



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

November 01-15, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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November 01, 2021

Daily Times

COVID-19 disrupting trade of aquatic products between Pakistan, China

The outbreak of the pandemic has been disrupting the trade of aquatic products globally, including that between Pakistan and China.

According to China Economic Net, out of Pakistan's total fishery exports, 60 per cent are destined for China. "Since the outbreak of the pandemic, our export to China declined", shared a fisherman from the Karachi Port.

In an exclusive with Genho Food Company, an importer of Pakistani seafood, Manager Yu said, "we imported octopus, processed them into takoyaki, and sold them to Japan. The import value peaked in 2018, but in 2020, we imported only two containers of octopus".

Since the beginning of this year, nine out of the top fifteen companies exporting fish to China have faced or have been facing a temporary ban since January after detection of corona virus in their shipments.

According to Chinese customs, in September alone, frozen food from Pakistan has been tested positive for four times.

"In the post-pandemic era, digital means provide a possibility for the badly hit aquatic sector to revive", this is an idea shared by Zhang Ye, Vice President of Tencent Cloud in the 2021 Global Forum on Sustainable Fisheries Development held in Qingdao, Shandong Province in eastern China.

For this purpose, a brand new digital platform "CFSE Global Marketplace" has been launched by China Fisheries & Seafood Expo (CFSE) in partner with Tencent, a tech giant and parent company of WeChat, to bring global exhibitors and visitors together online, including Pakistani participants.

The forum is the first large-scale global forum in the aquatic and fishery sectors since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, signaling an upward trend of the global fishery and aquatic industries.

"Globally, the outlook is cloudy in the short term; but in the long run, demand for seafood will increase", shared Peter Redmay, President of Sea Fare Expositions on the forum.

Aquatic products provide about 17% animal protein to the global population.

FAO statistics show that the global average annual consumption of fishery products has reached a record of 20.5 kilograms per person, up from 9.0 kilograms in 1962, and this figure is expected to increase to 21.5 kilograms in the next decade. In particular, the availability of aquaculture products has been on the rise.

According to TRTA Pakistan, more than 0.8 million people in the country rely directly or indirectly on the industry for their livelihood.

“Without the sustainability in the fishery sector, it would be impossible to realize agricultural sustainability and security.”

“Among the lessons learned from Covid-19 pandemic for aquatic food, seven stand out”, analysed Yuan Xinhua, Senior Aquaculture Officer of FAO, “an ever-ready social safety net should be built; supply chain resilience should be strengthened through increased diversity, flexibility, and modularity; excessive de-globalization should be avoided, scientific research should be funded and trusted in; behavioral and political barriers to progress should be removed; underlying causes should be treated not just the symptoms; and high-frequency monitoring should be emphasised”.

Looking forward, he anticipates a food system transformation that unleashes the full potential of aquaculture and is adapted to pandemic scenarios, improved aquaculture resilience by preparing for emergencies in advance, appropriate government relief and social support, augmented R&D in fish farming methods, fish feed, and new varieties, digitalization and automation, and enhanced cooperation and partnership.

In particular, digital technology is a means that can be applied throughout the industrial chain and bring benefit to all.

From fish farm and staff health monitoring, marketing and expansion of customer base, non-contact delivery, to government subsidy distribution, it can have a greater role to play.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/835825/covid-19-disrupting-trade-of-aquatic-products-between-pakistan-china/>

Dunya News

First Chinese-made 054A Guided Missile Frigate to commission in Pak Navy next week

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – The first Chinese-made 054 Alpha Guided Missile Frigate “PNS Tughral” is set to be commissioned in the Pakistan Navy next week.

The ceremony to commission the missile frigate will be held in Shanghai, China. China Shipbuilding Trading Company, Hodong Xing Washhipyard played a key role in constructing the ship.

Source told that the 054 Alpha Guided Missile Frigate has excellent communication, sonar system, heli landing, and hangar.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/626757-Chinese-made-054-Alpha-Guided-Missile-Frigate-commissioned-i>

November 02, 2021

Daily Times

China a sincere partner of developing countries

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Monday highly appreciated remarks made by Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs about China on the 50th anniversary of restoration of its lawful seat in the United Nations.

“We highly appreciate comments from the Pakistani side,” Wang Wenbing said during his regular briefing in response to the comments made by the Pakistani Foreign Ministry.

Addressing the weekly media briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, the spokesperson of the foreign ministry Asim Iftikhar Ahmad had said China has emerged as a strong voice for the developing countries in the United Nations (UN) and championed the purposes and principles of the UN charter.

Pakistan congratulates China on the 50th anniversary of this seminal event, Ahmad said.

Wang Wenbin said, China has and will always stand with the developing countries. In the UN, our vote always belonged to the developing countries and to the parties speaking for justice.

He remarked that Chairman Mao Zedong once said it was our fellow developing countries that carry the People’s Republic of China into the United Nations.

Since the restoration of the lawful seat of the People Republic of China (PRC) in the UN over the past 50 years, we also uphold the same spirit and firmly support the developing countries in fighting for their sovereignty, security and developing interest and firmly stand for developing countries for justice.

The spokesperson said that over the past 50 years, China stood and supported each other in the fight against imperialism, colonization, the fight for national independence and liberation with developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America and helped developing countries in expanding cooperation in socio economic development and people welfare.

China also stood together in improving global governance and improving the representation and say of developing countries, he added.

He said that over the past 50 years, the UN has welcomed another 65 countries and most majority are developing countries. We went from the audience seats to a close to the center of the stage and have taken initiative and helped to bring democracy to international relations and equitable economic globalization.

President Xi Jinping said that no matter how far we go we’ll never forget where we come from. China will always be a reliable friend and sincere partner of developing countries, he added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/836365/china-a-sincere-partner-of-developing-countries/>

Dunya News

Xiaomi ensure to start smartphones manufacturing from Pakistan: Razak Dawood

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) –Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood on Tuesday said the World’s second largest mobile manufacturer ‘Xiaomi’ has ensured to start its smartphones manufacturing from Pakistan and also initiate joint ventures with local telecom players.

The Ministry of Commerce “Make- in- Pakistan” policy continues to show positive results, “We have been informed that Xiaomi , World’s 2nd largest mobile manufacturer has partnered with Airlink Communications to manufacture smartphones in Pakistan, the Adviser Commerce said this on his official twitter account.

The Adviser said the initial production will be 2.5 to 3 million handsets annually. He informed that the production facility will be established in ‘Quaid-e-Azam Industrial Estate, Lahore.

The production facility will be functional in Jan 2022 and it will create 3000 direct/indirect jobs, he said. While he said that Pakistan’s non-energy import bill shrank by 12.5 percent in October 2021, i.e. by \$624 million, compared to September 2021.

Razak Dawood said that this welcome month-on-month (m/m) decline comes after positive m/m growth in previous two months, a testament to actions by the government and State Bank Pakistan (SBP) to curb imports.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/626846-Xiaomi-ensure-to-start-smartphones-manufacturing-from-Pakistan:-Razak-D>

Pakistan Observer

China Import Expo golden change for Pakistani businessmen

With the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE) slated to take place in Shanghai, Pakistani businessman Habib Ur Rehman spent his day setting up a booth for the expo.

It has been my wish for four years to participate in the CIIE, the businessman, who is gearing up to promote salt lamps from Pakistan at his 18-square-meter booth in the expo told the Chinese media.

Salt lamps, made from minerals in mountainous areas, are well-known in Pakistan yet new to the Chinese market.

Many merchants in China are very interested in our products, making me more confident about this new debut, he said.

The expo is a good platform to bring more business opportunities and let more people know about Pakistani products, he added.

Keeping a close eye on CIIE since the first edition in 2018, the Pakistani businessman hopes to meet new friends and partners.

He plans to promote salt lamps, brass handicrafts, blue pottery, carpets, and other Pakistani specialty products at the expo.

The businessman also has an ambition of launching more customized products for China in the future, including salt lamps with traditional Chinese auspicious patterns.

The CIIE had helped global poverty reduction according to the businessman. Some of the carpets sold at the expo were woven by poor local rural women at home in Pakistan,” he said. “They had jobs thanks to the event.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-import-expo-golden-change-for-pakistani-businessmen/>

China-Pakistan Friendship in 4200 Short Videos

The year 2021 marks 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. As a special arrangement of the series celebration activities, Chinese Embassy in cooperation with the short video sharing platform Likee, initiated a short video creation contest “My story with China”, and try to portrait the bilateral friendship it in a new way.

The contest covers a period of 4 months, divided into two stages: monthly competition and the final. The first 3 months are monthly competitions. The theme is released on the 1st of each month. The final is scheduled to be held in the Spring Festival of 2022. The contest will award winners with cash amounts to PKR 2 million in total, and rich prizes contributed by Chinese companies. The selection is based on the evaluation of short video quality and audience affection.

Since the launching of this event with the first theme of #MyStoryWithChina in October, it has struck a responsive chord in the hearts of the Pakistani people and attracted the attention of numerous participants. For the first month, the total exposure of the contest is more than 48 million, with 4217 participating short videos getting more than 33 million views and 1.85 million likes.

Behind every short video there is a good story on China-Pakistan friendship. Sana, a student who received a scholarship from North University of China and had a studying experience of three years in China, is one of them.

The first time when Sana learned about this contest, all the beautiful memories she had in China flashed in her mind immediately. The moment she saw the first snowfall of her life when arriving at the URUMQI Stop, the impressive and well-equipped dormitory which is only offered for the Pakistani students, the language courses and culture activities through which she gained a deeper understanding about China-Pakistan friendship, and the major training as well as the internship program providing her with professional skills, all are unforgettable stories she wants to share with Pakistani people all the time.

“Isn’t this short video creation contest the best opportunity for me to share my stories with China?” As soon as this idea popped up, she can’t help to create videos telling her story with China and upload it on Likee app to participate in the contest.

Further adding her enthusiasm towards the newly launched initiative, Sana noted; “China has been one of the strongest friends of Pakistan over the years. As a big fan of Chinese culture and sincere supporter of China-Pakistan friendship, I feel honoured to express my joy and passion towards our friends across the border. I will be actively participating in the contest along with several other people from the community to deliver a message of the love we feel towards the Chinese people. I look forward to more such events in the future.”

By exploring more innovative activities, Chinese Embassy in Pakistan is working hard to inject new impetus and new elements into China-Pakistan friendship, and attract more and more young people to devote themselves to the inter-generational inheritance of China-Pakistan friendship. As the November contest unveils, with the theme of “My story with CPEC”, more exciting stories are expected to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-friendship-in-4200-short-videos/>

The Nation

Pak economic gains linked to CPEC, lockdown policy

ISLAMABAD - The gratifying achievements of Pakistan’s economic recovery is attributed to the effective lockdown strategy to contain COVID-19, the government’s sound policies on economic development and the driving effect of the progressing CPEC.

According to China Economic Net, this was stated by a Chinese scholar Cheng Xizhong, who is Senior Fellow of the Charhar Institute and former defence attaché in South Asian countries.

He pointed out that recently, Prime Minister Imran Khan and relevant federal ministers of the Pakistani government have repeatedly stressed the need to further expand exports. Figures released by the government show that commodity exports have increased significantly in the recent year.

According to Prof. Cheng, at present, the Pakistani government is making efforts to further expand exports. In this regard, he suggested to further improve the competitiveness of Pakistani products in the international market.

According to him, constant innovation and the R&D of new products are taking an increasingly important position in government policies and enterprise strategies.

“By doing this, more irreplaceable products will be provided with strengthened footing in the international market,” he said.

He also pointed out that without a correct marketing strategy the goal of enhanced exports is hard to be achieved. For Pakistani producers, it is imperative to formulate a marketing master plan

that showcases their competitive advantages and improves the professionalism and market expansion ability of the marketing personnel.

He remarked that no country in the world has become a developed country only by exporting agricultural products and handicrafts.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-02/page-4/detail-4>

Express News

دوبان میں پاک چین دوستی چوک کا افتتاح

چین کے شہر دوبان میں چین پاکستان فرینڈ شپ اسکوائر کا افتتاح کر دیا گیا۔

چین پاکستان فرینڈ شپ اسکوائر کے افتتاح پر دوبان میں دریائے ینگتی نئی کے کنارے پر ایک شاندار افتتاحی تقریب منعقد ہوئی۔ چین میں پاکستان کے سفیر معین الحق تقریب کے مہمان خصوصی تھے۔

تقریب میں ہوئی کے نائب گورنر ژاؤ ہیشان، دوبان کے وائس میئر جیانگ وی اور دیگر مقامی سینئر رہنماؤں اور حکام نے بھی شرکت کی۔ وائس میئر جیانگ وی نے چین پاکستان فرینڈ شپ اسکوائر کی تعمیر کے بارے میں بریفنگ دی۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2242698/10/>

November 03, 2021

Daily Times

PIA special flights airlift 15m doses of Sinovac vaccine

As many as five special flights of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) have transported 15 million doses of Sinovac vaccines from China to Pakistan during the last five days.

The special flights – PAK-6857, PAK-6858, PK-6856, PK-6852 and PK-6853 took off from Capital International Airport, Beijing to Islamabad between October 29 to November 2 with around 15 million doses of Sinovac vaccine to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, PIA Country Manager, Qadir Bux Sangi told APP here on Tuesday.

He informed that the national flag carrier had so far airlifted over 100 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines. In a tweet, Pakistan Ambassador to China said China had played a vital role in Pakistan's vaccination campaign against the novel coronavirus and had so far provided the latter with 110 million doses of vaccines, making the backbone of Pakistan's inoculation drive.

Pakistan was the first country in the world, which received a coronavirus vaccine from China as a donation. The first donation of Sinopharm vaccine was delivered to Pakistan in February 2021. Following the first batch, Pakistan has received millions of coronavirus vaccines from China. Pakistan has so far received 130 million doses of corona vaccine. Of these doses, 100 million were purchased while five million were donated by China. Pakistan has received 25 million

doses of the vaccine from Covax. According to official figures, over 70 million people have received at least one dose and 40 million are fully vaccinated in Pakistan. The target of vaccinating 70 million people was set for the year end, however, it was achieved even two months ahead.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/836753/pia-special-flights-airlift-15m-doses-of-sinovac-vaccine/>

Import expo conducive to Pak-China business ties

The China International Import Expo (CIIE) offers new opportunities for countries that want to develop and maintain long-term business relations with China, Russian Export Center (REC) CEO Veronika Nikishina said on Monday. “The CIIE is a very responsible, serious and purposeful initiative aimed at opening up China’s market,” Nikishina said during an online conference ahead of the 4th CIIE to be held in the Chinese city of Shanghai in November 5-10. “It creates a very favourable environment that allows foreign exporters to conduct business in China,” she said. “It provides unique opportunities for exporters from all countries, including Russian ones, to showcase their products,” Nikishina added. The REC has done its utmost throughout the past several years to ensure the widest possible presence of Russian companies at the CIIE, she said. According to her, 34 Russian companies will participate in this year’s expo in an online-offline hybrid format. “China has always been and remains a very promising and desired market, and Russian exporters want a share of it on a stable basis,” Nikishina said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/836694/import-expo-conducive-to-pak-china-business-ties/>

Strengthening cultural ties between Pakistan and China through Pakistani cuisine

A food and cultural festival was held here at the Pakistan House to strengthen cultural ties between Pakistan and China through Pakistani cuisine.

According to report published by China Economic Net, Pakistani cuisine is considered as one of the tastiest cuisines in the world based on a long historic tradition and cooking excellence. Therefore, to strengthen cultural ties between Pakistan and China through Pakistani cuisine.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moinul Haque told China Economic Net that this is a very special day as everyone is celebrating the beautiful colour of autumn in Beijing and “we are celebrating the art of Pakistan and the friendship of China and Pakistan”.

“Pakistani Seekh kababs and Bar BQ are famous not only in Pakistan but also in China. Pakistani Biryani is the most-liked food by Chinese friends here. We also have very famous lassi and here you can see a long queue of Chinese and foreign friends at golgappa stall.”

Asif Jalil, the owner of Little Lahore – a very famous Pakistani cuisine in Beijing – said that traditional desi dishes including Chicken Biryani, Samosas, and Golgappa. All these Pakistani foods are very famous in China now and the Chinese people are developing Pakistani food taste.

“One could discover the flavours of Pakistan with Pakistan’s food and culture promotion here,” he mentioned.

The event was arranged to showcase the culture of Pakistan through its delicious cuisine, colorful handicrafts, folk music, and warm hospitality, and music from Pakistani artists played in the background. In addition, books were presented to highlight the notable achievements of Pakistanis through history ran during the event.

Shahid Afraz Khan, a Pakistani citizen based in Beijing told China Economic Net that Pakistani food is unique in its taste and it’s one of the representations of Pakistani culture; that’s why Chinese people are taking so much interest in Pakistani cuisine.

“Participants of today’s food festival took lots of interest in Biryani, chicken Haleem, Naan along with various other Pakistani tasty foods. The Pakistani embassy took a great initiative to introduce a delicious and full variety of Pakistani food to Chinese and other foreign guests. It seems that in the future, the culture of Pakistani food will become more popular across China”, he added.

Zhang Shixuan known to Pakistanis as Intakhab Alam, a famous Urdu Chinese poet told China Economic Net that he visited Pakistan for many times and tasted Pakistani food which is his favorite. He said, “where there is Pakistani food, I will be there.” He appreciated Pakistani chefs for making famous Pakistani recipes for this food festival.

The event coincided with the 70 years of establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. It was aimed at promoting people to people contacts and cultural understanding between both countries.

The event was attended by a large gathering of Chinese guests from different walks of life, diplomats, members of the Pakistani community and media representatives.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/836672/strengthening-cultural-ties-between-pakistan-and-china-through-pakistani-cuisine/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan’s exports to China surged by 89% in Q1 of FY’21-22

Pakistan’s exports to China have surged by 89% to USD 678 million from USD 359 million in the first quarter (July-September) in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 as against the same period of FY 2020-21, according to Trade Development Authority Pakistan (TDAP)’s latest quarterly report.

According to Gwadar Pro on Tuesday, the report shows that Pakistan’s overall exports to different countries of the world have surged by 28% to USD 6.99 billion from USD 5.4 billion in Q1 of FY 2021-22 as against the same period of FY 2020-21.

In addition to China, export destinations with increasing value include the USA, the United Arab Emirates, Italy, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Bahrain, Italy, and Bangladesh.

Pakistan exported mainly textile and its products to major export destinations with the textile sector showing growth of 27% in Q1 FY 2021-22.

According to TDAP, the growth comes amid a rebound in the global and regional economy, as countries are slowly opening up from the Covid-19 induced lockdown phase. As compared to other countries of the region, economic activities in Pakistan have resumed early due to the government's efforts to control Covid-19.

The exports of rice to different destinations of the world have shown a significant increase of 18% in Q1 of FY 2021-22.

Pakistan's overall rice exports amounted to USD360 million in the July-September Q1 FY 2020-21 quarter a year ago and increased to USD 423 million in Q1 FY 2021-22. China has emerged as a new market for Pakistani non-basmati rice varieties, according to the quarterly report.

At the same time, Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan, Denmark, South Korea, Indonesia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Finland, Senegal, and Congo have shown a decrease.

Afghanistan is one of the countries with Pakistan's export to the countries registered negative growth in Q1 FY 2021-22.

During the Q1 of FY-22 Pakistan's imports from China, UAE, KSA, Indonesia, US, Qatar, Japan, and Thailand has increased as compared to the same period in FY-21. Pakistan imported Covid-19 vaccines in bulk from China and it is reflected in the increase in imports of Pharmaceutical or Medicinal products.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistans-exports-to-china-surged-by-89-in-q1-of-fy21-22/>

SECMC approves coal mine expansion to 12.2m tonnes

The Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) Board has approved the expansion of its Thar Coal Block-II mine to 12.2 million tonnes/annum (Phase III).

According to a statement, the coal price of the SECMC mine will reduce to \$27/tonne with this expansion.

SECMC is expected to complete this expansion by June 2023. At a price of \$27/tonne, the company's Block II coal will become the cheapest fuel source in the country.

It will enable Pakistan to save \$420 million/annum on account of foreign exchange. Additionally, this expansion will lead to a reduction of Rs74 billion in the circular debt on an annual basis.

SECMC CEO Amir Iqbal said: "With the international coal prices recently crossing an all-time high of \$250/tonne and the volatility in the international prices, SECMC, through this expansion plan, not only offers a hedge against market volatility but being an indigenous resource shall ease out the pressures on the current account deficit."

“Additionally, it is our firm belief that at a price point of \$27/tonne, Thar coal shall transcend its current utilisation in the energy sector to other uses of coal,” he added.

The cost of this expansion project is estimated to be \$93 million, which will enable Thar Block II to achieve a sustainable supply of 12.2 million tonnes of coal annually over the next 30 years.

SECMC currently has an annual production of 3.8 million tonnes, which is used for the generation of 660MW since the start of its operations in 2019. — TLTP

<https://pakobserver.net/secmc-approves-coal-mine-expansion-to-12-2m-tonnes/>

Pakistan, China ink agreement to develop sister-province relationship between Sindh, Hubei

WUHAN – Pakistan and China have signed an agreement to establish sister-province relationship between Sindh and Hubei provinces.

The agreement was inked during a meeting in Wuhan, China here the other day.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin-ul-Haque and Wang Zhonglin, Governor of Hubei Provincial People’s Government attended the ceremony.

The objective of the agreement is to promote pragmatic cooperation in the fields of education, science and technology, technical and vocational training and people to people exchanges between the two regions.

Addressing the ceremony, Pakistan Ambassador Haque conveyed his sincere appreciation to the Governor for his support for China-Pakistan friendship.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Wang termed Pak-China friendship iron clad.

He hoped that the agreement would lead to pragmatic cooperation in the fields of education, science and technology, technical and vocational training.

Earlier, a splendid inauguration ceremony “China-Pakistan Friendship Square” was held at the river bank of Yangtze River in Wuhan.

Moin ul Haque was the Chief Guest at the ceremony which was also attended by Vice Governor of Hubei, Mr. Zhao Haishan, Vice Mayor of Wuhan, Mr. Jiang Wei and other local senior leaders and officials.

Vice Mayor Jiang Wei gave a briefing about the construction of China-Pakistan Friendship Square, which was specially designed and built to commemorate the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China. Vice Governor Zhao Haishan in his remarks noted that the Friendship Square was a gift from the people of Wuhan to the friendly people of Pakistan, and would serve as a symbol of China-Pakistan friendship for all times to come.

Thanking Vice Governor and the Vice Mayor for their kind sentiments for Pakistan, Ambassador Moin ul Haque said that inauguration of China-Pakistan Friendship Square was historic as it was first of its kind in China. Blending the key features of Chinese and Pakistani landmarks, the square reflected the close affinity, diversity and deep trust and respect between the two countries and people.

Ambassador Haque expressed his confidence that the Sister-Province/City relationship being established today would further strengthen the pragmatic cooperation between Pakistan and Hubei Province in all the fields of mutual interest in trade, investment, water resources management, science and technology and people to people exchanges.

Ambassador signed the letter of Intents for friendly exchanges between city of Wuhan and Karachi, Yiling and Kahuta and Yichang and Haripur. Moreover, Ambassador also signed an MoU on establishment of Center of Excellence on Chemical and Material Engineering at University of Applied Engineering and Emerging Technology, Sialkot with Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

On the same event, Nishtar Medical University and Pakistan Rehealth Technology and Development Company signed partnership agreements with the Wuhan Landing Intelligent Medical Company Ltd for cooperation in screening of cervical cancer.

Later, Ambassador along with Vice Governor and Vice Mayor officially unveiled the Plaque of the China-Pakistan Friendship Square.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-friendship-square-inaugurated-in-wuhan/>

CPEC and USA Conflicting Interests

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

SINCE its inception, the United States of America has been annoyed with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In this connection, time and again the successive US Establishments conveyed their perpetual displeasure and dissatisfaction about emerging economic ties between Pakistan and China.

It has been engaged in a comprehensive hidden war against CPEC in which unfortunately even puppetry local media, pseudo intellectuals, greedy NOGs, politicians and so-called economists played a very negative role to tarnish CPEC.

The US coercive diplomacy, looming sword of FATF, delayed sanctioning of IMF/World Bank loans and last but not the least, track-II diplomacy schemes and gestures all indicated US conflicting interests towards CPEC.

In this connection, the Government of Pakistan has been trying its level best to break the US shackle but the same could not be achieved yet because of numerous overlapping socio-economic compulsions, geopolitical shortcomings and geostrategic hurdles.

