



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

October 01-15, 2021

A pilot project of PICS

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October 01, 2021

Daily Times

Pace of CPEC projects will be expedited: PM

Prime Minister Imran Khan said the pace of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects would be accelerated as some were delayed after the emergence of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Matiari to Lahore 600KV transmission line in Islamabad on Thursday, the prime minister said that losses would be limited to four per cent on the line.

He pointed out that the pandemic had stalled communications in many areas, led to travel bans and affected supply chains across the world.

PM Imran explained that due to it, difficulties were also faced in the execution of CPEC projects; however, the setback was “temporary”.

He expressed the hope that with vaccinations against the coronavirus picking up pace across the world, the coming waves of the pandemic would not be as intense as earlier ones and in turn, the work on CPEC projects would not be affected but expedited instead.

He also said during the ceremony that the country’s power distribution system was very old, especially in the northern areas of Pakistan, and this remains the main hindrance in providing those areas with electricity.

Earlier in September, a Senate panel had expressed concern over the slow pace of development on the CPEC and dissatisfaction being expressed by Chinese companies over the negligible progress in the last three years.

However, Federal Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Minister Asad Umar had dismissed the reports a day after the Senate body’s meeting.

He had rejected a perception that CPEC had been slowed down over the past three years and claimed that major work on the corridor projects had been completed during the tenure of the current PTI government.

The Matiari-Lahore transmission line is one of the projects completed under the CPEC, dubbed “state-of-the-art” by PM Imran in his address.

He said the project was officially commenced in 2013, but work on it had not been started until 2018.

“On this occasion, I congratulate all those involved in the speedy completion of this project over a course of three years,” he added.

The prime minister said the project would help minimise line losses.

“One per cent line loss costs us billions of rupees ... and it is one of the reasons we are unable to meet electricity demand and end the problem of load shedding,” he said, adding that this 886-kilometre-long transmission line would help address these issues.

In this connection, he further said that the scope of initiatives taken under the CPEC had now been expanded to cover electricity transmission.

“We started with [building] roads and power generation [schemes], and now have expanded the CPEC to further cover electricity transmission,” he said. “In the next phase, we will move towards industrialisation, which will help with wealth creation and eventually, the repayment of debt.”

Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said that the Matiari-Lahore transmission line would strengthen the safety and reliability of the grid system, optimize energy distribution of the entire country and lower electricity costs.

“CPEC up to now has brought an investment of \$25.4 billion and created 75,000 job opportunities. The project has made a significant contribution to the socio-economic development of Pakistan,” Rong added.

Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar said the present government started construction work on this landmark project.

“The project is now ready for electricity transmission after a testing phase of six months. Other projects under CPEC will also be completed on time,” the minister said, expressing the resolve to address the country’s power-related issues.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/823602/pace-of-cpec-projects-will-be-expedited-pm/>

Sharif family’s corruption has nothing to do with CPEC: Fawad

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Thursday lashed out at the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) for linking its corruption in road infrastructure projects with the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) saying “It is beyond comprehension.”

“As far as China Pakistan Economic Corridor is concerned, I am unable to understand as to why the PML-N wanted to link China with its corruption. The corruption of Sharif family will be investigated at all the cost as it has nothing to do with CPEC,” the minister told the launching ceremony of a book written by a Sports Analyst Dr Nauman Niaz.

He said the PML-N leadership was trying to link China and state institutions with their corruption in the hope to get relief in the investigation be carried out in the project of roads constructing during the era of the previous government.

They would never let to succeed in their plan, he said while accusing the PML-N of a plot to hide behind the institutions to escape accountability in roads projects. In this week, the government

had decided to take action against those who were involved in the alleged corruption committed in the road infrastructure project during the past PML-N's government tenure, he added.

The minister expressed the hope that Ahsan Iqbal and PML-N would avoid such a negative attitude towards CPEC which was an initiative of national importance.

Ahsan Iqbal should first decide who was running the affairs of the PML-N, he added.

He should first get a vote of trust from the PML-N, and then ask others for a vote of confidence, Fawad said while responding to query.

Prime Minister Imran Khan not only enjoyed the confidence of the National Assembly, but also of entire nation which voted him into power, Fawad said, adding the prime minister would continue to rule on the basis of the people's trust in his leadership.

About importance of cricket in Pakistan, he said the game was key to unite people in Pakistan from Karachi to Peshawar and mountains of Gilgit Baltistan to Gwadar's ocean.

"Our hearts beat with [national] team and [its] players," he said while recalling massive financial losses incurred to the PTV sports channel and a 'demoralizing effect' on the nation in the wake of cancellation of cricket tours by the foreign teams including New Zealand.

"We were in Dushanbe and the prime minister was about to deliver his speech when I was given a message that the Prime Minister be informed about the New Zealand cricket team's wrap up [of tour]. At that point of time, me, Shah Mahmood (Foreign Minister) and Moeed Yusuf (National Security Advisor) were unanimous that the prime minister should not be told the news until he concludes his speech, otherwise it will have its effect," Fawad said while describing the impact of cricket in national affairs.

Lauding the efforts of Nauman Niaz for Pakistan's cricket, the minister said after serving the PCB, he became a journalist and now was hosting 'Game on Hai' show which had quite impressive viewership across the country.

"The library you have created and the book you have written, I will like to thank you on that on behalf of our people," he said while expressing the hope that there would be a grand opening of his [Nauman] initiative after a collaboration with the PCB so that common people could also reap its benefits.

The minister said the library had every collection which the cricketing world loved including bats of best players of the world and the balls which used in the Aussies cricket series.

He announced an exhibition in future to promote the library and congratulated him on such marvelous initiative.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib also congratulated Nauman Niaz over launching of his book which had preserved history of cricket in itself.

He described Nauman Niaz as an encyclopedia of cricketing information.

Managing Director PTV Aamir Manzoor, CEO ARY TV Salman Iqbal, Chief Selector Muhammad Waseem, Rashid Latif, Umer Gul, Yasir Hameed and Muhammad Akram also spoke on the occasion.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/823582/sharif-familys-corruption-has-nothing-to-do-with-cpec-fawad/>

IIRMR organises photo exhibition for China’s National Day

Chinese Acting Consul General Lahore Peng Zhengwu has said that IIRMR’s picture exhibition is a unique opportunity to understand the tenacity of Pak-China relations at 70th diplomatic juncture and visualise the significance of China National Day.

On one-day picture exhibition organised by Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR) at Alhamra Arts Council Lahore, he said that 1st October marks 72th Anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China known as China National Day. Exhibition was participated by IIRMR Chairman Muhammad Mehdi, President Yasir Habib Khan, PU Pakistan Study Centre Associate Prof Amjad Magsi, Publisher Waheed Kamboh, Radio Pakistan Kareem, Umer Farooqi, Hassan Siddique and city dignitaries.

Peng said, “This exhibition features Pakistani perspectives on China that opens a window for the Pakistani people to know more about China, as well as Chinese perspectives on Pakistan that reflect the friendly sentiments of Chinese people for our Pakistani brothers,” he said.

Institute of International Relations and Media Research Chairman Muhammad Mehdi and President Yasir Habib Khan said that the exhibition is an effort to unleash a new avenue of friendship offering public to feel Sino-Pak fraternity through pictorial perspective.

Highlight CPEC as the centerpiece of Pak-China relations, they said the game-changing project is completely transparent and free from corruption. “If some forces and powers at helm of affairs within the country or outside try to smear CPEC under the grab of political vendetta or vested interests, they will be called into question by the people of Pakistan,” they opined.

They termed photo exhibition as meaningful part of cultural exchange and cooperation between China and Pakistan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/823550/iirmr-organises-photo-exhibition-for-chinas-national-day/>

Dunya News

Meeting reviews projects under newly formed CPEC JWG

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar presided over a review meeting of the newly constituted Working Groups on Science and Information Technology Cooperation at the 10th Joint Coordination Committee (JCCI) on Friday.

Minister for Science & Technology Shibli Faraz, Minister for IT Amin Ul Haq, Minister for IT KP Atif Khan, SAPM on CPEC Khalid Mansoor, Executive Director CPEC, and representatives from Ministries attended the meeting.

In the meeting, the four projects including Establishment of the China Pakistan Joint Research Center on Earth Science; Acquisition of Oceanographic Research Vessel; Establishment of the Institute of Smart Semiconductor and Establishment of Silicon Solar Cells; and “PV Panel Fabrication Facility of 500 MW/annum which were made part of CPEC in the 10th JCC meeting were reviewed and discussed in detail. Federal Minister Asad Umar directed that action plans for these projects be finalized within 30 days and submitted at the earliest.

Shibli Faraz said that with the joint efforts of both countries, Science and Technology applications should be used to accelerate the growth of the economy and solve the problems of the citizens.

He further said that a proper plan and strategy was needed with a regular monitoring system so that Pakistan can obtain maximum benefit from the technology and expertise of the Chinese side.

In another meeting held on the same day sectors related to the newly formed JWG on Information Technology, recently approved by JCC were discussed in detail. The sectors, Broad Band Connectivity, Technology Parks/ IT Parks, Cyber Security, Software and Hardware development were discussed in detail.

Federal Minister for Information Technology Aminul Haq said in the meeting that IT is the future of Pakistan and in the last one or two years, Pakistan has witnessed rapid growth in this sector.

Pakistan s software exports increased almost 47% in the Information Technology sector. This sector now will further develop and expand through technical collaboration with China.

He said that there is also a need to launch new technical assistance programs for Pakistan to meet the professional requirements of the growing IT Industry in the country.

Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar directed the IT Ministry to submit concept notes on the above sectors to the Planning Ministry within a period of 30 days so that the fast-moving and strategic initiatives could be discussed in the upcoming JWG.

He further said that the role of the Ministry of IT must be appreciated as they are striving hard to ensure to meet the international standards of technological advancement and progress.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/622284-Meeting-reviews-projects-under-newly-formed-CPEC-JWG>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan participates in military training moot in China

The representatives from 49 countries including Pakistan attended the International Military Flight Training Conference 2021 held in Zhuhai, China.

Twelve Chinese and foreign guests from military and civilian circles made speeches around the theme of “Talent, Innovation, Collaboration, Development” at the conference hosted by the Chinese People’s Liberation Army Air Force.

An official from the PLAAF said at the session that the air force development and future intelligentsia air battles have put forward new requirements for the competence of pilots, and the PLAAF is engaged in forward production of new-type pilots following the guideline that talent cultivation, commanding system and armaments development should proceed in coordination, according to China Military Online.

“Cultivating air force commanders for the era of intelligent air battle will be an important brand-new topic in the development of air force,” said Li Xiaocheng, vice president of Chinese PLA Air Force Command College.

According to Li, the simulated training mode will be upgraded from “simulation + network” to “virtual + intelligent”, and the training exercise pattern will be evolved from “life-fire confrontation” to “virtual-real combined intelligent confrontation”, with the training assessment upgraded from “manual-based” to “intelligent-based”.

Hao Jingwen, head of the training bureau under the PLAAF staff headquarters, said the PLAAF is upgrading its combat equipment, flight training concept and talent cultivation mode at a faster pace amid the trend of science and technology innovation.

Initiated by the PLAAF in 2010, the International Military Flight Training Conference is an international platform for the exchange of views and practice on flight talent cultivation and development and collaborated innovation of flight training and aviation equipment. It is held biennially and has been held six times. – APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-participates-in-military-training-moot-in-china/>

Zonergy, Punjab Govt join hands to set up 3×100 MW power plant

Zonergy, one of the leading Solar Energy Solutions Company, under its Corporate Social Responsibility program has joined hands with the Government of Punjab, Energy Department to setup a 3 x 100 MW flagship Solar Power Plant located at Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, Bahawalpur under CPEC framework.

The signing ceremony was held in the Minister for Energy Punjab which formalizes the project.

3×100 MW of this three-phase 9×100 MW project is already completed that won Luban award, the highest award in the construction works in China.

The total investment for the first phase was around 3.125 billion Yuan. Zonergy 9 ×100 MW solar power project spans over 4500 acres of land.

Zonergy executes the project by IPP model and the investment of Phase I was USD 460 million. This project is listed as CPEC “Early Harvest” project.

<https://pakobserver.net/zonergy-punjab-govt-join-hands-to-set-up-3x100-mw-power-plant/>

Preparing Pakistan Railways for ML-1 and beyond

All the four industrial revolutions, starting from 1st Industrial Revolution in 1840 to 2nd Revolution from 1850 onwards, 3rd Revolution from 1950 onwards and now the ongoing 4th Industrial Revolution from 2020 onwards, have resulted in transformation of different industries, thus enhancing economic strength of nation states through innovative researches in different technology universities.

Railways also evolved as industry and service world-wide through these industrial revolutions to provide improved traveling comfort to its users besides shrinking the distances.

It is worth highlighting that 3rd Industrial revolution had been able to enhance railways speed from 160 to 400 plus kms/hour for high speed trains.

As a leading industry and owing to importance of railways, huge investments are done globally by different countries.

Pakistan Railways

Pakistan Railways is the legacy of the Britishers’ who established it for strategic purposes to strengthen their defence capabilities besides using it for an effective administrative control over various regions of British India.

In Pakistan, the first railway line was laid between Karachi City and Kotri in 1861 with a total length of 169 Kms.

At the time of Independence, a total of 8561 km long railway track became property of North-Western Railways (NWR).

At the moment, Pakistan Railways owns 7791 Km long track across the country, thus showing 9% reduction after the independence.

While it shows decline in the performance of Pakistan Railways, it equally reflects unsatisfactory performance in terms of annual losses running into billions of rupees and widespread dissatisfaction about its performance.

This ignominy of Pakistan Railways is the result of many factors including bad governance, low investments in all fields including technology up gradations and deferred assets maintenance.

But one of the major contributors of this pitiable performance is the lack of well-trained technical manpower which can catch-up with the ever changing railway technologies and service demands.

It is unfortunate to highlight that after 1947 no academic / research program has ever been launched in any of Pakistan's universities on railway engineering, technologies and skills due to non-existent futuristic railway vision to maintain it as mass transit system, defence, industrial and trans-frontier strategic asset.

In last 10 years CPEC based ML-1, 2 & 3 projects have emerged as new dimension of Pakistan Railways, and however, these projects present strategic revival opportunities and progression scenarios for our railways.

While Peoples Republic of China shall play leading role in development and upgradation of ML 1, Pakistan Railways must look for national partners in upgradation, maintenance and effective railway operations of ML 1 and beyond.

Pakistan Railways and National University of Technology Collaboration Capitalizing on CPEC challenges and opportunities, Pak Railways needs to develop its capacities in terms of technologies upgrades, improvement in governance and creation of critically required HR for effective operations and maintenance of its fleet.

Realizing these critical requirements, in early 2021, both Pak Railways and NUTECH have joined hands to undertake a strategic project of research and development for creation of indigenous railway technologies, professional skills and up skilling of existing HR.

In this context, NUTECH team has undertaken an extensive feasibility study for establishment of NUTECH Railway Engineering, Technologies and Skills School (NURETSS) which is envisioned to become hub of knowledge; creating, developing, implementing, promoting, transforming and exporting existing, emerging and future innovative railway technologies and skills of 3rd and 4th industrial revolutions in the 21st Century.

The vision entails developing Pakistan Railways as one of the modern railway passengers and cargo transportation service.

NURETSS will comprise departments, centers, institutes and research labs which will function as hubs for creation of new railway technologies, produce applied research scientists and technology developers capable of working at the leading edge of emerging railway technologies.

To support 4th Industrial revolution, NURETSS will establish strong and sustainable intellectual, academic and research based collaborative links with the leading international railway technology institutes, universities, and research centers, railway industry of West Europe, Russia, China and Japan.

NUTECH plans to establish NURETSS as strategic initiative with PC-1 cost of Rs 9.34 Billion (0.81 % of total ML-1 project Cost).

In return, NURETSS shall actively support ML-1, 2, 3 projects of CPEC and develop highly professional expert human resource and skills for our national railway and allied industry to achieve economic development of Pakistan.

NURETSS is conceived as bastion of latest innovative railway and allied technologies based products, systems, manufacturing processes and services for ML-1, 2 & 3 CPEC projects in future.

In the process, NURETSS will facilitate transformation of allied railway industry into high value-added exports driven international enterprises of tomorrow.

NURETSS will comprise NUTECH School of Engineering and Technology (NUSET), Advanced Railway Technologies Innovation Center (ARTIC) and NUTECH Institute of Vocational & Technical Skills (NIVATS).

ARTIC labs will develop high-speed rail (HSR) technologies and critical HR in collaboration with relevant foreign universities and industries.

NIVATS will identify, prepare competencies and skill sets in the CPEC projects based skills required in cutting-edge emerging technologies.

NUTECH will support Walton Railway Academy up-gradation and Apprentice School curriculum revamping to address requisite skills training.

Transformation of Pakistan Railway

NURETSS shall form the basis of transforming Pakistan Railways into technologically advanced enterprise of 21st Century by developing railways and all allied national industry comprising around 17 sectors through technologies, skills and HR development.

For this purpose a tripartite MoU was signed between Ministry of Railways (MoR), Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and NUTECH with the status of executing agency to undertake and resolve the challenges of ML-1, 2 and 3 projects.

The HR created in NURETSS would be beneficial for Pak Railways to undertake up-gradation of the ML-1, 2 and 3 projects efficiently besides their operation and maintenance.

NURETSS project has been approved by the Planning Commission of Pakistan and shall be established in NUTECH Main Campus near Chakri on M 2 Motorway from FY 22/23 onwards.

In the meantime feasibility study of ARTIC is being undertaken jointly by HEC, MoR and NUTECH so as to establish the basis and requirements for indigenous railways technologies creation and upgrades by involving universities, R&D set ups and allied industries in Pakistan.

Beyond doubt, investment of approximate Rs 10.0 billion in NURETSS shall help in converting Pakistan Railways into futuristic railways of Pakistan.

<https://pakobserver.net/preparing-pakistan-railways-for-ml-1-and-beyond/>

1000KM coastline with unique location has enormous potential

Governor Sindh Imran Ismail has observed that the Pakistan has over 1000 kilometres long coastline and adjoining maritime zones with unique geo-strategic location possess enormous economic potential.

Moreover, he added, the ‘Regional Economic Networking’ projects under CPEC have provided the much-desired impetus to these vital avenues.

Governor Sindh was addressing an event held in connection with World Maritime Day, at a local hotel here yesterday.

He asserted that the present government was working seriously on Sustainable development of national ports & competitive shipping and maritime business to improve the socio-economic condition of the country ensuring safe navigation and protection of marine environment as well as persistent utilization of marine fisheries resources for local consumption and as well as export to earn foreign exchange.

Federal Minister Maritime Affairs Syed Ali Hyder Zaidi in his address emphasized Pakistan’s potential of the blue economy for growth and development of maritime nations.

“We believe that development of the Blue Economy would lead to thousands of employment opportunities in Pakistan.

One of our goals is to transform Pakistan into a major maritime economic power via the development of the blue economy”, he added.

He further said that this year’s theme ‘Seafarers at the Core of shipping’s future’ is intended to pay tribute to the professionalism and resilience of seafarers and recognise their indispensable role in securing vital global supply chains in extraordinarily challenging times.

British High Commissioner to Pakistan Christian Turner said: “We need to protect and promote our maritime clusters of excellence across the world.

And with maritime trade expected to double over the next decade, the industry must consider how it can meet that demand efficiently and sustainably”.

SAPM on Maritime Mahmood Moulvi in his welcome address said that the World Maritime Day was celebrated annually on last Thursday of month of September to offer an opportunity to focus its attention on the significance of the day to appreciate the importance of maritime industry and to underline the importance of maritime security, maritime environment, safety, and shipping. “World Maritime Day 2021 theme is ‘Seafarers: At the Core of Shipping’s Future’.

As ever, the focus of this is to increase awareness of the invaluable work that seafarers do to keep the worldwide economy afloat”, he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/1000km-coastline-with-unique-location-has-enormous-potential/>

The Nation

A promising future for Sino-Pak co-op

Lahore - Chinese Acting Consul General to Lahore Peng Zhengwu, in a message of congratulations on 72nd founding anniversary of the People’s Republic of China, has extended

his warmest greetings and kind wishes to all overseas Chinese in Punjab, and Pakistani brothers from all walks of life who care about and support Sino-Pak friendship.

Peng Zhengwu said, “What’s most memorable of the Year 2021 is the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC). As the leading power of China, CPC has united and led the people of China to work hard and achieve remarkable development. Thanks to the CPC, a complete victory has been secured in eradicating absolute poverty in China this year. More than 10 million impoverished people were lifted out of poverty on average each year since the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012. During these eight years, the final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the current poverty line were lifted out of poverty. All the 832 impoverished counties and 128,000 impoverished villages have been removed from the poverty list.”

The Consul General said, “In addition, 770 million rural residents have shaken off poverty since the beginning of reform and opening-up over 40 years ago, when calculated as per the current poverty line. China met the poverty eradication target set in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule, and according to the World Bank’s international poverty line, the number of Chinese people lifted out of poverty over the past 40 years accounts for more than 70 percent of the global total.”

“What is also unusual is that 2021 also coincides with the 70th Anniversary of Sino-Pak Diplomatic Relations. Over the past 70 years, no matter how the international landscape changes, China and Pakistan have always joined hands to forge ahead and carry out all-round cooperation. This kind of intimate and sincere friendship is a valuable asset worth cherishing from generation to generation. China-Pakistan cooperation has yielded fruitful results on the strong basis of the previous years. In fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, China has closely worked with Pakistan by carrying out continued vaccine cooperation, including co-production of Covid-19 vaccines. As all-weather strategic cooperative partners, China and Pakistan attach great importance to poverty alleviation. China will further promote the Sino-Pak practical cooperation in various fields and actively share its relevant experience with its iron brother. I firmly believe that under the joint efforts of both countries, greater success will be achieved for betterment of the wellbeing of people of the two countries.”

He further said, “The 660kV High-Voltage Direct Current Matiari-Lahore transmission line, started commercial operations on September 1. From the beginning of this year, CPEC entered the second phase focusing on agricultural and industrial cooperation. Under the staunch support by Punjab government and with close cooperation by both countries, CPEC projects in Punjab are progressing well with remarkable fruits achieved, which are delivering strong and genuine benefits for the people of Pakistan.”

“As the Acting Chinese Consul General to Lahore, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Punjab government and people that have always supported and cared for Chinese enterprises and nationals. I will continue to play a more proactive role in enhancing communication and coordination with Punjab, promoting exchanges and cooperation between local governments,

advancing steadily the construction of CPEC projects, and pushing forward our all-weather strategic cooperative partnership so as to bring constant benefits to the two countries and peoples,” he concluded.

<https://nation.com.pk/01-Oct-2021/a-promising-future-for-sino-pak-co-op>

72nd anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China

Nong Rong

October first is a great and solemn day in the history of the Chinese nation, featuring the founding of the People’s Republic of China. On this special occasion, on behalf of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, I would like to extend my best wishes to the great motherland for her 72nd birthday, and may the great country be prosperous forever.

2021 is an extraordinary year, which marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China and the beginning of China’s new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country. We are ready to work with all parties to uphold true multilateralism, advocate trust and harmony, promote win-win cooperation, and march with firm steps toward the goal of building a community with a shared future for mankind, through the continued efforts of the whole Party and the entire nation, China has realised its first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. This means that China has brought about a historic resolution to the problem of absolute poverty in China, and we are now marching in confident strides toward the second centenary goal of building China into a great modern socialist country in all aspects.

Over the past 72 years, China has made unprecedented achievements, with its total economic output surpassing 100 trillion yuan in 2020. This means China is the second largest economy in the world and makes up roughly 17 percent of the world economy. Per capita GDP has broken the US\$10,000 mark, putting China into the category of upper-middle income countries according to World Bank standards. There have been major breakthroughs in continuing reform, while the Chinese socialist system has been further refined. Considerable advances have been made in building democracy and the rule of law, as well as in modernising China’s governance system and capacity. Living standards have improved significantly, higher education has entered the stage of being widely accessible, and new success has been achieved in creating urban jobs. We have built the world’s largest social security system, with a basic medical insurance system that covers more than 1.3 billion people and basic old-age insurance that covers nearly 1 billion people. Our environmental protection endeavours have undergone historic, pivotal and sweeping changes. Historic breakthroughs have been made in the reform of national defence and the armed forces, and we have broken new ground and scored new victories in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics for the new era. These feats have fully demonstrated the CPC’s capacity to lead and govern, illustrated the marked advantages and vitality of the Chinese

socialist system and China's national governance system, and displayed the value and strength in practice of Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, China keeps strengthening international pandemic cooperation to jointly build a line of defence for life and health. In his message to the First Meeting of the International Forum on Covid-19 Vaccine Cooperation, President Xi Jinping announced that China will strive to provide two billion doses of vaccines to the world in the course of this year, and donate US\$100 million to the COVAX facility. This is a major step on China's part to follow through on its commitment of making COVID vaccines a global public good, and will boost the global effort to end the pandemic at an early date. As of September 6, 2.11 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered in China, and 969.72 million Chinese people have been fully vaccinated.

The international arena is going through profound transformation, the Covid-19 pandemic keeps raging with frequent flare-ups, and the world economy faces a daunting recovery. The world is at a new historical crossroads. Human development now faces multiple crises and the global governance system is undergoing profound adjustment. International cooperation is going with both stern challenges and important opportunities. Now more than ever, the international community needs to come together to meet the challenges and promote common development. No matter how the international landscape evolves, China will resolutely safeguard UN's core role in international affairs, stay firmly on the right side of history, strive to build a community with a shared future for mankind, join hands with all progressive forces in the world, and work tirelessly to advance the noble cause of peace and development for humanity.

China and Pakistan are equal friends who understand and respect each other, friends in need who share weal and woe, devoted friends of integrity, and friends for moral justice who shoulder responsibilities together. 70 years of progress through thick and thin between China and Pakistan have forged a unique iron-clad friendship, and established an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership. A high degree of mutual trust, mutual assistance, seeking peace and promoting development together are the most distinctive features of China-Pakistan relations, and the greatest strength in moving forward together. Over the past year, the China-Pakistan friendship has stood up to the test of major changes and a global pandemic unseen in a century. The facts have proven once again that China and Pakistan are the most reliable good neighbours, friends, brothers and partners to each other, and the friendship between the two countries is unbreakable. China is willing to work with Pakistan to accelerate the construction of a closer community with a shared future in the new era, bring more benefits to the two peoples, and make greater contributions to regional stability and prosperity.

Looking back, the friendship between China and Pakistan has remained rock-solid, regardless of how the regional and international landscapes have evolved. It is fair to say that China and Pakistan always make each other the priority in developing foreign relations. In April 2015, President Xi Jinping's state visit upgraded China-Pakistan relations to a unique All-weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, opening a new chapter in China-Pakistan friendship, and

rolling out the construction of China Pakistan Economic Corridor. At present, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has entered a stage of high-quality development. In March 2020, Pakistani President Arif Alvi visited China to support China's fight against Covid-19. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan visited China three times since he took office, injecting new vitality into the high-quality development of China-Pakistan relations.

Looking ahead, China is willing to work with Pakistan to take the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations as an opportunity to accelerate the construction of a closer community with a shared future in the new era, bring more benefits to the two peoples, and make greater contributions to regional stability and prosperity. We are confident that our joint efforts will inject new impetus into the China-Pakistan friendship and make new demonstration to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Long live the People's Republic of China!

Chin-Pakistan Dosti Zindabad!

<https://nation.com.pk/01-Oct-2021/72nd-anniversary-of-the-founding-of-the-people-s-republic-of-china>

The News

‘Fragile peace in region demands extension of CPEC route to Afghanistan’

Islamabad: Former President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Masood Khan performed launching of a book ‘Bagh-O-Bahar’ written by Chinese students and translated in Urdu by Pak-China Global Cultural Link ‘on eradication of coronavirus’ in National Library here.

