters of the Indian Ocean in late November 2020 for fishing.

As the southwest monsoon prevailed in the northern part of the Indian Ocean in mid-May this year, the fleet started to enter Pakistan’s territorial waters from the high seas to take shelter from the wind. “In the fishing ground where our fleet operates, the wind gust can reach level 7-8 every day; the sea waves can reach 2.5-3.6 meters; and the surges can reach 1-1.8 meters.

Under such circumstances, the fishing boats are shaking terribly, which poses a very big safety risk,” the crew said, adding that things got worse when the engines of two of the fishing vessels malfunctioned and they had to get shelter as soon as possible. “Gwadar Port is the closest port to our fishing ground. And we all know that Pakistan is our iron-clad brother, that’s why we headed to Gwadar Port.”

According to the Chinese fishery company, they were in full compliance with the rules of International waters with related documents during their stay in Pakistani territorial waters, and did not conduct any Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. On June 11, Pakistani

media Azadi News posted a video on YouTube showing these Chinese fishing boats heading for Gwadar Port, alleging that Chinese fishing boats plunder Baluchistan's fishing resources.

On June 13, India's Asian News Agency (ANI) made an issue of the news and slandered Chinese fishing boats in Gwadar are endangering the livelihood of the people of Baluchistan. And Pakistan's English newspaper released a follow-up report.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/779552/chinese-vessels-sought-shelter-to-survive-monsoon-at-gwadar-port/>

Dunya News

Govt committed to timely completion of power projects under CPEC: Hammad Azhar

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar says the government is committed to timely completion of power projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Addressing the 660 KV Matiari-Lahore High Power Transmission Line project in Islamabad on Friday, he said this transmission line will bring stability to the power sector. The minister said the project will also provide relief to the people of Pakistan. He said CPEC will promote connectivity in the region and generate numerous employment opportunities in the country. He further stated that Pakistan and China enjoy strong friendship and both the countries are cooperating in different sectors including health, education, power, trade and other CPEC related projects. Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said CPEC will be beneficial for all the segments of the society in Pakistan. He said stable transmission of power is of vital importance for development of the industrial sector. He said this project will prove to be a milestone in the economic development.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/607795-Govt-committed-timely-completion-power-projects-CPEC-Hammad-Azhar>

Pakistan Observer

Govt plans exchange of agri research with China: Fakhar

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam Thursday said the government had planned to exchange research and technology with China to improve agriculture production. "We will send our agriculture scientists and researchers to China and invite the Chinese researchers to our country to share knowledge and technology related to the agriculture sector with each other," he said addressing a cheque distribution ceremony to Pakistan Agriculture and Research Council (PARC) pensioners. National Assembly's Standing committee for National Food Security and Research Chairman Rao Ajmal, Federal Secretary Food Security Ghufuran Memon and PARC Chairman Dr Muhammad Azeem Khan were also present on the occasion. Fakhar Imam said the government had given priority to the agriculture sector in the budget keeping in view its huge share (19.2 percent) in the gross domestic product. —Agencies

<https://pakobserver.net/govt-plans-exchange-of-agri-research-with-china-fakhar/>

The Express Tribune

Body set up to steer CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: The government has set up Pak-China Relations Steering Committee to remove hurdles in the execution of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, underscoring that Islamabad has finally decided to give a push to the multibillion-dollar strategic initiative. “In order to streamline and expedite coordination, finalization and execution of CPEC projects, the prime minister has been pleased to constitute Pak-China Relations Steering Committee,” read an order issued by the PM Office on Monday this week. The terms of reference and composition of the steering committee indicate that the government now seems serious about CPEC after putting the strategic initiative on the back burner. The 15-member committee comprises representatives of the government, armed forces and intelligence agencies. This makes the body different from the Cabinet Committee on CPEC. “The role of the steering committee is more operational in nature while the cabinet committee is a policymaking forum,” said Minister for Planning Asad Umar while talking to The Express Tribune. Pakistan and China had launched CPEC six years ago with an initial investment portfolio of about \$46 billion, which was subsequently increased to \$60 billion. However, the actual investment remained far below that mainly during the tenure of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government. The share of projects that are in the pipeline is \$28 billion, according to the CPEC Authority presentation to the cabinet body in January this year. So far, 17 projects worth \$13 billion have been completed while another 21 projects having an estimated cost of \$12 billion are being implemented. “The steering committee is more of a coordination forum and it will hopefully ensure better consultation and coordination before proposals are presented to CCo CPEC (Cabinet Committee on CPEC),” said Federal Planning Secretary Hamid Yaqub Sheikh. Sheikh will also be the secretary of the steering committee and the planning ministry will act as the secretariat of the steering committee. The PM Office order showed that Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar would be the chairman of the steering committee. Umar is also the chairman of the Cabinet Committee on CPEC. Other members of the committee include national security adviser, deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, foreign secretary, secretary interior, secretary railways, secretary power, secretary finance, secretary planning, CPEC Authority chairman and Gwadar Development Authority chairman. The Director General of Joint Staff of the Joint Staff Headquarters, Chief of General Staff/Director General Military Operations, Chief of Staff Naval Headquarters, and Director General Intelligence/Analysis of the ISI are also the members. The terms of reference of the committee include overseeing and steering the progress on Sino-Pak cooperation under multiple domains, and review progress on various projects and devise pursuance implementation and feedback systems to avoid delays, according to the documents. The steering committee will also be responsible for creation of inter-ministerial synergy and removing hurdles and impediments in coordination, finalization and execution of projects. In January this year, the Cabinet Committee on CPEC had held a couple of meetings to give a push

to the stalled CPEC projects. It had directed the ministries to remove irritants in fast-paced execution of the projects and gave them a stern warning that if the task was not completed within a week, they would face the music. But nothing has moved so far. The Pakistan Coast Guards and Pakistan Navy had also not evacuated land as of March, which hampered work on phase-II of the Gwadar Free Zone. There was also delay in construction of breakwater and capital dredging of berthing area. A meeting was also held in the Foreign Office on Thursday over finding a way forward on the issue of seeking relaxation in the power purchase terms agreed under the CPEC energy framework, said the sources. Pakistan is seeking relief in repayments of principal loan being availed for setting up power plants. However, sources said that there was a new momentum and resolve to show progress, particularly after a meeting between the planning minister and Chinese ambassador to Islamabad, held over a month ago.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2307100/body-set-up-to-steer-cpec-projects>

June 26, 2021

Business Recorder

How to woo more and more Chinese investors

Farhat Ali

The incumbent government – soon after it came to power following the 2018 general elections – set its priorities in relation to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). It was a paradigm shift from the country's earlier focus on mega projects in the power sector and infrastructure projects to a revised focus on populating the many Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being set up in the country under the CPEC. This change, more in favour of Pakistan than in China's, was driven by Pakistan's woefully mounting debt plus the de-industrialisation and rising unemployment due to lack of local value-addition in mega projects established under the CPEC and the country's market dumped with relatively cheap Chinese products.

To populate the SEZs with foreign and even local investment is a serious challenge. For years, Pakistan's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been hovering around \$ 2 billion and in recent years mostly out of China. FDI out of Europe, the Japan, the UK and the USA has dried out. The hard fact is that the country's economy or market is now perceived as China-centric and this perception is not likely to change in the foreseeable future. Getting back into the arena of the countries competing for FDI is a humongous task. It requires drastic and dramatic reorganization of our institutions, processes and systems. They are all obsolete and need to be re-worked and aligned with those of the emerging markets who have excelled in attracting FDI. The best bet for Pakistan, at this time and under the given constraints, is to work on China to attract FDI.

Sometime ago China had indicated that it wanted to move some segments of its industry to SEZs for re-export from Pakistan and to feed Pakistan's domestic market. Unfortunately, however, nothing in this regard has happened on ground so far nor are there any signs of it happening anytime soon.

Many industries in China are being constrained to move out of the country due to overcapacity, rising production costs, and environmental compulsions. These include copper and aluminum smelting, cement, papermaking, textiles, iron and steel, light engineering, and low-end motors and machines. The Chinese garments and textile industry seems to be the right choice for relocation in Phase-I.

Much like the story of Japan, China, too, has graduated from a low end to a high end technology driven and a prosperous market. Understandably, it is now facing a surge in production costs owing to appreciation of its currency, higher cost of raw materials, etc. Moreover, as Chinese labour is graduating from low-paying to high-paying jobs, along with the introduction of improved labor laws, labour costs have risen sharply. The average labour cost of an operational hour in the coastal and inland regions of China is thrice the cost in Vietnam and Pakistan and six times that of Bangladesh.

The decision to relocate an industry to another country is driven by the criteria if such relocation offers substantial advantages in regulatory framework, ease of doing business and cost of doing business which entails reduced transportation time due to proximity to raw materials and existing markets, domestic market size, re-export potential, utilities and raw material input costs, labour cost and productivity.

One has to understand that China is a country which means business. China's meteoric rise as one of the two largest and strongest economies of the world is based on the philosophy of 'Business First and Last'. China has a soft corner for Pakistan and may make some arguably cosmetic investments in this South Asian country. But to mobilise substantial and strategic Chinese investment, Pakistan has to offer all the competitive advantages as are being provided by countries where Beijing is already relocating its industry. This is where sincere and substantial work needs to be done.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/06/26/6-page/891160-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

One Belt One Road Health Initiative

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

GLOBAL health has been under siege due to outburst of the COVID-19 since its beginning. Regional as well as global health capacity building systems have collapsed. Moreover, discriminatory and apartheid policies of the so called advanced countries have made human survival even more difficult. However, Chinese President Xi Jinping led the world towards harmony and hope in which his global vaccine diplomacy has played tremendous job. Now struggling humanity and people look China as angle of god. Most recently the State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi presided over a high-level video conference on Belt and Road International Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific which vividly reflected Chinese superior state policies of services and integrated mechanism of human survival. On the launch of this initiative,