To counter these unending propaganda campaigns of the US and the Western media both Pakistan and China have been consulting each other to move forward and initiate CPEC Phase-II in the country.

Most recently, Chinese President Xi Jinping made a telephone call to Prime Minister Imran Khan and thoroughly discussed matters relating to CPEC, Afghanistan, COVID-19 and reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral strategic cooperative partnership and discussed the regional and international situation.

During the conversation, Premier Khan lauded the successful, timely and high-quality implementation of the CPEC projects and welcomed Chinese investment in the CPEC special economic zones.

He further said that early start of work on the ML-1 railway project would complement Pakistan's geo-economic vision for national and regional development.

The two leaders agreed to strengthen Pakistan-China cooperation in relevant areas and promote CPEC's green development as a high quality demonstration of the Belt and Road Initiative including the full realisation of the potential offered by the Phase-II of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement.

Nevertheless, Pakistan has now directly accused the US and India of sabotaging the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, the economic lifeline of Pakistan. For the first time Islamabad has openly and bluntly blamed the US for scapegoating CPEC.

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor, at a seminar organised by the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) in Karachi blamed the US for terming it a "debt trap" for Pakistan.

Furthermore, New Delhi, an archrival of Beijing and Islamabad, has also opposed the project, which is part of Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), viewing it as against its strategic interests in the region. It appears that the United States supported by India is hostile to CPEC, he added.

He upheld that Pakistan would not forgo any of its benefits. He assured that attempts to dilute Beijing's strategic influence in the region would not succeed.

He clarified that CPEC did not have any hidden political agenda but still the US and Europe have doubts against it.

He was of the view that Islamabad was the seventh largest recipient of Chinese overseas development financing with 71 projects worth USD 27.3 billion currently underway as part of the CPEC.

Conversely, many Western think tanks and writers have termed the CPEC an economic trap that has already resulted in bloated public debt levels and disproportionately high Chinese influence in Pakistan's economy.

Mr Mansoor said Islamabad sought the expansion of the CPEC to Afghanistan and has discussed the possibility of Taliban-led Afghanistan joining the multibillion-dollar economic corridor.

He said there has been “deep interest” in developing economic connectivity between Afghanistan and Pakistan and with other neighbouring countries, including Iran. He referred to fake news and “negative propaganda” about the viability of CPEC and the pace of its progress.

“In terms of its scope, Phase II of CPEC is going to be an order of magnitude bigger than Phase I.”

In addition to this, according to Chairman of the National Assembly’s Parliamentary Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), interestingly, the government has convinced Chinese companies engaged in various power projects to receive capacity payments in installments instead of full amounts, as it would be convenient for it to clear pending dues.

He acknowledged that there are some issues prevailing in various CPEC and non-CPEC projects. One of the major issues is the capacity payments liable to be paid by the government to the Chinese companies.

And the government wants companies to receive payments in installments since it is not possible to clear these payments fully.

He said the government was heading in the right direction to resolve all issues, including the capacity payments, amicably as it has succeeded in developing consensus with Chinese in this regard.

Now Pakistan has paid over Rs26 billion in interest cost to China for using a \$4.5 billion Chinese trade finance facility to repay maturing debt in the last fiscal year. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Friday released its annual financial statement for fiscal year 2020-21 that ended on June 30.

The report revealed that the SBP fully tapped the \$4.5 billion, or 30 billion Yuan, trade finance facility available under the China-Pakistan currency swap arrangement. It added that Rs26.1 billion interest was charged on the outstanding balance at agreed rates.

According to the SBP, the bilateral currency swap value increased from Rs476.6 billion in the preceding year to Rs748.5 billion by June this year – an increase of Rs272 billion in a single year, Pakistan largely utilized the Chinese trade finance facility to repay foreign debt and keep its gross foreign currency reserves at comfortable levels.

To conclude, rapidly changing geopolitical and geostrategic scenarios in and around the region are casting their shadows on the macro-economy of Pakistan.

Moreover, the US sponsored and schemed anti-China “Chain Reaction Theory (CRT)” is at its peak in Asia Pacific, South Sea, and other parts of the world.

World is moving towards greater socio-economic integration and greater regional connectivity whereas US withdrawal from Kabul made it vulnerable.

Now US global hegemony is at stake due to which it has been re-consolidating old strategic partnerships and also in search of new allies in the region to maintain status quo and consequently contain China.

In this regard, Pak-China strategic partnership acts like a crucial balancing act in the region. China's emerging and dominating role in Afghanistan is a strategic shock to US regional interests.

Further strengthening of bilateral relations, diversification of CPEC projects, revised energy mix, initiation of Phase-II, close agricultural liaison, massive industrialization, social development, health, tourism, education and last but not the least, cooperation in innovations and artificial intelligence is the way forward to deter US influence.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-and-usa-conflicting-interests-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Sri Lanka, Bangladesh can benefit from CPEC

Pathik Hasan, Dhaka

PAKISTAN, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are South Asian countries. As an island county in South Asia, Sri Lanka has been utilizing some facilities in the sector of international maritime trade and commerce.

Sri Lanka is known as a maritime hub in South Asia and its Colombo port is very famous in the world. On the other hand, Bangladesh has some geo-strategic significance that's why China is interested in investing in Bangladesh.

Now Western powers want to see Bangladesh as a strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific region. But Bangladesh has joined China run BRI in 2017. Its location across the Bay of Bengal gives it a strategic position in South East and South Asia.

However, Pakistan is the only South Asian country which is showing its full-scale strategic significance to the world.

Its foreign policy has shifted towards geo-economics from geo-strategic. CPEC and Gwadar port have added extra value in this regard.

China-run Gwadar port and CPEC has increased more confidence between China and Pakistan to prove that they are really an "all weather ally". Sri Lanka has some advantageous position in South Asia in case of maritime connectivity.

It is also known as a maritime hub in South Asia. Sri Lankan Hambantota port is a hot cake in international politics. Sri Lanka has leased it to China for 99 years. China is more interested to connect Sri Lanka with its connectivity project "Belt and Road Initiative"

It is very pertinent to mention that Sri Lanka and Pakistan are both active members of China's 'BRI' project.

Sri Lankan Hambantota and Colombo ports are considered as epicenter and hub of China's BRI project in South Asia.

Sri Lankan ports can be used as a regional maritime hub between South Asia, South East Asia, Central Asia and the ME. Sri Lanka and Pakistan can work together in the sector of bilateral trade, investment, science and technology and culture through enhancing connectivity.

Sri Lanka is one of the top most business partners of Pakistan in South Asia. Pak PM Imran Khan visited Sri Lanka early this year.

During his visit, Mr. Khan focused on Pakistan's connectivity with Sri Lanka which has historical connection with Pakistan. Sri Lankan Colombo port's connection with Pakistan's Karachi port is well known.

Pakistan is the part of the Chinese President's Belt and Road Initiative through its flagship China Pakistan Economic Corridor project, Sri Lanka could benefit from it through enhanced connectivity up to the Central Asian states. Bilateral connectivity would increase bilateral trade between the two states.

Basically, Sri Lanka and Pakistan would benefit mutually. Sri Lanka can ensure its maximum interest by using the Gwadar Port for warehousing to facilitate trade with Afghanistan, Pakistan, Western and Central China, Central Asian Republics and the ME.

Gwadar is connected with CPEC. Ultimately, Sri Lanka can easily export to and import from the markets of above-mentioned states. Sri Lankan can use Gwadar Port's gateway for export to Afghanistan and then Uzbekistan and from there to entire Central Asia.

The main thrust of this article is connectivity amongst Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The author of the article shows that if Bangladesh's Chittagong, Payra, Mangla ports are connected with Pakistan's Gwadar, Karachi, Port Qasim and Ketu Bandar ports via Sri Lankan Colombo and Hambantota ports, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan would benefit trilaterally.

Regional connectivity would ensure their own maximum business interests. The millions of people in the region could benefit.

Sri Lanka's tea, apparel, machinery and Bangladesh apparel, mangoes, medicines, potatoes can be easily exported to the above mentioned markets.

On the other hand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka both import goods such as cotton from Pakistan, Central Asian States, Western and Central China, and even Russia. But a holistic trilateral effort is much needed in this regard.

If Sri Lanka and Bangladesh use CPEC, they can take part in the development process in Afghanistan with Pakistan, China, Russia, and Iran. SAARC may be revived through these activities. Revival of SAARC is must in the present context or scenario of South Asia.

Pakistan's Gwadar port could benefit Sri Lanka in this regard. If Sri Lanka starts to use Gwadar port, its export to Central Asian states, Central and Western China and Pakistan would increase.

Sri Lanka's connection with Pakistan's CPEC project would accelerate the regional connectivity further.

The bilateral connection between two states would boost up. Sri Lanka and Pakistan can increase their joint bilateral efforts to counter terrorism, tackle covid-19 etc.

Terrorism has been harming the economic interests of both states. Sri Lanka saw Easter Church attack in 2019.

Pakistan has been facing the challenge from the TTP. If Pakistan and Sri Lanka increase connectivity through utilizing of these connectivity projects, bilateral efforts of tackling and countering terrorism would ensure automatically.

Tourism is another sector. Pakistan has many historical Buddhist sites such as ancient civilizations of Gandhara, and Taxila. Sri Lankan people can easily visit these historical sites if connectivity between two states is built.

On the other hand, Sri Lanka has historical places for Muslims like Adam Peak. Pakistani Muslims will be able to visit the holy site. But bilateral connection is necessary for ensuring that CPEC is a regional connectivity project. As a regional state, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh each can and should join the project to exploit the benefit.

This trilateral connection would boost up the business connection and people-to-people contacts. Public diplomacy, economic diplomacy, cricket diplomacy would grow stronger.

<https://pakobserver.net/sri-lanka-bangladesh-can-benefit-from-cpec-by-pathik-hasan-dhaka/>

The Express Tribune

Traders ask govt to connect Faisalabad with ML-1

Say railway link will expedite cargo transportation to seaports, upcountry borders

FAISALABAD: The government should link Faisalabad with the Main Line (ML)-1 of Pakistan Railways for safe and speedy transportation of consignments to seaports and to upcountry borders, said Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Senior Vice President Imran Mahmood Sheikh.

Speaking at a meeting of the FCCI Standing Committee on Railways on Tuesday, Sheikh revealed that the city had a single railway track to link it with Khanewal and Shahdara, which gave it access to the main railway line. He pointed out that the chamber would consult with the government and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority chairman to include the city in the proposed mega project of ML-1.

“Faisalabad has emerged as a major industrial, commercial, business and export hub of Pakistan,” he remarked.

On the occasion, Standing Committee Chairman Mirza Hadyatullah highlighted that ML-1, ML-2 and ML-3 railway lines had been proposed under CPEC to link Peshawar with Karachi via Multan.

Under this mega project, 720 railway level crossings would be replaced with 2,445 small and big overhead bridges, he said, adding that in some places underpasses would be constructed with fences to discourage the movement of people on railway tracks. Faisalabad had been ignored in the project, although a large number of industrial units were being established by the Chinese in the city, he lamented.

“They need direct link with ML-1 for movement of their import and export consignments,” he added.

A railway level crossing near Chenab Mills had been closed permanently, which was causing problems for the industrialists and the general public, he highlighted and demanded immediate reopening of the crossing.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2327548/traders-ask-govt-to-connect-faisalabad-with-ml-1>

Pakistan meets only half of housing needs

BOI official encourages investors to explore country’s housing sector

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan’s annual demand for housing is estimated at around 700,000 units and only about half of it is currently being met, said Board of Investment (BOI) Secretary Fareena Mazhar.

Speaking at a seminar titled “Construction and Housing for Sustainable Development” in Dubai on Tuesday, she encouraged investors to explore the housing sector of Pakistan, which offered tremendous tax rebate.

She added that the country also incentivized and facilitated project approvals through one-window operation under the Naya Pakistan Housing and Development Authority (NAPHDA).

She pointed out that the Income Tax Ordinance had been amended to declare the construction sector as an industrial undertaking, making it eligible for benefits and concessions available to other industries.

Regarding tax incentives, Mazhar said that eligible builders and developers were exempted from withholding taxes on the purchase of building material.

The BOI secretary elaborated that any tax payable on the income, profits and gains of projects related to low-cost housing under NAPHDA or Ehsaas programme would be slashed by 90%.

Mazhar underlined that in order to promote housing and construction of buildings (residential and non-residential), the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) had fixed mandatory targets for banks.

“Accordingly, every bank is liable to ensure that financing for housing and construction of buildings is at least 5% of its domestic private sector credit by December 2021.”

Highlighting that economic uplift was being prioritised by the government, Mazhar stated that Pakistan, under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, had undertaken bold economic reforms, which helped improve all sectors of the economy.

She noted that despite facing challenges on the economic and geopolitical fronts, Pakistan made headway in restoring economic stability. “Economy is now moving on a positive growth trajectory,” she said.

Further outlining the initiatives taken by the government to facilitate investors, she pointed out that 22 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) were under development, which would emerge as high-end commercial, technology and manufacturing hubs.

Four SEZs were equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and business ecosystems and they were ready for investment under the Early Harvest Projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Underlining the strategic location of the country, the BOI secretary said that Pakistan was a promising regional hub and an important destination for trade and investment.

“A wide population pyramid and an expanding middle class make Pakistan a robust consumer market for foreign investors,” she said.

On the occasion, Accor Hotels Vice President Development Jean-Baptiste Recher shared his plans to construct hotels in Islamabad and Lahore. Accor Hotels is currently operating Movenpick Hotel in Karachi.

IHS Group of Companies President and CEO Noman Qamar expressed keen interest in investing in tourism and hospitality sector of Pakistan. He particularly diverted attention towards investment in hotels and resorts in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and northern areas of Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2327547/pakistan-meets-only-half-of-housing-needs>

The News

Pakistan collaborating with China to introduce hybrid basmati rice varieties

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani researchers are collaborating with Chinese scientists to introduce hybrid basmati rice varieties with the same traits, a top Pakistani businessperson said.

Shahzad Ali Malik, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Guard Agri and Guard Group of Companies informed that the Chinese scientists were helping Pakistani counterparts’ out of the way’ boosting agricultural production.

“Guard is the pioneer in introducing hybrid coarse rice. Our researchers started working in collaboration with the Chinese scientists to introduce hybrid basmati varieties with the same traits, as basmati is known for better per acre yield.

“We developed one seed after seven years of research and the same was put on trial a year ago,” he remarked in a statement.

On completion of a two-year field trial, he added, “the results will be placed before the variety evaluation committee (VEC) working under the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) for getting recommendations for the commercial marketing of the hybrid basmati seed.”

Malik mentioned that in just two years after completion of the process, the hybrid seed would be made available to the growers for cultivation.

Sharing results of a one-year trial, he stated that an extra-long grain hybrid variety with average grain length of 8.2mm has given more than 70 maunds/acre yield (one maund = 40 kilograms).

The present non-hybrid basmati varieties are not producing more than 35 maunds to 40 maunds/acre, posing a threat of invasion by the hybrid coarse rice onto the basmati areas due to higher yield, he observed.

“Hybrid varieties of coarse rice have already made their mark, especially in Sindh, where the growers are getting 130 to 140 mounds/acre. As such, there was a threat of invasion of the coarse hybrid varieties on core basmati grown areas,” Malik predicted.

He said the research with the help of the Chinese scientists was aimed at avoiding such scenarios in the core basmati grown areas. “Now, the hybrid seed of basmati has given encouraging results. Two more basmati seeds had also been chosen for two-year field trials,” he revealed.

These two varieties, he pointed out, were 8.2mm and 8.3mm of average grain length having the potential of giving 80-90 mounds/acre yield. “Both these varieties could be available for cultivation just one year after the commercial marketing of the first one,” he hinted.

Growers of the basmati rice are likely to get the much-awaited hybrid seeds, which are capable of doubling the yield of the readily available varieties in the next two to three years, he calculated.

The Guard Agricultural Research and Services (Guard Agri) has already started field trials for its hybrid basmati seed to provide disease-resistant, long-grain, non-sticky aromatic traditional variety with a higher per acre yield to paddy growers of Punjab. Guard has sown hybrid basmati variety over 50 acres in the core basmati growing districts of Narowal, Gujranwala and Hafizabad.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=20758>

November 04, 2021

Daily Times

Sino-Pak coop on biomass to help address energy, climate challenges

Sino-Pak cooperation on biomass will help to address both energy shortages and climate change, says a report published by Gwadar Pro. As winter approaches, a global energy shortage poses another major challenge under the pandemic context.

SM Naveed, PCJCCI Chairman, suggested earlier this year that China-Pakistan cooperation on biomass energy could be a new answer to both energy shortages and climate change. That's a very good offer.

As Chinese researcher on biomass energy, we are also willing to provide Pakistan with assistance in terms of technicians, equipment and technology," Zhang Dayong, Secretary General of Biomass Energy Industry Promotion Association (BEIPA), told Gwadar Pro in an exclusive interview.

"In recent years, climate change and waste pollution has posed environmental issues to mankind. Therefore, sustainable development is crucial, and many responsible countries, including China and Pakistan, are developing clean energy to cope with the dilemma. In addition to wind power, hydropower and photovoltaic power, biomass energy will become another correct answer to climate change," Zhang said. He introduced: "In fact, biomass energy is a form of solar energy that plants store in organic matter as chemical energy through photosynthesis including forestry waste, household garbage, organic industrial waste residues and other forms. Its essence is recycling carbon, instead of putting it into the atmosphere. Therefore, it is the only truly zero-carbon fuel of all renewable energy sources, and the only renewable carbon source."

Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world with an estimated population of 220 million, with 60.12% of the population lives in rural areas. Therefore, biomass energy is regarded as one of the most promising renewable energy sources with great power generation potential in Pakistan. Zhang believed that in Pakistan, agriculture not only contributes 19.8% of GDP and provides employment to 42.3% of the workforce, but also holds a great potential to avert Pakistan's energy crisis.

According to the data from the International Energy Agency (IEA), the use of biofuels for power generation in Pakistan has reached about 1200Gwh since 2015, but the proportion is still very low, less than 1% of the total power generation. The most important materials are agricultural waste such as cotton stalk, wheat stalk and maize stalk.

Pakistan has the necessary conditions to develop biomass energy and has a huge demand for the industry, Zhang added:

"Developing biomass energy could solve many of the intractable problems Pakistan is currently facing. First of all, biomass power generation can relieve the energy shortage and reduce carbon emissions, to help Pakistan achieve the carbon reduction target. Secondly, it is very effective in dealing with urban and rural waste, which can maximize the harmlessness and reuse of waste. Finally, it will be a blue ocean for business that will greatly improve the economy and people's livelihood. Biomass energy, unlike other energy sources, belongs to every household. Everyone produces waste all the time, whether they live in urban or rural areas." "Chinese biomass energy practitioners are willing to help Pakistan develop this industry. It has been 15 years since China's first biomass power plant was put into operation in 2006.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/837200/sino-pak-coop-on-biomass-to-help-address-energy-climate-challenges/>

Pakistan has potential to grow, export good quality tea: Chinese expert

Pakistan can grow its tea in good quality and develop tea export,” said Hu Haibo, who, once in the 1980s, led a Chinese mission to Pakistan to investigate and designate suitable areas for tea cultivation and open up the first modern tea garden for the country.

“It’s been more than 30 years since I left Pakistan. Had I got the opportunity, I would like to visit Pakistan again to see the tea garden we cultivated from scratch and visit my old friends there. I miss them very much,” Hu Haibo told the reporter of China Economic Net (CEN).

Pakistani people love to drink tea, especially black tea brewed with milk. It’s the most popular drink across every household of Pakistan, whether the ordinary or the privileged. However, before the 1980s, there was barely a tea garden in Pakistan and the demand for tea could only be met with large imports, which was quite a burden on Pakistan’s foreign exchange reserve.

In this condition, planting and producing tea became an urgent task for successive Pakistani governments.

In early May 1982, at the request of the then Pakistani government, the agriculture department of China’s Zhejiang Province organized an expert team to carry out the tea investigation in Pakistan. Hu Haibo, then an associate researcher of Tea Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), served as the team leader. “I was excited when knowing I was chosen for the mission. Pakistan is our ‘iron brother’, and it means a lot to help them with my humble efforts.”

Pakistan is extremely hot and dry in May and June. The temperature in most areas can exceed 40 degrees celsius at noon. It was in these very scorching days that the experts went to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a northern province of Pakistan to conduct the mission.

During their stay, the team carried out field surveys in the outskirts of Mansehra, Azad Kashmir, Swat, Butgram, and Malakand, where they found the traces of wild living tea trees and measured the altitude, soil value, and the growth condition of branches, leaves, and roots of the tea trees.

After the three-month investigation, Chinese tea experts provided a summary report on the feasibility of tea planting in Pakistan, confirming that 64,000 hectares of land are suitable for tea growing in Mansehra and Swat districts. In Hazara, the area is located in districts of Mansehra, Battagram and Abbottabad. In Malakand, Swat is a promising area for tea cultivation.

Three years after the 1982 investigation, the PARC once again invited Chinese experts from the Tea Research Institute to assist Pakistan in the trial planting of tea. In January 1986, Hu Haibo, together with other experts, embarked on the journey to Pakistan and started the task of tea planting.

Hu recalled, “In more than three years, we have done everything from tea garden planning and design, tea garden reclamation, nursery establishment, seeding, to transplanting, drought-resistant irrigation, inter-cropping shading, weeding and fertilization, etc. Everyday life is carried out between the tea garden and the dormitory.”

Trial planting had not always been smooth, especially for environmentally demanding crops like tea.

“From May to June, it’s hot and dry, with the surface temperature reaching as high as 55 degrees Celsius, which often led to heat and drought damage. The sown tea seeds could not germinate and unearthed, the transplanted seedlings withered and died. From July to August, it’s the rainy season, and the tea seedlings suffered heavy rain and weeds breeding disaster.”

Under such environmental conditions, the experts explored three ways to build the garden: nutrient pot transplanting, seedling bed transplanting and direct seeding. After comparison of the experiments, it was finally determined to adopt the technology of nutrient pot seedling cultivation, shading during the seedling period in spring and summer, and transplanting in autumn and winter.

In the spring of 1988, after nearly two years of devotion and persistence of the Chinese experts, the tea garden began to take shape and a small number of three year old tea trees in Shinkiarri could be picked and processed for trial production. In June, Hu tried to produce Longjing tea, or Dragon Well Tea, a kind of green tea most popular tea in China, stir fried green tea, semi-roasted green tea and shredded red tea. “The trial produced tea samples were sent to the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan and the PARC. After tasting the tea, an expert from the PARC said the Longjing tea is no less than Hangzhou’s West Lake Longjing tea!”

To expand its influence, PARC also organized a tea tasting party in which prestigious people were invited to visit the tea garden and taste the fresh tea. “Pakistan has finally produced its black and green tea,” Dr Amir Muhammad, the Chairman of PARC acclaimed, “the green tea is of good quality and tastes good, and the black tea is of inferior quality, but it’s due to the lack of machinery and equipment.”

“After three years and three months, through various challenges, we finally completed the building of a 15-hectare modern tea garden in Pakistan and made a systematic technical summary of tea trial planting,” Hu said, “our experience in this aspect had provided the technical basis for the tea production in Pakistan.” At the age of 88, Hu is still concerned about tea development in Pakistan. “The green tea grown and produced in the Shinkiarri plantation is true of high quality. If the Pakistani government expands the scale and upgrades the equipment for black tea production, it’s expected to be an important product for export.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/837105/pakistan-has-potential-to-grow-export-good-quality-tea-chinese-expert-2/>

New e-commerce platform in pipeline to facilitate Pak-China trade

New e-commerce platform in pipeline will facilitate Pak-China trade, China Economic Net reported on Wednesday.

“At present, we are planning to establish a new e-commerce platform with our Pakistani partners to connect the bilateral businesses and customers. Supporting facilities in terms of payment and logistics are also in the pipeline”, said Muhammad Mustafa, deputy secretary general of Shenzhen Cross border E-commerce Association (SZCBEA) in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN) on the 4th Global Cross border E-commerce Festival Phase II organized by SZCBEA on Oct29.

“This platform will not only link Pakistan and China, but also other countries in the region”, added Muhammad.

In the past few years, Pakistan’s e-commerce sector has grown at an astonishing rate. The market almost doubled in fiscal year 2017-18; in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2021, Pakistan’s e-commerce market has grown by 35 percent as revealed by the Ministry of Commerce.

