



For Better Understanding on China–Pakistan and CPEC

Gleanings from the National & Chinese Press

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Table of Contents

01: April 01, 2023.....	03
02: April 02, 2023.....	07
03: April 03, 2023.....	13
04: April 04, 2023.....	21
05: April 05, 2023.....	28
06: April 06, 2023.....	35
07: April 08, 2023.....	39
08: April 09, 2023.....	42
09: April 10, 2023.....	45
10: April 11, 2023.....	46
11: April 12, 2023.....	51
12: April 13, 2023.....	55
13: April 14, 2023.....	57
14: April 15, 2023.....	59

Chinese Newspapers

01: April 02, 2023.....	63
02: April 03, 2023.....	64
03: April 04, 2023.....	66
04: April 05, 2023.....	67
05: April 11, 2023.....	67
06: April 12, 2023.....	69
07: April 14, 2023.....	70
08: April 15, 2023.....	74

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April 01, 2023

Business Recorder

China has rolled over \$2bn loan, Dar tells Senate

SARDAR SIKANDER SHAHEEN

In a Senate session on Friday, Dar termed as “speculative and misleading” the reports carried by a section of foreign media that Pakistan was still waiting for rollover of China’s \$2 billion loan.

Responding to a point of order raised by Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) stalwart and former chairman Senate Raza Rabbani regarding the said reports, Dar spoke in rejection of these media reports.

“Our business with China relates to safe deposit and commercial banks I am happy to confirm that China’s \$2 billion loan is not outstanding anymore since this loan has been rolled over,” he said.

Dar said that the rollover took place on March 23 and documentation in this regard was completed. “This issue is no longer lingering,” the minister claimed.

Although, the finance minister attended the Senate sitting, majority of the cabinet members did not show up for the house’s sitting which drew ire of treasury Senator Asif Kirmani.

In an apparently embarrassing situation for the federal government, Kirmani, who belongs to Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N), slammed the absence of the federal ministers from the Senate session including those from his own political party the N-League. Questioning Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani over this issue, Kirmani asked as to why the “spoiled” ministers were not in the house.

“This is so-called upper house of the parliament but it is not taken seriously at all where are the ministers?” the senator asked in an audibly grim tone.

Attempting to pacify the aggrieved senator, State Law Minister Shahadat Awan stated that the ministers were “busy in important official engagements” and they would attend the Senate sitting soon.

“What does that mean? Are we all sitting idle here? Have we got nothing to do?” Kirmani questioned, as a visible embarrassed state law minister, who is also a senator, assured him that cabinet members would attend the house meetings in future.

The Chairman Senate also stated that he would reach out to the senior government officials to ensure the attendance of the ministers at the Senate session.

Meanwhile, two government bills; Petroleum (Amendment) Bill 2022 and Trade Dispute Resolution Bill 2023 were moved in Senate and referred to the relevant standing committees. The house was adjourned till Monday.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/04/01/1-page/958923-news.html>

Daily Times

Economic Corridors in Pakistan (Part I)

Abdul Rauf and Saud Bin Ahsen

The economic corridors have been in use since the earliest human civilization. The historic roots of such corridors, initially trade routes, go back to around 4000 BC. However, the development of special-purpose corridors is a recent phenomenon, which was introduced in the 1950s and 1960s.

Over the years, the concept of economic corridors became prevalent because of the inherent capability to support continued growth via connectivity within countries and regions. This led to the creation of new corridors for regional integration to promote socio-economic development through common agendas and shared goals.

The importance of economic corridors as a development mechanism is strongly related to the idea of establishing economic and trade clusters. The industrial and trade strategies of a country and the development of economic corridors strongly complement one another.

Over the years, Pakistan has taken several steps for the development of regional trade, infrastructure, and energy corridors, including the Economic cooperation organization (ECO) Afghan transit trade (ATT), Tajikistan Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India (TAPI), and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Out of all these trade corridors, Afghan Transit Trade Corridor, with its three routes, leading to Afghanistan through Torkham, Ghulam Khan and Chaman, has been fully functional. However, despite dreams and desires, Pakistan could not move beyond Afghanistan to CARs and Russia. The ECO had partial success in the shape of train traffic going up to Istanbul. The development of the CPEC Economic Corridor is in its infancy stage despite the passage of quite a time.

The importance of economic corridors as a development mechanism is strongly related to the idea of establishing economic and trade clusters.

Pakistan, therefore, needs to introspect and reflect as to what has gone wrong, why, and what could be done to enhance the productivity of existing economic corridors and explore the possibility of opening up new avenues for socio-economic development. This Oped series critically assess the current status of the economic corridors in Pakistan.

Pakistan has multiple trade corridors linking the country with its neighbours like Afghanistan, Iran, India and China. Presently, a few of these corridors are operative, whereas others are dormant. There is a trade corridor originating from Karachi, traversing Karachi-Quetta Road and entering Afghanistan through Chaman. Another corridor begins at Karachi, crosses KP through Indus Highway and enters Afghanistan from Torkham and Ghulam Khan. Similarly, a trade corridor starts at Wahga, moves upward through motorway/ GT roads, touches Peshawar and enters Afghanistan from Torkham. For trade with China, Pakistan has a corridor, which opens at Sost and takes multiple courses inside the country. With Iran, Pakistan has trade corridors of Quetta-Taftan-Zahedan and Gwadar-Gabd- Iran. Pakistan's trade linkages through road corridors do not go beyond the immediately adjacent neighbouring countries due to multiple factors. A road corridor had also been planned under

the ECO. The same, although yet untapped, has connectivity with Central Asia and Europe through the transportation network of Iran and Turkey.

Pakistan has rail connectivity with Iran and India, which has been utilized to promote trade and generate economic activity. A rail corridor, which had been established under the auspices of the ECO, has been operating since 2009 (with periods of long suspension) to carry Pakistani exports to Turkey and further to Europe. This rail corridor starts from Islamabad and reaches Quetta through Lahore. Crossing through Iran, the Rail Corridor ends in Turkey.

A goods train carrying Pakistani exports, like cement and salt, to India and bringing back imported goods, like vegetable seeds, betel leaves, and oil pigments, used to ply between the two countries, but the same is presently not operative due to suspension of trade relations. On the south side, Pakistan also had rail connectivity with India via Khokhrapar. This rail link is also closed. There were plans for the upgradation of rail networks like ML1, MI-2 and ML-3 under the CPEC, but the work on these initiatives has not started yet.

Besides land, Pakistan also has trade connectivity with the regional countries through air corridors linking Karachi, Lahore, Multan and Sialkot airports with the rest of the world. Likewise, Pakistan has seaports at Port Qasim, Karachi and Gwadar. These have linkages with the rest of the world. Besides regular shipping, Pakistan has sea trade links with the UAE through boats.

Pakistan, at present, is a signatory to multiple Transit Trade Agreements. On the bilateral level, there are two active agreements: Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) 2010 and Uzbekistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (UPTTA)2021.

On the multilateral level, there are Quadrilateral Traffic & Transit Agreement (QTTA) 1995, ECO Transit Transport Framework Agreement (TTFA) 1998, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) 2010 and Transport International Routiers (TIR) 2015.

Presently, Trade under ATTA is thriving. But, almost perpetual instability in Afghanistan has compelled Pakistan to look for other avenues for reaching Central Asian Republics. One such initiative was QTTA.

(To be Continued)

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1079365/economic-corridors-in-pakistan-part-i/>

Dawn News

Pak-China border trade set to resume next week

Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: After remaining closed for three years, trade and travel activities between Pakistan and China through the Khunjerab Pass will resume on Monday.

All arrangements have been finalised on both sides to reopen the border point for bilateral trade and other activities under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Under an agreement, trade and travel activities between the two countries through the Khunjerab Pass start in April 1 and close on November 30, while there was a daily bus service from Sost Valley of Gilgit-Baltistan to Xinjiang province of China. The first trade activity between China and Pakistan under CPEC had started via the Karakoram Highway in November 2016.

However, to contain the transmission of coronavirus between the two countries, the Khunjerab Pass was closed as soon as in November 2019.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar told Dawn that the federal government had been working for the revival of CPEC activities and all hurdles in the way of bilateral trade would be removed.

According to officials, the prolonged closure of Khunjerab Pass had caused immense financial hardships to the local business community, while thousands of workers had become jobless. During last three years, the Khunjerab Pass had been opened occasionally for emergency cargo transportation from China to Pakistan on specific days.

GB Home Secretary Rana Mohammad Saleem Afzal told Dawn that the officials on both sides had agreed to reopen Khunjerab Pass for trade and travel activities from Monday (April 3) and process of issuing border pass would start soon.

“Most important aspect is that it’s CPEC route. CPEC consignments will enter Pakistan through Khunjerab Pass from China,” said the GB home secretary.

GB Collector of Customs Syed Fawad Ali Shah told Dawn that the volume of trade between two countries would increase after the reopening of the Khunjerab Pass. He said all the required arrangements had been finalised for normal trade at Sost dry port, adding that he had held a meeting with traders, the port management and other stakeholders in this regard.

Mr Shah claimed that all stakeholders were happy and assured the administration of their cooperation in smooth trade activities at Sost dry port.

Haji Liaquat of the GB Importers and Exporters Association said the people affiliated with trade between the two countries were optimistic about the revival of economic activities in the region. He said GB people and government exchequer suffered losses worth billions of rupees owing to the prolonged closure of trade at Sost dry port. He said the authorities should also resolve issues being faced by the people associated with trade.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1745272>

Dunya News

Pakistan, China agree to reopen border for trade, travel after three years

ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) – Pakistan and China have agreed to revive trade and travel activities through the Khunjerab Pass from April 3 (Monday) after a hiatus of three years.

The Khunjerab Pass, which is also the main route for the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) activities, is usually used for trade and travel from April 1 to November 30. There

was also a daily bus service that run from Sost Valley of Gilgit-Baltistan to China's Xinjiang province.

However, the border crossing was closed in 2019 to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Since then, it was occasionally opened for transportation of emergency consignments from China to Pakistan on specific days.

Officials told media both sides had finalised arrangements to reopen the border, adding that the move will also restore the trade and other activities under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The closure of border had deprived several people from job, besides serving blows to the local business community that depends on the bilateral trade.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Business/711875-Pakistan-China-agree-to-reopen-Khunjerab-Pass-for-trade-travel>

Pakistan Observer

China-Pak Agricultural Cooperation Center opened in Weifang, China

China-Pakistan Agricultural Cooperation Center has been formally opened in Weifang National Comprehensive Pilot Agriculture Zone.

Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counselor of the Pakistan Embassy in China, and Li Ting, Deputy Secretary-General of the Weifang Municipal Government jointly unveiled the centre, opening a new chapter in China-Pakistan agricultural cooperation, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

Zhang Mingjun, General Manager of Shandong Rainbow Agricultural Technology Co., Ltd., a representative of participating enterprises, briefly introduced its blueprint in Pakistan, as a typical example of "going out" enterprises in Weifang PAZ.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/china-pak-agricultural-cooperation-center-opened-in-weifang-china/>

April 02, 2023

Daily Times

Economic Corridors in Pakistan (Part II)

Abdul Rauf and Saud Bin Ahsen

The Quadrilateral Traffic & Transit Agreement (QTTA) was signed by Pakistan, China, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan on March 9, 1995, in Islamabad. There are allied protocols to the Quadrilateral Agreement i.e., Protocol on Custom Procedures for traffic in transit and Visa Regime signed in July 1996; Protocol on establishing a system of International Road Transit; Permit for traffic in transit among the contracting parties in November 1998 and Regulations for implementation of Agreement on traffic in transit among contracting parties signed in November 1998.

It was enforced in May 2004 and transit traffic remained in operation till the landslide on Karakoram Highway in January 2010 when a 24-km portion of KKH submerged in water. After the hectic efforts of Pakistani and Chinese engineers, this road portion was restored in September 2015 and was opened for traffic. The route, however, remains closed during the winter season due to snowfall, which is a big problem for trade.

The primary reason for the non-utilisation of trade corridors between India and Pakistan is politics.

It is pertinent to mention various problems faced by transporters on the QTTA route. It is observed that the issuance of visas to the drivers/personnel operating under the Quadrilateral Agreement is usually delayed, and there is no facilitation by member states. Moreover, the visa facilitation mechanism agreed to in a meeting of diplomats of Member Countries held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, on June 30, 2008, is not being honoured/implemented by the Embassies of Member States. Likewise, authorities also unnecessarily stop vehicles at numerous locations in transit through their territories. Further, inspection and clearance of vehicles in transit by Custom/Immigration Authorities in China also take some time. Delays by Border Agencies in clearances, especially in Tashkurgan, take three to four days. Consequently, perishable goods have often been damaged/destroyed due to such time taking procedures. Being a Transit Agreement, there should not be such restriction.

While taking weaknesses and deficiencies in transportation structure, it is observed that the primary reason for the non-utilisation of trade corridors between India and Pakistan is politics. Relations between the two countries have been sour since the Modi government took over. These relations have also cast their shadow on trade relations, which initially slowed down due to tariff rates and import restrictions and ultimately closed down to the detriment of both countries.

Despite several bilateral and multi-lateral agreements, only Transit Trade with Afghanistan is fully functional, with regular transit traffic plying from and to Afghanistan. There have been a few consignments under Transport International Routiers (TIR), which have been moved from Pakistan to Uzbekistan via Afghanistan. The rest of the Agreements, although legally present, are practically dormant as there has been no movement of cargo under these agreements.

As for trade with China, it has been flourishing for years. But it has mostly been centred on imports by Pakistan via Sost Border. Pakistan exports quite little to China.

The CPEC had huge potential, but the progress has almost halted in the last four years due to political and financial reasons. Even otherwise, the road network connecting Pakistan with China and Afghanistan through three proposed corridors has not so far been developed for the transport of containerised cargo. Roads from Gwadar to Zero point on Coastal Highway and Gwadar to Turbat are single-lane roads. In their present state, they can cater for the transportation of cargo to a limited extent only.

Pakistan's trade with Afghanistan, transit as well as imports/exports, is carried through Torkham, Chaman and Ghulam Khan. The road network linking these customs stations with the rest of the country is not in a promising shape. Many of the initiatives, taken in the past

few years, like the expansion of the roads, and development of trade terminals, have stopped due to financial crunch or administrative issues.

The present transportation network of Pakistan with the regional countries had a lot of potential, but the dream of economic integration could not be realized due to inefficiency on the part of many state departments as well as the absence of a proactive approach of the traders and trade organisations, including Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Trade with India had continued through rail and road corridors for long despite the geo-strategic and political challenges. It stopped partially due to the inefficiency of many organs of the state. Many of the trade agreements with CARs, as well as ECO, could have been economically very fruitful for Pakistan, had the different departments of the government worked in unison.

(To Be Continued)

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1079775/economic-corridors-in-pakistan-part-ii/>

Pakistan Observer

Khunjerab Pass reopened for Pak-China trade after 3 years of closure

The famous Khunjerab Pass, a major trade route between the two brotherly neighbouring countries, Pakistan and China, has been reopened after a closure of almost three years in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Khunjerab Pass connects Gilgit-Baltistan of Pakistan with China's Xinjiang, the Uyghur autonomous region, which had been closed in the year 2020 after the spread of the Covid-19 outbreak.

The Pakistani state-run *APP* reported that the Chinese authorities had shared a letter with Pakistani officials regarding the reopening of the pass for trade.

The port authorities on the Chinese side of Khunjerab Pass have been instructed to take all necessary measures regarding Covid-19 before the start of the arrival of goods from Pakistan.

Under an agreement, trade and travel activities between the two countries through the Khunjerab Pass start on the 1st of April and close on 30 November, while there was a daily bus service from Sost Valley of Gilgit-Baltistan to Xinjiang province of China.

This arrangement under the framework of CPEC was going well since November 2016 but had to be discontinued in November 2019 as part of the measures to contain the Coronavirus.

Reopening of Khunjerab Pass

As the situation improved, there was increasing demand from the people of GB to open the border point both for travel and trade as the closure rendered thousands of people jobless, according to some estimates, about 70% local population depended on the border trade for their livelihood.

Reopening the border trade would not only boost the local economy in GB but also lead to an increase in the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries.

There was also a welcome statement from Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar that the government had been working for the revival of CPEC activities and all hurdles in the way of bilateral trade would be removed.

<https://pakobserver.net/khunjerab-pass-reopened-for-pak-china-trade-after-3-years-of-closure/>

The Nation

Pakistan can boost agricultural output with Chinese tech cooperation

ISLAMABAD-Collaboration between China and Pakistan has the potential to bring about significant improvements in Pakistan's agriculture sector.

"China and Pakistan have a long-standing friendship, and over the years, they have cooperated on various projects related to agriculture. China has pledged to provide technical and financial assistance to Pakistan to help it develop its agriculture sector," said Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI), while talking to WealthPK. Agriculture contributes significantly to the country's economy. However, the sector faces several challenges, including low productivity, outdated farming practices, lack of access to modern technologies, and water scarcity.

"Conversely, China has made remarkable progress in the field of agriculture through the use of advanced technology, which has resulted in increased crop yields and improved food security," Hanif mentioned. "With China's experience and expertise, Pakistan can significantly improve its agricultural productivity, which will have a positive impact on the country's economy and the livelihoods of its people," he said. The PCJCCI secretary general said China can assist Pakistan in the use of modern technologies to increase agricultural productivity. He said China has made significant investments in developing advanced technologies such as precision agriculture, which uses data and analytics to optimise crop yields.

"By adopting these technologies, Pakistan can significantly improve its agricultural productivity and compete in the global market," he emphasised. Hanif said China can also help Pakistan in developing high-value crops that have a significant demand in the global market. He said China has expertise in producing crops such as fruits, vegetables, and flowers. "By collaborating with China, Pakistan can identify crops that are suitable for its climate and soil conditions and develop the necessary infrastructure to produce these crops," he said.

Recently, the PCJCCI recommended during a think tank session that a joint agriculture laboratory should be established to help improve the agriculture sector by technology transfer to achieve increased cultivation and production. The idea was put forward by Moazzam Ghurki, president of the PCJCCI. He claimed that the project will benefit farmers by reducing the need to purchase insecticides and pesticides, cutting poverty in the country. "Given the country's already high level of internet access, we should link Pakistan's entire agricultural chain with e-commerce from production to marketing," he suggested. According to the PCJCCI chief, Pak China Agriculture Laboratory's main goal should be the digital

transformation because it will lower agricultural production costs, improve efficiency, and open new job opportunities for local residents in Pakistan's rural areas.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-02/page-8/detail-3>

Pakistan's T-shirt exports to China increase in Jan-Feb 2023

BEIJING -Pakistan's T-shirt export industry has been experiencing enrichment in recent years. In the first two months of 2023, the Pakistani T-shirt market increased by more than 100%, growing for the second year in a row, said Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counsellor at the Pakistan Embassy in Beijing.

He said that Pakistan's T-shirt exports to China reached USD 5.53 million in the first two months of 2023, up by 106% compared to the same period in 2022. Despite the flood which affected cotton crops, Pakistan continues to be a significant player in the global T-shirt export industry, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday. Ghulam Qadir said that last year, in the first two months, Pakistan exported \$2.68 million worth of t-shirts to China, whereas the whole year of 2022 Pakistan's T-shirt exports to China were USD 19.6 million. "Pakistan's T-shirt export industry has several major markets, including the United States, France, and China," he added.

"We are going to hold an International Textile Exhibition in Karachi on the last week of May, which is one of the biggest events in Pakistan, and expecting many Chinese big players in this sector to attend this Texpo. We also want to meet Pakistani brands in major cities in China," Qadir informed. Attempts were being made to enhance T-shirt export to China by using Chinese e-commerce platforms, including Alibaba, and JD, he said, highlighting that Pakistani t-shirts with Chinese zodiac signs were famous around China.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-02/page-8/detail-4>

Chinese ornamental plants beautify Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - China has contributed more than half of ornamental plants in today's gardens around the world, according to a study conducted by the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS). Like the rest of the world, Pakistanis have also benefited from Chinese research and experience beautifying their homes and gardens with ornamental plants, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro.

Apart from beautification, through Chinese ornamental plants, Pakistan can also combat climate change, one of the serious issues the country is facing. Pakistan has a great demand for Chinese ornamental plants, people decorate their gardens, homes, and offices with these plants. Chinese ornamental plants are available in nurseries as well as in online plant markets in Pakistan.

"Various ornamental plants are imported from China," Ayaz Khan, manager of Leaf Nurseries, H-9 Islamabad, told Gwadar Pro. According to Khan, the demand for imported plants including Chinese plants is increasing day by day. "Chinese fringe flower and strap flower (*Loropetalum Chinense*) and Chinese wisteria plants are among the most demanded ornamental plants in the nursery," he said, adding that gardeners like Chinese wisteria for

their “beauty and long life”. At least five types of Chinese citrus (lemon) are available in his nursery.

“Chinese lemons are grown at home both for beautification and to derive citrus fruit from them,” Ayaz Khan added. According to him, Chinese lemons could be excellent houseplants, as they can be kept in containers as well. “Finger Lime is the most attractive Chinese lemon,” he said. Abdullah, a resident of Rawalpindi, bought Red Robin (photinia x fraseri) for his garden.

