



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

November 16-30, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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November 16, 2021

Daily Times

Development work on Bostan, Hub SEZs Phase-I completed: Officials

Development work on Phase-I of the two Special Economic Zones (SEZs) at Bostan and Hub areas have been completed that was initiated by the Balochistan government on a public-private partnership to boost economic activities in the province.

The development work on the projects of the said SEZs currently going in full swing was completed 200 acres area of the total Bostan SEZs, an official of Industries department Balochistan said on Monday.

The government has earmarked Rs2.5 billion for the development of Bostan economic zone.

He said that the government was working to expand its further support for the establishment of more SEZs to accelerate economic activities in the province.

“The government’s assistance was being provided for developing infrastructure including communication network, water supply, gas, electricity and other utilities at the zero-point of the zones,” he added.

Bostan Industrial Zone covered an area of 1,000 acres situated at district Pishin that is bordered with Quetta (provided with enough skilled labor), Qila Saifullah (famous livestock, fruits, and vegetables), Ziarat (famous for dry fruits, apple and grapes) and Qila Abdullah (climate suitable for fruits and vegetables).

The availability of different means of connectivity (Airport, seaport dry port, railways, and roads) makes this zone feasible for business activities and ensures the mobility of the labor force to start the operations.

The special economic zones would consist of various industrial units including fruit processing units, agricultural machinery, pharmaceutical, motorbikes assembly, chromite, ceramic industries, ice and cold storage, electric appliance and halal food industry.

“Balochistan government had provided captive power generation permissible to developers of the zones and launched investor-friendly visa to facilitate the investors which would also help empowerment opportunities for underprivileged locals in SEZs,” the official mentioned.

“The provincial assets and other resources would be utilized for the progress and prosperity of the people under proper planning,” he further added.

He said that the government had awarded a one-time custom duty exemption on imported plants and machinery to be set up in the SEZs of the province. The government had also given income tax exemption for five years for zone enterprises, he concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/842349/development-work-on-bostan-hub-sezs-phase-i-completed-officials/>

Dawn News

Chinese firms briefed on CPEC opportunities

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: The government on Monday hosted a marketing session for about 70 Chinese companies as it seeks to trigger the second phase — industrial development — of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

CPEC Authority (CPECA) chairman Khalid Mansoor briefed the chief executive officers and representatives of the Chinese companies on latest developments on the CPEC horizon, various business opportunities and incentives for investment.

Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar, the Board of Investment chairman and Chinese ambassador in Islamabad also attended the session. Some Chinese companies joined it through video link.

Mr Mansoor told the Chinese companies that phase-II of the CPEC was aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation in industrial, technological and agricultural sectors for which business-to-business collaboration would be a hallmark of success and opportunities, according to an official statement.

Govt readies to launch second phase of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

He highlighted that four out of the nine agreed on special economic zones (SEZs) along with Gwadar Free Zone under the auspices of CPEC were now at an advanced stage of development and investors had started populating these SEZs.

“Pakistan offers regionally competitive incentives in SEZs, including 10-year income tax exemption and exemption of customs duty on import of capital goods,” he said, adding that the CPECA was setting up a facilitation centre to provide all kinds of support to the CPEC investors. This will be a platform for serving as one window operation for the investors through coordination with various ministries as well as the provinces.

Explaining the importance of phase-II of the bilateral cooperation, the CPECA chairman said the key objective was to accelerate socio-economic development of Pakistan by bringing industrial, technological and agricultural revolution through Chinese investment and transfer of technology.

For this to achieve, he added, focus was on export growth (in areas like textiles, information technology, etc) and import substitution (like steel, agricultural productivity, etc) sectors by creating local employment opportunities and promoting joint ventures to make Pakistan a manufacturing hub.

Mr Mansoor said the CPECA would enable ‘plug & play environment’ for development of special economic zones by empowered SEZs management companies to facilitate investors so as to create strong linkages with key state and economic entities in China.

Asad Umar urged the Chinese investors to explore more investment opportunities in industrial, agricultural and information technology areas. He said that due to a special relationship between the two countries, the government and people of Pakistan would wish to see much greater investment from China.

He solicited the support of Chinese companies working in Pakistan in order to attract more foreign direct investment in the country.

The Chinese ambassador expressed his appreciation for the event which brought together all the Chinese companies and said Chinese enterprises would work closely with the CPEC Authority to increase their business and investment activities in Pakistan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1658349>

The Nation

Gwadar set to become logistic hub in region in 5 years

ISLAMABAD - Gwadar will be logistic hub in the region in next five years that would play a significant role in improving the nation economy of Pakistan, said Zhang Baozhong, Chairman of China Overseas Port Holding Company while reviewing the 5-year-journey of the project.

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

“We are really grateful to the Pakistani government for giving us 923 hectares of land (10 square kilometers) dedicated to the development of Free Zone as well as the incentives to investors,” said Zhang Baozhong.

He said that with a view to attracting investors, the Pakistani government has passed the Finance Bill 2020 and allowed a 23-year tax holiday for all the investors.

“There are a lot of things to be done.” After 5 years of hard work, Zhang mentioned with pride, “this building, this free zone, this port, are as good as any other ports, any other free zones in the world.”

He added, “following this model, we will develop Gwadar Port step by step. People here know clearly how much it has developed. And from this 5 years’ development, we can foresee what is going to take place.”

He also said there was no single commercial shipping line connecting Gwadar port for the past 10 years, and the port merely relied on government diverted cargo with huge subsidize road transport.

“LPG ships and bulk cargo vessels can be seen coming frequently,” Zhang said adding all these activities not only generated a lot of business opportunities for Pakistani stevedoring companies, transporters, customer clearance and many others, but also helped stabilize supply to Afghanistan and other landlocked countries in Middle Asia.

Talking about Gwadar Free Zone, the first modern industrial park in Pakistan, Zhang Baozhong said that up to now 46 enterprises have been registered for investment in Free Zone, mainly covering logistic, warehousing, Halal food processing, agriculture, textile, etc. “More and more investors are showing keen interest in investing in here,” he added.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-16/page-4/detail-16>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین، ایران سے کرنسی معاہدے کرنا ہونگے: نعمان کبیر

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) زرمبادلہ کے ذخائر پر دباؤ کم کرنے اور دیگر معاشی فوائد حاصل کرنے کے لیے حکومت کو چین اور ایران کے ساتھ کرنسی سوپ معاہدے کرنے ہونگے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار لاہور چیئرمین کے صدر میاں نعمان کبیر نے لاہور چیئرمین کپیسٹی بلڈنگ سیشن سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا ہے۔ لاہور چیئرمین کے سینئر نائب صدر میاں رحمن عزیز چن، نائب صدر حارث عتیق اور لاہور چیئرمین کے ایگزیکٹو کمیٹی ممبران نے بھی خطاب کیا۔ میاں نعمان کبیر نے کہا کہ بالخصوص چین کے ساتھ مقامی کرنسی میں تجارت سے ڈالر پر انحصار کم ہو گا۔ رواں مالی سال کے دوران امریکی ڈالر کے مقابلے پاکستانی روپے کی قدر میں 10 فیصد کمی ریکارڈ کی گئی ہے۔ مقامی کرنسی میں تجارت سے تجارتی خسارہ میں کمی لانے اور پاکستانی کرنسی کو مضبوط بنانے میں مدد ملے گی۔ لاہور چیئرمین کے سینئر نائب صدر میاں رحمان عزیز چن اور نائب صدر حارث عتیق نے معاشی چیلنجز سے نمٹنے کے لیے قومی اقتصادی پالیسی پر زور دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ اس معاملے پر تمام طبقات کو ایک بیج پر ہونا چاہیے۔ قومی اقتصادی پالیسی بناتے وقت تمام اسٹیک ہولڈرز کو آن بورڈ لیا جائے۔ لاہور چیئرمین کے عہدیداروں نے کہا کہ کروانے دنیا بھر کی معاشیات کے لیے غیر معمولی چیلنجز پیدا کیے ہیں اور پاکستان کو نازک معاشی صورتحال کی وجہ سے آئی ایم ایف کے پاس جانے پر مجبور کیا ہے۔ حکومت مہنگائی کنٹرول کرنے کے لیے پرائس کنٹرول میکانزم کو بھی موثر بنائے۔ برآمدات بڑھانے کے لیے نئی مصنوعات متعارف کروانا اور نئی منڈیوں کی تلاش ضروری ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-11-16/page-9/detail-23>

November 17, 2021

Daily Times

KSA, China desire to invest in Pakistan: Tarin

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin on Monday said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and China wanted to invest in Pakistan in various sectors. The foreign countries are taking a keen interest in the investment of Pakistan, he said while talking to a private television channel. There is a need to enhance exports and productivity to further improve the economy of this country, he stated. Tarin said, the country has sufficient electricity but there is a shortage in the gas sector. He urged the people to use more electricity in the winter season and avoid wastage of gas. In reply to a question about the IMF program, he said that it

has demanded an increase in power tariff but the government didn't have any intention to put more burden on poor the masses. He said all-out efforts are being made to lower the burden of the low-income groups. About the increase in petroleum prices, he said, the government will not change the prices of petroleum products now.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/842844/ksa-china-desire-to-invest-in-pakistan-tarin/>

Pakistan's exports to China up 76pc in 3 quarters, says CG Shanghai

Pakistan Consul General, Shanghai, Hussain Haider said that 2021 has been an excellent year for Pakistan-China bilateral trade. Driven by China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement Phase, Pakistan exports to China have increased more than 76pc year on year in the first three quarters despite the pandemic.

“We believe that by the end of this year, our exports to China will cross \$3 billion and that will be one of our highest-ever exports to China,” he said in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

Expressing pleasure over Pakistani businesses' expansion in the Chinese market via the CIIE, he said that China is Pakistan's largest trading partner.

He said that it's always our priority to take effective participation in the CIIE. This is a very good opportunity for Pakistani companies to further benefit from the enormous Chinese market as well as the liberal import policy of the Chinese government.

“We would like to thank the Chinese government for making excellent arrangements. It was a very successful event,” he said. Hussain Haider said that at this year's CIIE, Pakistani textiles including carpets, handicrafts like Himalaya salt lamps, jewelry and agricultural products, etc. were in display online and offline. Especially, the Himalaya salt lamp became a hit that drew many Chinese visitors, consumers and media at the expo.

“The Himalaya salt lamp is an exclusively Pakistani product, only produced in Pakistan. I also read some news about these salt lamps gaining attention in China. We hope these products can have a lot of demand in the Chinese market”, he added.

Meanwhile, at the expo, information and communication technologies of the emerging sector were highlighted in Pakistan's national pavilion. All of these depict Pakistan's potential export growth engine.

Looking into the future, Pakistan's global textile exports are over \$13 billion. We see large potential in the Chinese market for more value-added textile products like home textiles, garments for ladies, children and men”, Hussain Haider said.

Besides, value-added leather products, agriculture products including rice, mangoes and citrus, etc. also look to further grow in the Chinese market in the days to come.

And there's a lot of potential of Pak-China cooperation in the sectors of information and communication technology, as well as tourism after the pandemic ends,” he added.

Benefitted from the FTA Phase, now increasingly more Pakistani enterprises are trying to enhance their presence in China. Hussain Haider made suggestions as to how Pakistani companies could better benefit from the largest consumer market in the world.

“Increasing the use of e-commerce and other digital tools particularly live streaming is an innovative strategy that Pakistani businesses need to adopt. In China, e-commerce platforms are very popular and powerful in the product sales, and live streaming is quite important in product promotion,” he remarked.

As China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has entered the second phase, focusing on improving Pakistani people’s livelihood, much progress is expected to reach in agriculture and vocational education.

“Agriculture currently is the backbone of Pakistan’s economy, which needs to be modernized. Chinese expertise and investment can play an important role in the greater agricultural mechanization and modern technology usage to increase the productivity of different crops in Pakistan. Furthermore, Pakistan has a very large labor force of about 65 million.

“We are working on different proposals to increase the bilateral cooperation on promotion and development of vocational and scientific education to improve the vocational skills of our labor force,” he concluded.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/842866/pakistans-exports-to-china-up-76pc-in-3-quarters-says-cg-shanghai/>

Animated Pakistani film ‘Donkey King’ to release in China this weekend

Geo Films and Talisman Studios recently announced that The Donkey King, the highest grossing Pakistani animated film by Aziz Jindani, is set to have become the first Pakistani film in recent times to get wide theatrical release in China on November 19, 2021.

The Donkey King has already been a global ambassador for Pakistani cinema with dubbed theatrical release in over 10 countries including Spain, South Korea, Russia, Greece, Turkey, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Taiwan.

“We are ecstatic to see our film receive global appreciation across countries. The theatrical release in China is the final frontier in this journey. We hope that this unlocks door for release of more Pakistani films in China in future.” commented Aziz Jindani, the the mastermind behind The Donkey King.

The Donkey King is an animated comedy film that was released in Pakistan in October, 2018 and has been produced by Geo Films and Talisman Studios. The original version features the voices of Jan Rambo, Ismail Tara, Hina Dilpazeer, Ghulam Mohiuddin and Jawed Sheikh, and grossed Rs. 24.75 crores at domestic box office over a theatrical run that extended to over 25 weeks.

The Donkey King is an animated comedy film that was released in Pakistan in October 2018 and has been produced by Geo Films and Talisman Studios.

The Urdu version of the film features the voices of Jan Rambo, Ismail Tara, Hina Dilpazeer, Ghulam Mohiuddin, and Jawed Sheikh.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/842805/animated-pakistani-film-donkey-king-to-release-in-china-this-weekend/>

Dawn News

China donates 30,000 food packages to GB

GILGIT: The Chinese government has donated 30,000 food packages for distribution among the poor residents of Gilgit-Baltistan.

The office-bearers of the Overseas Chinese Association, Gilgit-Baltistan, handed over food packages to the Chief Minister Khalid Khursheed at a ceremony held here on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief minister thanked the Chinese government for the gesture. He said the Chinese government had proved to be the best friend of Pakistan through thick and thin.

On the occasion, chairman of the association Syed Agha Abdul Shakoor said the Chinese living in GB were contributing to development of the region. "Since the last 30 years, the association has been working for strengthening ties between Pakistan and China," he added.

He said the Chinese government had supported the association in many initiatives, including uplift of the health and education sectors in GB.

Mr Shakoor said the Chinese government had donated 30,000 food packages for the poor residents, out of which 2,000 packages had been handed over to the chief minister and the remaining would be arriving soon.

The association's president Abdul Qayyum Majeed said his organisation had initiated Chinese language and information technology centre in Gilgit. He said the association had given 110 oxygen cylinders to the region donated by the Chinese government during the pandemic.

He said the association comprised the Chinese nationals, who had migrated to Pakistan and settled in GB, adding the region's people always gave respect to the Chinese community.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1658591/china-donates-30000-food-packages-to-gb>

Pakistan Observer

HUAWEI and CQIPC collaborate to train ICT talents for Pakistan

The Opening Ceremony of Mayor Scholarship Program for Foreign Students of Chongqing Municipal People's Government Silk Road Program 2021 and HUAWEI Pakistan ICT Middle and Senior Managers Training Course was held here.

According to Gwadar Pro on Tuesday, Wang Lufeng, Dean, Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Dept. of Chongqing Industry Polytechnic College (CQIPC) chaired the session.

<https://pakobserver.net/huawei-and-cqipc-collaborate-to-train-ict-talents-for-pakistan/>

Ambassador of China calls on Sania China, Pakistan to explore avenues of collaboration in poverty alleviation

Chinese Ambassador, Nong Rong called on Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM Tuesday to explore avenues of collaboration in poverty alleviation.

On the Cooperation for Poverty Alleviation in the field of commerce, the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD) of the Government of Pakistan and Ministry of Commerce of China are entering into a memorandum of understanding.

The MoU was approved by the Federal Cabinet on October 27, 2021 and will be inked soon between China and Pakistan. The meeting discussed the implementation arrangements of the MOU. China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners.

Under the MOU, both the countries will enhance cooperation and exchange of experience, especially in the context of poverty reduction, through leveraging potential for commerce. The Chinese side was led by Ministry of Commerce and Pakistan's side by PASSD.

The Chinese side will take advantages of commerce in connecting urban and rural areas, linking home and abroad, matching production and marketing, focus on the exchange of experience on developing poverty alleviation industries, creating employment opportunities, promoting the domestic and foreign trade in poverty-stricken areas.

Thus helping to eradicate poverty in the strategy of precise poverty alleviation and eradication, to help Pakistan expand its vision and innovate its method for poverty alleviation, promote better economic and social development in Pakistan.

Both countries will also establish a communication mechanism to exchange poverty alleviation experience in the field of commerce under the framework of China Pakistan Joint Economic and Trade Committee.

Also, regular exchanges will be organized on the implementation mechanism, management mode and main effectiveness of commerce-based poverty alleviation to promote programmatic cooperation.

Dr. Sania appreciated great achievements and experience of China in poverty alleviation. "Poverty Alleviation is the priority of the government of Pakistan.

This MOU will enable Pakistan to learn from China's experience in poverty alleviation and to disseminate lessons from Ehsaas, which is a multisectoral programme for alleviating poverty", said Dr. Sania.

The Chinese Ambassador was accompanied by Guwen Liang, the Second Secretary; Fengguanlei; and Chenyongpei from Commercial section.

Muhammad Ali Shahzada; Secretary PASSD, Saman Muneeb, Director CPEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs also joined the meeting.

<https://pakobserver.net/ambassador-of-china-calls-on-sania-china-pakistan-to-explore-avenues-of-collaboration-in-poverty-alleviation/>

China's economic rise, strategic uplift discussed

The Pakistan Institute of China Studies (PICS) at the Sargodha University hosted a seminar on 'Understanding China's Economic Model' to assist participants in comprehending the economic policies of the Chinese government spanning from 1978 to date, here on Tuesday at Noon Auditorium.

Mr Shakeel Ahmed Ramay, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research, shared his insights about the economic model of China and highlighted some shortcomings in Pakistan's economic system.

He said that bad governance and management is the root cause of the downfall of our economy. Moreover, he said that we need to reform our society gradually and steadily by taking small steps like China brought revolution through persistent policies.

Additionally, he said that economic decisions should be made on scientific grounds by collecting and analyzing data scientifically.

While addressing the students, he said that a productive approach is required by our young people to elevate the economy.

He advised young entrepreneurs to launch development projects and establish themselves as self-sufficient businessmen as this is the only practical option to contribute to our ailing economy.

Dr Fazal ur Rahman, Director PICS, said that despite the pandemic, we superbly maintained our economy but the time has come to revitalize the economy, which requires an appropriate and efficient financial model.

We are honoured to collaborate with China, the world's most developed country, and we need to extract the greatest amount of fruitful information and learn from China's well-established economic model.

A large number of students from business studies and statistics disciplines attended the seminar.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-economic-rise-strategic-uplift-discussed/>

Gwadar: The city of the future

Imtiaz Rafi Butt

THERE are hardly any cities and geographic regions of the world which are comparable with the potential and prospects of Gwadar.

With the revival of major economies in the post-pandemic scenario, Gwadar is back on the rise and is being noticed by investors and analysts from all over the world. It is, without a doubt, a Jewel Port city at the mouth of the Persian Gulf. It is located at a spot which is going to cater to a huge portion of international trade by 2030.

A large part of that trade will consist of vital supplies back and forth from China, the next superpower of the planet. The Western developed nations are scrambling to find a worthy adversary of Gwadar.

As the influence of the United States dwindles and Europe falls back in economic hyper-recession, the stage is set for the Asian Dragon to rise with the leadership of Xi Jinping. And Gwadar is of vital importance to both China and Pakistan and the future of trade in the region. The American dominance of the 70s, 80s and the 90s is nowhere to be seen.

Chinese growth is now outpacing American progress. With the development and expansion of CPEC and OBOR, the Chinese footprint will expand exponentially and Gwadar is the front foot forward.

Gwadar is not just the trade-hub of the future, it is an evidence of a paradigm shift. Superpowers like the British Empire in the past and the Americans at present, have almost always resorted to profound violence, manipulation and aggression as their guiding principles.

The Americans, since the Cold War and the dissolution of the then mighty Soviet Union, have committed unchecked abuse of power. In the last 50 years, the Americans have violated the UN Security Council resolutions over 20 times with impunity.

That includes launching unilateral invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq. There were no justifications for either of them. The NATO alliance became a centre-piece of dominance with the consent of other nations in favour of Washington.

In the case of Iraq, the misinformation of having weapons of mass destruction was equivalent to war-crimes. The invasion of Iraq led to deaths in thousands and the creation of the dreadful terrorist organization Daesh. The instability spread in the whole region.

Not just there, the Americans have actively destabilized governments that did not align with the agenda of Washington through non-state actors. Naom Chomsky has clearly written about the dubious moral authority of complaining about Russian interference in American elections during the Trump era when the Pentagon has been interfering in elections all over the world which includes Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen and Iraq being recent examples.

On the other hand, the Americans have actively granted support to Israelis in their bloody campaign against innocent Palestinians. At the same time, Washington has sanctioned Iran for its nuclear program while Israeli nuclear program goes unchecked.

Among all these abuses of power, the Americans have never changed their guiding principle but the situation is inverse in case of China. The superpower of the world is on a different path.

China is on the rise and to the amazement of geopolitical analysts and researchers, it has adopted the path through a model of mutual growth and win-win scenarios.

Since its inception, China has raised more people out of abject poverty than any other nation in a short span of a few decades. At break-neck speed of growth in trade, industry and commerce, China is now ahead of many developed countries in Europe.

Contrary to the fact is that many developed Western countries are now reliant on China for their economic security and stability. Beijing has ushered in a new era in global supremacy. It has adopted a model of regional and international growth.

Instead of launching military campaigns in foreign lands, intervening in their internal matters and sabotaging stability in distant regions, China has decided to expand its influence through investment, industry, joint-ventures and mutual growth. As of today, China has engaged with the rich and the poor countries of almost all continents of the globe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa in particular. Pakistan is the prime example of this Chinese strategy.

Pakistan has been referred to by China as an “all-weather brother nation”. China Pakistan Economic Corridor and the One Belt One Road Project are one of a kind. With CPEC, China intends to connect its Western region of Xinjiang with the Arabian Sea.

CPEC is a joint collaboration capitalizing on the geo-strategic position of Pakistan and the future growth requirements of China as the next most powerful nation on the planet. OBOR revives the traditional Silk Route of trade which has been in use for the last two thousand years on modern lines. Regional connectivity is the hallmark of CPEC.

More so, it emphasizes regional connectivity as well as regional sustainability. China is now the hub of manufacturing and exports, which makes it an energy deficient country. With the connectivity of Chinese trade routes to Central Asia and the Middle East via Gwadar, there are two-fold benefits for both Pakistan and China.

First and foremost, for Pakistan, there are enormous possibilities of Foreign Direct Investment and a jump-start to the dwindling economy, secondly, Gwadar along with other projects under OBOR and CPEC, projects Pakistan as the main Transit-Trade hub in the region.

The trade will go in both directions. Energy supplies, raw material and semi-finished goods can make their way into Pakistan and then into China while finished products in the form of exports from China can flow out of China and Pakistan and into the oil-rich countries of the Middle East.

Similar situation arises for Central Asia. This in turn will reduce the cost of Chinese exports making them much more attractive in competitive pricing to European and American products.

Not to mention that many American firms have already moved their manufacturing facilities to China which is one of the primary reasons for the trade war between Washington and Beijing. Gwadar is at the heart of the matter.

There are no comparisons to Gwadar which will be the key transit port and a city of trade of the future.

For long, the Americans have initiated hostile agendas against China. South China Sea Dispute, Taiwan and creating controversy in Hong Kong via non-state actors are a few of the issues that have been created to push China into a defending position.

The United States has also forged alliances against China which includes Australia, India, Japan and the United Kingdom as key allies. As a reply, the new bloc coming up with China is a coalition between China, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Russia which is more than capable of dominating global diplomacy including the United Nations.

As the United States continues to falter in Afghanistan, Syria and in Europe, it is China that is making the right choices. The Chinese coalition has been formed out of mutual gain and common progress.

Gwadar has now completed phase-I of its development with CPEC. The Chinese Holding Company in-charge of Gwadar is now on track to develop and activate Gwadar for world trade as per timeline.

International imports and exports are being cleared from Gwadar in tons. The port has been completed and work is going on to complete the Gwadar Airport. State of the art housing, water and industrial facilities are cropping up by the days.

Pakistan will be at the helm of affairs in the future of global trade and Gwadar will be the star port city of Asia, it is a dream that has been realized and marvellous future within reach.

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-the-city-of-the-future-by-imtiaz-rafi-butt/>

CPEC & Kazakhstan's ambitions for greater regional connectivity

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has “immense” potential to “expand” and “expedite” the concept of Greater Regional Connectivity (GRC) because of its various mega projects of transport, communications, energy and poverty eradication. In this connection, fall of Kabul has also further increased its regional scope to connect with the Central Asian Region (CAR).

In this connection, with the arrival of the new Ambassador of Kazakhstan H.E. Yerzhan Kistafin, in Islamabad, efforts of achieving greater regional connectivity have been getting “momentum”.

He has been constantly meeting with various chambers of commerce representatives, business community, potential investors and industrialists in the country for further strengthening of bilateral trade.

While meeting with the business community, H.E. Kistafin said that both countries need to work to establish a cost effective transport system. Rail and road network up-gradation under the CPEC can be utilized for this purpose, as China and Kazakhstan share a long border with each other.

Most recently, the Embassy of Kazakhstan in Pakistan held the first online meeting of the Joint Working Group on trade and investment on November 15. The event was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan, “JSC” “NC” “QazTrade Center for Trade and Policy Development”, JSC «NC «Kazakh Invest» Invest Kazakhstan, the Ministry of Communications of Pakistan, as well as the Embassy of Pakistan in Kazakhstan. The issues of trade & investment, simplification of banking and customs operations between the two countries were also discussed.

While meeting with FPCCI the Kazakh Ambassador termed bilateral relations between the two sides ideal that should be translated into diverse fields of economy. He upheld that both sides should work for greater regional connectivity through innovative commercial diplomacy.

In this regard, consequently, Joint Working Group meetings on transportation were held on November 12 and Trade and Investment on November 15. The Pakistan embassy in Kazakhstan said that Pakistan has signed the Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) convention on logistics and transportation which can significantly reduce cargo cost between the two sides.

According to Chambers International Chairman Ayan Yerenov of Kazakhstan, the two sides will be arranging a high-profile Kazakh-Pakistan Joint Business Council conference in the second week of January 2022 and a trade exhibition during that same period in the following year.

During his maiden visit to Lahore Kazakh Ambassador visited Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry and met with its senior management. Speaking on the occasion, he said that promoting cooperation between the two countries will benefit the entire Central Asian region. The Ambassador also met representatives of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association and thoroughly discussed prospects of joint ventures between the two sides.

The Ambassador labeled Pakistan an attractive market for foreign investors, adding that Prime Minister Imran Khan had discussed the prospects of bilateral economic cooperation during his meeting with the Kazakh President in Dushanbe. Moreover, the Kazakh President will visit Pakistan next year. He briefed that Pak-Kazakh Inter-governmental Commission has now agreed to establish three working groups on cooperation in economy, energy and regional connectivity.