Chinese President Xi pinpointed Chinese holistic policies which has been supporting and assisting each other in the most difficult times and pushed forward the construction of the BRI, conveying confidence and strength to the international community and making an important contribution to global cooperation against the pandemic and economic recovery since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. During the said conference Chinese Foreign Minister delivered a key note speech highlighting aims, objectives, actions, plans, policies and holistic humanitarian spirits of China to launch this noble initiative which has direct correlation with social development, economic recovery and, of course, healthier world. He suggested deepening international cooperation on vaccines under newly proposed Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on COVID-19 Vaccines Cooperation. It will promote fair international distribution of vaccines and build a global shield against the virus. China will actively implement the important measures announced by President Xi Jinping at the Global Health Summit. He assured that China would provide more vaccines and other urgently needed medical supplies to BRI partners and other countries to the best of its ability, support its vaccine companies in transferring technologies to other developing countries and carrying out joint production with them, and support waiving intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines, all in an effort to help all countries defeat COVID-19. He suggested to strengthen cooperation on connectivity through synergize infrastructure development plans and work together on transport infrastructure, economic corridors and economic and trade and industrial cooperation zones. He proposed to promote cooperation on green development through jointly put forth the Initiative for Belt and Road Partnership on Green Development to inject new impetus into building the green silk road. Green infrastructure, green energy and green finance, and develop more environment-friendly projects with a high standard and high quality is the need of the hour. He proposed to advance free trade in our region and the world through the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), faster regional economic integration, global industrial and supply chains open, secure and stable. During his speech he highlighted strategic importance of the BRI which was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping during 2013. Since then, with the participation and joint efforts of all parties, this important initiative has shown strong vigor and vitality and yielded good results and progress. Chinese foreign minister Wang showcased that during the past eight years; the BRI has evolved from a concept into real actions and received warm response and support from the international community. So far more than 140 partner countries have signed documents of the BRI with China. The BRI has truly become the world's broadest-based and largest platform for international cooperation. He narrated that BRI has now become reality which promotes shared prosperity and brought about enormous opportunities and benefits to countries around the world. Trade between China and BRI partners has exceeded 9.2 trillion US dollars. Direct investment by Chinese companies in countries along the Belt and Road has surpassed 130 billion US dollars. A World Bank report suggests that when fully implemented, the BRI could increase global trade by 6.2 percent and global real income by 2.9 percent, and give a significant boost to global growth. Chinese Foreign Minister shared that BRI partners have put up an international firewall of cooperation against COVID-19. China and BRI

partners have held over 100 meetings to share experience on COVID prevention and control. He highlighted that by mid-June, China has provided more than 290 billion masks, 3.5 billion protective suits and 4.5 billion testing kits to the world, and helped many countries build testing labs. China is engaged in extensive vaccine cooperation with many countries, and has donated and exported more than 400 million doses of finished and bulk vaccines to more than 90 countries, most of which are BRI partners. Wang further shared that BRI partners have built new bridges for global connectivity. China has carried out Silk Road e-commerce cooperation with 22 partner countries. It has helped sustain international trade flows throughout the pandemic. He termed the fast-growing and fruitful Belt and Road cooperation as a result of the solidarity and cooperation among BRI partners. It practices the concept of open, green and clean development. And it is aimed at high-standard, people-centred and sustainable growth. He showed his country commitments to equal consultation and termed partners regardless of economic size, equal members of the BRI family. He assured that BRI has no political strings. We never impose our will on others from a so-called position of strength. Neither do we pose a threat to any country. He shared that BRI has strengthened policy, infrastructure, trade, financial and people-to-people connectivity to pursue economic integration, achieve interconnected development, and deliver benefits to all. These efforts have brought closer the Chinese dream and the dreams of countries around the world. He labelled the BRI open and inclusive. It is open to all kinds of systems and civilizations, and is not ideologically biased. It promoted innovation and progress. He briefed that in the wake of COVID-19, China has launched the Silk Road of health. To achieve low-carbon transition, China is cultivating a green Silk Road. To harness the trend of digitalization, China is building a digital Silk Road. To address development gaps BRI partners are working to build the BRI into a pathway to poverty alleviation. Belt and Road cooperation began in the economic sector, but it does not end there. It is becoming a new platform for better global governance. Wang also spoke high of numerous achievements of the Communist Party of China, under whose leadership, the Chinese people will soon complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and on that basis, embark on a new journey of fully building a modern socialist country. Being a prominent regional expert of China, BRI & CPEC, I am confident that China's new holistic BRI Health Initiative will be a game & fate changer for the humanity suffering from deadly COVID-19. It is indeed a new historical starting point and hopefully China will work with all other parties to continue high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and build closer partnerships for health cooperation, connectivity, green development and openness and inclusiveness.

<https://pakobserver.net/one-belt-one-road-health-initiative/>

CPEC promotes Pak-China coop in medical device industry

As Pakistan is a key partner in the current \$400 billion global medical device industries, some Chinese home grown medical device companies are developing the market and seeking cooperation in Pakistan. According to Gwadar Pro, they say CPEC has already promoted cooperation between the two countries in this area. A Chinese medical enterprise Medcaptain

Medical Technology Co., Ltd.,(Medcaptain), founded in 2011 as an “Integrated Perioperative Solutions Provider” and dedicated to pursuing innovation in Medication Delivery, In-Vitro Diagnostics, Airway Management, and DVT Prevention, was one of these companies after entering Pakistani market for 6 years. Serinna Tan, Director of Branding & International Marketing of Medcaptain said that CPEC has greatly contributed to medical cooperation since under this national strategy Chinese medical enterprises like them can enjoy better opportunities to communicate with Pakistan counterparts and bring their medical products to hospitals in need of such devices. For example, the smart medication infusion workstation they applied in ICU has largely improved medical efficiency and ensured safety for local hospitals. Tan added that talent exchange is also a bonus under CPEC, with an increasing number of medical staff and experts from both countries being able to communicate with each other through all kinds of academic conferences. “Besides, more direct and indirect investment in the medical sector can come into the Pakistani market under CPEC,” she said.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-promotes-pak-china-coop-in-medical-device-industry/>

Iron Brothers join hands to combat Covid-19 and Political virus

“It has been proofed by China’s successful experience that the COVID-19 epidemic is preventable, controllable, and curable, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. However, the only way to defeat the virus is solidarity and cooperation of the international community, rather than politicization,” Lin SongTian, President of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), said at a donation ceremony. Pakistani ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, President of China-Pakistan Friendship Association, Sha Zukang, and Vice president of CPAFFC, Li Xikui participated in the ceremony. To demonstrate Pak-Chin friendship and jointly fight against the pandemic, CPAFFC has collected medical materials worth CNY 3 million including 200 oxygen generators, 200,000 masks, and a large amount of oxygen cylinders and funds of donation. On the donation ceremony 24th, CPAFFC handed them over to the Pakistani embassy to China. In the ceremony, besides expressing appreciation and good wishes, Lin said: “COVID-19 is a global challenge that we all face and the only way to defeat it is international cooperation and working together. However, it is regrettable that some Western countries have shown no regard for the safety of their own people, failed to fulfill their due responsibilities, and failed to give priority to fight against the epidemic. Instead, they have been busy creating a political virus, politicizing the epidemic, and trying to discredit China so as to shift the accountability of their own people.” “In contrast, when Western countries politicize the epidemic to smear China, the Pakistani government and people stand up for China’s justice. At the same time, China has actively supported Pakistan to fight against the epidemic by donating a large number of materials and sharing experience. The concrete actions of the two countries have fully demonstrated the unbreakable friendship between China and Pakistan,” Lin added. Ambassador Haque agreed with Lin, he said: “COVID-19 pandemic is the most formidable crisis humanity has been pitted against since World War-II. However, the pandemic could not surmount any challenge unsurmountable for Pakistan-China friendship. We are hopeful that with Chinese assistance and experience sharing, Pakistan would also replicate Chinese success in defeating the pandemic at home.” Regarding those Western countries tracing the source of

COVID-19 virus to smear China's reputation, ambassador Haque said in an exclusive interview after the event that it is a scientific issue which was answered by WHO clearly. "It is a time for everybody to work together, show solidarity and cooperate to fight this pandemic, rather than political manipulation. I think, as China and many other countries have said, that we need more research through scientific cooperation. It is an issue which can only be solved by experts and researchers, instead of politicization," he said. Also, extending sincere gratitude to Chinese people who donated materials to Pakistan, Haque said: "this donation indeed would be immensely helpful in supporting Pakistan's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic." Yao Wenbin, the founder and CEO of Jiangsu Jumao X-Care Medical Equipment Company Ltd., which donated 200 oxygen generators to Pakistan, delivered a speech at the ceremony saying that the company would like to support the Pakistani people to fight COVID-19 through donating its flagship product. "If needed, we are also willing to invest in Pakistan to build factories there, while selling oxygen concentrators at a favorable price," Yao added. Anhui Health Box Technology Co., Ltd. also donated its flagship product, 100,000 Non-Medical Copper-Oxide-Infused Coronavirus-Inactivation Face Masks. Its Chairman, Huang Yuhao announced that they are willing to contribute to the effort of pandemic prevention and control and safeguard each and every person's health. Except for the private sector, Sichuan Chengdu Municipal People's Association of Friendship with Foreign Countries (MPAFFC Chengdu) also delivered their concern to Pakistani people. "Since the outbreak of COVID-19, Chengdu, the sister cities of Lahore, has immediately donated to Lahore with medical supplies such as surgical masks and thermo guns," Li Li, Deputy Chair of MPAFFC Chengdu, said at the event, "During the pandemic as COVID-19, love always prevails. As Pakistan and China always help each other and share wealth and woe, our iron brotherhood stands solidier than ever before. As 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Pakistan and China, Chengdu is ready to play its active role in deepening friendship and communicating with Pakistan." More than 70 people attended the donation ceremony in the auditorium of CPAFFC, including representatives of donors, diplomats from the Pakistani Embassy in China, friendly people from the Chinese and Pakistani, and media reporters.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/iron-brothers-join-hands-to-combat-covid-19-and-political-virus/>

The Nation

CPEC: A corridor of employment

Yasir Habib Khan

In another shining example of the unflinching 70-year-Pak-China relations, CPEC has never dismissed, laid-off and shrunk employability to any Pakistani employee since its genesis to date. Contrary to others, CPEC also stands tall, untainted with practices of forced termination to employees. Even during over one year's Covid-19 economic contractions when big companies got compelled to axe jobs, CPEC did not relieve Pakistani employees from their employment.

CPEC projects offered a variety of jobs to the Pakistani labour force. As per contractual periods, many completed their job terms. After their service periods came to end, they left but with professional advantage. Having worked with Chinese experts and technicians, their job experiences helped them to get familiar with modern skilled specifications. Their new

professional competitiveness facilitated them to secure more lucrative jobs in Pakistan and even foreign job markets.

CPEC began in 2015. It created more than direct 75000 jobs of various categories from high-skilled and medium-skilled to blue-collar workers. Generating thousands of indirect jobs from allied industries is another windfall. It is an iconic feature of Pak-China affinity spanning over seven decades that CPEC's employability status never takes a hit despite countless untowardness. This phenomenon, in the current history, is unique and unseen globally.

In the course of CPEC phase I and ongoing phase II, all Pakistanis who have been awarded jobs are enjoying 100 percent job security throughout 2015 to 2021 with peace of mind. During the period of contract, no Pakistani employee has ever witnessed forced termination. They say goodbye to their jobs with grace after their contractual period expires.