“This is my favorite flowering shrub which can withstand the weather of the Potohar region,” he said, adding, “China is called ‘the Mother of World Gardens’; Pakistan should benefit from the experiences of Chinese horticulturalists,” he told Gwadar Pro. Mongolian Susan, Aglomena cat eye, Chinese banyan, blue potato bush, raspberry yellow, China palm and China berry (bakain) are commonly available in Pakistan plant markets. Chinaberry (locally known as bakain) is widely grown in Islamabad in front yards and backyard gardens as well as at public parks. “As compared to local bakain, the Chinese berry is richer in shade and most commonly used for ornamental purposes,” said Javed Shah, a resident of G-13 Islamabad.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-02/page-10/detail-0>

Jang News

پاک چین تعلقات قومی سلامتی کی سرخ لکیر ہیں، مریم نواز

حکمران جماعت مسلم لیگ (ن) کی سینئر نائب صدر اور چیف آرگنائزر مریم نواز نے کہا ہے کہ پاک چین تعلقات قومی سلامتی کی سرخ لکیر ہیں۔ ایک بیان میں مریم نواز نے کہا کہ حکومت نے پاک چین اقتصادی راہداری (سی پیک) کے خلاف فارن فنڈز فتنے کی سازش ناکام بنا دی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ فارن فنڈز ایجنٹ نے سی پیک منصوبوں میں کرپشن کے بے بنیاد الزامات لگائے تھے۔

ان لگی سینئر نائب صدر نے مزید کہا کہ چین پاکستان تعلقات قومی سلامتی کی سرخ لکیر ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ خنجراب پاس کے دوبارہ کھلنے سے دونوں طرف کے عوام کی مشکلات ختم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ پی ٹی آئی حکومت نے پاکستان چین تجارتی سرگرمیوں اور سی پیک کی رفتار متاثر کی۔ مریم نواز نے یہ بھی کہا کہ تین سال بعد چین پاکستان تجارت اور آمدورفت پھر بحال ہو گئی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ 2020 میں بندش کے بعد 2023 میں خنجراب پاس کا دوبارہ کھلنا خوشی کی خبر ہے۔

ان لگی سینئر نائب صدر نے کہا کہ 2016 سے سی پیک فریم ورک کے تحت یہ انتظام بہترین جا رہا تھا جو 2019 میں بند ہو گیا تھا۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ خنجراب پاس کے دوبارہ کھلنے سے دونوں طرف کے عوام کی مشکلات ختم کرنے میں مدد ملے گی۔ مریم نواز نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف اور چینی صدر پاک چین آہنی بھائی چارے کو مزید مضبوط بنا رہے ہیں۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ پی ٹی آئی حکومت نے پاکستان چین تجارتی سرگرمیوں اور سی پیک کی رفتار متاثر کی۔

ان لگی نائب صدر نے مزید کہا کہ نواز شریف سی پیک کے معمار ہیں، چین کی مدد سے پاکستان کی ترقی کا عظیم منصوبہ شروع کیا تھا۔ انہوں نے یہ بھی کہا کہ مسلم لیگ (ن) دور کی رفتار سے سی پیک اور پاک چین تجارت جاری رہتی تو آج عوام بد حال نہ ہوتے۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1211328>

April 03, 2023

Business Recorder

Imran's 'plan to sabotage CPEC' foiled, says Maryam

LAHORE Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior vice president Maryam Nawaz has said on Sunday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's plan to sabotage the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) had been foiled.

In connection with the reopening of Khunjerab Pass after three years for trade between China and Pakistan, Maryam Nawaz said that it is the matter of immense delight that Khunjerab Pass has been re-opened in 2023 after three years. I would like to felicitate the leaderships and the masses of both China and Pakistan she added.

In terms of Pakistan-China friendship, she said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping were playing vital role to further strengthen the ties between the two countries.

She went on to say the opening of the Khunjerab Pass will pave way for addressing the difficulties faced by both the nations.

Heaping praise on PML-N supremo over the CPEC, Ms Nawaz lamented the masses would not have to face severe economic hardships if the trade between the two countries continued with the "speed of the PML-N."

She accused the PTI of destroying the CPEC and slammed Imran for making baseless allegations about the prevailing of corruption in the projects.

Maryam Nawaz slamming Imran Khan, said the institutions could not run at the latter's will.

Taking to Twitter, she schooled the deposed premier, saying, "It is a weird joke to see Imran taking the name of the constitution despite the fact that he has been declared as the certified violator of the constitution.

"The conspiracy you plotted with the help of the facilitators has been exposed. Now is the time for you to remain silent, she added.

<https://epaper.brecorder.com/2023/04/03/4-page/959071-news.html>

Daily Times

Khunjerab Pass reopens for Pak-China trade

The Khunjerab Pass, a major trade route between Pakistan and China, was opened after a closure of almost three years in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

The pass that connects Gilgit-Baltistan with China's Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region was closed in the year 2020 after spread of Covid-19 outbreak.

According to official sources, the Chinese authorities have shared a letter with Pakistani officials regarding the reopening of the pass for the trade.

The port authorities on the Chinese side of Khunjerab Pass have been instructed to take all necessary measures regarding Covid-19 before the start of the arrival of goods from Pakistan.

Similarly, Pakistani border authorities have also been instructed to take all measures regarding Covid-19, ensuring the containment of the disease. It may be mentioned that as result of cold weather and lack of oxygen in the high altitude, Khunjerab Pass generally opens from April 1 to November 30 every year, and remains closed from December 1 to March 31 of the following year.

But to ensure the smooth customs clearance of Pakistan's urgently needed and other supplies, the port was temporarily opened twice early this year.

Though with difficulties including extremely cold weather, heavy snow and lack of oxygen, the local customs have worked around the clock to ensure the transportation of cargo.

This year, the last temporary opening was last for 12 days between January 30 and February 10 while the first port opening was between January 19 and 20 this year.

The two temporary openings facilitated 128 cross-border personnel visits, 328 transportation vehicles' passes, and more than 6,000 tons of goods exported, as per foreign affairs office of Kashgar prefecture.

It is believed that the reopening of the border crossing will help boost economic activities between the two countries.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1080176/khunjerab-pass-reopens-for-pak-china-trade/>

Economic Corridors in Pakistan (Part III)

Abdul Rauf and Saud Bin Ahsen

Factors like transportation, port infrastructure and customs as a facilitator of trade are also worth exploring. Presently, for regional connectivity along with transport corridors & port infrastructure, the role of government agencies especially Customs is very important.

Pakistan is importing and exporting goods to and from Afghanistan, Iran and China through land routes whereas trade with India has been closed. Only Afghanistan has been using the land of Pakistan for transit trade. China had shown keen interest to import goods through the port of Gwadar under CPEC and construct an oil transport corridor, linking the port city with Xinjiang, but there have been no headways so far. Pakistan's seaports and land can be utilized for transit trade by Iran, China and India. There has been no such progress to date. However, for the Afghanistan Transit Trade, Pakistan Customs has put in place effective procedures and rules.

Customs procedures are continuously being improved to reduce dwell time, simplify regulatory mechanisms, and processes and ensure the integrity of the staff. The designated Customs station for the transit of goods is Karachi, Chaman, Ghulam Khan, Torkham, Sost and Wahga. The prevalent Customs procedure for the transport of transit goods is fully operational and working smoothly for many years. Improvements are constantly being made. As per prevalent procedure, Transit Cargo arrive from foreign destinations at Karachi or Port Qasim, unloaded, 20 per cent of which is scanned, sealed, reloaded on trucks fitted with a

security tracking device and leaves the port area. The goods when reaching Torkham, Chaman or Ghulam Khan Customs station, the same formalities are repeated, the seals and tracking device are checked and the containers are cross-bordered. The system is working smoothly, which reveals that the number of containers that crossed into Afghanistan in the financial year 2021-22 has remained stable with the exception of recent Taliban rule.

Despite having immense potential with its population, market resilience, growth in the agriculture sector, and contribution to the world labour force, the ECO is unable to achieve its true potential.

Besides the transport of forward and reverse transit cargo of Afghanistan, Pakistan has also exported a few goods to Uzbekistan, which constitute the transit trade of Afghanistan. Mechanisms have been adopted and have evolved to ensure the safety of goods in transit. The tracker system has been outsourced to a private firm specialising in security. A tracker is placed on each vehicle carrying a container. The system is linked through satellites with central control rooms at various places in the country. The container's movement can be checked live. There are four types of alerts, which are generated by the systems i.e., door alerts, unusual stoppage, deviation of the route, and tampering with the tracking device. Pakistan's transit trade is restricted to only one country despite its regional trade connectivity potential being much greater than that.

Customs ports have congestion issues at Karachi and Port Qasim. Unlike commercial imports for Pakistan, where customs formalities are at times conducted outside port areas, all the formalities take place at the port area for the Afghanistan-bound cargoes. This results in choking, which sometimes becomes so serious that customs formalities have to be compromised by clearing the cargo at the minimum possible time. Similarly, there are port infrastructure issues at Gwadar, Torkham, Ghulam Khan, Chaman and Wahga.

A program for the development of ports at Torkham, Chaman and Wahga also known as the Integrated Transit Trade Management system conceived and funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) is underway, which focuses on the development of physical infrastructure and environment-compliant development. Similarly, work on Gwadar port development is also underway. And very soon, Gwader Airport is also going to be formally inaugurated and fully operationalized.

The road network for the transport of Cargo from Karachi to Afghanistan via KP and Baluchistan is reasonably good, which is fulfilling the needs of the cargo load. The roads, however, need to be upgraded if the time of transportation has to be decreased further. Especially, the new routes, which are being established under CPEC presently have a single-lane road network, which is improper for the movement of container traffic. Furthermore, the rail network is very important and needs to be upgraded.

Despite having immense potential with its population, market resilience, growth in the agriculture sector, and contribution to the world labour force, the ECO is unable to achieve its true potential for a number of reasons. ECO is focused inwards. Its aim is to trade amongst the member countries and not with the outward target markets. It is imperative to understand

that any rail /road connectivity aimed at regional trade expansion will only be beneficial if the target markets are properly identified.

(The End)

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1080112/economic-corridors-in-pakistan-part-iii/>

Pakistan one of leading countries to use RMB for international trade

Pakistan is one of the leading countries to use RMB for international trade settlement, according to China Economic Net (CEN). Last November, People's Bank of China (PBOC) signed a memorandum of cooperation (MOC) on establishing RMB clearing arrangements in Pakistan, with Karachi Branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) acting as the RMB clearing bank. It bodes well for Pakistan to join the RMB settlement service as it encourages industrial transfer by assuaging the concerns of Chinese investors on financial losses due to the violently fluctuating exchange rate in Pakistan. As more progress is yet to unfold, RMB-PKR de-dollarisation is expected to play a catalysing role in Pakistan-China trade.

According to Guan Tao, a chief economist of a leading Chinese securities trader, the overall gloomy outlook on global economy this year and the international confidence in China's performance are enhancing the attractiveness of RMB assets. Meanwhile, against the backdrop of volatile US dollar policies, more countries are diversifying their currency portfolio to hedge against financial risks. RMB, as the fifth largest currency for international payments and foreign exchange transactions, is eyeing a boom in its international usage.

In recent years, China has been ramping up support for RMB clearing and settlement in its foreign trade, especially with Belt and Road countries. In 2021, China's RMB settlements with Belt and Road countries stood at RMB 5.42 trillion, up 19.6 percent year on year, as per a report released by the People's Bank of China (PBOC).

This week Brazil and China reached a deal to trade in their own currencies, ditching the US dollar as an intermediary. This move followed the signing of a memorandum of cooperation earlier this year to establish renminbi (RMB) clearing arrangements in Brazil, according to Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning. "These arrangements will help enterprises and financial institutions in both countries conduct cross-border transactions using the RMB. They will also further facilitate bilateral trade and investment", she added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1080029/pakistan-one-of-leading-countries-to-use-rmb-for-international-trade/>

Dawn News

PM says reopening of Khunjerab pass to boost bilateral trade

Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that re-opening of Khunjerab pass will increase bilateral trade between Pakistan and China and vowed to beef up all projects related to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) across the country.

In a statement, PM Sharif welcomed the completion of arrangements for resumption of trade through the pass between Pakistan and China after a lapse of three years.

The speed of CPEC projects will be doubled than it was in 2018, he said, adding that he vowed to beef up work on all CPEC-related projects across the country.

The love and support of China's leadership and people for Pakistan is unforgettable, the prime minister pointed out, and paid tribute to officials and team members of both countries for resumption of the Khunjerab route.

Vows to speed up work on projects related to CPEC

Through a twitter post on Sunday, Ambassador of Pakistan in China Moinul Haque said: "The resumption of operations via Khunjerab pass will serve to further bolster China and Pakistan trade and people-to-people linkages. The two sides are now working to keep the border crossing open all year round. After three years, Pakistan China border Khunjerab Pass will reopen (today) on Monday."

The Khunjerab pass had been closed in November 2019 to contain Covid-19 transmission, however the border was opened for specific times with strict Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPs) during the last three years.

Bilateral trade with China and CPEC activities remained suspended during the last three years, which left thousands in GB's population jobless.

Sources say the Chinese government has reopened all trade activities with other countries, adding that Khunjerab pass remains open from April to November under an agreement signed between Pakistan and China.

Pakistan and Chinese authorities are working towards making Khunjerab pass operational throughout the year. They said that making the Khunjerab pass a year-long operation has been one of the targets for the region in 2023.

If the initiative is approved, it is expected to drive cross-border trade and business.

According to Chinese media, in the three years since the spread of coronavirus, Khunjerab pass, like all other land crossings in China on the forefront of guarding against imported cases, shut down its passenger pass entirely. The port opened for occasional emergency cargo transportation.

"But this time, cross-border drivers can drive their truck heading towards Pakistan directly, unlike during the epidemic when they had to leave their cargo in designated areas after rounds of disinfection, with the Pakistani side coming to pick them up the following day," Zhang Xiaobo, the customs director at the Khunjerab Port, said.

"We expect to witness a huge compensatory growth of cross-border trade and transportation in this year at the Khunjerab Pass," Ye Hailin, deputy director-general at National Institute of International Strategy of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) told journalists.

All arrangements at both sides of the border have been completed. On Sunday, officials of the GB government visited Khunjerab pass to review the arrangements for arrival of cargo from China.

Machines had removed snow from Karakoram Highway at Khunjerab top.

GB's home department has started work on issuing border pass to local residents so they could travel till Xinjiang.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1745565>

Pakistan Observer

Cooperation with China under CPEC transformed Pakistan's economic landscape: Kashif

The Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman and Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Sunday said cooperation with China under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) "has transformed Pakistan's economic landscape.

Speaking at a seminar on the "Prospects of Belt and Road Initiatives" held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, Meher spoke highly of the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship BRI project, saying it is "transformational" for entire country.

Besides the Gwadar Port, which he said has become the crown jewel of the CPEC, He also lauded the eco-friendly Orange Line metro train in Lahore, the first of its kind in Pakistan, which officially opened for traffic in October 2020.

He said BRI projects have benefited the Pakistani people through job creation, improving livelihoods, eradicating poverty and upgrading remote areas. Infrastructure development and energy upgrades have "helped change the economic, social and industrial landscape of Pakistan," said Meher Kashif Younis.

He further elaborated that "all these philosophies and dimensions of BRI directly contribute to the 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). Thanks to BRI projects, frequent power outages in peak season are now a thing of the past, he said. He said that Pakistan is seeking more cooperation with China on industry modernization and information technology (IT) since Pakistan began working on its special technology zones.

"The BRI has played, is playing and is going to play a very important role for stabilizing the economies of the world and bringing countries including especially Pakistan together for tackling challenges like COVID-19," said Meher. "It's just a beginning," he said, expecting closer cooperation among research institutions and universities. "We want to see more cooperation in this area." Noting the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented global economic impact, he called for collective effort, international solidarity and cooperation to address which he said is the biggest challenge faced by humanity in a long time. Meher Kashif Younis said that he visited Z-park also known as China's Silicon Valley, to see how Pakistan can learn from the Chinese side in IT technology, artificial intelligence, 5G, robotics and cloud computing. He said so far more than 70,000 jobs have been created thanks to BRI cooperation, stressed Meher adding that according to his government's forecast, another half a million direct and indirect jobs will be created in the next five to seven years.

“You see the metro-train, it is a world-class, high-quality public transport system. In Lahore, the second-largest city in Pakistan, people have this very efficient, very modern and affordable transport system,” he concluded.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/cooperation-with-china-under-cpec-transformed-pakistans-economic-landscape-kashif/#:~:text=Cooperation%20with%20China%20under%20CPEC%20transformed%20Pakistan's%20economic%20landscape%3A%20Kashif>

The Nation

Pakistan’s sportswear become most popular at Shanghai Fabrics Exhibition

BEIJING-Fashionable sportswear made in Pakistan has become one of the most attractive sights at Inter textile Spring/Summer Shanghai Apparel and Fabrics Exhibition.

According to Gwadar Pro, a large number of visitors are dazzled by a wide variety of fabrics and garments from all over the world. Daisy Di, sales and marketing director of a Chinese fabric and garment manufacturing company in Pakistan briefed the visitors on the advantages of textile manufacturing in Pakistan and the company’s commitment to technology, low carbon and environmental protection. “It is a good attempt for us to participate in such an international exhibition to create a new modern image of Pakistani textile products and expand cooperation with more well-known sports brands,” she told the Gwadar Pro.

As a renowned textile country, Pakistan leads the world in the production of cotton and denim products but falls short in functional fabrics. The company is currently the only one in Pakistan capable of producing renewable polyester products. Daisy said they would further promote and update functional fabrics, especially sustainable fabrics such as recycled fabrics in Pakistan, both in meeting the needs of international customers and in promoting their own sustainability transformation. The textile industry, as a major carbon emitter, needs to make a high-quality transition towards sustainability and reduce carbon emissions through the use of clean energy.

Recycled polyester weaves away from over-dependence on petroleum resources and reduces carbon dioxide emissions. Through technology, discarded empty plastic bottles are recycled and spun into high-performance functional fabrics, allowing them to re-enter people’s lives and provide a comfortable wearing experience. Currently, the company has more than 50 sewing lines, with a monthly output of 1,000,000 garments for export, equipped with equipment and technology to produce woven, knit, embroidered and various functional fabrics. It was authorised by the Pakistani government last year to set up a special economic zone and is expected to produce 2.5 million metres of fabric a month next year. Fabric production in the SEZs will cover synthetic fiber functional fabrics, high elasticity functional fabrics, fleece functional fabrics, and merino wool fabrics. Referring to the establishment of Textile SEZ and future development trends of textiles in Pakistan, Daisy pointed out that innovation and sustainability should be taken as a cut through product differentiation and advanced technology to improve textile quality.

“China’s Internet has developed to a certain extent. How to integrate advanced technologies into the traditional textile industry and continuously improve its efficiency is also worth exploring in the future. The plants in our SEZ will also undergo intelligent transformation, including implementation of digital information system to further contribute to the country’s textile exports,” she added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-03/page-8/detail-2>

The News

Anti-China nexuses: a threat to peace and prosperity

Shakeel Ahmad Ramay

No matter who rules the US, there is a consensus to contain China. For that purpose, the Americans are ready to do anything, ethical or unethical.

In this pursuit, they are building alliances all over the world, especially in the neighbourhood of China. Principal pillar of these alliances is self-assumed anti-China rhetoric. The US Secretary of Defence echoed the same during his visit to Philippines. The US has decided to establish four bases in Philippines, especially in the bordering areas of China, and will be spending \$82 million to upgrade the infrastructure. The purpose of new bases, in addition to existing five bases, is to keep an eye on China.

Japan is another country which is showing great enthusiasm to become part of the US’s alliances. Although, Japan was not allowed by the US to develop offensive military, the peaceful rise of China has changed the dynamics. Since then, the US is pushing Japan to become more active and develop offensive capabilities. Japan came up with National Security Strategy and National Defence Strategy and Defence Buildup Programme to broaden the scope of security.

The US is trying to use the opportunity to interfere in the internal matters of China by extending cooperation to protect Senkaku Island. India is another neighbour of China which has become part of the US alliances. The US and allies are exploiting the border dispute between China and India. Strategy is working and India has refused to become part of Belt and Road Initiative.

It is important to highlight that India claims itself a great power of Asia, and is pitching itself as a rival to China. Self-assumed status of major power is pushing India to play an active role, and QUAD is one example on this front. India and the US are also strengthening cooperation under 2+2 framework. Recently, US agreed to provide sophisticated weaponry to India. Both the countries are also working to enhance cooperation in the fields of technology, cybersecurity and other areas. It will open new avenues of business for military-industrial complex of the US.

These are few examples. The US and allies are also working to build more such alliances in other parts of the world with one point agenda – contain China and check its peaceful rise. For instance, agreements between Japan and US and UK clearly spell out China is a threat.

Besides, the US and allies are putting efforts to equate Taiwan with Ukraine which has no comparison at all, as Taiwan is part of China. In the pursuance of this policy, the US and Japan and UK discussed Taiwan during their bilateral agreements. They presented China as an aggressor and Taiwan as independent country. However, neither China is aggressor nor Taiwan is an independent country. It is another example of blatant interference in the internal matters of China. It seems the US and allies are trying to implement same strategy which they did in the case of Ukraine. They want to encircle China and intimate it. Till now, China is showing restraint. But, the US and allies are taking it as weakness. It is anticipated the US will try to expedite their efforts. It is feared it will create conflict in the region jeopardising peace in the region and opening doors of opportunities for the military-industrial complex of the US and allies.