In a recent report, global monitoring and data analysis company NielsenIQ shows that commerce traffic in Pakistan increased by more than 230 percent year on year. By estimation, the country’s e-commerce market will reach \$1 billion in 2021.

Catching this golden opportunity, both sides are making concerted efforts to push forward cooperation in this burgeoning area.

“I’m the first Pakistani employee in our association. We used to commit ourselves to the European market, but now, the focus has been shifted to Pakistan”, said Muhammad.

“When the pandemic is over, we will visit KPK and Gilgit Baltistan provinces to further extend our business. E-commerce is the future of business”, he maintained.

In the last three years, internet users in Pakistan have grown by 68 percent, with more than 65 million People in Pakistan expected to use 3G or 4G networks on their smartphones in 2021, which will bring the number of mobile phone users to more than 163 million, or about 89 percent of the country’s total population.

“Pakistan has 70 million middle class, and this large group has a strong demand for improving the quality of life and upgrading consumption. This is often overlooked by Chinese companies already in Pakistan”, suggested Mr Ali, Consul of Pakistani Consulate General in Guangzhou.

In addition to platform building, supporting transport system will also be expanded. It is learned that Speedaf Express and SF Express are deploying the logistics network for door-to-door connection between Pakistani and Chinese traders.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the cost of transportation has been soaring. “The freight of marine shipment from China to Pakistan went up by about 300pc”, said a manager from Fujian Xianban Food Company, a Chinese enterprise exporting abalone to Pakistan.

With more lines to be opened and more warehouses to be set up, more cost-effective and highly efficient transportation services are within expectation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/837107/new-e-commerce-platform-in-pipeline-to-facilitate-pak-china-trade/>

The News

Sino-Pak coop on biomass to help address energy crisis

BEIJING: Sino-Pak cooperation on biomass will help to address both energy shortages and climate change, says a report published by Gwadar Pro.

As winter approaches, a global energy shortage poses another major challenge under the pandemic context.

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<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=21077>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک چین دوستی کی سا لگرہ تقریبات منفرد انداز میں منائی جائیگی، خیال احمد کاسٹرو

لاہور (سپیشل رپورٹ) وزیر ثقافت پنجاب خیال احمد کاسٹرو کی زیر صدارت سترہویں پاک چین دوستی تقریبات کے حوالے سے چوتھا اجلاس الحمد للہ منعقد ہوا۔ سیکرٹری انفارمیشن، ایگزیکٹو ڈائریکٹر الحمرا اور دیگر متعلقہ محکموں کے نمائندگان نے اجلاس میں شرکت کی۔ وزیر ثقافت پنجاب خیال احمد کاسٹرو کا کہنا تھا کہ پاک چین دوستی کی سترہویں سا لگرہ کی سال بھر پر محیط تقریبات منفرد انداز میں منائی جائیں گی۔ چین اور پاکستان میں دہائیوں پر محیط گہرے ثقافتی اور سفارتی تعلقات موجود ہیں۔ سیکرٹری انفارمیشن راجہ

جہانگیر انور کا کہنا تھا تقریبات کیلئے پاکستان میں موجود چینی قونصلیٹ کو بھی شامل کیا جائے گا۔ پنجاب کی ساری سول سوسائٹی پر جوش طریقے سے پاک چین دوستی کو منائیں گی۔ وزیر ثقافت نے اس موقع پر بات ہوئے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی کو مد نظر رکھتے ہوئے پنجاب کے تمام محکمے پروگرامز منعقد کریں گے۔ جس میں اسپیشل ڈیپارٹمنٹس سٹالز اور فوٹو پروگرام بھی منعقد کئے جائیں گے۔ اس موقع پر پاک چین دوستی پر مبنی گانا بھی ریلیز کیا جائے گا۔ پنجاب کی تمام آرٹس کونسلز میں ترتیب وار پروگرامز منعقد کروائے جائیں گے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2021-11-04/page-2/detail-9>

November 05, 2021

Daily Times

Pak, Chinese varsities cooperate for quality CPEC development

The Pakistani and Chinese universities have decided to cooperate for promoting high quality development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

According to Gwadar Pro, Universities in Pakistan and China can cooperate in engineering and IT to promote high quality development of the second phase of CPEC.

It is necessary for Pakistan and China to strengthen cooperation in youth vocational training and skills development, and Jiangxi University of Science and Technology (JXUST) can provide assistance in this regard, which will help provide skilled labor for the special economic zones and industrialization.

The above remarks were expressed by Dr. Amjad Magsi, former Acting Director Pakistan Study Center, University of the Punjab, who was invited by the Center for Pakistan Studies of JXUST to give an online academic lecture titled “China-Pakistan Relations in the New Era” on Monday.

He also talked about enhancement of scholarships preferably for under-developed areas of Pakistan.

Pakistani universities can help the Chinese learn Urdu, Persian Arabic and regional languages of Pakistan, which will promote the industrialization of CPEC.

Underscoring the need to further broaden the basis of Pak-China friendship to enhance the people to people relationship, Dr. Magsi opined that focusing more on cultural relationships, especially the art and literature, was need of the hour.

“Both the friends with very rich traditions in art and literature have vast potential to further and widen the foundations of the lasting friendship.

Students from North East University are studying in Punjab University at PhD level. China can send more students to study in Pakistan for languages, international relations, history, art, etc.”

JXUST has close cooperation with the University of the Punjab. In 2016, the Confucius Institute, co-established by JXUST, was put into use in University of Punjab.

Over the years, the Confucius Institute has cultivated many Chinese language talents in Punjab and contributed to the local economic and social development.

With the influence and support of the University, the Center for Pakistan Studies of JXUST has been committed to the political, economic, and cultural studies of China and Pakistan, and promoting academic and cultural exchanges between researchers of the two countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/837569/pak-chinese-varsities-cooperate-for-quality-cpec-development/>

Pakistan invites Chinese EV firms for investment

Pakistan has invited Chinese electric vehicle manufacturing companies to invest in the Pakistani market. Pakistan Ambassador to China Moinul Haque on Thursday called on Liu Ziqing, Member of Municipal Standing Committee and Secretary of the Working Committee of Wuhan, and discussed cooperation between Pakistan and Wuhan in the industrial and technological sectors, said a statement.

During the meeting held at the Demonstration Zone of Wuhan new energy and smart network, Liu Ziqing briefed the ambassador about the immense growth potential of Wuhan city particularly in the areas of biotechnology, semiconductors and new energy and smart network. Moreover, the demonstration zone was being developed into an auto valley. He offered collaboration between automobile companies of the two countries in this special zone.

Recalling that during the opening ceremony of the Military Games held in Wuhan in October 2019, Pakistani contingent was given a standing ovation by the cheering crowd in the presence of President Xi Jinping. Liu Ziqing said that the people of Wuhan have a special bond of friendship with Pakistan and would like to enhance joint collaboration in diverse areas.

Haque remarked that due to their consistent efforts, cooperation between Pakistan and Wuhan was growing rapidly in many new areas. He noted that new energy vehicles were an important area of cooperation between the two countries as demand for electric vehicles was increasing in Pakistan and invited Chinese Electric Vehicle manufacturing companies to invest in the Pakistani market.

The ambassador paid tribute to the brave people of Wuhan for their fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and also thanked the Wuhan government for looking after Pakistani students during the pandemic.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/837747/pakistan-invites-chinese-ev-firms-for-investment/>

The Nation

NDMA chief highlights progress in all areas under CPEC

ISLAMABAD - Chairman National Disaster and Management Authority (NDMA) Lt Gen Akhtar Nawaz, highlighted the progress in all areas under the BRI's flagship China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) at the Belt and Road Ministerial Forum for International Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management held in Beijing.

Chairman NDMA represented Pakistan in the forum.

The forum was organised by the Ministry of Emergency Management of China and was held online. Besides Pakistan and China it was attended by ministers and senior officials responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management from Belarus, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Mongolia, Mozambique, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Turkey. Representatives from UN Agencies and humanitarian organisations also participated in the forum. In his remarks, Chairman NDMA highlighted that progress in all areas under the BRI's flagship China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was witnessed unabated despite the COVID-19 pandemic. CPEC has further enhanced the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries. Cognizant of the need to strengthen Disaster Risk Management system and mechanism to protect economic and social development, Chairman NDMA said that the government of Pakistan's initiative to establish a dedicated and comprehensive disaster management system allowing tackling of disaster related issues in a holistic manner. He stressed the need to enhance international cooperation through strengthening capacities, capitalising on the work done by individual countries, and by adopting an inclusive approach.

Participating countries at the forum adopted the Beijing Declaration with consensus on promoting cooperation in resilience and disaster risk reduction and management.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-05/page-4/detail-6>

Nawaiwaqt News

ایکسپو 2021: چینی اور پاکستانی کمپنیوں میں 34 ملین ڈالر کے معاہدے

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) چینی اور پاکستانی کمپنیوں نے حال ہی میں ختم ہونے والی تین روزہ پاکستان انڈسٹریل ایکسپو 2021 کے دوران تعمیرات، انجینئرنگ، مینوفیکچرنگ، طے (Intended Cooperation Agreements-ICA) ٹیکنالوجی کی منتقلی وغیرہ سمیت مختلف شعبوں میں 34 ملین امریکی ڈالر کے مطلوبہ تعاون کے معاہدے پائے۔ تفصیلات کے مطابق ایکسپو میں دونوں فریقوں کے درمیان بات چیت کے نتیجے میں کم از کم 9 چینی کمپنیاں پاکستانی مارکیٹ میں طویل المدتی ترقیاتی منصوبے شروع کرنے پر غور کر رہی ہیں۔ پاکستان انڈسٹریل ایکسپو کے پچھلے 4 ایڈیشنز نے 31 چینی کمپنیوں کو راغب کیا جو اسمبلنگ پلانٹس کے قیام، ٹیکنالوجی کے تبادلے وغیرہ کے لیے مقامی کمپنیوں کے ساتھ تعاون کر رہی ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/Lahore/2021-11-05/page-5/detail-16>

November 06, 2021

Business Recorder

Chinese ambassador, defence attache meet COAS

RAWALPINDI: Nong Rong, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan and Major General Yang Yang, Incoming Chinese Defence Attache to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, on Friday, the ISPR said.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest, regional security situation, including Afghan peace process and measures to further enhance bilateral cooperation were discussed.

The COAS reiterated the need for convergence of efforts towards a peaceful & prosperous Afghanistan in pursuit of regional stability.

The COAS congratulated the incoming Defence Attache for assuming his new appointment and appreciated efforts of his predecessor.

The visiting dignitaries thanked COAS for special measures taken for provision of safe and secure environment to CPEC projects in Pakistan and efforts towards regional stability.—NNI

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/06/8-page/906664-news.html>

Daily Times

China remains Pakistan's second largest export destination

China remains Pakistan's second largest exports destination, according to China Import Development Report 2021 jointly released by Beijing Normal University's School of Economics and Business Administration and China Institute of Education and Social Development.

According to China Economic Net, this report shows that Pakistan's exports accounts for 1.058 % of China's total imports in 2020. Pakistan ranks 68th of the top 100 of China's imports destinations.

Pakistan's exports to China increased by 69.73 percent to \$559.153 million during July-September (2021-22) from \$329.421 million the same period last year, according to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Statistics of China's Ministry of Commerce showed that Pakistan's exports to China reached \$1.73 billion, up 83 percent year on year in the first half of 2021.

Moinul Haque, the Pakistani Ambassador to China, pointed out that the robust development of bilateral trade was driven by the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement, China's incentive to boost imports, including the China International Import Expo, Pakistan's active presence on China's leading e-commerce portals, and China's booming economic zones in Pakistan.

"We hope that Pakistan's exports to China will surpass \$3 billion this year," said Haque in an interview recently.

The Pakistani envoy added that the upcoming fourth China International Import Expo is very important to Pakistan and will boost Pak-China bilateral trade. He said that Pakistan could export cotton yarn and cloth, rice, and leather products, like "football, one of the best ones in the world".

To facilitate bilateral trade, the two nations have taken many measures. For example, from 10 November, the Certificate of Origin of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will be applied for online via branches of China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT).

China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement was reached in November 2006. The second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement came into effect in 2019, which greatly improved the trade liberalization between the two countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/837971/china-remains-pakistans-second-largest-export-destination/>

Pakistan Observer

China & Pentagon Report 2021

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

BATTLE of national narratives of USA and China in terms of global hegemony and shared prosperity, economic nationalism/protectionism and equal & equitable world order, universal soldiering and self-defence mechanism, unipolar and multipolar befitting propositions and last but not the least, military misadventure and Global Responsive Code of Ethics (GRCEs) are fighting for absolute command and dominance around the world.

In this connection, the Pentagon published a report (November 3, 2021) indicating Chinese military power a serious threat to regional as well as international peace and stability.

On its part, during a regular press briefing Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin termed it full of “prejudice” and “ignorant of truth”.

According to foreign spokesperson the said report intentionally created hype about Chinese nuclear threat and badly “ignored” the US 5,550 nuclear warheads which are in fact the “biggest” source of nuclear threat globally.

Moreover, the most recently inked strategic deal among the Australia UK and USA (AUKUS) submarine also undermines regional stability and international peace and security, Wang added.

In this connection he upheld that China has urged the US to take responsibility for nuclear disarmament and slash its nuclear stockpiles, in order to safeguard global strategic balance and stability.

However, according to the Pentagon Defence Department new report on China’s military power highlights China’s continued rapid advancement in its nuclear program, hypersonic missiles, increased international influence and expansion into other countries which Chinese Foreign Office has strongly “rejected” and termed its “misappropriation” of basic facts and out of the contextual comparison.

The report details that China’s strategy so-called aims to achieve ‘the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation’ by 2049 to match or surpass US global influence and power, displace US

alliances and security partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region and revise the international order to be more advantageous to Beijing's political system and national interests.

It is absolutely "untrue" and seems to be based on US "fears" or constant socio-economic meltdown, geopolitical weakness or geostrategic decline. Thus it does not have any "substance".

Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin has called China the so-called "pacing threat" for the US military with its increasingly aggressive actions in the Indo-Pacific region, rapid military development and expanding international ambitions.

On the contrary, the most recent AUKUS strategic deal vividly reflects US and its regional allies "mad race" in Asia Pacific.

China has never been indulged in any kind of martial activity for the last 100 years but on the other hand, US directly attacked numerous countries and "bluntly" violated the spirits of international laws.

According to said report, the Chinese army has approximately 975,000 active-duty troops in combat units, the largest naval fleet in the world with about 355 Navy ships, and the third-largest aviation force with more than 2,800 aircraft.

The QUAD formation in the region is another US China's containment policy in the deep seas which clearly indicates its military aims in the region.

Thus US report details about Chinese military strength is out of the context and "irrelevant" proposition.

Moreover, China is also developing new intercontinental ballistic missiles that will "significantly improve its nuclear-capable missile forces," advances that will require the country to develop more nuclear warheads.

It has also started building "at least three" ICBM silo fields that will together contain hundreds of new ICBM silos. In this regard, every country has right of self defence.

Rapidly changing geopolitical and geostrategic scenarios has already compelled all the countries to strengthen its "defence orientations" and "deterrence capabilities" and China is not any exception.

The report termed Chinese DF-26 intermediate range ballistic missiles, a serious threat capable of conventional and nuclear precision strikes on ground and maritime targets. It labelled it "Guam-killer" for its alleged ability to reach the U.S. territory from China was first tested in January 2019.

But US obsession of hypersonic systems is "undeniable fact" and the Pentagon's Director of Hypersonic Michael White (June 2021) admitted the U.S. stockpile of subsonic long-range missiles.

According to report China is likely considering Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Seychelles, Tanzania, Angola, and

Tajikistan as possible locations for Chinese military bases which vividly reflects US lack of knowledge and norms of international relations.

The US Pentagon report (November 3, 2021) is full of prejudice and its assumptions are “incorrect”. It is full of “controversies” “contradictions”, “fudging of figures”, “twisting of basic facts”, and “denial” of even international protocols of bilateral or trilateral relations.

The Chinese so-called persuasion of numerous regional as well as international military bases is “fictional”, “fake” and “false”.

Most of the aforementioned countries are directly under the US diplomatic nod and political thumb so chances of Chinese military bases may be its wishful correlation, a mere mirage and not a reality which just to create geopolitical and geostrategic fuss.

It seems that the Pentagon report’s assumption for “imminent” Chinese attacks is “incorrect” and China has no intention of launching an attack to any regional or trans regional country. China has been striving hard to build a “constructive”, “stable” and results oriented relationship.

Most recently while delivering a keynote speech in Pakistan the Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong stressed the need to have closer political consultations, greater economic integration and connectivity between two countries to cope with the rapidly changing chess board of world power politics.

In this connection, inclusion of VT-4 Tank in defence forces of Pakistan is another symbol of “Pakistan-China strategic cooperation” and defence collaboration, which will boost strike capabilities of Pakistan.

It is based on advanced armor protection, high maneuverability and exceptional firepower, which can be compared with any modern main battle tank of the world.

It is equipped with an auto transmission system and deep water fording operation capability it is considered “as a potent weapon of strike formations.

While visiting the Army Air Defence Centre in Karachi to witness the commissioning of a Chinese-origin High to Medium Air Defence System (HIMDAS), HQ-9/P, into the Pakistan Army Air Defence, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa said that the strategic partnership and defence collaboration between Pakistan and China is a factor of stability in the region.

During his speech the COAS highlighted the importance of air defence and said the induction of high-tech systems would make Pakistan’s air defence impenetrable in the emerging threat scenario.

According to ISPR’s statement the induction of the HIMADS would significantly “enhance the Comprehensive Layered Integrated Air Defence Shield (CLIADS) of aerial frontiers of Pakistan as the system is fully integrated through a well-knit digitised system on its inventory.

In this context, HQ-9/P is considered as a strategic, long-range surface-to-air missile with remarkable flexibility and precision.

To conclude it is better for both the countries to stay away from the “wishful list” of the US on Afghanistan by avoiding any so-called solo flight for any kind of strategic mileage.

Terrorism is a shared destruction which should be snubbed through mutual trust and cooperation.

—The writer is Director, Geopolitics/Economics, Regional geopolitical expert of China, CPEC & BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pentagon-report-2021-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

China’s Nice Group shows interest to invest in Rashakai SEZ

China’s Nice Group has expressed interests to invest in Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ), a flagship project under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

According to a report carried by Gwadar Pro, Yingchun Lan, General Manager of Nice Group, visited Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) based in Peshawar and held meetings with Pakistani officials.

“Nice Group is interested in investing in RSEZ,” Haroon Arbab, spokesperson of KPEZDMC told Gwadar Pro, adding that KPEZDMC has assured the Chinese investors about all possible assistance.

Javed Khattak CEO of KPEZDMC briefed the Yingchun Lan-led delegation on investment opportunities in KP and especially in this SEZ. Yingchun Lan and Javed Khattak exchanged souvenirs.

The Government of KP, KPEZDMC and the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC) are developing Rashakai SEZ, which is spread over an area of approximately 1,000 acres.

For managing the affairs, Rashakai Special Economic Zone Development and Operations Company (RSEZDOC), a special purpose vehicle, has been set up as a JV between KPEZDMC and CRBC.

The Rashakai SEZ is located at an ideal place, which is the confluence of five major districts of KP and is reachable via motorways and railways.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-nice-group-shows-interest-to-invest-in-rashakai-sez/>

The Express Tribune

‘Prime time for Pak-China logistic cooperation’

‘Prime time for Pak-China logistic cooperation’

SHENZHEN: It is a prime time for Chinese enterprises to invest in the logistics sector of Pakistan given that it is growing at a rapid pace, said China Electronics Chamber of Commerce’s

(CECC) Supply Chain and Logistics Professional Committee (SCLC) Secretary and Vice Chairman Shi Jinhui.

Last Friday, the committee concluded a strategic cooperation agreement with the Pakistani Consulate General in China on the 2021 China (Shenzhen) Supply Chain and Logistics Summit Forum, co-organised by SCLC and Shenzhen Cross-border E-commerce Association (SZCBEA).

Together, the two entities will facilitate Chinese companies to visit and explore the Pakistani market and enhance liaison between the logistic firms from both countries for more efficient matchmaking.

“Pakistan is witnessing burgeoning e-commerce development,” Jinhui said in an interview. “In addition to large cities like Islamabad and Lahore, there is massive potential to be unleashed in small cities. They need logistic facilities.”

A handful of Chinese companies have already captured this opportunity. Since its establishment last year, the committee has been working closely with Pakistan’s leading logistic companies to connect bilateral enterprises and government authorities.

At the peak of the pandemic, Shenzhen ZCTD Supply Chain Company opened a special aviation line to carry Covid prevention and control supplies to Pakistan. Recently, Speedaf, a joint venture between Alibaba and ZTO, is deploying its logistic network in Pakistan.

“Multi-functional logistics centres are in the pipeline,” said Jinhui.

Apart from boosting local employment and revenue, the development of logistics in Pakistan will immensely boost entire logistics industry in the region.

“This is how Chinese logistics segment will prosper,” Jinhui observed. “First, the delivery companies emerge and then they uplift the industry.”

“While the pandemic has taken a toll on regional transportation routes, we anticipate that the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) will play a vital role in connecting Pakistan with China’s northwestern province Xinjiang, and further to other Middle Asian countries,” he envisioned.

Looking ahead, he maintained that digital platforms are the way forward. In collaboration with SZCBEA, the committee has started to develop a new e-commerce platform to pool the relevant resources together.

“I believe that as higher number of Chinese logistics companies set eyes on Pakistani, more warehouses, delivery lines and dispatching teams will appear in Pakistani cities,” he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2328072/prime-time-for-pak-china-logistic-cooperation>

November 07, 2021

Daily Times

US, China, UK remain top export destinations in first quarter

The United States, China and United Kingdom (UK) remained the top three export destinations of Pakistani products during the first quarter (July-September) of the current financial year 2021-22.

According to the data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the US remained the top export destinations of the Pakistani products and total exports were recorded at \$1,565.343 million against the exports of \$1,047.764 million during July-September (2020-21), showing growth of 49.40 percent.

This was followed by China, wherein Pakistan exported goods worth \$559.153 million against the exports of \$329.421 million last year, showing an increase of 69.73 percent. The UK was the third top export destination, where Pakistan exported products worth \$549.667 million during the months under review against the exports of \$427.540 million during last year, showing a growth of 28.56 percent.

About shipments to other countries, Pakistani exports to UAE stood at \$407.122 million against \$322.459 million during last year, showing an increase of 26.25 percent while the exports to Germany were recorded at \$406.261 million against \$367.529 million last year, the data revealed.

During July-September 2021-22, the exports to Holland were recorded at \$328.654 million against \$229.277 million whereas the exports to Italy stood at \$252.776 million against \$167.868 million. Pakistan's exports to Spain were recorded at \$225.079 million against the exports of \$147.446 million while the exports to Afghanistan were recorded at \$127.647 million against \$209.868 million last year.

The exports to Bangladesh stood at \$175.389 million against US \$127.487 million. Similarly, the exports to France during the months under review were recorded at \$119.045 million against \$91.146 million while the exports to Belgium stood at \$167.374 million against US \$13.701 million. Pakistan's exports to Saudi Arabia were recorded at \$93.22 million during the current year compared to \$106.958 million last year whereas the exports to Canada stood at US \$91.511 million against \$68.198 million, to Malaysia \$83.348 million against \$43.922 million.

Overall Pakistan's exports to all other countries witnessed an increase of 35.24 percent during the months under review, from \$5.353 billion to \$7.241 billion, said the central bank data.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/838586/us-china-uk-remain-top-export-destinations-in-first-quarter/>

Dawn News

NA body not satisfied with progress on KCR, ML-1 projects

Imran Ayub

KARACHI: More than a month after the ground-breaking of the Karachi Circular Railways by Prime Minister Imran Khan amid much media fanfare, the performance of the so far available and operational service came under serious criticism from lawmakers on Wednesday who observed that the Pakistan Railways should undergo massive overhauling to come on a par with the required standards which were currently on the decline.

The observation came from members of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways on the second leg of its three-day visit of travel and inspection of the KCR route.

“Unfortunately, the situation is not very good or promising,” said NA standing committee chairman Muhammad Moeen Wattoo while taking to Dawn after the visit.

“We visited from Orangi Town to City Station [one of the KCR routes] on tracks and it was not a very good experience. Even I shared a joke with the Pakistan Railways officials that a man on foot can complete the distance faster than this train service. It was dead slow. How can you expect it to become a popular service with this speed and pace? It doesn’t serve the purpose at all,” he said.