As CPEC's job security momentum has achieved milestone resilience, its future job landscape for Pakistani employees is completely stable and steady.

The CPEC employment bonanza might be one of the biggest marvels of the Pak-China friendship. In a scenario when Covid-19 had compelled at least every private sector to render many people jobless due to financial losses and economic downswing, thousands of people working on CPEC projects remained unhurt. They have been continuing their job status up and running without any future threats and risks.

According to the data recently released by the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, CPEC created 75000 jobs. With no workforce withdrawal, a total of 46 CPEC projects are under construction or have been completed, and the corridor has brought 25.4 billion US dollars in foreign direct investment to Pakistan.

Beyond this, experts believe that CPEC has also created more than 200,000 indirect jobs for the Pakistani people, with its per capita income increased by 23 percent. More than 100 small and medium-sized enterprises have participated in the construction of CPEC, providing hundreds of thousands of jobs. CPEC is expected to create 2.3 million jobs between 2015 and 2030.

Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong, speaking at an online awarding ceremony for outstanding Pakistani staff of CPEC projects in December 2020 had clearly said that there was no stop of the construction, no job cut, and no withdrawal of workforce of the CPEC projects.

The unemployment rate increased by 34.1 percent in Pakistan, said a study conducted by the Mahbub ul Haq Research Centre at LUMS titled COVID-19 Pandemic's Economic Burden in Pakistan, which took data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics' Special Survey for Evaluating the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19. The Ministry of Planning has also estimated that 12.3 million to 18.5 million people in the country could lose their jobs.

A recent survey by Gallup Pakistan reveals that more than seventeen million people could become unemployed in the future amid the COVID-19 crisis. Economist Hiraj Malhi said that

though CPEC did not inflict job-cuts on Pakistani workforce but its global critics took a massive hit. Employment layoff took a heavy toll on the job markets of developed countries, he added.

“In United States, the unemployment rate remained 6.0 percent, the Bureau of Labour Statistics (BLS) said in its monthly report, released April 2, 2021. Unemployment Rate in European Union decreased to 7.30 percent in March from 7.40 percent in February of 2021. Meanwhile in the UK, the unemployment rate was 4.8 percent, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS),” he added.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-26/page-6/detail-4>

June 27, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistan-China youth exchanges important for a shared future

The 70th anniversary of Pakistan and China is not just a state-to-state anniversary but a celebration by the people of both countries, according to a report published by China Economic Net.

“Pakistan is now in a period of youth bulge, with over 60% of its population under the age of 35. So, when we talk about Pakistan-China friendship, we have to think about the next 70 years, the young generations, because we enjoy a shared future,” said Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute. “Although we have the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a lot of Pakistani youth don’t have the institutional memory of our friendship with China. There is a lot of goodwill in Pakistan when it comes to China across all spectrums of society, but our youth are not as aware of the importance and history of our relationship with China. So, it’s very important to make them a stakeholder in this relationship,” he said.

“The youth of Pakistan is ambitious and very patriotic. A lot of young people who go abroad for higher education are coming back to Pakistan, for they hold the aspiration of building a great Pakistan as what’s shared by the Chinese youth for their country,” he said. “They know we have to take a journey towards a prosperous future, for which we need strong partners we can learn from and depend on. And that partner is China who has always been there for us no matter how the world changes,” he added.

“With one-year experience in Beijing and over 30 visits, what I’m most impressed is the thriving artificial intelligence, big data, and E-commerce in this city, and that’s what Pakistan, especially the youth of Pakistan, should set their goal for.” He said. “China is experiencing its fifth industrial revolution, and we in Pakistan can benefit from it as well through a skilled labor force,” he further said. “Chinese universities offer numerous opportunities that can be especially beneficial to Pakistani students. I believe that in order to learn about a society, about a people, one must visit the country; and in this regard Chinese universities offer the best opportunity to experience the Chinese society up close,” he added.

Pakistan China Institute (PCI) has been contributing a lot in this regard. Under the arrangements of PCI, two delegations of young leaders consisting of parliamentarians, journalists, and scholars have visited China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/780202/pakistan-china-youth-exchanges-important-for-a-shared-future/>

The Nation

Pakistan engaged with China for industries relocation to CPEC SEZs: Tarin

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin has told the National Assembly yesterday that Pakistan was engaged with China for relocation of their industries to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being set up under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The minister said Pakistan was establishing SEZs under the CPEC to promote investment opportunities. “We are engaged with China for relocation of their industries to these zones. The investment from other countries will also be brought in these SEZs,” he said.

Tarin expressed satisfaction over the growth of the Information Technology (IT) sector, saying the aim was to bolster their exports to up to \$8 billion in the next two to three years.

Turning to the power sector, the finance minister said there will be no increase in the tariff and this has also been conveyed to the IMF. He was confident that the flow of circular debt will start reducing from the next fiscal year. He said that sufficient funds have been earmarked for the construction of dams in the country.

Winding up discussion on the budget for next fiscal year 2021-22 in the National Assembly, the finance minister said, “We are heading towards an inclusive and sustainable growth.”

He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan took bold and difficult decisions to steer the economy in the right direction. “Despite Covid-19 challenge, we achieved a growth of four percent during the current fiscal year due to the interventions made in different sectors, including industries, housing and construction and agriculture,” he added.

Tarin also announced a series of relief measures for different sectors. He said the tax relief earlier given to the auto sector for vehicles up to 850cc is being extended to 1000cc vehicles.

The minister said there will be zero tax on the registered IT platforms while only two percent for the unregistered ones. He said there will be 17 percent tax on the value added products of gold.

He further said the tax collection for the next fiscal year had been fixed at Rs 5,800 billion. “We are bringing changes in the tax system and introducing automation,” he added. He said that 12 withholding taxes have been withdrawn as these are regressive in nature.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-27/page-5/detail-0>

The News

Biden's B3W too late to challenge BRI, CPEC: experts

Islamabad: Speaking at a webinar on Saturday, the experts said the US is making its utmost efforts to ignite a new cold war in the region and this time against China. The Build Back Better World (B3W) is apparently a copycat project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that has engaged 140 countries by now.

They said the B3W partnership of G-7 countries would take a long time to mature any outline of actual interventions. The big question is where the huge money would come from whereas the G-7 nations and the private sector will not compromise their trade and economic ties with China. The other big issue with the US is credibility. Now even the long-time allies don't trust the US anymore blindly. Over the decades, the world has seen the US as a war monger looking for an enemy all the time. In the circumstances, the B3W seems to be merely a political propaganda against China.

Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) and DTN organized the webinar on Saturday on the subject, "Biden's G-7 Build Back Better World (B3W) and emerging situation in the region". The panelists included chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, former chief ISI and geopolitical analyst Lt. General (r) Muhammad Asad Durani, political activist and geopolitical commentator Reham Khan (London), geopolitical researcher Soumya Awasthi (Delhi) and chairman Centre for Diplomatic and Political Affairs Tolga Sakman (Istanbul).

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed hosted and moderated the webinar. While introducing the subject, Munir Ahmed said, "B3W is an apparent tool to challenge the deep-rooted BRI for obvious reasons. Through B3W, the G7 and other like-minded partners will coordinate in mobilizing private-sector capital in four areas of focus—climate, health and health security, digital technology, and gender equity and equality—with catalytic investments from the respective development finance institutions. As described, B3W will be global in scope, from Latin America and the Caribbean to Africa to the Indo-Pacific. Different G7 partners will have different geographic orientations, but the sum of the initiative will cover low- and middle-income countries across the world."

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed the US has lost its credibility over the years. No one is willing to trust whatever plans the US offers in partnership with other developed countries. At the moment, the US is withdrawing from Afghanistan as a defeated country, and without any settled accord among stakeholders. The rise of the Taliban has increased the security concerns for the region. In this situation, no country is willing to trust G7 and the US. Pakistan has already refused the US for air-bases.

The new Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has already strongly condemned the US approach towards Iran. He said the B3W will not be able to take off as a challenge to the BRI. Only India

is expected to join it being the US ally against China despite its many economic interests associated with neighbouring China. The Indian expert Soumya Awasthi said the B3W is expected to have more transparent and accountable mechanisms being a multipartite initiative to challenge BRI. Nothing is clear as to how it would compete with BRI or curtail China's economic growth while the big question is where the money comes from? And why would the private sector invest in the social sector where the returns of the investment are not ensured. On the other hand, the G-7 countries did not work out anything post-COVID.

Lt General (r) Asad Durrani said the US did not learn from its mistakes in the previous wars and armed conflicts. Another cold war in the region will be another big mistake while all the big countries in the region are against the US hegemonic interventions in the region, and somehow are part of the BRI and CPEC. As many as five countries Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, China and Russia are on the same page and against the US except India. They all are opposing the US and at any time they may come together to collaborate with each other against the US aggressive designs. The Turkish expert Tolga Sakman said the B3W as a G7 partnership is not attractive to Turkey and it has many geopolitical flaws. Turkey will not be against China in any case, rather will support by all means for regional connectivity and economic prosperity.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/855738-biden-s-b3w-too-late-to-challenge-bri-cpec-experts>

‘CPEC helped check Pakistan's power crisis’

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), an important pilot project of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has helped Pakistan to overcome the energy crisis and paved a way for the country's economic prosperity, Pakistani officials said.

Pakistan's Energy Minister Hammad Azhar told Xinhua that "the power plants built under the CPEC hold immense importance" for the country as they have largely solved the serious electricity shortage in Pakistan, bringing advanced technology and creating job opportunities.

Citing the example of the 660kv Matiari-Lahore high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project under the CPEC, he said that it is a boon for the country's power sector because it will save energy consumption and transmit cheap electricity from the CPEC's southern power plants to the northern load centers of the country, which will further "address the issues of energy shortage and inflated price of electricity."

The CPEC's southern power plants and the transmission line project, which officially started high-power transmission on Friday and is expected to be put into commercial operation later this year, will ensure the supply availability, stability and security, supporting the industrialization process in the country, the minister said.

Talking about the future of the BRI as a green Belt and Road, and the CPEC as a green corridor, he said the country is striving to achieve "the target of 30 percent renewable energy in the national grid up till 2030, and the CPEC will play a vital role for it" due to its fair contribution in renewable energy projects including hydropower, wind and solar.

On the sidelines of the high-power transmission ceremony of the Matiari-Lahore HVDC transmission project on Friday, Managing Director of the National Transmission and Despatch Company Muhammad Ayub told Xinhua that besides addressing the power crisis, the CPEC energy projects also provided a large number of direct and indirect employments to Pakistanis, thus contributing to the economic development of the country.