Sane voices across the world are asking the US and its allies to abandon mentality of conflict. The world cannot afford a new conflict as it is already facing multifaceted challenges including food insecurity, weakening economies, inflation, poverty and climate change. They have adopted the policy – be part of our alliance or you are a bad country. They unleash coercive measures against any country that refuses to be part of their alliance. Pakistan is one of such examples. They are using different tactics to create problems for Pakistan. They targeted CPEC, put Pakistan in FATF grey list and then left it alone to deal with mess in Afghanistan. Now, IFIs are being used to pressurise Pakistan.

The US and allies must comprehend that conflict with China would be a recipe of disaster which would be an existential threat to humanity. China is different from the past rivals of the US due to multiple reasons.

First, China is a nation of 1,400 million people. Second, China is highly integrated in global system. Belt and Road Initiative is one example which has 152 members. Third, China is a formidable military power and, in some areas, it is more advanced country than the US. Fourth, China is new epicentre of trade and engine of world growth, and would be contributing 1/3 of global growth in 2023. Thus, any disturbance in China will bring down the whole economic and development system of world. Besides, the military power of China will make sure that they not only protect their motherland but also target the enemies. Hence, the US and allies should get rid of cold war or hegemonic mentality and try to cooperate for better future of humanity.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=190218>

April 04, 2023

Daily Times

Ahsan hails contribution of Chinese enterprises to CPEC success

Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal reached in Beijing, after attending the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference-2023, to hold important meetings with Chinese authorities.

During a meeting with President of 'Power China' Chan Guanfu, the minister appreciated the contribution of Chinese enterprises in the success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Ahsan Iqbal said the people of Pakistan would never forget that China helped them at a time when the whole country was plunged into darkness due to power shortages. Through CPEC energy projects Pakistan was able to overcome its energy shortage, he said recalling Power China's longstanding friendship with Pakistan and many important projects undertaken for enhancing Pakistan's energy & infrastructure including coal-fired power plants in Port Qasim, RLNG power plant in Haveli Bahadur Shah and Dawood Wind Power Project.

He invited the power China' to invest in solar energy for which the government has announced a special initiative to launch 10,000 MW.

He assured 'Power China' of the government's full facilitation for the implementation of the projects and resolution of all issues.

Later Chairman of 'China Road and Bridge Corporation Du Fei called upon the Planning minister.

Ahsan Iqbal underscored the importance of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in strengthening and modernizing infrastructure in Pakistan in the last few years. He highlighted the role of connectivity projects in the socio-economic development of Pakistan, acknowledging CRBC's contributions to executing important transport and infrastructure development in Pakistan from the construction of KKH in 1966 to the construction of the Havelian-Thakot motorway in 2017-18. The minister welcomed the proposed Karachi coastal comprehensive development zone (KCCDZ) project, which envisaged an investment of over \$ 3 billion in Karachi, Babusar Tunnel Project, feasibility study for the new Karachi-Hyderabad Motorway alignment (M9) and other important projects.

Ahsan Iqbal expressed confidence that these projects would act as an emerging hub for tourism, IT, ports, shipping and services as it would also create thousands of new jobs for talented youth. He assured the government's full support for the successful implementation of the proposed projects. The planning minister also highlighted the special friendship and iron brotherhood between China and Pakistan, which is time-tested and timeless.

He hoped to promote cultural exchanges and enhance people-to-people contacts between the two countries to further strengthen the existing friendship and foster better understanding to explore each other countries' rich history, natural beauty and cultural heritage.

Chinese company representatives appreciated the contribution of the minister in making the CPEC a success, assuring full support in taking CPEC into the next phase of cooperation. They thanked the minister for the assurance to address the concerns of the companies.

Ahsan Iqbal assured that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was personally supervising the progress of CPEC projects and that the new government was committed to reviving the same speed with which CPEC was moving during 2013-18.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1080536/ahsan-hails-contribution-of-chinese-enterprises-to-cpec-success/>

Pakistan, China ought to join hands to face climate change

Despite contributing less than 1 percent of global emissions, Pakistan was among the 10 countries most affected by the climatic impacts in the past two decades, noted Dr Ahmad Ali Gul, an expert of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF) Climate Change Working Group. “Our agriculture-based economy is sensitive to climate-related shocks, and disasters can exacerbate the water security challenges,” he said in an interview. Half a month ago, Dr Gul, also Assistant Professor and Director of Center for Disaster Management, University of Management and Technology, participated in the disaster risk management symposium organised by the East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network (EABRN), making a speech on Pakistan’s lessons and opportunities in the context of global climate change, China Economic Net reported. “According to the official post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) 2022, the damages and losses were USD 14.9 billion and USD 15.3 billion respectively, with roughly 33 million people affected, of which 8 million were displaced. Preliminary estimates suggest that, as a direct consequence of these floods, the national poverty rate could jump to 4.0 percent, pushing up to 9 million people into poverty,” Dr Gul emphasised. Even worse, Pakistan is one of the most water-stressed countries in the world. Only 36 percent of Pakistanis have access to safely managed drinking water, down from 38 percent in 2004. “Fundamentally, Pakistan’s vulnerability to climate change is deeply linked with its socio-economic challenges and governance,” he said. As per Dr Gul, besides the climate itself, other factors perpetuate a state of vulnerability and turn a hazard into a disaster. Domestic institutions at all levels still follow a response-centric approach to disaster management, and disaster risk management (DRM) is not integrated with the planning and development process, namely, development initiatives often end up increasing risk rather than decreasing it – causing maladaptation. Dr Gul told that many of the critical infrastructures, including hospitals, major roads and power, were badly affected during the 2022 floods because it was located in high-risk areas without appropriate safeguard measures. Moreover, this situation is exacerbated by limited hydro-meteorological measurement and research. So how can Pakistan get rid of the passive status quo to deal with the increasingly severe climate challenge proactively and constructively? “The communities which faced floods this year were facing drought a few years ago,” Dr Gul mentioned, “small storages, dams, reservoirs and ecosystems-based solutions are needed to build climate resilience for these communities.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1080487/pakistan-china-ought-to-join-hands-to-face-climate-change/>

\$14m Gwadar sanitation project in offing

Gwadar Municipal Corporation under CPEC, Gwadar Smart Environment Sanitation System and Landfill Project costing \$14 million is in pipeline. However, it is not yet clear when the project will be set in motion. An official of the Gwadar Municipal Corporation told Gwadar Pro that “The project aims to establish a smart sanitation and solid waste management system

to ensure sustainable development in Gwadar City. The project includes mechanical cleaning and manual cleaning for which sprinkle trucks and sweeper trucks would be utilized.

It also includes a container collection system, manual collection system, and transportation system. Sealed garbage containers would be placed in public and residential areas. Door-to-door collection of solid waste management collection personnel would be arranged,” he explained. “A major component of solid waste is the biodegradable waste that does not carry any price tag and is the worst of all sorts of waste as it decomposes soon after being dumped. Insects and pests harbour organic waste, causing a foul smell due to aerobic decomposition. It also emits greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere.

The best way to recycle the organic solid waste is through anaerobic fermentation into a closed chamber to get biogas as a source of clean energy and decomposed organic manure besides earning carbon credits,” he added. A Gwadar Development Authority environmentalist said that solid waste is primarily composed of metal, paper, plastic, rubber, animal waste, food waste, grass, leaves, textile waste, glass, bones, stones, etc. Primarily, waste can be classified into municipal solid waste and hazardous waste, however, in terms of its recycling potential, solid waste can be classified into metal, plastic, paper, glass and rubber items, he added.

If recycling companies are engaged in Gwadar, all these items have got a price tagged to them and are sold and processed through recycling to produce useful products for the market. “At present, solid waste collection in Pakistan stands at only 50% of the total generated waste. Recycling is among the most effective means through which solid waste can be reduced and natural resources can be conserved by reusing materials and putting them back into productive use,” he added. A majority of plastic is released as waste due to inadequate recycling and incineration facilities. Pakistan ranks sixth in the world and third in Asia in terms of plastic pollution. The government of Pakistan has enacted Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA) in 1997. Section 11 of the Act states “No person shall discharge or emit or allow the discharge or emission of any effluent or waste or air pollutants or noise in an amount, concentration or level which is more than the National Environmental Quality Standards.”

PEPA and the provincial Environment Protection Acts, rules and policies provide for a legal framework for waste management sustainably but on the ground nothing seems to be in favour of such institutional provisions. “Waste is dealt with through multiple means like recycling, dumping and burning. Recycling is the ideal way of dealing with solid waste as it is the most environmentally friendly and sustainable option. At present, Europe recycles 41% of its municipal waste while the United States recycles 32% of its waste,” the GDA official said.

Globally, countries produce about 4 billion tons of solid waste, of which 1.2 billion tons comprise municipal waste. Of the total, only 1 billion tons are utilised through various means and 600 million tons are recycled. Moreover, almost 200 million tons of solid waste is utilised for energy generation. Residential and commercial activities litter Gwadar with 150 tons of solid waste every day. Due to a lack of sustainable solid waste management, solid waste is posing threats to human life.

However, this challenge may prove to be a great source of opportunities in terms of income and employment generation for the companies and individuals involved in solid waste recycling. Currently, the majority of solid waste is dumped in the open at undeclared landfills or open grounds in Gwadar. Although most of the components of solid waste are inert and useful for reuse and recycling, others may prove highly hazardous and fatal to the general public.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1080470/14m-gwadar-sanitation-project-in-offing/>

The News

Ahsan briefs Chinese think-tank on Sino-Pak relations, CPEC

BEIJING: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal held an exclusive session with the heads and representatives of leading Chinese think tanks and emphasized the importance of the Pakistan-China relationship and reaffirmed Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership with China, which is time-tested and timeless.

The Minister reiterated that as the flagship of BRI, CPEC had strategic significance for both Pakistan and China and has delivered tangible benefits to the people of the two countries. He noted that CPEC early-harvest projects have transformed Pakistan's economic landscape thus laying a solid foundation for sustainable economic growth.

The Minister emphasized that both China and Pakistan should continue to expedite efforts to achieve Gwadar's potential as a hub of regional commerce and industry, while also prioritizing work on ML-1 and other key energy projects. He appreciated China's positive role in helping to normalise relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. This will give great impetus to regional peace and trade. "Ukraine war has proven that conflicts bring shocks for the entire world. Pakistan has seen conflicts too closely therefore it appreciates China's role in promoting global peace and stability," Ahsan added.

He said 2023 is the year of CPEC's decade and a delegation of Chinese scholars will be invited to Pakistan to observe the progress of CPEC. The think tanks appreciated Minister's views and shared their ideas for building Pakistan-China Community with a shared future in the New Era.

He said that China has become Pakistan's largest investment and trade partner in the last ten years due to CPEC, and both sides are keen to maintain the momentum of overall economic and trade ties in future as well.

The next phase of CPEC envisages industrial cooperation and Business to Business links, the Minister said, appreciating the interest of Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan. Highlighting deepening economic and trade ties between the two countries, Ahsan sought suggestions from Chinese think tanks for creating a conducive environment for Chinese investment in the export-oriented industries in Pakistan and the development of Pakistani SEZs as per the Chinese model.

He underscored the need to learn from the Chinese experience of export sector development as a permanent solution to Pakistan's economic crisis in speedy growth of exports. He

highlighted the need for joint research projects for Pakistani and Chinese businessmen by think tanks of both countries for identifying opportunities for cooperation and removing knowledge gaps.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=190488>

K2 Daily

سوسٹ بارڈ راور پاک چین تجارتی تعلقات

وزیراعظم شہباز شریف نے کہا ہے کہ سوسٹ بارڈ کے ذریعے پاک چین راجداری کی تین سال بعد بحالی خوشی کا لمحہ ہے، جو ستمبر 2019 میں رکا تھا وہ 2023 میں پھر سے بحال ہو گیا۔ انجرباب پاس دوبارہ کھلنے پر خوشی کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ عظیم آسٹی بحالی چین کے ساتھ تجارت کی بحالی خوش آمدید ہے، انجرباب پاس کھلنے سے ہی بیک کی رفتار بڑھانے کی راہ میں ایک اور کاٹ دور ہوگی، امید ہے کہ تجارتی راجداری کھلنے سے دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تجارت میں اضافہ ہوگا۔ 2018 میں ہی بیک جس رفتار پر چھوڑ کر گئے تھے اسے دگنا سے زیادہ رفتار سے بڑھانا چاہتا ہوں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ ایک ٹارن نڈ ڈھنٹ نے ہی بیک کو متاثر بنانے کا جرم کیا، دونوں ممالک کی عظیم دولت کی چینے میں بجز گھونپا، امید ہے کہ دونوں ممالک کے درمیان تجارتی سرگرمیوں میں ہر روز اضافہ ہوگا۔ چین اور پاکستان کے کام نے ہی بیک کے تحت سرگرمیوں اور دوطرفہ تجارت کی بحالی کے لئے انجرباب پاس راجداری دوبارہ کھولنے کے تمام امکانات مکمل کر لئے ہیں جس کے بعد ہی بیک منصوبوں اور دوطرفہ تجارت میں ایک مرحلہ بندی آ جائے گی۔ معاہدے کے تحت گلگت بلتستان کی وادی اس ست کے سرحدی مقام سے چین کے سکپاگ رینج روزانہ بس روانہ ہوتی ہے، چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری ہی بیک فریم ورک کے تحت نومبر 2016 سے یہ انتظام بہت اچھے انداز سے جاری تھا تاہم نومبر 2019 میں اسے راجداری اور تجارتی و سفری انتظام کو بند کر دیا گیا تھا۔ اس بندش کی وجہ کو نہ دیا بیان کی گئی تھی۔ اس بندش کی وجہ سے ہزاروں لوگ بے روزگار ہو گئے تھے۔ ایک اندازے کے مطابق ستر فیصد مقامی آبادی کی روٹی روزگار کا انحصار انجرباب پاس کے راستے ہونے والی تجارت اور آمد و رفت کی سرگرمیوں پر ہے۔ اب پاک چین سرحد کھولنے پر چین کو تجارت کیلئے کھول دی جائے گی۔ کرنا کی باپھیلنے کے بعد سے اب تک پاک چین سرحد مسلسل بند ہے تاہم چین میں پھینے سامان کی ترسیل کیلئے چند روز کیلئے جزوی طور پر سرحد کو کھولا گیا تھا۔ پاک چین سرحد بند رہنے سے گلگت بلتستان کے سینکڑوں تاجر دیوالیہ ہو گئے تھے۔ جمیر آف کامرس نے تاجروں سے پارڈر پاس کیلئے درخواستیں وصول کی گئی تھیں اور انہوں نے 10 اگست سے بارڈر پاس کا اجراء ہوگا۔ وزیر خزانہ کی بہترین کوششوں کی وجہ سے اب پاکستان کو دوطرفہ تجارت کھولنے کی راہ میں 2023 سے شروع ہونے والی ہے جس کے تحت گلگت بلتستان کے بارڈر قریب سے منسلک تاجروں کیلئے انتہائی اہمیت کی حامل ہے۔ ہم جانتے ہیں کہ فروری 2009 میں پاکستان اور چین نے آزاد تجارتی معاہدہ کیا جس سے دونوں

ممالک کی تجارت جو 2002 میں صرف 1.3 ارب ڈالر تھی، 2020 میں بڑھ کر 20 ارب ڈالر تک پہنچی تھی جس میں چین سے پاکستان کو 18 ارب ڈالر اور پاکستان سے چین کو 2 ارب ڈالر کی ایکسپورٹ ہوئی۔ اس معاہدے سے چین نے 60 فیصد اور پاکستان نے صرف 4 فیصد فائدہ اٹھایا لیکن پاکستان نے FTA کے دوسرے مرحلے میں چین سے پاکستان کو 363 ایشیا ڈیوٹی فری ایکسپورٹ کی اجازت دی ہے جس سے 2021 میں دونوں ممالک کی تجارت بڑھ کر 27.82 ارب ڈالر ہوگی جس میں چین سے پاکستان ایکسپورٹ 24.23 ارب ڈالر اور پاکستان سے چین ایکسپورٹ 69 فیصد اضافے سے 3.6 ارب ڈالر تک پہنچی گئی ہے۔ پاکستان کو دنیا کی اہم باہمی پیک ہے جس کا میں اپریل 2015 کو چینی صدر نے تاریخی معاہدہ کیا۔ اس معاہدے کے تحت چین نے پاکستان میں 65 ارب ڈالر کی سرمایہ کاری کی جس میں 34 ارب ڈالر کے توانائی منصوبوں سے وہ ہزار میگا واٹ اضافی بجلی پیدا کی گئی جبکہ 11 ارب ڈالر کے انفراسٹرکچر اور گوادریٹ کے منصوبے ہیں۔ آئینگی اکانک ڈوز کے منصوبوں میں چین سے صنعتوں کی منتقلی دونوں ممالک کیلئے گیم چنجر ثابت ہوئی۔ وزیر اعظم شہباز شریف نے چین کے اہم منصب لی کی چیانگ کے ساتھ ٹیلی فونک گفتگو میں کہا تھا کہ پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری منصوبوں کو تیزی سے آگے بڑھانے کے لیے حکومت کا عزم پختہ عزم ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نے حکومت کے موجودہ وقت میں جاری اور نئی پیک منصوبوں کو تیز کرنے کے عزم کا اظہار کیا جن سے پاکستان کی سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی میں بہت زیادہ تعاون حاصل ہوا ہے۔ انہوں نے دونوں ممالک کو مل کر کام کرنے اور دونوں ممالک کی متعلقہ ایجنسیوں کے درمیان تعاون بڑھانے کی ضرورت کو اجاگر کیا تاکہ خصوصی اقتصادی زونز کو جلد از جلد مکمل طور پر فعال کیا جاسکے۔ پاکستان چین سے سستی شراکت داری کا ذکر کرتے ہوئے وزیر اعظم نے ان چینی حکام کے تجربے سے سیکھنے کی خواہش کا اظہار کیا جو اپنے منصوبوں میں خصوصی اقتصادی زونز قائم کرنے میں اہم

مضبوط پائیدار اور جامع اقتصادی ترقی کی طرف بڑھ رہا ہے۔ چین موسمیاتی تبدیلی کے سختی اثرات سے نمٹنے کے لئے آواز اٹھا رہا ہے اور اس نے اس تہا سے نمٹنے کے لئے اپنے طریقہ کار کو اپ گریڈ کیا ہے۔ ہم ابتدائی وارننگ سسٹم، لیک ڈار انفراسٹرکچر کی تعمیر اور ڈیجیٹل ٹیکنالوجی میں چین کی تکنیکی ترقی سے سیکھنے کے منتظر ہیں۔ علم پر مبنی معیشت قومی ترقی کے نئے محرک کے طور پر ابھری ہے۔ سی پیک کے اعلیٰ معیار کی ترقی کے اگلے مرحلے میں صنعت، توانائی، زراعت، ریل اور سڑکوں کے نیٹ ورک، گوادریٹ کو تجارت اور ترمیل، سرمایہ کاری اور علاقائی رابطوں کے مرکز کے طور پر ترقی دینے جیسے اہم شعبوں کو شامل کیا جائے گا، ہمارا جمہوری مقصد پاکستان کی جامع اور پائیدار ترقی، سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی اور اپنے لوگوں کی زندگی کو بہتر بنانے کے لئے سی پیک کی صلاحیت کو بروئے کار لانا ہے۔ مصرین کے نزدیک پاکستان اور چین کی دو تہی ان کے متعلقہ قومی مفادات کے تحت چلی سکتی ہے، جغرافیائی قربت اور سماجی کے تجربات کی مشترکات نے ہمیں اکٹھا کیا ہوگا لیکن پاکستان میں ہمارے لئے اور حقیقی معنوں میں ہمارے دونوں ممالک کے لوگوں کے برادرانہ رشتے بہت گہرے ہیں جو چین اور اپنی تعلقات کے عمومی اصولوں سے بالاتر ہیں اور ہمیں ایک ایسی اور لازوال رشتے میں پروتے ہیں۔ اپنے دو طرفہ ثقافتی تبادلوں کو وسعت دینے اور دونوں ممالک کے لوگوں کو ایک دوسرے کے مزید قریب لانے کے لئے اپنی کوششوں کو تیز کرتے ہوئے ہمیں اپنے لوگوں کے درمیان زیادہ سے زیادہ تبادلوں کی حوصلہ افزائی کرنے پر توجہ مرکوز کرنے کی ضرورت ہے تاکہ وہ ہماری دو طرفہ دو تہی کی بہترین روایات کو آگے بڑھا سکیں اور ہمیں اس کی اہمیت سمجھنے میں مدد فراہم کریں۔ تیزی سے بدلتی دنیا میں پاکستان اور چین دونوں اپنے عوام کے روشن مستقبل کے ساتھ ساتھ خطے کے امن و استحکام کے لئے کردار ادا کرنے کے لئے ایک مشترکہ ویژن کے ساتھ جڑے ہوئے ہیں، یہ ایک ذمہ داری ہے جو تاریخ نے ہمارے کندھوں پر ڈالی ہے اور ہم اسے ضرور جمائیں گے۔

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

Nawaiwaqt News

سی پیک کا دوسرا مرحلہ سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کیلئے گیم چینیجر ہو سکتا ہے، فیض الحق

لاہور (کامرس رپورٹر) پاکستان نے کئی طرح کے بین الاقوامی دباؤ کے باوجود چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری کے دوسرے مرحلے کے ساتھ آگے بڑھنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے جو کہ چین کے فیوچرسٹک ون بیلٹ، ون روڈ انٹرا نیشنل اور بین البراعظمی اقدام میں سب سے زیادہ اہمیت کا حامل ہے۔ سی پیک کا دوسرا مرحلہ سماجی و اقتصادی ترقی کے لیے حقیقی گیم چینیجر ہو سکتا ہے کیونکہ یہ بنیادی اور ضروری صنعتی اور موصلاتی نیٹ ورک کی فراہمی سے صنعتی ترقی اور تعاون پر توجہ مرکوز کرتا ہے۔ ان خیالات کا اظہار معروف ماہر معاشیات فیض الحق نے چین پاکستان اقتصادی راہداری پر جاری پیشرفت کے حوالے سے اپنے جائزے میں کیا۔ قابل غور بات یہ ہے کہ وفاقی کابینہ نے حال ہی میں چین کے ساتھ صنعتی تعاون کو فروغ دینے کیلئے تعاون کی یادداشت کی منظوری دی ہے جس سے ہزاروں پاکستانی انجینئرز اور ٹیکنیکی ماہرین کو چین کے سخت، ثابت شدہ اور عالمی معیار کے صنعتی معیارات کے تحت تربیت کے لیے چین بھیجنا، اس سے ٹیکنالوجی کی منتقلی اور اعلیٰ درجے کے صنعتی یونٹس کے قیام کی راہ ہموار ہوگی۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ اس منصوبے کے تحت ٹیکنالوجی کی منتقلی، غیر ملکی براہ راست سرمایہ کاری، مشترکہ منصوبے اور اس کیلئے دوسرے ممالک کو مدعو کرنا جن میں بنیادی طور پر خلیج تعاون تنظیم کے دوست اور دولت مند ممالک یعنی سعودی عرب، متحدہ عرب امارات، قطر، کویت، عمان اور بحرین وغیرہ شامل ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/laohore/2023-04-04/page-6/detail-5>

April 05, 2023

Daily Times

Asia youth leaders forum lauds Pakistan's vocational education

With a special emphasis on the youth among the Belt and Road countries, "Asia Youth Leaders Forum/the 4th Global Trend Conference" was held in China's Guangzhou region, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday.