Speaking on the occasion, Sardar Masood Khan, also a career diplomat said that the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and fragile peace in the region demand extension of CPEC route to Afghanistan. Masood Khan said that the book represents the message of hope, strength and determination in the youth how to defeat the deadly epidemic and other disasters. He said Pakistan with the help of China has worked with full determination to control the unexpected catastrophe like Corona Virus.

He said the Chinese efforts regarding eradication of Corona Virus are appreciable at World level. Masood Khan stressed that Chinese role is vital to establish peace in Afghanistan after withdrawal of US troops and establishing peace in the entire region.

Head of Tehreek-e-Nojawan, Abdullah Hameed Gul in his address said China is pursuing the peaceful policy towards development in a different way which also conveys the message of hope to the world how to overcome difficult situation.

He said due to coronavirus, the education system, business and industries had been closed suddenly, but restored with the concerted efforts. He said China's might was not recognized till 70s, but due to the dedicated efforts, hard-work and determination of its people China became a nuclear power and a World Super Power. Since Independence, Pakistan faced worst kind of

situation after the death of our two top leaders Quaid-e-Azam and Liaquat Ali Khan, whereas the Chinese leadership remained for the next 30 years and its paved way for the development of China.

He said the current leader of China President Xi Jinping has strengthened bilateral relations with Pakistan, extended full cooperation in every field and stood with Pakistan shoulder to shoulder and helped not only in trade, business and development but at diplomatic level. He said we have to follow the policy of China in the field of technological development.

Member of Prime Minister Inspection Commission Syed Abu Ahmed Akif said during Covid epidemic, China has once again proved a true friend of Pakistan. He said the Pakistan appreciates Chinese help in providing vaccine in need of the hour. Deputy Director, Chinese Studies Centre at Nust University, Zamir Awan said that the book 'Bagh-O-Bahar' represents love and affection and the Chinese language is spreading fast in the United States and stressed the need that we should also learn Chinese language.

He said Pak-China friendship would be strengthened further to thwart the nefarious designs of the enemy forces. He said with the joint efforts of the two countries we can only overcome the difficulties. Director General National Library while welcoming the guests said that the efforts of children would further strengthen the friendship between the two countries.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=9044>

China's FDI, Pakistan among top 10 BRI's countries

BEIJING: China's outward foreign direct investment (OFDI) ranks first globally for the first time, and Pakistan makes it to top 10 among BRI countries and top 20 globally in China's OFDI, the Annual Statistical Communique of China's Outward Foreign Direct Investment 2020 showed.

According to Gwadar Pro, the Communique is jointly issued by the Ministry of Commerce of China, China's National Bureau of Statistics and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange. The Communique also highlights that China's OFDI overtakes the U.S. with an amount of \$153.71 billion in 2020, which represents a 12.3% increase year-on-year. A total of eighteen industrial sectors are covered in China's OFDI 2020. Region wise, the largest share goes to Hong Kong, China, which accounts for 58%.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=9166>

Nawaiwaqt News

پاک، چین سفارتی تعلقات کے 70 سال، الحجر آرٹس کونسل میں تصویری نمائش

لاہور (نیوز رپورٹر) چینی قونصل جنرل لاہور پنگ زنگ وونے انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف انٹرنیشنل ریلیشنز اینڈ میڈیا ریسرچ کے زیر اہتمام چین کے قومی دن اور پاکستان اور چین کے سفارتی تعلقات کے 70 سال مکمل ہونے کی مناسبت سے الحجر آرٹس کونسل میں ایک روزہ تصویری نمائش کا افتتاح کیا۔ اس موقع پر انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف انٹرنیشنل ریلیشنز اینڈ

میڈیا ریسرچ کے چیئرمین محمد مہدی، صدر ریاسر حبیب خان، پنجاب یونیورسٹی پاکستان سٹڈی سنٹر کے ایسوسی ایٹ کے پروفیسر امجد گسی، پبلشر وحید کمبوہ، سینئر صحافی محمد کریم احمد، عمر فاروقی، حسن صدیقی، چینی تو نسلٹ کے ذمہ داران، پاکستان میں قیام پذیر چینی باشندوں سمیت مختلف شعبہ ہائے زندگی سے تعلق رکھنے والی نامور شخصیات بھی موجود تھیں۔ چینی تو نسل جزل لاہور پنگ زنگ وونے نمائش میں رکھی گئی تصاویر میں گہری دلچسپی کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے چین کی لازوال ترقی اور دونوں ممالک کے تعلقات کو تصویر لکے ذریعے اجاگر کرنے کی کاوشوں کو سراہا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ تصویریں نمائش کے ذریعے پاکستان اور چین کے تعلقات میں ایک نئی کھڑکی کھولی گئی ہے اور پاکستان کی عوام کو چین کی ترقی کو تصاویر کی صورت میں دیکھنے اور سمجھنے کا موقع ملا ہے۔ انسٹی ٹیوٹ آف انٹرنیشنل ریلیشنز اینڈ میڈیا ریسرچ کے چیئرمین محمد مہدی نے کہا کہ نمائش کا مقصد پاکستان کی عوام کو چین کی ترقی اور خصوصاً دونوں ممالک کے ساتھ دہائیوں پر مشتمل سفارتی تعلقات سے آگاہ کرنا ہے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-10-01/page-3/detail-0>

October 02, 2021

Business Recorder

Joint working group to discuss 4 CPEC projects

ISLAMABAD: Newly-constituted Joint Working Groups on Science and Technology and Information Technology Cooperation will discuss four development projects, which were made part of the CPEC in the 10th JCC meeting. Federal Minister Asad Umar directed that action plans for those projects be finalised within 30 days and submitted at the earliest. Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar presided over the review meeting of the newly-constituted Working Groups on Science and Technology and Information Technology Cooperation at the 10th JCC, here in Islamabad on Friday.

Minister for Science and Technology Shibli Faraz, Minister for IT Aminul Haq, Minister for IT KP Atif Khan, SAPM on CPEC Khalid Mansoor, Executive Director CPEC, and representatives from ministries attended the meeting. In the meeting, the following four projects: Establishment of the China-Pakistan Joint Research Centre on Earth Science; Acquisition of Oceanographic Research Vessel; Establishment of the Institute of Smart Semiconductor and Establishment of Silicon Solar Cells; and PV Panel Fabrication Facility of 500 MW/annum, which were made part of CPEC in the 10th JCC meeting, were reviewed and discussed in detail. Asad Umar directed the IT Ministry to submit concept notes on the above sectors to the Ministry of Planning within a period of 30 days, so that the fast-moving and strategic initiatives could be discussed in the upcoming JWG.—NAVEED BUTT

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/10/02/2-page/902649-news.html>

Daily Times

CPEC to help Pakistan come out of poverty

Pakistan Economic Corridor is one example where China is supporting countries like Pakistan to come out of poverty, says an article carried by China Economic Net on Friday.

The article cited a white paper titled ‘China’s Epic Journey from Poverty to Prosperity’ issued by the State Council Information Office, which explains the Chinese notion of “Xiaokang”. It refers to an adequate level of prosperity in all aspects of life and reflects the long-held dream of the Chinese nation.

This white paper examines Chinese policies and their results at the social level which have helped the Chinese government to uplift 100 million people out of poverty and achieve significant economic growth. The white paper explains the heroic struggle of Chinese people over all these years and answers a whole range of questions regarding Chinese ideological beliefs, development vision, and determination to act and achieve sustainable growth in the future. This special white paper acknowledges the fact that adequate prosperity cannot be achieved unless it covers every development sector. Hence, this paper gives deep insight into politics, economy, culture, society, environment, climate change, and security and specifies the aspects that help achieve this degree of prosperity.

The emergence of Xiaokang society is only possible in a nation that is void of conflicts and wars. As China is the most populous country in the world, Xiaokang bears the responsibility to uphold standards of prosperity, peace, and development for not only China but also for the world at large. President Xi noted in his keynote address to CPC in February 2021 that China has eradicated extreme poverty and uplifted 10 million people out of poverty per year since the 18th Congress of CPC in 2012. It is pertinent to highlight that China has met the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule, i.e., in 2020.

It is pertinent to mention that China’s health care system involves 1.35 billion people while the pensions for retired civil servants cover 1 billion yuan. China has also built 80 million houses for 200 million people. The white paper explains in-depth the entire process of how China has been able to achieve the dream of becoming a moderately prosperous society.

This progress assisted China to bridge the wealth gap in society, expand public services, and raise the consumption of local and cultural products to boost made-in-China products. This white paper further explains that China is not a self-centric nation. It achieves development with a deep sense of responsibility. China has assisted the international community to eradicate poverty. We have seen that through its foreign direct investment and other programs including the “Belt and Road” Initiative. China Pakistan Economic Corridor is one such an example where China is supporting countries like Pakistan to come out of poverty. In this manner, it has contributed to global peace by eradicating poverty and denying any extremist ideology to gain grounds.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/823832/cpec-to-help-pakistan-come-out-of-poverty/>

Chinese investors keen to invest in Pakistan’s agri sector under CPEC

The Chinese investors have planned to invest in various agriculture and dairy sectors of Pakistan under the platform of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

“Chinese enterprises plan to invest and cooperate with Pakistan in pepper planting, buffalo milk industry development, food processing and agricultural machinery, ”Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said in his recent interview.

He said that at present the agriculture and industry were the areas that were under the main focus of the Pakistani government. The Pakistani government, he said, was very much concerned in these two areas.

He said that these sectors were also the most promising areas for China-Pakistan cooperation.

He said that rapid progress in agricultural cooperation had been made, mainly in three aspects including strengthening mechanisms. Last year, an agricultural working group under the framework of the CPEC joint Commission was set up.

The first task of the working group was to help Pakistan fight against locust plague, which achieved remarkable results, he added.

Further he said that the process of exporting agricultural products to China had also been accelerated.

The inspection and quarantine procedures of Pakistani agricultural products exported to China, including onions, potatoes, cherries and dairy products, have been stepped up.

This year, a protocol on onion export to China will be signed, he informed. Pakistan has also established a foot-and-mouth disease free zone.

The third aspect, he said, was to promote investment.

This year, with efforts made by our Embassy, China and Pakistan established an information platform on agricultural and industrial cooperation to promote all-round exchanges and cooperation among government, industry, academia and research institutes, he added.

With respect to Gwadar Port, the envoy said that it was the pilot project of the CPEC and what he called it was the jewel in the crown of the CPEC.

Since 2013, both China and Pakistan have worked hand in hand on port operations, free zone development, and transportation infrastructure, and completed a series of social and livelihood projects. The achievements made today can be recognized as the “Speed of Gwadar”.

The 10th meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) expressed satisfaction on the progress of Gwadar Port and Free Zone, and made plans for the next step in the construction of Gwadar Port, he said adding that the current development situation of Gwadar Port was very gratifying.

The port is getting busier and transit trade to Afghanistan is running smoothly. The government is actively considering arranging more cargo to arrive in and be processed through the Gwadar Port.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/824066/chinese-investors-keen-to-invest-in-pakistans-agri-sector-under-cpec/>

Pakistan Observer

‘Precious gift’ – First CPEC project in Gwadar successfully completed

ISLAMABAD – Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong announced on Saturday that Pak-China Vocational and Technical Institute at Gwadar has been successfully completed.

Taking to Twitter, he extended congratulations on the successful completion of the project, which is the first successfully completed CPEC project in Gwadar.

“A precious gift for China’s 72nd National Day and 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan diplomatic relations!” he added.

The PCTVI, as a project supported by China, covers an area of about 7,350 square meters, with teaching buildings composed of classrooms, offices, and laboratories, training workshops, reading rooms, dormitories for both students and faculties, and other supporting rooms.

The construction of the project commenced in January 2020 and was scheduled to be finished within about 20 months.

The development comes days after Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday inaugurated Pakistan’s first-ever transmission line of 660 KV High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

Addressing at the ceremony, the premier said that the 886-kilometre-long HVDC transmission line with the capacity of 4,400 megawatt, which runs from Matiari to Lahore, will reduce line losses to four percent from 17%.

Reduction in the line losses would result in availability of cheap electricity for consumers but also save billions of rupees, he said, adding that the project would prove as a “leading energy transmission artery from the country’s south to north”.

He lamented that the previous government failed to expedite work on the Matiari-Lahore project signed with China in 2013, causing massive load shedding in the country.

He highlighted that the PTI government has expedited work on the transmission line project since coming into power in 2018.

Besides energy, PM Khan said that other CPEC projects under Chinese President Xi Jinping’s Belt and Road Initiative relating to industrialization and innovation in agriculture would be launched in the next phase.

He hoped that CPEC projects would lead to wealth creation and help the government pay off its loans.

<https://pakobserver.net/precious-gift-first-cpec-project-in-gwadar-successfully-completed/>

China-Pakistan: US, Afghanistan's end blame-game | By Dr Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan

RAPIDLY changing anti-China and Pakistan geo political and geo-strategic realignments of the US, the West and its regional allies in the region and beyond have alarmed Beijing and Islamabad.

In this connection, QUAD meeting in Washington, formation of AUKUS, provocations in South China Sea, critical anti-gravitational gear of Taiwan, constant interference in the domestic affairs of China (Hong Kong & Uighurs) and US big brasses accusations against Pakistan all clearly indicated start of new end blame game in the region to contain China and siege Pakistan.

On the contrary, China and Pakistan have been striving hard to reach a regional consensus to recognize the new interim set-up of Taliban.

But regional spoilers and its masters have been trying to siege Pakistan through their webs of destruction, sabotage and collateral damage.

In this context, most recently, China called on the US to unfreeze assets in Afghanistan. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said the assets belonged to Afghanistan and the US should accept the legitimate demands of the nation.

Ironically, a bill titled "Afghanistan Counterterrorism, Oversight and Accountability" has been moved by 22 US Republican Senators in the Senate seeking to assess so-called Pakistan's alleged role in Afghanistan before and after the fall of Kabul to Afghan Taliban. Although it is not a policy bill but still it has put Pakistan in the line of fire.

The section 202 of the said bill directly mentions Pakistan and calls for an "assessment of support by state and non-state actors, including the government of Pakistan, for the Taliban between 2001 and 2020."

The Foreign Office of Pakistan reacted to said bill and termed it unfortunate and unwarranted.

Even, Interior Ministry rejected allegations that Pakistan had provided any military support to the Afghan Taliban.

The Foreign Office spokesman termed all such references inconsistent with the spirit of Pakistan-US cooperation on Afghanistan since 2001, including facilitation of the Afghan peace process and during the recent evacuations of American and other nationals from Afghanistan.

Critical analysis of the 57-page draft bill called "Afghanistan Counterterrorism, Oversight and Accountability Act of 2021" made several references to Pakistan in terms of support by state and non-state actors, including the Government of Pakistan for the Taliban between 2001 and 2020, including the provision of sanctuary space, financial support, intelligence support, logistics and medical support, training, equipping and tactical, operational or strategic direction.

Actually, it was imminent after the blistering speech and stance of Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, who also wrote a comprehensive article to set-aside US blame game against Pakistan.

Moreover, it also calls for an assessment about the alleged role of the state, non-state actors as well as the government of Pakistan in supporting the Taliban offensive leading to the fall of Kabul.

The Republican Senators further asked the Biden Administration to assess the role of Pakistan in supporting the Taliban offensive against Panjshir Valley.

Interestingly, the ruling Democratic Party and Republicans currently have 50 Senators each in the 100-member Upper House of US Congress.

This means both sides lack a majority to pass any legislation. In this case, US Vice President Kamala Harris's vote becomes the key deciding factor.

In the past, Pakistan had faced US sanctions after the withdrawal of former Soviet Union forces from Afghanistan in 1989.

Two years later the then US President, Bush Senior, invoked the 'Pressler Amendment' to suspend all kinds of civil and military assistance to Pakistan for pursuing the nuclear program.

Moreover, top US Generals, especially Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that they had warned US President Joe Biden that a rushed withdrawal from Afghanistan could increase risks to Pakistan's nuclear weapons and the country's security.

Thus shed doubts over Pakistan's security doctrine and intentionally started a new blame game of its nuclear arsenals.

General Milley and General Frank McKenzie, the leader of US Central Command, also warned that Pakistan's relationship with the Taliban would become significantly more complicated as a result of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The Centcom chief also said that the US and Pakistan were involved in ongoing negotiations over the use of a vital air corridor to access Afghanistan. But this time the government and establishment denied this access and ultimately now facing the heat.

As expected, the Biden Administration froze nearly \$9.5 billion in Afghan government reserves held in US bank accounts.

On its part, Beijing responded quickly calling upon the international community to furnish assistance without conditions, unfreeze assets and remove obstacles to reconstruction.

Nevertheless, China, along with Pakistan, was also one of the first countries to offer foreign aid since the Taliban took power, pledging \$31 million worth of grain, winter supplies, vaccines and medicine.

However, Beijing's perpetual concern has been, and remains, the potential for Afghanistan to become a sanctuary for militant groups targeting Chinese territory, economic assets in the surrounding region and or diplomats and workers.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi and the then-head of the Taliban Political Commission, Abdul Ghani Baradar met in Tianjin during July 2021 reportedly focused on the issue of Taliban ties with Uighur groups.

China obtained assurances the Taliban would "never allow any force to use the Afghan territory to engage in acts detrimental to China".

In recent years, China has taken great pains to seal the 50-mile border with Afghanistan, reducing the likelihood of infiltration into Xinjiang.

However, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) has emerged as a capable actor and has established a presence in Afghanistan.

Being a prominent regional expert of China, this scribe suggests that there is an urgent need to have national unity and clarity of purpose among all stakeholders and political parties to cope with the spillover ramifications of sudden withdrawal of the US from Afghanistan.

Despite the best diplomatic efforts by China and Pakistan to convince the Taliban to form a board-based inclusive government, respect towards women, weaker factions of society, the same has not yet been achieved.

Rather, the Taliban has once again started its journey towards so-called past glorification and gratification and sadly indulged in numerous conflicts and contradictions which have received strong condemnation from the US and the West.

Moreover, Saudi Arabia is apparently not happy with the new Taliban. Qatar has lost its magic connection with the Taliban.

Turkey is not at ease while dealing with the new Taliban. Iran has already out-busted the so-called inclusive government of Taliban. Thus regional response to recognize the new Taliban interim set-up has been further marginalized.

Importantly, the Establishment of Pakistan should not take any smart move to regain comparative advantage and work jointly with China to move in the right direction on the issue of Taliban and sanctuaries of terrorism.

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pakistan-us-afghanistans-end-blame-game-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Chinese investment in Pakistan's agri, dairy sectors in the offing: Rong

The Chinese investors have planned to invest in various agriculture and dairy sectors of Pakistan under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

This was stated by Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, adding the Chinese enterprises plan to invest and cooperate with Pakistan in pepper planting, buffalo milk industry development, food processing and agricultural machinery, according to a media report.

He said at present the agriculture and industry are the areas that are under the main focus of the Pakistan government. The Pakistan government, he said, is very much concerned in these two areas.

He said these sectors are also the most promising areas for China-Pakistan cooperation. He said rapid progress in agricultural cooperation has been made, mainly in three aspects including strengthening mechanisms.

Last year, an agricultural working group under the framework of the CPEC joint Commission was set up. The first task of the working group was to help Pakistan fight against locust plague, which achieved remarkable results, he added.

Further he said the process of exporting agricultural products to China has also been accelerated.

The inspection and quarantine procedures of Pakistani agricultural products exported to China, including onions, potatoes, cherries and dairy products have been stepped up. This year, a protocol on onion export to China will be signed, he informed.

Pakistan has also established a foot and mouth disease free zone. The third aspect, he said, is to promote investment.

This year, with efforts made by the Chinese embassy, China and Pakistan established an information platform on agricultural and industrial cooperation to promote all-round exchanges and cooperation among government, industry, academia and research institutes, he added.

With respect to Gwadar port, the ambassador said it is the pilot project of the CPEC and a jewel in the crown of the CPEC. Since 2013, both China and Pakistan have worked hand in hand on port operations, free zone development, and transportation infrastructure, and completed a series of social and livelihood projects.

The achievements made today can be recognized as the “Speed of Gwadar”.

The 10th meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) expressed satisfaction on the progress of Gwadar Port and Free Zone, and made plans for the next step in the construction of Gwadar Port, he said adding that the current development situation of Gwadar Port was very gratifying.

The port is getting busier and transit trade to Afghanistan is running smoothly. The government is actively considering arranging more cargo to arrive in and be processed through the Gwadar Port.

The port operator COPHC is cooperating with China’s Ningbo Zhoushan Port Group to improve the port operations, he added.

He said all investment promotion work in the starting zone of the Free Zone has been completed.

More than 40 companies have invested and registered, and some of them have completed plant construction and started trial production. —TLTP

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-investment-in-pakistans-agri-dairy-sectors-in-the-offing-rong/>

Asad seeks action plans for projects made part of CPEC in 30 days

Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar has directed that action plans should be finalised and submitted within 30 days for the projects which are made part of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in the 10th JCC meeting.

Asad Umar said this on Friday while presiding over a review meeting of the newly constituted Working Groups on Science and Information Technology Cooperation at the 10th Joint Coordination Committee (JCCI).

In the meeting, the four projects including establishment of the China-Pakistan joint research centre on earth science; acquisition of oceanographic re-search vessel; establishment of the institute of smart semiconductor and establishment of silicon solar cells; and “PV panel fabrication facility of 500 MW/annum, which were made part of CPEC in the 10th JCC meeting, were reviewed and discussed in detail.

Minister for Science & Technology Shibli Faraz said that with the joint efforts of both countries, science and technology applications should be used to accelerate the growth of the economy and solve the problems of the citizens.

He further said that a proper plan and strategy was needed with a regular monitoring system so that Pakistan can obtain maximum benefit from the technology and expertise of the Chinese side.—TLTP

<https://pakobserver.net/asad-seeks-action-plans-for-projects-made-part-of-cpec-in-30-days/>

The News

CPEC an example of China’s support to countries like Pakistan come out of poverty

BEIJING: Pakistan Economic Corridor is one example where China is supporting countries like Pakistan to come out of poverty, says an article carried by China Economic Net on Friday.

The article cited a white paper titled “China’s Epic Journey from Poverty to Prosperity” issued by the State Council Information Office, which explains the Chinese notion of “Xiaokang”. It refers to an adequate level of prosperity in all aspects of life and reflects the long-held dream of the Chinese nation. This white paper examines Chinese policies and their results at the social level which have helped the Chinese government to uplift 100 million people out of poverty and achieve significant economic growth. The white paper explains the heroic struggle of Chinese people over all these years and answers a whole range of questions regarding Chinese ideological

beliefs, development vision, and determination to act and achieve sustainable growth in the future.

Hence, this paper gives deep insight into politics, economy, culture, society, environment, climate change, and security and specifies the aspects that help achieve this degree of prosperity.

The emergence of Xiaokang society is only possible in a nation that is void of conflicts and wars. As China is the most populous country in the world, Xiaokang bears the responsibility to uphold standards of prosperity, peace, and development for not only China but also for the world at large.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=9494>

K2 Daily

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Back_Page&Date=2021-10-02

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2021-10-02

Nawaiwaqt News

چین نے دنیا کی ترقی میں حصہ ڈالا، سی پیک چمکتی مثال: ڈی جی آئی ایس پی آر

اسلام آباد (نامہ نگار) نیوز رپورٹر، نوائے وقت رپورٹ ڈی جی آئی ایس پی آر میجر جنرل بابر افتخار نے چین کی 72 ویں سالگرہ پر پاک فوج کی طرف سے دل کی گہرائیوں سے مبارکباد دی ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پاکستان آرمڈ فورسز اور پاکستانی عوام گہرے تعلقات پر فخر محسوس کرتے ہیں جو سات دہائیوں پر مشتمل ہیں۔ چین ایک عظیم ملک ہے جس نے ناصر خود کو ترقی دی بلکہ اس نے دنیا کی ترقی میں حصہ ڈالا جس میں چین کی لیڈر شپ کا وزن شامل ہے۔ ہم سب جانتے ہیں پاکستان اور چین ہر طرح کے حالات کے قریبی دوست اور سٹریٹجک پارٹنر ہیں۔ یہ تعلقات پہلے سے کہیں زیادہ مضبوط ہیں جس کا ثبوت کثیر الجہتی، ڈیپلومیٹک فرنٹ، دفاعی تعاون، سٹریٹجک جوائنٹ پروجیکٹ، پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری ہیں۔ حالیہ برسوں میں سی پیک ایک چمکتی مثال ہے، پاک چین گہرے دوستانہ تعلقات کی۔ ہم ان تعلقات کو نئی بلندیوں پر لے جا رہے ہیں۔ پاک فوج مکمل طور

پرتیار اور طے کر چکی کہ وہ اس خطے کیلئے گیم چینجنگ پروجیکٹ کی سکیورٹی کو یقینی بنائے۔ پی ایل اے اور پاک آرمڈ فورسز نے ملک کی حفاظت اور خود مختاری کیلئے قربانیاں دی ہیں۔ لیکن پاک آرمی اور پی ایل اے میں کیا منفرد اور الگ ہے وہ بے پناہ جذبہ ہے ملک کی تعمیر کا۔ اپنی روایتی کردار حفاظت اور وار فائٹنگ سے ہٹ کر ہماری عظیم دوستی کا ایک اور ثبوت کو ویڈیو 19 سے مقابلے کیلئے چائنیز مشن کا تعاون ہے۔ چائنیز سپورٹ تجربے کی فراہمی اور میٹریل کی فراہم ہے، جس سے کو ویڈیو 19 کی خطرناک و باہر قابو پارہے ہیں۔ وفاقی وزیر تعلیم و پیشہ ورانہ تربیت شفقت محمود نے چین کو اس کے قومی دن پر مبارکباد دی ہے۔ وفاقی وزیر داخلہ شیخ رشید احمد نے چین کے قومی دن پر چینی عوام کو مبارکباد پیش کی ہے۔ ایک بیان میں انہوں نے چین کی ترقی، خوشحالی کے لئے نیک خواہشات کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی میں مزید وسعت کیلئے خواہشات کا اظہار کیا۔ انہوں نے کہا چین کے قومی دن پر مبارکباد پیش کرتا ہوں اور آج کے دن دعا گو ہوں کہ چین کے عوام زیادہ خوشحال اور ترقی یافتہ ہوں۔ انہوں نے کہا خواہش ہے کہ پاکستان اور چین کی دوستی آنے والے وقتوں میں مزید مضبوط ہو۔ جمہوریہ چین کے قیام کی 72 ویں سالگرہ کے حوالے سے ایک پروکارا استقبال تقریب بیجنگ میں ہوئی۔ چینی صدر شی جن پنگ اور ریاستی رہنماؤں سمیت تقریباً 500 چینی اور غیر ملکی افراد نے تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ اس موقع پر وزیراعظم لی کی چیانگ نے اپنے خطاب میں کہا کہ رواں برس ہم کمیونسٹ پارٹی آف چائنا کے قیام کی 100 ویں سالگرہ منا رہے ہیں۔ کمیونسٹ پارٹی کی قیادت میں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کی 72 سالہ ترقیاتی کامیابیوں کو دنیا بھر میں نمایاں توجہ حاصل ہوئی ہے۔ انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ چینی حکومت چائنیز مین لینڈ سمیت ”ایک ملک دو نظام“ کے تحت ہانگ کانگ اور مکاؤ کی ترقی کا فروغ جاری رکھے گی۔

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چین نے ہر مشکل وقت میں پاکستان کا بھرپور ساتھ دیا، اعجاز چوہدری