Addressing the business community during his visit to the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) he urged for enhancing business-to-business contacts between private sectors of both countries to explore new avenues of two-way trade promotion.

He was of the view that both countries should perform trade activities in diverse areas. He termed Pakistan a regional hub for transit trade and investment with the completion of the CPEC. He exhorted Kazakh investors to explore joint ventures and investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Now Kazakhstan is rigorously pursuing greater regional connectivity with outer-regional countries like Pakistan. In this connection, Kazakhstan has participated in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program since 1997.

The route became an integral part of CAREC Corridor 1, one of the six CAREC corridors in the current version of the Silk Road, which stretches from China to Azerbaijan, in the Caucasus, and farther west to Europe; and from south Kazakhstan to the ports of Pakistan. Thus the role of CPEC is immense.

Furthermore, Kazakhstan is a member of Quadrilateral Traffic-in-Transit Agreement (QTTA) which will hopefully facilitate regional integration and enhance economic development by providing an alternate transport corridor between CAR and Pakistan.

Kazakhstan's Khorgos Gateway (KGW) connects it with China by rail. Hopefully after its completion it will be the world's biggest dry port. For further regional connectivity, the policy makers of Pakistan should also consider utilizing this dry port to enhance bilateral trade & commerce activities with Kazakhstan.

In terms of economic corridor, Kazakhstan is the "connecting hub" of Chinese One Belt & One Road Initiative (BRI) and Pakistan's CPEC, the flagship project, may be combined to achieve the ultimate goal of greater regional connectivity.

Kazakhstan is the largest Republic of the CAR and the ninth largest in the world in territory. It is the biggest economy of CAR. It is the biggest recipient of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) US\$350 billion in the last thirty years.

In this context, Kazakhstan is the ideal trade gateway to a market of about 150 million consumers in the Caspian Sea countries, 50 million in Central Asia and 300 million in Western China. Thus the ideal combination of BRI & CPEC would be mutually beneficial for both the countries in the days to come.

It has a number of specific economic zones which have various tax incentives and a favourable environment for seeking more and more inflows of FDI. With the vast development in the technology sector, the government is looking into making the conditions for foreigners to do business in Kazakhstan with benefits. It will further enhance digital cooperation between Pakistan and Kazakhstan. Thus CPEC Digital Corridor would be helpful.

To conclude, the model of Cluster Trans-Regional Trade (CTRT) should also be pursued. In this direction, Trade Houses in Nur Sultan & Karachi may provide strategic opportunities to increase bilateral trade volumes between both sides and the rest of the CARs. There is an urgent need to have "direct communication" between the businessmen and people of the two countries.

Close cooperation between the private sectors of both countries should be a game changer for joint ventures in textiles, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, education and other sectors of the economy.

Close cooperation between leading universities of both the countries should be matured as soon as possible. Formation of Corridor of Knowledge (CK) is the need of the hour. Cultural diplomacy should be part and parcel of rigorous commercial diplomacy.

Joint Pak-Kazak Development Agency, Joint Chamber of Commerce, Joint Investment Company, Joint Merchandized Shipment Company and Joint Custom Clearance & Forwarding Company would create “befitting propositions” for both the countries.

CPEC has become a “simulation” of rampant industrialization, energy production and regional connectivity and it would be helpful for Kazakhstan to overcome its landlocked status for achieving greater regional connectivity.

Right choice of genuine think-tanks, experts of applied economics, international marketing, strategists, journalists and business partners would be a value-addition for Kazakhstan to achieve its ultimate goals of greater regional connectivity under the flagship project of CPEC.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-kazakhstans-ambitions-for-greater-regional-connectivity-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Nation

CPEC Phase II

On Monday, the government hosted a marketing session for about 70 Chinese companies as it plans on initiating the second phase—which will focus on industrial development—of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This was an important meeting during which the CPEC Authority (CPECA) chairman Khalid Mansoor briefed the attendees on the latest developments on the CPEC horizon, various business opportunities and incentives for investment.

The main focus of Phase II is to enhance bilateral cooperation in industrial, technological and agricultural sectors for which business-to-business collaboration will present various opportunities and avenues for success. It is imperative to attract investors towards our special economic zones (SEZs) since four out of the nine agreed zones are now at an advanced stage of development and are in the process of being populated. The incentives offered by Pakistan for SEZs are regionally competitive as they include 10-year income tax exemptions in addition to exemptions of customs duty on the import of capital goods.

During the meeting, Mr Mansoor also explained that this next stage can accelerate socio-economic development in Pakistan with the help of Chinese investment and transfer of technology. In order to achieve this, the focus is going to be on export growth in areas such as textiles and IT, and import substitution in the sectors of steel and agriculture by generating employment opportunities and promoting joint ventures.

This is all positive, but we must also push for further diversification in the areas of technology and for the transfer of Chinese research and development centres in order to upscale our local capacity in these areas. Our agriculture sector in particular can benefit significantly when it comes to improving the quality of seeds and yield, and also in terms of modernising our mechanical cultivation and harvesting. The possibilities are immense and it is a matter of seeing through the implementation of this phase successfully without any delays or issues.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-17/page-6/detail-3>

Pakistan, China to collaborate on poverty eradication

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China will collaborate on poverty eradication and have agreed for signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for poverty alleviation in the field of commerce.

To explore avenues of collaboration in poverty alleviation, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Nong Rong called on SAPM Dr Sania Nishtar on Tuesday. On the cooperation for poverty alleviation in the field of commerce, the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD) of the Government of Pakistan and Ministry of Commerce of China are entering a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The MoU has been approved by the Federal Cabinet on October 27, 2021 and will be inked soon between China and Pakistan. The meeting discussed the implementation arrangements of the MoU.

China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners. Under the MoU, both the countries will enhance cooperation and exchange of experience, especially in the context of poverty reduction, through leveraging potential for commerce. The Chinese side is led by Ministry of Commerce and Pakistan's side by PASSD.

The Chinese side will take advantages of commerce in connecting urban and rural areas, linking home and abroad, matching production and marketing, focus on the exchange of experience on developing poverty alleviation industries, creating employment opportunities, promoting the domestic and foreign trade in poverty-stricken areas, and thus helping to eradicate poverty in the strategy of precise poverty alleviation and eradication, to help Pakistan expand its vision and innovate its method for poverty alleviation, promote better economic and social development in Pakistan.

Both countries will also establish a communication mechanism to exchange poverty alleviation experience in the field of commerce under the framework of China Pakistan Joint Economic and Trade Committee. Also, regular exchanges will be organized on the implementation mechanism, management mode and main effectiveness of commerce-based poverty alleviation to promote programmatic cooperation.

Dr. Sania appreciated great achievements and experience of China in poverty alleviation. "Poverty alleviation is the priority of the government of Pakistan. This MoU will enable Pakistan

to learn from China's experience in poverty alleviation and to disseminate lessons from Ehsaas, which is a multi sectoral programme for alleviating poverty", said Dr. Sania.

The Chinese ambassador was accompanied by Guwen Liang, the Second Secretary; Fengguanlei; and Chenyongpei from Commercial section. Muhammad Ali Shahzada; Secretary PASSD, Saman Muneeb, Director CPEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs also joined the meeting.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-17/page-8/detail-5>

2-day int'l conference on CPEC kicks off at IIUI Faisal Mosque campus

ISLAMABAD-Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue (IRD), International Islamic University Islamabad is organizing a two-day international conference on "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and Formation of Different Narratives" on Wednesday at Quaid-e-Azam Auditorium, Faisal Masjid Campus Islamabad at 9 am.

The conference will be attended by eminent national and international experts in economics, sociology and mass media. In different sessions of the conference, these experts will discuss various aspects of CPEC's regional and global impact.

Explaining aims and objectives of the conference, Dr. Hassan Al-Amin, Executive Director, Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue told APP that CPEC is an important project aimed at extending the western part of China to the southern Arabian Sea.

Many sub-projects of energy, infrastructure, railways and other industries are being implemented and CPEC has entered into the second phase, he added.

He said there were many narratives circulating about CPEC in Pakistan, region and globally including China, Pakistan's official narrative, political narrative, narrative of less developed regions and of socio-economic experts.

Dr. Hassan Al-Amin further said for the organisation of the conference, articles were requested last year in response to which economists from all over the world, teachers and researchers of national and international universities submitted research papers.

The articles were thoroughly reviewed and selected experts were invited to present their papers.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-17/page-13/detail-3>

November 18, 2021

Daily Times

China applauds CPEC Authority for hosting meeting of Chinese companies:

Zhao Lijian

China on Wednesday applauded China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority on Wednesday for hosting a meeting of Pakistani based Chinese companies and briefing them about

more investment opportunities in Pakistan. Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian applauded the efforts from Pakistani side to increase input in the development.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar, SAPM on CPEC Affairs, Khalid Mansoor and Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Nong Rong.

Khalid Mansoor briefed the participants on the latest developments with regard to CPEC and stated that Phase-II of the CPEC is aimed to enhance the bilateral cooperation in Industrial, Technological and Agricultural sectors.

Zhao Lijian remarked that the development of CPEC has entered in the stage of high speed and quality development.

“We believe, we will better focus on agriculture, industrial development, people’s livelihood, while ensuring the good operation of the existing projects,” he added.

The spokesperson said that the both countries would try to make the CPEC a demonstration project.

“We also hope that Pakistani side will provide more enabling conditions and convenience for Chinese companies to do the business in Pakistan,” he added.

The CEOs and representatives of over 70 Chinese companies attended the meeting held in Islamabad while a number of companies joined through video links as well.

The SAPM highlighted that four out of a total of nine agreed on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) along with Gwadar Free Zone under the auspices of CPEC are at an advanced stage of development and investors have started to populate these SEZs.

He further stated that the CPEC Authority is setting up a facilitation centre for CPEC investors.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/843058/china-applauds-cpec-authority-for-hosting-meeting-of-chinese-companies-zhao-lijian/>

Pakistan Observer

IRD Conference: Speakers call for promoting CPEC as a national project

Speakers at a two-day international conference on “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Building Narratives” called for more efforts to promote China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a national project.

The conference was organized by Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue (IRD), of International Islamic University (IIU) in collaboration with Faculty of Social Sciences commenced on Wednesday at Quaid-e-Azam Auditorium, Faisal Mosque Campus, Islamabad.

The conference was being attended by eminent national and international experts in economics, sociology and mass media.

In different sessions of the conference, around 50 national and international experts, researchers, academicians and intellectuals will discuss various aspects of CPEC's regional and global impact.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony in his presidential address, IIU Rector Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai underscored the importance of the universities in solution of the problems and challenges of society.

He stressed that debates on the vital topics that have the game changing importance such as CPEC must be openly conducted on the constructive platforms and universities must lead this initiative.

Dr. Masoom hinted towards meaningful presence of the Youth in Pakistani society, and expressed that the Pakistani human resource compliant to the CPEC needs, with mutual agreement between both states, must be produced to be benefited from the opportunity. He also hailed IRD for arranging an important international conference.

Mr. Rafi ullah Kakar, Director, Strategic Planning and reforms cell, Government of Baluchistan, in his keynote address discussed misconceptions and myths about the CPEC.

In addition, he also explained an overview of the project with the perspective of both countries.

He enlightened on potential risks and ground realities with the example of statistical approach.

<https://pakobserver.net/ird-conference-speakers-call-for-promoting-cpec-as-a-national-project/>

The Nation

Pak poet Unnihar gains popularity among Chinese

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani famous poet Noor Unnihar is fast gaining popularity among Chinese readers, that would further encourage Pakistani poetry in China, Gwadar Pro reported on Wednesday.

'Yesterday I Was the Moon', a collection of poetry by the Pakistani poet, has become most popular in China cities. The masterpiece was ranked as one of the best-sellers in DangDang, a major Chinese e-commerce platform with a primary focus on bookselling, during the Double Eleven shopping event on 11th November.

According to a statement by DangDang, more than 3.6 million books were sold in a mere one minute and over 6.2 million books were purchased in just 10 minutes during this year's shopping event.

Noor Unnihar told Gwadar Pro that she was "thrilled" to learn the Chinese publisher expressing the intention to publish her work in Chinese in late 2019 and that she was "overjoyed" by the news of the growing popularity of her work in China.

"As a writer, it's a privilege to be able to see your work breathe in a different language."

“To be completely honest, I was stunned by the cover of the Chinese translation of Yesterday I Was the Moon.

It was so beautiful. The original cover, which I designed, was very well received. But the one on the Chinese translation surprised me even more,” exclaimed the genius poet.

The book was rated 8.3 out of 10 on China’s most influential book sharing and recommendation social networking site Douban.

“Unnahar has provided her insights into the unboundedness of life. What is so precious about the book is that Unnahar treats her sufferings with love and courage.

Unnahar expected more potential cooperation with Chinese publishers and peers.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-18/page-10/detail-3>

November 19, 2021

Daily Times

China ready to work for high quality CPEC development

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian Thursday said that China was ready to work with all parties to advance high quality development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and its synergy with other projects in the region aimed at contributing to economic recovery and development of the region.

“China stands ready for work with all parties to advance high quality development of CPEC and its synergy with other projects in the region so as to contribute to economic recovery and development of the region,” he said during his regular briefing while commenting on remarks of an Indonesian official.

During his recent visit to University of Sialkot, Indonesia’s Minister Counsellor Boy Dharmawan said that ASEAN could connect with global networks like China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). “We appreciate such remarks by the Indonesian official,” Zhao Lijian said in his comments.

The Indonesian diplomat also appreciated the idea of the formation of the Association of Maritime Allies Nations (AMAN) to connect ASEAN with giant projects like CPEC and BRI.

Meanwhile, China and Pakistan have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly build an international innovative community of medical device and value chain for the purposes of benefiting the human health, serving the ‘Belt and Road (BRI) initiative, and contributing to the development of a community of shared future for mankind.

The signing ceremony was held in Shanghai on Thursday at the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST), which was attended by the Chinese and international medical associations. Dr Muhammad Shahbaz President of China Pakistan Medical Association signed

the MoU with the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST), according to China Economic Net (CEN).

Dr Muhammad Shahbaz said that the purpose of this MoU was to jointly build an international exhibition centre for high-end medical equipment and innovation achievements.

Each party can be given opportunities to display its innovative medical device projects and projects, in order to promote the alignment and application of innovative projects and products.

“Both parties shall share information, experience, knowledge in the field of medical devices and organize regular diversified activities to increase international communication in such important aspects as talent exchange, academic exchange, scientific research exchange, clinical and market application exchange,” he added.

Shahbaz further said that both parties shall jointly organise various seminars, forums, and conferences; carry out various training, including special training, online training. Both parties shall participate in the BRMDIA annual conference and Forum on ‘Belt and Road’ Medical Device Innovation and Application, presenting the newest innovative projects and achievements to facilitate international cooperation.

“We shall make joint efforts to create an integrated industry cluster of medical device research, innovation, production, exhibition, distribution, application, and service aligned to international standard, and guide the development of high-end medical devices in the Yangtze River Delta region and countries along the Belt and Road,” he mentioned.

Professor Liu, vice president of USST said that the Belt and Road Medical Device Innovation and Application will alliance strengthen cooperation and international communication and docking, explore the technological innovation, product innovation, model innovation, and exert efforts to be important forces to promote the development of high-end medical equipment innovation in and out of China.

The Alliance has now 109 member units covering 20 countries (regions), including China, Singapore, Pakistan, South Korea, Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Romania, The Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Serbia, Israel, Italy, Sweden, Holland, Brazil, Canada, and the United States.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/843640/china-ready-to-work-for-high-quality-cpec-development/>

China, Pakistan sign MoU in training medical and engineer personnel

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<https://daillytimes.com.pk/843558/china-pakistan-sign-mou-in-training-medical-and-engineer-personnel/>

Pakistan Observer

China-Pakistan Marine Information Workshop held at COMSATS University

COMSATS University Islamabad and College of Underwater Acoustic Engineering, Harbin Engineering University, China jointly organized the 3rd China-Pakistan Marine Information Workshop at CUI, Wah Campus as a part of One Belt One Road initiative under China Pakistan Economic Corridor. Prof. Dr. Shahid Baig, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation was the Chief Guest on this event.

Prof Dr Muhammad Abid, T.I., Director, COMSATS University informed that workshop is designed to provide a dedicated platform to scientists, engineers, academicians, industry professionals and researchers from Pakistan and China to deliberate on this emerging area of Marine Science and Technology in Pakistan.

He added that as part of One Belt One road initiatives, the College of Underwater Acoustics Engineering, Harbin Engineering University, China has played an enormous role towards capacity building in Pakistan.

Realizing the importance of Marine Engineering and Marine Science, CUI has also signed a MoU with HEU, China to carry out research in the field of Marine Informatics and Engineering and currently 12 students of HEU are doing research at CUI Wah Campus.

Prof. Qiao Gang, Co-Chair of workshop, Associate Dean for Scientific Research, College of Underwater Acoustic Engineering, Harbin Engineering University, China assured his support for research and development in this emerging field in Pakistan.

The Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Shahid Baig, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation assured all facilitation from PSF related to the Marine Engineering and Marine Sciences. He also mentioned different funding schemes already in place with China since long.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mujahid, Rector Pak-Austria Fachhochschule: Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology Haripur, appreciated the theme of the conference bringing multidisciplinary people on board.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-marine-information-workshop-held-at-comsats-university/>

The Express Tribune

Joint ventures under CPEC face problems

Chinese official calls for swift resolution of issues, removal of hurdles

LAHORE: The increasing number of joint ventures between Pakistan and China under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) are confronted with some practical difficulties, said Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Wang Zihai.

In an online address to the PCJCCI executive committee on Thursday, he called for the swift resolution of issues and removal of impediments.

“The government of Pakistan is fully cognisant of the issues and this has led to the creation of alternative dispute resolution courts in the country,” he acknowledged.

The joint chamber has established an online platform to provide assistance in solving the problems and issues of Chinese companies pertaining to domestic policies and regulations.

He hailed the initiative of the chamber to facilitate foreign investors who entered into business partnerships with Pakistani entrepreneurs.

He believed that the collaborative efforts of Pakistan’s government and the PCJCCI would help stabilise Chinese investment in Pakistan. In this regard, he hoped that the online information portal of the PCJCCI would prove helpful for both domestic and Chinese investors.

Speaking on the occasion, PCJCCI Senior Vice President Ehsan Chaudhry assured the participants that the interest of investors engaged in joint ventures under CPEC would be protected.

“Along with the online platform, the PCJCCI will keep on playing a proactive role in overcoming the difficulties faced in the implementation of joint ventures being established in collaboration with foreign firms,” said Chaudhry.

PCJCCI General Secretary Salahuddin Hanif said that the online platform had displayed information about commercial courts and agricultural and industrial cooperation between the two countries, aimed at enhancing partnerships under CPEC.

He stated that in recent years, several states and municipalities had established new commercial courts, which were seen as building blocks for economic development and global commerce.

“PCJCCI is keen to help set up more commercial courts in Pakistan including those that are designed primarily for domestic disputes,” he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2330090/joint-ventures-under-cpec-face-problems>

The Nation

Misreading of China’s BRI and aid data by US think tanks disappointing

Zhou Xin

US research institute Aid Data has recently issued a report claiming in an average year during the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) era, China spent \$85 billion on overseas development programs, causing a significant increase in “hidden debt” in low and middle-income countries.

The report also listed a range of other problems that it alleged was caused by BRI, such as “infringement of labour rights” and “environmental issues.” A closer look into the report shows that it is full holes and errors like distorted data, confusing concepts, misinterpretation, and

unfounded assumptions, which deviate from the academic neutrality and rigor that a think tank should abide by.

The report mistakenly included a considerable component based on non-official funds such as commercial investment and financing and non-profit activities into the scope of China's foreign aid, and it exaggerated the proportion of relevant data.

Ignoring the possible double-counting between the capital output of relevant banks and other enterprises, the report regards commercial loans provided by state-owned commercial banks as government spending. More absurd, the report includes military cooperation such as China's provision of peacekeeping operations funds to the United Nations, as well as foreign investment by the private companies such as Huawei, in the scope of official development finance.

The report's interpretation of the data also contains serious bias. The report claims that most of its data comes from Chinese official channels, but it actually turns a blind eye to China's official data sources. The report claims that China's development financing is mostly invested in resource-rich countries but the reality is that most of China's foreign aid flows to the least developed countries, and many of the BRI recipient countries are resource-poor economies.

The report linked the flow of Chinese funds to countries with serious corruption problems as listed by the World Governance Index, accusing of supporting corruption. This conclusion is also untenable. China's BRI cooperation adheres to the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, the programme is committed to the concept of openness, greenness and integrity.

Whether it is the BRI cooperation blueprint or specific projects, all parties participate openly and transparently, and have zero tolerance for corruption. China has never attached any conditions to its international cooperation, and it is based solely on the willingness and needs of involved parties. China mainly supports other developing countries through project assistance and material assistance, mainly for the purpose of avoiding the possibility of corrupt behaviour.

On the contrary, many of the aid funds led by Western countries are controlled by the elites in recipient countries, which not only increase the economic and social inequality of the recipient countries, but also breed corruption. In recent years, under the BRI framework, China's international development cooperation has become more effective.

China has always adhered to the guiding principle of South-South Cooperation. China's development financing to other developing countries not only help them solve long-term financial difficulties, but also provided public products for local development. China provides commercial loans with relatively low interest rates that often last 20 years or longer.

AidData's data for the past few years showed that Chinese aid has a positive role in promoting local economic development and has significantly reduced development inequality within African countries. On average, for every doubling of China's aid, the recipient country's economy will grow by 0.4 percent. In this sense, although China's aid to the international

community may not exceed the amount given by G7 countries, but the actual influence of China's aid may be far more potent.

The US is not willing to support the public good to developing countries, nor does it want to see China play a growing role in global development. By concocting theories like “debt traps,” “resource plundering,” and “pollution,” the US is simply attempting to slander China's cooperation with other countries, and try to damage China's international reputation, hinder China's cooperation with other countries, in order to maintain the US' hegemony.

Established in 2013, AidData has been receiving funding from the US Agency for International Development since 2017. Compared with earlier reports, this report clearly echoes the US government's very biased policy towards China. As a scholar who has been paying attention to AidData data for a long time, I was looking forward to future publication of new data, but its excessively exaggerated data and misinterpreted methods are very disappointing. Whether this is due to a technical misunderstanding or a deliberate misunderstanding remains a mystery. The author is associate professor at the International Development and Global Agriculture, China Agricultural University.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-19/page-3/detail-1>

President Xi Jinping's global vision

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

President Xi Jinping started his journey as President with the launch of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). He was convinced that without sharing prosperity there is no rationale in claiming the status of a responsible state. In this way, China would not be different from other major powers of the world. It will also not be good for the sustainability of economic growth and development of China. More importantly, China will never be able to secure the vision of a shared future. Thus, he launched the BRI.

By launching the BRI, he offered the world to be part of China's fortune. He urged his government and the business community to actively devise tools to achieve the goal of BRI and Community with Shared Prosperity. The BRI started to grow and now 140 states and many international organisations have become part of it. The importance of BRI can be judged from the actions taken by China during the COVID-19. First, China made sure the investment under the BRI must continue. Second, China also helped BRI countries to combat the challenge of COVID-19. China provided the protective instruments and shared its experience. Now China is providing vaccine to poor countries across the world.

On the other hand, China under the leadership of President Xi, has become more vocal about its sovereignty, which is evident from actions. First, China put its foot down on the issue of its claim of East and South China Sea. China told the world that it was China's legitimate right to get hold of East and South China Sea in the light of historical facts. China has actively pursued its rights and deployed the required instruments of security.

In 2013, China declared an air identification zone in East China Sea. Japan and Taiwan (which is also part of China) also claim the airspace of the zone, but China is firm on its claims.

Second, an important example is the issue of Taiwan. China never recognized it as a country. It considers Taiwan part of the mainland like Hong Kong and Macau. China has asked the world to avoid direct contact with Taiwan. In recent times, the USA with the help of allies like Japan, India, Australia and some EU countries started to differ from One China policy. They are working to exploit the situation in their interest and pressurize China. However, their efforts did not have any effect on China. It has declared that any attempt to separate Taiwan from China would be an act of war and will be replied with full force. Third, China also did not give any heed to the Western propaganda about Hong Kong. China maintains that Hong Kong is its internal matter, and no one will be allowed to interfere in the internal matters of China.

These examples indicate that China will no more tolerate external interference and comprise on its legitimate rights. It is part of China's policy of "no more tolerance to foul mouthing or foul play". Mr Wang, foreign minister and state councilor, put it in words by saying, "We never pick a fight or bully others. But we have principles and guts. We will push back any deliberate insult, resolutely defend our national honour and dignity, and we will refute all groundless slander with facts".

However, President Xi feels that peaceful coexistence must be a principle of global interaction and order. For that purpose, the world will have to change the existing systems of interaction and refine it according to the needs and requirement of the world and China is no exception. China needs it on an urgent basis as the country is facing multiple malicious campaigns and barriers to a peaceful rise of China.

These circumstances compelled China to look for new means at the global level to defy the impact of these campaigns and ensure its sovereignty. Thus, China started to reshape its engagement at the diplomatic front. The first thing was to refine its stance on the role of global institutes and the required reforms. China, under the leadership of President Xi, is a staunch supporter of the global system. He has mentioned many times the central and leading role of the UN and other global institutes. In his speech at the UN at the 75th anniversary of UN, he re-emphasised the importance of the UN and its central role. He also urged for meaningful reforms and equal respect for every country, irrespective of their economic status.

President Xi suggested four major interventions for the UN. First, the UN must stand firm on the issue of justice. No one should be allowed to exploit the system in its favour. Everyone should be treated equally and given equal respect, irrespective of their development status. Second, the UN must uphold the rule of law. No one should bully others and institutions must be the first in decision-making and implementation. Third, cooperation must be promoted by the UN and it should play a leading role. It is important to sustain the global order and solve major problems of the world. However, cooperation must be based on equality and no one should be preferred over the other. Fourth, the UN must promote real actions and come out of the mode of talks only. It

should also speed up work and take real actions to combat problems like climate change, pandemics, poverty, food insecurity and environmental degradation, etc.

He reiterated the same sentiments at another UN conference about biodiversity. President Xi Jinping, in his address at the summit on biodiversity, highlighted the importance of the slogan, “Ecological Civilisation: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth” for COP-15. He advocated for urgent actions, which must be devised by keeping nature at heart and looking for harmony between humans and nature. He emphasised that beautiful nature is essential for a beautiful life. Biodiversity must be a priority in national and global planning and execution of plans.

This is not the first instance; President Xi is working on it for many years. He has already reformed and speeded up the efforts of China for reforms in the global system. President Xi had taken a bold step and moved one step forward from President Hu’s policy of active participation. He has infused the spirit of “leading active role” in global governance and reforms of the system. He urged foreign policy officials to take an active role in reforming the global system at the “Central Conference on Work Relating to Foreign Affairs” held in Beijing in 2018. Although the official statement came in 2018 the process was started earlier.

China is now working to sustain and strengthen the global system. In the times of uncertainty, China is trying to provide certainty to the global system, which was required. President Xi has shown his commitment at multiple forums, including the United Nations, World Economic Forum, etc. China is proving its commitment by actions. For example, despite all the negative campaigns, China is championing the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Another example is organisation of Biodiversity Conference in the times of COVID-19.