The three-day forum featured Asian youth representatives and guests discussed diverse topics such as high-quality development, healthcare, global trends and finance.

Pakistan's voice has been of particular interest to the attendees, as the country serves as the critical partner of CPEC, especially given that nearly 70% of its population is under the age of 30.

"Thanks to CPEC, Pakistan is currently experiencing a phase of high-quality development, which is not only fueling accelerated economic growth but also generating a strong demand for vocational education from China to help modernize the country's infrastructure."

Muhammad Ammar, Vice Secretary General of the recently launched China-Pakistan International Industry-Education Cooperation Alliance (CPIIECA), shared his observation as a guest speaker at the forum, "we need to enhance the vocational skills, professional ethics, and e-commerce capabilities of Pakistani youth to boost local productivity."

Chinese and Pakistani education professionals are actively seeking ways to address the demand for highly skilled technical talent from Chinese industries operating within CPEC.

In February this year, China-Pakistan International Industry-Education Cooperation Alliance Initiative (CPIIECA) was launched in Beijing China. The alliance is at full speed to implement the Chinese export-oriented industrial development model and demonstrating vocational skills training courses in Pakistan's economic zones.

"We are set to infuse Pakistan's vocational education system with 210 Chinese branch campuses and 36 Sino-Pak vocational education centers of excellence across, in the hopes of nurturing a talented pool of young individuals."

Muhammad Ammar said during the forum, "and we will provide training for more than 30,000 teachers, facilitate internship opportunities for 50,000 students, and offer "Chinese language + vocational skills" training for up to 100,000 students in Pakistan.

The forum, which saw the participation of almost 400 guests and young representatives from different Asian nations through "online+offline" channels, has indeed paved the way for a distinctive platform for youths from diverse Asian countries to cultivate communication and exchange ideas.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1080980/asia-youth-leaders-forum-lauds-pakistans-vocational-education/>

Ahsan Iqbal lauds Energy China for enhancing Pakistan's energy infrastructure

Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary Tuesday appreciated Energy China longstanding partnership with Pakistan and carrying out many important projects under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for enhancing Pakistan's energy infrastructure. During a meeting with the Chairman of Energy China International Group, Lyu Ze Xiang who called on him here at the embassy, the minister said that these projects included Neelum-Jhelum Hydro-power Plant, Karachi K1/K3 Nuclear Power Stations, Jamshoro and Hub Coal-fired power plant and Jhimpir Wind Farm. The minister underscored the importance of these energy projects which have enabled Pakistan to overcome its energy shortages and said that the people of Pakistan will never forget this critical support from China. Ahsan Iqbal was pleased to note that "Energy China" was building its regional headquarters in Islamabad and was interested to invest in setting up 1.8 GW solar generation plant. He briefed them about the Prime Minister's "solar energy initiative" of producing 10,000 MW of solar energy for which foreign investors would be given special incentives. The minister invited Energy China to benefit from this new policy and also consider building a manufacturing facility of solar power equipment in Pakistan. He assured "Energy China" of the government's full support and facilitation and extended an invitation to Chairman Lyu to visit Pakistan for further discussions on the proposed projects. Chairman, Lyu Ze Xiang appreciated the contributions of the Minister for the high-quality development of CPEC and his support to Energy China projects in Pakistan. He assured the Minister of Energy China's long term interest in Pakistan and investing in energy sector including solar.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1081014/ahsan-iqbal-lauds-energy-china-for-enhancing-pakistans-energy-infrastructure/>

Dawn News

Fire rips through Chinese camps at Dasu Dam

Nisar Ahmad Khan

MANSEHRA: Dasu hydropower project's warehouses and residential camps of Chinese engineers and workers were gutted in a heavy fire in the Barseen area of Lower Kohistan in the wee hours on Tuesday.

The fire, which started due to short-circuit at about 4:30am in the morning, ripped through the residential camps of Chinese engineers and workers. No loss of life was reported.

Rescue 1122 fire tenders and fighters from Upper Kohistan and Lower Kohistan rushed to the spot after receiving emergency calls and started extinguishing the blaze. "The enraged flames engulfed the entire area and gutted camps and warehouses," Khaliq Dad, the district emergency officer of Rescue 1122, Upper Kohistan, said.

He said it took five hours to put out the fire completely as firefighters from different districts and Chinese companies put their lives in danger to extinguish the blaze.

According to eyewitnesses, the fire was brought under control at about 9:30am and Chinese engineers and workers were shifted to nearby safer places.

“We have launched an inquiry into the incident and it would be completed in three days as it is part of our standard operational procedures,” Anwarul Haq, Dasu Dam’s General Manager, told reporters.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1745976>

Pakistan Observer

Pakistan, China agree to make CPEC best example of high-quality development under BRI

Minister for Planning, Development and Special initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary had a bilateral meeting with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, Sun Weidong here on Tuesday.

The meeting was marked by traditional sentiments of warmth and mutual trust, that form the hallmark of China-Pakistan ties.

Acknowledging the timeless and time-tested nature of the bilateral friendship, the two sides reaffirmed the centrality of the ‘All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership’ between the two countries.

The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including cooperation under China-Pakistan Economic Cooperation (CPEC), trade, economic and financial cooperation, cultural exchanges, and people-to-people ties, and reaffirmed their resolve to further strengthen cooperation on multilateral fora.

The minister thanked the Chinese side for its critical support to Pakistan to ease the country’s economic difficulties and amidst Covid-19 pandemic.

He also conveyed gratitude for China’s for its generous support for the recent unprecedented floods in Pakistan.

Noting the completion of one decade of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC in July this year, the minister expressed government’s resolve to mark this milestone in a befitting manner.

He lauded the transformational impact of CPEC on Pakistan’s socioeconomic landscape and for improving livelihood of the people.

The progress on various CPEC projects was reviewed, many of which would be completed this year.

The two sides agreed to make CPEC the best example of high-quality development under BRI and exchanged views on expansion of CPEC to third countries.

Both sides agreed that high-level exchanges had always been a hallmark of the bilateral ties and agreed to further build upon the momentum.

The two sides also agreed to enhance people-to-people exchanges in the ongoing year of China-Pakistan Tourism Exchanges.

SAPM Tariq Bajwa, Ambassador Moin ul Haque and Embassy officials were also present on the occasion.

<https://pakobserver.net/pakistan-china-agree-to-make-cpec-best-example-of-high-quality-development-under-bri/>

China's Two Sessions, BRI and CPEC

Muhammad ZamirAssadi

The historical conclusion of China's Two sessions with the unanimous re-election of Xi Jinping as President have generated a message for the international community that the era of prosperity initiated by Chinese President Xi Jinping will be continued with full zeal and zest. International community has expressed their happiness on the re-election of Xi Jinping and it shows that President Xi enjoys the full confidence of its public and global community.

There are various triumphs achieved by President Xi Jinping for the Chinese public and the partner countries but the initiation of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has emerged as a blessing for Chinese citizens and international community as it has generated multidimensional benefits for them. It is recorded till now that around the world, 141 countries and 32 international organizations, including 19 UN agencies, have participated in the BRI.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the BRI. With infrastructure construction a key priority, 81 Chinese central state-owned enterprises have been involved in over 3,400 projects in countries along the Belt and Road by January 2021. The cumulative amount of China's direct investment in these nations reached 161.3 billion U.S. dollars from 2013 to 2021. A World Bank report estimated that when fully implemented, the BRI could help nearly 40 million people in relevant countries leave poverty behind.

BRI has not only boosted China's economic development and trade growth but also helped enhance connectivity and cooperation in economic infrastructure, investment and finance and people-to-people exchanges among countries in the region and in the world. BRI is a high-quality public good initiated by China and jointly built by all partners, with its benefits shared by the world. Over the past decade, the BRI has brought nearly a trillion U.S. dollars of investment, established over 3,000 cooperation projects, created some 420,000 jobs in countries along the routes and helped lift nearly 40 million people out of poverty.

Responding to allegations that the BRI can lead to debt traps, the Chinese Foreign Minister, *Qin Gang*, said it is never China that should be accused of creating the so-called debt traps, citing data that multilateral financial institutions and commercial creditors account for over 80 percent of developing countries' sovereign debt.

Under the flagship project of BRI, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has proved itself as a vital economic tonic to Pakistan by administering those development booster shots that are revamping its infrastructure, energy, export, trade, transportation, agriculture, employment, medicine, IT, mobile technology and many more.

With these booster shots, during the last 10 years, more than 30 projects generating direct and indirect 200,000 jobs have been completed and more are in different phases of development,

setting a tone for sustainable economic progress. Besides, more than 6,000 MW of electricity has been injected into the national grid, 809 kilometers of highway have been built and 886 kilometers of transmission lines have been installed for the first time in the history of Pakistan.

CPEC has also earned recognition from the World Bank Report entitled “The Web of Transport Corridors in South Asia”. “With investment in road, railways and ports, the more than \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) offers enormous potential for Pakistan to boost its economy, reduce poverty, spread benefits widely and help those likely to be affected by the new trade route. CPEC has to be analyzed as per its impact and performance setting aside traditional prejudices. One thing that must be kept in mind by doomsayers is that CPEC is not a remedy for governance weaknesses, system hiccups, political instability, bureaucratic red-tapism and corruption. Such hideous dynamics are the creeping root cause behind Pakistan’s limping economy.

Since its inception ten years ago, CPEC has transformed Pakistan’s infrastructural landscape. According to the Ministry of Energy, by October 2022, 11 projects with a total capacity of over 6,370 MW have been completed, and an HVDC Transmission Line of 880 km has been constructed. Three more projects with a capacity of around 1,200 MW are expected to be completed within 2023-24. Most recently, the 1,320 MW Thar Coal Block-I has started commercial operations.

In addition to the completed projects under CPEC, several other projects are under process which will further boost Pakistan’s energy infrastructure. The 884MW Suki Kinari Hydropower Project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has already completed 70% of the work. The Kohala Hydropower Project in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, with a capacity of 1,124 MW, the Azad Pattan Hydropower Project with a capacity of 700.7 MW, and the Cacho Wind Power Project with a capacity of 50 MW are also under process.

The Western Energy (Pvt.) Ltd. Wind Power Project is another project in process, with a capacity of 50 MW. These projects will help increase the country’s renewable energy capacity, providing clean and cheap energy to the people. Once completed, these projects will add a significant amount of electricity to the national grid, reducing the country’s dependence on imported fuel.

Moreover, CPEC has also helped Pakistan upgrade its transportation infrastructure. The Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (Multan-Sukkur Section), Hakla – D.I Khan Motorway, and the Orange Line Metro Train in Lahore are some of the infrastructure projects completed under CPEC. The KKH Phase II (Havelian-Thakot Section) has also been completed which has received international recognition.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinas-two-sessions-bri-and-cpec-by-muhammad-zamirassadi/>

CPMA to promote China Pakistan Cooperation in Traditional Medicine & Bringing Acupuncture to the World

On the afternoon of April 3, 2023, Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, President of China-Pakistan Medical Association, and Prof. Zhang Xianbin, Vice President of China-Pakistan Medical Association, led the delegation to visited the hospital, accompanied by TCM affiliated hospital of Guandong Medical University and had a meeting with the leaders and heads of relevant functional departments.

The hospital leaders warmly welcomed the arrival of Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, introduced the basic situation of the hospital and shared the relevant experience in the construction of acupuncture hospital and the development of the characteristics of Chinese medicine. President Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz presented the situation of China-Pakistan Medical Association.

Subsequently, the two sides launched a heated discussion on strengthening academic and cultural exchanges of TCM, medical personnel training, TCM education and training, and TCM theory and research technology innovation.

President Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz expressed the hope that through this communication, Upholding the principles of peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit, and using acupuncture as a bridge, we will strive to promote medical exchanges and cooperation between the two countries, help build a health corridor, provide better medical services for the Pakistani people, and create a new model of China-Pakistan people-to-people bond.

<https://pakobserver.net/cpma-to-promote-china-pakistan-cooperation-in-traditional-medicine-bringing-acupuncture-to-the-world/>

The Nation

“Khunjerab Pass reopens: A game changer for China-Pakistan trade and BRI”

Engr. Qaiser Nawab

The Khunjerab Pass, a historic mountain route connecting China and Pakistan, has recently reopened after being closed for three years. This development has been greeted with great enthusiasm by the business community, local residents, high-ranking officials, and youth in Pakistan. The reopening of the pass is expected to have a positive impact on trade between the two countries and expedite the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed his pleasure at the reopening of the pass, noting that it removes a major obstacle to the progress of CPEC. He emphasized that the restoration of this crucial trade route is a matter of great significance and will undoubtedly lead to increased trade between China and Pakistan.

For centuries, the Khunjerab Pass has been a vital trade route between China and Pakistan. The pass derives its name from the Wakhi language, with “khun” meaning blood and “jerab” referring to a brook originating from a spring or waterfall. At 15,397 feet, it stands tall as the world’s highest paved international border crossing and is the pinnacle of the breathtaking Karakoram Highway and serves as the Pak-China border. Upon its completion in 1982, Khunjerab Pass replaced the rugged Mintaka and Kilik Passes as the primary route across the Karakoram Range. This feat of architecture and engineering has played a significant role in the history of the region, serving as a vital link for traders and explorers transporting goods between Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

In the modern era, the Khunjerab Pass has remained of utmost strategic importance to both China and Pakistan. The reopening of the border marks a significant moment, allowing for increased trade and exchange between the two nations. With its rich history and stunning beauty, the Khunjerab Pass is an essential landmark in the region, and the reopening of the border is a momentous occasion.

The pass was closed for three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The reopening of the Khunjerab Pass is being seen as a game-changer for the region because it will provide a direct road link between China and Pakistan’s western provinces. The pass is a crucial link in China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which aims to connect Asia, Europe, and Africa through a network of highways, railways, ports, and other infrastructure projects. The reopening of the Khunjerab Pass would provide a new and more direct route between China and Europe, bypassing the traditional sea routes and reducing transit times. This would be a significant boost for trade between China and Europe, which is currently worth over \$700 billion.

It could also provide China with an alternative route to the Indian Ocean, linking the Chinese province of Xinjiang with the deep-sea port of Gwadar in Balochistan province. Gwadar Port is a key element of the BRI, and its development is expected to transform Pakistan’s economy and provide China with a strategic foothold in the region. The reopening of the Khunjerab Pass would not only benefit China but also Pakistan, which is keen to attract foreign investment and boost its exports.

Moreover, the pass could serve as a gateway for Pakistan to Central Asia, which is a region rich in natural resources and has a growing demand for consumer goods. Pakistan could leverage its strategic location to become a transit hub for goods flowing between China, Central Asia, and the Middle East, thereby generating significant transit fees and boosting its economy.

In addition to boosting its trade with China, the reopening of the pass could bring many benefits to Pakistan. For instance, it could lead to the development of new industries and job opportunities in the Gilgit-Baltistan region. The pass runs through some of the most remote and underdeveloped areas in Pakistan, and the construction of new infrastructure could help to create jobs and spur economic growth. Additionally, the pass could promote tourism in the region, as it is surrounded by some of the most breathtaking landscapes in the world, including the Himalayas, the Karakoram range, and the Pamir plateau. Furthermore, it could

help to reduce Pakistan's energy deficit by facilitating the construction of new hydropower projects in the region.

The restoration of this ancient route is a testament to the enduring bonds between China and Pakistan. It represents a new chapter in the history of the two nations and holds the promise of greater prosperity for both. As such, it is a cause for celebration and a symbol of hope for a brighter future in the region. In conclusion, the reopening of the Khunjerab Pass between China and Pakistan is a significant development in the context of the BRI and global trade, providing a more convenient and cost-effective route between China and Pakistan and linking the Chinese province of Xinjiang with the deep-sea port of Gwadar. The potential benefits of the Khunjerab Pass reopening are significant and could have far-reaching implications for the global economy. "The BRI and CPEC is a gift of progress and prosperity given by the Chinese leadership for the region and people of Pakistan.

— Engr Qaiser Nawab is a highly esteemed international expert on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa. With a passion for global peace and climate activism, Qaiser is also recognized as a prominent Pakistani youth leader, United Nations SDGs advocate, and freelance journalist. Qaiser can be reached at qaisernawab098@gmail.com for any inquiries or collaborations.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-05/page-9/detail-0>

April 06, 2023

Dawn News

Chinese envoy credits CPEC for social, economic development

LAHORE: Chinese Consul General in Lahore Zhao Shiren has hailed the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as a transformative infrastructure project that paved the way for socioeconomic development in the country.

He was speaking at the concluding ceremony of an essay competition held in connection with the completion of 10 years of CPEC on Wednesday. The competition, titled 'CPEC — 10 years and its grassroots impacts' was held in collaboration with the Chinese Consulate in Lah-ore and the Institute of International Relations and Media Research (IIRMR).

Mr Shiren said projects launched under the CPEC have made positive strides and key areas such as Gwadar Port, energy, transportation and industrial cooperation have progressed and delivered tangible benefits for people.

The beauty of CPEC lies not only in specific projects but in the fact that it brought closer the people of China and Pakistan through cultural exchange and mutual learning, he added.

"Through high-quality development of the CPEC, China is working with Pakistan to build a community having a shared future in the new era of development," he added.

He said the essay competition and similar programmes play a decisive role in setting the CPEC narrative right.

In the ceremony, prizes were distributed among Tehniyat Mobeen ul Haq, Rabia Zahoor, Faiza Naz, Haris Masood and Kamran who secured the top five positions in the competition. IIRMR Chairman Muhammad Mehdi and President Yasir Habib Khan said CPEC would continue to progress as its essence was to put people on the path of development.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1746168#:~:text=LAHORE%3A%20Chinese%20Consul%20General%20in,economic%20development%20in%20the%20country.>

The Nation

Pakistani textile merchants explore Chinese market

BEIJING-Pakistan has been exporting cotton and yarn to China for 40 to 50 years and now Pakistani textile merchants are trying to develop exports of fabrics and ready-made garments, said Usman Saeed, head of the China operations of a Pakistani textile company. Talking to media at the Inter textile Expo held in Shanghai, Usman said the international textile exhibition provided a platform to showcase Pakistani products. Pakistani exhibitors can also benefit from the state-of-the-art technologies and trends from their Chinese counterparts, he added. Usman hoped that more Chinese enterprises would participate in the upcoming 4th International Textile Expo to be held in Karachi next month for technical and professional exchanges. There will be products ranging from raw materials to finished goods at the expo that are competitive in price and quality all around the world, he added. Pakistan is a leading textile country with a production capacity spanning the whole industrial chain. Most of its textile products are exported to Europe and America. Usman's company has also contributed to Pakistan's textile exports by manufacturing for international sports brands.

Believing that China's large population, with its diverse tastes, could make room for many products, the company started its business in China in 2016 by opening an office in Dongguan, Guangdong.

Usman sees a golden opportunity to tap the Chinese market, where dying and processing policies are becoming more stringent. With the development of high technology, the rising labour cost in China has challenged the development of the labour-intensive textile manufacturing industry.

Pakistani men's garments export to China increased by nearly 33 percent in 2022 and its T-shirt export to China reached \$5.53 million in the first two months of 2023, up 106 percent compared with the same period in 2022.

The figures boost confidence in Pakistan's ailing textile industry, which is teetering on the brink of default, and highlight its pillar status and potential, said Usman.