لاہور (نیوز پورٹر) سینٹ میں حکمران جماعت کے پارلیمانی لیڈر و صدر سنٹرل پنجاب سینیٹر اعجاز چوہدری نے چینی قوم کو ان کے قومی دن پر مبارکباد دیتے ہوئے کہا کہ چین نے ہر مشکل گھڑی میں پاکستان کا بھرپور ساتھ دیا ہے، پاک چین دوستی پر قوم کو فخر ہے، پاک چین دوستی سمندر سے گہری اور کوہ ہمالیہ پہاڑوں سے بلند ہے، انہوں نے کہا کہ وزیراعظم عمران خان عالمی سطح پر مضبوط لیڈر کے طور پر ابھرے ہیں، سی پیک منصوبہ پاکستان کی معاشی شہ رگ ہے، سی پیک خطے میں گیم چینجر ثابت ہو گا۔ چینی سرمایہ کار پاکستان میں سرمایہ کاری کے ذریعے پاکستان کی ترقی اور خوشحالی میں اہم کردار ادا کر رہے ہیں، چینی حکومت نے کرونا بحران میں پاکستان کو ویکسین فراہم کر کے حقیقی دوست ہونے کا ثبوت دیا۔ بعد ازاں اعجاز چوہدری نے پارٹی کے مختلف وفود سے ملاقات کے موقع پر گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ کرپٹ اپوزیشن سستی شہرت حاصل کرنے کے لئے جھوٹا وکیلہ کر رہی ہے، عالمی مہنگائی کے مقابلے میں پاکستان سستا ترین ملک ہے، مہنگائی پر احتجاج کرنے والے بے شرم ٹولے کو ڈوب مرنے چاہئے۔ کیونکہ انہوں نے ملکی وسائل کو بے دردی سے لوٹا ہے، جس کی آج سزا غریب آدمی کو مل رہی ہے۔

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سینٹ، سی پیک اتھارٹی سمیت متعدد قائمہ کمیٹیوں کی رپورٹس پیش کرنے کی مدت میں توسیع

اسلام آباد (نیوز پورٹر) ایوان بالا نے مختلف قائمہ کمیٹیوں کو رپورٹس پیش کرنے کی مدت میں توسیع کی منظوری دے دی۔ جمعہ کو ایوان بالا نے فیڈرل بورڈ آف ریونیو (ترمیمی) بل 2020 پر قائمہ کمیٹی برائے خزانہ حیدر آباد اور کراچی کے کم تنخواہ دار طبقہ اور چھوٹے تاجروں کے خصوصی ٹیکس استثنیٰ کے لئے حکومت کو کی گئی سفارش سے متعلق گھریلو تشدد (ممانعت اور تحفظ) بل 2020، ایوان بالا نے قومی کمیشن برائے حقوق اطفال (ترمیمی) بل 2020، منشیات بحالی کے مراکز کی تعداد کے قیام، جبکہ چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری اتھارٹی (ترمیمی) بل 2021 پر قائمہ کمیٹی کی رپورٹس پیش کرنے کی میعاد میں 30 ایام کار کی توسیع کی منظوری دی گئی۔ جمعہ کو ایوان بالا میں وقفہ سوالات کے دوران سینیٹر مشتاق احمد کے سوال کا جواب دیتے ہوئے وزیر خزانہ شوکت ترین نے کہا ہے کہ مردم شماری آئندہ انتخابات سے قبل ہوگی۔ سوال کے جواب میں

وزیر خزانہ نے بتایا کہ پاکستان کے جی ڈی پی کے قرض کا تناسب 60 فیصد سے زیادہ نہیں ہونا چاہیے، یہ 2020ء میں 87.6 فیصد تھا جبکہ مارچ 2021ء کے آخر میں 79.7 فیصد ریکارڈ کیا گیا۔ وزیر پارلیمانی امور علی محمد خان نے کہا ہے کہ پیپلز پارٹی اور مسلم لیگ (ن) نے مل کر پاکستان سٹیٹل ملز کو تباہ کیا۔ جب پرویز مشرف کی حکومت ختم ہوئی تو اس وقت پاکستان سٹیٹل ملز 9 ارب روپے منافع میں تھی۔ مشیر برائے پارلیمانی امور ڈاکٹر ظہیر الدین بابر اعوان نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کے افریقی ممالک کے ساتھ تجارتی حجم میں اضافہ ہوا ہے۔ برآمدات میں ادویات، ٹیکسٹائل، سینٹ، ٹریکٹر، چینی کی مصنوعات، کاغذ، پیپر بورڈ اور ترپالیں شامل ہیں۔ ڈاکٹر بابر اعوان نے کہا کہ وفاقی حکومت قومی ٹیرف پالیسی 2019-24 پر عمل پیرا ہے۔ بنیادی خام مال پر مشتمل 1623 اشیاء پر اضافی ٹیکس ختم کر دیا گیا۔ 90 ٹیرف لائنز پر کسٹم ڈیوٹی ختم کر دی گئی، شعبہ آئرن اور سٹیٹل کی 26 ٹیرف لائنز پر ریگولیٹری ڈیوٹی کم کی گئی۔ وزیر ہوا بازی نے کہا کہ سپریم کورٹ آف پاکستان کے حکم پر پی آئی اے ملازمین کی ڈگریاں چیک کی گئیں، 1800 انجینئرز، ٹیکنیشنز اور دیگر کی اسناد جعلی نکلیں، ان کو ملازمتوں سے برخاست کر دیا گیا۔ 50 پائلٹس کے لائسنس جعلی نکلے ان کو برخاست کیا گیا، 34 کو معطل کیا گیا، ایوان بالا نے پاور پراجیکٹ کے قیام کے ذریعے عمران ڈویش کو بجلی کی فراہمی سے متعلق رپورٹ کی بھی منظوری دی۔ علاوہ ازیں جمعہ کو ایوان بالا میں صدر مملکت کے پارلیمنٹ کے دونوں ایوانوں کے مشترکہ اجلاس سے خطاب کی نقل بھی پیش کر دی گئی۔ وزیر اعظم کے مشیر برائے پارلیمانی امور ڈاکٹر ظہیر الدین بابر اعوان نے صدر مملکت کے دونوں ایوانوں کے مشترکہ اجلاس سے خطاب کی مصدقہ نقل ایوان میں پیش کی۔ شہزاد وسیم نے کہا کہ اپوزیشن مایوسی پھیلانے اور حقائق سے نظریں چرانے کی کوشش کر رہی ہے، وزیر اعظم عمران خان کی قیادت میں ملک آگے بڑھے گا، اپوزیشن میں اخلاقی جرات نہیں کہ خاموشی سے حقائق سنیں، ہم خاموشی سے بات سننے کا حوصلہ رکھتے ہیں۔ اٹھارویں ترمیم کے بعد صوبے با اختیار ہیں، کیا سندھ میں شہد اور دودھ کی نہریں بہ رہی ہیں، وہاں کتے کاٹے کی ویکیسین دستیاب نہیں ہے، سندھ حکومت اپنی ذمہ داریاں پوری کرے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ خطہ ایک اور گریٹ گیم کا مرکز بن رہا ہے، وزیر اعظم عمران خان علاقائی سوچ اور امن کے پیامبر بن کر سامنے آئے ہیں، بھارت کی سبکی ہو رہی ہے، اسے افغانستان میں تاریخی شکست کا سامنا کرنا پڑا، بھارت نے پنج شیر کے حوالے سے جھوٹی خبر چلائی، جعلی خبر کی بنیاد پر امریکہ میں قانون سازی کی کوشش کی جا رہی ہے، ہمیں ان کی زبان نہیں بولنی چاہیے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ سی پیک اس ملک کی اقتصادیات کے لئے مرکزی حیثیت رکھتا ہے، ہمیں ملکی مفاد میں ذمہ داری کا مظاہرہ کرنا چاہیے۔ سینٹ میں قائد حزب اختلاف سید یوسف رضا گیلانی کی جانب سے پٹرولیم مصنوعات کی قیمتوں سے متعلق اٹھائے گئے نکتہ اعتراض کے جواب میں انہوں نے کہا کہ ایوان کو قواعد و ضوابط کے مطابق چلایا جاتا ہے، ایوان کے طریقہ کار کے مطابق اس حوالے سے تحریک پیش کی جائے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پٹرولیم مصنوعات کی قیمتوں سے متعلق وفاقی وزیر حماد اظہر نے تفصیلی جواب دیا تھا، پٹرولیم مصنوعات کی قیمتوں میں ردوبدل دو وجوہات کی بناء پر ہوتا ہے، ان میں سے ایک وجہ عالمی سطح پر پٹرولیم مصنوعات کی قیمتوں میں اضافہ اور دوسرا ٹیکس لگانا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ عالمی سطح پر پٹرولیم مصنوعات کی قیمتوں میں اضافہ کے باعث پٹرول کی قیمت میں اضافہ کیا گیا، وزیر اعظم عمران خان نے اوگر اکی سفارش کے برعکس کم سے کم بوجھ عوام پر منتقل کرنے کی ہدایت کی۔ انہوں نے کہا ٹیکسوں میں کمی کی گئی ہے تاکہ عوام پر زیادہ بوجھ نہ پڑے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-10-02/page-8/detail-35>

October 03, 2021

Daily Times

Socio-economic projects under CPEC vital for region: GPA chief

Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani has said that Pakistan has benefited a lot from the energy and transport infrastructure projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Kashani said this while addressing the inaugural ceremony of Gwadar Technical and Vocational Institute, which has been constructed with the financial assistance of China, reported Xinhua on Saturday.

The chairman of the Gwadar Port Authority said the socio-economic projects under the CPEC are also very important for the South Asian region. He expressed his gratitude to China for the grant of the project and to the Chinese engineers and workers who completed this institute ahead of schedule despite the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. In a video message, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong said the completion of the institute marks a great milestone of CPEC, and is also a long-expected event for the Gwadar people.

“During its construction, the project provided more than 1,000 jobs to local people. After completion, it can accommodate 360 trainees at one time, and provide training opportunities for at least 1,000 people every year,” said Nong, adding that the institute will serve as an “incubator” for high-quality and skilled workers for Gwadar and Balochistan after functioning.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/824388/socio-economic-projects-under-cpec-vital-for-region-gpa-chief/>

The Nation

Essay contest held on Chinese, Urdu languages

ISLAMABAD - As Chinese and Pakistanis people are actively engaged to learn each other's national languages for better communication in all fields, a Chinese-Urdu essay writing competition has been held as part of the 70-year celebrations of Pak-China diplomatic relations.

The competition sponsored by the Pakistani embassy in China and organized by the Silk Road Cities Alliance, has recently come to a successful conclusion in Beijing, Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday.

The competition organization section has invited Pakistani students to write essay in Chinese and Chinese students to write essay in Urdu. Since its launch in July, the event has received positive response from young people of the two countries.

Pakistani and Chinese ambassadors, professors from Minzu University of China (MUC) and Urdu teachers from Pakistan Embassy College in Beijing were invited as judges.

With rigorous professional attitude, they selected excellent works regarding the spiritual connotation, language expression, logical structure and other dimensions.

Ayaz Muhammad, a Pakistani competitor who won the first prize, talked about the exchanges and cooperation between Pakistan and China in the field of education with his own experience of studying in China as a starting point.

The two countries are constantly strengthening cooperation in infrastructure construction and agriculture under the framework of CPEC in the new era.

The essay writing competition is one of the special arrangements of the 4th Silk Road & Young Dreams, which is jointly hosted by Silk Road Cities Alliance, China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development, Beijing Belt and Road Cooperative Community.

Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University of China, China Nationality Culture Foundation.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-10-03/page-4/detail-9>

Nawaiwaqt News

Love export policy of China

کیم اکتوبر کو عوامی جمہوریہ چین اور دنیا بھر میں اُسکے دوست ملکوں نے اپنے طور پر عوامی جمہوریہ چین کا 72 واں قومی دن شان و شوکت سے منایا۔ ہم پاکستانی اور دنیا بھر کے مسلمان جب بھی عوامی جمہوریہ چین کا تذکرہ کرتے ہیں تو اُس کے ساتھ ہی پیغمبر انقلاب صلی اللہ علیہ وآلہ وسلم کی اس حدیث مبارکہ کو ضرور یاد کرتے ہیں جس میں آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وآلہ وسلم نے مسلمانوں کو تلقین کی تھی کہ ”علم حاصل کرو! خواہ تمہیں چین ہی کیوں نہ جانا پڑے!“۔ معزز قارئین! دراصل اُن دنوں چین میں کاغذ ایجاد ہو چکا تھا اور (ٹھپوں) سے کتابیں چھپنا شروع ہو گئی تھیں اور یقیناً ”مدینۃ العلم“ صلی اللہ علیہ وآلہ وسلم اور ”باب العلم“ حضرت علی مرتضیٰؓ کو بھی اُس کا ادراک "Blogs" لکڑی کے ہو گا؟

‘!پاک بھارت جنگ 1965ء

ستمبر 1965ء کو ہمارے پڑوسی ملک بھارت نے بین الاقوامی سرحدوں کی خلاف ورزی کرتے ہوئے پاکستان پر جارحانہ حملہ کیا تھا تو عالمی برادری میں اُس کی بہت بدنامی ہوئی 6 تھی۔ 17 دن کی جنگ میں پاکستانی قوم متحد تھی اور اُس نے پاکستان کی مسلح افواج کے شانہ بشانہ بھارتی جارحیت کا مقابلہ کیا۔ اُن دنوں عوامی جمہوریہ چین کے بانی چیئر مین ماؤزے تنگ اور وزیر اعظم چو این لائی نے پاکستان کی بھرپور مدد کر کے حکومت پاکستان اور پاکستانی عوام کے دل موہ لئے تھے۔

“!قائد اعظم / ماؤزے تنگ ”

معزز قارئین! مختصر بیان کرتا ہوں کہ ”بانی پاکستان حضرت قائد اعظم محمد علی جناحؒ نے جب 14 اگست 1947ء کو گورنر جنرل آف پاکستان کا منصب سنبھالا تو اپنی ساری بنا کر اُسے قوم کے نام کر دیا تھا!“۔ جناب ماؤزے تنگ نے بھی اسی طرح کا کردار ادا کیا۔ 9 ستمبر 1976ء کو جب جناب ماؤزے تنگ کا انتقال ہوا تو "Trust" جائیداد کا ایک، ایک لائبریری اور بینک میں چند ڈالرز چھوڑے تھے۔ (Uniforms) انہوں نے تر کے میں 6 جوڑے کپڑے

“!دو بار دورہ چین ”

معزز قارئین! یہ میری خوش قسمتی ہے کہ ”پہلی بار اگست 1991ء میں (اُن دنوں) وفاقی وزیر اطلاعات و نشریات شیخ رشید احمد کی قیادت میں گیارہ سینئر صحافیوں کے ساتھ اور دوسری بار 1996ء میں وزیر اعظم محترمہ بے نظیر بھٹو کی میڈیا ٹیم کے رکن کی حیثیت سے عوامی جمہوریہ چین کا دورہ کرنے کا موقع ملا۔ میں دونوں مواقع پر عوامی جمہوریہ چین میں محفوظ "Box" کے سیاستدانوں، شاعروں، ادیبوں، دانشوروں، دکلاء، صحافیوں اور غیر صحافیوں سے جو بھی علم حاصل کر سکا، وہ میں نے کیا۔ دونوں بار مجھے شیشے کے ایک۔۔۔ چیئر مین ماؤزے تنگ کے جسدِ خاکی کو بھی دیکھنے کا موقع ملا۔ معزز قارئین! میں نے اپنے دورہ چین کے بارے ایک نظم لکھی، ملاحظہ فرمائیں

“!ہمالہ سے عظیم تر ہے پاک چین دوستی ”

...O...

!یہ فرتوں کی داستاں یہ لذت ہمسائیگی

!ہیں رشتے اعتماد کے، ہے احترام باہمی

!دونوں کا مقصد ایک ہے، قائم ہوا امن و آشتی
 !ہمالہ سے عظیم تر ہے، پاک چین دوستی
 !خلوص و بے ریاکی کے حسین گل کھلے ہوئے
 !سدا سے ہیں عوام کے دلوں سے دل ملے ہوئے
 !محبوبوں کی دُھن پر رقص کر رہی ہے زندگی
 !ہمالہ سے عظیم تر ہے پاک چین دوستی
 !خدا کی بارگاہ میں دانائی ہی قبول ہے
 !تم پاؤ علم چین سے، ”فرمودہ رسول ہے“
 !اُس دور میں بھی چین تھانج علم و آگہی
 !ہمالہ سے عظیم تر ہے پاک چین دوستی
 !کشمیر ہو یا ہو عراق یا سرزمین فلسطین
 !چمکے گی شمع حریت، ہو گا اجالا بالیقین
 !دیوئی امن کی ناپے گی، ہو گی فضا میں نغمگی
 !ہمالہ سے عظیم تر ہے پاک چین دوستی
 !کس درجہ تیزی آئی ہے رفتارِ ماہ وصال میں
 !خود بھنس گیا ہے سامراج اپنے بچھائے جال میں
 !عرفیت ظلم و جور کو کرنا پڑے گی خود کُشی
 !ہمالہ سے عظیم تر ہے پاک چین دوستی

معزز قارئین! اسلام آباد میں جناب مجید نظامی کے مرید خاص تحریک پاکستان کے (گولڈ میڈلسٹ) کارکن چاچا غلام نبی بختاوری کے فرزند چیئر مین ”پاکستان کلچرل فورم“ اسلام آباد برادر عزیز ظفر بختاوری نے میری اس نظم کو دنیا بھر کے سفار تخیانوں میں پھیلا دیا تھا۔ ظفر بختاوری خود 7/8 بار عوامی جمہوریہ چین کا دورہ کر چکے ہیں۔ انہوں نے اپنا آخری دورہ چین اگست 2016ء میں کیا۔ تحریک پاکستان کے دو کارکنان میرے (مرحوم) دوستوں لاہور کے مرزا شجاع الدین بیگ امرتسری (موجودہ چیئر مین بیہمراپرو فیئر مرزا محمد سلیم بیگ کے والد صاحب) اور پاکپتن شریف کے میاں محمد اکرم طور (اردو، پنجابی کے نامور شاعر اور روزنامہ ”نوائے وقت“ کے سینئر ادارتی رکن سعید آسی کے والد صاحب) نے تو میری اس نظم کو بیرون ملک بہت سے فرزند ان و دختران پاکستان تک پہنچا دیا تھا۔

! ”عزت مآب ”شی جن پنگ“

(Madam) اور اُن کی اہلیہ خاتونِ اول ” پنگ لیو آن (Xi Jin Ping) “ معزز قارئین! اپریل 2015ء میں عوامی جمہوریہ کے موجودہ صدر عزت مآب ” شی جن پنگ ... دورہ پاکستان پر تشریف لائے تو 23 اپریل 2015ء کو ”نوائے وقت“ میں میرے دوست ”شاعرِ سیاست“ نے انہیں خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا تھا کہ (Peng Liyu An)

”جنگ جیو، ٹیس، شی جن پنگ جی“

... مکمل دو شعر یوں تھے ہیں

!جی ”King“ ٹیس تے ہو، ساڈے دل دے

!جی ”Bring“ شالا مڑ، پیار

!جی ”Thing“ پیار توں وڈی، نہیں کوئی

!جی ”جنگ جیو، ٹیس، شی جن پنگ، جی“

"Love export policy"

کیا کرتی تھی لیکن عوامی (Export) برآمد (Revolution) ”سوویت یونین اپنے دوست ملکوں کو اپنا ” انقلاب ” Super power“ دسمبر 1991ء سے پہلے دوسری 8 Love ”اختیار کر رکھی ہے۔ مجھے یقین ہے کہ افغانستان میں طالبان حکومت کو بھی ”Love export policy“ جمہوریہ چین کا کمال یہ ہے کیا کہ اُس نے دوست ملکوں سے صادق آئے گی یا نہیں کہ ”Phrase“ سے ہم ہمکنار ہونے کا موقع ملے گا۔ لیکن مجھے شک ہے کہ ”طالبان کی حکومت کیلئے انگریزی کی یہ ” export policy“

"Live in my heart and pay no rent"

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-10-03/page-14/detail-3>

October 04, 2021

Daily Times

CPEC: Chinese engineers assist building Matiari-Lahore HVDC Project

The engineers from National Power Construction Corporation (NPCC) have expressed appreciation to the engineers of XJ Group Corporation (XJGC), China, responsible for supplying, installing and commencing core equipment for Matiari-Lahore 660kV high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission project, under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). This set of core equipment includes converter valves, DC&AC control and protection, measuring system, and so on.

“These can be regarded as the ‘brain and heart’ of the Matiari-Lahore HVDC project,” said Hu Siquan, the general manager of XJGC Flexible Transmission Branch.

According to Liu Kun, a project manager of XJGC, the first team of XJ Group, over 10 engineers, reached the site of the Matiari-Lahore HVDC project in January 2020, following the arrival of equipment. With the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, Chinese engineers had to work while observing the rules and measures to fight against the pandemic. To push ahead with the HVDC project, ten engineers of XJ Group braved the risk of coronavirus to arrive in Pakistan in

June 2020. These engineers used to keep working nearly 13 hours a day in the intense heat in July.

They had finished the installation of 336 converter valve modules at both Lahore converter station and Matiari converter station, installation and commissioning of 24 converter valve towers and valve control systems as well as the sub-system tests. In October 2020, the transmission line had been set up and XJ Group's DPS3000 Operator control system had finished commissioning. They had overcome various difficulties during the three years of construction.

Liu told China Economic Net (CEN) that, "Some of the 30 engineers had been working in Pakistan for over a year, with one staying there for 465 days". After three years' hard work, the HVDC transmission project has started commercial operation in September 2021.

To better operate and maintain the HVDC project, engineers of XJ Group have carried out seven training programs both offline and online for more than 80 engineers from NPCC and National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC) of Pakistan. They appraised that besides the advanced equipment, XJ Group's engineers are capable with high-level expertise. The sound performance of XJ Group has been affirmed by the Pakistani side.

The 878-kilometer-long Matiari-Lahore HVDC project with a capacity of 4,000 megawatt power transmission, starts from the Matiari Converter Station in Sindh in the south, and ends at the Lahore Converter Station in Punjab.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/824940/cpec-chinese-engineers-assist-building-matiari-lahore-hvdc-project/>

Dawn News

This week 50 years ago: Pak-China friendship and Ghalib

Peerzada Salman

It was a week filled with assorted news items mostly related to the countries that have had a good relationship with Pakistan — and Karachi, being culturally vibrant and the demographically largest city of the country, has always played a significant role in bolstering ties with friendly nations. For example, on Oct 6, 1971, firm Chinese support was pledged to Pakistan by Miao Chiu-jui, the Consul-General of China in the city. He said that while speaking at the opening of a six-day photo exhibition of the achievements of China organised by the Pak-China Friendship Society at the Arts Council. The CG added China would forever remain a reliable friend of Pakistan in her just struggle against imperialists and expansionists.

The photographic show projected the giant strides made by the Asian giant in the fields of industry and agriculture. Beautiful images under various heads highlighted the different sectors, and the progress made by China in recent years. There was also a special portfolio of colour photographs of Chairman Mao Tse Tung.

A couple of days later, another friendly nation made the headlines. On Oct 8, Orhan Tureli, the Turkish Consul-General distributed certificates and gave away prizes to successful students of modern Turkish language classes. The course had been regularly held by the Pakistan-Turkish Association since 1964. Addressing the young ones, the consul-general expressed his satisfaction at the relations between Pakistan and Turkey, which he believed were growing steadily because the two countries had so many things in common. Indeed, they have.

Unfortunately, another foreigner that week became the talk of the town for all the wrong reasons. On Oct 4, Ferozabad Police booked an Egyptian national and charged him with murder of Mrs Kaniz Fatma, wife of an engineer who was away at the time of her death. The case was registered on a complaint lodged by the brother of the deceased.

It was not just information of geo-political significance that journalists in the Sindh capital were busy disseminating; in those days, the Karachi Press Club (KPC) had arranged a series of lectures on the greatest Urdu poet Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib titled Ghalib Aur Majnun by none other than the renowned scholar and critic Prof Majnun Gorakhpuri. On Oct 8, the third talk of the series was extensively covered by Dawn. Prof Gorakhpuri in his address opined that rightly ranked among the classicists of Urdu literature, Ghalib through his robust and distinct approach to human problems had immortalised himself as a poet to be adored by one and all, and for all times to come. The focus of his third lecture was on the poet's language and style. He dwelt on his rhythm and musicality, his diction, similes and metaphors, and his altogether individualistic thinking and expression never before known to Urdu poetry. The professor drew copiously on western poetry and art using illustrative quotations from Ghalib's verses, stressing that his love for beauty was unsurpassed and would perhaps remain so for centuries to come. Popular singer Iqbal Bano, who was in Karachi that week, sang Ghalib's ghazals on the occasion. He was her favourite poet.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1650019/this-week-50-years-ago-pak-china-friendship-and-ghalib>

The Express Tribune

CPEC to enhance Pakistan's national strength, international status

BEIJING: After cooperating to deal with the pandemic, Pakistan and China should also accelerate the building of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The 10th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting of CPEC has been held and a new IT working group has been established, which will bolster CPEC, read a statement issued on Sunday.

The success of CPEC will effectively enhance Pakistan's comprehensive national strength and international status, according to an article published by Global Times, English daily in China.

The key to the success of CPEC is that Pakistan needs to form its own industrial advantages through reform and development that can provide a safer environment for the construction of CPEC.

It said, in recent years, the global and regional structure has undergone major changes. At present, the change of strategic situations in South Asia and its neighbouring regions is mainly reflected in the Afghan issue.

The US hastily withdrew its troops from Afghanistan and the Afghan Taliban quickly took over Kabul. Many strategists and media organisations in the West and India have linked the Afghan Taliban's seizure of power with China-US relations, China-India relations and India-Pakistan relations.

They believe that the successful seizure of power by the Afghan Taliban is a success of China and Pakistan, but a strategic failure of some countries including India.

India also has the ambition to achieve its goal of becoming a global power through the Indo-Pacific strategy and attempts to implement Hindu nationalist policies at home and in the region.

"India has long been marginalised on the Afghan issue. If India is to play a role in Afghanistan, it is unlikely to play a positive one. India is likely to use its intelligence agencies and some forces cultivated in Afghanistan and its surrounding areas in the past more than 20 years to undermine and disrupt the stability of Afghanistan. This is unfavorable to Afghanistan and its close neighbours, including China and Pakistan," the article stated.

As all-weather strategic partners, China and Pakistan must work together to maintain and promote regional security and stability.

First of all, China and Pakistan must cooperate closely on the Afghan issue to persuade the Afghan Taliban to establish an open and inclusive government and implement a moderate domestic and foreign policy, it read.

At present, the verbal expression of the Afghan Taliban is very different from that in the past, but we do not know what specific policies they will champion in the future, it added.

The Afghan Taliban are now facing a series of severe challenges. Firstly, the unity of the Afghan Taliban itself; secondly, whether the Afghan Taliban can establish an open and inclusive government; Thirdly, food shortage is likely to lead to humanitarian disasters and refugees; Fourthly, they hope to win the recognition and assistance of the international community, but at the same time, they also face the hatred, blockade, sanctions and even subversion of some hostile forces in the world.

China, Pakistan, Russia and Iran all hope that the Afghan Taliban can establish an open and inclusive regime so that all ethnic groups and parties in Afghanistan can have their own representatives, which is the key for the Afghan Taliban to win domestic and international support.

China does not want Afghanistan to fall into turmoil again due to domestic political struggle that always leads to humanitarian crises, nor does China want Afghanistan to become a shelter for Eastern Turkistan forces such as the ETIM.

China does not want Afghanistan to become a source of regional unrest due to the excessive intervention of some external forces, affecting the security of CPEC.

Therefore, on the issue of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan should coordinate with Russia, Iran and Central Asian countries. These countries together should warn Europe of a possible refugee crisis and put pressure on the US, India and some European countries to take responsible actions to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, the article maintained.

While strengthening strategic and security coordination against terrorist supporters, China and Pakistan should work with countries inside and outside the region to promote the construction of an open, inclusive, democratic and equal regional governance structure and security structure, it concluded.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2323216/cpec-to-enhance-pakistans-national-strength-international-status>

The Nation

Ministry agrees with electric traction option of ML-I

Fawad Yousafzai

ISLAMABAD - The Ministry of Railways (MOR) principally agrees with electric traction (ET) option of ML-I saying the option can be included in the long term CPEC plan 2030 and beyond, however, observed that it will add \$2 billion to the cost of the project and will change the entire dynamic of the loan.