\$6.8bn ML-1 project would be completed in eight and half years

Similarly, he said overhead bridges and underpasses were badly needed to scale up the KCR service otherwise it would fail to meet the desired results. He referred to several level-crossings in the main urban centre, which were needed to be upgraded and said that the legislators from the lower house of the parliament had made their observations part of the record.

Mr Wattoo also questioned the utility and effectiveness of the ML-1 project which was much publicised and cheered by the Pakistan Railways authorities, but in reality it had not yet taken off.

After the briefing from the Pakistan Railways, the NA body was convinced that the project carried several advantages for the country and could benefit the country’s transport economy in a long term, but there were several formalities which had not been met yet.

“We are not satisfied with the progress [on ML-1],” he said. “We keep hearing about its benefits and advantages but no one tells that where the project actually is on the ground? There are several formalities, documentary procedures and contractual requirements which are still pending. We have not yet completed several jobs and formalities with China which we have to do before the tender. Then it would go into tender and other things. So we are far away. This performance is so unsatisfactory.”

Meanwhile, a Pakistan Railways official said that the NA committee briefed that ML-1 project would not only improve the performance of the Pakistan Railways, but would also have a positive impact on the national economy.

“The officials briefed the standing committee on the ML-1 project and the scrap auction of Pakistan Railways Karachi Division during the last five years. The committee was informed that ML-1 project would be completed in three phases and in 8.5 years with a total estimated cost of US \$6.6806 billion,” he said.

While briefing the NA committee on the revenue generated from the auction of coaches in Karachi Division during the last five years, the official said, it was shared with the legislators that the auction was stopped in 2016-17 due to low prices.

Later, he said, after its restoration the revenue from auction stood at Rs343 million in 2017-18, Rs71.43 million in 2018-19, Rs11.86 million in 2019-20 and Rs198.613 million in 2020-21.

PR CEO Nisar Ahmad Memon, chief engineer Irfan ul Haq, divisional superintendent of Karachi Hanif Gul, project director of KCR Amir Muhammad and other senior officials.

The NA committee members included Sheikh Rashid Shafiq, Aftab Jehangir, Nusrat Wahid, Engineer Sabir Hussain Qaim Khani, Muhammad Hamid Hameed and Muhammad Khan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1655761/na-body-not-satisfied-with-progress-on-kcr-ml-1-projects>

The Express Tribune

Chinese tech to lift soybean output

Production of crop has been hindered by unavailability of high-yielding varieties

BEIJING: Recently, Chinese agricultural technology called “maize-soybean strip intercropping” received funds from Pakistani research boards and institutions for large-scale promotion in Pakistan.

This exhibits the country’s determination and vision to revitalise soybean production and safeguard food security in a practical way.

Soybean, a profitable crop that seems to have been forgotten, is getting the opportunity to glitter in the country again through agricultural cooperation between Pakistan and China.

With the development and modernisation of poultry and dairy sectors in Pakistan, the country’s demand for soybean has seen a strong growth. However, due to the lack of capacity for self-production, Pakistan overwhelmingly relies on imports to meet the increasing demand.

Soybean crops were introduced to Pakistan in the 1960s and commercial cultivation began in 1970-71. Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and provincial research institutes in 1977-78 carried out research and eight soybean varieties were developed.

During the 1990s, the area under soybean cultivation touched the highest point at 6,613 hectares, then declined sharply to a few hectares without any increase in the following years.

Based on various research studies, soybean production and commercialisation in Pakistan was hindered by the unavailability of high yielding, climate ready and pest resistant varieties, absence of latest production technologies, skills and knowledge, lack of machinery and insufficiency of marketing of the produce and its byproducts.

Despite challenges, there is a huge potential to tap the local soybean production in Pakistan. Soybean crop can be incorporated into the existing spring as well as summer pattern.

Under the intercropping technology, farmers can grow soybean without curbing the cultivation area of existing crops like maize, sugarcane and corn. This technology makes better use of available space and increases the quantity of crops that can be harvested on the same area of land.

As an all-weather strategic partner of Pakistan, China is lending a helping hand in stimulating local soybean production by introducing the advanced maize-soybean intercropping technology from the Sichuan Agricultural University.

This technology has been applied on 4.76 million hectares of land in 19 Chinese provinces and its economic benefits stand at 24.5 billion yuan.

“Based on our research, if Pakistan wants to enhance soybean production, the adoption of maize-soybean strip intercropping technology will be the best of all viable alternatives,” said Maize-Soybean Strip Intercropping study leader Yang Wenyu from the Sichuan Agricultural University.

“Maize is already a main crop grown on an area of about 1.3 million hectares in Pakistan, and its output can basically meet the domestic demand,” Yang said. “Therefore, implementing maize-soybean strip intercropping technology to revitalise soybean production will result in ease for farmers because they will just need to add soybean crops in the current maize fields.”

This autumn, the total demonstration area of maize-soybean strip intercropping technology in Pakistan skyrocketed to about 217 acres, reporting a 117% year-on-year increase.

The technology is being implemented in Bahawalpur, Khairpur Tamewali, Rajanpur, Rahim Yar Khan, Shiekhupura, Sargodha, Kasoor, Talagang, Khairpur Mirus, Tandojam, Hayderabad, Faisalabad and Burewala.

On August 11, 2021, Prime Minister Imran Khan inaugurated the Intercropping Research Center jointly established by Sichuan Agricultural University and the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, which is the first-ever national research center dedicated to intercropping research within Pakistan.

Khan appreciated the maize-soybean strip intercropping technology.

“Pakistan is blessed with a large amount of sunlight and other natural resources,” said Islamia University of Bahawalpur Vice Chancellor Athar Mahboob. “With the expertise and advanced research from China, we believe we can learn from our Chinese counterparts and then apply and modify the same techniques according to the needs and the local environment of our country.”

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2328238/chinese-tech-to-lift-soybean-output>

The Nation

Chinese, Pak companies signed ICAs worth \$34m at Pak Industrial Expo

LAHORE - Chinese and Pakistani companies signed intended cooperation agreements (ICAs) worth \$34 million in different sectors including construction, engineering, manufacturing, technology transfer etc during recently concluded three day Pakistan Industrial Expo 2021.

As per details, at least 9 Chinese companies are considering to have long-term development projects in Pakistani market as a result of interaction between both sides at the expo. Encouraged from the results, organizer Everest International Expo has also setup a 'permanent display center' in Lahore to showcase Chinese products for physical inspection by the local industry representatives before further negotiations between both the sides.

Despite the Covid-19 situation, Pakistan and China have been able to sustain a healthy economic and investment partnership and it is now high time to join hands for a much-needed economic and investment rebound. More than 100 Chinese companies participated in the 5th Pakistan Industrial Expo 2021 through both physical and online mode of participation. This is the best possible solution to bring businesses from both countries together for rejuvenation of bilateral investment cooperation, said Chris Zhou, Deputy GM of Everest International Expo.

Numerous Pakistani associations and chambers visited the venue and signed MoU with the organizer. These include Swabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sargodha Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Peshawar Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry, Larkana Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Bahawalpur Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Layyah Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Previous 4 editions of Pakistan Industrial Expo attracted 31 Chinese companies who are cooperating with local ones for setting up of assembling plants, technology exchange etc.

Constructors Association of Pakistan (CAP) Chairman Engr. Kamal Nasir Khan praised the organizers for arranging such an event in prevailing circumstances which would create a win-win situation both for Chinese and Pakistani businessmen. He showed keen interest in the construction machinery placed in the exhibition and said Pakistani construction and real estate industry is showing positive trend and it needs modern machinery which can help bringing down the cost as well as ensuring longer life of constructed buildings.

Hardware Merchants Association's representatives Zeeshan Khalil and Nadeem Zafar also praised the machinery placed at the booth and said that Chinese products are no less than items manufactured by any other country. Similarly, Daroghawala Industries Owners Association President Shouban Akhtar praised the offline-online method adopted by the organizers and said that it served the purpose of physical inspection and immediate negotiation between buyers and sellers.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-07/page-9/detail-4>

November 08, 2021

Business Recorder

PIA opens bookings for passengers travelling between Pakistan, China

BEIJING: PIA Country Manager, Qadir Bux Sangi on Sunday said Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has opened flights booking for the passengers travelling from Islamabad-Xian and Beijing-Islamabad routes.

“China Civil Aviation has approved PIA Winter schedule for China effective from November 01, and passengers can now buy tickets online or through travel agents for single or round trips from Pakistan to China and China to Pakistan,” he told APP. He, however, informed that all the passengers would have to strictly adhere to all conditions and restrictions imposed by the Chinese government in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic including nucleic tests and quarantine etc.

Qadir Bux Sangi informed that the national flag carrier would be operating one flight per week on ISB-XIY-BJS-ISB, PK854 ISB-XIY on Saturdays and return PK855 BJS-ISB on Sundays. “All the passengers travelling from Pakistan to China will be carried from Pakistan to Xian and from Beijing Capital Airport to Pakistan while Xian-Beijing leg will be operated as ferry,” he added. “He said that since there is a break in journey at Xian-Beijing leg, therefore RT ticket will be of PAK-Xian and then Beijing Pakistan therefore, the passengers will have to arrange for their own transportation from Xian to Beijing. Similarly ex China RT ticket will be of BJS-Pakistan and then Pakistan-Xian. Same needs to be clarified to passengers while issuing ticket”, he added.

The PIA Country Manager informed that efforts were being made to get permission for other routes including PIA flights on Islamabad-Xian-Islamabad section, adding, “If approval is granted by the Chinese government, the airfare for passengers travelling from Pakistan to China will significantly reduced.”—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/08/2-page/906815-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistani products glitter at 4th CIIE Expo

Pakistani products glitter at the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE) to tap enormous market.

According to China Economic Net (CEN), the Expo world’s largest import-themed event was scheduled from Nov. 5 to 10 in Shanghai.

More than 3,000 enterprises and corporate giants from 127 countries and regions around the globe bring their competitive products and state of the art technologies to this year’s expo.

Among them, Pakistani handicrafts, jewellery and agricultural products etc. are received favorably at this CIIE.

Hanging high on the wall, stunning carpets from Pakistan is drawing the crowd. “Pakistani handmade wool carpet is of extremely high and fine quality, and forty to fifty years is the minimum time that you can use it,” Pakistani exhibitor Habib ur Rehman told CEN.

Here they not only have classic carpets but also newly designed modern ones that are perfectly match with modern home decoration and furniture, displaying Pakistani traditional products’ competitiveness of innovation.

Besides wool carpets, Habib also brought Himalaya salt lamps to CIIE. The natural feel and healthcare function make these lamps popular among visitors.

“This is my first time to attend CIIE. The environment here is excellent and it’s a very big platform. I hope we could find more business opportunities here,” he said with great expectations.

It’s the fourth time that the Pakistani exhibitor Bhat Muzaffar Ahmed has attended CIIE. Lately the COVID-19 pandemic returned to China again. “But China is doing very well in controlling the virus spreading. I am positive about this year’s expo,” he said.

According to him, with China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) develops, beautiful Pakistani cashmere carpets and scarves are being transported to China at much lower costs. To tap the huge Chinese market is the main reason why Pakistani exhibitors come to CIIE. “China has a population of over 1.4 billion and a middle income group of more than 400 million people. Our annual import in goods and services is valued at around \$2.5 trillion. All this offers an enormous market,” Chinese President Xi Jinping made a keynote speech at the 4th CIIE opening ceremony.

Going forward, China will open more demonstration zones for creative promotion of import trade, optimize the catalogue of retail imports via cross-border e-commerce, encourage the on-site processing of imported goods from trading between border residents, and increase imports from neighboring countries.

“China will better integrate its domestic and foreign trade, speed up the development of international consumption center cities, promote Silk Road e-commerce, build modern logistics systems, and shore up the capacity of cross border logistics,” President Xi remarked.

As per China Customs, Pakistan’s exports to China in the first three quarters of 2021 amounted to \$2.52 billion, a skyrocket year on year growth of about 76 percent, which exhibits the FTA Phase ?’s effective facilitation for Pakistani businesses to improve their economic presence in the Chinese market. It is expected that the number for the whole 2021 will surpass the milestone of \$3 billion.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/838832/pakistani-products-glitter-at-4th-ciie-expo/>

Ambassador Haque visits National Pavilion, meets Pakistani community in Yiwu city

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque paid a visit to Pakistan National Pavilion in Yiwu city of Zhejiang province as part of the economic diplomacy and outreach efforts of the Embassy and Consulates General in China.

The pavilion was established in November 2019 at Yiwu China Import Commodity Center Plaza, with an objective to showcase Pakistani traditional and exportable products and culture and to promote bilateral trade.

Upon his arrival, the ambassador was received by Ms. Eman Li, Chief Executive Officer of the Eman Logistics Co. Ltd., who is also the Honorary Investment Counselor (HIC) of Pakistan. Her company is the operator of the Pakistan pavilion.

Ms Eman briefed the ambassador about the working of the Pakistan Pavilion and efforts being made for promotion of Pakistani products to China through the Pavilion platform.

Ambassador Haque appreciated the role being played by the pavilion and noted that a number of such pavilions had been established across China which were significantly contributing in introducing Pakistani products to the Chinese market thus leading to substantial increase in Pakistan's exports to China.

During the visit, the Ambassador also held a round table discussion with representatives of local chambers of commerce and businessmen.

They expressed keen interest for doing business in Pakistan in the fields of solar energy, Halal meat, city lights, stationery, trading and warehousing.

The ambassador appreciated their interests and ensured full facilitation in realization of their business ventures.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Haque visited the Yiwu city in Zhejiang province and met with the members of Pakistani community. Yiwu city is a famous hub of small commodities trading in China. A sizable Pakistan community, involved in trading business, resides in Yiwu. As part of the government's community advocacy and outreach initiative, the ambassador met and interacted with members of Pakistan community residing in the city and nearby region.

Ambassador Haque apprised them about the government's efforts and policies aimed at welfare of expatriate community, including initiatives such as launch of Roshan Digital Account, Pakistan Remittance Initiative, holding of monthly E-Kecharis and facilitation for investing in Pakistan.

He appreciated the role being played by the community members in promoting China-Pakistan friendship and encouraged them to participate in activities related to celebration of 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties between the two brotherly countries.

The community members were also urged to follow local rules and procedures and serve as a bridge between the Missions and local government for promotion of bilateral relations.

Consul General, Pakistan Consulate Shanghai, Hussain Haider also accompanied the ambassador during the visit.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/838951/ambassador-haque-visits-national-pavilion-meets-pakistani-community-in-yiwu-city/>

Dawn News

Pakistan's exports to China to double in 3-5 years: envoy

BEIJING: Ambassador to China Moinul Haque has expressed the confidence that Pakistan's exports to China will double over the next three to five years as a result of increasing interest of local traders and companies in trading with China.

"China-Pakistan export and import trade is very promising. I can foresee that in the next three to five years, Pakistan's exports to China, such a huge market, will be doubled. And there is an increasing interest of Pakistani traders and companies to trade with China," he said during his visit to the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE) being held in Shanghai.

The Nov 5-10 4th CIIE has attracted nearly 3,000 businesses from 127 countries and regions, according to China Economic Net.

After his visit to the Pakistani pavilion at the expo, Ambassador Haque said: "CIIE is a flagship expo of China, and I must give full credit to the Chinese government, especially President Xi Jinping. It was his idea to launch this expo. Pakistan has been a very active partner since the first CIIE. Our prime minister was a keynote speaker at the first CIIE. And since then, we have had our speakers and exhibitors regularly."

Ambassador Haque said China is now Pakistan's largest trading partner since the launch of the second phase of the Free Trade Agreement in January last year.

"Our exports are growing very fast this year. The overall bilateral trade has increased by more than 60 per cent. And Pakistan's export to China has increased by 75pc which means that by the end of this year, we are going to have an unprecedented new record of bilateral trade volume," he added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1656697>

Pakistan Observer

China-Pakistan AI excellence center set up

China-Pakistan have decided to set up AI excellence center to promote industrial development.

Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque attended a signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding on establishing the Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence in Pakistan.

According to Gwadar Pro, the center will be jointly built by Wuhan University of Technology (WUT) and Pak University of Engineering and Emerging Technologies.

On April 8 this year, Haque led a delegation to visit WUT and exchanged views on the construction plan of the two universities.—INP

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-ai-excellence-center-set-up/>

The Nation

Building a shared future for all life of Earth

Nong Rong

My article starts with an interesting episode on a group of Asian elephants, which ‘lost’ their way this April, roaming north away from their traditional habitat in South China. They caught much attention of the world media, not only because they are cute, but also for the good care they have received by the local people all along the route. After a 110-day-plus casual tour, this group of elephants roamed back happily to their traditional habitat, safe and sound.

This is just an example of China’s endeavors to protect biodiversity. In the philosophy of Chinese traditional culture, China holds the view that nature is an indispensable part of our homeland, and needs joint efforts to protect and nurture. And we do it accordingly.

On October 12th, at the Leaders’ Summit of the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) held in Kunming, China, Chinese President Xin Jinping put forward the initiative to build a shared future for all life on earth—a homeland of harmonious coexistence between man and nature, a homeland of coordinated advancement of economy and the environment and a homeland of common development of all countries.

As the host country, China declares to establish a Kunming Biodiversity Fund with our initial share of 1.5 billion RMB yuan to support biodiversity protection in developing countries, to officially designate its first group of 5 national parks and start to building a system of national botanical gardens in places like Beijing and Guangzhou, and to put in place a ‘1+N (one overarching document supported by numerous action plans) policy framework for carbon peak and carbon neutrality.

These approaches declared by President Xi have fully demonstrated China’s determination to promote its ecological civilisation drive, inject new momentum for global biodiversity protection, and laid a solid foundation for building a shared future for all life on earth.

In recent decades, China has made outstanding achievements in biodiversity protection. We take lucid water and lush mountains as invaluable assets, stick to green, low-carbon and sustainable development. Our natural reserves account for over 25% of China’s land territory. Our forest coverage has risen from 12.7% in 1970s to current 23%, the most increase in forest resources.

At the COP15 Leader’s Summit, President Xi Jinping called on the international community to enhance cooperation, build consensus and pool strength. New environmental protection targets

should be set up, while we also need to be pragmatic and balanced, so as to make the global environmental governance system fairer and more equitable. As for developing countries, we are faced with the dual tasks of economic recovery and environmental protection, developing countries need help and support all the more so as to build a homeland of common development of all countries.

Pakistan is one of the ten most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change in the world. China appreciates that Pakistan echoes our eco-civilisation philosophy and has made great efforts in natural conservation. Under leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan successfully hosted World Environment Day 2021, with the launch of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. Under the Bonn Challenge, Pakistan pledged to restore almost 2.5 million acres of deforested lands by 2023. The green and clean Pakistan and 10 billion tree tsunami program has won world acknowledgment. The eco-civilisation cooperation between China and Pakistan enjoys great potential.

As President Xi points out, if humanity does not fail nature, nature will not fail it. Eco-civilisation represents the development trend of human civilisation. Let us join hands, and shoulder our responsibility for future generations, and take concrete measures to build a community for all life on Earth, as well as a clean and beautiful world for us all.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-08/page-6/detail-2>

November 09, 2021

Dawn News

Modern frigate delivered to PN in China

KARACHI: Pakistan Navy's first frigate of Type 054A/P, the PNS Tughril, has been commissioned at the Hudong Zhonghua Shipyard in China.

Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moin-ul-Haq was the chief guest on the occasion.

PNS Tughril is the first of 4 x Type 054 Frigates being constructed for Pakistan Navy.

The ship is a technologically advanced and highly capable platform with enormous surface-to-surface, air and underwater firepower, besides extensive surveillance potentials.

It has the capacity to simultaneously execute a number of naval warfare missions in a highly intense multi threat environment.

According to the information received here, the chief guest on the occasion said the commissioning of PNS Tughril had opened a new chapter in Pakistan-China friendship that had matured over a long period.

Mr Haq said that in the context of the security paradigm of the region, Tughril-class frigates would strengthen Pakistan Navy's capabilities to respond to maritime challenges and to ensure seaward defence, maintain peace, stability and balance of power in the Indian Ocean region.

The ambassador also praised concerted efforts made by CSSC, CSTC, CSDDC, HZ Shipyard and PLA (Navy) for the landmark achievement of timely delivery of the well-equipped and potent frigate despite global pandemic.

Vice Party Secretary and Director of the Board CSSC Du Gang also applauded the timely construction of PNS Tughril and emphasised that the commissioning of the vessel is a milestone event and a testimony to Pakistan-China friendship, as both countries were bound by the affinity of trust, compassion and commonality.

The head of Pakistan Navy's mission overseeing construction of the Type 054A/P frigate, Commo-dore Rashid Mehmood Sheikh, said that PNS Tughril, being a vessel capable of performing multiple tasks, would form the mainstay of Pakistan Navy fleet while bolstering the navy's maritime defence capabilities.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1656891/modern-frigate-delivered-to-pn-in-china>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, Iran agree to facilitate traffic of cargo trucks from China to Europe

TEHRAN – Pakistan and Iran have reached an agreement to facilitate the traffic of cargo trucks from China to Europe, a move that will support the economies of the both countries.

The development was announced by Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Rostam Qassemi while addressing a conference on asphalt and related machinery on Tuesday, Iranian media reported. While referring to his recent meetings with Pakistani officials, he said that the two countries had agreed to facilitate the traffic of Iranian trucks directly to China and trucks from Pakistani to Europe.

Earlier this week, a Pakistani delegation led by Adviser to PM on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood visited Iran. During the visit, Pakistan and Iran has decided to increase bilateral trade volume to US\$5 billion in next five years.

Advisor Commerce said that it was important to make the trade and investment relations more broad based, said a press release issued here on Sunday.

Advisor Commerce, Abdul Razak Dawood also met with Iran's Minister for Industry, Mining and Trade, Syed Reza Fatimi Amin at Tehran, Iran before the meeting of the 9th Joint Trade Committee (JTC).

Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade of Iran Fatemi Amin and Adviser to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment of Pakistan, Abdul Razak Dawood, have co-chair the meeting to discuss all trade issues and progress made after the 8th meeting held in 2019 in Islamabad.

They discussed matters relating to trade and investment between the two countries and resolved to translate the decisions of 9th JTC into positive and tangible outcomes. The Iranian Minister invited Pakistani companies to invest in Iran.

Earlier last Friday the Adviser Commerce left for Iran on a two day visit to negotiate on bilateral trade and investment with Iranian government.

Pakistan and Iran have agreed to start initial talks on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and other important issues of trade for increasing the bilateral trade volume and investment opportunities.

Both of the neighboring countries have discussed barter trade, cooperation in transportation, Free Trade Agreement, construction of border markets and other issues affecting bilateral trade.

The 9th Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting between Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Republic of Pakistan was held on November 6-7 2021 at Tehran.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on exhibition cooperation has also been signed between the two countries. Officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan Customs (FBR), Govt of Balochistan and Presidents of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Quetta Chamber of Commerce.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-iran-agree-to-facilitate-traffic-of-cargo-trucks-from-china-to-europe/>

The Nation

Chinese envoy calls on PTA chief

ISLAMABAD - The Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong called on Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Maj General (retd) Amir Azeem Bajwa at PTA headquarters, here, yesterday. The two sides discussed matters of mutual interest, investment opportunities including enhanced cooperation in the field of ICTs and discussed opportunities in Pakistan's fast-growing telecom sector for the foreign investors.

The ambassador and PTA chairman agreed to further expand mutual collaboration for mutual benefit of both countries.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-09/page-13/detail-0>

November 10, 2021

Business Recorder

CPEC termed our 'last chance' for industrialization

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) affairs Khalid Mansoor said on Tuesday that several countries and World Bank have shown keen interest in development of infrastructure projects and industrial units under the umbrella CPEC, maintaining that CEPC is the last chance of industrialization in the country. Sharing his vision about CPEC with a group of journalists, he gave an overview of pre-CPEC

bottlenecks, current status and prospects of phase –II. He said, any country can participate in the CEPC, adding that CPEC is quid pro quo of China’s Belt and Road Initiative.

According to him, in 2013, there was acute power shortage due to which the country was suffering 2 to 2.5 GDP losses. To meet the country’s requirements of power, addition of 17,000 MW of electricity was envisaged under CPEC.

He said, FY 2020 was the period of market cultivation and to sort out major bottlenecks to economic and social development which needed to be addressed to boost economic growth. Mansoor said he was part of the delegation when CPEC was formally envisaged with an investment of \$53 billion for projects including power, ML-I and infrastructure. He said, energy projects of 5300MW worth \$ 13 billion have already been established under CEPC. To a question, he said, there is a wide difference in the cost determined in the feasibility of ML-1 and the cost calculated by the Pakistani side. The cost calculated in the feasibility was \$9.2 billion whereas Pakistani officials say it should be \$6.8 billion.