It only takes seven days to export textiles by land from Pakistan to China with zero tariffs. Usman and his team are working hard to make the most of these huge benefits. "We have Chinese technicians working with us in our Pakistani factory to produce fabrics that meet Chinese standards. We hope that in the near future, more fabrics and garments produced by Chinese standards can be exported to China and around the world," Usman concluded.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-06/page-9/detail-4>

The News

China asked to expedite work on ML-I, KCR, energy projects

Muhammad Saleh Zaafir

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Nong Rong while paying tribute to the services of Pakistan's Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal for the cause of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), has declared him as "Mr. CPEC."

Ahsan Iqbal who is visiting China sought on Wednesday strong support from China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and other relevant institutions to advance the implementation of the Main Line-1 (ML-I), Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) and key energy projects. During a meeting with the Vice Chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Li Chunlin, he asked for early completion of the projects. The SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, Ambassador Moin ul Haque and senior officials Pakistan Embassy officials also attended the meeting.

The minister paid rich tributes to the leadership of the two countries for providing strategic guidance to the development of the CPEC. Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal highlighted that CPEC had not only been central to Pakistan's economic growth, but it also contributed to regional connectivity and development. He reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to smooth and high-quality development of the next phase of CPEC with a greater focus on the development of industrial parks and Special Economic Zones.

Vice Chairman Li noted that during the recent visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China, the leadership of the two countries reached an important consensus to advance CPEC development and the NDRC was working hard to implement the leadership's direction.

Ahsan Iqbal also extended an invitation to the NDRC chairman to visit Pakistan and as well as hold a special session of the CPEC Joint Coordination Committee on the occasion.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the completion of some key projects at the Gwadar Port and agreed to continue the momentum for making it a hub of international trade and regional connectivity.

Iqbal remarked that Pakistan greatly valued the contributions of the Chinese IPPs (Independent Power Producers) in helping Pakistan achieve energy security and informed the vice chairman about the steps taken by his government to facilitate their projects. Vice Chairman Li Chunlin appreciated the contributions of Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal to the advancement of CPEC and his support to NDRC over the years and assured him of NDRC's long-term commitment to high-quality CPEC development.

Noting that the 11th JCC meeting had paved the way for fast-track implementation of CPEC projects, the two sides agreed to start preparing for the 12th JCC and hold technical Joint Working Group meetings on a regular basis every two months to ensure closer coordination. On Ahsan Iqbal's proposal, the two sides reached a consensus to set up expert groups on enhancing Pakistan's export potential and development of Special Economic Zones and

industrial parks based on the Chinese experience. He also sought the vice chairman's guidance in the development of high-tech industries based on his experience in Shaanxi province.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=191070>

Express News

چین کوئی شرت کی برآمدات 5.53 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچ گئی

رواں سال کے پہلے دو ماہ میں پاکستان کی چین کوئی شرت کی برآمدات کے 106 فیصد اضافہ کے ساتھ 5.53 ملین ڈالر تک پہنچ گئی۔ اسلام آباد میں پاکستان کی چین کو مردانہ ملبوسات کی برآمدات میں تقریباً 33 فیصد اضافہ ہوا، مستقبل قریب میں چینی معیار کے مطابق تیار کردہ مزید کپڑے اور ملبوسات 2022 چین اور دنیا بھر میں برآمد کیے جاسکیں گے۔

پاکستانی ٹیکسٹائل کمپنی کے چائنہ آپریشنز کے سربراہ عثمان سعید نے کہا کہ پاکستان 40 سے 50 سال سے چین کو کاکٹن اور یارن برآمد کر رہا ہے اور ہم فیبرکس اور ریڈی میڈ گارمنٹس کی برآمدات کو فروغ دینے کی کوشش کر رہے ہیں۔

عثمان احمد نے شنگھائی میں منعقدہ انٹرنیشنل ایکسپو میں گواڈر پرو سے گفتگو کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ بین الاقوامی ٹیکسٹائل نمائش نے پاکستانی مصنوعات کی نمائش کیلئے ایک پلیٹ فارم فراہم کیا، پاکستانی نمائش کنندگان اپنے چینی ہم منصبوں کی جدید ترین ٹیکنالوجیز اور رجحانات سے بھی فائدہ اٹھا سکتے ہیں۔ عثمان نے امید ظاہر کی کہ مزید چینی کاروباری ادارے تکنیکی اور پیشہ ورانہ تبادلوں کے لیے آئندہ ماہ کراچی میں ہونیوالی چوتھی انٹرنیشنل ٹیکسٹائل ایکسپو میں شرکت کریں گے، ایکسپو میں خام مال سے لیکر تیار اشیاء تک کی مصنوعات ہوں گی جو پوری دنیا میں قیمت اور معیار کے لحاظ سے مسابقتی ہیں۔

<https://www.express.pk/story/2465588/6/>

Nawaiwaqt News

احسن اقبال مسٹر سی پیک ہیں: چینی وزیر خارجہ

اسلام آباد (نوائے وقت رپورٹ) چینی وزیر خارجہ ووگنگ روگنگ نے کہا ہے کہ احسن اقبال مسٹر سی پیک ہیں۔ احسن اقبال نے سی پیک کامیاب بنانے میں کلیدی کردار ادا کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-04-06/page-1/detail-21>

چین، پاکستان طبی تعاون کو مزید فروغ دینگے: ڈاکٹر محمد شہباز

بیجنگ (آئی این پی) چین اور پاکستان طبی تعاون کو مزید فروغ دیں گے۔ ہیلتھ اینڈ روڈ انیشیٹیو روائٹی چینی ادویات کو بین الاقوامی سطح پر فروغ دینے کے مواقع فراہم کرتا ہے، روائٹی چینی ادویات پاکستان میں بتدریج بڑھ رہی ہیں چائنہ اکنامک نیٹ کے مطابق چائنہ پاکستان میڈیکل ایسوسی ایشن کے صدر ڈاکٹر محمد شہباز اور ایسوسی ایشن کے نائب صدر پروفیسر چانگ شیان بن کی قیادت میں ایک وفد نے گوانگ چو میڈیکل یونیورسٹی کے ٹریڈیشنل چائیز میڈیسن سے منسلک ہسپتال کا دورہ کیا۔ اس دوران دونوں ممالک کے ہسپتالوں کے درمیان مستقبل کے تعاون پر تبادلہ خیال کیا گیا۔ فریقین نے ٹی سی ایم کے علمی اور ثقافتی تبادلوں، طبی عملے کی تربیت، ٹی سی ایم تعلیم و تربیت، اور ٹی سی ایم تھیوری اور تحقیقی ٹیکنالوجی کی جدت کے بارے میں ایک نتیجہ خیز بات چیت کا آغاز کیا۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-04-06/page-10/detail-19>

April 08, 2023

Daily Times

GIKI, Chinese varsity sign MoU to develop partnership

Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology and Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU), a leading Chinese research varsity signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Friday to develop partnerships in various mutually agreed fields of science and technology. The MoU was inked by Prof Dr Fazal Ahmad Khalid, Rector GIK Institute and Dr Li Ziwei, Vice Dean (Deputy Director) of the Office of International Cooperation, NPU. The agreement came into force soon after the signatures and will remain in effect for a period of five years.

The MoU is aimed to set out the general terms of cooperation between the two universities to promote science and technology and to foster collaboration in relevant fields of education, research and technology on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit. With the purpose of capacity building in advanced technology acquisition, both universities have agreed to cooperate through short-term training; student cultivation programs, postdoctoral fellowships; establishment of joint research laboratories; joint workshops, symposia and lectures of matters of mutual interest; strengthening institutional collaboration; faculty and students exchange and any other areas of collaboration may be added from time to time with mutual consensus.

Under the working mechanism, they agreed that research institutions affiliated with the two parties are encouraged to formulate and sign cooperative documents on specific cooperative programs while encouraging joint working groups to work out detailed cooperative plans. The MoU said that publications and intellectual property shall be determined on a case-to-case basis by the two parties in conformity with their respective policies. Officials said that in case of dispute or controversy relating to any aspect of the agreement, the two parties would use their best efforts to settle it amicably through negotiation and the MoU shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of Pakistan and the laws of People's Republic of China.

Talking on the occasion, Rector GIK Institute, Prof Khalid said that they are very happy to work on internships, research projects and student exchange programs and said that the MoU provides them with a golden opportunity to work together. Vice Dean of the Chinese university, Dr Li Ziwei said that their University is a prominent seat of higher education in the field of aeronautics, astronautics and marine science and technology, material science and engineering.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1081957/giki-chinese-varsity-sign-mou-to-develop-partnership/>

CPEC momentum expected to thrive more this year: envoy

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque hoped that this year is going to bring the momentum back to pre-Covid level as more delegations from Pakistan are coming to China for face-to-face meetings following China's relaxation on Covid-related restrictions.

“This year is very special as it marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative. Pakistan is one of the pioneers of BRI. In the past decade, CPEC has transformed our economic landscape, he told China Economic Net (CEN). According to a research by KTrade, a securities broker and think tank in Pakistan, CPEC energy projects have become growth drivers for Pakistan. After the addition of 9,740MW in capacity by CPEC, the access of the Pakistani population to electricity rose by 3.8 ppts in just 4 years to 75.4% in 2020, whereas in the 18 years from 1998 to 2016, the percentage of the population in Pakistan with access to electricity increased by only 1.1 from 70.5% to 71.6%.

In terms of transport infrastructure, CPEC has contributed 809km out of the 2,790km operational motorways in Pakistan, and further 813km is under construction, linking different parts of the country to the main ports and enhancing its cross-border connectivity. According to Pakistan’s Commercial Counsellor to China, Ghulam Qadir, looking ahead, trade, investment, and industrial cooperation hold the key for Pakistan and China. “In Gwadar, 46 enterprises have been registered in the Free Zone while 3 companies have started production”, he said.

He said that the Ministry of Commerce in Pakistan and China have agreed to launch a joint study to enhance bilateral trade, economic, and investment cooperation. Following the eligibility of Pakistani cherries to be exported to China, Pakistan is finalizing the protocol with China on beef export, which is a huge market worth over \$10 billion. “Other than agriculture, we also hope to add value to the base metals that are being produced in Pakistan. For example, we are exporting copper to China, but we want to export copper products, such as copper cathodes, wires, bars, rods, etc.”, he added.

“We aim to enable Pakistan to become a hub of Chinese manufacturing. There’s a huge gap in productivity between Pakistan and China, especially in agriculture and food processing. With Chinese technology, we can fill that gap”, he further added.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1082111/cpec-momentum-expected-to-thrive-more-this-year-envoy/>

The Nation

China’s growth will steer global economy back on track: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD - “China’s growth will steer the global economy back on track,” said Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives while commenting on the global inflation, which has become one of the leading concerns of the year for many. High inflation remains geographically broad-based.

“If you look at Europe, the United States, or everywhere, the inflation rate is rising. Central banks resort to increasing the policy rates, but that slows down the economy,” the minister told China Economic Net (CEN). Also, the minister noted that Pakistan was currently facing an economic crisis for a number of reasons, and the government was trying to stabilize and revive the economy. However, China’s opening up offers a great opportunity for the whole world, because “China has so much consumption demand in its market,” he noted.

The minister cited China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as examples. 2023 marks the tenth anniversary of BRI and also the tenth year of CPEC. As he sees it, BRI and CPEC are platforms to promote inter-regional and international trade, to bring sharing of experiences among different countries, as well as to promote joint responses to many global issues. "There has been tremendous and remarkable progress on CPEC in Pakistan. It has made a valuable contribution in helping Pakistan overcome its energy crisis, in helping it modernize the infrastructure, and also it has laid down a fibre optic cable that provides backbone to its digital infrastructure..." Ahsan Iqbal enumerated the advantages of CPEC. "Although CPEC is a bilateral project, its scope is regional.

It not only provides a chance for Pakistan to improve its standards in various fields yet it also provides an opportunity for other countries. Likewise, now Southeast Asia, Middle East, Africa are expressing interest to integrate with CPEC," Ahsan Iqbal pointed out, adding that China has very successfully brokered peace deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which is "one of the most remarkable developments of our times that will conceive more opportunities for collaboration in the region." Ahsan Iqbal hopes that in coming years, Pakistan will see more relocation of Chinese industries to the country to take advantage of its low cost of production, the logistics and so on, as Pakistan is a textile powerhouse with many other sectors - namely agriculture, meat, and technology - where it can offer services to China. "Now, under BRI and other regional cooperation that we are developing, there will be tremendous opportunities for countries like Pakistan to trade more with China and other BRI countries," Ahsan Iqbal concluded confidently.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-08/page-10/detail-2>

The News

NUST, Chinese university to establish joint laboratory

Islamabad: The National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST-Islamabad) and Shandong Jiaotong University, China have reached an understanding whereby a state-of-the-art 'Intelligent Transportation International Joint Laboratory' will be established at NUST.

Initiated by China Study Centre at NUST, the partnership is aimed at promoting research and development in the field of Intelligent Transportation, and will augur well for achieving multiple Sustainable Development Goals (viz. Sustainable Cities & Communities; Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure, etc) by promoting sustainable, efficient, and inclusive transportation systems in the two countries.

Dr Osman Hasan, Pro-Rector Academics, and Vice President Jiang Huaping signed the agreement virtually on behalf of NUST and Shandong Jiaotong University respectively. Lt Gen (r) Engr Javed Mahmood Bukhari, Rector NUST, also graced the occasion with his presence, besides members of senior management and faculty from both universities.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=191551>

Pakistan seeks RMB10 billion hike in currency swap agreement with China

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: Amid dwindling foreign exchange reserves, Pakistan has made a fresh request to China for enhancing the limit of the currency swap agreement from RMB 30 billion to RMB 40 billion in order to promote bilateral trade and investment.

The government also made a request to China to provide financing for 1,200 MW Chashma-5 power plant. Both countries agreed on the project in 2017, but no progress was made for several years.

Pakistan's high-powered delegation, led by Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal, and comprising Special Assistant to PM on Finance Tariq Bajwa as well as other officials visited China to hold talks for raising the limit of currency swap agreement by RMB 10 billion and restoring financing for the construction of C-5 Nuclear Power Plant. "Negotiations are underway and Pakistan is expecting a positive outcome soon," said top official sources.

When Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal was contacted on Friday after his return from China, he refused to share details on the currency swap agreement, saying it was the domain of the finance ministry. However, he said negotiations were underway on financing for C-5 Nuclear Power Plant, adding both sides discussed possibilities to enhance the progress on CPEC projects. The sources said that the request for enhancing the currency swap limit had been made first time during the tenure of former premier Imran Khan but China asked the then government to utilise the existing limit first before making a request to enhance the limit. However, this time, the Pakistani authorities approached China after utilising RMB 30 billion facility.

According to the former governor SBP, the objectives of the swap is to promote bilateral trade and make direct investment in the local currencies. Since the CSA is a bilateral financial transaction, all terms and conditions equally apply to both countries, and the pricing is based on standard market benchmarks acceptable in the respective domestic markets.

As per the CSA, the central banks of both countries will have the ability to draw on the swap line at any time during the tenure of the swap. Besides, SBP can purchase the Chinese Yuan against its local currency (PKR), and repurchase its local currency with the Chinese Yuan on a predetermined maturity date and exchange rate.

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=191607>

April 09, 2023

Dawn News

Court imposes \$2.48 million fine on Chinese firm

Malik Asad

ISLAMABAD: Civil judge Syed Mohammad Zahid Termizi has imposed a fine of \$2.48 million on China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) for its alleged violation of contract it signed with Petroleum Exploration (Private) Limited, a local company.

As per the details of the case, CNPC came to Pakistan in early 2001 as a service provider to exploration and production companies in the fields of rigs and drilling.

Pakistan during the first decade of 21st century was deemed a great potential for exploration and production companies and saw a great influx of foreign companies.

But great influx associates greater competition therefore CNPC found it difficult to establish and generate business with such foreign competitive companies.

Considering the need of time and to get the necessary head-start, CNPC entered into an agreement with the local company to help procure drilling works for CNPC against a commission for each work procured in favour of CNPC.

From the inception to date, CNPC with the help of the local company, procured drilling contracts and was able to maintain its operation in Pakistan, now comprising over two decades.

The local company petitioned before the court against the alleged violation contractual obligations by CNPC.

The court passed a preliminary decree of \$2.48 million in favour of the local company.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1746642/court-imposes-248-million-fine-on-chinese-firm>

GB Assembly hails re-opening of Pakistan-China trade via Khunjerab Pass

Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly unanimously passed a resolution welcoming re-opening of Pakistan-China trade via Khunjerab pass from April and termed it a positive step to increase trade, people to people contact between the two neighbouring countries.

Opposition leader in GB assembly Amjad Hussain Advocate tabled a resolution in the 17th session of GB Assembly on Friday evening. Speaker Syed Amjad Ali Zaidi chaired the session.

The resolution said this house of Gilgit-Baltistan assembly extends felicitations and applauds the decision of the Pakistan government and China to open Pakistan-China border through Khunjerab pass for trade.

The resolution said the reopening of the Khunjerab Pass will strengthen friendship of both the countries and will definitely provide economic opportunities to the local population on both sides of the border.

The resolution said that this house unanimously demands to remove trade barriers for provision of free trade opportunities to the people of both the countries.

The resolution also paid tributes to the authorities of both the countries, especially Minister of Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari for playing role for reopening of the border.

The GB Assembly passed another resolution with majority vote, changing Jugulote-Skardu Road name as Shahrah-i-Baltistan.

The resolution tabled by GB Assembly member Ghulam Shahzad Agha from Skardu.

The resolution said the only trade and travel route of Baltistan division has been named Jugulote-Skardu Road without consent of local people.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1746636/gb-assembly-hails-re-opening-of-pakistan-china-trade-via-khunjerab-pass>

UET Mardan to sign MoU with Chinese varsity

MARDAN: University of Engineering and Technology Mardan and China's Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU) have decided to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to recognise importance of investing in the youth.

A delegation of NPU visited the UET Mardan on Saturday. UET Vice-chancellor Prof Sadiquallah welcomed the guests and highlighted the significance of the event.

The deputy director of the office of international cooperation at NPU, Li Ziwei, presented an overview of his university and the expertise and dedication of its faculty that would collaborate with UET Mardan to ensure the success of the partnership.

Dr Sadiquallah stated that UET Mardan was the second public sector engineering university in the province. He said that the university was located on the route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor close to Rashakai industrial zone.

A statement issued by the university said that UET and NPU discussed in detail the partnership, which would benefit both countries.

The partnership would facilitate student and faculty exchange programmes and scholarships besides establishment of joint research laboratories.

The ceremony was attended by various dignitaries including the dean of faculty of engineering and computing, Prof Imran Khan, the registrar, Dr Mohammad Alam, the director of planning and development, Engineer Sajjad Ali, the treasurer, Dr Murtaza Ali, director admission Dr Sajjad and faculty and students of UET Mardan.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1746677#:~:text=MARDAN%3A%20University%20of%20Engineering%20and,the%20UET%20Mardan%20on%20Saturday.>

The Nation

Pak, Chinese universities set up laboratory of intelligent transportation system

Islamabad - National University of sciences and Technology, Pakistan (NUST) and Shandong JiaoTong University (SDJTU) launched the project of joint international laboratory of intelligent transportation system.

Jiang Huaping, Vice President of SDJTU via video signed a moa with Dr Osman Hassan, Pro rector academics at NUST. Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Osman Hassan indicated that this collaboration marks a significant milestone in shared pursuit of both parties in the field of knowledge and innovation in transportation engineering. "Collaborative efforts are essential to create sustainable solutions that directly impact society.

Our partnership with SDJTU in the field of intelligent transportation aims to improve traffic demand management, enhance road safety, and address congestion issues.” another guest, Dr. Muhammad Irfan, Principal of SCEE, NUST analyzed in detail the future plan of the joint lab, emphasizing “intelligent transportation systems can identify patterns in traffic flow parameters, analyze drive behaviors and detect anomalies in road conditions which lead to efficient traffic management and increased safety.”

Thus, the research is envisaged to develop strategies and systems for traffic incident detection, traffic flow measurement, actuated signal control, accident management, traffic simulations, and transportation demand management which are vital components of sustainable transportation systems in urban mobility, he noted. beyond that, other attendees including Rector at NUST Engr Javed Mehmood Bukhari, Dr Coord Mr. Imran Malik, Hod Transportation Dr Arshad Hussain, Dir QA Dr Awais Kamboh, Dir China Study Center Ms Xiang Yang with team of CSC and Ms. Zhang Meng Meng, dean of Transportation and logistics Engineering school at SDJTU.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-09/page-13/detail-7>

April 10, 2023

Pakistan Observer

10 years of BRI transformed Pakistan’s economic landscape: Envoy

“We are very hopeful that this year is going to bring the momentum back to pre-Covid level as more delegations from Pakistan are coming to China for face-to-face meetings following China’s relaxation on Covid-related restrictions”, Pakistani Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview.

“This year is very special as it marks the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative. Pakistan is one of the pioneers of BRI. In the past decade, CPEC has transformed our economic landscape”, he added.

According to research by KTrade, a securities broker and think tank in Pakistan, CPEC energy projects have become growth drivers for Pakistan.

After the addition of 9,740MW in capacity by CPEC, the access of the Pakistani population to electricity rose by 3.8 pts in just 4 years to 75.4% in 2020, whereas in the 18 years from 1998 to 2016, the percentage of the population in Pakistan with access to electricity increased by only 1.1 pts from 70.5% to 71.6%.