The CPEC's power plants are giving Pakistan electricity at the cheapest prices and when the cheapest energy will be transmitted through the HVDC line, it will save a substantial amount of electricity from getting wasted, and will eventually give cheaper electricity to the end-consumers, he added.

The official added that currently "over 18 percent of the country's electricity gets wasted due to the old transmission lines, but with the introduction of the HVDC transmission project for the first time in the

country, the CPEC will help the country save its energy as the electricity wastage percentage in the Matiari-Lahore transmission line is only about 4 percent," which will make a huge difference.

In the month of June, an 18-percent increase in the demand for electricity has been witnessed by the industrial sector, indicating the growth of the industry in Pakistan.

Pakistan is able to meet this demand because of the BRI which is injecting enough electricity into the country's national grid, enabling it to meet the demand of both domestic and industrial consumers.

The CPEC projects are adding and will add more electricity in our system after the completion of the ongoing projects, and will help us generate more revenues by flourishing our industry, besides improving the lifestyle of our public," Ayub added.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/855604-cpec-helped-check-pakistan-s-power-crisis>

June 28, 2021

Dunya News

Pakistan's exports to nine regional countries post a growth of over 6pc

ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) - Pakistan's exports to nine regional countries have posted a growth of over six per cent during eleven months of current fiscal year. According to the State Bank of Pakistan, China tops the list with exports posting a growth of over nineteen per cent to reach one point eight three billion dollars. The Bank noted that the growth witnessed specifically during the post-COVID period.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/608182-Country-exports-to-nine-regional-countries-post-a-growth-of-over-6pc>

The Nation

CPC a party with global vision

Guo Jiping, People's Daily

All we do is to pursue happiness for the Chinese people, rejuvenation for the Chinese nation, and the common good for the world.” That’s how Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, explains the original aspiration and mission of the Chinese communists, which also indicates that the centennial journey of the CPC is a glorious chapter that belongs to not only China, but also the world. The past 100 years since the founding of the CPC proved that the Party is always a constructor of world peace. From raising the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, to advocating a concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, China has always adhered to peaceful development. The country has promised to never seek hegemony, expansion, or a sphere of influence. Nor will it ever engage in an arms race. The past 100 years proved that the CPC is always a contributor to global development. Since its founding in 1949, especially in the past four decades of reform and opening up, China has opened its arms to embrace the world, providing more opportunities of market, investment and growth for the rest of the world in a bid to achieve common development. The country’s contribution to world economic growth has been standing at around 30 percent for years. The past 100 years proved that the CPC is always a protector of international order. On the basis of respecting the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, China has worked to promote the reform of the global governance system, and enhanced cooperation on tackling climate change, cyber security and counter terrorism with concrete actions. The country announced to peak carbon dioxide emission before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060, which means it will realize carbon neutrality from carbon peaking in the shortest time in global history. Studies indicate that the ratio of developed countries among all the countries in the world has never exceeded 20 percent since the industrialization began. In the second half of the 20th century, around 10 percent of the developed economies quit the developed list, and only five percent of the developing countries made it into the developed group. Many scholars hold that the modernization of the “third world” is a turbulent process in which fierce conflicts might happen. Under the leadership of the CPC, China’s modernization features distinctive characteristics. It is advancing for a huge population, and pursues common prosperity of all Chinese people, coordination between cultural and ethical progress and material progress, and harmony between man and nature. It also follows a path of peaceful development. The Chinese practice has created a miracle of rapid economic development and a miracle of long-term social stability, which is rarely seen in the world. It has tackled the “Tocqueville problem” that troubled Western historians, and explored a political governance model that is able to actively adapt to and guide changes, and always stay stable. Today, the CPC is leading 1.4 billion Chinese people to fully build a modern socialist China. Its significance lies not only in how many people China’s modernization covers, but also in that it proves there is more than one way leading to human modernization. China has shown the world that countries can have their

own models of development using their own historical experiences, said former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. From only around 50 members during the early days of its founding, to a party that boasts over 91 million members, the CPC has maintained its original aspiration despite the hardships it has experienced. Today, as China constantly expands its international influence, how to precisely and objectively perceive the CPC is becoming a practically significant topic. Many scholars have emphasized that the CPC has clear goals in every phase of its development, and adjusts its policies in accordance with the changes in domestic and international situations to satisfy the needs of the Chinese people. A report by John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University found that the Chinese people's overall satisfaction toward the Chinese government under the leadership of the CPC exceeds 93 percent. History has never ceased its steps toward the future. The CPC will, as always, work hand in hand with all parties, to make newer and greater contributions to building an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-28/page-2/detail-0>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کا پاکستان کیلئے 3 لاکھ یو آن کے طبی سامان کا عطیہ

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چین کی پیپلز ایسوسی ایشن فار فرینڈ شپ و دفارن کنٹریز (سی پی اے ایف ایف سی) کے صدر لن سونگ تیان نے کہا ہے کہ روٹینا مختلف ٹھوس اقدامات چین اور پاکستان کے مابین اٹوٹ دوستی کا مکمل مظاہرہ ہے، یہ چین کے کامیاب تجربے کا ثبوت ہے کہ روٹینا بیماری قابل اسدا، قابل کنٹرول اور قابل علاج ہے، وائرس کو شکست دینے کا واحد راستہ سیاست کی بجائے عالمی برادری کا اظہار یکجہتی اور تعاون ہے، کچھ مغربی ممالک نے اپنے ہی لوگوں کی حفاظت کے حوالے سے کچھ نہیں کیا، وہ اپنی ناکامیوں پر پردہ ڈالنے کیلئے سیاسی وائرس پیدا کرنے، وبا کی سیاست کرنے، اور چین کو بدنام کرنے کی کوشش میں مصروف ہیں۔ گوادر پروڈکٹ کے مطابق سی پی اے ایف ایف سی کے آڈیٹوریم میں ایک ڈونیشن تقریب کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔ ڈونرز کے نمائندے، چین میں پاکستانی سفارتخانے کے سفارت کار، چینی باشندے شامل تھے۔ چین میں پاکستانی سفیر معین الحق، چین پاکستان فرینڈ شپ ایسوسی ایشن کے صدر شازو کنگ اور سی پی اے ایف ایف سی کے نائب صدر لی زیکوئی نے بھی تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ پاک چین دوستی کا مظاہرہ کرنے اور وبائی مرض کے خلاف مشترکہ طور پر لڑنے کیلئے سی پی اے ایف ایف سی نے 200 آکسیجن جریٹرز، 200000 ماسک اور ایک بڑی مقدار میں آکسیجن سلنڈر سمیت 3 لاکھ 50 ہزار یو آن مالیت کا طبی سامان اکٹھا کیا۔ تقریب کے موقع پر سی پی اے ایف ایف سی نے یہ سامان چین میں پاکستانی سفارتخانے کے حوالے کیا۔ تقریب میں سی پی اے ایف ایف سی کے صدر لن سونگ تیان نے خراج تحسین اور نیک خواہشات کے اظہار کے علاوہ کہا کہ جب مغربی ممالک چین پر الزام کے لئے وبا کی سیاست کرتے ہیں تو پاکستانی حکومت اور لوگ چین کے انصاف کے لئے ڈٹ جاتے ہیں۔ سفیر معین الحق نے لن سونگ تیان سے اتفاق کرتے ہوئے کہا دوسری جنگ عظیم دوئم کے بعد کروٹینا وبائی بیماری سب سے زیادہ سنگین بحران ہے ہمیں امید ہے کہ چینی امداد اور تجربے کے اشتراک سے پاکستان وبائی امراض کو شکست دے گا۔ سفیر معین الحق نے تقریب کے بعد ایک خصوصی انٹرویو میں کہا کہ ان مغربی ممالک کے بارے میں کہا جو چین کی سہا متاثر کرنے کے لئے وائرس کی شروعات کا زریعہ تلاش کر رہے ہیں، انہوں نے کہا کہ اب وقت آ گیا ہے کہ سیاست کی بجائے مل کر کام کریں، یکجہتی اور اس وبائی مرض سے لڑنے کے لئے تعاون کریں۔ سفیر معین الحق نے پاکستان کو سامان عطیہ کرنے والے چینی لوگوں کے خلوص کا شکریہ ادا کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ یہ عطیہ یقیناً وبائی امراض کے خلاف پاکستان کی جنگ میں بے حد مددگار ثابت ہو گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-28/page-6/detail-23>

June 29, 2021

Daily Times

Chinese counterpart invites Murad to UN Global Conference in China

Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services, Murad Saeed and China Transport Minister Li Xiaopeng on Monday discussed the issues of mutual interest including various projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in a virtual meeting.

During the meeting, Chinese counterpart also invited the Minister for Communications to the United Nations Global Conference being held in China, said a statement issued here.

Murad Saeed thanked China for inclusion of western route projects in CPEC, adding that these projects would usher a new era of development in these areas.

He also thanked China for supporting Pakistan's Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Kashmir and other important issues. The minister also apprised the Chinese counterpart about the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan for poverty alleviation, promotion of tourism and sustainable development.

Chinese Minister highly appreciated Prime Minister Imran Khan's vision. He also informed the Communications minister about China's comprehensive plan, assuring China support for poverty alleviation. The Chinese counterpart expressed pleasure over the development journey of Pakistan with the completion of CPEC projects. He highly praised the role of the ministry of Communications in CPEC under the Belt and Road initiative. Pakistan and China are working together on ML-1, agriculture, poverty alleviation and other projects including the western route of CPEC.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/781323/chinese-counterpart-invites-murad-to-un-global-conference-in-china/>

Wishing China's Communist Party a happy birthday

Munir Ahmed

Congratulations to the Communist Party of China (CPC) for being on schedule to complete a century of progressive leadership for successive growth on July 1, 2021. The CPC emerged in very crucial days of Chinese history to liberate the 'natives' from socio-economic suffering. The CPC slogan of social equality and economic parity triggered a civil war against the Kuomintang – the Nationalist Party of China (NPC), and then the Japanese invasion during World War II. Before having complete control over China, the CPC has to fight once again the NPC.

The CPC's role had become crucial after the Republic of China independence on October 1, 1949; in the midst of the civil war. The CPC took up a war-weary country to make it the second-largest economy in the world in less than 70 years. China will beat the US once a fair ranking is done. The Chinese economy even kept moving last year — despite COVID-19.

We shall objectively analyse the elements behind the success of a country that has been burdened by over-population. A half of its total population was under the poverty-line just a decade back. US think tank Statista mentions that 49.8 percent of the China population was below the poverty line in 2000 and that no one remained there by 2020. It simply seems like a miracle. But, China has shown that an astounding vision by the political party, a phenomenal leadership, a consistent pro-people political regime and its policies can make it happen in a short span of time. The CPC is commendable for providing all three to China.