He said, he has written a letter to the Chinese government to take the project ahead, which is under active consideration with the Chinese authorities. The project is included in the list of strategic projects.

The issue of insurance of Chinese loans by Sinasure, (China Export& Credit Insurance Corporation) is one of the major delays in project progress in the pipeline and under construction. He said six power sector projects worth \$5 billion are facing delay due to no approval from Sinasure. The interest on Government loan was 2 per cent while on commercial loan it is 5.2 per cent.

He said, the overdue amount of Chinese power projects was about Rs250 billion, adding that efforts are being made to clear this amount so that the Chinese companies can give dividends to their shareholders.

To another question, he said that three or four Chinese companies have shown interest in Quaid-i-Azam solar project of 1000MW in Bahawalpur of which 400 MW has already been established, adding the remaining project would be offered on competitive basis.

He further stated that his focus is now on four Special Economic Zones (SEZs) which are necessary to attract foreign investment.

Masoor explained that medium term projects have to be established by 2025. It will be a period of expansion and development and balanced regional economic development, processing and manufacturing industries, which will bring improvements in peoples’ livelihood. He said, 2030 will be period of maturity for long-term projects and mechanism for sustainable economic growth, adding that CPEC will play a leadership role in the region.

In reply to a question, he said, a conference is being organised on November 15, 2021 to be attended by 140 Chinese companies.

In December 2021, another international conference will be held which will be attended by international investors.

He said, phase –II will focus on export growth (textile, IT, etc) and import substitution (steel, agricultural productivity, etc.) sectors by creating local employment opportunities and promoting joint ventures to make Pakistan a manufacturing hub. Now the focus is on science and technology, agriculture and Information Technology.

Answering another question, he said, a facilitation centre is being established at the CPEC Secretariat to provide one-window facility to the international investors through coordination of various ministries and provinces. He, however, dispelled the impression that it would be duplication of Board of Investment (BoI).

Replying to yet another question, he said, he has finalised a comprehensive presentation to attract Chinese private sector including textile sector.

He further stated that ambassadors of different countries are approaching to get information on investment opportunities in the SEZs. The World Bank has also held a meeting with him on prospects of infrastructure projects.

He said industrial cooperation under CPEC was as follows: (i) nine SEZs and a Free Zone at Gwadar; (ii) four SEZs and Gwadar Free Zone being developed on priority; (iii) strong local and international investor interest in SEZs (Century Steel (China), Apptak Ltd (Germany), Strong Stich (UK), Akzo Nobel Ltd (Netherlands), Zhenbang Agriculture (China).

“Investment in SEZs is open to investors from all over the world,” he said, adding Americans are also around as they have to find new opportunities.

He said, development at Gwadar Port should have been faster as it is not up to as per expectations, adding that he cannot bring the past back. There is neither electricity nor water in Gwadar as 300MW coal-fired project has not been established as per plan.

“Everything is ready but there are delays due to Sinasure,” he concluded.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/10/1-page/907051-news.html>

Daily Times

Role of Chinese SOEs in BRI

Yasir Habib Khan

It is loud and clear that Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a driver of growth and development. To let BRI sail through in a befitting manner, the Chinese central state-owned enterprises (SOEs) remains the most important option. The correlation between BRI and SOEs lies in how their working relationship, dynamism and systematic innovations come into play.

Let me give credit to SOEs for their leadership and pragmatism, facilitating BRI to optimise its innate potential for the benefit of humankind. Through their wide range of projects that include

infrastructure construction, energy, resource development, international cooperation, production capacity and high-tech manufacturing system, the BRI has set the tone of undeterred progress surmounting all odds and challenges, especially the COVID-19 pandemic.

For Pakistan, in the context of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the signature project of BRI, we still need to learn many things from SOEs. Thankfully, the government of Pakistan is eager to understand the systematic policies and strategies of SOEs offering our state-owned enterprise to tune into their practical visions.

To discern the role of SOEs in BRI development, a seminar titled, “Belt and Road Development” was held in Beijing and attended by scholars, journalists from various countries, and representatives of Chinese central SOEs. The attendees remained optimistic about the future of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) despite the multiple challenges. The achievements of the BRI are inseparable from the notable contribution of the central SOEs. With further containment of the pandemic, these enterprises will cooperate with countries along the Belt and Road at a higher level and in a wider range of areas.

The high quality development of the BRI can only be achieved by deepening pragmatic cooperation under the principle of extensive consultation.

The BRI has been initiated by China and leads to benefit the world. Since Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the initiative in 2013, China has turned the Silk Road Spirit—peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit—into practical actions in the development of the Belt and Road. Over the years, the Initiative has yielded fruitful results amid positive responses and enthusiastic participation from more than 100 countries and international organizations.

The CPEC has transformed Pakistan’s economic landscape and helped the country solve its severe energy shortage, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said via video. In this project, they are also focusing on the country’s industrialisation, modernisation of agriculture, science and technology and tourism, which is highly aligned with the social and economic agenda of the Pakistani government.

“Under this framework, we have established a number of ongoing projects, covering economic, infrastructure and industrial sectors, like Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway. I’m very sure this collaboration will bring substantial impact to Indonesia. I do hope that Chinese SOEs can play a greater role in the BRI cooperation to seize the momentum and opportunities in the post-pandemic era.” said H.E. Djauhari Oratmangun, Indonesian Ambassador to China.

Wang Yiwei, a professor of the School of International Studies at the Renmin University of China, said that the de-sinicization of the global supply chain promoted by the US and the duality of economy and politics are difficulties and challenges in the implementation of BRI. The high-quality development of the BRI can only be achieved by deepening pragmatic cooperation under the principle of extensive consultation and joint contribution.

Zhang Guobin, vice president of the Chahar Institute, believed that the BRI drives global connectivity and development. In addition to economic cooperation, Chinese central SOEs also play an important role in the field of cultural exchanges as the main force in the construction of the Belt and Road.

Ni Yueju, from the Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, pointed out that Chinese central SOEs have undertaken a large number of landmark projects in infrastructure, energy and resources, industrial parks and other fields. These projects have become a splendid “Name Card of China”, and the SOEs have therefore become an important force turning the BRI into reality.

Italian jurist Stefano Porcelli said that in the Belt and Road construction, it is necessary to coordinate the laws of different countries. But it is not easy to draw up detailed international rules, because that requires taking into account the differences in values between people in different countries.

As the pandemic has separated us from the rest of the world, it is particularly important to rebuild damaged international relations and strengthen cooperation. The BRI can help achieve this goal, and it will be more efficient to do so with the support of the media, said Aleksei Savitskii, president of Beijing Branch of Russian media group “Rossiya Segodnya.”

In addition, representatives from some central state-owned enterprises taking an active part in the Belt and Road development also made speeches at the seminar. This seminar was hosted by CRI Online. As a national multilingual online media for international communication, CRI Online has been committed to introducing China to the rest of the world; bolstering exchanges and cooperation.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/839558/role-of-chinese-soes-in-bri/>

Dawn News

Beijing’s help sought for insurance cover of six CPEC projects

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has sought Chinese government’s intervention to persuade China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation — Sinosure — to clear about \$13 billion insurance cover of energy and infrastructure projects on priority basis.

Sinosure — the Chinese state insurer — has to underwrite all foreign investments and debts but has been holding back insurance cover of about \$5bn to six major power projects of over 3,500MW under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

It also has to underwrite \$8-9bn insurance cover to Mainline-1 — a 1,733km railway line from Karachi to Peshawar.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CPEC Khalid Mansoor told journalists on Tuesday that he had taken up the matter with Chinese ambassador in Islamabad and with his support

written letters to the vice chairman of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) for his intervention to resolve on priority all issues relating to strategically important projects, including ML-1 and six energy projects including Gwadar, Karrot, Kohala and Azad Pattan, Thar Block-VI and Thal-Nova power projects besides Quaid-i-Azam Solar power project.

“We have written two separate letters to NDRC for resolution of issues hampering the financial close of six energy projects and the term sheet for ML-I project,” said Mir Mansoor. He said the nature of friendly relationship between Pakistan and China was such that their companies had never called government guarantees despite huge overdue receivables from Pakistan.

He said the Chinese lenders were ready to provide funds for above projects but Sinosure had to give insurance policy. Many of these projects have already advanced with equity investment and could not be delayed for debt part. He said the government was also looking providing extension in revised commercial operations dates for these projects in a holistic manner because Covid-19 had created force majeure type of situation.

He said Chinese companies in power sector had an overdue amount of Rs250bn and Sinosure was holding back underwriting policy to further loans. He said a letter was written to NDRC to urge Sinosure to underwrite six already committed energy projects.

Similarly, on ML-I project NDRC was asked to resolve the pending issues related to the term sheet of the financing. Pakistan has already submitted its own plan and now a term sheet from lender is awaited.

He said the cost of the ML-I was estimated at \$9.2bn through a bankable feasibility study which was rationalised in the revised PC-I to \$6.8bn which surprised China because Pakistani side had removed contingency and security cost from the project. The Chinese are of the opinion that the cost is underestimated. He said Pakistan had now proposed to go for bidding among Chinese leading companies. “They are not backtracking from their commitment of funding ML-I and soon you will hear good news about the project”, he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1657063>

Pakistan Observer

Faisalabad, Qingdao cooperation to turn both cities to industrial hub: Atif

Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Atif Munir Sheikh Tuesday said that cooperation between Faisalabad and Chinese city Qingdao could transform both cities as regional hub of industrial, commercial, educational and research activities.

He was addressing a zoom conference, arranged by the Pak-China Centre in connection with declaring Faisalabad and Qingdao as ‘sister cities’ to mark the 70th anniversary of the Communist party of China.

He said that Faisalabad had emerged as the fastest growing city of Pakistan, which was playing a major role in overall economy of Pakistan.

About the FCCI, he said that it was the elected forum of the business community of Faisalabad which had 8,000 members.

He said that Faisalabad was strategically located in the heart of Pakistan, which was well connected through road, rail and air links.

“Faisalabad has two mega industrial estates where many foreign companies, including Chinese firms, have already established their units which are working profitably,” he said.

The FCCI president said investors had been given special incentives including a 10-year tax holiday, which had made it most lucrative for foreign investors.

He said Pakistan was importing raw material from China and now investors from Qingdao should also exploit the potential by establishing units to fulfill the needs of local industrial sector. He said that surplus production could also be exported to the Middle East and other countries.

He quoted his recent meeting with Chief Minister Punjab Usman Buzdar and said that he had himself inaugurated a Foreign Investment Facilitation Desk for the convenience of new investors.

“Similarly, an inspector-less regime has also been introduced to save them from unnecessary hassle,” he added. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/faisalabad-qingdao-cooperation-to-turn-both-cities-to-industrial-hub-atif/>

Need of the Hour: Skilled workforce in Gwadar

Naghmana Zafar

THE Gwadar Port is bestowed to play an instrumental role in spurring maritime activity at the national as well as regional level.

Its associated benefits are expected to boost the socio-economic development of coastal communities all along the Makran Coast.

Realising the need for skilled and qualified workforce in various emerging maritime industries, a full-fledged Technical and Vocational Training Institute is being developed as part of the CPEC plan to support the envisioned economic expansion.

The trained locals with requisite capabilities will add into efficient functioning and sustainability of the Gwadar Port and associated China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

There is no doubt that without developing a training facility; aforesaid initiatives would not accrue the desired outcomes.

Therefore, Vocational Training Institute (VTI) has been given high importance both in the CPEC-led initiatives and at the level of the Government of Pakistan.

The success of any vocational training institute is directly dependent upon certain factors such as the size of the local population, prospects of economic growth and future industrial expansion.

Therefore, keeping in view the demographic and geographic setting in Gwadar, the upcoming training facility at Gwadar must pursue some rationales.

For instance, development of Special Economic Zones (SEZ's) in Gwadar under CPEC will be driving the industrial expansion in the region; therefore the primarily training plans and under VTI should revolve around the prospective growth of enterprises in these Zones.

Second, since economic activities at Gwadar are mainly related to the maritime domain, therefore shortage of trained workforce in maritime sectors can also be addressed through this initiative, particularly in the context of the blue economy which is closely linked with the progress and empowerment of coastal communities.

With the expansion of business at Gwadar and increased travel, we expect substantial growth in the tourism industry in the area.

Therefore, before proposing skill training for workers in the hospitality industry, it is essential to bridge the communication gap. Basic language skills (Balochi, Brahvi, Chinese, English and Urdu) are considered essential for people working in local businesses, travel and tourism sector industry.

Furthermore, training for hotel management, hotel operations, travel agents, clerical work, transport management, culinary skills, baking, cooking, sanitary and cleaning, event management, basic accounts and revenue handling should be considered and carried out.

All these trainings and courses will not only be helpful in the promotion of travel and tourism but also support other auxiliary sectors such as the overall economy of the country.

The fishermen community represents a large segment of the local population, so trainings related to sustainable fishing practices and catch handling can be included in the training plan.

Initially, to make the vocational training initiative economically viable and sustainable, trainings in the field of refrigeration, generator repairs and maintenance, caning and packing, boat engine repair and maintenance can be considered.

Such programmes/courses will not only fill the gap of trained people in the existing pool of workers but will also make a base for advanced or specialised training for the fishing community.

Similarly, courses related to seafood handling, fish seeding, farming, mari-culture can also be added to empower the local community which will enable them to explore avenues for sustainable earning opportunities from the sea.

Collection and farming of marine vegetation and other marine products like salt, shells etc., is also an untapped maritime potential that can be explored for economic development.

In addition to the above, the lack of skilled manpower in two big maritime industries of Pakistan – Shipbreaking and Shipbuilding – should also be taken into account keeping in view the

Government's decision of establishing a new shipyard and vision to transform the shipbreaking industry into a sustainable environmental friendly sector of the national economy.

In this regard, basic skills like crane operations, welding, handling of hazardous martial, fire - fighting etc., will be of great use to create a pool of workers to work in these industries.

Besides, there are some courses such as basics of Supply Chain, Finance Management, Accounting and First Aid which are not inherently part of the maritime sector but are important skills which ultimately complement other all type of industries.

Balochistan is the least developed province of Pakistan with a deficit in human resources, especially there is a huge lack of technically empowered people.

Therefore, the establishment of a vocational training institute is critically significant as viability and sustainability of development projects at Gwadar will likely be hampered due to non-availability of requisite manpower.

Establishment of skill development and training facilities will enable locals to become part of emerging job and employment opportunities offered by the CPEC.

Moreover, the existing misperception that the projects under CPEC benefit only people outside Balochistan and sense of deprivation amongst locals will also be addressed through this initiation.

<https://pakobserver.net/need-of-the-hour-skilled-workforce-in-gwadar-by-naghmana-zafar/>

CPEC & COP26 and Associated Policies for Pakistan

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

Ours is the age of “green” and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is the guarantor of “green energy” and holistic development in the country.

Green energy is anti-global warming which can be diminished under CPEC as it is continuously showing positive results through various initiatives taken in recent years.

In this context, the ongoing 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has set four main targets. Thus it has reaffirmed the importance of green economic corridors like CPEC.

The COP26 consists of securing global net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and keeping the 1.5 degrees Celsius rise.

It adapts framework mechanisms to protect communities and natural habitats by protecting and restoring ecosystems and to build defence, warning systems and resilient infrastructure and agriculture to avoid loss of homes, lives and livelihoods.

It pushes the developed countries to make good on their promise to mobilize at least \$100bn in climate finance per year by 2020. It paves the path for partnerships to rise for the challenges of the climate crisis by working together.

While addressing the COP26 Climate Change conference, the Chinese President, Xi Jinping, has called on developed countries to support developing countries to do better in dealing with the climate crisis.

The Chinese President also urged all stakeholders to take stronger actions to jointly tackle the climate challenge and pledged that his country would speed up the green and low-carbon energy transition, vigorously develop renewable energy and plan and build large wind and photovoltaic power stations.

On the other hand, Prime Minister Imran Khan announced at the Climate Ambition Summit 2020 that 60 percent of all electricity produced in the country will be derived from clean sources by 2030. Thus CPEC has great importance.

Pakistan has outperformed many regional countries in its strive towards climate change in the last three years. It has launched three country strategies by the mid of October 2021.

They are REDD+ Country Strategy, the first-ever National Wildlife Strategy and the updated National Climate Change Policy 2021.

Moreover, a national framework for policy advocacy, communication and outreach is in the process. The Generating Global Environmental Benefits (GEB), the GEF and UNDP also supported the project of the Ministry of Climate Change.

Since its beginning, CPEC has been supporting Pakistan to tackle its energy deficits and provide basic infrastructure for development.

As propagated by the Western media most of its energy projects are eco-friendly and do not pose much harm to the atmosphere during the construction and operational phase. All the Chinese companies have been using smart ways to control emissions and waste.

In this regard, Sahiwal Power Plant is one of the prime examples of eco-friendly power generation unit with its capacity to generate 1,320 MW electricity. It used supercritical technology for electricity generation in the country.

The latest technology and use of bituminous coal, having low mercury and sulfur content and high calorific value, enabled the power plant to control its emission well below the world and the Pakistani standards. Moreover, it has planted over 80,000 trees in the compound.

Apart from using the latest technology in coal-fired power plants in Punjab and Balochistan provinces, the Chinese companies are providing renewable energies including solar and hydel to meet the country's demand.

It hopes that CPEC will play an important role to achieve the target of 60 percent renewables energy in the national grid up till 2030 due to its fair contribution in renewable energy projects including hydro, wind and solar power.

Pakistan Prime Minister believes that the commitment of Chinese and Pakistani leadership to make CPEC a green corridor will greatly benefit the country in its struggle for climate protection.

Furthermore, trees will be planted along the CPEC route because the people's health should not be compromised by rapid industrialization and should not be polluting the environment by producing emissions.

In addition to this, the leadership of both Pakistan and China has a vision of making the CPEC a sustainable future for this whole region by making it a green corridor.

Both sides believe that CPEC has already given an economic boost and industrial support to the country and is also setting the foundation of a greener Pakistan by providing green jobs and clean energy which is having a positive impact on the health of hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis.

China is striving to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. So far, more than 30 countries and regions around the world have committed to the goal of carbon neutrality.

As the CPEC enters its second phase, Pakistan's infrastructure policy makers have renewed their commitment to environmental and social sustainability, making for a greener CPEC.

Pakistan has pledged to move towards renewable energy, particularly solar, wind and hydro, and away from coal power.

Alongside this, the government has launched large-scale afforestation initiatives as well as sustainable waste management and conservation programs.

Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are free trade areas of productivity in a country, where the commercial laws are relaxed to attract more and more inflows of FDIs such as allowing certain tax exemptions.

SEZs, which represent an integral component of CPEC's Phase-II, provide a significant opportunity for employment generation and business growth in Pakistan. The vast network of SEZs should be used for rigorous plantation and green development.

Unfortunately, the Global Climate Risk Index (GCRI) has rated Pakistan as the world's fifth most vulnerable country to climate change in 2020 which urgently needs a diversified but integrated mechanism to reduce high ratios of climate change.

Climate change has become one of the most dangerous non-traditional securities around the globe and Pakistan is not an exception.

Abrupt melting of glaciers, invasion of locusts, massive forestation, degradation of soil and last but not the least constant severe spells of harsh weathers have already substantially reduced agro productivity in the country.

Moreover, imbalanced national energy generation mix is also a worrisome issue which should be resolved through the ongoing energy projects of CPEC. More meaningful small, medium and

large hydro-dams should be included in CPEC Phase-II. Projects of wind, solar and biomass should also be considered in its phase-II.

Chinese artificial intelligence techniques and technologies should be implemented to transform larger deserts into green fields for achieving the targets of climate change 2030. China has already transformed its deserts into greenery which should also be replicated in Pakistan under the flagship of CPEC Phase-II.

There is an urgent need to revolutionize the country's agriculture sector especially in CPEC Phase-II by pursuing Chinese innovating crops techniques, hybrid seeds, modern machineries, drone technologies, tunnels cultivation, green technologies and above all multi-cropping should be pursued in CPEC Phase-II.

To conclude, Climate Change is a reality and CPEC is a futuristic project to reduce the ratios of the same which should be implemented as soon as possible.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-cop26-and-associated-policies-for-pakistan-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

China asked to remove CPEC snags

SAPM seeks Beijing's support for completing energy, infrastructure schemes

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has requested China to remove obstacles in the way of completion of seven energy and infrastructure projects worth roughly \$12 billion, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Affairs Khalid Mansoor said on Tuesday.

"I have written two separate letters to the vice Chairman of National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC) of China, urging him to remove barriers" hindering the completion of these projects, Mansoor said while talking to a group of journalists.

He said that the vice chairman's support had been sought for six energy schemes and one infrastructure project – Mainline-I (ML-I) of Pakistan Railways. The cost of energy projects is \$5 billion and the minimum estimated value of the ML-I scheme is \$6.8 billion.

"We have requested China that the agreed projects should be taken to the development stage," said Mansoor.

He highlighted that Pakistan was also trying to resolve problems present on its side by working on issues that were creating hurdles and the country was showing flexibility on the \$6 billion loan terms that it wanted to secure from China for construction of the rail project.

For the past over three years, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government has been struggling to prove that it has not slowed down work on CPEC, as the progress on the ground did not move at the pace agreed between the two nations.

To a question about the timing to finalise the loan deal with China for the ML-I project, Mansoor said that Pakistan was waiting for a term sheet from China for finalization of the loan agreement.

Pakistan would show flexibility on the interest rate, foreign currency component of the loan and tenor of the loan, he added. Pakistan had earlier requested for a loan at 1% in US dollar but “now we are willing to secure the loan at an interest rate of around 2% in an equal mix of Chinese and US currency,” said Mansoor.

The government had approved the 1,733km-long Karachi-Peshawar ML-I project at a cost of \$6.8 billion, which Mansoor said the Chinese termed on the lower side. “We have offered China to arrange an all-Chinese competitive bidding for the ML-I project and if bids are higher than \$6.8 billion, then the government stands ready to revise PC-I of the project,” said the PM aide.

He said that the military has assured the provision of complete security to the project.

“We are also trying to save Gwadar power plant, Karot power plant, Kohala power plant and three other projects from the adverse impact of delay in power purchase payments to the Chinese sponsors,” said Mansoor.

The ML-I project is already facing a delay of over four years and the two sides have been discussing financing terms for the past two years.

“They (Chinese) are seeking sureties that these new power plants are also not stuck in circular debt,” he added.

He said that the government was actively working to clear Rs250 billion payments of Chinese firms on account of power purchase that were stuck in the circular debt.

The government is paying Kibor plus 2% cost to the sponsors of Chinese power plants on the amount that is delayed beyond a certain period.

“The good thing is that China has not yet called the guarantees, which shows it is still willing to work in Pakistan,” said Mansoor.

While giving a background to the CPEC agreement between Pakistan and China, Mansoor said that the deals were the need of the hour.

“The CPEC is a quid-pro-co. Pakistan went to China to seek help to remove road and infrastructure bottlenecks and in return, China demanded road access to connect its western parts with the Gwadar port”, said Mansoor. Expensive electricity is better than no electricity was the slogan at that time and the country was sustaining losses equal to 2.25% of the GDP, said the PM’s aide.

The Chinese side initially laughed at Pakistan’s plan to end load shedding through Gaddani power park and establishment of coal fired power plants. China then gave an alternate strategy and, one by one, dropped the Gaddani power park and two Punjab-based coal-fired power plants ie Rahim Yar Khan power plant and Muzafargarh power plant, he explained.

Irrespective of what people say about infrastructure, the lives of the residents have become comfortable due to the mass transportation projects, said the PM's aide who also handled \$5 billion Chinese investment in his previous position as head of a power company.

The \$53 billion investment had been envisaged under the CPEC and "Pakistan has fairly dealt the phase-I of the CPEC", said the PM's aide.

So far, 5,300 MW of new electricity generation capacity has been added and an 880 kilometer long transmission line has been laid. Power projects possessing a capacity of 3,500 MW were still under implementation. Another 4,144 MW capacity projects were at the planning stage, he added.

It is Pakistan's last chance to industrialise and the key is the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under the CPEC, said Mansoor.

Under the CPEC, nine Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and a free zone at Gwadar have been planned and four SEZs and the free zone are being developed on priority, he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2328665/china-asked-to-remove-cpec-snags>

November 11, 2021

Daily Times

Pakistani and Chinese firms sign deals worth millions of dollars

Nine Chinese companies are set to initiate long-term development projects in Pakistan, organizers of Pakistan Industrial Expo 2021 said, according to Gwadar Pro.