The PTI government is planning the groundbreaking and start of work on the up-gradation of existing Pakistan Main Line-I (ML-I) from last year of its tenure 2022-23, official documents reveal.

Earlier ECNEC had approved the project at the rationalized cost of \$6,806.783 million on 90:10 cost sharing basis between the governments of China and Pakistan, with the conditions that the loan for the project will be a mix of central and sovereign guarantee loan. According to the documents available with The Nation, the cost of the ML-I is \$6.807 billion which includes the FEC of \$6.126 billion and the local currency component of \$681.678 million.

The project will be implemented in three packages. The loan, however, would be negotiated in programmatic mode. The loan amount for each package will be separately contracted so that unnecessary commitment charges are avoided

The project envisages up-gradation of ML-1, establishment of a dry port near Havelian Railway Station; up-gradation of Pakistan Railway Academy Walton in Lahore; passenger facilities development of important railway stations, including Karachi, Hyderabad and Rohri in Sindh

province; Multan, Lahore and Rawalpindi in Punjab province; Nowshera and Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. ML-1 starts from Karachi, passes through Kotri/Hyderabad, Rohri, Multan, Lahore, Rawalpindi and terminates at Peshawar. The line is 1,872km long, including the 55km long Taxila-Havelian section and 91km long Lodhran-Khanewal section. The up-gradation of ML-I will increase the speed of passenger trains from 110 km per hour to 160 km per hour. Speed of the freight trains to increase to 120km per hour. Line capacity will increase from 34 to 137/171 trains each way per day and freight trains trailing load to be increased from 2400 to 3400 ton. Same track to be used by passenger as well as freight trains. Addition of new tracks of about 814km would result in doubling of entire track from Karachi to Peshawar. Under the project existing 2,655km track will be up graded. Grade separation to ensure safety of train operations and result in elimination of manned and un-manned level crossings. Fencing for track isolation is also part of the project.

Responding to the recommendations of Parliamentary Committee on CPEC regarding adding the option of ET to ML-I, the Ministry of Railways said that it is principally agrees with the advantages of electrification of ML-1 which will greatly add to the viability of the entire ML-1 project. However, the financial negotiations for ML-1 with Chinese side are at the final stage and inclusion of ET at this belated stage will further the delay.

During Joint Feasibility Study of ML-1 conducted in 2015 under Framework Agreement executed between the governments of Pakistan and China, the option of electric traction was considered. In the feasibility study 60 new substations on 25KV AC supply were proposed which could be implemented as a Long Term Plan of CPEC i.e. 2030 and beyond. The estimated cost of Electric Traction, as worked out in the Joint Feasibility Study, was around \$2 billion. Owing to high capital cost, electric traction was planned to be implemented in the Long Term Plan of CPEC. Second Framework Agreement was executed between the governments of Pakistan and China in May 2017 in which the scope of work in Short Term (Early Harvest) plan of CPEC was finalised which did not include electrification of ML-1 at that point of time.

According to the MOR, the electric traction system is the most efficient of all other traction system especially as compared to Diesel Electric (DE) locomotive. It offers several benefits including quick start and stop, very efficient, pollution-free, easy to handle and easy speed control. Electric locomotive are more durable and environment friendly with quick acceleration and deceleration. Especially for Pakistan Railways, the introduction of ET will eliminate the need for Power Vans which are used for air-conditioning of passenger coaches.

It is estimated that only 200MW are required for ML-1 operation which will result into 50% saving on fuel cost and 60 to 70% savings on account of locomotive maintenance cost, the ministry said. However, it requires very high capital cost, less flexibility of routes, limited route choices at junction stations and interference with nearby communication lines.

Electric traction is technically possible after complete up-gradation of ML-1 because during up-gradation most of the curves will be re-aligned, track at various locations will be raised and level crossings will be converted into under passes/flyovers. Piecemeal installation of ET will not

serve the purpose and the real benefits of ET will be possible only when up-gradation is complete at least between Lahore and Karachi. There is no doubt that operation & maintenance costs of ET locomotives are significantly less than DE (Diesel Electric) Locomotives and therefore it should be considered as a viable project over up-graded ML-1.

The foreign consultants during the Feasibility Study of up-gradation of ML-1 project analysed the possibility of adding ET over the entire length. Introduction of ET over an up-graded ML-1 as a long term (2030) project is quite feasible but it needs to consider following factors: An additional burden of around \$2.0 billion would have change the overall dynamics of loan terms. Approximately 300 new ET locomotives costing around \$1.0 billion would be required. The installation of ET over the entire length of ML-1 could have been executed as a single project only which was difficult to be dove tailed into the various sections opened for up-gradation.

The construction phasing spread over a period of eight and half years and executed through various contractors could only be accessed for execution of ET once it is completed, the ministry said.

As a part of up-gradation process, a number of alignments are to be redesigned involving easing out sharp curves to support the speed of 160km per hour. ET as a viable option could only be added once these alignments and curves get finalised.

All provisions to install ET in future have been kept while designing bridges, tunnels and other structures. There will be no alterations required while executing ET project on up-graded ML-1, MOR said. A road map for the inclusion of ET in the ML-1 project, as suggested by MOR said that after the commencement of ML-1 up-gradation work, the issue of installation of ET should be raised in the meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) and after recommendation of JWG it should be presented to JCC for approval.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-10-04/page-4/detail-0>

K2 Daily

پاک چین جلد کو تجارت کیلئے کھولے گا جاہل پیمبر؟ سوال پیدز جی نی

تمام سرحدی تجارت حسب سابق جاری، صرف جی بی کے تاجروں کیساتھ سوئیٹلارویہ سمجھ سے بالاتر ہے

پاک چین سرحدی تجارت کی مسلسل بندش سے بارڈر ٹریڈ سے منسلک سینکڑوں افراد یو ایہ ہو گئے

چٹانوزہ کے کاروبار کرنے والے تاجروں کو دن نام ریٹیف دیکر چائنا بارڈر کو کھولا جائے، ارمان شاہ

گت (پ۔) مجیر آف ہیل فریڈ برٹس تک کے دیگر صوبوں میں تمام سرحدی تجارت چٹان میں تھاری مرکز میں کا اعداد زریعہ واحد پاک
گت چٹان کے حدود و سابق تھری نی کول ارمان حسب سابق جاری ہیں صرف گت چٹان کے چین سرحدی تجارت ہے جسکی بندش گت چٹان
شاہ نے میڈیا کو جاری کیا ہے کہ پاکستان کے ساتھ سوئیٹلارویہ سمجھ سے بالاتر کے لوگوں کی معاشی گت کے مزاحف ہے جو کہ حکومت
چین سرحدی تجارت کی مسلسل بندش سے بارڈر ٹریڈ ہے۔ گزشتہ دو سالوں سے پاک چین سرحدی کیلئے لوگ ریٹیف ہے۔ ارمان شاہ نے کہا کہ پاک چین
سے منسلک افراد و یو ایہ ہو گئے ہیں اور ہاتھوں تجارت بند ہے تاہم سوئیٹلارویہ سمجھ سے بارڈر بند ہونے سے چٹانوزہ کے کاروبار کو
چھوٹے تاجروں کے مشکلات کا ڈھار ہو رہے ہیں انکے مس نہیں ہو رہی ہیں۔ ارمان نے مزید کہا کہ گت کروڑوں انسان (باقی صفحہ 6 پیج نمبر 18)



https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=News&Date=2021-10-04

https://www.epaper.dailyk2.com/Home?Issue=NP_ICT&Page=Classified&Date=2021-10-04

Nawaiwaqt News

چین نے پاکستان میں 34.4 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی: امریکی رپورٹ

لاہور (این این آئی) امریکہ میں موجود ماہرین نے تقریباً 13 ہزار سے زائد منصوبوں کا ڈیٹا بیس تیار کیا ہے جو 165 ممالک میں پھیلے ہوئے ہیں اور ان کی مالیت 843 ارب ڈالر ہے، ماہرین کی اسی ٹیم نے 10 برس تک چین کی بیرون ملک بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبوں کی تفصیلات بھی جمع کیں جس سے پاکستانیوں کو چین کی بڑے پیمانے پر اپنے ملک میں کی جانے والی سرمایہ کاری کا اندازہ ہو سکتا ہے۔ میڈیا رپورٹ کے مطابق سینئر ریسرچ سائنسدان ڈاکٹر عمار اے ملک اور شینگ ڈانگ بھی کالج آف ولیم اینڈ میری ورجینیا میں ایڈیٹا ادارے کی اس ٹیم کا حصہ ہیں جنہوں نے گزشتہ 10 برسوں میں چین کی سرمایہ کاری پر تحقیق کی ہے۔ ایڈیٹا کی ویب سائٹ پر 29 ستمبر 2021 کو 100 صفحات پر مشتمل مکمل رپورٹ شائع کی گئی۔ یہ رپورٹ چینی گلوبل ڈیولپمنٹ فنانس ڈیٹا سیٹ کے 2.0 ورژن کا حصہ ہے۔ بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبوں کا جائزہ لیا جائے تو 140 ممالک کی فہرست میں پاکستان 74 واں نمبر ہے۔ ڈاکٹر عمار نے بتایا کہ چین نے پاکستان میں کئی منصوبوں کی شروعات کی۔ سال 2000 سے 2017 تک پاکستان میں 227 منصوبے شروع کئے گئے اور 34.4 ارب ڈالر معاشی ترقی میں لگائے۔ تحقیقات میں یہ بات سامنے آئی کہ صرف 58 فیصد منصوبوں میں توانائی کے شعبے میں سرمایہ کاری کی گئی جبکہ 24 فیصد ٹرانسپورٹیشن کے منصوبے ہیں جن میں ہائی ویز اور ریل کا نظام شامل ہے۔ صحت اور تعلیم کے شعبوں میں انتہائی کم رقم رکھی گئی ہے۔ ڈاکٹر عمار نے بتایا کہ ہمارے اندازے کے مطابق پچھلے 18 برس کے دوران چین نے دنیا بھر میں 840 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری ترقیاتی منصوبوں میں کی۔ یہ سرمایہ کاری اس قدر اوپر جا چکی ہے کہ ہر سال چین 85 ارب ڈالر کی زائد سرمایہ کاری کر رہا ہے۔ یہ رقم امریکی سرمایہ کاری سے دگنی ہے۔ اس کا یہ مطلب ہوا کہ اثر سوخ کے معاملے میں چین امریکہ سے سبقت لئے ہوئے ہیں۔ سی پیک کے جاری 71 منصوبوں کی مالیت 27.3 ارب ڈالر ہے۔ پاکستان کو 4 ارب ڈالر کی رقم گرانٹس کی صورت میں ملی ہے جو کہ واپس نہیں کرنا ہوگی۔ تاہم سی پیک کو نواز شریف کے دور میں زیادہ پذیرائی ملی۔ سال 2013 سے 2017 کے دوران پاکستان میں 5 ارب ڈالر سے 6 ارب ڈالر کی مالیت کے منصوبے لگائے گئے۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-10-04/page-8/detail-33>

پاکستان اور چین کے درمیان پہلی بار 2 ہفتے طویل فوجی مشقیں

شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے پلیٹ فارم تلے انسداد دہشت گردی کے حوالے سے مشترکہ فوجی مشقیں پٹی میں ختم ہو گئیں۔ ایس سی او کے تحت یہ انسداد دہشت گردی کے بارے میں پہلی فوجی مشقیں تھیں جن کا مقصد انسداد دہشت گردی کی عالمی سطح پر کوششوں کے لیے تعاون بڑھانا تھا۔

آئی ایس پی آر کے مطابق شنگھائی تعاون تنظیم کے پلیٹ فارم کے تحت انسداد دہشت گردی کی مشترکہ فوجی مشقیں نیشنل کاؤنٹر ٹیررازم سینٹر پٹی میں ختم ہو گئیں، یہ پہلی فوجی مشقیں تھیں جو دو ہفتے تک جاری رہیں، مشقوں کا مقصد انسداد دہشت گردی کی عالمی کوششوں کے تحت تعاون بڑھانا تھا۔

مشقوں میں پاکستانی اور چینی دستوں نے اپنے تجربات کا تبادلہ کیا، مشقوں میں ابھرتی ہوئی ٹیکنالوجی، نئے رجحانات اور ٹکنیکس کا بھی مظاہرہ ہوا، مشقوں کے پہلے مرحلے میں 26 سے 31 جولائی تک ایس سی او کے رکن ممالک نے اپنے علاقوں میں تربیتی مشقیں کیں جس کے بعد دوسرے مرحلے میں 21 ستمبر سے 4 اکتوبر تک پاکستان میں مشقوں کا انعقاد کیا گیا۔

مشقوں میں مشترکہ انسداد ہشٹ گردی آپریشنز، ہیلی کاپٹر کے ذریعے آپریشنز، سرچ اینڈ کلیئر انس آپریشن، کلوز کوارٹر بیٹل، دھماکا خیز مواد کی بینڈ لنگ اور میڈیکل انخلاء شامل تھا۔ کمانڈر سینئرل کمانڈ لیفٹیننٹ جنرل شاہین مظہر محمود اختتامی تقریب میں مہمان خصوصی تھے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2232233/1/>

October 05, 2021

Business Recorder

Second phase of CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Chinese companies are reportedly reluctant to engage in the second phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) due to failure to meet the terms and conditions agreed with existing companies especially in power sector and has bandied charges of enticement.

Background interviews with officials dealing with Chinese companies, discussions at a recent high level Joint Working Group of Pakistani and Chinese officials meeting as well as available documents paint a depressing picture.

According to sources, the representatives of Chinese companies which have established power projects in Pakistan under CPEC maintain that whatever agreements were signed should be honoured in letter and spirit and on a sustainable basis instead of raising the same issues again and again.

Sources further maintained that if any Ministry/ Organisation or Department interprets the agreement in a different way, CPEC related office provides them with the actual information to keep the record straight.

The issue of overdue payment is one of the key factors which is discouraging new investors; for instance, Chinese power companies' overdue amount is about Rs220 billion for which the representatives of these companies visit Power Division time and again and write letters requesting payment, but are not getting an encouraging response from the authorities attributed to a burgeoning circular debt hovering at around Rs2.3 trillion.

During background interaction with authorities, it was revealed that the government is unable to clear the entire overdue amount of Rs220 billion and is now trying to stagger the amount and most probably may opt for the same formula used to pay other IPPs i.e. in two installments — 40 per cent and 60 per cent.

The sources said there was some delay in payment due to objections on release of subsidy which is now being sorted out so that Chinese plants may continue their operations.

Routinely CPPA-G continues to pay for energy and liability of lenders but the main issue is payment of return on equity.

“Investors have established plants for profit and if they do not get a return on equity, then they will not be able to declare dividends,” the sources said, adding that the authorities have to find an innovative solution to resolve this issue.

Chinese investors have shown patience despite difficulties at the government level and operational level as not a single company has served default notice on the government.

According to sources, whatever activities were agreed at the meeting of various JVGs are now being pursued and coordinated.

Recently, a Chinese company which is constructing a 720-MW Karot Hydropower Project Company Limited (KPCL) sought an extension of time on account of Force Majeure Event (FME) attributed to Covid-19.

The company says that due to FME, the project has been suffering from delays and the primary obligation to achieve the Commercial Operation Date (COD) has also been delayed. KPCL has sent thirteen FME notices to the CPPA-G, GoP/PPIB and GoAJ&K under the project agreements.

The company argues that under the project agreement, the performance deadline to achieve obligations be extended on account of FME. A meeting in this regard was held on February 10, 2021, wherein it was decided that the extension of time would be granted to the company on a formal request to CPPA-G for interim EoT. Accordingly, a formal request letter of January 22, 2021 and reminder on March 18, 2021 were submitted by the company to CPPA-G for interim EoT. The company requested NTDC on June 24, 2021, and CPEC authorities through a letter dated August 25, 2021 and PPIB on July 14, 2021 and September 1, 2021 for a meeting and support but unfortunately extension of time has not been granted.

The company says that it has already conveyed through letters that it needs an interim/tentative EoT urgently as the lender has required it for disbursement of loan.

The company issued notice on August 24, 2021 to lenders for 12th disbursement but the lender has once again put the same condition of EoT for releasing further loan disbursement. The company further contends that it will not release further loan installment if the company fails to get the EoT from CPPA-G, etc. on time. The company’s CEO, Wang Minsheng, maintains that the company has been requesting for the interim EoT on a genuine ground but the extension has not been granted. According to the CEO, the project is facing pressure due to shortage of cash flow, and the company will not be able to make payments to the contractors. The company will also face delay and huge financial loss accordingly.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/10/05/12-page/903005-news.html>

Daily Times

NESPAK undertaken motorway project wins global award

NESPAK has overcome tough challenges and played a key role in the completion of Karakoram Highway Phase-II (Havelian-Thakot), a major connecting project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), said Dr Tahir Masood, Managing Director NESPAK on Monday.

NESPAK is proud to be associated with the project as project consultant [AER – Assistant to Employer’s Representative] as a joint venture partner of leading Turkish consultancy firm M/S Dolsar. The consultancy scope included detailed design review, quality assurance, project monitoring and contract management.

Lately, the project has won the best bridge/tunnel award at the 9th annual Engineering News-Record (ENR)’s Global Best Projects competition for its outstanding design and quality construction. The 120 kilometer KKH Phase II (Havelian – Thakot Section) is a flagship endeavor/undertaking carried out as an early harvest project under CPEC Framework. It was successfully completed as per original date on February 2020 at a cost of Rs134 billion. It is recognised as a symbol and real example of Pakistan and China’s all-weather, long-lasting, brotherly and strong relationship.

The design review of the project posed a formidable challenge in view of over 100 bridges, 6 tunnels with cumulative length of 8.6 km, extensive hydrological studies and structural evaluation, geotechnical review of deep cuts, high fill sections, state-of-the-art slope protection measures and subsoil data of over 2,000 piles. This being a green field project without parallel access to the alignment, timely quality assurance at the site locations proved to be a tough assignment. NESPAK deployed around 40 plus key/supporting staff during the construction phase of the project. From the local standpoint, the biggest challenge was to restore cross connectivity of villages and communities cut by the fenced alignment. NESPAK being local consultant was well positioned to guide and advise the EPC contractor for necessary remedial measures in coordination with the client (NHA). Presently, NESPAK is carrying out project monitoring during the maintenance phase of the project.

The road was divided into two segments i.e., 40km Havelian-Mansehra Expressway and 80km Mansehra-Thakot Class-II Highway. Four interchanges, 112 bridges, 76 underpasses cattle-creeps, 491 culverts, two service areas, 12 flyovers and seven tunnels have been constructed under this mega project. The commercial contract was signed on December 22, 2015, between National Highway Authority and China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC). China Communications Construction Company Ltd. has executed the project.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/825214/nepak-undertaken-motorway-project-wins-global-award/>

Pakistan Observer

‘JATE 2021’: Pakistan-China SCO joint military exercise concludes in Pabbi

RAWALPINDI – A closing ceremony of the Joint Anti-Terrorist Exercise (JATE) – 2021 held at National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Pabbi.

This is the first-ever military exercise conducted in Pakistan under the ambit of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), said ISPR in a statement.

The exercise focused on enhancing cooperation and cohesiveness in combating International Terrorism.

Chinese and Pakistani troops participated in the exercise and shared their experiences of capacity building and innovative approaches / methods on emerging technologies being used to counter the evolving threats.

Exercise was conducted in two stages. Stage 1 of the training was conducted in respective SCO member countries from 26-31 July while stage 2 conducted in Pakistan from 21 September to 4 October 2021.

During the two weeks long training, participating troops from #China and #Pakistan extensively practiced various drills as part of the Joint Counter Terrorism Operations from planning to conduct; including Cordon & Search, Compound Clearance, Close Quarter Battle, Rappelling from Helicopter, Explosive Handling and Medical Evacuation.

Lieutenant General Shaheen Mazher Mehmood, Commander Central Command was Chief Guest on the closing ceremony.

<https://pakobserver.net/jate-2021-pakistan-china-sco-joint-military-exercise-concludes-in-pabbi/>

Nawaiwaqt News

چینی تو نسل جنرل کی ملاقات، چین نے ہمیشہ پاکستان کا ساتھ دیا، اعجاز چوہدری

لاہور (نیوز پورٹ) چین کے تو نسل جنرل پنگ چنگو کی وفد کے ہمراہ پی ٹی آئی سنٹرل سیکرٹریٹ کینال ویو آمد، پی ٹی آئی سیکرٹریٹ کے دورے کے موقع پر سینیٹر اعجاز احمد چوہدری سے وفد کے ہمراہ ملاقات کی اور باہمی دلچسپی کے امور پر تبادلہ خیال کیا، چینی تو نسل جنرل کا سینیٹر اعجاز احمد چوہدری، ناصر سلمان، ملک امانت علی، رانا عبد السمیع، ملک عثمان، روبینہ شاہین سمیت دیگر رہنماؤں نے استقبال کیا۔ پنگ چنگو نے چین کے قومی دن کے حوالے سے منعقدہ تقریب میں شرکت اور اعجاز احمد چوہدری کے ہمراہ چین کے قومی دن کے موقع پر کیک کاٹا۔ ناصر سلمان نے چین کے وفد کا پی ٹی آئی سیکرٹریٹ کا دورہ کرنے پر خیر مقدم کیا۔ پروقار تقریب سے سینیٹر اعجاز احمد چوہدری نے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ قومی دن کے موقع پر چینی عوام کو مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہیں، چین نے ہمیشہ مشکل گھڑی میں پاکستان کا بھرپور ساتھ دیا، پاک چین دوستی پر پاکستانی قوم کو فخر ہے۔ تقریب سے چینی جنرل کونسل پنگ چنگو نے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ پی ٹی آئی سنٹرل پنجاب کی قیادت کا شاندار استقبال کرنے پر میں شکریہ ادا کرتا ہوں، چینی قوم نے دن رات محنت کر کے تاریخ ساز کامیابی سمیٹی، موجودہ چینی حکومت نے عوام کے مسائل کو حل کر کے جدید چین بنایا، پاکستان اور چین کیساتھ ستر سال سے زائد مضبوط دوستانہ

تعلقات ہیں، سی بیک وقت وقت کے ساتھ بہترین منصوبوں کی شکل میں پاور پلانٹ، موٹرویز، ڈیمز بنائے جا رہے ہیں۔ تقریب میں شیخ امتیاز محمود، روبینہ شاہین، میاں شائق محبوب، علی رضا نقوی، میجر (ر) ظفر اللہ چٹھہ، ڈاکٹر مصباح ظفر اور میاں غوث سمیت دیگر عہدیداران اور کارکنان نے شرکت کی۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-10-05/page-2/detail-7>

October 06, 2021

Daily Times

Pak-China institute at Gwadar symbol of 70 years of friendship

The Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute established at Gwadar Port is a symbol of 70 years of Pak-China friendship.

The institute which is a part of China Pakistan Economic Corridor, was completed at a cost of \$10 million in only 20 months. The institute had been equipped with the state-of-the-art machinery for imparting the best technical education and skills to the youths of Balochistan, especially Gwadar. According to an official source, the students would be provided free accommodation and scholarships during the training in the institute. The institute was an excellent institution not only for Gwadar but also for the entire region and would play a significant role in the region's development. He said its establishment would play an important role in securing decent employment by imparting vocational training to talented youths.

“Technical institutes play an important role in industrial development and the trained youths would have golden opportunities to get employment in Gwadar Port, and industrial sector and other projects of the CPEC,” official source said. The project is completed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Gwadar. The institute was an excellent institution not only for Gwadar but also for the entire region which would play a significant role in the region's development. The establishment of The Pak-China Technical & Vocational Institute of Gwadar Port would play an important role in securing decent employment by imparting vocational training to talented youths.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/825692/pak-china-institute-at-gwadar-symbol-of-70-years-of-friendship-2/>

Pakistan Observer

China strengthens financial support for coal, electricity production

China's top banking and insurance regulator has released a circular on strengthening financial support for coal and electricity production and maintaining order in the commodity market.

The circular, released by the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, urges efforts to satisfy reasonable financing needs of power, coal, steel and non-ferrous metal producers to ensure supplies and stabilize prices. It urges banks and insurance institutions to offer sound financial services to secure energy.— Xinhua

<https://pakobserver.net/china-strengthens-financial-support-for-coal-electricity-production/>

CPEC & Its Impact on Gilgit-Baltistan: An Economic Boom Over Cultural Subdue?

Mehr Jan

THE China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has been long considered as that ‘dream project’, which struck many as being intangible in terms of formation and complete realization.

Yet, since 2016, this regional framework of connectivity has been paving the way to provide major geographical linkages which is causing the sheer transformation specifically to the remote regions of the very scenic region of Gilgit-Baltistan.

A haven that is home to rich culture and even richer history, Gilgit-Baltistan is extremely sacred to the tourism sector for it is home to five of the famed ‘eight-thousanders’.

Home to some of the highest mountain ranges, it is how CPEC is branching out its functionality in this region which is creating all the hype.

CPEC has already laid groundwork towards understanding regional knowledge as it aims to increase the flow of trade and create extensive business opportunities for various lands passing through this gigantic project – a Pakistan-China mega collaboration.

Experts suggest it to be a major win-win model, providing an enhancement of development possibilities from which locals can gain heavy incentives.

However the question arises – at what price does it aim to provide a complete makeover to the heavenly lands of Gilgit-Baltistan? And do locals even consider the pre-stated incentives to be something desirable?

Gilgit-Baltistan, a land of wonders and mystery, is prone to transfer you into a state of complete awe. For many years, nationals have been paying visits to what can only be considered as a fascinating work of nature.

This cultural gem reflects its complete identity with its distinctive apparel, food, language and abode – you are easily transferred into another world. Besides its famed dried apricots, hospitable folks of the wondrous valley of Hunza, Gilgit-Baltistan are the ultimate destination for mountain explorers.

As of recent times, there has been a surge in foreign visits too; this is in line with security assurance and commute made visibly easy by what is considered as the eighth wonder of the world – the Karakoram Highway.

Also known as N-35 or even the China-Pakistan Friendship Highway, it very well extends from Hasan Abdal in the Punjab province to the Khunjerab Pass in Gilgit-Baltistan, where it crosses into China. The highway is definitely a popular tourist attraction, being one of the highest paved

roads in the world, with its maximum elevation recorded at 714 m (15,466 ft) near Khunjerab Pass.

As you drive through the breathtaking sights, with lush green valleys complimenting the tall, mountainous structures of magnitude and prominence, the improved roads are already giving a major boost to the tourism sector – something which is destined to put Pakistan onto the map once its spectacular strip of Northern Areas is also promoted along the tagline of being ‘safe and accessible’.

Due to international travelling restrictions imposed by the Corona Pandemic, nationals including the likes of high profile residents, finally marvelled and began to explore the greatness within our own boundaries.

The picturesque Northern Areas are finally getting the spotlight they rightfully deserve. But yet again the question arises as how are the locals to gain from such a strong economical foothold?

Miniscule to non-existent, suggests one local resident. Abdul Akdeem – a Masters graduate in Business Administration is currently back home in Upper Hunza looking over his family owned apricot orchards; he feels that when the rich investors come in, the local community will be drastically impacted.

Voicing concerns over how their simple livelihood will get heavily impacted from the kind of displacement many of the locals will be facing as CPEC continues to progress, Akdeem is pessimistic at what CPEC promises to provide on grassroots level.

Voicing similar concerns, much of the Hunza community remains dubious about how their stance will get any kind of boost when in correlation with the inner workings of CPEC in the region. This may not even be a farfetched thought.

When we look into how CPEC has been impacting the landscape with its operations, there is still certain secrecy on how Gilgit-Baltistan fits into the whole equation. Many of the regions falling under this province’s belt are not aware of how they will be getting an economic boom, if any from this monstrous mega project.

Locals have been left out of any concrete campaigns or discussions which may suggest their solid role. Much of the elderly community is also worried as to how this will negatively impact their strong cultural stance.