It may be bad practice in terms of present popularly defined democratic norms but President Xi's 'authoritative control' has delivered the best to China and its global positioning in eight years. After all, he has lifted half the population out of poverty in a decade

'One party – One vision' has successfully transformed China from an undirected and idle mob to a globally techno-efficient nation and second largest economy on the map. We have seen China overshadow the "developed democratic countries" even on the diplomatic fronts and UN forums for affording capital and human resources to promote peace in the regions suffering from conflicts. We cannot undermine China's role in voicing the needful right of peace and development for Palestine and Indian-held Kashmir (IHK).

The brains of a political party can help the leadership develop and pursue an initiative of the century such as the One Belt – One Road that has been renamed as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). As of January 2021, some 140 countries have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China. It shows the world's trust in the Chinese model of connectivity, infrastructure development and networking for economic growth.

The BRI is the brainchild of President Xi Jinping who is blamed for 'consolidated control over the party' – the CPC — since he assumed power in 2012. President Xi's critics mention that he has created a path for his indefinite rule as China's legislative body ended the limit of presidential term under his 'authoritative control'.

It may be bad practice in terms of present popularly defined democratic norms but his authoritative control, if so, has delivered the best to China and its global positioning in eight years. His only one achievement is fairly sufficient to defend his authoritative control and that is getting a half of the population of his country out of poverty.

Back in Pakistan, the dictatorial era of Ayub Khan is considered to be the best in terms of development and diplomacy. Even the thrice-elected former prime minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was also blamed for directing his cabinet and colleagues to find out ways to complete certain tasks in the given time period. Many believed that he had 'control' over the party. Even today, he is blamed for running party decisions from the UK.

The CPC is blamed for "monopoly" in Chinese politics since the Mao Zedong-led party defeated nationalist rivals and founded the People's Republic in 1949. Far less people know that eight other political parties including Nationalists Party China (NPC) also exist in the country but their

vote bank is negligible as compared to the ruling party. Only the CPC members are more than ninety millions.

In its centennial celebrations, the CPC also faces a raft of challenges. The utmost is the 'economic war' with the US that has taken it very seriously. President Biden's launching of the Build Back Better World (B3W) at the G-7 summit recently shows the concerns and worries of the only superpower. It's too late for him to do so. The CPC's China has gone far ahead in the BRI initiative.

China has been blamed for environmental degradation and transboundary pollution by the developed industrial world – the world's top polluters including the US. China has remained firm on its global commitments under the Paris Agreement 2015 to combat the challenges of climate change while the US backed out during the Trump's administration. The CPC 90 million members are leading environmental campaigns within China.

China being an all-weather friend has always supported Pakistan in the odd hours. Recent loans to sustain the IMF, and huge investments in Pakistan under the CPEC regime are a few in the long list of favours. We need to learn from the CPC that has stayed true to its original aspiration and mission of pursuing the wellbeing of the Chinese people and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. And, the way it united the Chinese people and led them in an arduous and tireless struggle that brought about fundamental changes in the destiny and future of the Chinese people individually and as a nation.

Pakistan Embassy Beijing organizes forum to attract Chinese investment in SEZs

The Embassy of Pakistan Beijing on Monday organized an investment forum and promotion conference aimed at providing a platform to the Chinese enterprises to collaborate with Pakistani companies to take advantage of investment opportunities being offered in the special economic zones in Pakistan.

The China – Pakistan pump and valve industry cross-border investment forum and China (Wenzhou) international pump and valve fair promotion conference was co-sponsored by China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Beijing Sub-council (CCPIT Beijing), China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Wenzhou Municipal Committee (CCPIT Wenzhou) and National Bank of Pakistan Representative Office Beijing.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Head of Mission Ahmed Farooq briefed the audience about all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between Pakistan and China as well as growing trade and economic relations between the two countries.

He informed that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative, is progressing well and has entered the industrialization phase.

He said this event has been organized as part of celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

Ahmed Farooq also expressed the confidence that today's event would promote business to business cooperation between the two countries and investment in the area of industrialization in Pakistan.

In his address, Commercial Counselor, Badar Uz Zaman said, Pakistan is a country of great potential and growth and with each passing day, its economy is getting better. Business, industrial sectors are thriving and booming.

He said, with the development of the chemical industrial sector, the share of the manufacturing sector significantly increases and contributes to the overall GDP growth.

Most of the raw materials and intermediates for dyes and pigments, plastic and fertilizers are being imported. No appreciable progress is possible in the chemical sector without indigenous production of petrochemicals and other chemicals, he added.

He said, there are huge investment opportunities in different sectors particularly chemical and petrochemical industry in Pakistan.

The Pakistan government welcomes overseas countries, especially Chinese investors to invest and do business in Pakistan and hopes that Chinese companies could choose Pakistan as their investment destination, he added.

He said the forum would lay a solid foundation for the next construction of the pump and valve industry in both countries. Vice President of CCPIT Beijing, Zhu Jialiang and Party Member and Consultant II of CCPIT Wenzhou also spoke on occasion.

Export Manager of Jinggong Valve Group Muhammad Abbas briefed about the Wenzhou pump and valve enterprises and Luna of China Road and Bridge Corporation updated the audience about the development of Rashakai Special Economic Zone.

The Chief Representative of the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) Beijing threw light on the investment and financial market in Pakistan as well as the service being offered by his bank to the Chinese investors.

Secretary General of ECCAC Ms Sun Lili introduced the ECCAC and shared development opportunities of industrial cooperation between China and overseas industry. Later talking to APP, Badar Uz Zaman said that the basic objective of this forum is to provide a platform to the Chinese and Pakistani enterprises to collaborate with each other.

Through this platform, we have told the audience about investment opportunities that Pakistan is providing in the form of special economic zones and in the form of investment friendly environment and policies, he added.

The commercial counsellor said that since the participating organizations have thousands of members, telling them about Pakistan will definitely help spread the message to people in China.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/781240/pakistan-embassy-beijing-organizes-forum-to-attract-chinese-investment-in-sezs/>

Dunya News

Nothing can change Pak-China special friendship: PM Imran

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) - Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday said that Pakistan and China enjoyed ‘very special relationship’ spanning over 70 years of friendship and nothing could change these time-tested ties. In an exclusive interview with China’s state media Tv, the prime minister dilated upon the deep-rooted ties between the two countries. To a query, the prime minister emphatically reiterated “Whatever will happen...relationship between our two countries, no matter what pressure is put on us, is not going to change.” In the region, he said, a strange and great power rivalry took place which everybody knew. It could create problems. The US formed a regional alliance called ‘Quad’ including India and couple of other countries. “So, from that point of view, Pakistan thinks that it is very unfair of the US and other western powers.....for countries like Pakistan to take sides. Why should we take sides! We should have good relationship with everyone,” he maintained. The prime minister categorically said that if pressure was put on Pakistan to change its relations or downgrade its ties with China, it would not happen. “Relationship between Pakistan and China is very deep, it’s not just the governments, but it’s people to people relationship,” he added. The prime minister further said that when Pakistan had been in trouble politically or internationally, or had conflicts with its neighbour, China always stood with them. The people of China have special place in the hearts of people of Pakistani, he said, adding “You remember friends who stand with you in all times. In good times, everyone stands with you but in difficult, tough and bad times, you remember those people who stood by you.” He said the people of Pakistan have that kind of fondness for the people of China. The prime minister to another question, replied that the relationship between the two countries grew stronger politically and on the international fora, Pakistan and China stood together. About China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), he said the CPEC, was ‘the biggest thing happening in Pakistan’, and where its economic future was moving.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/608431-Nothing-can-change-Pak-China-special-friendship-PM-Imran>

CPEC's 2nd phase, helps generate job opportunities, boost economic growth:

BOI official

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – The second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has generated huge job opportunities and played proactive role to boost economic growth of the country. An official of Board of Investment (BOI) on Tuesday indicated that Chinese investment in multiple sectors had positive impact on employment, transfer of information and improving skills of Pakistani workforce. In the second phase of CPEC, industrial and agricultural cooperation of both countries had made strides, he said and added “CPEC for All” was the epic depiction of its vision. In next phase, both countries would be working on Gwader Port

development, industrial parks, agriculture, science and technology projects, he added. He said that CPEC was purely a development project which had specific benefits for Pakistan and China, in addition to positive spillover-effects for neighboring countries. It was reason that both countries intended to to accomplish CPEC projects in time, he added. The official said: “We do ensure maximum facilitation to foreign investors through CPEC, besides carrying out speedy development work at Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zones (SEZs) of Faisalabad and Rashakai. Large number of foreign investor have shown interest to invest in these Zones, he added. Currently, both countries were working out modalities for 10th meeting of CPEC joint cooperation committee, he said and added China could supply inexpensive raw materials for local markets, specially Pakistan’s textile industry. This will also help in utilizing additional manpower in Kashgar, he said. He said that preferential policies were vital to attract companies for investment in industrial parks. Areas that required these preferential policies included land, tax, logistics and services, he added. He said Chinese investors had special interest in steel, cement, energy, textiles and auto sectors.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/608447-CPEC-2nd-phase-helps-generate-job-opportunities-boost-economic-growth>

Pakistan Observer

M-L transmission line to contribute to economic dev

The Matiari-Lahore transmission line project is another example of how China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has contributed to improvement of people’s livelihood and economic development in Pakistan. “The project will offer local people access to stable and high quality electricity and it’s of great significance to breaking bottleneck of South-North power transmission in Pakistan,” Chinese Foreign Ministry’s Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing held here on Monday. According to media reports, the first power grid project on the CPEC, the Matiari-Lahore transmission line project contracted by the State Grid Corporation of China has started power transmission from June 25. This is the first direct current transmission line in Pakistan. On the vast desert in eastern Pakistan, a 900-kilometer line stretches from Matiari to Lahore, spanning most of the areas in Sindh and Punjab. This is the ± 600 KV HVDC transmission line, a power project with the highest voltage and the only direct-current transmission in Pakistan. It is also the only key grid project under CPEC. The spokesperson said, as important pilot project of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the CPEC has made significant progress in various sectors including energy since its launch. This has not only boosted Pakistan’s faster economic and social development but also played a positive role in promoting regional connectivity. He remarked that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) came from China but it created opportunities and good results for all and benefited the whole world. “Now, up to 140 partner countries have signed BRI documents with China. Trade between China and BRI partners exceeded USD 9.2 trillion and the direct investment surpassed USD 130 billion,” he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/m-l-transmission-line-to-contribute-to-economic-dev/>