Pakistan’s generation capacity increased at a 14-yr CAGR of 2.7% pre-CPEC and 9-yr CAGR of 7.0% post-CPEC.

In terms of transport infrastructure, CPEC has contributed 809km out of the 2,790km operational motorways in Pakistan, and further 813km is under construction, linking different parts of the country to the main ports and enhancing its cross border connectivity.

In the future, 68% of Pakistan’s motorways will come from CPEC.

According to Pakistan's Commercial Counsellor to China Mr. Ghulam Qadir, looking ahead, trade, investment, and industrial cooperation hold the key for Pakistan and China.

“In Gwadar, 46 enterprises have been registered in the Free Zone while 3 companies have started production”, he said.

He told CEN that the Ministry of Commerce in Pakistan and China have agreed to launch a joint study to enhance bilateral trade, economic, and investment cooperation.

Following the eligibility of Pakistani cherries to be exported to China, Pakistan is finalizing the protocol with China on beef export, which is a huge market worth over \$10 billion.

“Other than agriculture, we also hope to add value to the base metals that are being produced in Pakistan. For example, we are exporting copper to China, but we want to export copper products, such as copper cathodes, wires, bars, rods, etc.”, he added.

“We aim to enable Pakistan to become a hub of Chinese manufacturing. There's a huge gap in productivity between Pakistan and China, especially in agriculture and food processing.

<https://pakobserver.net/10-years-of-bri-transformed-pakistans-economic-landscape-envoy>

April 11, 2023

Daily Times

China-Pakistan collaborate to enhance smart disaster management

The “China-Pakistan Joint Laboratory on Smart Disaster Management/Prevention of Major Infrastructures” in Tianjin will serve as a platform to boost cooperation between China and Pakistan, according to Khan Muhammad Wazir, Science Counsellor (Technical Affairs), Embassy of Pakistan in China. The Joint Laboratory aims to train researchers and scientists from Pakistan at Master and Doctoral levels and other high-level talents in the fields of civil engineering, smart disaster prevention, and big data related to major infrastructure, including high rises, dams, ports, bridges, and railway platforms, said a press release on Monday.

The platform will strengthen exchanges and communication between the scientific communities of both countries and serve the people of China and Pakistan. Administered by the Ministry of Science and Technology, China, the Joint Laboratory is a collaboration of partner universities and research institutions from China and Pakistan. Chinese partners include Southeast University, Shenzhen University, Tianjin Fire Research Institute of the Ministry of Emergency Management, and Hefei Institute of Public Safety of Tsinghua University.

Meanwhile, the University of Science and Technology Bannu is the partner university from the Pakistani side. The partner universities and research institutions from both China and Pakistan will use the Laboratory as a platform to apply for Chinese Scientific Research Projects and avail of Scientific Research funding. Additionally, the Chinese partner universities will invite government personnel and university researchers from Pakistan for short-term exchanges and learning to enhance the friendship between the two countries. The China-Pakistan Joint Laboratory is one of the seven joint laboratories China has set up with BRI countries. The lab will jointly organize international conferences to promote Belt and

Road Joint laboratories and relevant scientific research institutions in China and Pakistan on the international stage.

The construction of the Joint Laboratory not only focuses on academic research but also promotes Chinese intelligent disaster prevention technology in Pakistan and other Belt and Road countries. To achieve the objectives of the Joint Laboratory, more universities from the Pakistani side will be included in this cooperation. “We are optimistic about the success of this joint venture and believe that it will bring immense benefits to both countries in the areas of disaster management and infrastructure,” said Khan Muhammad Wazir.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1082902/china-pakistan-collaborate-to-enhance-smart-disaster-management/>

Dawn News

China asked to speed up work on ML-1, KCR

Khaleeq Kiani

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday asked China to expedite the process for implementation of the first phase of \$10 billion Mainline-1 (ML-1) — the 1,872km railway track along with associated facilities from Karachi to Peshawar — and \$2bn Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) as agreed between the leadership of the two nations in November.

Pakistan “requested strong support of National Development and Reforms Commission (NDRC) and other relevant Chinese government institutions to advance implementation of important projects like ML-1, KCR and key energy projects in line with the leadership consensus,” said a statement issued by the ministry of planning and development after a bilateral meeting on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Besides ML-1 and KCR, two hydropower projects, including 1,124MW Koh-ala Hydropower Project, had been on hold for various reasons, particularly financial limitations and insurance challenges.

During Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s visit to Beijing on Nov 1, 2022, the Chinese political leadership agreed to fast-track processing for ML-1 by immediately triggering their respective teams. It was agreed at the time to arrange bidding for the project by December and negotiations for financing terms and conditions should follow after the selection of the bidder.

However, the agreed progress could not be achieved as power sector dues increased despite creation of a revolving fund to meet at least the requirements of financial institutions.

After Mr Sharif’s return, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said KCR was also discussed at those meetings and the project would soon be in the implementation phase.

Pakistan’s troubles with IMF, however, followed soon afterwards and payables to Chinese Independent Power Producers went beyond Rs350bn.

ML-1 also could not attract financing commitments from the Chinese institutions, leading these delays to get parallel funding offers from the Asian Development Bank that was

previously interested in providing loans for the mega project but had been elbowed out on the Chinese insistence.

In January, Planning and Development Secretary Zafar Ali Shah said that a \$2.7bn loan request had been placed with China for upgradation of the first phase of ML-1 that spread mostly in Sindh and partially in Punjab where the track was damaged by last year's super floods. The ground level of the track has to be increased with redesigning.

At a subsequent media briefing, Mr Shah said ADB had again offered to finance the ML-1 even though the government was pursuing a part of the project with China.

Earlier, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal confirmed that the country had declined ADB's offer as China wanted to fund the project single-handedly. "China strongly argued that two-sourced financing would create problems and the project would suffer," Mr Iqbal had said at a presser in 2017.

Pakistan, during Mr Iqbal's visit to China last week, again took up the matter with Li Chunlin, Vice Chairman of China's NDRC.

At a follow-up progress review meeting on Monday, the two sides discussed important CPEC projects and minutes of the 11th JCC meeting.

Chief Economist and CPEC Project Director Nadeem Javaid and his Chinese counterpart Pan Jiang, Director General of NDRC's National Cooperation Department, co-chaired the meeting attended by representatives of ministries of planning, energy, industry, communication, agriculture, interior, science & technology and information technology & telecom and board of investment.

The two sides expressed satisfaction on the smooth implementation of various CPEC projects and agreed that all pending issues will be resolved amicably in the spirit of traditional cooperation, mutual understanding, complete trust and brotherhood.

"Both sides expressed satisfaction on progress made in the four priority special economic zones (SEZs) namely Rashakai, Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Dhabeji and Bostan SEZs and agreed to further expedite the progress so as to attract relocation of high quality industries," said the statement. The meeting appreciated the signing of Framework Agreement for Industrial Cooperation and both sides committed to holding bi-annual meetings to review the implementation of framework.

It may be noted that 2023 marks the decade of CPEC and the strong partnership between Pakistan and China.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1747066/china-asked-to-speed-up-work-on-ml-1-kcr>

Pakistan Observer

Meeting discusses important CPEC projects after Ahsan's key visit to China

Pakistan and Chinese authorities on Monday held a 'progress review' meeting to discuss important CPEC projects and minutes of the 11th JCC sitting, following a crucial visit of

Planning Minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal to Beijing and interaction with Vice Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) Li Chunlin.

Chief Economist of Planning Division at the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Secretariat Nadeem Javaid and his Chinese counterpart NDRC Director General Pan Jiang co-chaired the meeting, which was attended among others by senior officials from Ministries of Planning, Energy, Industry, Communication, Agriculture, Interior, Science & Technology, Information Technology & Telecommunication and Board of Investment, a news release said here.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the smooth implementation of various CPEC projects and agreed that all the pending issues would be resolved amicably in the spirit of traditional cooperation, mutual understanding, complete trust and brotherhood.

The two sides expressed satisfaction on the progress made in the four priority Special Economic Zones (SEZs) namely Rashakai, Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Dhabeji and Bostan, agreeing to 'further expedite' the progress to attract relocation of high-quality industries.

The signing of the Framework Agreement for Industrial Cooperation was highly appreciated and both sides committed to holding bi-annual meetings to review the implementation of the framework.

Chief Economist Nadeem Javaid also requested strong support from the NDRC and other relevant Chinese government institutions to advance the implementation of important projects like Main-Line (ML-1), Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) and key energy projects in line with the consensus reached between the leadership of the two countries.

As the year 2023 marks the Decade of CPEC and the strong partnership between Pakistan and China, both Pakistan and China are celebrating 10 Years of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and CPEC on July 5, 2023 whereby high-level Chinese delegations are scheduled to visit Pakistan to witness the achievements made since the inception of CPEC.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/meeting-discusses-important-cpec-projects-after-ahsans-key-visit-to-china/>

The News

Dollar crunch also hits Chinese IPPs

Mehtab Haider

ISLAMABAD: The ongoing liquidity crunch for dollars in Pakistan has exacerbated the financial difficulties faced by Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs), as the government deducts capacity charges due to their inability to generate the desired amount of electricity production.

The Chinese IPPs may have to invoke force majeure over the deduction of capacity payments by the government, penalising them for a fault for which they did not contribute at all. During an official meeting on Monday, they argued that they had imported coal or fuel to run their power plants, but the government was not providing dollars as agreed, given the lingering

liquidity crunch. Consequently, the Chinese IPPs will face deductions in capacity payment charges, according to sources.

The Chinese IPPs plan to invoke force majeure to avoid capacity payment deductions, the sources said. The issue has become more controversial because smaller IPPs managed to import coal or fuel, and they questioned why such a facility was not provided to them. Faced with such difficulties, bureaucrats have been reluctant to accommodate genuine and justified demands of foreign IPPs because any discriminatory treatment could lead to another controversy.

The Chinese IPPs also raised the issue of the escalating monster of circular debt, which now stands at Rs 330 billion to Rs 350 billion. According to sources, this double-edged sword, consisting of capacity payment deductions and piling up of circular debt, puts their business model in jeopardy.

According to an official press release issued by the Ministry of Planning after the meeting on Monday, a follow-up progress review meeting was held on April 10, 2023, at the CPEC Secretariat, Ministry of Planning Development, and Special Initiatives in Islamabad.

The meeting was held to discuss important CPEC projects and the minutes of the 11th JCC meeting, following Planning Minister Prof. Ahsan Iqbal's visit to China and meeting with Mr. Li Chunlin, Vice Chairman of China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) in Beijing on April 5, 2023.

Mr. Nadeem Javaid, Chief Economist/PD CPEC from Pakistan, and his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Pan Jiang, Director-General of the National Cooperation Department of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), co-chaired the meeting. Senior officials from the Ministries of Planning, Energy, Industry, Communication, Agriculture, Interior, S&T, IT&T, and the Board of Investment attended.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the smooth implementation of various CPEC projects and agreed that all pending issues would be resolved amicably in the spirit of traditional cooperation, mutual understanding, complete trust, and brotherhood.

Both sides expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the four priority SEZs, namely Rashakai, Allama Iqbal Industrial City, Dhabeji & Bostan SEZs, and agreed to expedite further progress to attract the relocation of high-quality industries.

The signing of the Framework Agreement for Industrial Cooperation was highly appreciated, and both sides committed to holding bi-annual meetings to review its implementation. Mr. Nadeem also requested strong support from the NDRC and other relevant Chinese government institutions to advance the implementation of important projects like ML-1, KRC, and key energy projects in line with a leadership consensus.

It should be noted that the year 2023 marks the Decade of CPEC and the strong partnership between Pakistan and China.

Accordingly, both Pakistan and China are celebrating 10 Years of BRI and CPEC on July 5, 2023, and high-level Chinese delegations are scheduled to visit Pakistan to witness the achievements made since the inception of CPEC.

To make the 10-year celebrations memorable, both sides expressed a desire to sign the 11th JCC minutes of the meet

<https://e.thenews.com.pk/detail?id=192683>

April 12, 2023

Pakistan Observer

Gwadar students to be enrolled in online short courses

The University of Gwadar's Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) has entered into a collaboration with TANG International Education Group, China, enabling students and employees from the university to enroll in different online short courses at reputed universities and colleges in China.

Gwadar Pro quoting an official notification, reported that students who meet the criteria would be enrolled in different Chinese institutions, including Hunan Polytechnic of Environment and Biology, Yangzhou Vocational Technical College, Loudi Vocational and Technical College, Shanghai Urban Construction Vocational College, and Beijing Business School.

The areas of study include biological medicine, agriculture science, mechanical engineering, and CIT/ST.

The courses include fundamentals of psychology, pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical technology, pharmaceutical analysis, production technology of poultry.

<https://pakobserver.net/gwadar-students-to-be-enrolled-in-online-short-courses/>

BRI: Role of Azerbaijan in Regional Transport Connectivity

Dr. Mehmood Ul Hassan Khan

The Chinese One Belt & One Road Initiative (BRI) has become a “permanent” platform for further strengthening of regional as well as trans-regional connectivity in the South Caucasus, Central Asia, South Asia, Middle East and Africa and even its acceptability is getting momentum in Europe clearly indicating its strategic importance to achieve dreams of immense socio-economic prosperity, industrialization, infrastructure development and transportation in all the member countries. In this regard, the role of Azerbaijan is “unique”, “integrated” and “coordinated” because of its positive, productive and participatory role in South Caucasus, Central Asia and Eurasian regions.

Most recently, Azerbaijan and China have celebrated 30 years of their diplomatic relations. During all these years, Azerbaijan fully supported the good and principal cause of the Chinese Government and especially the BRI. In this connection, to further strengthen bilateral relations under the flagship project of BRI, it initiated numerous projects of national, regional as well as trans-regional “transport” and “infrastructure” including the opening of the “Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway” and the “Baku International Sea Trade Port” connecting to the Trans-Caspian transport route which is good omen for the Chinese BRI and materialization of greater Eurasian region.

Interestingly, during all these years, China remained a “trustworthy” and “strategic” partner of Azerbaijan and extended its free of cost humanitarian assistance in difficult times of COVID-19 pandemic. Now both countries are cooperating in diverse sectors of economy such as “oil production”, “information” and “communications”, “construction” and building materials and transport. Good thing is that the Chinese BRI includes the launch of the “Zangezur Corridor” which will become an ideal link between various links on the route of the new Silk Road and provide the shortest and most convenient alternative route for transporting goods from China to the West.

Moreover, both countries are jointly working in the transport and logistics sector. Azerbaijan, as an “important transit” connecting hub on the route of the BRI today plays a supportive role in cargo transportation between Asia and Europe. Due to close liaison between the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan and the Chinese Xi’an Free Trade Port Construction and Operation Co, regular container transportation from China to Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey has been started. Interestingly, both countries enjoy strategic cooperation in the transport and transit sector which was signed with Azerbaijan Railways CJSC in April 2019 in Beijing as part of the BRI.

According to the latest official figures (January 2023) more than “200 Chinese companies, registered in Azerbaijan, have been engaged in trade, agriculture, transport, communications and other important sectors. Serious negotiations are being carried out to establish an enterprise in Azerbaijan to assemble electric buses, hybrid and electric cars which would be value addition in bilateral ties of both the states. Chinese companies, businessmen, investors and the private sector are keen to make befitting propositions in the formation/building of industrial parks and agricultural parks in Azerbaijan. In this connection, the “Trade Department of Azerbaijan” was opened in the G-Hub shopping centre in Wuhan (Hubei province) during 2022 which will sell food industry products manufactured in Azerbaijan under the “Made in Azerbaijan” brand.

Azerbaijan is a strategically located country that plays a key role in the BRI. Azerbaijan’s location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia makes it a key part of the BRI’s transport corridors, which are designed to facilitate the flow of goods, services, capital and knowledge between communities, countries and continents.

The transport corridors are expected to enhance trade and investment, promote economic integration and support sustainable development in the region in which Azerbaijan’s participation in the BRI is expected to provide new “economic opportunities” for the country, including increased foreign investment and the development of its transportation infrastructure.

For the further strengthening of trilateral trade Pakistan’s NLC started a container trading mechanism by crossing Taftan and reaching its final destination Istanbul through Gurbulak Border Terminal via Iran. Other vehicles also departed for Azerbaijan’s capital Baku which reached its destination in 7-8 days. Interestingly, the NLC, the country’s premier multimodal logistics organization planned to extend commercial operations to other Central Asian Republics (CARs) and China in future as well, in order to improve economic stability and integrate Pakistan’s market with those in the region.

In this connection, NLC has been awarded Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) admission by Pakistan National Transport Union for regional transport operations. It started IRT operations to Turkey and Azerbaijan which has been dubbed as a new era of connectivity through trucking under the Ministry of Commerce's Silk Route reconnect policy.

To conclude, in the further development, expansion, connectivity, cooperation, coordination and last but not the least collaboration of the Chinese BRI is heavily dependent on the role of Azerbaijan which is "paramount", "permanent" and "participatory".

The government of Azerbaijan and its policy makers should seek more and more investment from the Chinese companies and private sector under the flagship project of the BRI for the rapid "socio-economic uplift" and "robust infrastructure" development in the newly liberated areas of Karabakh.

In this regard, the Government of Azerbaijan should encourage the Chinese companies to make investment in "green living", "green energy production", "hydro-power generation", "smart living", "production of renewables (solar & wind)", "organic agriculture", "cash crops", "hybrid seeds", "disaster management" and last but not least, joint ventures in combating "climate change" in these areas transforming it as the most attractive areas for inflows of FDIs, and FPIs in the days to come.

Moreover, joint cooperation in "smart technologies", "AI", "science & technology", promotion of "software houses", "e-commerce", "SME", "micro-financing", production of "lithium" batteries and last but not the least, "blue & green hydrogen energy projects" may also be included in the ongoing BRI projects in Azerbaijan, especially in newly liberated areas.

The early initiation and completion of "Zangezur Corridor" would be a "game changer" for Azerbaijan's greater regional connectivity and trans-regional trade & commerce activities on a regular basis with the easiest, smoothest and shortest trade route connecting all the regional countries in the days to come.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is the "land of fire" and has firm belief in "fraternity not fatality", "cooperation not conspiracy", "development not destruction" and always prefers "dialogue and diplomacy" to resolve the regional disputes.

In this regard, valuable "economic incentives", "socio-politico cooperation" and true "statesmanship" of Azerbaijan under the visionary leadership of incumbent president Ilham Aliyev would bring greater regional stability, peace and harmony in the South Caucasus and Eurasian region under the flagship project of BRI.

<https://pakobserver.net/bri-role-of-azerbaijan-in-regional-transport-connectivity-by-dr-mehmood-ul-hassan-khan/>

The Nation

Chinese universities to award certificates to Gwadar students

Islamabad - The University of Gwadar's Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialisation (ORIC) has entered into a collaboration with TANG International

education Group, China, enabling students and employees from the university to enroll in different online short courses at reputed universities and colleges in China. Gwadar Pro quoting an official notification reported that students who meet the criteria would be enrolled in different Chinese institutions, including Hunan Polytechnic of Environment and Biology, Yangzhou Vocational Technical College, Loudi Vocational and Technical College, Shanghai Urban Construction Vocational College, and Beijing Business School. The areas of study include biological medicine, agriculture science, mechanical engineering, and CIT/sT.

The courses include fundamentals of psychology, pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical technology, pharmaceutical analysis, production technology of poultry, and hybrid rice technology. Under CIT/sT, the students will learn an overview of the Python language, Python's basic elements, and get to know the turtle and turtle brush setting.

Upon completion of each course, a participant will receive a certificate from the respective Chinese university, while a participant with good grades on each course will be awarded gifts like a laptop, a mobile phone, and other electronic gadgets, according to the official statement.

There is no maximum or minimum course limit for the participants. For online registration, students can visit the university's website and fill out an online form to register for the course of their choice.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-12/page-4/detail-7>

First group of Pakistani tourists enters China through Khunjerab Pass

BEIJING - The first group of Pakistani tourists have entered China through Khunjerab Pass, a major land route at the China-Pakistan border. As many as five Pakistani tourists crossed into the Chinese territory after completing border and immigration checks a few days ago, China Radio International (CRI) reported.

The pass connecting Gilgit Baltistan and China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region officially resumed the entry and exit of passengers this week after a closure of three years in wake of Covid-19 restrictions.

The port authorities on the Chinese side have completed all necessary measures regarding Covid-19 pandemic before the start of the arrival of goods from Pakistan. Similarly, Pakistani border authorities were also instructed to take all measures regarding Covid-19, ensuring the containment of the disease. Khunjerab Pass generally opens from April 1 to November 30 every year, and remains closed from December 1 to March 31 every year.

However, the two countries are making efforts to keep border open all year round to further bolster trade and people-to-people linkage. All out efforts are also being made to resume bus service between Pakistan and China through Khunjerab Pass to provide economical means of transportation to Pakistani people participating students studying in China.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-12/page-15/detail-1>

April 13, 2023

Daily Times

Sanjrani lauds China for bringing peace in region

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan and China have reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields for mutual benefit of the two countries.

The need for collective efforts to promote peace, prosperity and development in the region was emphasized by both sides during a meeting between Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and a three-member delegation of the Chinese Embassy, including Charge de' Affaires Ms Pang Chunxue, Political Counselor Ms Bao Zhong and Third Secretary Ms Dong Wenli held here Wednesday, said a news release.