In a nutshell, we can say that President Xi is striving for a fair, equitable and rule-based global system. He considers it essential to create a community with shared future. (The writer is a political analyst)

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=26199>

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک منصوبے سے علاقے کو بہت فائدہ ہو رہا ہے: قونصل جنرل چین

وگاڑہ (نامہ نگار) عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے لاہور میں قونصل جنرل نے قونصلیٹ کے وفد کے ہمراہ اوکاڑہ کا دورہ کیا۔ انہیں اس دورہ کی دعوت مسلم لیگ ن کسان ونگ کے مرکزی صدر و رکن قومی اسمبلی چودھری ریاض الحق، ن لیگ کے ایم پی اے چودھری منیب الحق اور سینئر لیگی رہنما چودھری فیاض ظفر نے دی تھی۔ قونصل جنرل اور ان کے وفد کے اوکاڑہ پہنچنے پر شہریوں کی جانب سے شاندار استقبال کیا گیا۔ شہر کو پاک چین جھنڈوں سے سجایا گیا تھا۔ قونصل جنرل نے نجی ادارہ اپو ایس چین کی طرف سے لگائی جانے والی جدید ڈیجیٹل ایکسپریس مشین کا افتتاح کیا۔ قونصل جنرل کی اوکاڑہ آمد پر چیئر مین بلدیہ چودھری محمد اظہر نے شہر کے وسط میں واقع جنوبی اور شمالی اوکاڑہ کو ملانے والے انڈر پاس کا نام چین کے شہر شنگھائی انڈر پاس کے نام سے منسوب کیا جس کا قونصل جنرل سے افتتاح کیا۔ بعد ازاں قونصل جنرل بلدیہ اوکاڑہ پہنچے۔ اس موقع پر خطاب کرتے ہوئے قونصل جنرل نے کہا کہ اوکاڑہ ان کے لئے اجنبی نہیں مجھے یہ اپنا آبائی شہر لگتا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک منصوبہ یکطرفہ نہیں بلکہ پاک چین کے حوالے سے دو طرفہ ہے۔ جس سے

علاقہ کو بہت فائدہ ہو رہا ہے۔ تقریب سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے ن لیگ کے ایم۔ پی اے چودھری نیب الحق اور سینئر رہنما چودھری فیاض ظفر نے کہا کہ پاک چین دوستی ہمالہ سے بلند اور مضبوط ہے۔ جسے کسی صورت کمزور نہیں کیا جاسکتا۔ اس موقع پر چینی قونصل جنرل اور ان کے وفد کو یادگاری شیلڈز پیش کی گئیں۔ علاوہ ازیں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے لاہور میں قونصل جنرل کو اداکارہ آمد پر نئی ہوٹل میں ظہرانہ دیا گیا۔ قونصل جنرل کی طرف سے والہانہ استقبال کرنے پر اداکارہ کی عوام کا شکریہ ادا کیا گیا۔ قونصل جنرل ظہرانہ کے شرکاء میں گل مل گئے۔ وہ اپنے ٹرانسلیٹر کے ذریعے گفتگو کرتے رہے۔ ظہرانہ میں قونصل جنرل کو اداکارہ کی مشہور تلفیازیں پیش کی گئی ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-11-19/page-3/detail-1>

چینی کمپنیوں کے مسائل حل کرنے کیلئے آن لائن پلیٹ فارم تشکیل

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاک چین جو انٹنٹ جیمبر آف کامرس اینڈ انڈسٹری نے پاکستان کے اندر صنعتی، تجارتی اور زرعی سیکٹر میں کام کرنے والی چینی کمپنیوں کے مسائل حل کرنے کیلئے ایک آن لائن پلیٹ فارم تشکیل دے دیا ہے جس کے تحت سی پیک کے تناظر میں شروع کیے جانے والے مشترکہ منصوبوں کو تقویت ملے گی۔ پاک چین جیمبر کے صدر وانگ زہائی نے گزشتہ روز اس سلسلے میں منعقدہ ایک تقریب میں چین میں چینی جیمبر کے اس اقدام کو بے حد سراہا اور کہا کہ معلومات اور تحقیق کے بغیر صنعتی و زرعی شعبہ کو ترقی دینا ممکن نہیں اور سی پیک کے تحت پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان بڑھتی ہوئی مشترکہ سرمایہ کار کے پیش نظر معلومات اور باہمی تحقیق کی ضرورت بھی بڑھ گئی ہے۔ اس موقع پر پاک چین جیمبر کے سینئر نائب صدر احسن چوہدری، نائب صدر سرفراز بٹ، سیکرٹری جنرل صلاح الدین حنیف اور متعدد اراکین عاملہ بھی موجود تھے۔ مسٹر وانگ زہائی نے اپنے خطاب کے دوران کہا کہ چین اور پاکستان کے درمیان بڑھتے ہوئے مشترکہ صنعتی، تجارتی اور زرعی منصوبوں کا تقاضا ہے کہ اشتراک عمل کے دوران پیدا ہونے والے مسائل کے فوری حل کا نظام وضع کیا جائے۔ جس طرح چین میں تجارتی تنازعات کیلئے فوری نوعیت کا متبادل عدالتی نظام موجود ہے اسی طرح پاکستان میں تشکیل دیا جائے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-11-19/page-11/detail-22>

November 20, 2021

Business Recorder

Is CPEC last chance for industrialisation?

Farhat Ali

The statement “the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is Pakistan’s last chance for industrialisation” published last week in the print media is a statement that merits a fair analysis of ground realities.

That the CPEC is a game changer for Pakistan’s economy and strategic interests is a fact. It has undoubtedly opened up new venues of growth, notably, in infrastructure and the energy sector, of which mega hydro projects are of significant importance to Pakistan. The country was facing difficulties in obtaining financing for such projects from other global lenders. Hydropower projects constitute the flag ship of the CPEC project and we should have more of them. But we have to be cautious to avoid potential problems and dangers. In other words, we need a more balanced and realistic approach and strategy to work on.

So far, the Foreign Direct Investment and industrial commitments of China under the CPEC have not been found to be promising. The PTI government has therefore rightly diverted its focus from mega infrastructure projects to projects which could spur development in its industrial and agro sectors to generate employment opportunities and a more sustainable revenue generation base. Establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is one such land mark in this direction. China had shown its interest in moving much of its low-end industry to SEZs for re-export. Unfortunately, however, this shift has not taken place so far.

For CPEC Authority of Pakistan, the population and engagement of China in many SEZs that are being established all across the country is a challenge to justify the CPEC as Pakistan's last chance for industrialisation. The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and China is skewed towards the latter and the balance of trade is therefore heavily tilted in favour of our neighbour. The price advantage of mass production of Chinese products and import duty concessions of products imported from China into Pakistan out-price the products that are produced locally. This has resulted in a significant de-industrialisation in Pakistan. Further, many foreign investors in Pakistan, notably those from Europe and the USA with a large industrial base in Pakistan, felt deprived of a level playing field or an environment in which everyone has a fair and equal chance of succeeding in the face of flooding of market by Chinese products. Majority of them moved out of production or scaled down their presence in the country. This added to de-industrialisation in Pakistan.

In the past, the lenders from Europe, Japan and other global financing entities provided long-term financing on concessional terms to fund mega projects in Pakistan. KFW, a state-owned lender of Germany, funded most of the public-sector energy projects in Pakistan through long-term and concessional lending, whereas JIBIC, the state lender of Japan, volunteered to fund our infrastructure projects such as Lahore Mass Transit and Karachi Circular Railway revamp projects through long-term concessional loans. In the presence of the CPEC, Pakistan has lost its focus of maintaining relationship and sourcing of funding from these state lenders. In conclusion, it can be stated that it is in Pakistan's strategic interest to improve upon its engagement with CPEC for mega hydro projects and industrialisation but at the same time revive its focus and relations with our past lenders such as KFW, JIBIC. Also, to retain the interest of existing FDI investors in Pakistan and to mobilise fresh FDI for our industrial growth the government needs to come up with a strategy aimed at offering meaningful incentives and ensuring a level playing field to all the investors.

(The writer is former President, Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry)

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/20/4-page/908354-news.html>

CPEC undoubtedly a game changer for whole region: Zahid

ISLAMABAD: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is undoubtedly a game changer, as its benefits are not limited to any city or province but its dividends are for the whole region. In a statement, Zahid Latif Khan, Chairman of the Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research

and Development (AIERD), said, “There is no second opinion that the CPEC is going well and contributing to the economic growth and development of Pakistan”.

The CPEC has been providing multifaceted opportunities for Pakistan to further enhance regional connectivity and the national economy.

To exploit the full potential of the CPEC, Pakistan will have to build reliable and efficient avenues of connectivity on the principle of win-win cooperation, as with every step of industrialisation and rapid economic growth the need for connectivity multiplies, he added. While referring to his meeting with Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong, Zahid Latif Khan said that it was a productive meeting and assured him of all kind of assistance and cooperation at various levels. E-commerce is emerging business in Pakistan and around the world and we can learn from Ali Baba’s experience in this specific sector, he added.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/20/5-page/908361-news.html>

Daily Times

MoU signed with Chinese organization for cervical cancer screening

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) inked between Nishtar Medical University and Wuhan Landing Intelligence Medical Hi-Tech Co., Ltd. China to enhance cooperation for using cervical cancer screening technology.

Pakistan is about to launch a diagnostic programme for cervical cancer screening with the help of artificial intelligence (AI).

An online meeting was held between the representatives of Nishtar Medical University (NMU) and Wuhan Landing Intelligence Medical Hi-Tech Company Limited China wherein NMU was represented by Vice Chancellor Dr Rana Altaf Ahmed.

Wuhan Landing Intelligence Medical Co., Ltd. was represented by Chairperson Dr Sun Siaorong. Chairperson Department of Gynecology NMU Dr Mehnaz Khakwani and Dr Shahid Irshad Rao, Asst Prof Pathology Dr Amir Ashiq and Dr. Nabila Tariq were also present.

NMU Dr Rana Altaf Ahmed said that under this MoU, Wuhan Landing Intelligence Medical Company will provide high quality free screening service for women regarding cervical cancer in Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/843980/mou-signed-with-chinese-organization-for-cervical-cancer-screening/>

MoU next week for export of onion to China

As a big achievement, Chinese and Pakistani dignitaries are about to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate the export of Pakistani onion to China. The signing ceremony is scheduled on November 23, source form Chinese Embassy in Pakistan told Gwadar Pro.

This MoU will ensure the safe entry of onion from Pakistan to China. It is an important step towards building cooperation between Pakistan and China on the exports of agricultural goods from Pakistan.

Agriculture sector in Pakistan is an untapped sector where investment and partnership potentials exist. Earlier in October this year, China and Pakistan agreed to sign two MoUs to enhance export of onion to China and to introduce revolutionary Chinese Juncao technology.

“We will facilitate Pakistani exports of cherry, onion, potato and other agricultural products to China, actively promote the construction of foot and mouth disease free zones and help Pakistan bring beef and mutton products into the Chinese market,” Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong noted.

On September 8th, Nong called on Pakistani Federal Minister of National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam in Islamabad. Both dignitaries agreed to enhance trade and exchange of technologies in the agriculture sector.

Syed Fakhar Imam said Pakistan has huge export potential in terms of vegetables and fruits such as mango, citrus fruits, apple cherries, etc. He said that trade between the two countries has huge potential and can be increased significantly.

“As China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) enters the second phase of high-quality development with a focus on agricultural and industrial cooperation, China will introduce more Pakistani agricultural products to China,” remarked Nong Rong while addressing China-Pakistan Agricultural Products Processing Cooperation and Exchange Forum held on June 23.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/843968/mou-next-week-for-export-of-onion-to-china/>

Dunya News

Will support Chinese businesses in Pakistan on priority basis: PM Imran

ISLAMABAD (APP) - Prime Minister Imran Khan Saturday directed the authorities concerned to facilitate all Chinese investors, who were setting up industries in Pakistan, on emergency basis by resolving their issues related to road connectivity and the provision of utilities.

“We will support Chinese businesses in Pakistan on the priority basis, and are grateful to them for their keen interest in accelerating their investment in Special Economic Zones (SEZs),” said Prime Minister Imran Khan in a meeting with Chinese business delegation.

During the meeting, the prime minister was told that Chinese businessmen are almost ready to start operations in the glass, ceramics and information technology sectors.

The prime minister said that Pakistan and China were connected not only in the past or present but would remain united through their future generations too.

We appreciate the valuable relationship of the peoples of the two countries,” he added. The meeting was also attended by Energy Minister Muhammad Hammad Azhar, Advisor on

Commerce Abdul Razzak Dawood, SAPM on Political Communication Dr Shahbaz Gill, SAPM on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor and Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong along with senior officers concerned.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/629554-Will-support-Chinese-businesses-in-Pakistan-on-priority-basis-PM-Imran>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan, China open Friendship Farm

Initiative will lay foundation of modern agriculture in Pakistan

OKARA: In the backdrop of agricultural cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) phase-II, a first-of-its-kind Pakistan-China Friendship Farm has been inaugurated with fervor and fanfare.

Acting Consul General of China in Lahore Peng Zhengwu, in collaboration with provincial lawmaker Muneeb ul Haq and a federal lawmaker, unveiled the Friendship Farm in Okara.

He was accompanied by a Chinese delegation comprising consulate officials and representatives of Chinese companies. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Zhengwu said that relevant theoretical framework for the Pakistan-China Friendship Farm will be designed and strategised in consultation with agro-based Chinese companies and Pakistani farmers and traders in the coming days.

He said that currently the Friendship Farm would only have its symbolic presence.

“With joint efforts, both Chinese enterprises and Okara agriculturists will shape up the farm into a physical platform for the groundbreaking of their agricultural joint ventures,” he added. He said that it was an initiative to provide a chance to let Pakistani and Chinese traders and farmers to put their action together to lay the foundation of modern agriculture in Pakistan.

The Chinese delegation, headed by Peng Zhengwu, was invited for the visit by MNA and President of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Kissan Wing Riazul Haq Jui, MPA Muneebul Haq and senior PML-N member Fiaz Zafar.

MPA Haq and PML-N senior member Zafar, while addressing the gathering, remarked that Pakistan-China friendship was stronger than the Himalayas and was not to be weakened at any cost.

He demanded Okara to be made a twin city with a Chinese city and the setting up of an industrial park. He also requested that Okara should be turned into a solar city and called for the formation of an agricultural forum in the city.

Acting Consul General of China in Lahore Peng Zhengwu and his delegates were presented with shields at the end to commemorate the occasion.

The Chinese delegation was comprised of Zhengbang Agriculture Pakistan Pvt Ltd GM Zhang Shilu, Zhengbang Farm Pakistan Pvt Ltd GM Shi Linkun, Sichuan Litong Food Co, Ltd Administrative Director Zhang Hongjian, Hubei Huimin Agriculture Technology Co Ltd GM Wang Qiang, Challenge Apparels Limited GM Chen Yan and Administrative Director Fei Baoming.

The article originally appeared on the China Economic Net

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2330237/pakistan-china-open-friendship-farm>

The Nation

Pakistan, China join hands in animal feed research

BEIJING - Pakistani Ph.D. scholar at College of Animal Science and Technology, China Agricultural University (CAU), Beijing hoped to enhance Pakistan's self-reliance in the research of feed additives.

In Pakistan, at least sixty percent of feed additives are imported from China. Through my research and learning in China, I hope to enhance Pakistan's self-reliance in this regard, said Waseem Abbas, a product manager at the Animal Nutrition Feed Additives Section of Jawad Impex International Lahore. He has just ended a 14-day seminar on feed formula organized by Hunan Agricultural Group, during which he and other 20-odd Pakistani participants including farmers, students, and scientists learned through an array of courses such as the nutrition requirements on animals, feed formula design, the application and development of fodder in livestock and breeding industry, fodder processing techniques and fodder additives.

“Additives, meal and grains are indispensable parts in feed. On the contrary, they are essential for the balance and sufficiency of nutrition in feed, thus improving its efficiency and quality, something in dire need in Pakistan”, Waseem told China Economic Net (CEN).

According to a research by University of Illinois, feed costs represent the largest input cost to produce milk (estimated to be 35 to 50 percent). In Pakistan, livestock production contributes to over 60% of the total agricultural output value. Commercial farmers and corporate about ten to fifteen percent are to overall dairy producers, they need feed additives to lower their cost while maximizing production.

Around 85 percent of households farmers and they are feeding conventional feeds which are limited to fulfil the nutritional requirement of animals, now farmers are moving to words modern/balanced feed which included feed additives to increase feed efficacy. In poultry, similarly, feed additives fulfill adequate nutritional profile for the birds.

Following the international practices, additives are commonly used in feed, with Vitamin premix, Mineral premix, amino acids, enzymes, toxin binders, antioxidants, choline chloride, etc. as the most commonly used feed additive. But high prices and low efficient quality of feed in Pakistan is constraining the related sectors (meat, milk and egg production) from fully

unleashing their potential. For example, soybean is a major protein source of feed for poultry/dairy.

But due to the high prices in Pakistani market complicated by the pandemic-caused cross-border transaction impediment, people have to turn to less-nutritious ingredients i.e. vegetables and animal proteins sources, said Waseem.

“During my study in China, I have visited many large feed producers and found that China is using advanced, innovative techniques and machinery, like pelleting machine and grinders”, Waseem observed.

Waseem have co-authored two papers in SCI indexed journals, namely, dietary yeast β -glucan supplementation improves eggshell color and fertile eggs hatchability as well as enhances immunity functions in breeder laying hens, and dietary encapsulated essential oils and organic acids mixture improves gut health in broiler chicken challenged with necrotic enteritis.

“Poultry feed has a bearing on the income of 1.5 million people in Pakistan. I feel lucky to have the opportunity provided by the Chinese government to learn at State Key Laboratory of Animal Nutrition from head teacher Professor Guo Yuming and Associated Professor Wang Zhong, both of whom are extraordinary scholars in this field”, Waseem said.

In 2020, China banned the use of antibiotics in feed, as did the European countries, to minimize the harm of the residues of the substance, which if remained uncontrolled might cause more deaths globally than cancer by 2050. “We are also working to eliminate the content of antibiotics from feed as growth promoter in Pakistan”, Waseem said.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-20/page-9/detail-5>

Pakistan doesn't accept West picture of Xinjiang: Moeed

ISLAMABAD - National Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf said Friday that the Chinese aid to Pakistan during Covid-19 pandemic was not less than a life saver.

In an interview to China Central TV, he said, China would facilitate and help in terms of donations and commercial sales, adding the majority of Pakistanis were administered Chinese vaccines.

“We are grateful for all help provided by China. We are a country of 220 million and it's a lot more to go. We will continue to work with our Chinese counterparts to ensure that more and more is available to us to ensure that all our people get vaccinated.”

He said it should be understood that Pakistan and China have been friends and partners and have had strategic relationship. “We have used all sorts of clichés to define this friendship. The true sense of friendship between states even defines whether your partner has been available in the toughest of times,” the NSA remarked.

He added that China has always been available for Pakistan in the hour of need and Pakistan always reciprocated the same wherever and whenever needed. To a query, he replied that due to

Covid-19 pandemic physical interaction was minimized which is important for strengthening the relations.

“We recently had the JCC meeting after a long time to reaffirm Pakistan’s commitment to China and vice versa and also to agree on the way forward, fast track projects and to signal the world that Pakistan and China would continue to go strength to strength,” the NSA maintained.

Dr Moeed explained that Iron brothers meant that this was a partnership that could not be broken, adding, “others around the world can try but cannot create a wedge between us. Our interests match and our partnership for so many years have borne the tests of time.”

He further mentioned, in moments of adversaries both sides remained available for each other and that’s truly what an iron brother relationship was all about. “of course there are also Muslim brother countries but Pakistan and China have a special relationship,” he added.

The NSA commenting on Chinese poverty alleviation model said that Prime Minister Imran Khan is very clear that the Chinese model of development is one to emulate. “No country and nation in history had brought so many people out of poverty,” he said.

Responding another query, he said, “On Xinjiang issue, we simply do not accept the picture and analysis being presented by the West.” Commenting on the Pakistan and China ties contours, he said there was no other country that could come close to China in terms of partnership and investment made in Pakistan.

He was of the view that it was of course Pakistan’s responsibility to protect every foreigner and especially for the Chinese two army divisions were raised to protect them in the country and also under CPEC projects.

He concluded that Pakistan has come up with the systems that no one else in the world has to spend so much time and energy to ensure that our Chinese brethren were safe in Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-20/page-12/detail-5>

The News

CPEC: hub of connectivity and economic opportunities

ISLAMABAD: The 10th Joint Coordination Committee has emphasized the commitment to industrial partnerships and connectivity in renewable energy, transport, social development, highways and 4th Industrial Revolution, said Zahid Latif, Chairman Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development (AIERD).

He was speaking at a seminar, "CPEC: Hub of Connectivity and Economic Opportunities". He also highlighted how China grew from the sixth largest economy at the time of joining the World Trade Organization to the second biggest economy, from \$1.3tr in 2001 to \$15.6tr in 2021.

Zahid Latif, Chairman Asian Institute of Eco-civilization Research and Development, said the major objective is to highlight Pakistan’s commitment for regional connectivity, enhanced

bilateral and economic partnership with China and CPEC's potential for extensive trade between ASEAN countries, Africa, EU and China. He concluded by coining the idea of introducing a diplomatic corner for stakeholders, diplomats, business community and governments' representatives where CPEC and political related news and opportunities could be circulated and tapped. He said the "diplomatic corner" by AIERD will serve as knowledge hub for the diplomatic community in Pakistan.

While speaking on the occasion, Chief Executive Officer, Asian Institute of Ecocivilization Research and Development, Shakeel Ahmed Ramay, spoke about the vision and mission of CPEC and the strategies to explore and utilize its potential. The CPEC, he said, will provide benefits to regional states in terms of reducing costs, transportation time and increasing speed of traveling. According to the statistics of 2016, if China utilizes CPEC route for trade with six countries of European Union and Middle East, it can potentially benefit to the equivalent of \$71 billion in savings from transportation cost. He also underlined the great potential of CPEC ventures with Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Africa and ASEAN.

Later, the participants joined Shakeel Ahmed Ramay for launching of his book on the stage. South African Ambassador M. Madikiza, and Ambassador of Indonesia Adam Mulawarman Tugio, especially appreciated the work of AIERD and Shakeel Ramay. The event was attended by Ambassador of South Africa M Madikiza, Ambassador of Indonesia, Adam Mulawarman Tugio, Ambassador of Turkmenistan, Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Italy, Andreas Ferrarese, and Pang Chunxue, Minister, Deputy Chief of Mission of China, Deputy Chief of Mission Kuwait, Muneeb, Director CPEC, Foreign Service of Pakistan, along with other dignitaries.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=26638>

Donkey King receives overwhelming response in China

KARACHI: The animated film of Geo films and Talisman Animation Studios - "Donkey King" has so far received overwhelming response in China.

According to reports from Beijing, the film was screened in 50 theaters, where as many as 5,000 shows of the film were premiered.

The Donkey King has already been released in various countries, including Spain, South Korea, Russia, Greece, Turkey, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Taiwan.

The Donkey King produced by Geo Films and Talisman Studios, is an animated comedy film that was released in Pakistan in October, 2018.

It is expected that the film will touch new milestones of popularity in China.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=26634>

November 21, 2021

Daily Times

New hacker group from India targeting defense units in China and Pakistan

A new report published by Antiy Labs, one of China's renowned cyber security companies, disclosed an active hacker team whose members are based in Delhi and has been launching cyber-attacks against government agencies and defense departments in China and Pakistan.

The report conducted a comprehensive analysis of the cyber-attacks launched by the organization called You Xiang (baby elephant in English) in South Asia, revealing its target, technology and equipment, and exposing the attackers who wear "invisible clothes" and hide behind screens. The company's vice chief engineer, Li Bosong, told the Global Times that they first detected "baby elephant" activities in 2017, when a number of large-scale targeted cyber-attacks on the government, military and defense departments of South Asian countries were found. According to the analysis of their activities, it was found that the group is suspected to be from India, and is not the same as another hacker group from India named "white elephant." The organization had its own set of relatively independent attack resources and tools, but the attack capability was relatively primary at that time. It might be a newly established attack team with immature technical capabilities.

"That's why we've named this new, advanced threat organization 'baby elephant,'" Li said. Four years since, the "baby elephant" is on the rampage, expanding their targets. "Since 2017, the number of 'baby elephant' attacks has doubled each year, and the attack methods and resources have gradually become richer, and the target has started to cover more areas in South Asia," Li said. "In 2021, the group began targeted attacks on Chinese institutions for intelligence theft."

The attacks detected by Antiy Labs include setting up phishing websites, attacking mobile phones with malicious Android applications, and Trojans written in languages such as Python to steal various documents, browser cache passwords and other host system environment information from computers.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/844464/new-hacker-group-from-india-targeting-defense-units-in-china-and-pakistan/>

Chinese firm accelerating green energy program in Pakistan

The opening ceremony of the solar power generation project of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) training center contracted by Zonergy, the world-renowned integrated smart micro grid solution provider, was held in Karachi, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

Li Bijian, Chinese Consul General in Karachi, Arshad Malik, PIA Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and Xu Hongchang, Vice President and General Manager of International Business Department of Zonergy, attended it and delivered speeches.

Li Bijian said, not so long ago, the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has just concluded in Glasgow, Scotland, and all parties involved are making every effort to reach an ambitious agreement to reduce emissions in response to global climate change.

PIA's move conforms to the trend of the times and has made efforts to protect our common green home.

The installed capacity of the PIA training center solar power project is 351 kilowatts. In the form of EPC contract, Zonergy arranged 35 staffs, including, 5 Chinese technicians and 30 Pakistani employees.

After officially operating, it is estimated that the power generation can reach 494,000 kWh per year. Given the design working life is 25 years, a total of 4,920 tons of carbon emissions will be reduced, furthering Pakistan's commitment to renewable energy and fueling the national transition to a low carbon economy.

"Since entering the Pakistan market in 2013, Zonergy has made great contributions to the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor", said Richard Guo, President of Zonergy Solar Development, Pakistan, in an interview with the CEN.

"Chinese and Pakistani have worked together, overcome adverse impacts brought by COVID-19 pandemic and high temperature and managed to complete this project," Guo recalled.

At present, Zonergy has established a good partnership with Pakistan International Airlines. "Regarding PIA's office buildings and training centers across Pakistan, our further cooperation plans are under intense preparations. "I can affirm that this project is just the beginning," Guo told CEN.

Arshad Malik emphasized that PIA is sparing no effort to achieve green transformation. Regarding this project, it will provide green and clean energy for the company's staff training and other businesses. Besides, the smooth launch of it reflects the superb technology and good reputation of Chinese companies.

As the first Chinese company to enter the photovoltaic power sector in Pakistan, Zonergy's 900MW PV power plant is one of the priority energy projects under the framework of CPEC.

Since combined to the grid in June 2016, the phase I project has generated a total of 2.73 billion kWh, with an average of 500 million kWh per year. "So far, the project has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by about 17.48 million tons, making its due contribution to Pakistan's carbon neutrality," Guo analyzed further, "in addition, our vision for Pakistan is to improve the life style of common people, especially promote the rural area of Pakistan like China by clean renewable solar electricity in affordable price".