Hunza is one place which is loved for its people as much as it is appreciated for its peaks. The sheer warmth and one-on-one conversations makes it a land of love. You are welcomed with wide, open arms.

But when we look into the kind of economic security CPEC is giving, the insecurity it will inflict on the traditions and simplistic way of living is a matter of concern. In this fast changing world, holding onto the reins of what defines our existence, our history and ancestry richness is becoming hard .

And for those communities and families which have that tightly secured in the palms of their hands, they would feel vulnerable towards any initiative which threatens the basis of their core identity.

While some faces of the youth are optimistic towards the kind of business opportunities CPEC is going to bring forth, allowing them to progress and gain financial stability- something their forefathers couldn't even dream of- the way this revolutionary project is going to impact the region's sheer cultural strength and cherished traditions is something only time will tell.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-its-impact-on-gilgit-baltistan-an-economic-boom-over-cultural-subdue-by-mehr-jan/>

The Express Tribune

Pakistan Railways attempts to generate revenue for KCR

KARACHI: In a bid to alleviate the train's lack of passengers and resulting financial losses, Pakistan Railways has now started running Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) coaches to Mirpurkhas. In the past, despite offering citizens a modern intra-city transport experience, the local train had largely remained on the fringes of public interest; carrying but a dozen or so fare-payers on its best days.

The train's lack of popularity, to some extent, is believed to be rooted in its long troubled past and the two decades of closure that wiped its existence from a generation's recall, followed by a sudden, ad hoc restoration.

The train service was only partially resurrected in the winter of 2020, when the Supreme Court ordered Pakistan Railways to reinstate KCR on an emergency basis, after a gap of 21 years. Without a comprehensive plan, it appeared that the national railway company's efforts towards KCR's revival were largely limited to avoiding contempt of court, with little bearing on practical implementation.

Former railway minister Sheikh Rashid inaugurated the restoration of the KCR service on November 19, 2020. On this occasion, only the main line track of the Circular Railway from City Station to Papri Station was restored. It should be noted that Karachi Circular Railway has its own loop of 44 kilometres, covering Orangi, SITE, Lyari, Nazimabad, Liaquatabad, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Landhi, Malir, Nathakhan and other areas, which largely remain busted. However, trains could now run on the main line track to reach other parts of the country, which gave the state-owned railway company just enough legal leeway to wiggle out of any cases of contempt of court.

Later, Pakistan Railways restored 14 kilometres of the KCR loop from City Station to Orangi Town on February 10, 2021, and at the same time extended KCR service to main line Dhabeji to meet the shortage of passengers.

However, this policy of Pakistan Railways also fell short; failing to garner enough passengers for the train and eventually landing the service in a financial crisis. Recently, in what could be seen as a last-ditch attempt to bring in fare-payers, Pakistan Railways decided to extend the KCR service to Mirpurkhas.

Speaking in this regard, an official of the national railway company confirmed that although the previous extension of the KCR service from Orangi Town to Dhabeji had come to nothing, the latest appendage has resulted in a slight increase in passengers. “The inclusion of Mirpur Khas in the KCR service has been great in terms of revenue generation and we have seen a positive response from the people as well,” the officer corroborated. “However, KCR’s success is not possible unless its original loop which is established in densely populated areas of the city is also restored,” he added.

The circular railway loop covers 44 kilometres out of which 14 kilometres going from City Station to Orangi Town has been restored while the remaining 30 kilometre track and station are in dilapidated condition. The loop will be gradually restored under Phase II and Phase III of the rehabilitation process.

In this regard, talking to the media on the occasion of arrival of green line buses at the Karachi port last week, Federal Minister Asad Umar said that Prime Minister Imran Khan would lay the foundation stone for the reconstruction of Karachi Circular Railway on September 30.

Similarly, Pakistan Railways Chairperson and Secretary Habib-ur-Rehman Gilani said that Pakistan Railways has been providing local service on the mainline in the past as well. PC-1 has been approved by the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) for rehabilitation of KCR. “It will be approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) this month, after which development work will start at a faster pace. Development work is being carried out at various stations with the funds available now,” he told The Express Tribune.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2323483/pakistan-railways-attempts-to-generate-revenue-for-kcr>

China’s MCC interested to revive steel mill

BEIJING: Three Chinese companies including Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) have shown interest in reviving Pakistan’s largest steel manufacturing complex – Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM).

By promoting the local economy and helping to improve social welfare, MCC is dedicated to become a model business with respect to boosting economic cooperation between China and Pakistan.

As a state-owned company in the iron and steel industry, MCC was one of the earliest Chinese enterprises to operate businesses and projects in Pakistan. In 1990, MCC managed the construction of Saindak Copper-Gold Mine based on an engineering, procurement and construction contract. Saindak Copper-Gold Mine made a steady profit for 18 consecutive years

and became a major driver of the local economy. It was praised by the governments on both sides of the border and they termed it a model of China-Pakistan economic cooperation.

MCC Chairman Guo Wenqing met Prime Minister Imran Khan to discuss cooperation and prospects of joint ventures in energy, industries and various other sectors.

Sources in the Privatisation Commission of Pakistan said earlier that the government was expecting at least \$1 billion in foreign investment by the end of the year to revive Pakistan Steel Mills.

Investors from Russia are also showing interest in running the huge industrial facility as part of a consortium.

Pakistan Steel Mills has the capacity to expand and produce 3 million tons of cold and hot-rolled steel annually. There is a plan to create a subsidiary, Steel Corp Limited, in the premises of Pakistan Steel Mills in a bid to offer the mammoth industrial unit to foreign investors.

Instead of selling or privatising the mill, the government aims to revive the operation and production of the unit with the help of foreign investors to meet the growing local demand for steel.

Pakistan's annual steel demand stands at about 8 million tons whereas local production fluctuates in the range of 3-4 million tons. The country fills the gap by importing steel and iron from Japan and other countries.

Last year, six Russian firms including the Metprom Group, four Ukrainian entities including Ukrainian National Foreign Economic Corporation, one American firm and three Pakistani companies also expressed interest in running the facility.

This article originally appeared on the China Economic Net

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2323422/chinas-mcc-interested-to-revive-steel-mill>

Express News

امریکی رپورٹ میں سی پیک کے حوالے سے غلط خبر پھیلائی گئی، اسد عمر

وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی اسد عمر کا کہنا ہے کہ امریکا کی ایک رپورٹ میں سی پیک کے حوالے سے غلط خبر پھیلائی گئی، سی پیک پر دنیا کی نظر رہتی ہے، دنیا کی بہت سی قوتوں کی خواہش ہے کہ سی پیک کامیاب نہ ہو۔

معاون خصوصی برائے سی پیک خالد منصور کے ہمراہ پریس کانفرنس کرتے ہوئے وفاقی وزیر منصوبہ بندی اسد عمر کا کہنا تھا کہ سی پیک پر دنیا کی نظر رہتی ہے، دنیا کی بہت سی قوتوں کی خواہش ہے کہ سی پیک کامیاب نہ ہو، ہائبر ڈوار کے ذریعے ایسے منصوبوں کے خلاف سازشیں کی جاتی ہیں، ایسی قوتوں کی کوشش ہوتی ہے کہ غلط انفارمیشن پھیلائی جائے، کبھی کبھی ہمارے اپنے لوگ بھی اس غلط انفارمیشن کا حصہ بن جاتے ہیں۔

وفاقی وزیر کا کہنا تھا کہ امریکا کی ایک رپورٹ میں سی پیک کے حوالے سے غلط خبر پھیلائی گئی، اور کہا گیا کہ سی پیک کے حوالے سے معلومات خفیہ رکھی گئی ہیں، جب کہ سی پیک کے حوالے سے سب معلومات پارلیمان کے فورم پر دی جا چکی ہے، سی پیک پر پارلیمانی اور سائٹ موجود ہے، پاور جزیشن منصوبوں کی تمام معلومات نیپرا کی ویب سائٹ پر موجود ہے۔

اسد عمر نے بتایا کہ امریکی رپورٹ میں سی پیک قرض کو خفیہ قرض کہا گیا، حکومت کی جانب سے قرضوں کیلئے ساورن گارنٹی دی گئی، سی پیک پر مشترکہ پارلیمانی کمیٹی سمیت دونوں ایوانوں کی الگ الگ کمیٹیاں ہیں، کسی بھی منصوبے پر جن میں توانائی کے منصوبے شامل ہیں معلومات دی جاتی رہی ہیں، کوئی خفیہ قرضہ کی بات کی گئی جو ہمارے علم میں نہیں ہے، خود مختار گارنٹی حکومت دیتی ہے اور یہ کوئی خفیہ قرضہ نہیں، کئی منصوبے حکومت نجی شعبہ کے ذریعے خود مختار گارنٹی سے مکمل کرتی ہے، پاور کے منصوبوں کیلئے قرض فراہم کیا گیا اور کچھ قرض حکومت کو دیا گیا، مینگے قرضوں کی بات کی گئی لیکن اوسط قرضوں پر شرح سود 4 فیصد ہے، کثیر الجہتی قرض اس میں زیادہ ہیں اور اوسط شرح سود 4 فیصد ہے، گرانٹ کی اوسط شرح سود جو حکومت کو دیئے گئے ان کی اوسط شرح 2 فیصد بنتی ہے۔

وفاقی وزیر کا کہنا تھا کہ پاکستان کے سی پیک سے متعلق قرضے خطرناک حد تک نہیں ہیں، سی پیک میں دنیا بھر کو وہی پیشکش کی جو چین کو بھی کی، تھنک ٹینک کے مطابق سی پیک کی وجہ سے پاکستان کے قرضے خطرناک حد تک بڑھے ہیں، چین کے قرضے پاکستان کے مجموعی قرض کا 10 فیصد ہیں، بیرونی قرضوں کے حساب سے چین کا قرض 26 فیصد ہے، ہم یہ نہیں کہتے ہیں کہ گزشتہ حکومت کی سی پیک پالیسیاں بری تھیں، قرضوں کا موازنہ سامنے رکھا ہے ہمیں بتایا جائے کہ کون سے قرضے مینگے ہیں، ہماری حکومت میں سی پیک کے زیادہ منصوبے شروع ہوئے ہیں، پچھلی حکومت کی نسبت ہماری حکومت کے آنے کے بعد سی پیک کا زیادہ کام ہو رہا ہے۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2232855/1/>

October 07, 2021

Business Recorder

There's 'nothing hidden' about CPEC loans, insists Umar

ABDUL RASHEED AZAD

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Planning and Development Asad Umar on Wednesday said there is nothing secret in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the government of Pakistan has even shared the information with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Addressing a press conference along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on CPEC Khalid Mansoor, Umar said that when the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) formed government in 2018 and went to the IMF, the global lender also asked for information about the projects under the CPEC, which were provided to them by the government of Pakistan.

While acknowledging that Pakistan had a debt servicing and debt sustainability challenge, he stressed Pakistan did not have a "China debt" problem pertaining to loan financing from the CPEC projects.

The minister said the information was shared "before as well" and that it was being repeated due to the report being highlighted in the media. "Debt to China is only 10 percent of Pakistan's general debt."

On the concern regarding Pakistan's debt reaching a "dangerous level", he said Chinese debt comprised only 10 percent of the country's general debt including domestic and foreign and 26 percent of its external debt.

He said that 74 percent of Pakistan's loans were received from rest of the world mostly from the Western world and multilateral agencies. He said Pakistan's debt sustainability challenges were not due to Chinese loans but the country's own internal issues.

He said the government of Pakistan gives sovereign guarantee to all the foreign-funded projects and all the Independent Power Producers (IPPs), whether they were from China, the US or any other country.

Umar was responding to a recent report by a US-based international development research lab, Aid Data that was critical of the CPEC.

He recalled that the report had raised four main issues about the CPEC: lack of transparency, imposition of secret loans on Pakistan, loans being expensive, and Pakistan's debt rising to a dangerous level because of the CPEC.

He further said information on the CPEC projects had been shared a number of times and that the Senate and the National Assembly committees had even had their queries answered. "Parliamentary oversight is present," he said.

Umar said that data on energy and power projects was available with the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and that the government had provided information about the CPEC to the IMF at the start of its programme.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/10/07/1-page/903121-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

KP Govt, COPHC to enhance cooperation on Gwadar Port

China Overseas Ports Holding Company (COPHC) Pakistan and the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have agreed to further enhance cooperation between the Gwadar Port and the province of KP.

In this regard, according to Gwadar Pro, a "constructive and fruitful" meeting was held between Chairman and CEO COPHC Zhang Baozhong and KP Finance Minister Taimur Khan Jhagra led team including Abdul Karim Tordher, Special Assistant to Chief Minister KP on Industries and CEO KPBOIT and SEZA Hassan Daud Butt in Peshawar.

As Gwadar port is turning out to be a hub of maritime trade in the whole region, KP creates a link between Gwadar Port and Afghanistan and landlocked Central Asian countries.

Taimur Khan Jhagra said that KP is a land of opportunities, which is a connecting link between Gwadar Port and Afghanistan and beyond.

“Zhang Baozhong proposed a MoU between COPHC and KPBOIT for more cooperation,” said Hassan Daud Butt, adding, enhanced cooperation between Gwadar Port and KPBOIT will benefit the entire region.

Hassan Daud Butt briefed Chairman COPHC about growing business opportunities in the province and the facilitation KPBOIT offers to the local and foreign investors.

<https://pakobserver.net/kp-govt-cophc-to-enhance-cooperation-on-gwadar-port/>

NESPAK undertaken motorway project wins global award

NESPAK has overcome tough challenges and played a key role in the completion of Karakoram Highway Phase-II (Havelian-Thakot), a major connecting project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), it was stated by Dr. Tahir Masood, Managing Director NESPAK here on Monday.

NESPAK is proud to be associated with the project as Project Consultant [AER – Assistant to Employer’s Representative] as a joint venture partner of leading Turkish Consultancy firm M/S Dolsar.

The consultancy scope included detailed design review, quality assurance, project monitoring and contract management.

Lately, the project has won the best bridge/tunnel award at the 9th annual Engineering News Record (ENR)’s Global Best Projects competition for its outstanding design and quality construction.

The 120 kilometer KKH Phase II (Havelian – Thakot Section) is a flagship endeavor/undertaking carried out as an early harvest project under CPEC Framework.

It was successfully completed as per original date on February 2020 at a cost of Rs. 134 billion. It is recognized as a symbol and real example of Pakistan and China’s all-weather, long-lasting, brotherly and strong relation-ship.

<https://pakobserver.net/nespak-undertaken-motorway-project-wins-global-award/>

The Express Tribune

\$168m Gwadar road project almost complete

ISLAMABAD: The Gwadar Eastbay Expressway, the most important mega connectivity and road infrastructure project worth \$168 million, is likely to be completed this month.

The project was part of a wider \$1.1 billion development package for the city and Port of Gwadar. Gwadar Eastbay Expressway was a six-lane urban motorway and connect Gwadar Port with Gwadar Free Trade Zone and Makran Coastal Highway after its completion. Economic and Commerce Experts said that Gwadar Eastbay Expressway would prove to be a major step in utilizing the full potential of Gwadar Port for trade, especially the way it would help connect Gwadar Port with Gwadar Free Trade Zone.

It may be mentioned here that the completion of Gwadar Eastbay Expressway carried a lot in its lap for the Coastal City. It would not only help Gwadar Port to fully capitalize on its trading potential but would also make Gwadar a hub of investment for businesses across Pakistan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2323661/168m-gwadar-road-project-almost-complete>

Short video contest on 70 years of Pak-China relations

ISLAMABAD: To celebrate the 70th anniversary of China-Pakistan Diplomatic relations, the Chinese Embassy in cooperation with Likee has launched a short video contest on the theme of '70 years of Togetherness', said a statement issued on Wednesday.

The contest starts from October with a three-month preliminary phase and one-month finale ending in January 2022, it added. One theme would be followed every month, therefore, for October the theme is 'My Story with China'.

At the end of each month, 18 videos will be selected for a reward. The videos selected during the months will be directly admissible to the final round where five people's best works will be highlighted. The notification encouraged people to take part in the contest by shooting a short video with the hashtag #MyStoryWithChina on Likee by October 25. "Join now and a prize pool of over Rs2 million awaits!" it added.

The notification detailed the application process asking people to download the Likee app from Google Play or App Store and record or upload a video and enter #MyStoryWithChina in the input box to post it.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2323660/short-video-contest-on-70-years-of-pak-china-relations>

The News

Pak-China Technical Institute at Gwadar to provide scholarships

ISLAMABAD: The Pak-China Technical and Vocational Institute established at Gwadar Port will provide free accommodation and scholarships to students during the training in the institute.

The institute is a symbol of 70 years of Pak-China friendship. The institute, a part of CPEC, was completed in 20 months only, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday.

The institute has been equipped with state of the art machinery for imparting the best technical education and skills to the youths of Balochistan, especially Gwadar.

A spokesperson for the institute said the students would be provided free accommodation and scholarships during the training in the institute.

It is an excellent institution not only for Gwadar but also for the entire region and would play a significant role in the region's development, added the spokesperson.

He emphasized that its establishment would play an important role in securing decent employment by imparting vocational training to talented youths.

“Technical institutes play an important role in industrial development and the trained youths would have golden opportunities to get employment in Gwadar Port, and industrial sector and other projects of CPEC,” he stated. The project has been completed under the CPEC framework in Gwadar.

Over the weekend, the Pakistan-China technical vocational institute was inaugurated. Nong Rong, China’s Ambassador to Pakistan, attended the inauguration ceremony through video link.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Rong said that the institute, which had been completed at a cost of \$10 million in only 20 months, was a sign of 70 years of Pak-China friendship.

He noted that the institute had been equipped with state of the art machinery for imparting the best technical education and skills to the youths of Balochistan, especially of Gwadar.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=11194>

October 08, 2021

Business Recorder

Govt tells NA body

Work on Dasu Dam remains stalled since attack on Chinese

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Water Resources on Thursday revealed that development work on mega hydropower projects is suspended including Dasu Dam project.

Briefing National Assembly Standing Committee on Water Resources, presided over by Nawab Yousuf Talpur, Secretary Water Resources, Dr. Shahzeb Khan Bangash said that civil work on hydropower projects has been stalled since the attack on Chinese engineers in July this year. He said negotiations with the Chinese government are under way. He hoped that work will resume very soon.

The committee also deliberated on advance payment of Rs4.5 billion to the contractor of Dasu project.

The Committee discussed short supply of water to Punjab by Indus River System Authority (IRSA), moved by Khawaja Sheraz Mehmood MNA in National Assembly on July 13, 2021. Chairman IRSA Saif Anjum informed the committee that Punjab has faced 34 per cent shortage on Chashma Right Bank Canal, adding that less water was released on Chashma Right Bank Canal despite the fact that there was no shortage.

Chairman, Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda), Lt. General Muzammal Hussain (retired) said that water release is the responsibility of IRSA, adding that whatever water is made available to Wapda it releases to the provinces.

Member IRSA from KP argued that there are reasons for the shortage of water, adding that main canal requires to be cleaned.

The Committee was informed that Punjab's border starts after 80 kilometres due to which losses are higher.

Khawaja Shiraz opposed taking control of Chashma Bank Canal away from Wapda and giving it to provinces as was decided in the Council of Common Interests (CCI).

“If control of Chashma Right Bank Canal is transferred to provinces, it would be unfair as my area would be totally deprived of water,” said Khawaja Shiraz.

Commenting on views of Khawaja Sheraz, Chairman Wapda said that both provinces (Punjab and KP) are seeking control of Chashma Right Bank Canal, suggesting if this has not been done then the CCI should be approached.

Chairman IRSA proposed that the lower part of Chashma Right Bank Canal should be given to Punjab, adding that the province will adjust employees of Wapda working on this part of the canal.

The officials of Ministry of Water Resources apprised the Committee that Punjab is being given control of its part of the Canal and agreement is almost near finalisation.

The Water Resources Committee directed that the decision of CCI should be followed with respect to control of Chashma Right Bank Canal.

Member IRSA Sindh, Zahid Hussain Junejo said that Sindh is not being provided water as per the Water Accord, claiming that Guddu barrage and Kotri barrage witnessed 35 per cent and 60 per cent shortfall, respectively.

However, Chairman IRSA negated the claims of Member IRSA Sindh, saying that the water regulator distributes available water amongst the provinces as per the Accord.

The officials of Sindh Irrigation Department rebuffed the water figures presented by Chairman IRSA. “Chairman IRSA is presenting fudged figures to the Committee. Sindh faced four percent more shortage than Punjab in Kharif,” Sindh Irrigation officials claimed.—MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/10/08/1-page/903238-news.html>

Chinese nationals: Punjab police to re-evaluate security

LAHORE: The Punjab police have decided in principle to reevaluate security arrangements being taken for the safety of Chinese nationals working on different China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and other private projects in Punjab.

Presided over by Punjab Inspector General of Police (IGP) Rao Sardar Ali Khan, the decision was taken at a high-level meeting held at the Central Police Office (CPO) on Thursday to review in detail the security arrangements being taken by the Punjab police's Special Protection Unit (SPU) and private security firms for ensuring safety of the Chinese nationals and businessmen visiting Pakistan and China.

“Provision of foolproof security to foreign nationals, especially Chinese experts working on CPEC and other private projects and businessmen visiting (Pakistan and China) for economic activities and ordinary Chinese citizens is among the top priorities of the Punjab police,” the IG said.

He directed the SPU to conduct a fresh security audit of sites and projects where Chinese nationals are working and re-verify data of focal persons, drivers and security guards working with these people.

“All private security companies which provide guards or other staff for security to Chinese nationals should be re-inspected,” he ordered and asked the supervisory officers to regularly inspect CPEC project sites. The IG further said the working of Chinese desks at airports should be made more active along with the effective supervision and monitoring while the data of all foreign nationals coming to Pakistan, especially Chinese nationals, must be updated on daily basis.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/10/08/7-page/903282-news.html>

Daily Times

Using Nuclear Technology for Peace

Zafar Iqbal Yousafzai

Pakistan has been facing an immense energy crisis for quite a long time. According to a World Bank report, electricity shortage is a bigger obstacle to business as compared to corruption. To fulfil, or at least shorten, its energy shortage, Pakistan and China are working in close collaboration. Some states like India have been questioning Pakistan’s nuclear cooperation for peaceful purposes. However, all business related to nuclear is according to the IAEA regulations and safety mechanism. This article looks at China-Pakistan cooperation in the peaceful nuclear energy sector and how they are taking care of the obligations of the IAEA and other nuclear regulatory agencies.

Peaceful use of nuclear technology has significantly increased in modern times where other sources are expensive as well as environmental pollution. Nuclear technology is significant in several fields: agriculture, energy production, medical, pharmaceuticals, scientific research, and industries. Nuclear technology is not only economic but also environment-friendly. Hence, Pakistan has been looking to seek collaboration in the nuclear energy sector under the non-proliferation regulations. Being a close ally, Pakistan is actively engaged with China for collaboration in the nuclear energy sector for peaceful uses.

China has been assisting Pakistan in developing nuclear power plants to provide for Pakistan’s nuclear energy requirements in addition to improvement in a number of sectors i.e., food processing and agriculture. However, Pakistan’s supply and demand gap are a serious issue at the moment, which is being prioritised by bilateral cooperation. The nuclear cooperation demonstrates strong progressive ties between Beijing and Islamabad.

China has been assisting Pakistan in developing power plants to provide for nuclear energy requirements.

On September 8, 2021, China and Pakistan inked a nuclear deal aimed at nuclear energy cooperation. The agreement valid for ten years was signed between Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and China Zhongyuan Engineering Cooperation. Moreover, the agreement includes Uranium processing, nuclear fuel supply, transfer of nuclear technology and establishing reactors. The main aim of the agreement is comprehensive nuclear cooperation to construct and maintain nuclear power projects in Pakistan.

Earlier, China has constructed a number of nuclear projects in Pakistan. A brief detail of Chashma Nuclear Power Complex (CHASHMA) and Karachi Nuclear Power Complex (KANUPP) is given below:

CHASHMA I was the second unit constructed by China in Pakistan in 2000 under the complete guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) protocols. Its capacity is 300 megawatts. The life of the plant is 40 years. Later on, with the Chinese funding, Pakistan upgraded CHASHMA I in 2005 and named it CHASHMA II. This project too was under the guidelines of the IAEA. Likewise in March 2020, the government of Pakistan agreed with the Chinese company for CHASHMA units 3 and 4. China provided 82 per cent of the whole cost of the project. This plant life is also 40 years.

Moreover, the PAEC (Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission) in February 2013 entered into an agreement with the CNNC (Chinese National Nuclear Corporation) in November 2010. The Chinese Government constructed and developed the fifth power plant of the CHASHMA nuclear complex. The power capability of this unit is 1000 MW. Similarly, Karachi Nuclear power Complex was another nuclear cooperation between Beijing and Islamabad. KANUPP-1 and KANUPP-2, 3, and 4 are the civilian nuclear powers plants that produce 1,000 MW of electricity in Karachi, Sindh. This nuclear complex is under the protection and inspection of the IAEA. The construction plant was under the PAEC, and it was funded by the International Atomic Energy Agency, China National Nuclear Corporation, the China Atomic Energy Authority, and China's Guangdong Nuclear Power Group.

Hence, China-Pakistan nuclear cooperation for decades is a sign of their deep friendship and trust. It is pertinent to mention all the agreements between both the countries and projects are according to the IAEA protocols and principles. Pakistan needs further nuclear agreements for the peaceful production of energy to cater for the growing needs of the energy sector in the country.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/826500/using-nuclear-technology-for-peace/>

Pakistan Observer

Re-evaluate security for Chinese, IGP tells officers

Punjab Inspector General of Police Rao Sardar Ali Khan has said that provision of foolproof security to foreign nationals, especially Chinese experts working on CPEC projects, businessmen and ordinary Chinese citizens is among the top priorities of the Punjab Police.

“The Special Protection Unit (SPU) should re-evaluate the security arrangements with effective use of available resources and utilisation of modern technology.”

IG Police Rao Sardar Ali Khan issued the directives while presiding over a meeting held to review performance of the Special Protection Unit (SPU) at Central Police Office here on Thursday.

The IG Police said that the security of Chinese nationals working on the CPEC projects, sites and other private projects should be freshly audited and data of focal persons, drivers and security guards working with Chinese citizens must be re-verified.

He further said that all private security companies which provide guards or other staff for security to Chinese nationals should be re-inspected. Supervisory officers have been directed to do regular inspection of CPEC project sites.

During the meeting, SPU DIG Munir Ahmad Zia Rao briefed the IGP and said that Chinese and other foreign nationals working on CPEC and other projects are distinguished guests of Pakistan and their security measures are ensured at any cost.

Meanwhile, on the directives of IG Police Rao Sardar Ali Khan, steps are underway to reduce accidents and ensure smooth flow of traffic by improving traffic management across the province.

DIG Traffic Punjab Sohail Akhtar Sukhera issued orders to take action against overloading, over speeding and vehicle owners fixing green number plates, blue and red revolving flicker lights on private vehicles.

In a letter sent by DIG Traffic Sohail Akhtar Sukhera to all the Chief Traffic Officers and District Traffic Officers of the province, it has been directed to take action against the violators indiscriminately and their vehicles should also be detained in police stations.

The letter further said that progress reports of the operations in this regard should be sent to the Traffic Headquarters, Punjab on a daily basis

<https://pakobserver.net/re-evaluate-security-for-chinese-igp-tells-officers/>

October 09, 2021

Daily Times

Pak-China cooperation to boost peanut oil supply

In Pakistan, there is a huge area cultivating peanuts, but peanut production in Pakistan is not very high, and neither is the oil production, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Friday.

“I think 80 to 90 % of edible oil is imported from abroad and there’s no commercial oil production unit for peanut oil in Pakistan,” said Dr. Babar Ijaz, a Ph.D. from China Agricultural University, Beijing who is currently an overseas business manager at Shandong Rainbow Agricultural Technology Co., Ltd., making efforts on promoting Pak-China peanut cooperation. “Our company, Shandong Rainbow Agricultural Technology is based in Weifang, a big agriculture city of Shandong, China. Our major product is peanut.