The Express Tribune

Key grid project under CPEC termed a milestone

The Matiari-Lahore transmission line project is another example of how the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has contributed towards improving people's livelihood and economic development in Pakistan. "The project will offer local people access to stable and high quality electricity and it's of great significance to breaking bottleneck of South-North power transmission in Pakistan," Chinese Foreign Ministry's Spokesperson Wang Wenbin said during his regular briefing held on Monday. According to media reports, the first power grid project on CPEC, the Matiari-Lahore transmission line project contracted by the State Grid Corporation of China, has started power transmission from June 25. This is the first direct current transmission line in Pakistan. On the vast desert in eastern Pakistan, a 900-kilometer line stretches from Matiari to Lahore, spanning most of the areas in Sindh and Punjab. This is the ± 600 kV HVDC transmission line, a power project with the highest voltage and the only direct-current transmission in Pakistan. It is also the only key grid project under CPEC. The spokesperson said, as important pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC has made significant progress in various sectors including energy since its launch. This has not only boosted Pakistan's faster economic and social development but also played a positive role in promoting regional connectivity. He remarked that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) came from China but it created opportunities and good results for all and benefited the whole world. "Now, up to 140 partner countries have signed BRI documents with China. Trade between China and BRI partners exceeded USD 9.2 trillion and the direct investment surpassed \$130 billion," he added. He said, the BRI has become the world's broadest-based and the largest platform for international cooperation. They were ready to share more development opportunities and dividends with all. Matiari to Lahore ± 600 kV HVDC Transmission Line Project is developed in the 'BOOT' (Build, Own, Operate, and Transfer) mode. With a total investment of \$1.6 billion, it will transfer the power in Southern Pakistan to the Load Center, providing electricity for the people in Punjab and the capital region and creating 5000-7000 jobs.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2307904/key-grid-project-under-cpec-termed-a-milestone>

The Nation

USA, UK, China top three destinations of Pakistani exports in 11 months

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

Total exports to the USA during July-May (2020-21) were recorded at \$ 4473.917 million against the exports of \$ 3606.152 million during July-May (2019-20), showing growth of 24.06 per cent, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

This was followed by UK, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$ 1860.125 million against the exports of \$ 1492.228 million last year, showing an increase of 24.65 per cent.

China was at third top export destination, where Pakistan exported goods worth \$ 1831.994 million during the months under review against the exports of \$1535.735 million during last year, showing growth of 19.29 per cent, SBP data revealed.

Among other countries, Pakistani exports to Germany stood at \$ 1365.700 million against \$1192.779 million during last year, showing increase of 14.49 per cent while the exports to UAE were recorded at \$ 1334.916 million against \$ 1465.757 million last year, the data revealed.

During July-May (2020-21), the exports to Holland were recorded at \$101.94 million against \$907.417 million whereas the exports to Afghanistan stood at \$ 895.380 million against \$826.802 million.

Pakistan's exports to Italy were recorded at \$698.860 million against the exports of \$ 691.369 million while the exports to Spain were recorded at \$ 735.868 million against \$ 807.634 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at \$551.552 million against \$ 633.787 million.

Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$ 394.831 million against \$ 395.665 million while the exports to Saudi Arabia stood at \$ 429.172 million against \$ 418.866 million.

Pakistan's exports to Turkey were recorded at \$238.686 million during the current year compared to \$260.238 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at \$280.550 million against \$ 250.363 million, to Poland \$ 272.420 million against \$ 232.559 million whereas the exports to Australia stood at \$ 243.832 million during the current year against \$ 184.350 million during last year.

Overall Pakistan's exports to other countries witnessed growth of 10.31 per cent in eleven months, from \$20.963 billion to \$23.125 billion, the SBP data showed.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-29/page-9/detail-5>

Pakistan, China strengthening coop to fight Covid-19

ISLAMABAD - China's successful experience has established that the COVID-19 epidemic is preventable, controllable, and curable. However, the only way to defeat the virus is solidarity and cooperation of international community, rather than politicization, said Lin SongTian, President of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) at a donation ceremony held in Beijing, Gwadar Pro reported yesterday.

Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, President of China-Pakistan Friendship Association, Sha Zukang, and Vice President of CPAFFC, Li Xikui, participated in the ceremony.

In order to demonstrate the Pak-Chin friendship and jointly fight against the pandemic, CPAFFC has collected medical materials worth CNY 3 million including 200 oxygen generators, 200,000 masks, and a large amount of oxygen cylinders and funds of donation.

The CPAFFC handed these donations over to the Pakistani embassy to China.

Lin said: “COVID-19 is a global challenge that we all face and the only way to defeat it is international cooperation and working together.”

He also said that China has actively supported Pakistan to fight against the epidemic by donating a large number of materials and sharing experience.

The concrete actions of the two countries have fully demonstrated the unbreakable friendship between China and Pakistan,” Lin added.

Ambassador Haque agreed with Lin, he said: “The pandemic could not surmount any challenge unsurmountable for the Pakistan-China friendship”.

We are hopeful that with the Chinese assistance and experience sharing, Pakistan would also replicate Chinese success in defeating the pandemic at home.”

“It is a time for everybody to work together, show solidarity and cooperate to fight this pandemic, rather than political manipulation. I think, as China and many other countries have said that we need more research through scientific cooperation,” he said.

Also, extending sincere gratitude to Chinese people who donated materials to Pakistan, Haque said: “this donation indeed would be immensely helpful in supporting Pakistan’s fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Yao Wenbin, the founder and CEO of Jiangsu Jumao X-Care Medical Equipment Company Ltd., which donated 200 oxygen generators to Pakistan, said on the occasion that their company would like to support the Pakistani people to fight COVID-19 through donating its flagship product.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-29/page-10/detail-6>

Jang News

چین سے سائنوویک کی 30 لاکھ ڈوز اسلام آباد پہنچ گئیں

چین سے سائنوویک ویکسین کی 30 لاکھ ڈوز اسلام آباد پہنچ گئی ہیں۔

ذرائع کے مطابق سائنوویک ویکسین کی 30 لاکھ ڈوز کی پاکستان نے چین سے خریداری کی ہے، ای پی آئی نے صوبوں کو کورونا ویکسین کی ترسیل کا پلان پہلے ہی سے تیار کر رکھا ہے۔

ذرائع کے مطابق قومی ایئر لائن پی آئی اے کا طیارہ چین سے ویکسین لے کر اسلام آباد پہنچ گیا ہے۔

واضح رہے کہ پارلیمانی سیکریٹری صحت ڈاکٹر نوشین حامد کا کہنا ہے کہ جولائی کے پہلے ہفتے میں موڈرنا ویکسین کی ایک بڑی کھیپ پاکستان آرہی ہے۔

انہوں نے جیونیوز کے پروگرام ’جیو پاکستان‘ میں گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ طلبہ اور دیگر اور سیز پاکستانیوں کو موڈرنا ویکسین لگنا شروع ہو جائے گی۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/949396>

Nawaiwaqt News

چائنا مشینری انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن نے تھرکول منصوبے میں 1600 پاکستانیوں کو ملازمتیں فراہم کیں

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چائنا مشینری انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن تھرکول مائن منصوبے میں 1600 پاکستانیوں کو ملازمتیں فراہم کیں، پاکستانی عوام اور ملازمین کی مدد کے بغیر بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ کا پرچم بردار منصوبہ مکمل نہیں ہو سکتا تھا۔ چائنا کنٹراکٹ نیٹ (سی ای این) کے مطابق کھدائی کرنے والے ڈرائیور سے ٹیکنالوجی کے معنی ماسٹر بننے تک کی ایک دلچسپ رپورٹ سامنے آئی ہے جس میں پاکستانی ورکر سی پیک رول ماڈل بن گیا۔ چائنا کنٹراکٹ نیٹ (سی ای این) کے مطابق پاکستانی میکینک انجینئر منظور نے کہا کہ میں خوش قسمت تھا کہ چینی انجینئر من سے ملا، جس نے 1990 کی دہائی میں پاکستان کی تعمیر میں مدد فراہم کی تھی۔ انہوں نے مجھے مکینیکل دیکھ بھال اور چینی زبان جیسی بہت سی چیزیں سکھائیں، 28 سال بعد منظور ایک بہترین میکینک انجینئر بن گیا ہے اور تھرکول فیلڈ پاکستان کے بلاک 2 میں اوپن پٹ کو نلے کی کان کے منصوبے میں چائنا مشینری انجینئرنگ کارپوریشن کے لئے کام کرتا ہے۔ جنوری 2021 میں پاکستان میں چینی سفارت خانے کی جانب سے نمایاں کارکردگی کی بنا پر منظور کو سی پیک کے بہترین پاکستانی ملازم کے ایوارڈ سے نوازا گیا۔ فروری 2017 میں منظور نے سی ایم ای سی کے تھرکول فیلڈ کے بلاک 2 اوپن پٹ کو نلے مائن پروجیکٹ میں کھدائی کرنے والے ڈرائیور کی حیثیت سے شروعات کی۔ آہستہ آہستہ اس نے بلڈوزر، لوڈرز، ٹریلرز اور فورک لفٹس چلانے، مشینوں کی مرمت کرنے اور خاص طور پر چینی زبان بولنے میں عمدہ مہارت کا مظاہرہ کیا۔ افسردگ رہ گئے۔ صرف چار سالوں میں منظور مینٹیننس سپروائزر تک پہنچ گیا۔ اس کی اعلیٰ مکینیکل مینٹیننس اور روانی سے چینی زبان بولنا قابل تعریف ہے۔ منظور نے اپنی کامیابیوں کو چینی انجینئروں کے نام کر دیا جنہوں نے ان کی مدد کی۔ منظور مترجم، پاکستانیوں اور چینیوں کے مابین رابطے میں سہولت کار کا کردار ادا کیا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-29/page-10/detail-22>

June 30, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistani gets outstanding employee of CPEC award

Muhammad Muneeb, a Pakistani employee specializing in desulfurization and ash removal at the Operations Department of Sahiwal Power Station of Huaneng Shandong Ruyi, was among the 18 Pakistani workers honored with the medal of “Outstanding Pakistani Employee” of CPEC.

According to China Economic Net, they were awarded for their contributions to the construction of Gwadar Port, energy and infrastructure-related projects. The coal-fired power station was termed by the Pakistani government as “a miracle in the history of electricity construction in Pakistan” because the construction of the station took a mere 22 months and 8 days. The power station helped provide electricity to 20 million Pakistani people, and made outstanding contributions to the upgrading of Pakistan’s power industry and adjustment of the power supply structure.