More than 100 Chinese companies participated in the 5th Pakistan Industrial Expo 2021 (October 29-31) through both physical and online participation. The previous four editions of Pakistan Industrial Expo attracted 31 Chinese companies who are cooperating with local ones to set up assembling plants or technology exchange.

Numerous Pakistani associations and chambers also visited the venue and signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with the organizer. The organizer Everest International, announced that the Chinese and Pakistani companies had signed intended cooperation agreements (ICAs) worth US \$ 34 million in different sectors including construction, engineering, manufacturing and technology transfer.

They said at least 9 Chinese companies are considering to start long-term development projects in Pakistani market as a result of interaction between both sides at the expo. Encouraged by the results, organizer Everest International Expo has also set up a 'permanent display center' in Lahore to showcase Chinese products for physical inspection by the local industry representatives before further negotiations between both the sides. Despite the Covid-19 situation, Pakistan and China have been able to sustain a healthy economic and investment

partnership and it is now high time to join hands for a much-needed economic and investment rebound.

This is the best possible solution to bring businesses from both countries together for rejuvenation of bilateral investment cooperation, commented Chris Zhou, Deputy General Manager of Everest International Expo.

Kamal Nasir Khan, Chairman of Constructors Association of Pakistan (CAP), praised the organizers for arranging such an event in prevailing circumstances which would create a win-win situation both for Chinese and Pakistani businessmen. He showed keen interest in the construction machinery placed in the exhibition and remarked that Pakistani construction and real estate industry was showing positive trend and it needs modern machinery which can help bring down the cost as well as ensure longer life of constructed buildings.

Similarly, Daroghawala Industries Owners Association's President Shouban Akhtar appreciated the offline-online method adopted by the organizers and said that it served the purpose of physical inspection and immediate negotiation between buyers and sellers.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/840027/pakistani-and-chinese-firms-sign-deals-worth-millions-of-dollars/>

Pakistan Observer

FFC, Zonergy company sign contract agreement of 2MW solar system

Fauji Fertilizer company (FFC) & Zonergy (TIANJIN) Company LTD signed Contract agreement of 2MW solar system installation at FFC Plant Goth Machhi Province of Punjab Pakistan Zonergy Pakistan Vice President Mr. Xu HongChang and Sales Head Bidding & Proposal Mr. Attaullah Jan along with FFC Brig (Retd) Senior Manager Procurement Mr. Atif Nawab Khan attended the signing ceremony.

<https://pakobserver.net/ffc-zonergy-company-sign-contract-agreement-of-2mw-solar-system/>

The Express Tribune

Pink salt thrives in China

Expert says Himalayan salt lamp is a sought-after product in Beijing

BEIJING: Himalayan rock salt from Pakistan is making a splash in the Chinese market.

“You see, I have sold four batches in such a few days. On November 6 alone, more than 50 salt lamps were sold to customers,” Mian Muhammad Zubair, in charge of Pak-Persian salt lake booth, told journalists from the China Economic Net (CEN) at the fourth China International Import Expo (CIIE) held recently.

It was the second time that CEN journalists paid a visit to the booth. Unlike last time, many salt lamps on the shelves have been labeled as “booked” even the costly large one on the ground has been reserved for some generous clients.

The salt for these lamps is exploited from Khewra Salt Mine, Punjab, which is also the world's leading producer of Himalayan pink salt.

As the second largest salt deposit in the world, the Khewra mine is estimated to have more than one billion tons of salt in store.

Since mining started in 1838, more than 350,000 tons of rock salt with a purity of 98% has been produced annually.

After being made into a wide range of products such as edible pink salt, salt lamps, bath salts, salt bricks, etc, they are exported to China, Britain, the United States and many other countries, making a name all over the world.

According to Chinese customs, China imported RMB 12.2 million (Rs330 million) worth of Himalayan rock salt in the first half of 2020.

In addition to some packaged, branded products imported from the US, more than 90% of China's imported Himalayan rock salt is from Pakistan.

"There are pink, black, and white salt in Pakistan. Black salt lamps are rare, but pink ones are more popular in China," said Zubair.

According to him, this is the first time for black salt lamps to appear at CIIE.

The Himalayan salt lamp is a sought-after product in the world's second largest consumer market. Within five minutes of the journalists' stopover at the Pak-Persian booth, at least three Chinese buyers inquired and bought the salt lamps.

"We plan to place it in the living room. Later, we might transform one of the rooms into a salt room. We can also use the salt for bathing," said a Chinese buyer in the massive health industry.

The flocking Chinese buyers reflect the enthusiasm of Chinese consumers for salt lamps.

On a major e-commerce platform in China, over 600 commodities are displayed under the category of "Himalayan salt lamp".

Apart from salt lamps, pink salt is even more popular in the Chinese market.

"Himalayan pink salt with Pakistan as its main country of origin is our feature product for CIIE this year," revealed Zhongbai Investment Group Co Ltd Project Director Zhou Wenqi.

Pakistani pink salt distinguishes itself with the marble-like appearance and colour, as well as the processing and production technology. In addition, people's admiration towards the Himalayas adds to their appeal.

"We have decades of experience in selling salt. We started selling Chinese domestic salt and then imported Australian sea salt. With the increase of sea salt products in the Chinese market, mineral salt and deep mountain salt are becoming more and more accepted in China, especially in the coastal areas," said Wenqi.

A search for pink salt on China's major e-commerce platform yielded more than 160,000 items. The best-selling Himalayan pink salt has more than 20,000 customer comments.

A bottle of pink salt weighs 1.5 kg and costs RMB 79 (about Rs2,105), which is about seven times the price of ordinary edible salt in China.

In addition to pink salt, Chinese exhibitors also took the initiative to introduce Pakistani pink salt mixed products. At the CIIE, the CEN reporter first saw mixed condiments with pink salt and black pepper, pink salt and rosemary, pink salt and chili, as well as black salt.

It is worth noting that in the Chinese market, the "Certification of Origin of Pakistan" is becoming the authentic identity mark of Himalayan pink salt.

To curb the unauthorized sale of Pakistani products by other countries, Pakistan announced this year that pink salt was registered as a product with geographical indication.

Pakistan also enacted the "Geographical Indications Act 2020" to protect its local products, combat counterfeit products and ensure better prices in foreign markets.

Himalayan salt was once imported in large quantities by countries such as India, then processed into pink salt and sold all over the world. Direct cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani trading companies can not only bring higher prices to Pakistani pink salt, but also allow Chinese consumers to obtain products at good prices.

A professional buyer from Tianjin said that he initially bought pink salt from Canada, which was also produced in Pakistan.

"If we can contact Pakistani suppliers through the CIIE, we don't have to purchase from the United States or Canada, and the price will fall."

In general, the sales of Himalayan rock salt products in the Chinese market are accelerating.

According to the Annotations on Domestic Sub-categories of the Customs Import and Export Tariff of the People's Republic of China, Himalayan rock salt falls under category 25010019, the applicable most favored nation tax rate and general tariff rate are both zero and its value-added tax rate is 13%.

Chinese customs data shows that the total amount of other salts imported by China from Pakistan increased by 29% in 2020 compared with 2019.

From January to September 2021, China's import growth rate further accelerated, with a year-on-year increase of more than 60%, which also confirms the growth rate of China's import of Himalayan salt products from Pakistan.

"China will firmly share market opportunities with the rest of the world. Our annual import in goods and services is valued at around \$2.5 trillion. All this offers an enormous market. Going forward, China will lay more emphasis on expanding imports, and pursue balanced development of trade," Chinese President Xi Jinping made the remarks while addressing the opening ceremony of the 4th CIIE via video.

Jinping's speech has also demonstrated China's resolve to increase imports from neighbouring countries and promote Silk Road e-commerce.

Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque believes that Pakistan's exports to China will double in the next three to five years.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2328852/pink-salt-thrives-in-china>

The Nation

Chinese envoy visits Foreign National Security Cell

ISLAMABAD - Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong on Wednesday visited Foreign National Security Cell, National Action Plan Secretariat and received a briefing on security to the Chinese citizens. Minister for Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmad received the envoy where he was informed about the steps taken by the law enforcement agencies to ensure the security of the Chinese citizens and overall security measures. Sheikh Rashid said that a secured atmosphere was a must for promotion of economic activities between the two countries. He added the government was committed to ensuring a foolproof security mechanism and surveillance system. He said that government had established a foreign national security cell in order to ensure safe and sound security system for foreigners in Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-11/page-2>

The News

Pakistani, Chinese companies sign deals worth millions of dollars

ISLAMABAD: Nine Chinese companies are set to initiate long-term development projects in Pakistan, organizers of Pakistan Industrial Expo 2021 said, according to Gwadar Pro.

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The previous four editions of Pakistan Industrial Expo attracted 31 Chinese companies who are cooperating with local ones to set up assembling plants or technology exchange.

Numerous Pakistani associations and chambers also visited the venue and signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with the organizer.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=23577>

Nawaiwaqt News

ترقی کیلئے چین کی طرح جلد فیصلے کرنا ہوں گے: صدر علوی

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) صدر مملکت ڈاکٹر عارف علوی نے کہا ہے کہ ڈیجیٹل پاکستان ہمارا اوٹن ہے۔ انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی کے شعبہ میں ترقی سے پاکستان کی مجموعی قومی پیداوار کو بڑھا سکتے ہیں۔ ملک میں آئی ٹی کے گریجویٹس کی تعداد بڑھانے کی ضرورت ہے۔ عوام کو فیک نیوز کے بارے میں آگاہ کرنا ہو گا۔ دنیا میں ٹیکنالوجی تیزی سے ترقی کر رہی ہے۔ ترقی کے سفر میں آگے بڑھنے کے لئے چین کی طرح جلد فیصلے کرنے ہوں گے۔ صدر مملکت بدھ کو یہاں قومی براڈ بینڈ نیٹ ورک فورم سے خطاب کر رہے تھے۔ تقریب سے پاکستان ٹیلی کمیونیکیشن اتھارٹی (پی ٹی اے) کے چیئرمین میجر جنرل (ر) عامر عظیم باجوہ، وفاقی سیکرٹری انفارمیشن ٹیکنالوجی ڈاکٹر محمد سہیل راجپوت اور ٹیلی موصلات کی کمپنیوں کے سربراہوں اور نمائندوں نے بھی خطاب کیا۔ پارلیمنٹ ہاؤس میں سائبر انفیشینٹ پارلیمنٹ کیلئے صدر کے اقدام سے متعلق اجلاس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے صدر مملکت نے اس بات پر زور دیا کہ ملک پارلیمنٹ کے آٹومیشن میں تاخیر کا متحمل نہیں ہو سکتا۔ انہوں نے تمام متعلقہ سٹیک ہولڈرز سے کہا کہ اس منصوبے کو اس کی دی گئی ٹائم لائن یعنی جنوری 2023ء سے پہلے مکمل کیا جائے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-11-11/page-6/detail-53>

November 12, 2021

Business Recorder

CPEC: Our last chance for industrialization

CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) is supposed to be a game changer for Pakistan's economy. Several new power projects were installed at a time when the country was losing 2-2.5 percent of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) every year due to severe load shedding and no one in the world was ready to invest in the energy sector in Pakistan. China stepped in. Later, however, the projects in line for the second round or phase-II of CPEC almost halted due to economic slowdown and the growing circular debt. There may be some revival now as the JCC (Joint Cooperation Committee) meeting took place in September as planned and China's President Xi Jinping called Prime Minister Imran Khan last month. SAPM (Special Assistant to Prime Minister) on CPEC affairs Khalid Mansoor recently described CPEC as Pakistan's last chance for industrialization.

Pakistan is prematurely moving from agrarian to a service economy, and there is no way the country can cater for 220 million plus population without having an industrial base. Perhaps, the lack of industrial depth is the reason for Pakistan's frequent boom and bust growth cycles. The world is not ready to finance the growing external imbalances without a promise of sustainable path of economic growth by Pakistan. And that sustainable path is hinged upon industrial growth in the country.

The government should work on a priority basis to speed up CPEC. One of the prime reasons for CPEC slowdown is delay in payments to Chinese investors in the power projects. Delays in IPPs' (Independent Power Producers') payment is a notorious norm in Pakistan. But the Chinese

are not very amused at this treatment. Around Rs250 billion worth of payments are stuck due to which the projects are unable to pay dividends to the investors. Now, these investors are said to be reluctant to proceed further. Perhaps not surprisingly, the insurance premium on the projects is also rising. Reportedly, the delays in 6 power projects (mostly hydel and coal) are due to pending approvals from the insurer, Sinosure. This could be attributed to over-dues of power projects amounting to Rs250 billion. There are statements by government officials every now and then through which it is claimed that the government is renegotiating the rates of return on quasi-equity IPPs that are secured by sovereign guarantees. There is nothing new that has been offered to the Chinese. The return structure template was made under the 1994 Power Policy (the Benazir Bhutto government signed a number of IPP contracts under this policy). At that time, mainly businesspeople from the West invested in Pakistan, and later a similar structure was offered in the 2000s when local entrepreneurs emerged as major investors.

With the advent of circular debt that began to grow in 2010s and a bleak security situation, foreign investment was hard to come by while the power demand and supply gap kept growing. The Chinese committed to Pakistan and most investments were on the then prevalent rate of return structure. Later, the government negotiated with local IPPs on their rates of return. It is, therefore, important to note that some in the government have been advocating a similar treatment or concession for CPEC projects. Efforts should, therefore, be aimed at expediting the remaining power projects in the CPEC and kick-starting the CPEC's second and highly crucial round where private to private partnership in Special Economic Zones is important to bring foreign investment in efficiency-seeking sectors and technology transfer. In the past, the thrust of foreign investment was market-seeking projects, resulting in import substitution. Rarely did any investment come to efficiency-seeking projects where foreign exchange can be earned by generating exports and also saving on imports through import substitution. That is why expediting work on SEZs is imperative. That is why clearing the air on overdue payments is imperative. That is why authorities should be careful in making comments on CPEC publicly. All these have grave repercussions for Pakistan.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/12/6-page/907382-news.html>

Daily Times

Video contest on 70-year of Pak-China diplomatic ties enters next stage

The short video contest launched by Chinese Embassy in Islamabad titled “My Story with China” has entered second stage ‘My Story with CPEC’.

The year 2021 marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. As a special arrangement of the celebrations, the Chinese Embassy in cooperation with the short video sharing platform Likee has initiated a short video creation contest “My Story with China” in order to portrait the bilateral friendship in a new way.

The contest covers a period of four months. The theme is released on the first day of each month. The final is scheduled to be held in the Spring Festival of 2022. The contest will award winners

with cash amounts to PKR 2 million in total. The selection is based on the evaluation of short video quality and audience affection.

The previous month enjoyed a total exposure of more than 48 million, with 4,217 short videos collected, and played more than 33 million times, and received 1.85 million likes.

By exploring more innovative activities, the Chinese Embassy is working hard to inject new impetus and new elements into the China-Pakistan friendship and attract more and more young people to devote themselves to the inter-generational inheritance of China-Pakistan friendship.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/840538/video-contest-on-70-year-of-pak-china-diplomatic-ties-enters-next-stage/>

Dawn News

NCOC approves two Chinese vaccines for children aged 12-18 years

Ikram Junaidi

ISLAMABAD: While 5.5 million teenage people have been vaccinated with American vaccine Pfizer, Pakistan on Thursday decided to start inoculating those in the age group of 12-18 years with two Chinese vaccines.

The announcement was made by the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) on social media.

“Chinese vaccines Sinopharm and Sinovac have been approved by the NCOC Health Experts Committee for administration to children above 12 years of age from Nov 15 onwards. Now, these vaccines will also be available in addition to already approved Pfizer for children above 12 years,” the NCOC tweeted.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, who also heads the NCOC, said that over 50 per cent of students had got at least one dose of Covid vaccine.

637 more infected with Covid in single day

“Alhamdulillah more than half the students between the ages of 12 and 18 have been vaccinated with at least 1 dose. Total students vaccinated so far exceeds 5.5m. GB leads the way with 68pc and Punjab is second with 62pc,” he tweeted.

According to a statement issued by the NCOC, during a morning session the forum reviewed the nationwide vaccination drive. It was informed that 1.7m individuals had been vaccinated on November 9, making it the highest number in a single day.

The forum appreciated the efforts in reaching important milestone of 50pc of the country’s eligible population receiving at least one dose. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa became the second province to vaccinate half of its eligible population with at least one dose.

The NCOC also appreciated the mass vaccination drive, particularly ‘Reach Every Door’ campaign. It praised the vaccination teams for expediting the pace of vaccination across the country.

The forum was briefed on the mechanism for carrying out necessary Covid-19 protocols and vaccination mechanism for pedestrians crossing into Pakistan from land borders. It emphasised the need for enhancing administration of second dose to eligible individuals so as to sufficiently raise the immunity level of the population for long-term dividends.

As many as nine people succumbed to Covid-19, while 637 others were infected with the virus over the past 24 hours.

According to the NCOC, 23,270 active cases were reported and 1,197 people admitted to hospitals across the country on Thursday.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1657605/ncoc-approves-two-chinese-vaccines-for-children-aged-12-18-years>

Progress on CPEC projects reviewed

Behram Baloch

GWADAR: The progress on development projects initiated under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was reviewed at a meeting here on Thursday.

The meeting took several decisions for accelerating the pace of work for early completion of the projects.

Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) chairman Naseer Ahmed Kashani, China Overseas Port handling Company chairman Zhang Bao Zong, Director General of Gwadar Development Authority Shahzeb Kaka, Makran Division Commissioner Shah Irfan Gharsheen and Gwadar Deputy Commissioner retired Major Abdul Kabir Khan Zarkoon briefed the meeting about progress of the ongoing development projects.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Secretary Mathar Niaz Rana discussed issues of drinking water and electricity and ordered that uninterrupted water and electricity supply be ensured in Gwadar and other areas.

He said that vacancies for educated youths of Gwadar on contract basis in the education department should be ensured as soon as possible.

He said in view of the importance of the port city, a fire brigade station should also be established and fire tenders should be purchased for Gwadar district.

Referring to fisheries and fishermen’s issues, the chief secretary said that there was a need to introduce reforms in the fisheries laws in accordance with needs of the present day.

He stressed the need for provision of the best medical care for the people of Gwadar and called upon the health department to improve its performance.

Mr Rana reviewed the implementation of the decisions taken during his last visit to Gwadar and asked the authorities concerned to ensure implementation of these decisions.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1657603/progress-on-cpec-projects-reviewed>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC leading towards socioeconomic development in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD – China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a multi-faceted development initiative that provides Pakistan with a once in a lifetime chance for fair and sustainable growth.

This initiative has helped Pakistan achieve socioeconomic development and improve the living standards of its people.

According to the latest updates, six completed and 11 under construction projects under CPEC have aided the country in creating jobs, fostering socioeconomic advantages for residents, and pulling the underprivileged out of poverty.

Now, this project has entered the second phase following the successful completion of the first, which has filled gaps in energy and communication infrastructure with the pace of development on the projects.

The second phase will have a much larger impact than the first, with the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) connecting the private sectors of Pakistan and China, bringing in more private investment, boosting cooperation in agriculture, science and technology, and also ushering in an era of industrialization.

Currently, there are four SEZs named Rashakai SEZ, Dhabeji SEZ, Allama Iqbal Industrial City and Boston SEZ which are in the construction phase, and the remaining four projects are in the pipeline.

The role of these SEZs is very important, as they will help strengthen the economy and provide millions of jobs and business opportunities to the people by reducing poverty and unemployment and improving the living standard.

The amount of aggregate trade between China and Pakistan is increasing day by day, with the last 10 months indicating a 10 percent rise over the previous year's equivalent period. In future, this project will increase bilateral trade by several billion dollars.

According to the most recent statistics, Pakistan's exports to China increased by over 70% in the first quarter of 2021. The exports to China totaled \$888 million in the first quarter of 2021 compared with \$526 million in the first quarter of 2020 (PBS).

The current circumstances indicate that Pakistani goods' exports to China and neighbouring countries are steadily rising, and with the development of CPEC, these prospects will strengthen and improve the economy of Pakistan. Furthermore, the key Gwadar port in Pakistan, whose projected cost is between \$10,000 million and \$14,000 million, is being connected to the rest of

the country through an improved road infrastructure, which will boost the economy and improve regional connectivity and trade.

CPEC is an infrastructure and development initiative that would provide thousands of local residents with job and business opportunities, increasing their income. Furthermore, this initiative will facilitate access to essential living necessities like banking, markets, transportation, education, and health care besides providing access to education and health services in many rural and remote areas.

CPEC, in its early stages, has created 38,000 jobs, benefiting 75 percent of Pakistani nationals. The project is anticipated to create 196,827 jobs not only in Pakistan, but also throughout the region on its completion. It would also generate possibilities in the neighbouring nations by engaging in a variety of trade and commercial activities in the area eradicating poverty and improving the living standards of Pakistanis.

CPEC is a 2,700 kilometer long road, railway, and gas and oil pipeline that connects China and Pakistan. This link will replace China's existing long (12,500km) shipping route, saving the country time and billions of dollars in shipping costs while also providing a fast and safe path for trade with the rest of the globe.

The multilateral projects under CPEC will usher in socio-economic development across the distant and rural area of Pakistan improving the living standard of people there, either directly or indirectly. That's why CPEC has been dubbed "Pakistan's fate changer."

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-leading-towards-socioeconomic-development-in-pakistan/>

The Nation

CIIE offers huge space for Pak exports

ISLAMABAD - The 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE), the biggest import themed expo worldwide, has displayed a huge market for Pakistani government and exporters.

Numerous state of the art technologies and products across the globe being exhibited at the expo have caught people's imagination, says a report by China Economic Net on Thursday.

This year's CIIE displays a huge variety of technologies and products of green development. Among them, a heat free inkjet printer powered by riding a bike attracted a lot of attention.

The report added, surgical robot precisely diagnosing lung cancer at early stage .Lung cancer, as a major global health threat, accounts for 12% of all new cancer diagnoses but 22% of all cancer deaths. Early diagnosis is the key to working a cure.

With a navigation system, a bronchoscopy robot exhibited at CIIE can deeply and precisely enter trachea by a catheter controlled by its arm, in a way doing less harm to health compared with the traditional puncture. In one clothing booth, visitors are welcomed by a giant 2.5-meter 3D knit dress created using 'WHOLEGARMENT' technology.

Combining fashion, technology and sustainability, the 3D Knit saves on yarn and tailoring, allowing for a seamless finish to fit the body, achieving an elegant and comfortable wearing experience.

Muhammad Sabir Jan, a Pakistan trader who has lived in China for 27 years, has attended CIIE for the fourth time. "In Pakistan, currently, there is still a shortage of electricity. By adopting green energy technologies, our power shortage will be reduced," he said.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-12/page-4/detail-3>

Jang News

سب کے پسندیدہ ”ڈوکنی کنگ“ چلے چین

ڈوکنی کنگ چلے چین، جی ہاں جیو فلز اور ٹیلزمان اسٹوڈیوز کی شاہ کار فلم دی ڈوکنی کنگ، 19 نومبر کو چین کے سینیاگھروں میں ریلیز ہونے جا رہی ہے۔

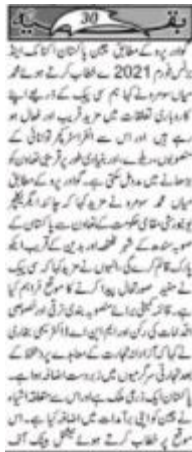
یہ پہلی پاکستانی فلم ہے جسے چین میں اتنے بڑے پیمانے پر ریلیز کیا جا رہا ہے۔

اس سے پہلے ڈوکنی کنگ پاکستان کے علاوہ دنیا کے 10 سے زائد ممالک میں کامیابی کے جھنڈے گاڑ چکی ہے۔

ان ممالک میں روس، جنوبی کوریا، اسپین، یونان، پرو، کولمبیا، ترکی، انڈونیشیا، یوکرین اور تائیوان شامل ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1010876>

K2 Daily



<https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP ICT&Page=Back Page>

<https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP ICT&Page=Baqia>

November 13, 2021

Daily Times

UNHCR, China donate neonatal intensive care unit for newborns

UNHCR with support of Chinese Government has completed the transfer of a consignment of emergency medical equipment to the neo-natal intensive care unit (NICU) of the Polyclinic Hospital in Islamabad on Friday.