We produce high oleic acid peanuts for oil extraction, which is famous in Shandong and other provinces of China.” Dr. Babar Ijaz said, adding that they have a lot of peanut planting areas in Xinjiang, China as well. In the financial year 2021-22, Pakistan’s edible oil import bill is likely to witness a massive increase of 30 percent. According to the prediction of market analysts, edible oil imports are likely to reach 3.7 million metric tonnes (MMT). “We spend billions of dollars on oil import. That’s a problem in Pakistan. The oil is mainly from Canola, Soybean and Sunflower. But peanut seed has 40-50% oil, it is a very important oil in China and all over the world.

Peanut oil is very good for health benefits, but there is no commercial-scale production of peanut oil in Pakistan and people are not aware of peanut oil usage as edible oil. We should explore this crop for the oil production in Pakistan.” Babar added his company plans to introduce their peanut seed into Pakistan and plan to set up a peanut oil research laboratory in Pakistan under the CPEC authority. “Pakistan needs good peanut seed with rich oil contents. Some diseases and insects problems should be settled to improve the production of peanuts. We should start a campaign to teach farmers to use proper fertilizer at right time to improve their peanut production. In Pakistan, peanuts are planted and picked with hands. There should be good machinery and latest technologies in planting and harvesting peanuts.” “In Pakistan, we already had initiated a collaboration with a Pakistani company who want to invest in agriculture. We also had some meetings with the scientists who work on peanuts.

They welcomed us to work with them for the peanut production in Pakistan with help of China. Our company also has collaborations with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Qingdao Agriculture University in China. The professors and scientists there can collaborate with Pakistani scientists to develop a laboratory for peanut research in Pakistan. This can be a good start to research peanut in Pakistan.” Babar said.

“Maybe in the future, we can set up oil extraction units for the peanut oil in Pakistan to improve Pakistan’s peanut production and produce peanut oil and other byproducts,” Babar said, his

ambition is not only to meet the domestic oil demand in Pakistan, but also enable Pakistan to export peanut oil to China or maybe other countries.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-10-10/page-10/detail-2>

CPEC provides huge opportunity for Pakistan's insurance industry

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) provides huge opportunities to the Pakistani insurance industry to grow, said a top Pakistan-China trade body, according to Gwadar Pro.

In a virtual meeting of Pakistan-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI)'s Executive Committee, PCJCCI President Wang Zihai emphasized that Pakistan's Insurance Industry has great potential in the wake of forthcoming CPEC labor projects. "The Chinese companies are interested in investing in this sector too," he added. Wang Zihai observed that Chinese investment in Pakistan's insurance industry would bring China-styled reforms in the sector, which would prove to be a vigorous tool in the economic mobility of Pakistan.

He indicated that there was a great potential available in Pakistan in the insurance sector, which had magnified further in the scenario of CPEC and would be a new sector of collaboration between China and Pakistan.

PCJCCI's Senior Vice President Ehsan Choudhry noted that according to financial statistics, the phenomenal growth of Pakistani life insurance companies had been maintained at 55 percent and 70 percent in terms of net premium and assets. He agreed that there was ample growth of development in life insurance business provided it meets true needs of the people and offers them protection from economic downturns.

He assured of the fullest support to the Chinese companies in introducing the Pakistan insurance policies for managing and indemnifying financial risks.

PCJCCI's Vice President Sarfraz Butt said that Chinese companies would find the policy environment for insurance business in Pakistan very conducive. Due to the investment of Chinese insurance companies, Pakistan will get a dependable source in insurance sector. PCJCCI's Secretary General Salahuddin Hanif also highlighted that Pakistan had great potential in this sector as it had been showing good growth trend during last few years. He claimed that the biggest challenge to be faced by the private insurance companies was always to develop a trained field force that can reach people and make them understand the importance of savings and investment through insurance.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/826986/cpec-provides-huge-opportunity-for-pakistans-insurance-industry/>

RLNG-based power plant to be completed soon: Nong

Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong Friday said work on Combined Cycle Power Plant near Trimmu Headworks in Jhang district of Punjab was going on smoothly and it was expected to complete soon.

In his tweet, the Chinese envoy said the 1263 MW Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) based power plant was being undertaken by a Chinese company and work on the project did not hamper during the COVID pandemic and would complete soon.

“Happy to learn another power project undertaken by Chinese company, the 1263 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant Project in Punjab is going on smoothly amid the COVID-19 pandemic and is expected to be completed soon,” he said.

Meanwhile according to official documents, the project would generate more than 3,000 employment opportunities during construction phase while 2,000 during its operations.

Utilizing state-of-the-art technology, the plant has the design efficiency of 61.16pc which is rated amongst highest efficiencies in the world.

The project would also result in fuel-saving of billions of rupees to the national exchequer during 30 years project life period while reducing overall tariff.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/827046/rlng-based-power-plant-to-be-completed-soon-nong/>

The Nation

Chinese firms keen to invest in development of oil & gas sector of Pakistan

BEIJING - A delegation from China Petroleum Pipeline Engineering Company (CPP) and China Zhenhua Import and Export Company called on Pakistan’s Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque at the Embassy on Friday.

Led by Qi Huang, General Manager of CPP, and comprising senior executives from China Zhenhua, the delegation discussed their plan to invest in the development of oil and gas sector of Pakistan.

Huang briefed the ambassador about the profile of CPP - a subsidiary of the state-owned China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) - as well as mega projects successfully completed by the company in other countries and regions.

Ambassador Haque welcomed the interest of Chinese companies for investment in the oil and gas sector of Pakistan and briefed them about the huge potential for foreign investment in oil & gas sector and attractive investment policies of Pakistani government.

He remarked that Chinese companies were playing a major role in the development of various sectors of our economy and Pakistan would continue extending them full support and facilitation.

Ms. Duan Xiaoyu, newly appointed Honorary Investment Counselor of Pakistan was also present at this occasion. Other potential areas of foreign investment also came under discussion during the meeting.

China Three Gorges Group shows interest for investing in solar, wind energy sectors

China Three Gorges Group (CTG) on Friday showed keen interest for investing in Pakistan’s solar and wind energy sectors.

A delegation of CTG led by Vice-Presidents Wang Shaofeng and Qin Guobin called on Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque at the Embassy of Pakistan.

Expressing satisfaction at the steady pace of hydropower projects, the CTG delegation showed keen interest for investing in Pakistan's solar and wind energy sectors.

They informed that work on 720 MW Karot Hydropower project was almost completed and it would be commissioned early next year.

Appreciating China Three Gorges contribution to Pakistan's energy sector development, the ambassador highlighted that Pakistan is focusing on developing its renewable energy resources and welcomes investment by Chinese companies in this field. He expressed hope that CTG would continue to benefit from Pakistan's investment friendly policies and further expand its footprints in Pakistan in future as well.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-10-09/page-8/detail-3>

Jang News

چین کے بلڈ روڈ منصوبے اب تک 843 ارب ڈالر قرض جاری ہو چکا، رپورٹ

چین کے بیلٹ اینڈ روڈ منصوبے کے تحت پاکستان کو سی پیک کی اربوں ڈالرز رقم کی تفصیلات تعریف و تحقید کا مرکز رہی ہیں۔ ایک حالیہ رپورٹ میں دعویٰ کیا گیا ہے کہ اس منصوبے کے تحت چینی قرض خفیہ، مہنگا اور کرپشن کا شاہکار ہے۔

ایک ریسرچ کے مطابق چین کے بلڈ روڈ منصوبے میں 2013 سے اب تک 843 ارب ڈالرز قرض جاری ہو چکے ہیں۔

ایڈیٹا کی رپورٹ کے مطابق چین اس قرض کی تفصیلات دینے میں ہچکچاہٹ دکھاتا رہا ہے۔

چینی حکمت عملی میں غریب ملکوں کو امداد انتہائی کم جبکہ قرض زیادہ دیا جاتا ہے اور اس کی شرح 31 ایک کی نچلے ترین سطح پر ہے، ترقی یافتہ ملکوں کی قرض امداد کی شرح زائد رہی ہے، چینی بلڈ روڈ پروجیکٹ میں 80 فیصد منصوبوں میں اثاثے رہن رکھے گئے۔

رپورٹ میں انکشاف کیا گیا ہے کہ اگر جرمنی، فرانس اور جاپان ترقیاتی قرض صرف 1-1 فیصد پر 28 سال کیلئے دیں تو ایسا ہی قرض چین سے 12 اعشاریہ 4 فیصد پر صرف 10 سال کے لیے ہو گا۔

رپورٹ کے مطابق غریب اور درمیانی آمدن والے ممالک کو کڑی شرائط پر قرض دیا جاتا ہے، سی پیک منصوبوں میں پاکستان سے اشیاء کی خریداری نہ ہونے پر کاروباری برادری تحفظات کا اظہار کرتی رہی ہے۔

ایڈیٹا کے مطابق پانچ ارب 67 کروڑ ڈالرز کے 10 منصوبے اور دو ارب 60 کروڑ ڈالر کے 4 منصوبوں میں کرپشن یا بے قاعدگیاں ہوئی ہیں لیکن رپورٹ میں اسکی تفصیل موجود نہیں۔

رپورٹ میں چھپے ہوئے سرکاری و نیم سرکاری اداروں کو دیے گئے قرض کا ذکر ہے، یہ قرض حکومتی قرض کی بیلنس شیٹ میں ظاہر نہیں ہوتا، آٹھ سال تک بلڈ روڈ انیشی ایٹو سے تشویش کا شکار رہنے والے امریکانے بلڈ بیک بیٹورلڈ منصوبہ شروع کیا ہے۔

لگتا ہے آنے والی جنگ کا بڑا حصہ معاشی میدان میں لڑنے کے لیے طبل بج چکا ہے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/995983>

October 10, 2021

Business Recorder

Setback to Dasu Dam?

The water resources ministry's revelation, before the National Assembly's standing committee on water resources, that work on Dasu Dam hasn't resumed since the suicide attack on Chinese workers on July 14 is very bad news for Pakistan. First, the Chinese government was upset that Pakistani authorities tried to downplay the incident by suggesting that the bus carrying the workers had plunged into a valley somehow on its own. And only later, when according to a few reports the Chinese themselves presented evidence confirming a suicide attack, did local agencies confirm it and spring into action. At least that's what the headlines say. But Beijing is clearly not very impressed with the progress. Because, secondly, another issue that hasn't been resolved is compensation for killed workers, which has lingered long enough for China to simply refuse to turn the switch back on.

The first couple of questions such things raise, of course, are why has this happened and, even worse, why hasn't anything been done about it in all this time? Surely, the government doesn't need to be reminded that the Chinese stepped back after the attack on their workers at the Mohmand Dam as well, and only very high-level diplomatic engagement was able to untangle that particular knot. Secretary Water Resources Dr Shahzeb Khan Bangash informed the committee that negotiations with the Chinese were under way, but that was hardly breaking news because the impasse has occurred despite these talks, which have lasted almost three months now. Surely that means that, at least in the Dasu Dam case although work on most if not all mega hydropower projects is paused for the moment, whatever compensation we have offered not is agreeable to them. And since we need them to work on our dam more than they need to come here and do that work, why are we taking so long to come to an agreement that will, at least, get the work restarted?

This logjam will soon cause many secondary problems as well. It's not just that work on the dam has stopped, it's that the entire logistical supply chain has to be put on hold as well; something that makes the fate of payments already made very uncertain. And since markets hate nothing more than uncertainty, not even bad news, this can soon become a lose-lose situation for everybody. All this wasted time is running into serious money, and gracious though the Chinese "iron brothers" are, they are not going to foot this bill. Then there's the politics. The perception that Beijing's patience is wearing thin, not just because of all the attacks but also slow progress on CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor) is also a very serious concern.

China is very important for us because it is our biggest foreign direct investor and also our shield when international pressure picks up. Therefore, shocking as it is that the Dasu Dam compensation talks have dragged on inconclusively so far, Islamabad must bring this matter to a proper conclusion immediately. There's a lot more also to be done, of course, because the way the security situation is deteriorating there's no telling when the next attack on Chinese workers might occur. So, security arrangements have to be fine-tuned as well.

It's not surprising that these developments have more or less coincided with the change of guard in Afghanistan, just when Pakistan is once again in the international glare for no fault of its own. The best thing for the government to do would be to put its head down and work on its own problems. And since number-one among them is energy, something the PM himself has admitted, it would be a very good idea to get mega hydropower projects back on track. Surely, the government knows just what to do to sort these things out. And it also knows that already it might have wasted too much time.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/10/10/4-page/903533-news.html>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistani exhibitors make final preparations as China Import Expo nears

Pakistani as well as other exhibitors from across the world have geared up while organizers have gone all out for final preparations for the upcoming China International Import Expo (CIIE) slated to be held offline in Shanghai from Nov. 5 to 10.

Though China's weeklong National Day holiday is ongoing, Pakistani businessman Habib Ur Rehman couldn't afford a day off, as he was getting ready for the 4th China International Import Expo (CIIE), which is just one month away.

This year Rehman has ordered more salt lamps, which are made from minerals in mountainous areas. He hopes to introduce the popular household gadget from Pakistan to the Chinese market, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

At a matchmaking session for buyers and exhibitors to meet ahead of the expo, Rehman's products successfully aroused interest among merchants from across China, which has boosted his confidence.

This year, more than 200 exhibitors and over 500 purchasers participated in the matchmaking sessions.

John Edwards, British trade commissioner for China, said in an e-mail interview that the Scottish Development International (SDI) was "particularly heavily involved in this year's CIIE" and for the second year running, Scotland will "have a significant presence."

The SDI will partner with Greenland Group, a Shanghai-based state-owned enterprise, to bring 37 Scottish companies to CIIE 2021, with 23 brands in the Food & Agricultural Products section, and 14 brands in the Consumer Goods section.

Shu Jueting, spokesperson of China's Ministry of Commerce, said the exhibition area exceeded 360,000 square meters, and the number of signed exhibitors exceeded that of the previous year, adding that over 80 percent of the Fortune 500 and industry-leading companies from last year's CIIE will participate again in this year's event.

Returning multinationals such as Michelin, Shiseido, Fonterra, Amor pacific, ABB and Fast Retailing have even signed up for the 5th CIIE in advance.

Nicolas Hieronimus, CEO of France-based cosmetic giant L'Oreal, said the expo is a good chance for the company to showcase cutting-edge innovation and get in touch with the country's "dual circulation" strategy first-hand.

Global toy giant Lego Group just opened one of the world's largest Lego retail flagship stores in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou during the National Day holiday.

Lego opened more than 60 branded stores in the first half of the year with more than 40 of them in China. According to Christiansen, the company is expected to cover 85 Chinese cities with 300 retail stores by the end of this year.

A racing car by Michelin arrived in Shanghai last Monday, which was among the earliest exhibits in place for the 4th CIIE.

The Mission H24 car powered by hydrogen cleared customs in a single second thanks to innovative services, and will make its Asian debut at the upcoming CIIE.

According to the customs, more than 200 batches of exhibits are expected to enter the country by sea, air and rail in the coming month.

Gu Honghui, deputy secretary-general of the Shanghai municipal government, said efforts will be made to ensure the COVID-19 prevention and control is more precise, urban service more refined, and the spillover effect of the CIIE brand more prominent during the expo.

The CIIE is the first dedicated import exhibition in the world and has seen fruitful outcomes in the past three expos. The 4th CIIE is slated to be held offline in Shanghai from Nov. 5 to 10 this year. —APP

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistani-exhibitors-make-final-preparations-as-china-import-expo-nears/>

The Nation

Three Chinese companies show interest to revive Pakistan Steel Mills

BEIJING - Three Chinese companies including the Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) have shown interest to revive Pakistan's largest steel manufacturing complex, Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM).

By promoting the local economy and helping to improve social welfare, MCC is dedicated to becoming a model business in boosting economic cooperation between China and Pakistan.

As a state-owned company in the iron and steel industry, MCC is one of the earliest Chinese companies to operate businesses and projects in Pakistan. In 1990, MCC managed the construction of the Saindak Copper-Gold Mine based on an engineering, procurement and construction contract, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Saindak Copper-Gold Mine has made a steady profit for 18 consecutive years, becoming a major driver of the local economy and praised by governments on both sides as “a model of China-Pakistan economic cooperation”. Guo Wenqing, Chairman MCC had also met Prime Minister Imran Khan, to discuss cooperation and prospects of joint ventures in energy, industrial and various other sectors.

Sources at the Privatisation Commission of Pakistan said earlier that the government is expecting at least \$1 billion in foreign investment by the end of the year to revive PSM. Investors from Russia are also displaying interest in running the facility as part of a consortium.

PSM has the capacity to expand to produce three million tons of cold and hot-rolled steel annually. The plan includes creating a new subsidiary, Steel Corp Limited, on the premises of the Pakistan Steel Mills to offer the mammoth industrial unit to foreign investors. Instead of selling or privatising the Mills, the government aims to revive the operation and production of the unit with the help of foreign investors to meet the growing local demand for steel.

Pakistan’s annual steel demand stands at about eight million tons whereas local production fluctuates in the range of three to four million tons. The country fills the gap by importing steel and iron from Japan and other countries. Last year, six Russian firms including the METPROM Group, four Ukrainian entities including Ukrainian National Foreign Economic Corporation, one American firm and three Pakistani companies also expressed interest in running the facility.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-10-10/page-8/detail-0>

China, Pakistan to cooperate in talents training in power sector

ISLAMABAD - Zhengzhou Electric Power College (ZEPC) China and University of Engineering & Technology (UET) Lahore will cooperate in talents training for power sector and specialty construction.

As per the China Economic Net’s report on Saturday, ZEPC and UET Lahore has signed a cooperation memorandum in Beijing yesterday.

According to this MoU, the cooperation aims to help the energy development in Pakistan.

“We will provide technical training for teachers from our Pakistani partners in the future,” said Yang Jianhua, the President of ZEPC.

“We will also send delegations for mutual visits after the COVID-19 pandemic is over,” Yang added.

At the online signing ceremony, Dr. Muhammad Kamran, Dean, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, UET Lahore, expressed his expectations to the cooperation.

In addition, the UET Lahore, at the invitation of ZEPC, will attend the Special International Invitational Competition for Intelligent Power Supply and Distribution Technology, under the 2021 Belt & Road and BRICKS Skills Development and Technology Innovation Competition.

The 2021 Skills Development and Technology Innovation Competition will be held on 15-17 October 2021, for which ZEPC is a co-organizer.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-10-10/page-10/detail-2>

October 11, 2021

Business Recorder

Gwadar Eastbay Expressway completion likely by Oct-end

ISLAMABAD: Gwadar Eastbay Expressway the most important mega connectivity and road infrastructure project worth \$168 million is likely to be completed this month.

The completion of the Gwadar Eastbay Expressway being constructed under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would trigger a major jump in the development of the Coastal City, a senior official of Gwadar Development Authority told APP on the mega project status.

He said the project was envisaged under the Early Harvest Scheme during the first phase of CPEC. The project was part of a wider \$1.1 billion development package for the city and Port of Gwadar.

While elaborating the project details, the official informed that Gwadar Eastbay Expressway was a six-lane urban motorway. “The road will connect Gwadar Port with Gwadar Free Trade Zone and Makran Coastal Highway. Currently, more than 92 percent of construction work has been completed,” he added.

Expressway, he said, would improve the trading potential of Gwadar Port whereas the Expressway aimed at meeting the transportation requirements of the Port.

Economic and Commerce Experts said that Gwadar Eastbay Expressway would prove to be a major step in utilizing the full potential of Gwadar Port for trade, especially the way it would help connect Gwadar Port with Gwadar Free Trade Zone.

Senior Economist Dr Fazl Shah said this would increase the flow of business transactions across the Port. “Gwadar Free Trade Zone is currently in the attraction of investors across the globe. In this context, the completion of Gwadar Eastbay Expressway this year will certainly turn out to be a major development,” he added.

Moreover, the Expressway would connect Gwadar Port with other cities across the country, said Akram Sheikh, infrastructure expert at a leading real estate firm.

He said the significance of Gwadar Eastbay Expressway was further highlighted as it connected Gwadar Port with Makran Coastal Highway. The Makran Coastal Highway was a 653 km national highway that extended from Karachi in Sindh to Gwadar in Balochistan.

“This will certainly pave the way for businesses across Pakistan to capitalize on the rich business potential of Gwadar. The Expressway will create a business boom in Gwadar,” he said. It may be mentioned here that the completion of Gwadar Eastbay Expressway carried a lot in its lap for the Coastal City. It would not only help Gwadar Port to fully capitalize on its trading potential but would also make Gwadar a hub of investment for businesses across Pakistan.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/10/11/13-page/903711-news.html>

CPEC power project in Sindh making steady progress

BEIJING: The 330MW Thar Energy Limited (TEL) Power Project in Thar Block-II being completed under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) in Sindh province was making steady progress, said a senior Chinese official.

The TEL power plant was a 330MW mine-mouth lignite-fired power project being built by Thar Energy, which was owned by Hub Power Company (Hubco), China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), and Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC).

The TEL power plant would supply electricity to the national grid under a 30-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Two more coal-fired power plants named Engro Thar Block II power plant and ThalNova were also being developed in Thar Block II, CEN reported. The Engro Thar Block II power plant was a coal-fired power station in the Tharparkar district, Sindh. It was Pakistan’s first power plant to use the indigenous coal reserves of Thar.

The 660MW power plant, which was part of CPEC, was developed by Engro Powergen Thar (EPTL), a joint venture of Engro Powergen (EPL), China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC), Habib Bank, and Liberty Mills.

Construction on the Engro Thar Block II power plant was commenced in April 2016. Trial operations at the plant began in July 2018 while commercial operations began in July 2019. The coal-fired subcritical power plant was located five kilometres away from Thar Block II near Thar coalfields in Sindh province. It consisted of two 330MW subcritical units, which integrated circulating fluidised bed (CFB) boilers, tandem compound steam turbine units, and generators. CFB was an ideal option for the low-calorific-value Thar lignite coal. It helped to regulate the plant’s environmental footprint by reducing nitrogen oxide emissions and capturing sulphur oxides.

The 20kV, 50Hz, three-phase intercooled generators featured a hydrogen-cooled rotor and stator core, as well as water-cooled rotor windings.

The power plant was also equipped with associated equipment and systems such as cyclones, air pre-heaters, and water walls.

Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) supplied approximately 3.8 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of coal for the coal-fired power plant from a new opencast mine.

SECMC was a joint venture (JV) by the Government of Sindh (GoS) and Engro Powergen (EPGL). The JV was formed to extract the coal reserves available at the seventh biggest coal mine site in the Thar Desert in Sindh province.

The new coal-fired power plant fed electricity to a 500kV double-circuit transmission line of the grid network between Thar and the Hesco grid station in Jamshoro.

The estimated cost of the Engro Thar power plant was US \$995.4 million - funded by a syndicate led by China Development Bank (CDB) with the support from China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinosure).

The syndicate included Habib Bank, United Bank, Bank Alfalah, National Bank Pakistan, Faysal Bank, Construction Bank of China, and Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC). Thal Nova was a second similar 330MW power plant being developed in the same block. The financial closing for the power plant was achieved in September 2020 and the commercial operations are scheduled for 2022.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/10/11/16-page/903723-news.html>

The Nation

Gwadar Eastbay Expressway completion likely by October end

ISLAMABAD - Gwadar Eastbay Expressway the most important mega connectivity and road infrastructure project worth \$168 million is likely to be completed this month.

The completion of the Gwadar Eastbay Expressway being constructed under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would trigger a major jump in the development of the Coastal City, a senior official of Gwadar Development Authority told media on the mega project status.

He said the project was envisaged under the Early Harvest Scheme during the first phase of CPEC. The project was part of a wider \$1.1 billion development package for the city and Port of Gwadar.

While elaborating the project details, the official informed that Gwadar Eastbay Expressway was a six-lane urban motorway. “The road will connect Gwadar Port with Gwadar Free Trade Zone and Makran Coastal Highway. Currently, more than 92 percent of construction work has been completed,” he added. Expressway, he said, would improve the trading potential of Gwadar Port, whereas the Expressway aimed at meeting the transportation requirements of the Port.

Economic and commerce experts said that Gwadar Eastbay Expressway would prove to be a major step in utilising the full potential of Gwadar Port for trade, especially the way it would help connect Gwadar Port with Gwadar Free Trade Zone.

Senior Economist Dr Fazl Shah said this would increase the flow of business transactions across the Port. “Gwadar Free Trade Zone is currently in the attraction of investors across the globe. In this context, the completion of Gwadar Eastbay Expressway this year will certainly turn out to be a major development,” he added.

Moreover, the Expressway would connect Gwadar Port with other cities across the country, said Akram Sheikh, infrastructure expert at a leading real estate firm.

He said the significance of Gwadar Eastbay Expressway was further highlighted as it connected Gwadar Port with Makran Coastal Highway. The Makran Coastal Highway was a 653km national highway that extended from Karachi in Sindh to Gwadar in Balochistan. “This will certainly pave the way for businesses across Pakistan to capitalise on the rich business potential of Gwadar. The Expressway will create a business boom in Gwadar,” he said.

It may be mentioned here that the completion of Gwadar Eastbay Expressway carried a lot in its lap for the Coastal City. It would not only help Gwadar Port to fully capitalise on its trading potential but would also make Gwadar a hub of investment for businesses across Pakistan.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-10-11/page-8/detail-4>

Chinese Embassy announces video contest to celebrate Pak-China diplomatic relations

ISLAMABAD - The Chinese Embassy in cooperation with Likee launched a short video contest ‘70 years of Togetherness’ on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Pakistan-China Diplomatic relations.

According to a statement issued here by China Cultural Counsellor said that the duration of the activity is four months, divided into two phases of monthly competition and finals. Likee official will release the monthly topics and the users will join the activity by uploading videos with this topic. At the end of each month, video data will be saved and 18 high-quality works will be selected and announced for a reward. The works selected in the monthly competition can be directly entered in the final and five final winners will be produced in the finals. One theme for October is “My Story with China.”

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-10-11/page-13/detail-1>

Express News

گواڈر کو ترقی کیلئے رکاوٹوں کا سامنا، سرکاری رپورٹ میں انکشاف

ایک سرکاری رپورٹ میں انکشاف کیا گیا ہے کہ گواڈر اور اس کے فری زون کو ترقی کیلئے بہت سی رکاوٹوں کا سامنا ہے اور سی بیک کامرکزی حصہ تاحال وعدے کے مطابق صنعتی مرکز کی جھلک تک نہیں دکھاسکا۔

وفاقی کابینہ کی سی پیک کمیٹی کی ہدایت پر سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کی تیار کردہ رپورٹ میں چینی آپریٹروں کے ساتھ پورٹ مراعاتی معاہدے پر نظر ثانی کی سفارش کی گئی ہے جس کا مقصد گوادری ترقی میں بعض بڑی رکاوٹوں کو دور کرنا ہے، گوادری کو سی پیک کا تاج بھی کہا جاتا ہے۔

سرمایہ کاری بورڈ کی جائزہ رپورٹ کے مطابق گوادری کی طویل عرصے سے سی پیک کے مرکز کے طور پر مارکیٹنگ کی جارہی ہے، گوادری تاحال متوقع صنعتی ترقی کی بلندیوں تک نہیں پہنچ سکا جو ملکی اور غیر ملکی سرمایہ کاری کے لیے مدد و معاون ثابت ہو سکتا ہے۔

وزیراعظم کے مشیر برائے سی پیک خالد منصور نے کہا کہ ان کی پہلی ترجیح گوادری بندرگاہ اور فری زون کے لیے جلد کاروباری اور مارکیٹنگ کا منصوبہ تیار کرنا، گہری سمندری بندرگاہ کی صلاحیت سے فائدہ اٹھانے کے لیے گوادری کو قابل عمل اقدامات کے ساتھ آگے بڑھانا اور ملکی ضرورت کے مطابق مختلف شعبوں میں اہم چینی کمپنیوں کی سرمایہ کاری کو راغب کرنا ہے، درآمدی متبادل کے حصول اور برآمدی صنعتوں کو مشرقی چین سے گوادری منتقل کرنے کیلئے یہ بہت زیادہ ضروری ہے، انہوں نے مزید کہا کہ اس سے روزگار کے بھی مواقع پیدا ہوں گے۔

خالد منصور کا کہنا تھا کہ وہ چائنا اور سیز پورٹ ہولڈنگ کمپنی اور چینی سفارت خانے کے ساتھ مل کر ان مقاصد پر کام کر رہے ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2234540/6/>

October 12, 2021

Business Recorder

Special Economic Zones

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday directed the authorities concerned to take all possible measures to provide land; electricity and gas connections; and tax incentives to attract more and more Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan and populate the Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

“Pakistan needs investment to accelerate industrialization,” the prime minister said while chairing a meeting on facilitating the Chinese investors in SEZs.