A major operator of desulfurization and ash removal in the Operation Department of Sahiwal Power Station of Huaneng Shandong Ruyi (Pakistan), Muhammad Muneeb has borne witness to the commissioning and commercial operations of the power station for more than three years.

During the 9-month training sessions in China in 2015, Muneeb was diligent in learning technical skills and Chinese, and remained friendly and polite to his colleagues and seniors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/781936/pakistani-gets-outstanding-employee-of-cpec-award/>

Dawn News

Pakistan will never join US-led alliance against China: PM

Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said Pakistan would not change or downgrade its brotherly relations with China no matter what the pressure.

In an interview with Liu Xin of China-state media TV, CGTN, PM Khan said it was “very unfair” of the United States and other western powers to pressure countries like Pakistan to take sides, questioning, “Why do we have to take sides?”

“We should have good relations with everyone,” he added.

Mr Khan said a “strange, great rivalry” was taking place in the region, which everybody knew about.

“The US formed a regional alliance called ‘Quad’ that includes India and couple of other countries,” he said, adding that “if pressure is put on Pakistan to change its relations or downgrade its ties with China, it would not happen.”

The prime minister emphatically said: “Relationship between Pakistan and China is very deep, it is not just the governments, it’s people-to-people relationship.”

He recalled how China “always stood with us” whenever the country was in trouble politically or internationally or in a conflict with its neighbour, in an apparent reference to India.

“In good times, everyone stands with you but in your difficult, tough times, bad times, you remember those people who stood by you. That’s why you will find that in Pakistan, people always have a special fondness for people in China,” he added.

When asked how ties between the two countries could deepen further, the prime minister replied: “Number one is trade.”

Mr Khan termed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) the “biggest thing happening in Pakistan” and the economic future the country was moving towards.

The political relationship between Pakistan and China had gotten stronger as well because “whatever happens in any international forum, Pakistan and China stand together”, he said.

Last month, PM Khan and his Chinese counterpart Li Keqiang wrote letters to each other to mark 70 years of Pakistan-China friendship and vowed to further strengthen ties between the two states.

“On behalf of the government and people of Pakistan, as well as on my own behalf, I wished to extend my heartiest felicitations to you on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan.

“21st May 1951, the day when our relations were formally established, has been a watershed moment in our history. Our two people and successive leaderships and governments have made indefatigable efforts to foster, cement, and strengthen our ties. Our time-tested relationship is built around lasting values of mutual respect, mutual trust, and mutual understanding,” the prime minister said in his letter to his Chinese counterpart.

According to the PM Office, the Chinese prime minister, in his letter, said China and Pakistan were friendly neighbours linked by mountains and waters.

PM meets PML-Q leaders

Prime Minister Khan met Minister for Housing Tariq Bashir Cheema and member of the National Assembly (MNA) Moonis Elahi, who did not attend the prime minister’s dinner reception on Monday that caused speculations.

According to the PM Office, provision of relief to common man in the budget, especially positive results of measures taken for steering the backward segments of society out of poverty and growing employment opportunities created by economic growth due to development projects, were discussed.

The ongoing projects of the housing ministry also came under discussion.

Meanwhile, Senator Seemi Ezdi and MNAs Andleeb Abbas, Shanila Ruth, Nusrat Wahid and Ghazala Saifi called on PM Khan and discussed matters relating to the budget.

The prime minister also met MNAs from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Parliamentary Secretary of Ministry of Defence Malik Anwar Taj, MNAs Imran Khattak, Junaid Akbar, Shaukat Ali, Saleem Rehman, Arbab Amir and Khial Zaman attended the meeting.

The legislators spoke about problems being faced by their respective constituencies as well as the ongoing development projects.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1632209/pakistan-will-never-join-us-led-alliance-against-china-pm>

3m more doses of vaccine arrive from China

Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: While the number of active cases of coronavirus has dropped from over 55,000 to 32,153 within a month, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on Tuesday expressed concern over the rising positivity rate in Gilgit-Baltistan and the Ministry of National Health Services issued a guideline for animal markets in view of upcoming Eid ul Azha.

Animal vendors without evidence of vaccination may not be allowed to conduct business in the markets, according to the guideline.

As three million more doses of Covid-19 vaccine arrived here from China, the NCOC, responding to the criticism that the government has been relying largely on donated vaccines, claimed that over 17 million of the 21.13 million doses of different types of vaccines had been purchased and the latest consignment was part of the procurement plan for June.

The NCOC session was chaired by national coordinator Lt Gen Hamooduz Zaman Khan and was also attended by Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan and Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt Gen Akhtar Nawaz Satti.

The NCOC expressed concern over the rising positivity of the disease in Gilgit-Baltistan and emphasised stringent implementation of SOPs with regard to tourism in the northern region of the country. It said federating units had the discretion of planning summer holidays in their respective educational institutions.

According to the latest NCOC data, 23 deaths and 735 more cases were reported from across the country in a single day and the number of active cases reached 32,153. As of June 29, there were 2,201 patients hospitalised across the country and 253 of them were on ventilators.

Risk of a new wave

The Ministry of National Health Services issued a guideline in view of the upcoming Eid to prevent spread of Covid-19 cases, advising people to undertake minimal necessary travel during Eid holidays as the ‘risk of a new wave was imminent’.

It stated that Covid-19 pandemic continued with emergence of more transmissible variants leading to new waves of infection.

Animal markets being set up in view of the Eid must adhere to the guidelines for social distancing and other protective measures while Eidgahs, too, can accelerate spread of the virus.

“Social visits at Eid and general family get-togethers should be avoided. Eid shopping should only be restricted to minimal essentials and crowding in markets should be avoided at all costs. The tradition of “Eid embracing” is contrary to standard SOPs; physical contact promotes spread of infection. Public is advised to protect themselves and their loved ones by being mindful and avoiding this practice on Eid,” it explained.

The ministry advised people to prefer online buying and district administrations to allocate large enough spaces away from populated areas for animal markets. Local authorities must ensure every individual visiting the market must wear facemask properly (covering both nose and mouth) at all times.

The government made it mandatory for all animal vendors and sellers to get vaccinated with any of the currently available Covid-19 vaccines. “Those without evidence of vaccination (first dose or complete course) may not be allowed to conduct business in the market,” it stated.

According to the guideline, animal sellers and customers should maintain safe distance of two metres besides ensuring use of gloves to touch animals. Also, any seller or worker with

symptoms of cough, sore throat, fever etc. would not be allowed in the market and would be required to arrange a replacement for himself, it stated.

Prayers, slaughter

The ministry also gave a guideline for Eid prayers and animal slaughter.

Slaughtering sites should be away from populated areas and crowding at the place of slaughtering must be avoided at all costs.

For Eid prayers, it was suggested that ablution should be performed at home, separate entrance and exit points be made to prevent bottlenecks, thermal screening for all worshippers at entry points of Eidgahs be arranged. No carpets or prayer mats be laid down in mosques, as people should bring their own prayer mat or Janamaz.

Topic of sermons

Prayer leaders have been advised to deliver Eid sermons on the topic of the pandemic and preventative measures that the government had taken in order to slow the spread. Their sermons should encourage individuals to play an active role in promoting health and safety of all members of society.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1632207>

Pakistan Observer

Xinjiang: Gateway of BRI & CPEC

Muhammad Ehsan

CHINA Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) being one of the important parts of the Belt & Road Initiative has faced a lot of challenges since its announcement. The multi-billion project preceded China's Belt and Road Initiative first announced in the summer of 2013. The focus was on connecting China with the Chinese-invested Pakistani port of Gwadar through highway, rail and pipeline infrastructure. "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" which was only officially launched in April 2015 while China's President Xi Jinping visited Pakistan. Emphasis shifted towards power generation in Pakistan, and estimated costs ballooned to 46 billion USD. The two governments then drew up a "Long Term Plan," starting in 2017 and drastically expanding the projected timeline for implementation up to 2030. Projected costs moved up to 62 billion USD, and Pakistani officials have since mentioned even higher numbers. Xinjiang, being the biggest province of China by area, is the province sharing its border with Pakistan is the gateway of CPEC and Belt & Road land route. Its peace and development is pivotal for the BRI & CPEC itself. Chinese government is making hectic efforts to lift people out of poverty. A whopping 70 billion dollars has been allocated for the Xinjiang province in the Belt and Road Initiative projects. This is likely to transform the region completely benefiting the Uighur Muslims immensely. Chinese leadership is genuinely mindful of the people's needs and President Xi's visit to the region indicates that Xinjiang's development is one of the top priorities of the

Chinese leadership. Such a huge investment will help businesses to flourish, providing excellent opportunities to the Muslims of the region to excel in education, vocational training and trade. China has lifted more than 780 million people out of poverty. It has made tremendous strides in science, technology, business and trade during the last seven decades. In several Western countries top universities do not allow Muslim students to opt certain important science subjects but that is not the case in China where Uyghurs are the equal citizens of the state. Its 5G technology and its handling of Covid-19 recently has stunned the world. It is no more an assembling centre but a hub of learning and a place of research and innovation. Being the citizens of China, the Uighur Muslims can as much benefit from these innovative technologies as other Chinese people. The Uyghurs are sons of the soil and they must play their part in the development of Chinese society. Contrary to Western sponsored-propaganda, the Uyghur population grew from 10.17 million to 12.71 million, an increase of between 2010 and 2018, much higher than 2% growth of Han population and 22% growth of other minority population, which is a reflection of full respect of all rights for Uyghurs. Economy of the region has developed steadily as is evident from the key economic indicators from 2014 to 2019, average annual GDP growth rate of 7.2%, annual 9.1% growth in residential per capita disposable income, increase of general public budget revenue from 128.33 billion Yuan to 157.76 billion Yuan and remarkable improvement in Xinxiang's infrastructure. The living standard of the people has also increased significantly as more than ten million people have moved to new homes, achievement of full coverage of compulsory education and medical insurance coverage for over 99% population. Xinjiang has made decisive achievements in poverty alleviation with 3.09 million people lifted out of poverty, and all the 32 impoverished counties achieving the goal of poverty alleviation. It is because of a secure environment that the number of Chinese and foreign tourists to Xinjiang hit a record of 150 million visits in 2018, marking a 40% year-on-year increase and 213 million visits in 2019, marking a 42% year-on-year increase.