"To date, we have built more than 1,000 distributed and industrial and commercial power stations around Pakistan, with an installed capacity of 170 MW, plus the installed capacity of surface power stations, the total capacity can reach 470 MW," Guo said. Zonergy saw a huge

potential in Pakistan as the nation is expected to be a vibrant solar market, it is boosting efforts to prop up local de carbonization ambitions and surging demands.

“Now, the price of photovoltaic power generation in Pakistan is relatively low, which is of great benefit to cost reduction. This year, we have signed more than 600 contracts. In view of Pakistan’s climate conditions and urban structure, rooftop photovoltaic power generation has a huge potential.

In the future, with PV new energy gradually replacing fossil energy, I firmly believe that the sky in Pakistan will be bluer,” concluded Guo, full of confidence.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/844588/chinese-firm-accelerating-green-energy-program-in-pakistan/>

President Xi Jinping urges continuous efforts to promote high-quality BRI development

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for efforts to continue promoting the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) through joint efforts.

The BRI should aim for high-standard, sustainable and people-centered progress, said Xi while addressing a high-level symposium on the initiative.

This year marks the eighth year since the announcement of the BRI Initiative. Xi said the initiative has produced a mutual benefit for the countries involved.

Through the joint construction of the BRI, the level of opening-up is lifted, the areas of opening-up are expanded, and institutional opening-up is promoted, the Chinese president pointed out.

China’s “circle of friends” under the BRI is expanding, according to Xi. He also hailed that the BRI explored a new way to promote common development.

New situation

Xi voiced that it is necessary to correctly understand and grasp the new situation facing the joint construction of the BRI.

The theme of our times, peace and development, has not changed, and the trend toward economic globalization has not changed, he pointed out, adding that the co-construction of the BRI is facing important opportunities.

The world is witnessing unprecedented major changes with the unprecedented fierce competition brought by a new round of sci-tech and industrial revolutions and the unprecedented impact on human society brought by the global issues including climate change and pandemic control and prevention, Xi said.

Noting the international environment for building the BRI is becoming increasingly complex, Xi urged the country to maintain strategic determination, seize strategic opportunities, actively respond to challenges and move forward.

Xi also stressed the need to solidify the foundation for development, calling for promoting political consensus into concrete action and transforming idea recognition into practical results.

He voiced the necessity of further promoting policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people to people bonds.

Xi also suggested expanding new areas of cooperation, such as pandemic control, low-carbon development, and e-commerce.

He called for enhancing international cooperation in combating the pandemic and pledged to continuously provide assistance to the Belt and Road countries within China's capabilities.

The Chinese president also said that the country will help developing countries obtain green and low-carbon energy, promote information sharing and capacity building for green and low-carbon development and deepen cooperation on ecological environment and climate governance.

He stressed that China should further its digital cooperation with the Belt and Road countries, promote Silk Road e-commerce and build a digital cooperation pattern.

"We should carry out the 'Belt and Road' Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation Action Plan, strengthen international cooperation on intellectual property protection and create an open, fair, just and non-discriminatory environment for scientific and technological development," Xi added.

As the country is fostering the new development paradigm of "dual circulation," Xi said the construction of the new development paradigm and the joint construction of the BRI must be considered overall.

Building projects to improve people's livelihood is an important way to quickly enhance the sense of gain for people in the Belt and Road countries, Xi pointed out and called for more grounding cooperation achievements.

The Chinese president called for to comprehensively strengthening risk prevention and control, highlighting the importance of responding to COVID-19 and advancing the joint building of the BRI.

He urged the efforts to protect the lives and mental health of overseas personnel, fulfill their demands, as well as ensure the supply of materials and financial support for employees.

"We should educate and guide our enterprises and citizens abroad to consciously abide by the local laws and respect local customs and traditions," Xi added.

He also stressed the necessity of perfecting anti-corruption laws and regulations concerning foreign affairs and stepping up the fight against cross-border corruption.

Enterprises of all kinds should standardize their business practices and never allow damage to the country's reputation, Xi stressed and vowed to deal with violations of disciplines and laws seriously.

Vice-Premier Han Zheng, also head of the leading group on advancing BRI development, presided over the meeting.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/844613/president-xi-jinping-urges-continuous-efforts-to-promote-high-quality-bri-development/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan eyes enhanced kinno exports to China

PM aide terms China great destination for Pakistani agricultural products

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan expects to enhance orange exports to China this year, a top government official said.

Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood pointed out that the mango season had already provided good revenue.

In 2020-21, Pakistan exported a record 460,000 tons of oranges, marking this as the highest-ever volume during any season.

The export season that ended in April 2021, around 460,000 tons of oranges had been exported from the country worldwide, up 30% compared to the previous season.

The demand for Pakistani oranges is on the rise worldwide. Meanwhile, Pakistan hit over \$2 billion export mark for the seventh consecutive month in April, as the country's overall exports stood at \$2.191 billion in April 2021, Dawood mentioned.

Speaking to China Economic Net, Dawood remarked that China was a great destination for Pakistani agricultural products.

“China has been helping Pakistan both ways. They are helping us enhance agricultural production and are buying fruits. For this, we are thankful to China. We are working out the target for oranges export to China. We are expecting a rise in exports to China,” he maintained.

The adviser recalled that Pakistan's export for April 2021 stood at \$2.191 billion. “This is the first time since 2011 that our monthly exports have crossed the \$2 billion mark for seven consecutive months,” he added.

Recently, Pakistan's kinnow (orange) industry saw neighbouring Iran lift restrictions on the import of kinnow.

Pakistan is one of the top citrus producers in the world. Citrus contributes about 30% to the country's total fruit output.

According to a report released by the China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation Information Platform, Pakistan earned its highest export revenue of \$222 million from the export volume of 370,000 tons of kinnow in 2020.

The report also points out that most of the citrus fruit produced by Pakistan is consumed in foreign markets. Among the exported varieties, kinnow is the most important one.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2330393/pakistan-eyes-enhanced-kinnow-exports-to-china>

The News

Chinese smart microgrid solution provider speeds up green energy program

ISLAMABAD: The opening ceremony of the solar power generation project of the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) training center contracted by Zonergy, the world-renowned integrated smart microgrid solution provider, was held in Karachi, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

Li Bijian, Chinese Consul General in Karachi, Arshad Malik, PIA Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and Xu Hongchang, Vice President and General Manager of International Business Department of Zonergy, attended it and delivered speeches.

Li Bijian said, not so long ago, the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has just concluded in Glasgow, Scotland, and all parties involved are making every effort to reach an ambitious agreement to reduce emissions in response to global climate change. PIA's move conforms to the trend of the times and has made efforts to protect our common green home. The installed capacity of the PIA training center solar power project is 351 kilowatts.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=26948>

CPEC power project starts impounding water

KARACHI: The Karot Hydropower Station, the first hydropower project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), closed the gates of its diversion tunnels after six years of construction and started reservoir impoundment, a statement said on Saturday.

According to the statement, it's a milestone event, marking the completion of around 95 per cent of the project.

The Karot Hydropower Station is located on the Jhelum River in Pakistan's eastern province of Punjab. With an installed capacity of 7,200 megawatts, it is expected to provide over 3 billion kilowatt hours of clean energy each year, supplying electricity to about 5 million people in the country.

Head of Engineering Department of China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd (CSAIL) Zuo Yaxi said they spent two years working out solutions to cope with the sandstone and mudstone underground, which interrupted grouting work.

He added that the cement used for the construction was produced locally, so they tried very hard to control temperature rise and reduce cracks in the concrete.

N.A Zubeiri, senior consultant at the CSAIL said the project provided employment to 3000 to 5000 people. He explained that the tariff for the project is around 7.5 U.S. cents per unit, which would result in bringing down electricity costs for consumers in Pakistan.

The Karot Hydropower Station is the first investment project of the Silk Road Fund, and is part of the CPEC. The project is an investment by China Three Gorges Corporation, a Chinese enterprise that is listed among the world's largest producers of hydroelectric power.

Its subsidiary, the CSAIL, holds majority share of the Karot Power Company that operates the plant. The plant will be transferred to the government of Punjab after 30 years. Once completed, the project is also expected to help reduce carbon dioxide emissions in Pakistan by 3.5 million tonnes per year.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=26662>

November 22, 2021 **Business Recorder**

New Gwadar Int'l Airport to be operational by Sept 2023

KARACHI: The New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA), the \$ 246 m green field airport being built at an area of 4,300 acres would be operational by September 2023.

According to an official source, the passenger terminal building of the project would be completed by June 2023; work related to air traffic control by March 2023, while the overall construction of the airport would be finished before September 2023.

The NGIA was being managed and operated by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). To be owned by a joint venture between Pakistan, Oman, and China, the airport would handle domestic and international operations. The airport development is a part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) development, which was a cornerstone of China's One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative.

The biggest in Pakistan and would also become the nation's second airport capable of handling A380 aircraft upon its commissioning in 2022. It was expected to stimulate the development in Gwadar peninsula and boost trade between Pakistan and China. The airport would be operated under open sky policy and developed under the guidance of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The NGIA project was initiated as an early harvest high-priority project of the CPEC programme in 2014.

It was approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) in January 2015. The project was being funded through a grant agreement signed between China and Pakistan in May 2017. —APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/22/16-page/908632-news.html>

Dawn News

Gunmen kidnap five Chinese mine workers in DR Congo

BUKAVU: Gunmen killed a police officer and kidnapped five Chinese nationals working at a gold mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo's conflict-plagued east on Sunday, military sources said.

Regional army spokesman Major Dieudonne Kasereka said that "at around 2am, the camp of the Chinese group was attacked by armed bandits" in the village of Mukera in Fizi territory of South Kivu province.

"There were 14 in total, five were taken away by the attackers to an unknown destination," he said, adding that the other nine were safely evacuated.

Colonel David Epanga, head of the armed forces in Fizi, said one policeman was killed and another was wounded in the attack.

The five abducted Chinese workers were employees of a company that has been operating a gold mine in the area for four to five months, Fizi civil society head Lusambya Wanumbe said.

"The company had difficulties starting its activities because of protests by the population which accused it of not respecting the rules," Wanumbe said.

In August, South Kivu authorities suspended the work of half a dozen Chinese-financed companies, after residents accused them of mining for gold without permission and wrecking the environment.

In neighbouring North Kivu, the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN) said that suspected rebels linked to the M23 movement killed a guard in Virunga National Park on Saturday night. The ICCN said the attack was "carried out by around a hundred heavily armed individuals" near the village of Bukima, in the Mikeno area.

"The presumed perpetrators are former M23 members gathered on the Rwandan and Ugandan borders, who are seeking to establish bases on the territory of the Virunga National Park," the ICCN said in a statement on Sunday.

The M23 is one of more than 120 armed groups which roam eastern Democratic Republic of Congo — a legacy of regional wars more than two decades ago.

It is a Congolese Tutsi group that was largely defeated in 2013 after launching a rebellion.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1659517/gunmen-kidnap-five-chinese-mine-workers-in-dr-congo>

‘Pak-China friendship to be further strengthened’

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa secretary higher education Dawood Khan has said that they are celebrating the 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations with a renewed commitment that this bond of friendship would be further strengthened in the future.

He expressed these views on the occasion of official inauguration of the fifth class of Chinese language learning organised by China Window, a Chinese cultural and information centre in Peshawar.

Dawood Khan said that the provincial government had issued hundreds of scholarships to the students for higher education in the Chinese universities and more scholarships would be given to the aspiring students in future.

About importance of the Chinese language, he said that the belt and road project would usher in a new era of development and prosperity in the region.

He said that learners of the Chinese language would be able to avail of the employment opportunities in this project.

The secretary said that the Chinese language institutions would be encouraged in every possible way so that more and more young people could get attractive jobs in the private sector instead of relying on the government for jobs.

Earlier, he cut the ribbon and formally inaugurated the fifth class of the Chinese language.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1659454>

Pakistan Observer

PM's assurance to Chinese investors

CHINESE investors are showing a lot of interest to pour their money into the establishment of various industrial units in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) being set up under the umbrella of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which certainly will help realize our long cherished dream of taking the country towards industrialization and address the longstanding economic woes.

The very interest of Chinese investors can be gauged from the meetings they are holding with top Pakistani authorities.

On Saturday also, a Chinese business delegation met with Prime Minister Imran Khan and informed him that they are ready to start operations in the glass, ceramics and IT sector besides OPPO, a leading tech company is preparing to set up a mobile manufacturing unit and a research and development centre in Pakistan.

This really indicates that the Chinese investors are being facilitated in every possible manner to make their investment in the Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

The very fact was also admitted by Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong who said that many issues had been resolved and great progress had been achieved since Prime Minister Imran Khan's previous meeting with the Chinese businessmen on September 13.

Also during the latest meeting, the Prime Minister assured to support Chinese businessmen on a priority basis and directed the authorities concerned to immediately resolve the issues related to road connectivity and provision of utilities being faced by the Chinese investors.

There is no denying that Pakistan is regionally offering competitive incentives in the SEZs including tax exemptions but it is not enough until and unless the bottlenecks of road infrastructure are addressed and they are given the surety of round-the-clock supply of gas and electricity.

Since PM is now personally looking into the matter, we are confident that these problems will also be addressed at the earliest.

This indeed will encourage more investment in the SEZs which are a win win both for Pakistan and China.

The products to be manufactured in these SEZs will really help the Chinese friends to better transport them to other parts of the world through Gwadar deep sea port whilst the establishment of industrial units will help us generate economic activity and provide job opportunities to our youths.

This process of engagement and consultations at different levels between Pakistan and China must continue to fully operationalize all the envisioned SEZs and make them a successful model which will further strengthen the bond of friendship between the two countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/pms-assurance-to-chinese-investors/>

Pakistan, China join hands in undertaking livestock feed research

Pakistan and China joined hands in feed research, says a report published by China Economic Net on Sunday.

“In Pakistan, at least sixty percent of feed additives are imported from China. Through my research and learning in China, I hope to enhance Pakistan’s self-reliance in this regard”.

This was stated by Waseem Abbas, a product manager at the Animal Nutrition Feed Additives Section of Jawad Impex International Lahore, and Ph.D. scholar at the College of Animal Science and Technology, China Agricultural University (CAU), Beijing, China.

He has just ended a 14-day seminar on feed formula organized by Hunan Agricultural Group, during which he and other 20-odd Pakistani participants including farmers, students, and scientists learned through an array of courses such as the nutrition requirements on animals, feed formula design, the application and development of fodder in livestock and breeding industry, fodder processing techniques and fodder additives.

“Additives, meal and grains are indispensable parts in feed. On the contrary, they are essential for the balance and sufficiency of nutrition in feed, thus improving its efficiency and quality, something in dire need in Pakistan”, said Waseem.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-join-hands-in-undertaking-livestock-feed-research/>

The Nation

China digital farming set to boost agri in Pakistan

Islamabad -China's digital farming and smart agriculture practices are going to boost Pakistan's agriculture growth with inspiration from Chinese agro-based innovative technologies and techniques.

According to Gwadar Pro, a group of young Pakistani agri-tech entrepreneurs have pioneered a project "Digital Dera" in district Pakpattan. A tech savvy project "Digital Dera" aims to empower farmers with cutting edge agriculture solutions and assist them in the creation of smart communities.

Talking to Gwadar Pro, founder of "Digital Dera" and co-founder of a Think Tank 'Agriculture Republic', Aamer Hayat Bhandara emphasised that data, information, advisory and technology are pre-requisites for maximising agricultural growth.

He believed that despite the ideal weather and fertile land, Pakistan is unable to achieve the standard yield due to the lack of modern agricultural techniques. He also urged the usage of sensors to assist farmers in making accurate decisions for their crops.

China is leading the world in technological innovation, therefore, he proposed that Chinese agro-based companies aligned with modern agriculture vision may digitally equip Pakistani farmers by transferring technology of agriculture drones, geo-tagging, data collection through satellite imagery, electric tractors and human resource development.

The Farmland Digital Integrated Management System's machine vision and intelligence are primarily used for monitoring plant diseases and insect pests. To achieve agricultural production prediction, pest control, and other challenges, the system uses artificial intelligence technologies such as computer vision, picture recognition, and deep learning.

Pakistani farmers can directly replicate the advanced Chinese agricultural technology in order to accomplish higher crop yields to ensure food security in the country.

Traditional farms are considerably less efficient and sustainable than digital farms, whereas digital farming entails the use of new technologies such as data science, digital communication channels, automation, and sensors.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-22/page-3/detail-4>

Pak-China ties to be strengthened further: Dawood

Peshawar - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Secretary Higher Education Dawood Khan on Sunday said that Pakistan-China friendship is ideal and celebrating 70th anniversary of Pak-China diplomatic relations with renewed commitment that this everlasting chain of friendship will be further strengthened in the future.

These views were expressed by Dawood Khan on the occasion of the official inauguration of the fifth class of Chinese language learning organised by China Window, a Chinese cultural and information centre in Peshawar.

Dawood Khan said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has issued hundreds of scholarships for the students who want to have higher education in Chinese universities and more scholarships will be given to students in future.

Regarding importance of Chinese language, he said that One Road project will usher in a new era of development and prosperity in the region. However, Chinese language learners will get employment opportunities in this project.

The KP Secretary Higher Education said that Chinese language institutions will be encouraged in every possible way so that more and more young people can get attractive jobs in the private sector instead of relying on the government for jobs. He said that he is very happy to know that China Window is doing great job for the promotion of Pak-China friendship.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-22/page-4/detail-2>

The News

Pakistan, China join hands in undertaking livestock feed research

BEIJING: Pakistan and China joined hands in feed research, says a report published by China Economic Net on Sunday.

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“Additives, meal and grains are indispensable parts in feed. On the contrary, they are essential for the balance and sufficiency of nutrition in feed, thus improving its efficiency and quality, something in dire need in Pakistan”, said Waseem.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=27229>

Make people active stakeholder in Gwadar Port

China has applauded the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority for hosting a meeting of Pakistan-based Chinese companies and briefing them about investment opportunities

in the country. The CEOs and representatives of over 70 Chinese companies attended this important session.

The CPEC investment is on a steady pace and up to \$13 billion investment has gone into the mega project and another \$12 billion is in the pipeline making it the largest mega project the country has ever seen.

The jewel in the crown of the CPEC project, apart from investment in special economic zones, is Gwadar Port which is also being developed with the Chinese help. Gwadar not only provides access to trade in the region and beyond but also containerised shipping industries. The Chinese current volume of trade through maritime routes is staggering. The Chinese experience will be something never anticipated before when the Gwadar Port is fully operationalised and moves to become a trading hub.

China has assumed the status of world's most advanced country in terms of experience in maritime and port industries. In concrete terms, three of the world's top shipping companies and operators are now Chinese companies. For instance, COSCO is the world's fourth-biggest shipping line which is operating at 45 ports around the world. These numbers are unprecedented showing how China quickly learnt the maritime world in a short span of time.

The development of Gwadar Port would likely lead to significant growth because shipping lines and operators are key issues in port development which Pakistan lacks.

There will be an unprecedented level of trade activity annually. The Chinese shipping lines in the Gwadar Port will increase the port's trade exchanges with the world.

As per the data, China is currently having maritime trade exchanges with over 162 countries globally and the activity of Chinese famous shipping lines in port would mean connecting the port to more than 45 ports and over 162 countries.

Six of the world's top 10 container ports are in China that means about 60 percent of the world's container operations are taking place in China. By 2024, it is estimated that the Chinese ports will register the world's largest growth in terms of container trade.

Strategically located, Gwadar is next to a region which contains 70 percent of the world's proven oil reserves and 40 percent of natural gas reserves. Gwadar bridges great Eurasian space, South Asia, western highlands of China and the great arc of most GCC countries with unrestricted access to the Indian Ocean via Arabian Sea. This is the world's class as a piece of land. Thus it would bring in enormous opportunities for the province and the country. As a note of caution, the political economy should not prevent the spillover benefits accrued first to the people of Balochistan, then to the rest of Pakistan. The province has the most poverty-stricken population of the country. Trickle-down effects need to be insured so as to provide employment to the youth of Balochistan as a first priority.

The local fishing community is complaining due to what is believed to be illegal trolling by big trollers. The capacity of big trollers to bait fish is so enormous that small boats cannot match. They demand a regulated trolling system within 12 nautical miles.

At the moment, property rights enforcement is another issue in and around Gwadar city. The local revenue department and law-enforcement agency are not equipped with the right technology, data and expertise to ensure property sale and purchase are smooth and no land mafia can abuse property rights of individuals and companies.

Like any port city, Gwadar will attract a huge population from across the country over the next two decades. Regulated migration of population backed by an effective policing system can prevent the problems in terms of land mafia, water shortage, crimes and smuggling that the people are facing in Karachi.

So far dozens of check posts have been established for security, but the community members complain they are not treated with respect by jawans deployed at the check posts. There is a dire need to train these jawans in winning hearts and minds so as to secure the support of the people who would see huge economic activity unfolding as Gwadar develops further.

The long-term solution to Balochistan's economic challenges is to make the people active stakeholders in the mega project. Any impression of elite capture and rent seeking behaviour will be a travesty indeed.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/910702-make-people-active-stakeholder-in-gwadar-port>

November 23, 2021

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China sign another trade-related agreement

A prestigious signing ceremony of the Protocol for Inspection and Quarantine Requirements for export of onion from Pakistan to China between General Administration of Customs China (GACC) of the People's Republic of China and Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR) of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was signed on Tuesday.

Syed Fakhar Imam, Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research and Nong Rong, the Ambassador of Peoples Republic of China in Pakistan signed the agreement at Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR), Islamabad.

It was reaffirmed that such initiatives would further strengthen friendship ties between both the countries. Such trade related Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) would bring the people of both the countries more close together.

Syed Fakhar Imam highlighted that the agricultural sector is indispensable to the country's economic growth, food security, employment generation and poverty alleviation particularly for the rural population.

It was further stated that the present government under Prime Minister Imran Khan has been giving high priority to growth of agriculture sector on sustainable basis and is implementing the most appropriate policies to achieve the desired outcomes.

Syed Fakhar Imam highlighted that Pakistan with around 138 thousand ha and 1.8 million tons of onion production stands at 6th and 9th position in terms of onion area and production respectively.

Moreover, the Pakistan contributes 2.1% in world onion area and 1.9% in its world production. The Minister stated that Pakistan has been exporting rice, mango and citrus to China after complying phytosanitary import requirements of China.

The instant Protocol would also create awareness about quarantine and phytosanitary compliance among Pakistan onion producers.

Nong Rong, the Chinese Ambassador, anticipated that the Protocol would open new ways for more Pakistani products to reach Chinese markets. He further said that China and Pakistan are complementary to each other.

China is already supporting Pakistan in Foot and Mouth disease control, chili, potato, beef and mutton production. The CPEC would further result in such trade ties. Work on development quarantine and Phytosanitary procedures for export of Pakistani onions to China was initiated by Department of Plant Protection (DPP), Ministry of National Food Security & Research (MNFSR) was initiated during January, 2019.

The National Plant Protection Organizations of both the countries conducted Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and the technical negotiations resulted in the form of Protocol during April 2021. Through friendly consultations, and in order to ensure safe entry of onion (*Allium cepa* Linn.) from Pakistan to China, to prevent the introduction of pests, and to protect plant health under the provisions of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) of the World Trade Organization.

DPP/ NPPO – Pakistan and GACC/ NPPO – China has agreed to signed draft “Protocol of Inspection and Quarantine Requirements for the export of onion from Pakistan to the China between General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China and Ministry of National Food Security and Research of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan”.

Under this Protocol, the DPP would conduct pest survey, implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) targeting quarantine pests of concern to China during the growing season of onion by adopting internationally recognized phytosanitary inspection methods and ensure pest free export of onion to China.

The processing companies intend to export onions from Pakistan to China shall be registered and recommended by DPP after approval through audit for further registration with GACC.

At the end, Syed Fakhar Imam expressed his deepest thanks to Chinese ceremony for attending this signing ceremony and paid special thanks the General Administration of Customs China

(GACC)/ NPPO – China and the Chinese Government for cooperation and facilitation of bilateral trade of agricultural goods between Pakistan and China.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-sign-another-trade-related-agreement/>

Thinking beyond the hype of Chinese ‘debt-trap’

Hussain Shazzad

Bangladesh, the second highest recipient of China’s investment in South Asia after Pakistan, imports the highest volume of goods from China making it Bangladesh’s largest trading partner.

This is the beginning of the story where China offers Bangladesh financial assistance and development experience for its ‘big-ticket mega projects’ to fulfil its vision-2041- a well-crafted dream to be a developed country.

The overwhelming funding from China makes the critics pessimistic to ask a question, citing the example of Hambantota in Sri Lanka, “Is China trying to bait Bangladesh with its ‘debt-trap’ diplomacy?”

‘Debt-Trap Diplomacy’, a widely used narrative against China, is thought to be originated from ‘infrastructure war’ between China and Western Allies.

It’s an apple of discord if China really has any ‘Machiavellian Strategy’ as Chinese projects in Bangladesh are too fragmented to achieve such cunning strategic objectives.

Once ‘The Sleeping Giant’ now the ‘Second Economic Superpower’, China follows ‘socialist ideology’ in political affairs but adopts ‘open market policy’ with the name ‘market socialism’.

The historical data demonstrates that China always has strong affiliation with South Asian countries because of the region’s ‘Big Bazar’.

The geo-political eminence & commercial noteworthiness of Bangladesh has made China pay special heed to catch this money-making market.

To utilize the potential of becoming ‘economic hub’ of South Asia, Bangladesh needs external funding for its ‘flagship development programs’ financing of which goes beyond domestic affordability. This leads Bangladesh to look for external funding options with conducive conditions.

Bangladesh’s loss of substantial financial assistance from global lenders in the recent years e.g., World Bank’s rejection to finance the Padma Bridge, and the attractive nature of China’s investment created a gateway for China to step into Bangladesh’s economy.

On the other hand, China, as a part of its external orientation, comes closer to Bangladesh by affiliating the country with different China-led regional platforms e.g., AIIB, BRI etc.

Sino-Bangladesh relations, started in 1976, were limited to trade deals until the first decade of the 21st century. The bilateral relations have experienced two different phases before and after the initiation of the BRI.

The cozy relations turned into strategic partnership after 2010 when the countries signed a number of trade, transit and defence procurement agreements.

Both countries are working to alleviate the huge trade-deficit by establishing the 'Free Trade Zones'. China is trying to prove itself as Bangladesh's 'time-tested friend' by entwining diplomatic, defence and economic ties.

Though China and Bangladesh have distinct political and social status quo but collaborative efforts brought them closer. China's non-intervention principle to the domestic affairs of its partners leads Dhaka to welcome more and more investment from Beijing.

As an emerging economy, Bangladesh requires 'hefty investment' to tackle its socio-economic problems which is clinched by China.

On the other hand, Bangladesh is all-important in China's strategic calculus since it can connect the southeastern landlocked province of China.

Besides, the cheap workforce of Bangladesh offers China an opportunity to relocate its 'sunset industries'. Yet, critics give a contentious look on this relationship by denouncing China's role in resolving Rohingya crisis.