“It is critical to create maximum employment opportunities for our growing population, 65% of which is under the age of 35”, he added.

Earlier, the prime minister was briefed that out of the total of 27 SEZs in the country, work on five SEZs including Dhabeji in Sindh, Rashakai in KPK, Bostan in Balochistan, Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Punjab, and Gwadar in Balochistan was in full swing.

An effective one window operation facility was being set up at each of these SEZs along with a Facilitation Center at China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority to resolve all issues of the potential Chinese investors under one roof, he was told.

The meeting was attended by Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong, Federal Ministers Shaukat Tarin, Makhdoom Khusró Bakhtiar, Asad Umar, Muhammad Hammad Azhar, Advisor on Commerce Abdul Razzak Dawood, Special Assistant to PM on CPEC Affairs Khalid Mansoor and senior officers concerned.—APP

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/10/12/1-page/903729-news.html>

Dunya News

VT-4 Tank is symbol of Pakistan-China strategic, defence cooperation: COAS

RAWALPINDI (Dunya News) – Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Gujranwala to witness commissioning of state-of-the-art Chinese origin VT-4 Tank into Strike Formation.

According to a statement issued by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), while interacting with officers and troops, the COAS said continuous up-gradation of conventional capabilities is imperative for maintaining qualitative edge over adversary and deter aggression.

“VT-4 Tank is another symbol of Pakistan – China strategic cooperation and defence collaboration, and its induction will boost strike capabilities of our formations,” the COAS remarked.

The Army Chief emphasised that the fast changing dynamics of warfare demand highest degree of professionalism and rigorous training with due focus on harnessing sophisticated technologies.

The COAS witnessed demonstration of VT-4 Tank which was a robust war fighting machine. Based on its advanced armor protection, high maneuverability and exceptional firepower, VT-4 can be compared with any modern main battle tank of the world.

Equipped with auto transmission system and deep water fording operation capability, it was considered as a potent weapon of strike formations. The COAS also visited Dynamic Integrated Training Simulator of VT-4.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/623825-VT-4-Tank-symbol-Pakistan-China-strategic-defence-cooperation-COAS-ISPR>

Pakistan Observer

PM for taking all measures to facilitate Chinese investors

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday directed the authorities concerned to take all possible measures to provide land; electricity and gas connections; and tax incentives to attract more and more Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan and populate the Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

“Pakistan needs investment to accelerate industrialization,” the prime minister said while chairing a meeting on facilitating the Chinese investors in SEZs.

“It is critical to create maximum employment opportunities for our growing population, 65% of which is under the age of 35”, he added. Earlier, the prime minister was briefed that out of the total of 27 SEZs in the country, work on five SEZs including Dhabeji in Sindh, Rashakai in KPK, Bostan in Balochistan, Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Punjab, and Gwadar in Balochistan was in full swing.

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<https://pakobserver.net/pm-for-taking-all-measures-to-facilitate-chinese-investors/>

Chinese language course concludes

The first class of the basic course of Chinese language organized by the Executive Training Center at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur concluded yesterday.

In this class, 28 students completed the Chinese language course. Prof. Dr. Jawad Iqbal, Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences was the Chief Guest and Prof. Dr. Mamoona Ghani, Director, Executive Training Center was also present on the occasion.

Dr. Jawad Iqbal, Dean, Faculty of Management Sciences, said that the purpose of this training course was to impart basic Chinese language education to the youth so that people belonging to different disciplines can master Chinese language on a daily basis.

Syed Shaheer Hassan Rizvi, incharge Executive Training center said that this course was started on the special direction of Vice Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob. He thanked the Dean Faculty of Management Sciences Prof. Dr. Jawad Iqbal and Director Executive Training Center Dr. Mamoona Ghani for their special cooperation and guidance in this regard.

He further said that an English language course was also concluded at the Executive Training Center in which 22 students participated.—PR

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-language-course-concludes/>

The Nation

Chinese investors to get land, electricity, gas, tax incentives: PM

Mateen Haider

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit the Saudi capital Riyadh on 23rd October 2021 to attend the “Middle East Green Initiative” hosted by the Saudi government.

The Prime minister was personally invited to the summit by Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman. The summit is scheduled from 23rd to 25th October.

The summit is the initiative of the Saudi crown prince under which the 50 billion trees would be planted across Middle East to tackle the growing challenge of climate change.

Prime minister Imran Khan will share his vision of climate change and steps taken to tackle the effects of climate change in Pakistan over the past 3 years.

The prime minister will also share the success story of his 'Billion Tsunami Tree Campaign' to the leaders attending the summit.

The other countries expected to attend the summit are Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq, and Sudan.

Prime Minister Imran Khan on the sideline of the summit will also hold bilateral meetings with the leaders of the participating countries.

Imran Khan will separately meet Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman and will discuss bilateral relations and regional security situation including the situation in Afghanistan.

Two leaders will also discuss growing economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf Bin Said Al-Maliki had already delivered an invitation to Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The initiative also aims to propel the region towards achieving more than 10% of global carbon emissions reduction targets.

This will be Prime Minister Imran Khan's 4th visit to Saudi Arabia in the last 3 years, which shows growing brotherly relations between the two countries in various fields.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Imran Khan directed authorities to take all possible measures to provide land, electricity, gas and tax incentives to attract Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones.

Chairing a meeting on facilitating Chinese investors in SEZs in Islamabad on Monday, he said Pakistan needs investment to accelerate industrialization to create maximum employment opportunities for growing population. He said industrialisation will provide job opportunities for our 65 percent population which is under the age of 35.

The Prime Minister was briefed that work on five out of total 27 SEZs in the country is in full swing. These five SEZs, include Dhabeji in Sindh, Rashakai in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Bostan and Gwadar in Balochistan, and Allama Iqbal Industrial City in Punjab.

It was informed that an effective one-window operation facility is being set up at each of these SEZs and a Facilitation Center at the CPEC Authority to resolve issues of the potential Chinese investors under one roof.

Ashra-e-Ramatul-lil-Aalameen

Prime Minister Imran Khan also emphasised on ensuring participation of youth and children in the Ashra-e-Ramatul-lil-Aalameen celebrations.

He was speaking at a briefing in Islamabad on Monday regarding the strategy devised to celebrate 12 Rabi-ul-Awwal and Ashra-e-Ramatul-lil-Aalameen.

The Prime Minister said the principles set by the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad [Sallallah-o-Alaihe wa Alehi wa Sallam Khatam-un-Nabiyyeen] for daily life need to be highlighted.

He said the Holy Prophet [Sallallah-o-Alaihe wa Alehi wa Sallam Khatam-un-Nabiyyeen] is a mercy for the whole universe and his life is a beacon of light for the humanity. Federal Ministers Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Dr Noor-ul-Haq Qadri and others also attended the briefing.

Mineral sector potential

Prime Minister Imran Khan says mineral sector has a huge potential and offers good returns for investment and it can contribute towards overall economic growth of the country. Chairing a high level meeting regarding mineral development framework in Islamabad on Monday, he emphasized that a coordinated effort is required to beef up efforts for minerals development between the federation and provinces.

The Prime Minister directed that a focal person be appointed at the earliest to act as a bridge between the federal and provincial governments and to supervise implementation of minerals' development framework. He also directed that goals and targets of the mineral development framework be completed within their allocated timelines.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-10-12/page-5/detail-5>

CPEC projects benefiting local communities in Pakistan: Nong Rong

ISLAMABAD - Ambassador of China to Pakistan Nong Rong on Monday said that the projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were benefiting the local communities in Pakistan and providing thousands to jobs to them. He said the power plants at Thar Block-II had so far provided over 1,838 jobs to the locals and hoped that more jobs would be created when the project would reach at peak construction period. "Glad to learn that Thar Energy Limited and ThalNova Power Thar Limited (TEL&TNPTL) 2x330MW Power Plant Projects at Thar Block-II have provided jobs to 1,838 local people and will provide more jobs to locals for the peak period of construction," he said in his tweet. He said the TEL 330MW Power Plant Project in Thar Block-II was making steady progress by joint efforts of both Chinese and Pakistani staff. Sound safety SOPs at the construction site are being strictly followed at the site while safety of all staff was also fully ensured. According to official sources, the power plant is currently under construction at Thar Coal Block-II and is scheduled to achieve commercial operations in 2022.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-10-12/page-9/detail-3>

October 13, 2021

Dawn News

Sino-Pak companies move PHC to claim power project contract

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court on Tuesday directed the Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organisation (Pedo) to respond in 10 days to the plea filed by a joint venture of the Chinese and Pakistani engineering firms to seek the contract of operation and maintenance services of Daral Khwar hydropower project in Swat district.

A bench consisting of Justice Roohul Amin Khan and Justice Ijaz Anwar also extended a stay order granted in favour of the petitioner, restraining the Pedo from hiring staff for managing the O&M services of the project by itself after the cancellation of the contract process.

The petitioner, Cemtec-Jiangsu JV, said it was the lowest bidder in the tendering process but instead of awarding it the contract of the O&M Services of the 36.6MW Daral Khwar hydropower project (DKHP), it was informed that the contract had been cancelled on the direction of the competent authority.

The petitioner claimed that the Pedo intended to undertake those services itself instead of outsourcing it.

PHC seeks Pedo reply to their joint plea

It requested the high court to declare that the Pedo can't manage the O&M services of the project for being a regulatory body.

The petitioner also sought the court's orders to declare illegal the impugned order issued on Jan 13, 2020, for the cancellation of the bidding process.

It prayed the court to declare that it (petitioner) being duly qualified and lowest bidder was entitled to the contract of O&M services of the DKHP.

The respondents in the petition are the provincial government through its chief secretary, Pedo through the chairman of its board of directors, Pedo chief executive officer, Pedo chief engineer (O&M) and director (finance), and KP Public Procurement Regulatory Authority through its managing director.

Senior advocate Isaac Ali Qazi appeared for the petitioner and said the Pedo had on Jun 4, 2018, invited applications from local and international firms/ joint ventures for pre-qualification for contract of O&M Services of the said project.

He said the petitioner, which was a joint venture of a Chinese and a Pakistani engineering firms, had submitted pre-qualification application and on Nov 2, 2018, it was informed through a letter by the Pedo that it was enlisted as pre-qualified contractor for participation in the contract bid.

The lawyer said his client later submitted technical and financial bids in Dec 2018 along with Rs 10 million as bid security.

He said in May 2019, the financial bids were opened wherein the petitioner was found to be the lowest bidder for the said services.

The counsel added that as the petitioner had the legitimate expectation to get the contract, it began hiring the staff for the project for the start of work without delay.

He said despite persistent inquiries, nothing was communicated to the petitioner and therefore, it formally sought in Dec 2019 the letter of acceptance as per the bidding documents.

The lawyer, however, said on Jan 13, 2020, the petitioner received a letter from the Pedo about the cancellation of the process of hiring contractor for those services without citing any cogent reason for it.

Mr Qazi contended that the Pedo's BoD had published an advertisement in Oct 2020 for hiring staff for the purpose.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1651736>

Pakistan Observer

Revamping Afghanistan by BRI

Shah Fahad

THE Taliban Administration has yet to establish a conclusive government in Afghanistan. The announced cabinet was not accepted by many countries including Iran that demanded elections in the country before they recognize any new government.

Even Russia attended the government inauguration ceremony with their ambassador level officials. The new Afghan Administration was also criticized for not involving any women in their cabinet.

Nevertheless, the challenges do not end here; to run the country's affairs, they will need finances, human expertise, and a lot of international support. The US has already frozen Afghanistan's reserves and the country needs urgent humanitarian assistance.

Therefore, Kabul will need allies and China can not only fill the gap but also help it rebuild using the Belt and Road Initiative.

A stable government in Afghanistan is in the best interest of both Pakistan and China. Therefore, the Chinese Administration showed an interest in developing diplomatic relations with the new Afghan government.

Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar also went to meet the Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Tianjin.

Chinese leadership vowed to have economic relations given the Afghan government ensures not to support East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM), a Uyghur separatist movement in Xinjiang.

Corridors connecting Afghanistan and China: There are multiple passages from Afghanistan to China, like Wakhan Corridor that is 92 km long, stretching to Xinjiang in China.

It was formed in 1893 as a result of an agreement between the British Empire and Afghanistan. Another is Chalachigu valley that shares the border with Tajikistan to the north, Pakistan to the south and Afghanistan to the west.

It is referred to as the Chinese part of the Wakhan Corridor. However, the Chinese side of the valley is closed to the public and only local shepherds are allowed. Then there is Wakhjir Pass on the eastern side of the Wakhan corridor but is not accessible to the general public.

The terrain is rough on the Afghan side. There are no roads along the Wakhjir Pass, most of the terrain is a dirt track.

Like other passages, it can only be accessed via either animals or SUVs and also due to extreme weather it is open for only seven months throughout the year.

North Wakhjir Pass, also called Tegermansu Pass, is mountainous on the border of China and Afghanistan. It stretches from Tegermansu valley on the east and Chalachigu Valley in Xinjiang.

All of these passages are extremely uncertain and rough which makes them too risky to be used for trade purposes. For example, the Chalagigu valley and Wakhjir Pass are an engineering nightmare to develop, let alone make them viable.

Similarly, the Pamir mountain range is also unstable and prone to landslides. Both of these routes also experience extreme weather conditions.

Alternatives: Since most of the passages are risky for travel, alternatively, trade activities can be routed via Pakistan. For example, there is an access road at the North Wakhjir that connects to Karakoram Highway.

By expanding the road network from Taxkorgan in Xinjiang to Gilgit, using the Karakoram Highway is a probable option. Land routes in Pakistan are already being developed for better connectivity between Islamabad and Beijing as part of CPEC. These routes stretch from Gwadar up to the North.

The N5 highway which runs from Islamabad to Peshawar can be used to link Afghanistan via Landi Kotal. Although the Karakoram highway also suffers from extreme weather and landslides, it is easier for engineers to handle as compared to those in Afghanistan.

The new Afghan government will have to attract a lot of foreign investment and it does not seem probable in the given conditions. However, BRI could lay the foundations of better infrastructure for Afghanistan.

That will include roads, dams, railway lines, communication, IT, etc. More importantly, Afghanistan is rich in mineral resources, especially Lithium that is used in batteries. Given China's current consumption and mining expertise, the resources could generate a good source of income.

However, they will have to eliminate the shortcomings that prevented such projects to materialize in the past.

China invited the Taliban delegation to an intra-Afghan conference in Beijing in 2019 and there has been some understanding between the two parties.

Taliban leadership said that they hope that China would “play a bigger role in future reconstruction and economic development” and guaranteed the safety of Chinese investors and workers in the country.

If Taliban leadership is serious about establishing mutually beneficial economic relationships with China and Pakistan, they will have to make sure that they are capable of providing security to the projects and foreign nationals.

Secondly, as promised by the current Taliban leadership that their soil will not be used against anyone, meaning they will have to make sure the Turkistan Islamic Party does not continue operating from its camps in Afghanistan as previously reported.

Along with that, they will have to ensure that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan is not using their hideouts to carry out attacks in Pakistan because they still pose a serious threat to CPEC. Another important factor is the Taliban’s treatment of minorities and other ethnic groups.

For example, the Hazara community in Afghanistan has been targeted for years, if groups like these don’t feel safe then there will always be some potential of resistance in the form of a foreign-funded proxy that could damage relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has experienced a massive brain-drain especially during the current episode of US withdrawal.

There is a shortage of expertise in different sectors, for example, engineers, financiers, economists, businessmen, etc. That will create issues for the Administration to boost the local industries. Overcoming these issues will require the right policymaking.

With BRI, both investment and expertise can nurture the local industries and it will also create opportunities for more workers to be trained in respective fields.

Since most of the Afghan population is engaged with agriculture, advanced research from Beijing could enhance the growth as well.

With better law and order situation, heritage tourism could pick up some pace and could generate income for the government and also locals.

There is an enormous potential for Afghanistan if CPEC is extended, it will be equally beneficial for the trilateral relationship as well. However, the law and order situation, good governance and the threat from IS-K are the major challenges.

<https://pakobserver.net/revamping-afghanistan-by-bri-by-shah-fahad/>

CPEC: Western prejudice & Pakistan’s resolve

Dr Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

OURS is the age of “commercial” diplomacy and China is the “champion” of it. Two divergent forces namely propaganda and prosperity are going side by side to pollute the minds and souls of

people and rescue the struggling people from deep seas of poverty, unemployment, economic marginalization, stagnation and last but not the least socio-politico disorder in the world.

In this context, China represents the force of progression, prosperity, productivity, positivity and peaceful persuasion of equitable socio-economic goals through its projects of the century, “One Belt One Road Initiative (BRI) and “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)”.

Abrupt withdrawal of the US and its allied forces from Afghanistan was a “strategic defeat” to their “hegemonic” designs which have now compelled them to scheme a series of propagandistic episodes of false news, articles and commentaries in Pakistan and around the globe.

Sudden rise to all these ill designs and burning of egos of the US and the West have vividly reflected in the shape of false articles against BRI & CPEC and thus has once again started so-called superiority of their self-inserted national narratives. But unfortunately, it has been based on presumption of truth not the “Absolute Truth”.

In this connection, while addressing a press conference the Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar “categorically” upheld that Pakistan did not have a “China debt” problem pertaining to loan financing from the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

He acknowledged that Pakistan had a debt servicing and debt sustainability challenge but clearly stressed that “Pakistan does not have a China debt problem.”

It was a timely “rebuttal” of the Planning Minister because a recent report of US-based International Development Research Lab, Aid Data, strongly criticized CPEC.

He pinpointed that the said report had raised four main issues about CPEC, lack of transparency, imposition of secret loans on Pakistan, loans being expensive and Pakistan’s debt rising to a dangerous level because of CPEC.

He strongly “dismissed” the “biased” report of the US-based lab because CPEC has been “transparent” and “accessible”.

In this connection, information on CPEC projects had been shared a number of times and that the Senate and the National Assembly Committees had even had their queries answered. “Parliamentary oversight is present over it,” he further elaborated.

Dispelling the false allegations, Asad Umar clarified that data on energy and power projects is easily available with the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority and that the government had provided information about CPEC to the International Monetary Fund at the start of its program. Thus there is no “fudging of figures” or “hidden transactions” in the CPEC since its inception.

While responding to a question about the existence of secret loans he “dissipated” the untrue, unfactual and fictional narration of the US based report and called it sovereign guarantees for any loan or project as secret or hidden debt.

He further explained that sovereign guarantees were provided to all independent power producers whether domestic or foreign and “nothing new was created in this and neither is it a secret”.

The Minister further elaborated that there were numerous other projects where the government initiated diversified but integrated measures such as sovereign guarantees or standby credit to support the private sector in making investment instead of putting up its own cash.

He claimed that CPEC loans for private power projects were comparatively “cheaper” than loans from other international agencies such as the World Bank or the Asian Development Bank.

Thus so-called self-inserted and self-designed narratives of the US-based report were dashed to the ground.

In this regard, the US report also created serious doubts of the Chinese loaning to infrastructure projects however, he said a majority of them were taken at a “concessional rate” of two per cent interest.

He further added that China had provided various grants as well for different CPEC projects and if they were included then “the average rate of the government-to-government loan is less than 2pc”.

So, ongoing Western-sponsored propaganda against the CPEC does not have any “substance”.

He clarified that Pakistan’s debt did not reach a “dangerous level”, because Chinese debt comprised only 10pc of the country’s general debt (domestic and foreign) and 26pc of its external debt.

He termed it a completely “wrong” argument. He upheld that Pakistan’s debt sustainability challenges were not due to Chinese loans but the country’s own “internal” issues. He also strongly rejected that preferential treatment was being given to Chinese investors, because the same conditions were devised and offered to the world for setting up power projects.

He further highlighted that only Chinese investors showed keen interest and “heavily invested” in the country so this policy was not made just for the Chinese but for the whole world.

For “dissemination” of creditable news about the US-based lab report the Minister urged the national media to get “prior verification” from different “reliable” and “independent” sources about its so-called fabricated claims. He labelled it neither good journalism nor serving Pakistan.

While responding to a question about the progress made on CPEC projects, he showcased that the government had already verified all the facts and figures that more work was done under the current administration than the previous one”, adding that there was no criticism from the Chinese quarters as well.

Thus, he successfully diminished all fake, false and fictional claims of the US-based lab report.

Furthermore, he explained that the first phase of CPEC consisted of infrastructural development and capital-intensive projects which were not intended to generate employment.

However, even its Phase-I has generated “substantial” new jobs in the country. Hopefully the momentum of CPEC Phase-II consisting of industrialisation ventures, industrial investment, manufacturing and agricultural projects would generate more and more new jobs in the country.

The Planning Minister categorically upheld that both countries would welcome the participation of other countries in CPEC, adding that it would be a “very good idea” to make it a regional corridor and “Pakistan will completely support it.”

Even, most recent news-item of Business Recorder reported by Mushtaq Ghumman published on October 5, 2021 titled “Second Phase of CPEC: Chinese companies showing some reluctance” did not reflect a “true” picture.

It raised certain so-called concerns of the Chinese companies especially engaged in power sector under the flagship project of CPEC in the country which the report claimed to drive from background interviews with officials dealing with Chinese companies, discussions at a recent high level Joint Working Group of Pakistani and Chinese officials meeting as well as available documents paint a depressing picture.

Being a prominent regional expert of CPEC & BRI, this scribe totally negates this news item because there has been “constant continuity” in the ongoing projects of CPEC since its inception.

In this context, any issue regarding any term & condition has been further resolved through amicable means.

CPEC is the project of greater socio-economic prosperity, regional connectivity, massive industrialization and persuasion of green energies, eradication of poverty and last but not least, generation of new jobs which should also be supported by the government, different organs of the state, main stakeholders, scholars, researchers, think-tanks and, of course, mass media outlets in the country because it is the last resort for sustainable development in the days to come.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpec-western-prejudice-pakistans-resolve-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

Investment for Industrialisation

CHAIRING a meeting on facilitating Chinese investment in SEZs, Prime Minister Imran Khan said Pakistan needs investment to accelerate industrialization and added it is critical to create maximum employment opportunities for our growing population, 65% of which is under the age of 35.

Indeed taking the country towards high tech industrialization is the only panacea to all the country’s economic woes.

The regrettable part is that in the past our successive governments did not pay any attention to uplift agriculture and the industrial sectors. This only contributed to our enhanced reliance on imports.

Our trade deficit widened one hundred per cent to \$ 11.7 billion in the first quarter of current fiscal year due to an exceptional surge in imports that outpaced the increase in exports.

This rising trade deficit always compels us to spread the begging bowl before the world financial lenders especially the IMF. Then this debt servicing is also becoming a serious issue for us.

According to International Debt Statistics released by the World Bank on Monday, Pakistan is amongst the ten countries that possess the largest external debt stocks and became eligible for the Debt Service Suspension Initiative in the aftermath of Covid-19 pandemic.

In this backdrop, we really need a serious course correction. Without uplifting the industrial and agriculture sectors, these economic problems will continue to haunt us.

Our country has an excellent opportunity in the form of multi billion dollars China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project to achieve rapid industrialization.

As also stated by the PM, all possible steps need to be taken such as provision of all facilities such as electricity and gas in the SEZs in order to populate them with Chinese as well as investment from other sources.

The success of SEZs has become very critical for us, hence all obstacles in their way be removed through one window facility for their early operationalization.

Apart from that we also need to focus on exploiting the rich mineral and other natural resources' potential of the country.

<https://pakobserver.net/investment-for-industrialisation/>

Suzhou Industrial Park a model for Pakistani SEZs: BOI

“Suzhou Industrial Park, a landmark industrial project in China, sets a model for the construction of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Pakistan”, This was stated by Ahmed Shahzad, a graduate from Renmin University of China (RUC) who is now an Assistant Director (Foreign Investments) at Federal Board of Investment of Pakistan under Prime Minister’s Secretariat, in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

Ahmed Shahzad completed his Master’s Degree in Chinese Economy at RUC Silk Road School (SRS) last year.

The School, located in China’s eastern city Suzhou, which is one hour’s drive from the country’s economic center Shanghai, allows him to feel the dynamic impulse of China’s economy in person. “While living in Suzhou, I witnessed the progress, magnitude, and importance of Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP) very closely”, Ahmed recalls.

Covering an area of 278 square kilometers, SIP is acclaimed as “an important window of China’s opening-up initiative”. For five consecutive years from 2016 to 2020, it ranked first among all the national-level economic development zones in China.

“The development of industrial zones, parks, or export processing zones play a very important role for developing countries and are pivotal to attract foreign investments.

SIP is such a masterpiece that registers impressive annual growth in key economic indicators”, appraised Ahmed.

He is happy that the Chinese experience can be brought to Pakistani SEZs. “Pakistan’s journey of SEZs was a little late, but much progress has been made so far”.

After adopting the concept of SEZ with the commencement of the SEZ Act 2012, the Pakistani government has been encouraging national and foreign investors to set up industrial infrastructures focusing on export, import-substitution, transfer of technology, and employment generation.

“I think these are shared practices by Pakistani and Chinese policymakers in terms of SEZ establishment”, Ahmed observed.

So far, 24 SEZs have been approved or notified, and nine are proposed under CPEC. Set up by the Federal or Provincial Governments themselves or in collaboration with the private sector under different modes of public-private partnership or exclusively through the private sector, SEZs offer an assortment of fiscal incentives such as one-time exemption from customs duties and taxes for certain goods and exemption from all taxes on income for ten years.

A series of strategies such as the Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiative Strategy (PRMI), Special Economic Zone Management System (SEZMIS) & Investor Relationship Management System (IRMS) were newly launched this year to provide a friendly business environment, especially for Chinese enterprises to relocate their businesses under CPEC industrial cooperation.

“Our seniors frequently meet with high-level Chinese officials to open up new horizons of cooperation”, Ahmed said. Coming back from China, his connections with China was not severed hence.

“No doubt, living and discovering China can give you an immense experience to reshape your life and work style and its impacts last long in one’s personality”.

With an eagerness to learn about China’s ever-increasing economic and political success on the world stage, infrastructural development, and especially the logic behind the Belt and Road Initiative, Ahmed not only attended a comprehensive set of courses to introduce Chinese economy, politics, governance model, international cooperation, culture, and history while studying at SRS but also had the opportunities to visit the mega-companies, organisations, cuisine sites, etc. in different parts of the country to feel the Chinese characteristics.

Among the multiple inspiring occasions, he was particularly impressed by the Global Mentors Program initiated by SRS for international students where he felt lucky to have Ms. Zhang Yanling, former Executive Vice President, Bank of China as his Mentor, who shared with him her valuable experience in life and work, the progress of China’s financial system, and future cooperation approaches.

“If one intends to learn the logic behind China’s success and to make his/her future in the Chinese mainland, he/she must learn the language first and explore China as much as possible. Chinese people are very peaceful, down-to-earth, and always ready to help.

I admire their business ideas and especially the materialization of the world’s biggest E-commerce market. I still miss very much my Taobao packages”, he added.