Rights and interests of all ethnic groups are fully protected and they are free to receive education, use ethnic languages and inherit their own traditional culture. This is also borne out from the fact that Xinjiang has more than 24,000 mosques which means a mosque for every 530 Muslims in the region. This is in sharp contrast to a number of other countries that do not allow Muslims to build mosques and maintain their religious identity. With a 21.81 million population, Xinjiang has 12 universities and high educational institutes. This clearly indicates the desire of the Chinese leadership to educate Uighur and other minorities in Xinjiang. Such efforts are also acknowledged by global bodies. According to a report of the World Bank, "At present, there are 56,708 students in five project schools, with 24,670 being ethnic minorities, accounting for 44% of the total students in these schools. Since 2010, the number of minority students in project schools has doubled or tripled and the proportion of minority students has also increased rapidly. From the above, it is quite clear that the Chinese government has a dogged determination to impart skills to the students of Uighur and other ethnic communities, many of them are Muslims. After acquiring skills, Uighur and other Muslims of Xinjiang would have an excellent opportunity to carve out a better place in the job market of China. Such skills would not only

open the doors of jobs inside Xinjiang but possibly in other parts of the country. Therefore, it is important for the Uighur and other Muslims of Xinjiang to stay positive, having trust in their leadership and make their presence felt in the country by taking part in the development of China. The giant Asian country is likely to overtake the US as the biggest economic power in the coming years. Possibly, the socialist country would become a global power. Uighur Muslims will have a sense of triumph if they played their role in China's rise in a positive way. This will benefit them, their families, their communities and their great country and will lead to peaceful development of CPEC & BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/xinjiang-gateway-of-bri-cpec-muhammad-ehsan/>

CPEC: New economic & geopolitical realities

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

CHINA-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has once again become “hot” topic in the global media because of numerous interesting socio-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic rapidly changing scenarios. The ongoing withdrawal of the US from Afghanistan and exceptional military “mileage” of Taliban has raised serious security concerns among all stakeholders, especially Pakistan, China, Russia, Turkey, Uzbekistan and Iran. In this regard, Prime Minister Imran Khan warned Taliban not to “capture” Kabul by force otherwise Pakistan's borders will be immediately “closed”. According to the latest reports of US Intelligence (June 2021) Taliban has already captured 85pc area of Afghanistan and will take Kabul within next few months. Even Taliban controlled Tajikistan and Uzbekistan borders due to which supporters of peace process and reconciliation are afraid of this strategic “repeat” of history. Diplomatic channels have confirmed that clear message has been given to Taliban to come out of their marital “hang-over” of the past and sit on the negotiation table for a befitting power sharing formula to be good for all the “ethnic” groups and “factions” of Afghanistan. Dreams of greater socio-economic prosperity, regional connectivity and food & energy cooperation are now “revolving” around the orbit of “strategic patience”. Economic vested interests of China in Afghanistan are huge which have strategic orientation too. Expectedly, Modi, another US ally, has now been given new task of “connect with Taliban to seek some strategic time-out and assurance to safeguard its own interests.” On the other hand, in its 13th presidential election Iran has now elected its new president Ebrahim Raisi who has spelled out his strategic priorities indicating revival of regionalism and greater connectivity. Thus policy makers in Islamabad and Beijing should sit together to chalk-out a joint strategy to avoid expected imposition of the US sanctions for the further bilateral and trilateral cooperation under the flagship of the BRI and CPEC in the days to come. The US-inspired “Build Back Better World” (B3W) project has been announced by President Joe Biden and G-7 leaders to address “strategic competition with China and commit to concrete actions to help meet the tremendous infrastructure need in low and middle-income countries”. B3W will collectively catalyze hundreds of billions of dollars of infrastructure investment for low and middle-income countries in the coming years. According to G-7 funding

will emphasize the environment and climate, labour safeguards, transparency and anti-corruption.

China in 1979 had an economy that was smaller than Italy's, but after opening to foreign investment and introducing market reforms, it has become the world's second-largest economy and is a global leader in a range of new technologies. Being a prominent regional expert on China, CPEC and BRI, I fairly evaluate that a pledge toward creating a strategic framework of "Build Back Better World (B3W)" seems to be just a vague promise. Chinese investment is famous for high-quality infrastructure at reasonable cost. It is financially self-sufficient to launch mega projects like BRI the project of the century, Silk Road and even the CPEC flagship project of the BRI. But in case of financial constraints and weak economic limitations of the EU will not allow them to absorb B3W. Moreover, the G7 is exclusive instead of inclusive, unrepresentative of the world's largest economies like that of China and other emerging countries, and a Caucasian, Catholic club of traditional elites who once dominated the world with the military and economic might. However, rise to white man supremacy has once again provoked the West to wage another trade war against rising China. Interesting the G-7 also appears to be a cohort of countries that do not want to accept changing realities of a new upcoming world order: where economic power and innovation is steadily shifting from the West to the East, and the status-quo elites want to cling on to their status of five decades ago, at all costs. It seems that they are still making castles in the air.

Western Clean Green Initiative (WCGI) was floated as an alternative to the Belt and Road Initiative but could not be initiated because of numerous complex and complicated reasons. Thus B3W may also meet such kind of disaster.

The G-7 represents the Global North where as China the Global South. 21st century belongs to Asia and, of course, China. The visionary leadership of President Xi strives hard to achieve an equal and equitable world without any discrimination. Its ongoing vaccine diplomacy has become icon of hope, survival and recovery. Its economic recovery despite COVID-19 has prompted signs of regional as well as global recovery. Its positive, productive and participatory universalism has given new concept of global governance. Its financial banks, institutions and organizations like SCO are disseminating signs of hope and better future world. Furthermore, Chinese spirits are promoting interconnectivity, socio-economic prosperity, regional integration, food and energy security, peace and stability in the region and beyond. It never attacked any country on the self-inserted and defined presumption of truth. The Western media are highlighting the unlimited blessings of newly coined and floated so-called tool of alternative project i.e. B3W. It seems to another Marshall Plan of the West to impose certain inhuman conditions, economic bargaining and political compulsions on the developing and under developing countries around the globe. World chess board is inching towards "Global South" due to which it seems that Global North would be losing. The Western economic protectionism could not achieve anything but greater ratios of poverty, lay-offs, declining of economies and lowering of manufacturing capacities. Their constant apartheid policies through ages and

shameful colonial past should be self-defeating. The announcement of B3W has opened a wider window of opportunity for Pakistan to seek more investment, transfer of technology facilities, Artificial Intelligence apparatus, green energies, green revolution and, above, all further consolidation of political consultation between Pakistan and China. It is the need of the hour to expedite CPEC Phase-II immediately in the country through seeking and securing greater economic and financial concessions. I really appreciate the BRI development concept in which so far 140 countries and 32 international organizations have been engaged which highlights the great significance attached to it. With plentiful substantial achievements having been made since it was proposed in 2013, the initiative has provided the world with many global public products that manifest practical progress toward the realization of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Most recently the State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi presided over the High level video conference on Belt and Road International Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific during which he appreciated CPEC contribution towards socio-economic prosperity of Pakistan. Thus CPEC is the guarantor of Pakistan's economic development which needs to be further consolidated after the most recently announced BRI Health Partnership.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-new-economic-geopolitical-realities-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

Mohmand Marble City given SEZ status

PESHAWAR: The Board of Directors meeting of special economic zone authority on Tuesday approved and granted the status of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to Mohmand Marble City. The meeting chaired by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan approved the purchase of 2,000 acres of land for the city to convert it into the SEZ, while the authorities concerned were directed to start the feasibility study. The meeting was informed that Mohmand Economic Zone covers an area of 350 acres, while 106 out of 290 plots of different categories in the zone have been allotted. Moreover, a 132KV grid station has been set up in the city to supply electricity to industries. The chief minister directed officials that no plot should be allowed for sale in Rashakai Special Economic Zone, while shifting of marble factories from Warsak road, Malagori and Shabqar to the economic zone should be done on priority basis. He further directed that allotment of plots in economic zones and industrial estates in the province should be cancelled if the practical work for setting up of industry didn't start within six months of the allotment. "The government aims to promote industries and create employment opportunities in the province for which all stakeholders including industry department need to fulfill their responsibilities as per the stipulated timelines," said the chief minister. Khan assured provision of best facilities to investors in the province for promotion of the industrial sector, adding the government would fully support the industrial sector to create job opportunities for local people. The meeting was attended by Special Assistant to CM for Industries Abdul Karim and other Board members from public and private sectors. During the course of the meeting, the members were briefed on progress of implementation of decisions taken in previous meeting of the board. It was informed that the Board of Investment has given formal approval for zone regulation of several special

economic zones and the regulations have been made a part of the development agreement which were signed for several SEZs. Moreover, special purpose vehicle of Rasahkai Special Economic Zone has been registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan. The meeting also approved the proposed standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the zone authority and directed to submit the SOPs to the BOI for final approval. The members of the meeting also considered proposal to give status of sole enterprise to a private company for setting up cement and other construction materials industry in DI Khan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2307967/mohmand-marble-city-given-sez-status>

The Nation

Asadullah, a model worker, kind helper at CPEC power project

Khawar Abbas Sandhu

Lahore - There are faces in Pakistan who are doing their best in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with their dedication and hard work and China has called them role models. They are working on various projects under CPEC.

Asadullah Larik is an interpreter for a coal-fired power station in the Thar Coalfield under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He is not only a fluent Chinese and English speaker, but also a model worker and a considerate helper, according to China Economic Net's report.

Asadullah is proud to be part of a CPEC project. Driven by passion and a sense of mission, he aspired to do his best. When he encountered any unfamiliar technical term during interpretation, he would figure it out by consulting experts or books and kept it in his notebook and his mind so that he could deliver accurate interpretation. In his spare time, he often took online lectures to broaden his knowledge and horizon.

As an interpreter by profession, Asadullah not only conveyed the instructions on the project, but also took initiative to supervise the tasks involved to ensure timely completion.

Asadullah cares for others beyond the workplace. When a co-worker needed to have his phone repaired, he volunteered to reach out to his local friends for help. When a staff member of the project division was about to celebrate his birthday, he sprang a surprise with a birthday cake and exquisite presents. He also offered to interpret for Chinese colleagues in daily scenarios such as hospitals when necessary. He even learned several Chinese dialects during his association with the Chinese peers.

After the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, Asadullah took on another role: anti-pandemic inspector. Each day he collected data of the workers' body temperature, checked incoming vehicles, and assisted in nucleic acid testing and antibody kit testing at the entrance of the construction site.

“He adopts a conscientious and proactive attitude towards work. And he is always ready to lend a helping hand to fellow workers in need,” acclaimed his colleagues. Asadullah is graduated from Yangtze University in China.

The coal-power-integrated project of the first block of Thar Coalfield is a key CPEC project under the “Belt and Road” initiative. It is also essential for Pakistan’s South-North Power Transmission. Designed to be put into commercial operation in 2022, it will alleviate the country’s electricity shortage, reduce the cost of power generation and save the cost of fuel import.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-06-30/page-10/detail-4>