According to the World Bank and IMF, that a country will cross the danger mark if its external debts exceed 40% of GDP ensures Bangladesh is in 'safe zone' as its total foreign loan is less than 15% of GDP.

'Flow of External Resources into Bangladesh', a publication of the Ministry of Finance, reported total foreign loan outstanding of the country was \$4409.51 crore depicting per capita loan is around \$278 in 2019-20 fiscal year. This shows clearly how reality begs to differ from the misconception that Bangladesh is overburdened with external debts.

Another misreading that Bangladesh is going to be a victim of 'China's debt trap' pointing finger to the growing Chinese investment also doesn't reflect the ground reality. Bangladesh's total external debt, in the fiscal year 2019-20, consists of 38% from WB, 24.5% from ADB, 17% from JICA, 6.81% from China, 6.14% from Russia and 1.3% from India.

This self-explanatory data shows that Bangladesh is travelling along the right trajectory in contrast to aforementioned misconceptions.

The strategic advantage of cross-border trade tilted Bangladesh exponentially towards China which leads critics say that too much reliance on China's money will make the country beholden to China.

But Bangladesh's diplomatic maneuvers of the last few decades demonstrate that the country has been striking a fine balance among the donors.

By pumping money to Bangladesh, China is actually trying to take the longstanding relations to a new height.

Albeit, there is a narrative that Bangladesh is going to be a victim of ‘payday loan diplomacy’, but the counter narrative explains how Chinese ‘soft-loan’ reduces the pressure of western donors for economic and political reforms.

Bangladesh perceives Chinese investment as a welcome addition to existing sources along with creating a competitive environment.

Before reaching to foregone conclusion by tagging China’s debt trap with Bangladesh, it needs to be kept in mind that the funding options for Bangladesh are very limited. Besides, a loan becomes burden if it is not optimally utilized.

To date, all the Chinese-funded projects in Bangladesh have been proved to be financially viable. There is no such instance where Bangladesh has accepted all the diktats, while signing financial agreement, blindfolded.

The current stronger position of Bangladesh, in terms of external debt from China, will alter with the rise of Chinese investment, but long-run return will be more attractive if funds are effectively utilized.

Bangladesh needs to negotiate carefully before inking any financial agreement, focus more on soft-loan and ensure timely implementation of projects.

Along with taking funds for infrastructural boost, Bangladesh may also leverage the development experience of China to create win-win situation.

Not to mention, the macro-economic management policy of Bangladesh is prudent enough to avoid China’s ‘Debt-Trap’, even if there is any.

—The writer is a strategic affairs and foreign policy analyst.

<https://pakobserver.net/thinking-beyond-the-hype-of-chinese-debt-trap-by-hussain-shazzad/>

Chinese Hybrid Mulberry to benefit small farmers in Pakistan

Chinese Hybrid Mulberry to benefit small farmers in Pakistan, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN).

The report stated that “With an annual turnover of RMB 20 mln, our protein mulberry garden changed local farmers’ livelihood, for protein mulberry planting we mobilized over 76 acres of land and provided jobs for over 200 households.

“With a successful yield test conducted in Xinjiang, we are looking forward to introducing protein mulberry plants, as well as planting technology, mulberry leaf processing equipment to Pakistan, since Pakistan and Xinjiang share climatic similarities, and have a large ideal customer base.”

Wu Zhanwen, the owner of Runze Protein Mulberry ecological garden in China’s Zheng Ding county, told CEN. Protein mulberry is a hybrid type of mulberry developed by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

As the name implies, it maintains a higher level of protein compared to other types of mulberry plant, the highest protein content of protein mulberry leaves was 36%, and that of branches was 28%.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-hybrid-mulberry-to-benefit-small-farmers-in-pakistan/>

Pak-China economic, cultural exchange center to help Pakistani traders

President of Pakistan Sichuan Chamber of Commerce, Li Hongwu said that the China Pakistan Economic and Cultural Exchange Incubation center in Chengdu would help Pakistani traders to explore business opportunities in China.

He aims to make the center the first stop for Pakistani people when they first arrive in Southwest China. Here they can quickly get help, learn business opportunities in China, and find sale channels in China for their products, he told China Economic Net.

The chamber of commerce held the opening ceremony of China-Pakistan Economic and Cultural Exchange Incubation Center in Chengdu, China.

There is always a lack of platforms for Pak-China non-governmental exchange, and we had already planned to establish an economic and cultural exchange center for a few years.

Considering that exchange is a non-specific concept, we added the word incubation in the name. Li Hongwu told us that the center has three primary tasks.

The first is to incubate enterprises. It is hard for small Chinese entrepreneurs without experience and funds to establish companies in Pakistan. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pak-china-economic-cultural-exchange-center-to-help-pakistani-traders/>

The Express Tribune

The inevitable Thucydides trap and implications for Pakistan

Pakistan can play the role of a ‘neutral actor’ as it did in the Nixon era when it facilitated US-China rapprochement

History is repeating itself as it always does. With the ongoing economic and strategic rivalry between the two economic juggernauts, the US and China, there is a constant threat that the Thucydides trap will revive again. It has been the custom of world politics that whenever an emerging power has threatened the status of an established hegemon, war becomes inevitable. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the US emerged as a hyperpower with no contestant in the global arena because of its dominance in the military, economic, cultural and political realms. The height of American hubris became prominent when it took unilateral action to invade Iraq. As Francis Fukuyama would put it, “This degree of unipolarity in this period has been relatively rare in history.”

With such enormous power at hand, the US gave the world an ingredient of liberalisation. Both political and economic liberalisation were encouraged and promoted through the newly founded

WTO. The Bretton Woods System came into play to inculcate both political and economic liberal values in the decolonised world and in the 15 disintegrated states that once formed the USSR. It was a momentous period in the history of mankind, as it seemed that the world was liberated from a patron-client relationship and the path towards egalitarianism looked clear.

To help a weak and impoverished China that had aligned itself with the US against the USSR for over a decade in the Cold War, the US opted for the policy of engagement and liberalisation. The motive was to make China (which had recently embraced economic reforms under a communist regime) a peace-loving democracy and a responsible stakeholder in the US-led international order. Beguiled by the misguided triumph of liberalism and the obsolescence of multipolarity, policymakers at Capitol Hill promoted Western investment in China and helped it in becoming a part of the global financial structure. They had ignored the ominous signs that a country with nearly five times as many citizens as the US, under an authoritarian regime equipped with economic liberalization, could pose serious implications for the status quo of the US-led world order.

China rose as was expected. And current changes in global politics, geo-strategies, and geo-economics confirm that the US has a new contender for supremacy in the form of China. This year, China's current-dollar GDP will be around 75% of that of the US, and by 2026 it will be 89%. It is predicted to surpass the US economy by the early 2030s. That is because of two reasons. First, the federal debt of America will reach nearly 110% of its GDP, higher than what it reached previously in WWII. Second, the negative net international investment position (NIIP) of the US is currently at 70% of its GDP. These factors shadow the future global hegemonic status of the US. China has a population of 1.4 billion, as compared to the 330 million of the US; and the citizens of China just need to achieve half of what the average American is earning to double their economic size. The duo of population with economic reforms has enabled China to become an economic juggernaut.

According to Francis Fukuyama, the three essential factors that have enabled the economic rise of China under a communist regime are effective leadership, social trust, and the efficiency of the state apparatus. Furthermore, China has also been engaging with regional and global allies by offering them investments and infrastructure through President Xi's vision of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). After the Afghanistan episode, the hyphenated US approach towards India to help it contain China's rise has become a concern for Pakistan since it could affect regional peace. The US has taken concrete steps to bolster its cooperation through military agreements and partnerships like LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA, and the newly formed AUKUS, under which the US would provide military assistance and cutting-edge technology to its strategic partners.

To counter the emerging threat in its backyard, China has also started to opt for an offensive policy. It has increased its muscular approach in asserting territorial claims on the Senkaku Islands, Spratly Islands, and Taiwan. China is moving ahead with its investments through BRI

across Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. A \$400 billion deal has also been signed with Iran.

Amid the changing winds, Pakistan has shifted its foreign policy paradigm from geo-strategic to geo-economic and has opened its doors to other stakeholders in the global arena. It has also shifted its hyphenated approach from the US after several incidents including the Raymond Davis episode, the Salala incident, and the OBL operation, all of which threatened its sovereignty. But the ‘do more’ rhetoric gave impetus to change more than anything else. The security agreements of the US with India — LEMOA, COMCASA, and BECA — and containment of Pakistan in the FATF’s grey list have exacerbated problems for Pakistan.

History has proved that it repeats its cycle, keeping the course of action the same. Just as China has threatened the established status of the US hegemony, Spartans did the same to the established power of Athens in early 4th century BC. It has also become evident that the liberalisation fantasy of the US intelligentsia did not go as planned. Instead, the engagement policy that was once put into action to foster harmony between Beijing and Washington post-Cold War has now resulted in the revival of Cold War 2.0 and the Thucydides trap. But is this the way forward for a more peaceful world?

If the world does not take a sensible action in due time, and multipolarity with absolute gains is not preferred over unipolarity, the aftermath would be a pyrrhic victory. But at what cost?

Historically, Pakistan has maintained good relations with both economic giants. As rational logic would suggest, instead of swaying into picking sides Pakistan should opt for a cautious de-hyphenated approach. Engaging both countries is essential as the US is still the largest export market for Pakistani goods, an education destination for the Pakistani elite, and most importantly one of the main actors in the Afghanistan fiasco. In contrast, China is helping in other matters such as internationalising the IIOJK cause and helping it in the UNSC. China has also become Pakistan’s major economic partner after an unprecedented \$62 billion economic cooperation via CPEC.

Pakistan can play the role of a ‘neutral actor’ as it did in the Nixon era when it facilitated US-China rapprochement. If Pakistan can be a melting pot of converging US and Chinese interests to promote regional prosperity and world peace vis-à-vis Afghanistan, then it can surely attain security and economic benefits while having both beneficial partnerships.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2330591/the-inevitable-thucydides-trap-and-implications-for-pakistan>

China to bolster textile sector

Cooperation in cotton industry providing possibilities for textiles

If you walk into a clothing store in any shopping mall in a major Chinese city – whether it is an international or a local brand – “Country of Origin: Pakistan” hang tag is not uncommon.

Especially in the jeans wear section, these high-quality Pakistani products are increasingly popular with Chinese consumers.

According to the Pakistani government, the textile industry contributes nearly 60% to the country's total exports. Denim fabric, as one of Pakistan's main garment products exported to the world, occupies a pivotal position in its garment industry chain.

According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), exports of denim fabric from Pakistan reached Rs96.92 billion during the year 2017-18, a commendable performance of the denim sector.

However, whether it is jeans wear or other garment products, the impact of recent global cotton prices and other factors cannot be ignored.

Pakistani industrialists argue that the textile and garment industry of the country faces a series of challenges, including low production of cotton and difficulty in obtaining financing for new facilities.

Cotton industry: China-Pakistan cooperation

Pakistan, one of the world's largest cotton producers, is finding it increasingly hard to meet its own needs.

"Last year, we had to import more than 50% of cotton," said Sapphire Fibre Executive Director Muhammad Abdullah. Low production and quality force the local industry to choose imports.

"So far, the domestic consumption of cotton is 14 million bales. Nevertheless, Pakistan only harvested 5.6 million bales of cotton in the last season," he said.

"As far as I am concerned, the seed of high quality must be the top priority. Unless we can increase the yield per unit area, the demand cannot be met," he added.

The idea of Muhammad Abdullah was echoed by Central Cotton Research Institute Director Zahid Mehmood. "Under CPEC, we hope to see the plan between China and Pakistan in cottonseed cooperation soon," he said.

Regarding this, Xinjiang Agricultural University Deputy Dean Chen Quanjia introduced further planning during an interview with China Economic Net.

"Local high temperature-resistant cotton varieties in Pakistan are of great use to us," Quanjia said. "In Xinjiang, the heat resistance of cottonseed is particularly indispensable when facing the extreme high temperature. At the same time, our high-yielding cotton varieties are also needed for Pakistani farmers," he said.

Recently, international cotton futures have remained high, and China's domestic cotton futures prices have also risen simultaneously.

According to a survey conducted by the China Cotton Association, the country's cotton planting area this year has dropped year on year, but due to favourable weather conditions, the total output remains relatively stable.

It is expected to be 5.83 million tons, down 1.5% year-on-year. Improving cotton production to maintain the stability of the futures market will be a problem, demanding prompt solutions from China and Pakistan.

Besides, the impurity, which is caused by 100% manual picking, also worsens the dilemma of Pakistan cotton.

Sapphire Fibre cotton field supervisor Kamran Razaq said that the impurity content of imported cotton is 4.5%, while the counterpart in Pakistan cotton is 8-9%, which is well below the criteria of textile mills.

Accordingly, Xinjiang Agricultural University and University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) have set up experimental fields in Faisalabad and plan to test mechanical picking in Pakistan.

“In north Xinjiang, one of the biggest cotton areas in China, the mechanisation can reach 90%. We use machine picking everywhere so as to decrease the impurities,” Chen Quanxia said, adding that in future, China's advanced cotton pickers can play a role in Pakistan as well.

CPEC projects: cures for textile

Apart from raw material shortage, financing difficulty is also a restraining factor in Pakistani textiles. In this regard, China and Pakistan are seeking for a wider cooperative space.

National Textile University Faisalabad Chairman of Department of Garment Manufacturing Abher Rasheed told CEN that Pakistan and China can collaborate in two main areas, which are accessories and fabric.

China has the capacity in both areas while Pakistan has a comparatively cheaper workforce available. Joint ventures in both areas could create a positive impact, he emphasised.

Obviously, his ideas coincide with some Chinese entrepreneurs with a strategic vision.

“The strong bilateral ties between China and Pakistan provide great convenience for our local investment,” said Karen Chen, Managing Director of Challenge Fashion, a Chinese company investing \$150 million in an industrial park on Lahore's border with Kasur.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2330653/china-to-bolster-textile-sector>

The Nation

300MW coal-fired power project at Gwadar to create over 1000 jobs

ISLAMABAD - The 300 MW coal-fired power project at Gwadar would create more than 1000 jobs for the local people and reduce the electricity shortage in the area.

According to official source, the \$ 542.32 million worth coal-fired power project having the capacity to produce 300MW electricity would be initiated under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor at Gwadar.

The land has been acquired for the execution of the project and the Gwadar Development Authority would supervise the project. The area of Makran division has supplies from Iran and power shortfalls in Iran have led to loadshedding in Gwadar, Turbat and Makran regions. These areas are not connected with the national grid and are dependent on Iranian power supply. The government is taking steps to connect these areas with national grid to ensure uninterrupted smooth power supply to the domestic consumers to provide relief in the winter season, said the official.

The government has set a target to enhance the coal production to meet national energy needs and taking many measures to provide electricity to the consumers at cheap rates.

According to a CPEC Authority official, the mega project would move forward with more strength during the current year and the years ahead, which would further strengthen the bilateral relations between Pakistan and China. He said the CPEC would open new era of development and prosperity in Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-23/page-9/detail-3>

November 24, 2021

Business Recorder

MoU on onion export to China inked

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R) and China's General Administration of Customs China (GACC) Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for Pakistan onion export to China.

The MoU was signed between the MNFSR-department of plant protection (DPP) and the GACC-China for inspection and quarantine requirements for export of onion from Pakistan to China.

The MoU was signed by the Minister for National Food Security and Research (MNFSR), Syed Fakhar Imam, and Nong Rong, the ambassador of China in Pakistan at the MNFSR. Imam said that the agricultural sector is indispensable to the country's economic growth, food security, employment generation and poverty alleviation particularly, for the rural population. The present government has given top priority to growth of agriculture sector on sustainable basis and is implementing the most appropriate policies to achieve the desired outcomes. He said that Pakistan with around 138,000 hectares and 1.8 million tons of onion production stands at 6th and 9th position in terms of onion area and production respectively. Pakistan contributes 2.1 percent in world onion area and 1.9 percent in its world production, he said.

The minister stated that Pakistan has been exporting rice, mango and citrus to China after complying phytosanitary import requirements of China.

The instant protocol would also create awareness about quarantine and phytosanitary compliance among Pakistan onion producers.

Nong Rong, the Chinese ambassador said that the protocol would open new ways for more Pakistani products to reach Chinese markets.

He further said that China and Pakistan are complementary to each other.

China is already supporting Pakistan in foot and mouth disease control, chili, potato, beef, and mutton production.

The CPEC would further result in such trade ties, he said.

Under this protocol, the DPP would conduct pest survey, implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) targeting quarantine pests of concern to China during the growing season of onion by adopting internationally-recognised phytosanitary inspection methods and ensure pest-free export of onion to China.

The processing companies intend to export onions from Pakistan to China shall be registered and recommended by the DPP after approval through audit for further registration with the GACC.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/24/11-page/908858-news.html>

Daily Times

Pakistani furniture has great potential in Chinese market

Pakistani furniture has great potential in Chinese market, said Mian Kashif Ashfaq, Chairman of Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC), according to Gwadar Pro.

Pakistan has good quality wood furniture, and as China's economy has grown much, it can be a good market for Pakistan, he said adding mostly there's handmade solid wood furniture in Pakistan, but slowly local manufacturers started working on modeled furniture on machines, as they can't meet the increasing demand of the world. Therefore Pakistan's furniture has mostly targeted the local market.

To increase export, he said that through single country's exhibition, they can portray manufactures and furniture can be marketed in the world as well. As far as China is concerned, "China is a big market for us.

To have an exhibition in China will lead us to have access to the whole world," he said. In recent years, Pakistani furniture has been shown in Canton Fair and CIIE, which attracted large attention.

"We have gathered the locals, retailers, designers and we have arranged 11 exhibitions for them. We will now take them to China, the Middle East, the UK, and many other countries that have demand," he said.

He further said PFC will work on e-commerce to expand the export. He said that in the first phase PFC is creating an online sales portal, and all Pakistani furniture manufacturers that have the capacity and capability will be a part of that portal.

“We are trying to have all of them on that portal. In phase one, we will provide home delivery service to all, regardless of the place from where the order is placed. All the manufactures will be linked to buyers through that,” he said, adding that the work has already been started.

“Through this, we will market our product in the future in the whole world and to China as well,” the Chairman said.

There’s also a vast scope of investment in the furniture industry. As many different special economic zones have been established in Pakistan, Chinese investors have huge benefits in it. He mentioned the first-ever state-of-the-art Furniture City established in Allama Iqbal Industrial City under CPEC.

“There are many benefits like tax holidays, relaxation in duties and they can sell their products here and in the world as well. Labor is cheaper here. Raw material is available at a lower price as compared to China,” he said.

Besides, the industry is trying to upgrade furniture designs. Pakistan Institute of Fashion and Design, one of the best institutes in Pakistan, now has a separate department of furniture designing. “It is very encouraging,” said Mian Kashif Ashfaq, adding that now foreign qualified tutors are there to train students and 50 to 60 students are passing that degree program in furniture designing per year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/845176/pakistani-furniture-has-great-potential-in-chinese-market/>

Hydropower project of CPEC starts reservoir impoundment

The Karot Hydropower Project, a major pilot project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), successfully closed the gates of the diversion tunnels on Saturday, starting reservoir impoundment.

Invested by the China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG) with a total of about 1.74 billion U.S. dollars, the Karot hydropower project in Pakistan’s eastern Punjab province is the fourth level of the five cascade hydropower stations planned for the Jhelum River.

The beginning of the reservoir impoundment of the first CPEC hydropower investment project is a milestone and will pave the way for the wet testing of the generator units, Wang Yi, Karot hydropower project team leader at the site of the CTG told Xinhua.

Since the groundbreaking of the project in April, 2015, the Chinese and Pakistani engineers and workers at the project have jointly overcome different challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, thus a series of achievements have been made such as the river closure and lifting of the first rotor, Wang said.

To date, around 95 percent of the project has been completed and the four units of the station are expected to generate electricity in the first half of 2022, Wang added.svg%3E

In a conversation with Xinhua, Rashid Awan, a Pakistani civil engineer working at the hydropower project, said that the start of reservoir impoundment is hard-earned fruit by the mutual support between the Pakistani and Chinese workers.

The forthcoming commercial operation of the hydropower station project, which has provided over 4,000 jobs for the locals during the peak time of its construction, will further address the electricity shortage issues in Pakistan with cheap and clean energy and improve the energy structure of the country.

The 720-megawatt Karot hydropower project is expected to annually generate some 3.2 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity once put into operation, reducing 3.5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/845178/hydropower-project-of-cpec-starts-reservoir-impoundment/>

Chinese researcher calls for joint protection of snow leopards in Pakistan

A noted Chinese researcher has called for joint protection of snow leopards in Pakistan, according to a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Tuesday.

The report says that “The border between China and Pakistan is an important habitat for snow leopards.

The two countries need to work together to protect this area for sustained biodiversity”, said Professor Li Dongming from Hebei Normal University in an interview with CEN.

Recently, his team, with three Pakistani researchers involved, published an e-Letter article titled “Snow Leopards at High Risk in Pakistan” on Science.

Commenting the article “The snow leopard’s questionable comeback” published in 2018, the e-Letter analysed the root causes of human-snow leopard conflict and proposed the measures to protect this precious species.

Snow leopards, also known as the “ghost of the mountains”, are the flagship species of the Himalayan alpine landscape. Globally speaking, there are about 8000 snow leopards still surviving by estimation. Among them, about 400 reside in Pakistan, especially the Khunjerab National Park and surrounding alpine areas.

“As an advanced predator, the large feline animal is important in the food chain because they play a positive role in maintaining stable populations of its prey, such as the herbivore ibex”, Professor Li introduced.

“We started our research on Pakistani snow leopards in 2020, when Dr. Shahid Ahmad joined our center for post-doctoral studies on ecology. With a Ph.D. degree from Beijing Forestry

University, he has long been studying the conservation biology of snow leopards and wild goats in Pakistan”, Professor Li told CEN.

Ghulam Nabi, a Pakistani teacher at the university, and Tauheed Ullah Khan from Kohat University also commit themselves to the research.

According to their study, four factors aggravate the human-snow leopard conflict in Pakistan. First of all, the current trophy hunting policy has reduced the availability of prey, which in turn causes snow leopards to attack more livestock, stirring poaching and revenge killings.

Secondly, low public awareness of animal conservation is omnipresent. Even some government officials, influential people and residents are involved in snow leopard hunting.

Thirdly, as some organs and tissues of snow leopards are important sources of medicine, poaching occurs frequently, which is exacerbated by illegal wildlife trade with other countries. Fourthly, the habitat for snow leopards is shrinking as a result of deforestation, habitat fragmentation and climate change, posing indirect threats to their survival. The e-Letter points out that to reinforce the protection of the species, poisonous hunting should be eradicated effectively. Moreover, such measures as penalties and ecological compensation should be implemented promptly to prevent poaching. The public should also be educated about biodiversity conservation.

China’s snow leopards population accounts for 40-50% of the global total, but they are mainly found in sparsely populated areas such as the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau and Pamirs. In addition, as protective measures are intensifying and people’s awareness is enhancing, the human-snow leopard conflict is rare.

Talking about the balance between the protection and utilisation of wildlife, Professor Li said, “the protection and utilisation of wildlife seem to contradict each other, but in fact they are not. Biodiversity is the foundation of human existence. Only by protecting rare and endangered species and their habitats, can the future generations enjoy the potential benefit of biodiversity”.

Just as has been expressed on COP 15, protecting biodiversity helps protect Earth, our common homeland, and contributes to humanity’s sustainable development.

“In collaboration, we can assess the impact of the ‘Belt and Road’ on the habitat of rare and endangered animals such as snow leopards. In the construction process, we can build biological corridors connecting different fragmented habitats for some wildlife”, said Professor Li.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/845148/chinese-researcher-calls-for-joint-protection-of-snow-leopards-in-pakistan/>

Pakistan Observer

IPDS, Viivbook ink MoU to promote Chinese language in Pakistan

Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Viivbook to jointly launch the Chinese Language Program in Pakistani Universities.

The MoU would be offering free Chinese training courses, research and development, and promoting cultural cooperation.

The initiative would be a pilot project that begins from Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU) and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University (SBBWU), Peshawar which would be expanded to all universities across the country.

The two sides aimed to work together further to expand and strengthen the cooperation. They also agreed that it was just the beginning of the long journey of cooperation between the two sides.

Farhat Asif, President of IPDS made concluding remarks in which she emphasized closer China-Pakistan cooperation. She emphasized the role of the Centre of BRI and China studies in strengthening relations and building trust between the two sides.

She stated everyone was aware of the importance of CPEC and BRI in regional development. The initiative had increased the importance of Chinese language for local population, she added.

She said therefore, the Chinese Language Program became an important initiative to learn the Chinese language.

Students, Scholars, and even any interested individual can learn the Chinese language through this project. She stressed that the two sides should continue to make efforts to strengthen the bilateral relations.

Libei Zhang, Manager Viivbook, Tianjin Hantong Educational Technology Co., Ltd said that the initiative would strengthen the ironclad brotherhood of China and Pakistan. She highlighted the close bilateral relations of the two states.

People-to-people contacts between the two states had been increasing, she added. She also highlighted the increase in cultural and student exchanges between the two sides since the launching of the CPEC.

Libei expressed gratitude to the IPDS for playing an active role in expanding China-Pakistan relations by conducting webinars.

he explained the Chinese Language Program which would help the people to know China more closely. It will help to learn Chinese culture and the Chinese language.

<https://pakobserver.net/ipds-viivbook-ink-mou-to-promote-chinese-language-in-pakistan/>

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor: Shaping regional and global doctrine

Dr Nasreen Akhtar

CHINA Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) involves two traditional friends – China and Pakistan. These states are the major irritants to their rival – the United States (US).

Whereas, China and India have fought war in 1962 ... still border dispute continues and border tension may erupt anytime. India's rivalry, regional and global interests have further

strengthened China-Pakistan friendship. There have been ups and downs in the Pakistan-US relations for decades, and sometimes seriously pernicious.

In international politics, no perpetual friendship or relations exist. States keep changing their policies and foreign relations. In foreign policy “always decisions are judged in hindsight”, however, relations are assessed before the implementation of policies of the respective states.

During and after the cold war, Pakistan has been an important state in international politics – it had played a pivotal role between the US and China in the early 1970s – being an ally of the US, Pakistan had been engaged in Afghan conflict(s).

Pakistan, as a (security) partner, did whatever it could do but it remained failed to gratify the US because of the divergence of interests between the two old friends.

The first and fundamental rule of international politics is “protection of state’s interest”. Every state has the legitimate right to draw its interests in accordance with internal and external as well as geopolitical environment. End of the cold war brings more chaos and raises tension in all regions.

In 2009, Hillary Clinton, the (then) Secretary of State, acknowledged that Pakistan was left to suffer and face the challenges after the Soviet’s disintegration “and the US created the problems” for Pakistan.

Unfortunate 9/11 incidents happened in the US and those tragic incidents changed the world’s narrative – Pakistan decided to be the third time partner and supported the US doctrine on “war on terror”.

Despite Pakistan’s support against ‘war on terror’ the US developed its nexus with India to make it ready to compete with China – because China was rising when the US was fighting in Afghanistan.