The meeting also underlined the importance of enhancing cooperation in all fields, including Information Technology. During the meeting, the Chairman Senate congratulated President Xi Jinping, the Chinese government and the people on his re-election as President for the third consecutive term.

He also praised China's efforts to establish peace in the region, noting that China played a key role in bringing together Saudi Arabia and Iran, which is commendable. Sanjrani highlighted that both countries had stood by each other in all kinds of situations and supported each other on every platform.

He also acknowledged China's investment in Pakistan, which had provided new employment opportunities for youth, and noted that with the completion of CPEC, the entire region would develop and open new avenues for further investment. The chairman reiterated that Pakistan was committed to the timely completion of the CPEC project, which had enormous potential to contribute to the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

Ms. Pang expressed her country's desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation with Pakistan, noting that Pakistan is China's closest friend. She added that her country would share its experiences with Pakistan, which would help in its social and economic prosperity.

The Chairman Senate underlined that the "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership" between the two countries would take the bilateral relationship to new heights, and both time-tested friends had always stood by each other through thick and thin.

The meeting concluded with a reaffirmation of the commitment to further strengthen and deepen the bilateral relationship between Pakistan and China in various fields, which would contribute to regional peace, stability, and development.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/assets/uploads/2023/04/a2-Copy-1.jpg>

Dawn News

Two ‘BLF militants’ held for planning attack on Chinese

Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested two suspected militants, said to be associated with the outlawed Balochistan Liberation Front (BLF), for allegedly planning to carry out an attack against Chinese nationals to mark the first anniversary of the suicide bombing on the campus of Karachi University.

Malir SSP Hassan Sardar Niazi told a press conference at his office that suspects Murad and Waris were planning an act of terrorism in connection with the April 26 death anniversary of female suicide bomber Shari Baloch.

He said that both the suspects lived in Lyari and were part of the banned BLF.

He said that they worked for BLF militant Ali Hasan Sangu, who was hiding in Iran.

“The held suspects have planned to target Chinese nationals in Karachi for which they already completed recce,” he said, adding: “They were planning to sabotage the CPEC.”

The official said that the police came to know about the suspects during the investigations of a grenade attack on a mobile van of the Shah Latif police station on March 29. He said that the proscribed BLF had claimed for the grenade attack through social media.

He said that the CCTV footage of the incident showed the held suspects riding on two motorbikes.

The SSP said that their handlers asked them to go to Turbat and return to Karachi on April 26 to carry out the attack.

On April 26, 2022, Shari Baloch, mother of two children, had carried out a suicide attack outside the Confucius Institute on KU premises and killed three Chinese teachers and their local driver. The outlawed Balochistan Liberation Army had claimed responsibility for the attack.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1747311/two-blf-militants-held-for-planning-attack-on-chinese#:~:text=KARACHI%3A%20Police%20on%20Wednesday%20claimed,the%20campus%20of%20Karachi%20University.>

Pakistan, China vow to boost bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Wednesday reaffirmed their commitment towards enhancing bilateral cooperation in various fields for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

The need for collective efforts to promote peace, prosperity, and development in the region was emphasised by both sides during a meeting between Chairman Senate Mohammad Sadiq Sanjrani and a three-member delegation of the Chinese Embassy, including Charge de’ Affaires Pang Chunxue, Bao Zhong, political counsellor and Dong Wenli, third secretary.

The meeting also underlined the importance of enhancing cooperation in all fields, including information technology (IT).

During the meeting, Senate Chairman Sanjrani congratulated President Xi Jinping, the Chinese government, and the people on his re-election as president for the third consecutive term. He also praised China's efforts to establish peace in the region, noting that China played a key role in bringing together Saudi Arabia and Iran, which is commendable.

He highlighted that both countries had stood by each other in all kinds of situations and supported each other on every platform. He also acknowledged China's investment in Pakistan, which has provided new employment opportunities for the youth, and noted that with the completion of CPEC, the entire region would develop and open new avenues for further investment.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1747329/pakistan-china-vow-to-boost-bilateral-cooperation>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese delegates to visit COMSTECH

A high level delegation of Chinese scientists and Industrialists will visit COMSTECH Secretariat to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote cooperation for research and development.

The MoU will help in the fields of natural products, biotechnology, molecular and cell biology and traditional medicine through institutional.

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-delegates-to-visit-comstech/>

April 14, 2023

Daily Times

Solar power generation excellent choice for Pakistan: Liu Yiyang

Solar power generation has made a huge contribution to the global fight against climate change, which is an excellent choice for a climate-vulnerable country like Pakistan, said Liu Yiyang, Deputy Secretary-General and Press Spokesperson of China Photovoltaic Industry Association (CPIA).

Growing number of companies and organizations are catching the tide, showing an increase by leaps and bounds of Pakistan's solar consumption.

"Pakistan's Solar Energy Market is expected to record a CAGR of 2.5 percent during the period from 2022 to 2027, with Net Metering Based Solar Installations and Power Generation grew by 102 percent and 108 percent respectively," a KTrade Securities analyst told China Economic Net.

"Pakistan and China are a perfect match for collaboration on renewable energy (solar PV) as China is a globally known giant when it comes to renewable energy technology, while Pakistan is in need of moving away from thermal to renewable for power generation, KTrade Securities solar PV industry report indicated. Apart from behemoth such as Zonergy 96100 MW solar power project that located at Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park in Bahawalpur, China's

efforts are also reaching millions of households in remote areas in the form of micro-power plants.

The Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organisation (PEDO) is constructing solar PV mini grid stations to provide electricity to some districts. One of the initial projects is in Jandola, with components for the setup are mainly being imported from China. The mini-grid here would supply electricity to hundreds of shops in Jandola Bazaar, where unannounced load shedding has been a longstanding issue for local traders. Uninterrupted, cheap, green and clean energy will no longer be out of reach for the business community here. In 2022, China's export of PV products exceeded USD 50 billion for the first time, a year-on-year increase of more than 80 percent. "Pakistan, as a key emerging market in South Asia, is expected to reach a new level in PV development this year," Liu told the reporter. Last but not least, supporting systems used to improve power stability should also be developed in parallel.

The "source-network-load-storage" integrated model has been started in China's Qinghai, Xinjiang and other areas with similar climate and terrain to Pakistan. It is entirely feasible to share relevant experience with Pakistani counterparts.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1083620/solar-power-generation-excellent-choice-for-pakistan-liu-yiyang/>

The Nation

Hina, Qin Gang reaffirm Pak-China all-weather strategic cooperation

SHAFQAT ALI

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China yesterday reaffirmed Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar held a meeting with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the 4th Meeting of the Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan in Samarkand.

"During the meeting, they reaffirmed Pak-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership and their commitment to peace and stability in Afghanistan," an official statement said.

The second quadrilateral meeting of Iran, Russia, China and Pakistan on Afghanistan was held yesterday in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on the sidelines of the fourth meeting of Afghanistan's neighboring countries. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Sergei Lavrov, Qin Gang and Hina Rabbani Khar took part in the meeting and discussed the current situation in Afghanistan. The first quadrilateral meeting was held on September 16, 2022 on the sidelines of the Shanghai Summit in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan. In that meeting, the foreign ministers of four countries supported the formation of an inclusive government with the participation of all ethnic groups in Afghanistan.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/E-Paper/islamabad/2023-04-14/page-12/detail-2>

Jang News

پاکستان کو چین سے 30 کروڑ ڈالر موصول

وزارت خزانہ نے تصدیق کی ہے کہ پاکستان کو چین سے مزید 30 کروڑ ڈالر موصول ہو گئے۔

ذرائع وزارت خزانہ کے مطابق مجموعی طور پر چین کے بینک نے پاکستان کو 1 ارب 30 کروڑ ڈالر قرض فراہم کیا ہے۔

ذرائع کے مطابق یہ رقم چین کے آئی سی بی سی بینک سے کمرشل قرض کے طور پر ملی ہے، اس سے پہلے دو قسطوں میں پاکستان کو 1 ارب ڈالر موصول ہو چکے ہیں۔

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1215558>

April 15, 2023

Daily Times

China, Pakistan to work together for art preservation

China, Pakistan will be working together for Art preservation through latest technology, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday.

For centuries, artisans in Pakistan have been creating beautiful works of art in the form of stone craft. However, with the passage of time and changing tastes, to preserve this valuable cultural heritage, Pakistan should further learn from China's successful efforts to preserve their own ancient art.

Dr. Mahmood-ul-Hasan, a senior official, Department of Archaeology and Museums Islamabad told CEN that by studying how China has successfully preserved their own ancient Gandhara art and applying similar methods to Pakistani stone crafts, Pakistan can ensure that these beautiful works are preserved for generations to come.

“Pakistan has a rich cultural heritage, particularly in the form of Gandhara art. However, due to a lack of resources and infrastructure, it is difficult for Pakistani artisans to preserve this ancient art. In order to better preserve this precious cultural asset, Pakistan should look to China for guidance and inspiration” he said.

He stated that Chinese culture has a long history of preserving traditional arts and crafts through the use of modern technology and techniques. By learning from China's example, Pakistani artisans can ensure that their country's unique cultural heritage is preserved for future generations.

“During my visit to China, I was really amazed to see the technologies and latest methods that China is using to preserve their art and culture which is outstanding. We visited many historical places like the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Summer Place and different Museums here”, he told CEN.

It is worth mentioning that China-Pakistan Gandhara Art Exhibition was inaugurated last month in Beijing and the exhibition at the Palace Museum showcases 173 finest examples of Gandhara art, including sculptures of Buddha, bodhisattvas, deities, objects of daily use, and jewelry items, selected from seven museums in Pakistan.

“Pakistan takes great pride in its rich cultural heritage, and the exhibition of Gandhara art at the Palace Museum is a testament to this fact. It is also an opportunity for the Chinese people to appreciate the artistic and cultural traditions of Pakistan and this exhibition is a testament to the deep and abiding friendship between our two countries.

The relationship between Pakistan and China is one that has stood the test of time”, he added. He further said that a large number of Buddhist sculptures with Gandhara influence and Kharosthi inscriptions recovered from the Buddhist sites of the ancient Silk Routs are now kept in the National Museum of Chin, similarly Chinese inscriptions and rock carvings depicting Chinese-style Buddhist Pagodas found in Gilgit Baltistan area, along the Karakorum Highway.

They are the glaring examples of cultural relations spread over millennia. “I would like to reiterate that the exhibition of Gandhara art at the Palace Museum is a celebration of the artistic and cultural legacy of Pakistan and an opportunity for us to deepen the bonds of friendship and understanding between our two great nations. I hope that visitors to the exhibition will be inspired by the beauty and complexity of these ancient artifacts and that they will leave with a greater appreciation for the rich cultural heritage of Pakistan”.

Mahmood noted that these artifacts provide a glimpse into the artistic and cultural milieu of the Gandhara region, and the complex interactions between different civilizations and religions in the ancient world.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1083782/china-pakistan-to-work-together-for-art-preservation/>

SBP to receive \$300m from Chinese bank

Finance and Revenue Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday said the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will receive third and last disbursement of \$300 million from China’s Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC). Taking to Twitter, he said ICBC would release last tranche of \$300m from \$1.3 billion loan facility (which was earlier repaid by Pakistan). The minister said the latest transaction would shore up the foreign exchange reserves of the country. “Out of Chinese Bank ICBC’s approved facility of \$1.3 billion (which was earlier repaid by Pakistan), State Bank of Pakistan would receive back third and last disbursement today in its account amounting to \$ 300 million. It will shore up forex reserves of Pakistan” Dar said in the tweet. On March 3, the ICBC had approved a rollover of a \$1.3bn loan for Pakistan and made the first payment of \$500m the same day. The second one also worth \$500m was made on March 17.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1083887/sbp-to-receive-300m-from-chinese-bank/>

Khunjerab Pass reopening brings great prosperity

Khunjerab Pass reopening will bring great prosperity, said Ajmal Khan, Vice President Gilgit-Baltistan Chamber Of Commerce, in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN). “Khunjerab Pass is a great blessing for the people of Gilgit-Baltistan because this is where trade takes place. There is no industry here. People here are either employed or their employment depends on trade across the border,” said Ajmal Khan.

The Khunjerab Pass, the only official crossing between China and Pakistan, resumed two way passenger traffic on April 3. Connecting Gilgit-Baltistan with China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, it was shuttered in 2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. Before COVID-19, exports were mainly pine nuts. Pine nuts from Diamer in GB, Bannu in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa used to pass through Khunjerab Pass. When pine nuts were being exported, about Rs 4-5 billion can be earned, said Imran Ali, President of Gilgit-Baltistan Chamber Of Commerce.

“Currently, the highest demand in China is for cherry from Gilgit-Baltistan. Cherry of Gilgit-Baltistan is considered to be the best quality cherry in the world,” said Imran Ali. “The cherry of Gilgit-Baltistan ranks 7th in the world. It is flavorful, delicious and of good quality. When it is exported, we will get yuan or dollars from there,” said Ajmal Khan.

Apart from this, walnuts are exported from Gilgit-Baltistan, and also seasonal fruits that come from Punjab like mangoes. Earlier rice has been exported as well, Ajmal Khan added. However, Khunjerab Pass lacks facilities for some exports. Due to hot water treatment and certification, Pakistan faces a lot of export difficulties despite demand for dry fruits and fresh fruits from China, Imran Ali pointed out.

Pakistan has two projects running close to Khunjerab Pass. One project is Diamer-Bhasha Dam, which requires heavy machinery. For CPEC mega projects, machinery is brought by sea which takes two and a half months. However, it takes them 10-15 days only to get their equipment to the project site through Khunjerab Pass, said Imran Ali.

In addition, Imran Ali told CEN that bus service is important because passengers can fit more in the bus as the luggage they carry with them is in the form of bags. Since there is space in the bus, local traders can bring with them small merchandise in the form of bags in the bus. Moreover, tourists also come and go in both directions by bus, and there are more people going in the bus, so bus service is necessary.

“As gateway of CPEC is Gilgit-Baltistan, road here needs to be widened and a tunnel needs to be built. Due to such hindrance, our import and export is less than other ports. About Rs 6-7 billion worth of goods is traded annually through this border,” said Imran Ali. At roughly 16,000 feet above sea level, Khunjerab Pass is one of the highest border crossings in the world.

“Pakistani government should build tunnels. If the tunnels are built, traffic will be available twelve months of a year. If not twelve months, at least from the 1st of March to the 30th of December, we can trade comfortably,” said Ajmal Khan.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1083848/khunjerab-pass-reopening-brings-great-prosperity/>

Pakistan Observer

Chinese scientists, industrialists to visit Pakistan on Apr 27

A high-level delegation of Chinese scientists and industrialists will visit Pakistan to strengthen cooperation in traditional medicine and related biomedical sciences among the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

According to COMSTECH, the delegation of Chinese scientists and industrialists will sign an MoU to promote cooperation in research and development in the fields of natural products, biotechnology, molecular and cell biology, and traditional medicine through institutional and industrial linkages.

The ceremony will be held at COMSTECH Secretariat Islamabad on April 27.—APP

<https://pakobserver.net/chinese-scientists-industrialists-to-visit-pakistan-on-apr-27/>

The Express Tribune

Rupee recovers on \$300m Chinese financing

Inflows will shore up forex reserves, defend currency

KARACHI: China was set to lend \$300 million to Pakistan on Friday night and the much-needed inflow of financing would somewhat stabilise Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves and defend the fast depreciating rupee against the US dollar.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar wrote on his Twitter handle, "Out of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China's (ICBC) approved facility of \$1.3 billion (which was earlier repaid by Pakistan), SBP would receive back third and last disbursement on Friday in its account amounting to \$300 million. It will shore up the forex reserves."

With the receipt of \$300 million, Chinese financing will amount to \$2 billion in the past almost two months. This is in addition to the rollover of another \$2 billion loan by Beijing.

The inflows have not only improved Pakistan's forex reserves but have also provided support to the rupee.

The domestic currency maintained its uptrend for the third consecutive working day on Friday, regaining 0.18%, or Rs0.51, to a two-week high at Rs284.40 against the dollar in inter-bank market.

Cumulatively, in the past three days, the currency recovered 1.42%, or Rs4.03, compared to the all-time low of Rs288.43/\$ hit on April 11, 2023.

Meanwhile, gold price hit a new all-time high at Rs218,600 per tola (11.66 grams) on Friday in line with the global trend.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2412025/rupee-recovers-on-300m-chinese-financing>

Nawaiwaqt News

نجی بس سروس کا اسلام آباد، چینی شہر تاشکورگان کیلئے سروس شروع کرنے کا اعلان

لاہور (این این آئی) پاکستان کی ایک نجی بس سروس نے عید الفطر کے بعد اسلام آباد اور چین کے شہر تاشکورگان کے درمیان سروس شروع کرنے کا اعلان کیا ہے۔ کمپنی کے ایک نمائندے نے گوادر پر کو بتایا کہ اسلام آباد سے تاشکورگان تک سروس 13 مئی 2023 کو شروع ہو جائے گی۔ پہلے مرحلے میں 28 سیٹوں کی گنجائش کے ساتھ منی یونٹنگ بس چلائی جائے گی۔ یہ سفر ایئریشن کے عمل سمیت تقریباً 38 گھنٹے کا ہو گا۔ مسافر سوسٹ بارڈر پر ایک رات قیام بھی کریں گے۔ کرائے کا تخمینہ 60 ہزار روپے لگایا گیا ہے۔ نمائندے کے مطابق سفر کے لئے ضروری تقاضوں میں اصل پاسپورٹ/کاپی، اصل ویزا/کاپی، درست ویزا اور چین کا دعوت نامہ (ویزا کیٹیگری

(شامل ہے۔ اس سروس کے آغاز کا ان پاکستانیوں نے بڑے پیمانے پر خیر مقدم کیا جو زمینی راستے سے چین جانا چاہتے تھے۔ پاکستان الپائن کلب کے سیکرٹری کرار حیدری نے کہا کہ اس اقدام سے خطے میں سیاحت کو فروغ ملے گا۔ 2019 میں مذکورہ کمپنی نے راولپنڈی، اسلام آباد اور چین کے شہر تاشکورگن کے درمیان بس سروس شروع کی تھی لیکن کورونا وبا کی وجہ سے اس میں تعطل آگیا تھا۔ راولپنڈی، اسلام آباد سے تاشکورگن پہنچنے میں بس کو تقریباً 25 گھنٹے لگتے ہیں۔

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2023-04-15/page-6/detail-13>

Chinese Newspapers

April 02, 2023

Xinhuanet News

Coal power plant under CPEC boosts socio-economic development in Pakistan

THARPARKAR, Pakistan, April 2 (Xinhua) -- Mazhar Ali Khan, a 27-year-old mechanical engineer, works as an associate shift lead in a central control room at Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project, an energy cooperation project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

At the plant located in the warm desert region in the southeastern part of Pakistan's southern Sindh province, Khan reports to a Chinese shift lead who gives him the commands which he further distributes to other Pakistani and Chinese engineers.

The young engineer from the under-developed Hyderabad city of Sindh, who had received Employee of the CPEC project and Best Model Employee of the Year awards in 2022, said the technology being used in this coal plant is very advanced and suitable for utilization of indigenous coal.

"The Chinese staffs are always supportive and guide us because they have already operated such plants in different overseas projects," he said.

The plant has two 660-megawatt high-parameter coal-fired generating units, supported by an annual output of 7.8 million tons of lignite open-pit coal mine. This high-parameter and large-capacity generation technology is being used for the first time in the country.

Thar Coal Block-I Coal Electricity Integration project has recently been inaugurated formally by Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif after it was officially put into commercial operation in early February. It has the capacity to fulfill the electricity demand of 4 million households in Pakistan.

Talking to Xinhua, Meng Donghai, CEO of the project, said that based on local coal from Thar, Pakistan is generating cost-effective electricity.

This would help the country in reducing its fuel imports, saving foreign exchange reserves, and enhancing national energy security, he added.

Thar Coal Block-1 Power Generation Company Private Limited and Sino Sindh Resources Private Limited, as subsidiaries of Shanghai Electric, are managing the entire project and will keep the task for the next 30 years.

"We want to build this enterprise into an outstanding energy enterprise in Pakistan and we hope to become a benchmark in this industry in terms of production safety, leading technical indicators and corporate social responsibility (CSR)," said Meng.

Like other CPEC projects, Thar Coal Block-1 highlights CSR and has been involved in extensive CSR projects aimed at changing the lives of locals in Thar, eliminating poverty, improving medical facilities, educating the locals and creating job opportunities. The project has provided more than 18,000 direct employment opportunities for the locals.

Li Jigen, CEO of the coal mine project of Thar Coal Block-1, told Xinhua that from the beginning of the construction in 2019 to the end of 2022, the project had invested about 1.3 million U.S. dollars in fulfilling its CSR.

The future course of CSR includes the Green Thar project focusing on tree plantation, increasing employment, and skills development, as well as contributing to the South Asian country in case of floods and other disasters during the 30-year operation, Li added.

Khan said that an electrostatic precipitator had been installed in the plant which traps potentially hazardous fly ash.

Additionally, an absorption tower has also been set up to reduce sulfur oxides emissions in order to safeguard the environment, he said.

<https://english.news.cn/20230402/09e576643bf24475a6d782892802785e/c.html>

April 03, 2023

Global Times

CPEC projects transforming Pakistan's economic landscape: minister

Through CPEC energy projects, Pakistan has been able to overcome its energy shortage, and the people of Pakistan will never forget that China helped them at a time when the whole country was plunged into darkness due to power shortages, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives of Pakistan Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary said in Beijing on Monday.