Twenty-three pieces of equipment were transferred to the hospital as part of a list of equipment needed by the hospital, including infant incubators, baby warmers, suction machines, infusion pumps and ultrasound machines, said a press release.

The contribution was made possible by the financial support and generosity of the People's Republic of China. This donation is also part of an ongoing programme of support undertaken by UNHCR across Pakistan in refugee-hosting areas to support health services that ensure treatment for refugees within their general services.

“We're very happy that we could facilitate the donation of these pieces of equipment, which help protect and save the lives of newborn children. The Polyclinic Hospital deserves every support we can provide as an invaluable service that helps not only the vulnerable newborn children of Pakistani families but also the new and fragile members of refugee families,” said UNHCR Representative in Pakistan, Noriko Yoshida.

The Polyclinic Hospital is one of the largest government hospitals in Pakistan, catering to the health needs of a wide range of patients.

Approximately 1,000 patients per day, including refugees, will benefit from the new equipment.

The Government of China has been supporting UNHCR's refugee and host community assistance in Pakistan as well as other countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

UNHCR's assistance towards host community services is guided by a Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees.

A Support Platform was set up in 2019 to boost the support of the international community towards collective efforts to find solutions for Afghan refugees, including the need for increased assistance towards national services in hosting countries like Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/840972/unhcr-china-donate-neonatal-intensive-care-unit-for-newborns/>

Pakistani mango exports to China increase by more than nine times

For Chinese imported fruits, price is not an issue, high quality is the key.” At the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE), a head of Joy Wing Mau Fruit Technologies Corporation Limited, which is engaged in fruit import and distribution in China told China Economic Net.

Pakistani mango exports to China increased by more than 9 times, less than 0.36% of China's total imports. From January to September 2021, Pakistan exported 37.4 tons of mangoes (commodity code: 08045020 fresh or dried mangoes) to China, which is more than 10 times the 3.6 tons in the same period in 2020.

Even so, it is still less than 0.36% of China's total imports of 10,500 tons of mangoes from January to September. How do we expand mango exports to China? In 2021, Sindhri mangoes cost 168 yuan (4,500 rupees) in China for 4.5 kg, 98 yuan (2625 rupees) for 2.5 kg, or about 40 yuan (1071 rupees)/kg. In the same period, the price of mangoes in Panzhihua, Sichuan Province, China was about 1/3 of the former. Is the price of Pakistani mangoes too high in China?

Compared to Australian mangoes priced at Rs 2145/kg, Pakistani mangoes are not expensive in China. In this regard, the person in charge of Joy Wing Mau Fruit Technologies Corporation Limited said that price is not an issue, high quality is the key.

China's imported mangoes from Australia and Peru can be sold for 300-400 yuan (8034-10712 rupees) in 5kg packs, which are far more expensive than Pakistani mangoes, but sales are still very good.

"Because of the high degree of industrialization of Australian mangoes, they are just ripe when being shipped to China with good quality. However, when Pakistani mangoes are shipped to China, the maturity of the fruit is different, and the appearance and packaging of fruit are also the restraining factor.

To ensure the maturity and appearance of each box is the key to boost sales." At the same time, packaging is also a key factor in mango sales. At the CIIE, the crabapple wrapped in round transparent plastic attracted the attention of many consumers, and they expressed their willingness to buy.

The person in charge of the booth told CEN that this is a packaging designed for traveling, making it more convenient to carry. Possibility: expand the sales channels of large warehouse supermarkets such as Sam's Club

In 2021, most Pakistani mangoes in China has bought by individual consumers through WeChat presale and payment. How to expand the market scale of Pakistani mango in China? The person in charge said that imported mangoes need to be sold as soon as possible, and the price is relatively high, so they are more suitable for sale in large warehouse supermarkets such as Sam's Club.

The household purchases can effectively increase the sales of mangoes. For retail, Fresh Hema Supermarket also matches the price of Pakistani mangoes. China imported 303,000 tons of cherries, up 68% year on year

In addition to mangoes, cherries are also one of the main fruits imported by China. According to data from the General Administration of Customs of China, from January to September 2021,

China imported 303,000 tons of cherries from eight countries including Chile (commodity code: 08929900 other fresh cherries), an increase of 68% over the same period last year.

Regarding the import demand of the Chinese cherry market, the person in charge of the booth stated that China consumes 90% of Chilean cherries. Although the scale of Chilean cherries is growing every year, it is still difficult to meet the needs of Chinese consumers, because the consumer group of Chinese cherries is expanding. “Consumer groups are gradually sinking from first- and second-tier cities to third- and fourth-tier cities.

Eating cherries has even become the new fashion for third- and fourth-tier cities to celebrate the Spring Festival.” As China actively expands imports, Uzbekistan’s cherries has been exported to China for the first time in 2020. It is expected that Pakistani cherries can also be exported to China as soon as possible.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/840963/pakistani-mango-exports-to-china-increase-by-more-than-nine-times/>

The Express Tribune

China donates 100,000 Covid-19 testing kits

Official says CPAFFC would continue to meet Pakistan's critical needs in the future

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan received another donation of 100,000 Covid-19 testing kits and sample releaser buffer from Chinese companies, as the country recorded a declining disease trend in the single-day tally of new cases and the fatality rate during the past 24 hours.

The Covid kits were handed over to Pakistan’s Ambassador Moinul Haque at a ceremony at the Pakistan embassy in Beijing on Friday. The ceremony was especially organised to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The ceremony was attended by China-Pakistan Friendship Association Chairman Sha Zukang, Chinese Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) Vice President Li Xikui, China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development Secretary General Wang Longshe, Wuhan Easy Diagnosis Biomedicine Co Deputy General Manager Wang Rui and others.

Thanking Chinese enterprise for the generous gift, Ambassador Haque paid rich tribute to Chinese people and government for supporting Pakistan in its fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. He added that Pakistan and China stood together amid the crisis and extended to each other utmost support.

In his speech, Li Xikui said that CPAFFC would continue to meet Pakistan's critical needs in the future as well. Ambassador Sha Zukang said that anti-pandemic cooperation between Pakistan and China had been beneficial to both the countries.

In Islamabad, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) – the nerve centre of the country’s fight against the pandemic – said that the national Covid positivity ratio during the past 24 hours came down to 1.01% from 1.3% recorded the other day.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2329222/china-donates-100000-covid-19-testing-kits>

The Nation

American, Russian, Chinese special envoys on Afghanistan hold separate meetings with COAS

ISLAMABAD - United States (US) Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at GHQ in Rawalpindi on Friday.

“During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, current security situation in Afghanistan and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed,” says a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate following the meeting.

COAS said that Pakistan desires to maintain the tradition of bilateral engagement and wish for long term and multi-domain enduring relationship with United States. COAS reiterated the need for global convergence on Afghanistan for avoiding looming humanitarian crisis and coordinated efforts for economic uplift of the Afghan people.

According to the ISPR, the visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan’s role in Afghan situation, special efforts for border management, role in regional stability and pledged to play his part for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

Also, Special Representative of President of the Russian Federation on Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at GHQ on Friday.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, current security situation in Afghanistan and bilateral cooperation in various fields was discussed, the ISPR said. COAS said that Pakistan desires to maintain the tradition of bilateral engagement with all the regional players and wish for long term and enduring multi-domain relationship with Russia. COAS also reiterated the need for global convergence on Afghanistan for avoiding humanitarian crisis and coordinated efforts for economic uplift of the Afghan people. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan’s role in Afghan situation, special efforts for border management, role in regional stability and pledged to play his part for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

Meanwhile, Special Envoy on Afghanistan Affairs of China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Yue Xiaoyong called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at GHQ on Friday.

“During the meeting matters of mutual interest, regional security situation including Afghanistan situation and measures to further enhance bilateral cooperation were discussed,” the ISPR said.

COAS reiterated the need for convergence of efforts towards a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan in pursuit of regional stability. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in Afghan peace process, special efforts for border management, role in regional stability and pledged to play his part for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-13/page-1/detail-2>

China enterprises exploring cooperation to import milk from Pakistan

BEIJING - One of the largest dairy groups of China on Friday welcomed Pakistani milk to enter the Chinese market, which will benefit Pakistan's economic development, industrial upgrading and industrial chain extension.

At the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, Li Yunjie, Overseas Business Manager of Bright Dairy & Food co ltd said, "We love to learn more about Pakistan's dairy industry and active participation." The yield and quality of dairy products in Pakistan is very high and has huge potential. We are willing to explore dairy cooperation based on the Belt and Road Initiative and have had some communication with them, he said.

Li added that the demand for dairy products in China is huge, and has gone beyond basic products such as milk, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Although the consumer market in China is constantly changing, the trend for health is not going to change, he said and added, regarding our data and analysis, we believe that cheese and cream are going to be two of the fastest growing categories in the future.

He said that in addition to infant milk powder, large packages powder, and liquid milk, high value-added dairy products such as whey, cheese, butter and cream are also in great demand in the Chinese market.

If the industrial chain can be transplanted to Pakistan, it is expected to achieve a win-win situation for the milk industry of the two countries. Dairy products received great attention on 4th CIIE. At the occasion, the Dairy Industry Forum of CIIE was successfully held as well. At the event, the Committee also released a Report on China's Dairy Industry, calling for enhanced cooperation in the dairy industry along BRI.

According to the report, the Chinese market has shown great demand for dairy products. In 2020, China imported 3.39 million tons of dairy products, 10.2% year on year increase.

Imports amounted to \$12.4 billion, up 6.5% year on year. From 2011 to 2020, China's dairy imports grew at a compound annual growth rate of 12.3%, and this demand continues to expand. China's diversified demand for high quality milk products has also offered a new option for Pakistan's dairy industry.

At present, China's dairy imports are mostly from New Zealand (40.44%), the Netherlands (17.15%), Australia (7.38%) and other European and American countries. By contrast, Chinese

dairy companies are trying to tap high quality milk sources in Belt and Road countries such as Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-13/page-9/detail-0>

November 14, 2021

Daily Times

China's technology export will improve Pakistan's agriculture

The export of China's advanced agricultural technology and service model will greatly improve the agricultural development of countries participating in 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI), including Pakistan.

Digital agriculture and mechanized agriculture can be used as references and focuses for their future implementation," Liu Zhenlei, Dean of CP-WELLWAY Institute of Smart Agriculture told Gwadar Pro in an interview.

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the whole world is facing the pressure of food security. For BRI countries, to improve the scientific and technological level of agriculture and the output efficiency of land is of great significance for the development of the economy and the improvement of people's living standards.

Modern agricultural machinery and technologies taking advantage of digital progress has become an imperative for Pakistan, where 84% of land is classified as arable and agriculture accounts for 26 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), but the rural population, which represents the backbone of the agricultural sector, is comprised mainly of small-scale farmers who lack access to modern farming technologies and machinery, according to a Climate-Smart Agriculture survey in Pakistan.

Recently, the 3rd Joint Training Program on Digital Transformation for the Belt and Road countries was held by Beijing Technological and Business University (BTBU) in collaboration with Economic Cooperation Organization – Science Foundation (ECOSF). On the occasion, Mr. Liu Zhenlei introduced comprehensive solutions for upgrading digital agriculture.

Muhammad Irfan Hussain, a Pakistani PhD candidate from University of Science and Technology, Beijing who participated in the training believes that Pakistan is entering the era of digital development.

Introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine learning and other new technologies can solve problems which have existed for many years. "China is a huge market of AI and China can play a vital role in introducing digital technologies into Pakistan's agricultural development."

Mr. Liu explained that, "Pakistan can refer to the digital greenhouse experience of modern agriculture that China is building, increase the output scale of its economic crops, and improve the efficiency of land use and crop output." In response to Pakistan's water shortage, he pointed

out that Pakistan can promote water-saving irrigation in the whole agricultural field to meet the reasonable demand of crops with less water resources.

Under the influence of the epidemic, cross-border e-commerce has developed rapidly and become an important force in stabilizing foreign trade. “The promotion of new cross-border e-commerce sales models of agricultural products will help establish brands for excellent products from BRI countries, raise the awareness of regional brands in the world, and bring more foreign exchange earnings.” Mr. Liu highlighted.

CP-WELLWAY Institute of Smart Agriculture has added surging impetus to the popularization of digital agriculture and industrial upgrading in China. Mr. Liu said that in the future, the institute would gradually export excellent products and technical services to BRI countries according to the needs of their agricultural development.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/841380/chinas-technology-export-will-improve-pakistans-agriculture/>

Pak-China forum highlights Pakistan’s industrial investment policies

A Pakistan-China Economic and Business Forum was organised at Pakistan Embassy, Beijing to help Chinese potential investment partners to fully understand Pakistan’s industrial investment policies.

The forum was jointly organised by Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Beijing Nordic Exhibition Co., Ltd and Shanghai Huiguan Culture Media Co., Ltd.

Addressing on the occasion, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque briefed the Chinese entrepreneurs and businessmen about attractive policies offered by the government and investment friendly environment for the foreign investors, especially the Chinese businessmen.

He invited the Chinese entrepreneurs to take advantage of these opportunities and invest in textiles, minerals, agricultural products, seafood, handicrafts and sports products.

Ambassador Haque also apprised them that Pakistan is the sixth largest country in the world in terms of population and located in an ideal geostrategic position.

“It has very strong upcoming middle class making it one of attractive investment destinations for foreign entrepreneurs,” he added.

He informed that Pakistan has also a large and competitive skilled labour force as well as improved and upgraded infrastructure including roads, highways, airports and communications network.

Ambassador Haque also mentioned about the government’s promotional and concessional tax incentives for different investors for establishment of businesses and factories in Pakistan.

Pakistan, he said is a very friendly country to China and its people and told the Chinese businessmen that they would find the warmth of the people of Pakistan.

“Our people will welcome you and embrace you not only for your personal visit, but for your business visits also,” he added.

Ambassador Haque said that China has become Pakistan’s largest trading partner and the two countries have seen a new momentum bilateral trade after signing of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Phase-II.

He said that bilateral trade between Pakistan has increased significantly and Pakistan’s exports to China are likely to cross the historic mark of \$3 billion.

Commercial Counsellor of Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, Badar uz Zaman gave introduction of Pakistan’s investment environment and investment policies.

He said that China is the largest contributors of foreign direct investment to Pakistan and Pakistan has taken many major steps to facilitate the Chinese investors.

Badar uz Zaman said that special economic zones have been set up in Pakistan and many Chinese companies are already investing and setting up factories there. They could start business very quickly at the special economic zones and industrial zones.

Pakistan, he said, has appointed eight honorary investment counsellors from various provinces of China and set up Pakistan pavilion in five cities of China to promote trade between the two countries.

“Since, Pakistani industries have very strong footing, we see that the trade and investment between Pakistan and China is going to increase very fast,” he added.

He asked the participants to take part and contribute towards increase of bilateral trade and investment from China to Pakistan.

Chief Representative of National Bank of Pakistan, Shaikh Muhammad Shariq briefed the participants about the financial contribution to the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He also informed that the NBP was established in Beijing, China in 1949 and since then it was playing a pivotal role of a bridge between the entrepreneurs of Pakistan and China.

Later, Badar uz Zaman gave away awards to heads of different Chinese companies and organizations.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/841568/pak-china-forum-highlights-pakistans-industrial-investment-policies/>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistani mango exports to China up by more than 10 times

From January to September 2021, Pakistan exported 37.4 tons of fresh and dried mangoes to China, which is more than 10 times the 3.6 tons in the same period in 2020.

Even so, it is still less than 0.36% of China's total imports of 10,500 tons of mangoes from January to September, according to a reported compiled by China Economic Net (CEN).

In 2021, Sindhri mangoes cost 168 yuan (4,500 rupees) in China for 4.5 kg, 98 yuan (2625 rupees) for 2.5 kg, or about 40 yuan (1071 rupees)/kg. In the same period, the price of mangoes in Panzhuhua, Sichuan Province, China was about 1/3 of the former.

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In this regard, the person in charge of Joy Wing Mau Fruit Technologies Corporation Limited said that price is not an issue, high quality is the key.

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<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-mango-exports-to-china-up-by-more-than-10-times/>

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Ambassador Haque also apprised them that Pakistan is the sixth largest country in the world in terms of population and located in an ideal geostrategic position.

"It has very strong upcoming middle class making it one of attractive investment destinations for foreign entrepreneurs," he added.

He informed that Pakistan has also a large and competitive skilled labour force as well as improved and upgraded infrastructure including roads, highways, airports and communications network.

Ambassador Haque also mention about the government's promotional and concessional tax incentives for different investors for establishment of businesses and factories in Pakistan.

Pakistan, he said is a very friendly country to China and its people and told the Chinese businessmen that they would find the warmth of the people of Pakistan.

“Our people will welcome you and embrace you not only for your personal visit, but for your business visits also,” he added.

Ambassador Haque said that China has become Pakistan’s largest trading partner and the two countries have seen a new momentum bilateral trade after signing of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Phase-II.

He said that bilateral trade between Pakistan has increased significantly and Pakistan’s exports to China are likely to cross the historic mark of \$3 billion.

Commercial Counsellor of Pakistan Embassy in Beijing, Badar uz Zaman gave introduction of Pakistan’s investment environment and investment policies.

He said that China is the largest contributors of foreign direct investment to Pakistan and Pakistan has taken many major steps to facilitate the Chinese investors.

Badar uz Zaman said that special economic zones have been set up in Pakistan and many Chinese companies have already investing and setting up factories there. They could start business very quickly at the special economic zones and industrial zones.

Pakistan, he said, has appointed eight honorary investment counsellors from various provinces of China and set up Pakistan pavilion in five cities of China to promote trade between the two countries.

“Since, Pakistani industries have very strong footing, we see that the trade and investment between Pakistan and China is going to increase very fast,” he added.

He asked the participants to take part and contribute towards increase of bilateral trade and investment from China to Pakistan.

Chief Representative of National Bank of Pakistan, Shaikh Muhammad Shariq briefed the participants about the financial contribution to the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He also informed that the NBP was established in Beijing, China in 1949 and since then it was playing a pivotal role of a bridge between the entrepreneurs of Pakistan and China.

Later, Badar uz Zaman gave away awards to heads of different Chinese companies and organizations.

<https://pakobserver.net/pceb-forum-highlights-pakistans-industrial-investment-policies/>

New platform to boost Pak-China online trade

In March this year, China Pakistan Trade Online (CPTO), a platform for Pak-China online trade, was launched.

However, many merchants have not yet put their products on the website, because there are too many products.

Now our chamber of commerce is busy helping put the introductions of member companies and information of their products on the website, said Cheng Kai, who is the person in charge of CPTO as well as the director of the Science and Technology Innovation Committee of the Sichuan Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

After three years of exploration, our chamber of commerce noticed some problems in current Sino-Pakistani trade.

There is a deficiency of mutual trust between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises. Sometimes the goods received in cross-border trade are not the same as what was originally discussed, Cheng Kai said.

President of Pakistan Sichuan Chamber of Commerce Li Hongwu pointed out that both countries have limited information of products of the other country.

We used to think that since the internet is advanced, information exchanges between China and Pakistan companies should be smooth.

It turned out to be wrong. Most Pakistani companies develop their business through emails and do not organize and publish information online.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/new-platform-to-boost-pak-china-online-trade/>

Pak-China Business Forum held in Beijing to promote cooperation opportunities

A Pakistan-China Economic and Business Forum was organized here at Pakistani Embassy to help Chinese potential investment partners fully understand Pakistan's industrial investment policies.

According to Gwadar Pro, the forum was jointly organized by Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Beijing Nordic Exhibition Co., Ltd, and Shanghai Huiguan Culture Media Co., Ltd.

Addressing the occasion, Pakistani Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque briefed Chinese entrepreneurs and businessmen on attractive policies offered by Pakistani government and an investment-friendly environment for foreign investors especially the Chinese businessmen.

He invited Chinese entrepreneurs to take advantage of these opportunities and invest in textiles, minerals, agricultural products, seafood, handicrafts, and sports products.

Ambassador Haque also apprised them that Pakistan is the sixth-largest country in the world in terms of population and is located in an ideal geostrategic position.

“It has a very strong upcoming middle class making it one of the attractive investment destinations for foreign entrepreneurs,” he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-business-forum-held-in-beijing-to-promote-cooperation-opportunities/>

The Express Tribune

NTDC inks €10.8m contract for hardware

Will procure insulators for Thar block-I to Matiari transmission line

KARACHI: National Transmission and Despatch Company (NTDC) has shared plans to procure disc insulator and hardware string costing €10.8 million for the 500-kilovolt SECL (Thar block-I) to Matiari double-circuit transmission line for evacuation of power from the 1,320-megawatt SECL Coal Power Plant.

Speaking at a ceremony held to sign contract for the procurement of goods on Saturday, NTDC Deputy Managing Director Muhammad Ayub highlighted that the quality of hardware and insulators was a critical factor in the tripping of transmission lines.

“NTDC is making efforts to improve its design and specifications besides enhancing cooperation with leading manufacturers and industry experts to meet modern day challenges,” he said.

Representatives of French enterprise Sediver signed the contract with NTDC. Sediver is a renowned overhead insulator manufacturer around the world, NTDC said in a statement.

On the occasion, prominent French industrial experts delivered a technical presentation followed by a question and answer session.

Earlier in July, NTDC secured a Rs6.4 billion financing facility for the construction of a 220/132-kilovolt sub-station and 35km-long allied transmission lines to evacuate 1,224 megawatts of clean, renewable energy from wind power plants at the Jhimpir corridor.

It was for the first time NTDC was exploring the option of raising financial facility from its own resources (balance sheet) without government guarantee.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2329369/ntdc-inks-108m-contract-for-hardware>

The Nation

Expeditious completion of CPEC projects should be foremost priority of govt

LAHORE - The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel, showing concern over the negligible progress and slow pace of development on CPEC, has stressed the need for expediting the completion of projects associated with the multi-billion-dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The FPCCI's presidential candidate for 2021-22 elections nominated by the BMP, Irfan Iqbal Sheikh pointed out that the investors were not satisfied with the pace of work on CPEC and no progress on the portfolio was seen during the last three years, calling for measures to advance the CPEC projects, maintaining that the second phase will prove to be instrumental in consolidating

Pakistan's economic development. He said the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries has served the fundamental interests of the two allies and contributed to peace, development and stability in the region.

Terming the multi-billion-dollar China Pakistan Economic Corridor project pivotal to accelerating Pakistan's economic development and regional prosperity, he observed that the expeditious completion of the CPEC projects should be the foremost priority of the government. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, who is also LCCI former president, said that several countries have shown keen interest in development of infrastructure projects and industrial units under the umbrella of CPEC. There was acute power shortage in 2013 due to which the country was suffering almost 2.5 GDP losses. To meet the country's requirements of power, addition of 17,000 MW of electricity was envisaged under CPEC. He said that it is the time of market cultivation and to sort out major bottlenecks to economic and social development which needed to be addressed to boost economic growth. He said that it is good that the energy projects of 5300MW worth \$ 13 billion have already been established under CPEC.

He said 135 Chinese companies were operating in Pakistan on CPEC and other projects and top priority should now be to revive the confidence of those working on CPEC. It is appreciable that almost 20 projects worth \$16 billion were completed, including 10 power projects of over 5,000MW and HVDC transmission line amounting to \$9.5 billion, five infrastructure projects of around \$6 billion, two projects relating to Gwadar Port and Free Zone and City Master Plan amounting to \$300 million, four Social Economic Development amounting to \$140 million. A total of 30 projects worth of \$9.5 billion are under implementation and 35 projects of around \$29 billion are under consideration, which need to be speeded up. BMP Chairman and FPCCI former President Mian Anjum Nisar said that the phase –II would focus on export growth and import substitution of steel and agricultural productivity by creating local employment opportunities and promoting joint ventures to make Pakistan a manufacturing hub.

Mian Anjum Nisar appreciated the government to establish a facilitation centre at the CPEC Secretariat to provide one-window facility to the international investors through coordination of various ministries and provinces. It is good that efforts are being made to clear billions of rupees of Chinese companies so that they can give dividends to their shareholders. Some Chinese companies have also shown interest in Quaid-i-Azam solar project of 1000MW in Bahawalpur of which 400 MW has already been established.

FPCCI former President asked the government to focus on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) which are necessary to attract foreign investment, as medium term projects have to be ready by 2025. It is the time of expansion and development and balanced regional economic development, processing and manufacturing industries can bring improvements in country's progress. He said development at Gwadar Port should have been faster as it is not up to the expectations, as there is neither electricity nor water in Gwadar while a 300MW coal fired project has not yet been established as per plan.