India is ambitious to have the US support in containing China. But US-India nexus augmented Pakistan’s concerns. Several incidents occurred during the war against terror in Afghanistan that increased serious trust deficit between the two old partners – US and Pakistan.

In fact, trust deficit helped Pakistan revisit the foreign policy and strengthen its ties with China which never disappointed whenever Pakistan needed help amid crisis.

As we know, US-China rivalry is not new. China is the only state which has the competence to compete with the US everywhere. The US philosopher, Noam Chomsky, has categorically stated that “China is not rising, it has risen”.

On one hand, China has created unrest to the US and on the other hand Pakistan has, in US’ view’, deceived the US in Afghanistan as the Taliban have liberated their land from the foreign forces.

Though the US soldiers have confessed that it was their “strategic failure” yet the Biden Administration is not ready to accept. Moreover, the China-Pakistan strong nexus has annoyed the US policy makers.

The Biden Doctrine specifically contains China’s Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), a global grand strategic project that includes CPEC.

China, presently, has become the top rival of the United States in the world. Previously, the US raised its concerns about CPEC.

In 2017, the former US Secretary of Defence, Jim Mattis, said, “OBOR [current BRI] to secure China’s over both the continental and maritime interests, in their eventual hope of dominating Eurasia and exploiting natural resources there, things that are certainly at odds with the US policy – what do see China playing in Afghanistan and particularly related to BRI”. It seems the US has left Afghanistan but not this region – South Asia – it remains significant due to CPEC and China- Pakistan partnership.

CPEC is considered the ‘flagship’ of BRI. Because of geostrategic importance, Pakistan is playing a pivotal role in achieving geo-economics goals and CPEC is a major factor.

CPEC, as a major corridor of BRI, provides land and sea routes to China and provides ‘Rapid, Cheap, and Safe’ access to the world markets – Central Asia, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Via the Indian Ocean China would watch its historical rival’s activity in the Indian Ocean – it has upset India as well globally, China and Pakistan have become common rivals of India and the United States.

Recently, the Central Intelligence Agency of America (CIA) established the China Mission Centre (CMC) which would counter China in all regions.

CIA chief, William J. Burns, terms China’s rivalry as the “most geopolitical threat we face in the 21st Century.

He said, “CIA will deploy more officers, technicians, linguists and specialists in countries around the world to gather intelligence and counter China’s interests”. CMC will be working to contain China at regional as well as at the global level.

The new Biden Doctrine would create unrest in the world instead of peace. After fighting so many wars the global power/s should cooperate to uplift the developing/troubling countries. New cold war between China and the US would encourage the rivals to exacerbate tension in the [already] polarized world.

Though rivalry and conflict is a part of international politics, states can develop a cohesive approach for the better world.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-economic-corridor-shaping-regional-and-global-doctrine-by-dr-nasreen-akhtar/>

CPEC & BRI and Attacks on National Narratives

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

DIVERGENT forces of development and destruction, cooperation and conspiracy, harmony and horrendousness, prosperity and propaganda, dialogue and debris and last but not the least, consensus and unilateralism have been fighting each other for the last so many years

China's concept of shared prosperity and the US & West hegemonic orientation have been striving hard for formation of specific national narratives around the globe.

It has got momentum after the inception of projects of the century namely One Belt & One Road and CPEC by China.

Most recently there have been a series of articles, commentaries and news items against BRI and CPEC published within and beyond the country. Once again, global merchants of souls poured lots of funds to pollute the importance of the BRI & CPEC in the country.

Pseudo intellectuals wrote many anti-BRI & CPEC articles even in the country. India, USA and even other regional countries published a series of anti-CPEC articles dubbing it a debt trap, hidden debts and rise of so-called Chinese imperialism with economic dominance etc.

On the other hand, most recently, President Xi Jinping has devised a new road-map for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which consisted of total transformation of it through high-standard, sustainable and beneficial steps to public well-being and support developing nations in going green and low-carbon in their energy sectors. While addressing the third symposium on the development of the BRI in Beijing, he assured that China will consolidate the foundation for BRI cooperation on interconnectivity and create new opportunities for international cooperation. President XI stressed the importance of striving to attain a higher level of cooperation, higher investment efficiency, higher quality of supply and greater resilience in the growth of the initiative.

Xi rightly pointed out that the international environment for the BRI has become increasingly complex because of the new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial revolution bringing about unprecedentedly fierce competition, and climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic exerting an unprecedented influence on humanity.

Conversely, the US Research Institute "AidData" recently issued a report claiming an average year during the BRI era in which China spent \$85 billion on overseas development programs, causing a significant increase in "hidden debt" in low-and middle-income countries.

The report also listed a range of other problems that it alleged was caused by BRI, such as "infringement of labour rights" and "environmental issues."

Critical analysis of this much propagated and widely circulated report reveals that it is full of human/technical/professional errors, distortions, confusing concepts, misinterpretation, self-defined economic theories, self-inserted accounting parameters, untrue self-assumptions and

intentional deviation from the basic concept of research methodologies and professional neutrality.

The said report intentionally categorized a major component based on non-official funds such as commercial investment and financing and non-profit activities into the scope of China's foreign aid, and it exaggerated the proportion of relevant data. Moreover, the said report considers commercial loans provided by state-owned commercial banks as government spending.

Ironically, it includes military cooperation such as China's provision of peacekeeping operations funds to the United Nations, as well as foreign investment by private companies such as Huawei, in the scope of official development finance. It is full of serious bias which does not rely on Chinese official channels and data sources.

Chinese loans are not rich countries specific to so-called grab resources, but the reality is that most of China's foreign aid flows to the least developed countries, and many of the BRI recipient countries are resource-poor economies.

The report intentionally correlated the sanction and flow of Chinese funds to countries with serious corruption problems as listed by the World Governance Index and accusing of supporting corruption.

On one hand, the hard fact is that China's BRI cooperation consists of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits having total openness and transparency with zero tolerance for corruption.

Moreover, Chinese investments have never attached any conditions to its international cooperation and it is based solely on the willingness and needs of involved parties.

In this context, project assistance and material assistance have been the two main tools of China to help the developing countries mainly for the purpose of avoiding the possibility of corrupt behaviour.

On the contrary, Western countries are controlled by the elites in recipient countries, which not only increase the economic and social inequality of the recipient countries, but also breed corruption.

Since its inception, the BRI framework has been productive, effective and development oriented. China has always urged the guiding principle of South-South Cooperation.

China's development financing to other developing countries not only help them solve long-term financial difficulties, but also provided public products for local development.

China provides commercial loans with relatively low interest rates that often last 20 years or longer. The US has never been supporting the public good in developing countries.

It is propagating propositions in terms of "debt traps," "resource plundering," and "pollution," is simply attempting to slander China's cooperation with other countries, and try to damage

China's international reputation, hinder China's cooperation with other countries in order to maintain the US' hegemony.

To conclude, AidData's methodology intentionally includes the full value of a Chinese loan to a joint venture investment as the host government's "underreported debt" contrary to the World Bank guidelines.

Approximately, US\$ 153 billion was loaned to joint ventures (JVs) and special purpose vehicles (SPVs), limited liability companies set up for specific projects.

Some of these are majority owned by host governments, but in several significant cases they are controlled by private companies ExxonMobil, for example with modest shareholdings by host governments.

The World Bank does not classify these latter loans as public debt. AidData has intentionally introduced two separate concepts in this report.

The "underreported" loans refer to loans that are not reported to the World Bank's Debtor Reporting System, the source of the data in the IDS. Most of the headline takeaways from the report refer to these "underreported" loans.

The second, "hidden" loans refer to the entire set of loans to host country state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and state-owned banks and SPVs with some degree of host government ownership but without state guarantees.

War of tug has now converted into fierce debate of national narratives at the global stage. Chinese communism with socialism characteristics have gradually erased the economic dominance of capitalism through the shared prosperity vision of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Prime Minister Imran Khan has already attached socio-economic prosperity of Pakistan with the CPEC.

Thus national media should fight out the US & West propagandas to save strategic assets like CPEC. Since the inception of BRI in 2013, over 200 cooperation agreements have been signed with 172 countries and international organizations. This resulted in \$9.2 trillion in cumulative trade and \$130 billion in Chinese foreign direct investment in BRI.

Thus the US Research Institute AidData report is fabricated, fake, false and fictional which does not have any substance but all fairy tales.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-bri-and-attacks-on-national-narratives-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

US blacklists Chinese firms for allegedly aiding Pakistan's nuclear activities

Commerce department concerned over Pakistan's 'unsafeguarded nuclear activities and ballistic missile programme'

WASHINGTON: The US Commerce Department put a dozen Chinese companies on its trade blacklist on Wednesday citing national security concerns and in some cases their help with the Chinese military's quantum computing efforts.

The department also said 16 entities and individuals from China and Pakistan were added to the blacklist for contributing to Pakistan's nuclear activities or ballistic missile programme.

In total, 27 new entities were added to the list from China, Japan, Pakistan, and Singapore.

Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said in a statement that the move will help prevent US technology from supporting the development of Chinese and Russian "military advancement and activities of non-proliferation concern like Pakistan's unsafeguarded nuclear activities or ballistic missile program".

The Commerce Department said Hangzhou Zhongke Microelectronics Co. Ltd., Hunan Goke Microelectronics, New H3C Semiconductor Technologies Co. Ltd., Xi'an Aerospace Huaxun Technology, and Yunchip Microelectronics were placed on the Commerce Department's entity list for their "support of the military modernisation of the People's Liberation Army".

It also added Hefei National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at Microscale, QuantumCTek, and Shanghai QuantumCTeck Co. Ltd. to the list for "acquiring and attempting to acquire US-origin items in support of military applications".

Suppliers to these companies will need to apply for a license before selling to them, which is likely to be denied.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2330917/us-blacklists-chinese-firms-for-allegedly-aiding-pakistans-nuclear-activities>

India launched cyberattacks against China, Pakistan: report

Attacks reportedly target sensitive military departments

BEIJING: A Chinese cyber security company recently released a report mentioning that a state-level hacking organisation in India was launching cyberattacks against China and Pakistan, targeted at sensitive military departments.

The report mentioned in an article written by the Secretary-General of the Cyberspace International Governance Research Center Lu Chuanying, published in the China Military Online, stated that this was not the first time Indian hacking organisations had launched cyberattacks on other countries.

Chuanying cautioned that "rampant cyber-attacks launched by Indian hacking organisations against neighbouring countries have caused serious adverse effects on regional security and stability, and will create major hurdles to the future cyber security cooperation of international organisations, such as, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS."

The secretary-general urged the international community to demand New Delhi to stop such cyberattacks. He said that "by launching online attacks against its neighbouring countries so unscrupulously, India risks violating the cyber codes worked out by the UN Group of Governmental Experts (NGGE) and relevant provisions of international law."

Earlier this month an article published in Global Times, also stated that investigations conducted by several of China's leading cyber security companies found a sophisticated network operating from India that "constantly attacked defense and military units as well as state-owned enterprises in China, Nepal and Pakistan over the past few years."

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2330871/india-launched-cyberattacks-against-china-pakistan-report>

The Nation

CPEC Phase II be completed within stipulated time: PM Imran

Mateen Haider

Islamabad - Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed to complete all the steps related to CPEC Phase II within the stipulated time.

The Prime Minister issued these directives while chairing a review meeting of the PM's Priority Sectors held under his chairmanship in Islamabad.

The Prime Minister said the government is taking steps on priority basis to increase economic activity in the country.

"The government is focused on increasing investments in the export industry for creating employment opportunities", remarked the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Imran Khan said all government institutions are working together to provide a conducive environment for investors. He said the government is taking steps to speed up work on Phase II of CPEC.

The meeting was given a detailed briefing on the progress of Phase II of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The meeting was informed that work on gas and electricity supply in Rashakai, Dhabeji, Allama Iqbal and Bostan Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is in full swing.

The meeting was further informed that Electricity and gas are mainly available for the construction of industries, while the rest of the required electricity and gas will be supplied with further development of industries.

The meeting was informed that the Plug and Play Model has been proposed by the CPEC Authority, which is being worked on.

"Under the model, all the requirements of the investors will be met through one window operation to ensure speedy construction of industries in these areas".

The meeting was informed that at the same time, the Board of Investment is working on a portal to provide investors with information related to construction of industries, approvals from various institutions and other ancillary information, which will be launched soon.

The meeting was also informed that a comprehensive system has been launched to review the progress of projects under CPEC and to expedite the development work.

In addition, steps are being taken to increase investment in SEZs by identifying export industries.

In the agriculture sector, not only work on corporate farming is in full swing, but also agreements are being made to increase the exports of the sector.

The meeting was attended by Federal Ministers Asad Umar, Hamad Azhar, Advisors Shaukat Fayyaz Tareen, Moeed Yousuf, Special Assistant Dr Shahbaz Gill, Chairman CPEC Khalid Mansoor, Chairman Board of Investment Azfar Ahsan and relevant senior officers.

while chairing another meeting on pollution-related issues in the country and sustainable environment protection plan, Prime Minister Imran Khan said the need of the hour to fight pollution, especially in major cities.

He directed the departments concerned to devise a strategy in coordination with the provincial governments to save our major cities from pollution, by taking all necessary steps, at the earliest.

“In line with our manifesto, clean and pollution-free Pakistan is our top priority, and long term measures should be taken to deal with the climate change related issues “, he added.

The Prime Minister said,” We are focused on maximising the green cover of our cities through massive plantations.”

The meeting was attended by Information Minister Ch Fawad Hussain, SAPM on Climate Charge Malik Amin Aslam, SAPM on Political Communication Dr Shehbaz Gill and senior officers concerned.

Punjab CS Kamran Ali Afzal, SMBR Babar Hayat Tarar also joined the meeting via video link.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-24/page-1/detail-8>

Cultural exchanges event held to beef up China-Pak friendship

BEIJING - An online cultural exchanges event was held to strengthen the cultural exchanges between China and Pakistan, which was co-organised by Zhengzhou Electric Power College (ZEPC), China and the University of Engineering & Technology (UET) Lahore, Pakistan.

Students of ZEPC showed the extensive and profound Chinese traditional culture, including martial art, calligraphy, folk dance, classical instrument and Henan Opera. Among them, the Xinjiang folk dance and martial art performance impressed teachers and students of UET, Lahore, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Tuesday.

Muhammad Anas Baig, a student from UET, Lahore, introduced Pakistan's natural landscape, wedding custom, traditional festival and food and others. Baig said, "The depth of Pakistan-China friendship pictures if the two neighbouring countries were friends for centuries.

The young generation must learn from our ancestors and work hard to strengthen the friendship."

"This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Pakistan. By organizing cultural activity, we hope to enhance the cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two iron brother nations," said Guo Wei, head of the International Exchange and Cooperation Department of ZEPC.

ZEPC and UET Lahore signed a cooperation memorandum in September, 2021, to cooperate in talents training for power sector and specialty construction.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-24/page-15/detail-4>

November 25, 2021

Pakistan Observer

China mode may boost organic peach growing

Beijing mode may boost organic peach growing in Pakistan, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Wednesday.

The report says, peaches are known as the "Queen" of fruits in Pakistan. It is a remarkable fruit, having a delicious taste and a good looking color. Pakistan's peach season usually starts in May and continues till the first week of September.

According to a report by the Crop Reporting Service of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a total of 6,330 hectares are dedicated to growing the fruit in the province. Swat produced 5,280 tonnes of peaches in 2018-2019, whereas Peshawar produced 1,066 tonnes.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-mode-may-boost-organic-peach-growing/>

ECNEC okays Pakistan Optical Remote Sensing Satellite project

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Mr. Shaukat Tarin, chaired the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) meeting on Wednesday.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Mr. Asad Umer, Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Makhdoom Khusroo Bakhtiar, Federal Secretaries and other senior officers from Federal as well as Provincial Government participated in the meeting.

ECNEC approved Sialkot (Sambrial) – Kharian Motorway project submitted by Ministry of Communication with total project cost Rs.43,382.552 Million, along with directions to NHA to present progress on development of business model to ECC.

The project envisages construction of 69-km long, 04-lane wide Sambrial- Kharian Motorway with structures to be constructed for 06 lanes. Forum especially lauded the efforts of Planning Commission and M/o Communication for finalizing this project on PPP basis.

ECNEC also gave approval to the New Gwadar International Airport(NGIA) 2nd revised project worth of 51,298.175 Million rupees.

The 2nd revised project envisages construction of New Gwadar International Airport (NGIA) along with allied facilities over a piece of land already acquired.

NGIA will replace the existing airport at Gwadar which has small terminal building with limited capacity. The new airport will be suitable for bigger aircrafts like Airbus A-380 and Boeing -747 & 777 etc for international and domestic services.

ECNEC also approved the project of Ministry of Energy on ADB Funded Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) in IESCO at a cost of \$455.5 million, with directives to start the project without any delay as a pilot project and include other electric supplying companies.

The project envisages enhancing load control and loading management up to the interface of the electricity distribution system operated by the distribution companies (DISCOs).

<https://pakobserver.net/ecnec-okays-pakistan-optical-remote-sensing-satellite-project/>

Prioritise second phase of CPEC

It will not be wrong to say that the panacea of all the economic problems of the country lies in the early operationalization of Special Economic Zones being set up under the second phase of multi billion dollars China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. Hence no effort should be spared to extend all basic amenities in these zones.

A meeting chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday was informed that work on gas and electricity supply to Rashakai, Dhabeji, Allama Iqbal and Bostan Special Economic Zones was in full swing.

Electricity and gas is mainly available for the construction of industries whilst the rest of the required electricity and gas would be supplied with further development of industries.

It is a matter of satisfaction that Prime Minister Imran Khan is personally monitoring progress on the SEZs and the other day he also met a Chinese business delegation assuring full facilitation to them.

China has a successful record of constructing and running the SEZs and Pakistan has an opportunity to capitalize on the Chinese experience. It must be ensured that the Chinese investors face no hurdles whilst setting up industries in these zones.

Timely arrangements should be made so that the industries face no shortage of basic utilities. The success of these zones is important to take forward the country on the path of sustainable growth and development. There should not be any further delay in the operationalization of the

SEZs which will definitely help the country emerge as a manufacturing and production hub in the region.

Our country has always struggled to bolster exports and the setting up of industries in the SEZs will definitely go a long way in exploiting the country's export potential and address the longstanding issue of trade deficit besides ending reliance on foreign debts.

Whilst Chinese investors are showing great interest in the SEZs, our authorities concerned should shun slumber and be forthcoming to ensure early realization of their investment.

With better planning and projection, we can also entice investors from other countries in the SEZs.

<https://pakobserver.net/prioritise-second-phase-of-cpec/>

The Express Tribune

ECNEC approves Rs300b worth of projects

Fails to reach consensus on Thal canal scheme due to Sindh's opposition

ISLAMABAD: The country's highest project sanctioning authority on Wednesday approved 10 mega schemes costing over Rs300 billion but could not build consensus on the second phase of Greater Thal Canal project due to opposition from Sindh.

Adviser to Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin chaired a meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec), which agreed to drop a project of installing smart electricity meters in Lahore.

Ecneec, for the third time, took up a project which was being pushed as an alternative to the prime minister's promise to vacate his official residence.

The committee deferred decision on the Greater Thal Canal project with directives to relevant stakeholders, both at federal and provincial levels, to reach consensus prior to its re-submission to Ecneec, according to a statement issued by the finance ministry after the meeting.

The project costing Rs19.3 billion has been planned to provide irrigation water for around 294,110 acres of land in the districts of Layyah, Bhakkar and Khushab in Punjab.

However, during the meeting, a Sindh government representative strongly opposed the project due to its adverse impact on livelihoods in the province, said an official who attended the meeting.

The Punjab government was of the view that it did not require a fresh no-objection certificate (NOC) from the Indus River System Authority (Irsa) for the Greater Thal Canal project.

Under the water accord, allocations have been made for the project for the Kharif season in addition to which surplus flood flows will also be available. The project will help increase crop production from 12,032 tons per annum to 378,270 tons.

The length of the Chaubara branch canal will be 72 km in addition to 241 km of distributaries.

Planning Minister Asad Umar recommended the constitution of a sub-committee to resolve the dispute between Sindh and Punjab.

Ecneec approved the Pakistan Optical Remote Sensing Satellite (PRSS-02) project of Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco) at a cost of Rs28 billion. PRSS-02 is planned as a successor to PRSS-01, which will complete its operational life in 2025.

The committee approved the Sialkot-Kharian Motorway project at a cost of Rs43.4 billion, with directives to the National Highway Authority to report progress on the development of a business model to the ECC.

Ecneec approved the New Gwadar International Airport project at a revised cost of Rs51.3 billion, showing an increase of 138% in its construction price within five years amid slow progress on this China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) scheme.

The project was part of phase-I of CPEC which was supposed to be completed by 2018. However, the construction of the new airport is falling behind schedule along with dozens of other CPEC projects.

Ecneec agreed to drop the project of installing smart meters within the jurisdiction of Lahore Electricity Supply Company. This will give a jolt to the plan of reducing losses and electricity theft.

The committee approved changes to shift the scope of \$455 million Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project. The ADB had approved \$400 million for the project in November 2015.

Ecneec approved the shelving of Lahore component of the project. It allowed the conversion of Islamabad jurisdiction project of Rs16.9 billion into a pilot scheme.

Though the Manila-based lender had approved the \$400 million loan, work on the project never began due to reluctance of the Power Division.

Since the beginning, Pakistan had not been ready to receive the loan due to differences over the use of imported technology and the plan to privatise all power distribution companies under the then \$6.2 billion IMF programme.

The committee was informed that the government was continuously paying commitment charges on the undisbursed amount, which had added up to \$2.2 million.

Ecneec directed the Power Division to hold an inquiry into the delay in implementation of the project and document the reasons for delay, accumulation of commitment charges and fix responsibility.

The committee approved the Remodeling of Warsak Canal System in Peshawar and Nowshera districts worth Rs16.7 billion. The second revised PC-1 was considered on the basis of 50:50 cost-sharing between federal and provincial governments.

Any variation in the cost of the project will be borne by the provincial government, according to the decision.

Ecneec approved the Higher Education Development in Pakistan (HEDP-revised) project worth Rs12.8 billion, to be financed by the World Bank. Project activities will be undertaken throughout Pakistan.

In an interesting development, Ecneec for the third time in the past five months took up the Pak University of Engineering and Emerging Technologies (PUEET) Phase-I project, which in essence was an alternative to the PM's election promise of converting his official residence into a university.

But instead of vacating the official residence, the government has now planned a project costing Rs23.5 billion, which Ecneec approved on Wednesday. The government will construct the university at a site that is adjacent to the PM House.

The project faced many issues at the planning stage, including the observations made by the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) in March this year.

Ecneec gave approval to the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Cities Improvement Project (KPCIP) at a cost of Rs97.2 billion. KPCIP will improve the quality of life of the residents of five K-P cities, which include Abbottabad, Kohat, Mardan, Mingora and Peshawar, directly benefitting about 6 million of the urban population.

The committee approved the construction of 10th Avenue from IJP Road to Srinagar Highway, Islamabad at a total cost of Rs12.2 billion. The project will be executed in two phases and will be completed in two years.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2330986/ecneec-approves-rs300b-worth-of-projects>

The News

Health corridor vital for China and Pakistan

BEIJING: Health Corridor is vital for the prosperity and healthy cooperation for China and Pakistan, said Abdul Rehman Khan from the School of Medicine at Zhejiang University in an interview with China Economic Net.

Rehman mentioned China Pakistan Medical Association (CPMA), which was inspired by the concept of China Pakistan Health Corridor and it established to strengthen the medical cooperation between the two countries. I'm always be ready to do something for it," Rehman showed his determination. "At present, the exchange of scholars between the two countries for further training is a crucial step.

"With the best medical conditions, China always give a helping hand to Pakistan. I hope to learn advanced medical technology in China, serving my motherland in the future," said Abdul

Rehman Recently, Abdul Rehman Khan published an academic paper on the title of Portal Vein Tumor Thrombosis and Hepatocellular Carcinoma-

The Changing Tides in the well-known academic journal Hepatocellular Carcinoma as the first author, under the guidance of his supervisor Professor Xu Xiao, the Associate Dean of School of Medicine, the President of Affiliated Hangzhou First People's Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine.

As a country with a high incidence of liver cancer, the global cancer report indicates that the number of liver cancer cases in China accounts for 46.7% of the global cases.

Since there are no obvious symptoms of early liver cancer, most patients are already in the middle and late stage when they are first diagnosed, so that lost the opportunity for surgical resection. Liver cancer is the malignant tumor with the highest mortality rate among adult men under 60 in China.

Especially when hepatocellular carcinoma is combined with portal vein tumor thrombosis (PVTT), the average median survival time is only 2.7 months. "The Chinese medical community has an outstanding of research on liver cancer. In addition, there are enough clinical cases for research here," noted Rehman.

His article elaborated on the current status of treatment of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) combined with PVTT and clinical bottlenecks, outlined the etiology and clinical classification of PVTT, and systematically compared different treatment methods including transcatheter arterial chemoembolization (TACE), selective internal radiation therapy (SIRT), molecular targeted drugs, partial hepatectomy and liver transplantation. Besides, the article emphasized the concept of multidisciplinary comprehensive treatment, and proposed the future direction of individualized and precise treatment of PVTT.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=28359>

November 26, 2021

Business Recorder

Pakistan can increase gemstones' exports to China: PCJCCI

LAHORE: Pakistan, being the fifth largest country of gemstones reservoirs, can increase its exports to China, which is the world's largest consumer of Gems and Jewelry. Wang Mihai, President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) in his online address to the PCJCCI's Export Promotion Committee today assured to create a network of Chinese importers of gems and jewelry for Pakistan. The meeting was attended by Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI, Sarfaraz Butt, Vice President PCJCCI and Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI along with other executive members, here on Thursday. President PCJCCI said that Pakistan despite being the fifth largest country of gemstones reservoirs, had not been able to get benefit from its natural resources due to lack of skills,

technology, and knowledge for processing of the mining materials. Highlighting the gemstones potential, he added that Pakistan has annual export potential of 800,000 carats of Ruby, 87,000 carats of Emerald and five million carats of Period which remained unutilized due to lack of appropriate cutting and polishing facilities in the country.

Ehsan Choudhry, SVP (PCJCCI) revealed that Pakistan's Pink Topaz and Kashmir Ruby are unique items all over the world, especially the Pink Topaz is considered as one of the second highest valued mineral. He also suggested collaboration with China to learn the latest techniques for cutting and polishing of the gemstones and by taking the National Productivity Organization (NPO) and Asian productivity organization on board in this regard. Chinese professionals in this sector should be invited to train Pakistani labour force and mining engineers for manufacturing and designing the state of the art jewellery in this vital segment of economy. Sarfaraz Butt, VP (PCJCCI) said that China had started attracting global jewelry industry since 1978 and with the passage of time China had turned to be a rapidly growing consumer market. He said, in 1980, only 20,000 people throughout China were involved in the jewelry industry and 30 years later, more than three million are employed in this field but, rising costs of labour created challenges for the manufacturing sector, which has created a room for Pakistan in this area.

Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI pointed out in the Executive Committee meeting that Chinese consumers are becoming more sophisticated in their shopping habits; they are moving away from traditional styles and are more inclined towards latest trends, quality, uniqueness and luxurious products. Therefore Pakistani exporters will have to ensure international standards and quality to attract Chinese market.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/26/4-page/909062-news.html>

Daily Times

Karot hydropower project hits back so-called China debt trap theory

Karot Hydropower Project has again effectively hit back the so-called China “debt trap” theory, said Chinese scholar Prof. Cheng Xizhong.

In his comments on the project, published by China Economic Net on Thursday, he noted that November 23, the gate of the diversion tunnel of the Karot Hydropower Project was successfully closed, starting reservoir impoundment.

The Karot Hydropower Project is a major pilot project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the first project of China Three Gorges Corporation (CTGC) and China hydropower industry to be included in the joint statement between the two governments. With regards to the successful construction and great achievements of this project, he commented on three aspects:

First, the China-Pakistan cooperative construction of the Karot Hydropower Project has again effectively hit back the so-called China “debt trap” theory fabricated by some forces.

The Karot Hydropower Project is one of the projects under the Belt and Road Initiative, and the first project funded by the Silk Road Fund. Its investment is nearly RMB 12 billion.

In addition, the Export-Import Bank of China and China Development Bank also provided loans for the construction of the Karot Hydropower Project.

It can be seen that this is a build-operate-transfer (BOT) project, which is mainly funded by Chinese financial institutions. The project built and operated by China and Pakistan will be handed over to the Pakistani government free of charge in 30 years, without any financial burden on the Pakistani side.

Second, when Chinese enterprises are engaged in overseas project construction, they attach great importance to environmental protection.

During the design and construction of the Karot Hydropower Project, Chinese enterprises not only consider power generation, but also ensure that the target of flood control and water storage is achieved.

When completed, the plant will provide about 3.2 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity, reducing 3.5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year.

Third, Chinese enterprises attach great importance to people's livelihood in overseas construction. In addition to supplying power to Pakistan's national grid, the project will also solve the problem of power consumption of more than 7 million local households with low prices.

The construction of the project has also trained a large number of technical personnel for Pakistan and created tens of thousands of employment opportunities. It is really a great livelihood project.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/846142/karot-hydropower-project-hits-back-so-called-china-debt-trap-theory/>

‘Huge potential for Pak rice exports to China: experts

Customs data showed that China imported RMB 1.95 billion worth of paddy and rice from Pakistan in the first 10 months of this year, 3.9 times that of the same period last year.

Pakistan is the third largest rice supplier to China. In addition, Pakistan once became China's largest rice supplier in the first five months of this year.

As China and Pakistan further advance agricultural cooperation, Pakistan's rice exports to China may increase, according to a report published by China Economic Net.

Zhang Jiegen, an associate researcher at the Center for Pakistan Studies at Fudan University, believes that China's rice market is open to Pakistan in a way that other countries do not enjoy. "China will provide as much quota as possible to Pakistan in order to promote the healthy development of China-Pakistan trade, but Pakistan's production capacity cannot keep up."

Many factors affect rice yield. Ch Muhammad Rafiq, Director of Rice Research Institute Kala Shah Kaku, holds that smog is among the culprits. “When basmati rice is not dried in time, exposure to the air produces aflatoxins. If these factors are excluded, the average yield of crops per acre will increase by 10 to 15 maund (1 maund is about 40kg).”

In Pakistan, many farmers take rice as a cash crop. They use wheat harvesters to harvest rice due to the lack of specialized rice harvesters. Shamsul Islam Khan believes that the use of inappropriate combine harvesters affects rice yield. “This leads to grain loss and increases breakage rate. When specialized rice harvesters are used, the yield will increase, and the quality of crops will improve.” Agricultural technology limits rice production and has an impact on rice processing. Shamsul Islam Khan said that 40-50pc of rice is broken during processing.

In the first five months of this year, Pakistan once became China’s largest rice supplier. The main reason is that China has relaxed its import restrictions on Pakistani rice in recent years. China has approved seven new Pakistani rice exporters to do business in China. So far, the number of Pakistani rice exporters that have got permission to enter the Chinese market has risen to 53.

China adopts a tariff quota policy for corn, wheat, and rice, levying a one percent tariff on imports within the quota and a 65 percent tariff on imports exceeding the quota. In 2021, import tariff quotas are 9.636 million tonnes for wheat, 7.2 million tonnes for corn and 5.32 million tonnes for rice, including 2.66 million tons of long-grain rice. Guo Jiapeng, a businessman engaged in global rice trade in Hong Kong, said. “Pakistani rice is mainly mixed with domestic rice according to a certain proportion to get the best taste.” As the domestic rice harvest season has started, the arrival price of Pakistani rice in Hong Kong this year fell all the way from the highest \$480 per ton to \$310 per ton.

China’s per capita consumption of rice has been declining year by year. Guo Jiapeng, based on years of trade experience, concluded that the rice that Chinese people have for staple food is decreasing at the rate of 3.5pc per year, while the rice used for industrial production is increasing at the rate of 5pc. Among them, broken rice for industrial use is not included in the quota, and the tariff levied on Pakistan’s broken rice export to China is 10pc. International sellers have set their sights on this “blue ocean market”.

If the quota is a threshold, the preferences and habits of Chinese consumers determine the export prospect of Pakistani rice. Through more than ten years of experience in the Chinese market, Shamsul Islam Khan believes that the appearance of rice plays a key role in the Chinese market, “Chinese consumers’ preference for milled and polished rice leads to an increase in breakage.”

Aman Ullah Khan, a Pakistani trader who has lived in China for over ten years, said that one reason for the poor sales of Pakistani rice in China is the characteristics of basmati rice. “Cooking basmati rice is demanding. The texture of cooked rice will be affected when it’s cooked in electric cookers, so the sales are not satisfactory in China.”

This has been made possible by the efforts of Chinese and Pakistani rice traders. Badar uz Zaman, Commercial Counsellor of Pakistani Embassy in Beijing, appreciated, “importers have started using e-commerce platforms to sell Pakistani rice, and Pakistani Embassy and Consulates in China have organized several rice related events.”

“Our exporters start to comprehend Chinese taste for rice, participate and exhibit in different exhibitions and trade fairs actively, and learn about packaging requirements for products sold in the Chinese market,” said Badar uz Zaman.

Sino-Pak agricultural cooperation is all-round. Pakistan is eager not only to export its agricultural products to China, but also to bring Chinese investors with capital and technology to improve its agricultural sector. “Chinese technology can be seen everywhere around the world now.” He has been engaged in cooperation with Chinese companies. “We have made new machines by mixing local machines with those imported from China, Thailand and other countries. We have reached an agreement with our Chinese counterparts to cooperate in setting up a rice processing plant,” said Shamsul Islam Khan.

Before Chinese agricultural machines entered Pakistan, high prices kept farmers away and hindered the development of agricultural mechanization. “In the past, the prices of these machines were quite high. For example, color sorter machines from Japan were extraordinarily expensive. Now we import them from China because of lower cost and good rejection quality,” Shamsul Islam Khan said.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/846340/huge-potential-for-pak-rice-exports-to-china-experts/>

Faiz Ahmed Faiz’s poetry book Nuskha Hye Wafa translated in Chinese

The legendary Pakistani poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz’s book Nuskha Hye Wafa has been translated by Professor Zhang Shixuan, adopted pen name Intekhab Alam, notable Chinese poet, translator and critic of Urdu literature.

According to China Economic Net, special ceremony was held here at the Embassy of Pakistan to launch the Chinese translation of ‘Nuskha Hye Wafa, the complete collection of poetry of Faiz Ahmed Faiz.

The book was specially launched this year to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Pakistan and China.

The event was attended by high-ranking Chinese officials, academicians, mission officers and media representatives.svg%3E

Saleema Hashmi, daughter of Faiz Ahmed Faiz virtually participated in the event. She paid rich tribute to Professor Zhang for translating Nuskha Hye Wafa and expressed hope that it would further deepen the cultural and literary linkages between Pakistan and China.

Professor Zhang paid glowing tribute to Faiz Ahmed Faiz's idealism and poetic genius. He recalled that Faiz had a special association with China which was reflected in three sentimental poems he penned during his visit to China in 1956.

Professor Zhang expressed the hope that the younger Chinese generation would evince a keen interest in Urdu literature and make efforts to further deepen the literary linkages between the two countries. Ambassador Moin ul Haque highlighted that Faiz Ahmed Faiz was a friend and well-wisher of China. Lauding Professor Zhang Shixuan's lifelong efforts for introducing Urdu literature to China, the Ambassador noted that due to the efforts of intellectuals like Professor Zhang, the popularity of Urdu literature was rising in China.

The Ambassador reiterated that the Pakistani Embassy would continue its efforts for mutual translation of literary works of two countries in Chinese and Urdu languages.

“It's a work of his love for the poet, love for Urdu poetry and love for Pakistan-China Friendship. Professor Zhang has contributed to strengthening ties between our two countries.

His contributions in promoting the Urdu language in China are immense and it's invaluable. So, I'm very happy that this year when we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of our diplomatic ties, we've been able to publish this translation of Pakistani great poet,” he added.

Lu Shulin, China's former Ambassador to Pakistan also addressed the event. He appreciated Faiz Ahmed Faiz's poetry and its contribution to the development of Urdu literature.

Zhou Yuan, Professor of Urdu language at Beijing Foreign Studies University read a paper on Faiz's poetry and the Embassy officers recited his famous poems.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/846344/faiz-ahmed-faiz-poetry-book-nuskha-hye-wafa-translated-in-chinese/>

Jang News

گوا در بندر گاہ دنیا کی بہترین پورٹ بننے جا رہی ہے، خالد منصور

وزیر اعظم عمران خان کے معاون خصوصی سی بی کے خالد منصور نے کہا ہے کہ گوا در بندر گاہ دنیا کی بہترین پورٹ بننے جا رہی ہے۔ گوا در میں میڈیا سے گفتگو میں خالد منصور نے کہا کہ ہمیں ایکسپورٹ پر مبنی انڈسٹری چاہیے، گوا در کی اسٹریٹجک اہمیت ہے، یہاں کے کلین سی بی کے سب سے بڑے اسٹیک ہولڈرز ہیں۔

انہوں نے کہا کہ گوا در بندر گاہ دنیا کی بہترین پورٹ بننے جا رہی ہے، جس کے 2 فری زون ہیں، جن میں سرمایہ کار دلچسپی ظاہر کر رہے ہیں۔ معاون خصوصی سی بی کے نے مزید کہا کہ گوا در فری زون میں 2200 ایکڑ زمین مختص ہے، یہاں شارٹ اور لانگ ٹرم منصوبے بنائے جا رہے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ گوا در پورٹ سٹی ایک عظیم منصوبہ ہے، پورا گوا در ٹرانسفارم ہو گا۔ خالد منصور نے یہ بھی کہا کہ موسم گرما سے پہلے گوا در میں پانی کا مسئلہ حل کر دیں گے، بجلی فراہمی کے لیے یہاں کے ہر گھر پر سولر پینل لگائیں گے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ ووکیشنل ٹریننگ انسٹیٹیوٹ مکمل ہو گیا ہے جس میں نوجوانوں کو تربیت دیں گے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1016818>

November 27, 2021

Business Recorder

Pakistan, China agree to improve experience of existing investors

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong called on the Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment (BoI), Muhammad Azfar Ahsan, here on Friday.

Both sides agreed to ameliorate the experience of the existing investors, while reaching out globally for marketing Pakistan as an attractive investment destination.

The endeavours taken together will be pivotal for advancing the second phase of the CPEC that is “Industrial Cooperation”.

Both sides agreed that for achieving the above goal, it is essential to conduct business-to-business events and establish forums enabling the matchmaking of foreign and local businesses, their facilitation and the showcasing of investment opportunities in Pakistan.

For this, both sides discussed the launch of the Pak-China Businesses and Investment Forum (PCBIF), the latter, under the patronage of the BoI, the Chinese embassy and the APCEA will comprise prominent Pakistani and Chinese enterprises.

The said forum will enhance exchanges and communication among the businesses of the two countries; thereby, opening up the avenues of cooperation.

Furthermore, both sides also deliberated on the CPEC Industrial Cooperation Business-to-Business (B2B) Investment Conference, which the BoI is organising in Lahore in December 2021.

The ambassador extended his full support for the conference, as it may serve as a bridge between the private and public sector stakeholders of both countries.

The chairman expressed his full support for the Chinese investment in Pakistan.

“Now is the time to focus on enhancing the Global Outreach of Pakistan, where the first step would be about fostering communication with the potential and existing investors and the second step would consist of following up with them for ensuring quality investment flows to Pakistan,” said the chairman BoI.

The ambassador congratulated the chairman BoI on his appointment and both sides exchanged views on Chinese investment and industrial cooperation in Pakistan.

The Secretary BoI, Fareena Mazhar, and the Project Director CPEC-IC BoI, Asim Ayub, also attended the meeting.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/27/5-page/909209-news.html>

Daily Times

COMSTECH to promote Chinese traditional medicine in Pakistan

COMSTECH (The OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation) agreed to collaborate with China for development and promotion of Chinese traditional medicine in Pakistan.

This was discussed by Coordinator General, COMSTECH, Professor Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Chaudhary and the Ambassador of Peoples Republic of China, Mr. Nong Rong during a meeting on Friday.

Both the dignitaries discussed the avenues of bilateral cooperation in the fields of science and technology between the two nations as well as in the OIC region.

The Ambassador showed keen interest in the development and promotion of Chinese traditional medicine in Pakistan. Prof. Chaudhary appreciated the idea and agreed on a joint venture for the promotion and development of Chinese traditional medicine in collaboration with the Pakistani institutions.

Mr. Nong Rong congratulated Prof. Chaudhary for winning the Mustafa Prize, conferred upon him by the Mustafa Foundation, Iran earlier this year.

The Ambassador presented Prof. Chaudhary won the Guangxi Golden Silk Ball Friendship Award which was announced last year for him.

On the recommendation of Guangxi Normal University, the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang, province of China decided to honor Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Chaudhary with the 2020 Guangxi Golden Silkball Friendship Award for his outstanding contribution to the economic and social development of Guangxi.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/846661/comstech-to-promote-chinese-traditional-medicine-in-pakistan/>

Pakistan-China cooperation in textile industry untapped: CCCT

China and Pakistan are both major producers and exporters of textiles and surely there is a degree of competition between both countries. However, the different stages of industrial development between the two countries also create broad space for closer cooperation, said Zhang Xi'an, Vice President of China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT), in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

Pakistan is one of the world's leading cotton producers, ranking among the top five in terms of yield, with cotton textile products accounting for 40% of its exports. Talking about competition, "Pakistan's cotton industry has obvious edges. Compared with China, Pakistan's home textiles and garment products have certain competitive advantages in the European Union and the United States," Zhang told CEN.

In terms of bilateral cooperation and exchange, “Pakistan and China are perfect partners and there’s a lot that can be done,” remarked Zhang.

According to Pakistani customs statistics, Pakistan’s imports of textiles and apparel from China accounts for 62% of its total imports, which makes China its largest source of textile and garment imports.

As per statistics released by General Administration of Customs of China, China’s imports from Pakistan are mainly cotton yarn and Pakistan ranks third among China’s import sources of cotton yarn.

As a major garment producer, Pakistan’s export of home textiles, clothing and other processed products to the European Union, the United States and other countries and regions has witnessed a rapid growth these years, which has also driven the rapid growth of yarn and fabric imports from China, promoting the cooperation between China and Pakistan in the industrial chain.

Also, China is competitive in brand building, enterprise management, capital operation, talent cultivation, industrial facilities and other aspects, which are of great use for Pakistan’s textile industry. Zhang further said, “the potential of a ‘combination of strengths and weaknesses’ provides opportunities for deepening cooperation between the two countries’ textile industries.”

“China is willing to strengthen investment cooperation with Pakistan in the textile and garment industry,” Zhang pinpointed, adding that collaboration and competition coexist for textile industry in both countries and Sino-Pak coop in textile industry is untapped.

Established in October 1988, China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT), as part of Ministry of Commerce, China, is the largest textile and apparel trade agency both in China and the world.

Its member companies comprise the majority of Chinese textile and apparel enterprises incorporating domestic manufacturers, export and import enterprises as well as jointly-funded operations, the trade volume of which accounts for 70% of the total export and import volume of Chinese textile and apparel industry as a whole.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/846604/pakistan-china-cooperation-in-textile-industry-untapped-ccct/>

CPEC expected to transform regional trading, logistics

CPEC will change the thinking across Pakistan and China in trading, logistics and landscape and a wide range of topics can be covered under collaborative formats for both countries.

MNSUA VC Dr. Asif Ali expressed these views while speaking at a five-day training workshop on Agricultural Disaster and Animal Diseases Prevention and Control for Pakistan” under Administration and Management Institute, MARA, P. R. China in collaboration with the Pakistan Embassy Beijing.

After this stressed corona period new era will open new challenges and opportunities for collaboration and work across the two countries, he said.

He appreciated the already going on partnership of Pakistan and China in the context of CPEC and other funding opportunities. He informed that the non-traditional security threats like food security issues and showed esteemed respect to the Chinese wisdom for policy-making of about these issues.

He added that both the countries should work on the FAO designated issues in the field of livestock and agriculture sciences to control the disaster and there should be joint nexus of human and animal health departments including agriculture under the umbrella of one health.

He also appreciated that there is a long-lasting collaboration between Pakistan and China and MNSUA as a well-established university of South Punjab is already working with the Chinese Academy of science in the SINO-PAK project also arranged an Animal Biotechnology conference in collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Agriculture.

National Science Foundation of China has provided 15 PhD scholarships in the field of Agriculture engineering to conduct research on water conservation and soil fertility and there are many exchange programs for the uplift of faculty capacity building and training with common portfolio and mutual benefits of China and Pakistan, the VC maintained.

Dr Asif showed concerns about climate change which has an impact on crop production as well as livestock farming leading to the food security disaster. In Pakistan, there are small landholders with small livestock farmers which must be shifted towards cooperative farming by adopting the hybrid wheat production, water harvesting technology and should move towards precision agriculture.

On the trading, he said that both the countries should develop strong collaboration in the use of biotechnology in both agriculture and livestock to overcome the fodder shortage by producing silage, hay and adopting germplasm technology to cover the fodder shortage.

“We should develop strong trading collaboration by overcoming the cross-boundary diseases of animal and plants and streamline our self for win-win situation y rightly riding the CPEC.” Prof. Dr. Ahrar Ahmad khan also spoke.

Chairman Vet Sciences Dept, Dr Asif Raza also briefed the participants about the progress of the livestock sector.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/846849/cpec-expected-to-transform-regional-trading-logistics/>

Dawn News

Pakistan-China joint business forum soon

Amin Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China are planning to launch a joint forum to enhance exchanges and establish communication between businesses of the two countries, thereby opening up new avenues of cooperation.

The proposed Pak-China Businesses and Investment Forum will be launched under the patronage of Board of Investment (BoI), the Chinese Embassy and APCEA. Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong and BoI Chairman Muhammad Azfar Ahsan discussed the modalities of the forum during a meeting in Islamabad on Friday.

The BoI chairman expressed his full support for Chinese investment in Pakistan. “Now is the time to focus on enhancing the ‘Global Outreach of Pakistan’, where the first step would be about fostering communication with the potential and existing investors and the second step would consist of following up with them for ensuring quality investment flows to Pakistan,” he said.

Both sides agreed that for achieving the goal it was essential to conduct business-to-business (B2B) events and establish forums enabling the matchmaking of foreign and local businesses, their facilitation and the showcasing of investment opportunities in Pakistan.

Furthermore, both sides also deliberated on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Industrial Cooperation B2B Investment Conference which the BoI is organising in Lahore in December.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1660503>

Pakistan Observer

BRI at 8 and future prospects

Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

WHILE addressing a high-level symposium on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Chinese President Xi Jinping’s has devised a new holistic approach and comprehensive policy for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation.

During his keynote speech President Xi Jinping set out a new vision for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and projected its high-standard, sustainable and beneficial advancement to public well-being and support developing nations in going green and low-carbon in their energy sectors.

President Xi shared that, primarily, China initiated the concept of BRI for cooperation on interconnectivity and created new opportunities for international cooperation.

Xi, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, stressed the importance of striving to attain a higher level of cooperation, higher investment efficiency, higher quality of supply and greater resilience in the growth of the initiative.

China has signed cooperation documents on jointly building the Belt and Road with 172 countries and 32 international organizations since the BRI was proposed by Xi in 2013.

Xi pinpointed that, with the dawn of scientific and technological revolution and industrial revolution has increased fierce competition and climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic

exerting an unprecedented influence on humanity, the international environment for the BRI is becoming increasingly complex.

He urged to take steps to further enhance land, maritime, air transport and internet interconnectivity with steps to deepen cooperation in both traditional and new types of infrastructure programs and to lift the level of alignment in rules and standards.

He stressed the need to have unimpeded trade flows with neighbouring countries, encourage imports of more high-quality products and improve the level of trade and investment liberalization and facilitation.

He upheld the necessity to continue expanding cooperation in three-party or multiparty markets and conduct more cooperation on production capacity adding that participation by multilateral development agencies and financial institutions from developed nations should be encouraged.

In this connection he pinpointed that for the further strengthening of cooperation in new areas such as health, green development, digitalization and innovation, adding that China should continue to do its best to help nations participate in the BRI to fight the pandemic.

He promoted the green transition of developing nations, through information sharing and capacity building in green and low-carbon development and to deepen ecology, environment and climate governance cooperation.

Xi highlighted the need to deepen digital cooperation, develop Silk Road e-commerce and formulate a pattern for digital cooperation, adding that international cooperation in intellectual property rights protection must be scaled up.

He called for heightened efforts to ensure stable industry and supply chains and promote the diversification of sources.

In this context, he suggested to explore the establishment of an all-weather early warning and evaluation service platform for risks faced by its overseas programs to enable timely risk warning and evaluation on a regular basis.

It's been eight years since Chinese President Xi Jinping announced Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in 2013.

He first proposed the Silk Road Economic Belt in Kazakhstan in September 2013. Since then, over 200 cooperation agreements/MoUs have been signed with 172 countries and international organizations.

This resulted in \$9.2 trillion in cumulative trade and \$130 billion in Chinese foreign direct investment in BRI.

Many experts termed BRI as project of the century which provides win-win befitting proposition for the participating countries.

During the past eight years, participating countries have gained sustainable benefits under the BRI, Pakistan has improved its infrastructure, drastically reduced its energy deficit, geared up massive industrialization and generated employment opportunities.

BRI has now become engine of growth and modernization of the economic and developmental infrastructure of many member countries through cooperation, the exchange of benefits and common interests.

Moreover, the BRI has become a popular platform for international cooperation and has continuously supported African countries to improve infrastructure, including transportation and electricity.

It has become icon of health, green development, digital industry. Moreover, the BRI actually breaks the shackles of the western zero sum model and promotes cooperation and collaboration and common prosperity and development.

The lack of responsible American leadership has created an opportunity for China to showcase alternative model of regional as well as international sustainable economic development and greater socio-economic integration in the shape of BRI which consequently supported much-needed multipolar world. It has digital, financial and health dimensions of partnerships.

It plans to create a community of common destiny for mankind by responsibly reforming irreversible globalization processes for a more balanced, equitable and optimal development process and opportunities for all.

BRI is pioneered by the People's Republic of China which is the 2nd largest economy of the world and is much different from the prior model of globalization that was spearheaded by developed nations in the West.

BRI-led international development model is completely different from the West. It is anti-imperialist which economically liberates enslaved and discriminated people through voluntary agreements between all parties.

For the last eight years, BRI has been mutually beneficial for all the involved parties due to which living standards have been further improved among the member countries.

Global South partners as bilateral trade increases, Chinese connectivity investment unlocks those countries' full economic potential and training programs empower their citizens.

Predictions of an African century to accompany the already discussed Asian century are entirely due to the impact of the BRI which merely focus on expanding South-South partnerships and represents a milestone in the history of globalization.

Western countries occupied and colonized almost all non-Western people with a very few exceptions.

To conclude, it has been eight years since its inception and activation, but BRI has already changed the world.

It has become more than a network of comprehensive partnerships led by the world's largest developing nation and nowadays akin to a vision of the future for many.

It inspires the majority of the world's people to work towards a better, more balanced and equitable future. BRI precisely showcases a truly democratic model of socio-economic development.

It seems that China will encourage the construction of green infrastructure in participating countries of the BRI to foster sustainable and high-quality development of the global economy.

China has now focused on promoting green and low-carbon energy in markets along the Belt and Road and developing efficient, clean and renewable energies such as gas, solar, wind power, hydropower and nuclear power.

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

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-at-8-and-future-prospects-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Express Tribune

720MW power project nears completion

Construction of main structures on River Jhelum in final stages

The main structures of the 720MW Karot Hydropower Project (HPP) being constructed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) have almost achieved completion.

The construction of the powerhouse, spillway and dam of the project that is being developed on River Jhelum is in its final stages.

Falling under the jurisdiction of two districts i.e. Rawalpindi and Kotli in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, work on the project started in December 2016 and on November 20 this year, the Karot HPP finally closed the Diversion Tunnels Gates (three in all) to start Stage One of impounding the reservoir. The development has been declared a major milestone achieved in the key project.

The reservoir of the Karot HPP extends 27km upstream up to the Azad Pattan area. Stage One of the reservoir impoundment was initially expected to take around 35 hours to elevate the water level up to 423m from 393m, but the desired level was attained successfully in just 28 hours.

A press release from the project claims that the Karot HPP has the best management practices in place to protect the community, staff and workers.

Moreover, special measures have been taken to protect and conserve the flora and fauna upstream as well as downstream because of the impoundment related impacts.

During the impoundment, emergency response teams were ready to deal with any emergency. The Punjab Rescue 1122 team, accompanied by an ambulance and water rescue vehicles, was also present on the project site.

The response teams were in constant liaison with all emergency organisations operational in the area. An efficient forecasting and warning communication system had been developed under early warning system and emergency action plans. Community safety awareness campaigns were conducted well before the reservoir impoundment, with sessions being conducted in communities and adjacent villages.

Brochures and flyers were distributed, sign boards were installed at all potential locations and consultations and announcements were conducted in all communities whose respective representatives were identified and notified. Community conservation committees formed under the Biodiversity Management Plan were also involved.

The project is implementing a state-of-the-art Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP), in which special measures have been introduced to cater to the low environmental flows downstream and several organisations have been engaged to protect and conserve the aquatic fauna.

Hundreds of staff have been deployed to follow the (fish) catch and release programme, while more staff performs 24/7 surveillance to control illegal fishing. Under the programme, fish trapped in small pools or rocks are rescued and released back into the main river. Meanwhile, the watch and ward staff prevented local communities to catch fish and confiscated several gill nets and other fishing gear to protect the aquatic life.