He also expressed appreciation for China's positive and key role in helping to normalize relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran. "This will give great impetus for regional peace and trade," he said.

Chaudhary is currently in Beijing after attending the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2023 which ended on March 31. During his time in Beijing, the minister had in-depth conversations with representatives of Chinese enterprises and think tanks.

The minister told representatives of Chinese companies that he appreciated the contribution of Chinese firms in the success of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Pakistan is also eyeing solar energy investment, he said, and the government has announced a special initiative for it.

He stressed that the CPEC plays an important role in facilitating modernization of infrastructure in Pakistan and the projects contribute to the country's socio-economic development.

In the meetings with enterprise representatives, the minister assured them that Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is personally supervising the progress of CPEC projects and the new government is committed to maintaining the same speed of development seen with the CPEC from 2013-18.

Recently, Prime Minister Sharif inaugurated a new coal power project built under the framework of the CPEC. He said that the project will give a big boost to Pakistan's economy in the coming years.

"China appreciates the remarks of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. As the prime minister said, this project is transforming Thar, a desert region, into a power source for the whole of Pakistan and serving Pakistan's economy and people's wellbeing," said China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning at a regular media briefing on March 28.

"This project is an epitome of the CPEC. As an important flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative, CPEC has made good headway with fruitful outcomes in energy cooperation. The cooperation has created many jobs for the local community and helped improve the energy mix and energy security in Pakistan. China stands ready to work with Pakistan to implement the common understandings between the leaders of the two countries, and advance high-quality CPEC cooperation. This will inject impetus into the sustainable development of Pakistan's economy and society, and bring more benefits to the two countries and peoples," Mao said.

The Pakistani minister also highlighted the special friendship and iron brotherhood between China and Pakistan, which he said is time-tested and timeless. He said he hoped to enhance people-to-people contacts to further explore the rich history and cultural heritage in both countries, as well as their natural beauty. During his stay in Beijing, he also met with representatives of leading Chinese think tanks on Sunday. He told them that the CPEC early-harvest projects have transformed Pakistan's economic landscape, laying solid foundations for sustainable economic growth. The minister emphasized that both China and Pakistan should "continue to expedite efforts to achieve Gwadar's potential as a hub of regional commerce and industry, while also prioritizing work on ML-1 and other key energy projects."

China has become Pakistan's largest investment and trade partner in the last 10 years due to the CPEC, and both sides are keen to maintain the momentum of overall economic and trade ties in future as well, Chaudhary said.

"The next phase of the CPEC envisages industrial cooperation and business to business links," he said. He also underscored the need to learn from Chinese experience of export sector development, as a permanent solution to Pakistan's economic crisis lies in fast and speedy growth of exports.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288506.shtml>

April 04, 2023

Xinhuanet News

**Pakistan to work with other SCO countries to achieve common goals:
official**

ISLAMABAD, April 4 (Xinhua) -- Pakistan is looking forward to working with all countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to achieve common goals, said an adviser to the Pakistani prime minister.

Adviser to Pakistani Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture Amir Muqam said on Monday that Pakistan attaches great importance to the SCO and strongly believes that "it is a unique platform to celebrate our commonalities and to work together to forge a common future marked by our rich cultural heritage."

Addressing the 20th meeting of ministers of culture of the member states of the SCO virtually, the adviser who has the portfolio of the federal minister said, "We are ready to collaborate with SCO member states by launching joint initiatives, projects and programs."

"We strongly believe that cooperation in all fields of culture is crucial to promoting mutual understanding and cooperation among our member states," said the official, adding that the cooperation would ensure the effective exchanges of folk artists, research scholars, museums technicians and managers as well as arts and craft experts.

The adviser told the participants of the meeting that Pakistan is home to a variety of ancient sites and historic structures and "these archeological wonders are a reminder of the region's rich cultural heritage."

The official reiterated his belief that cultural relations among SCO member states are crucial for promoting mutual understanding, building bridges of friendship, and strengthening cultural ties.

He said that SCO has become an important platform for the participating countries to enhance their cultural exchanges and promote mutual understanding.

Describing the diverse cultural and historical traditions the SCO member states have, the adviser stressed the need to "focus on the role of technology in promoting cultural exchanges" to expand such cooperation at the SCO platform.

Pakistan joined the SCO in 2017.

<https://english.news.cn/20230404/95307d7b1e0c475888035c82850eeae6/c.html>

April 05, 2023

People's Daily

China-Pakistan border port in Xinjiang resumes passenger clearance

URUMQI, April 4 (Xinhua) -- The Khunjerab Pass, a major land port on the China-Pakistan border in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, resumed passenger customs clearance on Monday, said local authorities.

The import and export cargo volume at the Khunjerab Pass topped 200,000 tonnes from 2016 to 2020, according to the Khunjerab customs.

Located approximately 5,000 meters above sea level, the Khunjerab Pass is a major trade station between China and Pakistan, and an important gateway to South Asia and Europe. China imports mainly textiles, agricultural products and daily commodities at the land port, and exports mainly plants and herbs.

(Web editor: Zhong Wenxing, Wu Chaolan)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0405/c90000-20001700.html>

April 11, 2023

China Daily

Initiative offers path to shared prosperity

On the eve of the 10th anniversary of the proposal of the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind, President Xi Jinping unveiled the visionary Global Civilization Initiative during a global gathering of political parties centered on the theme "Path Towards Modernization: The Responsibility of Political Parties".

Along with Xi, who is also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, nearly 500 representatives from political parties, organizations and think tanks from across the world participated in the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting, including heads of state of friendly countries.

In 2013, Xi proposed building a community with a shared future for mankind and later the Belt and Road Initiative. One of the important parts of the BRI is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which has made a tremendous contribution to economic development across Pakistan.

President Xi's proposal for a global network of intercivilizational dialogue and cooperation aligns with his vision of promoting international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. The Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative form a comprehensive approach to promoting world peace, security, development and harmony.

The Global Civilization Initiative builds upon the inherent strengths of China. It seeks to foster deep interactions between civilizations across the globe, evolve common values and share the goals of prosperity and development. By leveraging the strength of a new type of

party-to-party relations, the CPC is committed to expanding global partnerships and building a new type of international relations that prioritizes people's interests.

The vision for global cooperation and shared prosperity underscores the importance of prioritizing people's aspirations for a better life and advancing modernization in a people-centered way.

As Xi emphasized, the ultimate goal of modernization is the free and well-rounded development of the people, and modernization must not solely be measured by indicators and statistics on paper, but must deliver a happy and stable life for the people.

By working together to address the challenges facing humanity and realizing this shared vision for the future, we can promote the sustainable development of humanity and ensure that the rights and interests of future generations are protected.

The Global Civilization Initiative reflects China's commitment to pursuing peaceful coexistence and tolerance at the global level. This initiative aligns with the rejuvenation of the China Dream, which seeks happiness, peace and prosperity not only for the Chinese people but for the entire world.

With nearly one-fifth of the world's population, China recognizes its responsibility to the global community and aims to spearhead efforts for mutual learning, equality, inclusiveness and dialogue. President Xi's vision aims to create shared values for human civilization, including democracy, equity, justice, peace, development and freedom.

The idea of mutual coexistence is not mere rhetoric but a well-thought-out policy with guiding principles, the foremost of which is to promote intercivilizational dialogue and transnational cooperation to pave the way for an interconnected human civilization. This intervention is timely and significant, given the challenges faced by humanity, including economic slowdown, environmental degradation and a lingering Cold War mentality.

Xi's emphasis on international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation is key to building a global network for intercivilizational dialogue and cooperation. By expanding partnerships with political parties and organizations worldwide, the CPC seeks to deepen interactions and expand the convergence of ideas and interests.

China's leadership believes that core human values should be global in scope and applicable to all. Thus, justice, equitable access to resources, social harmony and world peace are the key determinants of global civilization.

The Global Civilization Initiative promises protection against intolerance, insecurity, inequality, injustice and underdevelopment across societies.

This commitment testifies to China's genuine belief in global prosperity, common values and shared civilization, and the international response reflects global trust in the Chinese leadership and the suitability of China to lead the world in challenging times.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202304/11/WS6434b4bfa31057c47ebb9642.html>

April 12, 2023

China Daily

Pakistan's Ambassador: Global Civilization Initiative brings peace, harmony

In a recent interview with China Daily, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque shared his views on the friendship between China and Pakistan. According to him, Pakistan has always welcomed all the important initiatives put forward by China, including the Belt and Road Initiative, of which Pakistan is a proud partner, and the Global Development Initiative, for which Pakistan is the first partner country. Moin ul Haque also highlighted the importance of the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative.

The ambassador emphasized the need to learn from the past, particularly from the many different civilizations that have flourished throughout history. He also spoke highly about the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, which he referred to as a flagship project of the BRI. He described the CPEC as a "game changer" that has transformed the economic landscape of Pakistan. He noted that all the projects under the CPEC are focused on people, and expressed pride in the partnership between China and Pakistan.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202304/12/WS64362597a31057c47ebb9b42.html>

Global Times

Culture Beat: Gandhara art exhibition

An exhibition of ancient Gandhara art is now underway at the Palace Museum in Beijing.

The exhibition showcases a total of 203 artifacts, of which 173 come from seven museums in Pakistan and 30 from the Palace Museum. Ancient Gandhara was a thriving center of trade along the Silk Road.

Gandhara archaeological sites mainly spread across the southern end of the present-day Hindu Kush and Karakorum mountain ranges in northern Pakistan. This also is an area of the ancient Silk Road that intersected with Mediterranean civilization, Iranian civilization and Indian civilization.

China and Pakistan are both ancient civilizations on the Silk Road with a long history of cultural and artistic exchanges. Historical records show that between 400AD and 630AD, ancient Chinese monks traveled to Pakistan and left written materials about Gandhara culture. Chinese artifacts, inscriptions, and coins have also been discovered in many archaeological sites in Pakistan, giving remarkable evidence of historical China-Pakistan exchanges.

The exhibition, lasting until June 15, aims to demonstrate the artistic charm of Gandhara culture and its far-reaching influence on China and East Asia.

'Journey to the West'

It is hard to define the new movie Journey to the West. For many comedy lovers, its over-exploration of realism gives the film a layer of sadness; yet for science fiction fans, the movie, with a theme of searching for alien life, is not scientific enough.

For most people, the protagonist Tang Zhijun, a lonely and frustrated editor, is a typical paranoid outsider who has difficulty having an ordinary social life. With his passion for alien life, Tang then decides to take a journey to find extraterrestrials with a group of like-minded friends.

The movie took its name directly from one of China's Four Great Classical Novels Journey to the West.

Just like Tang Sanzang, the protagonist in the movie is also a person with "great love and lofty ideals."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289039.shtml>

April 14, 2023

China Daily

Joint statement of 2nd informal meeting on Afghanistan by FMs of China, Russia, Pakistan, Iran

SAMARKAND, Uzbekistan - Foreign ministers of China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran on Thursday held the second informal meeting on the Afghan issue in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

The ministers reaffirmed their respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and their support for the determination of the country's political future and development path in accordance with the principle of "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned."

A peaceful and stable Afghanistan serves the common interests of the international community, and Afghanistan should become a platform for international cooperation rather than a site of geopolitical rivalry, the ministers emphasized.

The ministers paid close attention to the current security situation involving terrorism in Afghanistan, and stressed that the terrorist organizations in Afghanistan, including the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), al-Qaeda, the East Turkistan Islamic Movement, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Balochistan Liberation Army and the Jaish al-Adl, continue to pose a major threat to regional and even global security.

The ministers took note of the operation carried out by the Afghan interim government against the ISKP, and urged it to take more visible and verifiable measures to fulfill its counter-terrorism commitments, disintegrate and eliminate all types of terrorist organizations and prevent the territory of Afghanistan from being used by any terrorist forces.

The ministers emphasized that the Afghan authorities should take effective measures to ensure the safety and legitimate rights and interests of foreign institutions and citizens in Afghanistan. Perpetrators of any attacks or threats against foreign institutions and personnel in Afghanistan should be held accountable.

The foreign ministers pointed out that NATO members should bear the primary responsibility for the current plight in Afghanistan. They should create opportunities for Afghanistan's economic development and prosperity, immediately lift unilateral sanctions against Afghanistan, and return Afghanistan's overseas assets for the benefit of the Afghan people.

The ministers emphasized that dialogue and negotiation are the only way to achieve a political solution to the Afghanistan issue. They firmly oppose any country that bears responsibility for the current situation in Afghanistan to re-establish military bases in Afghanistan or the region, which will not help regional peace and stability.

The foreign ministers called on the Afghan authorities to promote inclusive governance, allowing all ethnic and political groups to participate substantively and cancel all restrictive measures against women and minorities. They encouraged Afghanistan to maintain a friendly and cooperative policy towards the outside world, comply with its obligations under international laws, and live in harmony with countries around the world and its neighbors.

The foreign ministers stressed that it is essential and in the interest of all parties to maintain a peaceful, stable and secure border between Afghanistan and its neighbors. Illegal cross-border activities should be monitored and prevented. Cross-border issues, including water resources between Afghanistan and its neighbors, should be properly dealt with through dialogue and consultation.

The foreign ministers supported all diplomatic efforts that are conducive to the political settlement of the Afghan issue, and supported the international community, especially the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Foreign Ministers' Meeting of Afghanistan's Neighboring Countries, and the Moscow Format of Consultations on Afghanistan, to play a positive role.

The foreign ministers expressed their commitment to supporting the peaceful reconstruction of Afghanistan, strengthening economic, trade and investment cooperation with regional countries and the international community, and called on the international community to continue providing humanitarian assistance to help Afghanistan enhance its capacity for independent and sustainable development.

The foreign ministers praised Pakistan and Iran for accepting millions of Afghan refugees and called on the international community to provide necessary support and assistance to the above-mentioned countries.

The foreign ministers agreed to strengthen collaboration at all levels on the Afghan issue.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202304/14/WS643962f8a310b6054facdbfc.html>

People's Daily

Chinese FM chairs 2nd informal meeting of foreign ministers of China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran on Afghan issue

SAMARKAND, Uzbekistan, April 13 (Xinhua) -- Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang on Thursday chaired the second informal meeting of foreign ministers of China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran on the Afghan issue in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and Pakistan's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar attended the meeting.

During the meeting, Qin said that since the first informal meeting of foreign ministers of the four countries on the Afghan issue in September 2021, China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran, as the core force of regional coordination on Afghanistan issue, have worked together to effectively guarantee the smooth transition of the situation in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, although the war in Afghanistan has ended, the Afghan issue is far from being resolved. Afghanistan is now at a critical stage of transition from chaos to governance and still faces many challenges.

Qin noted that China has recently issued The Global Security Initiative Concept Paper and China's Position on the Afghan Issue, which advocate spirit of solidarity to adapt to the profoundly adjusting international pattern, call for a win-win approach to address complex security challenges, and reiterate political solutions to Afghanistan and other international and regional hot issues.

The Cold War mentality and camp confrontation should be abandoned for the political settlement of the Afghan issue under the new situation, Qin stressed, adding that all countries concerned should adhere to the principle of inseparable security, address both the symptoms and root causes, and guide the Afghan Taliban to exercise governance in a moderate and steady way through mutual respect, equal consultation and friendly dialogue.

China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran should work together to enhance the international community to pay more attention to terrorism-related security issues in Afghanistan, make consensus and joint efforts to combat the "three forces of evil," and help Afghanistan effectively address terrorist threats and draw a clear distinction from all terrorist forces.

The four countries will encourage and support Afghanistan in pursuing a modernization path suited for its national conditions, and help Afghanistan enhance self-development capacity and integrate itself into the regional economy.

China is ready to extend the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor to Afghanistan within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, so as to transform Afghanistan from a land-locked country into a land-linked one, Qin said.

At the meeting, the participants expressed deep concerns over the current situation in Afghanistan, urged the United States and Western countries to shoulder their due responsibilities, oppose creating chaos in Afghanistan, shirking responsibilities and instrumentalizing humanitarian aid, and called on Afghan Taliban to form a tolerant and inclusive government and safeguard women's rights and interests.

All parties of the meeting expressed their willingness to strengthen communication and coordination, leverage the unique role of the four countries and the four-country mechanism, and guide the international community to jointly help Afghanistan achieve peace and development at an early date.

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0414/c90000-20005738.html>

Xinhuanet News

Chinese FM talks about consensuses of 2nd informal meeting of foreign ministers of China, Russia, Pakistan, Iran on Afghan issue

SAMARKAND, Uzbekistan, April 13 (Xinhua) -- Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang on Thursday briefed reporters on a series of important consensuses reached at the second informal meeting of the foreign ministers of China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran on the Afghan issue after chairing the meeting.

The first is to reaffirm respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, and support the determination of the country's political future and development path in accordance with the "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" principle.

The second is to pay attention to the current security situation involving terrorism in Afghanistan, and urge the Afghan interim government to take more visible measures, fulfill its commitment to contain and resolutely fight terrorism, disintegrate and eliminate all types of terrorist organizations, prevent the territory of Afghanistan from being used by any terrorist forces, and take effective measures to protect the security and legitimate rights and interests of foreign institutions and citizens in Afghanistan.

The third is to call on the Afghan ruling authorities to form an inclusive government to protect the basic rights and interests of all Afghan people, including women, children and ethnic minorities.

The fourth is to emphasize that the United States and its allies bear historical responsibility for the current difficult situation in Afghanistan; should lift immediately unilateral sanctions against Afghanistan, and return immediately overseas funds belonging to the Afghan people; and should not build military bases again in Afghanistan and the region.

The fifth is to call on the international community to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, to help Afghanistan effectively control drugs and develop alternative planting, and enhance its capacity for independent and sustainable development.

The sixth is to support all diplomatic efforts that are conducive to the political settlement of the Afghan issue, and support the international community, especially the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the foreign ministers' meeting on the Afghan issue among neighboring countries of Afghanistan, and the "Moscow format" consultations on Afghanistan to play a substantive role.

<https://english.news.cn/asiapacific/20230414/d78814efc38b422681dac95276177bd9/c.html>

April 15, 2023

People's Daily

Joint statement of 2nd informal meeting on Afghanistan by FMs of China, Russia, Pakistan, Iran

(Xinhua)

SAMARKAND, Uzbekistan,-- Foreign ministers of China, Russia, Pakistan and Iran on Thursday held the second informal meeting on the Afghan issue in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

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A peaceful and stable Afghanistan serves the common interests of the international community, and Afghanistan should become a platform for international cooperation rather than a site of geopolitical rivalry, the ministers emphasized.

The ministers paid close attention to the current security situation involving terrorism in Afghanistan, and stressed that the terrorist organizations in Afghanistan, including the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), al-Qaeda, the East Turkistan Islamic Movement, Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, Balochistan Liberation Army and the Jaish al-Adl, continue to pose a major threat to regional and even global security.

The ministers took note of the operation carried out by the Afghan interim government against the ISKP, and urged it to take more visible and verifiable measures to fulfill its counter-terrorism commitments, disintegrate and eliminate all types of terrorist organizations and prevent the territory of Afghanistan from being used by any terrorist forces.

The ministers emphasized that the Afghan authorities should take effective measures to ensure the safety and legitimate rights and interests of foreign institutions and citizens in Afghanistan. Perpetrators of any attacks or threats against foreign institutions and personnel in Afghanistan should be held accountable.

The foreign ministers pointed out that NATO members should bear the primary responsibility for the current plight in Afghanistan. They should create opportunities for Afghanistan's economic development and prosperity, immediately lift unilateral sanctions against Afghanistan, and return Afghanistan's overseas assets for the benefit of the Afghan people.

The ministers emphasized that dialogue and negotiation are the only way to achieve a political solution to the Afghanistan issue. They firmly oppose any country that bears responsibility for the current situation in Afghanistan to re-establish military bases in Afghanistan or the region, which will not help regional peace and stability.

The foreign ministers called on the Afghan authorities to promote inclusive governance, allowing all ethnic and political groups to participate substantively and cancel all restrictive measures against women and minorities. They encouraged Afghanistan to maintain a friendly

and cooperative policy towards the outside world, comply with its obligations under international laws, and live in harmony with countries around the world and its neighbors.

The foreign ministers stressed that it is essential and in the interest of all parties to maintain a peaceful, stable and secure border between Afghanistan and its neighbors. Illegal cross-border activities should be monitored and prevented. Cross-border issues, including water resources between Afghanistan and its neighbors, should be properly dealt with through dialogue and consultation.

The foreign ministers supported all diplomatic efforts that are conducive to the political settlement of the Afghan issue, and supported the international community, especially the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Foreign Ministers' Meeting of Afghanistan's Neighboring Countries, and the Moscow Format of Consultations on Afghanistan, to play a positive role.

The foreign ministers expressed their commitment to supporting the peaceful reconstruction of Afghanistan, strengthening economic, trade and investment cooperation with regional countries and the international community, and called on the international community to continue providing humanitarian assistance to help Afghanistan enhance its capacity for independent and sustainable development.

The foreign ministers praised Pakistan and Iran for accepting millions of Afghan refugees and called on the international community to provide necessary support and assistance to the above-mentioned countries.

The foreign ministers agreed to strengthen collaboration at all levels on the Afghan issue.

(Web editor: Zhang Kaiwei, Wu Chaolan)

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0415/c90000-20006315.html>