<https://pakobserver.net/suzhou-industrial-park-a-model-for-pakistani-sezs-boi/>

October 14, 2021

Daily Times

UMT ink MoU with Zalmi foundation, Tang Chinese Education

University of Management and Technology (UMT) signed a MoU with Zalmi Foundation and Tang Chinese Education & Technology Ltd. This partnership will connect UMT with top Chinese Universities and Vocational Institutes. It will also bring forward opportunities of joint degree programs, vocational & faculty training, Chinese Language and internships for UMT students in China as well.

The MoU was signed by President UMT Mr. Ibrahim Hasan Murad, Mr. Li Jin song- President Tang Chinese Education & Technology Ltd, and Dr. Cedric Aimal Edwin -Chief Innovation Officer Zalmi Foundation.

Zalmi Foundation was launched in 2016 as a not-for-profit initiative of Peshawar Zalmi. The aim and commitment of Zalmi Foundation is to advocate youth development, women empowerment, education and social activism. Tang Chinese Education & Technology Ltd. is based in Beijing, China and owns over 80 intellectual property patents, trademarks, and software copyrights in China and overseas. The company has aligned with governments and educational institutes of different countries in order to improve international communication as well as collaboration in the field of education President ILM Trust and UMT Ibrahim Hasan Murad expressed, “We are pleased to have this association with Zalmi Foundation and Tang China Education & Technology Ltd.” He said that this joint venture would greatly benefit the students and faculty to boost their academic and research pursuits. Murad added, “We will be able to forge a sustainable and successful partnership, which will serve as a template for other institutions in Pakistan to follow.”

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/829049/umt-ink-mou-with-zalmi-foundation-tang-chinese-education/>

PM’s aide for attracting quality investments in Rashakai SEZ

Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Khalid Mansoor on Wednesday directed developers in Rashakai Special Economic Zone to make a marketing plan to attract quality investments in the zone.

During his visit to Rashakai Special Economic Zone (SEZ) today the SAPM reviewed the progress of development of the zone, says a statement received. He was received by Advisor to CM KP on Industries and CEO of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC).

Senior officials of KPEZMC and China Road and Bridge Company (CRBC) briefed about the progress of development of the Zone.

It was informed that provision of utilities, like electricity and gas was progressing as per agreed timelines. Other necessary infrastructure was also being put in place and the work was progressing smoothly. It was also informed that eight enterprises had been allotted industrial plots while a large number of investors had indicated their interest and applied for allotment of industrial plots. He emphasized the need for vocational training of locals to meet the future skilled manpower requirement of industries in the SEZ. SAPM also visited the construction site of the steel factory by Century Steel, which is the first enterprise to have started its construction activity in this CPEC Special Economic Zone.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/829158/pms-aide-for-attracting-quality-investments-in-rashakai-sez/>

The News

China, Pakistan to push ahead with cooperation on TCM

BEIJING: China and Pakistan will push ahead with cooperation on traditional medicine, according to a meeting held at Beijing Office of Sino-Pakistan Cooperation Center on Traditional Chinese Medicine (SPCCTCM) in recent week.

Moin ul Haque, Pakistani Ambassador to China, Rumman Ahmad, permanent representative of Pakistan to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Secretariat, and Zulfiqar Ali, Second Secretary of Pakistani Embassy to China, called on Prof. Liu Xinmin, Co-Director of SPCCTCM, also WHO Advisor on Traditional Medicine, and Prof. Wang Qiong, vice director of SPCCTCM, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday. Addressing this meeting, Haque pointed out that SPCCTCM would play an important role in boosting the traditional medicine cooperation between Pakistan and China.

Haque pledged to give full supports to SPCCTCM in terms of in registration and clinical trial of Chinese Herbal medicines in Pakistan. Attending this meeting online, Prof. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Co-Director of SPCCTCM, also Director of International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi, said that both of Pakistan's Ministry of Science and Technology and Sindh government pay great attention to SPCCTCM based in University of Karachi, and take it as a priority of China-Pak cooperation on traditional medicine.

Prof. Wang told CEN that the two sides also discussed registration of Shugan Jieyu Capsule in Pakistan, along with joint training programme on Master and Ph.D degree in China and Pakistan.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=13805>

October 15, 2021

Business Recorder

Dasu Hydropower Project

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

ISLAMABAD: China has reportedly sought compensation of \$38 million (Rs 6.5 billion) from Pakistan for the dead and injured Chinese engineers working on Dasu Hydropower Project, prior to resuming work on the stalled project, well informed sources told Business Recorder. On July 14, 2021, thirteen people, including nine Chinese engineers, two locals and two personnel of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) died and over two dozen other people sustained injuries when a bus carrying the team working on the project fell into a ravine after it was hit by a car laden with explosives.

Pakistani authorities say that Indian Spy Agency, RAW, was directly involved in the attack on the Chinese team working on construction of tunnel site of 4,300MW Dasu project. According to Secretary Water Resources, Dr Shahzeb Khan Bangash, the civil work in the project has been stalled since the attack on Chinese engineers in July.

The sources said the issue of compensation to the Chinese nationals is being discussed at a high level. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Water Resources and Chinese embassy were working closely on the compensation package, as well as, resumption of work on the project.

According to sources, the Steering Committee, comprising Secretaries of concerned Ministries had constituted another Committee which deliberated on the issues linked to Dasu project, especially volume of compensation being demanded by the Chinese government.

The Committee has constituted a Subcommittee, comprising all the relevant Ministries to discuss compensation package by taking the Chinese embassy on board as the proposed package is being termed as “irrational”.

The sources said, the Subcommittee of all Ministries will deliberate on the compensation package demanded by the Chinese government and will share its working with the main committee, which will give its approval. “The Subcommittee will develop a benchmark for compensation considering that if the demand of Chinese government is met as it is it will create issues for the government in future,” the sources maintained. Secretary Water Resources, the sources said, is hopeful that compensation issue will be sorted out within a couple of weeks, after which civil work on the site will resume.

National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) which had allowed one per cent of capital cost as security to be built in the consumers’ end tariff, has not yet inquired from the Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) as to the reasons for the insufficient security to those who are working on power projects.

The Chinese firm, China Gezhouba Group Corp, which suspended work on the Dasu project after the bus incident, had announced negation of its decision to resume work and terminate Pakistani workers, on the request of the Pakistani government. However, the company has not yet resumed work and is saying that it will not proceed ahead until compensation package and more security of Chinese nationals is provided.

Recently, Chairman Water and Power Development Authority, Lt. Gen. Muzammal Hussain (retired) who has secured another term met Prime Minister Imran Khan and briefed him about hydropower projects including the Dasu project.

“We are in close contact with the Chinese embassy in Islamabad, as well as, China Gezhouba Group Corp so that work resumes on the project within the next 15 days,” said an official on condition of anonymity.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/10/15/1-page/904125-news.html>

Gwadar Port shows potential to become gateway of transit trade

KARACHI: On the 13th of October 2021, the ever-largest transit shipment of 32,000 tons destined for Afghanistan having DAP fertilizer, arrived on bulk vessel MV Discovery at Gwadar port. This is the 7th consecutive shipment since Gwadar Port permitted to do this business last year. This development reflects the satisfaction of our client for the services and infrastructure by the Port operator and the keen interest of stakeholders to support economic development in Pakistan and in the region.

The Gwadar Port & Free Zone enjoys its significant geographical superiority due to its proximity to vital node of international trade. Due to its unique geographical position makes it a fast-economical link between land-locked central Asian states and to the rest of the country. Being a Warm Water Natural Deep-Sea Port and its strategic location; Gwadar port on its path to be a gateway & hub of world businesses & trades and catering for all types of International commercial activities generated from one business to another, irrespective of quantity, quantum & magnitude with a vision of being Pakistan’s preferred & responsible maritime gateway. China Overseas Ports Holding Company (Pvt) Ltd (COPHC) the concession holder has invested comprehensively to renovate, rehabilitate and install the port facilities, Free zone development, surrounding environment and relevant commercial businesses at Port & Free zone.

Gwadar port provides a feasible and economical route for trade with Central Asian landlocked states which are rich in natural resources. It is considered as a key in the revival of Pakistan’s economy as it will function as a hub of trade activities of the region. Pakistan can improve its foreign exchange reserves through transit fee.

Gwadar International Terminals Limited (GITL) has worked together with Pakistan Customs (transit trade directorate), Customs Bonded Carriers’ Association, Customs Clearing Agents and relevant security agencies to enable the port to excel and transform Gwadar into a preferred port of call to support the high trade volumes in the region.

Port is now connected with most of up-country's destinations by road with sufficient availability of bonded carriers, logistic companies and vast yard storage facility; tailored to the individual needs of various cargoes. Gwadar port is expected to add new cargo movements (import of more bulk commodities like coal, wheat, sugar & steel, import of LNG and transported through virtual pipeline, export of clinkers etc.) to increase its cargo handling capacity in millions of tons by 2025, this will help in earning foreign exchange and will generate many local jobs through various business-related activities and will also substantially earn a much-needed foreign exchange which country direly need at present. As global corporate citizens COPHC aspires towards a fair, inclusive, and caring society – one where locals and people of all backgrounds have access to opportunities and where everyone can look to the future with optimism.

Despite ongoing impact of Covid-19 and many challenges we faced during the year 2020-21 the management of GITL proudly take this opportunity to mention the significant developments the port has witnessed during this year, this includes; the first international transshipment of Bulk and containerized cargo, Afghan transit trade of containerized and Bulk cargo, LPG imports etc. Now Gwadar port is all set to become the hub of international transshipment which will help the country in earning much needed foreign exchange in near future which also is in line with the vision of Prime Minster of Pakistan to launch first-ever transshipment policy to promote regional economic integration.

We appreciate Prime Minster Imran Khan vision of emerging Pakistan and his commitment towards development of Gwadar which helped us to resolved major bottlenecks.

PM office is focussed for provision of basic amenities including water, Gas and electricity to encourage industrialization in Gwadar. PM frequent visits to Gwadar shows his commitment towards the development of Gwadar and CPEC related projects.—PR

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2021/10/15/7-page/904173-news.html>

Daily Times

KP starts recruitment process for SSU CPEC police

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police has started recruitment process for 401 constables from merged districts in Special Security Unit (SSU) CPEC Police.

On the directives of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Moazzam Jah Ansari, the Special Security Unit (SSU) has been made fully functional to provide security to the foreigners working on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and various other projects in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa having permanent address of merged districts and sub divisions aged between 18 to 25 years can apply for recruitment through ETEA tests and interviews.

The constable quota allocated for the Khyber district is 56, Mohmand 53, Bajaur 38, Orakzai 36, Kurram 39, North waziristan 61, South Waziristan 63, Hassan Khel Peshawar 07, Darra Admakhel Kohat 10, Bettani Lakki Marwat 06, Jandola Tank 11 , Darazinda D. I Khan 10 and Wazir Bannu 15.

Police has chalked out special strategy to provide security to workers in CPEC projects as these multifaceted projects were key to economic development of country and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

After the establishment of the Rashkai Economic Zone and other economic zones across the province, Peshawar will be the centre of trade, cultural and recreational activities for which SSU units of CPEC police would provide security.

The IGP has directed Commandant Elite Force and AIG Coordination Arif to finalise all preparations for proper training of SSU units to ensure foolproof security of foreigners working on various projects across the province.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/829661/kp-starts-recruitment-process-for-ssu-cpec-police/>

Pakistani ambassador invites Chinese textile investors

At the China (Ordos) International Cashmere and Wool Exposition held in China's northern province Inner Mongolia, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque invited Chinese investors, entrepreneurs and fashion designers to explore the Pakistani market for joint ventures in the areas of textile, garments, and woolen products.

“As a major source of wool, yarn, and fabric to world markets, Pakistan stands ready to share these bounties of nature with China as well”, he said Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday.

The growth and cultivation of cotton, wool, and cashmere has always been the backbone of Pakistan's agriculture and livestock sectors.

According to a research report by China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Information Cooperation Platform (CPAIC), about 14pc of arable land in Pakistan is used to grow cotton, and about 1.5 million farmers are engaged in cotton cultivation. From 2014 to 2019, its cotton area harvested took up nearly 10pc of the global total.

In the latest forecast by the Cotton Crop Assessment Committee, the total cotton production in the country for the year 2021-22 is anticipated at 9.74 million bales, a leap from last year's 4.5 million bales. But meanwhile, resurgent overseas demand for finished textile products as exemplified by a 26pc increase in textile export in September may lead to a record amount of cotton import this year expected at 5.6 million bales as forecast by USDA.

The huge gap between supply and demand has driven the cotton price to a ten-year high at Rs15,000 per mound last Friday. The lucrative opportunities call for vigorous efforts and enhanced production.

According to the analysis of the CPAIC report, climate uncertainties, pests, shrinking planting areas, backward research technologies, and limited processing capacity are constraining the “white gold” to fully unleash its value.

Cotton production in Pakistan is directly impacted by climate; particularly, abnormal rainfall and temperature will result in a drop in cotton production.

As per the statistics of USDA on Pakistan’s cotton production from 2000 to 2019, cotton output reached a record high in 2005 due to sufficient irrigation water and good pest and disease control.

In the subsequent few years, the production dropped sharply and remained low; one reason was that the ratio of cotton seedling emergence decreased because of frequent heavy rains during the sowing season, while cotton buds fell off due to insufficient rainfall in the later stage of the planting season and the high temperature.

From a long-term perspective, the area dedicated to cotton by growers has been declining in the last few years. Punjab and Sindh provincial governments estimate planted cotton area 2021/22 to be 1.9 million hectares, 14 percent less than last year.

Due to counterfeit pesticides and economic stimulus, the price of cotton could hardly cover its production cost. A comparative analysis by the Central Cotton Research Institute Multan on cotton production costs in Pakistan, China, and India shows that Pakistan has the highest production cost. As a result, some farmers have switched to other crops such as corn, rice, and sugarcane.

According to the CPAIC report, independent research and international cooperation are in dire need to improve the quality of cotton seeds and their resilience against abnormal weather, diseases, and pests.

From 2019 to 2020, the seedling emergence rate of new cotton buds was only 40pc to 60pc under the influence of severe pests, complicated climate, and insufficient supply of cotton seeds, far below the normal level of over 80pc.

Under the mode of free cultivation, farmers pick cotton by hand and sell it to nearby ginning factories without grading. Lack of proper picking and variety separation results in impurities in cotton. Medium to low-quality products dominate the market, i.e., Color Grade M and SLM, strength 28 GPT or lower, and length below 26mm.

Cotton germplasm resources are the foundation for cotton basic research and applied research. According to Professor Du Xiongming, Dean of the Cotton Germplasm Division in the Institute of Cotton Research, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Chinese cotton is renowned for its high yield, high quality, and early maturity, while Pakistani cotton excels in its resistance to heat, drought, salt and alkali, and cotton leaf curl virus (CLCV). The cooperation of the two sides in the collection and identification of cotton germplasm resources is of great significance, and the timing is right.

More than 300 cotton germplasm resources have been exchanged, told Professor Du. MoUs of joint research programs have been signed with several Chinese institutions, including Huazhong Agricultural University (HZAU), Xinjiang Agricultural University (XAU), School of Agriculture Sciences, Zhengzhou University (ZZU), and Institute of Cotton Research (ICR) of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Anyang.

“Many Chinese textile companies have established their production units in Pakistan. And recently, the Challenge Apparel Group of China factory in Pakistan was inaugurated by the president of Pakistan”, Ambassador Haque informed the participants of the China (Ordos) International Cashmere and Wool Exposition.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/829851/pakistani-ambassador-invites-chinese-textile-investors/>

The Express Tribune

STZA signs deals to attract foreign investment

ISLAMABAD: The Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) has signed three memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with international companies to attract foreign direct investment, promote technology transfer and ensure job creation in the newly established technology zones across Pakistan.

According to a statement issued on Thursday, first MoU for digital country partnership was signed with MasterCard Asia-Pacific Limited, a global technology company with market capitalisation of over \$340 billion.

The MoU includes strengthening the digital framework in Pakistan, deploying smart city solutions, boosting artificial intelligence and cyber security capabilities, promoting agri tech and setting up Pakistan’s first cash-free technology zone.

Second MoU was inked with UAE-based Galaxy Racer for cooperation in the development of gaming industry and e sports through Special Technology Zones (STZs) in Pakistan.

Esports industry has a global footprint and has gradually grown in popularity over the years in the international market.

Third MoU was signed with UAE-based Shorooq Partners to support the building of Pakistan’s tech ecosystem, ensure presence on the ground to support local founders and investors through a series of ecosystem programmes and give portfolio companies in Pakistan a suite of valueadded services.

STZA Chairman Amer Hashmi, on the occasion, reaffirmed the government’s commitment to facilitating global venture capital firms in the technology zones. Senior executives of relevant companies including MasterCard, Galaxy Racer and Shorooq Partners inked the MoUs.

Pakistan President Dr Arif Alvi attended the signing ceremony, which was held in Dubai as part of the visit to Expo 2020.

STZA also hosted a session with international technology companies, investors and venture capitalists to brief them about the technology zones being established by the government of Pakistan to attract foreign investment and technology transfer as well as create jobs.

Led by Hashmi, a delegation of STZA had several strategic engagements with high-profile tech investors, entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

The team included CIO Abdul Rahim, Director Planning Hamza Saeed Orakzai and Director Marketing Hina Nasir. STZA had been established by the government of Pakistan with the mandate to provide world-class digital and physical infrastructure through the creation of STZs to position Pakistan on the global radar.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2324866/stza-signs-deals-to-attract-foreign-investment>

Local producers oppose steel imports for CPEC

KARACHI: Large steel producers have protested against the use of imported steel, saying that their surplus steel capacity can cater to the demand from mega development projects.

In a letter to Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday, the Pakistan Association of Large Steel Producers (PALSP) criticised the use of imported steel for the construction of Gwadar International Airport, development of Export Processing Zones (EPZs), Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Gwadar Free Economic Zone.

“This is an alarming situation for the local industry,” remarked PALSP General Secretary Syed Wajid Bukhari. Pakistan was focusing on mass industrial development by building SEZs, he said, adding that the construction of new Gwadar International Airport had also started, which was one of the major projects of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He was of the view that the government should utilise only locally produced steel products, which met international standards, in major projects in order to reap mutual benefits for the industry as well as for the country.

“Other raw material like locally produced cement is already being utilised in these projects,” he said. Bukhari urged the government to curb duty-free import of goods which were being manufactured locally, especially steel, as it was in surplus quantity and met international standards. However, machinery imports should be allowed, as it was not produced locally.

The government should ensure the involvement of domestic steel industry as it had surplus capacity to cater to the entire demand for CPEC related projects, he said.

“If we continue to rely on imports, foreign entrants will capture our entire market and it will immensely increase the burden on balance of payments,” he lamented.

In comments to The Express Tribune, Cedar Capital Private Limited research analyst Waqas Mustafa said that local producers made high-quality steel, so it should be utilised in CPEC and other big projects rather than importing steel from China or any other country. “This will encourage the local industry.”

Topline Securities steel sector analyst Mehroz Khan highlighted that the local steel industry was manufacturing graded steel rebar fully compliant with British and American standards. “Allowing the use of imported steel rebar seems unfair, as the local industry is capable of supplying quality steel rebar,” he added.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2324865/local-producers-oppose-steel-imports-for-cpec>

Chinese investors pour \$1.5b in Punjab in 3 years

Chief Minister’s Investment Cell set up to facilitate investors, remove hurdles

LAHORE: Punjab has emerged as the best choice for Chinese investors and an investment of \$1.5 billion has already been made by them in the past three years, said Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of Chief Minister’s Investment Cell on Thursday, Buzdar revealed that Chinese garment group Challenge Fashion was set to pour \$150 million into Punjab.

Talking about the objective of the investment cell, the chief minister highlighted that it would facilitate investors and eliminate bureaucratic hurdles.

“This cell will help investors to gain direct access to high ranking government officials so they are able to resolve their issues,” he said. “To encourage business activities, the government will introduce a no-objection certificate (NOC) policy that will reduce the time taken for enterprises to acquire NOCs,” he said.

He pointed out that Challenge Fashion secured NOC within 14 days under the policy. The chief minister revealed that over 20,000 new job opportunities had been created due to business-friendly initiatives of the government.

“Boards of Punjab Industrial Estates Development and Management Company and Faisalabad Industrial Estates Development and Management Company have started functioning to provide better facilities to the investors,” Buzdar added. The CM stressed that the government was striving to promote trade and industry in the province.

“NOCs have been issued to 10 cement plants while approval for many other applications is in process,” he revealed. “There was focus on only two Special Economic Zones before the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf government came to power,” he pointed out. “Our leadership has started work on all 12 Special Economic Zones while industrialisation process has begun in eight of them.”

He said that the government granted the status of SEZ to four industrial estates and increased the number of zones from eight to 12. Besides, the Punjab Rozgar Programme has also kicked off, which envisages provision of Rs30 billion in loans to the needy youth, he noted.

“The government is also providing modern agricultural equipment to small farmers at subsidised rates to give a boost to agriculture and livestock sectors,” the CM said. “On the other hand,

Kissan Cards have been issued to farmers.” He announced that the government of Punjab was taking part in Expo 2020, being held in Dubai, to showcase the strong socio-cultural and economic potential of the province before the world.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2324869/chinese-investors-pour-15b-in-punjab-in-3-years>

The Nation

Pakistan–China strategic partnership a factor of stability in region: COAS

General Qamar Javed Bajwa visits Army Air Defence Centre Karachi

ISLAMABAD - Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Army Air Defence Centre Karachi on Thursday. On arrival, COAS laid floral wreath at Shahuada monument.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate, COAS witnessed commissioning of the state-of-the-art Chinese origin HQ-9/P HIMADS (High to Medium Air Defence System) into Pakistan Army Air Defence. Lieutenant General Hamood uz Zaman Khan; Commander Army Air Defence Command briefed COAS about strategic weapon system.

Induction of HIMADS will significantly enhance Comprehensive Layered Integrated Air Defence (CLIAD) shield of aerial frontiers of Pakistan as the system is fully integrated through a well-knit Digitised System on its inventory, says a press release issued by the ISPR. “Capable of intercepting multiple air targets including aircrafts, cruise missiles and Beyond Visual Range Weapons at ranges over 100-kilometres with Single Shot Kill Probability, HQ-9/P is considered as a strategic long range Surface to Air Missile (SAM) with remarkable flexibility and precision.

Speaking at the occasion, COAS said that induction of high-tech systems will make Pakistan’s air defence impenetrable in the emerging threat scenario. Highlighting the criticality of air defence in the overall defence of motherland, COAS said exemplary synergy between Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan Army Air Defence makes country’s air defence impregnable. “Pakistan–China strategic partnership and defence collaboration is a factor of stability in the region,” the ISPR quoted COAS as saying. Senior officials from China were also present on the occasion.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2021-10-15/page-1/detail-4>

The News

Pakistan urges China to use Gwadar for transshipment

KARACHI: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Maritime Affairs Mahmood Moulvi said that Pakistan has requested China to market Gwadar Port and at least utilise it for their transshipment cargo.

Speaking at the 11th Sustainable Shipping, Logistics & Supply China Summit & Exhibition, Moulvi said the Chinese private sector held 91 percent of the Gwadar Port, which meant that China was responsible for its marketing and development.

“We are asking the Chinese government to market Gwadar Sea Port because it is the responsibility of China to bring cargo at Gwadar Port,” the special assistant said, disclosing that “we requested China to, at least take their transshipment cargo from Gwadar”.

Recalling the subsidy given by the previous government, the minister said a freight subsidy was given to ship imported fertiliser from Gwadar to upcountry, as transportation cost upcountry from Gwadar was higher compared to the Karachi Port.

He said China has plans to develop fisheries and housing schemes in Machhar Colony and Keamari areas, as well as three new berths at the Karachi Port. These projects would cost \$3 billion, Moulvi added.

He said Karachi and Port Qasim have been developed enormously over the years, with huge cargo vehicles anchoring at both ports. However, he lamented that the local shipping industry did not develop and still lacked any major investments.

“Apart from Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC), no shipping company exists,” he noted.

Moulvi highlighted the incentives announced by the present government to bring more players in the local shipping industry. He pointed out that the government announced five percent financing facility as well as income tax exemption for ten years.

He also shared that east and west wharf would soon be connected through a bridge, for which a contract would be awarded this month.

PNSC Executive Director Special Projects & Planning Khurram Mirza said the national shipping company was working on a five-year business plan to develop its fleet and to make its presence stronger in liquefied and dry cargo shipment.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=13880>

K2 Daily

کوریا سی پیک منصوبوں میں سرمایہ کاری کرے، سنجرائی
تجارت کے فروغ کیلئے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان فری ٹریڈ ایگریمنٹ قائم ہوگا
پاکستان کے لوگ کوریا کیساتھ تعلقات کو قدر کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں، کورین سفیر سے گفتگو
اسلام آباد (آئی این پی) جنوب میں سمجھوتہ راستے پر سفر قابلِ حوصلہ ہے، چند دنوں کے بعد
سادق سنجرائی نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان کے لوگ کوریا کے ساتھ تعلقات کو اپنی عزت کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں۔ سمجھوتہ میں جو میل کر رہا ہے، پاکستان کوئی کوریا
ہی نہیں، کوئی کوریا کا امن، جمہوریت اور خوشحالی کے ساتھ اپنے کثیر (ہائی سٹیٹ) 63 نمبر 63

بقیہ
اجلی تعلقات کو اپنی عزت کی نگاہ سے دیکھتے ہیں
پاکستان کے سیاسی، اقتصادی، سماجی، دفاعی
تعلقی اور دیگر شعبے شامل ہیں۔

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

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سی پیک کا فیروزن جلد مکمل ہو رہا ہے، خالد منصور
 این اوی کے عمل کو آسان بنایا جائیگا، ایسا نظام چاہتے ہیں جہاں تمام سہولیات میسر ہوں
 سی پیک منصوبوں میں آگٹھل آٹھل اکٹھا کر ڈونز اپنا کر دار ادا کریں گے، خطاب
 لاہور (آئی این ٹی) وزیراعظم کے معاون عمل کو اجنبی آسان بنایا جائے، اس وقت ہمارے
 خصوصی برائے سی پیک امور خالد منصور نے کہا ہے۔ لیے سب سے بڑا چیلنج اس پروگرام پر عملدرآمد کرانا
 سی پیک کے منصوبوں میں آگٹھل آٹھل اکٹھا کر ڈونز ہے۔ سی پیک کا فیروزن پانچ تھیل تک کھینچے جا رہا ہے۔
 اپنا کر دار ادا کریں گے ہم چاہتے ہیں این اوی کے تفصیلات کے مطابق (پانی صفحہ 6 بجے نمبر 48)

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وزیراعظم کے معاون خصوصی برائے سی پیک امور
 خالد منصور نے لاہور میں تقریب سے خطاب کرتے
 ہوئے کہا کہ آج جس سٹی کی تقریب میں ہم موجود
 ہیں اس کا آئیڈیاء دو ہفتے قبل وزیراعظم ذر بیٹ
 آپ خالد منصور نے کہا کہ ہم چاہتے ہیں این اوی
 کے عمل کو اجنبی آسان بنایا جائے، ایسا نظام ہوس
 کے ذریعے ایک وٹو سے تمام سہولیات میسر ہو
 جائیں، وزیراعظم نے قدم اٹھایا ہے اس کی مثال ہم
 دوسرے صوبوں کو دے سکتے ہیں۔ انہوں نے کہا
 کہ اس وقت ہمارے لیے سب سے بڑا چیلنج اس
 پروگرام پر عملدرآمد کرانا ہے سی پیک کا فیروزن پانچ
 تھیل تک کھینچے جا رہا ہے ہم نے اس میں 13
 ٹیمیں روپے کی انٹرنسٹس کی، 12 ٹیمیں کی
 انٹرنسٹس آئندہ 9 سے 12 ماہ تک ہو جائے
 گی۔ سی پیک امور خالد منصور نے مزید کہا کہ
 وزیراعظم نے ہم پر پابندی تمام آگٹھل آٹھل ڈونز
 کو اپنے عمل متحرک کرنا ہے، ہم سی پیک میں سی
 جسم کا دن وٹو دکھام متعارف کرایا ہے۔

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