Karot Power Company Pvt Ltd Chief Executive Officer said that it was the untiring effort of the management and staff that resulted in achieving such an important milestone.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2331220/720mw-power-project-nears-completion>

Nawaiwaqt News

چین کے سفیر کی سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے سربراہ اطفر احسان سے ملاقات

اسلام آباد (نمائندہ خصوصی) چین کے سفیر ایچ ای ٹوئیگ روٹنگ نے سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کے سربراہ اطفر احسان سے ملاقات کی جس میں پاکستان میں چینی سرمایہ کاری اور صنعتی تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال کیا۔ چیئر مین بی او آئی نے پاکستان میں چینی سرمایہ کاری کی مکمل حمایت کا اظہار کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اب وقت آ گیا ہے کہ پاکستان کی گلوبل رسائی کو بڑھانے پر توجہ دی جائے، جہاں پہلا قدم ممکنہ اور موجودہ سرمایہ کاروں کے ساتھ رابطے کو فروغ دینے کے بارے میں ہو گا اور دوسرا مرحلہ پاکستان میں معیاری سرمایہ کاری کے بہاؤ کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے ان کی پیروی پر مشتمل ہو گا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-11-27/page-3/detail-13>

November 28, 2021

Business Recorder

Chinese firm to relocate high-tech industrial units to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Chinese firm Dongguan HAOTIAN Testing Equipment has expressed willingness to relocate their industrial units of high-tech testing equipment to Pakistan in the

second phase of industrialization under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said its chairman.

Chinese Company the Dongguan HAOTIAN Testing Equipment Co Ltd would set up a testing equipment plants in Pakistan and would transfer high-tech technology in this sector, said Yucheng Yang, Chairman of DHTE group.

He further said that Pakistan and China are brother countries. We plan to set up the factories in Pakistan in very near future, and comprehensively carry out the corresponding technical personnel training so that more manufacturing fields can access our products, and shorten the technological gap in Pakistan.

Yucheng, Chairman of the Dongguan HAOTIAN Testing Equipment Co Ltd further said that Pakistan is a friendly country and the Pakistani government has been dedicated to providing more facilities for Chinese enterprises, which is significant for promoting more Chinese industries to Pakistan.

In his exclusive interview, he introduced his company that Dongguan HAOTIAN Testing Equipment Co Ltd, established in 2013, and located in the Chang Ping town, Dongguan city, Guangdong, is a professional commitment to the world's latest technology reliability test skill research and climate environment simulation equipment's research and development, manufacturing, and sales of science and technology innovation national high-tech enterprise. Covers an area of 8,000 square meters, which the dormitory and canteen cover an area of 1,000 square meters, the leisure place covers an area of 500 square meters, the warehouse covers 600 square meters, office building covers the 2,200 square meters, production factory has 4,500 square meters practical area. Currently, there are about 200 employees, including 80 people with bachelor's degrees and above, and more than 120 staff with a college degree or above accounting for 50 percent of the employees.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/28/2-page/909273-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistani jewellery, gemstones gaining foothold in China: CEN

Pakistan's jewellery has entered China for years, and the reasonable price has always been one of the main selling points.

Now, by building brands and improving design and service, Pakistani jewellery is trying to take up a slice of the high-end market in China, reported China Economic Net.

Earlier in this month, Pakistani gemstones glittering at the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE) were appreciated by Chinese visitors. They were impressed by the exquisitely designed high-end jewellery from Pakistan.

According to a brand owner, after participating in the last year's CIIE, the sales of his store grew 40-50% on a year-on-year basis, confirming CIIE's great boost to foreign businesses, and more significantly, the expanding recognition of Pakistani jewellery in China.

Facilitated by China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) Phase II, Pakistan's gemstone export tariff to China dropped from 17-32% to zero.

In the first three quarters of 2021, as per China Customs, Pakistan's exports of raw gemstones to China grew 9.6 times compared to the same period of 2020. Meanwhile, the country's total exports to China skyrocketed to \$2.5 billion, a strong year-on-year growth of 77%. —TLTP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-jewellery-gemstones-gaining-foothold-in-china-cen/>

The Nation

Pak-China coop in textile industry untapped, says Zhang Xian

BEIJING - China and Pakistan are both major producers and exporters of textiles and surely there is a degree of competition between both countries.

However, the different stages of industrial development between the two countries also create broad space for closer cooperation, noted Zhang Xian, Vice President of China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT).

Pakistan is one of the world's leading cotton producers, ranking among the top five in terms of yield, with cotton textile products accounting for 40 percent of its exports.

Talking about competition, "Pakistan's cotton industry has obvious edges. Compared with China, Pakistan's home textiles and garment products have certain competitive advantages in the European Union and the United States," Zhang told China Economic Net (CEN). In terms of bilateral cooperation and exchange, "Pakistan and China are perfect partners and there's a lot that can be done," remarked Zhang.

According to Pakistani customs statistics, Pakistan's imports of textiles and apparel from China accounts for 62 percent of its total imports, which makes China its largest source of textile and garment imports. As per statistics released by General Administration of Customs of China, China's imports from Pakistan are mainly cotton yarn and Pakistan ranks third among China's import sources of cotton yarn.

As a major garment producer, Pakistan's export of home textiles, clothing and other processed products to the European Union, the United States and other countries and regions has witnessed a rapid growth these years, which has also driven the rapid growth of yarn and fabric imports from China, promoting the cooperation between China and Pakistan in the industrial chain.

Also, China is competitive in brand building, enterprise management, capital operation, talent cultivation, industrial facilities and other aspects, which are of great use for Pakistan's textile industry. Zhang further said, "the potential of a combination of strengths and weaknesses

provides opportunities for deepening cooperation between the two countries' textile industries.” “China is willing to strengthen investment cooperation with Pakistan in the textile and garment industry,” Zhang pinpointed, adding that collaboration and competition coexist for textile industry in both countries and Sino-Pak coop in textile industry is untapped.

Established in October 1988, China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT), as part of Ministry of Commerce, China, is the largest textile and apparel trade agency both in China and the world.

Its member companies comprise the majority of Chinese textile and apparel enterprises incorporating domestic manufacturers, export and import enterprises as well as jointly-funded operations, the trade volume of which accounts for 70 percent of the total export and import volume of Chinese textile and apparel industry as a whole.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-28/page-8/detail-4>

November 29, 2021

Business Recorder

Sino-Pakistan Institute of Electric Power unveiled

BEIJING: The online opening ceremony of Sino-Pakistan Silk Road Institute of Electric Power was held simultaneously on Wednesday at Zhengzhou Electric Power College (ZEPC), China and the University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore, Pakistan.

This Institute of Electric Power aims to strengthen the communications and researches in Electric power technology between ZEPC and UET, Lahore, China Economic Net (CEN) reported. A series of activities will be carried out, including teachers' mutual visits, students' exchanges, training programs and online people-to-people contacts.

“The Institute of Electric Power will boost the people-to-people exchanges of the vocational education among countries and regions participating in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI),” said Yang Jianhua, president of ZEPC when attending the online signing ceremony of the Institute of Electric Power on November 24.

In terms of talents training, ZEPC and UET Lahore has signed a cooperation memorandum in September 2021, aiming to help the energy development in Pakistan.”

In addition, ZEPC and UET Lahore also organized online exchanges event for students to know Chinese traditional culture and Pakistani culture.

ZEPC and UET Lahore won the first prize at the International Invitational Competition of Intelligent Power Supply and Distribution Technology, which is under the 2021 Belt & Road and BRICS Skills Development and Technology Innovation Competition held online and offline on 15-17 October 2021.

The 2021 Skills Competition has attracted over 200 competitors of 49 teams from China, Thailand, Cambodia and Pakistan.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/11/29/4-page/909389-news.html>

Daily Times

China, Pakistan academic forum held for scientific and economic cooperation

The 6th Academic Forum on China-Pakistan Scientific, Technical and Economic Cooperation held here, according to Gwadar Pro.

“This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Pak-China diplomatic ties and there has been a renewed focus on cooperation in the fields of higher education and science and technology.

Realizing the importance of higher education, science and technology, and innovation, both countries had taken great initiatives or cooperation in these fields,” Moin ul Haque, Pakistani Ambassador to China highlighted on the 6th Academic Forum on China-Pakistan Scientific, Technical and Economic Cooperation under the “Belt and Road” Initiative held on Saturday.

In 1976, Pakistan and China signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation and so far under this agreement, 18 protocols of bilateral scientific and technological corporations have been implemented.

Now both sides are working on formulating the 19th protocol. The ambassador explained that the 19th protocol would focus on emerging technologies in the areas of smart agriculture, nanotechnology, environmental protection, energy conservation, and storage system design.

As CPEC moves to industrialization and high-quality development, China-Pakistan cooperation in the fields of higher education and science and technology assumes greater importance and will have a new dimension. The Ambassador suggested both countries intensify institutional linkages between academic and research institutions to do focus research and provide guidance to industries businessmen on engaging and emerging trends in technologies.

Xie Guoxiang, Minister Counselor, Embassy of China in Pakistan underlined that scientific, technological, and economic cooperation and exchanges are an important part of omni-directional, multi-field and in-depth exchanges and cooperation between China and Pakistan.

The intergovernmental scientific and technological cooperation mechanisms including CPEC JWG on science and technology have guided the direction and gathered strength for deepening cooperation in scientific and technological innovation between the two countries.

Xie Guoxiang further maintained that “China will do its best to firmly support Pakistan to embark on a development path in line with its national conditions and firmly support Pakistan’s grand vision of realizing a ‘new Pakistan’.”

Dr. Talat Shabbir, China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC), Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad (ISSI), and Dr. Di Yuna, Executive Director of BTBU PSC, signed the memorandum of academic cooperation on behalf of both sides.

Wang Zihai, Honorary Investment Counselor of Pakistan, President of Pakistan China Chamber of Commerce and Industry mentioned that CPEC is not only the game changer for Pakistan but also a major project to change the regional situation. Mutual benefit and win-win results can be achieved by actively attracting other SCO member states to participate in CPEC construction.

As part of the forum, BRI Youth Forum has received a total of 45 contributions from postgraduates from 24 universities/institutions. Excellent papers are selected by the evaluation experts, and 15 students are approved to give speeches at the forum.

The forum was guided by the Department of International Cooperation, China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), Beijing Association for Science and Technology (BAST), Embassy of China in Pakistan, Embassy of Pakistan Beijing, and jointly organized by Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU), Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/847441/china-pakistan-academic-forum-held-for-scientific-and-economic-cooperation/>

Dawn News

Dhabeji Industrial Zone project hits snags

Syed Irfan Raza

ISLAMABAD: The recently awarded contract for the Dhabeji Industrial Zone (DIZ) project that falls under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is in the doldrums after being challenged before a court of law.

The Sindh High Court will take up on Monday (today) a petition submitted to it challenging that the rules of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) had not been followed in the award of the contract.

The provincial government claims that since DIZ has not been given the status of SEZ so far, the rules of special economic zones do not apply to it. The CPEC Authority also had submitted an official statement to the high court, expressing satisfaction over the bidding process and claiming that no irregularity had been committed in the award of the contract.

According to a document of the Sindh Economic Zones Management Company (SEZMC), however, the DIZ will be declared a special economic zone (SEZ).

The multibillion DIZ, which will be developed under Public-Private Partnership by the successful bidder Zahir Khan & Brothers (ZKB) and the Sindh government, is part of CPEC and may be given the status of a special economic zone later.

The project, spread over 1,500 acres, is being executed jointly by the Centre, Sindh government and CPEC Authority with an aim to make it a hub of major economic activities in the province.

The Sindh government received bids for the project in February this year. However, after a two-month evaluation, one of the bids was declared 'technically unfit'. The provincial government then went for re-bidding in which ZKB emerged successful. Subsequently, the government issued a Letter of Award (LoA) to the winning firm.

However, the award of contract was challenged before the court that would take up the matter on Nov 29 (today).

Earlier at a meeting held on Nov 23, Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed the hope that all economic zones, including Dhabeji Industrial Zone, would be completed at the earliest and economic activity started there.

He, however, lashed out at the Sindh government for the slow pace of development work in the province.

When contacted, Sindh government's spokesman Saeed Ghani said he was not fully aware of the project's details, but believed that there was nothing wrong in the award of the contract.

Meanwhile, a senior SEZMC official said the provincial government had ensured transparency and fair play in the award as the successful bidder had quoted Rs16.25 billion while the second lowest bid was of Rs13.75bn.

He said the total income to be generated from the project was Rs32bn and the successful bidder would have to pay Rs16bn to the provincial government in five to seven years. The remaining amount would be paid to the provincial government by selling plots in the economic zone, he added.

The official believed that like 17 other industrial zones in the country, the DIZ had so far not attained the status of SEZ but the provincial government would apply for it later.

"Allama Iqbal Economic Zone in Lahore was established in 2006 but got the SEZ status in 2016," he said, explaining that economic zones did not get the SEZ status right away.

The official said unfortunately the court had been misled by the petitioner, who was claiming that rules of SEZs had not been followed while awarding contract for DIZ.

Meanwhile, it has been learnt that due to litigation, the DIZ project is being delayed as the successful bidder has still not signed the agreement with the Sindh government even a month after the issuance of the LoA.

Under the contract, the successful firm will undertake designing, financing, construction, operation and maintenance of DIZ on a build, own, operate and transfer basis.

The DIZ is located on the N-5 National Highway, close to Bin Qasim and Karachi ports as well as about 700km from Gwadar Port, which connects the Central Asia Republics, Middle East, Europe and Africa. According to the layout plan, the DIZ will have 130 heavy, 145 medium and

211 light industries, 82 warehouses, commercial area, office area, grid stations, roads, lanes, mosques, recreation areas, captive power generation facility and PTCL/SSGC/K-Electric intake points.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1660813/dhabeji-industrial-zone-project-hits-snags>

Pakistan Observer

Focus on SEZs

FOR rapid industrialisation and to address economic woes of the country success of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), being established under multi billion dollars China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is undoubtedly a must and it is a matter of great satisfaction that Special Assistant to the PM for CPEC Authority Khalid Mansoor is working tirelessly to make them operational at the earliest.

In a recent podcast interview, Khalid Mansoor gave a comprehensive overview of the entire CPEC project and appeared optimistic about prospects of these SEZs.

Having a vast experience in corporate sector, Khalid Mansoor is amongst the few people who has not only watched closely the industrial development of China that took place over the years but also worked with Chinese companies on some of the leading projects especially in power sector under the CPEC.

This is the reason that his arrival in the CPEC Authority has greatly restored confidence of Chinese investors. Now there is an increased level of activity on corridor related projects.

The Chinese companies are also closely engaging with concerned authorities in Pakistan and recently a comprehensive briefing on business opportunities and incentives over investment was given to them by Khalid Mansoor and Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar.

As regards the SEZs, the Special Assistant said a facilitation centre would be established to offer one window operation to Chinese investors.

Certainly the more ease and facilitation is extended to them and obstacles removed in their ways, the more Chinese companies will pour their money in the SEZs and establish diverse export oriented industries.

To provide job opportunities to growing population and address the issues of trade deficit and reliance on international lenders, this golden opportunity in the form of SEZs is knocking at our doors and we have no doubt in saying that this will be grabbed when devoted and capable persons like at Khalid Mansoor are at the helm of affairs.

We suggest that road shows should be conducted abroad and business communities there engaged to attract their investments in these zones which offer competitive incentives including 10-year tax exemption.

<https://pakobserver.net/focus-on-sezs/>

The Nation

Pak-China academic forum stresses institutional research for progress

ISLAMABAD - Realizing the importance of higher education, science and technology, and innovation, Pakistan and China have had taken great initiatives and cooperation in these fields that would help a lot in bringing sustainable development as well as betterment in the life of people of both the countries.

These views were expressed by Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque, on the occasion of 6th Academic Forum on China-Pakistan Scientific, Technical and Economic Cooperation under the "Belt and Road" Initiative held in Beijing Gwadar Pro reported yesterday.

"This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of Pak-China diplomatic ties and there has been a renewed focus on cooperation in the fields of higher education and science and technology," Moin said.

In 1976, Pakistan and China signed an agreement on scientific and technical cooperation and so far under this agreement, 18 protocols of bilateral scientific and technological corporations have been implemented.

Now both the sides are working on formulating the 19th protocol. The ambassador explained that the 19th protocol would focus on emerging technologies in the areas of smart agriculture, nanotechnology, environmental protection, energy conservation, and storage system design.

As CPEC moves to industrialization and high-quality development, the China-Pakistan cooperation in the fields of higher education and science and technology assumes greater importance and will have a new dimension.

The Ambassador suggested both the countries to intensify institutional linkages between academic and research institutions to focus on research and provide guidance to industries on engaging and emerging trends in technologies.

Xie Guoxiang, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of China in Pakistan, underlined that scientific, technological, and economic cooperation and exchanges are an important part of omni-directional, multi-field and in-depth exchanges and cooperation between China and Pakistan.

The inter-governmental scientific and technological cooperation mechanisms including CPEC JWG on science and technology have guided the direction and gathered strength for deepening cooperation in scientific and technological innovation between the two countries.

Xie Guoxiang further maintained that "China will do its best to firmly support Pakistan to embark on a development path in line with its national conditions and firmly support Pakistan's grand vision of realizing a 'new Pakistan'."

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<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-29/page-4/detail-2>

The News

China, Pakistan 6th Academic forum held

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<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=29746>

November 30, 2021

Dawn News

Senate body concerned over slow progress on CPEC in Gwadar

Khaleeq Kiani

GWADAR: Amid ongoing protests in Gwadar over lack of civic facilities, the Senate Standing Committee on Planning and Development has expressed concern over the sluggish progress on projects related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the port city.

The committee led by PPP Senator Salim Mandviwalla had a rare, guided visit to Gwadar for an on-site meeting on CPEC-related projects and observed that progress on infrastructure and basic facilities had not met expectations so far and was not enough to lure local and international investors.

This was reinforced by General Officer Commander (GOC) Special Security Division South Major General Inayat Hussain, who testified before the meeting that next summer would be real hell in Gwadar if immediate steps were not taken to address basic issues confronting the people of Gwadar.

“Even this investment will roll back, please cut through the red tape and ensure gas and electricity. Next summer will be a real hell and create problems,” Mr Inayat warned and informed the senate committee that the people of Gwadar were holding a continuous sit-in. “We need electricity before next summer,” he said.

Senator Mandviwalla said that water, gas and electricity were big challenges for the city and, as warned by GOC Inayat, unless these issues were addressed the difficulties of the people of Gwadar would not subside and their living standards would not improve.

He asked the government to seriously focus on providing basic facilities and hoped that the commitment shown by the federal and provincial governments as well as by the CPEC authority would resolve the problems, address red tape and improve water distribution system to resolve such issues at the earliest.

Senator Palwasha Khan said the progress on paper stood in total contrast to the ground reality. She said on paper large financial allocations had been made but these were not noticeable on ground except a few buildings and the local people were living in sub-human lives at a time they learn day in and out that large amounts were being spent in their name.

Senator Shafique Tareen said the only thing to notice around was the new building of a technical and vocational institute which neither had any syllabus, nor training modules or the teachers. The explanation is that factories would be set up first and syllabus would be designed as per requirement of those factories.

During the meeting, Iqbal Z. Ahmad, chairman of Associated Group that controls Pakistan Gasport LNG Terminal and Jamshoro Joint Venture Limited, complained that the Gwadar Port

Authority was not issuing no-objection certification for a virtual pipeline and barge-mounted floating storage unit at Gwadar that could address gas and electricity shortage of Gwadar residents and investors within seven months.

He said his company was capable of delivering gas and electricity in the port city within seven months if facilitated by the government and reported that he was ready to provide 300 million cubic feet per day of LNG in cylinders to the people at half the cost of LPG.

The project will have annual turnover of \$1bn and generate economic activity of over \$10bn. GPA Chairman Naseer Kashani challenged some of the facts, saying the GPA originally had an agreement with Daewoo Corporation of Korea which planned a virtual pipeline and also had a licence from Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1661017/senate-body-concerned-over-slow-progress-on-cpec-in-gwadar>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China sign MoU to deepen tourism cooperation, exchanges

Pakistan and China on Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding on expansion of bilateral tourism, exchanges and cooperation.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque and Chinese Vice-Minister of Culture and Tourism Zhang Xu signed the MoU from both sides at an august signing ceremony held at the Chinese Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Beijing.

The event was also attended by senior officials from the two countries and media representatives.

The MoU signing was a part of activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries being celebrated this year.

The MoU envisages upgrading tourism cooperation between Pakistan and China as outlined in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Long Term Plan.

As per the MoU, both sides would enhance their bilateral tourism cooperation in a coordinated manner for the sustainable development of tourism industry.

The MoU seeks to cover all aspects of tourism cooperation from policy formulation and institutional support to development of tourism products and expanding business to business (B2B) linkages.

It would particularly assist Pakistan to upgrade its touristic infrastructure and facilities and develop a sustainable ecosystem for spurring domestic and international tourists' inflows.

Both sides have also decided to establish a Joint Working Group to implement the MoU and initiate specific projects in the two countries with mutual consultation. — APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-sign-mou-to-deepen-tourism-cooperation-exchanges/>

The Express Tribune

Bumper rice crop likely to drive up exports

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security Syed Fakhar Imam has said that the country can fetch \$4.75 billion in foreign exchange – 125% or \$2.64 billion higher than the previous year — by exporting the surplus produce of the bumper rice output recorded this year.

“The country has achieved a bumper crop of over nine million tonnes as against 8.4 million tonnes last year due to policy interventions and incentivizing the local farming communities,” the minister said while addressing a news conference on Monday.

Imam said, “As domestic consumption stood at 3.5 million tonnes last year, carryover stocks of 2.5 million tonnes augment the local rice output to 11.5 million tonnes.”

He predicted a surplus of about eight million tonnes for next year.

Pakistan has a potential to fetch \$4.75 billion by exporting its surplus produce, he said citing a market survey. “Last year, the country earned \$2.11 billion by exporting rice, including basmati and others, which contributed to enhancing the income of growers and encouraged them to grow more.”

Despite having a huge export potential, Pakistan was mostly exporting rice to five countries, including China, UAE, Afghanistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during the last three to five years, he said, adding that efforts would be made to enhance rice exports to other countries – Africa and Latin America.

The minister said that Pakistan could achieve the export target of \$4.75 billion by overcoming the challenges and to achieve this task, coordinated efforts of both public and private sectors were needed. “It will also help in sustainable economic growth and development of the farming community.”

Imam said government’s efforts were bringing significant results as output of all major crops like wheat, rice, cotton, maize and sugarcane had touched historic highs during the last three years, adding that over 87 million tonnes of sugarcane output was also expected during the current season.

Due to provision of subsidy on cotton crop, cotton arrival during the current month reached 6.8 million bales as against 4.1 million bales during the same period last year, he said. “The cotton production target will be achieved, which will have a positive impact on the allied sectors as well.

“We are importing about 90% of edible oil to meet local requirements while the enhanced output of cotton will help produce cotton seed oil and reduce reliance on imported oil,” he added.

To a question, Imam said that sugar prices were witnessing a declining trend and they would further reduce as the crushing season had begun.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2331731/bumper-rice-crop-likely-to-drive-up-exports?amp=1>

The Nation

Pakistan, China to take friendship to new heights: Peng Zengwu

Lahore - China-Pakistan will continue to work together to take their friendship to new heights. The People's Republic of China has stood by Pakistan in every difficult time and this loving and respectful relationship will last forever. China wants Pakistan's prosperity and CPEC is a guarantor of prosperity. Acting Consul General of Chinese Consulate in Lahore Peng Zengwu said this in his address at an award ceremony.

The ceremony was held under the auspices of Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Lahore. Head of Political Section Du Yue and others attended this ceremony. At the ceremony, the personalities who have rendered outstanding services in the field of Pakistan-China friendship were awarded the "Friendship Award 2021". Acting Consul General Peng Zhengwu presented the award to Nawa-i-Waqt Group's Director General Operations Lieutenant Col (ret'd) Syed Ahmad Nadeem Qadri (Medal of Distinction) and Senior Journalist Khawar Abbas Sandhu.

Peng Zengwu said Iron Brothers' friendship is sweeter than honey, higher than Himalayas and deeper than ocean and highlighted its benefits, achievements under CPEC and benefits to the people of both countries. This friendship is an example to the whole world.

Speaking on the occasion, Col (ret'd) Syed Ahmad Nadeem Qadri said, "It is an honor for me to receive the award from the Chinese Consulate General in Lahore. Under the leadership of Editor/Managing Director Rameeza Majid Nizami, The Nation/ Nawa-i-Waqt Group will continue to their role to strengthen Sino-Pak friendship.

South Asia has always been a centre of regional as well as global connectivity. People's Republic of China being an important part of Asia has always been on forefront and has undertaken concrete measures for ensuring regional stability having positive implications for global security. China under the dynamic leadership of President Xi Jinping has not only achieved remarkable rejuvenation of Chinese nation but has also contributed towards peaceful regional co-existence. China's Belt and Road Initiative is one such testimony of ensuring economic prosperity across the region. It aims at sustainable economic growth through synergetic application of shared complementarities of partner countries.

He said Pakistan and China have an everlasting strategic relationship which is growing even stronger with each passing day. Both countries believe in national integrities and are contributing their zeal for regional prosperity. "We believe that these common goals and objectives are the center of gravity of our strategic partnership. To conclude, I pray that this bond between Pakistan and China may remain united forever and we in our humble capacities will keep on contributing towards strengthening this bond which is eyeing not only for betterment of the region but also for maintaining peace and tranquility across the globe.

Speaking on the occasion, Khawar Abbas Sandhu said that it was a matter of pride for him to receive the “Friendship Award 2021” from the Chinese Consulate in Lahore which further encouraged him to utilize his potential for Pak-China friendship. He said that as a journalist, he would continue to use his journalistic abilities to safeguard all the common goals and interests between the two countries, including CPEC and national security. Three years ago, during a special course in China, he wrote articles on more than 20 topics, including Chinese wedding culture and Chinese opera, to highlight China’s everlasting development and Chinese culture.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-30/page-2/detail-5>

Qamar Khan awarded Pak-China Friendship Award 2021 by China

LAHORE - Pakistani businessman Qamar Khan, who has been instrumental in bringing Chinese investment to Pakistan, has been awarded Pak-China Friendship Award 2021 by China.

The award ceremony was held in Lahore in which Chinese Consul General Ping Xingwa presented Pak-China Friendship Award 2021 to Qamar Khan.

Speaking on the occasion, Chinese Consulate General Ping Xingwa said that the massive Chinese investment in Pakistan is a testament to Pak-China friendship. Pakistan and China are not only neighbors but also brotherly countries.

Qamar Khan thanked China and said that it was an honor for him to be given the Pak-China Friendship Award 2021 by the Chinese government. “I am grateful to the Chinese government,” Qamar Khan said, adding that a large scale Chinese investment has come to Pakistan which has provided employment to millions of people in Pakistan and has also generated a lot of foreign exchange for the national treasury.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-30/page-9/detail-5>

Chinese Language Dept organises ‘China Culture Day’ at NUML

ISLAMABAD - The department of Chinese language and literature, National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Monday organised “China Culture Day” under the supervision of Dean (FoL) and HoD Chinese. The event was comprised of different cultural performances including Chinese songs, Tea culture, Chopsticks competition, Flute, Dragon show, Ribbon show, Tongue twisters etc. The Dean FoL highlighted the deep rooted Pak-China relations, its rich and ancient history and the future prospects. She talked about Mao Zedong inspiring Nation making theory and the existing enduring, promoting and co-curricular friendly organisational behaviour towards the organisation development. All the students and faculty members of the department participated and made the occasion successful and memorable. It was applauded by the guests and audience.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-11-30/page-14/detail-2>