The \$64 billion CPEC, signed in 2014, aims to connect China's strategically important northwestern Xinjiang province to the Gwadar port, through a network of roads, railways, and pipelines to transport cargo, oil, and gas. Both the countries have already agreed that the implementation of the second phase of China-Pakistan FTA with a view to enhance trade, economic and investment opportunities between the two countries.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-14/page-8/detail-3>

China Embassy announces youth short videos competition

ISLAMABAD - The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan in collaboration with Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) has announced a "Pakistani youth short videos competition." In order to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan, strengthen the cultural exchanges, people-to-people connectivity, mutual learning, and "ironclad" friendship between the two brotherly countries, and to welcome the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games, the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, together with POA and some other institutions and organisations, organised the competition, said a press release issued here. This short videos competition will be implemented in two segments.

In the first segment, students and youth will prepare for and submit the short videos to the All Pakistan-China Friendship Association. The winners will be selected by a panel of judges. In segment two, the winning videos will be promoted in collaboration with Pakistan Olympic Association to showcase the China-Pakistan Friendship with a focus on the upcoming Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics among Pakistan's sports community and Pakistani youth in Islamabad, Lahore, Gwadar, Gilgit, or other cities. The successfully submitted videos will be reviewed by the jury of organizers and winners will be announced. Awarding ceremony will be held and the organizers will co-operate with Bigo Technology Pakistan to promote the prize-winning videos online further.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-14/page-13/detail-0>

The News

'Karachi coastal project under CPEC to boost economy'

ISLAMABAD: The recent inclusion of the Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) project in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will boost Pakistan's economy and enhance industrial and development cooperation between Pakistan and China, said Pakistani experts and officials.

The decision to include the project in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi into the CPEC was made at the CPEC's recent 10th Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting.

Covering a total area of about 930 hectares, of which 640 hectares are reclaimed, the environment-friendly KCCDZ envisages four new berths for the Karachi Port Trust, according to a statement from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs of Pakistan.

The mega project, being built with an expected investment of \$3.5 billion, will also house a state-of-the-art fishing port, with a world class fisheries export processing zone to boost the country's trade potential, said the ministry.

It will also drastically improve the marine ecosystem and reduce pollution with the establishment of a water treatment plant, the ministry said.

Terming the project a game-changer for Pakistan, Prime Minister Imran Khan said recently that the coastal development project will bring Karachi on a par with developed port cities of the world.

The project will present opportunities for investors, Khan said on Twitter, adding that it will also help clean up marine habitats for fishermen and develop 20,000 low income housing units.

The KCCDZ is the first of its kind under the CPEC, which reflects the commitment of Pakistan and China to forge high quality cooperation to improve people's livelihoods, Pakistani Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi told Xinhua.

"As all-weather strategic cooperative partners, China and Pakistan are stepping up cooperation in various sectors, giving impetus to the growth of bilateral relations, economic and social development of the two countries," the minister said. Muhammad Asif Noor, director of the Islamabad based think tank Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, said the project carries enormous potential to spur the country's blue economy and exports.

"Fishing ports and fisheries export processing zones are critical to boost trade in fishing as coastal areas of Pakistan are rich in maritime trade, giving a way to promote the blue economy in Pakistan through infrastructure development and industrial cooperation in the said sector," Noor told Xinhua.

The project will also build up the confidence of global investors towards the country and its entire ecosystem for providing and offering a lucrative environment to set up businesses and profit, he said "Furthermore, it has the potential to boost industrial cooperation between Pakistan and China due to its proximity with Karachi, the financial hub of the country," he added. Noor said that the low-budget housing under the initiative will create affordability for poverty-stricken fishermen to own a house, boosting their socio-economic profile.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=24292>

PM will launch a project of CPEC in GB next week: Murad

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications & Postal Services Murad Saeed has termed Prime Minister Imran Khan a leader having deep sense of self-respect and determined to run affairs of the country as per pattern of Riasat-e-Madina.

"Imran Khan will start a project of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) next week, said Murad Saeed while addressing a big public gathering at Karak in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Saturday.

Murad Saeed said project of Peshawar-Dera Ismail Khan Motorway project will be started soon. He recalled work on CPEC projects is progressing gradually. He said opposition is a rejected collection of the people while the present government is getting strength in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa due to public service.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=24527>

K2 Daily

سے سپیکے سرمایہ کاری پندرہ جیت کی مثال

ٹلٹ اینڈ روڈ میں تھمائی اور سرمایہ کاری اختیارات سے نمٹنے اور تصفیے کا ایک مشروطہ متنوع اور جامع طریقہ کار قائم کرنا ہوگا

تیڑی سے بدلتی ہوئی دنیا میں قوانین قواعد و ضوابط بھی ترقی پندہ ہونے چاہئیں، جنسٹس گلزار احمد کا بین الاقوامی فورم سے خطاب

بیگم (آئی این بی) چیف جسٹس گلزار احمد اقتصادی راہداری معاہدہ اور معاہدہ کی یادداشت کا مطابق مکن میں قانون کی کھربلی سے مصلحت مکن نے کہا ہے کہ سرمایہ کاری قوانین میں صحت داسے شروع ہے، بدلتی ہوئی دنیا میں قوانین اور قواعد و ضوابط اور قوانین فورم بیگم میں منصفہ ہوا۔ نگارہ فورم کا طاقتور مثال ہی بیگم معاہدہ ہے مکن پاکستان سرمایہ کاری ترقی پندہ ہونے چاہئیں، تصفیے کے موضوع کا "ٹلٹ (باقی صفحہ 40)

بقیہ 40

اینڈ روڈ، بین الاقوامی اقتصادی اور تھمائی قواعد کی جیت اور تیڑی "۔ مکن، ارواں، پاکستان اور دیگر ممالک کے مٹہ و مین اور معلقہ بین الاقوامی تنظیموں نے "کھاڈ میٹنگ" کے ذریعے عالمی قوانین اور معیارات میں مربوط ہم آہنگی جیسے مسائل پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ اس دوران "ٹلٹ اینڈ روڈ" ممالک میں محکم معاشی و تھمائی تعلقات کے حوالے سے تھمائی بھی تھمائی کی گئیں۔ پاکستان کی پریم کورٹ کے چیف جسٹس گلزار احمد نے فورم سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ تیڑی سے بدلتی اور ترقی کرتی ہوئی دنیا میں نہ صرف انٹرنیشنل اور ریگولٹری کی ترقی بلکہ قوانین اور قواعد و ضوابط بھی اختیاری اور ترقی پندہ ہونے چاہئیں۔ اس بات کو یقینی بنانے کا کہ "ٹلٹ اینڈ روڈ" سے وابستہ ممالک ایک دوسرے سے جڑے ہوئے ہیں اور مشترکہ خوشحالی کے حصول کے لیے ہمسوار شہزادہ پر سفر کر رہے ہیں۔ جسٹس گلزار احمد نے کہا کہ مکن بین الاقوامی تھمائی اور سرمایہ کاری قوانین میں جیت اور تیڑی کے حوالے سے سب سے طاقتور مثال مکن پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری معاہدہ اور معاہدہ کی یادداشت کا شروع ہے۔ نومبر 2003 میں پاکستان اور مکن نے دو طرفہ تعاون کی ترقیاتی سٹ کے بارے میں ایک مشترکہ اعلامیہ پر دستخط کیے، 2006 میں دونوں ممالک نے آزاد تھمائی معاہدے پر دستخط کیے، یہ ان قانونی قواعد کی اختیاری اور ترقی کا نتیجہ ہی ہے جس نے سی بیگم کے ہمسوار آغا کو یقینی بنایا ہے۔

ٹلٹ اینڈ روڈ "انٹیلجی کی تیڑی ترقی 21 ویں صدی میں اقتصادی ترقی کے اعتبار سے اہم ترین کامیابی بن رہی ہے۔ لہذا "ٹلٹ اینڈ روڈ" میں تھمائی اور سرمایہ کاری اختیارات سے نمٹنے اور تصفیے کا ایک مشروطہ، متنوع اور جامع طریقہ کار قائم کرنے کی ضرورت ہے، معلقہ قانونی قواعد میں مزید گہری تحقیق سے تیڑی لائی جاسیے۔ علاوہ ازیں "ٹلٹ اینڈ روڈ" انٹیلجی کی کامیابی کے لیے ایک سازگار کارروائی ماحول کا قیام بھی ایک بنیادی شرط ہے۔

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2021-11-14

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2021-11-14

November 15, 2021

Business Recorder

‘China is a huge market for Pakistani mangoes’

BEIJING: China is a huge market for Pakistani mangoes and there is need for joint efforts from China and Pakistan for more Pakistani mangoes to enter the Chinese market, Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law and senior Fellow of the Charhar Institute said on Sunday.

There is still a great potential to be explored, which entails joint efforts from China and Pakistan for more Pakistani mangoes to enter the Chinese market, he stated in his article published by China Economic Net (CEN).

He said that although, Pakistani mangoes are cheaper compared with mangoes in other countries. But now the Chinese people pay more attention to quality than price. Therefore, Pakistan should diversify its varieties and produce high-quality mangoes.

Cheng said that further efforts are anticipated in mango packaging, preservation, deep processing and transportation. Three-dimensional transportation channels by land, sea, and air should be fully utilized for rapid delivery. Especially in terms of packaging, the maturity and appearance of each box is the key to boosting sales. At the same time, in major Chinese cities, large warehouse supermarkets should be established.

He said that in March this year, China-Pakistan Trade Online (CPTO), a platform for Pak-China online trade, was launched. Now, as Chinese people prefer online shopping, the Pakistani side should make full use of this platform for mango exports. To this end, Pakistan’s logistics industry needs to keep up.

As per media reports, Pakistan has exported 37.4 tons of fresh and dried mangoes to China from January to September 2021, which represents an exciting 10-time increase than the same period last year.

At present, Pakistan’s mangoes account for only less than 0.36% of China’s total mango imports. In some major Chinese cities, most mangoes are imported from Southeast Asian countries. On the other hand, Chinese people are expecting more delicious, high-quality fruits from the friendly neighbour.

With the improvement of people’s living standards and the pursuit of nutritional diversity, the consumption of the king of fruits is increasing year by year in China.

Chinese consumers bought 2,183,000 tons of mangoes in 2018 and 2,440,100 tons in 2019. In 2019, China imported 14,485 tons of fresh and dry mangoes, totaling US \$26.597 million.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/15/4-page/907688-news.html>

Relocation of industrial units in Pakistan

NBP says ready to facilitate Chinese companies

BEIJING: Chief Representative of National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) in China, Shaikh Muhammad Shariq said that his bank is ready to facilitate the Chinese companies to relocate their businesses and industrial units to Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.

“As we are about to enter into the second phase of CPEC, which is more focused on industrial cooperation, we are again ready to facilitate the Chinese companies to relocate in Pakistan”, he said while addressing Pakistan-China Economic and Business Forum.

The forum was recently organized by Pakistan Embassy, Beijing, Beijing Nordic Exhibition Co., Ltd and Shanghai Huiguan Culture Media Co., Ltd.

Shaikh Shariq informed the participants that the NBP is enjoying leading position in corporate and agriculture financing in the banking sector of Pakistan and with large international presence, NBP can also facilitate the trade business.

He said that in the first phase of CPEC, billions of dollars were invested in the infrastructure, power generation and Gwadar Port. The amount was in different modes including investment and financing. The financing was availed through different institutions both from Pakistan and China.

“The NBP was a part of most of these projects either in the form of consortium partner or lead arranger,” he added.

He said, the NBP has already established strong banking partnership with major Chinese financial institutions to facilitate trade and investment under CPEC and Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) not only in Pakistan but in all the places where we have operations.

The Chief Representative informed that in order to facilitate bilateral trade and facilitate smooth flow of funds between China and Pakistan, central banks of both the countries have signed the currency swap arrangement in 2011, amounting to 10 billion yuan and 140 billion Pakistani rupees.

“As a result of this, bilateral trade and investment witnessed significant growth, and contributed to further strengthening close and special relationship between the two countries,” he added. He said that in 2018, the swap was extended for a period of three years, and the size was doubled to 20 billion yuan or 351 billion Pakistani rupees, as China became the largest trading partner, and the bilateral trade increased on yearly basis. This year the swap size has increased to 30 billion yuan. This is a textbook example of how China and BRI partner countries can advance cooperation in the financial sector and over renminbi use.

He said that financial cooperation is also a major component under the CPEC and both the countries explore the establishment of multi-level cooperation mechanisms and strengthen policy coordination.

Both the countries also strengthen their own financial reform and opening up, and control financial risks to create a good financial environment for the CPEC, focusing on the regulatory side, financial institutions and financial markets, he added.

He informed that another area of cooperation is amongst free trade zones and explore RMB offshore financial business. As a result of this cooperation ICBC and Bank of China, Karachi branches are providing RMB clearing and settlement services in Pakistan.

“ICBC Karachi branch has also obtained the direct participation qualification of the first cross-border CNY clearing mechanism of Cross-Border Inter-Bank Payments System (CIPS) in South Asia to facilitate and ensure quick and smooth CNY clearing capability to improve bilateral trade,” he added.

He also briefed the audience about the history of NBP and provision of commercial banking and related services in Pakistan and overseas.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/15/16-page/907770-news.html>

Daily Times

China to explore dairy cooperation with Pakistan

The yield and quality of dairy products in Pakistan is very high and has huge potential. We are willing to explore dairy cooperation based on the belt and Road Initiative and have had some communication with them.

We’d also love to learn more about Pakistan’s dairy industry and actively participate in it,” Li Yunjie, Overseas Business Manager of Bright Dairy & Food co., Ltd, one of the largest dairy groups in China, said to Gwadar Pro at the China International Import Expo (CIIE).

Chinese enterprises welcome Pakistani milk to enter the Chinese market, which will benefit Pakistan’s economic development, industrial upgrading and industrial chain extension.

At the same time, it will also meet the demand of Chinese consumers for high-quality milk products. Li added that the demand for dairy products in China is huge, and has gone beyond basic products such as milk. “Although the consumer market in China is constantly changing, the trend for health is not going to change,” he says, “regarding our data and analysis, we believe that cheese and cream are going to be two of the fastest growing categories in the future.”

He said that in addition to infant milk powder, large packages powder, and liquid milk, high value-added dairy products such as whey, cheese, butter and cream are also in great demand in the Chinese market.

If the industrial chain can be transplanted to Pakistan, it is expected to achieve a win-win situation for the milk industry of the two countries.

Dairy products received great attention on 4th CIIE. At the occasion, the Dairy Industry Forum of CIIE was successfully held as well. At the event, the Committee also released a Report on China's Dairy Industry, calling for enhanced cooperation in the dairy industry along BRI.

According to the report, the Chinese market has shown great demand for dairy products. In 2020, China imported 3.39 million tons of dairy products, 10.2pc year on year increase. Imports amounted to \$12.4 billion, up 6.5pc year on year.

From 2011 to 2020, China's dairy imports grew at a compound annual growth rate of 12.3pc, and this demand continues to expand. China's diversified demand for high-quality milk products has also offered a new option for Pakistan's dairy industry.

At present, China's dairy imports are mostly from New Zealand (40.44pc), the Netherlands (17.15pc), Australia (7.38pc) and other European and American countries. By contrast, Chinese dairy companies are trying to tap high-quality milk sources in Belt and Road countries such as Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/841835/china-to-explore-dairy-cooperation-with-pakistan/>

Pakistan Observer

CPEC will flourish Pakistan's development, prosperity

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a crucial component of Belt and Road Initiative and a symbol of China-Pakistan friendship, would flourish Pakistan's development and prosperity, said Muhammad Mian Soomro, Federal Minister for Privatization while addressing the forum titled "2021 China Pakistan Economic and Business Forum".

"We're getting even closer and more active in our business relationship through CPEC, and this could help build up infrastructure energy projects, railways, and basically enhance closer cooperation," he added according to Gwadar Pro.

Mian Soomro further said China Agriculture University with the cooperation of local government would set up an echo park near Thatta and Badeen, Sindh, Pakistan, adding that CPEC has provided an opportunity to create a win-win situation.

Member of Standing Committee on Planning Development and Special Initiatives and MNA Dr. Seemi Bukhari said that after the signing of Free Trade Agreement, trade activities have increased tremendously.

Pakistan is an agriculture based country and the goods related to that have increased their exports to China.

Speaking at the occasion, Shaikh Muhammad Shariq, Vice President of NationalSet featured imigel Bank of Pakistan and Chief Representative in China said, adding "We have already

established strong banking partnership with major Chinese financial institutions to facilitate trade & investment under CPEC and BRI not only in Pakistan but in all the places where we have operations.”

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-will-flourish-pakistans-development-prosperity/>

The Nation

China is here to stay

Masud Ahmad Khan

During the 1962 war, all of Arunachal Pradesh (South Tibet) was occupied by the Chinese PLA which came down to Tezpur in Assam as well. In Ladakh, the Chinese army also occupied 38,000 square kilometers of area in the Aksai Chin region. Ladakh is strategically important to China because of its location and due to the fact that the Chinese national highway G219 passes through Aksai Chin to Tibet. China has further constructed six finger like roads linking the main highway with entire region of Aksai Chin.

On June 15, 2020, a bloody clash took place in the Galwan Valley (HIOJK) where 22 soldiers, out of which 16 were from the Bihar regiment, were killed and a major part of the Galwan Valley came under the control of the Chinese PLA thereby strengthening its position in the region. At present, 1000 square kilometers of area in Ladakh is under Chinese control. Indian political and military leaders made desperate attempts to ease tensions and approach a face saving solution through several rounds of military level talks held at Gogra and Pangong lake. During the talks, major issues like the disengagement from patrol point 15 and easing of tension at the Depsang plains were discussed.

These talks were held in the backdrop of two recent incidents at Barahoti in Uttarakhand and Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. The 13th round of talks held in October this year at the Chushul-Moldo border point between Lt. General Menon and Chinese Major General Zhao Zahidon lasted for more than eight hours but ultimately collapsed. China accused India of making unreasonable demands due to which the Indian army spent the second winter in Ladakh. A spokesman of the Chinese Western theatre command said, “The Chinese side made great efforts to promote the easing and cooling of the border situation.”

The winters in Ladakh are extremely tough as it snows relentlessly and up to 4 feet is accumulated easily. The temperature drops to minus 40 degrees Celsius as well. Indian 14 corps, which was responsible for both Western and Eastern Sectors of the LAC, will now concentrate on the Eastern sector only. The 14 corps is supported by tanks, artillery and missiles. Indian army’s strike crop has the primary task of striking deep in Pakistan but it has been reassigned to the task of preparing to launch offensive strikes across the LAC in Ladakh, HIOJK.

New infrastructure is being constructed by India after the recent humiliation at the hands of the Chinese PLA. In view of the importance of Ladakh, India has started constructing tunnels for faster mobility of troops and logistics. A 6.5 kilometers-long tunnel has already been completed

linking Sonamang. The 14.2 kilometers long Zojila tunnel connecting Sonamang in IIOJK to Drass town in Ladakh is in progress. The project was inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi in May, 2018, and the tunnel is being constructed to avoid Zojila, which is vulnerable and remains under the effective fire of the Pakistan army. India has deployed additional troops and will not be able to withdraw its troops even after the winters as the PLA is not likely to vacate the area.

Additional deployment is done to prevent further losses to the terrain. The additional deployment and harsh winters surely will bleed India financially. Increasing the budget for acquiring high altitude equipment, storage of weapons and missiles as well as the extensive use of C-17 and C-130 J transport aircrafts will increase the financial burden. The maintenance of a force in such conditions is a herculean task that the Indian defence budget of 73 billion dollars as compared the Chinese's 252 billion dollars may not be able to facilitate. It continuously needs additional budget to defend Ladakh which seems to be slipping away.

According to India Today, the Indian army is likely to incur a cost of Rs.350-400 crores for providing special winter clothing for troops deployed in Eastern Ladakh. The cost per soldier for special equipment is about one Lac rupees. Last year India spent Rs.900 crores for the maintenance of its troops and this year it is expected to cross 1900 crore.

China has developed infrastructure on its side and is in a position to hold on to all areas logistically. Basically, China has changed the dynamics in the area by testing Indian capabilities. India is avoiding engagement with the PLA because of its weak and low morale army, internal crisis and economic recess. The Indian army by no means is capable to compete tactically and strategically against the Chinese PLA. At the same time, India is also propagating the so-called concept of a two front war. They fear threat to Ladakh, Siachen and Kargil—a joint operation of the Chinese and Pakistani army. Based on this theory, General Rawat is planning to change and reorganise the Indian army.

For China, the focus is not on India as they do not take it as a military threat but the primary focus is on the US forces in the Western Pacific and South China Sea. India has allied itself with the US to contain China. The US will not tolerate China becoming a super power and challenge its might. There are alliances across the globe to counter China and QUAD is one in the region. Indians, like Americans in Afghanistan, made some serious miscalculations and underestimated Chinese capabilities and now, have landed themselves in trouble.

The Indian army by no means is capable to compete tactically and strategically against the Chinese PLA.

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New platform set up to boost Pak-China online trade

Islamabad - Pakistan and China are working to develop a new platform to boost online trade that would create ample opportunities for entrepreneurs of both sides, China Economic Net reported on Sunday.

“In March this year, China Pakistan Trade Online (CPTO), a platform for Pak-China online trade, was launched. However, many merchants have not yet put their products on the website, because there are too many products.

Now our chamber of commerce is busy helping put the introductions of member companies and information of their products on the website,” said Cheng Kai, the person in charge of CPTO as well as the director of the Science and Technology Innovation Committee of the Sichuan Chamber of Commerce in Pakistan.

“After three years of exploration, our chamber of commerce noticed some problems in current Sino-Pakistani trade. There is a deficiency of mutual trust between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises. Sometimes the goods received in cross-border trade are not the same as what was originally discussed,” Cheng Kai said.

President of Pakistan Sichuan Chamber of Commerce Li Hongwu pointed out that both the countries have limited information of products of the other country.

Cheng Kai said that the platform is similar to Taobao, where information can be shared. “It will also be equipped with a payment platform similar to Alipay, where the money is first transferred to. The money will go to the sellers when customers confirmed the goods.” He added.

“CPTO is now mainly doing F2B and B2B, and it may develop into F2C and B2C in the next step. I hope that this platform can promote economic exchanges between China and Pakistan.” Li Hongwu said, the report added.

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Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک سے پاکستان کی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں اضافہ ہو گا: محمد میاں سومر

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) پاکستان کے وفاقی وزیر برائے نجکاری محمد میاں سومر نے کہا کہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو کا ایک اہم جزو اور چین پاکستان دوستی کی علامت ہے، اس سے پاکستان کی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں اضافہ ہو گا۔ گو اور پرو کے مطابق چین پاکستان اکنامک اینڈ بزنس فورم 2021 سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے محمد میاں سومر نے کہا ہم سی پیک کے ذریعے اپنے کاروباری تعلقات میں مزید قریب اور فعال ہو رہے ہیں اور اس سے انفراسٹرکچر توانائی کے منصوبوں، ریلوے، اور بنیادی طور پر قریبی تعاون کو بڑھانے میں مدد مل سکتی ہے۔ چائنہ ایگریکلچر یونیورسٹی مقامی حکومت کے تعاون سے پاکستان کے صوبہ سندھ کے شہر ٹھٹھہ اور بدین کے قریب ایکوپارک قائم کرے گی۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ سی پیک نے مفید صورتحال پیدا کرنے کا موقع فراہم کیا ہے۔ قائمہ کمیٹی برائے منصوبہ بندی ترقی اور خصوصی اقدامات کی رکن اور ایم این اے ڈاکٹر سیمی بخاری نے کہا کہ آزادانہ تجارت کے معاہدے پر دستخط کے بعد تجارتی سرگرمیوں میں زبردست اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ پاکستان ایک زرعی ملک ہے اور اس سے متعلقہ اشیاء نے چین کو اپنی برآمدات میں اضافہ کیا ہے۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے نیشنل بینک آف پاکستان کے نائب صدر اور چین میں چیف نمائندہ شیخ محمد شارق نے کہا ہم نے پہلے ہی چین کے بڑے مالیاتی اداروں کے ساتھ مضبوط بینکنگ شراکت داری قائم کر رکھی ہے تاکہ نہ صرف پاکستان بلکہ سی پیک اور بی آر آئی کے تحت تجارت اور سرمایہ کاری کو آسان بنایا جاسکے۔ ان تمام جگہوں پر جہاں ہمارے آپریشنز ہیں۔

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